

BRADLEY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS



October 2015 Newsletter

BRADLEY COUNTY
UT EXTENSION
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.

2015 Officers

Bradley County Extension Agent
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Project Coordinators,
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Historian, Ricky Tallent
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Next meeting: November 5

Bradley County Master Gardeners greet dozens of festival goers over two gorgeous days at the Cleveland Apple Festival

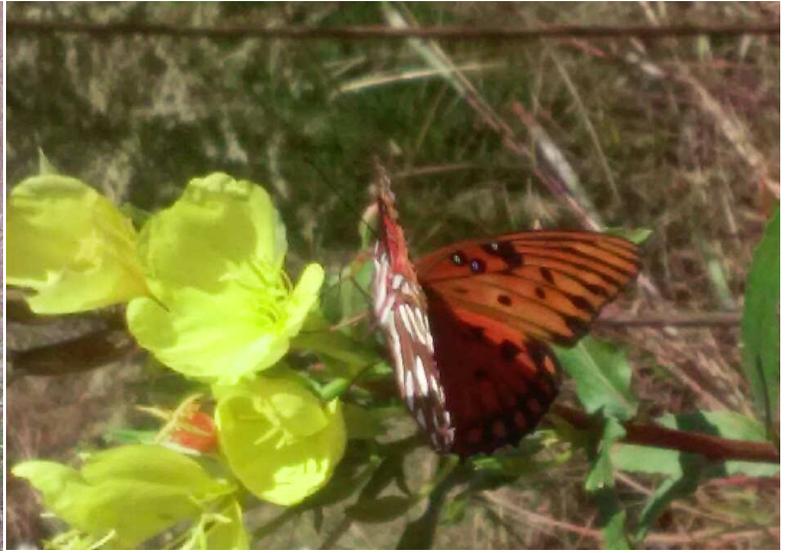


Fifteen BCMG volunteers worked behind the scenes and in the booth during the Cleveland Apple Festival, held October 17-18 in downtown Cleveland. Booth traffic was steady as festival-goers stopped by to ask questions and to pick up information on everything from pollinators and earthworms to becoming a Master Gardener. In fact, some 27 people signed up to receive information on the next Master Gardener class.

Pictured, clockwise: Jerry Eppinga, left, answers a variety of questions. Stacie Campbell-Eckhoff, left, talks with Phyllis Tilden about pollinators, as Linda Merritt prepares to give a talk on the subject. From left, Patrick Sweatt, Arleen McAree, Stacie Campbell-Eckhoff and Alice Yarber take a breather after opening the booth on Saturday. Julie Halsey, right, tackles gardening questions, as Faith Sharp listens in.



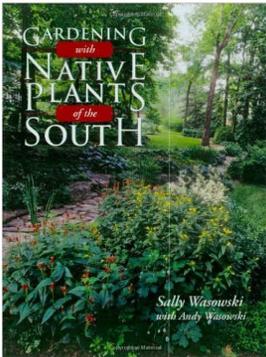
Speaking of natives...



Fall flowers are a great source of food for our local and migrating pollinator friends. Leaving stands of wildflowers and grasses through the fall and winter are a way you can help provide food and shelter for the eggs, caterpillars or overwintering insects. Some of our native butterflies lay their eggs in the hollow stalks of grasses and flower stems. The overwintering birds will thank you, too. Refrain from mowing these areas until mid to late April to ensure the eggs and caterpillars have had a chance to develop and move on.

Interested in “going native”?

Here’s a suggested reading:



Gardening with Native Plants of the South, Sally Wasowski with Andy Wasowski

“Landscape designer Sally Wasowski offers an exciting vision of the many possibilities and advantages of ‘going native.’ Lavishly illustrated with more than 250 gorgeous color photographs, her book is both an introduction to more than 200 of the most familiar and easiest to find native plants of the South and a basic primer on how to use them effectively.”

Volunteer and CEU Opportunities

Opportunities for volunteer hours and CEUs are winding down for the fall and winter but will kick back in after the first of the year. If something comes up, we’ll let you know either in this space or via email or both.

It’s been a great year, with a great new crop of interns getting involved and making an impact in our community.

Facts from Faith: More Fall Tips

Take advantage of the great fall weather for many outdoor chores.

Pruning:

- When it comes to pruning, it’s best to wait until the frost causes your plant to die back. Prune woody plants after they go dormant; pruning now will inhibit new growth.
- You may want to leave some Echinaceae, Rudbeckia and Aster seed heads for birds to munch on.

Cleaning

- Fall is a good time to take care of areas that may need a bit of cleaning or clearing. And don’t forget to remove summer annuals if you haven’t already done so.
- Clean and sharpen tools and pruners .
- Clean and store plant cages and stakes.
- Don't forget to clean those containers, too.

Planting

- Now is also a great time to plant fall bulbs. Feed bulbs with Bone meal or a good Bulb fertilizer with a higher phosphorus content (10-25-10) .
- It is also a good time to tuck garlic bulbs into the garden.

Faith Sharp, President, BCMG, Master Gardener