

The Leaflet

April 2016



RCMGA Needs You

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Dear Robertson County Gardeners: We have just less than 2 weeks to get ready for our Plant Sale. As we all know, this is our big money making event. There is lots of planning already going on, but most of all it is you, the gardeners, who will make this endeavor a success. As your garden is coming to life again this spring, please think Plant Sale. Divide and pot the flowers that have outgrown their place in the yard. Garden art, flower pots are also good sellers. At our next meeting we will again circulate the Plant Sale Sign Up Sheet. Please mark your calendar for May 7, 2016 it is a good way to accumulate volunteer hours.— Ursula Otto

Advertise our plant sale by posting flyers in your communities. Pick up the flyers from Judy Bryant at the Ext. Office



Plant Sale Tips and Reminders

- Sale begins at 8am but plants need to be labeled, priced, and in place before then. Come early! We will begin setting up tables by 6:30.
- Parking places in front of the Ext. Office on Main St. will be reserved with traffic cones for unloading plants until 8am. Please park there to unload your plants and then move your vehicle into the United Way parking lot to accommodate the next vehicle unloading and our customers.
- Please bring boxes and bags; we ran short in 2015.
- Price your plant. Label them as to name, color, shade or sun, annual or perennial, etc. We will have tables labeled for Herbs, Shade, Sun, Shrub, Tree, etc.

What Every Well-Dressed RCMGA Member Is Wearing to Plant Sale, Garden Tour, Other RCMGA Events!

The Polo and T-shirts with our RCMGA logo have arrived. Plan to pick up your order at our April 28th meeting or at the Ext. Office (after April 28th). We have a few (vintage) extra's on-hand from earlier orders and are offering them at the current price of \$12.

NEXT MEETING

**Apr. 28, 2016
7 pm**

Speaker:

Gary Bagwell

Program:

Heirloom Tomatoes

The Robertson Co. Master Gardener Assoc. meets the fourth Thurs. of every month.

Meetings are at 7pm at the UT Extension Office, 408 Main Street, Springfield, TN

RCMGA Members Visit “Mecca of Wildflowers” in Sumner County



Blue-Eyed Marys at Taylor Hollow

In spite of the hardy rain shower as they were in Taylor Hollow, Judy, Ann, and Lynn were not dismayed or disappointed by the wildflower display. Members encountered four species of trilliums, cohosh, celandine poppies, scorpion weed along with a hollow-full of delphinium and blue-eyed Mary wildflowers on the naturalist led hike. Plan to celebrate “Income Tax Day” next year with a walk at the Tennessee Nature Conservancy site in Westmoreland or other outing that is listed at https://tn.gov/assets/entities/environment/attachments/na_events-2016.pdf.



Hiking group including RCMGA Members Judy Bryant, Lynn Stenglein, and Ann Rausch



Bench At Extension Office Plaza A Reality

Thanks to Sonny Pritchard for making our legacy gift at the Ext Office a reality and to Betty Briggman, Jim Briggman, Paul Putman, Paul Hart for assembly, construction, top-soil fetching, and to Gwen Day for recording the event.



Huntsville Botanical Garden Trip

by Gwen Day

The Huntsville Botanical Garden was a very enjoyable Master Gardener trip. The weather could not have been better. We were met by docents who walked us through while giving a tour. We started at the butterfly house and children's garden and then went through the big columns that flanked the opening where there was a large dragon in a flowerbed. Past that was a huge blue bottle tree beside a lake that was on the birding trail. We meandered through blooming azaleas, dogwoods and such. Lots of interest for children and adults. The woodland garden was very well marked and had stone benches to sit along the trail.

The demonstration vegetable garden was done with raised beds and there was a big leaf magnolia beside it that was blooming and such a delight to see.



Garden view with Chinese Fringe Tree blooming in the distance.



Closer view of Chinese Fringe Tree. Beautiful!



The Hobbit House was inspired by J.R.R. Tolkien's book, The Hobbit. Hobbits also referred to as Halflings, are small in size, have slightly pointed ears, are stout in stature and have large feet. They live in houses that are built into the ground. They usually have round doors, like ours. Hobbits like to garden, socialize and eat up to six meals a day, if they could.

The Herb Garden was really nice, done in waist high brick raised beds. In the middle was a knot garden that was lower.

They had gardeners working on the railroad garden where the maples were trimmed in bonsai and the train was tooting and chugging on the tracks through the garden. There was a Hobbit house with a walkway all around it covered in arbor style with bent branches.

Last but not least was the plant sale. There was a live band playing and so many tents and outdoor areas for shopping. The Alabama MGs were so glad to see us and very welcoming at the plant sale. They even had rabbits, goats, chickens and roosters. After the plant sale we went to lunch then shopping at a plant nursery which also had live music and another business next door that carried water features, pots, rocks, etc.... which was very nice and it had an ice cream parlor inside. It was a very good day!



The Herb Garden

New UT Publication Available

Natalie Bumgarner, an assistant professor of horticulture with University of Tennessee Extension and statewide coordinator of the Master Gardener program has released a new publication that you might want to review. *The Tennessee Vegetable Garden: Plant Management Practices* is intended to help new and experienced home gardeners understand the importance of key gardening topics like weed management, water management, plant support and pruning. The publication is available free of charge on the UT Extension website.

One of the first steps to successful gardening is understanding and managing weeds. "A weed is a plant competing with the intended garden crop for water, nutrients and sunlight. They can also host insects and diseases that can reduce crop yields and quality," Bumgarner said. "Weed management may well be the most important factor in producing success or frustration in the home garden."

Bumgarner's publication discusses cultural practices that can help gardeners manage weeds, including different mulching practices, row spacing and soil management and chemical controls. It also covers the basics of crop support options like using stakes, cages, trellises or twining systems.

Finally, the topic of pruning is introduced. Bumgarner outlines some basic pruning techniques and reminds gardeners that pruning can help increase the size and quantity of the fruit as well as reduce the spread of some plant diseases. "One of the most common reasons for pruning is to manage the fruit load, or plant spread. For example, carefully removing some lateral branches, called suckers, on an indeterminate tomato plant could increase the size of the remaining fruit or enable the plant to be more easily managed," she said.

To download the publication, visit the UT Extension website: extension.tennessee.edu and click on the menu link to "Publications." Enter the publication number W346-D into the search engine, then click on the link to the full title. Related publications are available by entering the term "vegetable gardening" in the search engine. You can also browse by the "Focus Area—Residential & Consumer Horticulture" on the UT Publication page. When you get questions about gardening, be sure to share this resource with your gardening friends.

Get Your Flower Order In

Don't forget to email the list of flowers for projects to robertsoncountymastergardeners@yahoo.com or call Judy Bryant (615-384-7936) by Thursday, April 28th. You will be notified when to pick them up.



Herb propagation workshop at Diann's greenhouse with Jeanne, Gwen, Deborah, Lynn, Janice, and Herb Whisper Diann Nance.

Upcoming Events

May 7	RCMGA Plant Sale	Springfield
Jun 4	Garden Fair, Williamson Co. MG	Franklin
Jun 4	Garden Tour, Memphis area MG	Collierville
Jun 11	Monarchs & Milkweed of TN	Mansker Station
Jun 18	RCMGA Garden Tour	Cross Plains
Jul 9	Canning Tomatoes	Mansker Station
Jul 14	Summer Celebration	Jackson
Aug 13	Carnton Garden Tour	Franklin
Sep 10	Using Native Plants	Mansker Station
Oct 8	Growing Fruit in Middle TN	Mansker Station

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