

# The Leaflet

September 2016



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## Congratulations And Best Wishes For A Great Retirement

In the 10+/- years that our Robertson County Master Gardeners Association has been active, one Master Gardener Advisor has been our resource, advisor, sounding board, friend, and colleague: Paul Hart, who:

- Answered our technical questions with accuracy and patience—sometimes several times,
- Reminded us that "...it is volunteers..."
- Graciously let us use his office for meetings when the conference room was busy,
- Counseled us when our reach exceeded our grasp,
- AND encouraged and supported the RCMGA!

Thanks, Paul!!! Consider this an invitation to and expectation that your participation will continue in the RCMG Association!

Robertson County Master Gardeners



## RCMGA CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our annual Christmas dinner will be Thursday, December 8th at 7pm. Turkey and dressing will be provided by the Association. Please bring a side dish or dessert; there will be a sign-up sheet at the meeting or email one of the officers to find out what is needed. Spouses and/or significant others are welcome to attend. We will welcome interns from the Class of 2016. Please bring a poinsettia or other Christmas-y plant to donate to Robertson County Meals-on-Wheels customers. Also, bring a small

garden-related gift (valued at approx. \$10) to exchange. Remember, we do not have a November RCMGA meeting.



2015 RCMGA Christmas Party

### NEXT MEETING

**Oct. 27, 2016**  
**7 pm**

Speakers:

**Rose Wooten**

Program:

**Gardening for Kids**

The Robertson Co. Master Gardener Assoc. meets the fourth Thurs. of every month.

Meetings are at 7pm at the UT Extension Office, 408 Main Street, Springfield, TN

## Yellowwood Tree Donated To Ridgetop Arboretum

The Dean family of Springfield donated the Yellowwood Tree (*Cladrastis lutea*) to the Ridgetop Arboretum in honor of C.W. Dean. Robertson County Master Gardeners Paul Putman and Lynn Stenglein acquired and planted the 6 foot tall, 1 inch caliper tree on the east side of the park along the walking trail. Phillip Keathley will order the Yellowwood label as well as the other tree labels approved by the Association at our September meeting. The Yellowwood, the Tennessee bi-centennial tree, is included in the Arboretum plan, which is part of the Arboretum legacy project of 2013. The Yellowwood is an underused small-to medium-size native tree with year-round interest created by its spring flowers, great summer texture, show fall foliage, and its gray bark and pleasant form apparent in winter. Its deep roots do not rob water from shrubs and perennials

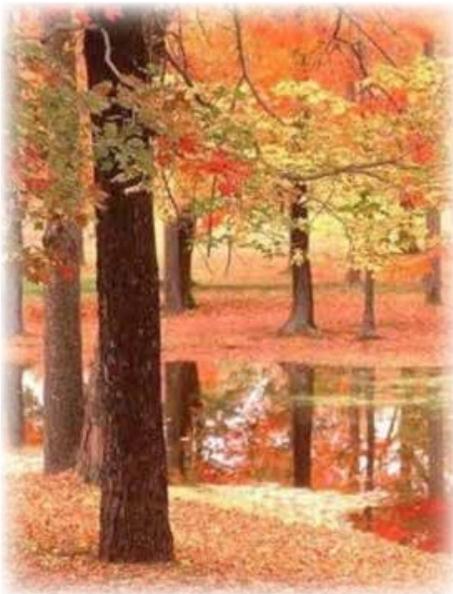
growing beneath it. It is tolerant of less than its ideal conditions and is good for lawns, patio areas, small gardens or plants in groups in larger gardens and properties.

Lynn happily reports "Mission Accomplished" with the tree's acquisition and installation. You have to persevere to find Yellowwoods that are the right size (1-1.5 caliper) and are available at the right time (fall or early winter) for the Arboretum. Hewitt's Garden Center in Franklin, Tennessee has a good selection, and you will enjoy visiting them (2525 Hillsboro Road) if you are looking for a tree or for other plants. While shopping for the tree, Lynn found many interesting specimens closer to home at Bates Nursery in White's Creek. Bates has a good selection of columnar trees (sweet gum, oak, and other) which typically we only have seen featured in Garden Show presentations.



## Once Upon An Autumn Day

By Joseph T. Renaldi



*Once upon an autumn day,  
Colorful leaves began to fade  
In the midst of a chilly, frosty air  
As multitude of trees grow steadily bare.*

*Once upon an autumn day,  
The whispering breeze was here to stay  
Moving aimlessly through the countless trees  
Scattering leaves with the greatest of ease.*

*Once upon an autumn day,  
The leaves whirled freely in every way,  
Until at last they came to rest  
Finding a haven in which to nest.*

*Once upon an autumn day,  
The trees were dormant, and the leaves lay  
Waiting for the winter snow to fall  
To quickly obscure them one and all.*



This beautiful poem so accurately describes our fall season. For me it's such a romantic and almost magical time of year, even though I dread the cold that will soon follow.

You can almost smell the cinnamons, spices, apples and pumpkins as their scents correspond with the brilliant hues of reds, yellows, orange and purples of the autumn landscape.

Nature is cooling down, slowing down; preparing to rest and recover from a hot and vibrant summer.

Soon we'll be raking up leaves, piles and piles to be gathered for compost, but not before children, dogs and ducks take their turn to scatter them about. Standing outside, waiting for a gust to swoop leaves up and up, making them dance and swirl around you like fairies playing tag - magical.

Leaves will cover the forest floor like colorful tapestry, sheltering creatures and seeds and mushrooms alike.

