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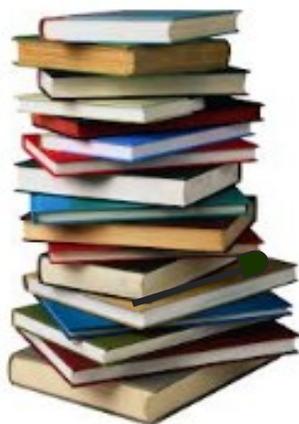
UT Extension



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MASTER GARDENER LIBRARY OPENS FOR BUSINESS!



Thanks to several recent donations, we now have a library of over 100 gardening related books.

We have books on almost every topic related to gardening you can imagine! Many of them are older books, but the material is still useful and relevant. If you are interested in a particular topic or need reference material for a presentation or article, these will be a wonderful resource.

The books are housed in the Lab room at the Extension Office. If you want to check them out, just stop by during office hours.

Here are some of the titles available....

'Tennessee Gardeners Guide'; 'Greenhouses', 'Practical Landscaping'; 'Book of Houseplants'; 'Perennial Gardens'; 'Planning Your Garden'; 'Rodaes Garden Answers'; 'Southern Wildflowers'; 'Water Gardening'.

If you have Gardening books that you don't use any longer, consider donating them to the library so others can benefit from them.

Thanks to our "anonymous donors" who have made this possible!

NEXT MEETING

March 18 , 2013

@ 6:30pm

Duncan Callicott,
"Landscape Design"

April 15th Meeting

Personality Colors
In-Service Workshop

2013 Officers

- President Ken Roberge
- Vice President Sabine Ehlers
- Treasurer Marilyn Rogan
- Secretary Theresa Fly



Plant Swap
March 23
10:00 AM
Community Center



February Meeting Recap

The February meeting topic was “Hardscaping” presented by Jason Moles from Gardens on Main in Lebanon.

Hardscaping is one of the fastest growing aspects of gardening and landscaping—and one of the most labor intensive and expensive.

For a business person to go into Hardscape services, a large investment in heavy duty equipment and well as training for employees is required. The most common requests are for retaining walls, pathways, out-door kitchens, patios and stairs. The reason for the popularity of these projects is that today’s homeowner may not consider themselves “gardeners” but do consider themselves “Outdoor Enthusiasts” who enjoy outdoor living. Hardscapes provide a relatively instant way of transforming an ordinary backyard into something spectacular.

The best advice Jason could offer people considering one of these major property improvements was: *“hire a professional! These jobs are definitely not for the weekend DIY’er”*. If the ground is not leveled and compacted properly projects will not hold up over the years. Frost heaves, drainage needs and temperature changes will cause the ground to rise and fall. Eventually this will cause paths to sink and walls to fall if the foundations are not properly set and the correct materials used.

Gardens on Main is a full service, family owned nursery located at 2515 Lebanon Rd., Lebanon Tn. Phone: 615-547-4900 www.gardensonmain.net. They have a wide selection of plants, containers, and garden supplies. The welcome mat is always out for Master Gardeners!

February’s “find the shovel”
winner: Joy Anderton

NOW HIRING:!

Small, local specialty publication is looking for reporters and photographers. NO experience necessary. No salary—but a great team to work with! Contact the Editor at “The Scoop” if interested.

Kens’ Korner by Ken Roberge, President



It’s time for me to get my lawn and garden tools ready for another year; yes, I should have done much of that late last fall, but I’m great at procrastinating. I need to give the lawn mower and tiller a good spring tune up by cleaning the air filter and spark plug, changing the oil and putting fresh gas in the tank. The same is needed for the trimmer and blower. Hopefully, I ran them out of gas last fall before putting them away for the winter, because if I didn’t, they will be harder to start even to the extent that a good cleaning of the carburetor may be needed. My hand tools also need attention, like sharpening the clippers, nippers, spades and hoes; applying linseed oil to my wood handles and giving everything a good check to make sure they are safe to use.

Once ready it’s time to put those tools to use. There is still plenty of plant maintenance needed. I left the tips on my Crepe Myrtles all winter as the finches love to eat the seeds. But, now its time to trim for new growth. I better re-read Linda Lindquist’s great article in the February edition of *The Scoop*. Also I need to continue pruning my ornamental pear trees so I can more easily and safely mow under them.

I’m sure many of us still have some left over tasks from last fall in addition to the many new spring tasks as we get our lawns and gardens ready for the coming seasons.

