

# The Leaflet



October 2015

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## Cheatham and Robertson County Master Gardeners Plan "Meet and Greet" for Class of '15

Remember your confusion about the Master Gardener program and activities when you were a Master Gardener intern, i.e. "How do I get volunteer hours? What about continuing education? What are projects? What do you do at meetings?" With a multi-county class and a neutral location, attendees may be even more confused this year. Therefore, officers from Robertson County and Cheatham County are conducting a joint "meet and greet" on Monday November 2nd after the Landscaping Class. Cheatham and Robertson County Associa-

tion members are providing lunch, an overview of our Association, and a Q&A opportunity for the new class.

We need volunteers to provide food or utensils, to set up for the luncheon, and to meet the class attendees. If you can contribute and/or attend, contact Lynn Stenglein (lcsgrts@hughes.net, 615-859-9659) Dorothy Briggs (615-643-7236), or Janice Derby (janicedrby@bellsouth.net, 615-969-0392) We will tell you what is needed and coordinate a pickup/drop-off.

## We're Going to GroWild on October 24th

We are scheduled to visit GroWild Nurseries in Fairview on Saturday October 24th. Since 1997, GroWild has advanced the use of native plants in modern landscapes and is recognized as one of the leading wholesale native plant nurseries in the eastern U.S.

Though GroWild is a wholesale nursery, RCMGA members will be able to purchase native plants that day. If you have not already emailed Doug or Wanda about arrangements for going, their contact emails and phone numbers are on the contact list on Page 4 of this Leaflet. We will meet at GroWild at 9:30am; carpools will depart from the Extension Office in Spring-



RCMGA Member Visit GroWild 2010

field about 8am. If traveling to GroWild alone, you can find directions to the Nursery at [www.growild.com](http://www.growild.com). We will finish at GroWild around 12:30.

Want to walk or picnic nearby after visiting GroWild? See "Nature Park" article on Page 4 of this Leaflet.

**NEXT MEETING**  
**Oct. 22, 2015**  
**7 pm**

**Program:**  
**A Historic**  
**Perspective on**  
**Gardening**  
by  
**Erin Adams**

**MEETING**  
**INFORMATION:**

The Robertson County Master Gardener Assoc. meets the fourth Thurs. of every month.

## Shelley and Sonny bring the Tropics to Middle Tennessee

By Shelley Pritchard

Have you ever wanted a bit of the tropics in your backyard? Even though we have below freezing temperatures in our area, we can still enjoy some tropical plants. Some examples of these plants are Windmill Palm trees, Cannas, Japanese Ginger, Banana Trees, Butterfly Ginger, and Spiked Ginger Lily. Hibiscus, Elephant Ears, Angel Trumpets also add a tropical feel to your outdoor space.

Taking care of these plants in our growing zone can sometimes be tricky. Most fare better if brought indoors for the winter. A garage will even do. If you are unable to bring plant inside, mulch them heavily—and pray for a mild winter!

We have numerous banana trees in our backyard and we love the “tropical look” they add. We have to dig them up before the first frost and put them in the garage. They are shallow rooted; so you don’t have to dig too deep. We cut off all the leaves, place the root ball in a plastic garbage bag; and tie around the top of the root ball. Then we place them in the garage until April. When we plant them in April, they are not attractive at all until the leaves start unfurling. One by one they curl out until they are beautiful.

Over the years we have several trees bear fruit. The plant produces a large “banana bell”. A layer at a time, the small flowers that will become a banana emerges. Our growing season isn’t long enough here for them to ripen, but they are a pleasure to grow. Once a plant produces fruit, the mother plant will die, but the plant has produced many “babies” by then. So life goes on.....



### It’s Not Too Early (or Too Late) to Enter Your Volunteer Hours

Alas! Where has 2015 gone? We are way into the 4th quarter of the year! If you have not entered your volunteer hours or submitted them to Judy Bryant at the Ext. Office for entry, it is nearly time to do so. To maintain your Master Gardener certification, you need 25 volunteer hours (administrative, community, teaching or educating) and eight hours of continuing education credits. However, please enter all of your hours. The University of Tennessee Extension uses this information to justify funding for the Master Gardener program. Don’t let them down! If you have questions about qualifying activities or education, contact Paul Hart (pehart@utk.edu, 615-384-7936).

### Time Tree Trimming

To keep diseases from entering a cut, prune oaks and crabapples only during winter when the trees are resting.

### Be Social with Your Garden Media

Have you visited the Robertson County Master Gardener Facebook page lately? Posted any pictures of your late fall plants or 2015 garden successes? We RCMGA members frequently wonder how to make the public aware of our activities and to generate interest in the Master Gardener program. A member suggested that we “...post pictures of our gardens and activities...and if they see it they will come”.

So, if you are a Facebook user, go to the Robertson County Master Gardener Association page, like it, comment, start contributing photos, comments, tips. If you have question or problems, email Ann Rausch, our page administrator at [alrausch@charter.net](mailto:alrausch@charter.net). Send suggestions to Ann or any of the officers listed on the Contact List on Page 4.



## Fallen Twigs and Aphids

2015 is the year of the “perfect storm” for twig girdlers and twig pruners. In mid-September, the ground under some trees was nearly covered with small branches of clean cut twigs. Beetles, commonly referred to as twig girdlers and twig pruners, are responsible. Both are long-horned beetle species that attack numerous types of shade, nut and fruit trees. I observed that Oaks were the species most affected in the Ridgetop area. Adult beetles typically begin to emerge in mid-August and continue through early October. They chew a V-shaped groove around a small twig and deposit an egg beneath

the bark in the twig section beyond the cut (severed portion). The girdled portion dies quickly and usually falls to the ground. The small larva will overwinter in the twig and consume most of the wood. Homeowners should collect and destroy infested twigs and branches they find on the ground. Additional information is available at [extension.missouri.edu/p/G7276](http://extension.missouri.edu/p/G7276).

