

The Leaflet



September 2014

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2014 Fair

Master Gardeners' booth display presented a colorful and accurate image of the current year's projects and programs. Staffed by new members as well as previously certified members, the booth attracted fairgoers with questions, "What causes my tomatoes to rot?" The seed giveaway proved successful again this year; who doesn't like

a gift that keeps on giving? Flanking the table and display boards, large green plants from Ann Rausch's garden provided extra flair. With a bright red ribbon and \$85 for our treasury, the entry showcased our county presence. As a bonus, the green hula "skirt" from the booth's background remains up for grabs for future events.



NEXT MEETING September 25

Program:
Mega Results in
Mini Spaces
By JoAnn Slate
and Jinny Huls

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

**RCMGA 2014 CLASS
CANCELLED
DUE TO LACK OF PARTICIPATION**



Profiles in Gardening:

JoAnn Slate

Country kinfolks in Wilson County grew corn and tomatoes, taking produce to Nashville's markets by horse-drawn wagon. In her gingham sunbonnet and lace-up black boots, even little old Mama Boyd tended a kitchen garden. Though she was little and old, she could wring a chicken's neck in a terrifying flash. Traumatized by seeing a headless chicken running around, one of our children never ate poultry again. During World War II, people in cities planted Victory Gardens, illustrating that tomatoes would grow alongside petunias. With this history, I have always known cause and effect of providing for one's needs and wants by working in soil. Yearning for décor at an early age, I picked blossoms from bushes and placed them in tiny pots on our "what-not" shelf.

Growing up in Nashville and Inglewood, I knew the innocence of the 1950s. During our 36 years in southern California, we routinely picked tomatoes in May; sun heated the pool deck enough to warm narrow beds that also nurtured grapes, berries, and dwarf citrus trees. From that experience, I saw how fruit trees could serve as landscaping features; tiny orange kumquats sparkled on small trees while one lemon tree could supply the entire neighborhood. The zucchini legends of other places became the grapefruit basket as neighbors left their bounty on others' doorsteps and hastily fled.

Following Allen's retirement in 1993, we returned to Tennessee and chose Robertson County for its small-town ambience. Having completed my master's degree in 1992, I wanted to work so taught English part-time for VSCC 10 years. Many returning students enrolled as well as 18-year-olds, especially in off-campus classes. These groups provided unexpected perks of local lore as they freely shared surprising tidbits about townspeople during discussions.

Hybrid chrysanthemums and morning glories remain my favorite flowers though fancy mum varieties refuse to bloom outdoors in a six-month growing season. Morning glories, in dazzling colors, brighten late summer and fall mornings as they twine around every structure within their grasp. I admire their unruly habit until the first frost, when shriveled foliage still clings to every spot they touched.



Those who have witnessed my directional dyslexia might not know how much I like to travel and cruise; California (to see our children and friends) and Florida (to get on a ship) are major destinations. Researching AHS (American Horticultural Society) botanical gardens in advance, I find many sites to explore when visiting other cities.

A well-kept secret is my previous membership in an Opti-Mrs. group. Since I was 21 and most members were very old, many older than 30, I failed to establish much rapport with them. They appeared to relish activities like polishing the copper bottoms of saucepans...and displaying them. Allen had been encouraged by older faculty to join a community service club, which he did, and the women's group came unbidden. Another revelation is that I am a Trekkie. Captain Kirk was funny when he did not intend humor. Unforgettable lines include, "If we go back in time, millions of people who've never died before...will die." And Next Generation's dialog pleases the ear with its distinct phrasing, especially Captain Picard's no-nonsense directive, "Make it so."

As a member of Robertson County's first Master Gardener class in 2007, I have enjoyed knowing other members as well as developing curiosity about native plants' habits. Too, Master Gardeners' philosophy regarding lifelong learning mirrors my own objective: Keep the brain lively, so it won't rust. That might be a mixed metaphor.

Master Gardener Beautification Award Goes to Cedar Hill Residence

The Robertson County Master Gardeners Association presented the August 2014 beautification award to Tim Van Der Hengst at 3988 Fykes Grove Road in Cedar Hill. Situated on a perfectly manicured lawn, the Van Der Hengst landscape also features shrubs, roses, and a variety of colorful annuals. Pictured are Judson, Maria, Zoey, and Tim Van Der Hengst.

The September garden was selected at our August meeting, and we have two other excellent nominees to consider at our upcoming meeting. Thanks to all members who have participated in this project this year! It's a great way to recognize Robertson County gardeners, to promote the Master Gardeners program, and to scout future garden tour garden and candidates for the Master Gardener program.

TAH Nursery and Landscaping on Hwy. 41 in Greenbrier donated gift certification for the August, September, and October awards. When you are looking for fall shrubs and trees, stop in and tell them we appreciate their participation.



Plan for Late Summer Color

RCMGA members Dorothy Briggs, Judy Belloli, Lynn Cantrell, Wanda Cohea, and Lynn Stenglein, garnered advice from Debbie Wyatt and enjoyed her array of late summer flowers. Debbie, who gave the program at the Ridgetop Garden Club Saturday, September, 13th is the president of the Franklin Kentucky Garden Club.

