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THE SCOOP

VOLUME V ISSUE II

NOVEMBER 2009

THANKSGIVING PAST REFLECTIONS

By: Katherine Smith, CMG, Editor

Thanksgiving is the time to contemplate one's many blessings and be grateful for one's family and for a country which gives to us many privileges citizens of other countries do not enjoy.

When I began this month's newsletter, I thought it appropriate to research Thanksgiving, a holiday which is truly unique to the USA. The first recorded Thanksgiving observance was June 29, 1671 in Charlestown, Massachusetts. Thanksgiving at that time was a day for prayer and fasting. During the 18th Century, individual states would designate a day of Thanksgiving in honor of a military victory, adoption of a state constitution or an abundance of crops. In December 1777, all the colonies celebrated a Thanksgiving day commemorating the surrender of British General Burgoyne at Saratoga.

George Washington's Proclamation for Thanksgiving



"The First Thanksgiving at Plymouth"
By Jennie A. Brownscombe (1850-1936)
Painted 1914

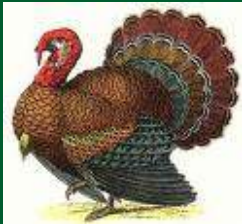
was signed on October 3, 1789. In part, Washington's Proclamation stated "Whereas both Houses of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me "to recommend to the people of the United States a DAY OF PUBLIC* THANKSGIVING and PRAYER, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness: NOW THEREFORE, I do recommend and assign THURSDAY, the TWENTY-SIXTH DAY of

NOVEMBER next, to be devoted by the people of these States ..."

On October 3, 1863 Abraham Lincoln issued his Thanksgiving Proclamation. "...I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November as a day of Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens....." Lincoln's proclamation was issued during The War Between The States. He asked for

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Ah! on Thanksgiving day...
 When the care-wearied man seeks his mother once more,
 And the worn matron smiles where the girl smiled before.
 What moistens the lips and what brightens the eye?
 What calls back the past, like the rich pumpkin pie?
 John Greenleaf Whittier



Remember:
VETERANS DAY
NOVEMBER 11, 2009



Recipe of the Month

LIBBY'S EASY PUMPKIN PIE*

From: Katherine Smith



1 can (30 oz.) Libby's Easy Pumpkin Pie Mix
 2/3 cup (5 fl. oz.) Carnation Evaporated Milk
 2 large eggs, beaten

1 unbaked 9-inch (4-cup volume) deep-dish pie shell

Instructions

Mix pumpkin pie mix, evaporated milk and

eggs in large bowl

Pour into pie shell.

Bake in preheated 425°F oven for 15 minutes.

Reduce temperature to 350°F. **Bake** 50-60 minutes or until knife inserted near center comes out clean.

Cool on wire rack for 2 hours.

Note: Do not freeze pie, as this will cause the crust to separate from the filling

*Recipe on can of Libby's Easy Pumpkin Pie

THANKSGIVING

(Continued from page 1)

the "...interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union...".

President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in 1939, moved the Thanksgiving holiday to the third Thursday of November in

order to extend Christmas shopping season and boost the economy. In 1941 a storm of protest led Roosevelt to change the holiday again; this time to the fourth Thursday in November as it stands today. ♦

*Spelling as written by George Washington

References: various internet sites including: www.earlyamerica.com

Did You Know

- The cranberry is a symbol and a modern diet staple of Thanksgiving. Originally called crane berry, it derived its name from its pink blossoms and drooping head, which reminded the Pilgrims of a crane.



- Fossils confirm turkeys roamed the Americas 10 million years ago.
- Benjamin Franklin wanted the national bird to be a turkey.

MGRC OFFICERS 2009

President:	Linda Goetz
Vice President:	Linda Lindquist
Secretary:	Judy Cunningham
Treasurer:	Emily Arnold
Past President & Executive Board:	Jack Smith

Newsletter:	Katherine Smith
Website Coordinator:	Bob Ellis

PRESIDENTIAL PARDON OF MR. TURKEY

By: Katherine Smith, CMG, Editor

The reprieve given to “Mr. Turkey” began in 1947 and continues today. An exception occurred in 1963 by President John F. Kennedy when he said “Let’s just keep him”. It wasn’t until the first Thanksgiving of President George H. W. Bush in 1989 that a turkey was officially pardoned for the first time.

