

**January Master Gardener Meeting**  
**Thursday, January 24, 7 P.M. @ County Extension Office**  
**Program: FLOWER OF THE MONTH (including door prize)**  
**Open Discussion: WINTER BLOOMING SHRUBS, PERENNIALS, & BULBS**  
**IN OUR GARDENS**  
*Bring your favorite seed catalog for "Show and Tell"*

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

In December, the Master Gardeners nominated and elected new officers. The 2013 officers are:

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| President      | Patricia Avril |
| Vice-President | Julee Orr      |
| Secretary      | Trina Fulton   |
| Treasurer      | Ann Crouch     |

At this time, I would like to thank all of the 2012 officers: Doug Buck, Paul Putman, Wanda Cohea, and Catey Henning for a job well done. Also, an extra thank you to Catey for all her hard work on the Leaflet to help keep us informed. Catey dedicated a lot of time to the association and she sets a great example for us all to follow.

With this spring-like weather we are having, I am getting spring fever. I have been seeing robins in the yard, birds singing and building their nests. This has me thinking about cleaning out the flower beds and redesigning some of my gardens.

It is never too early to start working on your volunteer hours and your CE hours. Now is a good time to start cleaning out and getting our areas ready for spring planting. We have a couple of good classes coming up in February that you can take advantage of for some CE hours.

As you know, any good association needs the participation and ideas of all the members. I am looking forward to all the wonderful things we come up with this year. I hope to see everyone at the meetings; we need the meetings for our growth as Master Gardeners.

*Patricia Avril*

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## MEET OUR 2013 RCMGA OFFICERS



TRINA, PATRICIA, JULEE, AND ANN

## THE RCMGA CHRISTMAS PARTY/DECEMBER MEETING



### WELCOME TO OUR NEW GARDENER

Michelle & Gary Adcock, along with Gabe & Elizabeth, welcomed Ansley Jane in November.



### GOT IDEAS FOR A LEAFLET ARTICLE OR SERIES?

NEED INFORMATION ABOUT RCMGA ISSUES OR ROBERTSON COUNTY AREA GARDENING?

Please send your suggestions and/or articles to the Leaflet staff listed in contact list in this newsletter or bring your ideas to the January RCMGA Meeting.



### THERE'S STILL TIME TO RESCUE AMARYLLIS

Lynn Stenglein



When my Christmas tree is ejected from prime window space in my house, my amaryllis bulbs come out of the closet and take its place. I anticipate blooms around Valentine's Day. I have successfully nurtured the same bulbs for years, and no doubt there still are specimens at Lowe's and Walmart that need a good home.

I asked my friend Larry, whose flowers are pictured above, for tips. He said, "Don't worry! Treat them 'halfway right' and they always bloom. Turn the pots each day or so to strengthen the flower stalk and staking is unnecessary. After the flower stalk dies and the ground is warm, put the flowers outside for the summer: either put the bulb directly in the ground or sink the pot into the ground. Feed the bulb generously all summer. Bring them inside just before frost and rest them in a dark cool location for a couple of months."

## WHAT'S GREEN IN YOUR GARDEN?

(VIEW PICTURES AT RCMGA.ORG)

In addition to ample winter weeds, precocious daffodils, and feral boxwoods, Robertson County gardeners observe a few lively plants in this season. Along with yews, hollies, and other evergreens, members reported:

Fragrant or Winter Honeysuckle (Lonicera Fragrantissima): This honeysuckle has several names, including "the sweet breath of spring" because of its strong lemony scent. It produces creamy white and pink flowers in the late winter or early spring that attract honeybees on a sunny day, followed by red berries that mature in the early summer that birds like to eat. It grows to heights of about 6 to 10 feet with an equal spread. It is very adaptable, growing in full sun or shade and is willing to grow in almost any soil. It should be pruned to shape after flowering. It sheds most of its leaves prior to blooming. *Julee Orr*

Italian arum/Orange candleflower (Arum italicum): Available from most bulb catalogs, Arum italicum provides three-season interest in the garden. In the fall, deep green/silver-veined, arrow-shaped leaves appear and generally persist through the winter; flowers similar to jack-in-the-pulpit appear in spring followed by red-orange spikes of berries in early summer. *Lynn Stenglein*

Snapdragons (Antirrhinum majus): Although the blooms are not as plentiful as spring and summer displays, for the past several years my common snapdragons retain their green foliage and produce occasional blooms all year. Planted beside brick walls and somewhat protected by taller plants or grasses, this "annual" has become perennial as well as a winter season plant of interest. *Lynn Stenglein*

# *Announcements and Upcoming Events*

## **TREE MAINTENANCE & CARE CLASS**

**Wednesday, Jan. 30th, 8:30 AM – 10 AM**

**Ridgetop Station Park Wilson House**

This class will be taught by Dwight Barnett, State Forester, and will concentrate on trees that are in the park – an environment similar to many lawns in Robertson County. As well as best practices for tree care, Dwight will address the selection of trees for the Highland Rim area. Weather permitting; we will do a walk around the arboretum after the class. Please contact Lynn Stenglein (see Leaflet contact list), if you plan to attend so that we can prepare enough handouts (AND coffee & doughnuts).

## **FREE HOUSEPLANT WORKSHOP**

**February 2 @ 10 AM for 1-1.5 hrs.**

Want to learn about a variety of houseplants? Gardens of Babylon will be offering a complimentary class at the nursery. Topics include Houseplants 101, venus fly traps, orchids, air plants, and succulents. If interested, call 615.244.8949. Class expected to fill quickly.

