

# The Leaflet



April 2015

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## RCMGA Members Meet and Greet Gardening Public at Lowes

Robertson County Master Gardeners were out-in-front at Lowes on Saturday, April 11th, our first Outreach 2015 event. We distributed free seeds, soil test kits, UT Extension articles on vegetable and flower gardening, and information on the Master Gardener program. We estimate that over 20 people stopped at our table with a question or to chat. As well as sharing gardening and MG information, participants learned about gardeners' interests and of opportunities for educating the public about gardening; the Springfield Lowes would like to offer gardening classes at their location and would be glad for Master Gardeners to volunteer to teach a class.

You are encouraged to volunteer for the other "RCMGA Outreach Events" scheduled for Farmers' Market on May 2nd and on August 1st. We need volun-



teers from 10am until noon on both days. Contact one of the officers listed on Page 4 of this Leaflet to volunteer. Thanks to the Outreach materials prep team: Jeanne Protsman, Shelley Pritchard, and Lynn Stenglein; and thanks to the Outreach meet-and-greeters: Jim Brigman, Betty Brigman, Doug Buck, Vickie Nixon, Lynn Cantrell, and Lynn Stenglein.

### NEXT MEETING

April 23

Program:  
Invasive Species  
by Lee Patrick

### MEETING INFORMATION

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

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

## "Can I Come to a RCMGA Meeting to See if I Want to Join?"

Members are asked this question from time to time by recruits, visitors to our outreach events, and by the press. While we do encourage members to bring interested friends and family members anytime to any meeting or fieldtrip and while we cannot exclude the general public from meetings at the

UT Extension Office, we do not encourage the general public's attendance at most meetings, especially when we concentrate much of our meeting time on events and/or administrative issues. However, each year we have at least one "open meeting".

We have designated our (regularly scheduled) July 23rd meeting as our "open

meeting" this year. Our speaker, Carroll Marrero, Davidson County Master Gardeners and guest on numerous Volunteer Gardener segments, will speak about native plants. We are looking forward to this meeting, and it is a great segway to our fieldtrip to GroWild this fall.

## Get out the Word on the Plant Sale!

Our 2015 Plant Sale flyers are starting to appear throughout the county. Although our team of publicity volunteers are concentrating on public locations in Ridgetop, Cross Plains, Greenbier, Springfield etc, we need to post flyers in businesses and offices that may have been overlooked. Download the 2015 flyers from [www.rcmga.org](http://www.rcmga.org) or pick them up from the Extension Office, where several sizes are ready to go. Thanks to Judy Belloli, Jim and Betty Brigman, Judy Bryant, Doug Buck, Gwen Day, Shelley Pritchard, Ann Rausch, Karen Sweatt, and Lynn Stenglein, our plant sale publicity team. Special thanks to Karen for posting the flyers in Sudden Service Convenience Store, one of our best ways of getting the word out to our customers.

### Growing Salsify

By Douglas Buck

Salsify, or Oyster Plant, is a biennial native to the Mediterranean but naturalized throughout much of North America. The blue flowers appear in the summer of the second year of growth and attract beneficial pollinators to the garden. Its long roots are edible.

Salsify is easy to grow. If raised for the edible root it should be planted in soil suitable for carrots or parsnips. The roots reach a length of about 12 inches with a diameter of about one inch. Roots should be ready for harvest in the fall. Salsify appears to have few pests. There are a number of cultivars—the best for table use is the Mammoth Sandwich Island type.

The seeds of the Oyster Plant are large and long. They should be planted 1–2 inches apart. Special attention is needed once seed is formed to avoid dispersal. Salsify will readily reseed and rapidly spread if not controlled.

Yes, the roots of this plant do indeed taste like oysters. The roots can be baked or boiled. They contain small amounts of vitamin C, calcium, iron and sugars.

While salsify is an easily grown edible addition to the garden, it does require an effort to prevent seed dispersal. I would recommend trying just a score of plants maintained in a large pot or tub.

