

Rhea County Master Gardener Association

Newsletter



The Snowdrop

By Lord Alfred Tennyson

**Many, many welcomes,
February fair-maid,
Ever as of old time,
Solitary firstling,
Coming in the cold time,
Prophet of the gay time,
Prophet of the May time,
Prophet of the roses,
Many, many welcomes,
February fair-maid!**

Greetings to All,

January and February have been difficult this year with all the flu going around, and I hope you have been spared. There is not much going on with the Master Gardeners at this time, and I have taken a part-time position, so I am a bit behind in getting out this month's newsletter. In past years we would be well into the new Master Gardener Intern Program, but this year since a class did not form for January, we hope to begin in May.

Trees for All of Tennessee! The 250K Tree Day is here again this year. Ed Starring will be picking up the trees that have been ordered on Thursday, February 22, 2018, and Pennie Hendrick will be at the Master Gardener building on Friday, February 23, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, February 24, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. for tree pickup. These trees have been ordered by the general public, and we are the pickup point for Rhea County. Trees were not ordered by the Master Gardener Association this year, but if any trees are left over they will be available to Master Gardeners. If anyone needs volunteer hours you are welcome on Friday and Saturday. It is a very easy day!

Please see the attached flyer for info on the Small Scale Orchard short course being offered in April. We will resume our regular Master Gardener Association Meeting on March 15, 2018.

Stay well!

Pennie Hendrick

President, Rhea County Master Gardener Association

Rhea County Master Gardeners

1-18-18

Pot Luck Dinner at the Master Gardener Building

The Rhea County Master Gardeners enjoyed a pot luck dinner for their first meeting of 2018.

After the dinner, Thomas Greenlee shared information about upcoming events.

1) Small Scale Orchard Short Course- Starting April 7, 2018 for 3 consecutive Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Master Gardener Building. The full course cost is \$100 and it will be open to other counties and any interested parties. (Individual courses may be priced by Thomas, based on cost.) Each Saturday session will have coffee in the morning, lunch provided and snacks in the afternoon. All supplies, educational materials, tools, handouts, etc. are included in the cost. Diane Pfeiffer and Debbie Ward volunteered to provide lunches. See attached flyer for more information.

2) Jerry Lamb should be back in Rhea County in April but Thomas is continuing to schedule classes as well as his other duties.

3) The next Master Gardener Class will be starting Thursday, May 3rd, and Thomas wants Master Gardeners to help be visible in the community by manning booths at Lowe's, Tractor Supply, etc. with "Ask the Experts" type presentations. Volunteer hours can be acquired.

A general discussion followed with President Pennie Hendrick and Thomas Greenlee leading.

Plans for the following year included continuing with Pollinators as a theme and possibly adding more raised beds, bat houses, bird houses, roses, and fruit trees as other pollinators.

The Master Gardener Porch addition was discussed for this coming year. Funds may need to be raised to accomplish this task.

Master Gardener signs will be framed for placement around the fair grounds and building.

The Rhea County Fair will be held July 31st to August 4th. A Master Gardener is invited to be a representative on the fair board. A discussion on participation in the fair focused on getting more attendance to the Master Gardener presentation.

The Fair is working on another building just past the MG building that would be 6,000 square feet and be used as a general purpose building. This has funding provided by River Valley Ag Credit.

The Arena is still needing about \$100,000 and a dinner to raise that money is planned.

Master Gardener projects and opportunities include: A presentation at the Rhea County Fair, Celebrate the Earth (4th & 5th graders) and Farm City Day 3rd graders.

A discussion on meeting dates/schedule had a recommendation that Master Gardener meetings go back to be separate from the Master Gardener classes. This would place the Master Gardener meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Officers will continue as is with Eddie Starring stepping up as president. (Secretary shared with Faith Young and Linda Blevins, Treasure shared with Debbie Ward and Diane Bolt.) The Vice President position needs filled and it was stated that the responsibility of that position is to create and schedule the calendar and programs for the group. Discussion ensued with information from a historical perspective that programs and the schedule had been completed in past years at the beginning of each year by the executive board. The NEXT executive meeting is the first Tuesday of February, the 6th, 10:00 at the Master Gardener Building. All are invited to participate/attend.

Pennie Hendrick moved to table the election of 2018 officers until the February 18 meeting. Bill Ward seconded and the motion carried.

Thomas reminded all that MASTER GARDENING HOURS need to be logged in the computer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Day of Gardening sponsored by the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs is February 24th at the Good Shepard Lutheran Church in Chattanooga. The cost is \$20 before February 17 and \$25 at the door.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:

Faith Young

Recording Secretary for Rhea County Master Gardeners

Cost of the class is \$100 for all three sessions and covers educational & instructional materials, grafting tool kit & refreshments.

Class size is limited and a light lunch will be provided.

FOR MORE INFORMATION please contact:

Thomas Greenlee
(423) 775-7807
tgreenlee@utk.edu

Registration
deadline:
March 21, 2018

Small Scale Orchard Short Course



April 7, 14 & 21, 2018
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Ag Center & Fairgrounds
Evensville, TN
(334 Eagle Lane)