

The Mountain Dirt

Polk County Master Gardeners

Volume 14, Issue 3

March 2015

Becky Norris, Editor,
Sherry Humphries, Co-Editor

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March Meeting Hostesses

Fran Hadaway
Mickey Davis
LaRayne Reisenhoover
Betty Smith

Editor's Message

Lent is a concept which has always fascinated me, not because of its practices but because of its meaning. For forty days before Easter Sunday, many Christians choose to abstain from eating meat, dairy, or sweets. Some choose to abstain from some other form of luxury, such as smoking or watching television. What they all have in common is a solemn remembrance of Christ, and a desire to become closer to Him before celebrating the Resurrection.

While physical acts of devotion are not a prerequisite to being a believer, abstinence from the distractions of life can open one's eyes to the smaller miracles that might otherwise be missed. Although the weather has been uncooperative, the earth beneath it is still thriving and moving towards a season of renewal and growth. It gives us a chance to reflect and have faith that spring will come, and bring with it an abundance of color and warmth. So whether you choose to observe Lent or not, it seems to be the perfect time to be thankful for the promises of bounty and joy that will soon be fulfilled.

Kindness Matters,

Becky Norris, Editor



A leprechaun and his pot of gold.

Did You Know???

-The very first St. Patrick's Day parade was not in Ireland. It was held in Boston, in 1737.

-Ireland has held its own Olympics since the Bronze Age, called the Tailteann Games.

-One traditional Irish cure for a hangover was to be buried up to the neck in moist river sand.

-Medieval laws in Ireland allowed a man to divorce his wife if she damaged his honor through infidelity, thieving, or "making a mess of everything".

**Polk County Master Gardener
Meeting Minutes
February 5th, 2015**

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm by President Linda Elliott at Housing Authority. 26 members present.

Linda asked for approval of minutes as published in January Mountain Dirt. Motion by LaRayne. Second by Betty. Motion passed.

Treasurer Report was approved as published in Mountain Dirt. It will be sent for Audit.

Linda asked that all volunteer sheets concerning projects be turned in by March meeting so committees know who is willing to work where.

Dues need to be paid by or at March meeting.

Carol made note of having received funds for Courthouse and Rose Garden for 2014 from Quorum court which was not reflected on Treasurer Report. There is total of \$1500 Restricted funds for above.

Crystal Bridges trip set for May 7. Will have tour and program by Scott Eckelston the head of landscaping at Crystal Bridges. Working on getting RMCC bus but if bus not available then will form a carpool.

County 76—Linda talked about trip 5 members took to Jan. 28 County 76 Quarterly meeting. Linda was in group compiling a Master List of MG's willing to give presentations. Jon & Dorothy went to Advanced MG Training group and would like for Polk County MG's to host an Advanced MG Class at some time in future as we have the new facility at RMCC which could be utilized. Carol went to RRR-Recruit-Recognition-Retain group which is updating form for State MG award. They would like any winter pictures sent in for calendar that County 76 produces each year.

2015 Budget—gone over by line item with discussions over certain areas. Question raised about paid ad for Plant Sale last year and members felt this not needed this year as only a plant sale. Will use same advertising methods from previous years such as Flyers-Star Beams-radio spots. Discussion on monies budgeted for Leadership Training Registration & Room Subsidy. This was explained by several
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board members that this was new item proposed by Board. This is being done by most other MG groups and Board felt this was good way to spend our money so Board will know how MG program works and to do a better job in their various leadership roles and to encourage members to consider 2015 Budget—being on the Board . Apparently some members did no fully understand it was for present and future Board members. Any other member wishing to go would pay their own registration and room expenses. Linda asked for motion to approve proposed budget for 2015. Motion by Patricia. Second by Becky. Motion passed.

Vice President Patricia Roberts asked all committee chairs, etc. to get her dates for work days, committee meetings, etc. so she can get them on calendar.

Lynn spoke to membership about her recruiting possible new members at her shop by sharing all her experiences at being a MG and has good interest for new class. She and Jon are asking each member to contact 1 person and invite them to a meeting and possibly take new class in October. A good way to increase membership as word of mouth gets the job done.

Announcements—Flower & Garden Show in Little Rock Feb .20-22. Linda taking names of members who would like to carpool.

Wanda who is new Sunshine Chair asked members to call her with necessary information as she does not have email. Frances will be co-chair when Wanda not available.

Dorothy told that she is doing radio spots on RMCC and KENA each month concerning horticulture. She invited membership to participate.

Linda asked for motion to adjourn. Motion by LaRayne. Second by Betty. Motion passed and meeting adjourned at 6 pm.

Following meeting Carla Vaught- Extension Agent gave presentation showing breakdown of all the areas under U of A Department of Agriculture of which Cooperative Extension is one. This presentation was most informative and showed how they are funded. Monies come from federal-state and county. Extension asking for increase in budget as not one since 2008. Carla says Quorum Court has been very generous to Extension and passed a millage tax to help her get the money she needed for an area which she needed funded for 2015. It showed all the various Research areas within the state and she encouraged us to utilize these areas as they are valuable resources.

