

BRADLEY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS



March 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: April 6, 2017



Bradley County Master Gardeners

literally packed the house at the March meeting. As MGs at the regular meeting addressed business in the first floor conference room at the Ag Center, even more BCMGs and interns were mentoring the current Master Gardener class taking place upstairs.

Terry Merritt wrapped up the meeting with the unveiling of a Golden Shovel Award display. Terry hand-built the shadow-box style case to show off the Search for Excellence/Golden Shovel award presented to our group in 2015. First in the "Innovative Project" category, the award recognized our Junior Master Gardener Program conducted with the Bradley County Juvenile Court. Deb and Dave Flower compiled the entry materials.



Master Gardeners and Interns "spring" into busy season



Bradley County was well represented at the annual Day of Gardening event Feb 25 (top row of photos) put on by the FGC District III Garden Clubs and hosted at the Good Shepherd Lutheran church in East Ridge. Seminar topics ranged from native bees to Hydrangeas. Several from our group also attended the annual Wild Ones Symposium March 16 (left photo). Presenters focused on using native plants in commercial and residential landscaping applications. Theme for the day was "Designing for Nature."

Volunteer and CEU Opportunities

Volunteer opportunities

- ◆ **Junior Master Gardener Project Assistants Needed**
Wednesdays, starting March 22 for 13 weeks, 5:30-7:00 p.m.
The Jr. Master Gardener Project is a cooperative project with the Bradley County Juvenile Court and BCMG Volunteers. All volunteers working with minors on a regular basis must complete an application process which includes background check and child protection training. For more info, contact Leslie Humberd at lshumberdpersonal@gmail.com.
- ◆ **April 6 - 9 Crabtree Farms, Spring Plant Sale & Festival**
Opportunities exist for a variety of skill levels. Contact Avery Patten at apatten@crabtreefarms.org.
- ◆ **April 8, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Cleveland State Community College All About the Green Day**
Come help educate the community about the environment, promote the Master Gardener organization and answer gardening questions.
Contact: Phyllis Tilden, phyllis@uncommonink.com
- ◆ **April 21 - 22, Reflections Riding, Spring Native Plant Sale**
Volunteers needed for setup and sales. Email vonunteer@reflectionsriding.org
- ◆ **May 6, 9:00 - 2:00 Ask a Master Gardener Day at Ace Hardware**
Come help answer gardening questions, assist Ace Hardware customers with their plant purchases and promote the the Master Gardener organization. Contact : Linda Merritt: clanofmany@aol.com

T-shirts! For those of you that will 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 (Polo or T-shirt of your color choice), or you can buy a shirt from them. The embroidery cost is \$8.95+tax. There is usually a week or so lead time on getting shirts embroidered. Any questions, please contact Linda Merritt. Clanofmany@aol.com



Stay connected!

Master Gardener Julie Halsey maintains our website and Facebook page. Check them out frequently to stay connected with our organization and each other.

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

Continuing Education Opportunities

- ◆ **April 7 - 9 Trails & Trilliums**
Guided hikes, workshops, art show, very fun.
www.trailsandtrilliums.org
- ◆ **April 8 - 9 Master Your Garden Expo**
Hamilton County Master Gardeners
Camp Jordan, East Ridge
- ◆ **Upcoming classes—Ooltewah Nursery & Landscape Co., Inc./ 5829 Main Street/ Ooltewah, TN 37363**
Contact: 423 238-9775
 - Growing Blueberries and Other Fruits At Home**
March 25, 9:00 a.m. No Charge
 - Strawbale gardening**
March 30, 3:30 p.m. OR
April 1, 10:00 a.m. No Charge
 - Make & Take: Plant an Herb Garden**
April 22, 9:00-11:00 a.m.
- ◆ **April 13 - 6:00 - 7:30 Planting Considerations**
Fertility/Rotations/Transplanting, a Tennessee River Seed Library workshop. E.G. Fisher Library Community Room, Athens. Free
- ◆ **April 1, 9:00—1:30 Pollinator Palooza, Crabtree Farms**
Learn how to create pollinator habitat in the garden. Free. Registration requested. Contact info: 423-493-9155 or info@crabtreefarms.org.



Want to control bugs and still keep a “natural” garden? Here’s a recommended reading:

The Naturally Bug-Free Garden, Controlling Pest Insects WITHOUT Chemicals, by Anna Hess

“This book will show you how to bring your garden ecosystem into balance so that beneficial insects and larger animals do the work of pest control for you. Anna Hess has had seven years of experience growing all of her family’s vegetables. Here, she sums up all of her

knowledge and expertise, teaching you many hands-on pest-control techniques, such as succession planting, choosing resistant plant varieties, and shielding plants with row covers. Paying attention to the nutritional needs of your vegetables can also deter pests, and the remaining insects are simple to handpick.”



Message from Johnnie

Hello everyone,

Below is the email from Natalie Bumgarner, our state Master Gardener Coordinator. She sends this to all the Master Gardener Presidents across the state. I thought there was a lot of good information in this and wanted everyone to see it. Meantime, I am looking forward to our workshop in Crossville in June and hope we can have a good group to go with us. See you all at our April 6 meeting.

*Johnnie Arnett, President BCMG
Master Gardener*

Note from Natalie Bumgarner

I hope that this wild March has not disrupted too many of your gardening efforts. Doing horticulture here in Tennessee is certainly not for the faint of heart, but we can agree that we never get bored!

No matter the weather outside, tiny tomatoes and redbuds signal spring for me. Spring brings with it our personal gardening efforts, but also community garden events, meetings, fairs and flings and expos all over the state. Since I know you all of busy, I will keep this concise with some key updates for upcoming events.

In 2017, we will be having three regional events, and planning is nearly complete. I am excited about the content similarities as well as the special touches that emerge with all the MG groups involved in planning and hosting and teaching. Feel free to attend any of the events.

Registration will open for eastern and central region June workshops in early May. Schedules (as of today) are attached to introduce you to sessions and options. Forms and web ordering will be available as in past years.

Eastern- June 8th in Crossville led and hosted by Cumberland County

Central- June 22nd in Murfreesboro led and hosted by several groups in the region

Western- October 12th in Memphis led and hosted by Memphis Area Master Gardeners (schedule is well underway and we will send you updates when it is ready to share)

Planning for workshops, tours and speakers is well underway for the 2018 state conference at Montgomery Bell State Park.

There will be a pre-day tour on April 5th with the main conference on April 6th and 7th. We'll be sharing schedules as soon as we can, but we can promise a range of horticultural topics from wildflowers to trees and wild-life along with focused time to share about favorite projects across the state.

In January and February, we had two great visits via video conference on leading MG groups and answering questions from the public. If you missed those visits, the videos are linked on the website as are many resources shared by MGs from around the state.

<https://extension.tennessee.edu/MasterGardener/Pages/Handbook.asp>

Our next Zoom meeting will be June 2nd and will be focused on mentoring in the local group.

I look forward to seeing many of you in the coming weeks and, always, let me know if there is anything I can do to support your excellent efforts across the state!

Sincerely,
Natalie

Great time to clean up your garden tools

Prepping for spring gardening gives you the perfect excuse to hang out in the shop and get all your tools ready for the season. Use boiled linseed oil to treat and protect wood handles, and



use a wire brush to clean any rust from the metal parts. Clean any tools that have moving parts by using turpentine and then denatured alcohol to get rid of the turpentine residue. Finally, use a file to sharpen any blades, and grease or oil any moving parts to keep them working their best.

Colin Payne
Popular Mechanics
March 2014