



NOVEMBER 2020

NEWSLETTER



President's Message

Greetings Gardeners,

Haven't we been blessed with fabulous autumn weather? I enjoy walking Belle down the street when the temperature is perfect, the sky is blue, and the trees are glorious. I can't remember such a prolonged time of color and perfect weather.

Those of us that travelled to Maxine's home enjoyed a beautiful drive and an informative visit. We learned about gourds from seed to beautiful uses. We also saw works in progress and her gourd collection topped off by donuts and apple cider. It was lovely to sit on her deck and enjoy the day and her dog.

This year is almost over, and **everyone needs to get their hours in so Wayne can tabulate them.** I guess that means I need to get busy! If anyone is interested in doing the History Museum Christmas tree, let me know.

This month, Lucas Holman will be our speaker on our Zoom meeting. He is always so fun and informative. If you are new to PCMG, you are in for a treat!

Keep Blooming,
Vicky Draper

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/>

Continuing Education Opportunities

PCMG has a 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

UT Extension Zoom Meetings Continue:

If you have not yet registered to attend UT Extension Zoom meetings, click this link: [Friday Focus Registration](#). This will put you on a mailing list. Note: There was no meeting in October.

You can always access recordings of earlier sessions:

May 8th session in Knoxville:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BzeWcz0Mnwc&list=PL1yNe3Yb9E34B_oHDVbLaJxAoI1iQcZ63&index=2&t=2474s

May 22nd session in Greeneville:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0bPIC37bl2M&list=PL1yNe3Yb9E34B_oHDVbLaJxAoI1iQcZ63&index=3&t=15s

Resources mentioned at May 22 session:

Brand new school garden publication written by Anna and Rachel
<https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/W877.pdf>

Plus, a video of some of the great MGs in Rutherford County sharing about their composting system: <https://youtu.be/89zvDfGWezI>

June 5th session I Murfreesboro:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zNHk9nlvb80&feature=youtu.be>

June 19th session in Memphis:
<https://youtu.be/HK2OuGSSBFU>

July 3rd session in Knox County:
<https://youtu.be/vZazUJFn2YM>

July 17th session in Jackson:
<https://youtu.be/OC3EtIiXKyk>

July 31st session in Chattanooga:
https://youtu.be/3hC9WxzF_E4

August 7 Sevier County video:
<https://youtu.be/14UUpsVlvDA>

August 14th Roane County video:
<https://youtu.be/EVwo0aZGTgg>

August 21st Fayette County video:
https://youtu.be/-WUhrT1I_uE

August 28th Williamson County video:
<https://youtu.be/O5nbboYE7Mg>

Sept. 11 Crossville video:
<https://tennessee.zoom.us/j/614381911>

For more information about the Plateau Discovery Garden, connect to:
<https://www.facebook.com/UTgardenscrossville/>

Visiting Maxine Osburn's "Gourdens"

Maxine hosted about a dozen PC Master Gardeners at her home on Thursday, November 5 for a tour and cider and doughnuts. First, we trekked through her woods to a clearing near the back of her 6-acre property to view the gourd gardens. While most have been harvested, she left a few bushel gourds and bottleneck gourds in the gardens for our visit. While some recommend giving the plants a fence or trellis to keep the gourds above the ground, she does not always do that and they do nicely.





She purchases gourd seeds from Quarry Farm (<https://www.quarryfarmgourds.com/>) and plants them in the ground once all danger of frost is gone. Once they have matured and dried out a bit, she picks them and lets them continue to dry. Given enough time, the seeds will dry inside

the gourd but sometimes Maxine removes the seeds. The next step is to clean them and then she stores them in her workshop until inspiration (or a customer) prompts her to transform the gourds into art.



For more information about Maxine and her gourds, check out her Facebook page "Maxine's Pumpkins and Gourds."



These giraffes are "gourd-geous!"



Future Mickey Mouse and a koala

Next Virtual PCMG Meeting

Monday, November 16 at 6:00 PM. **Remember that your invitation to the meeting will come from Wayne Key and no one else.**

Lucas Holman will be our guest speaker. Lucas is the horticulture extension agent in Wilson County and his talks are always a treat.

That's a lot of horse "beep!"

While some PCMG members have helped themselves to the black gold that is my 3-year-old manure pile, there is still plenty to go around. Anyone interested in obtaining some (free!) contact me (Gale Mentzer) at the PCMG email address at the bottom of the newsletter or find my personal email and phone # in the directory. Those of you who have gotten some and want more, if you don't need the tractor to load it, just come over and help yourself.



Mickie Loyd Digging into the tip of the manure iceberg.

Take the PCMG survey

We haven't had any new responses to the survey so if you haven't taken it yet, please do so by clicking on the "Take the PMG survey" heading above.

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

Fall Reflections by Mickie Loyd

Another year of gardening has drawn to a close. It is always a time of mixed emotions. No more excitement over seeing the trucks unloading the spring plants at the garden center, no feeling the rich compost between my fingers, no more daily walks around my gardens



to see what has come up or has been eaten overnight by the critters, no more early morning watering, picking bouquets of zinnias and daisies.

I go into a Lowe's withdrawal. After dropping by their nursery daily in the spring, to once a week in the summer, to once a month in the winter (just hoping to find something green, anything green), I resign myself to driving by Lowe's on my way to Dunkin Donuts. I have to keep my spirits up some way!

**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://temg.tennessee.edu/>

MASTER GARDENER
UT EXTENSION
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

**PUTNAM COUNTY MASTER GARDENER
MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 19, 2020**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was a video conference. Vicky Draper, President, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. There were 26 members participating in the meeting. Brant Wheeler acted as host for the meeting.

Vicky suspended the approval of the September minutes until next month. Pat O'Mara, Treasurer, gave the club's financial report. President Draper asked if there was any Old Business. There was none to discuss. She then proceeded to New Business. Vicky individually contacted by telephone the Executive Committee and Wayne Key to discuss the slate of Officers for the 2021 fiscal year. It was decided, if members approved, to carry over existing officers into next year. With all the uncertainties caused by the pandemic, it was felt that the election of new officers needed to wait until we could meet as a club. There were no objections.

Also, she has been in discussion with John Allen from the Fair Board about the 2021 Fair. The Board would like the County Commission to put off selling the present Fair land until after the 2021 Fair. Brant Wheeler asked if she knew a timeline. Vicky stated she hopes decisions are made at the next County Commission meeting. Since this is still all up in the air, we as a club can not proceed with any future plans. Serine Wells stated that she thought the Fair Board said that we would have a place at the new fair grounds. If the land is sold, we must find someplace to store all our supplies and equipment. Since the Agriculture Building may be moved, we can not depend on that property as a possible site for a storage building. She asked if anyone had any thoughts to contact her. Plans need to be made but we are at mercy of the Fair Board and County Commission.

Vicky announced that Lucas Holman, Wilson County Extension Agent, will present our November program.

Vicky turned the meeting over to Brant Wheeler to host the virtual tour of Sarah Johnson's gardens. Sarah is a local whose family owns a fabulous garden center in Cookeville. Everyone enjoyed the tour.

Meeting adjourned.

Norma Moore