

The Leaflet



OCTOBER 2013

OCTOBER MASTER GARDENER MEETING

Thursday,
October 24, 7 P.M.
@ United Way Office
(We will be at United Way in September & October)

Program:
"Making Your Own Gardeners Hand Scrub and Other Money Saving Tips"
Presented by Kathy Green, Owner of Mimi's Greenhouse

Note: We will all make a hand scrub to carry home

Plant of the Month:
Perennial Mum
Presented by Julee Orr

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JOINT MEETING WITH CLASS OF '13 SCHEDULED

RCMGA members, mark your calendars for 6pm Thursday, December 5, when we will join the 2013 class for refreshments, a short presentation/class on "Small Engine Maintenance", and informal discussion about what it means to be a Master Gardener in Robertson County. This is an excellent opportunity to network with new gardeners, to acquaint them with our projects, to answer their questions, and to describe the ongoing educational opportunities from our speakers, fieldtrips, etc. We urge all members to come and share your experiences and knowledge of our association.

2013 Class: If you have questions about our Robertson County Master Gardeners or about the Tennessee Master Gardener's program or processes, jot them down or email them to robertsoncountymastergardeners@yahoo.com. Put "Class2103" as part of the subject line. We monitor the site periodically and will reply to your inquiry as well as including the questions at our December 5 meeting.

NOVEMBER RCMGA MEETING: NOT!

Remember that our association does not have a November meeting. We will schedule out early-December Christmas party at our regular October 24 meeting.

PUT YOUR GARDEN TO REST FOR THE SEASON

You and your garden benefit when you give it the same TLC in fall as you do in spring and summer. Weeds will be easier to control, plant diseases and pests will decline, and you will be ahead of the curve next spring. Here are some tips for your fall garden:

- ⇒ Remove dead branches from roses and fruit trees (no pruning yet)
- ⇒ Rake up and dispose of leaves around roses, apple trees, and plants susceptible to powdery mildew and other pests and diseases that overwinter on debris. (Do not compost this material.)
- ⇒ Clean out old annuals and weeds before seeds drop. Cut back spent perennials that create hiding places for slugs, snails, and other pests. Leave dried flowers, ornamental grasses, and seed heads to provide food for birds.
- ⇒ Mulch to maintain soil quality using grass clippings, leaves, and straw.
- ⇒ Clean, sharpen, and organize gardening tools.

PRAIRIE SUNFLOWER GETS FAN MAIL

We got the following post on our RCMGA Facebook page from Clyde Dean "I have a plant that I purchased for one of your sales several years ago. I planted 4 plants. 2 years later I divided into 12. It blooms around this time of year with profuse stems of yellow 2-3" diameter sunflower / daisy like flowers with an elongated leaf that looks quite hearty and good all summer. It has spread/ bunched quickly in full sun on a west facing plank fence. What plant is it ??? It is my all-time late autumn favorite although it can be a bit droopy if not secured to the fence. Especially when it blooms. Thanks"



Our reply: No doubt Clyde is referring to the Maximilian Sunflower (*Helianthus maximiliani*) also known as the Prairie Sunflower and Perennial Sunflower. It was one of first sales at our first RCMGA plant sale in 2009. Clyde made a "leap of faith" when he bought the plants. In the spring Prairie Sunflowers have spindly stalks, light grayish-green leaves, and a tangled root mass. (The first time I ordered a plant I tilled it under mid-summer convinced that vendor had sent me weeds.) Happily, a friend gave me root stock and mentored them during their first year. Other than a growth spurt in late summer to a height of 6-8 feet or more, things don't get much better until early September when the "ugly duckling becomes the swan" in the garden. Buds appear all along the stalk and soon each bud burst into bright yellow blooms that are specular, lasting, and makes wonderful fall bouquets massed in large containers.

*To be happy for an hour, get drunk;
To be happy for a year, fall in love;
To be happy for life, take up gardening.
~Chinese proverb*

PROFILES IN GARDENING: DOUG BUCK

Doug grew up in California, where his family "rebelled again the typical Southern California landscape of 90% lawns and 10% plantings"; their yard was always filled with flowers, shrubs, and flowering trees. His interest in gardening grew when he started beekeeping since to be successful you need to know what blooms, when it blooms, and for how long. Doug has been a Master Gardener since 2009. He became a Master Gardener to increase his general knowledge of horticulture and to become more involved in the community. Gardening in Tennessee was a challenge for Doug since the weather and growing conditions in Tennessee are so different from those in California where he lived most of his life. He enjoys learning from the Master Gardener classes, the speakers, and from other association members. "The fellowship is really great and so are the refreshments!" Doug has served as president and vice president of the Robertson County Master Gardeners.



Two of Doug's favorite plants are zinnias and buddleia. Zinnias are great for attracting butterflies and pollinators. They add much color to the landscape, are easy to grow, and make great bouquets which "keep his wife Sally happy, happy". Buddleias, or butterfly bush, attract a myriad of butterflies and pollinators besides giving a pleasant scent to a gentle breeze. Along with gardening and bee keeping, Doug is interested in entomology with a special interest in Lepidoptera. As his email address (historybug...) hints, he also is interested in history, especially the War Between the States.

