

The Leaflet



March 2017

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Pervasive Invasive Plant Diseases in Tennessee: Thousand Cankers

By Phillip Keathley, Ph.D.



The State of Tennessee is beset with a number of invasive species. Some may not yet occur in Tennessee but are found in nearby states. These plant species and diseases have invasive characteristics such as rapid growth and high fruit/seed production and pose substantial management difficulties where they occur. The Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council hopes to gather information about their spread in the state.

According to the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, the Thousand Cankers Disease (TCD) poses a serious problem to the health of the black walnut tree. Officials urge area residents and visitors to help prevent the spread of TCD. Here are some things you can do: (1) don't transport firewood, even within Tennessee; (2) don't buy or move firewood from outside the state; and (3) watch for signs of infestation in your walnut trees. Refer to the TCD Symptoms Checklist and online TCD Report Form to alert state plant and forestry officials, or call 1-800-628-2631.

TCD is produced in the *Juglans nigra* species, otherwise known as Black Walnut. This disease was located in Marion County, TN, breaking out of the quarantine zone to the west. It is called a horrible disease, killing one of the most valuable timber trees of North America. The story is complex, and requires us to follow the lives of a tree, a beetle, a fungus, and some other players.

The tree, black walnut, is valued for its rich, dark wood, often seen in furniture or guns stocks. Black walnut is found in the eastern half of North America, but is most abundant in the Midwest, where most of the walnut timber is harvested. A closely related tree, butternut, also called white walnut, *Juglans cinerea*, overlaps the range of black walnut.

The insect, with the seemingly innocuous name, walnut twig beetle, *Pityophthorus juglandis*, and reaching the size of the head of a pin, would not cause such a serious problem. And perhaps for most of its history, it may not have. Typically, this beetle finds

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NEXT MEETING

Mar. 23, 2017
7 pm

Speaker:

Steve Powell

Program:

**Invasive Insects in
Tennessee Trees**

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

Visiting The Martello Tower Garden

By Lynn Cantrell

Although not exactly a “hidden” treasure, but yes it is a treasure when found. On a recent trip to Key West, with my husband, Tony we accidentally found this one. It’s located near a very busy beach area and is called the Martello Tower Garden. This lovely garden is contained and thriving inside the walls of a Civil War era fort. Bricked walls and archways lead you to the beauty of tropical plants nourished and maintained by The Key West Garden Club.

One of the Club’s members is on hand to greet you from a small desk in an entry alcove. A brief history of the garden and the plants is presented. You are told there is no cost to enter, but a donation is appreciated. There are also T-shirts, hats and other garden items for sale. This is their fund raiser and the Club is an all-Volunteer organization.

This garden is a wonder of lush varieties of ferns, blooming plants, cacti and trees. Tropical palms mix with the texture of the cacti, orchid blooms and ferns. There are several areas to sit and enjoy your surroundings and the garden is dotted with garden art. The amazing size and structure of the Strangling Figs leads one to look up to take in their massive size. They have reached out their tentacle-like branches and roots to cover the brick structure’s walls and arches.

On finishing our self-guided tour, we return to purchase a T-shirt and make a donation. Our host explains the words in script on the T-shirt, Lignum Vitae which translates to Tree of Life. This particular tree is an amazing species of a hard wood tree, native to the Keys and Caribbean. He told us there was one within the Garden. He directed us to an informational display of the Lignum Vitae. A large cut section of the tree was on display. It is very dense and heavy. It appears to have been varnished, but this is because it is a self-lubricating tree and gives this appearance when cut. The wood was used to make propellers for ships because of its strength and density. We were able to see the growing Lignum Vitae as we



made our exit. The Key West Garden Club is very proud to have this tree and to share the history of this plant and of all the plants within this beautiful garden

This Garden has now been added to my list of suggested “Must See in the Keys”!

Thousand Canker Disease (con’d.)

a suitable walnut branch, tunnels in, and settles down to procreate. Actually, it is the male that makes the tunnel and then releases an aggregation and a sex pheromone to attract females and other males. Until recently, the beetle didn’t even feed on black walnut, but on a western walnut species. Only in the past few decades did black walnut become the favorite species to procreate in.

