

The Leaflet



July 2016

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Heflin Garden Recognized with June Beautification Award

The Coopertown garden of Bonnie and Bob Heflin received the first RCGMA beautification award of the year. Although Bonnie protested that nothing was blooming and the gardens were not up to par when I did a walkabout to take a few pictures, I found the hycintha bean vine, fruit-laden crab apple tree, coleus, bird-houses, and ponds delightful! The bantam chickens running around the yard were a picture in motion, and the friendly kitty could upstage any pets that I have. Good nomination, Ann! Thanks for all the work on the award, Jim and Betty!



NEXT MEETING

July 28, 2016
7 pm

Speaker:

René Kriek

Program:

Mushrooms

The Robertson Co. Master Gardener Assoc. meets the fourth Thurs. of every month.

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

Tennessee Extension Volunteer Leader—Required Training

All volunteer leaders that work under the supervision of Extension employees must complete the TN Extension Online training module and have a volunteer leader application on file in the Extension office. Since the Master Gardener program is a part of UT Extension all Master Gardener volunteers must comply with these requirements. Members that attended the June meeting completed applications. We will have applications at the July meeting for those that were not in attendance.

The TN Extension Volunteer Application is available from

your Extension office or can be downloaded from the *Volunteerism* website at: <https://extension.tennessee.edu/eesd/Pages/Volunteerism.aspx> Completed and signed forms should be returned to the County Extension office.

You will also need to read and sign the form: Tennessee Law on Mandatory Reporting of Child and Child Sex Abuse—found on the *Volunteerism* website under “Resources” or <https://extension.tennessee.edu/eesd/Documents/HR/Minors/TennesseeLawonMandatoryReportingofChildandChildSexAbuse.pdf>

Volunteers must also view

the “TN Extension Child Protection Training Module.” The link for this training is <https://extol.tennessee.edu/people/login/index.php>. If you are a first time user—select Create my new extOL account or log-in if you already have an account. Then view the Child Protection training and print certificate to mail or scan and email to Judy Bryant.

Completing these three items will classify you as a Level 2 Volunteer. Level 2 volunteers may have direct contact with minors but no overnight involvement and no frequent contact for

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This year my husband and I decided to visit Montana's Glacier National Park for our annual grown-up vacation. Just the two of us, backpacking and camping in Big Sky country's wilderness. Glaciers and grizzlies, berries and black bears were all on the list of highlights and hazards.

For the nights that we weren't camping, we stayed at the beautiful and tranquil Kandahar Lodge in Whitefish, Montana. Picture the lodge as a huge log cabin with exposed beams and double wooden front doors, a magnificent river rock, wood burning fireplace that has been burning every day since the lodge opened, inviting you to curl up in front of it with a good book and cup of coffee—or wine. A picture straight out of an old Western romance novel.

But what impressed me even more were the glorious gardens on Kandahar's grounds. The lodges' garden designer, Jennifer (or as the staff calls her, Jenniflower) focused on using mostly native plants in her landscaping. As I strolled through the gardens I noticed some familiar plants but mostly unfamiliar ones. Blue flax, Spiraea, Montana Blue-eyed Grass and Syringa were some I was unfamiliar with, and Yellow Columbine, Purple Lupine and Red

It's Springtime in Glacier!

by René Kriek

Everything is in bloom! Springtime has arrived, and with gusto! Purple, white and yellow fields as far as the eye can see, with high snowy peaks in the background is certainly an awesome sight to behold. Truly breathtaking!

The backcountry trails were also showing off its colorful array of native plants such as Bear Grass, Mountain Strawberry, Yellow Columbine, Indian Paintbrush, Prairie Smoke and Huckleberry. Even the pine trees were in bloom, and boy does the air smell fresh! The forests are mostly made up of Pine, Aspen, and Birch, with a variety of Dogwood and Maple here and there, but evergreen for the most part.

It was my first time in Montana, but certainly not my last. I can see why Glacier National Park is called the Crown of the Continent, with all the colorful flowers making up its jewels. God sure is the original Master Gardener!

Mountain Poppy the more familiar ones. I was amazed at how completely different the overall Montana flora is versus Tennessee.

Because of the elevation of the Glacier National Park area and it being so cold for most of the year, come July and ev-



Farms, Gardens, Porches of Cross Plains Garden Tour June 2016



RCMGA Members Attend Central Region Extension Master Gardener Workshop

Gwen Day, René Kriek, Ann Rausch, and Lynn Stenglein joined Master Gardeners from Davidson, Sumner, Williamson, Wilson, Maury, Putman, and Rutherford Counties at Ellington Ag Center for a workshop on June 30th. Master Gardeners attended sessions on gardening (plant diagnostics, walkabouts through Ellington Ag Center with Dr. Alan Windham, visits to the demonstration garden) and on Master Gardener topics (project leadership, welcoming and engaging interns, recruitment of new members). Associations in several counties brought displays from their projects.

