

# The Leaflet



February 2013

## FEBRUARY MASTER GARDENER MEETING

Thursday,  
February 28,  
7 P.M. @ Ext. Office

PROGRAM: Kathy Green, MG and owner of Mimi's Greenhouse in White House, will present a short talk about the herbs and heirloom roses and other plants that she propagates and sells from her backyard garden and greenhouse.

MG business mtg. will follow program.

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## WHAT'S GREEN IN YOUR GARDEN?



*Tea olives* are some of the most sweetly fragrant plants in Southern gardens. Their scent makes them ideal for planting near windows and outdoor living areas where the fall blooming flowers can be readily enjoyed. Tea olives grow as dense, evergreen shrubs or small trees. Their leaves resemble holly leaves, explaining another common name, false holly. They can be readily distinguished from hollies by their opposite leaves, hollies having alternate leaves.

*Abelia* is a semi-evergreen shrub that is small in size: 4 feet is the average maximum, although it can attain 5 feet in a good location. It forms a dense, rounded shrub with lustrous, dark green leaves in summer, taking on a purplish tinge in winter. The fragrant tubular flowers, purple-pink in color, are borne profusely for much of the summer and early fall.



The *jasmine* plant is well-known for its elegant flowers that only open in the night time. There are a number of jasmines and the diverse varieties originate in diverse climates. The aromatic flowers open in every morning time and close in the evening time.



Judy Bryant

## RCMGA JANUARY MEETING



*Dorothy Briggs* discussing her hellebores and jasmine blooms.



## TENNESSEE'S NEWEST SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATE



The **TENNESSEE FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS** (TFGC) proudly introduces a new Specialty License Plate (SLP) for **GARDENERS** – for those inspired by all types of gardening: specific flower clubs (roses, daylilies, dahlias, herbs, succulents), master gardeners, landscapers, etc. The money will be used for conservation throughout the State.

The cost is \$35 plus your normal County plate fee. To purchase a "TENNESSEE GARDENERS" plate you need to make a check out to TFGC-SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATE for \$35. Include your name, address, county and phone number. Checks can be mailed to:

Maggi Burns, TFGC State Treasurer  
8258 Chula Creek Road  
Chattanooga, TN 37421

or given to one of our TFGC District SLP Chairman. Any questions may be directed to:

Kathryn Knapp, TFGC State SLP Chairman  
423-718-2056  
katknapp12tfgc@aol.com

## WINTER SCHOOL REPORT



Patricia Avril, Julee Orr, Ann Rausch, and Lynn Stenglein along with 200 Master Gardeners from across Tennessee attended Winter School at the Rutherford County Ag. Center February 7 and 8. The following are a few highlights.

The kickoff of winter school began Thursday morning with opening remarks and introductions; the keynote speaker's presentation and an education track on two "How to Teach" lessons. Chris Cooper, Ph.D., Interim Coordinator of the Master Gardener Program, welcomed the attendees. Jason Reeves, Horticulture-Research Associate, UT, West TN Research & Education Center, gave the keynote address that included growing and showing off vegetable products and special photographs from New Zealand. Master gardeners who have attended the Summer Celebrations in Jackson are familiar with Jason's creative colorful plant designs and unique garden art. This year's event will be held on July 11th. (Copies of the 2013 UT Gardens-Jackson vegetable list will be available at February's meeting.) Barbra Bunting, Knox County Master Gardener, presented a session on organic gardening in raised beds. Barbra stressed the importance of reading seed packets to determine spacing for raised beds. She also showed us an example of using rebar and post pole wire to create a trellis for vegetable vines. Carol Burdett, Cumberland County Master Gardener, presented a session on growing vegetables in containers. She recommended using 15 gallon plastic pots for growing most vegetables and herbs. *Julee Orr*

Thursday afternoon, Winter School education tract continued with two "How to Teach" sessions entitled "Heirloom Vegetable Tales" and "Working with Schools and Children." Fiona McAnally, a UT Graduate student, told us that of the vegetables that were commercially available at the turn of the last century, 97% are no longer sold commercially. It doesn't mean that they are gone, you just have to seek out heirloom seeds. A few sources for heirloom seeds are Seed Savers Exchange, Southern Exposure Seed Exchange, Seeds of Change, and The Organic Seed Grower (John Navazio). There are more sources to be found on the internet. In the "Growing a Garden Club" session, Emily Gonzalez, Knox County Extension, discussed the benefits of youth gardening, gardening concepts for the youth gardener, and how to conduct a school garden program. The main thing with children is hands-on engagement. Keys to success also include buy-in of the associated organization (schools in her case) and the desire of the children to be there/do that. *Ann Rausch*

