

The Leaflet



March 2014

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Countdown to RCMGA Plant Sale and Spring Training Underway

Saturday, May 3rd 8 am–2 pm

You have less than 7 weeks to get ready for our 2014 plant sale: divide and pot plants for sale, package seeds for sale, look up and refurbish items for the gently-used tool and container sale table, find gardening books and magazines to share, volunteer to work at the sale, and anticipate what YOU hope to acquire at the sale. Please have your plants and items at the Extension Office by 7:30am. We generally can use boxes and bags as well.

Catey Henning will highlight herbs outside at the 'herb corner' sale table. Be sure to bring some herbs for Catey to sell; they go fast. At

9:30 Michelle Adcock is teaching "Vermi Composting: Why Worms are my Friends" which is popular with children and brave adults. Lynn Stenglein will teach "Garden Art: Finding the Inside Michaelangelo Outside" at 10:30.

If you need pots for your plants, we will have extras of all sizes at the March RCMGA meeting. If you have not signed up to work, call or email Ursula Otto (382-9560, uotto2012@comcast.net).



Community Garden Comes to Bransford Community Center

Andy Mason, a community project lead on the Bransford garden project, visited the RCMGA February meeting, described plans, and answered questions about the raised bed project at the Bransford Community Center located at 1519 John Patterson Street in Springfield. Two community churches have adopted the Bransford garden, have planned the project, have garnered contributions from the business

community, and have volunteered their time to construct and work in the gardens.

Volunteers have installed the watering system that uses drip tape that can administer 134 gal./min./100'. They began construction of the raised beds March 14th/15th. Andy shared the project plans which include 10 beds (4' wide x22' long x 16' high) and a 66' long bed along the fence line for plant/vines that need support; volunteers will plant

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NEXT MEETING
March 27

Program:
What's New!
by Bates Nursery

MEETING INFORMATION

The Robertson County Master Gardener Association meets on the fourth Thursday of every month.

Meetings are at 6:30 pm at the UT Extension Office, 408 North Main Street, Springfield, TN

Brandsford Community Center Garden continued from p. 1

potatoes, lettuce, squash, cucumbers, peppers, beans, and tomatoes.

The project will be used to teach children in an after school program and summer camp. The fruit will be used to help supply fresh vegetables to the Master's Table and for the community. The planners have designated one bed for flowers; children who visit the garden will be encouraged to cut the flowers and take them home to share with loved ones.

Andy Mason asked that the RCMGA members share their expertise at the community garden. We need a RCMGA member liaison to coordinate our activities at the Brandsford community garden, i.e. call members who sign up to work in the gardens, update the Association on opportunities such as teaching classes at the garden. If you would be the liaison and/or are interested in working in the garden, email Lynn Stenglein, coordinator for RCMGA projects, sign up at a meeting, or volunteer at the upcoming work session on Saturday morning March 29th weather permitting.

Progress Reported on The 2014 Garden Tour

Seven garden owners are committed to showing their gardens during the June 7th tour (10 am—3pm); five gardens are in the Springfield Historic District, one is located in Greenbrier, and the Ridgetop Station Park gardens and arboretum are also on the tour. A second gardener in Greenbrier is evaluating her garden's winter damage before committing.

The Ridgetop Historical Society is opening the museum in the historic Wilson House to visitors during the tour as well as providing the museum

docents. RCMGA members approved the Ridgetop Garden Club, who maintain the park gardens, sale of plants at the Park during the tour.

RCMGA Members, mark June 7th as a day to enjoy and participate in this important event; it is a service to the community, an opportunity to promote our Association and gardening, and a beautiful, fun-filled experience. We intend for all our RCMGA volunteers to have time to see the gardens as well as working for a few hours as a garden docent. Have another commitment

that day? No worries: prior to 10am June 7th, we need gift baskets of flowers assembled for each garden owner, advertising posters located in businesses, docent packets compiled, etc. Begin telling your family and friends about the tour; we will have flyers for distribution at the March meeting and tour tickets (\$5 per person) in late April. Sign-up to work on June 7th and if a RCMGA Garden Tour committee member (Ursula, Lynn S., Vickie, Gwen) asks for your help, "Just say YES!"