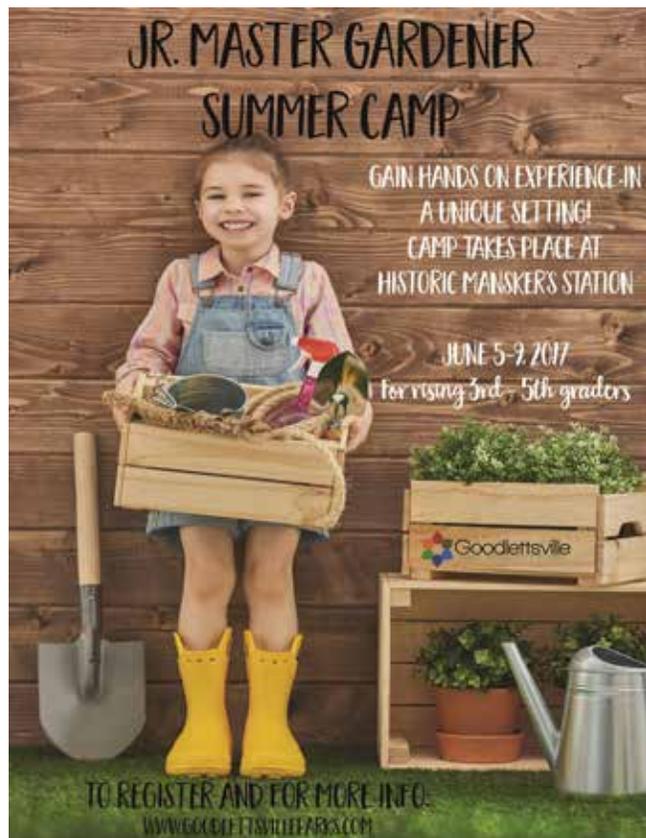
A fungus (*Geosmithia morbida*) entered the scene in 2001 and foresters and arborists began to see severe decline and death in black walnuts in Colorado, and then in other states. Affected trees had small holes with dead black tissue around the holes called cankers. Although the cankers were small, there were thousands of them. This became Thousand Cankers Disease. The holes were caused by the walnut twig beetle, which carried the fungus into black walnut trees, and the fungus killed the tree. A westerner going camping in the east carries firewood from Colorado to Tennessee to save a little money. A woodworker finds a nice walnut log in California and brings it back home to Virginia to make a cabinet.

Suddenly, beginning in 2010 in Tennessee, black walnut trees began to die. By the middle of 2014, black walnut trees were dying in Indiana, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Virginia. Quarantines have been placed around infested counties to forbid the transportation of wood out of the area. This is good reason to watch for signs of the beetle producing tiny holes (canker) in walnut wood. Chemical treatments have not been recommended for infestations of the beetle.

Junior Master Gardener Camp in Goodlettsville Has Openings

The staff of Goodlettsville Parks and Recreation and volunteers from the Sumner County Master Gardeners are teaming up to bring a Jr. Master Gardener (JMG) Camp to Goodlettsville on June 5th -9th, 2017. Camp takes place each day on the grounds of Historic Mansker's Station. The 2017 camp will focus on Plant Growth and Development and is for rising 3rd - 5th graders. The Jr. Master Gardener program engages children in "hands-on" group and individual learning experiences that provide a love for gardening, develop an appreciation for the environment, and cultivate the mind. JMG is an international youth gardening program of the University Cooperative Network.

Camp takes place from 9:00am to 12:00pm Monday - Friday. All campers received a camp t-shirt and all materials are provided. The fee is \$75.00 for the week, and multiple child discounts are available. If you need additional information, please contact Jennifer Kirk at 615-859-3678.



"Better Soil Health For Gardens" Classes Scheduled

The Robertson County Soil Conservation Office (USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Services) is conducting a "Better Soil Health for Gardens" program at the UT Extension Office in Springfield. Topics that will be covered include mulching, composting, soil health, cover crops, hoop houses, and more. The

classes are not limited to Robertson County Master Gardeners, and we need at least 10 enrollees to have the program. The program will be on Wednesday, May 17th from 10am—2pm; lunch will be provided. Please call Judy Bryant at 615-384-7936 to register.

