

November 2015



Rhea County Master Gardener News

President's Corner

PUMPKINFEST

A big thank you to Pennie Hendrick, Dianne & Bruce Pfeiffer, Linda and John Blevins, Kris and Judy Bancroft, Mary Esther Shannon, Karen Winters, Caren Ruffner, Gina Torres and Thomas Greenlee for making our booth at the 2015 Pumpkinfest a great success. The children all loved decorating the cans and choosing seeds or a flower to take home and nurture. We gave out 200 plus plants. Pennie proposed doing this project to help bring exposure to the Rhea County Master Gardeners and we certainly did! We need to do this again next year!

HOSPITAL COURTYARD

We had a busy day at the courtyard where all the old flowers were pulled and we replanted with decorative kale and cabbage, pansies and false cypress. The courtyard garden will look beautiful for the fall and hopefully will be uplifting for some of the patients and visitors.

RHEA-DIANT

The Rhea-Diant Christmas celebration will be held at the National Guard Armory on November 21 beginning at 11:00 a.m. They will be selling Christmas décor as a fundraiser for Rhea Medical Center. We are hoping to prepare a garden themed tree to be donated and sold at the event if there is enough interest. Please contact Pennie Hendrick if you would like to help.

NOVEMBER ASSOCIATION MTG

At the Master Gardener Association meeting on November 19, we will be making delicious apple butter under the direction of Anna Johnson. If you bring \$10 to the meeting you can take home a couple of pints. Anna needs several helpers the night before (November 18) at 7:30 p.m. at the Ag Center to peel and core apples and start the crock pots. Please come to help and learn and bring a crock pot and an apple peeler if you have one.

Whew, Fall is a busy time in the garden. Included in this newsletter are some timely reminders from Jason Reeves at the University of Tennessee that you may want to consider.

John

John Kueck
Master Gardener Association President

Tips for November

- ✿ It's an ideal time to plant or transplant trees, shrubs and fruit crops. Be sure to water well and add a good 3 to 4 inch layer of mulch to new plantings.
- ✿ Check newly planted evergreen plants regularly during the winter to ensure they are getting enough water.
- ✿ Mulch existing trees and shrubs to help reduce weeds, provide insulation from freezing temperatures and conserve moisture.
- ✿ Reduce peony botrytis blight and hollyhock rust by removing and disposing of all leaves and stems this fall. Roses should have all their leaves raked from beneath them to prevent black spot. Dispose of plant materials in the trash, not the compost pile, to reduce the carryover of disease during the winter.
- ✿ Cut chrysanthemum and other perennials' stems back close to the ground once they have begun to die back. Leave ornamental grasses to provide winter interest until spring.
- ✿ You can continue to transplant perennials throughout the fall and winter, as long as they remain dormant.
- ✿ Winter annuals, such as pansies, violas, *Dianthus chinensis*, red mustard, snapdragons, ornamental cabbage and kale can still be planted. The earlier in the month, the better.
- ✿ It's the ideal time to plant spring-flowering bulbs. Consider planting some of the minor bulbs such as winter aconite, glory of the snow, species tulips, narcissus and grape hyacinths.
- ✿ Mulch flower beds with 3 to 4 inches of good compost or fine mulch to keep soil temperature stable and prevent winter plant injury from frost heaving. As the compost or fine mulch decomposes, it will enrich your garden soil as well.
- ✿ It's not too late to fertilize your cool-season fescue lawn. Use a turf fertilizer and follow label directions. The fertilizer encourages good root development and helps improve the color of the lawn.
- ✿ Keep heavy layers of leaves raked from the lawn. They should be composted. Alternatively, you can mow over a light layer of leaves, turning them to a mulch that adds important nutrients back to the lawn.
- ✿ November is the time for the first herbicide application to control wild garlic and wild onion if you have them in your yard.
- ✿ As soon as the leaves fall from fruit trees and berry bushes, spray for the first time with a dormant horticultural oil. Spraying helps control overwintering insects and diseases. Apply according to label directions.
- ✿ Incorporate compost in the annual and vegetable gardens for next growing season.
- ✿ Complete removal of fallen leaves and debris to help eliminate overwintering insect and disease organisms.
- ✿ Cut the tops off asparagus plants and mulch with a good layer of compost.
- ✿ Cover strawberries 2 inches deep with hay or straw to reduce weeds and increase winter protection.
- ✿ Secure raspberry and blackberry canes to protect them from wind whipping.
- ✿ Give houseplants as much light as possible as lower light days begin.
- ✿ Stop fertilizing indoor plants until spring.
- ✿ If possible, provide houseplants with increased humidity as levels decrease due to indoor heating.
- ✿ Begin to increase the time between waterings, but do not cut back on the amount of water.
- ✿ Force bulbs indoors like narcissus, hyacinths and amaryllis for color early in the new year. Start paperwhites in late November for Christmas flowering. Keep your paperwhites from flopping by adding alcohol. (www.hort.cornell.edu/miller/pickling_your_paperwhites.pdf)

Master Gardener Meeting Minutes

Rhea County Master Gardener President, John Kueck, called the meeting to order and the minutes were approved as presented.

The Treasurer reported \$1,949.03 in our account after some funds were transferred for the building project.

Farm City Day was a success, but Pennie, John, Bruce, Robin and Thomas had a long day of presentations.

Saturday, October 24 is a field trip to Woodens Orchard for the Master Gardeners. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Extension office in Dayton. Lunch will be at the barn after the tour.

Pumpkinfest is coming up and we need candy and soup cans (to be used for planting seeds as an example for the kids to learn about growing). Plenty of help is signed up on Friday, but help is needed for Saturday, October 31. Email Pennie if you can help and drop off cans for the seedlings at the livestock barn at the Ag Center. Linda announced the Pumpkinfest flyers are available.

November 19 will be the next Master Gardner meeting with Anna Johnson providing a program on making apple butter in the crock pot. Email her at ajohns41@utk.edu to let her know if you will be attending.

Thomas said the Association programs are focusing on seasonal activities and providing classes/activities that will be interesting to the group.

Relay for Life is coming up this weekend on Saturday, October 17 from 4:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the Delaware Avenue sports complex. Luminaries are available in honor or in memory of someone for \$5 a bag. Linda Blevins encouraged all to participate. Music, games, food, etc. is available and all proceeds go to help those cancer needs for Rhea Countians.

Rheadiant Holiday Celebration to help our local hospital is coming up on November 21 from 11:00 am. to 4:00 p.m. Anyone can make and donate wreaths, Christmas trees, etc. for auctioning off to benefit this fund. Music, kids activities and food is available. Pictures with Santa will also be made. This will be held at the National Guard Armory. Thomas said that if anyone wanted to do a tree, they could count it towards their volunteer service hours.

Thomas has a fruit tree order going out and all who are interested can order and pre-pay. The trees are coming from Bottoms Orchard in Concord, Georgia. Prices are very good and the trees are excellent.

The Catholic Church is having a chili supper on October 24 to raise money for the Women's Care Center ultrasound.

Thomas presented "Winterizing our Garden, Other Tips and Tricks". He had a slide presentation on preparing for weather, clean up, winterizing, tool and equipment maintenance, planning for spring, etc. He provided an excellent hand-out to go with the presentation.

Those present included Judy and Kris Bancroft, Eddie Starring, Sheila Ray, Diane Bolt, Robin Howell, Dianne and Bruce Pfeiffer, Bill Ward, Karen Massengale, Linda Blevins, John Kueck, Faith Young and Thomas Greenlee.

Respectfully submitted,

Faith

Faith Young

Master Gardener Association Secretary
