

# The Leaflet



August 2014

## CONTENTS

Fair Booth Update	1
Nominating Committee Appointed	1
Fall Gardeners' Festival Coming Soon	1
Letters to Our Members	2
Four Tips to Save Water in Your Garden	2
Trip to Biltmore Estate	3
Profiles in Gardening: Judy Belloli	4
Contact List	4
Upcoming Garden Events	4
Happy Birthday!	4
August Contest Entries:	4

**NEXT MEETING**  
**August 21**

August's meeting will be at the Fairgrounds Building

### MEETING INFORMATION

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

Meetings are at 6:30 pm at the UT Extension Office, 408 North Main Street, Springfield, TN

## Fair Booth Update

We still need a few volunteers to work at the fair booth and will send out reminders to members who have signed up next week. Remember to bring your seeds to our August 21st meeting for packaging. We will have bags and pens for labeling. If you have pictures and/or planting

instructions, visitors always appreciate that information. We can use photos of places we have planted and maintained during the last couple of years. If you have photos, please bring them to the meeting. Contact JoAnn Slate (alnjoslate@comcast.net, 334-1341) if you have questions.

## Nominating Committee Appointed

In accordance with the RCMGA bylaws changes approved this year, the nominating committee has been appointed and will present candidates for officers at the October meeting. Janice Derby (Class of 2013), Vickie Nixon (Class of 2009) and Julee Orr (Class of 2006) have agreed to serve on the committee. Finding candidates to lead our Association is an important and challenging job. While you will have the opportunity to propose additional candidates at the October meeting, you are urged to send your suggestions to the committee now. Candidates must be certified Master Gardeners.

If you are willing to serve as RCMGA president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer, please step up and volunteer or agree to do so if you are contacted. If you want to suggest a candidate(s) for an office(s), make those suggestion as well. (Note: Officers may serve in the same position for up to 2 consecutive years. Current officers took office this year.)

Other Association positions including Project Coordinator and Newsletter team are appointed by the RCMGA president. However, the nominating committee customarily makes suggestions to the incoming president on these positions as well. Thanks Janice, Julee, and Vickie for your service.

## Fall Gardeners' Festival Coming Soon

Miss Summer Celebration 2014 in at the West Tennessee UT Gardens last month? Want another day of garden education exhibits, shopping from garden vendors, etc? Plan to attend the Fifth Annual Fall Gardeners' Festival, Tuesday, August 26th, 9am—3pm at the Plateau Ag Research and Education Center in



continued on p. 2

Fall Garden Festival continued from p. 1

Crossville. There are 12 education sessions, the demonstration gardens are lovely and interesting, you can “Ask the Expert” about your garden challenges, take a wagon tour of the Ag Research Center, and much more. Visit [ccmga.org](http://ccmga.org) or [plateau.tennessee.edu](http://plateau.tennessee.edu) for details. If you are interested in carpooling to this event, email Lynn Stenglein ([lcs-gts@hughes.net](mailto:lcs-gts@hughes.net)).



Inspecting flowers in the Greenhouse at the Ag Research Center in Crossville.



A beautiful bloom on the hibiscus Ann Rausch received at the SCG Test Gardens in July.

## Letters to Our Members

Received by RCMGA in response to Association’s donations to community gardens:

### YMCA Love Grows Community Garden

July 21, 2014

We greatly appreciate your generous donation for our community gardens at the YMCA. The middle schoolers have been very enthusiastic.

Thank you for being a part of this project.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Blackwood,  
Coordinator of YMCA  
Community Garden



### Seed and Grow at Bransford Community Center

July 26, 2014

Thank you for your generous contribution of \$250 to Seed and Grow. Your donation helped to build the raised garden beds at the Bransford Community Center, located at 1519 John Patterson Street in Springfield. While we still have work to do, the physical beds have been completed, the water lines have been run, and the children at the community center have already begun to plant vegetables. We invite you to drop by in person or follow this project on our Facebook “Seed and Grow” page as the kids and the community work to complete the project, nurture the crops, and harvest the vegetables. For more details, please feel free to call Andy Mason (545-4741 or myself (504-8420) for additional information or updates.

Sincerely,  
Kelvin Penuel,  
Treasurer, Seed and Grow

## Four Tips to Save Water in Your Garden

In Robertson County rainfall has been meager and spotty this summer Ridgetop, Greenbrier, and Springfield, stations which I monitor regularly via the COCORAHS (Community Cooperative Rain And Hail and Snow) web site, have reported 2.44, 3.59, and 2.83 inches respectively since July 1st. Daily totals vary widely by location: August 10th Greenbrier recorded 1.2 inches but Ridgetop had only .14 inches. Visit [www.cocorahs.com](http://www.cocorahs.com) for more information.

There are few things sadder than plants that are stressed and dying of thirst. By combining conservation practices with a very efficient landscape design, you can lower your water bill, lessen the amount of time in the garden and create a healthier habitat!

Here are some helpful tips:

- **Garden Design:** Group plants with similar moisture requirements close together, matching them with

appropriate yard conditions: sunny, shade, damp, dry. Then target watering only the vegetation that needs it.

- **Plant Selection:** Focus on plants that are native to your area. They survive the natural rainfall, are resistant to local plant diseases and pests, and provide the best food sources for wildlife.
- **Efficient Irrigation:** Water infrequently, deeply and thoroughly. This prevents runoff and encourages deeper root growth. Plants with deep roots develop greater resistance to dry spells.
- **Maintenance:** Apply mulch such as bark or leaves, to planting beds. This helps the soil to retain moisture, discourages thirsty weeds and provides plants with essential nutrients.