If you have a Hackberry tree on your property, you know to keep your cars and lawn furniture away from overhanging branches to avoid the black sticky “honey-dew” produced by the Asian Woolly Hackberry Aphids. This

year, however, those aphids apparently have been “on steroids”. White aphids have been observed all season, falling from the trees; they are carried by the slightest breeze over a large area. Although suppression can be obtained by soil treatment in March or April with a systemic insecticide, the aphids do not harm the trees. Hackberry trees are a plant food for many butterflies and its fruit attracts a wide variety of birds. So if Hackberries are in your landscape, garage your vehicles, move the garden benches, and pull up your hoodie when you venture outside.

## Keeping your Harvest by Saving your Herbs

By Dorothy Briggs



Herbs and herb gardens go back as far as the Pilgrims who used herbs to vary their limited diet. Herbs are good to camouflage odors and make medicine. They are easy to grow and easy to dry. Most are picked before the flowers open while they are still tender. As they mature the flavor becomes more intense. Herbs may be air dried, dried in the oven, microwaved, dehydrated, or frozen. Freezing is the easiest method. Be sure the herbs are dry and spread them out until wilted. Cut and chop into the proper form for cooking, pack in small jars or bags to help retain the flavor and aroma; then freeze. Why not save some of your herb plants before the first frost? Repot your favorite herbs; basil, chives, and rosemary do well. Give them as much sunshine as possible. Cut them back for tender growth and water regularly. They will reward you with a constant supply of goodness.

The Autumn 2015 edition of Diann’s Greenhouse contains a table for cooking with herbs and other tips. You can access her newsletter at [www.diannsgreenhouse.com](http://www.diannsgreenhouse.com).

### Herbs for drying

Anise	Oregano
Basil	Parsley
Bay	Rosemary
Celery	Sage
Chervil	Savory
Chives	Scented geraniums
Chervil	Tarragon
Dill	Thyme
Fennel	
Lovage	
Mint	

### Herbs for Freezing

Basil (retains flavor, but discolors)	Oregano
Chervil *	Parsley
Cilantro	Rosemary*
Chives	Sage
Dill *	Savory*
Lemo balm	Sorrel
Lemon verbena	Sweet cicely
Lovage	Sweet marjoram*
Mint	Tarragon*
	Thyme*

\*Can be frozen on stems

## Save those Leaves

Autumn leaves provide nourishing mulch for flower and vegetable gardens. Run over them with a mower and pile the bits in a corner of the yard.

Within 6 months to a year, they will turn into rich leaf mold, one of the best mulches and soil amendments.



## Nature Park Discovered in Fairview

**B**owie Nature Park in Fairview is the largest park in the state (722 acres) owned by a city that size. Outdoor enthusiasts from across Middle Tennessee flock to the park to fish the lakes, picnic and enjoy the 15 miles of trails. The park also contains a nature center and currently is hosting an extensive collection of fossils collected around Tennessee and beyond.

The Bowie family, who donated the land to the city, was a family who valued higher education for their daughters as well as for their sons. All three Bowie daughters (Anna, Van, and Byrd) earned medical degrees at a time when most women received only elementary education. While medicine proved to be a career only for Anna, who was a physician in West Nashville, she also invested in stocks, creating the deep pockets her sister Van would need for her conservation and reclamation efforts.

It all began in 1956 when the sisters invested in some land thinking they would plant trees for a cash crop. The land was deeply gullied and washed of topsoil after years of erosion. Van reclaimed the soil, terraced, build dams, spillways, and planted over 500,000 trees. The trees thrived, and Van began to think of them like children. All thought of timber harvest was gone.



Advancing age and the deaths of Anna and Byrd left Van wondering what to do with her trees. After considering and ruling out several universities, she deeded the land to the city of Fairview “as a wildlife preserve and/or a park facility to be enjoyed by the general public.

Bowie Park is about 5 miles north of I-40 on Hwy 100. Visit [www.bowiepark.org](http://www.bowiepark.org) for more information.

## Check Out Article about Mansker’s Station Park

**T**he *Tennessee Conservationist* September/October edition contains an article of interest to Master Gardeners entitled, “Partnering is Helping Historic Mansker’s Station.” The Goodlettsville park partners with other historic parks including Rock Castle, Carnton, Plantation, The Hermitage, and others to share expertise of staff and volunteers. The Sumner County Master Gardeners have demonstration gardens and offer garden related classes at the Park. Master Gardener Joy Mayfield wrote about her work as a Master Gardener volunteer at the Park; Joy spoke at our October 2014 RCMGA Meeting.

## Wilson County Under Firewood Quarantine For EAB

**T**he dreaded Emerald Ash Borer was discovered in Wilson County earlier this month. As a result, Wilson County has been added to the list of counties under quarantine. To read what all this means , download the following document: *Tennessee Emerald Ash Borer Regulations In Plain Language*.



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## Upcoming Events

Oct 24	RCMGA GroWild Fieldtrip	Fairview, TN
Oct 26 - MG Class	Vegetable Gardening	Joelton
Nov 2- MG Class	Landscape Design	Joelton
Nov 9- MG Class	Backyard Wildlife	Joelton
Nov 16 - MG Class	Lawn and Garden Maintenance	Joelton

\*All classes will begin at 9:00 am and will be held at First Baptist Church Joelton. The address is 7106 Whites Creek Pike, Joelton, TN 37080.