



TENNESSEE
MASTER
GARDENERS
ROBERTSON COUNTY

The Leaflet

~ December 2022 ~

Gardeners Know All the Dirt

Here we are at the end of 2022! I hope you've had a good year, gardening and otherwise. It's always exciting to see what the past year held and what the new year holds.

Of course, for me, the biggest change will be the end of my 2-year presidency of the RCMGA. What a blast it's been! I've had the pleasure of serving with a great executive team: Shawn Herman, Claudelle Lyall, and Larry Lee. Of course, the general membership made these two years a great time, too. I hope we tried new things you liked, hung on to things that were important to you, and retired or tweaked things that needed that, too.

We had a great December meeting. It's always fun to get together and enjoy each other's company and cooking. I believe we have some Master Chefs in our midst. Of special note, we elected a new slate of officers for 2023: Shawn Herman, President, Nola Hastings, Vice

ASSOCIATION MEETING

No regular December meeting.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

See you in 2023!

*The Robertson County
Master Gardener
Association meets the
fourth Thursday of every
month*

President, Holly Brooks, Secretary, and Sandy Williams, Treasurer. Thanks for volunteering, and I can't wait to see all the good things that will come to pass under your leadership.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for this opportunity to serve. If you're given the chance or feel so inclined, step up when needed. You won't regret it.

May all your weeds be wildflowers,
Karen House, President
RCMGA

Tennessee Extension Master Gardener Program to Begin Again in January

by Bob Ary, Program Assistant

The objectives of the Master Gardener program include:
1) To increase participant knowledge of horticulture, and
2) To encourage the sharing of horticulture knowledge with others through education and volunteering.

Becoming a Tennessee Extension Master Gardener in Robertson County requires the completion of approximately 40 hours of training followed by 40 hours of volunteering and an additional 8 hours of continuing education as outlined and approved by the Extension Agent/Advisor, hopefully within one year of completing the training. You will receive your Tennessee Master Gardener Handbook and other training materials during the training. Master Gardeners are also active helping others through individual and community projects.

Training will be conducted using a hybrid format in a face-to-face group meeting with statewide virtual instruction using Zoom or similar program. Training sessions will be on Tuesdays beginning at 9:00 am in Springfield (exact location to be determined) on January 31. Sessions will conclude by noon. Other training sessions may be

conducted locally as needed to complete training requirements, dates to be determined and may include Saturdays.

Internet service is a must, as you will access online educational materials, video segments, etc. prior to/after the educational sessions.

The registration fee is \$150 for individuals or \$200 for two members of the same household sharing training materials.

For those who are new to Tennessee, this is a great opportunity to learn more about gardening in Tennessee, meet others who share an interest in gardening, and to become engaged in the community through volunteering.

For more information related to the training, or to receive a tentative class schedule, please email bobary@utk.edu.



by Stacey Haag

Tennessee Tree Day 2023 is the largest community tree-planting project of its kind in America, taking place on Saturday, March 18, 2023! You and other Tennessee residents will collectively pick up and plant more than 95,000 native tree seedlings in all 95 Tennessee counties during the weekend of March 18th, 2023. The trees are yours to plant on your own property and will enhance our environment and communities for generations to come.

Tree Day is a project of Tennessee Environmental Council, a nonprofit organization that depends on your support for its success. Tree seedlings are available for a suggested

donation starting at \$1.99/tree. Tree seedlings are bare-root and may range in size from 1 ft. to 4 ft., depending on the species. Donations cannot be accepted for trees at the pick-up sites, so trees must be reserved and paid for through the website by February 26, 2023.

This year's tree options include elderberry, flowering dogwood, indigo bush, cherrybark oak, white oak, pecan, eastern redbud, tulip poplar (the Tennessee state tree), Virginia pine, black cherry, and buttonbush. Popular varieties tend to sell out quickly. To read more about each variety and place your order, visit this [site](#).

