



# THE LEAFLET

January 2010



A NEWSLETTER FOR, ABOUT AND BY ROBERTSON COUNTY GARDENERS

## UPCOMING GARDEN EVENTS

Jan. 28— MG Club Meeting

Feb. 17-20—Master Gardener Winter School

Feb 27 — Pruning Workday @

Mar. 4-7—Nashville Lawn & Garden Show

Ridgetop Park

April 9-11—Williamson Co. Lawn & Garden Expo

Thursday 7:30pm or Sunday 9:30am on NPT Channel 8: "Volunteer Gardener"

Saturday 5-5:30am on WTVF Channel 5: "P. Allen Smith Gardens"

Saturday 7-8am 1430 on WPLN-AM: "You Bet Your Garden"



## MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

*By Ursula Otto*

Why did we decide to become Master Gardeners? If you ask, you get many answers. From the start we have many things in common. We love to work in our gardens, enjoy planting and watching things grow and feel connected to nature. We took the Master Gardeners training, because we wanted information on how to improve our skills. With great excitement and anticipation we went to class and because of good instruction we increased our knowledge. There is a pride of accomplishment after the coursework is completed, and we are Master Gardeners in training. We are now able to attend the monthly meetings so that we can further our expertise and to be with people who have the same interest.

Almost everyone attends the first meeting after graduation. These monthly meetings give us Administrative and Education volunteer hours. At the meetings we also plan our community and fund raising projects.

When we made the decision to become Master Gardeners, we also pledged to do 40 hours of volunteer work the first year and 25 hours of work in subsequent years. This is the way the Master Gardener program has been set up by every university in the United States who has extension services and is sponsoring a Master Gardener Program.

There are currently 2000 active Master Gardeners in 46 Tennessee counties. Nationally, there are approximately 95,000 active Master Gardner volunteers who have given an estimated 5 million volunteer hours.

Some of you do not attend many meeting but have taken on a project, working many hours each month to better our community. Dee Talley and Ann Crouch are two such gardeners who have made a great impact landscaping the Animal Shelter.

I look forward to the opportunities that volunteer service, learning, and networking with fellow gardeners that our 2010 Master Gardener activities bring!



## Congratulations to our new Robertson County Master Gardeners from Class of '08!

Pictured above: Doug Buck, Michelle Adcock, Janice Thompson. Not pictured: Janet Protsman, Vicki Nixon, Debbie Davidson.

## CERTIFICATION/RECERTIFICATION: FROM THE TENNESSEE MASTER GARDENER HANDBOOK

Master Gardener interns must complete and document a minimum of 40 hours of approved volunteer service activities within one year of the date of their training.

Each year **after initial certification**, certified Master Gardeners must complete a

minimum of 25 hours of volunteer service activities and eight hours of personal continued education.

Master Gardeners who have been **inactive** for a period of time are encouraged to participate in Master Gardener Program activities and volunteer their expertise whenever possible. Activation will occur when recorded hours are returned to the UT Extension Office. Former Master Gardeners will be required to turn in **recertification** hours and continuing education hours to reinstate their Master Gardener title.

### **HELP RECLAIM RIDGETOP PARK ORCHARD**

The Ridgetop Garden Club is sponsoring a pruning demonstration and workday at the Ridgetop Station Park orchard. Located on Hwy 257, about one-half mile east of Hwy. 41 the orchard contains several mature apple, plum, and cherry trees that need attention. Paul Hart will demonstrate good pruning techniques and the best approach for reclamation of a mature orchard.

All Robertson County Master Gardeners are invited to participate. Bring your own pruning equipment; extension pole pruners are needed.

The workday is scheduled from 9am-1pm February 27<sup>th</sup>. In case of inclement weather, the activities will be postponed until March 6<sup>th</sup>. Call Lynn Stenglein (859-9659 or 310-0132) if there are questions.

### **2010 WINTER SCHOOL SCHEDULED**

The Annual Tennessee Master Gardener Winter School will be held February 17<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup> in Murfreesboro and is hosted by Rutherford County Master Gardeners and Extension Office. The theme for the 2010 winter school is "sustainable solutions". This theme refers to both sustainable gardening and sustaining volunteers in a membership organization. There will be two education tracks: one for training MG members on garden-related programming and the other a leadership tract that concentrates on coaching new leaders. The two tracks will be run successively (rather than concurrently) so attendees can participate in both educational tracks.

There is also an optional free pre-conference workshop Wednesday, February 17 on the Tennessee Yards & Neighborhoods Program.

This workshop focuses on conservation and protection of water in the landscape.