Fall is nature's lullaby, preparing us for sleep through winters' night,

To be long last awoken by springs' first morning light...

By René Kriek

## RCMGA Members Daytrip to Fall Sales and Swaps

Judy Bryant and Lynn Stenglein traveled to the GroWild plant sale and the plant swap at Henry Horton State Park on Saturday October 15<sup>th</sup>. GroWild, one of our favorite sources for native shrubs, trees, and perennials, reduces prices by 10% for the fall sale (evergreens are reduced by 50%). All the plants looked hardy and loved; the selection was huge in variety and sizes; GroWild personnel provided ample and knowledgeable assistance to locate plants and advise on purchases. Judy and Lynn purchased Anise bushes. Lynn brought an American holly couple home; Judy is still thinking

about the nifty sourwood trees she saw; and both think a trip in a truck (with more hauling space) is in their futures. GroWild is open to the public by appointment.

Arriving at Fall Plant Swap, Judy and Lynn found the presentation about lasagna gardening underway; the speaker was experienced and knowledgeable. They agreed that lasagna gardening is a topic to include in our 2017 programs. While the lasagna gardening presentation was very good/swappers were



friendly/offers were labeled well and in good condition, both agreed that "Arrive early!" is advisable.

## Beware of the "Attack" of the Plant World

By Trina Fulton

Poisonous plants have strange attraction to me. They ambush me in the most devious and scheming ways.

My relationship with these disreputable members of the plant family goes back 40 years to my childhood days in Pennsylvania. One of the poisonous plants in that region was nettles. Nettles sting as soon as they are touched—at least that is fair warning. Instantly, you realize you have encountered something very bad. After that, I had great respect for nettles and avoided them. Then I moved to Tennessee, and learned that poisonous plants are sneaky. They pretend to be something else and when touched afflict a time-released poison on contact so the victim is unaware of the attack until the next day when a painful, irritating rash develops. Two plants that have attacked me are poison ivy and poison sumac. The former plant and I have had numerous encounters over the years; the latter plant attacked me this summer as I was naively pulling it out of my chicken yard. Half of the time I never saw the poison ivy and yet the next day I had the rash to prove that I had been ambushed. Once, in January, it attacked me from a piece of firewood. The camouflaged stems of poison ivy long since severed from the ground were entwined in the bark of the firewood and still had enough punch to give me a nasty rash on my hand and wrist. The urushiol from poison ivy can remain potent on anything it touches for up to five years!

So, how do you escape falling into the trap of these nasty plants? Identification is the key:

### Poison ivy:

- groups of three leaves
- red leaves in spring and fall
- grows as a shrub or vine
- older vines are hairy
- clusters of small white flowers in spring
- clusters of white berries summer into winter

### Poison oak

- clusters of three leaves but sometimes grows up to seven on each leaf group
- grows as a shrub or small tree
- clusters of fuzzy green berries

### Poison sumac

- 7 to 13 leaflets on each leaf stem. The leaves have smooth edges and pointed tips.
- Grows as a shrub or tree.

If you come into contact with any of these plants, immediately wash the affected area with water. Remove and wash clothing that may have come into contact with the plant as well as any garden tools. If you can get to water quickly enough to wash off the urushiol you may avoid or at least lessen the severity of the rash. It is a good practice when gardening in areas prone to poisonous plants to frequently rinse off any exposed body parts with water.

Just because we are moving toward winter, don't let your guard down. Poison ivy lies in wait any season of the year, so beware.



## South Central Growers Flowers Planted At Christian Care Center

Rene and Lynn, with ample help from Yolanda and Mason (Rene's sister and nephew), tidied planters and planted several flats of pansies at Christian Care Center in Springfield October 19<sup>th</sup>. CCC Residents participated in planting the flowers and enjoined being outside on what might be the last warm day of the fall season. Thanks to South Central Growers for generously providing the flowers which Gwen planted in Cross Plains and Ann planted in Coopertown as well as the plantings at Christian Care Center. Thank you, Tim Best, for coordinating with SCG and getting the flowers to the UT Extension Office.



*René and Mason working on planters at CCC*

## Public Invited to SCG Poinsettia Open House

You are invited to South Central Growers Poinsettia Open House November 12, 2016 from 10am – 2pm. Bring your family; take a tour; get a free poinsettia. You can also purchase poinsettias of different sizes and colors. Proceeds benefit ALS research. It would be a good time to get your flower for Meals on Wheels, double dip so to speak.



*Bob and Janice Derby (and Sweetie) at SCG's 2015 Poinsettia Open House*

## Honor a US Military Veteran or Public Servant(s)

Tennessee Environmental Council is offering up to 5,000 free native tree seedlings, available for you to pick up at one of the locations listed on the web site [www.tectn.org](http://www.tectn.org). You must register by **November 7** in order to participate; reserve your free tree(s) to plant in honor of your favorite US Military Veteran(s) or public servant(s) this Veterans Day/Arbor Day at [www.tectn.org](http://www.tectn.org).

### CONTACT LIST

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## Upcoming Events

|        |                                    |             |
|--------|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Oct 24 | MG Class—Vegetable Gardening       | Joelton     |
| Nov 7  | MG Class—Landscape Design          | Joelton     |
| Nov 12 | SCG Poinsettia Open House          | Springfield |
| Nov 14 | MG Class—Backyard Wildlife         | Joelton     |
| Nov 21 | MG Class—Lawn and Garden Equipment | Joelton     |
| Dec 8  | RCMGA Christmas Party              |             |