

# The Leaflet



August 2015

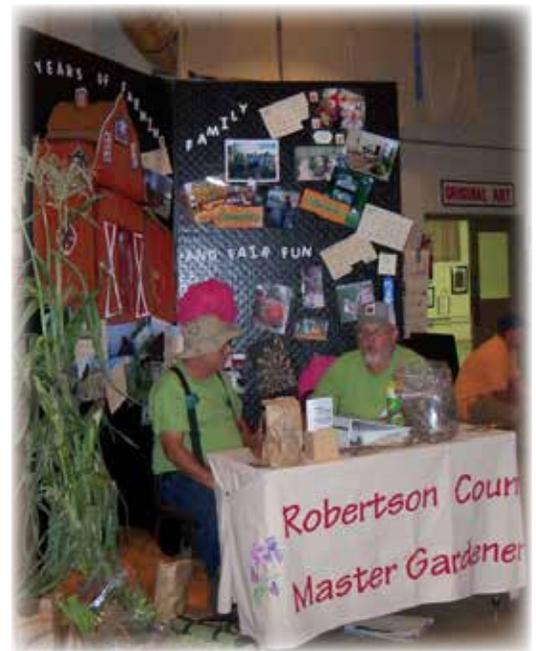
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## Fair Booth Accrutmments Needed

The RCMGA Fair Booth committee met at the new library last month and finalized plans for our 2015 display. What better way to “Turn Frowns Upside Down” (the 2015 Ro. Co. fair theme) than to transition a stress-laden 21<sup>st</sup> century office worker ☹ into a happy gardener ☺! To assist in the display we need items such as a dorky briefcase, cell phone(s), pocket protector, tinker tape, and other small office items. Clad

in a RCMGA Tee, the “smiley gardener’s” environment needs a gardening hat, gloves, tools, and plants in small pots for the garden. Blooming and/or colorful plants are especially welcome. Remember to bring your seeds and iris rhizomes for distribution to our fair booth visitors. If you have signed up to work at the booth (August 24<sup>th</sup>—29<sup>th</sup>), see Jeanne Protsman to get your entry ticket. We will have 2 tickets per night.



Above RCMGA Fair Booth 2011  
Left: RCMGA Fair Booth 2010

**NEXT MEETING**  
**August 20, 2015**

**Meeting at the**  
**Fairground**

**MEETING**  
**INFORMATION:**

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

Meetings are at 7pm at the UT Extension Office, 408 Main Street, SpringfieldTN

## Remember Our August and September RCMGA Meeting Changes

Our August meeting will be on **August 20<sup>th</sup>** at the Fairground to work on our display and seed packaging. In September, Shelley and Sonny Pritchard are in charge of our program about tropical plants. We will meet at their house on Hwy. 76 at **6pm**. We will distribute address and directions prior to our **September 24<sup>th</sup>** meeting.

## Coming Soon: RCMGA Officer Nominations and Election

Per our RCMGA Bylaws, Association officers are nominated and elected at the October meeting. The president will appoint a nominating committee in the next few weeks. Please see Doug to volunteer if you can serve on the nominating committee. If you are asked to serve as an officer, please give this volunteer service

careful consideration. Don't know how much time and what the office entails? Master Gardener officer duties are documented in the Tennessee Master Gardener County Handbook on the Tennessee Master Gardener web site. Feel free to contact current or former officers for further information.

## UT Gardens—Official Botanical Gardens of the State of Tennessee

by Paul Hart, Extension Agent

Recognized in 2013 as the official botanical gardens of the state of Tennessee, the University of Tennessee Gardens located in Knoxville, Jackson and Crossville are part of the UT Institute of Agriculture. Some 4,000 annuals, perennials, herbs, tropicals, trees, shrubs, vegetables, and ornamental grasses are evaluated each year. Both Knoxville and Jackson gardens are TN certified Arboreta. These gardens are open to the public, during all seasons and free to the public.

If you haven't visited the gardens you can gain information from the work done there by looking through the University of Tennessee Gardens website: <http://utgardens.tennessee.edu>. In addition to many photos there are monthly gardening tips, garden news and events, results of trial gardens, and a "plant of the month" article.

UT Gardens also publishes a magazine, two times a year that can be found in the "Garden Tips" section of the website. Magazine editions since 2009 can be viewed or downloaded from this site—and it's all free!

So if you haven't checked this site out—do it! If you don't have internet access, ask a fellow garden enthusiast to help you. Or, go to the public library where you can use one of their computers.

## Homemade Insecticidal Soap

Bugs normally aren't a big problem in your garden as natural predators will keep the bad guys in check. Sometimes though, Mother Nature needs a hand if bug populations get out of balance. When your houseplants migrate inside this fall, they will need attention as well. A soap based insecticide is very safe for the environment and your family. It works by drowning the offending pest. Here is an easy recipe to make your own.

### Materials Needed:

A tightly lidded jar that holds 2 cups of liquid and a spray bottle.

### Ingredients:

1 cup of vegetable oil;  
1 tablespoon of Ivory liquid soap, or another pure liquid soap.

Note: Adding a teaspoon of garlic or pepper to this recipe can make it more effective as a pest deterrent if desired.

## Countdown to 2015 MG Class

There are still a few days to recruit attendees for the 2015 Master Gardener class. Registration deadline is August 21<sup>st</sup>; no applications will be accepted after that date. Classes begin Monday, August 31 and will be held in Joelton. Schedule of classes are on page 4 of this Leaflet for those who missed a class or need to review a topic. Master Gardeners do not need to notify anyone prior to attending; however be sure the agent that is facilitating the class records your attendance.

