

# The Leaflet



June 2013

## JUNE MASTER GARDENER MEETING

Thursday,  
June 27,  
7 P.M. @  
Extension Office

### PROGRAM:

Heucheras — More Than Just a Coral Bell, presented by Bridgette Wakefield, Robertson County Master Gardener

### PLANT OF THE MONTH:

Daylily  
From the Garden of Ann Crouch

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## BEAUTIFICATION AWARD GOES TO GREENBRIER GARDEN!



Pictured above are MG Jim Brigman, June Haley, Sandy Hilliard, Isabella Blemente, and MG Betty Brigman.

The Robertson County Master Gardeners Association presented 2013's initial beautification award to June Haley and Sandy Hilliard whose garden is located at 2833 Lights Chapel Road in Greenbrier. Thanks to our garden scouts, Betty and Jim, for bringing this garden to our attention and to Paul Putman for initiating this program.

Robertson County Master Gardeners, remember that it is our job to find and nominate the gardens. Please bring pictures of your favorite garden to the June meeting.

Lynn Stenglein

## SOUTH CENTRAL GROWERS TEST GARDENS



I always enjoy going to SCG. I was so glad I was able to be a part of the test recently. They have the best quality of flowers. I was fortunate to meet the owners when I worked for Kroger. I ordered the flowers, and when I would need something, they delivered within a short time. They served us a great lunch Saturday and surprised us by giving us a wonderful plant. I really enjoyed seeing the test gardens and learned more about the operation which was very helpful.

Mary Russell Rigsby



## RIDGETOP ARBORETUM PROJECT UPDATE

Have you visited the Ridgetop Station Park recently to hug a few trees that are part of the arboretum? If so, you probably noticed the newly-installed horse-chestnut tree which is part of our 2013 RCMGA legacy gift to the arboretum. The horse-chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) is a member of the buckeye family, native to Middle Tennessee, and has showy red "candle" blooms in late spring. The tree was planted in May, mulched, and gator-bagged. It's located on the north-central side of the walking trail. The label for this tree and for an additional 20 trees (also part of our legacy gift) will be ordered and installed in a few weeks. You can get a map of the trees in the "Take One" box located near the parking lot and trail.

The arboretum project is a large undertaking for our Association. Many requirements necessary for Level 1 Arboretum certification have been met and exceeded including identification and labeling of 30 unique species of trees (the arboretum has identified about 40); a plan for the arboretum including a process for tree-donations; training of park personnel; and initial inspection of the trees by the Urban Forestry Council (UFC). However, the removal of hazardous hanging limbs and trees is delaying the second UFC inspection.

Fortunately, though a diplomatic challenge, the arboretum is not solely a RCMGA undertaking. The City of Ridgetop as well as the Ridgetop Garden Club are stakeholders. The State Department of Forestry, UT Extension Forestry Specialist, and the Urban Forestry Council are sources of assistance and data. The Boy Scout Troup and the 4-H Tree Team have volunteered several hours attaching tree labels and identifying trees.



Julie Orr and Lynn Stenglein labeling a Paw Paw Tree

As well as the goal of the arboretum's certification, we need a site plan for future tree plantings and an ongoing "tree diary." The park (certified or not) is the only arboretum in Robertson County and can be an education resource for its citizens; we need it to "go public." If you have questions or ideas or are interested in working on this project, contact Lynn Stenglein [lcsqts@hughes.net](mailto:lcsqts@hughes.net).

*A man has made at least a start on discovering the meaning of human life when he plants shade trees under which he knows full well he will never sit.*

*D. Elton Trueblood*

## GRASSMERE HISTORIC GARDENS

We received a Thank You letter from the Grassmere Historic Gardens Project Liaison, Cathie Long.

