

# BRADLEY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS



March 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.

## 2016 Officers

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Project Coordinators,  
Bruce and Phyllis Tilden  
[phyllis@uncommonink.com](mailto:phyllis@uncommonink.com)

Historian

**Next meeting: April 7, 2016**  
**Speaker: Troy Teets**  
**Spring Creek Veggies, Riceville**



## Welcome to the class of 2016

The 2016 Master Gardener class got off to a great start on February 11, with 19 students beginning their internships. Several Master Gardeners were also on hand to provide mentoring and a chili supper to the new interns. The mentor program will continue throughout the durations of the class.



## Message from Johnnie

Hello everyone,

Spring is almost here, and I for one am very glad. Wildflowers are beginning to bloom and now is the perfect time to get out and go for a hike to see what you can find. I am looking forward to getting out in the woods to see what treasures are coming up.

Our master gardener class is going great. Our mentor program is also going very well. Thank you to our mentors, you are doing a great job with the new class.

Several of us are off to the Eastern Region Master Gardener Conference in Knoxville this week; Kim has told us that there are going to be some big changes announced. We will bring all the latest news back to our meeting on April 7, so see you all there.

*Johnnie Arnett, President BCMG  
Master Gardener*

## Patrick Says

### Get a jump on rosette virus

After the long drawn out wet spell that appears to have been the winter of 2015, it seems that Spring may finally have arrived this month. Indeed, the birds have reappeared, the daffodils are up and the office is flooded with questions about new bugs and diseases!

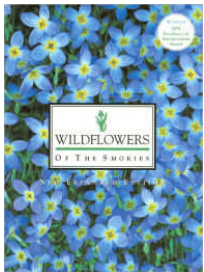
However, one insect that you won't see at this time of year is actually one that can have a serious impact on your roses. In recent years, microscopic mites have been floating in on the spring breezes to rose plants where they transmit the deadly rose rosette virus. They are attracted to the new spring growth especially, so this is a good time of year to use insecticidal soap or a spray-on miticide on your rose plants to stop their little airborne assaults.

*Patrick Sweatt  
Agricultural Extension Agent*

## Volunteer and CEU Opportunities

### Volunteer opportunities

- ◆ **2016 Master Gardener Class**  
Our new Master Gardener Class began Thursday, February 11, at 6:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Short courses at the Cleveland Public Library, 5:30 p.m.**  
*Tennessee/The Southeast's Native Plants, April 4*  
*Building Raised Beds, April 11*  
*Chickens in the Urban Garden, May 2*  
*Pollinators!, May 9*  
Come help facilitate one of these short courses, a community outreach of Bradley County's Agriculture Extension. Contact: Patrick Sweatt, [psweatt@utk.edu](mailto:psweatt@utk.edu).
- ◆ **Junior Master Gardener Project Assistants Needed, Tuesdays, 5:30-7:30 p.m.**  
A planning meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 24, 4:30 p.m., at the Extension Office. Anyone planning to help with the program is encouraged to attend.  
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](mailto:rramsey3@utk.edu) or 423-728-7001.
- ◆ **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](mailto:phyllis@uncommonink.com)



#### Interested in nearby wildflowers?

#### Here's a recommended field guide:

*Wildflowers of the Smokies, Peter White*

This pocket-sized field guide offers color photographs and descriptions of the Smoky Mountains' many wildflowers, including hiking trails where you can find them. Stick it in your backpack, lace up your boots, and take a hike!

### Continuing Education Opportunities

- ◆ **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. You should already be registered. If you would like to carpool, share hotel room, etc., please contact Linda Merritt, 423-599-1313 or [clanofmany@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:mtalley@crabtreefarms.org) \$10 for non-members.
- ◆ **Build a Shitake log workshop, March 26, 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m., Location TBA**  
Fee: \$45. Contact: [2AngelsMushrooms.com](http://2AngelsMushrooms.com).
- ◆ Coming up at Ooltewah Nursery:  
*Build a Trellis, March 19, 10:00 a.m.*  
*Fruit Trees & Small Fruits, March 26, 9:00 a.m.*  
*Kids in the Garden, March 30, 2:00 p.m.*  
*Straw bale gardening, March 31, 3:30 p.m.*  
*Straw bale gardening, April 2, 10:00 a.m.*
- ◆ **Intercropping Mushrooms and Veggies, April 9, Camp Jordan**  
This lecture is part of the annual Master Your Garden Expo. Contact: [2AngelsMushrooms.com](http://2AngelsMushrooms.com).
- ◆ **Master Your Garden Expo, April 9-10, 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. Camp Jordan Arena, East Ridge**  
Two days of seminars, workshops and family activities, sponsored by the Hamilton County Master Gardeners. This is a great thing to go to, lots of vendors and displays, plant sales and Lectures. Admission is \$5 for both days. <http://mghc.org/Garden-Expo/>
- ◆ **Landscaping for Pollinators, April 9, 9:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church, Ooltewah, TN**  
Preregistration is required. For more information: <http://www.earthcareonline.org/spring-workshop.html>