*“Keep close to Nature’s heart
and break clear away once in
awhile and climb a mountain or
spend a week in the woods.
Wash your spirit clean.”
~ John Muir*

Bird of the Month : Northern Cardinal

From the brilliant red of the males to the warm, red-brown color of the females, Cardinals are easy to spot. Their sharp beaks and distinctive tufts on their heads make them particularly easy to identify. Nearly any feeder you put out will attract them, but they particularly love sunflower seeds. Otherwise, they are heavy insect feeders—making them great garden partners! They prefer to shelter in dense tangles, shrubs, so leave some undergrowth around the edges of your back yards to provide habitat for them. Usually their nests are less than 5 feet from the ground. During spring and early summer nesting times, the males get very aggressive about protecting their territory and will try to drive off any competitors. They will even attack their own image reflected in windows. If these kamikazi birds are a problem, try covering windows that don't have screens with bird-netting, using reflective decals or hanging bright ribbon streamers that flutter in the breeze to keep them from harming themselves.



Scientific Name: Passeriformes Family: Cardinalidae

~ Source: Cornell University

Recipe **Sautéed Kale with Pasta**

Ingredients

12 small Kale leaves, roughly chopped
 1 cup Celery, sliced
 1/2 cup Onion, chopped
 2 cloves Garlic, minced
 Salt & Pepper to taste
 2-3 Tablespoons Balsamic Vinegar—
 Campenelle Pasta (or other textured pasta)
 Vegetable Oil
 1/2 cup water

Sauté onions over medium heat until they start to caramelize. Add celery, cook for 2 minutes. Remove onions & celery from pan, set aside. If needed, add a little more oil to the pan, add garlic and sauté until it begins to brown slightly. Add kale & water to the pan. Stir to mix, cover pan & let cook 5 minutes. Add freshly boiled pasta, cooked onions and celery. Toss lightly. Add balsamic vinegar, salt & pepper. Toss again. Serve at once.

Tennessee Gardening Events

March 9 Montgomery County Workshop Day
 Contact Ag Center Office 931-648-5727

April 20-21 Hamilton County Garden Expo
 Camp Jordan Arena, East Ridge, TN
www.mghc.org

May 4 Master Gardener Heirloom Plant Sale
 Greene County Fairgrounds, Greenville

May 18th Greeneville Garden Tours
www.mainstreetgreenville.org



Rutherford County
 Farmers Market opening
 day

May 10th 2013!!



UT Garden Plant of the Month: Omeo Gum (*Eucalyptus neglecta*)

Native to Australia, this evergreen tree is considered to be winter hardy in Zone 7 even to 6b. It has the blue-green eucalyptus foliage and a delightful fragrance. The Omeo Gum tolerates many soil types, include our heavy clay soils. Once it is established, it is quite drought tolerant making it ideal for areas that are hard to irrigate. A fast growing tree, it can reach a height of 20 to 40 feet in 15 years. It can ultimately reach as high a 60 feet. As it ages, the bark becomes shaggy, further adding to its appeal as a landscape tree. Cut branches can be dried and used in arrangements.



Master Gardeners of Rutherford County
UT/TSU Rutherford County Extension

Lane Agri-Park
Suite 101

315 John R. Rice Blvd.
Murfreesboro, TN 37129

Phone: 615-898-7710

Fax: 615-898-7999

Email: mastergardeners.rc@gmail.com

Editor Email: ljl1074@att.net or
mastergardeners.rc@gmail.com

"The Scoop" is the official newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Rutherford County, Tennessee and is published by email the first week of the month. Those members without email and who are not able to attend meetings may receive the newsletter by U.S. Postal mail. The deadline for articles, pictures, events, etc. to be included in the newsletter is due the last Friday of the month.

Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at the Lane Agri Park at 6:30 p.m., unless specified. Membership is \$25 for a single or \$35 for a couple at the same address. All memberships are valid January thru December and are pro-rated for new members only.

PLEASE NOTE: Master Gardener Certification requires 40 hours of training plus 40 hours of volunteer service. Recertification requirements are 25 volunteer hours, plus 8 hours of continuing education per year.

Trade and brand names are used only for information. UT/TSU Extension does not guarantee nor warrant the standard of any product mentions; neither does it imply approval of any products to the exclusion of others which also may be suitable.

Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences and resource development. University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, county governments cooperating, UT Extension and Tennessee State University.

Garden Tip

It's hard to wait...the gardening bug is out in full force for eager plant enthusiasts! Those great looking packets of seeds in the stores now are for starting INDOORS - it's still too early to plant them outdoors. Remember our last anticipated frost date is April 15th - and most experts recommend holding off on planting warm season annual transplants until Mothers Day when the soil has warmed up enough to make them happy.

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Mailing Label