

Bradley
County Master
Gardeners
December 2018
Newsletter



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2018 Officers

Bradley County Extension Agent
Kim Frady

President, Jerry Eppinga

Co Vice President, Dianne Hadorn

Co Vice President, Matt Thayer

Secretary, Julie Halsey

Treasurer, Linda Merritt

Membership Administrator,
Johnnie Arnett

Project Coordinators,
Kay Cox & Jackie Westfield

Historian, Armen Epperson



CHRISTMAS PARTY

Master Gardeners and guests enjoyed each other's company and fellowship during the annual Christmas party. Once again, the Johnsons opened their lovely home to our group. The evening was a wonderful reflection of the beauty and spirit of the season. There were several interns receiving their green badges, becoming official Master Gardeners! We also celebrated the many years of good works and sound leadership provided to our group from Kim Frady. Kim will be retiring at the end of the month and will be greatly missed. His support of our program and vast knowledge of agriculture has benefitted our Master Gardeners and countless students. We all wish him the best in his retirement!

BCMG is an educational outreach program of the University of Tennessee Extension Institute of Agriculture.

Jerry's Garden



HEARTFELT THANKS



It is the end of the year and I have many thanks to express! First of all, thank you fellow Master Gardeners for putting your trust in me to lead this amazing organization for the past year. It has been a complete pleasure, and challenge, and lots of fun. I am looking forward to 2019.

On to more thanks, thanks to Beverly Johnson for hosting our awesome Christmas party again this year! The food was delicious so thanks to Beverly and everyone for bringing their favorite dishes. It was an evening of thanks to all the officers who have served so faithfully this past year, and thanks to all who have put in so many volunteer hours in 2018! Many pins and certificates were awarded. Thanks to the interns who now have their green badges! We are so proud of you for your outstanding volunteering in the last year. We are looking forward to seeing more of our 2018 class interns get their green badges in May. We surprised Kim Frady with our thanks for his leadership that has carried forth the organization since the beginning. We are going to miss him when he retires! There was a bit of reminiscing between Johnnie Arnett and Kim about the beginning of BCMG and all the classes they have shared; so fun to look back and then see how far we have come. Marcia Thayer made an awesome cake for Kim as well.

Finally, Johnnie, Joyce Brinkmeyer and I went to a workshop in Knoxville last week along with other Master Gardeners from the eastern region. This was a day of talking about the connection between the required hours and the personal and community impact those hours engender. We all had a chance to reflect on what being a Master Gardener means to us. I hope each of you will take the time to reflect on this during this month and come back in January ready to have the best year yet! I will talk about this a bit more at the January meeting.

Happy Holidays!

Jerry



4H GARDEN CLUB

In the third month of the collaboration between the Bradley County Master Gardeners and Bradley County 4H, club members were introduced to seasonality and herb gardening. Pam Balog and special guest, Master Gardener, Jerry Eppinga talked to children about the importance of understanding warm season versus cool season crops. An illustration of the local frost table was handed out and kids learned that all plants from flowers to vegetables, herbs and grasses need to be planted according to their seasonality preferences. Children were then able to select and plant herbs to grow from seed packs. Next month's club will learn about fruit trees, shrubs and have a pruning activity.



Pictured: Dave Hopper & Jackie Westfield seated - Kay Cox, background



CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE - MUSEUM CENTER AT 5 POINTS

Master Gardeners set up an information booth during the annual Christmas Open House at the Museum at 5Points. Patrons and shoppers had the opportunity to ask gardening questions and sign up for the next Master Gardener class offering.



GREEN BADGES!

Congratulations to our newest Master Gardeners! Green Master Gardener badges were handed out during our December meeting/Christmas party. The following interns have met all the education and volunteer hour requirements and were awarded their badges: Pam Balog, Christina Moss, Kin Hum, Joy Cruz, Paul Burke, Julie Crawford and Marcia Thayer.

Master Gardeners with 100+ hours as of the December meeting:

100+ - Anita Bailey, Pam Balog, Joyce Brinkmeyer, Jim Brinkmeyer, Stacie Campbell-Eckhoff, Ernie Eppinga, Dave Hopper, Arlene McAree, Christine Moss, Tiffany Pendergrass, Jackie Westfield.

200+ - Kay Cox, Dianne Hadorn, Linda Merritt, Celia Shaneyfelt.

300+ - Johnnie Arnett, Phyllis Tilden.

500+ - Jerry Eppinga

Next Meeting:
January 3, 2019 at 6pm

Speakers:
Dianne Hadron – Sharing her vegetable gardening experiences

Johnnie Arnett – Native Plants



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Ocoee Whitewater restoration project

In the planning stages. Volunteers will be needed to help clean out and replant beds and other restoration activities. Contact Celia for more information.

Museum Center at 5 Points renovation project

Volunteers are needed for the ongoing cleanup and restoration project at the museum. Contact Johnnie Arnett, jarnette68@charter.net



CONTINUING EDUCATION

Native plant Certification program, Wild Ones

You don't need to be working toward certification to take classes. The Certificate in Native Plants program is designed to expand student's knowledge of Botany, ecology, conservation, and uses of native flora in the SE United States. Registration is limited and is now open. For more information, Tennesseevalley.wildones.org

Volunteer Gardener on PBS

Produced by Nashville Public Television, Volunteer Gardener features local experts who share gardening advice, landscape design tips, and environmentally conscious farming practices. We visit with growers, plant collectors, and hobbyists alike who share insight and experience. Aired Thursday nights at 7:30 and Sunday mornings at 9:30 on NPT, channel varies by location. Episodes available to stream on the PBS website, pbs.org

UTHort

The UTHort website is devoted to providing high-quality, research-based residential and consumer horticulture information to Tennesseans. If you still need to earn CEUs, the site provides a wealth of educational resources to read & learn. To access the site, visit UTHort.com



CALL TO ACTION

UT Gardens, Knoxville Sedums to Share?



Are your hens and chicks spilling over their container? Would you like to share your garden wealth with us? We are looking for donations for a spring project. Hardy sempervivums aka Hens and Chicks of any size would be much appreciated as well as starts of any VERY small, hardy ground cover. We will be collecting plants through the end of January 2019. Please bring your donations to the South Greenhouse head house with a note indicating their variety if known. If you have a large donation and/or require assistance please contact Holly Jones or James Newburn at 974-7256. As always, thanks for your support!

Our 2019 Master Gardener Class will start on January 15, if you know someone who has said they are interested have them email Johnnie Arnett at: jarnette68@charter.net or call the UT Extension office at 718-7001. We would love to have them in our class!

