



THE LEAFLET



June 2009

A NEWSLETTER FOR, ABOUT AND BY ROBERTSON COUNTY GARDENERS

UPCOMING GARDEN EVENTS

June 25— MG Club Meeting @ County Ag. Extension Office (7pm)

July 9— Summer Celebration @ Jackson TN. (10am-6pm)

Aug. 31-Sept. 5—Robertson County Fair

Thursday 7:30pm or Sunday 9:30am on NPT Channel 8: "Volunteer Gardener"

Saturday 5-5:30am on WTVF Channel 5: "P. Allen Smith Gardens"

Saturday 7-8am 1430 on WPLN-AM: "You Bet Your Garden"



A FARMERS MARKET FOR SPRINGFIELD

By Ursula Otto

Since we moved to Springfield, I have wondered why Springfield does not have a Farmers Market. Each year I watch as farmers have certain spots in town to park their trucks and sell their fresh produce. I ask for schedules to be sure to find out when I can plan my meals around the availability of fresh vegetables.

If you are driving around town looking for a farmer's truck to purchase fresh vegetables too, with your help we can change that situation. How can we get started?

- (1. Get the name and phone number from the farmers when we purchase produce.
- (2. Ask if he/she would be interested in starting a Farmers Market in Springfield.
- (3. Bring the information to the next Master Gardener meeting or send me your feedback.
- (4. Work with the Chamber of Commerce.

My vision is to have a Farmers Market at the Square in Springfield every Saturday. I have seen what good can come from such efforts. Bakers start showing up and soon there was music. It made the Saturday produce shopping a special place to go.

MASTER GARDENER MEETING

Thursday, June 25, 7pm @ Ag. Ext. Office

Program: Plants and Vegetables

By Amy Corbin

PLANNING FOR M.G. BOOTH FOR COUNTY FAIR BEGINS

Michelle Adcock and Jeanne Protsman will co-chair the activities for the Master Gardener booth at the Robertson County Fair. The fair will be August 31st – September 5th. Michelle and Jeanne emailed that "...we are excited about this chance to let people know what a wonderful organization Robertson

County Master Gardeners is and hope to recruit some new people for the next classes."



Nancy Ligon, Her Garden and a Few of Her Daylilies

IT'S TIME TO VISIT THE DAYLILY LADY!

If you are a gardener who loves daylilies or who just enjoys visiting a lovely garden, plan to visit the garden of Nancy and Gene Ligon while daylilies are blooming. Located on Hwy. 41 just north of downtown Goodlettsville, this garden is an American Hemerocallis Society Display garden with a variety of daylily cultivars that have been introduced in the last fifteen years.

Nancy has been working on the garden for sixteen years. She started with six daylilies and several hostas planted around a Bradford Pear tree. In 1991 she joined the Tennessee Daylily Society, started purchasing cultivars and realized that she had started a GARDEN. The need for additional planting space led to her designing beds and pathways. Currently, she has over 400 varieties of daylilies.

Perennials are mixed in the garden border to provide interest, and shrubbery is planted around the borders of the property to provide a background for flowers. The Bradford Pear tree was replaced by a shade house for Japanese ferns and other shade-loving plants several years ago.

Railroad ties were used to build the beds and the Seasons Garden features the “spring, summer, fall, winter” statuary. A small goldfish pond is located in a patio area with seating for garden visitors.

Nancy displays a “DAYLILY SALE” sign at the end of her driveway when she is separating and selling plants. She will separate a few in the fall and expects to have many for sale next spring. When the daylilies are in bloom, the garden is open anytime, and an “OPEN GARDEN” sign is displayed. Nancy says that early morning is the best time to see the flowers.

“Think of daylilies as a flower for everyone,” Nancy says. “They are drought resistant. Although they bloom best when there is adequate moisture, daily watering is not required. They like good soil but do not require expensive fertilizer. Just pick a good daylily and a color that you like.”

Visitors stop by frequently to ask for advice about their gardens. In the Goodlettsville area, Nancy is known as “the Daylily Lady”. She and Gene invite visitors to come. By appointment they welcome visits by gardening groups for a short talk on growing daylilies and a garden tour.



THEY'RE

BAAACK!!

You thought all the grub-eating moles this year and the drought of '07 got rid of the Japanese beetles. Well, duh! Those pests are busy devouring their favorite plants including roses, grape vines, ornamental trees as usual this season (and procreating for a population explosion next year, conditions permitting).

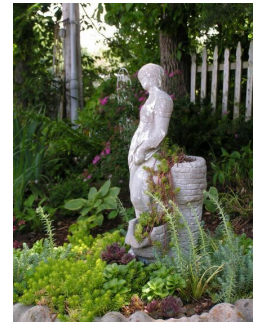
The long-term solution to this problem does not exist; so “Think Management”. Beetles only lay their eggs in turf. Cut the numbers of grubs that reside in your lawn by not scalping your lawn when you mow and by not watering it during dry spells. They prefer moist, low-cut turf. However, lots of these pests will still fly in from other areas. The following controls are effective:

- Plug up a vacuum cleaner to the nearest grounded outlet and hose up the beetles.
- Hand picking can be very effective. In the early morning they are slow and sluggish. Place a pan with soapy water in the bottom below the infested area, reach for the beetle from above so they can't fly away and they'll drop right down into the water.
- Make beetle-repelling “bug juice” by liquefying a handful of beetles in a pint of water in an old garage-sale blender, strain the resulting mess, and spray on your plants. Old time farmers swear that pests won't go

near plants that have been sprayed with the remains of their relatives.

