

# The Leaflet



February 2015

## CONTENTS

RCMGA Explores Expanding Community Outreach	1
RCMGA Meeting Time Changed To 7pm	1
Plant Sale Scheduled For Saturday May 9th	2
2015 Herb Workshops Scheduled	3
Plant of the Month: Winter Aconite	3
Profiles in Gardening: Vickie Nixon	4
Upcoming Garden Events	4
Contact List	4

## RCMGA Explores Expanding Community Outreach

Our Robertson County Master Gardeners Association hopes to expand our service to the community in 2015 by providing information on gardening at locations in the county. Along with fulfilling our Master Gardener mission of providing "... information and education to Tennessee communities in home gardening and related areas", it is an excellent opportunity to make the community aware of the RCMGA program and activities.

We will discuss this initiative at our upcoming meeting Thursday, February 26th (7pm). We need your input and participation on several issues including but not limited to:

- **When:** Saturday mornings are probably optimal. Perhaps the first Saturday of the month (April—September)?
- **Where:** Let's go where the plants and produce are: maybe Lowes in April, Farmers' Market in May and August?
- **What:** Distribute soil test kits, information about gardening and Master Gardeners. Share rhizomes and seeds?
- **Who:** To be effective, this project needs participation by all or most RCMGA members. Can you commit to volunteering a couple of hours on one or two Saturdays this year? If your Saturdays are booked, can you create a display, prepare handouts, contact volunteers, etc.?
- **Who, ME?:** You will be surprised at how many answers you have! But if not, just ask another RCMGA member onsite, research and follow up, and/or provide Extension Office contact information.

If you have questions, comments, want to work on the logistics for this endeavor, or just can't wait to volunteer for your favorite Saturday morning, bring them to the meeting or email one of the officers in the Leaflet contact list.

### Note from Paul Hart:

I had a request from Donnie King, who works with the Blair Street After school program, regarding a garden project for kids at the center. There is also a Youth Garden program at the Bransford Community Center as well as the YMCA. So volunteer opportunities are available with these three groups. Teaching materials are available that I can share with volunteers. If anyone is interested in working with "Youth Gardens", contact me for more information.

## RCMGA Meeting Time Changed To 7pm

Members voted at the January 2015 meeting to meet at 7pm to accommodate several members whose work schedules make it difficult to meet earlier. Our February program will

be about Xeriscaping. Xeriscaping (often spelled zero-scaping or xeroscaping) is landscaping and gardening that reduces or eliminates the need for supplemental water from irrigation. Although initially

promoted in regions that do not have easily accessible, plentiful, or reliable supplies of fresh water, it is gaining acceptance in other areas as access to water becomes more limited.

### NEXT MEETING

February 26

Program:  
Xeriscape  
Landscaping,  
Adam Chapman,  
Bates Nursery

### 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

## Plant Sale Scheduled For Saturday May 9th

It is hard to believe there are only two more Leaflets (after this edition) until our Plant Sale on Saturday, May 9th. Looking outside, one wonders if anything can be salvaged in the garden to divide and share. But in a few weeks more than crocus and daffodils will appear. Many of our gardeners have exhausted their supply of used pots at other plant sales. Hold onto empty pots when you do your spring planting.

## Nashville Lawn & Garden Show

Have cabin fever? Wondering if your perennials and shrubs have survived the ice, snow, and freezing temps, and what you will do if they have not? Take heart! The Lawn & Garden Show March 5th—8th is less than a fortnight away. Along with the display gardens and opportunity to chat with vendors and plant societies from hostas to roses, you can get a head start on your continuing education hours at the lecture series.

