

# The Leaflet



October 2014

## CONTENTS

BOO-Bashing	1
Enjoying Rose Garden Visit	1
Tour the White House Arboretum and Bamboo Groves	1
Shapeup Now for Spring	2
Dedicated to the Pumpkin	2
Save Your Leaves!	3
Annual Christmas Party	3
Happy Birthday!	3
October Contest Entries:	3
Upcoming Garden Events	4
Profiles in Gardening: Betty and Jimmy Brigman	4
Contact List	4

## BOO-Bashing

Pictured right is our RCMGA boo-bash display at the corner of 5th Avenue and Main Street. Boo-bash, Saturday, October 25th, 5pm—9pm, is a community event on the Courthouse Square with costume contests for all ages, hay bale throwing contests, hayrides, and much, much more.

Thanks to Miranda Head of Head's Farm for helping us out with the great deal on the pumpkins and straw bales for the display. Thanks to our own Ann Rausch for her creativity, materials, and work in erecting (and maintaining) the display in extraordinary weather.

The Head Farm has lot of straw and pumpkins, gourds, etc., for sale for your fall decorating. They are located at 3422 Kinneys Road, Cedar Hill; the phone number is 573-2401.



## Enjoying Rose Garden Visit

What is better than having Ron Daniels come to a RCMGA meeting and tell us about roses? JoAnn and Allan Slate, Gwen Davis, Lynn Cantrell, and Lynn Stenglein declare it's visiting Ron's Open Garden, which they did Saturday morning, October 4th. You may recall that Ron told us last fall that he and 80 of his rosebushes were relocating. Happily, all are thriving in their new, totally organic environment.



## Tour the White House Arboretum and Bamboo Groves

On Saturday, November 1st, 2:30pm you are invited to join Ridgetop Garden Club members on a tour of the White House Arboretum located at 210 Rolling Acres Drive White House, TN. The arboretum which features over 130 types of trees and bamboo is located less than 1 mile off of Hwy. 31 in Sumner County, just north of the Robertson County line. Visit [www.whitehousearboretum.com](http://www.whitehousearboretum.com) for details. Please contact Lynn Stenglein ([lcsgrts@hughes.net](mailto:lcsgrts@hughes.net)) if you plan to attend on the 1st or you can contact the arborist and owner, Randy Allen (714-4628) to arrange another date and time to visit.

### NEXT MEETING October 23

Program:  
Birds, Monarchs,  
Kids  
by Joy Mayfield,  
Sumner Co. MG

### 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

## Shapeup Now for Spring

by JoAnn Slate

Since this is the Leaflet, not Body World, you should sense that it's time to consider cause and effect regarding the garden's needs. Don't assume falling leaves mean you should zip out for flats of pansies and say, "Well done, summer."

Before setting in with pots of soup, go outside and survey the fading foliage. Prepare planting beds now by cleaning up garden debris. Cover tender perennials with straw or bark; if the coming winter is anything like last year's, those plants need protection.

Fall is the time to fertilize established lawns, a chore many forget. Prune hedges for the last time, and tidier shapes will look good in winter. Are your hand tools rusty, maybe lost in landscape litter? Clean them up, and you can avoid buying new ones next season.

In early fall, plant most bulbs except for tulips. Be sure to plant them deeply enough, especially if they're in containers, and water them occasionally as well. Now you get to plant pansies. Deadhead them routinely, and their blossoms will show off better. Their many colors

can complement yellow and bronze mums from the garden shops that you've purchased for seasonal impact. Gather any remaining seed pods, label and store them for spring planting.

In late fall, plant garlic, roses, fruit trees, and other bushes and trees. Now plant tulips, remembering to chill them if you have space. Do not, however, chill them in the same fridge where apples are stored, for apples emit a gas that thwarts the tulips' development. Before a big frost or freeze, find space



in a garage or shed for tender plants; water them occasionally, and they'll probably survive most cold weather.

Now put on the soup pot, get a good book, and sit by the fire. You deserve a break while waiting for garden catalogs to start arriving.

