



THE LEAFLET



September 2009

A NEWSLETTER FOR, ABOUT AND BY ROBERTSON COUNTY GARDENERS

UPCOMING GARDEN EVENTS

Sept. 15—Master Gardener Classes begin
@ County Ag. Extension Office

Sept. 24—MG Club Meeting @ County Ag.
Extension Office (7pm)

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"

Sept. 26/ Oct. 3/Oct. 10—Bird Walk
@ Springfield Greenway

Nov. 1—MG Volunteer Hours Should be
Recorded



GARDEN RELATED OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND

By Ursula Otto

Many thanks to everyone for making the Fair Booth a success again this year and bringing home the blue ribbon. A special thanks to Michelle, Jeanne and JoAnn for your creative talents and hard work.

When you elected me, I promised to give you plenty of opportunities to accumulate volunteer hours. I would like to put before you several such opportunities:

- We need to form a committee for our fundraiser(s).
- We need three chairpersons for our 2010 Garden Walk. Why should we do this in September? Now is the time to view the gardens and get a good idea of what they will look like in the spring. The work is half done once the gardens have been secured.
- I would like for us to enter the Tennessee Master Gardeners' "Search for Excellence". It is a recognition program for Master Gardeners' volunteer work throughout the State of Tennessee. The guidelines may be viewed on the UT Extension Master Gardener web site, and I will bring a copy to our next meeting. For this project we need to enlist our professional writers. Thanks, Jan, for your willingness to help.
- We need to start a committee to gather information and lay the groundwork for a farmers market in Springfield.

Please think about which of these projects you would like to work on, and contact me if you have any questions or comments. I will have sign up sheets for all projects at the next meeting.

MASTER GARDENER MEETING

Thursday, September 24 7pm @ Ag. Ext. Office
Program: Rose Therapy By Ron Daniels,
American Rose Society Consulting Rosarian

WALK WITH THE BIRDS

Tony Lance is leading a bird walk along the Springfield Greenway each Saturday morning September 12th thru October 10th. You must register for the walk by calling 382-1655. Meet at Shelter 1 in Travis Price Park at

7:30am. Bring your own binoculars and wear comfortable shoes. The walk takes about 2½ hours.

BEWARE OF CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE REPTILIAN KIND!



Have you noticed the number of moles, voles, field mice and rabbits that have profited and proliferated from the abundance of grubs, seeds, and vegetation the last couple of years? These mammals can be pests, but another danger is the reptiles that prey upon them. Leaflet staff (Lisa and Lynn) have information on several sightings in the neighborhood of copperheads, including snakebites of three family dogs, in the past couple of years.

Although more people die from wasp and bee stings than from snakebites, there are not good data on pets, and even non-fatal bites can cause severe pain and long-lasting tissue damage. Copperheads, the most prevalent viper in this region, are "sit and wait predators", that are concealed not only from their prey but also from their enemies. A few precautions can lower the risk of being bitten.

- Leave snakes alone. Many people are bitten when they try to kill a snake or get a close look at it.
- Stay out of tall grass. Keep the garden free of overgrown plants and your lawn cut short.
- Keep the garden free of debris such as corrugated iron, building materials, logs, rocks, etc.
- Do not use your hands to look under logs, in deep grass or dead trees.
- Dress appropriately when you know you are in a snake-y area. Wear boots—at least ankle height, with heavy pants and a long-sleeved shirt. Although some snakes can bite through cloth, it will interfere with the injection of the venom if the snake is poisonous.
- Do not make quick movements around snakes. Many snakes do not have good eyesight and rely on the quick movements of prey to locate them.
- Be especially vigilant in early mornings and evenings when visibility is least and some snake species are more active.



VISIT HUNTSVILLE BOTANICAL GARDENS

By JoAnn Slate



Butterfly House

Huntsville Daylilies

On a meltingly hot mid-June day, my husband and I arrived at the Huntsville (Alabama) Botanical Garden. Though the area is renowned for its space-y museums and exhibits, my goal was to experience the scenic features of the renowned garden attraction. Free admissions was our first surprise as the garden was celebrating Armed Forces week; my husband's retired military status allowed this bonus. With our Cheekwood membership's reciprocal privileges, we could have enjoyed free admission as well. All visitors should ask for generous area discount coupons while browsing Huntsville's downtown visitor center (go there first). Helpful attendants can direct travelers to the garden's location at 4747 Bob Wallace Avenue.

Children, children everywhere—bring action and lilted voices to the scene. Families and groups frolicked on the paths while viewing the current exhibition's wire and flower structures. This summer's theme was BUGS. Giant topiaries of the creatures brought squeals of delight from young and old, ample evidence of the garden's universal appeal. Whether visitors prefer shady woodland paths or sunny floral displays, they can ramble the grounds, seeking favorite displays. Though on a hot day, one might seek respite on the Nature Trail or Dogwood Trail, the Central Corridor Garden offers colorful year-round delights, including annuals, perennials, and bulbs. Our visit coincided with peak daylily bloom; the daylily beds present a dazzling vista with their 800+ plants all aglow; one visitor with whom we chatted was a bit miffed since her collection is a few hundred short of Huntsville's collection. Though we were too late for trillium blooms, we noted that the Nature Trail collection is one of the largest in the United States.