Hot Tips and Lessons From 2017 Lawn & Garden Show

From Judy Bryant: Mulch doesn't take that much nitrogen (breaking down mulch) in Middle TN soils. Sumac berries are edible. Mimosa trees are not invasive but they do have a short life-span. **From Lynn Stenglein:** Plan summer visits to public rose gardens in Nashville at Cheekwood, Belmont,

and downtown. Mason Bees do the work of 100 Honeybees! They require a lot less maintenance for the average gardener and they are gentle...I want some for my garden! **From Jeanne Protsman:** Purchased good-looking fragrant strawberry mint plant. Watch for it at a RCGMA Plant Sale soon.

Spring Cleaning at Lynn's Garden Shed Underway!

Need pots for your plant sale offerings? Several sizes will be available at our meeting March 23rd or can be picked up at the extension office by request. Email lcsgrts@hughes.net if you need them.



Herb Class at Diann's Greenhouse Has Vacancies

Although 6-7 RCMGA members have signed up for the Cooking with Herbs class at Diann's Greenhouse in Clarksville June 9th, there is room for 3-4 others. We will visit Diann's herbs in her greenhouse and gardens as well as prepare food using featured herbs. Contact Lynn Stenglein (lcsgrts@hughes.net) if you are interested or need more information.

Profiles In Gardening:

Leanne Hazlewood

I became interested in Master Gardeners a couple of years ago when I met RCMGA members in Kroger's during a plant sale. I enjoyed the display at the 2016 Robertson County Fair; it was next to the canning entries in which I was entering. Then I met Lynn Stenglein; she told me about Master Gardeners and the upcoming 2016 class and... I was in.



My husband and I mainly vegetable garden. I do plant flower containers along with container vegetables and herbs. My husband is lawn grass OCD. My favorite plants to grow are tomatoes and basil - my summer menu base for meals.

I have enjoyed the fellowship of Master Gardeners since the first class. I love the educational programs and the enthusiasm for upcoming projects.

My husband and I enjoy gardening, camping, boating and I can and freeze whatever I have for that time of season. "Why?" some may ask - It's in my DNA.

Growing up my parents and grandparents had flower and vegetable gardens. I have lived in Pennsylvania, Washington, West Virginia and Kentucky. In each of these states my father adapted to the soil and grew vegetable gardens. I was hooked.

What do I hope to bring to Master Gardeners? I love planting and nurturing a garden. I'm great with tools and don't mind doing any community activities. I am a "Granny" to two boys, Lane 7 and Luke 16 months. I am also a veteran of Desert Shield / Storm and served nine years in the Kentucky Army National Guard (interesting). My husband Scott gets the biggest kick when I win a ribbon in the county fair, and we've been together since 1996. I am Pescatarian (slightly modified—I do eat eggs) but my husband is not.



Upcoming Events

Mar 23	RCMGA Mtg. Pgm. Invasive Insect Pests of TN Trees, Steve Powell	UT Extension Office, Springfield
Mar 25-26	Lawn & Garden Show	Rippaville Spring Hill
Apr 8	Roses with Ron Daniels	Riverbend Nurseries
Apr 8	Perennial Plant Sale	Nashville Fairgrounds
Apr 15	Herb Gardening	Riverbend Nurseries
Apr 27	RCMGA Mtg. Pgm. Member Plant Swap	UT Extension Office, Springfield
Apr 29	Herb Plant Sale	Nashville Fairgrounds
Apr 29,	Aeroponics @ Mona's	TN Urban Farm
May 6	Wildflower Festival	Lebanon TN
May 13	RCMGA Plant Sale	UT Extension Office, Springfield
May 20	Urban Gardening Festival	Ellington Ag Center
May 25	RCMGA Mtg. Pgm. Aeroponics at TN Urban Farm - Mona Hitch	UT Extension Office, Springfield



Plumeria in bloom at Dorothy's

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