## Dedicated to the Pumpkin

History of the Jack-o-Lantern: People have been making jack-o-lanterns at Halloween for centuries. The practice originated from an Irish myth about a man nicknamed "Jack" who invited the Devil to have a drink with him. True to his name, Stingy Jack didn't want to pay for his drink and convinced the Devil to turn himself into a coin that Jack could use to buy their drinks. Once the Devil did so, Jack decided to keep the money and put it in his pocket next to a silver cross, which prevented the Devil from changing back to his original form. Jack eventually freed the Devil, under the condition that when he died the Devil would not claim his soul. Soon Jack died. God, however, would not allow such an unsavory figure into heaven. The Devil, upset by the trick that Jack had played on him, would not allow Jack into hell. He sent Jack off into the dark night with only a burning coal to light his way. Jack put the coal into a carved out turnip and has been roaming the Earth with it ever since. When the Irish came to



America, they found pumpkins much easier to carve to remember Jack.

**Pumpkin Facts:**

- Pumpkins can grow on six of the seven continents; Antarctica is the only continent in which they won't grow.
- Pumpkin flowers are edible.
- Pumpkins were once recommended for removing freckles and curing snake bites.
- Pumpkins are 90% water.
- Native Americans flattened strips of pumpkins, dried them and made mats.

### Easy Pumpkin Muffins

1 package yellow cake mix  
15 ounces (or 1 can) pumpkin puree

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
½ teaspoon ground nutmeg  
¼ teaspoon ground cloves

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease 12 cup muffin pan or line with paper liners. In a large bowl, mix together the cake mix, pumpkin, and spices until smooth. Spoon equal amounts of batter into the prepared muffin cups. Bake 20—25 minutes until a toothpick inserted in the center of one comes out clean.

### How to Roast Pumpkin Seeds

Rinse seeds under cold water and pick out the pulp and strings. (This is easiest just after you remove the seed from the pumpkin, before the pulp has dried.)

Place the pumpkin seeds in a single layer on an oiled baking sheet, stirring to coat. Or omit the oil and coat with a cooking spray.

Sprinkle with salt (or 1 tsp. salt and ½ tsp cinnamon) and bake at 325 degrees until toasted, about 25 minutes. Check and stir after 10 minutes.

Let cool and store in an air-tight container.

## Save Your Leaves!

**I**T IS WRITTEN (on the Internet) that “ the leaves of one large shade tree can be worth as much as \$50 of plant food and humus. Pound for pound, the leaves of most trees contain twice as many minerals as manure.” Since most trees are deep-rooted, they absorb minerals from deep in the soil and a good portion of these minerals go into the leaves. Actually, leaves are most valuable for the large amounts of fibrous organic matter they supply. Their humus-building qualities mean improved structure for all soil types and weather conditions. They aerate heavy clay soils, prevent sandy soils from drying out too fast, soak up rain and check evaporation.

Leaves can be tricky to compost, and people say, “. . . they never break down.” Here are some tips that will guarantee success in composing leaves:

1. Add extra nitrogen to your leaf compost. Manure is the best nitrogen supplement, and a mixture of five parts leaves to one part manure will certainly break down quickly. Other natural nitrogen supplements work almost as well.
2. The second thing to do to guarantee leaf-composting success is to grind or shred your leaves.
3. Turn the heap frequently. Turning a heap made of shredded leaves is not difficult because the compost is light and fluffy.

Do you mulch all your leaves with your mower back onto your lawn, i.e. don't have any extras to compost? If you can beat our local organic farmers to your 'hood, you will find plenty of them bagged curbside. (Note: Springfield and Robertson County leaves are buried at the landfill along with other, less valuable, 'trash'.) If you don't want to compost leaves but want a good source, leaf compost is sold at the Bordeaux Mulching Facility just off Briley Parkway in East Nashville.



### Robertson County Master Gardener

### Annual Christmas Party

Thursday, December 4, 2014

6:30 pm

Robertson County Extension Office

**P**lease come to the annual Robertson County Master Gardener's Christmas Party which will be held at 6:30 p.m. on December 4th at the Robertson County Extension Office.

Jeanne Protsman has graciously offered to prepare the ham. We will pass around a signup sheet for side dishes at the October 23rd meeting. For those of you who miss the signup,

please bring either a vegetable, salad, or dessert.

Bring a small (approx. \$10) garden-related gift to exchange with fellow RCMGA members. Also, we opted to share the spirit of Christmas giving again this year by bring a Christmas plant (poinsettia, small Christmas tree, etc. valued not more than \$10) for Robertson County Meals on Wheels recipients.

