

MAY 2023

NEWSLETTER



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President's Message

Our 2023 plant sale was a smashing success! The quality of the plants was great, the community turnout was amazing and we almost sold out! The few remaining plants have been donated to local schools and community organizations. A huge thank you to everyone who worked in the greenhouse, worked the day of the sale, helped promote the plant sale, or assisted in any other way. It was a huge team effort! I know it was hard work, but I hope it was fun work and everyone learned something along the way. The funds raised will help us make an even bigger impact on horticultural education in the community.

As we now ease into the growing season many of us will turn our attention to starting our gardens at home, but we as Master Gardeners will continue our maintenance work at the Depot and the Farmer's Market. We will also be working with local schools to continue to support their needs over the summer and into the new school year. Now is also the time we will start planning for our fair display for this year's fair. If you have ideas, let me know!

Best,
-Brant

*Queen of months, supremely fair,
Cloth'd with garments rich and rare,
None in beauty can compare
With thee, sweet May.
Lovely month, thou bringest mirth,
Spreadest sweetness o'er the earth,
Causest Nature to give birth
To fruits and flowers.
Thou art lov'd by young and old.
Joys for each thou dost unfold;
Never shall our hearts grow cold
To thee, sweet May.*

Ode to May, Peter Burn

Plant Sale a Huge Success (as usual)

Our annual plant sale, held at the Fairgrounds on Saturday, April 22, drew a large crowd and we nearly sold out of plants. PCMGs showed out in force to facilitate an enjoyable experience for all.



April meeting hosted Nashville Bonsai Society

Clay Ferris, President of the Nashville Bonsai Society, provided a fascinating talk about bonsai plants. While we often associate bonsai with Japan, it originated in China and was eventually adopted by the Japanese. Clay recommended using any tree or shrub that has a woody bark. Local plants that would be suited to bonsai include winged elm, hornbeam, and hophornbeam.





Clay keeps 90% of his bonsai outside and recommends using small pots with drainage holes.

Interested in learning more? The Nashville Bonsai Society website can be accessed here: [NBS](#) . Clay also recommended a colleague, Bjorn Bjornholm who lives in Mt. Juliet. He has several videos on YouTube and you can learn more about him at [Bonsai Empire](#).

Brant Wheeler 's Awesome Plant-Sale-Motivator Cookies

Printed by popular demand!

Ingredients:

- 14 tablespoons butter, divided
- 3/4 cup dark brown sugar
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 large egg + 1 large egg yolk
- 1 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 1/4 cup chocolate chips
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Instructions:

Preheat oven to 375°F. Prepare two baking sheets by lining them with parchment paper.

Melt 10 tablespoons of butter over medium-high heat in a 10-inch skillet. Stir continually until butter is dark golden brown and the aroma has become toffee-like.

Transfer browned butter to a mixing bowl. Add the remaining 4 tablespoons of butter and stir until melted.

Whisk in the brown sugar, granulated sugar, vanilla, and salt until incorporated.

Whisk in the egg and egg yolk, for about 30 seconds, until smooth. Let rest for 3 minutes. Whisk mixture again for 30 seconds. Then repeat the process of resting and whisking 2 more times until mixture is thick and smooth.

Use a rubber spatula to stir in the flour and baking soda, just until dough forms. Fold in the chocolate chips.

Working with 3 tablespoons of dough at a time, roll into balls and space 2 inches apart on the prepared sheets.

Bake for 9-10 minutes until edges are golden brown. Cool on wire racks.

Have a fruit or vegetable recipe you'd like to share? Send to PCMGnewsletter@gmail.com and we'll include it.

Farm Day taught 1st graders about planting seeds

PCMGs spent two wonderful days instructing, enriching, and enjoying 1,000 first graders. I think you can tell by the smiles on everyone's face what a great time was had by all.



Intern Graduates

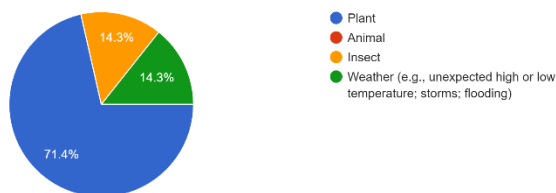
2023 produced 25 Master Gardener graduates who completed the required coursework to move on to the next phase of becoming a Putnam County Master Gardener. Interns were invited to a celebratory dinner at our April meeting.



PCMG Phenology Project

PCMG is currently gathering local data about plants, insects, and weather for our phenology project. Since April, we have had 7 responses. The nature of the responses is shown here:

What type of phenomenon was observed?
7 responses



We need more participation as events occur—whether it's a tree flowering or losing its blooms, unusual weather including temperature and rain/drought, or insect emergence, it may all contribute to helping us determine the ideal times to plant in the spring and to put our gardens to bed in the fall.

