

BRADLEY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS



February 2016 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.



Message from Johnnie

Thank you to everyone that came out to our meeting February 4th. It was really great; 26 members were in attendance. We want to encourage everyone to come to the meetings and be involved in this great organization. We are off to a great start. The 2016 Master Gardener Class started on February 11 and right now we have 19 class members. Class mentors are in place and we are really excited that everyone in the class will be assigned a mentor. We are hopeful the mentoring program will help retain these interns in our Master Gardener Organization. Thank you, Jerry & Ernie Eppinga, for organizing this program.

If you have not looked at the UT Master Gardeners website regarding the Eastern Region Master Gardener Conference, in Knoxville this year, please check it out. For the first time this is being held in our back yard, and we would love to have a great turn out from Bradley County MG. This year it is a three-day event with the first day devoted to the Junior Master Gardener Program. So check that out on the website and let us know if you plan to attend. Carpooling to this event is being planned, so don't delay letting us know.

I hope you all are getting those seed catalogs out and picking out what you want to plant this year. Patrick mentioned at our last meeting if any of us is trying something different with our gardens. Ron and I are putting in new raised beds. I will try my hand at beets this year, hopefully will have enough to can.

Get those catalogs out, sit down with some hot coffee or cocoa and dream of warmer weather and playing in the dirt. See you at our March meeting.

*Johnnie Arnett, President BCMG
Master Gardener*

2016 Officers

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Secretary, Linda Merritt
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Treasurer, Steve Humbert

Membership Administrators
Jerry and Ernie Eppinga
jerryann66@gmail.com

Project Coordinators,
Bruce and Phyllis Tilden
phyllis@uncommonink.com

Historian, Alice Yarber
alicesaylorarber@yahoo.com

Next meeting: March 3, 2016

Patrick Says

Happy Soil Sampling!

Sometimes we joke in Extension that the first agent ever must have started his job by telling everyone in his county to get a soil test and that this is a proud tradition we carry on today. So let's assume that you have gotten your soil tested, and received your results- what now? Reading the test results isn't really tricky, but sometimes when people are confronted with the list of abbreviations and numbers, they feel that they are looking more at a tax document than at something designed to help them garden!

Luckily, we have some tools to help explain this! Looking at the graphic, you'll see the 'Water pH' first, which is the actual acidity of your soil, followed by the 'Buffer Value', which simply represents the pH that you will want to achieve. Some of you will notice that the element Nitrogen is not listed at the top, and that is because it is referred to later on the test results along with advice for how much and what kind of fertilizer to use.

*Patrick Sweatt
Agricultural Extension Agent*

Mehlich 1 SOIL TEST RESULTS and RATINGS*									
(Pounds Per Acre)									
Sample	Water pH	Buffer Value	P Phosphorus	K Potassium	Ca Calcium	Mg Magnesium	Zn Zinc	Cu Copper	
B1	5.8	7.7	28	M	190	H	1257	S	64 + S

Actual laboratory test results from your soil sample reported in pounds per acre. Ratings to the right of each result are L (low), M (medium), H (high), and VH (very high). Secondary nutrients are rated S (sufficient) or D (deficient). Fertilizer recommendations are developed from this information.

Buffer Value is reported when the Water pH is too low or a lime recommendation is indicated. This value is a tool to help provide a lime recommendation suitable for your soil.

Volunteer and CEU Opportunities

Volunteer opportunities

- ◆ **2016 Master Gardener Class**
Our new Master Gardener Class began Thursday, February 11, at 6:00 p.m. We are starting a Mentoring Program with our new students. If you are interested in becoming a mentor for our "Budding Master Gardeners," contact Jerry Eppinga at jerryann66@gmail.com.
- ◆ **February/March Education Classes at Library**
We're exploring the possibility of holding some short courses at the Cleveland Public Library. If you are interested in teaching a topic or helping out in some way, please contact Linda Merritt, clanofmany@aol.com.
- ◆ **Junior Master Gardener Project Assistants Needed, Tuesdays, 5:30-7:30 p.m., March 15-May 17**
The Jr. Master Gardener Project is a cooperative project with the Bradley County Juvenile Court and BCMG Volunteers. Participants in the 12-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. The students are hand-selected and class size is limited to around 12 students. 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.

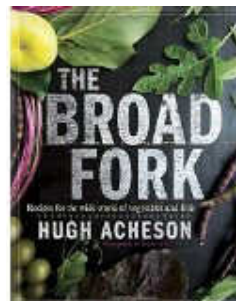
All volunteers working with minors on a regular basis must complete an application process which includes background check and child protection training. For more information contact Robin Ramsey, 4-H Agent and JMG Liaison at r Ramsey3@utk.edu or 423-728-7001.
- ◆ **Crabtree Farms, wide range of volunteer opportunities**
Opportunities exist for a variety of levels of skill and physical ability. Orientation session scheduled for Feb. 24, March 8, 10:00-11:00 a.m. Call 423-493-9155 x17.
- ◆ **April 11 Cleveland State Community College All About the Green Day, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**
Come help educate the community about the environment, promote the Master Gardener organization and answer gardening questions. Contact Phyllis Tilden, phyllis@uncommonink.com



Apologies to Ernie Eppinga, for leaving him off the new officer list in last month's newsletter. Ernie is co-Membership Administrator with his wife, Jerry. Thanks, Ernie!