If you have any questions, please contact any of the officers listed on page 4 of the Leaflet.



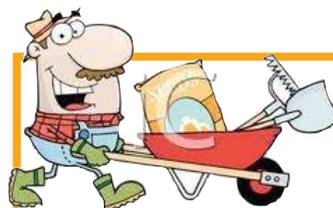
## Happy Birthday!

November

15 Ursula Otto

28 Janice Derby

29 Mary Russell Rigsby



### October Contest Entries:

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

...you have burned more than a few dinners, especially at the recipe point of “bring to a boil.” That is the time to dash outside to clip some parsley and dill.....and then start to deadhead blossoms and forget about the cook pot.”—JoAnn Slate

## Profiles in Gardening:

### Betty and Jimmy Brigman

**B**etty and Jimmy are true "Greenbriarians". Betty was born in Greenbrier on Maple Street has been there ever since. Jimmy was raised on farms around the area and has lived in Greenbrier since high school. They currently live on a farm in Greenbrier where they raised four children who all live nearby. They have eight grandchildren ranging in ages one to twenty seven.



While raising her children and working, Betty has always managed to enjoy all kinds of crafting: tatting, crocheting, sewing, macramé, cross stitching, basket making, and much more. In the kitchen Betty is always cooking up new recipes and canning fruits and vegetables from the garden. Her homemade Salsa is wonderful. She also has a beautiful collection of Autumn Leaf Jewel-T dishes that is displayed prominently in the living room. Cuddling with her poodles, Casper and Virgil, is something Betty does nightly. They are the last of her one time business of raising Miniature Poodles.

Betty's parents, John and Katie Choate, had a beautiful garden every year. It is said that her mom had the best Cannas in Greenbrier that were the first to bloom

every year. That is when Betty's love of gardening and plants began. She is most interested in house plants and flowers; Geraniums and the Spider Plants are her favorites. Plant rootings are always taking up the window sills in the house. Her yard is always filled with all kinds of flowers from early Spring to late Fall.

Growing up on a farm, Jimmy came to love raising animals and growing plants. At times on his farm in Greenbrier, he has raised emus, Appaloosas, bird dogs, hogs, and cows. He currently raises goats and chickens. Jimmy is mostly interested in growing vegetables, though lately he has come to enjoy the propagation of shrubs and trees. This coincides well with his favorite plant, the Japanese Red Maple. He also likes to grow Petunias from seed to make flower baskets. Being a Journeyman Electrician with IBEW Local 429 has meant traveling for work at times. He spent two years in New York City with his family while he worked on the New York Trade Center Towers. Jimmy delights in crafting jewelry from wire and stones.

Becoming a Master Gardener in 2011 is something that came naturally to Betty and Jimmy. Betty has always loved meeting new people and getting to know them, which is something that the Robertson County Master Gardeners encourage. Since joining, she and Jimmy have enjoyed helping with the Plant Sale, the Garden Tour, and the Robertson County Fair booth. She particularly loves the field trips that the Master Gardener's sponsor, for it is a time of learning and spending time with others like herself. A highlight of her summers is attending the UT Extension's Summer Celebration in Jackson, TN. Betty is constantly taking notes at the meetings and from her own research so that her plant knowledge is enriched. Trying new techniques for better results is a continuous process for her. Jimmy credits his interest in plants for getting him to join the Master Gardeners, and says, "Who knows what my next adventure will be!"

## Upcoming Garden Events

<b>Nov 1</b>	White House Arboretum Tour	210 Rolling Acres Drive, White House, TN
<b>Nov 7</b>	Webinar: Where have all the Honeybees Gone?	(see article below)
<b>Nov 15</b>	Poinsettia Open House November 15th	South Central Growers, Springfield, TN
<b>Dec 4</b>	RCMGA Christmas Party	UT Ext. Office, Springfield, TN

### Where Have All The Honeybees Gone?

**D**o we have fewer honeybees these days? What has caused the decline? What can we do to help? Dr. John Skinner will answer these questions and more during a webinar, presented by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, 2–2:45 on November 7th. To enter as a guest, go to [learn.extension.org/events/1375#](http://learn.extension.org/events/1375#). VBco3DmNXF1

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