



Rhea County Master Gardener Association Newsletter

Greetings to All!

A big thank you to Diane, Linda, John, Karen, Thomas, Peggy, Larry, Sheila, Pennie and Jim for making the 2016 Pumpkinfest another great success. We gave out 450 seed cups that the children took home after they drew on them and we planted with annual rye grass. The running joke was "Your window sill will have more grass than your yard". I would also like to thank all the Master Gardeners that contributed candy for Trick or Treat time. We did leave a few pieces for the kids!

Our next Association meeting will be held on November 17, 2016 at 7 pm in our Master Gardener building. We will have a fun time enjoying refreshments and decorating the Master Gardener Christmas Tree that will be donated to the annual hospital fundraiser, [*Rhea-diant Holiday Celebration*](#). Ruth Silvia will be providing the 3 or 4 foot table top tree. An old-fashioned Christmas is the theme and in keeping we will be making the ornaments to adorn the tree. Please check your craft supplies for items to donate to help us make our ornaments. We will be stringing popcorn for the tree and making small crystal bead icicles, so you may want to bring your magnifying glasses and some scissors.

Promotion is underway for the new Master Gardener class beginning on January 12, 2017. We combined the entries for scholarship from the Fair and Pumpkinfest (34 entries) and picked a winner and they have accepted the challenge to join our program. Be on the lookout for articles in the paper and mention in the Rhea Review and a possible PSA on our Rhea County radio station. Spread the word!

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 asking for everyone to bring a desert or salad as the main course will be 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.

Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting on November 17th and please RSVP to Kelly at 423-775-7807 by November 15th so we may plan accordingly for refreshments.

Pennie Kendrick

President, Rhea County Master Gardener Association

Agent's Corner

Hello everyone! I hope all of you are enjoying the cool nights as we head into what has turned out to be a very dry fall. With no rain in sight and mixed reviews on the weather over the winter, I'm not sure what the coming year may hold but hopefully it comes in the form of drops of water.

We have had a very busy and very successful year and you can look forward to hearing some of the highlights at the meeting in January. I would like to have a couple of work days at the Master Gardener building to do some finishing touches on that project and have it ready for the 2017 class. During the TVA work day, we painted 80% of the building and the trim, but the trim needs a second coat and the gables need to be painted. We also need to do some clean up on the inside of the building and finish out the bathroom. We also need to clean out the beds and plant cover crops. The dates for future work days will be next Monday, November 14; Tuesday, November 15; Thursday, November 17 and Friday, November 18. We also need to make some decisions on how to proceed with finishing the floor so I would like everyone who has an opinion to email, call or come out on Monday and provide your opinion.

I would like to thank all of you who participated in the tomato trials this summer. The project was a great success, and we now have some data that we can use in making future recommendations. After some conversation with the group and Jerry, we will be focusing on ornamentals next year and specifically working with setting up gardens that are pollinator friendly. Jerry and I will be teaching some classes in the spring and summer on maintaining your pollinator population and how to plant for them. We will need some assistance in planting the beds in the spring and maintenance, but all of that will come at a later date. Thanks again for another wonderful year, and I look forward to seeing all of you out at the meeting in November where we will be working on our tree for Rhea-diant!

~ Thomas Greenlee, Extension Agent I



MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION Meeting

Held at Wooden's Apple Orchard

October 20, 2016

Approximately fifteen members participated in an educational and interesting tour of Wooden's, including visiting one of the orchards and several buildings used for processing the apples. After a meal at their restaurant, a business meeting was conducted by President Pennie Hendrick.

Pumpkinfest will be held October 28 and 29 on the Courthouse grounds. Pennie has arranged for a tent, three tables, black and orange tablecloths, Master Gardener signs, lighting for evening use. For the children, Pennie will bring 300-plus cups, markers for drawing faces on cups, dirt, and winter rye grass seed for sowing in the cups. She will bring six sample cups which have rye grass growing (it gives the appearance of spikey hair!). For the adults, there will be Master Gardener brochures available and individuals can submit their name for a drawing (from the Fair and Pumpkin Fest) for a scholarship to the next class. Thomas can bring hay bales, and Diane Pfeiffer and perhaps others have decorations they can provide.

Set-up and punching the cups will be Friday morning beginning at 8:30 a.m. before the streets are blocked off. The booth will be open at 2pm on Friday and 9am on Saturday, continuing into the evening on both days. **VOLUNTEERS are still needed.** Pennie will be helping with set-up on Friday morning and will be there Friday and Saturday nights. Bruce and Diane Pfeiffer will be helping all day Friday. Linda Blevins and her husband will be there late Friday afternoon and evening and Saturday morning. Thomas will be helping Friday and Saturday nights. Larry and Peggy will have their own booth, hopefully adjacent so that they can help with both.

Help is especially needed for Saturday. Please contact Pennie if you are able to do so.

Thomas Greenlee then discussed several items. The first upcoming **Master Gardener class** will be the second Thursday in January on the 12th. The cost remains at \$150. Our pot-luck meal will occur at the second class. Tentative plans for topics were shared. The attendees at the meeting tonight agreed with Thomas' suggestion that graduation in May be held at the rose gardens (which we usually visit in June) in order to see the roses in full bloom.

Please promote the Master Gardener classes! If the upcoming class does not have more than fifteen members, the classes will need to transition to every other year. Thomas plans to begin submitting promotional articles to the local newspaper every other week, beginning in November. If we have any suggestions/recommendations about the classes, please let Thomas know.

The **Executive Committee** will be talking about their function and if any changes are needed. Thought needs to be given as to who will serve for the next term.

Plans are being made to do a **Yearbook** with photos and bio's by around the first of the year.

The **New Building** will be functional once the bathroom is completed! Money from this fiscal year's budget will be used to finish the bathroom, purchase a stove and refrigerator, and provide for a linoleum tile floor. Later, multi-media equipment will be purchased.

We probably need three more work days to paint the building exterior and REALLY clean the floor in preparation for the tile.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Judy Bancroft

Substituting for Faith Young