

# The Leaflet



April 2013

## APRIL MASTER GARDENER MEETING

Thursday,  
April 25,  
7 P.M. @

Extension Office

**PROGRAM:** Edible Landscaping presented by Adam Chapman, Horticulturist, Bates Nursery

**PLANT SWAP:** Please label your plant & put your name on it in case the recipient has questions.

**POTS NEEDED:** Please bring empty flower pots to the meeting.

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## SOUTH CENTRAL GROWERS BUILDS TRIAL GARDENS

The trial plants are still in the greenhouses, but in a few months, plants in the Springfield South Central Growers test gardens will be at their peak. The test gardens, established this year, will contain eleven 40ft x 8ft planting beds. In addition to mass planting of trials, the gardens feature plantings and hardscape that are typical of a home-landscape.

Over 300 trial plant varieties and cultivars will be tested. Almost all, 98%, of the plants are annuals, with the remainder being "soft perennials," i.e., plants that are perennial with protection and/or in warmer winters. SCG will use the results of the trials to build the list of plants they offer. Their customers, buyers for retail nurseries such as Lowes and Walmart, can see the plants in a Mid-South garden environment. Ultimately, the end customer (gardeners like us) will get plants that perform best in our mid-South gardens.

South Central Growers has invited the Robertson County Master Gardeners to visit the test gardens in early June. This is a field trip and learning experience we eagerly anticipate.

Lynn Stenglein interviewed Mr. Tim Van Der Hengst, SCG

*Project Managers: You still have time! Get your plant orders in to Tim Best by Monday, April 22. Tim is hoping to deliver the plants at the meeting Thursday, April 25.*

## RCMGA MARCH MEETING



Ron Cooper, Montgomery County Master Gardener, discussed gardening for the benefit of wildlife —hummingbirds, butterflies, deer, squirrels, rabbits, etc.

Michelle Adcock showed off her rosemary and provided the door prize.



## DUE\$!

Ann Crouch is still looking for dues. We seem to be running about 50% at this time. These funds and plant sale proceeds, help support the different projects we work on throughout the county. If you haven't turned in your annual membership fee, just drop it off by the Extension Office.

Ann Rausch

## APRIL GARDENING TIPS

- ✧ Plant annuals that can take the summer heat, such as angelonia, wax begonia, and ornamental pepper — continue to plant heat-loving herbs, including basil, oregano, sage, Mexican tarragon, and rosemary
- ✧ Fertilize your annual and perennial flower beds
- ✧ Remove any dead flowers from your plants to encourage new growth
- ✧ Bring your houseplants outdoors to help rejuvenate them
- ✧ Keep your lawn healthy by watering, fertilizing with control-released nitrogen, and mowing regularly to prevent pests
- ✧ For healthy grass, avoid weed and feed products — only apply herbicides to areas with weed infestations
- ✧ Finish pruning spring-flowering trees and shrubs after they bloom; lightly prune azaleas.
- ✧ Make sure that crops have plenty of mulch during dry spells — mulch between the rows in your garden to help control soil temperature and retain moisture
- ✧ Clean your compost bin — make sure you've got an empty compost bin to hold finished pansies, cleared-out weeds, and any bags of leaves you decide to harvest from the curb

## SHARE-A-FLOWER

Common primroses, stalked leaves and pink or yellow single blooms, frequently are used as eye-catching ground covers in Middle Tennessee. The Hardy English Primrose, pictured here, is a slow starter but awesome when the long-lasting blooms begin a couple of years after planting. *Picture from Lynn's garden, April 20, 2013*



## ARE YOU READY?

### RCMGA 6th Annual Plant Sale

Saturday, May 11, 2013, 8am — 1pm

On the morning of the plant sale (Saturday, May 11th), please bring your plants to the front of the UT Extension Building (corner of Main Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue) between the hours of 6:30 and 8:00 am. Our plants are moving to a new level this year: we have secured tables for displaying plants that will improve the shopping experience for everyone. Don't forget to bring empty boxes and grocery bags to aid our customers in getting their purchases home.



We need a few more volunteers to help staff the sale. To sign up, email Ursula Otto at [uotto2012@comcast.net](mailto:uotto2012@comcast.net). The work schedule will be available at the April 25th monthly meeting for members who want to sign up at that time. Also, copies of the plant sale flyer will be available at the meeting so that our members can distribute them in their communities.



In keeping with our objective of providing horticultural information to the community, Robertson County Master Gardener Bridgette Wakefield will do a workshop on one of her specialties: "Heucheras: More than Just a Coral Bell." We also will have an "Ask a Master Gardener" table set up to answer questions about the plants and the Master Gardener program.

Sale is not limited to plants only. Gently used tools & gadgets, vases, pots, baskets, gardening books are examples of acceptable items to sell. Also, FREE items such as gardening magazines or nursery mail order catalogs are welcome.