*"It was such a pleasure having your group come and work in the Grassmere Historic Gardens on Saturday, May 25, 2013. The enthusiasm of Catey, Rodney, Julie, Pat, Bridgette, Jeanne, Judy, and you were a great addition to our Saturday volunteer crew.*

*The clearing of the vegetable terrace of chamomile will enable us to get the seed planting done right away. Also, the weeding in perennials and medicinal herbs is a big help also.*

*To hear your group say they want to come back again is encouraging, and I hope they will remember that they are welcome any time. Our normal work hours are 8:00 until 12:00 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays, weather permitting. We could make a formal annual schedule if you would like to work toward that concept also.*

*Again, thank you all for coming. I will share this letter with our own Davidson County Board to let them know how others are participating."*

## RCMGA MAY MEETING



*Diann Nance*, Montgomery County Master Gardener and owner of Diann's Greenhouse, presented a brief program entitled, "Choosing, Growing, and Using Herbs." (Picture from Montgomery County Master Gardeners' Facebook page.)



Patricia Avril shared her love of peonies.

## Upcoming Events

May 24 — November 10: Light by Bruce Munro at Cheekwood Art & Gardens. A stunning outdoor art installation by British artist Bruce Munro, transforming Cheekwood's beautiful gardens into an enchanting, dream-like escape. Extended hours on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings until 11pm to facilitate viewing under the night sky. Cheekwood.org will have more information.

June 27: RCMGA June Meeting, 7pm, Extension Office.

July 11: Summer Celebration Lawn & Garden Show, UT Gardens West Tennessee Research and Education Center, Jackson, 10am. All-day event including speakers, vendors, master gardeners' plant sale, conifer gardens, annual and perennial trial beds, cooking demonstration, plant and insect diagnostic center, soil testing, walks and talks, wagon tours, 4-H food tent and more. Admission is \$5 for adults with children under 17 free. Visit westtennessee.edu for full details.

### GARDENING TIPS BY JASON REEVES, RESEARCH HORTICULTURIST, UT GARDENS JACKSON

Just because it's almost summer doesn't mean it is too late to plant annuals. Plants such as sunflowers, zinnias, Mexican sunflower, cosmos, basil, and dill can still be direct-seeded.

During the hot summer months, mulch can be especially useful for conserving water. Consider mulching your vegetable garden as well as your ornamentals. The mulch not only helps conserve moisture, but it prevents the splashing of water, reducing the spread of disease. It also adds organic matter to the soil and prevents many weeds.

Trim back catmint (*Nepeta*) after its first flush of flowers to promote new growth and a second flush of blooms.

The best time to harvest most herbs is just before flowering. This time is when the leaves contain the maximum essential oils.

Daylilies are in peak bloom in June. It is a good time to buy new daylily selections for your garden to ensure you get the color you desire. Visit our area daylily "farms" (Betty Dorris on Stacy Springs Rd in Springfield or Nancy and Gene Ligon located on Hwy. 41 just north of downtown Goodlettsville), for the best selections, and plant them in full sun for the best flower production.

Once daffodils', surprise lilies', and red spider lilies' foliage has turned yellow, you can mow or cut it down. If you remove it while it is still green, you decrease the amount of energy available for the bulb to store, which will reduce flower size next year.

To keep squash, cucumber, and bean plants abundantly producing, harvest them frequently.

Store leftover vegetable and flower seeds in a cool, dry location to save them for planting next year.

Water your plants in the morning, if possible, to conserve water and reduce evaporation. Frequent, deep watering is better than frequent, shallow watering, since deep watering promotes deep root growth. For best results, deep-water trees and shrubs once or twice a week and flowers two to three times a week. Most plants need 1 inch of rainfall per week. Pay attention to how much falls from the sky (check out [www.cocorah.com](http://www.cocorah.com)) and water accordingly. If you have an automatic irrigation system, consider installing a rain sensor that adjusts for rain.

Be on the lookout for mosquitoes! Keep plant saucers, buckets, trash cans and children's toys poured out. Make sure your gutters are draining properly, and change the water in birdbaths every three to four days.