**Polk County Master Gardener
Financial Report
February 27th, 2015**

OPENING BALANCE - Jan 26, 2015		\$8079.32
Unrestricted Funds 1/26	7409.62	
Restricted Funds 1/26	669.70	
Courthouse	564.17	
Rose Garden	105.53	

RECEIPTS

1/30 Deposit - Polk County QC 1/27 - Restricted - Rose Garden supplies 2014	\$841.60
1/30 Deposit - Dues 1/29 - Karen Herpich	\$ 15.00
2/27 Deposit - Dues 2/5 - Ann Glenn, Dola Kesterson	\$ 30.00
2/27 Deposit - Badge Fee 2/5 - Sherry Humphries	\$ 1.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 887.60

EXPENDITURES

1/28 BNKCHG - AC Harland Clarke - Check Order - Admin. office supplies	\$ 11.73
2/27 Check# 1724 - Wanda Cogburn - Happy Gnome Gift. Cert. Hadaway - Sunshine	\$ 20.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 31.73

CLOSING BALANCE - February 27, 2015		\$8935.19
Unrestricted Funds 2/27	7423.89	
Restricted Funds 2/27	1511.30	
Courthouse	564.17	
Rose Garden	947.13	

DUES NOTICE - To remain in good standing, dues must be paid no later than the March meeting. 26 of 33 members have paid their 2015 dues so far. If you can't be at the meeting, mail to me at 305 Tenth, Mena, or drop off at the Extension office. 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 .

Submitted by Carol Schulz, Treasurer

Guidelines for The Mena Star Articles

Looking for a different way to earn sanctioned work hours, especially on these cold winter days? Writing garden related articles for the local newspaper is a great way for you to earn sanctioned hours and get the Master Gardener name out in the public more often.

Kim Hughes is the Chairperson for the Newspapers project. The editor of the paper prefers not to receive emails from a large number of people. Please follow these guidelines for getting articles submitted to *The Mena Star*:

1. Email your written article to: Kim at khughes@uaex.edu
2. The subject line should read "Master Gardener Article".
3. Articles should be approximately 350 – 500 words in length.
4. Put the article in the body of the email; do not send as an attachment.

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Man reading a newspaper.

Kim will proof-read for typographical errors and forward to the appropriate editor by noon on Friday for the following week’s newspaper. Let’s try to get articles published on a monthly basis or even twice a month. Work credit is earned for each article written, normally 1 to 3 hours.

The first issue of each month of *The Mena Star* is already covered by Kim with a monthly garden update article, but you can choose any plant, gardening technique, composting, sharpening tools, or any other garden related topic for your article.

At the next Master Gardener meeting, we will have a sign-up sheet available for those wishing to write articles. You don’t have to know everything – just do a little research at the library, from you own gardening books, and don’t forget all the great gardening publications available at the Extension Office or online at www.uaex.edu.

After the Winter

by Claude McKay

Some day, when trees have shed their leaves
 And against the morning’s white
 The shivering birds beneath the eaves
 Have sheltered for the night,
 We’ll turn our faces southward, love,
 Toward the summer isle
 Where bamboos spire the shafted grove
 And wide-mouthed orchids smile.

And we will seek the quiet hill
 Where towers the cotton tree,
 And leaps the laughing crystal rill,
 And works the droning bee.
 And we will build a cottage there
 Beside an open glade,
 With black-ribbed blue-bells blowing near,
 And ferns that never fade.



An English cottage garden in spring.

2016 MG Calendar Photo Submissions



A boy taking pictures of nature.

Looking to show off your shutterbug skills? The time has come once again to gather submissions for the 2016 Master Gardener Calendar. Here are the rules:

- 1) Only four submissions per person (one for each season). If more than one photo is sent for a particular season, both will be disqualified.
- 2) The name of the .jpeg file must be as follows:
a) Your name, **b)** the two letter representation of your county (FA = Faulkner, PU = Pulaski, etc), **c)** the season the pic was taken WI for winter, SP for spring, SU for summer, FA for fall, and **d)** a brief description of the photo.

For example: GlendaBellFAWIsnowscene.jpeg

- 3) All pictures must have been taken in Arkansas.
- 4) Submissions are NOT open yet, this is simply a notice to start gathering possible entries.

If you have any questions, please contact Glenda Bell at: Glenda Bell
501-258-4951
gkbell08@att.net

Committee and Project Reports

Board Report

Topics Discussed:

- 1 Potting Days
- 2 RMCC Bus for Crystal Bridges & other Options
- 3 Green Houses
- 4 Education Fund Committee

- Jon Calleton

Rose Garden

No activity this month. Rose pruning demonstration postponed by Carla due to weather, not yet rescheduled.

