

The Leaflet



May 2013

MAY MASTER GARDENER MEETING

Thursday,
May 23,
7 P.M. @
Extension Office

PROGRAM: Choosing, Growing, and Using Herbs presented by Diann Nance, Montgomery County Master Gardener & Diann's Greenhouse Owner

PLANT of the MONTH:
Peony, Patricia Avril

BRING to Meeting:
SEEDS: To be given to elementary school children at the Raise Your Hand Tennessee Day at Gorham-MacBane Public Library

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6th ANNUAL PLANT SALE A GREAT SUCCESS



Bridgette, along with Ann Crouch and Patricia Avril at the Heucheras Workshop Table

Due to the awesome plant-sale-team effort, RCMGA membership participation, and community interest, we enjoyed a very successful 2013 plant sale. Everyone loved the table-top shopping. (Thanks, UT Extension Office, for loaning the tables!) All morning, shoppers congregated at the Heucheras info table (presided over by RCMGA member Bridgette Wakefield), and those plants disappeared all too quickly. By 1pm, we were virtually sold-out and the sale area was cleared and cleaned. Very few plants were unsold and, therefore, found their home-garden at RCMGA project locations.

Members made the following suggestions/observations for our sale next year:

- ✦ Buyers liked the dish gardens and they went quickly
- ✦ Everyone loved the little veggies and herbs; having a large pot alongside planted with multiple herbs encouraged customers to buy plants to start their own.
- ✦ We should encourage customers to sign up to notify them of future sales and could remind them about the Master Gardener class as well.
- ✦ We might consider putting contact information on labels; follow-up Q&A is an added value.
- ✦ Free items were a plus; the free magazines, books, large grower pots did well.
- ✦ Shoppers asked for pink, yellow, or white irises, sweet potato vines, and black-eyed susans.
- ✦ While our members should bring the plants that they are dividing, are their specialties, or that need good homes, **let's carve out a March 2014 agenda item or Leaflet topic** for what we are bringing (if we know) and what we are looking for. The obedient plant we pull up and compost might be the plant someone really needs!



Beautiful wooden bowls handcrafted by RC Master Gardener Steve Estep

Lynn Stenglein

GRASSMERE WORK DAY / VISIT

We are invited for a workday and visit to the gardens at Grassmere on Saturday morning, May 25th. Cathie Long, Grassmere Project Manager/Davidson County Master Gardener, will have some tasks for us to help with in the gardens. We also will have an opportunity to see the landscaping at the zoo, the Croft House (probably), as well as the Grassmere gardens.

If you are interested or have questions, please email Lynn Stenglein at lcsqts@hughes.net. A number of workers has been turned in to Cathie but it may can be modified.

Carpooling will be coordinated from the Ridgetop and/or Springfield area.

Lynn Stenglein

THINK SUMMER (CELEBRATION)!

Start clearing your calendar for Thursday, July 11th, and line-up your sunscreen and sunhat; leave some garden space for the great plants sold at the Madison County Master Gardener plant sale. Plan to attend the Summer Celebration Lawn and Garden Show at the West TN AgResearch and Education Center in Jackson. Go to <http://west.tennessee.edu/events/SummerCeleb.asp> for event details and watch your emails for RCMGA travel plans (carpools or vanpools).

Lynn Stenglein

PROJECTS UPDATE

Thanks to *South Central Growers*, our benefactor of annuals for our Robertson County Master Gardener projects, for providing a truckload of flowers in April! Thanks also to RCMGA member Tim Best for getting the flowers to the Extension Office for pickup. As well as adding color and interest to the Hwy. 41 sign pictured here, flowers were planted at the Animal Shelter, Ridgetop Station Park, Adams Welcome Signs, and other locations.



Don't forget we have a field trip planned to see the SCG test gardens in June. Watch your email for the date/time.

APPRECIATING ROBERTSON COUNTY GARDENS



As gardeners, we especially appreciate the beauty and work that make up lawns and gardens in Robertson County. This year, we are going to do something about it! We are awarding a "Beautification Award" to a Robertson County residence. The resident will receive a gift from a local garden center; a sign will be placed on their lawn; and a picture will be submitted to the Robertson County Times.

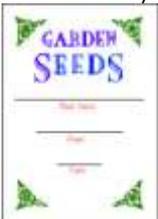
Robertson County Master Gardeners: We are the lawn and garden scouts, nominating committee, and The Deciders. Make a list of the lawns/gardens that you have visited, that you drive or walk by, that your friends mention. Is the "real garden" behind the house and not visible from the road? No worry, we are honoring the whole landscape. Make a picture of the location(s) and bring it to our regular May Master Gardener Meeting.

