

# The Leaflet



May 2014

## CONTENTS

RCMGA Garden Tour Nears	1
Share a Ride With a MG Friend!	1
Volunteer Time FAQs	2
Visit to South Central Growers Planned	2
Plant Sale and Spring Training a Great Success!	3
Huntsville Botanical Gardens	3
Profiles in Gardening: Steve Estep	4
Happy Birthday!	4
May Contest Entries	4
"You're sooo much a RCMGA member if . . .	4
Upcoming Garden Events	4
Contact List	4

## RCMGA Garden Tour Nears

On Saturday, June 7th we are anticipating a day of visiting lovely gardens and of community service via our 5th annual Robertson County Master Gardeners Garden Tour. The "real" volunteers of the tour are the garden owners who graciously open their gardens to the public that day. We have secured five wonderful gardens: three in the Springfield Historic District, one in Greenbrier, and the garden and arboretum at the Ridgetop Station Park. The Ridgetop Museum, located in the historic Wilson House at the park, will be open the day of the tour; Ridgetop Historic Commission members will answer any questions about Ridgetop history.

Thank you for volunteering to work in a garden on June 7th! While a good number of volunteers have signed up already, the gardens are large (need at least two M.G. docents), and we want everyone to see all of the gardens, i.e. docents work from 9:30 -12:30 or



from 12; 15—3:15. So if you have not yet volunteered, email Ursula Otto (uotto2012@comcast.net) or Lynn Stenglein (lcsgrts@hughes.net). We will have garden assignments at the May 22nd meeting.

All MG docents will be emailed instructions and guidelines the week of June 1st. The morning (9:30am) docent team will have a packet containing tickets, change, maps, and direction for the visitors. If a team needs additional tickets, maps, directions, or a substitute docent for any reason, we have designated gofers on call. The morning team will also deliver a gift to the garden owner(s). Ursula has volunteered to prepare

baskets of flowers for each gardener. If you have any small plants and baskets that you can donate, please let Ursula know. The baskets of flowers are from all of us.

Don't forget! The morning of the tour, the Ridgetop Garden Club is having a plant sale in the garden house at the park—just behind the Wilson House museum and the raised garden. All proceeds go to the garden club projects including maintenance of the raised garden, shrubs, and arboretum. Angel trumpets (large and small), perennial banana plants, succulents are just a few of the plants to be sold.

### NEXT MEETING May 22

Program:  
*Garden Art*  
by Lynn Stenglein

### 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

## Share a Ride With a MG Friend!

We encourage you to car pool to our May 22nd RCMGA Meeting since Springfield High School graduation

is being held at the Community Center. Come a few minutes early as you may have to walk a few blocks to the meeting.

## Kroger Frost Free Weekend

On May 2, 3 and 4 Robertson County Master Gardeners provided an information booth at the Kroger's in Springfield. The booth displayed our projects and on-going activities; brochures describing the requirements to become a Master Gardener were distributed to the interested public.

Providing horticultural education to the public is a major part of our mission as Master Gardeners. Outreach programs such as the annual Frost Free Weekend sponsored by Kroger offer Master Gardeners an opportunity to provide that education in addition to serving as a platform for future recruitment.



## Volunteer Time FAQs



» **When should I enter my volunteer time?**

Like most things, it's best

to do so before you forget it. In November, the Master Gardener advisor (Paul) reports on our volunteer time to UT; however, the counters are not cleared until year-end and you can enter your time until then.

» **Do I have to enter the (correct) date that I work on a project?**

No, that information is not used at this time by our association; just getting the volunteer time entered is the most important thing.

» **How many hours should I report?**

Report all your volunteer hours and CEU (Continuing Education Unit) hours! Volunteer time is a major component in the justification of the master gardener program. Specifically, Master Garden interns must do at least 40 hours of service

for certification; no additional CEUs are required. To recertify, Master Gardener members must report at least 25 hours of service and 8 hours CEUs each year.

» **How long do I have to do my 40 hours of volunteer service?**

Master Gardener interns are encouraged to complete their 40 hours of service with the first 12 months of taking the class. However, the M.G. Advisor, Paul Hart, may extend that time at his discretion.

» **How do I account for meetings?**

Typically our RCMGA meetings count as both volunteer administrative service and as continuing education units (usually .75 hours for each).

