

The Leaflet

April 2017



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R U Ready For Our 10th Annual Plant Sale????

There are many ways to get involved, contribute, and earn volunteer hours related to our Plant Sale scheduled for Saturday, May 13th.

- Sign up to work at the sale; although the sale is from 8am until 2pm, setup will be underway by 6:30. A signup sheet will be at the April 27th meeting or email Ursula or Jeanne (ursulaotto@att.net or jeanne.protsman@comcast.net).
- Bring plants (perennials, annuals, herbs, grasses, shrubs, ground covers, trees, etc.) and garden related items (garden art, birdhouses, gourds, gently used garden tools, etc.) for sale. Count time you spend preparing plants and labels as volunteer time!
- Bring a few boxes and bags for our customer's purchases.
- Get flyers at the Ext. Office and post them in businesses, churches, and community centers in your area.
- Spread the word among your garden-loving family and friends.

Label your plants with the common plant name, whether it is perennial or annual, color, shade or sun, etc. Price all items to sell! Although OUR plants come from the best of homes where they were nurtured and loved by gardening aficionados (us), we need to sell them in just a few hours, and we share our plants as a community service as well as a fund raiser for our Association. We sell a lot of \$2, \$4, and \$8 plants...avoid fractional dollar amounts and price in even dollar amounts. **NOTE:** *bring one of your plants to our plant swap April 27th. Label the plant as you would for the sale. we will discuss pricing if you have questions.*

The plant sale is a good opportunity for us to meet the gardening public, to educate them about the Master Gardeners program and to share our enthusiasm about growing things. If customers have questions about gardening issues, which you do not know, or you cannot locate someone who can help them, get a name and number and we will call them later in the week. (Another opportunity to garner volunteer hours.)

Most important have fun at the plant sale! Hang out and learn from your fellow gardeners. And don't buy all the plants for yourself!



2016 Plant Sale



2008 Plant Sale

NEXT MEETING

Apr. 27, 2017
7 pm

Program:
PLANT SWAP

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

Horticultural Therapy—Using Plants to Improve Quality of Life

By Mary Winslow, Davidson County Master Gardener

Remember when it was discovered that talking to your houseplants made them grow greener and healthier? So people who talk to their plants are no longer crazy, they are horticulture therapists! So be a little crazy this spring and find out how plants and plant related activities can promote health and wellness for you or group. Plant activities can help promote fun, increase social interaction, offer respite and renewal, allow creativity without judgement, allow memories to surface, build community, and help with loss and transition.

Horticulture therapy is actively experiencing nature via gardening processes. It is practiced throughout the world in diverse settings and cultures. You could make a garden that reminds you of the past, like Lilly of the Valley that my mother grew. Or make purposeful gardens like the Victory Gardens of the war eras where folks were expected to be resilient and provide their own food. Plant lemon balm or mint near the front door in a bed or pot to scent the way in and out of your home. Nurture a sweet smelling orange tree or gardenia plant inside. I am crazy about daylilies; I have them in rows and pots. They flower and remind you to fully experience each precious day as the blooms last just one glorious day. Mary's Gold daylily has a huge flower, big as an orchid on a prom corsage.

During a time of transition or loss, I highly recommend raking the yard. After a divorce I raked leaves in the back yard and cried my eyes out. Crying and raking just seemed to go together. Moving dirt with any shovel from a small hand spade to a large garden tool is a way to get exercise and work off negative energy. Move it to one location then move it back if you need to. You will also meet new neighbors that way. In the book, *The Secret Life of Bees* a woman worked out her grief by creating a stone wall where she left paper messages. She was outside where God could find her, through nature.

There are courses you can take about plants and plant care The American Horticulture Therapy Association (www.ahta.org) offers information and education. Your local Co-operative Extension Service, available in every state, will have a Master Gardener program that is open to anyone. When I took this course one of the teachers was a grass and turf expert. He was one of the happiest people I ever met, joyful about lawns! So let's get happy, buy flowers at the grocery store this week, look at sunflower seeds in the dollar store, and buy that shovel for a dirt moving spring. And don't forget the grass seed!