Winter school is open to all Master Gardeners and UT Extension personnel. Pre-registration is required by February 9, 2010. Complete information on the Winter School including registration can be accessed by at [mastergardener.tennessee.edu/news.asp](http://mastergardener.tennessee.edu/news.asp).

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*In 2009 Robertson County Master Gardeners reported a total of 848 volunteer hours and 160.5 hours of continuing education. Volunteer hours are an important component in justifying funding of the Master Gardener program.*

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### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR 2010 SPRING LAWN & GARDEN EVENTS**

Gardeners have two Lawn and Garden shows in the Middle Tennessee to which we can look forward on cold, dark winter days: The Nashville Lawn and Garden Show and the Williamson County Lawn and Garden Expo.

The 21<sup>st</sup> annual Nashville Lawn and Garden Show (March 4-7) theme this year is "Artistic By Nature". The show, at the Tennessee State Fairgrounds, includes live gardens created by professional landscape designers, a series of 20 free lectures, and exhibit booths of horticultural products, services, and equipment for show and sale.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Bloom 'n' Garden Expo (April 9-11) is a 'one-stop-shop' for a variety of plants and garden products. Speakers and education workshops are scheduled throughout the event, at the Ag Expo Park in Franklin.

### **SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE 2009 WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

Winners of the Search for Excellence (SFE) Awards program will be honored with trophies at the 2010 Winter School. The SFE is the recognition program for Master Gardener volunteer work throughout the state of Tennessee and the nation. Below are the winners of the 2009 SFE Awards:

Demonstration Garden: Grassmere Garden from Davidson County  
Community Service: Plant a Row for the Hungry Project from the Memphis Area

Innovative Project: Habitat Urban Gardens from Knox County

Youth: Warren Junior Master Gardeners from Warren County

Special needs Audience: Healing Garden from Putnam County

Workshop/Presentation: Fall Gardeners Festival from Cumberland County.

Apt pupils  
Jane &  
Mary Russell  
@ Sept.  
meeting with  
Ron Daniels



## **POMISING MYSELF A ROSE GARDEN!**

*By Mary Russell Rigsby*

I am getting excited waiting for spring to arrive. I have ordered new roses and can't wait until they arrive. I have been reading and trying to remember what Ron Daniels, a Roserian from Hendersonville, said about growing beautiful roses. I'm going to work with my soil; so I am thinking about raised beds since I have bad dirt. Although I have two Knockout roses, I really love my Hybrids and Grandifloras.

If you don't have roses and are wondering how to get started, plant some Knockouts. They are very low maintenance. They bloom until frost and are resistant to black spot. They grow about four feet tall. So please, try one, and I hope you will have as much enjoyment as I have with mine.

## **WHAT'S ON YOUR SEED/PLANT ORDERS THIS SEASON?**

Who among us have not been leafing through the seed catalogs that started arriving since before Christmas and surfing the 'Net for that "practically perfect plant" for our gardens? The

Leaflet queried readers about their sources for seeds and plants; some responses are included here:

I have ordered from Gurney's the last couple of years, but last year my neighbors got seeds from the Co-Op. Some of their vegetable plants did a lot better than mine. I may just buy mine from the Co-Op this year too. *Lisa Byrum*

I grow vegetables and flowers from both seed and from plants. I buy plants locally from Corbin's Greenhouse here in Robertson County. Amy Corbin's plants are incredibly healthy with perfect root systems and she always has tons from which to choose. I also buy from here because I believe in supporting local agricultures. My seeds come from several places. First, I always attend the Nashville Lawn and Garden Show and buy seeds from vendors there. I also buy Ferry-Morse seeds (usually heirlooms) from Lowe's or Tractor Supply. Online I buy from e-Bay if there's something there I really, really want. This year I plan to buy heirloom seeds from Seed Savers Exchange ([www.seedsavers.org](http://www.seedsavers.org)). *Carol Davis*

Although I have disciplined myself to get most plants and seeds from local sources, I cannot resist several 'special' orders. Last year (among others) I ordered "pure white" zinnias from Burpee. I was very happy with both the germination rates and flowers. This year is the year of the white marigolds! I always plant trailing or alpine geraniums in my flower boxes and must go online to obtain those specimens; I am still searching for a dependable source. *Lynn Stenglein*

## **ROBERTSON COUNTY RAINFALL AMOUNTS AMPLE IN 2009**

COCORAH (Community Cooperative Rain and Hail) stations reported over 60 inches of rain at most Robertson County stations in 2009. Check out [www.cocorahs.com](http://www.cocorahs.com) for amounts at a station near you.

### **CONTACT LIST**

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**RCMGA Web Site:** [rcmga.org](http://rcmga.org)