Debbie said the best way to keep summer perennials in bloom is to deadhead all summer so that new flowers emerge. Among her favorites for late summer color are summer phlox, especially the white fragrant David Phlox; Cheyenne and purple Coneflowers; Goldenrod; Maximillian Sunflowers; asters, Brazilian and Homestead Verbena, Joe Pye Weed, perennial hibiscus, Tansy, coreopsis, and (even the "lowly" and somewhat invasive) obedient plant. As well as several varieties of hydrangeas, she shared blossoms from her Chaste Tree and beautybush specimens with berries (white and purple). Bulbs, tubers, and reseeding annuals were not forgotten: Debbie shared bouquets of tuberose, cannas, dahlias, Melapodium, Celosia, and Mexican Petunias with Ridgetop Garden Club members and visitors.

After a somewhat dry season and for gardeners who tend to resist dead heading to encourage reseeding, we particularly enjoyed the display and made plans for a more colorful August/September 2015 garden.



Leaflet Q&A Section:

Q: I needed a container closer to the kitchen than my compost piles of leaves, grass clippings, etc.; Santa brought me an 80 gallon bin from Metro Nashville Composting, and I have been composting browns and greens in correct proportions since January and turning it frequently. This summer I have noticed white worms in great quantities in the compost. Happily, there is no odor and no population explosion of flies. Are

these critters ok to have around? Signed, Unmentionables in my compost bin.

A: Dear Unmentionable(s): Your critters are likely potworms and are commonly found in compost piles and earthworm farms. They tend to congregate tighter under the food, are efficient in breaking down organic material and in aerating the soil. They will not harm other living worm species and

do not damage living plants. The only problem that could occur is in a worm compost bin if their population grows too large; they compete for food with the red wiggler composting worms. This rarely happens.

Q: My sister got a cutting for me from a Kintzley's Ghost Honeysuckle at the Hermitage. Any suggestions about propagating this beautiful plant?
Signed, Have cutting: Will root

continued from page 3 Leaflet Q&A

A• Dear Have:
A• Kintzley's Ghost is a rare heirloom native honeysuckle vine whose slivery-blue foliage is a great addition to a summer garden. Showy late spring flowers are followed by large "ghosted" blue bracts (specialized leaves). At the 2013 Fall Celebration in Crossville I attended a propagation seminar where they used a clear storage container as a propagation box. Use enough for several inches of starting medium it such as ProMix in the container bottom, water it thoroughly, and squeeze excess water from the medium before putting it in the box. Remove some of the leafs from the cutting, lightly scrape (wound) the stem that will go into the medium, dip in a fungicide like Root-tone, and place it carefully into a hole made with a pencil and the firm the medium around the cutting. Put your box in bright light (but not direct sun). Individually, pot the cuttings when a few good roots appear. I made about 20 cuttings last spring from my Angel Trumpet plants and got successful plants on all but two. You can find an excellent article about "Building a fabulous garden with cuttings" in the October 2014 Tennessee Gardener magazine.



Kudos, Betty and Jim, on the wonderful refreshments you brought to our August meeting! Drawing from the cooking class at the July 2014 UT Extension Summer Celebration, Betty and Jim presented spiced and roasted grapes, wine poached pears, stir fry vegetables with wine, and many other "vine" treats. Weary Master Gardeners who labored on the Fair Booth (and others) were refreshed by the Grape Blue Smoothies that Betty blended onsite.

All recipes can be found at the website:
<http://taes.utk.edu/upload/WTREC/SC14Recipes.compressed.pdf>

You can access other Summer Celebration recipes there as well including 2010 Okra, 2009 Sweet Corn, and 2007 Sweet Potato.

Happy Birthday!

September

- 16 Gwen Day
- 19 Lynn Stenglein
- 23 Tim Best

October

- 4 Trina Fulton
- 15 Shelley Prichard

Upcoming Garden Events

Sep 25– Nov 30	Pumpkin Harvest Display	W.TN Ag Research & Ed. Center Jackson
Sep 27–28	Harvest Days	Grassmere Historic Farm
Sep 27- Oct 26	Cheekwood Harvest	(Visit cheedkwood.org for details)
Oct 2–6	Annual Autumn Fest	W.TN Ag Research & Ed. Center Jackson
Oct 11	Putting up the summer harvest (Registration Required)	Mansker's Station, Goodlettsville
Oct 21	Rain Gardens	Cheekwood, Nashville



Sept. Contest Entries: "You're sooo much a RCMGA member if . . .

- . . .you agree with Al Roker: The weather is the most important part of the newscast. Ann Rausch
- . . . You have the tiniest garbage can on the block — but the largest compost pile in town. Ann Rausch
- . . .your your primary mode of transportation is known as your "plant-mobile". Lynn Stenglein
- . . . you offer unsolicited advice to other shoppers in nurseries, i.e. "If you buy that plant you're considering (fuchsias or bougainvilla or such), you will regret it when it turns to mush the first day below 45 degrees." JoAnn Slate

CONTACT LIST

President: Michelle Adcock
 (615) 384-9845
shelladcock@yahoo.com

Vice President: JoAnn Slate
 (615) 334-1341
alnjoslate@comcast.net

Secretary: Ann Rausch
 (615) 305-2598
alrausch@charter.net

Treasurer: Jeanne Protsman
 (615) 859-2042
jeanne.protsman@comcast.net

Robertson Co. Ext. Agent: Paul Hart
 (615) 384-7936,
pehart@utk.com

Project Coordinator:
 Lynn Stenglein, (615) 859-9659,
lcsqts@hughes.net

The Leaflet: Lynn Stenglein, Editor
 (615) 859-9659,
lcsqts@hughes.net

The Leaflet: Trina Fulton, Production
 (615) 382-6822
trinaf@charter.net