

BRADLEY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS



August 2018 Newsletter

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

Next meeting: Sept 6

**Speaker: Philip Shippey,
owner of Ocoee Garden Design**

Revitalization of Freedom Park

Anita Bailey and Matt Thayer will also be presenting, time permitting



Profligate, prolific and Annoying squash bugs

What's bugging you this summer?

August has arrived with its extremely hot days, perfect for bugs and diseases in the garden. In my gourd arbors I have watched the insects multiply, despite my best efforts.

First there were the adult squash bugs breeding everywhere and both striped and spotted cucumber beetles. My first line of defense is picking them off and dropping them into a jar of soapy water or just smashing them between my fingers. Gross, I know, but quick and effective. The larva of the cucumber beetles feed on the roots of your cucurbits, ie squash, melons, gourds, pumpkins, cucumbers. The adults do their damage feeding directly on the plants and spreading bacterial wilt.

By July we were seeing clusters of eggs on leaves and stems. The previously mentioned bugs had been joined by leaf-footed bugs and, oddly enough, corn earworms. We started finding the little worms in flowers. Again, smashing them became the control method of choice. At this point though, we were also resorting to sprays. Neem Oil smothers the eggs and nymphs feeding on the vines and fruit. A dry spell in July led to a case of powdery mildew in one section of arbors. For that we started with cutting away all affected leaves then sprayed with a fungicide that contained Chlorothalonil.

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Jerry's Garden

We had a very good educational program at the August meeting with Mark Pistrang of the Forest Service. He is a botanist and shared some of the things being done to help improve our environment. I'm sorry if you missed his talk as I feel like it is important for us as Master Gardeners to be able to educate the public about ways we can help by planting native plants in our yards, even if it is only in small areas. A small garden of native plants that will attract bees and butterflies will be beneficial, it doesn't have to be a large flower garden to help make a difference.

It seems that many of our programs for CEU's revolve around the same topics these days....this is not a coincidence. It is extremely important for the future off our planet. I hope all of you will take this information to heart and do something to make a difference....plant a flower garden filled with native plants, teach a class, speak with your friends about this issue, talk to your children, attend a class....just do something to help!

Happy Gardening!

*Jerry Eppinga
President BCMG, Master Gardener*

Volunteer and CEU Opportunities

Volunteer Opportunities

- ◆ **Gourd & Craft Day with Celia, August 25, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**
Help get ready for BCMG's 2019 spring garden festival. Bring a lunch and meet at Celia's house. Contact: shaneyfelt@gmail.com
- ◆ **Cowpea Festival, September 8, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**
Volunteers needed to help set up Friday evening as well as staff the booths on Saturday. This is a fun day, meet and help members of community with garden questions and enjoy all the other vendors. We'll have our usual information booth and an additional booth selling our wonderful gourds. Need lots of help with this day, contact Kay Kox. kaycox@netzero.net
- ◆ **Ocoee Whitewater restoration project**
In the planning stages. Volunteers will be needed to help clean out and replant beds and other restoration activities. Contact Celia for more information.

Bugging you, *from page 1*

And now in August I find the squash bugs are still breeding everywhere. While all the literature says that they only have one generation per year, they seem to spread that generation out in multiple families. One leaf may have eggs and several nymphs of different sizes. I am also still finding eggs and occasionally nymphs of the leaf-footed bug.

They are voracious eaters and if they get on one of your gourds, they can do serious damage before you realize they are there. The corn ear worms will also do significant damage to the gourds, eating their way along the outer skin and gourd shell. We have also found tiny worms inside some of the ornamental gourds. Not sure if these are the corn earworms or something else.

You can find more information on these pests online. May your gardens prosper and your pests be few.



Leaf-footed bugs

*Celia Shaneyfelt
Master Gardener*

Continuing Education Opportunities

- ◆ **Native plant Certification program, Wild Ones.**
You don't need to be working toward certification to take classes. The Certificate in Native Plants program is designed to expand student's knowledge of Botany, ecology, conservation, and uses of native flora in the SE United States. Registration is limited and is now open. For more information, tnvalleywildones.org.
- ◆ **Fall Gardener's Festival, August 28, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**
At Crossville's UT Plateau Ag research and Ed Center. Free day of learning from experts from UT, Nurseries and Master Gardeners. 12 Topics for the home gardener will be presented throughout the day along with other exhibits and tours. For more information visit: plateau.tennessee.edu or ccmga.org.
- ◆ **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.



Stay connected!

Master Gardener, Matt Thayer, maintains our website and Master Gardener, Tiffany Pendergrass maintains our Facebook page. Check them out frequently to stay connected with our organization and each other.

www.bradleycountymastergardeners.org
www.facebook.com/bradleycomastergardeners