## **TREE PRUNING WORKSHOP UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NASHVILLE**

**Date:** Saturday, February 2, 2013

**Time:** 1:00 - 4:00 PM

**Fee:** \$35 / **Materials Fee:** \$0

**Location:** Private home and Elmington Park

Register online: [www.eveningclasses.org](http://www.eveningclasses.org)

Class Catalog / 600 Home and Garden / go down to

#612 Tree Pruning Workshop and click on Register

Cliff Davis, arborist and owner of Spiral Ridge Permaculture, will introduce participants to basic pruning techniques at a home near Elmington Park, and will demonstrate on young fruit trees in the garden and young shade trees in Elmington Park. Participants will learn how to sharpen their own pruning implements and will practice new pruning skills by shaping trees that are in need of structural pruning. This is a win/win because participants will be coached as they prune, and young shade trees in the Park will benefit from pruning. Jeremy Lekich of Nashville Foodscapes will also coach participants.

## **MASTER GARDENER WINTER SCHOOL**

Tennessee Master Gardener Winter School, an annual event for all Master Gardeners in Tennessee, is held February 7 and 8 in the Ag Center in Murfreesboro. You can register at [mastergardener.tennessee.edu](http://mastergardener.tennessee.edu); early registration, which ensures that you will have meals and materials, is open until February 3.

Topics include organic gardening in raised beds; using tunnels to garden year around; communicating and mentoring. There will be an alliance meeting and Search for Excellence presentations. In addition to education and leadership topics, participants network with Master Gardeners from across Tennessee. A complete list of all sessions is on the website and was included in “Taking Root,” the TN MG electronic newsletter.

Our association awarded two scholarships to 2013 Winter School. Five excellent applications were submitted and scored. Patricia Avril and Julee Orr scored the highest and will attend. If you plan to attend and would like to carpool, contact Patricia or Julee to make arrangements.

## **NASHVILLE LAWN & GARDEN SHOW**

**February 28 – March 3**

**Thurs – Saturday: 10 AM – 8 PM**

**Sunday: 10 AM – 5 PM**

**Tennessee State Fairgrounds**

[www.nashvillelawnandgardenshow.com/](http://www.nashvillelawnandgardenshow.com/)

## **HORTICULTURAL THERAPY**

*From Taking Root*

Mary Winslow, a master gardener and counselor, would like to talk to other master gardeners interested in horticulture therapy. She will begin with getting interested people together and talking about what would be involved in activities related to the subject of “plants that benefit people.” You can find out more information about horticultural therapy at the American Horticultural Therapy Association (AHTA) web site. If you are interested in becoming involved, email Mary at [winslow-hale@netscape.com](mailto:winslow-hale@netscape.com).

# GARDENING WITH CHILDREN

JoAnn Slate

“You cannot move to a condo, Grandma. Where would the blackberries grow?” The granddaughter who voiced this concern is in college, not kindergarten; her entire life, she tasted grapes, berries, tomatoes from our gardens. As a little tot, she and her dad planted fruit trees, naming each one for a world dictator; some eccentricity prompted that approach, but maybe a history lesson crept in for a bonus.

Children like to dig in the dirt; thus, a ready opportunity exists for parents to encourage digging with a purpose. Seeing seed sprout, plants grow, and then produce food encompass a miraculous revelation. Accompanying benefits of the process include learning responsibility and feeling accomplishment with visible, edible results. Families that garden together tend to understand and practice “green” lifestyles, furthering beneficial health and ecological processes. An ABC news report revealed that children growing up on farms are healthier than their urban counterparts, showing less evidence of illnesses such as asthma and hay fever.

Though adults may focus on food or flowers’ eventual crop production, children like participating in an entire process, especially one that includes

family members’ togetherness. With their shorter attention spans, children might appreciate plants with speedy rewards; vegetables like radishes and beans sprout easily and are colorful as well as nutritious. Generations of primary grade school children have brought home the obligatory anemic squash plant grown in a paper cup. Squash seed are obliging in that way; perhaps the teachers planted a few extra... just in case.

To enhance gardening’s ‘fun’ factor, parents or teachers often include sunflowers, whose blossoms follow the sun, gourds from which to create birdhouses, and grow-a-foot-a-day climbers like morning glories. If parents are too busy or not inclined to teach gardening, community programs can provide exposure to garden techniques; our own Catey Henning planned and taught a children’s class, resulting in immediate rewards plus lasting memories.

Sometimes lack of space seems a hindrance; however, a raised bed, flower box, or even an inside window garden offer opportunity for little ones to explore gardening’s bounty. And yes, our new condo’s little yard will allow space for those blackberry vines.

## RCMGA MASTER GARDENERS 2012



Total hours recorded for Robertson County Master Gardeners during 2012 were 1,202!

At the December Christmas party, Trina Fulton and Steve Estep (at left) were awarded their Master Gardener pins by President Doug Buck.

Other new Master Gardeners for 2012 include Kim Johnson, Patsy Morris, and Ann Rausch.

Nine Master Gardeners re-certified and they are Michelle Adcock, Patricia Avril, Judy Bryant, Ann Crouch, Jeanne Protsman, Julee Orr, Paul Putman, Lynn Stenglein, and Bridgette Wakefield.

**Remember, reporting our volunteer hours justifies funding for the Tennessee Master Gardener program!**

### CONTACT LIST

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