Seeds can be obtained from a number of mail order catalogs.



ROBERTSON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER



PLANT SALE

Saturday  
May 9, 2015

From 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.  
(or until all plants are sold)

We offer a large variety of  
annuals, perennials, shrubs,  
and bulbs, as well as potted  
gifts for Mother's Day.

Everything is reasonably priced!

UT Extension Office  
408 North Main Street  
Springfield, TN

### May Picnic at Travis Wright Park Scheduled

We will meet at the lakeside shelter at Travis Wright Park in Springfield for our May RCMGA meeting. The Springfield parks department director (or staff member) will be our guest speaker. Bring a dessert, salad, chips, or a relish tray; the Association will supply sandwiches, drinks, and utensils. Volunteers are needed to set up the tables so that we can eat promptly at our 7pm meeting time. Contact one of the RCMGA officers if you can come early and help.

## Looking Forward to RCMGA Garden Related Fieldtrips

Although gardening is one of the pleasures of home, master gardeners are among the most enthusiastic and travelers in search of new landscaping ideas, plants, products and gardens. How often do you say or overhear someone expressing "...how nice it is to be around people who are plant-huggers like me!" The RCMGA plans several fieldtrips over the next months:

- **Summer Celebration, Jackson TN, July 9th:** If you have not been to the Summer Celebration Lawn and Garden Show, plan to go this year. Some RCMGA members, who are interested in a leisurely full day at Summer Celebration, are exploring an overnight at Natchez Trace State Park on July 9<sup>th</sup>. If you are interesting in carpooling for the day (only) or in the overnight trip, contact Lynn Stenglein (lcsqts@hughes.net). We will publish more information about Summer Celebration 2015 in the May and June Leaflets.
- **GroWild, Fairview, TN, early October:** RCMGA members voted at the March 2015 meeting to take a fieldtrip to GroWild in the fall. GroWild is a plant nursery specializing in native North American plants. The great majority of their inventory is propagated on site, and most originate from the mid-South. We are arranging a tour for the RCMGA members.
- **Taylor Hollow Natural Area ("The Mecca for Wildflower Enthusiasts"), Westmorland, TN., Spring 2016:** Taylor Hollow is a 160 acre preserve that is an ecological gem of middle Tennessee. The property contains a deeply cut valley and steep slopes divided by a tranquil spring-fed creek. Once a part of the mesophytic (moderately moist) forest system of middle Tennessee, Taylor Hollow is now one of the last undisturbed remnants of this historic habitat. Wildflower hikes (2 miles, slow pace, easy to moderate terrain) are led by State naturalist. We might bring a state naturalist to speak at a spring 2016 meeting followed by a naturalist-led Saturday excursion.

## Lynn Discovers "Plant Nirvana" at Mary's Greenhouses

By Lynn Stenglein

Only a few days after indulging myself at the Nashville Perennial Plant Sale, I hesitated briefly when Suzanne, my sister-in-law and Cumberland County (Crossville) Master Gardener, said, "Meet me in McMinnville and we will go to Mary's Greenhouses....and do your homework....there is an online catalog and 52 greenhouses." After a two hour, but enjoyable, dogwood-embellished drive through Watertown and Smithville eyeing the many roadside Wholesale-Only Nurseries, I arrived at the greenhouses. Holy, Heurcheras! I was glad I had come!

Upon entering Mary's we were given a map of the greenhouses and a cart to facilitate our shopping. My targets were the perennials, grasses, and herbs, but we decided just to take a look at the closest greenhouse containing the annuals. We encountered very healthy plants: fuchsias,



pentas, and dahlias, coleus of all colors, textures, and descriptions. Happily, I was empowered to purchase some plants for our Ridgetop Station Park garden. Although the average (Non-Master Gardener) shopper may feel that some plants are smaller than what you generally purchase at many big-box-attached nursery departments, they were exactly the size that I want to adopt this time of year.

