

The Leaflet



July 2017

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Get Ready for the Sesquicentennial Robertson County Fair!

The theme for the 2017 fair is “150 Years of Family and Fair Traditions”. Be thinking about how we can depict this theme in our RCMGA booth. If you have old photos that match this theme, we would love to use them in our booth this year. Maybe you have photos of kids on rides or getting the prize calf groomed up for show; what about the one of Grandpa stripping tobacco? Please bring the photo (or a copy) to this month’s meeting.

At our July meeting we will recruit (creative and/or willing) volunteers to design the booth and to lead in the booth’s construction at our August meeting. We also will sign up volunteers to greet visitors for a few hours at the booth each night of the fair (August 21-26). Don’t forget to save and dry seed for our fair booth give-aways; iris rhizomes are always welcome too. **NOTE: our August meeting will be at the fairgrounds on Thursday August 17th.**



2016 RCMGA Fair Booth

Tennessee Master Gardener Program Classes Scheduled

Sept. 5th–Nov. 14th

Tuesdays 6pm–9pm

Class fee: \$125

First Baptist Church Joelton

7106 Whites Creek Pike Joelton TN

Applications available at www.rcmga.org

If you have friends, neighbors, family members who are interested in gardening, invite them to enroll in the 2017 Tennessee Master Gardener classes. Cheatham County and Robertson County UT Extension Offices are coordinating the classes, but participants from all Tennessee counties are welcome. The complete class schedule will be posted on Facebook and rcmga.org as soon as it is finalized.

Participants should bring (or mail) the application and fee to: UT Extension Office, 408 East Main Street, Springfield 37172 by Friday, September 1st. (We must have at least 15 people enrolled to have the class.) Call the Extension Office (615-384-7936) if there are questions. Master Gardeners may attend any of the classes they have missed or want to review.

NEXT MEETING

July 27, 2017
7 pm

Speaker:

Doug Buck

Program:

Pollinators

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

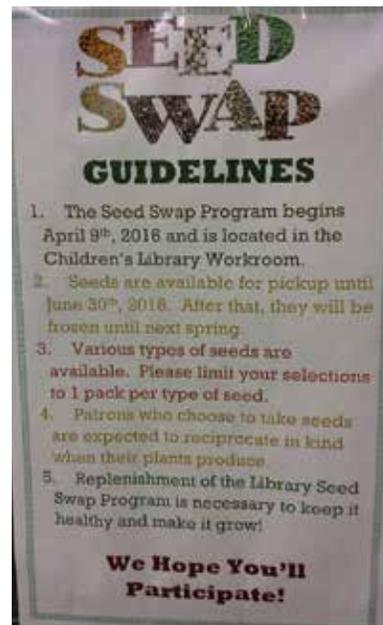
Saving and Swapping Seeds

Seed swaps are a rewarding way to build community and share information about gardening, plant varieties, and each others' projects. Swapping can be arranged online, by mail, or in person. Swaps are growing in popularity due in part to increased interest in organic gardening and heritage or heirloom plant varieties.

There is a seed swap program at the Stokes-Brown Public Library and

at the Middle Tennessee Plant Swap held twice a year at Henry Horton State Park. There are many sites on Facebook that allow gardeners to swap their plants or seeds for free.

At our July meeting we will discuss having a local plant/seed swap among our own Facebook page users and local gardeners, i.e. using our Facebook page to establish a virtual, perpetual seed swap/plant swap.



Gardening 101 Class Well Attended

Twenty new gardeners and gardeners-new-to Robertson County attended our first basic gardening class (Gardening 101) at Stokes-Brown Library in Springfield on Saturday, July 15th. The facilities at the new library are superb; many participants asked questions; and all were appreciative with the door prizes that were donated by RCMGA members. We already have list of people who could not attend the class this month but want to attend a similar class in the spring. You can view the class slides at rcmga.org.

