

# BRADLEY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS



December 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

Bradley County Extension Agent  
Kim Frady  
[kfrady1@utk.edu](mailto:kfrady1@utk.edu)

President, Johnnie Arnett  
[jarnett68@charter.net](mailto:jarnett68@charter.net)

Vice President, Arlene McAree  
[macintenn@hotmail.com](mailto:macintenn@hotmail.com)

Secretary, Julie Halsey  
[djhalsey2008@att.net](mailto:djhalsey2008@att.net)

Treasurer, Linda Merritt  
[clanofmany@aol.com](mailto:clanofmany@aol.com)

Membership Administrators  
Jerry & Ernie Eppinga  
[jerryann66@gmail.com](mailto:jerryann66@gmail.com)

Project Coordinators,  
Kay Cox & Jackie Westfield  
[kaycox@netzero.net](mailto:kaycox@netzero.net)  
[jswestfield@hotmail.com](mailto:jswestfield@hotmail.com)

Historian, Armen Epperson  
[ahteperson@gmail.com](mailto:ahteperson@gmail.com)

Next meeting: Jan. 4, 2018

*Happiest of holidays  
to you all!*

## Holiday Party was Merry & Bright for Master Gardeners



From left, **Joyce Brinkmeyer, Dianne Hadorn and Celia Shaneyfelt** proudly received their green badges at the party, officially marking them as Master Gardeners. Jane Franklin also earned her badge but was unable to attend.

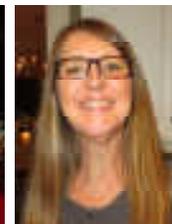


**Several Master Gardeners were recognized for volunteering over 100 hours:**

Charlie Drummond, pictured, Ernie Eppinga, Dave Hopper, Anita Walcheski, Matt Thayer, Linda Merritt. Over 200: Phyllis Tilden, Jerry Eppinga and Johnnie Arnett.



**Thanks to the 2017 officers!** From left, Armen Epperson, Ernie Eppinga, Jerry Eppinga, Linda Merritt, Johnnie Arnett, Judy Halsey, Kay Cox, Extension Agent Kim Frady, Jackie Westfield. Not pictured, Arlene McAree.



## Welcome 2018's new officers



Each year, about half the officers complete their two-year term and others are elected to take their places. New in their positions for 2018 are, from left: Jerry Eppinga, president; Matt Thayer and Dianne Hadorn, co vice presidents; Johnnie Arnett, membership administrator.



## Message from Johnnie

Hello everyone,

We had a wonderful Christmas party at the home of Beverly and Mark Johnson. We could never thank Beverly enough for all she does for the Christmas party, but thank you Beverly. We had such a great time! Kim presented new Master Gardener badges to Celia Shanteyfelt, Dianne Hadorn, and Joyce Brinkmeyer. Jane Franklin also earned her badge, but was unable to attend. Kim also presented 100 hour and 200 hour pins. Congratulations everyone for all of your hard work. The Bradley County Master Gardeners have entered **2,826 volunteer hours!** Be sure to get those December hours entered before the end of the year.

*Message, continued on p. 3*

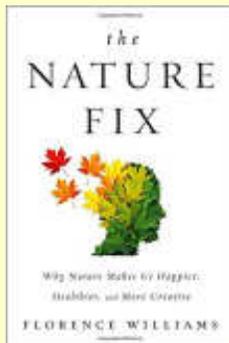
## Volunteer and CEU Opportunities

### Volunteer opportunities

- ◆ **Craft day/Gourd day, December 16, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm.**  
At Celia Shaneyfelt's house. Contact:  
[Shaneyfelt@gmail.com](mailto:Shaneyfelt@gmail.com).
- ◆ **250K tree give away day, February 23, 2018, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm**  
3375 Adkisson Dr, Cleveland. We need volunteers to help bundle and distribute trees to public. Contact Linda Merritt,  
[clanofmany@aol.com](mailto:clanofmany@aol.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](mailto:jerryann66@gmail.com).

