



DECEMBER 2020

NEWSLETTER



President
Vicky Draper

Vice President
Cathy Lamb

Secretary
Norma Moore

Treasurer
Pat O'Mara

**Membership
Committee Chair**

Newsletter
Gale Mentzer

Web Site
<http://www.pcmg-tn.org/>

Webmaster
Stacey Clark

Like us on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/cookevillegardeners/>

President's Message

Greetings Gardeners,

Jingle, Jangle, Jingle, it's almost the end of this dreadful year! Let's get together and celebrate!!!! This year has been difficult and different, but you have made it work. PCMG members put in many hours making parts of Putnam County look more like Cheekwood. Such beautiful and well-maintained flower beds and gardens we had! We also have new, talented members joining PCMG who will be recognized Monday night.

We will meet via Zoom on December 14 at 6:00. That's one week early and you don't want to miss it. I have a few short programs planned that I think will help you get ready for the season. We will honor our members for their efforts, and we will welcome our new members. Dig out that ugly sweater or sweatshirt and put it on! We will be giving away a gift card to Johnson's Nursery for your ugly attire. Another gift card will be given to the best headdress (antlers or hat). Yet another gift card for the ugliest mask. Now for those of you who cannot or do not want to compete in these categories, one person will win a gift card just for being with us!

SEE YOU ON MONDAY NIGHT. DRESS UP!

Vicky Draper

Fall Cleanup!

Seven PCMG members met in November to clean and organize our Fairgrounds building in anticipation of our eventual move to the new location. Those who helped included Pat O'Mara, Jan Tollett, Norma Moore, Cathy Lamb, Evelyn Breyer, Barbara Carver, and Vicky Draper. Yes, there was a lot of junk but, on the bright side, many practical items that had been forgotten were discovered. In addition, several Louisiana iris rhizomes were made available to members.



Louisiana iris



November Guest Speaker, Lucas Holman, Discussed Holiday Plants

With the help of his daughter, Lucas Holman provided an informative lecture about holiday plants including poinsettias, cacti (Christmas and Thanksgiving), amaryllis, African violet, and cyclamen. Lucas is the Wilson County Extension Agent at UT TSU.



A few of his tidbits included that to get the colorful bracts on the poinsettia, the plant needs to be in the dark from roughly 5 PM till 8 AM each night beginning in October. This routine should be followed until Thanksgiving. Similarly, the cacti (both types) need about 12 hours of continuous dark to bloom. During the day, keep it in indirect light. It may take 12 weeks for the blooms to appear so adjust your timing accordingly.



After the amaryllis blooms drop, leave the leaves until they die off (like spring bulbs). When watering the African violet, be sure to avoid getting water on the leaves.

If you have any questions for Lucas, feel free to contact him at LHolman1@utk.edu.



Continuing Education Opportunities

PCMG YouTube Channel:

Videos of past Zoom meetings and garden tours can be found on our YouTube channel. For members who have had trouble logging into the monthly Zoom meetings, a copy of the meeting will be posted on the channel. If you watch it there, it will 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

Meet MG Intern Shauna Samuel

Shauna was born in Chattanooga and raised in McMinnville (Warren County). She lived in Atlanta and Chattanooga for a few years then returned to home to complete her education. She grew up in the garden and learned to plan, harvest, and store foods through canning and freezing. A lifelong gardener, she has "the love of watching things grow." It makes her soul happy.

In 2019, she attended the PCMG plant sale and fell in love with everything that was going on. She was impressed with the friendly environment and that members were helpful and knowledgeable. "They were genuine and enjoyed explaining the varieties to me. I noticed that the members were wearing shirts stating they were master gardeners and I asked how did you become a MG. Bonnie Coburn not only explained the process but introduced me to Wayne and several others letting them know that I was interested. I put my name on the list and here I am!!!"

While she enjoys all types of gardening, vegetable gardening is her favorite. "I love the science of how things grow, how to improve it, and finally just watching something grow from a seed or seedling into something you can put on your table and eat or share with friends."

This year she added a 2nd raised bed to her garden allowing her to experiment with new plants. She is also working on a small greenhouse to extend her growing seasons and experimenting a little bit. This year she experimented using a soaker hoses for watering.

When not gardening, Shauna loves to cook, take photos, travel, and watch football. She planned several international trips for girls over the past 10 years and has been an avid fantasy football participant and organizer for the past 12 years. Her advice to those who garden: "Keep planting...experimenting...and learning new things!"