Eventually I did find my way to the perennial greenhouses where there were 3 greenhouses of hosta, large areas of heucheras, several types of perennial banana plants,



several colors of cone flowers, scads of irises including two with variegated leaves (stripes in green and yellow and in green and white). Although I cannot report on plant survival until later in the season, Suzanne said that Mary's is a major source for Cumberland County Master Gardeners' projects and home gardens.

Admittedly we visited Mary's on a rainy Thursday, but the lack of crowds of shoppers added to the excursion. Plants were well labeled and logically organized. The prices, which you can review online at [www.marysgreenhouse.com](http://www.marysgreenhouse.com), are very reasonable. Hold these thoughts for a RCMGA 2016 fieldtrip...if you do not go yourself first.



## For Display, Reliability, Hardiness: Grow Daylilies

By Dorothy Briggs

If you have ever grown a daylily in your garden, then you know from experience what great plants they are! They are one of the easiest plants to grow and care for that is available. Daylilies are winter hardy perennials that require little maintenance or care. They like a lot of sunshine, come in a rainbow of colors, shapes and sizes and are drought tolerant. Some varieties of daylilies, bloom from late spring until autumn and experience almost no problems from pest or disease. Useful as both specimen and mass plantings, there should be a spot in every garden for daylilies. They are the most reliable plant in my garden. I hope to have some in the Master Gardeners' Plant Sale, May 9.

## Upcoming Garden Events

|                            |   |                                  |
|----------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| <b>Apr 24-26</b>           | Flower and Garden Show                              | Cumberland County Fair Grounds   |
| <b>Apr 25</b>              | Who Speaks for the Trees?                           | Cheekwood                        |
| <b>May 2<br/>7:30-noon</b> | "Ask a RC MG"                                       | Farmer's Market                  |
| <b>May 8-9</b>             | Garden & Goods Spring Market                        | Cragfont, Castlian Springs       |
| <b>May 9<br/>8am-2pm</b>   | RCMGA Plant Sale                                    | UT Extension Office, Springfield |
| <b>May 9<br/>10am-5pm</b>  | Wilson County Master Gardeners 2015 Spring Festival | Lebanon                          |
| <b>May 9-10</b>            | Bloom Days  | UT Gardens, Knoxville            |
| <b>May 15<br/>10am-1pm</b> | Using Culinary Herbs for Beginners                  | Diann's Greenhouse               |
| <b>May 16</b>              | Urban Gardening Festival                            | Ellington Ag. Ctr.               |
| <b>Jun 23</b>              | Summer Color Green Industry                         | Knoxville, TN                    |
| <b>Jul 9</b>               | Summer Celebration                                  | Jackson, TN                      |
| <b>Jul 9<br/>3-6pm</b>     | Plant a Fairy Garden                                | Diann's Greenhouse               |
| <b>Aug 1<br/>7:30-noon</b> | "Ask a RC MG"                                       | Farmer's Market                  |
| <b>Aug 22<br/>9am-noon</b> | Make Herbal Oils and Vinegars                       | Diann's Greenhouse               |
| <b>Aug 25</b>              | Fall Gardeners Festival                             | Plateau Research & Ed. Ctr.      |
| <b>Oct 12<br/>10am-1pm</b> | Making Herbal Breads                                | Diann's Greenhouse               |

## Urban Gardening Festival 2015

Urban Gardening Festival (Saturday, May 16th 9am - 4pm) is a free event for the community hosted by the Master Gardeners of Davidson County at its Demonstration Garden on the campus of Ellington Agricultural Center in the heart of Nashville. There are over 8,800 sq. ft. of garden space, how-to workshops, local growers and suppliers, and local artists! Plus see what's at the Davidson County Master Gardener Plant Sale! The Tennessee Agricultural Museum is open until 3pm.

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### Photo Contest



*Spider Form Daylily from Paris, Texas  
submitted by Dorothy Briggs*