Tennessee Extension Master Gardener Statewide Summary for 2016

175,778	service hours
2,364	volunteers
31,872	education hours
671	interns trained
1	state and
2	regional conferences

Value provided to Tennessee by 2016 TEMG volunteer service: \$3,677,275.76

- Managed 127 landscape and ornamental gardens to demonstrate sustainable practices for residential landscapes
- Organized or participated in 149 fairs, festivals, and garden shows or events that reached 109,132 Tennessee residents
- Delivered 648 educational presentations to 36,829 citizens

Signup for the May 17th Soil Class

There are several openings in the "Better Soil Health for Gardens Class" scheduled for Wednesday, May 17th 10am-2pm at the Ext office (lunch provided). Contact Judy Bryant or sign-up at the April meeting.

June Montgomery County Master Gardeners Trip to Biltmore Scheduled

We are invited to join the Montgomery County Master Gardeners on a trip to the Biltmore Estates on June 12-15th, 2017. The cost to reserve a spot on the bus is \$100.00 and is due **May 1st**. You will need to bring \$65 cash to pay on-site for 2-day passes to the Biltmore Estates. A block of rooms is reserved at the Days Inn Biltmore East. Each person needs to make their own reservation by **May 12th**, and tell the hotel they are with the Montgomery County Master Gardener group to get the reduced rate (approx. \$99 per night).

We have requested additional information, but if you are interested, email Judy Brant (jbryant2@utk.edu) so that you will get updates quickly about the trip.



For years I have dreamed about having a greenhouse. I needed a safe, warm place to start my seeds and get a jump-start on the growing season, so I used our sunroom, and even though it was very effective and efficient, eviction was imminent.

I started doing research on various types of greenhouses: styles, materials, sizes and so on. I needed something that would not only do the job, but also last a long time. A glass greenhouse was my wish. As someone who likes to recycle and use old things (provided that it's still usable) I started collecting old windows here and there. Window replacement companies are more than happy to give them away, and talk about saving money!

In the meantime I purchased an easy-to-assemble, very affordable, plastic greenhouse kit. It worked great! The only downfall that I experienced with it, is that the plastic dry-rots and deteriorates

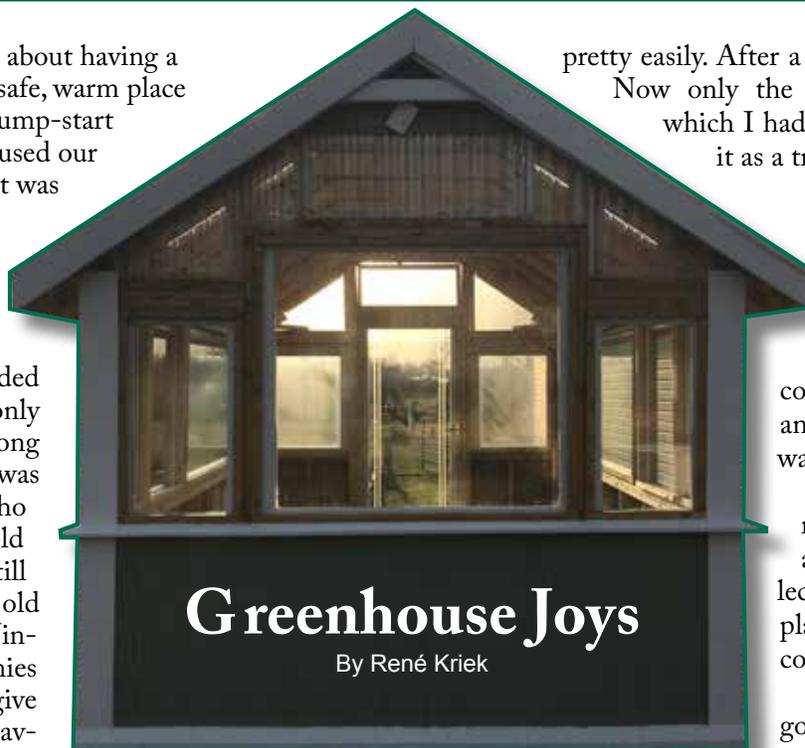
pretty easily. After a year it was useless to me. Now only the skeleton frame remains, which I had put to good use by using it as a trellis.