*Edited with local information added to content*

## PROFILES IN GARDENING: JUDY BRYANT

Judy is a member of the first class of Master Gardeners to be trained in Robertson County and certified in 2006. She served for several years as a RCMGA officer, including vice president and treasurer. Judy is the lead of the Adams Beautification and the Courthouse/Extension Office projects.



Judy reports that her reason for becoming a master gardener was to learn. Along with the opportunity to acquire new plants, she lists the continuing education/learning experience as one of her favorite things about Master Gardeners. Her gardening interests encompass vegetables, herbs, flowers, shrubs, and trees. Judy's interest in gardening goes back to her family's vegetable garden and her enjoyment of the wildflowers where she roamed as a child. Jonquils are among her favorite plants "because they are first; magnolia, jasmine, and lilacs because they smell so good; and wildflowers because you find them so unexpectedly."

Judy's interests include painting, playing ball with the grandkids, sailing, traveling, hiking, reading, music, and family. While she has always lived in Middle Tennessee (Robertson and Montgomery Counties), she has visited gardens in Australia, South America, Europe, Russia, Canada, the Baltic's, Mexico, Great Britain, and the U.S. She says, "God's gardens are the best; he has the special touch!"

*Editor's note: RCMGA members are extremely lucky that Judy is our "anchor person" in the Extension Office who knows where things and people are, what is going on, and who can give us good information about RCMGA issues cheerfully, aptly, and with a great sense of humor.*



Bats can be an effective way to control insects. One big brown bat can eat 3,000 to 7,000 insects each night. Attract bats by building and placing bat houses in your yard.



## DIRT: THE MOVIE



Right now, you can watch the full-length feature film, *Dirt: The Movie*, on Hulu for free. (This information was disseminated through the Wilson County Master Gardeners blog. You can subscribe for free here: <http://wcmastergardener.org>)

## SUMMER CELEBRATION COUNTDOWN

There's still time to signup for the vanpool to Summer Celebration Lawn & Garden Show which is Thursday, July 11th, 10am, - 6pm at the West Tennessee AgResearch & Education in Jackson. This year's theme is "Wild Tennessee" with special presentations on bluebirds, butterflies, bobcats, and a host of fascination critters. There's still some room in the vanpool. Signup Thursday at our June 27th meeting or email [robertson-countymastergardeners@yahoo.com](mailto:robertson-countymastergardeners@yahoo.com).



Lynn Stenglein

## RAISE YOUR HAND TENNESSEE!

Robertson County Gardeners Michelle Adcock, Patricia Avril, Betty and Jim Brigman, Julee Orr, and Lynn Stenglein enjoyed United Way's "Raise Your Hand Tennessee" (RYHT) program Friday, June 21, almost as much as the kids. Children planted a bean or sunflower seed and populated their micro-garden with an earthworm imported from Michelle's compost bed for the occasion. *The Hungry Caterpillar* book was an appropriate and favorite reading.



## CONTACT LIST

**President:** Patricia Avril, 615.868.0416, [avril@clearwire.net](mailto:avril@clearwire.net)

**Project Coordinator:** Ann Crouch, 615.394.3944, [allinonelogs@bellsouth.net](mailto:allinonelogs@bellsouth.net)

**Vice President:** Julee Orr, 615.859.0010, [julee@mojoridge.com](mailto:julee@mojoridge.com)

**The Leaflet:** Lynn Stenglein, 615.859.9659, [lcsqts@hughes.net](mailto:lcsqts@hughes.net)

**Secretary:** Trina Fulton, 615.382.6822, [trinaf@charter.net](mailto:trinaf@charter.net)

**Ann Rausch,** 615.305.2598, [alrausch@charter.net](mailto:alrausch@charter.net)

**Treasurer:** Ann Crouch, 615.394.3944, [allinonelogs@bellsouth.net](mailto:allinonelogs@bellsouth.net)

**Robertson Co. Ext. Agent:** Paul Hart, 615.384.7936, [pehart@utk.edu](mailto:pehart@utk.edu)

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