



Rhea County Master Gardener Association Newsletter

Greetings to All!

Our next Association meeting will be held on October 20, 2016 at Wooden's Apple Barn. Please be there by 5:00 p.m. as we will have a tour of the orchard with dinner to follow in the restaurant. Please bring cash for dinner and any purchases you may want to make as they do not accept credit cards.

Farm/City Day on October 4th was a great day! Thank you to Bruce and Diane Pfeiffer, Judy Bancroft, John Kueck and Karen Massengale for helping educate the young students of Rhea County. Thomas Greenlee presented sheep and I shared my goats. A big thank you to the Housley's for all the hard work and the gracious invitation for all of us to be a part of this fun day.

Pumpkinfest will be held on October 28 and 29 in downtown Dayton on the courthouse square. We will finalize our volunteer list at our meeting on October 20 and if you want to participate, please let me know by emailing greytacres@gmail.com. To date we have John and Linda Blevins on Friday from 4 to 8 and Bruce and Dianne Pfeiffer and myself as volunteers. Please bring a bag of candy with you to the October 20th meeting for distribution to the children at the festival. If you are not attending the meeting, please drop your bag of candy off at the Extension office by Wednesday, October 26. We will be letting the children draw a face on a cup filled with dirt and plant rye grass seed. They will be able to watch their "Chia" Halloween plant grow. This activity was the hit of the festival last year!

Tomato Trials have been wrapped up with a report that is attached. Thank you again to all that participated to make this a very successful project. One last request before we put the trials to rest...if those that participated would please write up a few, quick bullet points on what they learned during the trials. Please email to greytacres@gmail.com. Thanks to Kris Bancroft for sending his comments.

Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting on October 20, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. (4 central time) at Wooden's Apple Barn.

Pennie Kendrick

President, Rhea County Master Gardener Association

Rhea County Master Gardener Meeting

September 15, 2016 at the Ag Center

Present: Judy and Kris Bancroft, Linda Blevins, Dianne Bolt, Karen Massengale, Dianne Pfeiffer, Sue Walker, Pennie Hendrick, Karen Winters, Faith Young, and Eddie Starling.

The meeting opened with a discussion about the tomato trial and a suggestion that members submit a short, written statement with bullets listing what they learned about growing tomatoes. These can be submitted to Pennie for collation.

Treasures report- Dianne reported \$1458.03 as the current balance, but with a recent deposit it is over \$2,000 as of now. The newsletter has information about the money made on Pass the Hat and the Silent Auction.

The executive committee met and decided to have 2 meetings at Lowes, a closing meeting on the tomatoes and a future project including how to close out a tomato garden. This Saturday between 9 and 12 is scheduled for an activity at Lowes regarding the wrap up of the tomato trial. The results of the taste testing are in and a spread sheet is available with this information. It was suggested that the Master Gardener banner and information be used to create a booth for this event with a drawing for an opportunity to attend the Master Gardener class for free. Thomas will be doing a wrap up sheet of results and facts with information about quality of tomatoes as handouts for those attending. This will provide expectations and information about growing tomatoes.

Kris Bancroft proposed that the group place a plaque at the Master Gardener building recognizing those who were greatly involved in building. Larry, Eddie, Scott, Harry, and Bill were mentioned as some of the names with the suggestion that it be based on a minimum number of hours worked on this project. This could be done for publicity and an article placed in the paper with pictures. Naming the building was discussed with an agreement that it be called "Rhea County Master Gardener Building".

October 4th is "Farm City Day" with "Fun Facts on Tomatoes" presentation for the kids in 3rd and 4th grades. The "tomato" tree will be used as well as the tomato book that Pennie created. Volunteers are needed for the whole day. Bruce is taking the lead in this but will need assistance. Judy can help. This will be at the Housley Farm just past the airport on New Union Road (pond by the gate). Hopefully a tent and table will be available.

The October meeting is Thursday, October 20th, at Woodens, at 5:00 p.m. A tour of the grounds will be conducted and the meeting can be afterward at the café where dinner can be purchased.

Pumpkinfest is October 28 & 29 (Friday/Saturday) in Dayton. The Master Gardeners plan to have a booth and a tent will be used with tables. Orange solo cups will be used to let kids plant seeds for grass. (Rye is cheap.) Last year over 300 kids participated. Volunteers will be needed and a signup sheet will be sent out. Bags of candy need to be donated. Linda and John Blevins will do Friday 4-8 and Linda will do Saturday morning.

Rheadiant is December 9 and 10th with the preview opportunity on Friday open to all for \$25 which covers the meal, previewing and first chance to bid/buy. Trees should be delivered to the armory on Wednesday for display set up.

A dinner coming up on October 3rd at the court house is a fund raiser for Imagination Library and Rhea County Court House Restoration funds. The evening starts with a reception at Centennial Park at 4:45 with dinner at 5:30. Tickets are \$40 and go to Rhea County United Way for distribution.

There was no further business other than Thomas says get all the tomatoes you want as he has plans to pull the plants in the next few days.

Submitted by:

Faith Young

Secretary