- Or soak the plant with a commercially available garlic spray designed to deter mosquitoes or with an insecticide such as the natural product Neem.

Luckily, not all of the myths about the dread Japanese beetle are true. Birds do eat Japanese beetles. So place birdbaths, feeders and nesting boxes near the plants under attack. Traps do catch lots of beetles but they also have the potential to greatly increase beetle damage. The lure attracts about four times as many beetles as would otherwise be in the area and a lot of them bounce off the trap and escape. Experts say the traps work best when used as a perimeter control; place them on the outskirts of your property, far away from the plants under attack.



TOURING PORTLAND GARDENS

Mark your 2010 calendars for the tour of gardens sponsored by the Sumner County Master Gardeners. The June 2009 tour featured seven gardens in the Portland Tennessee area; most were gardens at the homes of master gardeners.

The gardens were within a six-mile radius of Portland, and the drive through the late spring countryside was a “plus”. Parking on adjacent lawns and fields was provided. Fortunately, several days of dry weather had firmed up the soil.

Initially, the first garden on the tour appeared rather modest, though awash with all kinds of perennials and annuals. Entering the back yard, however, you met the owner putting finishing touches on an addition to the mural he created on the side of his garden shed. At the Thomas Austin House, a circa 1810 brick federal plantation house, you would have thought you had been transported to Williamsburg, Virginia. While the original 500-acre plantation is now only 1.2 acres, it is an oasis of formal gardens. Refreshments were served in the original cellar of the house as well as at most of the gardens on the tour.

Most years the heat of early June puts us “on the edge” of the serious planting season in Middle Tennessee. But you would have had trouble resisting the purchase of a “souvenir plant” at the plant sale at one of the gardens or turning down a gift of a Canterbury Bell that was much admired at another. It

was a delightful way to spend nearly a full day in our neighboring county!

CELEBRATE SUMMER JULY 9th @ JACKSON
Robertson County Master Gardeners will travel to the Summer Celebration. Call or email Judy Bryant (384-7936, jbryant2@utk.edu) to sign up for the trip get travel arrangement details.

The 20th Annual Summer Celebration takes place from 10am to 6pm on Thursday July 9th, at the West Tennessee Research and Education Center. Dozens of plant and garden experts will be on hand, presenting information on topics that range from “Layer Cake Gardening” to “Roses that Rock Your World”. Numerous local vendors will be selling plants, and UT specialists will staff a Plant Diagnostic Center where they can identify the pests or disease attacking plants you bring in for help. The theme this year is “Sedums and Succulents”. These plants can withstand heat, love sunlight, but require little watering. A wide variety of these plants will be offered for sale.

A few of the presentation topics include:

Lush Plants That Don’t Languish: Have a lush garden without lavishing it with water; learn which plants to choose and some smart watering tricks.

Great Plants, Greener Gardening: Learn nine proactive gardening steps you can do to protect the planet, our health, and save money.

Let the Sun Clean it up: Help free your soil of disease, insects, and some weeds using the sun’s heat.

Twelve Steps for Herb-a-holics: Once you start growing herbs, you are hooked. They’re easy, versatile and add gourmet flair to your food.

Best for the Birds: Learn how to create the best setting for our feathered friends.

Bring the Color Indoors: Learn which perennial plants will bring you the most beauty for your vases.



Heat Did Not Deter JoAnn’s and Ursula’s Landscape Work at Springfield Library

Whether it’s Kalamazoo or Keukenhof, daytrip or Grand Tour, you are invited to share photos and stories of garden excursions. The following article is the first in this Leaflet series.

IN SEARCH OF THE PERFECT RHODODENDRON

By
Lynn Stenglein



Mention rhododendron, June, and the Appalachian Mountains, and Roan Mountain is sure to be cited as one of the best places to visit. This year I went to the natural rhododendron gardens atop Roan Mountain to see the Catawba rhododendron. Standing taller than a person, the dense shrubs create a spectacular display with thousands of magenta blooms. At an altitude of 6,285 feet the Cloudland Trail hiking trail adjacent to garden paths is well named; we were in the clouds for much of our visit. But the mists added an impressionist quality to the flowers. A couple of miles from the gardens is access to the Appalachian trail near Carver’s Gap. The trail is an easy climb up a grassy mountain bald where we saw flame azaleas as well as rhododendron.

Somehow, gardeners attract, because I had barely entered the gardens when I met two master gardeners from North Carolina. They told me where to look for Carolina columbine in the gardens. We traded tips on growing columbine (placing a small rock near each plant was one), and each of us tried to give away iris rhizomes. On my way out of the gardens another couple taught me to recognize the songs of birds that are resident on the mountain in June: the Chestnut Warblers, Towbees, and Carolina Wrens. More than a day trip from Robertson County but near an area with historic and other attractions, Roan Mountain with its garden and mountain bald is worth a visit.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, LEAFLET!

June 2009 begins our second year of The Leaflet. Many thanks to all who have contributed articles, pictures, and ideas. Please keep them coming! Communications and sharing of gardening information are goals of Master Gardener organizations, and writing articles also counts as volunteer hours.

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