

BRADLEY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS



July 2017 Newsletter

Our Mission

The Bradley County Master Gardeners promote environmental stewardship through a network of volunteers who provide research-based information and education to Tennessee communities in home gardening and related areas. As part of our mission, the program supports continued education and development for committed volunteers.

2017 Officers

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Next meeting: August 3, 2017
Round-table garden discussion



Junior Master Gardener class of Spring 2017. Way to go!

Wednesday, June 14 2017, we ended the Spring JMG class with the graduation of 10 students. The 2017 Spring JMG class had a slightly different format this year. We still had a few inside classroom days but the majority of the classes were held outside in the gardens. This year the BCMG volunteers decided to try a different approach. Each Wednesday night the students spent a minimum of 1 hour participating in hands-on gardening with a mini class added in. Some mini lessons were taught in small groups outside in the gardens while other lessons were conducted inside with the whole group. Robin Ramsey conducted a new lesson this year; She taught the students how to dye Easter eggs using natural materials. The BCMG also incorporated more harvested vegetables into the snacks. The students gained knowledge of gardening, time planning, and knowledge of the plants. This group also enjoyed harvesting and eating the vegetables. *Leslie Humbert, Master Gardener*

Message from Johnnie



Hello everyone,

I trust you had a great July 4, and are enjoying your garden veggies.

The Water Conservation Festival at the Museum was very nice despite the rainy day. Thanks to Kay Cox and the Master Gardeners and Interns who worked this event. So proud of these interns; they will have their hours before we know it.

Jerry Eppinga and her committees are working hard on our upcoming Spring Festival scheduled for next April.

Our next meeting is Thursday, August 3 at 6 PM. The meeting is going to be a round-table discussion about what's good and bad about your own personal garden. Please bring pictures on a flash drive to share with the group showing something that's causing you grief or something that you are really proud to show off. Please limit your presentation to 10 minutes so we can hear from as many members as possible. If we don't get to everyone this time, we will do it again at another time. This is a perfect opportunity for you to show off your gardening skills and those prize-winning tomato plants or get help with your hydrangeas that just refuse to bloom! We have lots of expertise in our group. Let's put our heads together and share what we know!

*Johnnie Arnett, President BCMG
Master Gardener*

Volunteer and CEU Opportunities

Volunteer opportunities

- ◆ **July 29, 10:00 a.m.— 4:00 p.m. Craft Day with Nancy Hoffman**
Craft making for next April's Spring Forward event. If you're "Crafty" and want to join in a fun day, contact Nancy Hoffman for details and directions.
nancyhoffman28@gmail.com
- ◆ **Bradley Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center.**
Work with residents on planting and maintaining flower and vegetable gardens. 2910 Peerless Rd, Cleveland. Contact Anita Walcheski at farmers2aw@yahoo.com or Arleen McAree at macintenn@hotmail.com
- ◆ **Spring Forward Fest , April 21, 2018**
Presented by us, Bradley County Master Gardeners!
Here's the best chance yet to get involved. You can work on classes and displays, make crafts, even grow gourds. Committees have been formed to secure vendors, booths, crafts, advertising, logistics and more. If you haven't signed up and would like to be a part of our first major event, contact Jerry Eppinga, jerryann66@gmail.com

Continuing Education Opportunities

- ◆ **August 10, 6:00 -7:30 p.m. Seed Saving & Fall Planting**
Methods & Reasons, a Tennessee River Seed Library workshop. E.G. Fisher Library Community Room, Athens. Free.
- ◆ **August 29, Fall Gardener's Festival, Plateau Ag Research & Education Center, Crossville TN. Registration opens at 8:00 a.m.**
Workshops, exhibits, wagon tours of the entire facility and garden vendors. 320 Experiment Station Rd, Crossville TN. Visit the website in early August for the exact agenda.
www.ccmga.org

T-shirts! If you'll be volunteering at our upcoming events this year and need a BCMG logo shirt, you can get them at Express Athletics. 15 Broad St, Cleveland, ph# 728-6000. You can bring your own shirt or you can buy a shirt from them. The embroidery cost is \$8.95+tax. There is usually a week or so lead time. Any questions, please contact Linda Merritt. Clanofmany@aol.com

Apologies to Master Gardener Sheri Stewart. She served as mentor to the 2017 Master Gardener class, but was not able to attend graduation. We inadvertently left her name off the list of mentors in the June newsletter. Sorry, Sheri! Thanks for being a mentor!



Several Master Gardeners and Interns took advantage of the June craft day to be creative, earn hours and prepare for next April's Spring Forward Fest. If you want to join the fun, head out to the next craft day at Nancy's on July 29.

Looking forward to Spring Forward 2018

A whole day of CEUs coming up!
Fall Gardener's Festival, August 29



Jerry Eppinga and I enjoyed the Eastern Region Master Gardener Day, lots of very good classes. If you haven't been to the Plateau Ag-Research & Education Center in Crossville, you will have an opportunity on Tuesday, August 29 for the Fall Gardener's Festival. Details are in the upcoming events in this newsletter, or go to the MG Website for more details. This is a free event and a great way to get your CEUs for the year.

Johnnie Arnett, Master Gardener

Community Festival at Museum focused on importance of waterways



The Bradley County Master Gardeners participated in the Community Festival at the Museum Center held on Friday, June 30. The festival had a good turn-out even with the early inclement weather. The focus of the festival was to educate the community on the importance of our local waterways. Along with other local agencies, the BCMG provided handouts on water conservation, as well as a demonstration of a continuing water source in your vegetable garden using a milk jug. Several people stopped by our booth and asked questions. We even had a great turnout from interested people signing up for the next Master Gardener Class. Go Johnnie Arnett, for winning a gift for the rain barrel she painted.

Thanks to Anita Bailey for her demonstration and handouts. Thank you from Kay Cox, Coordinator, to the twelve MG Volunteers and Historian who took pictures at the Event. Great Job!!

Kay Cox, Master Gardener



If you're looking for a neat place to go see sunflowers, the TWRA Wildlife Area at Forks of the River in Knoxville has almost 70 acres of sunflowers. While they are pleasing to the eye, they are also beneficial to pollinators. The seeds they produce also provide an abundance of food for several species of birds and other wildlife. The large sunflower fields are only present every other year, as crop rotation is important to maintain soil fertility and control pests. They will not be planted again until 2019.

The address to find the sunflowers is:

TWRA Wildlife Management Area
3140 McClure Lane, Knoxville TN

Johnnie Arnett, Master Gardener

www.bradleycountymastergardeners.org
www.facebook.com/bradleycomastergardeners