Notes From Winter School

"It was great getting to know some of the other members better at Winter School. I had a great time with Nicole & Ann figuring out how to use a smart phone as a magnifying glass for viewing plant pests." —Michelle Adcock

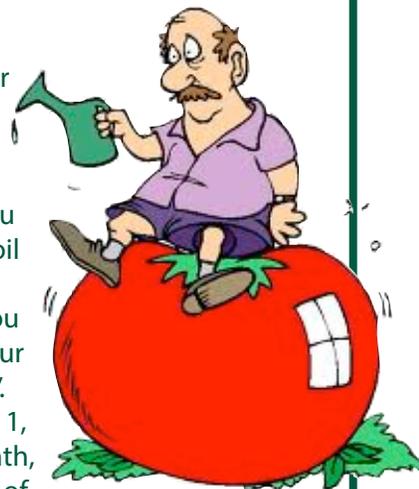
"I was particularly interested in the REAP (Realizing Economic Agriculture Potential... one garden at a time) kit which contains seeds for a complete 4x4 sq. ft. veggie garden; it was an innovative SFE project winner. <http://wilsoncountymg.org/reap-kit/>" —Ann Rausch

"Having asked for a "small counties" focus group each year, I especially attended Winter School to participate in that session: Same challenges (retention, recruitment, responsibility) and solutions too complicated for a 40 minute session. I look forward to receiving the official notes on this session and following up with similar counties." —Lynn Stenglein

Other Winter School input is scheduled for the April Leaflet.

You're Sooo Much a RCMGA Member if:

Leaflet Staff is happy to announce our 2014 contest. All you have to do is complete the sentence "You're so much a RCMGA Member if..." For example: "You're so much a RCMGA Member if you asked Santa for a large bag of potting soil and were delighted when you got it." Or "You're so much a RCMGA Member, if you have more pictures of your plants on your iPhone than of your kids and grandkids". Entries will be accepted until December 1, 2014, published in the Leaflet each month, and judged by our impartial committee of Leaflet Staffers and a County Ext. Office employee. Entries do not have to be original, and multiple entries per person are allowed. Email your entries to a Leaflet Staff member (see page 4); send a letter or post card to the Extension Office (Attn. RCMGA Contest); or write your entry on the back of an Heirloom seed package or a bag of "Holy Cow" and present it to a committee member at any RCMGA meeting. Prizes will be awarded to winners and runners-up at our December Christmas party. *Sample entries above submitted for Michelle Adcock and Dorothy Briggs respectively.*



Barnsley Gardens, Adairsville, Ga by Lynn Cantrell

Since our first-born grandchild, Val, lives in Atlanta, my husband, Tony, and I travel that way a lot and are always looking for new places to visit along the way. We like to pick up brochures at rest stops, look on the internet, and just watch for signs of interesting places.

The brochure for Barnsley Gardens reads like most and weaves a story of a wonderful place “with 12 miles of trails covering 3,300 acres . . . the perfect way to explore our grounds and invigorate your sensesbeginning and seasoned outdoor enthusiast can discover their own path to natural beauty Though we are not really hikers nor do we plan to stay at the resort that is part of Barnsley Gardens, the chance to discover some natural beauty was interesting. The plantation house, constructed in 1840 and now in ruins, is located in the north Georgia foothills. Andrew Jackson Downing was the architect and landscape designer using Italianate and gothic revival architecture. General Sherman’s troops occupied the house and grounds during the Civil War.

As we were there in February, the gardens were not in bloom, but we were given brochures and encouraged to look around. The gardens must be amazing when in bloom. A self-guided tour brochure included the highlights of the gardens. There is an Upper and Lower Garden with an abundance of plantings. Some mentioned in the brochure include Heirloom Roses, a boxwood parterre, which Barnsley had planted over 160 years ago, and a Perennial Border. There was also mention of “Chinafir” a massive *Cunninghamia lanceolata* brought from the Philippines by Godfrey Barnsley in the 1850. The house ruins are worth your time if you admire history and architecture—the house occupied by the Barnsley Family until 1906, when the roof was damaged by a tornado. The family moved to the “kitchen house” at



that time. The kitchen house is now a museum. The roof of the Manor House was not repaired and what remains is the brick walls, window openings, arched doorways and a massive vault used by the family. The “Ruins” are now used, in addition to tours, for events such as weddings and charity fund-raisers. This is a beautiful setting for these events and the “Ruins” are surrounded by very old, large trees. There are a number of vines growing through the wall and up from the foundation. The curators of the beautiful place have identifying signs on all the planted areas and have even identified the vines growing into the house.

