

BRADLEY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS



July 2018 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.

2018 Officers

Bradley County Extension Agent
Kim Frady

President, Jerry Eppinga

Co Vice President, Dianne Hadorn

Co Vice President, Matt Thayer

Secretary, Julie Halsey

Treasurer, Linda Merritt

Membership Administrator,
Johnnie Arnett

Project Coordinators,
Kay Cox & Jackie Westfield

Historian, Armen Epperson



On June 27, Matt Thayer (second from left) shared a presentation on Bradley County Master Gardeners with Cleveland's Civitan Club at their monthly meeting. The presentation provided an overview of the BCMG organization, gave examples of how we've been involved in & support the community, our participation in local events, and educational presentations we have given as well as our Spring Forward Fest event. [Civitan](#) is a service organization with the sole mission of giving a better quality of life for the intellectually and developmentally challenged members of the Cleveland/Bradley and surrounding counties of Southeast Tennessee.



Jerry's Garden

Happy July 4th holiday! I always feel like something is missing in July when we don't meet. However, this summer we are still meeting to work on gourd crafts! If anyone is interested in having some fun, getting a few volunteer hours and learning a lot about growing gourds from Celia Shaneyfelt join us on Saturday, July 7th at 10 am at Celia's. Let me know if you need directions.

I just returned from a family reunion in Kingsport, TN. Ernie and I took a day trip to Roan Mountain for some hiking....I would encourage everyone to get out to one of Tennessee's beautiful parks this summer. When we returned after a week our garden was out of control and we are harvesting lots of veggies!

Happy gardening!

Jerry Eppinga
President BCMG, Master Gardener

I encourage everyone to get out to a beautiful Tennessee park this summer.



Bee balm on Roan Mountain

Next meeting: August 2, 2018

Speaker:

**Mark J. Pistrang, Forest Botanist
US Forest Service
Cherokee National Forest**

***Invasive Plant Species,
From Your Yard to the Forest***

Volunteer and CEU Opportunities

Volunteer Opportunities

- ◆ **Gourd Day with Celia, July 7, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**
Celia and her crew are already starting to prepare gourds for BCMG's 2019 spring garden festival. Bring a lunch and join them at Celia's house. Contact: shaneyfelt@gmail.com
- ◆ **Ongoing gourd growing and cultivation**
Gourd growers may earn up to 10 hours a year as per the following guidelines:
 - 1 hour - Starting seeds indoors
 - 1 hour - Planting seeds or plants out in garden
 - 1 hour each month May through September - cultivation of gourd plants (up to 5 hours)
 - 1 hour - participation in pure seed project with hand pollination of at least one variety and supplying pure seeds back to the program

Time awarded when gourds are donated back to the project:

 - 1 hour per giant gourd (too big for the bucket)
 - 1 hour per each 5 gallon bucket of mature gourds donated back to the project (medium gourds)
 - 1 hour per 1 gallon bucket of miniature gourds

Up to but not to exceed 10 hours for the year.



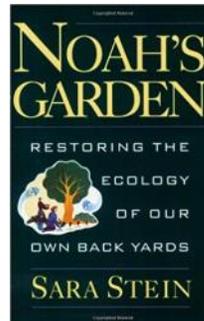
Volunteers in Action

Master Gardeners and interns got together at Celia's house in June to start cleaning and preparing gourds for the next Spring Festival. If you would like to join in, The next Gourd craft day is July 7th, 10 - 4 at Celia's. Pictured, clockwise, Christina Moss, Jerry Eppinga, Dianne Hadorn, Joyce and Jim Brinkmeyer, Pam Balog.



Continuing Education Opportunities

- ◆ **Doug Tallamay, Creating Living Landscapes, Sept. 7, 7:00 p.m.**
This author of "Bringing Nature Home" will be speaking at the Wild Ones' meeting in September. He is a must-hear if you are interested in landscaping with natives and encouraging wild life. Open to public. Location: UT, Chattanooga, University Center Auditorium / 652 E St / Chattanooga. Tickets in advance are \$10. www.tennesseevalley.wildone's.org.
- ◆ **Wild One's 1st Annual Native Plant Garden Tour, Sept. 8, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.**
Tour five Native Plant Home Gardens in the Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain and Signal Mountain area. \$10.00 fee.
Note: There is a combo price of \$15.00 for the Tallamy presentation and garden tour. Registration and more information can be found at: www.tennesseevalley.wildone's.org.



Interested in getting nature back in your yards? Here's a recommended reading:

Noah's Garden, Restoring the Ecology of our own Backyards, Sara Stein

"Science writer Stein calls our attention to the critical role yards play in supporting biodiversity. She describes how she rebuilt her garden in Westchester

County, N.Y., using native plants to create pocket woodlands, berried hedgerows and a meadow. "

"A Gentle but important manifesto. It joins the ecologist's vision to the gardener's art in the urgent work of translating the American lawn into something more beautiful and interesting and alive."

