Editor's Message

Who doesn’t love spring? Everything is sprouting and budding, stretching up towards the sky as if discovering the sun for the first time. All of nature, including us humans, experience a tremendous refreshing of body and spirit. There are times when I wish I could have a whole year of just spring; temperate breezes, warm sun, and flowers everywhere.

With all this beauty comes a lot of responsibility, both to our own gardens and the community. As friends and neighbors catch “Spring Fever”, we tend to get flooded with questions about various outdoor subjects. As Master Gardeners, it is our duty and privilege to answer these as best we can, and keep the divine spark of inspiration alive. Who knows? The stranger you helped to decide what kind of tomatoes to plant might decide to look into becoming a member someday. This is how both knowledge and kindness are passed on, and it’s my favorite part of being a Master Gardener (that, and getting dirty for a good cause!). So may your flowers be plentiful, and the sun always shining.

Kindness Matters!

-Becky Norris, Editor

Did You Know???

-For the Japanese, the opening of the cherry blossoms, called “sakura”, in March or April signals the start of spring.

-Children grow faster during the spring than any other time of the year.

-Every year on the first day of spring, people in Poland gather to burn an effigy and throw it in the river to say goodbye to winter.

-Spring fever is not a myth; Doctors say the body changes this time of year due to diets, hormone production, and temperature.
Polk County Master Gardener
Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2015

Meeting was called to order by Linda Elliott at 5:30 pm at Housing Authority.

Program— was presented first. Elizabeth Hatchel gave a presentation on 4-H program, an overview of the 4-H program. She is in Acorn group.

Minutes—2 corrections to minutes of Feb. 5, 2015.

As written. Treasurer Report approved as published in Mountain Dirt. It will be sent for Audit.
Correction. Treasurer Report published in Mountain Dirt. There were no questions so sent for Audit

Budget— As written. Question raised about paid ad for Plant Sale last year and members felt not needed this year as only plant sale.
Corrected. Question raised about paid ad for Plant Sale last year.

Motion to approve minutes as corrected by Dorothy. Second by Patricia. Motion carried.

Plant Sale Committee Report—proposal presented by Kay. Read aloud to membership. Linda made explanations to concerns raised. A long discussion. Linda asked for a vote to continue Plant Sale Proposal as presented by Kay. Motion to approve by Patricia. Second by Becky. Motion passed with vote of 12 members.

Betty asked for a prayer and Linda led membership in prayer.

Fair Board Meeting—Board will help at Fairgrounds to alter landscaping so it will be easier to maintain. Work Day on Saturday March 14 at 9:30 until ???

Linda passed out list from Kim to write articles for Mena Star. Articles due in the Friday before the publish date which is Thursday of next week.
Board Report—Board Proposal to amend By-Laws at May meeting.

To change the month of election of PCMG Officers/Board from November to September, with Jan-Dec. term of office to remain the same.

Reasons for proposed change:

- to identify new board/officers in time to attend Leadership training in October.
- to allow additional time for new board to plan activities for new year.

BOARD PROPOSED AMENDMENT CHANGES

1. In "BYLAWS (p3) Article IV (4). Officers", change meeting at which election takes place—replace “annual meeting in November with “regular meeting in September”.
   - Additional nominations shall be solicited from the floor before the election at “regular meeting in September” (New amendment).

2. In "BYLAWS (p3) Article IV(4). Officers", change meeting at which the nominating committee reports—replace “October” with “August”.
   - The nominating committee shall report at regular meeting in “August”. (New amendment)

3. In “BYLAWS (p3) Article IV(4) Officers”, change meeting at which the nominating committee is appointed—replace “August” with “June”.
   - A nominating committee of 3 members shall be appointed by the president at the regular meeting in “June” (New amendment)

   - Section 2. ANNUAL MEETING. The regular meeting on the first Thursday in November shall be known as the annual meeting and shall be for the purpose of electing officers, for selecting award recipients, and for such other business as may arise. (THIS WILL BE DELETED AND SECTIONS BE RENUMBERED.)
BOARD PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH FUNDING COMMITTEE

“That the Standing Rules (Article VII (7), Section 5. Special Committees, page 6 be amended by replacing “Scholarship Committee” with “Educational Funding Committee, whose duties will be to “coordinate and develop recommendations for funding for educational events for PCMG & for the public, such events to be approved before funding is released. This will be voted on in April meeting.

ANNUAL SANCTIONED PROJECT REVIEW—Board recommendations.

1. Board recommended dropping Housing Authority & Park Place.
2. Will still have Youth—Court House--Rose Garden—Depot--Fair--Newspaper
3. Non-sanctioned work can still be done and hours counted.
4. There will be no vote until May. Joan suggested have proposals printed out and just vote at at the meeting.

CRYSTAL BRIDGES TRIP—May 7th—must have 20 with max of 25 people for tour to make. Actual gas prices will be paid by PCMG.

Frances Smith is getting up a trip up to Nana's . She also handed out leaflets from Master Forage Institute about foraging for food.

There are some calendar corrections and new one will come from Kim.

Linda read a letter from Janet Carson thanking us for donation for her dad.

Linda asked for motion to adjourn. Motion by Sherry.Second by Jimmy Smith. Meeting adjourned at 7pm.