Winter School on Friday morning, Feb. 8th, got off to a great start with a message on Leadership from keynote speaker, Robert T. Burns, Ph.D., P.E., Assistant Dean and Professor University of Tennessee Extension. Next, Bob Ary, Sumner County Extension Agent, gave an overview of the Extension's organizational structure stressing communication from the individual master gardener and reaching UT Extension and other Institute of Agriculture administrators. We learned that there are 2000 TN Master Gardeners in 47 counties. The MG Program began in 1986. Then, the Future Farmers of America from Wilson Central High School gave a Parliamentary Procedure presentation using Robert's Rules of Order. During the lunch break, there was ample time to network with representatives from other counties, view the exhibits, and bid on silent auction items. Thank you to the Robertson County Master Gardener Association for the opportunity to attend Winter School under the organization's initial Winter School Scholarship Program. *Julee Orr*

Winter School wound down Friday afternoon with the Middle TN Alliance meeting with our Advocates; presentations from the Search for Excellence (SFE) award winners; and a presentation about Hamilton County's mentoring program. Advocates are one of our lines of communication to the state Master Gardener organization and to Master Gardener Associations across the state. This year, SFE awards went to Blount County for their book about East Tennessee plants (we will have a copy at the February meeting); to Montgomery County for the Smith-Trahern Mansion Gardens (a short drive from Robertson County); and to the Memphis Area Master Gardeners for their garden tour (bigger but not better than ours, relatively). We appreciated networking with Wilson County master gardeners, who have an arboretum project at the Wilson County Fairgrounds. *Lynn Stenglein*

## TREE MAINTENANCE

On Wednesday, January 30th, Dwight Barnett, our Middle Tennessee State Forester, presented his recommendations for selecting the best trees for the Highland Rim as well as best practices for tree planting and maintenance. The class, which fulfilled a requirements for a class 1 arboretum certification, was attended by Ridgeway City personnel, area citizens, and master gardeners.

When looking to add a tree to your landscape, be sure to go to a reliable source for information. Start your search for information on "what to plant and where to plant it" on the internet with stops at [www.soundforest.org](http://www.soundforest.org) or [tnla.com](http://tnla.com). Either location will provide you with information and additional places to look for advice locally.



Local nurseries that are good sources for native trees include Hewitt's in Brentwood, Bate's and Gardens of Babylon in Nashville, and GroWild in Fairview. If you're willing to make the trip, Cherry Creek Nursery in Cookeville carries a lot of great stock and shares valuable and trustworthy information.

*Ann Rausch*

## REPORTING HOURS

Master Gardeners (MGs) are valuable commodities to the state with all the work we do; however, we are infinitely more valuable when we faithfully enter hours worked. Hours entered demonstrate MG impact to the university.

All of these figures are used by TMG to demonstrate our value to UT. Your reports make a difference! In 2011, Tennessee Master Gardeners contributed more than 130,400 hours valued at \$3,000,000. Folks, those are just the numbers. We know you are changing lives everyday by sharing your knowledge and passion.

Thank you for making a difference in your community, your state and our world!

## THINKING GREEN, ALREADY

Frost Free Weekend in Middle Tennessee is less than 10 weeks away, and it's time to be getting ready for seed starting time. If, like me, you have not graduated to starting your seedlings in water (and Paul Putman is our Association's resource for that information), you will be interested in some environmentally friendly techniques for containers.

Why buy nearly-disposable domed starter flats? I have been saving containers when I buy strawberries, cherry tomatoes, or other produce. Soak the label in cooking oil overnight to remove the label and glue. Put a coffee filter in the container bottom, fill with starting mix, add the seeds, and viola! A mini-greenhouse.

Accumulating newspapers for weed control? I'm planning on trying an idea that Pepper Ashford (RCMGA Class of 2009) emailed me: Use newspapers to make pots for your seedlings. Cute wooden pot makers sell for \$15-\$20, but a soup can does just as well. Tear a single sheet of newspaper in half and fold in thirds. Wrap the paper around the can about ¼ inch from the top edge, but not too tight since you have to slip it off. Secure with tape and fold the bottom edge several times to form the bottom of the pot. Secure with tape and slip off the can. The pots fit nicely in the flats of quart pots that you bought last year. Go to [http://lindycottagehill.blogspot.com/2011/03/recycled-newspaper-pots\\_19.html](http://lindycottagehill.blogspot.com/2011/03/recycled-newspaper-pots_19.html) for clarification and pictures.



