



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

Bradley County Extension Agent
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Agricultural Extension Agent
Patrick Sweatt
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Project Coordinators,
Bruce and Phyllis Tilden
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Historian, Ricky Tallent
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Next meeting: May 7
Speaker: Jason Rymer,
Ace Hardware

Master Gardeners help community learn “All About the Green” at Cleveland State’s annual environmental event



Pictured, left, Master Gardeners and interns stand ready to answer questions at CSCC’s Green Day event. L-R, Nancy Hoffman, Arlene McAree, Johnnie Arnett, Phyllis Tilden. Right, Johnnie Arnett talks with participants about the best places to plant their new trees.

The Green Day Event at Cleveland State on April 11 was a great success! Several Master Gardeners and Interns happily answered participants’ questions, from composting to gardening, to bugs and diseases. There was also a lot of interest in the 2016 Master Gardener Class. The straw bale gardening and vermiculture displays were a big hit too, thanks to event coordinator, Dave Hopper. Thank you to all those who came out and helped with this great event.

Patrick Says

New ventures provide more opportunities for Master Gardener volunteers

Spring appears to have arrived here in Bradley County! Even though the first day of spring was technically in March, it may have been difficult to tell through the 20-degree snap that we had at the end of the month! April has seen a number of new ventures get underway in the Extension Office, from the Spring Short Course series (which several MG are helping to teach!) and the re-opening of the Greenway Table garden. We will be working in the garden on Monday evenings and are welcoming in the whole community, starting with the Bradley County Master Gardeners! Drop by at 4pm on Monday to help get digging in this community garden that will be used to both demonstrate ideal growing techniques and nourish clients at local shelters!

Patrick Sweatt, Agricultural Extension Agent

Interested in Butterfly Gardening? Here’s a suggested reading:

Butterflies of Tennessee, Rita Venable

An easy to use handbook to help identify butterflies in all their stages as well as the plants that feed, host and shelter them.



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

- ◆ **May 2 Ask a Master Gardener Day at Ace Hardware 9:00 –2:00**
Come help answer gardening questions, assist Ace Hardware customers with their plant purchases and promote the Master Gardener organization. Contact : Nancy Hoffman nancyhoffman49@yahoo.com
- ◆ **April 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.bcj@gmail.com
- ◆ **April 13, 20; May 4, 11 Mini Classes at the library 6:00—6:45 p.m.**
Tag team with Patrick Sweatt, Agricultural Extension Agent, to help the community understand gardening basics. Contact: Patrick Sweatt, psweatt@utk.edu
- ◆ **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 21-25 Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage, Gatlinburg**
- ◆ **May 9-10 Blooms Day, UT Gardens AG Campus, Knoxville**
- ◆ **May 30 Eastern Region Master Gardener Day, UT Knoxville, 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.**
Great opportunity to get CEUs and meet Master Gardeners from all over the state. Interns welcome, too. Registration due by May 20, \$25 fee. For more information or help with registration, contact Linda Merritt clanofmany@aol.com
- ◆ **Upcoming classes—Ooltewah Nursery & Landscape Co., Inc./ 5829 Main Street/ Ooltewah, TN 37363**
Contact: 423 238-9775
 - Organic Gardening**
April 23, 3:30 p.m. / April 25, 10:00 a.m.
 - Make It & Take It: Build A Shiitake Log**
May 2, 11:00 a.m. / May 3, 1:00 p.m.
Pre-registration and fee required
 - Lady Slippers & Other Native Treasures**
May 7, 3:30 p.m.
 - Hydrangeas: A Southern Favorite** May 9, 10:00 a.m.
 - Growing Herbs** May 14, 3:30 p.m.
 - Building A Fairy Garden** May 16, 10:00 a.m.
Pre-registration and fee required



A group of Master Gardeners enjoyed a wild flower hike to Pigeon Pocket Nature area, guided by Jonnie Arnett and Jim Laub. There were lots of beautiful flowers to be seen in their natural woodland setting. A special treat at the end of the hike was the gorgeous water fall.

Facts from Faith:

The last frost date having past I do believe it is safe to plant warm season vegetables and summer annuals. As wet as it has been, getting into the garden and flower beds may be difficult. Larger sizes of annual and vegetable starts are becoming more available, so planting these may have you not feel so far behind if you haven't been able to plant.

Winter annuals may still look good, but should be replaced with your summer plants in order for strong root systems to develop before the heat sets in.

Most potting soils and planting mixes have enough fertilizers to get your plants through the summer. Roses and hanging basket annuals need supplemental feedings.

Now is a good time to put out lemon grass or citronella for mosquito prone areas around decks and patios.

Faith Sharp, President, BCMG, Master Gardener

Kim's Corner

The 2015 Master Gardener class is rolling right along. We are on week 11 of our schedule. We'll have new interns to help with projects very soon.

Be sure and check your ornamentals for winter damage this month. Many plants such as pyracanthas, gardenias, nandinas, azaleas, camellias and ligustrums may have been damaged. The full extent of the damage will not be apparent until the new growth begins. Prune out any of the dead or weak branches.

Make sure you do a garden plan including listing crops to be grown, its location and spacing, and the dates for sowing seeds or setting out plants. Begin your fruit tree spray program as soon as you can after bloom to insure your chances of having worm-free fruit.

Kim Frady, Bradley County Extension Agent