

# BRADLEY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

BRADLEY COUNTY  
**UT EXTENSION**  
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE



April 2016 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.

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Historian

**Next meeting: May 5 2016**

**Speaker:**

## BCMG Spread the Word: "It's All About The Green"



A gorgeous day, April 16, found found Bradley County Master Gardeners and Interns at Cleveland State Community College to celebrate the school's annual environmental awareness event with the community. Clockwise, Master Gardener Dave Hopper (left) gives his ever popular *Composting With Worms* demo to a very interested mother and son. Master Gardener Melody Savio (r) heads up the plant & seed exchange for the event. Interns Brianne Yancy (center) and Judy Stifler (right) answer questions about pollinators and other gardening subjects.

## Message from Johnnie



Don't you just love spring! I have enjoyed getting out and doing some wildflower hikes, and seeing how many native plants are growing in our yard. Found a new one this year, Star of Bethlehem, not sure where they came from, guess I have the birds to thank for these. If you are looking for a good starter wildflower book, I like the Audubon Society Field Guide for North American Wildflowers, it is by color and easy to find what you are looking for. I still use this as my "go to book."

We have had a lot going on in April. The next big volunteer event is our Ask a Master Gardener Day at Ace Hardware on April 30. This is a great day and we are helping the community by answering those tricky garden questions. Everyone who has volunteered at this event says things like, "This is soooo much fun."

We are busy with our Master Gardener Classes and we have started our Junior Master Gardener Classes. Both are going well.

Have a great spring, and see you at our May 5 meeting.

Johnnie Arnett, President BCMG  
Master Gardener

## Volunteer and CEU Opportunities

### Volunteer opportunities

- ◆ **Ask a Master Gardener Day at Ace Hardware, April 30, 9:00 –2:00**  
Come help answer gardening questions, assist Ace Hardware customers with their plant purchases and promote the Master Gardener organization. Contact : Linda Merritt: [clanofmany@aol.com](mailto:clanofmany@aol.com)
- ◆ **Short courses at the Cleveland Public Library, 5:30 p.m.**  
**Chickens in the Urban Garden, May 2**  
**Pollinators!, May 9**  
Come help facilitate one of these short courses, a community outreach of Bradley County's Agriculture Extension. Contact: Patrick Sweatt, [psweatt@utk.edu](mailto:psweatt@utk.edu).
- ◆ **Junior Master Gardener Project Assistants Needed, Tuesdays, 5:30-7:30 p.m.**  
The Junior Master Gardeners' 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 goals of this project are to teach the students many facets of gardening while providing positive learning with hands-on experiences. Volunteers help monitor the classroom progress and when outside teach gardening skills to the students. Contact Robin Ramsey, 4-H Agent and JMG Liaison at [rramsey3@utk.edu](mailto:rramsey3@utk.edu) or 423-728-7001.

### Continuing Education Opportunities

- ◆ Coming up at Ooltewah Nursery:  
**Plant Mom a Flower Container April 30, 9:00 a.m.**  
**Hostas & Other Shade Plants, May 19, 3:30 p.m.**  
**Hostas & Other Shade Plants, May 21, 9:00 a.m.**  
**Plant an Herb Garden, May 28, 10 a.m.**  
**Build A Fairy Garden, June 4 or June 11, 10 a.m.**  
Please note: There is no fee for the Fairy Garden workshop, but reservations are required and you will have to purchase some supplies. Call 423-238-9775 by May 23.
- ◆ Coming up at Tennessee River Seed Library Organic Gardening Workshops  
**Urban Gardening - Small Space Considerations, May 10**  
**Weeds & Bugs - Organic Answers & IPM**  
Workshops are led by Troy Teets, Spring Creek Veggies and take place 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. at the E.G. Fisher Library Community Room, Athens
- ◆ **Blooms Day, UT Gardens, AG Campus, Knoxville, May 7-8. 9:00 am - 5:00 p.m. each day**  
Take a look at the [educational sessions](#) that will take place on Saturday and Sunday to help plan your visit!
- ◆ **Volunteer Gardener, 10:00am Saturday mornings, PBS**  
This half-hour program features different gardening techniques each week.

**Patrick Says**

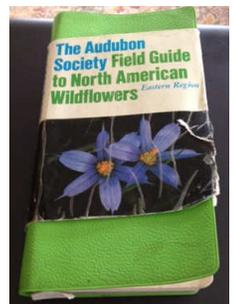
### Thoughts on Organic Gardening

One of the presentations that I get asked to do most frequently at garden clubs is on Organic Gardening. I think that this stems from many gardeners' desires to grow without chemical sprays, unnecessary inputs or anything 'unnatural'- an understandable concern, especially since spraying should be a last resort! One of the keys that I try to get across in my presentation is that organic gardening is the same as all other gardening, except that it has a different end game. What I mean by that is when your final recourse against insects and diseases (chemical sprays, etc) is restricted, then you have to rely even more on what I think of as 'Best Gardening Techniques'. What I mean by this is revisiting [spacing recommendations](#), focusing on [disease-resistant seeds and stock](#), practicing [rotation](#) whenever possible. These techniques aren't unique to organic gardening- in fact, I believe that they should be practiced by everyone. So take a minute to re-read the UT Guide to Home Vegetable Gardens this year, especially if you are expecting to adopt an organic or low-spray program.

Patrick Sweatt  
Agricultural Extension Agent

### Want to know more about regional wildflowers? Here's a recommended field guide:

*The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Wildflowers, Eastern Region.*  
This is one of Johnnie's favorite field guides and a good go-to guide to carry with you. If you see something blooming, you can look it up by color of the flower. Extensive listings.



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