



Rhea County Master Gardener Association Newsletter

Cydonia oblonga

Quince is the sole member of the genus *Cydonia* in the family Rosaceae (which also contains apples and pears among other fruits). It is a small deciduous tree that bears a pome fruit, similar in appearance to a pear, and bright golden yellow when mature. Throughout history the cooked fruit has been used as food, but the tree is also grown for its attractive pale pink blossoms and other ornamental qualities.

Greetings to All!

Let's hope this beautiful weather continues and we do not have a hard freeze. Fingers crossed!

We are excited to have Peggy and Larry Harrison, our own Master Gardeners, presenting our class this week on herbs. It should be a very informative class. Peggy and Larry have a beautiful herb farm in Pikeville.

A reminder about the free program Pollinator Palooza at Crabtree Farms on April 1. This program should be of great interest and tie into our education project for 2017. Please RSVP to Kelly at kgrant1@utk.edu by March 15, 2017. Although the program is free, Crabtree Farms has asked that all participants register. We will register all at once as a group. Please visit www.rheacomg.com for more information and a link to Crabtree Farms as there are many things of interest taking place starting on Saturday March 4, 2017.

Instead of formal minutes from our last meeting, I've included notes of items discussed. In addition, please find the game plan for our pollinator project.

Rhea County Master Gardener Association & Executive Board Meeting

February 16 & March 7, 2017

February 16

Master Gardeners voted unanimously to use Cindy Schreiner's discount with Whirlpool to finish purchasing the appliances needed to finish our building. Appliances have been bought and paid for.

It was agreed to concentrate on completing our building and using this year to add a porch and a fence.

The Master Gardener education project on pollinators is a go with a target date of the first presentation to be late May for Celebrate the Earth.

Volunteers will possibly be needed for Career Day on April 21 at the Ag Center.

It was agreed to hold another Silent Auction during the Rhea County Fair. An overwhelming majority voted No to managing the concession stand at the Fair. Also, Master Gardeners are considering building mason bee houses to sell during the Fair.

March 7

The pollinator project was discussed and the following has been determined. The six raised beds will serve as our demonstration platform and will be planted as follows:

- * Sunflower bed with five varieties planted from tallest to shortest from the center out.
- * Butterfly bush bed
- * Purple bed with lavender, Mexican petunia, anise hyssops
- * Checkerboard bed with a combination of coreopsis, Gerber daisies and/or black-eyed Susans.
- * Native bed planted with red flowers – bee balm, lobelia cardinalis, etc.
- * Red, White & Blue bed with poppies designed like a flag with a border of white Wave petunias

Bill Ward will be drafting a schematic for us.

A letter will be sent to all Master Gardeners regarding the payment of dues. Anyone who wishes to continue to be a part of the program must pay their dues by the deadline. Anyone not paying dues will be purged from the email/mail list.

There will be a work day on Monday, March 13 at 10:00 a.m. at the Ag Center. We will be cleaning the raised beds and garden area in preparation for our pollinator planting.

Bryan College students will be doing a work day at the Ag Center on March 30. Master Gardeners are encouraged to come and help supervise these students.

Just a reminder that MGA yearly dues of \$12.00 are being collected by Debbie Ward.

Stay well, and looking forward to seeing you at the meeting on March 16, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Pennie Kendrick

President, Rhea County Master Gardener Association