-Carol Shulz

Youth Report

Railroad Depot

We had the help of the Mena Parks Department in redoing two tiers of the depot side planter. They dug out the soil and multiple roots. We added fresh soil, divided and replanted the jonquils and Stellas. Thank you Betty, Ann M., Ann G., and Joan.

-Dorothy Posel

The weather has slowed us down a bit, but it hasn't stopped our brain wheels from turning! When we last met with the EAST students, they measured the Outdoor Classroom at HH for making a scaled drawing. As soon as the weather clears we will be back out with them for more planning. It's exciting for us to see their excitement in working with this garden.

At our last session with the Holly Harshman BEYOND students, we taught Winter Sowing...planting seeds in the milk jugs. The students are less in number this semester but just as happy as always to be digging in the dirt...

We have a great group of MG working with these students. Our committee is Frances Smith, Ann Glenn, Rae Grasso, Becky Norris and me along with Linda Elliott as our special assistant for helping to plan the Outdoor Classroom with the EAST students.

We are also still working on getting the 4H club going. At this point we are planning on having a meeting sometime in April....I'll keep you posted.

- Sherry Humphries

PCMG 2015 BUDGET PROPOSAL - adopted 1/21 by Board approved 2/5 by Membership

Budget items for approval appear in the right-hand columns, and are marked with an asterisk *. The itemized detail appears below & to the left.

	2014 Actual Figures	2015 Proposed Budget
UNRESTRICTED CASH - Jan. 1	4942	7305
TRANSFER from Restricted Account (Scholarship)	+ 500	0
NET CHANGE (Income - Expense)	+1863	-2074
UNRESTRICTED CASH - Dec. 31	7305	5231 <i>projected</i>
INCOME	3983	2340 <i>projected</i>
Dues - current membership (\$15 each)	540	480
Dues - Training class dues (reserved for 2016)		0
Badge Fines	9	10
Plant Sale Net Profit (see page 2 for details)	2864	1850
Papercrete workshop net profit	570	0
EXPENSES	2119	4414*
Administrative Expenses	98	264*
Insurance	37	34
Office Supplies - Board & Committees (Board/Newsletter/Sunshine/Scrapbook)	61	230
Fair Project Expenses	380	630*
Advertising (Fair book)	0	50
Judges' gifts	53	50
Committee/Judges' lunch	43	50
Cash Awards	230	270
Certificates	10	10
Supplies	45	50
Supplies for Crops divisions	0	50
Fair workers refreshments	0	100
Education Expenses	526	2400*
Youth Horticulture Education Project	79	200
Educational Funding	0	1000
Leadership Training - registration	300	500
Leadership Training - lodging subsidy	0	400
Leadership Training - Carla - reg & lodging	147	0
Programs/Lecturers	0	100
Training Class costs - refreshments, etc	0	200
Fellowship Expenses	454	580*
Christmas Party net cost (budget \$15 ea)	425	480
Refreshment supplies	0	50
Recognition party	29	50
Recognition Expenses	458	540*
MGY - for Convention	200	200
Awards - MGY/Project/Friends	85	100
Award - MGY (previous year)	36	0
President's Awards	0	100
Secretary Day flowers - (Sue Oglesby)	37	40
UACES subsidies- convention & awards	100	100
Other Expenses - tables, tools, t-shirts	203	0

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NOTES:

The 2014 totals given here are the same as the year-end statement, but details have been rearranged for planning purposes. Especially, several items appear in the statement as both income & expense, but are shown here as net figures - income from plant sale & workshop, expenditure for Christmas party (\$800-375) & T-shirts. Party contributions for the October training class will be at guest rate, with their dues applied to 2016.

Educational Funding replaces the old Scholarship, and will fund educational events approved by the membership for MG's as well as for the public, including MG bus tours.

Leadership Training in 2014 covered 5 members (3 discounted) , & is proposed for 7 (the entire new board) this year.

Mark Your Calendars!!!



A potted plant in bloom.

Plant Sale Committee Meeting

There will be a meeting to discuss the plant sale on Thursday, March 12th, at 11:30 am at Farm Bureau. All Master Gardeners are welcome. The plant sale is coming up fast, so don't miss this opportunity to find out how you can help!

Grow Your Own Grocery Workshop

The Winthrop Rockefeller Institute is sponsoring on a workshop March 21-22 at Petit Jean Mountain, focusing on “garden to table” concepts and techniques. Janet Carson will be teaching on creating and maintaining raised garden beds, as well as planning and growing a successful kitchen garden. At the end of the workshop, there will be a cooking demonstration using home-grown foods. The fee is \$220, which includes tuition, meals, and overnight lodging. This workshop is for all skill levels, and a great way to earn education hours. To ask questions or to register, go to <http://www.rockefellerinstitute.org/educational-programs/grow-your-groceries-with-janet-carson> or call (501)-727-5435.



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

