

The Leaflet



March 2013

MARCH MASTER GARDENER MEETING

Thursday,
March 21,
7 P.M. @ United Way

PROGRAM: Creating Wildlife Habitats presented by Ron Cooper, Montgomery Co. Wildlife Gardener

PLANT OF THE MONTH:
Rosemary from
Michelle Adcock's
garden

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COMING SOON: RCMGA PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 11, 2013 ✧ 8am — 1pm



Our plant sale last year was a resounding success. We had plenty of quality plants on hand with a wide variety of selections to suit a variety of tastes. If we again provide quality plants and a varied selection this year, we'll no doubt meet or exceed last year's sales.

This year we will expand our education outreach by offering two programs at the plant sale. We need a couple of Master Gardeners to step forward and share their expertise with the public. Keep it fun and not too elaborate.

Good displays for sure help sales. Last year we offered some really nice arrangements in baskets and it would be great if we could do it again. We're also not limited to plants. Garden art, gardening publications, bird houses, and other gardening related items can all be offered at the sale.



We're going to use tables this year to highlight our plants. While that will require more set up and take down time, it makes a better display and helps the back too!

This year, let's try to get an identification label for each plant. It's impossible to know every plant and each year that's painfully evident when you're trying to identify a plant for a prospective customer. Again, we'll organize plants by category — perennial, annual, shade, sun, etc. It's big help for all involved.



Our annual plant sale is not only our major source of funding, it's a major outreach to the community. It's all hands on deck! Let's make this a huge success!

We'll have a sign up sheet at our next monthly meeting. If you have any suggestions please don't hesitate to contact either Ursula or me.

Doug Buck

NOTE FROM EDITOR: *If you have access to TABLES through church, etc., please find out whether we can borrow some for the sale.*

RCMGA FEBRUARY MEETING



Kathy Green discussed starting all sorts of new plants, her greenhouse, roses, and other plants.

Also at the February Master Gardener Meeting, *Rodney Sawyer* presented our **Plant of the Month** which was Lenten Roses (Hellebores x hybridus).



ENTERING HOURS PAYS OFF

At the February meeting, Paul Hart presented pins and certificates to those Master Gardeners who reached 100 or more hours during 2013. Those joining the Gold Leaf club were Patricia Avril (101 hours), Ann Rausch (102 hours), Julee Orr (107.5 hours), and Catey Henning (163 hours); while Lynn Stenglein earned TWO gold leaves with 257 hours last year. Go Master Gardeners!

Don't forget to keep up with your hours. You could be in next year's picture of the *Gold Leaf Club*.

Ann Rausch



2012 Gold Leaf Inductees

NASHVILLE LAWN & GARDEN SHOW



*Espalier @ Nashville
L&G Show Entrance*

If it's March in Middle Tennessee, you've likely encountered several of us RCMGs checking out the Nashville Lawn and Garden Show at the State Fairgrounds no matter which day(s) you went to the show. Along with being invited to the gardens at Chateau de Chantilly near Paris, France, I chatted with vendors of plants, hardscape, garden-related products and art; talked with herb, perennial, bonsai, rose, hosta, daylily society members; and took home a few plants and summer-blooming bulbs.

As our RCMGA plant sale is nearing, I scouted items that we might sell. "Container art" (small metal butterflies, bees, etc. on thin metal stakes) might be "winners." Several vendors offered carpenter bee traps, which is an easy chunk-of-wood working project. I invested in a trap and will report back on its success later this summer. Email me (lcsqts@hughes.net) if you would like a picture or specs.

Lynn Stenglein



Landscaping



*Carpenter Bee
Trap*

APRIL GARDENING TIPS

- ✧ Harden off and move cool season crops to the garden
- ✧ Plant asparagus roots and onion sets
- ✧ Apply pre-emergent crabgrass killer after forsythia bloom
- ✧ Remove mulch from on top of flowers
- ✧ Re-mulch beds as necessary
- ✧ Remove tent caterpillars and webs
- ✧ Begin monitoring for signs of disease
- ✧ Keep ahead of the weeds
- ✧ Turn the compost
- ✧ Sharpen Tools
- ✧ Test and amend your soil
- ✧ Prune flowering shrubs when they finish blooming
- ✧ Plant and divide perennials
- ✧ Be prepared for cold snaps at night. Use row covers newspapers or sheets to protect seedlings. Protect fruit blossoms from late frosts.
- ✧ Start seeds indoor of warm season vegetables and flowers, if you haven't yet.
- ✧ Stake perennials before they get too tall
- ✧ Finish pruning roses. Remove dead and diseased wood first. Hybrid teas can be cut back hard, to a new shoot.
- ✧ Check on cool season crops for harvesting
- ✧ Begin transplanting warm season seedlings outdoors, when the soil has warmed and night temperatures stay above 50 degrees F.
- ✧ Give your bulbs some food once they finish blooming and allow the foliage to remain until it begins to turn yellow.
- ✧ Feed fruit and nut trees and bushes
- ✧ Enjoy the flowering shrubs in bloom and keep an eye out for Trillium.
- ✧ Increase the water given to houseplants
- ✧ Sew new lawns and repair bare patches

UPCOMING EVENTS

Breaking for spring? Planning a summer sojourn? Take along your CARD. If you have a Cheekwood Botanical Gardeners membership, remember that you have reciprocal privileges to over 200 other botanical gardens. A complete list can be viewed at www.cheekwood.org.

