



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

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Next meeting: August 6

Congratulations, Master Gardener Class of 2015!



The 2015 Master Gardener Class wrapped up with a graduation dinner, June 8, along with many proud family members there to share the celebration. Pictured, 1st Row left to right: Brianne Yancy, Judy Stifler, Sandy Farlow, Amy Banks, Alice Yarber, Jean Bramlett, Jerry Eppinga, Kay Cox. 2nd Row left to right: Ginger Cloud, Erma Brewer, Stacie Campbell-Eckhoff, Amy Payne, Eva VanHook (a bit hidden), Marie Rich, Jackie Westfield. 3rd Row left to right: Tim Payne, Dana Vitte-Herne, John Bramlett, Arlene McAree, Ernie Eppinga. Not Pictured: Bryce Bramlett, Gerald Crawford, Gary Farlow, Carolyn Harris, Kristie Mantooth, Dennis Mitchell, Cable Rich.

Congratulations to the 2015 Master Gardener Interns. This has been a wonderful class and I have enjoyed working with them, and more importantly, I look forward to working with them in our Master Gardener Organization. Several of our new interns have already begun working on their volunteer hours and their CEUs. I have high expectations for this class and feel they will be a great addition to our group. So on behalf of our "seasoned" members, let me say welcome aboard.

Thanks to Kim and all our speakers for another great Master Gardener Class and to all of our Master Gardener volunteers for helping each week.

Johnnie Arnett, BCMG Membership Administrator, Master Gardener

Patrick Says Keep an eye out for warm weather culprits

The summer weather means that we're seeing all the usual warm-season culprits... Fungal diseases on vegetables, daily afternoon downpours, and a bumper mosquito crop. No one ever said that gardening was easy! I hope that everyone is taking advantage of the cooler mornings to get outside and get their watering done early, and is paying special attention to early signs of downy mildew on cucurbit crops... The word from Nashville is that this is going to be a big year for this fungus in particular. I'd like to say a big 'Welcome!' to our new Master Gardener interns who just graduated, and as always, volunteers are always welcome at the Greenway Table on Monday afternoons!

*Patrick Sweatt,
Agricultural Extension Agent*



Volunteer and CEU Opportunities

Volunteer opportunities

◆ Mondays, 4:00-7:00 p.m. Greenway Table

Barring bad weather, you can help educate the community, plus weed, water and more for rest of season. Contact Patrick Sweatt at psweatt@utk.edu



Here's a peek at one of the raised beds at the Greenway Table demonstration garden. It's planted with some Park's Whopper tomatoes and a couple watermelons. Because the bed was constructed from railroad ties, a plastic liner was used to keep the creosote from leaching into the soil.

According to Patrick, "We had what looked like some early blight on one tomato plant, but we quickly pulled it out and have kept a careful eye on the remaining plants." This is the kind of activity that

Patrick needs help with at the garden. You can get volunteer hours and learn a lot in the process.

Continuing Education Opportunities

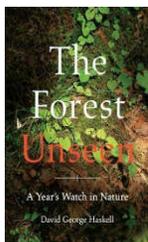
◆ Straw bale gardening webinars with Joel Karsten

Visit www.strawbalegardens.com to check for dates of the next webinar.

If you'd like to purchase "Tennessee Master Gardener" items, here's a link to check out. There aren't many items available, but some of you may be interested in them.

https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610_ustores/web/store_cat.jsp?STOREID=4&CATID=57

Dave Hopper, Master Gardener



Interested in interconnectedness? Here's a suggested reading: *The Forest Unseen A Year's watch in Nature*, by David G. Haskell.

"Haskell leads the reader into a new genre of nature writing, located between science and poetry, in which the invisible appear, the small grow large, and the immense complexity and beauty of life are more clearly revealed, thru only a single square meter of the Cumberland Plateau old growth forest".



We had 10 people from Bradley County attend the Master Gardener Day at UT Gardens on Saturday for the Eastern Region. It was a great day spent with friends. Pictured, left - right, Alice Yarber, Julie Halsey, Jim Laub, Johnnie Arnett, Angie Rapier, Phyllis Tilden, Linda Merritt, Bruce Tilden, Nancy Hoffman. Ricky Tallent was also there, but apparently had already wandered off, eager to see UT's new hosta garden before its upcoming grand opening!

Facts from Faith:

Battling Japanese Beetles

To win the battle, smart planting choices would be best: fewer Roses, Purple Leaf Plums and Japanese Maples which may attract them. But since they are here...

Simple natural controls for Japanese Beetles, early in the morning they will be sluggish and less active, shake trees and place fallen beetles in bucket of soapy water. A natural spray is Bt. Bacillus thuringiensis, a bacteria that is sprayed on the ground to disrupt the grubs' feeding habits. This is similar to the Milky Spore treatment, killing larval stage of grubs. One other option for natural controls is a beneficial nematode *Heterorhabditis*. We do not recommend Pheromone traps, which may draw more into your yard.

Faith Sharp, President, BCMG, Master Gardener

Kim's Corner



CANNERY UPDATE

Did you know Bradley County has a Cannery? We have one at the William Hale Agricultural Center on Peerless Road where we have the Farmer's Market. You can take your fruits and vegetables, glass jars, lids and other ingredients you want to add and process your canned foods at the Cannery. It is for Bradley County residents and there is no charge for using the facility. We are currently having the steam boiler inspected and will be in operation in the next couple of weeks.

If you are interested in using the facility or learning to preserve food by canning, we have information on the process involved. Just give us a call!

Kim Frady, Bradley County Extension Agent