We plan to go back when everything is in bloom—I’m sure it will be worth the trip. I couldn’t resist making some pictures of the “Ruins” and how the gardens look in the winter. Barnsley Gardens are located about 65 miles south of Chattanooga, 80 miles north of Atlanta. *Editor’s note: Gardens are now open; price for tour of gardens and grounds is \$10.*

Fieldtrip to the Hermitage for RCMGA planned in April. watch email for details



Pruning Workshop & Work Day at Ridgetop Station Park Orchard. from left: Judy Belloli, Ann Rausch, Jeanne Protsman, Michelle Adcock, Phillip Keathly, Paul Hart and Paul Putman. Not pictured: Lynn Cantrell and Lynn Stenglein



Profiles in Gardening:

Lynn Cantrell

As a 2013 “graduate” of the Master Gardeners’ class, I am anxious to continue my journey into the Art of Gardening. The class made me realize how much I have to learn. I have attended two Robertson County Master Gardeners meetings, appreciate the enthusiasm these Gardeners have, and can’t wait to learn from them.

Although I have had flower and vegetable gardens, they survived due to sheer luck. My real journey into gardening began when I retired in 2009. I attended an event at Ridgetop Station Park and was invited to join the Ridgetop Garden Club. I have always wanted to learn more about plants and trees, and Ridgetop Park opened my eyes to a new world. Our garden at the Park has become a shining spot to relax, make photographs and just enjoy the outdoors. The grounds of Ridgetop Station Park are abundant with species of trees. Through the efforts of the Garden Club, the City of Ridgetop and most especially the Master Gardeners of Robertson County, the park is now an official Arboretum and the only one in Robertson County.

My mother was always excited about the plants and trees she was able to grow in her small suburban yard. As a military wife with the traveling that entails, my parents were finally able to buy their first home right before my dad retired. She immediately planted rose bushes, shrubs, trees and flowers in bed close to the house and throughout the yard. Through the years, she added her small vegetable garden. (She said it was her “salad” garden”; it contained tomatoes, lettuce, cucumbers and peppers: just the right amount for a salad for every meal during the growing season.) She also loved her snowball bushes, and they seemed to thrive under her care. As a tribute to her and in her memory, I have a snowball bush in my yard. I am always excited to see it bloom and feel somehow I still have a special connection with my mom because of this plant.

For many years, family and work limited my gardening though I have always grown flowers, if only in containers. And, as an avid photographer, one of favorite subjects has always been flowers and the outdoors. Photography gave me and still gives me another learning tool for gardening. I love to photograph flowers and insects up close and personal. Nature photography is a way for me to express my artistic sense of the world.

My husband and I spend a lot of time away from home riding our Harley-Davidson motorcycle and taking every opportunity to travel and explore since retiring. Last year we rode cross country and back, a 32 day adventure from Tennessee to Seattle, visiting Yellowstone Park, Oregon coast, California, Nevada, and (flew to) Alaska. Because our time on the road will decrease this year, it looks like there will be more opportunity to learn, create and enhance my gardens at home.

They’re Baaack!!!!

How many times did you say this winter: “.at least the cold will kill off a lot of pest..”? Maybe so, but we have picked up at least one deer tick and a seed tick after a just few hours of gardening this month. Be villigant! In the past couple of years we know of one case of Ehrlichiosis and of Rocky Mt. spotted fever contracted locally by our RCMGA friends and family. Visit the web or other sources to review prevention tips and symptoms.

Upcoming Garden Events

Mar 21– Apr. 30	Cheekwood in Bloom	Cheekwood Botanical Gardens
Apr 5	Nashville Perennial Society Plant Sale	State Fairgrounds
Apr 5 8am-3pm	Tipton County Lawn & Garden Expo	Brighton High School
Apr 12	Tree Id Class	Lebanon
Apr 12 9am - 2pm	2014 Herb Sale	State Fairgrounds
Apr 25–27	2014 Flower and Garden Show	Crossville, TN
Apr 30 9am	Rain Garden Workshop	Mount Juliet
May 3	RCMGA Plant Sale	Springfield
Jun 7	RCMGA Garden Tour	Springfield
Jun 14	Garden Tour	Franklin, KY
Aug 26	6th Annual Fall Gardener’s Festival	UT Research Ctr., Crossville

GRASSMERE CLASSES IN THE GARDEN Spring 2014 Home Gardening Basics

Mar 29	Organic Home Remedies for Bug and Weed Control
Apr 5	Nutrition & Gardening - Fresh is Best
Apr 12	Antique Roses and Perennial Flowers
Apr 26	History of Medicinal Herbs and Culinary Herbs To Spice Up Your Life

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