

# The Leaflet



March 2015

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## Wisdom from Winter School

Thanks to Doug Buck, Betty Brigman (scholarship winner), Jim Brigman, Wanda Cohea, Ann Rausch, and Lynn Stenglein for representing our Association at Winter School February 26–27. Neither snow, ice, or mega-potholes in and around Nashville prevented their attendance at Winter School and at our RCMGA February 26th meeting. Participants agree that networking with Master Gardeners from neighboring counties and across the state is one of the most significant benefits of Winter School. They learned about gardening events (see Events column on Page 4), Search for Excellence projects (projects that other Associations are doing), and gardening information (hydrangeas, grafting apples and tomatoes, GMOs, pesticides, insect pests and predators, and). They discussed Social Media at several breakout sessions; if they did not realize the important of Facebook, Twitter, and other



Winter School attendees: Wanda Cohea, Doug Buck, Betty and Jim Brigman and Lynn Stenglein.

technologies, they do now. Below are some of the (other) informational items noted and discussed:

- Attention! Crepe Myrtle bark scale has appeared in Memphis and is adversely affecting the size and quantity of blooms. There is no cure;

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**NEXT MEETING**  
**March 26**

**Program:**  
Nature  
Photography  
by Lynn Cantrel

### 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

## Countdown to May 9, 2015 Annual RCMGA Plant Sale

It's less than 50 days until our Plant Sale on Saturday, May 9th! Scheduled just in time for Mother's Day 2015, we have an excellent "window" for shoppers. As you prepare your plants, consider dish gardens and planters that will please the gardener-mom you know. But do not forget the serious gardeners (including fellow RCMGA members) who need to replenish, revive, and rejuvenate their gardens with cone flowers, wild ginger, hellebores, hostas, Japanese Japonica and other delights!



Chinese lantern (*Physalis alkekengi*, Ground Cherry, Japanese Lantern.....): Chinese Lantern were featured and sold at our RCMGA 2014 plant sale by intrepid gardeners, i.e. those prepared for and unintimated by dealing with potentially invasive plants.

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Winter School, continued from p. 1

it is best not to bring in any Crepe Myrtles into the Middle Tennessee area ....

- Ultimate edible Landscape: Sequatchie Valley Master Gardeners received the Search For Excellence Award for a workshop about growing mushrooms on hardwood logs; their hands-on workshop attracted large numbers of participants in all weather conditions. Visit [mushrooms.com and \[www.mushroompeople.com\]\(http://www.mushroompeople.com\) if you can't wait to get started.](http://www.allabout-</a></li>
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- Increasing meeting attendance for Master Gardener Associations is always a hot topic at Winter School and effort to limit the meeting length garnered discussion. We will explore the suggestion of distributing and adhering to the agenda prior to meetings.
- Report from Betty: Winter school was education and fun. We

enjoyed the personality profile. Jimmy was really interested in the relationship bugs have with our garden. I was impressed with the Bradley County Association's community garden (SFE Award Winner) for teenagers: a six week hands-on program for teens in the juvenile justice system, the project is helping change attitudes and assist teens who are trying to find their purpose in life.

Plant Sale, continued from p. 1

We will have signup sheets at the March meeting for Plant Sale salespersons, set-up crew, and publicity personnel. If you would like to do (or to suggest) an informal class or demonstration on a gardening topic, email Ursula Otto ([uotto@comcast.net](mailto:uotto@comcast.net)) or bring your ideas to the meeting.

Bridgette's Heuchera demo proved very popular at our last two plant sales. Customers are always interested in learning about herbs and about selecting perennials for shade and sun.

For RCMG Association Members who need empty pots, we will schedule a pick up day at the Extension Office in early April.

## Nashville Lawn and Garden Show

Attendees welcomed the respite from the winter weather afforded by a trip to the Lawn and Garden Show. We noticed the absence of several favorite local nurseries (including Bates Nursery and Lone Oak Farm, a favorite source of Angel Trumpets and bamboos); but Hewitts Nursery, Cumberland Herb Society, and Davidson County Master Gardeners somewhat offset the dominance of vendors of patio pavers, firepits, seat-walls, and other hardscape. We did enjoy attending the lectures, talking to plant societies (orchid, native plant, herb, and other ), and shopping for bulbs, cuttings, books, etc.