**Please bring plant pots to the April meeting. There are lots of us trying to 'pot up' items for the sale.**

## Upcoming Events

April 20, 21, 27, 28: Lone Oak Farm Open House 2013, 9am—3pm, 2219 Neely's Bend Road, Madison, TN 37115. [www.loneoakfarmnursery.com](http://www.loneoakfarmnursery.com)

April 25 RCMGA Meeting: Plant Swap. Please bring one plant to swap. Also, bring any spare plant pots you may have to donate to those who need them for the plant sale. [www.rcmga.org](http://www.rcmga.org)

April 27: Lawrenceburg MG 14th Annual Plant Sale, 7am to 2pm, Lawrence County Extension Office, 2385 Buffalo Road, Lawrenceburg.

March 24 — April 28: Cheekwood Guided Greenhouse Tour, each Sunday, Noon. Join experts for an informative, behind-the-scenes tour of the Production Greenhouses. Arrive early — space is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Greenhouse tours begin in the Courtyard of the Frist Learning Center. Wear appropriate footwear.

May 4: Madison County MG Plant Sale, 7am to 12 Noon, Rain or shine. UT Extension Auditorium, 309 North Parkway, Jackson.

May 4: Warren County Master Gardeners Plant Sale, 7am — Noon, Warren County Fairgrounds.

May 11: Robertson County Master Gardeners Association Annual Plant Sale, 8am to 1pm Rain or Shine, RC Extension Office. Start dividing your bulbs and potting your seedlings now so you have lots to contribute!

May 11: Wilson Co. Master Gardeners' Plant Sale & Spring Festival, Ward Ag Center, Lebanon, 9am — 4pm.

June 8: Memphis' 4th Annual Through Our Garden Gates Garden Tour, 9am to 4pm — Six MG home gardens will feature speakers. Donations appreciated. Visit [www.memphisareamastergardeners.org](http://www.memphisareamastergardeners.org) or visit their Facebook page for details.

June 15: Middle Tennessee Daylily Society Annual Daylily Show & Sale, Ed Jones Auditorium — Ellington Agriculture Center, Sale 10am — 4pm (Most \$5), Show 12:30pm — 4pm. For more information, contact [jxander@aol.com](mailto:jxander@aol.com).

July 11: Summer Celebration, Jackson, 10am.

## PROFILES IN GARDENING: JULEE ORR

I spent my childhood years living and working on my parent's fruit and vegetable farm close to the southeastern shore of Lake Michigan. It seemed that each growing season would start when my sister and I would take the almost traditional walk to my Grandparent's house nearby. We would meander through the apple and peach orchards and strawberry patches until we got to their house where Grandma would always harvest a huge bouquet of lilacs for us. The season had begun. It is among the fondest of my memories and, to this day, I still enjoy the sweet scent and beautiful color of these delicate flowers. Our farms, with the rich and fertile sandy soil, were part of Southwestern Michigan's fruit belt. Today, many of the farms of that area, including my Grandparent's land, have been replaced by grape vineyards supporting the booming wine industry.



I have lived in Middle Tennessee for the past thirty-seven years, the last twenty-one of which have been in Southern Robertson County near Ridgetop. The soil on my property is typical of Middle Tennessee with a high content of clay and bits of limestone. Soil like that necessitates amendments and I have learned that the serious gardener needs to be familiar with the uses of such things as compost, mulch, pest control substances, and fertilizers.

My property has been certified as a Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. Over time, I have identified and charted many species of birds that live and migrate on my property during any given year. Most of the plants and shrubs that I grow are beneficial in my efforts to provide shelter and food for them.

In 2005, I enrolled in the Tennessee Master Gardener Program in Sumner County and completed that course in April, 2006. That same year, Robertson County Master Gardeners Association was chartered and I was able to transfer my membership. I currently serve as Vice President and have previously served two years as Treasurer. Additionally, I have maintained the RCMGA.org website since its inception in 2008. I have been involved in many community and fundraising projects during my seven years with the Robertson County Master Gardeners.

This year I have decided to grow all of my vegetables in containers. I'll be trying my luck with spinach, kale, sweet corn, heirloom tomatoes, lettuce, squash, cucumbers, and peppers. I also have a cutting garden where I grow sunflowers, lavender, herbs, and various flowers.

My long term goal is to be a better gardener and promote the growth of the native plants while eliminating the non-native invasive varieties.

I enjoy volunteering and networking with fellow master gardeners on our county's beautification and educational projects as well as our annual plant sale. I am constantly learning more about my favorite hobby from my gardening friends both in and out of the county.

*Julee Orr*

## ANIMAL SHELTER SPRING CLEANING

Saturday, April 20, 2013

Patricia Avril, Julee Orr, Rodney Sawyer, Lynn Stenglein, and Project Manager Ann Crouch left the Animal Shelter area lookin' good Saturday morning after a few hours of hard work. Ann will schedule another work day soon to spread mulch and plant annuals."



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**RCMGA Web Site:** <http://rcmga.org/>