» **What about travel time?**

One-way travel for community service volunteer hours (Plant Sale, Garden Tour, work at fairgrounds or downtown Springfield) may be reported as part of the time.

» **What if I lose my password, lose the URL of the TMG site, lose my cool trying to navigate the TMG web site?**

Lost password: call or email Paul Hart for a reset. Lost URL: just go to our RCMGA site ([rcmga.org](http://rcmga.org)). There is a link to the TMG site, and you are sure to see some interesting information at [www.rcmga.org](http://www.rcmga.org). Lost your cool: You are sooooo much a RCMGA if you have been frustrated by the TMG site. It has gotten a lot better, but if you are stuck, call Judy Bryant @ the Extension Office or another RCMG member. On the TMG website you can find more information in the Toolbox tab and in the online Tennessee Master Gardener Handbook; you can also view a Powerpoint presentation on "Entering Hours" online. Alternatively, keep a manual account of your time and bring it to the Extension Office; we will enter the time on the web site for you.



## Visit to South Central Growers Planned

South Central Growers invites the RCMA members to their test gardens on Saturday, June 14 to see the plantings and help evaluate the flowers that are being tested in our Mid-South environment. We need to know the number of RCMGs who will attend so that SCG can have evaluation booklets

for us and can plan for lunch. Contact Judy Bryant at the Ext Office if you plan to go and meet at 9:30am (Saturday, June 14th) at the SCG office area. You may also reply to the email message(s) from [robertson-countymastergardeners@yahoo.com](mailto:robertson-countymastergardeners@yahoo.com) which will be sent later this month.

## Plant Sale and Spring Training a Great Success!

Congratulations RCMGA members! Our 2014 plant sale on May 3rd was the best yet in numbers and varieties of plants, funds raised for our association, and a lot of fun on a beautiful day in downtown Springfield. (Not too hot, too cold, or too wet!) Our training classes and demos (Vermiform Composting, Garden Art, and Heucheras) were well attended and appreciated. Thanks, Michelle, Lynn, and Bridgette; training is one of the most important objectives of our association. Thanks to our sales force/plant consultants including Michelle Adcock, Judy Belloli, Dorothy Briggs, Judy Bryant, Lynn Cantrell, Gwen Day, Steve Estep, Vickie Nixon, Ursula Otto, Ann Rausch, Rodney Sawyer, Lynn Stenglein, and Bridgette Wakefield AND to all the RCMGA members who contributed plants and other garden-related items to the sale. Thank you. Paul, for all the assistance in set-up/clean-up and for coordinating the Extension Office facilities. Gwen, thanks for all the publicity work, and Ann R. for the wonderful posters and flyers you create for us. And to Ursula, our project lead, "Another job well done!"



## Huntsville Botanical Gardens

by Trina Fulton

Just a little more than two hours south of Springfield is a gardener's treasure. The 112 acre Huntsville Botanical Garden is near the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama. It contains over a dozen themed gardens that span the acreage. Included are the Children's Garden, the Garden Railway, Dogwood Trail, the Four Seasons Garden containing the Perennial Garden, Damson Aquatic Garden and the Bulb and Annual Garden, Mathews Nature Trail, the Garden of Hope, Van Valkenburgh Day-lily Garden, Herb Garden, Fern Glade, Vegetable Garden, Lewis Birding Trail and the Volunteer Tribute Garden. Although each garden is a wonder within itself, space only permits a highlight of a few of these beautiful gardens.

A visit to the Garden of Hope is always a moving experience. This garden is dedicated to cancer patients and their families. In a secluded area surrounded by trees, patients and their families can receive therapeutic benefits through quiet meditation and observation of nature. It also offers them

the opportunity to design, plant and maintain the garden.

Kids of all ages will enjoy the Children's Garden. The two acre area is full of interactive learning centers including a world of dinosaurs, the Half Acre woods where they can get their hands dirty learning how plants grow, or they can splash in the Pollywog Bog wading pool.

A visit would not be complete without a stop in the Nature Center. This 9000 sq. ft. building houses a waterfall, ponds, streams and beautiful foliage and flowering plants. It also contains the nation's largest open-aired butterfly house.

