



# Rhea County Master Gardener Association Newsletter

**Greetings to All!**

As we enter this most special holiday season, I would like to thank all the Master Gardeners that volunteered this year for all of your hard work and dedication. None of our accomplishments would be possible without your help.

We will not have a monthly meeting in December and will convene again on January 19, 2017 for our annual dinner with our new Master Gardener Interns. This year we are having a **CHILI COOK OFF!** So get out those recipes and get ready for a fun evening with more surprises to come and of course a special prize for the winning entry. Instructions for the cook off and entry requirements will be emailed separately.

Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting on January 19, 2017 and please RSVP to Kelly at 423-775-7807 by January 5, 2017 so we may plan accordingly.

I hope all of you have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year with love and laughter shared by family and friends.

*Pennie Kendrick*

President, Rhea County Master Gardener Association

**Master Gardener Association Meeting**  
**November 17, 2016**

The Rhea County Master Gardener Association met for its monthly meeting on Thursday, November 17 at 7:00 p.m. at the Ag Center and Fairgrounds. Those in attendance included John and Linda Blevins, Bill Ward, Ruth and Scott Silvia, Eddie Starring, Karen Winters, Pennie Hendrick, Dianne Pfeiffer and Robin Howell.

There was great participation for Pumpkinfest held on the courthouse lawn on October 28-29. The “pumpkins” with rye seed to “grow hair” in the orange cups was a hit with the children and parents and allowed the children to participate in seeing seed grow at their homes.

The drawing for the scholarship for the 2017 Master Gardener Intern class was awarded to Jennifer Shoffner, materials manager at La-Z-Boy and presently president of the Dayton Chamber of Commerce. She is very excited as she has been wanting to take the class.

All presenters have been confirmed for the 2017 Master Gardener Intern class, but there will not be an organic gardening session this year. Patrick Sweatt will be traveling to South America and Latin America and unable to teach the class. There will not be an urban forestry class either, but Gregg Upchurch will present a program on turfgrass. The class schedule will be almost identical to last year with these two exceptions and will last 15 weeks. On the night of the second class (January 19), there will be a dinner with all Master Gardeners. Advertising for the classes will be in the Rhea Review and The Herald News. Thomas passed out fliers for us to place in prominent areas to attract new students.

Harry Jones has the cabinets framed for the Master Gardener building but will not have them finished until after Thanksgiving. As far as work days are concerned, it will be hard to schedule any with all the holiday activities coming soon. There is some tedious work ahead as the trim needs a second coat and the gable ends need finished.

After some thought, members suggested that the January joint meeting of the intern class and Association should be a chili cook-off and raise money for Master Gardeners. The entry fee will be \$5.00 and members are asked to bring salads and desserts. There will also be a “donation” to vote for the best chili. All monies go to the Master Gardener Association. An email reminder will be sent out after the first of the year.

Master Gardener hours are necessary to be considered a current and active member. Thomas explained that the University is becoming more strict on the rules concerning the Master Gardener program. Each certified Master Gardener must complete 25 hours of service in one calendar year (Interns must have 40) and have 8 hours of continuing education credit to keep their Master Gardener status. Further instructions from Thomas at another meeting.

The term of office for officers was discussed and it was decided to lengthen from one to two years. After being put to a vote, it was decided unanimously to change to a two year term.

Master Gardener dues should be paid in January and are currently \$12 per member.

After the business meeting, the group decorated a Christmas tree for the Rhea-diant Christmas celebration on December 9-10. All proceeds go to purchase equipment and conduct educational programming at Rhea Medical Center.

With there being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Blevins (acting for secretary Faith Young)