

The Leaflet



June 2017

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NEXT MEETING

June 22, 2017
6 pm

Speaker:

Terry Martin

Program:

Springfield Parks

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

Gardening 101 Class for Robertson County Scheduled

On Saturday, July 15th from 10am–12pm the Robertson County Master Gardeners will have a class and workshop for new gardeners and gardeners-new-to-Robertson County. The class will be conducted at the Stokes-Brown Library in Springfield.

Visitors to our spring outreach event and plant sale expressed interest in gardening, but many of them said, “I don’t know much about It.” and/or “I just moved to Robertson County.” Although



mid-summer is not the optimal time for a gardening class, RCMGA members voted at the May meeting to offer the class in July.

We will present information on the following topics: vegetable gardening (including raised beds and lasagna gardening), flowers (annuals, perennials, etc.), fruits, shrubs, composting, good/bad insects and plants, sources for products and information. All topics will include an emphasis on Robertson County’s challenges and resources (including our Master Gardener program).

Although Lynn Stenglein and Rene Kriek have volunteered to do the “formal” presentation, they need

help! We are asking students to bring question and plants, and we will bring some samples too. We need RCMGA members to attend the class to participate in the workshop (identifying plants that participants bring in) and to answer questions one-on-one from students. We want to have several door prizes; if you have plants or other garden related items that you could donate, bring them to the Extension Office by Friday July 14th. If you have friends, neighbors, and/or family who would benefit from the class, invite them, bring your favorite noxious plant for show-and-tell, a door prize donation, and come along with them.



REMINDER: Our June picnic meeting begins at 6 pm. Check out recent emails for suggestions on what to bring! Hope to see you Thursday, Shelter #2, J. Travis Price Park!

Kids' Garden Club Classes Scheduled

RCMGA members met with Rose Wooten, Children's Librarian, to schedule classes for the second half of 2017 (July—December). Currently the classes/leads are:

- July:** Attracting Monarch Butterflies, Joy Mayfield (Sumner Co. MG)
- August:** Honey Bees, Karen Ribble
- September:** Preserving seeds
- October:** Bugs, Phil Keathley
- November:** Composting/recycling our kitchen and garden wastes
- December:** Field Trip to SCG

If you could lead one of the classes not currently assigned (September, November), email Karen Ribble (masterbraider62@gmail.com) or Lynn Stenglein (lcsqts@hughes.net). The classes are the second Tuesday of each month from 3:30—4:30.



It's Summer Celebration Time In Tennessee!

Spring planting done? Summer canning/freezing/drying not yet underway? Weeds under control? Or not. It must be time for **Summer Celebration Lawn and Garden Show** in Jackson at the West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center, home to the UT Gardens-Jackson. The gardens are located around the office building area. Visitors are welcome during daylight hours.

The theme of this year's Celebration is "Savvy Solutions for Landscape Challenges". You can access full details at . . . <http://west.tennessee.edu/events/summerceleb.asp>.

Here are some sessions that sparked my interest:

Caution! Slippery Slope

Carol Reese discusses solutions to alleviate or minimize the problem with slope-covering plants.

Garden Big in Small Spaces

Fit a phenomenal garden in an itty-bitty space.



The Not-So-Usual Plants

Step up your garden experience by weird and wonderful annuals and perennials that will astonish the neighbors.

Plants Working with the Pros

Get tips for working with landscape designers or contractors to create the garden you want.

Creating Beautiful Undergrowth Without Damage

Carol Reese will guide you through the taxing process of creating undergrowth damage to existing trees.

Hydrangea Hysteria

Jason Reeves will simplify pruning and care for different types of hydrangeas and highlight some of the best performers in our area.

Troubleshooting Weeds

Tired of the constant battle with weeds? Let Celeste Scott with UT Extension show you more efficient strategies for weed management.

Debug Your Crape Myrtles

Sadly, an invasive insect species has recently moved into Tennessee, threatening our crape myrtles. Learn how to stop the scale and save your crape myrtles.

Paulownia Can Be an Invasive Species

By Phillip Keathley, Ph.D.

For the past three years at our house directly under an eave, a strange new tree has started to grow in May as deciduous species begin to put on their yearly leafing structures. Since it appeared in a place it had never been seen before and immediately was competing with flower bed shrubbery, we think its seed may have been dropped by a bird resting on the roof eave of the residence. The large leaves shaped like elephant ears and the fact that in the space of two months it emerged from the soil and grew to a height of 10 feet made it an interesting specimen to research. A leaf was taken to a Master Gardener meeting and it was identified as coming from the Empress Tree. I went online to discover there is much written about this interesting species.

