

MASTER GARDENER TRAINING 2010

By Paul Hart

Robertson Co. Extension Agent

The 2010 Master Gardener training kicked off on Thursday Sept. 9th at the Extension office. We have fourteen enrolled in the class. The schedule for classes is as follows:

- Sept. 16 – Soil Management
- Sept 21 – Turfgrass Management
- Sept. 30 – Applied Entomology
- Oct. 7 – Backyard Wildlife
- Oct. 14 – Plant Pathology & Disease Control
- Oct. 21 – Weed Management for Lawns and Ornamentals
- Oct. 26 – Lawn & Garden Equipment Maintenance
- Nov. 4 – Vegetable Gardening
- Nov. 11 – Landscape Design
- Nov. 18 – Small Fruit & Tree Fruit Management
- Nov. 23 – Herbaceous Ornamentals

If you need to make up a class you missed during your training contact the Extension office.

7 Interns Complete Volunteer Hours

Congratulations to the following interns that have each completed 40 or more hours of volunteer service and are now Certified Master Gardeners. Denise Arnold, Dorothy Briggs, Ann Crouch, Carolyn Donoho, Lonnie Gezley, Catheryn Henning, and Laurie Hinkle. Name badges will be awarded at the next Master Gardener meeting.

Remember that reporting service hours is an important task, critical to the success and continued support of the Tennessee Master Gardener Program. Quantifying time invested and the number of people reached through program activities are important measures that demonstrate the worth of the Master Gardener Program. The potential for funding is greater when significant efforts and impact can be proven. Also, the ability to successfully compete for funding is critical to the program's financial survival. If you are not able to enter hours on-line, contact us at the Extension office for report forms.

An opportunity for Master Gardeners has presented itself from Becky Gunn with the Robertson County Chamber of Commerce. They request a master gardener serve on a committee for Environmental Recycling (former Beautification Committee). To find out more or to respond, e-mail her at becky.gunn@secondharvestmidtn.org or by phone at 308-7879.

Next Master Gardener Meeting:

September 23rd at 7:00 pm
at the Extension Office

PROGRAM:

“European Gardens”

Presented by:

Ursula Otto

Refreshments kindly provided by:

Denise Arnold, Tim Best, and
Herma Peavyhouse

***"A TREASURE CHEST OF THE GARDENS BEST",
a success by your Robertson County Master Gardeners***

By Michelle Adcock

Once again the Robertson County Fair has come and gone. Our Master Gardener Booth took first prize in its category for the third year in a row. A special thanks goes out to Jeanne & the booth committee for all their hard work along with those who came to the last meeting to help set up the booth and bag seeds. Those who gave up their time to work the booth spoke to more than 33 people who were interested in the Master Gardener program. Paul reported that 12 people have already paid to be in the next class. The fair booth's appeal provided by illustrations and member staffing may have familiarized fairgoers with the program.

A quick review of the Robertson County fair website shows that master gardeners received 16 first place, 15 second place, and 14 third place ribbons in this year's flower show. Three ribbons were awarded to master gardeners in the garden products category. We were also well represented in other areas such as crafts, canning, and photography.



Master Gardener Fair Booth 2010

UNUSUAL PLANTS AND AMAZING VEGETABLES

A recent quick polling of our Master Gardeners produced some intriguing results. When asked about their favorite unusual plants or amazing vegetables, many took time to respond and share the obvious love they share for the tie that binds us as a group.

Herma Peavyhouse shared that her favorite plant is actually a shrub, the French Hydrangea (*Hydrangea macrophylla*). Herma prefers these for fresh cut arrangements, dried blooms, and bold beauty. While blooming in summer, it stands boldly in winter with its bare branches, tolerant of our cold weather. Herma also shared her suggestions for changing the color of your hydrangea.

Mix 4 Tbles of aluminum sulfate into a gallon of water and pour the mixture around the base of the plant. Repeat this again in 3 weeks. Wait a year and this will turn pink to blue. To turn blue to pink, add 3-4 cups of lime around the base of the plant. Repeat this process again in several months. Be patient! The submitted photos will also interest you. Thanks to Rodney Sawyers, Michelle Adcock, Lynn Stenglein, and Herma Peavyhouse for responding.



Michelle's Cherokee
Purple Tomatoe

When Life Hands You Lemons...

Plant A Garden!

By Catheryn Henning

The primal instinct to plant and gather runs deep in most country and some city people. Many folks are fortunate in that they can till up a piece of land and plant a garden. Some of us do not have that option. So we must take up other means of growing a few plants or herbs to satisfy the longing to play in the dirt.

When my husband and I moved to Tennessee three years ago, we leased a house in the country. I had envisioned a huge vegetable garden to putter in during my off months of teaching school. The landlord had other ideas. So we were forced to come up with alternatives. We couldn't till up the yard anywhere and there was no suitable place for an even small postage stamp garden. Some things could be grown in containers so for the first year, that was our choice. With a moderate amount of success, we grew several different kinds of herbs. This accomplished, we set out the next year to do more.

We grew our tomatoes in five gallon buckets and still grew some herbs and a few smaller things like lettuces in containers. That worked well.

One thing about this house we lease, there is a swimming pool or there was. At one point in time someone made a decision to fill the large in ground pool with dirt and whatever and cover it with pea gravel. So, when life hands you lemons, make lemonade! Or in our case, when someone fills a pool with dirt, plant a garden.

And we did! Not wanting to make a huge investment in this, we build two four by four raised beds and filled them with good soil and humus and vermiculite. Then we placed eight bags of good soil, with a square cut out of the tops of the bags, all around the boxes. This was going to be easy!

We planted green beans, tomatoes, peppers, radishes, squash, cucumbers, melons, broccoli, and some more herbs in these concocted gardens of ours and the results were tremendous! Our little make shift garden supplies us with enough to feed ourselves and some to share!

There are different ways to garden and once it gets in your blood, you will always find a way!



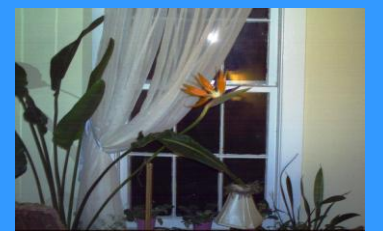
Lynn's Joe Pye Weed



Rodney's Elephant Ears



Rodney's Banana plants



Michelle's garden
and flowers



Lynn's lib angel

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