

# The Leaflet



May 2016

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## RCMGA Garden Tour in Cross Plains Scheduled for June 18th



Gardens, porches, and farms of the historic Cross Plains community are the focus of our Robertson County Master Gardener Tour on Saturday June 18th from 10am—3pm. Cross Plains dates back to 1778 when Thomas Kilgore came to the area on foot from North Carolina and lived in a cave three-quarter of a mile west of town. Kilgore's Station became an important rest stop on the road into the Tennessee frontier between Kentucky and Fort Nashboro (Nashville) and by 1812 the town of Cross Plains emerged. Of historical and architectural interest are many of the homes and shops along Main Street (Hwy. 25). In the historic corridor along Hwy. 25 fourteen porches, festooned with "container gardens" and hanging baskets will be open for garden tour visitors to enjoy.

We could not go to Cross Plains without celebrating the rich farming heritage of Robertson County. A few miles outside the historic district "porch tour" you can visit the Swan farm and learn about hay pro-

duction; the Osborne farm where you can make acquaintance of the chickens, fainting goats, geese and check out Lana's homemade soaps and lotions; and the Hendley farm which grows alfalfa, tobacco, and fosters dairy cattle. Of course it would not be a garden tour without traditional gardens. Spring 2016 has been an especially good year for flowers and plants. We are looking forward to seeing them in Cross Plains next month.



### NEXT MEETING

**May 26, 2016**  
7 pm

Speaker:

**Polly Rooker,**

*TWRA Wildlife and  
Waterfowl Biologist*

Program:

**Backyard Birds**

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

## Plant Sale 2016 Comments and Quotes

“Fantastic!” Ursula Otto

“Great Job, Everyone!” Lynn Cantrell

“We’ll take the left-over plants to the Plant Swap in a couple of weeks and put them on the free table for adoption.” Betty and Jim Briggman as they loaded their truck post-plant sale.

“There is no accounting for what our customers are looking each year.” Lynn Stenglein as she viewed the unsold healthy and handsome herbs, empty veggie trays, and told the third disappointed customer that “all the banana plants already sold.”



*Some of the great Mother's Day arrangements.*



*Sales force, 2nd Shift, about ready to mark items 50% off*



*Jim shopping or maybe checking to be sure that Betty HAS left a few plants for other customers.*



*Left: Gwen, Dorothy, and herbs; Right: Ann declines to be photo-ed as she secures ANOTHER of Dorothy's prized Cinnamon Ferns*



*Customers and RCMGA Member-customers*



*Recipocal signage with 4H sale...do we look like 4H-ers?*



Arrival of The Dorothy Briggs Plant-mobile



Dorothy takes deserved break on Legacy Bench. Good idea, Michelle!  
Good execution, Sonny!



Money women Ursula and Vickie



Left: Mid-morning lull in customers inspires RCMGAs to increase awareness of Sale; Right: Chocolate Vine and French Marigolds.



Wildflower were quick sales!



Ursula and Doug pricing plants. Thanks to everyone who prices their plants on the labels.....none of our customers asked for mark-downs

Thanks to Deborah Dawson for taking pictures of the Sale!

# The Wonderful World of Watering

By René Kriek

I love it when it rains! Rain means healthy, strong and happy plants. Rain means water, and water is life. I love it when it rains, because that means I don't have to water my garden! I love gardening. I like to prepare the beds, I like to start the seeds and plant the seedlings, and I even like to pull weeds! But I just don't like to water it. I know, I know... it's the most important part of gardening. If plants don't have water, they die. But I still don't like it. I think the reason is that when I had my first vegetable garden it was so far away from the house that I had to string together six garden hoses just to reach it. It was such a hassle and inconvenience. Since then I have learned, and moved my garden much closer to the house so that reaching it is easier. Now I only use 2 hoses! I am also in the process of installing a few rain barrels for easy watering.

Of course the method of watering you use depends greatly on what and where you're growing, in my opinion. For instance, you wouldn't water a field of corn with a watering can; and you wouldn't water your patio planters with a sprinkler system. Also, plants in a raised bed or containers need to be watered more often than crops planted directly in the soil. So let's discuss a few different ways of watering:

- **Rain.** I find it amazing that some farmers solely rely on rain to water their crops. Driving down the interstate I see acres and acres of corn or wheat with no sprinklers in sight. I don't know what their secret is, or even if there is one, but my nerves would be shot if I didn't have a backup plan for water. I have such respect for farmers!
- **Rain barrels.** Collecting rain is such a sensible thing to do if you ask me. It's good, clean, free water that you can use for, well, whatever you use water for. Like I said before, I am currently setting up rain barrels for watering my chickens and watering my vegetable garden. You can buy ready to use barrels at most garden stores, or you can just make your own, which is much cheaper. I use 55 gallon plastic drums that were once used for horse feed. Unfortunately and unbelievably, it's illegal to collect rain in some states.
- **Sprinklers.** There is a great variety of sprinklers out there. From the great big commercial types that some farmers use, to the smaller lawn sprinklers. I have used sprinklers in my veggie garden but I find that it doesn't water uniformly, and it waters as much grass as it does vegetables so in my opinion it wastes water. I do love the sound of sprinklers, however, because it reminds me of my childhood. The tssst tssst tssst reminds me of summer heat in Africa and the burning of sugar cane fields...
- **Irrigation.** This is a method I have no experience with, but I know it's convenient and very effective. You can control exactly when and where you want the water. Some studies have shown that irrigation has been around for thousands of years, and with today's technology, you can just set a timer and push a button and your garden is being watered.
- **Garden hose.** Ahhh, the good ol' garden hose with a multiple setting spray nozzle. This has been my primary method of watering for years. Connect the hose to any water source

such as your house faucet, rain barrel or well house and water away. Always make sure to empty the hose after watering because leftover water can get very hot in the summer and damage your plants. And don't run over it with your lawnmower!

- **Other.** There are many other methods of watering your garden such as using a simple watering can or using recycled milk jugs or 2 liter bottles for slow release and spot watering.

I've never looked at the weather forecast as much as I do now that I have a vegetable garden and I appreciate the rain so much more than I ever did before.

So I will water away when the rain stays away because I know my garden will reward me with beauty and food some day...

Upcoming Events		
Jun 4	Coopertown Barrel Festival	Coppertown
Jun 4	Garden Fair, Williamson Co. MG	Franklin
Jun 4	Garden Tour, Memphis area MG	Collierville
Jun 11	Monarchs & Milkweed of TN	Mansker Station
Jun 18	RCMGA Garden Tour	Cross Plains
Jul 9	Canning Tomatoes	Mansker Station
Jul 14	Summer Celebration	Jackson
Aug 13	Carnton Garden Tour	Franklin
Sep 10	Using Native Plants	Mansker Station
Oct 8	Growing Fruit in Middle TN	Mansker Station

## CONTACT LIST

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