Presidents Bill Clinton and George Bush

continued the pardons. Unverified stories claim Abraham Lincoln pardoned his

son Tad’s pet turkey and that Harry Truman pardoned a turkey in 1947.

Since 1989 Mr. Turkey and his alternate have been pardoned. An alternate is chosen in case Mr. Turkey cannot fulfill his duties.



In 2005 and 2006 the pardoned Mr. Turkey and his alternate flew to Disneyland in California where they served as honorary grand marshals for Disneyland’s Thanksgiving parade.

The public has been able to vote for names

to be given Mr. Turkey and his alternate by voting on the White House website.

Names are:

2004— Biscuit & Gravy,

2005— Marshmallow & Yam,

2006—Flyer & Fryer,

2007— May & Flower,

2008— Pumpkin & Pecan.

2009—? & ? ♦

Reference: infoplease.com

EXTRAVAGANZA 2009 REVIEW

By Judy Cunningham, CMG & Linda Lindquist, CMG

The 2009 Fall Lawn and Garden Extravaganza is behind us now (whew!). Again, it was another successful labor of love, put on by a small number of dedicated, hard working Master Gardeners. Revenues received from vendors, and the number of vendors increased over 2008, thanks to the additional space created by the Rutherford County Agriculture Extension Center expansion. All vendors were pleased with the space, their sales, appreciated our hospitality, and most of them “definitely” want to be invited back next year. Increased space also allowed us to give more presentations. But on the contrary, a lesson learned is: not to have 3 presentations going on simultaneously. Many attendees expressed their appreciation for our efforts and expressed how much they enjoyed the presentations. Additionally, we’ve been asked to hold special workshops on a couple of the topics presented.

Having the Seigel High School Future Farmers of America, sell lunch on Saturday was a huge success for them and for us. They also, want to be invited back next year.

Our 2009 speakers were Robert Wilson, Horticulturist who spoke about “Pros and Conifers”; and Beth Jacobs of Mary’s Greenhouse “What’s new in Perennials, Reliable Annuals”; and Fred Hembree, Certified Beekeeper “Honeybees”. The Master Gardener presentations included “Small Spaces – Raised Beds” by Jack Smith, “Turf and Lawn Management” by Mitchell Mote, County Extension Agent, “Make your own Planters” (hypertufa) by Linda Goetz and Barbara Crick, “Lasagna Gardening” – Judy Cunningham and Karla Hagen, and “Seasonal Floral Arrangements” – Becky Roberts.

Ticket sales indicate we had 210 attendees. In spite of concerns of low atten-

dance for the Friday evening portion of the event, we had 60 attendees, with several returning on Saturday. Something we want to continue for 2010.

What can we do better next year? Our challenge continues to be publicity. We look to you for suggestions to improve the programs, increase the public’s interest, thus increasing the number of attendees, our ultimate goal.

In the end however, we want to give a “special thanks” to all those who worked so hard to make this event happen. We could not have pulled it off without you, our Master Gardeners. Thanks again for your participation, dedication, and hard work.

Here’s to an even bigger and better

2010 Extravaganza! ♦



Master Gardeners of Rutherford County



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"The Scoop" is the official newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Rutherford County, Tennessee and is published by email the first week of the month. Those members without email and who are not able to attend meetings may receive the newsletter by U.S. Postal mail. The deadline for articles, pictures, events, etc. to be included in the newsletter is due the fourth Friday of each month.

Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at the Lane Agri-Park at 6:30 p.m., unless specified. Membership is \$25 for a single, or \$35 for a couple residing at the same address. All memberships are valid January through December and are pro-rated for new members only.

Memberships in the Master Gardeners of Rutherford County are open to those interested in learning, teaching, and volunteering for the purpose of educating the community in all phases of gardening.

Please note: Master Gardener Certification requires 40 hours of training plus 40 hours of volunteer service. Recertification requirements are 25 volunteer hours, plus 8 hours of continuing education per year. Attendance at meetings counts as 1.5 hours of continuing education and 1.5 hours of administration

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Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences and resource development. University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, county governments cooperating, UT Extension, and Tennessee State University provide equal opportunities in programs and employment.