

**Pulaski County Master Gardener General Meeting**  
**April 17, 2018**  
**St. James United Methodist Church**

President Joellen Beard opened the meeting at 11:30 am.

Agent Randy Forst introduced Brian Helms, the Director of Stakeholder Relations for the U of A Division of Agriculture. Brian explained the Janet Carson Endowment Fund, which will be created to supplement Master Gardener activities around the state. The initial goal is \$25,000. Hopefully, it will grow to several hundred thousand over time. All contributions are tax deductible. There were contribution forms available in the hallway.

Joellen introduced Joanne Kriehn, a Faulkner County Master Gardener, who presented a program on how she transformed her 20 acres of scrubby woodlands into a park like setting.

**Announcements:**

Chris Field reminded everyone of the Little Rock Greenhouse Sale, Saturday, April 21 from 8-11 am.

Kathleen Reynold reported that the Busy Bees can be picked up in Jones Hall after the meeting, and the drill team is back to drill holes in your nametags.

Sharon Gragg has membership cards for those who sent in a check. Dues go up to \$30 in May.

Travel Committee co- chair Cherith Beck will lead a tour to River Bottom Winery this afternoon. Meet at 1:30 at the Second Presbyterian Church parking lot, 600 Pleasant Valley Drive.

Susan Reasoner, Travel Chair invited everyone to go to Laughing Stock organic farm on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Meet at the Second Presbyterian parking lot at 9am.

Catherine Chaumont reported that the St. James workday will begin at 9 am on Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. She will send out an email on Thursday with more instructions.

One of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities will be a tour of 7 gardens in the River Ridge neighborhood. The theme is “Different Gardens, Different Views”. It will be held on May 18<sup>th</sup> from 9-noon.

Kathleen Wesson told the group that there are 3 4x8 raised beds available for rent at the St. Paul’s United Methodist Church organic garden. Please contact her if interested.

Michelle Wasson reported on the Continuing Education program on June 19<sup>th</sup> at St. James, following the June General Meeting. The cost is \$25 person, including lunch. The topic is “Plants: World Changing, Evil, and Odd; Oh, My!”. The speaker is Ann Wood. Registration will open around May 17<sup>th</sup>.

Wild Birds Unlimited will be selling milkweed plants at their store on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Randy presented a request from the Arkansas Veterans Cemetery and Beautification Committee. They would like a Master Gardener on their board. The board meets the third Friday at 10am, several times a year. Contact Randy if interested.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Young  
Secretary