

Pulaski County Master Gardeners General Meeting

January 18, 2022

Meeting via Zoom

Welcome: President Cindy Strauss welcomed members to the first general meeting of 2022 at 11:30 a.m. Suggestions for Zoom etiquette were mentioned. Examples were to avoid interruption of the speakers and instead ask a question on chat. Another suggestion was to keep video off while eating or drinking.

A Moment in history: Jane Gulley presented thoughts about the benefit received by master gardeners from the connections formed while participating. She paid tribute to early president and longtime member of PCMG, David Dodson. She ended with a favorite quote, "Out of gardens grow fleeting flowers but lasting friendships" (Beverly Rose Hopper).

Speaker: Pam Abrams, member at large, introduced our speaker, Randy Forst. Randy came to Pulaski County in 2014 to be our County Extension Agent. Randy holds a Master of Agriculture Degree and also has extensive landscaping experience.

The topic today was "Top Ten Mistakes in Landscaping". Randy showed many examples of common problems such as choosing the wrong plant for the location, not considering long term maintenance, and treating plants with the wrong products.

Announcements: Cindy Strauss presented slides of announcements. She gave special thanks to past board members Suzanne Potts, Michele Wasson, Jodie Mahony, and Ann Schweitzer. She welcomed new 2022 board members Carol Mendel, Sara Jordan, Sharon Priest, Deeana Montgomery, Pam Gadberry, Susan Stewart, Pam Abrams, Blanca Hernandez, and Nancy Archer. Cindy welcomed forty-six new members from the 2021 online class and said that all had been assigned to projects. Updating the directory with missing member photos was mentioned, and photos can be emailed to Paul Nolte. Cindy discussed the upcoming State MG Conference May 19-21 in Springdale held by Washington County Master Gardeners. She announced that PCMG has purchased a label maker which will be available for use at the extension office after a class for chairs and co-chairs. Reminder was given that dues of \$20 may be paid by check to Asst. Treasurer Susan Stewart. Also, members have an opportunity to volunteer at Williams Elementary for non-sanctioned hours by contacting Bianca Hernandez. Cindy announced that members will be able to enter volunteer hours in February. She noted that PCMG combined hours in 2021 have a value of \$438,183.00.

Ramblings with Randy: Randy Forst thanked everyone for the hours of volunteer work during the COVID pandemic. He mentioned a recent visit with the new Garland County Extension agent and suggested that PCMG could attend or volunteer at the upcoming Garland County Plant Sale and Garden Show April 22-24 at Garland County Fairgrounds. He mentioned that recent weather changes may have caused damage to cool season vegetables and other plant material.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:39.

Respectfully submitted,

Deeana Montgomery, Secretary