



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

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Next meeting: Feb. 2, 2017

State Master Gardener Coordinator, Natalie Bumgarner, kicks off 2017 with Bradley County Master Gardeners



Bradley County Master Gardeners and interns turned out in full force for the first meeting of the new year. Twenty-nine of us gathered to hear Natalie Baumgartner, the person from UT in charge of the Master Gardener Program, speak. She gave an excellent speech on the MG program and its future plans. This is the 30th anniversary of Master Gardeners, which shows it's a great program that has stood the test of time. For an outline of Natalie's speech, see p. 2.



Message from Johnnie

Hello Everyone, we started 2017 off with 29 members present at our January Master Gardener Meeting on January 5. Our guest speaker was Master Gardener State Coordinator, Natalie Bumgarner. If you were unable to be at the meeting and didn't get your dues paid, you can mail them to our Treasurer, Linda Merritt, 202 Hughes Road, Cleveland, TN 37311.

We are working on getting the 2017 Master Gardener Class up and running, which will begin on January 19. We still have space available, if you know anyone who wants to take the class. Just have them contact the Extension office as soon as possible. Jerry Eppinga is also working on our mentoring program for the new class.

Now that we are in a new year, it is a great time to make some gardening resolutions. I plan to clean up my garden tools and make certain everything is ready when planting time comes. It will be nice to have my special tools ready when I need them! So I can't wait for spring and in the meantime, I will be checking out all the garden and seed catalogs to see what is new for this year.

Our next meeting is February 2, hope we see you there.

Johnnie Arnett, President BCMG
Master Gardener

Volunteer and CEU Opportunities

Volunteer opportunities

◆ *Upcoming Master Gardener Class*

Our new Master Gardener Class will begin Thursday, January 19, at 6:00 p.m. The mentoring program started last year was highly successful and we'll be doing it again. If you are interested in becoming a mentor for our "Budding Master Gardeners," contact Jerry Eppinga at jerryann66@gmail.com.

◆ *Junior Master Gardener Project Assistants Needed, starting in March*

The Jr. Master Gardener Project is a cooperative project with the Bradley County Juvenile Court and BCMG Volunteers. Participants in the 12-session program are middle school age students who have been referred to the court for minor offenses and that the court feels would benefit from an intervention program. The students are hand-selected and class size is limited to around 12 students. Students learn basic soil and plant science with both lecture and hands-on instruction.

Assistants will work directly with students to reinforce instruction as well as mentor students in basic gardening activities and are expected to be a positive influence on students and maintain confidentiality.

All volunteers working with minors on a regular basis must complete an application process which includes background check and child protection training. For more information contact Robin Ramsey, 4-H Agent and JMG Liaison at rramsey3@utk.edu or 423-728-7001.

◆ *Crabtree Farms, wide range of volunteer opportunities*

Opportunities exist for a variety of levels of skill and physical ability. Please contact info@crabtreefarms.org or 493.9155 x13 for more information. Also see www.crabtreefarms.org.

Continuing Education Opportunities

◆ *January 28, 9:00 a.m. - noon Building a Shiitake Log*

Inoculate a log with live shiitake mushroom mycelium and take it home to grow, complete with printed instructions. Fees involved. www.crabtreefarms.org.

◆ *Feb 9, 6:00 - 7:30 Planning for Success*

Garden Layout and Scheduling, a Tennessee River Seed Library workshop. E.G. Fisher Library Community Room, Athens. Free.

Outline of Dr. Bumgarner's presentation to Bradley County Master Gardeners

The reason we're all gardeners:

Quantity and Quality – direct contact with residents
Plants and people are inseparable – water, air, and soil
We believe in the future.

Future plans:

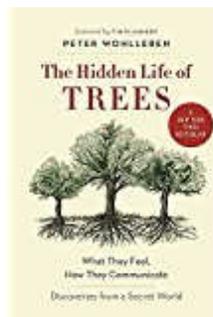
Retain our trainees
Keep experienced MGs
Strengthen training materials
The handbook is in the process of being revised
Presentations
Study Guides
Consistent core content
Allow emphasis on local specialties and needs
Connect folks with mentoring and service.

Educational Workshops on the calendar:

June 8th in Crossville (Eastern Region)
June 22nd in Murfreesboro (Central Region)
October 12th in Memphis (Western Region)

Digital Networking Sessions: (11:00 am. Details on connecting will be sent.)

January 13th Introduction and discussion for Officers
February 3rd Learning to answer horticulture questions from citizens
June 2nd Mentoring to retain interns and engage experienced TEMGs.
November 3rd Speakers bureaus.



**Ever found yourself talking to a tree?
Here's a recommended reading:**

The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate - Discoveries from a Secret World, by Peter Wohlleben and Tim Flannery

"In this international bestseller, forester and author Peter Wohlleben convincingly makes the case that, the forest is a social network. He draws on groundbreaking scientific discoveries to describe how trees are like human families: tree parents live together with their children, communicate with them, support them as they grow, share nutrients with those who are sick or struggling, and even warn each other of impending dangers.

"After learning about the complex life of trees, a walk in the woods will never be the same again."