

# BRADLEY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS



September 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

Bradley County Extension Agent  
Kim Frady  
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Co-VP, Arlene McAree  
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Secretary, Linda Merritt  
[clanofmany@aol.com](mailto:clanofmany@aol.com)

Treasurer, Steve Humberd

Membership Administrators  
Jerry and Ernie Eppinga  
[jerryann66@gmail.com](mailto:jerryann66@gmail.com)

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

Historian, Brianne Yancy  
[brianneyancy@gmail.com](mailto:brianneyancy@gmail.com)

**Next meeting: Oct. 6, 2016  
A6:00 pm at Black Fox Farms  
(See directions on page 2)  
Please RSVP to Johnnie at  
[jarnett68@charter.net](mailto:jarnett68@charter.net)**



## Another successful Cowpea Festival!

The Cow Pea Festival 2016 was a big success! We had 15 volunteers, both Master Gardeners and new Interns, talking to people about gardening, answering questions and handing out educational materials. There were several names added to our list for our 2017 Master Gardener class as well.

The Apple Festival comes up in October with lots more opportunities to volunteer. Be sure to contact Linda Merritt to get on the volunteer list and get those hours for 2016.

BCMG volunteers pictured above (l-r): Ron Arnett, Matthew Thayer, Anita Walcheski, Johnnie Arnett, Nancy Hoffman, Stacie Campbell-Eckoff, Judy Stiffler.

## Message from Johnnie



Hello everyone,

Wow, can you believe that fall is here? I for one am ready, it has been one hot summer! We had a great Cow Pea Festival and I was especially pleased that so many from the last class were able to participate. I believe they all enjoyed it.

Now, let's all get ready for the Cleveland Apple Festival on October 14 & 15. Linda Merritt is the project coordinator for this event. Please contact her for the dates and times you will be willing to participate.

We had a great time at our September meeting at the home of Julie and Don Halsey. We really appreciate them for inviting us, thanks again Julie and Don. Our October meeting will be at Black Fox Farms, hosted by the owners, Joe and Ellen Washington. If you have never been to Black Fox Farms, you are in for a treat. They are located at 2724 Varnell Rd SW in Cleveland, not far off South Lee Hwy. Hope to see you there, as we will be making plans for the Apple Festival.

Happy fall you all!

Johnnie Arnett, President BCMG  
Master Gardener

## Volunteer and CEU Opportunities

### Volunteer opportunities

- ◆ **Junior Master Gardener Project Assistants Needed, Tuesdays, 5:30-7:30 p.m., August 23 - November 22**

The Jr. Master Gardener Project is a cooperative project with the Bradley County Juvenile Court and BCMG Volunteers. Participants in the 13-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. 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.

For more information contact Robin Ramsey, 4-H Agent and JMG Liaison at [rramsey3@utk.edu](mailto:rramsey3@utk.edu) or 423-728-7001 or Leslie Humberd at [lhumberdpersonal@gmail.com](mailto:lhumberdpersonal@gmail.com).

- ◆ **Cleveland Apple Festival**  
**Saturday, October 15, 10am - 6pm**  
**Sunday, October 16, 1pm - 6pm**

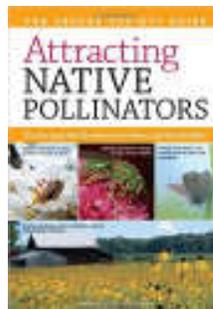
This multi-day event is a ton of fun and a terrific opportunity to help answer gardening questions and promote environmental stewardship in our community. We need lots of volunteers, from set-up on Friday night to tear-down on Sunday. It's a great way to rack up volunteer hours! Contact: Linda Merritt, [clanofmany@aol.com](mailto:clanofmany@aol.com).

### Continuing Education Opportunities

- ◆ Coming up at Tennessee River Seed Library Organic Gardening Workshops  
**Composting & Biodynamics, October 11**  
Workshops are led by Troy Teets of Spring Creek Veggies and take place 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. at the E.G. Fisher Library Community Room, Athens.
- ◆ **Volunteer Gardener, 10:00am Saturday mornings, PBS**  
This half-hour program features different gardening techniques each week.



Last year's Apple Festival attracted folks from all over the surrounding area. The annual festival offers an art and craft show, live music, food booths, pony and hay rides, entertainment, children's activities and much more — like Bradley County Master Gardeners!



### Interested in helping protect our food supply? Here's a recommended book:

*Attracting Native Pollinators: The Xerces Society Guide, Protecting North America's Bees and Butterflies*

"With the recent decline of the European honey bee, it is more important than ever to encourage the activity of other native pollinators to keep your flowers beautiful and your grains and produce plentiful. In *Attracting Native Pollinators*, you'll find ideas for building nesting structures and creating a welcoming habitat for an array of diverse pollinators that includes not only bees, but butterflies, moths, and more. Take action and protect North America's food supply for the future, while at the same time enjoying a happily bustling landscape."

#### Directions to Black Fox Farms 2724 Varnell Road SW, Cleveland, TN

Go south on South Lee Highway from Bradley High School. As you start down the hill, before you get to the old race track, there is a Qwik Burger, a little white building on left. The road just past that is Varnell Road. Turn left there, go 0.8 miles and the driveway and sign to Black Fox Farms is on the right.