



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.

2016 Officers

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Next meeting: June 2, 2016

**Speaker: Angel Miller,
Two Angels Mushroom Farm**

Ask a Master Gardener Day: Wet and Still Wonderful



A rain soaked afternoon couldn't dampen the spirits of Master Gardeners and interns at "Ask a Master Gardener Day" at Elder's Ace Hardware, April 30. Despite the rain it was a good day filled with helping folks decide what plants to buy and answering their gardening questions. Pictured, l-r, Armen Epperson, Dave Hopper, Linda Merritt, Melody Savio, Judy Stifler, Nancy Hoffman, Kay Cox, Wanda Nord.



Message from Johnnie

Hello everyone! Hope you all are enjoying this beautiful weather and have been able to get outside & work on your garden or flowers.

We were fortunate to have Dr. Tom Samples of UT speak to our Master Gardener Class on Turf and the organization was invited to attend. We had a great group and we all learned a lot. Thanks to Kim for having Dr. Samples speak to us.

Our Master Gardener Class is about to wrap up with our last class on May 19 with graduation to follow. It has been a great class and we are looking forward to having these new interns join our organization. This year Jerry Eppinga is having the new class do presentations on different subjects and these have been great. Thanks, Jerry, this is a great idea.

Erma Brewer came last week and gave tomato plants to everyone. Thanks, Bradley High Ag Department. Don't forget you can purchase plants from Bradley High Greenhouse M-F 9-3 and Saturday 9-noon.

Remember, you can still come out and volunteer with our Junior Master Gardener Program, just contact Robin Ramsey or Leslie Humberd. We are getting veggies planted and we always have weeding to do. Thanks to everyone who is helping is this.

We had a great week hiking and seeing wildflowers. This year we found more Yellow Lady Slippers than ever, here is one for you to check out, hope you enjoy,

Our next Master Gardener Meeting will be June 2, hope to see you all there.



*Johnnie Arnett, President BCMG
Master Gardener*

Volunteer and CEU Opportunities

Volunteer opportunities

- ◆ **Junior Master Gardener Project Assistants Needed, Tuesdays, 5:30-7:30 p.m.**

The Junior Master Gardeners' Program is an alternative sentencing option for youth between the ages of 13 and 17 who find themselves in trouble with the court system. The goals of this project are to teach the students many facets of gardening while providing positive learning with hands-on experiences. Volunteers help monitor the classroom progress and when outside teach gardening skills to the students. Contact Robin Ramsey, 4-H Agent and JMG Liaison at rramsey3@utk.edu or 423-728-7001.

Continuing Education Opportunities

- ◆ Coming up at Ooltewah Nursery:
 - Hostas & Other Shade Plants, May 21, 9:00 a.m.**
 - Plant an Herb Garden, May 28, 10 a.m.**
 - Build A Fairy Garden, June 4 or June 11, 10 a.m.**
 Please note: There is no fee for the Fairy Garden workshop, but reservations are required and you will have to purchase some supplies. Call 423-238-9775 by May 23.
- ◆ Coming up at Tennessee River Seed Library Organic Gardening Workshops
 - Organic Answers & IPM, June 14**
 Workshops are led by Troy Teets of Spring Creek Veggies and take place 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. at the E.G. Fisher Library Community Room, Athens.
- ◆ **Volunteer Gardener, 10:00am Saturday mornings, PBS**
This half-hour program features different gardening techniques each week.



Students of the current Master Gardener class receive tomato plants from Master Gardener Erma Brewer, donated by Bradley Central High School greenhouse. The greenhouse has lots of plants for sale; be sure to go check it out. Proceeds from sales go to support the BCHS Agriculture Department. Pictured, l-r, class member ,Tim Leffew; his son, Johnny; Erma Brewer.

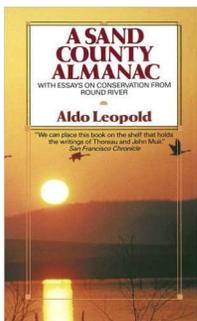
Gardening for Pollinators



Pollinators are such an important part of our ecosystem. Pollinators include many different species: bees of all kinds, butterflies, moths, hummingbirds and even a few small animals. When planning your garden, find a sunny location with some wind protection if possible. In order to appeal to local and migrating pollinators, choose plants with a range of flower colors, heights, textures (shrubs, grasses) and a variety of bloom times. Using a mix of natives and non-natives is okay. This will offer the nectar, pollen and shelter they need throughout the three seasons. Planting like colors in groups will be sure to catch the pollinator's eye. To attract and offer host plants for Monarch Butterflies, you will need to plant native milkweed. Also consider a water source, a shallow bowl with small rocks or marbles. This will keep them from drowning!

Remember, if you need to use pesticides in and around your gardens, read the label, don't spray the blooms and only spray in the early morning or at dusk. This will help ensure you don't hurt your pollinators.

A couple good websites for more information:
www.xerces.org/pollinator-resource-center
www.pollinators.org



Interested in thoughts on an ecological conscience? Here's a suggested reading: A Sand County Almanac, Aldo Leopold

Widely cited as one of the most influential nature books ever published, these verbal portraits of the natural world explore the breathtaking diversity of the unspoiled American landscape. A stunning tribute to our land and a bold challenge to protect the world we love.