A California native who moved to Robertson County in 2007, Doug reports that he has visited "most of our great nation but I really can't see my ever living anywhere but Tennessee."

Announcements / Upcoming Events

Now through November 10: *Light by Bruce Munro*, Cheekwood Botanic Garden

October 24: RCMGA Meeting; 7pm @ United Way

October 26: Herb Day 2013; Cheekwood Botanic Hall; "Talks about maintaining herb gardens indoors in the winter, sausage making demonstration, etc."

October 29: Goblins in the Garden, Cheekwood Botanic Garden and Museum of Art. For details, visit Cheekwood.org.

November: The Search for Excellence Committee is recruiting additional judges for this year's Search for Excellence competition. You should plan on approximately ten hours over the three week period between November 1 and November 24. The SFE Committee will provide training and guidance. Please contact Suzanne Allen, SFE Chair, at sallen0126@gmail.com as soon as possible.

November 21: Winter Wonders: Cold Weather Interest in the Garden; Cheekwood Botanical Garden; Lunch and Lecture. Purchase tickets, \$15 members, \$25 nonmembers, in advance, 615.353.9827.

WINTER SCHOOL 2014—HEALTHY PLANTS/HEALTHY PEOPLE

Mark your calendars now for our next Winter School on Thursday, February 20, and Friday, February 21, 2014, in Murfreesboro, TN, at the Rutherford County UT Ag Center. Your TMG Advocacy Board has been hard at work planning the program and WS14 is shaping up to be one of the best yet.

Thursday, February 20, is scheduled for the Leadership Track and Friday, February 21, will be the Education Track. Although speakers are still being confirmed, the schedule of sessions is shaping up to be exactly what you requested. The following are some of the topics that are planned:

- ⇒ Fundraising and grants
- ⇒ Marketing your organization (including social media)
- ⇒ Officer training
- ⇒ Organizational finances
- ⇒ Recruiting and retaining members
- ⇒ Improving organizational communication
- ⇒ Health and benefits of plants
- ⇒ How to deal with the public
- ⇒ Plant diagnostics
- ⇒ Horticultural therapy
- ⇒ Cooking with herbs
- ⇒ Improving indoor environments with plants

Registration will open in a few weeks with an early bird discount rate for all those signing up and paying their fee early. Be sure to watch the Listserv, TMG website, and TMG Facebook page for more details. See you at Winter School next February!

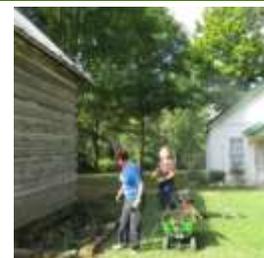
From Taking Root: Tennessee State MG Newsletter



Dorothy Briggs shares "bouquet of the month" (dissected by Michelle Adcock)

SEPTEMBER PICTURES

Ron Daniels brings fabulous flowers, loads of information, and Holy Cow! to September RCMGA Meeting.



SCG flowers being installed at Ridgetop Station Park by Intern Judy Beloli and Jeanne Protsman

ROBERTSON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS NEEDS YOU TO ENTER YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS NOW!

Please complete your entry of volunteer service hours and continuing education hours (CEU) by November 15 so that the Extension office can complete and submit impact reports to the Tennessee Master Gardener organization; those reports are due December 1. Enter your hours directly on the website mastergardeners.tennessee.edu or complete the Volunteer Service Report which can be printed from the website or obtained at the Extension Office. A few hints and reminders for the procrastinators among us:

- ⇒ RCMGA meetings: Report one hour volunteer administrative time and one hour CEU.
- ⇒ Plant Sale: Count time preparing your plants for sale as well as time spent working at the sale.
- ⇒ South Central Grower Trial Gardens: Always educational, our spring SCG trial garden visit/judging counts as volunteer service hours this year.



Master Gardeners give several reasons for not reporting their time, including that the "volunteer service itself is the important part." But, you must report the required number of volunteer hours (at least 25) and CEUs (10) to maintain your Master Gardener certification. Justification for the Master Gardener program is driven in part by hours volunteered and by the number of volunteers reported. Finally, think local: report your volunteer hours as a statement of support to our association leadership (officers, project leaders, and Extension Office staff) and other association members. If you have questions about travel time or volunteer activity, contact Paul Hart (615.384.7936).

TIME TO THINK ABOUT OUR LEGACY GIFT



RCMGA members can propose "legacy gifts," our garden-related gift to the community, at any time, but customarily we consider proposals at the end of the year when annual projects and our major fundraisers are completed. You can download the Legacy Gift nomination form and guidelines from our website, www.rcmga.org/. Paul Putman proposed and coordinated our 2012 "Fairgrounds Beautification" legacy gift; Lynn Stenglein proposed and coordinated our 2013 "Ridgetop Arboretum Expansion" project. Contact Paul (pp1ih@aol.com) or Lynn (lcsqts@hughes.net) if you have questions about the guidelines or the process.

IT WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR FOR GARDENING!



We've enjoyed ample rainfall, not late frosts, and sunshine aplenty this year. Share a favorite 2013 photo of veggies, herbs, flowers, trees, or shrubs in the next (end-of-year) Leaflet. Email photos to Leaflet staff (lcsqts@hughes.net), mail to or drop by the Extension Office (208 North Main Street, Springfield, TN 37172).



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