Seasonal features include the spring Festival of Flowers, Wings, Warts and Wonder, the Scarecrow Trail, and the year's finale, the Galaxy of Lights. Though the nature center, which include the butterfly house (over 2000 in a 9,000 square foot enclosure) is only open May-September, the other areas are open all year. Visitors should check the website (www.hsvbg.org) for current day and hour operations. Most of the 17 feature areas offer a changing array of sights and activity. Staff members credit a large group of volunteers for the garden's superb condition; the 120 acre site demands consistent upkeep.

Thought the grounds are extensive, visitors may sit a spell on the benches as they contemplate their next path. Water fountains and restrooms are handy, and a shuttle operates April – October for weary walkers. Clemetine's, an on-site café, provides refreshing beverages and light lunches, which are a welcome treat after a two-hour stroll. A picnic area near the Aquatic Garden offers space for those who like to pack their own lunches. Huntsville is

just over the state line; so plan a trip anytime for a visual feast.



Market @ Co. Ext. Office



Downtown Williamsburg KY

SMALL TOWN KY FARMERS MARKET IS A SUCCESS!

In preparation for the project of a Farmer's Market in Springfield, the Leaflet is investigating markets in other towns. Phil Meeks, the county agent in Williamsburg, a small town in SE Ky similar to Springfield, provided the input for this article. You can read the entire interview and their Market Rules on our Master Gardener web site.

How did the market get started? *An informal group of farmers initiated the start-up of the market in Whitley County. They requested that the County Extension Office work with them on it.*

How is the market administered? *Each year a farmer's market board, made up of market vendors, create and sign market rules and regulations.*

Where is the market located and when it is open? *The market is in the parking lot of the County Extension Office a couple of miles outside of the Williamsburg city limits and is open on Saturdays June-October.*

Who are the vendors and what are they selling?

We have three to nine farmers at the market each Saturday. There is no vendor fee, but farmers must be local growers and must be registered with the Extension Service. They sell agricultural and horticultural food items and value-added products including dried flowers, beeswax candles, wooden birdhouses; socks and scarves from llama wool. The market encourages the sale of homemade items processed under state legislative guidelines including jams, jellies, baked-goods, sauces.

What about liability issues: injury on site, food-borne illnesses, etc.?

The site liability is covered since the market is located on the County Cooperative Extension Office parking lot. The market rules, signed by each vendor, state that "Members are individually responsible...." and recommends that each vendor have product liability insurance. The market is self-regulating by the vendors with the County Agent also calling or talking with the vendor who is violating the market rule(s).

How is the market advertised? *Signs are posted along the road on market day. The market days/times appear in the local newspaper "community events calendar" and the County Extension Office emails customers saying what produce will be available..*

Is the market a success and what factors have contributed to that? *Vendors and customers consider the Whitley County market a success. The market location and facility not only has a large parking area but also has a portico that farmers can set up under; they do not have to set up their own tents or awnings.*

The market is not just about food or a source for local produce and products; we are also a cultural event. A potter gave a pottery workshop last summer; the extension office frequently gives cooking demonstrations. We applied for and received a \$3500 grant for music and dance; the grant was used to bring musicians to the market three times in 2008 and four times in 2009.

Seniors get a U.S. Department of Agriculture voucher that can only be spent at a farmer's market.

PREPARE FOR THE INVASION OF THE LADY BEETLES



The Multicolored Asian Lady Beetle (MALB) has become a regular fall visitor in many homes. Homeowners often start noticing swarms of lady beetles on exterior walls as well as invading the interior of the home in October. Multicolored Asian Lady Beetles (MALB) start searching for over-wintering sites, like your home, on the second day when temperatures are greater than 65 degrees after a dramatic drop in temperature, usually to near freezing.

Research from North Carolina revealed that it is vertical contrast, such as black shutters against light

colored walls, shadows cast by a chimney or white shutters against a dark background, that is attractive to beetles. Color of the house will not matter in attractiveness to the beetle.

In order to control MALB, homeowners need to pet-proof entry points, keep window screens intact, and screen vent openings before the beetles arrive. See the UT Extension Service SP 503C Lady Beetles Invading Homes at

(<http://www.utextension.utk.edu/publications/spfiles/sp503c.pdf>) for more specific recommendations on sealing entry points.

Sealing and screening all of the holes and vents in your home and applying a pesticide to the exterior remain the best options to avoid a MALB invasion into your home. Insecticides can be used to treat rooflines or soffits, vertical contrast areas, and entry points (around doors, windows, vents, pipe penetrations) before the beetles arrive. Insecticides for household use containing pyrethrum or cyfluthrin have been shown to be effective in controlling lady beetles. These insecticides are usually effective for about three weeks. Remove dead beetles as they pile up because they may attract other beetles.

If the beetles make their way into the home, try a light trap or a vacuum. Use a vacuum with a HEP filter to prevent allergens from becoming airborne.



Bagging and tagging seeds for Fair Booth

The Fair Booth Committee thanks all those who worked on the fair booth this year. Once again we won first place, which comes with a check for \$100 for our treasury. Also, we gave out several applications for the next Master Gardener classes, and we had a few sign-up as being interested in becoming Master Gardeners in the future. We had a good group to help set up the booth and package and label all those seeds from our gardens. The seeds were very popular and helped attract people to the booth. Thank you for all the hard work! *Michelle, Jeanne & JoAnn*



Doug Buck hosting M.G. Fair Booth

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