Editor's Message

Spring is on its way! I'm sure everyone's excited about the warm, sunny days and seed catalogs coming in the mail. It feels like a second Christmas, to see signs of life returning and know that it won't be long before flowers start blooming and robins start singing.

The start of every gardening year always feels like a fresh start, a chance to wipe the slate clean and try new things. There is something very satisfying about pulling dead weeds and grass, stripping away the old to make room for the new. After months of being cooped up indoors, how refreshing it is to get back out in nature! It's like meeting an old friend, or hearing a song you haven't heard in years that still makes you smile.

While spring is a delightful time of year, the weeks leading up to it are my favorite. It's when all our plans and dreams begin to take form, and we find comfort and happiness in God's creation. So this month, may all your gardening wishes come true and all your sweethearts be even sweeter!

Kindness Matters,

-Becky Norris, Editor

Did You Know...?

- The longest kiss in the Guinness Book of World Records lasted 417 hours.
- Julius Caesar was 54, and Cleopatra 21 when they first started romancing.
- It is a matter of record that Canadian porcupines kiss on the lips.
- Experts insist that the average person falls in love seven times before getting married.
Polk County Master Gardener
Meeting Minutes
January 8th, 2015

Meeting called to order at 5:05 pm by President Linda Elliott. Meeting held at Farm Bureau. 22 members present.

Linda asked for approval of minutes as published in Mountain Dirt. Motion to approve by Betty. Seconded by Jessie. Motion passed.

Guest Speaker—Bobby Hall from Little Rock gave program on personalities as related to colors. Very interesting and think everyone enjoyed knowing what your color meant and how to use this information in working together as group. He said we need all colors within a group and a group is a blend of all the colors.

Treasurer Report—as printed in Mountain Dirt. No questions submitted.

Annual Dues—please pay Carol $15 tonight as presently due.

February Business Meeting—February 5, 2015 at 5pm at Housing Authority.

Board Planning Meeting—Tuesday January 13, 2015 at Farm Bureau 8am-4pm. Will be a planning session for coming year.

President's record box finally delivered to Extension Office.

Youth Report—Sherry reported that will begin new semester in February with Beyond group. First meeting will be February 4, 2015. Looking forward to coming year and kids really enthusiastic.

Board approved participation in new Mena Star Cartoon Map where MG projects will be highlighted on map. We will get copies to keep and hand out. Cost $100.
Paul—Chairman of Court House Project—presented certificates to Courthouse Landscape Committee members for their hard work on Project of Year 2104.

Fran made suggestion that we need to get our monthly MG meeting on A&P monthly calendar to attract possible new members. This will be looked into.

Suggestion also made that we consider Farm Bureau as Friend of Master Gardeners for 2015.

Linda asked for motion to adjourn meeting. Motion by LaRayne and seconded by Jessie. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm. Program by Bobby Hall followed.

Respectfully submitted by
Jon Anna Calleton--Secretary

White Bean and Chicken Chili

- 1 Can of chicken breast(Sam’s)
- 4 Cans of Great Northern Beans
- 2 Cans of chopped green chilies
- 1 Can of Ro-Tel
- 1 Container of Swanson Mexican Tortilla Broth
- Cumin
- Salt & Pepper
- Onion
- Garlic

DIRECTIONS
- Saute onion, garlic and chicken in olive oil until the onions are clear.
- Drain two cans of the white beans and rinse with water.
- Add beans, chilies, Ro-Tel to the pot
- Add Swanson Mexican Tortilla Broth
- Add salt, pepper, and cumin to taste
- About 30 minutes prior to serving, Purée 2 cans of white beans
- Wash beans, purée them and then add them to the Chili.

I double and sometimes triple this recipe. I mostly go by taste when it comes to seasoning the Chili.

-Patricia Roberts

To My Dear and Loving Husband

If ever two were one, then surely we.
If ever man were loved by wife, then thee;
If ever wife was happy in a man,
Compare with me ye women if you can.
I prize thy love more than whole mines of gold,
Or all the riches that the East doth hold.
My love is such that rivers cannot quench,
Nor ought but love from thee give recompense.
Thy love is such I can no way repay;
The heavens reward thee manifold, I pray.
Then while we live, in love let’s so persever,
That when we live no more we may live ever.

-Anne Bradstreet, 1612-1672

Man and woman sitting on a beach.
Polk County Master Gardener
Financial Report
December 2014

PCMG started 2014, with an opening balance of $6,692, in the bank, and ended the year with $8,124. This included: Court House $564, and Rose Garden $255. Therefore, unrestricted PCMG funds at December 31, 2014, were $7,305.

The 2014, End-of-Year financial reports have been completed, and passed along to Carla, to send to UACES in Little Rock. The peer review (audit) of the financial records will take place shortly, and then that report will be sent to UACES.

All 2014 financial records, along with unused checks have been turned over to the 2015 PCMG Treasurer, Carol Schulz.

Thank you for your support and cooperation during this past year.