René reported: The workshop was very informative and fun. The plant disease diagnostic class was interesting and definitely helped my ability to spot and identify a problem. The demo garden tour was my favorite. I loved all the different gardens and their themes, especially the herb, fairy, and butterfly gardens. It was wonderful! Volunteer Gardener's Troy Mardens' talk "Plant This Instead" was also very educational about keeping your garden healthier and happier by choosing better varieties to plant. I definitely recommend this workshop or at least a visit to Ellington Agricultural Center!

Lynn noted: Aong with a great tour of the Ellington grounds and visit to the demo garden where I got good ideas for paths and garden art, I concentrated on two sessions about recruiting and retaining new members. Wilson County Master Gardeners described their initiative to improve the Intern Class Environment by members' active participation in the classes: they have a group of mentors who are available for interns; introduce interns and mentors at the first class and avoid copious amounts of paperwork on the first night; involve interns in projects from the beginning; provide light meal for the first session.

RCMGA Fair Booth Planned

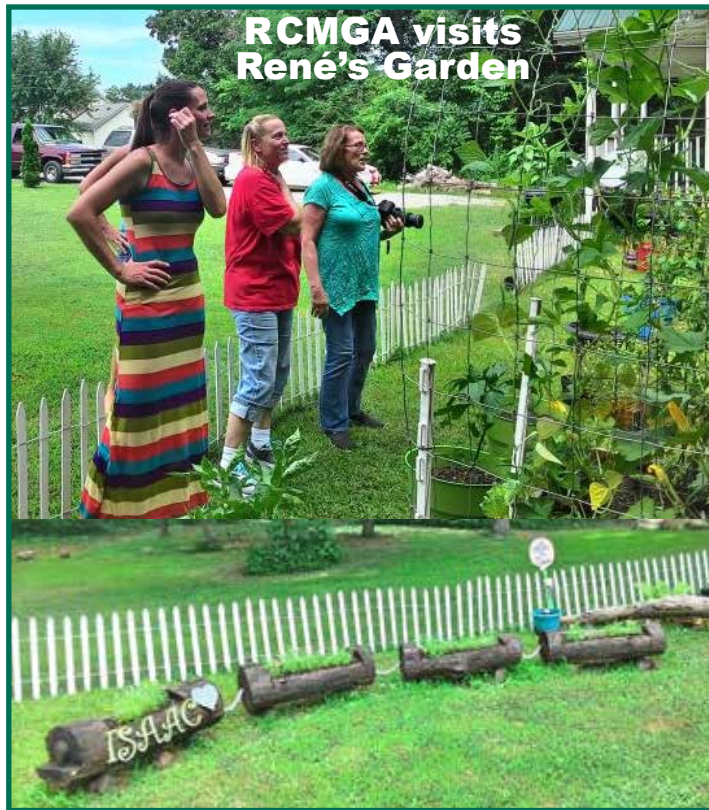
Design of our RCMGA Fair Booth is underway; the 2016 theme is Keepin' the Smiles Rollin'. Remember to save and bring seeds to our August Meeting which will be at the Fairgrounds. If you have dug irises and want to share them, they are welcome giveaways as well.

RCMGA Needs Your Help to Fill 2016 MG Class

Recruit, remind, motivate your Robertson County friends, family, fellow gardeners, and neighbors to attend the RCMGA class that will begin in mid-September and end in late November. The class will be held at the Extension Office in Springfield, probably on Thursday nights. Cost is \$125 per person (or per couple when a book is shared). Several individuals expressed interest in taking the class this year at the Coopertown Barrel Festival, Plant Sale, and other RCMGA sponsored events; they will be notified by the Extension Office in mid-August. But a personal call often is effective.

Upcoming Events

Aug 13	Carnton Garden Tour	Franklin
Aug 21-28	Robertson Co. Fair	Fairgrounds
Aug 30	Fall Gardeners Festival	Crossville
Sep 10	Using Native Plants	Mansker Station
Oct 8	Growing Fruit in Mid.TN	Mansker Station



Volunteer Training continued from page 1

longer than two weeks with minors.

If your volunteer efforts require you to have frequent contact for more than two weeks during a year or possible overnight contact, then you would need to meet the Level 3 Volunteer requirements. Level 3 requires that UT Extension conduct a background check. We will send a Background Check Consent form to any volunteer that needs Level 3 certification.

You may contact the Extension office if you have questions regarding Volunteer application and training. Also if you need access to a computer you can come to the Extension office and use a workstation to view the Child Protection training course.

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