Many thanks to presenters (Rene Kriek, Lynn Stenglein); to RCMGA members (Nicole Adams, Dorothy Briggs, Vickie Nixon) who were on-hand to meet students and answer questions; and to those who contributed garden related door prizes (Trina Fulton, Dorothy Briggs, Lynn Stenglein, René Kriek).



Gardening 101 Class

NINTH ANNUAL

Fall Gardeners' Festival

Tuesday, August 29, 2017

PLATEAU AGRESEARCH & EDUCATION CENTER
320 Experiment Station Road
Crossville, Tennessee

Registration begins at 8 a.m. CDT | Free to the public

FALL GARDENERS' FESTIVAL

TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2017

Visit the Plateau AgResearch and Education Center for a day planned just for the gardener. Enjoy educational workshops, exhibits, Ask-the-Expert, wagon tours of the entire facility, and garden vendors.

Food will be available for purchase.

Tent presentations include:

- Fruit Trees
- Bees
- Butterfly Gardening
- Soils
- Naturally Grown Gardening
- Rose Rosette Disease
- Plant Disease Treatments
- Herbs
- Conifers
- Iris
- And more!

Be sure to check out the following:

- Ask-the-Experts
- Wagon Tours of UT Plateau AgResearch & Education Center
- Educational Displays
- Garden Vendors
- And more!

Visit our website in early August for our agenda! ccmga.org, ag.tennessee.edu/plateaugardens, or plateau.tennessee.edu.

To request an accommodation for accessibility, please contact us at 931-484-0034.

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2017 Summer Celebration at West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center, Jackson, TN

By Nicole Adams

I attended this year's Summer Celebration, annually held at the UT Gardens in Jackson, TN. If you've ever attended, you know how beautiful, exciting, and educational this event is. This year's theme was "Landscaping Challenges", something that most people have questions about. If have have NEVER attended, I encourage you to make a day of it next summer. There is much to learn and see on that day! And it's cheap—\$5.

I attended two Garden Talks (garden lectures) and bought a few items at the plant sale. In case you aren't aware, there is a large plant sale held annually on this date, as well as local businesses selling delicious foods and beverages. I was pleased to buy something to drink from the 4-H'ers there. The UT staff were pleasant, helpful, drove golf carts to give you rides from your car to your destination, and free water was provided throughout the Celebration.

The first Garden Talk I attended was "What Plant Would Grow Here?" presented by Marty DeHart, who has been on NPT's Volunteer Gardener. In her 45-minute talk, she got right to the "heart" of what most gardeners want—the practical application. This was beneficial from my perspective as a young gardener because sometimes I just want to know what to plant in a dry, shady area. Or perhaps I have a wet soil, full sun area. Maybe I want to know what might work in a rain garden or under trees. This was a talk for just those kinds of needs. I have posted the link to her notes on the Facebook page. Her examples include native and exotic species. Here is the link if you want to find it on the UT Gardens site: <http://taes.utk.edu/upload/WTREC/UTJacksonJuly2017WhatPlantWouldGrowHeree-handout.pdf>



The second Garden Talk I attended was "Growing Undercover" presented by Carol Reese from Western Region Extension. She is an Ornamental Horticultural Specialist. Her talk, like Marty's, was practical. She explained why it is often difficult to grow under trees and how to improve the growth of what we do plant under trees, whether that be simply grass or raised beds or shade gardens. She focused primarily on ornamentals, as her specialty suggests. Her primary focus was establishing shade gardens. I have posted the link to her notes on the Facebook page. Here is the link if you want to find it on the UT Gardens site: <http://taes.utk.edu/upload/WTREC/GardeningUnderTrees.pdf>

In response to these two talks I attended, I deliberately purchased an autumn fern to plant in a shady, wetter area of my backyard, under a tree. The tree is a willow and currently needs severe pruning. Once this is done, I will start creating a rain garden/shade garden with that little fern (it's not SO little) to initiate the plans. This is the first fern I will have bought and planted.

