

BRADLEY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS



October 2016 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.

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Next meeting:

Nov. 3, 2016. 6:00 pm

Speaker: Sally Wencel



Volunteers enjoyed a gorgeous weekend as they fielded gardening questions from visitors to the Cleveland Apple Festival. We had 20 people sign up for next year's Master Gardener class! Pictured, l-r: Matthew Thayer, Nancy Hoffman, Ginger Cloud, Julie Halsey, Armen Epperson, Linda Sneed, Jackie Westfield, Kay Cox and Ernie Eppinga.



Message from Johnnie

Hello everyone,

We had a great October meeting at Black Fox Farms, hosted by Joe and Ellen Washington. Our participation in the 2016 Cleveland Apple Festival was another success and thank you to all who participated.

The search committee is now working on nominating some of the officers for the coming year. If they contact you, please seriously consider becoming an officer. We need you to help with our organization.

Our next meeting will be held at the Bradley County UT Extension offices on November 3. We are very fortunate to have Sally Wencel as our guest speaker. Sally is a Master Gardener of Hamilton County (2009) who in 2010, with two master gardener colleagues, launched the Chattanooga Native Plant and Wildflower Group. In 2012, the group was chartered as the Tennessee Valley Chapter of Wild Ones, the first chapter of this national natural landscaping organization in the Southeast. She served as chapter Vice President (2012-2013, 2015), President (2014), and is currently the Program Manager for the Certificate in Native Plants, and Vice-President of the Wild Ones National Board. She is a Landscape for Life (Sustainable Sites Initiative™ program) Trainer and native plant educator and advocate.

In addition to her service with the Wild Ones, Sally is on the Board of Friends of the Cumberland Trail and is the Nursery Manager for Trailhead Nursery in Lone Oak, TN, a restoration and native plant nursery. She is also a member of the City of Chattanooga Tree Commission (2012) and served as Vice Chair (2013) and Chairperson (2014-2016).

I hope to see you at our next meeting,

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., August 23 - November 22**

The Jr. Master Gardener Project is a cooperative project with the Bradley County Juvenile Court and BCMG Volunteers. Participants in the 13-session program are middle school age students who have been referred to the court for minor offenses and that the court feels would benefit from an intervention program. Students learn basic soil and plant science with both lecture and hands-on instruction.

Assistants will work directly with students to reinforce instruction as well as mentor students in basic gardening activities and are expected to be a positive influence on students and maintain confidentiality.

For more information contact Robin Ramsey, 4-H Agent and JMG Liaison at rramsey3@utk.edu or 423-728-7001 or Leslie Humberd at lsumberlandpersonal@gmail.com.

Continuing Education Opportunities

- ◆ **Volunteer Gardener, 10:00am Saturday mornings, PBS**
This half-hour program features different gardening techniques each week.



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

Leave the Leaves for Wildlife



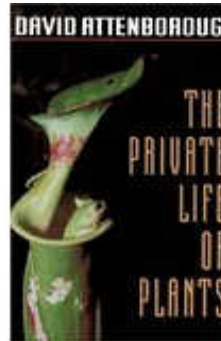
With fall finally here the desire to clean up all the leaf litter and dying debris in our yards and gardens is hard to resist. However, leaving the leaves and smaller debris is a great way to give our smaller wildlife a safe, dry place to over winter.

Many butterflies in adult, chrysalis and egg form need this to survive the cold. If you remove all the leaves you may be throwing away next year's butterflies! Most of these have already taken up residents in the leaf litter.

Our native bees also use the leaf litter, as well as hollow stems of dormant Bee Balm and grasses. Turtles and toads also seek refuge in piles of leaves. By raking, shredding, burning leaves and cutting down spent stems on plants and grasses you are essentially removing critical winter habitat.

If you must remove, try and find an out of the way place you can leave small piles. You can also put the leaf litter around shrubs and in empty gardens. It's great mulch and will still be available for the smallest of our wildlife.

Linda Merritt
Master Gardener



Interested in what plants do when you're not looking? Here's a recommended book:

The Private Life of Plants,
David Attenborough

"An intimate view of the natural world wherein a multitude of miniature dramas unfold. "Based on a mid-90s BBC program of the same title, "Attenborough treks through rainforests, mountain ranges, deserts, beaches, and home gardens to show us things we might never have suspected about the vegetation that surrounds us. With their extraordinary sensibility, plants compete endlessly for survival and interact with animals and insects: they can see, count, communicate, adjust position, strike, and capture.."

The best thing one can do when it's raining is to let it rain.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Let it rain! Let it rain. Let it rain. Please let it rain!

Everyone reading this