### More unique ways to volunteer

- ◆ **Share your BCMG experience on our web site**  
If you've learned something special, had a great time doing something new, let us hear about it. Send your musings to web master, Matt Thayer at [bradleycountymastergardeners@gmail.com](mailto:bradleycountymastergardeners@gmail.com).
- ◆ **Start spring cleaning early. Gather yard sale items for Spring Forward Fest.**  
Look in your basements, barns, sheds and storage areas and pull out any *yard/garden-related* items that you no longer use, and donate them to the sale. Contact Dianne Hadorn for further information. [Dinne@hshomestead.com](mailto:Dinne@hshomestead.com)



### Need a dose of Vitamin N? Here's a recommended reading:

*The Nature Fix: Why Nature Makes Us Happier, healthier, and More Creative,*  
by Florence Williams

*"The Nature Fix demonstrates that our connection to nature is much more important to our cognition than we think and*

*that even small amounts of exposure to the living world can improve our creativity and enhance our mood. In prose that is incisive, witty, and urgent, Williams shows how time in nature is not a luxury but is in fact essential to our humanity."*

Something Master Gardeners already know so well!

### Continuing Education Opportunities

- ◆ **Day of Gardening, February 24, 2018**  
Put on by the TFGC District III Garden club, this day full of learning will be held at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, East Ridge. Times, seminar details and registration form to come.
- ◆ **Wild Ones Symposium, March 17, 2018**  
***Plant Natives 2018! What's the Buzz?*** -- the sixth annual native plant symposium -- will be a great opportunity to learn about the types of native pollinators that visit our gardens and how we can foster all parts of their life cycles. The keynote speaker will be Heather Holm, author of *Bees: An Identification and Native Plant Forage Guide*.
- ◆ **TEMG State Conference, April 5-7, 2018**  
Pre-day tour and workshop April 5. To be held at Montgomery Bell State Park. More information to come as sessions and events are scheduled.

### Volunteers in Action:

## Holiday Open House & Art Festival at the Museum Center at Five Points



Thank you to all the MG Volunteers that helped with the set-up on Saturday and manning our Booth on Sunday, December 3, at the Holiday Open House Artist Festival at the Museum Center at Five Points.

There were over 450 people that attended the Festival and nine (9) who signed-up expressing interest in next year's class.

Again, thank you for your support in making this project a success!!

*Kay Cox, Master Gardener  
Project Coordinator*

## Message from Johnnie

*Continued from p. 1*

We are planning for our 2018 Master Gardener Class and have about 50 names from all our events. I am currently in the process of contacting them before the end of the year, We plan to begin the new classes by the end of January. If you know anyone who is interested please have them contact me or Janet at the UT Extension office.

The Tennessee Eastern Regional Master Gardeners' Conference will be on April 5-7. This year's conference will be held at Montgomery Bell State Park and they have reserved a block of rooms at the inn. If you are considering attending this year, check out the link below or the UT Master Gardeners' website. I have

already made my reservations and plan to sign up for the conference after the first of the year. I always like to attend these conferences, as it is a great opportunity to network with other Master Gardeners from our area. *More info at::TEMG 2018 state conference info.pdf on the website*

Our next meeting will be on January 4 at the UT Extension office. Don't forget to bring your

Annual MG dues, which are only \$15. Your dues support the organization, keep you in the information loop and ensure you will continue to receive this great newsletter!

Finally, I want to thank everyone for all your support during my term as president. The other officers have done a fabulous job, which has made my tasks much easier. I am sure you will be as supportive to our new president, Jerry Eppinga and all of the other new officers. Let's make 2018 a great year for Bradley County Master Gardeners!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*Johnnie Arnett  
President BCMG, Master Gardener*



**Stay connected!**

[www.bradleycountymastergardeners.org](http://www.bradleycountymastergardeners.org)  
[www.facebook.com/bradleycomastergardeners](https://www.facebook.com/bradleycomastergardeners)

*A huge thank you to Beverly and Mark Johnson for hosting such a wonderful holiday get-together for BCMG!*

*A fun time had by all.*