[Take the PCMG survey](#)

**Send a picture of yourself to pcmgnewsletter.com once you complete the survey. Please include your name in the file name.*

Don't forget to support local small businesses including PCMG members like **Serina Wells** (holiday flowers) and **Betsy Fortuno** (gardening gloves).

If you have a small business that you'd like us to feature, contact the newsletter at our email address listed below.

Next Virtual PCMG Meeting

Monday, December 14 at 6:00 PM.
Remember that your invitation to the meeting will come from Wayne Key and no one else.

There will be some surprises at this meeting as well as an ugly sweater contest so wear your worst (including festive hats) and get that camera working on your computer!



Have something to share through the newsletter? Send pictures, stories, and events to:
pcmgnewsletter@gmail.com

NOTE: To log your volunteer hours go to <https://tema.tennessee.edu/>

MASTER GARDENER
UT EXTENSION
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

PUTNAM COUNTY MASTER GARDENER MONTHLY MEETING
NOVEMBER 16, 2020

President Vicky Draper called the virtual meeting to order. She introduced Lucas Holman, Wilson County Extension Agent. He has been a guest speaker several times over the years. He always does a wonderful job. His presentation was on "Holiday Plants." There were 26 members who participated in the virtual meeting.

The first Holiday Plant he discussed was Poinsettia. It is the number one selling holiday plant in the United States. Most of our plants sold locally comes from California. It is native to Central America and was discovered by Joel Poinsett, the first Ambassador to Mexico in 1820. There are more than 100 varieties. Also, Poinsettia are not poisonous. He discussed and answered questions on how to care for the plant.

The next Holiday plants he discussed were the Christmas and Thanksgiving cactus. The difference between the plants is the leaves. The Thanksgiving cactus has a forked leaf, and the Christmas cactus has a round leaf. The plants are native to Brazil. It was introduced around 1818 to Europe. It needs 12 hours of continuous dark and that is why they bloom when the days become shorter. He discussed and answered members questions on how to care for the plant.

Over ten million Amaryllis bulbs are imported every year. There are over 600 varieties. Amaryllis comes from the Greek word, "Knight Star". It is native to South Africa. They can bloom up to seventy-five years. There are two cycles in its growth to make it bloom. First period is the period of recovery where the foliage will grow, and the second period is the period of dormancy where the plant will go dormant (last two months). Lucas discussed and answered questions concerning the care of the Amaryllis.

The last two plants that he discussed was the Cyclamen and the African Violet. Cyclamen comes from the Greek word "Kyklo" meaning circle. This plant is sold during Valentines. The African Violet was discovered in 1892 and comes from Tanzania. A nursery in Louisiana realized the commercial potential of this plant and is the main distributor to nurseries and retail stores. He discussed and answered questions on how to care for each plant.

Lucas stated that he would be glad to answer any questions that members might have. He can be reached at (615)444-9584 or Lholman@utk.edu.

Wayne Key stated that he was working on the Intern Class for 2021. He has a notebook that Dan Ritter gave him that has a list of possible class members.

Betsy Furtuno has gloves to sell. If interested, call her. Great for stocking stuffers.

President Draper asked if there were any additions or corrections to the October minutes. Betsy Furtuno moved to approve the minutes and Cathy Lamb seconded. Minutes approved. President Draper asked if there were any additions or corrections to the September minutes. (Minutes were not voted on at October meeting for approval) Betsy Furtuno moved to approve the minutes and Pat O'Mara seconded. Minutes approved.

Pat O'Mara, Treasurer, gave a report. The only expense incurred was \$27.38 from the Granville Halloween project.

New Business

President Draper had been in contact with the Fair Board. The County Commission voted to wait and not sale the fairgrounds until after the August Putnam County Fair. This gives our club time to plan for the move. She stated that at 1:00 on Tuesday and Thursday there would be a workday to clean and organize the fair building for the move. She encouraged members participate especially if you need volunteer hours.

Also, she thanked the members who worked on the Ag building and the Farmers Market grounds. She stated they have never looked so good.

She told the members that the December meeting will be held virtually on December 14th. She asked members to wear festive hats, ugly sweaters or both. There will be door prizes. Also, she is planning for surprise.

Serina Wells announced that she has Amaryllis plants to sale for the Holidays. The cost is \$35 to \$40. She will post on her website.

Meeting Adjourned.

Norma Moore, Secretary