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.

April 6: Perennial Plant Society of Middle Tennessee 22nd Annual Perennial Plant Sale, 9am — 2pm, Tennessee State Fairgrounds Sports Arena Building. www.ppsmt.org

April 6: Garden Club of Nashville, Cheekwood, 10am until all plants are sold! Looking for some new garden treasures to add to your garden? Check out the Native Plant Sale for an outstanding assortment of spring, summer and fall blooms. Don't forget the early bird catches the worm at this annual springtime sale. Arrive early for the best selection! Do not miss out on trilliums, celandine poppies, columbines, black-eyed Susans and summer phlox plus our great selection of shrubs, vines, and small trees. There is something for everyone's garden at the sale.

April 20: Herb Society of Nashville Annual Herb Sale, Tennessee State Fairgrounds Sports Arena Building, 9am—2pm, Free Admission (\$5 Parking Fee). www.herbsocietynashville.org

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

April 25 RCMGA Meeting: Plant Swap. Please bring one plant to swap. Start thinking about what you'd like to share with one of your fellow Master Gardeners. You may just go home with the plant of your dreams. www.rcmga.org

April 26 — 28: Cumberland Co. Master Gardeners Spring Flower and Garden Show, www.ccmga.org

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 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.

August 27: 5th Annual Fall Gardeners' Festival!, UT Plateau Research and Education Center, Crossville, TN, 10am — 4pm. www.ccmga.org

PROFILES IN GARDENING: LYNN STENGLEIN

My interest in gardening likely is genetic as well as learned. My grandmothers, aunts, and mother planted large vegetable gardens to feed their families; also, they grew flowers and finalized Friday housecleaning-day by placing fresh flowers in the house from their gardens. Encouraged by Master Gardener friends, I was delighted to enroll in the Robertson County Master Gardener class in 2008 and to certify in 2009. Where else but Master Gardener events (Summer Celebration, Winter School, garden tours, working on projects, RCMGA field trips and meetings) could I hang out with folks who share my love of plants, hone my gardening knowledge and skills, and work toward making Robertson County a better, greener, place!



Lynn & legacy ornamental grass

My first M.G. project was editing “The Leaflet,” our RCMGA newsletter. I enjoy writing and collecting articles, but I consider the major perks to be contacts with fellow Association members about their projects and interests; interviews at local garden centers; and another excuse to tour gardens near and far. I chaired the infamous 2010 Garden Tour/Plant Sale (a washout only in terms of the weather) and chaired or co-chaired two other garden tours. Currently, I am working on the Ridgetop Park Arboretum project; it has increased my appreciation of forestry organizations and of local volunteer organizations (Boy Scouts, our RCMGs, community groups, etc.) as well as the challenges of working with small town governments. I served as president of our RCMGA for two years and as secretary for one year.



Hugging Tree: State Forestry & RCMGs at Ridgetop Arboretum

Even my most generous friends categorize me as a scientific or experimental gardener, not an artistic one; a landscape artist I am not. Mostly, my favorite plants are what I am working on at that time. I have a special interest and affection for all kinds of native trees and count Baptisia (False Indigo), zinnias, and Mexican Sunflowers among my favorite plants. I treasure what I call my “legacy plants”: lilacs, grasses, irises, and other plants that I migrated from my childhood home in the hills of southeast Kentucky where I gardened growing up. Even when I am gardening, I am never without books, whether audio, digital, or conventional, and both non-fiction and fiction, classic and pop, historical and dystopian, etc. I “anchor” the Tuesday morning reading of *The Tennessean* for the visually impaired, an experience that we might leverage someday on a RCMGA radio show project: “Ask a Master Gardener.”

Lynn’s profile is the first in a series of articles about RCMGA members which are randomly selected from active members. Next month: Julee Orr

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2013 DUE\$!

If you haven’t seen Ann Crouch yet to deliver your yearly \$10 membership fee, just drop it off by the Extension Office. Robertson Co. Master Gardeners use these funds, along with proceeds from our upcoming plant sale, to help support the different projects we work on throughout the county (Animal Control, Library, Extension Office, Fair, etc.).
Ann Rausch



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