

# BRADLEY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS



October 2017 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.

## 2017 Officers

Bradley County Extension Agent  
Kim Frady

[kfrady1@utk.edu](mailto:kfrady1@utk.edu)

President, Johnnie Arnett

[jarnett68@charter.net](mailto:jarnett68@charter.net)

Vice President, Arlene McAree

[macintenn@hotmail.com](mailto:macintenn@hotmail.com)

Secretary, Julie Halsey

[djhalsey2008@att.net](mailto:djhalsey2008@att.net)

Treasurer, Linda Merritt

[clanofmany@aol.com](mailto:clanofmany@aol.com)

Membership Administrators

Jerry & Ernie Eppinga

[jerryann66@gmail.com](mailto:jerryann66@gmail.com)

Project Coordinators,

Kay Cox & Jackie Westfield

[kaycox@netzero.net](mailto:kaycox@netzero.net)

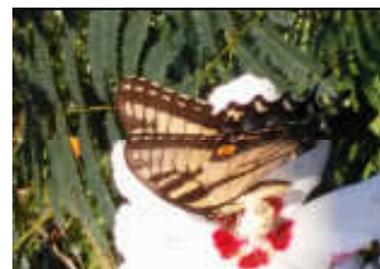
[jswestfield@hotmail.com](mailto:jswestfield@hotmail.com)

Historian, Armen Epperson

[ahtepperson@gmail.com](mailto:ahtepperson@gmail.com)

**Next meeting: Nov. 2, 2017**

**Speakers: Tom Looney,  
Director of Advancement  
UT Institute of Agriculture**



## All four seasons: It's all about the pollinators!

Critter pollinators are necessary for the majority of crops that we like most to eat and provide most of our nutrition (fruits, vegetables, and nuts). Master Gardeners Linda Merritt and Stacie Campbell-Eckhoff did an excellent presentation at the Oct. 5 BCMG meeting about the importance of pollinators and what we can do to keep them alive and well and continuing to help feed the world. See p. 2 for tips to help them winter over.

**Christmas Party Nov 30  
At Beverly Johnson's**

## Message from Johnnie

Hello everyone,

We had a great turn out for our October meeting and are looking forward to the Apple Festival on October 21 & 22. Linda Merritt and Dianne Hadorn are the project coordinators and already have the volunteers lined up and ready to go! Thanks to everyone who is working in the festival.

We bought a new gardening book this week, *Month-By-Month Gardening TENNESSEE & KENTUCKY*, by Judy Lowe. Judy is a Master Gardener from Chattanooga, has written other gardening books and was garden editor for the Chattanooga Free Press. I think it will be very helpful, as it gives all sorts of tasks to do each month. It even explains, in the October section, how & when to harvest Gourds! Check it out and let us know what you think.

Our next meeting will be November 2, at 6:00 P.M., at the UT Extension office and we look forward to seeing you there.



*Johnnie Arnett  
President BCMG, Master Gardener*

## Volunteer and CEU Opportunities

### Volunteer opportunities

- ◆ **Sept. 20 Junior Master Gardener program begins.**  
This program runs about 13 weeks including the graduation. The class will meet every Wednesday at the Bradley County Juvenile Justice Center beginning at 5:30 pm until 7 pm. If you're interested in helping, contact Leslie Humberd at [lshumberdpersonal@gmail.com](mailto:lshumberdpersonal@gmail.com).
- ◆ **Oct. 21 - 22 Cleveland Apple Festival**  
**Saturday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm, Sunday 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm**  
This is a huge local event for our group. It is a great opportunity for us to introduce ourselves to the community, answer gardening questions and get people signed up for our 2018 class. This is also the last significant event for you to get volunteer hours before the end of the year. If you would like to volunteer during any of the festival hours or have questions, please contact Linda Merritt, [clanofmany@aol.com](mailto:clanofmany@aol.com)
- ◆ **Bradley Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center.**  
Work with residents on planting and maintaining flower and vegetable gardens. 2910 Peerless Rd, Cleveland. Contact Anita Walcheski at [farmers2aw@yahoo.com](mailto:farmers2aw@yahoo.com) or Arleen McAree at [macintenn@hotmail.com](mailto:macintenn@hotmail.com)
- ◆ **Spring Forward Fest , April 21, 2018**  
**Presented by us, Bradley County Master Gardeners!**  
Here's the best chance yet to get involved. You can work on classes and displays, make crafts, even grow gourds. Committees have been formed to secure vendors, booths, crafts, advertising, logistics and more. If you haven't signed up and would like to be a part of our first major event, contact Jerry Eppinga, [jerryann66@gmail.com](mailto:jerryann66@gmail.com)

### Calling all yard sale items!

Next year's Spring Forward Fest will include a yard sale. So we're asking all BCMGs to look in their basements, barns, sheds and storage areas and pull out any *yard/garden-related* items that you no longer use, that are just taking up valuable storage space, and donate them to the sale. Contact Dianne Hadorn with a list of items you plan to donate or for further information. [Dianne@hshomestead.com](mailto:Dianne@hshomestead.com)



### Stay connected!

[www.bradleycountymastergardeners.org](http://www.bradleycountymastergardeners.org)  
[www.facebook.com/bradleycomastergardeners](https://www.facebook.com/bradleycomastergardeners)

### Continuing Education Opportunities

- ◆ **Nov. 3, 11:00 am - Video Conference, Speakers Bureaus**  
This is the final video conference with Natalie Bumgarner for 2017. The discussion will focus on Speakers Bureaus and the great teaching and outreach occurring across the state. Join the conference at the Ag Center.
- ◆ **SAVE THE DATE: April 5-7, 2018**  
**TEMG State Conference, Montgomery Bell State Park**

### Winter Habitat for Wildlife and Pollinators

With fall finally here, the desire to clean up all the leaf litter and dying debris in our yards and gardens is hard to resist. However, leaving the leaves, plant debris and small tree branches is a great way to give our smaller wildlife a safe, dry place to over winter.

Many butterflies in adult, chrysalis and egg form need this "debris" to survive the cold. Turtles, toads, frogs and salamanders also seek refuge in leaf piles. Several of our native bees need leaf litter, as well as the hollow stems of dormant plants and grasses. By completely removing leaf and plant debris, you are essentially removing critical winter habitat.

If you must remove, try and find an out of the way place you can pile up leaves, plant stalks, etc. You can also put the leaf litter around shrubs and in empty gardens; it's great mulch and will then still be available for the wildlife that need it. When the weather warms up, at least a week past last frost (April 15th), all residents of debris piles will have emerged to start their new cycle of life.



### Looking to mow less lawn? Here's a recommended reading:

*Lawn Gone! Low-maintenance, Sustainable, Attractive Alternatives For Your Yard*  
by Pam Penick

"A colorful, accessible guide to the basics of replacing a traditional lawn with a wide variety of easy-care, no-mow, low-water, money-saving options. Whether you're a beginner or expert gardener, green thumb or black, *Lawn Gone!* provides realistic choices, achievable plans, and simple instructions for renovating your yard from start to finish"