

BRADLEY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS



May 2015 Newsletter

BRADLEY COUNTY
UTEXTENSION
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.

2015 Officers

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Project Coordinators,
Bruce and Phyllis Tilden
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Historian, Ricky Tallent
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Next meeting: June 4
Speaker: Ann Chittendon,
Propagating and
dividing perennials

Congratulations, Junior Master Gardeners!



The Junior Master Gardener's Program is an alternative sentencing option for youth between the ages of 13 and 17 who find themselves in trouble with the court system. The program happens twice a year, spring and fall, and runs for 12 weeks. The program's goals are to teach students many facets of gardening while providing positive learning with hands-on experiences. This spring, the entire class of nine young people graduated from the program. Click [here](#) for an excellent article written by Tony Eubank for The Cleveland Daily Banner. Mr. Eubank also took the above photograph of students and volunteers.

Master Gardener 2015 Graduation set for June 8

Our 2015 Master Gardener Class has just wrapped up for this session with 27 interns taking the class. We had a great class & wonderful participation. Thanks to Kim and all our presenters, some of those were our very own Master Gardeners. We will have our graduation on Monday, June 8, at 6:00 P.M. upstairs in the auditorium. Current Master Gardeners and spouses are invited! Dinner will be potluck, with Kim providing the main dish. We need a count so we will know how many to plan for. Please RSVP Johnnie Arnett, jarnett68@charter.net, by May 29.

I have really enjoyed working with this class and am looking forward to having them join our Master Gardener Organization. Thanks to all of our Master Gardeners for helping with our class, and a special thanks to my faithful assistants Nancy Hoffman and Linda Merritt.

Johnnie Arnett, Master Gardener

Patrick Says

We're officially into growing season! By which I mean that everything is growing- gardens, flowers, disease pressure, pest populations and the number of horticulture calls that we're fielding in the office. Are you getting asked about leaf spots and crawling insects because folks know that you're a Master Gardener? If so, remember that we have lots of great resources here at the office to help you answer those questions- manuals, handouts and publications galore! Work at the demonstration garden has also picked up and Rickey and I are there every Monday afternoon at 4pm- we'd love to have you come out!

Patrick Sweatt,
Agricultural Extension Agent



Community takes advantage of a sunny day to “Ask a Master Gardener”



Ask a Master Gardener Day, May 2, at Elder's Ace Hardware was a great success. Lots of folks stopped by the booth to ask a variety of questions. Master Gardeners also mingled around the garden section helping patrons with their plant choices. Pictured, left to right, Dave Hopper, Judy Stifler, Brianna Yancy, Arleen Mcaree, Johnnie Arnett and Nancy Hoffman. Linda Merritt took the photos.

Volunteer and CEU Opportunities

Volunteer opportunities

- ◆ **Thursday, June 18 Health Fair, Medical Center Pharmacy**
A new opportunity to meet the community and promote the health benefits of gardening. Remember: Gardening is cheaper than therapy and you get free tomatoes! Contact: Phyllis Tilden, 423-472-3646 or phyllis@uncommonink.com

Continuing Education Opportunities

- ◆ **May 30 Eastern Region Master Gardener Day, UT Knoxville, 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.**
Great opportunity to get CEUs and meet Master Gardeners from all over the state. Interns welcome, too. Registration was due by May 20, \$25 fee. But there's still time to get your name on the list. Call Alan Bruhin, 865-453-3695
- ◆ **Upcoming classes—Ooltewah Nursery & Landscape Co., Inc./ 5829 Main Street/ Ooltewah, TN 37363**
Contact: 423 238-9775

Ground Covers

May 23, 10:00 a.m.

Adding Mushrooms to Your Landscape

May 30, 11:00 a.m. / May 31, 1:00 p.m.

Pre-registration required

- ◆ **Straw bale gardening webinars with Joel Karsten**
Visit www.strawbalegardens.com to check for dates of the next webinar.

Facts from Faith: Plant tips for deer and drought

Deer Resistant Annuals: If deer happen to be munching in your flower beds, Heliotrope, Sunflower, Zinnia, Daisy, Persian Shield, poppies and Ageratum, while not deer proof, may be less appetizing by way of texture or scent than some other annuals.

Drought Tolerant Annuals: As summer get hotter and drier, some annuals perform better than others. Try Cleome 4' tall x 2' wide; Ice Plant, a succulent with daisy-like flowers; Licorice plant (Helichysumpetiolare), small yellow flowers and gray-blue foliage; Lantana, attracts butterflies and comes in lavender, cream bright yellow and oranges; Portulaca, purslane or moss rose, another succulent, does well in containers or sunny borders.

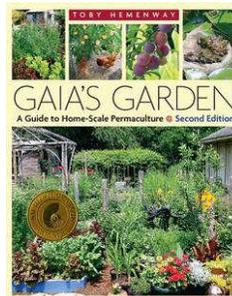
Faith Sharp, President, BCMG, Master Gardener

Kim's Corner

Looks like this summer season will start off dryer than normal. This could be a year that a good mulch layer pays big dividends. Mulches cut down on fluctuation in soil temperature, save moisture and help fight weeds, which provides a more favorable environment for plant roots.

Be on the lookout for vegetable insects and diseases. I have already seen some tomato and corn disease problems due to cold, wet spring soils. Once the heat and humidity hits, we are always in for a battle. If you need Patrick or my assistance in identification or solutions, just give us a call.

Kim Frady, Bradley County Extension Agent



Interested in permaculture?

Gaia's Garden, by Toby Hemenway focuses on permaculture's central message: Working with Nature, not against her, results in more beautiful, abundant, and forgiving gardens. No matter how large a garden or yard you have to work with, this book is full of ideas on:

- ◆ Building and maintaining soil fertility and structure
- ◆ Catching and conserving water in the landscape
- ◆ Providing habitat for beneficial insects, birds, and animals
- ◆ Growing an edible "forest" that yields seasonal fruits, nuts, and other foods

Stay connected!

Master Gardener Julie Halsey maintains our website and Facebook page. Check them out frequently to stay connected with our organization and each other.

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