*Lynn Stenglein*

## PROFILING US (ROBERTSON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS)

In March, we will begin a Leaflet series about our association's Master Gardeners. Michelle has drafted a list of questions about your gardening interests, history, and projects. We will randomly select the member to be profiled from active association members; you can write the newsletter article or answer the questions and newsletter staff will draft the article and get your ok.

Time permitting we will review the profile questions at the February meeting and will continue to fine-tune them. Hopefully, this will help us get to know one another. Thanks, in advance, for your participation.

## NASHVILLE LAWN & GARDEN SHOW

February 28 through March 3, Tennessee State Fairgrounds

The 24th Annual Nashville Lawn & Garden Show is coming up at the end of the month. This show is one of the largest gardening shows in the South and draws more than 22,000 people each year. Professional landscape designers once again have provided a wonderful centerpiece: 20 naturalized live gardens including a variety of waterfalls, rock walls, terraces, pergolas, gazebos, and much more. There will be free lectures by expert horticulturists and garden designers presented throughout the 4-day show. Along with all this, there will be 250 exhibit booths of horticultural products, services, and equipment for show and sale. In the past, the vendors have come from up to 16 states. A spectacular floral design gallery will be presented by 25 of the best floral designers in the mid-south region.



Chateau de Chantilly's Operations and Events Director, Frederic Nancel, will speak on Friday, March 1, and Saturday, March 2, at 1pm. Nancel will discuss "It Was a Garden Before a Castle" and "Today's Use of Historical Garden."

A few other topics of interest include Making Friends with Weeds, What the Medicine Men Knew, Bamboos for Middle Tennessee, Tried and True Perennials, Preserving and Protecting Your Local Honey Bee, Rita's Rare Plants, Heirloom Garden Roses, Horticulture as Therapy, and The Future of Food and Gardening. Some of the speakers will be Jennifer Johnson (The Weeding Woman), Troy Marden, Kim Bradley, Jack Carman, Don Shadow, and Jeff Poppen.

Tickets are \$10 for General Admission, \$9 for seniors, and \$1 for children 12 and under. Enjoy all 4 days of the show for a \$15 4-day show pass.

**And don't forget... all lectures attended apply to your Continuing Education MG hours.**

## 2013 FIELD DAY SCHEDULE UT AGRESEARCH

### Field Days

Ensuring a Healthy Forest - 4/12, 8 a.m., Grand Junction  
Organic Crops Field Tour - 4/24, 9 a.m., Knoxville  
Beef and Forage - 6/13, 7:30 a.m., Louisville  
Fruits of the Backyard - 6/18, 8:30 a.m., Spring Hill  
Tobacco, Beef and More - 6/27, 7 a.m., Springfield  
Summer Celebration - 7/11, 10 a.m., Jackson  
Steak and Potatoes - 8/6, 8 a.m., Crossville  
Cotton Tour - 9/4, 8 a.m., Jackson  
Turfgrass and Ornamental - 9/12, 8 a.m., Knoxville  
Pumpkin Field Day - 9/26, 11 a.m., Jackson  
Woods and Wildlife - 10/3, 8 a.m., Oliver Springs  
NE Tennessee Beef Expo - 10/10, 7:30 a.m., Greeneville

### Special Events

Spring Flower & Garden Show—4/26-28, Crossville  
Blooms Days - 5/11-12, 9 a.m., Knoxville  
Spring Festival & Garden Tour - 5/11, 9 a.m. Wilson Co.  
Summer Color - 6/25, 8 a.m., UT Gardens, Knoxville  
Summer Celebration - 7/11, 10 a.m. Jackson  
Fall Gardeners' Festival - 8/27, 9 a.m., Crossville  
Heritage Festival - 10/12, 9 a.m., Grand Junction  
Fall Folklore Jamboree - 10/19, 9 a.m., Milan

All field days and special events are open to the public and most events offer free admission.

*From Taking Root*

WARREN CO. MASTER GARDENERS'  
PLANT SALE  
MAY 4, 2013 7AM TO NOON  
WARREN CO. FARMERS MKT.

**REMINDER: DUE\$ DUE!**  
Robertson County Master Gardeners' 2013 \$10 membership fee is now due. Please make checks payable to RCMGA and deliver to Ann Crouch, Treasurer.  
Of course, RCMGA still takes **CASH** also.

MONTGOMERY CO.  
M. G. 3RD ANNUAL WORKSHOP  
\$40/PERSON  
SATURDAY, MAR. 9TH, 9 TO 3  
CALL 931.648.5725 TO REGISTER  
SOIL-VEGGIES-FLOWERS-MORE

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