The garden 'celebrity' this year is Fran Sorin, the author of *Digging Deep: Unearthing your Creative Roots*; Ms. Sorin's lectures are scheduled for Friday at 2pm and Saturday noon. Other lectures include: Cabbages and Kings by Troy Marden, Wildflowers of Tennessee by Jack Carman, Bird Photography by David Cronett, and The Dirt on Dirt by Kyle Smallen of Southern Nurseries in Nashville. And those are just the lectures on the first day. Other lecturers include Rita Randolph, owner of Rita's Rare Plants in Jackson and Carol Reese, Ornamental Horticulture Specialist UT Extension Service, Jackson, and Rita Venable, author of *Butterflies of Tennessee* also will lecture during the show. The Davidson County Master Gardeners will also present lectures and demonstrations on the hour each afternoon of the show. Visit [nashville-lawnandgardenshow.com](http://nashville-lawnandgardenshow.com) for details. Learn and have fun!

## Master Your Garden in East Ridge on April 11—12

The Master Gardeners of Hamilton County will be sponsoring their 3rd Annual "Master Your Garden" Garden Expo on April 11 - 12, 2015 at the Camp Jordan Arena in East Ridge, TN. East Ridge is a suburb of Chattanooga. Cost of tickets are \$5.00 and children under 12 admitted free, with free parking. Besides all the vendors, MG's will be presenting ongoing demonstrations throughout the weekend event. They will also be offering classes both days and these will be led by vendor experts. The hours of the event are 10:00 am - 6:00 pm each day. Door prizes donated by vendors will be given out hourly during the weekend event.

## Gardening Made Easy: An Awesome App

The Garden Time app (free) from Burpee is a tool to help you know when to sow, transplant, and expect to harvest vegetables and herbs specific to your garden region. The app will automatically create a task list to notify you when the next sow or transplant date arrives. Included in the app is a full database of plants, local weather, and links to how-to gardening videos. Garden Time app is available on iTunes or on Google Play. Note: This information was distributed by Burpee via their newsletter and has not been tested or verified by Leaflet staff.



January 2015 Dorothy celebrates birthday with RCMGA friends



### Photo Contest

Dorothy's backyard resident

## Backyard Pests/Backyard Pals (Part 2)

By Ursula Otto

As we stated in the first part of this article in the January Leaflet, only 3% of insects are classified as pests, and one of the best controls is to encourage the birds and other insects that prey on insect pests. Eventually, however, we all must practice some insect pest management. Among the best, most environmentally friendly methods are:

- Proper soil management: feed the soil not just the plants to provide an appropriated environment for all soil life. It will result in health plants that can resist pests and disease.
- Select plants suited to the soil and climate of our area.
- Prevent injury to plants. Damage can cause infection and disease which invite insects invade.
- Mulch 2–3 inches to suppress weeds and to keep soil moist. But remember pine needles, when appropriate, are sterile; wood bark can attract termites. Best of all: mulch with good compost.
- In Middle Tennessee irrigation is often necessary to supplement rainfall but too much moisture increases the chances of disease. The best time to irrigate is either very late at night after the dew has formed or early in the morning. A good rule: Don't put them to bed wet.

### 2015 Herb Wokshops Scheduled

If you have not signed up for the Diann Nance's herb newsletter and want to learn more about herbs, visit her web site [www.dianns-greenhouse.com](http://www.dianns-greenhouse.com) and/or Diann's Greenhouse on Facebook. Diann Nance, a Montgomery County Master Gardener and owner of Diann's Greenhouse in Clarksville, offers a heaps of information on the web, at her workshops throughout the summer on use and propagation of herbs, and at her greenhouse (by appointment). See the Events column on Page 4 for workshop dates and times. As of mid-February, Diann reports that there are vacancies in all workshops. If you are interested, email Diann and she will let you know if spaces are available. She is also doing shorter workshops at the Tree of Life and will post the schedule on her website and Facebook as soon as it is definite.



*Ann and Julee at Diann's Hypertufa Container Workshop*

### Plant of the Month: Winter Aconite

This woodland member of the buttercup family was blooming in our Robertson County gardens in early February. Easy to establish and virtually maintenance free, *Eranthis hyemalis* are ideal for planting in the dappled shade of deciduous trees. Canny gardeners obtained bulbs at our RCMGA 2014 plant sale.



