



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

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Next meeting: August 4, 2016

Congratulations Master Gardener Class of 2016!



The most recent crop of budding Master Gardeners received their graduation certificates on June 9. Master Gardeners treated the new interns to dinner before Bradley County Extension Agent, Kim Frady, went over test answers and congratulated each of the graduates. Pictured: Front row (holding MG Tag) Anita Walcheski. Second row (l-r) Sheri Stewart, Wanda Nord, Linda Sneed and Armen Epperson. Third row (l-r) Kodi Mann, Anita Baily, Heidi Armao, and Ron Arnett. Fourth row (l-r) Colby Mann, Charlie Drummond, Marcia Thayer, Matt Thayer and Jacqueline Caffery. Not pictured are Tim Leffew & Allan Stooksbury.



Message from Johnnie

Hello everyone,

Our 2016 Master Gardener Class has graduated, congratulations to all of you. This year we had volunteer mentors and it was a huge success. Jerry Eppinga headed this up, along with Ernie Eppinga, Linda Merritt, Faith Sharp Stooksbury, Stacy Eckhoff Taylor, Kay Cox, Jackie Westfield, Daphane Sprayberry, Arlene McAree, and Johnnie Arnett. Thank you for you making our class more successful.

Hope your gardens are growing despite the dry conditions; I am excited to get some fresh veggies soon, as I'm sure you are too.

We will not have a meeting in July. Enjoy the July 4th holiday with your friends and family. Our next meeting will be August 4, hope to see you there.

*Johnnie Arnett, President BCMG
Master Gardener*

Volunteer and CEU Opportunities

Volunteer opportunities

- ◆ **Junior Master Gardener Gardens Upkeep, Ongoing**
JMG is winding down and will conclude this month; Leslie Humberd has done a great job along with all of her assistants. The gardens at the Justice Center, pictured in the making, right, will need to be watered this summer. If you would like to volunteer, Contact Robin Ramsey, 4-H Agent and JMG Liaison at rramsey3@utk.edu or 423-728-7001.



Continuing Education Opportunities

- ◆ Coming up at Tennessee River Seed Library Organic Gardening Workshops
Seed Saving & Fall Planting, August 9
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.



Gardening for pollinators or wildlife? Get it certified as a wildlife habitat!

Your yard, garden and even a balcony container garden can become a certified wildlife habitat for birds, butterflies and other local wildlife thru the National Wildlife Federation's Gardening for Wildlife Program.

When you certify, you are making a commitment to maintain the basic elements for habitat, food source, water, cover and safe places to raise young. Once you have these elements in place, pledge your commitment with the NWF, they will then recognize it as certified wild life habitat.

When you certify you are adding to the movement to make changes supporting wildlife, also if you are able to maintain milkweed and other pollinator friendly plants, you will be registered with the Million Pollinator garden challenge. It only takes a few minutes and you will be making a big difference.

For more information on how to get your garden certified, go to nwf.org/Garden-For-Wildlife.

Linda Merritt
Master Gardener

JMG hard work pays off in graduation, and that means a gardening party!

You are invited to the Junior Master Gardeners Graduation on Wednesday, June 29, at 5:30 p.m. in the garden at the Bradley County Juvenile Justice Center located at 1620 Johnson Blvd, SE Cleveland, TN. Graduation will be indoors at 6:00 p.m. Representatives from Washington DC involved with the program grant, will also be attending. Please come and see what we do with the Junior Master Gardeners.



Interested in collaborating with your local ecology? Here's a book you might want to read:

Garden Revolution, Larry Weaver and Thomas Christopher.

"This beautiful book shows us that guiding natural processes rather than fighting them is the key to creating healthier landscapes and happier gardeners. An essential addition to our knowledge of sustainable landscapes." That's what Doug Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home*, had to say about the book.