According to published articles, this tree of the genus *Paulownia* is one of six to 17 species of flowering plants in the family Paulowniaceae, related to and sometimes included in the Scrophulariaceae. They are present in much of China, south to northern Laos and Vietnam and are long cultivated elsewhere in eastern Asia, notably in Japan and Korea. They are deciduous trees 12-15 m. (39-49 ft.) tall, with large, heart-shaped leaves 15-40 cm. across, arranged in opposite pairs on the stem. The flowers are produced in early spring on panicles 10-30 cm. long, with a tubular purple corolla resembling a foxglove flower. The fruit is a dry capsule, containing thousands of minute seeds.

The genus, originally *Pavlovia* but now usually spelled *Paulownia*, was named in honor of Anna Pavlovna, queen



consort of the Netherlands (1795-1865), daughter of Tsar Paul I of Russia. It is also called “princess tree” for the same reason.

Paulownia is an early colonizer of sterile soils (such as after a high temperature wildfire), because its seeds are easily killed off by soil fungi. In fact, it is so difficult to start *Paulownia* by seed that successful plantations purchase rootstock or seedlings—or propagate their own. Remarkably, despite the fact that seeds, seedlings, and roots of even mature trees are so susceptible to rot, the wood itself is not and is widely used for boat building and surfboards.

Paulownia tomentosa once occurred in North America, but it is now considered an introduced species. In an article in the *American Journal of Botany*, Charles J. Smiley reported finding fossils of *Paulownia tomentosa* leaves in Tertiary strata of Ellensburg Canyon of Washington State. Dr. Smiley described the structure of the leaves and, ruling out all similarly structured leaves, identified them positively as *Paulownia*. He examined fossils of many more trees in the Ellensburg formation and identified them as trees that normally co-habitate with *Paulownia*. He described the climate of what is now the northwestern United States during the Tertiary Period as being essentially ideal for the growth of *Paulownia* and he attributed extinction in North America *Paulownia* to glaciation in later ice ages.

In China, it is popular for roadside planting and as an ornamental tree. *Paulownia* needs a lot of light and does not like high water tables. *Paulownia* grown on plantations generally has widely spaced growth rings, meaning it's soft and of little value; wood with close growth rings is harder and of higher value.



Profiles In Gardening:

Lavon Traugber

"Members' recruiting members" worked for me; my friend, Lynn Cantrell, was always talking about the Master Gardener program. She explained what the Robertson County Master Gardeners were involved in. I always have been interested in gardening, and it seemed like a good fit.



Though I have lived in Shelby County, I grew up in Robertson County where I was born and raised on a farm. My dad had a green thumb; he could plant a dead stick and grow a tree. It always amazed me how you could take a seed or a twig and grow vegetables, trees, flowers, and shrubs. I am most interested in vegetable gardening and lawns. It is hard to pick a favorite plant. I especially like dogwood trees, shamrocks, and all vegetable plants.

One of the things I like about Master Gardeners is the opportunity for involvement with the community. I am enjoying working with the Kids' Gardening Club at the Stokes-Brown Library and participating in the RCMGA Plant Sale. My interests include antiquing, visiting flea markets, and family.

CRAPE MYRTLES THREATENED

If you miss the Summer Celebration presentation about **Crape Myrtle Bark Scale (CMBS)** you should read the Mississippi Extension Service publication #P2938: "CMBS Identification and Control" available on the extension.msstate.edu site. CMBS is a serious new threat to southern crape myrtles and has spread to Tennessee. All members of our gardening and landscaping community need to know how to identify and control CMBS in order to help slow its spread and reduce its impact. Heavy infestations of CMBS cause crape myrtles to be so unsightly that ignoring and living with the problem is not an option. Infestations of CMBS are easy to spot and identify. Look for heavy accumulations of black sooty mold on the leaves, limbs and trunks. Look for patches of white felt-like material on the twigs, branches, and trunk.



Although application of dormant oil sprays and control by native lady beetles do help, effective treatments of insecticides (foliar and systemic) are not 100% effective and must be reapplied each year. The best defense is to avoid planting (buying or adopting) infested crape myrtles.



Upcoming Events

Jun 22 6pm	RCMGA Picnic	J.Travis Price
Jun 24	Culinary and Med. Herbs	Goodlettsville Library
Jul 8 10am	Butterflies	Mansker Station Park
Jul 11	Potting Succulents	Edmonson Library
Jul 13	Summer Celebration	Jackson
Jul 15	Gardening 101 Class	Springfield Library
Jul 26	RCMGA Mtg. Spring 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	

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