

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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Membership Administrator, Johnnie Arnett
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Project Coordinators,
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Historian, Ricky Tallent
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Next meeting: March 5
Speaker: Mary Guthrie
The Care of Roses



Welcome to our first newsletter, launched to help keep Master Gardeners informed and in touch with each other

Welcome to the first edition of our Bradley County Master Gardeners newsletter! Our goal is to email this newsletter around the middle of each month, in order to communicate with our membership between monthly meetings. Each issue will include news about the club and its members, upcoming opportunities for Volunteer hours and CEU credits, gardening tips and more. We expect it to evolve and get better over time. If you have news, ideas, suggestions or compliments, email Linda Merritt at clanofmany@aol.com.



What's up with our members?

Pictured clockwise, Extension Agent, Kim Frady, left, calls on Jim Lob to swap out his orange "intern" name tag for the official Master Gardener green tag. Along with Jim, Daphne Sprayberry, D.J. Henderson and Bruce and Phyllis Tilden also achieved their green badge during the last few months to become certified Master Gardeners. Attendees of our February meeting were treated to a bit of media hubbub as WRCB TV came to document community activities of our own Beverly Johnson. Beverly, right, has been nominated for the Women of Distinction award, presented by the American Lung Association. The awards luncheon is scheduled for April 24.



Congratulations!

Bradley County Master Gardeners have been awarded the coveted annual Golden Shovel award from the Tennessee Master Gardeners, for our Junior Master Gardener Program. Deb Flowers, who heads up the program and authored the nomination, will be accepting the award February 27 during Winter School. More details next month. Way to go, Deb and all the volunteers that help with this great program!

Facts from Faith

When forsythia bloom in the spring is the time to prune roses. All varieties of rose benefit from pruning. Remove up to 1/3 of the plant, all but 5-7 of the healthiest canes, cutting to a 1/4 inch of an outward facing bud.

It's also good timing for crabgrass preventer and starting seeds indoors.

Happy gardening!

Faith Sharp, President, BCMG, Master Gardener

Volunteer and CEU Opportunities

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

Volunteer opportunities

◆ **February 24 Junior Master Gardener classes begin**

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.

Classes are held every Tuesday evening starting on February 24th, from 5:30-7:30, located at the Juvenile Court House on Johnson Ave. Volunteers can receive 24 hours credit toward certification for this 12-week project.

Contact: Leslie Humberd

lhumberd@bradleyschools.org

◆ **March 7-8 Explore Extension Services event**

See Kim's Corner below

◆ **April 11 Cleveland State Community College All About the Green Day**

Come help educate the community about the environment, promote the Master Gardener organization and answer gardening questions.

Contact: TBA

◆ **Mondays 6-9pm Current Master Gardener Class**

Welcome, mentor and feed budding garden geeks.

Contact: Johnnie Arnett, jarnett68@charter.net

Continuing Education Opportunities

◆ **February 26-27 Winter School**

Combines leadership and education tracks.

<https://mastergardener.tennessee.edu>

◆ **February 28 A Day of Gardening**

RFGC District III Garden Clubs, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, East Ridge TN. 423-618-4244

◆ **March 7 Miniature Garden workshop**

The Barn Nursery, Chattanooga, 423-698-2276

◆ **March 7 Growing Perennials class**

Holcomb Nursery, Fort Oglethorpe & Hixon 423-877-8782

◆ **March 8 Hellebore and Heuchera Plant Sale**

UT Gardens, Knoxville, <http://tgardens.tennessee.edu>

◆ **April 10 Trails & Trilliums**

Guided hikes, workshops, art show, very fun.

www.trailsandtrilliums.org

◆ **April 11-12 Master Your Garden Expo**

Hamilton County Master Gardeners
Camp Jordan, East Ridge

◆ **April 21-25 Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage, Gatlinburg**

www.springwildflowerpilgrimage.org



Several Master Gardeners enjoyed getting CEUs at the annual Wild Ones Symposium in January. Left to right: Terry & Linda Merritt, Johnnie Arnett, Daphne Sprayberry, Phyllis & Bruce Tilden.

It's time to prep those raised beds

February is the time to prepare your raised beds for the upcoming garden cycle.

Clean old leaves and debris from the beds. Turn over soil as deep as possible. Remove any root material from last year's crops. Top dress with 1"-2" of aged compost, mushroom compost is good and inexpensive in bulk in our area. Turn this into the soil, rake smooth and the bed should be ready for planting your early cool season selections.

February is also seed starting time for the upcoming growing season. Keep in mind that young seeds need special attention when starting. Paying special attention to the package instructions. When the young seeds have sprouted they need a very good light source to develop the proper leaf and stem structure. Do not allow to freeze or become too hot. A proper growing environment is essential for seeding young plants. Also some varieties i.e. broccoli and cabbage will need to be transplanted once into small pots when the first true leaves develop to keep the plant from becoming tall and spindly.

Tips from Dave Hopper, Master Gardener

In March, your Extension office will celebrate Extension Awareness Month and we'd love your help.

"Explore Extension" will be a promotional and outreach event conducted in three different locations, all on the same weekend, to increase visibility of the UT Extension Services throughout Bradley County.

Saturday, March 7, 10am-2pm; Sunday, March 8-, 1 - 4 pm.

- ◆ Bradley Square Mall
(Agriculture and Master Gardeners)
- ◆ Tractor Supply Company (4-H)
- ◆ Greenway Yellow Swing Park (FCS)

Master Gardeners are encouraged to assist at the mall location. Come meet other Bradley Countians and have fun getting volunteer hours! Contact: Linda Merritt, clanofmany@aol.com
Kim Frady, UT Extension Agent

**Kim's
Corner**