I purchased another plastic greenhouse kit and this time it didn't even last through the season. To my horror a spring windstorm completely demolished it and all my hard work inside was lost!

Needless to say, I was ready for my glass house, and as soon as I had collected enough windows, planning and construction could begin.

My husband is very good at construction and carpentry, but he'd never tackled anything like this

before. It was a learn-as-you-go project, but it turned out to be a one of a kind, custom made greenhouse! So far so good, Mama is happy!



Greenhouse Joys

By René Kriek



Profiles In Gardening—Leann Shepard



I joined the Master Gardeners because I love nature and want to learn about it. Also, my friend, Judy Bryant, has been after me for years to join so we could learn and do things together. We share a kindred spirit in nature - mutual passion for flowers, trees—just nature in general. “Anything you can plant!” best describes the types of gardening that interest me. I love everything. I hope to build some raised vegetable beds soon. Due to my husband’s long term illness, I had to let my flower beds go. But, I have managed to save some of the flowers, bushes and trees most dear to me in Styrofoam boxes on my carport. Some of these were my great grandmother’s and grandmother’s flowers. I hope to obtain some equipment to help me get my ground in order so I can create beds again. Cedar trees and garden phlox are two of my favorite plants—love the beauty and aroma. But then, I love everything in God’s landscape!

With the Master Gardeners, I can see that I am in good company to learn many things. It has provided a want/need to get out and be active! I thoroughly enjoyed the classes at the Lawn & Garden Show. I’m eager to go to more events. My interest in gardening first came to be as a small child visiting my grandmothers. They always had flowers in their yards, on their porches and in their vegetable gardens. They let me water them and pick them for bouquets. I learned early in life that the vegetable garden was the means of providing food for the family. My brothers picked apples from our neighbors orchard and then at my grandparent’s house. We picked blackberries at the spring. My mom canned/froze everything. It was not unusual to have 2 gardens some summers. Not to mention it tastes better than grocery bought!

I have always lived in Robertson County. I grew up on the family farm in the Adams community. At home, I helped Mom with the vegetable garden; and I helped my dad and brothers get hay up (that was before round bales came to be), in the tobacco field dropping sticks, picking up leaves (back when you did that) and drove the tractor for them to load the wagons. Now I live in Stroudsville community where my husband (Randy) grew up. I had a small vegetable garden for a few years, then garden-shared with Judy’s mom, Mae Nichols. We had so much fun canning together.

The best and most important thing I’ve ever done,

with the exception of having our child Jason, was finding and being with my love Randy for over 38 years. And becoming grandma “Honey” to our grandson Emmitt is the highlight of my life! Another passion has always been horses. Outside of family, farm, and gardening, I used to perform with the *Springfield Cloggers*, played the piano at weddings and substituted for the pianist at church. That’s another project I need to sharpen up on!

Upcoming Events

Apr 27	RCMGA Mtg. Pgm. Member Plant Swap	UT Extension Office, Springfield
Apr 28-29	GroWild Native Plant Festival	Fairview
Apr 29	Herb Plant Sale	Nashville Fairgrounds
Apr 29,	Aeroponics @ Mona’s	TN Urban Farm
May 6	Wildflower Festival	Lebanon TN
May 13	RCMGA Plant Sale	UT Extension Office, Springfield
May 17	Soil Class	UT Extension Office, Springfield
May 20	Urban Gardening Festival	Ellington Ag Center
May 25	RCMGA Mtg. Pgm. Aeroponics at TN Urban Farm - Mona Hitch	UT Extension Office, Springfield
Jun 9	Herb Class	Diann’s Greenhouse Clarksville
Jun 12-15	Biltmore with Mont. Co. MG Trip	Asheville, NC
Jul 13	Summer Celebration	Jackson

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