At the plant sale I also bought lemongrass, which currently looks like a random stalk of grass in a pot, but I plan to put it in a container I can leave on my deck in the hot weather and roll inside during the cooler weather. Lemongrass essential oil is great at repelling mosquitoes. Just break off some, rub it on you, and see if you don't have fewer mosquito bites. I also bought some fresh green beans from a vendor there.

Make plans next year to attend the Summer Celebration. You won't regret it!

Preserve Your Produce as Soup

"Winter is coming..." Chef Anna Notardonato shared her creamy squash soup recipe that can be frozen and heated this winter. Chef Anna says, "You can use any vegetable. I make the same soup base for zucchini, corn and tomatoes. With the corn soup I use parsley instead of thyme; with the tomatoes I use basil instead of thyme. Bon appétit!"

Creamy Squash Soup

(Use large pot)

1/4 cup olive oil

1 1/2 cups onions sliced

1 1/2 cups carrots sliced

1 cup celery chopped

2 tablespoons garlic chopped fine

1 teaspoon diced thyme

6 to 8 cups sliced yellow squash

1/2 cup brown rice

Salt and pepper

chicken stock (enough to cover 1 inch over vegetables)

Directions

- Place oil, onions, celery, carrots, garlic, rice and thyme in the large pot. Sauté for 5 minutes or until vegetables start to brown,
- Add squash, cook for 5 minutes.
- Add chicken stock, cook until rice is cooked and vegetables are tender.
- Cool off for half hour, add more chicken stock.
- Adjust salt and pepper.
- Process in a food processor or high speed blender until creamy.

Profiles In Gardening:

Karen Ribble

I grew up in Texas on a family farm. As a child I had to spend long hours pulling weeds in the Texas heat. When I grew up, all I wanted to do was get off the farm. Life is cyclical; when I married and started a family, I realize that I wanted to grow my own organic food for my family and returned to farm life with a new perspective. It was like starting from scratch. My husband and I started a vegetable garden when we bought our home in Springfield in 2002. It has been a learning process. We focused on food plants. We still focus on food, but in recent years I have become much more interested in flowers. Our house is very shaded. Any flowers around the house are going to have to be shade lovers; so I am rapidly learning about the shade plants. For the past 10 years I have also kept chickens and bees. I tell people I live in the land of eggs and honey. I can say for sure that the bees help the produce, but they are more work than most people realize. I can now take a chicken from coop to kitchen in under an hour. That is something. I have also learned to tap maple trees and have done it twice now. I do a lot of canning and have learned a great deal about food preservation.



My friend Nancy Blackwood, who oversees the YMCA garden, is the person who put me on the Master Gardener path. We were talking about the Y garden, and when I expressed an interest in helping with it, she suggested the MG program. I enjoyed the program, and the people I met in the process. I have gotten involved with the Kids Garden club at the Stokes-Brown library and love it. I hope to get involved with the YMCA garden soon as well.

Call me shallow. I like plants that come back every year and things I can eat. I have more time than money so I like doing things on the cheap. It is a score when I can get a free plant from a friend or a cutting from somewhere. My favorite RCMG meeting was the plan swap. My favorite plants in our garden are our blueberry bushes: so rewarding. I have a new Goji berry bush this year that I am very excited about. I will let you know if/when I ever get any berries.



Swallowtail butterfly on mountain mint. Photo by Julee Orr

REMINDER

TIME: Don't forget to enter your volunteer and continuing education hours (CEU). For certified Master Gardeners, 25 hours volunteer time and 8 hours CEU must be recorded to maintain certification. For interns, 40 hours of volunteer time are required to certify. Please record all of your volunteer hours as this data are used to justify the TNMG program.

Upcoming Events

Jul 27	RCMGA Mtg. Pollinators by Doug Buck	Springfield Extension Office
Sep 9	Foodscaping	Mansker Station Park
Aug. 12	Orchids	Mansker Station Park
Aug. 12	Fall Vegetables	Bordeaux Library
Aug. 21-26	Robertson County Fair	
Aug 29	Fall Gardener's Festival	Crossville, TN

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