



Rhea County Master Gardener Association Newsletter

Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta* 'Indian Summer') 'Indian Summer' is a standout among a sea of Black-eyed Susans because of its extra-large, golden yellow flower heads. It will bloom from early summer until first frost. Use it in borders, cottage gardens, meadows, or for naturalizing. Butterflies are drawn to it. The species is native to the central U.S. Grow in full sun and well-drained soil that is consistently moist. Deadhead regularly. Start seeds indoors in spring or direct sow in the garden after the frost-free date. May be short-lived, but plants will self-sow. Fairly trouble-free, but watch for aphids, powdery mildew, smut, and leaf spots. Also, slugs and snails may eat young plants. May be invasive.

Greetings to All!

Last year, gardeners were struggling to keep gardens watered due to severe drought and currently an abundance of rain presents even the most experienced with many challenges. What a difference a year makes in the wonderful world of gardening.

Just a reminder that the Rhea County Fair is coming up in August and the Master Gardeners will be presenting the **POLLINATOR PROJECT**. The fair runs from **August 8 thru 12** and the Master Gardeners will be in residence on **Friday, August 11 from 4 pm to 8 pm** and **Saturday, August 12 from 10 am to 8 pm**. We will be presenting a short 10 minute power point with an overview of pollinators in the garden followed with a tour of the raised beds. In addition, we will have a station for people to make a small Fairy Garden at the cost of \$10.00 each and a station for our silent auction. Since these activities will take up all of the room in our building, space for other vendors is only available on the side of our building where the porch will eventually be built. **Please be aware that you must register with the Fair to be able to utilize these spots.** Volunteers are needed for both Thursday and Friday and a sign up sheet will be available at the July 20, 2017 meeting. *We will be making signs to direct people to our building during this meeting, please bring a dessert to share and your silent auction items.* In addition, other opportunities for volunteer hours in the weeks leading up to the fair are listed in the minutes from the last meeting. Please check your emails for updates on these opportunities.

New signs for the Master Gardener building have been purchased by the Extension Office and are ready to hang. Thomas has arranged for an ad in the Fair Catalog (free of charge) and it has been submitted. Jennifer Shoffner is working on other avenues for advertising. On July 3rd, Peggy and Larry Harrison and Pennie Hendrick thinned the raised bed gardens, and Larry sprayed for ants.

Please see our website www.rheacomg.com for information on the upcoming Canning College. This is a great class and even those that are not very adept in the kitchen will enjoy.

Hope to see you on July 20, 2017 at 7 pm in the Master Gardener building for the MGA meeting!

Pennie Hendrick

President, Rhea County Master Gardener Association

Rhea County Master Gardener Association Meeting

June 15, 2017

Attending: Eddie Starring, Pennie Hendrick, Ruth & Scott Silvia, Earl Fisher, Thomas Greenlee and Jennifer Shoffner

Pennie Hendrick called the meeting to order.

Pennie presented costs of an advertisement in the Herald News insert for the Rhea County Fair:

Full page & banner = \$500 plus \$50 for color
Half page = \$250
Quarter page = \$175
Eighth page = \$125
Business size = \$75

Thomas is going to check to see if he can negotiate to get us ½ the cost or maybe even free for the half page ad.

Signage to draw people to the Master Gardener Building during the Fair was mentioned. We will have the same map as last year handed out at the gate but will spruce it up a bit and note the Pollinator exhibit. We can make posters as we did last year to direct people to the building.

Earl Fisher mentioned a sign to thank Westel Greenhouse for the donation of the butterfly bush.

Thomas suggested we could do giveaway items such as bottles of water to draw people into the building also.

Earl Fisher asked about seed packet hand-outs. We had the wild flowers for our Celebrate Earth project, would we be able to get some to hand out at the Fair?

Pennie has at her home in kiddie pools the extra plants donated for the beds and would like to bring them to the fair to set around the building as extra decoration. We would need to find a way to decorate around the pools.

Pennie also mentioned possible advertisement in Rhea Review and a radio spot. Jennifer Shoffner volunteered to work on advertising for the fair.

Pennie asked Thomas about the UTK Bee Book idea Debbie had presented at last meeting. Thomas reminded us our cost was \$10 per book and didn't think it would be a good idea to raise money at the fair due to risk of cost to have stock on hand at time of sell.

We will have the Fairy Gardens and items to assemble them to sell and our silent auction items.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Maintaining Beds

Staff the Fair

Senior Citizens Day at the Fair August 9th

Man the building on Friday Evening and all day Saturday

Thomas needs people to help set-up pens and take them back down for livestock exhibits – 300 sheep

Pigs on Thursday night

Chickens on Tuesday night – 42 kids this year showing chickens

Anything Fair related can count for service hours

Rhea County Fair is August 8th through August 12th

Please bring auction items and a dessert to the July meeting.

July meeting will be held on July 20th and we will decorate posters and have desserts.

Respectfully submitted: Jennifer Shoffner