The Robertson County pick-up site will be at the Robertson County UT Extension Office at 408 N Main Street, Springfield, TN on Saturday, March 18, 2023 from 9am - 12pm. The Robertson County Master Gardener Association volunteers to host this annual event. Volunteers will be needed to sort and distribute trees, so please mark your calendars.

Profiles in Gardening... Bill Barnhart

Why I became a Master Gardener: I got interested in gardening and wanted to be better at it.

Types of gardening I'm most interested in: I can appreciate all types. I do really enjoy perennial/cottage type gardens, shade gardens, and large rock walls with a variety of small plants growing on them. I appreciate very intentionally designed gardens where the plants selected serve several important roles.

What are some of my favorite plants: Any plant that gets really big really fast...it's fascinating to watch them grow.



Most trees and flowers. Ferns. Wisteria. Hostas. Columnar plants or flowers with columnar blooms. Plants and flowers that are bright red and vivid.



What is my favorite thing about Master Gardeners so far: The people, the opportunities, the knowledge.

What other hobbies or interests do I have: being outdoors, woodworking, landscaping, DIY projects, cooking/eating, learning.

Where, other than Robertson County, have you lived and gardened: My first actual garden was in Zanesville, Ohio. I had a corner apartment with a patio area. I had brussels sprouts, tomatillos, peppers, tomatoes, lettuce, and herbs growing everywhere.

How did I first become interested in gardening: I'm not sure. My parents always had an appreciation for plants and I think I got that from them. I planted lilies at my first apartment, and they were pretty neat so I planted something different after they were done. Then it just spiraled out of control from there.

What are two interesting facts about me: I'm a registered dietitian working in healthcare food service management. During quarantine, I taught our dogs to go into their kennels by saying "Butts in Huts!"



Hoe, Hoe, Hoe!

by Marianne Binetti

'Twas the week before Christmas, and all through the yard,

 Not a gift was given, not even a card.

The tools were all hung, in the carport with care,
 with hopes that St. Nicholas soon would repair.

 The shovel with blade all rusty and cracked,
 The pitchfork still shiny, but handle it lacked.
When out on my lawn, (it's brown and abused)
 I could see poor old Santa, looking confused.

 No list had been left for Santa to see,
 No gardening gifts were under the tree.
But wait there's still time, it's not Christmas yet,
 And gardening gifts are the quickest to get.

You can forget the silk tie, the fluffy new sweater,
 Give something to make the garden grow better.
 If she wants a gift shiny, then don't be a fool,
It's not a dumb diamond, but a sparkling new tool.

If fragrance is listed you can forget French perfume,
 It's a pile of manure that'll make gardeners swoon.
Give night crawlers, not nightgowns, the type of hose
 that gives water.

(Anything for the kitchen is not worth the bother.)

 Give a great gift that digs in the dirt,
 It's better than any designer-brand shirt.
Now look quick at Santa, this guy's not so dumb,
 Under his glove, he hides a green thumb.

 His knees are so dirty, his back how it aches,
His boots stomp on slugs, (he gives them no breaks).
 The guy only works winter, you can surely see why,
 The rest of the year it's a gardening high.

Elves plant in the spring, pull weeds merrily all summer,
 In fall they all harvest, but winter's a bummer.
And so Christmas gives Santa part-time employment,

Till spring when the blooms are his real-life enjoyment.

So ask the big guy for garden gifts this year,
Seeds, plants, and tools, Santa holds them all dear.
You see malls may be crowded, vendors hawking their
ware,
But visit a nursery, stress-free shopping is there.

Now Santa's flown off, to the nursery he goes,
And his voice fills the night with loud Hoe! Hoe! Hoe!
Hoes!





Don't forget... to log your volunteer and educational hours at <https://temg.tennessee.edu/> before the end of the year! Attending a regular monthly meeting earns 1 volunteer hour plus 1 CEU for the presented program. Online classes and videos also count as educational hours.

The Robertson County Master Gardeners wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Upcoming Events

January 31: [Master Gardener Training Begins](#)
Robertson County UT Extension Office