Dorothy, Lynn, Lauren shop for summer bulbs at Nashville Lawn and Garden Show

## Crinum Lily

By Dorothy Briggs



These lilies have been described as tough as nails, big as the imagination, pretty as a summer dress and eternal as the sky. They grow to be a tall plant with trumpet shaped, fragrant blooms on stalks. The lilies come in many colors. Plant them where you want them to stay and they will reward you for many years.

This plant is now about 82 years old. My mother, Rosa Mefford, planted it by her father's gravesite in Buena Vista Cemetery, Brownsville, Texas in 1933. My daughter and son-in-law, Rose and Gary Bedwell, dug one bulb for me in 2001 on a trip to South Padre Island, near Brownsville. The bulb was planted in my yard, adjusted well to its new home and now rewards me with several bloom stalks every year! It is a wonderful plant and brings back many good memories.



## Springfield Care Center Garden Visited

RCMGA Members Shelley Pritchard, Jeanne Protsman, and Lynn Stenglein visited the Christian Care Center (CCC) in Springfield this month in response to a request by CCC Activities Director Darla Goad. Ms. Goad emailed the Extension Office that “..... We have an outdoor garden that needs tender loving care. I know that many of our residents would enjoy working in the dirt and the results of such. I do not have much of a “green thumb”, but would love to learn. We are looking for volunteers who would enjoy spending time and teaching us about gardening.”

The CCC facility has four raised beds with soil, two of which are wheelchair accessible; the facility also has patios and a gazebo with a few containers and room for several more. Ms. Goad expressed the desire to have MG assistance in teaching residents and working with them to plant the containers and raised beds, i.e. not in day-to-day maintenance. Although this is a project that is in line with our mission of providing “...information and education to Tennessee communities in home gardening and related



Shelley and Ms. Goad at CCC Gardens.

areas.”, we do have other community garden requests for assistance and a limited number of volunteers. We will discuss the scope and availability of volunteers at our March meeting. If you have questions before then, contact Lynn, Jeanne, or Shelley.

## Summer Saturdays at Mansker's Station

Sumner County Master Gardeners are sponsoring a lecture series at Historic Mansker's Station in Goodlettsville on select Saturdays April through October. You must pre-register at [goodlettsvilleparks.com](http://goodlettsvilleparks.com). The lectures include:

- April 25: Field trip to Jeff Poppen's farm in Red Boiling Springs. Jeff, easily recognizable as the frequent Volunteer Gardener guest with bare feet and long beard, practices organic and biodynamic methods on his 300 acre farm supplying fresh produce to many CSA customers in Nashville.
- May 9: Project Learning Tree is a 6 hour workshop. Visit [www.plt.org](http://www.plt.org) for more information.
- June 1: Marty DeHart, a professional landscaper and plant propagator, will lecture on Summer Container Gardening.
- July 11: Rita Venable, author of *Butterflies of Tennessee*, is the lecturer. You may also visit the Mansker's Station certified Monarch Way Station, installed last year by Sumner County Master Gardeners.
- August 8: Jennifer Kirk, historic interpreter at Mansker's Station teaches Canning Green Beans.
- Sept. 12: Andy Sudbrock, owner of Nashville Natives in Fairview, will educate participants about Butterflies, Bees, and Other Pollinators.
- Oct. 10: Justin Stetler, who has been involved in restoring gardens at Carnton Planation, Rachel's Garden at the Hermitage, and the Carter House, will speak on the history of the garden at Carnton Plantation.

## Gardening at the Zoo

The Nashville Zoo and the Davidson County Master Gardeners are hosting gardening classes on Saturdays this spring. Classes are free with Zoo admission and take place at 11 a.m. in the gardens of the Zoo's historic home. The master gardener leading the session will answer guests' questions and provide handouts, and other helpful items.

