

# The Leaflet



November/  
December 2014

## CONTENTS

Messages from RCMGA Officers	1
The Season and Reason to Give "Thanks"	2
Identifying Birds, Attracting Monarchs, Teaching Kids	2
<i>Bring Back the Monarchs</i>	
<i>Join Project Feederwatch</i>	
<i>Butterflies of Tennessee</i>	
Year End Highlights	3
Profiles in Gardening: Gwen Day	4
Contact List	4
Upcoming Garden Events	4

## Message from RCMGA Officers

At the end of calendar year 2014 and the onset of 2015, we are proud of our Robertson County Master Gardener Association's accomplishments and look forward to a new year of Robertson County Master Gardener activities. Just a few of the highlights of 2014 include:

- Our 6th successful plant sale.
- Another beautiful and well attended garden tour in the Springfield historic district, Greenbrier, and Ridgetop.
- Participating and certification of multiple interns from the Class of 2013.
- Beautification awards which has been a win-win for our association and for the community.
- Participation in community gardens via donations.

- Public education at the Plant Sale, Frost Free Weekend, Fair Booth, schools, local garden clubs, and other events/locations.
- Lots of fellowship and fun including but not limited to Summer Celebration, Fall Celebration, White House Arboretum tour, South Central Growers test gardens, and our monthly meetings.

As we plan our programs, fieldtrips, activities and projects for 2015, we need your ideas and suggestions. Contact any of the 2014 or 2015 officers with your ideas.

Thank you for your support and confidence in our team(s). Best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**NEXT  
MEETING  
January 22**

**Program:  
Organic Gardening  
by  
Catey Henning**

### **MEETING INFORMATION**

The Robertson County Master Gardener Association meets on the fourth Thursday of every month.

Meetings are at 6:30 pm at the UT Extension Office, 408 North Main Street, Springfield, TN



Back Row: RCMGA 2015 Officers: President Doug Buck, Vice President Lynn Stenglein, Treasurer Janice Derby, Secretary Wanda Cohea (not pictured)

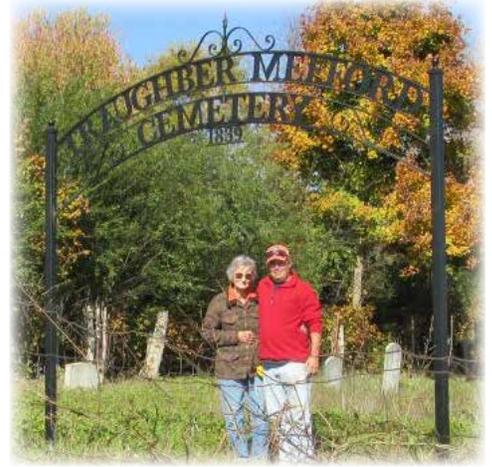
Front Row: RCMGA 2014 Officers: Vice President JoAnn Slate; Secretary Ann Rausch, President Michelle Adcock, Treasurer Jeanne Protsman (not pictured)

## The Season and Reason to Give “Thanks”

By Dorothy Briggs

This is the season for giving thanks for another year of fellowship with Master Gardeners. We each have our own way of working on our projects and showing love through them to others. One reason for my “Thanksgiving” has become a reality through the Master Gardeners and especially Sonny and Shelley Pritchard. A wrought iron sign for the Traughber-Mifford Cemetery was donated and put in place on October 30th by Sonny. This was truly the most thoughtful and generous gift I could have only wished for.

I believe the cemetery will be more appreciated and respected in the future. This sign will remain for decades. Thank you again, Sonny!



## Identifying Birds, Attracting Monarchs, Teaching Kids

The following articles were pulled from our RCMGA October program by Sumner County Master Garden Joy Mayfield. Joy’s program featured information and techniques from her bird classes that she teaches for 3rd and 4th graders. We failed to capture a picture of Joy and her bird puppets, but she shared these pictures sent to her from the students.

### Bring Back the Monarchs

Each fall, hundreds of millions of monarch butterflies migrate from the United States and Canada to the mountains in central Mexico where they wait out the winter until conditions favor a return flight in the spring. The monarch migration is truly one of the world’s greatest natural wonders, yet it is threatened by habitat loss in overwintering grounds in Mexico and throughout the breeding areas in the United State and Canada.

Monarchs need milkweeds and nectar sources which are declining due to development and use of herbicides in croplands, pastures, and roadsides. The Monarch Waystation Program seeks to create, conserve, and protect monarch habitats and to create monarch waystations in home gardens, schools, businesses, nature centers, and on other unused plots of land.

Visit [www.MonarchWatch.org](http://www.MonarchWatch.org) web site for more information, a list of plant species needed by the Monarchs, and for instructions on registering and certifying your monarch waystation site. Moss Wright Park in Goodlettsville recently certified as a Monarch Waystation.



### Join Project Feederwatch

Have a birdfeeder? Count the birds at your feeder(s) and help scientists study winter bird populations. Feeder Watching is as easy as

1. Putting up bird feeders,
2. Counting the birds that visit, and
3. Sending the data to scientist.

Learn more about common feeder visitors at [www.feederwatch.org](http://www.feederwatch.org) or call (800)843-BIRD (2473).

Project FeederWatch is sponsored by Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Along with the feeders, don’t forget to provide a clean water source for the birds. Nothing attracts birds better than a heated birdbath when other water sources are ice covered. It is not unusual to see insect eaters such as bluebirds and robins.



