



# Rhea County Master Gardener Association Newsletter

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the recent intern graduates, newly minted Master Gardeners and Gold Leaf award winners and thank all of you for your interest, time and friendship to the Master Gardener Program. A big thank you to John Kueck for his leadership as President over the past year. I have some very TALL shoes to fill! I would also like to welcome Ed Starring as our new 2nd Vice President and Debbie Ward as our Co-Treasurer with Diane Bolt.

Our upcoming Master Gardener Association meeting on June 16 will be held at the home of Jeff and Cindy Garrett. If you have never been, you are in for a real treat. Their roses are just beautiful, and they are so gracious to host us every June. We will send out a reminder email with the address, directions and time. A brief meeting will be held after we have toured the gardens. Jeff will demonstrate how he makes his watering wand and a list of materials will be provided in advance should you desire to make one.

The July 21st meeting will be held at our Master Gardener Pavilion, and we will have our 2nd annual Pot Luck cookout. We will be finalizing plans for our tomato presentation at the fair. Since the fair is beginning on August 9th, we need to have a list of volunteers scheduled **no later than July 1, 2016** for manning the pavilion on August 12 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. and August 13 from Noon to 8:00 p.m. We will take the time at our cookout to finalize our presentation. Printed materials will be made available so each volunteer has access to the information prior to the fair. If you are wanting to volunteer, please contact me at [greytacres@gmail.com](mailto:greytacres@gmail.com). In conjunction with our taste testing that will occur before and during the fair, we will be presenting a one day short course to wrap up our trials. Timing is approximately one week after the close of the fair. We will present the results and give an overview on how to grow tomatoes and a possible demo on canning tomatoes and making tomato juice. This course will be open to the general public and cost is \$10.00 per person.

Our field trip to Nashville has become a non-event due to some measures beyond our control. Ed Starring is researching a day trip to the Knoxville area to Oakes Daylilies. Oakes Daylilies grows over 50 acres of daylilies and ships plants around the country as well as internationally. The annual Daylily Bloom Festival attracts folks from around the nation and is June 24th & 25th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Ed Starring has spoken to the Oakes and they say the daylilies should be in full bloom by the Bloom Festival. Anyone interested in going, please call the Extension office at 423-775-7807. We can carpool and/or caravan.

Organizing for the remainder of the year and into next year is well under way. This year we will have project leaders that will be responsible for certain projects. Listed below are the projects and confirmed leaders.

|                                                                              |                                                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MG Building - <a href="#">Thomas Greenlee</a>                                | Fair/July Cookout - <a href="#">Pennie Hendrick and Dianne Pfeiffer</a> |
| Spring City Depot - <a href="#">Karen Winters</a>                            | Hospital Courtyard - <a href="#">Linda Blevins</a>                      |
| Farm City Day - <b>TBD</b>                                                   | Pumpkinfest - <a href="#">Paulette Bitner</a>                           |
| Rhea-diant Christmas Tree - <a href="#">Ruth Silvia</a>                      | Strawberry Festival - <a href="#">Pennie Hendrick</a>                   |
| Out Reach - <b>TBD</b> (ex: Q&A at Lowes or teaching a one day short course) |                                                                         |
| Media - <b>TBD</b>                                                           | Field Trip Coordinator - <a href="#">Ed Starring</a>                    |
| Exploring a 501-C3 - <a href="#">Larry Harrison</a>                          | Jr. MGP - <a href="#">Ed Starring and Pennie Hendrick</a>               |

See you on June 16th! Stay cool and happy gardening!

*Pennie Hendrick*

Rhea County Master Gardener Association President

## Rhea County Master Gardener Association Meeting May 19, 2016 at the Kinzalow Farm

Rhea County Master Gardeners met for the new class graduation picnic dinner at the Kinzalow farm in Spring City. Dick Kinzalow lead the group on a tour of the house and grounds which included a walk around the pond. Several members tried their luck at catching fish as well. After dinner, a short business meeting was held by the outgoing association president, John Kueck.

### **BUSINESS:**

A motion was made by Bill Ward to approve the minutes with Linda Blevins seconding and the motion carried.

**\*Master Gardener Building**-Larry has estimated that completing the gables and soffit would cost around \$1,000 which could be taken from the Master Gardener account so this could be completed. The account currently has around \$2,000. A motion was made by Faith Young that this cost be covered out of the Association treasury with Pennie Hendrick seconding and the motion carrying.

**\*Leadership**-John said the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President position needs to be filled and asked for volunteers. This position is a 2-year term and would involve meeting facilitation such as set up, introducing the speaker, etc. Since the Master Gardener classes are 14 weeks, this would be included in the facilitation duties. There was also some discussion regarding an assistant treasurer to provide back up coverage on the Association account.

**\*Master Gardener Nashville trip**-Thomas has continued to work toward this goal but has not made contact with the General Jackson staff. That portion of the trip may need to be re-evaluated in order to schedule the trip at the end of June.

**\*Court Yard**- Linda Blevins announced that pentas and parsley will be planted with a goal of attracting butterflies. Plants will be coming in soon and an announcement will go out regarding a work day.

**\*Tomato trials**-Thomas suggested that gardeners go by and check on the tomatoes as the project has started and is one of only six trials in the state of Tennessee. The varieties are anonymous, but he said there are a couple of new varieties.

### **GRADUATION:**

Thomas announced that all new Master Gardener class participants passed their test and graduated. The highest test score was 96 so he reviewed a few of the test questions and answers. Some of the class members have already completed their volunteer hours to transition from intern to full fledged Master Gardeners. Graduation certificates were handed out.

Gold Leaf Club members are those who have volunteered 100 or more hours as of May 16,2016. Awards were given to: Larry Bryant, Scott and Ruth Silva, Eddie Starling, Bill and Debbie Ward, and Pennie Hendrick. In looking forward to the next year, Thomas encouraged all to stay active in the Master Gardener Association for the fellowship and common interests. The Master Gardener building will facilitate scheduling of meetings, classes, and activities, and he would like to see a class of no less than 15 in the coming year.

President John Kueck thanked all for the participation during his term and turned the meeting over to incoming President Pennie Hendrick who adjourned the meeting.

Present were: Paulette and Stephen Bitner, Janet and Bob Collier, Bill and Debbie Ward, Pennie Hendrick, Linda and John Blevins, Eddie and Patsy Starring, Ruth and Scott Silva, Margaret and Larry Harrison, John and Louise Kueck, Faith Young, Thomas Greenlee, and Dick Kinzalow.

Submitted by:

Faith Young,

Rhea County Master Gardener Association Secretary