



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

Congratulations Master Gardener Class of 2018!



Our 2018 Master Gardener Class is in the books! We had a great session with 16 graduates. I think this was a great class, it helped that we had our class on Tuesday nights this year and the class got to attend Master Gardener meetings each month, which gave them a jump start on their hours. Several also worked in our Spring Forward Fest. We had several with perfect attendance; they were Paul Burke, Rhonda Chancey, Julie Crawford, Christina Moss and A.J. Stone. This is big commitment and I applaud them for their effort. Also, we have one in our class that went from intern status to MG status during the class, and we want to recognize Christina Moss for all her hard work, Congratulations!

Also, last but not least I want to thank our mentors, I feel they have been a big part in this class. Thank you all.

Until next year's class,

*Johnnie Arnett
Master Gardener*

Pictured, l-r, first row: Jeni Taylor, Donna Anderson, Melody Tudisco, Lisa Stevenson, Rhonda Chancey, Julie Crawford, Joy Cruz, Pam Balog, Christina Burns. L-r, back row: Cade Broersma, Christina Moss, Paul Burke, AJ Stone, Marty Tate, Kin Hum

Next meeting: August 2, 2018

Speaker:

Mark J. Pistrang, Forestry Service

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



Jerry's Garden

In just a few days it will officially be summer. As I drive around I can see gardens in full swing. I love this time of watching for the first vegetables, fruits and flowers. We ate our first squash of the season last night! I hope all of your gardens bring forth fruit from the earth!

Kim and I participated in a video conference last week with Natalie Bumgardner

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Volunteer and CEU Opportunities

Continuing Education Opportunities

- ◆ **Food preservation workshop, June 21, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**
Crabtree Farms. Come and learn how to preserve your fresh garden veggies. \$20. www.crabtreefarms.org
- ◆ **June in the garden, June 30, Noon - 3:00 p.m.**
June is the dreamiest and most delicious month in the garden. Join Grow Hope Urban Farm and Crabtree Farms for a hands-on afternoon of planting, picking, and eating. A fresh-from-the-garden food demo will occur at the beginning of the workshop. Location of Workshop: Grow Hope Urban Farm / 1800 Roanoke Avenue / Chattanooga, Tennessee 37406. \$25 non-members / \$20 members. Registration required, <http://www.crabtreefarms.org/advanced-skill-builder>
- ◆ **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.

Volunteer Opportunities

Spring Forward Fest
Spring Forward Fest

March 30, 2019

- ◆ **Kickoff planning meeting, June 21, 6:00 p.m.**
Downstairs conference room, Extension Office. The 2018 festival was a huge success. If you would like to be part of the committee structure and operational planning for the 2019 event, come join us.



Way to go, Junior MGs, 2018!

The Junior Master Gardener program, in its tenth session, graduated four students on June 13th. This was the smallest class so far but the kids were the best working group. They really appreciated the classes and help from the Master Gardener mentors. Master Gardener Tim Leffew gave a particularly meaningful lesson to the kids, "Life lessons and the tools you use" *A little water, a little weeding will make for a great harvest.* Something that can be applied not only to gardens but people too.

The gardens were wonderful this session; good plants and supplies make all the difference! A big thank you to the donors and for the support of the Master Gardener organization.

*Leslie Humberd
Master Gardener*

Jerry's Garden (Continued from page 1)

and other Master Gardeners around the state. The topic was outreach with each other, the schools and inside your own extension. We listened to three Master Gardener organizations talk about their junior master gardener programs. One group is writing a book that will be available in 2019, "From the Ground Up", to be used with school kids. They are doing school programs and summer camps. All food for thought as we look to our future programming.

We wrap up Master Gardener class and Junior Master Gardeners this week with graduations. Next week we begin planning for our Spring Forward Fest 2019 and starting our Gourd work days. If you would like to be on a committee to plan our Fest we are having a meeting Thursday, June 21st, at 6pm in the conference room at the Extension Office. We would love to have you!

We skip July and then meet again on August 2nd. Hope to see you there or at any of our other goings on this summer!

Happy Gardening,

*Jerry Eppinga
President BCMG, Master Gardener*

Learning and Growth in Action:

A Helping Hand For Monarchs

Helping all pollinators is a mission of mine, including the Monarch Butterfly. I had planted milkweed seeds last summer in an attempt to attract them. The plants came up this spring, and to my delight I found Monarch eggs, 18 in all.

Because the Monarchs are having such a hard time I was determined to try and keep some of them safe. Once they hatched, I collected half (not wanting to fool with mother nature too much) placed them in a clear plastic container about the size of a shoe box covered it with screen and put it on my back porch, provided fresh milk weed leaves for them daily, yes I talked to them too! On day 12 they headed for the top.

Once they attached to the screen, they hung upside down for about 24hrs then formed their chrysalis, that process took about one minute, amazing! I watched and waited, ten days later they emerged! The emerging process took less then 2 min. A few hours later when wings were dry they took flight! I consider myself privileged to have been witness to this and being a part of helping these beautiful creatures.

It really is not difficult to help the Monarchs, just provide milk weed plants in a pesticide free garden, they will find it. Taking it a step further like I did, is easy too. I am looking forward to doing this again when the Monarchs migrate back thru in the fall.

If you would like to help and learn more about the Monarch, their migration and life cycle, check out these websites:

- www.monarchwatch.org
- <https://monarchconservation.org>

*Linda Merritt
Master Gardener*

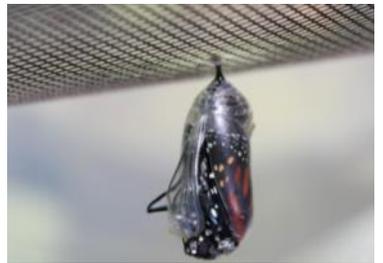


After hanging about 24 hours, they formed their chrysalis, which took about one minute.



Ten days later, they emerged, a process that took less than two minutes.

Linda found 18 Monarch eggs in her garden and collected half in a clear plastic container. On day 12, they headed for the top.



A Visit to Grindstone Gardens and Muscadine Vineyard

Twenty-three Master Gardeners and Interns gathered at Grindstone Gardens and Muscadine Vineyard in McDonald on June 7. Charlie, Greg and Karla Phillips showed us around their farm and explained what goes into having a garden produce stand and vineyard. They are very knowledgeable and we thoroughly enjoyed learning from them. Thank you to Matt Thayer for arranging the tour and Tim Leffew for reserving the Seventh Day Adventist Church just down the road for our meeting.

*Julie Halsey
Master Gardener*

