

March 2012

**A PUBLICATION BY THE ROBERTSON COUNTY MASTER
GARDENERS**

**March Master Gardener Meeting!
Thursday, March 22, 7 P.M.
@ the United Way Office Building
Across from the UT Extension Office
Please bring a plant to exchange and tell us about!**

See You There!

“2012 RCMG PROJECTS”

Following is the 2012 Project List
including the budget for each project:

1. Plant Sale, Doug Buck & Ursula Otto, \$100
2. Garden Tour, Lynn Stenglein, \$200
3. Co. Fair Booth, Jeanne Protsman, \$50
4. Co. Animal Shelter, Ann Crouch, \$200
5. Co. Fairground Landscaping, Paul Putman, \$1,000
6. RCMGA Website, Julee Orr \$198
7. THE LEAFLET, Catey Henning, \$75
8. Co. Courthouse Landscaping Tim Best, \$50
9. Ext. Ofc. Landscaping, Paul Putman, \$200
10. Springfield Library, Jo Ann Slate/Ursula Otto, \$50
11. Ridgetop Station Park, Lynn Stenglein, \$50
12. Springfield Hwy. 41 No. Sign, Jane Wilkerson, \$50
13. Springfield Hwy. 41 So. Sign, Julee Orr, \$75
14. Adams Signs, Judy Bryant, \$50
15. Springfield Hwy. 49 Sign, Tim Best, \$50
16. Jo Bryns Elem. (pending approval), Patsy Morris, \$50

The Robertson County Master Gardeners Association will have our 5th annual Plant and Garden Art Sale on Saturday May 12th in front of the County Extension Office in Springfield. The event is one of our major fundraisers providing resources for our M.G. projects (Animal Shelter, Welcome Signs, etc.) and for our Legacy Gift to the community.

Robertson County Master Gardeners provide the plants and other items for the sale. As you divide your perennials and ground covers, move/divide shrubs, remove small trees in the next couple of months, propagate cuttings, start seeds, and reserve the extras for the plant sale. Since the sale will be just before Mother's Day, you might plant containers or create baskets containing pots of herbs, perennials, and/or annuals for sale. Vegetable plants will be in demand in early May.

Birdhouses, garden art, decorative flower pots sell well as do bamboo stakes, curly willow twigs, and gourds. Garden related publications such as "Birds in Bloom" and "Tennessee Gardener" magazines and gardening books also are in demand.

The Plant Sale is a wonderful opportunity to meet other gardeners and share our extra plants with the community. Furthermore, we are our own best customers; some of us go home with nearly as many purchased plants as we brought to the sale. Remember, time spent dividing, potting, labeling plants for the sale (as well as working at the day of the sale) count as volunteer hours.

MASTER GARDEN VOLUNTEER HOURS: WHAT? HOW? WHY?

To certify as a Master Gardener interns must volunteer 40 hours of garden-related community service; once certified, Master Gardeners must volunteer 25 hours of service and complete 8 hours of continuing education each year. These volunteer hours not only benefit the community but are an important

component in justifying the funding for the Master Garden program. One of the best and most fun places to learn more about gardening is where you and your fellow gardeners work on projects, go on fieldtrips and to garden shows, and network at Master Gardener functions.

There are many volunteer opportunities for Robertson County gardeners.

-Our Association maintains the landscaping at several Welcome Signs, Courthouse, Extension Office, Library, and Robertson County Animal Shelter. Gardeners also record volunteer time working on gardens at churches and schools.

-Several Master Gardeners partner with the Ridgetop Garden Club in park beautification that includes shrub and garden maintenance.

-Newsletter (The Leaflet) articles and photographs are always needed for our newsletter (The Leaflet), our web site (rcmga.org) and Facebook page

-Robertson County Master Gardeners volunteer vast numbers of hours at the spring plant sale including supplying plants as well as working at the sale.

-Volunteers are needed for garden tour planning, publicity, ticket sales, and working as garden docent during the tour.

-One of the major objectives of the Master Gardener program is training. Volunteers may log hours giving (and creating) garden-related presentations to our Master Gardeners' Association, to a garden club or to other civic groups. Also we will have opportunities to education others about gardening at businesses, at Farmers Market Customer Service Day, at the County Fair in late summer, and by answering gardening questions from family and friends.

-While programs at our meetings count as CEU (continuing education units), Master Gardeners

may log the business meeting as volunteer time (administrative hours). .

You can track volunteer time on paper and turn it in to the Extension Office; samples will be distributed at our February meeting. Most Master Gardeners prefer to enter their volunteer hours online at mastergardener.Tennessee.edu, the Tennessee Master Gardener Web site. You can obtain your user id and password by contacting Paul Hart at the Extension Office. Judy or Paul will be happy to assist you with questions about navigating the web site or send questions to this newsletter or bring them to our next meeting.

MARK YOUR CALENDERS!

May 5 – MCMG Plant Sale @ UT Jackson

May 11 – National Public Gardens Day
(more details to come)

May 12 – RCMG Plant Sale

June 9 – RCMG 2012 Garden Tour

Good Book to Have on Your Shelf:



“Rodale’s Ultimate Encyclopedia of Organic Gardening” By Rodale Publishing