### Butterflies of Tennessee

If you are interested in butterflies, you will enjoy Rita Venable’s book *Butterflies of Tennessee*. Beyond identification, it will teach you about inviting butterflies to the places where you live, work, and play. Included are full-color photos and descriptions of all 124 species of Tennessee butterflies; Tennessee-specific plant lists for adult nectaring and caterpillar feeding; habitat descriptions and favorite spots of local butterfly enthusiasts, and current range maps and flight period information. Published by Maywood Publishing you can order the book from the web site [www.ritavenable.com](http://www.ritavenable.com).

## Caring for Poinsettias

Poinsettias are native to Mexico and Central America and don't like cold weather. When you take your plants home, avoid placing them too close to windows or places where they will be exposed to a cold breeze. Additionally, keep them away from heater vents to avoid drying the leaves.

Poinsettias will do well where there's a lot of sunshine. Be careful with watering. One of the biggest problems taking care of plants is overwatering. Let the soilless media dry before irrigating again.

Poinsettias usually come well fertilized from the greenhouse, but if you want to keep them longer, it's a good idea to use a slow-release fertilizer to keep them healthy and strong.

You can enjoy the beauty of poinsettias well after the holidays with the right amount of care. Poinsettias can be kept all year round. If poinsettias are watered and fertilized properly, they can grow for a long time. In fact, they can grow into large trees. As they grow, poinsettias will need to be repotted into a larger pot. Also, to make them turn color, they need many hours of darkness. That's difficult to achieve at home, but it can be done. In August or September, put them in the basement or another dark place. They will need 14-16 hours of darkness a day until they turn color.



Judy Belloli and Lynn Cantrel at SCG Open House

## Year End Highlights



RCMGA members visit White House Arboretum Nov. 1, 2014



Wanda, Lynn, Janice, Shelley at Courthouse workday



RCMGA Christmas Party December 4, 2014



Paul welcomes new RCMGA members Judy Belloli and Janice Derby

# Profiles in Gardening:

## Gwen Day



Gwen Day & Teresa Howell at Grassmere, Harvest Days

**M**y name is Gwen Day. I became a Davidson Co, Master Gardener in 2005. I worked at several of the DCMG projects and functions, but my main weekly volunteer time was dedicated to Grassmere Historic Farm at the Nashville Zoo. I started doing any and everything with the group, weeding, working in the garden, building things, and finally specialized in the Rose Garden. I made good friends and memories that will last me a lifetime while there. I served on the DCMG board as the Recording Secretary whose responsibility was doing the Newsletter, writing any correspondence and advertising.

My roommate from college, Teresa Howell, moved from Atlanta recently, attended DCMG school and volunteered with me at Harvest Days / Grassmere. She still does most of her volunteer time at the Carter Center in Atlanta.

My favorite type of gardening is a cottage garden. Although I love and appreciate all gardens being formal or informal, my favorite is one that would be suited around an old farm house. My favorite plants are hydrangeas and iris. I also have a love for ferns and woodland plants.

When I was a little girl I helped Mama and Daddy work in the yard and garden. When I helped pick the veggies from the garden, there would always be a snake or some varmint under a leaf which scared the living daylights out of me. To this day, I prefer flowers over vegetables when it comes to gardening. I do love growing watermelons, pumpkins, cantaloupe, and peppers.

I lived in Atlanta, GA for twelve years and while there took several gardening classes. I moved back to Nashville in 2000, and in 2005 decided to enroll in MG school. I did this because of my love of gardening, and to meet some new friends. I have found that if you are around people that love mother earth, they most likely have a good heart and will enrich your life.

Here are some facts you may not know about me.

I worked for six months in Istanbul, Turkey installing a credit card system. While there I was amazed at the different trees and plants that we do not have here. Their produce was outstanding with peaches the size of small grapefruits.

I play the trumpet and I love rocks (big and small). When I was a little girl I would find pretty rocks, wash them and put them in my dresser drawer. When Mama put up the laundry I would get in trouble when the drawer would almost fall down when she opened it.

I am happy to be a part of the Robertson Country Master Gardeners now since moving to Cross Plains. I look forward to getting to know each of the members better as we come together to make a difference in the community.

### CONTACT LIST

President: Michelle Adcock  
(615) 384-9845  
shelladcock@yahoo.com

Vice President: JoAnn Slate  
(615) 334-1341W  
alnj slate@comcast.net

Secretary: Ann Rausch  
(615) 305-2598  
alrausch@charter.net

Treasurer: Jeanne Protsman  
(615) 859-2042  
jeanne.protsman@comcast.net

Robertson Co. Ext. Agent: Paul Hart  
(615) 384-7936,  
pehart@utk.

Project Coordinator:  
Lynn Stenglein, (615) 859-9659,  
lcs gts@hughes.net

The Leaflet: Lynn Stenglein, Editor  
(615) 859-9659,  
lcs gts@hughes.net

The Leaflet: Trina Fulton, Production  
(615) 382-6822  
trinaf@charter.net

## Upcoming Garden Events

<b>Jan 22</b>	RCMGA Meeting	Extension Office, Springfield
<b>Jan 30- Feb 1</b>	Antique & Garden Show	Music City Center, Nashville
<b>Feb 26-27</b>	2015 Master Gardener Winter School	Ag. Center, Murfreesboro, TN
<b>Mar 5-8</b>	Nashville Lawn & Garden Show	Nashville, Fairgrounds