



President's Corner

The next Master Gardener Association meeting will be held on Thursday, June 18 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Jeff & Cindy Garrett. I will be unable to attend, but Pennie Hendrick will preside in my absence.

Here are some thoughts on things we need to discuss:

For the Rhea County Fair, I suggest we have an exhibit on winter gardening. We could have posters on the following:

- 1). Rhea County has an ideal climate for a lot of winter crops including kale, spinach, lettuce, Swiss chard, cabbage, etc.
- 2) There are fewer pests and diseases to deal with in the winter.
- 3) Location is really important, you have to catch the winter sun.

We might also look at the possibility of starting seedlings in container plants if it isn't too early.

For a fundraiser at the Fair, maybe we should focus on selling herbs and have potted herbs ready to sell instead of a general plant sale.

Also, there was talk of a "no-bake" sale (just contribute money instead of baking). This would

save time and money. In addition, or instead of, could we have a raffle? We could sell raffle tickets at the fair and have a drawing at the end. Everyone likes the rain sensor-pump controller that Thomas bought for the raised beds at the Ag Center. If it rains a half-inch, the sensor turns off the pump for two days. It is adjustable. We could raffle an item like this.

Volunteer hours need to be entered. We need to discuss ways for Master Gardeners to get their volunteer hours.

And finally, we used to be in the habit of bringing our plant issues to the meetings and get expert opinions on them. We need to start doing this again. I finally figured out I'm having a problem with flea beetles on my peppers; it took a while to catch one!

John

John Kueck
Master Gardener Association President

June Master Gardener Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, June 18 at 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Jeff & Cindy Garrett. Their address is 2049 Linwood Circle, Soddy Daisy, TN. We will have a short business session and tour the Garrett's rose gardens.

Gardening Thoughts for June from UT

- ◇ Just because it is almost summer doesn't mean it is too late to plant annuals. I often don't get my annuals at home into the ground until late June. Plants such as sunflowers, zinnias, Mexican sunflower, cosmos, basil and dill can still be direct-seeded.
 - ◇ During the hot summer months, mulch can be especially useful for conserving water. Consider mulching your vegetable garden as well as your ornamentals. The mulch not only helps conserve moisture, but it prevents the splashing of water, thereby reducing the spread of disease. It also adds organic matter to the soil and prevents many weeds.
 - ◇ Trim back catmint (*Nepeta*) after its first flush of flowers to promote new growth and a second flush of blooms.
 - ◇ The best time to harvest most herbs is just before flowering. This time is when the leaves contain the maximum essential oils.
 - ◇ Daylilies are in peak bloom in June. It is a good time to buy new daylily selections for your garden to ensure you get the color you desire. Visit a daylily farm for the best selections and plant them in full sun for the best flower production.
 - ◇ Once daffodils, surprise lilies (*Lycoris squamigera*) and red spider lilies (*Lycoris radiata*) foliage has turned yellow, you can mow or cut it down. If you remove it while it is still green, you decrease the amount of energy available for the bulb to store, which will reduce flower size next year.
 - ◇ To keep squash, cucumber and bean plants abundantly producing, harvest them frequently.
 - ◇ Store leftover vegetable and flower seeds in a cool, dry location to save them for planting next year.
 - ◇ Water your plants in the morning, if possible, to conserve water and reduce evaporation. Frequent, deep watering is better than frequent, shallow watering, since deep watering promotes deep root growth. For best results, deep-water trees and shrubs once or twice a week and flowers two to three times a week. Most plants need one inch of rainfall per week. Pay attention to how much falls from the sky and water accordingly. If you have an automatic irrigation system, consider installing a rain sensor that adjusts for rainfall.
 - ◇ Be on the lookout for mosquitoes! With all of the rain we have had, these pesky insects are sure to be in abundance. Keep plant saucers, buckets, trash cans and children's toys poured out. Make sure your gutters are draining properly and change the water in birdbaths every three to four days. In areas where standing water cannot be avoided, use environmentally friendly mosquito dunks. These dunks are made from a naturally occurring bacterium called Bti (*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*). Dunks can be purchased at nurseries and most home improvement stores.
 - ◇ Powdery mildew is also more likely to be a problem in times of abundant rainfall. Keep an eye on plants like yarrow, asters, azaleas, coreopsis, dogwoods, euonymus, gaillardia, gerbera daisy, honeysuckle, hydrangea, lilac, monarda, phlox, pulmonaria, roses, rudbeckia, scabiosa, spirea, verbena and zinnias.
 - ◇ Bats can be an effective way to control insects. One big brown bat can eat 3,000 to 7,000 insects each night. Attract bats by building and placing bat houses in your yard.
 - ◇ Summer solstice is the longest day of the year and the first day of summer (June 21). Pay tribute to the sun by enjoying the long day.
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May Master Gardener Meeting Minutes

Rhea County Master Gardeners had a joint meeting with the new graduating class of interns at Kinzalow Gardens. Members and interns had a walking tour of the gardens followed by a pot-luck dinner.

Outgoing president, Larry Bryant, thanked the Kinzalows for hosting the evening. He also thanked all who had helped with the Master Gardener building and raised beds at the Ag Center and Fairgrounds. A lot of progress has been made and the weekend classes on raised bed gardening have been a success. All were encouraged to log their volunteer hours into the state data base as that covers our membership requirement and helps our local office and state organization. Larry handed the presidency over to John Kueck for the coming year, as well as First-Vice President, Pennie Hendrick. Other officers stayed the same and a 2nd Vice-President is being sought.

Incoming President John Kueck also thanked those who helped with Celebrate the Earth and encouraged all new interns to be involved in the Master Gardener Association.

Thomas Greenlee awarded interns their certificates and gave Master Gardener certificates to those who had earned their hours to become bona-fide Master Gardeners. He also encouraged all to have an ongoing involvement in the Master Gardener Association. Following the meeting, pictures were made of interns and new Master Gardeners.

Respectfully submitted,

Faith

Faith Young

Master Gardener Association Secretary