## Profiles in Gardening:

### Vickie Nixon



Vickie became a Master Gardener Class in 2009 and she certified in 2010. Although her work, community, and family responsibilities compete with her Master Gardener volunteer time (Vickie is the mom of an Eagle Scout!), she has served twice on the nominating committee for officers. She has worked on Welcome Sign projects, the County Fair, Garden Tours, and Plant Sales. Vickie worked on the project to create rain gardens at Robertson County Schools. While the garden at Vickie's school (Greenbrier High) has been postponed due to site problems, Vickie has continued her rain garden training at a workshop in Rutherford County last spring.

Vickie joined the Master Gardeners to learn more about gardening. She is most interested in flowers and herbs; she reports that succulents and herbs are her favorite plants. In addition to gardening, her hobbies include reading, sports, travel, and movies.

Born and raised in Fayetteville, Tennessee, as a young girl her family had a vegetable garden. Vickie remembers her great-grandmother's flowers that surrounded her house. Vickie says, "...she planted cherry tomatoes among the flowers, and we were always looking for tomatoes to eat among the flowers." After graduating from college, she lived in Huntsville, Alabama in an apartment BUT with a patio garden. After her marriage, she and her husband had flower and vegetable gardens at three different homes. The perennials moved with them. When they moved to Robertson County twelve years ago, the first thing they did was start a small vegetable garden.

Vickie worked for the National Speleological Society for 24 years and traveled a great deal as part of her job. She made a lot of friends through these travels and got to see a large part of the United States. Vickie is the oldest of seven children.

## Upcoming Garden Events

<b>Feb 24 6- 7:30pm</b>	Grow, Eat Love: Gardening and Home Food Production	Nashville University School
<b>Feb 26-27</b>	Winter School	Murfreesboro
<b>Feb 26</b>	RCMGA Meeting	Springfield
<b>Mar 5-8</b>	Nashville Lawn & Garden	Nashville, Fairgrounds
<b>Mar 12</b>	Arbor Day Celebration	Centennial Park, Nashville
<b>Mar 14</b>	Soil and Composting	Inglewood Library
<b>Mar 21 12-3pm</b>	Propagate and Grow Herbs	Diann's Greenhouse
<b>Apr 11-12</b>	Master Your Garden	East Ridge
<b>May 9-10</b>	Bloom Days	UT Gardens, Knoxville
<b>May 15 10am-1pm</b>	Using Culinary Herbs for Beginners	Diann's Greenhouse
<b>Jun 23</b>	Summer Color Green Industry	Knoxville, TN
<b>Jul 9</b>	Summer Celebration	Jackson, TN
<b>Jul 9 3-6pm</b>	Plant a Fairy Garden	Diann's Greenhouse
<b>Aug 22 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 10am-1pm</b>	Making Herbal Breads	Diann's Greenhouse

### CONTACT LIST

President: Doug Buck  
(766-2402  
historybug52@yahoo.com

Vice President: Lynn Stenglein,  
859-9659  
lcsqts@hughes.net

Secretary: Wanda Cohea  
384-5017  
wccohea@gmail.com

Treasurer: Janice Derby  
696-0392  
janicedrby@bellsouth.net

Robertson Co. Ext. Agent: Paul Hart  
384-7936  
pehart@utk.edu

Project Coordinator: vacant

*The Leaflet*: Editor, Lynn Stenglein,  
859-9659

lcsqts@hughes.net

*The Leaflet*: Trina Fulton, Production  
382-6822  
trinaf@charter.net

## Upcoming Topics and Speakers for RCMGA 2015 Meetings

March	Nature Photography	Lynn Cantrell	July	Pending	Pending
April	Invasive Plants	Lee Patrick	August	Fair Booth	
May	Picnic @ Travis Wright Park	Springfield parks personnel	September	Tropical Plants	Sonny & Shelley
June	Preserving the Harvest	Judy Kovach	October	Pending	Pending
			December	Christmas party	