

## March Master Gardener Meeting!

Thursday, March 24, 7 P.M.

**@Robertson County Extension Office**

**Our program will be a presentation about Tennessee Wildflowers presented by Charles Moffitt.**

**SEE YOU THERE!**

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### ORNAMENTAL GRASSES

Ornamental grasses are a garden's unsung hard-working heroes. These wonderful plants provide beautiful texture, motion, music, and color without asking for a lot of maintenance in return. Whether you prefer annual or perennial varieties, there is a grass that will add a perfect touch to your landscape.

**GRASS BUNNY TAILS** is a 12" – 20" tall annual with charming flower heads that are as soft and fluffy as a real bunny tail! Children love them and you will truly enjoy growing them with their unusual texture, and the whimsical touch they add to the garden. Consider grouping them as a good ground cover, and leave the plants standing through the winter to enjoy the beautiful form year round.

The annual **GRASS GREAT QUAKING** and the Perennial **GRASS NORTHERN SEA OATS** are nature's wind chimes. When the wind blows, their seed heads rustle a raspy tune. Even when you are indoors, looking out the window on a chilly winter's day, you'll see them quiver and dance, reminding you that the garden is still alive and patiently waiting for spring just as you are.

**GRASS LITTLE BLUESTEM** is a perennial North American native. Its silver blue leaves turn cinnamon red with golden tones and have fluffy, silver seed heads in the

fall. Grasses left standing through winter provide color, motion when the wind blows, and nesting sites for small wildlife and birds. A strong root system makes this grass ideal for dry sites.

**ORNAMENTAL MILLET PURPLE MAJESTY** is also in the grass family. Use this 3" – 5" tall handsome annual, with corn-like leaves and purple flower spikes to add statuesque form and dramatic dark color to the back of the border, or as a focal point whenever you want to add some excitement.

Ornamental grasses provide such diverse benefits to the garden; it's a wonder that everyone doesn't grow at least one variety because of the way they extend the beauty of your garden throughout the seasons.

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Good book to have on the shelf:

"Tomorrow's Garden: Design and Inspiration for a New Age of Sustainable Gardening" (Rodale 2011)

By Stephen Orr

## ***A Greener Thumb*** Ten Principles to Grow By

Allow a little imperfection  
Recycle, reuse and repurpose

Shrink your lawn  
Select native plants

Retain your water  
Use local suppliers

Have a purpose

Grow to eat

Share the space

Create a place of meditation and beauty

### **NEED VOLUNTEER HOURS?**

There are a total of 16 Robertson County projects available to help you in gaining your volunteer hours. They are in five categories: beautification, education, information, fundraising and family heritage. Of these projects, 15 are approved and one (Jo Bryns Elementary) is pending approval. Also, the Ridgetop Station Park Project presently needs a lead person.

If you are interested in working on any of these projects please contact the appropriate project lead person listed below. If you are interested in being the project lead for the Ridgetop Station Park please contact Julee Orr at [julee@mojoridge.com](mailto:julee@mojoridge.com).

The 2011 Projects currently are:

1. RIDGETOP STATION PARK BEAUTIFICATION, Project Lead: Presently Open
2. JO BYRNS ELEMENTARY BEAUTIFICATION (pending approval) Project Lead: Patsy Morris
3. SPRINGFIELD BIRD SANCTUARY, Project Lead: Ursula Otto
4. HWY 41 NO. SIGN BEAUTIFICATION, Project Lead: Jane Wilkerson
5. HWY 41 SO. SIGN BEAUTIFICATION, Project Lead: Vickie Nixon
6. ADAMS SIGN BEAUTIFICATION,

Project Lead: Judy Bryant

7. HWY 49 SIGN BEAUTIFICATION, Project Lead: Tim Best
8. ANIMAL SHELTER LANDSCAPING, Project Lead: Ann Crouch
9. COUNTY COURTHOUSE LANDSCAPING, Project Lead: Tim Best
10. EXTENSION OFFICE LANDSCAPING, Project Lead: Paul Putman
11. LIBRARY LANDSCAPING, Project Leads: Jo Ann Slate & Ursula Otto
12. PLANT SALE, Project Lead: Doug Buck
13. GARDEN WALK, Project Leads: Julee Orr & Lynn Steinglein
14. THE LEAFLET NEWSLETTER, Project Lead: Catey Henning
15. COUNTY FAIR BOOTH, Project Lead: Jeanne Protsman
16. PRESERVING ROBERTSON CO. HERITAGE, Project Lead: Dorothy Briggs



Led by Joe Willis (Lone Oak Farms)  
Robertson County Master Gardeners "dig in" at  
plant propagation field trip  
March 19, 2011



### **MARK YOUR CALENDERS!**

April 8 – 10 – Bloom ‘n’ Garden EXPO  
(Williamson County Garden Show)

April 9 – Nashville Perennial Sale @ Al Amenah  
Shriner Temple (Near Trinity Lane)

April 16<sup>th</sup> – Herb Society Plant Sale @ Tennessee  
State Fairgrounds

April 16, 17, 30 & May 1 – Lone Oak Farm  
(Neelys Bend Road, Madison) “Open House 2011”

April 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> – Native Plant Festival, GroWild,  
Fairview

April 30<sup>th</sup> – Middle Tennessee Daylily Society  
Spring Sale @ Green Hills Mall

May 14<sup>th</sup> – Portland in Bloom Garden Tour

### **PROBLEMS ACCESSING THE TENNESSEE MASTER GARDENER WEB SITE ([mastergardener.tennessee.edu](http://mastergardener.tennessee.edu))**

#### **AND/OR ENTERING YOUR TIME? READ ON:**

*Nearly* all of the challenges encountered with entering your volunteer hours are id/password related and have a simple solution, which can be fixed by an email or call to Paul Hart (384-7936). It can be frustrating, however, and even the most tech-savvy master gardeners have been stymied by server incompatibilities; what constitutes administrative or education or community service hours; or with occasional maintenance outages/upgrades of the UT Master Gardener systems.

Resources prevent a timely scheduling of a workshop for entering volunteer hours, but if you are having problems, do not hesitate to contact Paul, Judy Bryant, or Lynn Stenglein (email and phone numbers at the bottom of this page). Also, here a few tips:

>Your id and (initial) password are your (complete) address and “mgpassword” (no caps). Example id: [john.doe@comcast.net](mailto:john.doe@comcast.net). As with good security practices, you should change your password after you initially sign on.

>Master gardener meetings are typically 45 minutes of administrative time and 45 minutes of CEU (continuing education units) for the program.

>If you don’t have Internet access or simply cannot get the system to work for you, manually track your hours. Make a note of the project, hours worked, dates, etc.; turn them in to the Extension Office. Time spent entering volunteer hours for others counts as volunteer hours.

*We want to hear from you! Send us your tips, ideas, photographs, questions, suggestions, events, or maybe even an article for The Leaflet! Tell us about yourself!*

#### **CONTACT LIST**

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