



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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Historian, Ricky Tallent
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Next meeting: April 2

BCMG accepts prestigious Golden Shovel award



Four Master Gardeners from our organization attended the Tennessee Master Gardener WINTER SCHOOL in Murfreesboro for a two day workshop. In addition to lectures, round table discussions and idea sharing, the Search for Excellence/Golden Shovel Award was presented. Deborah Flower spoke on behalf of the Bradley County Master Gardeners' Club who won the "Innovative Project" category. The project was named the Bradley County Juvenile Court/Junior Master Gardeners' Program. This is an alternative sentencing option for youth ages 13-17. The goals are to teach the students gardening skills while providing positive learning with hands-on experiences. When the students complete the course, their community service obligation is negated and the child "starts over" with a clean slate. Pictured (l-r) are Patrick Sweatt, Agricultural Extension Agent, Johnnie Arnett, Deborah Flower (holding the shovel) and David Flower, all Tennessee Master Gardeners.

Patrick Says

Get a jump on preventing pests and disease

The warming weather has us all thinking about Spring these days, and the calls and questions that we are getting are beginning to reflect that! We've already seen our first instances of aphid damage and are getting asked regularly about raised beds and garden plans. Now would be a great time to brush up on early season pest and disease prevention strategies for lawns and gardens for when you find yourself getting asked! Some early tips could include broadcasting a bait-formulated insecticide for early fire ant suppression and planning a garden rotation that rotates plant families (i.e. don't plant spring peas where you had peas last year!). We'll be putting on a couple of programs in April and May where we'll be looking for volunteers to help teach about vegetable gardening, so let us know that's you!

Patrick Sweatt, Agricultural Extension Agent



Volunteer and CEU Opportunities

There is a lot going on in the next few months and there will be several opportunities available to acquire volunteer and CEU hours.

Volunteer opportunities

- ◆ **March 28 Annual Hiwassee River Clean-up**
The event helps keep the Hiwassee River Corridor clean. Participants meet at the Ocoee/Hiwassee State Park Office at 9 a.m. 404 Spring Creek Rd, Delano.
- ◆ **April 4, 11, 18, 25 Come Grow With Us, WOOP 99.9, 9:00-10:00 a.m.**
Radio show to answer gardening questions from callers in the community. Contact Ricky Tallent, ricky.tallent.bcjc@gmail.com
- ◆ **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 Dave Hopper, dave.hopper@aol.com
- ◆ **Mondays 6-9pm Current Master Gardener Class**
Welcome, mentor and feed budding garden geeks. Contact: Johnnie Arnett, jarnett68@charter.net
- ◆ **Tuesdays 5:30-7:30 Junior Master Gardener Class**
Help monitor classroom progress and teach gardening skills to the students. Located at the Juvenile Court House on Johnson Ave. Contact: Leslie Humberd, lhumberd@bradleyschools.org

Continuing Education Opportunities

- ◆ **April 10 Trails & Trilliums**
Guided hikes, workshops, art show, very fun. www.trailsandtrilliums.org
- ◆ **April 10-11 Reflection Riding workshops & native plant sale, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**
reflectionriding.org
- ◆ **April 11-12 Master Your Garden Expo 10am - 6pm**
Hamilton County Master Gardeners, Camp Jordan, East Ridge. There will be four mini seminars per day available. 423-894-1103.
- ◆ **April 11-12 Crabtree Farms workshops & plant sale**
crabtreefarms.org

Kim's Corner

The new crop of MGs is growing well, thanks to all Master Gardeners who have attended, taught classes, brought food, or just been there to help. Also thanks to everyone who helped with the Explore Extension day at the Bradley Square mall. All extension personnel, thought it was a great success. Thank you to Linda Merritt and Phyllis Tilden for publishing the newsletter.

If you are planning on putting out a crab grass preventer, now is the time to do it. Once the forsythia starts to bloom it will be too late.

Kim Frady, Bradley County Extension Agent



Master Gardeners & Interns help educate others and themselves

Lots of BCMG members took advantage of opportunities to promote gardening as well as learn more about it during the last month. For example, pictured above left, Patrick Sweatt, (left) was joined by Intern Arleen McAree and Bee Keeper Ken Dale at Bradley Square Mall to help the community "Explore Extension." Above right, Julie Halsey (left) and Melody Savio learn more about ground covers at A Day of Gardening, sponsored by RFGC District III Garden Clubs.

Facts from Faith: Pruning Basics

Hydrangeas come in types that bloom on current season growth, paniculata flowers. Trim these before spring growth emerges, or after fall blooms are finished. Most newer varieties bloom on old and new growth so they can be pruned with less fear of losing blooms; the later you wait the more likely you are to lose blooms. Deciduous climbers and shrubs, if they flower after mid summer, prune in spring. Those that bloom in winter, early spring or early summer, prune after blooming.

When pruning young trees focus on structure, central leader, remove only damaged or crossing branches. You will want to check for damaged or diseased branches

Always choose clean sharp tools. Choosing the size tool for the diameter of the branches is important to avoid injury to the branches. Hand tools for smaller branches, loppers for larger and a saw may be needed. Cuts should be made at a 45-degree angle in the direction you wish to encourage new growth.

Faith Sharp, President, BCMG, Master Gardener

Interested in Native Plants? Here's a suggested reading:



Bringing Nature Home, Douglas Tallamy

A must-read. Articulates the interdependency of living relationships. It will change the way you see the garden around you.