

BRADLEY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS



September 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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Project Coordinators,

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Historian, Armen Epperson

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Next meeting: Oct. 5, 2017

Speakers: All about pollinators!

Linda Merritt

Stacie Campbell-Eckhoff



Cow Pea Festival: Success!

Record crowds attending the sixth annual International Cowpea Festival and Cook-off kept Bradley County Master Gardeners and interns busy answering questions about gardening and about the Master Gardener class. Fourteen volunteers staffed our booth and, at the end of the day, had signed up 23 prospects for the 2018 Master Gardener class. Pictured, Joyce and Jim Brinkmeyer (left) visit with one of those class prospects. Next year's event will take place on Sept. 8.

Next 2017 event:

Cleveland Apple Festival

October 21, 22

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Message from Johnnie



Hello everyone,

I hope you all had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to fall. As you know, this is the time we participate in two fall festivals, the Cowpea Festival and the Apple Festival. The Cowpea Festival was a great success! We had 14 volunteers work in this event and they did a splendid job. We were blessed with 23 prospects for our 2018 Master Gardener Class.

I am already getting excited about the new class. Who knows, we may have a similar number sign up with an interest at the Apple Festival, keep your fingers crossed! Linda Merritt and Dianne Hadorn have agreed to be the coordinators for this event. Please let them know that you are willing to help, this is a two day event, so we will need lots of people to participate. Great way to get your hours and have a lot of fun!

We had a wonderful September meeting at the home of Bruce and Phyllis Tilden. They gave us tours of their beautiful gardens and I especially love all their native plants. Thanks again, Bruce and Phyllis, for all your time and preparation in making it an enjoyable evening in the outback! Our next meeting will be October 5, at 6:00 P.M., at the UT Extension office and we look forward to seeing you there.

Happy Fall, Y'all!

Johnnie Arnett
President BCMG, Master Gardener

Volunteer and CEU Opportunities

Volunteer opportunities

- ◆ **Sept. 20 Junior Master Gardener program begins.**
This program runs about 13 weeks including the graduation. The class will meet every Wednesday at the Bradley County Juvenile Justice Center beginning at 5:30 pm until 7 pm. We are in need of some volunteers. These volunteers will monitor/mentor the juveniles in the gardens. Our purpose is to teach the young people something about gardening. We would like for them to see our enthusiasm about gardening. Contact Leslie Humberd at lhumberdperson-al@gmail.com if you are interested in helping. I hope to see you in the garden!
- ◆ **Oct. 21 - 22 Cleveland Apple Festival**
Saturday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm, Sunday 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm
This is a huge local event for our group. It is a great opportunity for us to introduce ourselves to the community, answer gardening questions and get people signed up for our 2018 class. This is also the last significant event for you to get volunteer hours before the end of the year. If you would like to volunteer during any of the festival hours or have questions, please contact Linda Merritt, clanofmany@aol.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



Stay connected!

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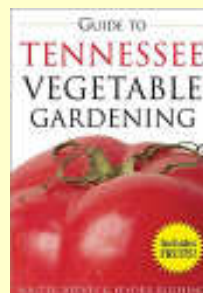
Continuing Education Opportunities

- ◆ **Oct. 12, 6:00 -7:30 pm Composting & Biodynamics**
Benefits, Methods, a Tennessee River Seed Library workshop. E.G. Fisher Library Community Room, Athens. Free.



Master Gardeners Ron and Johnnie Arnett, along with intern Dianne Hadorn, took CEU advantage of the Aug. 29 Fall Gardeners' Festival at the Plateau AgResearch and Education Center in Crossville. Educational sessions ranged from Butterfly gardening to Plant Disease treatments and lots more in between.

Looking for extra info on growing vegetables? Here's a recommended reading:



Guide to Tennessee Vegetable Gardening
by Walter Reeves & Felder Rushing

"This book offers advice on everything from starting your garden from seed, to planning your garden with helpful space saving techniques. Helpful charts will outline when to plant and when to harvest cool and warm season vegetables."