Continuing Education Opportunities

- ◆ **February 27 A Day of Gardening**
TFGC District III Garden Clubs, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, East Ridge, TN. 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. \$20. 423-618-4244. Registration form attached.
- ◆ **March 5 Wild Ones Annual Native Plant Symposium**
University of Tennessee Chattanooga, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Fees dependent upon Wild Ones membership. www.tennesseevalley.wildones.org
- ◆ **March 17-19 Tennessee MG State Conference** (formerly "Winter School")
A three-day conference filled with horticultural and educational sessions and workshops and a focus on the UT Gardens. Registration forms attached to this newsletter. If you are interested in going and would like to be put on a contact list to carpool, share hotel room, etc., please contact Linda Merritt, 423-599-1313 or clanofmany@aol.com.
- ◆ **Ready to Garden Workshop, Part 1, March 19, 2016 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. EST, Crabtree Farms**
Topics include: Soil testing and interpreting your results, fertilizing, understanding soil pH, prepping your garden beds, and planning your garden. Register by calling 423-493-9155, x10, by emailing mtalley@crabtreefarms.org \$10 for non-members.
- ◆ **Growing Vegetables in Containers Workshop, March 19 1:00—3:00 p.m. EST, Crabtree Farms**
Topics include selecting the best containers to use, choosing a location and potting mix, watering and which veggies grow best in containers. Register by calling 423-493-9155, x 10 or by emailing mtalley@crabtreefarms.org \$10 for non-members.
- ◆ **Volunteer Gardener, 10:00am Saturday mornings, PBS**
This half-hour program features different gardening techniques each week.



Interested in farm-to-your-own-table?

Here's a recommended cookbook:

The Broad Fork, Recipes for the Wide World of Vegetables and Fruits, Hugh Acheson.

This vegetable-centric guide to seasonal offerings shares 200 ways to "get friendly with your produce so you can cook and shop happily." Better yet, it's written from the vantage point of nearby Athens, Georgia.



A DAY OF GARDENING

Presented by
T.F.G.C. District III Garden Clubs

February 27, 2016, SATURDAY

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
822 Belvoir Avenue, East Ridge, TN, 37412**

9:30 A.M.-2:30 P.M.

Cost: \$20 before February 20, \$25 at the door

SCHEDULE

Registration:	9:30-10:00
Class I:	10:00-10:50
Class II:	11:00-11:50
Lunch/Speaker:	12:00-1:20
Class III:	1:30-2:20



Join us for classes on various aspects of gardening. There will be several topics to choose from during each class time.

Even though the weather is chilly, our home-made soups will warm you up. Registrants will be limited to the first 125 people. For questions: crymer46@gmail.com / 423.618.4244

*****Pre-Registration Form*****

Please make checks payable to T.F.G.C. District III. Put Day of Gardening on the 'For' line.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail Address (for confirmation of receipt) _____

Mail to: Marilyn Smith
279 Pine Hollow Road
Dayton, TN 37321

2016 University of Tennessee Extension State Master Gardener Conference

Knoxville, TN, March 17th, 18th, 19th

Hosted by the Sevier County Master Gardeners

Full conference schedule and information available at:

<https://extension.tennessee.edu/MasterGardener/Pages/default.aspx>

Registration

Pre-register by completing the following form and returning the appropriate registration fees by March 2. Late registrations will not have guaranteed meals or materials.

Fees

Registration Deadline: March 2, 2016

Fees: \$100 for all three days, \$30 for March 17th JMG training, \$50 for single day (18th or 19th), \$80 for both days (18th and 19th)

After March 2, Fees rise to \$110 for all three days, \$30 for March 17th JMG training, \$50 for single day (18th or 19th), \$90 for both days (18th and 19th)

Meals during conference are included in registration. Please note special dietary needs.



A. By mail: Send registration forms and checks payable to *University of Tennessee* to:

Attn: Sandy Kitts

TEMG Conference Registration

2431 Joe Johnson Drive

252 Ellington Plant Science Building

Knoxville, TN 37996-4561

B. Online:

https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=415

Questions? Contact (865) 974-7324

Directions to UTIA Campus

Hollingsworth Auditorium

2431 Joe Johnson Drive

Knoxville, TN 37996

From Memphis/Nashville/Chattanooga: Exit 386 from I-40. At first light, take L on Neyland Dr. At second light, take L on Joe Johnson drive. Parking will be R at the first light.

From Bristol: Exit 386 from I-40. At first light, take L on Neyland Dr. At first light, take L on Joe Johnson drive. Parking will be R at the first light.