Submitted by Dorothy Posel for
Jon Calleton—Secretary
PCMG TREASURER’S REPORT - March 27, 2015

OPENING BALANCE - February 27, 2015  $8935.19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funds</th>
<th>2/27</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>7423.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted</td>
<td>1511.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courthouse</td>
<td>564.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose Garden</td>
<td>947.13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RECEIPTS
3/24 Deposit - Dues by 3/12 -- Wanda, Tina, Mickey, Bea, Judy $75.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS $75.00

EXPENDITURES
3/17 Check #1725 - American Income Life - Accident Insurance - Admin $32.00
3/24 Check #1726 - Linda Elliott - Leo Burbee Bulb Co - Plant Sale merchandise $341.70
TOTAL EXPENDITURES $373.70

CLOSING BALANCE - March 27, 2015  $8636.49

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funds</th>
<th>3/27</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>7125.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted</td>
<td>1511.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courthouse</td>
<td>564.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose Garden</td>
<td>947.13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DUES/MEMBERSHIP NOTE - 31 members have paid dues this year, and Theresa remains out-of-state on non-dues leave. So we have 32 members registered, including 3 on Leave of Absence. There's a typo on your last (Feb 5) Membership Contact Info Sheet - Arlene Kesterson should be listed as Class of 2011, not 2001. Also, Madean Pearce has withdrawn due to health issues.

Submitted by Carol Schulz, Treasurer

Friends of Master Gardeners Presented With Certificates

On March 9th, Patricia Roberts presented three certificates to two individuals and one business who earned the distinction of being Friends of Master Gardeners. Mrs. Kathy Russert, Paul Stanley, and the Polk County Farmer’s Association Co-op (represented by “Doc” Eric Sorge), have all made contributions of time and resources to the Master Gardeners.

Friends of Master Gardeners are voted on by the membership, in both individual and business categories. They all show a dedication to the organization and its work in the community, and all are worthy of recognition. Without friends like these in our community, the Master Gardeners would not be able to make a difference. So from the bottom of our hearts, we thank them for their generosity and service!
BElONd Program Gets Crafty

Every Wednesday, PCMGs meet at Holly Harshman Elementary School to teach a group of students about gardening and the outdoors. So far this year, students have participated in various activities meant to introduce them to these subjects.

In addition to winter sowing in empty milk jugs, in recent weeks students have also made bird feeders out of milk cartons, as shown in these photos.

With spring comes plenty of birds nesting and hatching young, which means they need plenty of food. Students learned how to cut, tape together, decorate, and hang these fun bird feeders.

Once the bird feeders were finished, it was time to take them outside to the outdoor classroom. Students were delighted to fill them with seeds and find tree branches to hang them from. They are certainly looking forward to visits from the birds in the coming weeks.

Cheesy Vegetable Chowder

Submitted by Mickey Davis

Ingredients: 2 cups water, 1 tsp granulated chicken bouillon, 2 cups yellow or red potatoes, peeled and diced, 2 cups frozen mixed vegetables, ¼ cup chopped onion, 1 can (15 ounces) cream-style corn, 8 ounces Velveeta cheese, ½ cup milk.

Directions: 1) In a 2-3 quart saucepan, bring water to a boil. Dissolve bouillon in boiling water.

2) Stir in potatoes, mixed vegetables, and onion. Cover and simmer on low-medium heat for 15 minutes, or until potatoes are tender.

3) Add corn, cheese, and milk. Heat 5-7 minutes, stirring constantly until cheese is melted. Makes 6 servings.

Francis Smith shows a student how to tape a bird feeder.

Sherry Humphries explains a project to the students.

A completed bird feeder.
Committee/Project Reports

Rose Garden

The crocus have finished blooming, & the daffodils & pansies look great. Pincushion Flower (*Scabiosa columbaria* 'Butterfly Blue') is starting to bloom (last year it kept going until hard freeze). On March 11 we combined a workday with Carla's Rose Pruning Demo, and got most of the roses pruned and made a good start on cleanup. Between weather and scheduling/rescheduling conflicts, that's all we've done so far.

-Carol Schulz

Reminder!

Please turn in your committee and project reports on time, so that I can get the newsletter out in time for everyone to have a chance to read it before the meeting. Materials for the newsletter are due at least a week before the meeting. Thank you!

-Becky Norris

Mark Your Calendars!!!

National Public Gardens Day at Garvan Woodland Gardens  To celebrate National Public Gardens Day, on May 8th Garvan Woodland Gardens will offer free admission to the public. If you've never seen Garvan Gardens in the spring, don't miss this golden opportunity to see it firsthand!

Field Trip to Nana's Iris Farm

On Wednesday, April 22nd, several of the PCMG's will be making a field trip to Nana's Iris Farm in Clarksville. Nana's Iris Farm raises hundreds of types of irises of every color imaginable, and the visit is always both beautiful and educational. Those who are interested in attending will have to either take their own vehicle or carpool. The group will leave in the morning and stop in Clarksville for lunch. For more information, contact Francis Smith.

U of A DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE RESEARCH & EXTENSION University of Arkansas System

The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

University of Arkansas, United States Department of Agriculture and County Governments Cooperating.