

## Pulaski County Master Gardeners

General Meeting June 20, 2023

**Welcome and announcements:** President Carol Mendel welcomed members to the general meeting at St. James United Methodist Church. She called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. Carol noted today's speaker is Blanca Hernandez. The list of service awards displayed on the power point with special acknowledgement for 35 year member Nancy Phillips and 25 year members Lee Gershner, Sandy Harrison and Laura Ann Warren. Two new PCMG projects, Juvenile Detention Garden and St. Joseph's Pollinator Garden were welcomed to the PCMG family. Carol recognized PCMG Collin Galloway in person and with power point photos from the MG State Convention of him receiving his College Scholarship. Carol also announced after the meeting the Tee Shirts for those paying dues prior to April 30 would be distributed in Jones Hall, along with recognition of Stuff Committee Chair Linda Ahlen.

**Speaker:** Susan Rose introduced the speaker, Blanca Hernandez of the Pulaski County Extension office. Blanca is a Pulaski County Master Gardener, serves on the board and is the chair of PCMG Continuing Education Committee. One of the areas her County Extension job focuses on is SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) which is the topic of today's meeting.

Blanca spoke about the SNAP program teaching families to shop for healthy meals and making their food money stretch. The program began in the 1930s with the first Pilot Program starting in the 1960s. In 1964 the Food Stamp Act was enacted, then the program went nationwide in 1974. In 1992 the educational component was added to the program and the name was changed to SNAP in 2008. Through her position at the Pulaski County Extension office Blanca has the opportunity to work with low-income students and adults and has even revitalized raised garden beds at Williams school in Little Rock where the garden is used to teach children about growing and eating fresh vegetables.

**Derek's Remarks:** Derek informed members about the Hydroponics Workshop being offered to members on July 13th. He noted there is a field trip to Hope Research Station on June 28 and a class on hybridizing day lilies on June 29<sup>th</sup>. He then talked about Tomato wilt, proper irrigation and there is no cure for wilt, throw away the plant.

**Door Prizes:** Door prizes were drawn for and given away.

Carol adjourned the meeting at 12:04.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Strauss for Deeana Montgomery