**RCGMA Members at third outreach event of Summer 2015.**

**Thanks to all members who participated in participated in these events.**



### Making the Insecticidal Soap:

Add the oil and the liquid soap to the jar, and shake the jar vigorously to mix the soap and oil well. Add 2 teaspoons of the mixture to every cup of water in the spray bottle when ready to use.

### How to use Insecticidal Soap:

Shake the spray bottle often while applying to keep the water and oil mixture blended. Spray the plant all over; both the top and bottom of the leaves. Try to avoid spraying in the direct sun to avoid scorching the leaves. Insecticidal soap works by drowning the offending pest, so the trick is to get the spray on the bug. The residual acts to deter future bugs.

You may need to reapply 2-3 times with 2-3 days between applications. Then wait a week or so. Watch for the presence on new bugs.

Printed by permission of Bluestone Perennials. You will see other gardening Tips and Tricks at [www.bluestoneperennials.com](http://www.bluestoneperennials.com).

## Certify Your Wildlife Habitat

National Wildlife Federation can help you make your garden a haven for wildlife with its Certified Wildlife Habitat program. Just provide the things that animals need most. There are four basic elements of a Certified Wildlife Habitat: food, water, cover, and places to raise young. Native plants provide wildlife with nectar, seeds, and berries used by an exciting variety of wildlife. Feeders can supplement natural food sources. Wildlife needs shelter from bad weather and hiding places—for both predators and prey. All animals need water to survive and some need it for bathing or breeding as well.

The National Wildlife Federation has been helping people nurture wildlife for nearly 40 years. Once you provide the basic elements of habitat, you can submit your garden for official certification. Any site can be recognized as a certified habitat, regardless of size. Backyards, parks, schoolyards, rooftop gardens are among recognized habitat.

If you are interested in certifying your habitat, visit [www.nwf.org/wildlifegardening](http://www.nwf.org/wildlifegardening) where you can certify your wildlife habitat directly online. Several RCMGA members have certified their gardens including Julee Orr. Email Julee if you have questions about her experience(s).

## Upcoming Fairs, MG Festival and Workshop

Along with numerous Middle Tennessee county fairs in the next several weeks, you can travel to Master Gardener sponsored events in Madison County (Jackson) and Cumberland County (Crossville). On Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Crossville UT Ag Research and Education Center, attendees will choose from eleven educational sessions including Third Season Gardening in Tennessee; Home Greenhouses, Landscaping Smarter, Not Harder; Making Water-Based Herbal Medicines. You can do wagon tours of the center, which specializes in grasses, consult the UT Extension experts, visit vendor and MG exhibits, and view the gardens which are created and maintained by the Cumberland Co. Master Gardeners. Not to be upstaged by Summer Celebration's "Sex

in the Garden" session, Chef Dean Tower promises that his "Cooking with Grains" session will include . . . samples . . . question. And we might go streaking. Distilled grains make you do that!" Learn more at [www.ccmga.org](http://www.ccmga.org). On Thursday, October 1st you can attend the Western Region MG Workshop in Jackson. In the morning workshops (open only to Master Gardeners), Chris Cooper speaks about lessons and practical advice for assisting homeowners; Carol Reese will address the art of teaching and presenting for Master Gardeners. Afternoon garden lectures, plant sale, and pot luck dinner are free and open to the public. Visit the Tennessee Master Gardener web site for the complete workshop and garden lecture descriptions.



*Fall Celebration 2013*

**July RCMGA "Open" Meeting with speaker Caroll Marrero.**

**Thanks to all RCMGA members who provided refreshments and brought guests."**



## Dutchman's Pipe

A Hardy Vine with a Lush Tropical Look

This long-lived native vine has large, heart-shaped leaves that grow lush until frost, even in full shade! Blooms shaped like old-fashioned curved smoking pipes peep through the leaves in early summer. Needs sturdy support for its 12' stems, but takes hard pruning well if you want it small. Likes neutral, moist soil. Pictured below are the vine, bloom, Pipevine Swallowtail larva and butterfly. Thanks to Dorothy Briggs for sharing this information and her Dutchman's Pipe plant(s).



## 2015 Master Gardener Class Schedule

Monday, August 31	Intro to Master Gardeners
Monday, September 14	Basic Botany
Monday, September 21	Soils
Monday, September 28	Lawn Grass Management
Monday, October 5	Diseases
Monday, October 12	Insects
Monday, October 19	Herbaceous Ornamentals
Monday, October 26	Vegetable Gardening
Monday, November 2	Landscape Design
Monday, November 9	Backyard Wildlife
Monday, November 16	Lawn and Garden Equipment

All classes will begin at 9:00 am and will be held at First Baptist Church Joelton. The address is 7106 Whites Creek Pike, Joelton, TN 37080.

## Upcoming Events

Aug 20, 7 pm	RCMGA Meeting at Fairground	Robertson County Fairground
Aug 22	Make Herbal Oils and Vinegars	Diann's Greenhouse
Aug 23-29	Robertson County Fair	Robertson County Fairgrounds
Aug 25	Fall Gardener's Festival	Plateau Research and Education Center
Aug 31 - Nov 16, 9am	Master Gardener Classes	Joelton First Baptist Church
Oct 1	West TN Master Gardeners Workshop	West TN Research and Agricultural Center, Jackson, TN
Oct 12	Making Herbal Breads	Diann's Greenhouse
Oct 24	RCMGA GroWild Fieldtrip	

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