

BRADLEY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS



September 2018 Newsletter

BRADLEY COUNTY
UTEXTENSION
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

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.

2018 Officers

Bradley County Extension Agent
Kim Frady

President, Jerry Eppinga

Co Vice President, Dianne Hadorn

Co Vice President, Matt Thayer

Secretary, Julie Halsey

Treasurer, Linda Merritt

Membership Administrator,
Johnnie Arnett

Project Coordinators,
Kay Cox & Jackie Westfield

Historian, Armen Epperson

Next meeting: **October 4, 2018**
6:00PM

Speakers:

Master Gardener Nancy Hoffman
"Herbs"

Master Gardener Bruce Tilden
"Gardening Experiences"



Master Gardeners and interns in attendance for the September 6 regular meeting were treated to several gardening tips and education about garden planning, design, outcomes and the many varieties of garden hoes. Matt Thayer revealed methods he used in his gardening and highlighted what was effective and what could have been improved. The volume of produce from his garden was amazing. Anita Bailey introduced attendees to one of the favorite tools in her arsenal, the Swoe hoe. With the versatility the Swoe hoe features, it's no surprise it is a favorite.



Jerry's Garden

I harvested all the tomatoes, cucumbers, squash and zucchini and then I said I was not going to plant any more vegetables this year. I was tired of all the tending and worrying over bugs. A month later I planted broccoli in one of my raised beds...I just can't resist having something growing in the garden. It is a daily reminder of the miracles that are around us. How amazing is it to put a tiny little seed in the ground and then get to eat fresh vegetables? A great metaphor for life as well.

I want to thank all our volunteers once again for a great job at the Cowpea festival with special thanks to Interns Donna Anderson and Jeni Taylor for decorating our booth and making it look beautiful. The event is always fun, with great music playing in the background while we spend the day with fellow Master Gardeners and talk to folks about what we do. Twenty-one people gave their names to be contacted for the next Master Gardener class.

This year, for the first time, we also had a vendor booth where we displayed educational pieces and offered several gourd items for sale, from do-it-yourself kits to birdhouses and seasonal décor. The most popular feature of the gourd booth was the make-and-take where we taught kids how to color egg gourds using marble paint. The kids were so excited to make and take their creations home! Remaining seasonal items will be on sale at our next Master Gardener meeting.

Jerry Eppinga— President BCMG, Master Gardener

Volunteer and CEU Opportunities

Volunteer Opportunities

Gourd Day with Celia

October 22, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Celia and her crew are already starting to prepare gourds for BCMG's 2019 Spring Garden Festival. They will be doing bird house prep work. Bring a lunch and join them at Celia's house. Contact:

shaneyfelt@gmail.com

Ongoing gourd growing and cultivation

Gourd growers may earn up to 10 hours a year as per the following guidelines:

- 1 hour - Starting seeds indoors
- 1 hour - Planting seeds or plants out in garden
- 1 hour each month May through September - cultivation of gourd plants (up to 5 hours)
- 1 hour - participation in pure seed project with hand pollination of at least one variety and supplying pure seeds back to the program

Time awarded when gourds are donated back to the project:

- 1 hour per giant gourd (too big for the bucket)
- 1 hour per each 5-gallon bucket of mature gourds donated back to the project (medium gourds)
- 1 hour per 1-gallon bucket of miniature gourds
- *Up to but not to exceed 10 hours for the year

Ocoee Whitewater restoration project

In the planning stages. Volunteers will be needed to help clean out and replant beds and other restoration activities. Contact Celia for more information.

Apple Festival

The Apple Festival is approaching fast, October 20 and 21. Volunteers are needed for Friday evening for setup, Saturday 9:30-6:00 through close up, and Sunday 1:00-5:00 and tear down. This is one of our biggest events, great opportunity to meet and help and educate the community. Contact Kay Cox at kaycox@netzero.net.

Museum Center at 5points renovation project

Volunteers are needed for the ongoing cleanup and restoration project at the museum. Contact Johnnie Arnett, jarnette68@charter.net

Continuing Education Opportunities

Native plant Certification program, Wild Ones

You don't need to be working toward certification to take classes. The Certificate in Native Plants program is designed to expand student's knowledge of Botany, ecology, conservation, and uses of native flora in the SE United States. Registration is limited and is now open. For more information, Tennesseevalley.wildones.org.

Saturday, October 13—10am to 12pm



Curiosity about elderberry syrup peeked tremendously this past winter! With so many health-full properties, it is a great addition to one's daily wellness routine. Join us for a morning of learning how to make elderberry syrup. Participants will go home with a recipe, 8 ounces of elderberry syrup made with all organic ingredients, and the knowledge of how and why to make/utilize elderberry syrup. Members \$22 / Non Members \$27

FALL PLANT SALE—CRABTREE FARMS Saturday, September 22—9am to 4pm

This is a great event to buy native plants, see local crafters and attend workshops.

More info: crabtreefarms.org



Master Gardener Members at recent CE opportunity. Doug Tallamy lecture about the importance of insects and using native plants to attract them.

Pictured are: L-R, Linda Merritt, Bruce Tilden & Diane Hadorn.



Our Volunteers

Volunteers in Action



We've been a busy bunch! - From festivals to restoration projects, our volunteers have provided education and assistance to the community. (Top left) Anita Bailey answers questions from patrons at the Cowpea Festival, while (Bottom Right) Celia Shaneyfelt and Stacy Campbell Eckhoff introduce the sound of shaken egg gourds to a young festival goer.

Julie Crawford (Top right) tidies up the beds in front of the Museum at 5 Points. Volunteers pruned, pulled weeds, and cleaned up the entrance beds at the museum. Pausing for a photo are volunteers, (L-R) Linda Merrit, Kay Cox, Ron and Johnnie Arnett, Dave Hopper, Julie Crawford, Dianne Hadorn, & Christina Burns launched the restoration project at the Museum Center at 5points