# Trip to Biltmore Estate

by Lynn Cantrell

Driving through a lush, green, wooded area to a parking lot, we chose to walk the wooded pathway over riding the tour bus. The pathway led us to a stone and iron gateway and there it was. A massive stone structure, encrusted with carved stone detailing, copper roofing, sculptures and windows that could capture views from every direction.

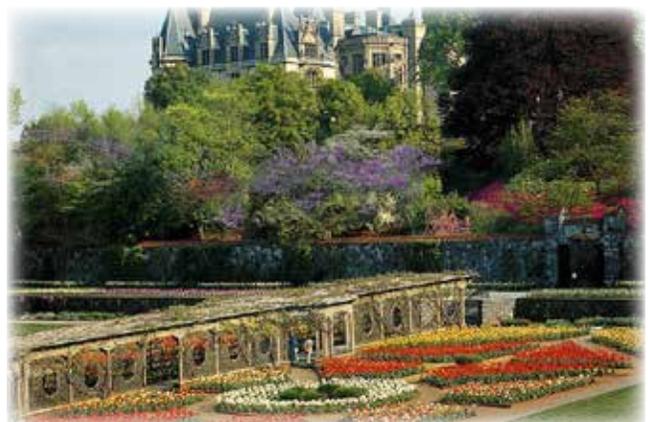
And views there were: manicured lawns, gardens, mountains with beautiful trees for miles. Many of you know the history of this beautiful place and what architectural achievement it was for its time. Although it seems excessive to many, the legacy of the home and grounds still survives today. As is the case with most history, those who were involved with the monumental task of completed the Estate will be judged not only for their talents and skills but for their need for such excess. I feel we can just appreciate the beauty of it all and know that, in their excess, efforts were also made to protect the environment and preserve the history of the land.

A book we purchased along with tour tickets is filled with wonderful photographs and the history and mission of this property. Continuous preservation efforts for the buildings and the homes furnishings is a major portion of the commitment by the Vanderbilt family and their desire to be part of the a community. There are ongoing projects in the gardens as well including farming of the land, kitchen gardens, greenhouses and a vineyard.

Now on to the Gardens, visual overload for me. Not only the flowers, planting and trees were beautiful, but the hardscapes that made the colors pop and emphasized the mixture of color and texture.

The varieties of blooms and colors made my eyes and my camera wander. I wanted to capture every one. I did settle for a number of shots that showed the amount of planning that goes into each and every area of the gardens. Again, the hardscapes accentuated the the colors and the pathways lead you to each area where you can be up close to the plantings. The cool house shown above was filled with new and old plants. Tropical specimens in mass and unusual blooms to peek my curiosity.

On a final note, my husband enjoyed the visit as much as I did. He was intrigued with the building and construction techniques used and also with the history of this unique American treasure. I now know that the Biltmore Estate will be on my "Do Again" List. Not enough time in a day to see all there is to see.



## Profiles in Gardening:

### Judy Belloli

I have been a Master Gardener intern since taking the classes in the fall of 2013. I truly enjoyed the classes and programs at the Master Gardener meetings; the speakers have been great.



I wish I had known some of this information years ago; it would have saved money and many disappointments. The Master Gardeners that I have met have been warm and welcoming and have been great to know.

I was born and raised in Nashville. After graduation I lived in Washington, D.C for a few years during the Kennedy era. I saw President Kennedy and Robert Kennedy up close and was there to see the beautiful flowers from all over the world when the president died. For the past 30 years I have lived in Ridgeway and, needless to say, love Robertson County and the wonderful people I have come to know.

When I retired three years ago, I joined the Ridgeway Garden Club and met Dorothy Briggs and Lynn Stenglein. I saw the love and knowledge that they have for our earth, and it made me want to learn more. So here I am.

I am most interested in small gardens and container gardening. I have downsized from a large to a more manageable area. I love ferns, elephant ears, and leafy plants as well as the flowering ones. I am blessed to have a good husband, three daughters, and eight grandchildren. All of them live in Robertson County; so I am excited about helping to give them a more beautiful place to enjoy.



A water feature in Judy's garden.

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## Happy Birthday!

### August

17 Ann Rausch

28 Irene Cain

### September

16 Gwen Day

19 Lynn Stenglein

23 Tim Best

## Upcoming Garden Events

<b>Aug 21</b>	RCMGA meeting 6:30pm	Springfield Fairgrounds
<b>Aug 25-30</b>	Robertson County Fair	Springfield
<b>Aug 26</b>	6th Annual Fall Gardener's Festival	UT Research Ctr., Crossville
<b>Sep 6</b>	Beekeeping class, 10:00am (Registration Required)	Mansker's Station, Goodlettsville
<b>Oct 11</b>	Putting up the summer harvest (Registration Required)	Mansker's Station, Goodlettsville



### August Contest Entries:

"You're sooo much a

RCMGA member if . . .

. . .when your co-worker shows off her freshly-painted manicure, you proudly present the dirt under your nails.—Ann Rausch

. . .you send apologetic notes to your neighbors who won't see butterflies around their yards this year. They'll all be at your place, fluttering about your butterfly bush.—Ann Rausch

. . .your garden Crocs are your statement shoes. Ann Rausch

. . .the line item in your budget for Gardening is right-up-there with Food, Clothing, and Shelter.—Lynn Stenglein

. . .you spend more time poring-over the plants in front of Springfield Krogers than you spend in the produce section.—Lynn Stenglein

Still lots of time to submit your entry to our 2014 (You're sooo much a RCMGA member) contest. Quality and quantity count. Email your entries to a Leaflet staff member or bring it to any RCMGA meeting.