Lodging

Be sure to observe the cutoff dates for conference rates listed below and use the group codes to receive our group and state discount.

Hilton, \$88.00/night (Double)

501 W. Church Ave

Knoxville, TN 37902

(865) 523-2300

Group Code: TEMGS (Reserve by March 2nd)

Holiday Inn, Worlds Fair Park, \$90 (Double)

525 Henley Street

Knoxville, TN 37902

Group code: MGC

(865) 522-2800 (Reserve by February 15th)

Please complete and mail the registration form for **arrival** by **March 2, 2016**.

Mail registration forms and checks to *University of Tennessee*:

Attn: Sandy Kitts, TEMG Conference Registration,
2431 Joe Johnson Drive, 252 Ellington PSB, Knoxville, TN 37996-4561

Participant information:

Name	
Email	
Phone	
County	
Address	
Special dietary needs	

Registration options:

Early Registration (before March 2 nd)	Select	Late Registration (after March 2 nd)	Select
Three day \$100 (17 th , 18 th , 19 th)		Three day \$110 (17 th , 18 th , 19 th)	
Two day conference \$80 (18 th , 19 th)		Two day conference \$90 (18 th , 19 th)	
Single JMG day \$30 (17 th)		Single JMG day \$30 (17 th)	
Single conference day \$50 (18 th)		Single conference day \$50 (18 th)	
Single conference day \$50 (19 th)		Single conference day \$50 (19 th)	
March 17th	Pre-conference tour of stadium and ETREC (free of charge up to 25 attendees)		

Conference participation information: (Please circle one session for each time slot)

March 18 th	General conference day				
Breakout 1 (10:45-11:40)	Assisting with questions	Social media	Leaders session	First timers session	Selecting the 'right' tree
Breakout 2 (1:00-1:50)	Grant writing (double session)	Technology tools (double session)	Organic small fruits	Soil management	
Breakout 3 (2:00-2:50)			Disease mgt. veggies	Rain gardens	Ornamentals
March 19 th	UT Gardens focus day				
Breakout 1 (9:30-10:15)	New plants	Garden photography	Best of 2015	Gardening as therapy	AAS program
Breakout 2 (10:45-11:20)	New plants	Garden photography	Best of 2015	Gardening as therapy	AAS program
Breakout 3 (11:30-12:15)	New plants	Garden photography	Best of 2015	Gardening as therapy	AAS program
Tour (2:00-3:00)	Conifers	Kitchen garden	Children's garden		

4 ft. Space Needed for Display Items (Name of Display) _____

Displays or scrapbooks of projects, programs, newsletters and other leadership ideas to share. A 4-foot space will be available to all who request space. Only one individual in a group should check box above for display.



**Junior Master Gardener Program Training
 Knoxville, TN, March 17th, 2016**

Held in conjunction with 2016 Tennessee Extension Master Gardener State Conference

Hosted by the Sevier County Master Gardeners

9:00-9:30	Registration
9:30-9:45	Welcome
9:45-10:30	JMG Program Overview – Why JMG? How program benefits kids, and how to start a program?
10:30-10:45	Break
10:45-11:30	JMG level 1 curriculum overview and hands on activities from curricula
11:30-12:20	JMG level 2 curriculum overview and hands on activities from curricula
12:30-1:30	Lunch (Welcomes from FCS and 4-H)
1:30-3:00	Learn, Grow, Eat, Go (LGEG) – overview and curricula components, how Extension and volunteers can be involved, working with schools, integrating gardening/health/nutrition through LGEG
3:00-3:15	Break
3:15-4:15	Breakout discussions for three types of JMG groups- community clubs, schools, camps
4:30-5:00	Panel discussion
6:30	Optional networking meeting at Holiday Inn World's Fair Park hotel conference room



This day-long training will be presented by the JMG National Coordinator, Lisa Whittlesey, from Texas A&M University with input from experience JMG leaders in Tennessee.

Location: University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture Campus
 156/157 Plant Biotech Building
 UTIA Campus - 2431 Joe Johnson Drive,
 Knoxville TN 37996

Directions to UTIA Campus

156/156 Plant Biotech Building
 2431 Joe Johnson Drive
 Knoxville, TN 37996

From Memphis/Nashville/Chattanooga: Exit 386 from I-40. At first light, take L on Neyland Dr. At second light, take L on Joe Johnson drive. Parking will be R at the first light.

From Bristol: Exit 386 from I-40. At first light, take L on Neyland Dr. At first light, take L on Joe Johnson drive. Parking will be R at the first light.

Please complete and mail the registration form for **arrival** by **March 2, 2016**.

Mail registration forms and checks to *University of Tennessee*:

Attn: Sandy Kitts, TEMG Conference Registration,
2431 Joe Johnson Drive, 252 Ellington PSB, Knoxville, TN 37996-4561

Participant information:

Name	
Email	
Phone	
County	
Address	
Special dietary needs	

Registration options:

Early Registration (before March 2 nd)	Select
Single JMG day \$30 (17 th)	