Visitors can spend hours strolling the paths which meander through cool, wooded shade gardens or open fields of day-lilies. A beautiful place to stop for a rest is in the Aquatic Pavilion at the Damson Aquatic Garden. Here visitors can enjoy the Water Lily Pool filled with many varieties of tropical water plants.

The Master Gardeners of North Alabama created and maintains a demonstration vegetable garden where they have All America Selections and heirloom vegetables native to the region. They demonstrate four styles of



vegetable gardening: traditional row, wide row, raised bed and square foot gardening as well as composting.

A visit to Huntsville's Botanical Garden is well worth the couple of hours to get there. The gardens are open year round. Hours from April through September are Monday-Saturday 9am-6pm, Thursday 9am -dusk and Sunday 12 noon - 6pm. Wheelchairs and strollers are available. Admission is \$12 for Adults, \$10 for seniors (55+) and \$8 for children. There is a small restaurant as well as vending machines or bring a picnic lunch and eat at one of the many tables scattered throughout the gardens. The gardens are located at 4747 Bob Wallace Avenue, Huntsville, AL 35805. For more information visit their website at <http://www.hsvbg.org>.

## Profiles in Gardening:

### Steve Estep



Steve was raised in the Barren Plains community, still lives there and has been around farms and gardening all his life. He became a Master Gardener in 2011 because he says, "there is always something new to learn. No one can ever know it all." He has always been a vegetable gardener. Steve admits that he never had much knowledge or interest in flowers, saying, "My late wife was an expert when it came to flowers, but I knew little about them." Since becoming a Master Gardener he has learned a lot about flowers and has more of an appreciation of them. Vegetable gardening, however, will always be his mainstay and he has been raising a garden all his life. His favorite plants are Bradley tomatoes, Blue Lake green beans, purple hull peas and Peaches 'n Cream corn. Steve says he has learned several new things in the Master Gardener training course, especially about soils and nutrition. Steve completed a Bachelor of Arts degree (concentrations in business and music) four years ago. Steve said, "At my age, it was just a matter of personal satisfaction to finish what I started over 40 years ago." He is retired from the City of Springfield and has a small woodworking shop at his home where he makes wood bowls, plant stands and other woodcrafts and also does furniture refinishing. He enjoys fishing and loves watching *The Three Stooges*. Steve has two granddaughters, who are country girls and enjoy helping him in the garden. Steve says, "I have really enjoyed being a Master Gardener. I have especially enjoyed the fellowship with the other members and the educational programs."

## Coming Next Month: Picnic in the Park/ Association at Arboretum

We will meet at Ridgetop Station Park (1954 Woodruff Avenue, Ridgetop) for our June meeting and an interactive tour of the arboretum at our regular 6:30 pm meeting time. Bring a Phillips head screwdriver as we will adjust some tree labels to accommodate tree growth or a pencil to note any tree map modifications.

We will have picnic food suggestions at the May meeting and in follow-up emails. You are encouraged to invite visitors, particularly future Master Gardeners, to the meeting.

## May Contest Entries:

**"You're sooo much a RCMGA member if . . .**



. . . , you're waiting outside a restaurant for a table and suddenly realize that you are

deadheading their flowers. —Michelle Adcock

. . . , you left the RCMGA plant sale with more plants than you came with. —Michelle Adcock

. . . , you have more dirt under your fingernails than you have on your shovel. —Dorothy Briggs

. . . , you secretly bought a lot of your own plants at the RCMGA plant sale because they looked soooo nice and you would be too sad if they left home.

—Lynn Stenglein

Don't forget (or hesitate) to submit your entry to our 2014 contest. Email your entries to a Leaflet Staff member (see page 4) or bring it to any RCMGA Meeting.

*Happy Birthday!*

**May**

**17 Lynn Cantrell**

**19 Michelle Adcock**

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## Upcoming Garden Events

<b>Jun 7</b>	RCMGA Garden Tour	Springfield
<b>Jun 14</b>	Garden Tour	Franklin, KY
<b>Jun 14</b>	South Central Growers Test Garden	Springfield
<b>Jul 10</b>	Summer Celebration	Jackson, TN
<b>Aug 26</b>	6th Annual Fall Gardener's Festival	UT Research Ctr., Crossville