David Alley

**PCMG December 2014 Check Register**

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<th>Description</th>
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**PCMG Treasurer's Report**

**January 26th, 2015**

**OPENING BALANCE Jan 1, 2015 - checking 8123.90**

- Unrestricted funds 7304.70
- Restricted funds 819.20
  - Court House 564.17
  - Rose Garden 255.03

**RECEIPTS**

- 1/15 Deposit - Polk County QC 12/18 - Restricted - Courthouse supplies 2014 $432.10
- 1/15 Deposit - Dues 2015 (21x $15) $315.00
- 1/15 Deposit - Cash - Sales of plants (in 2014) - Frances Smith $21.00
- 1/26 Deposit - Cash - Dues (x2 - Paul & Ethel) $30.00

**TOTAL RECEIPTS** $798.10

**EXPENDITURES**

- 1/5 Check #1560 Mena Star - Advertising - 2015 cartoon map $100.00
- 1/5 Check #1561 Pony Express - Awards certificates 2014 $5.48
- 1/16 Check #1719 Co-op Extension Service - UACES awards subsidy 2015 $50.00
- 1/20 Check #1720 American Cancer Society - Donation 2015 $100.00 in memory of Elmer Biermann Jr (Janet Carson's father)
- 1/24 Check #1721 Paul Glenn - Restricted - Courthouse supplies 2014 $432.10
- 1/26 Check #1722 Carol Schulz - Rose Garden Supplies 2014 $149.50

*Don't Forget!*

Volunteer hours should be submitted every month, by logging onto the U of A Extension website and going to the Master Gardeners section. Please contact Kim Hughes at the Extension at 394-6018 if you have questions.

You can also type your hours and email them to Mickey Davis at: mmdavis@cswnet.com.
1/26 Check #1723 Linda Elliott - Postage 2014 $ 5.60

TOTAL EXPENDITURES $ 842.68

CLOSING BALANCE - Jan 26, 2015 $8079.32

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<tr>
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DUES: Annual dues are $15.00 payable at the January meeting, & have been paid so far by 23 members. Members must pay dues by the March meeting to remain in good standing. Members on Leave of Absence must pay dues if they wish to receive a printed newsletter or attend the Christmas Party at member cost - if they get the newsletter by email & pay guest rate for the party, no dues are required. Life members also are not required to pay dues or accrue hours. PCMG Class of 2000 will receive Life Membership from UACES, but not until the 2015 Annual Conference in June, so they still need to pay dues this year.

NOTES: Since PCMG now operates on a cash rather than an accrual basis, Accounts Receivable and Accounts Payable (other than Restricted Funds) are not reported on our statements. Several of the checks this month were for liabilities incurred in 2014. Two of the deposits were also for 2014 receipts not deposited by Dec 31. The county reimbursement for 2014 Rose Garden expenses has not yet been received but should come in this week. I am not aware of any other 2014 accounts outstanding. Since the 2015 Budget has not yet been approved, the 2015 expenditures were authorized by the Board.

Submitted by Carol Schulz, Treasurer

Committee and Project Reports

Public Relations

The following announcement has been placed in the Mena Star and Polk County Pulse, to appear the week prior to our regular monthly meeting:

“The regular monthly meeting of the Polk County Master Gardeners is held on the first Thursday of the month. Meetings are held from 5:00 to 6:30 at the Polk County Housing Authority, 509 S. Morrow. Meetings usually include a social period with light refreshments, followed by a brief business meeting and a program. Individuals interested in becoming Master Gardeners, or in joining volunteers as they work on county beautification projects are invited to attend. For further information, please contact Linda Elliot (479-234-5590). “

Also, Dorothy Posel and Carol Schulz and I are working toward a video to be run on the local TV channel, and a possible psa announcement for the local radio. The subject will be something about "what to do in the garden this month". This a new, exciting project. We are fortunate to have Dorothy's specialized skills to create this opportunity.

-Ann Glenn

Youth Report

We ended 2014 with BEYOND classes on propagation by cuttings. The students were so wonderful, very interested in learning and sad to see the semester end, from the gardening aspect.

The next class for us in BEYOND will be February 4, 2015. Frances will be presenting her class on Winter Sowing, using milk jugs. We would love for you to join us!

Though we have taken January off from BEYOND, due to my hectic schedule, many things have been happening. Four EAST (Environmental and Spatial Technology, an educational model focusing on student-driven service projects accomplished by using teamwork and cutting-edge technology). Students from MMS have approached Holly Harshman teachers asking to help with the outdoor classroom as their project this semester. It seems these students were among the first to work in the garden when they were at Holly Harshman several years ago, and they are wanting to help develop it. Ann says she sees a story there!
February 2015

4H Junior Master Gardeners are still working to get started. Our next meeting will be February 26. Time and place TBA.

As you can tell, I am very excited about working with these programs. I could write a couple of pages....but will save some for later!

Great things are happening for our Youth Horticulture kids.

- Sherry Humphries

Railroad Depot
We have fertilized, but have no other activities planned for the time being.

-Dorothy Posel

Rose Garden
No work is being done at this time.

-Carol Shulz

Mark Your Calendars!!!

BEYOND Program: Winter Sowing Workshop

Frances Smith will be presenting a class to the students of the BEYOND program on how to sow seeds in winter. The class will be at Holly Harshman school on Wednesday, February 4th, at 4 p.m. Park behind the garden, and if it's too cold the class will be held indoors. This is a great opportunity to see what the program is all about and meet the kids. It promises to be an exciting year with the youth, so don't miss it!

NWA Landscape Maintenance Workshop

The Extension of Benton and Washington counties will be hosting a landscape maintenance workshop day at Fellowship Bible Church in Rogers, AR on February 19th. Highlights include weed, pest, and disease identification, pesticide safety, yard and ground debris management, tree injections, and neonicotinoids. This day is a great value at only $20 registration, which includes lunch, breaks, and take-home resources. Registration is in advance, online at: https://www.regonline.com/UACES-NWA219. If you have questions, contact Joyce Mendenhall at (479) 444-1755. The deadline for registration is February 13th, so sign up today!
2015 Arkansas Flower and Garden Show

Don't miss Arkansas's largest garden show! On February 20th through the 22nd, vendors, gardeners, experts, and educators from all over the state will gather in Little Rock to see what's new, innovate, and in bloom. There will be speakers and exhibits galore at the Statehouse Convention Center, from 10am to 6pm on all three days. Adult tickets are $10 a day, or all three days for $15. Children 12 and under are free. There's tons to see, do, and shop, so don't miss this year's event!

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.