The Late Bloomers Springfield Garden Club and the Chamber of Commerce conducted successful award programs for several years. Those programs largely concentrated on the immediate Springfield area; while we are not excluding any locations in the county, we will emphasize locations outside of downtown Springfield. It's our turn to show appreciation to the gardeners who beautify our county.

Lynn Stenglein

SPEND SUMMER SOLSTICE @ RAISE YOUR HAND TENNESSEE

United Way's "Raise Your Hand Tennessee" (RYHT) requests participation of Robertson County Master Gardeners Association members on Friday, June 21st (9am – 3pm) at the library in Springfield. RYHT, a program of United Way, plans several activities for children (grades K-5) on the library grounds including garden-related activities and a seed exchange program. Come to the May RCMGA meeting Thursday (May 23rd) to discuss this volunteer opportunity and to get your questions answered. Please bring (excess, leftover flower and/or vegetable) seeds to the meeting to donate to the RYHT seed sharing project.



Lynn Stenglein

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.

May 25: Grassmere Work Day/Visit. Contact Lynn Stenglein (lcsqts@hughes.net) for more information.

June 8: Memphis' 4th Annual Through Our Garden Gates Garden Tour, 9am to 4pm — Six MG home gardens will feature speakers. Donations appreciated. Visit www.memphisareamastergardeners.org or visit their Facebook page for details.

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.

June 21: Raise Your Hand Tennessee, Gorham-MacBane Public Library, Springfield, 9am — 3pm.

June 22: Montgomery County Water Garden Society Pond Tour, Clarksville Area, 9am — 4pm. Tickets \$12 and on sale day of tour. For more information, call Linda Westfall at 931.648.6350

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.

Everything that slows us down and forces patience, everything that sets us back into the slow circles of nature, is a help. Gardening is an instrument of grace. May Sarton

RCMGA APRIL MEETING

Adam Chapman, Horticulturist with Bates Nursery, presented an informative and entertaining program on Edible Landscaping.

A plant swap took the place of our usual monthly Plant of the Month. Everyone went home with an interesting, new plant.



PROFILES IN GARDENING: CATHERINE TAYLOR HENNING

Catheryn Taylor Henning aka Catey

Master Gardener since: 2010

Offices held: Newsletter Editor, Treasurer

Projects involved in: Teaching organic gardening and edible landscaping; whatever comes up with our group projects

Why become a MG: I have always had dirt under my fingernails! I started gardening with my Grandpa when I was very young. It was how we provided most of our food for the family table. And today our small garden provides for us. I LOVE all types of gardening probably with the exception of traditional row gardens – I feel they are a waste of good space. I enjoy container, bag, and raised bed gardens. I am learning how to do vertical gardening – it's so exciting to me!

Two favorite plants: Oh my this is difficult! I must truly confess, I have a deep love for all plants. I adore Lilacs – they hold so many dear memories for me. I am crazy about any kind of mint. It offers so many uses.

I enjoy Master Gardeners because: I get to meet a lot of different people – it has made a strange place a bit more friendly for me. And I get to do and learn so much! I also get to participate in many community projects – like the YMCA Love Garden. It was a lot of fun teaching those children about gardening and where the food for their plates come from!

My other interests: I am knee deep in my photography! I am exhibiting at the Chamber Gallery here in Springfield and have been asked to submit to Nashville Arts. My goal is to hang in some major galleries and to eventually shoot that one photo which is indefinable – a sort of take your breath away shot! I have a lot of those with plants and flowers! I also have four books in the works although my husband beat me in the publishing race! I am very proud of him though!

Where else have you lived: I have lived all over and have always had my hands in a garden of some type. It is in my blood.

Your first interest in gardening: The first time I helped my Grandpa plant potatoes! Or was it the time I walked through the garden and saw the dew sparkling on the blackberries early in the morning. I can't define the exact time but I can say it was early! In the summertime, we would get up very early and pick green beans until our fingers ached. My Mom and my Auntie would sit in the front yard and snap beans. Granny would be in the kitchen cooking. The first batch always went into a big pot with ham, a few chopped onions, and some new potatoes. We knew that was going to be supper! After we finished picking the day's offerings, we would all pile into the big station wagon, an Olds Vista Cruiser, and off to the creek we would go! Topton Ford was the name of that place! What a time we had! But that's another story for another day... When we got back home, we sat down to a big plate of those wonderful vegetables. There was always a flower vase in the center of the table with Granny's beautiful 'tea roses' or some of the Lilacs – whatever was in bloom. Those were the best times! I wish children today would get to experience half of what I did growing up.

Two interesting, unknown things: I hope to one day have a beautiful English Flower Garden and a huge greenhouse! It is my ultimate goal to marry all of my hobbies into one career. I have hiked over 300 miles on the AP – (Appalachian Trail). It is my most favorite place in the world!



*Catey and Ann Crouch at the
2012 Plant Sale*

CONTACT LIST

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