- March 28: **Nature's Best From the Seedy Part of Town:** Organic Gardening, Seed Saving and Butterfly Havens
- April 11: **Coming Up Roses and Perennials:** Rose Care and Planning Your Perennials
- April 18: **The Spice of Life:** History of Medicinal Herbs & Culinary Herbs To Spice Up Your Life
- April 25: **You Are What You Eat:** Good Nutrition Plus Flying Dragons & Other Weird Stuff
- May 2: **Yes You Can Can:** Home Preserving by Canning & Pickling

## Final Programs for RCMGA 2015 Meetings Scheduled

Carol Marrero, Davidson County Master Gardener and guest on Volunteer Gardener segments, will present our July program about Native Plants. Erin Adams, education director at the Hermitage, will present our October program on “A Historic Perspective on Gardening” based on historic sites where she has worked in Virginia and Tennessee. Please refer to our February Leaflet and our Events column for the full schedule of meeting topics.

## Profiles in Gardening:

### Tim Best

**T**im certified as a Master Gardener in 2009. Tim always enjoyed working in his family's garden; he grew up south of Lansing Michigan, an area that excels in production of vegetables and fruits. Tim was a 4H and FFA member whose projects included everything from honeybees to ducks and cattle. He is pleased that his nine-year-old son and his friends are beginning to enjoy being outside and helping in the garden as well.

Tim certified as a Robertson County Master Gardener in 2009. While he always has loved gardening, Tim became interested in the Master Gardener program when he started hauling plants for South Central Growers; Tim is the owner/operator of Best Transport Inc., and SCG is one of his major customers. He has been project lead for the Springfield Courthouse Landscaping and the Hwy. 49W Welcome Sign; he works at the Plant Sale and volunteers for docent duty at the Garden Walks.

Tim reports that his favorite garden related interests are vegetables and landscaping; his favorite plants are "anything blooming with great, loud colors.... especially pansies and cyclamen." His favorite thing about RCMGAs is the "community spirit...volunteering to make a difference in the community."

Almost most of us know Tim as a fellow volunteer, great gardener, and our liaison to South Central Growers (coordinating our visits to the test gardens and plants for our RCMGA projects), he came to Middle Tennessee for show business. Tim writes and performs music (mostly guitar and often at church). He also writes poetry of a humorous nature and occasionally performs stand up comedy. But Tim says that although his job conflicts with his auditions, "...trucking is paying the bills."



## Upcoming Garden Events

<b>Mar 28</b> <b>10am-2pm</b>	Friendly Bugs and Big Bad Pests	Cheekwood
<b>Apr 11</b> <b>10am-2pm</b>	Backyard Beekeeping	Cheekwood
<b>Apr 11</b> <b>10am-2pm</b>	"Ask a RC MG"	Springfield Lowes
<b>Apr 11-12</b>	Master Your Garden	East Ridge
<b>Apr 11</b> <b>9am-12pm</b>	Perennial Plant Sale	Tn State Fairgrounds
<b>Apr 18</b>	Herb Sale	TN State Fairgrounds
<b>Apr 18</b> <b>10am-2pm</b>	Creating Fairy Gardens	Cheekwood
<b>Apr 24-26</b>	Flower and Garden Show	Cumberland County Fair Grounds
<b>Apr 25</b>	Who Speaks for the Trees?	Cheekwood
<b>May 2</b> <b>7:30-noon</b>	"Ask a RC MG"	Farmer's Market
<b>May 9</b> <b>8am-2pm</b>	RCMGA Plant Sale	UT Extension Office, Springfield
<b>May 9</b> <b>10am-5pm</b>	Wilson County Master Gardeners 2015 Spring Festival	Lebanon
<b>May 9-10</b>	Bloom Days	UT Gardens, Knoxville
<b>May 15</b> <b>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</b> <b>3-6pm</b>	Plant a Fairy Garden	Diann's Greenhouse
<b>Aug 1</b> <b>7:30-noon</b>	"Ask a RC MG"	Farmer's Market
<b>Aug 22</b> <b>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</b> <b>10am-1pm</b>	Making Herbal Breads	Diann's Greenhouse

**S**outh Central Growers is donating annuals this year for our RCMGA projects. If you are a project lead or participant and did not receive an email about requesting flowers, contact Lynn Stenglein or Judy Bryant before April 1st.

### RCMGA Dues

Association dues (\$10 per year) may be paid to Treasurer Janice Derby at any RCMGA meeting. If you have not paid 2015 dues and will miss the March meeting, please contact Janice (janicedrby@bellsouth.net) for mailing instructions or drop your dues off at the Extension Office.

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