Here is the link to access our phenology project observation tool: [PCMG PHENOLOGY PROJECT](#) Once you visit it, save it in your bookmarks for easy access.

Information needed will include the date, approximate location, type of observation

including details, and high and low temperature that day.

If you need more information, contact Gale at PCMGnewsletter@gmail.com

Continuing Education

Ag Talk Tuesdays:

The Upper Cumberland Extension Team (UCET) is offering the 2023 Ag Talk Tuesday zoom series. This is a 4-lesson series centering around the home landscape. Topics include:

January 24th- "Pruning & Preparing the Home Orchard" with Dr. Dave Lockwood, UT Extension.

February 7th- "Right Plant, Right Place" with Lucas Holman, UT Extension

February 28th- "Landscape Design" with Drake and Taylor Reeder, Landscape Architect

March 21st- "Raised Bed Gardening" with Dr. Natalie Bumgarner, UT Extension

If you would like to view these programs, access the Ag Talk Tuesday Youtube channel here: [Ag Talk Tuesday Videos](#)

PCMG YouTube Channel:

Videos of past Zoom meetings and garden tours can be found on our YouTube channel. Viewing these videos count as your having attended the meeting.

The name of the channel is **Putnamco MG** and here is the direct link:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpFlz2go3GeT-UE90jE_a3g

Extra! Extra!

PCMG Field trips: PCMG is hoping to sponsor several local field trips this summer and we are asking for members to volunteer to show us your gardens or recommend someone who has an garden we could explore.

If you have something to share—an article, and announcement, or photos, please send **an email** to pcmgnewsletter@gmail.com.

Photos sent by text are hard to manipulate into the newsletter so **please email them**. To guarantee it makes it into the next newsletter, ***the announcement needs to be received by the second Monday of the month.***

Next PCMG Meeting

Next Meeting: Monday, May 15 at 6:00 PM at 1st Presbyterian Church, 20 N Dixie Ave.

5:30 potluck.

Continuing education topic will be creating topiaries.



PUTNAM COUNTY MASTER GARDENER MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES April 17, 2023

Clay Ferris presented a program on Bonsai. Bonsai can be any plant with a woody bark. Bonsai is a technique not the type of tree or plant. Clay gave us information about the art form and its history, beginning in China and peaking in Japan in the 1980's. There are several well-known artists, but one lives near us in Mt. Juliet, Tn. Bjorn Bjornholm is one of the most famous bonsai artists. Clay explained to us the different styles of bonsai, and tools needed to create the art. One fact is that bonsai are always planted in shallow pots. Ninety percent of the time plants are outdoors, but can be grown inside. He discussed some trees that were common to create bonsai, such as Japanese Pine, elms, hornbeam, hawthorne, and maples.

Wayne Key presented certificates to interns who completed classwork and test for the 2022-23 year. Congratulations to the new Master Gardeners.

Appreciations were given by President Wheeler and other members. They included

Wayne Key, Brandt Wheeler, Jan Tollett, Tim Werre, Jeff Watters who handled the online sales, and all those participating on a plant care team. Also, Sandi Koczwarra - the "box lady" - for collecting and delivering boxes for use at the plant sale.

Appreciation for those who participated in Farm Day. A great success and many interns helped the children that day. Appreciation for the Seed Library and encouraged MG to participate. It's located in Putnam Co. Library.

The March Minutes were moved to be accepted by Jan Tollett and seconded by Jane Creek. The treasurer report was given by Jane Creek.

Committee Reports:

Jeff Watters reported on the website and the increase in percentage of usage. Publicity reported by Sarah Watts included plant sale information on radio, Facebook and Marketplace. School report by Annie. Materials are being purchased for Prescott, Burks, Algood, and White Plains. Around \$200 per school. Suggested a FaceBook page for schools/MG to collaborate and recruit volunteers. Wren Goedken is the school contact.

Old Business:

Farm Day- Vicky commented on the good help, especially all the interns.
Farmer's Market Garden- need someone to chair this project, if not continue with work days - Jane commented on the good help on last work day and mulch was put down.
Announcement through email when next work day will occur.
Depot garden- easy to get hours, and easy to water and weed.

New Business:

Plant Sale - Watering, Pricing, (Norma, Vicky, Jeanne) Online ordering.
Friday - Set up, Brant getting Lunch. Need Tables, Tents. Rain Plan- Under the grandstand.
Day of Sale - need wagons, wheelbarrows, Begin at 7:00 AM. Sale at 8:00 AM
Jobs, - greeters, floaters (answer questions about plants and care), pricers - tally plants and write on card, cashiers.
Online sales will need to be organized.
Using color sticks for pricing- tally on cards.

2023 County Fair- Need someone to be a display leader. Possibly new event - Green thumb challenge.

Use leftover plants from sale around the barn

Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by Nancy Lewis, Putnam County Master Gardener Secretary