

St. Charles County Master Gardeners Association
General Membership Monthly Meeting Minutes
June 26, 2025

**If you have any questions, comments or corrections before these minutes are approved,
please contact your MG secretary Sandra Newsom at sandra.newsom@gmail.com**

Social Time: 6:00 p.m.

Program: 6:30 p.m. | **Landscaping the Arch Grounds** | Presented by Nicholas Krekler. He will explain his work as general manager overseeing the landscaping and planting of the re-designed Arch grounds. with Site Systems. The intricate project includes bioremediation of the soil and hand-picked specimens. Nicholas has a passion for native landscaping.

A Zoom link was provided for the meeting.

Program does count for Continuing Education credit.

Business meeting counts toward Vol Hours, Master Gardener Meeting

President Laura Steimel welcomed the attendees at 6:28 p.m.

Val Mertz introduced Nicholas Krekler who presented an excellent program. Nicholas described his role in the intricate process of overseeing the landscaping and planting of the Gateway Arch National Park, the area surrounding the Arch. The renovation of the grounds occurred from 2012-2017. The area is the first to be designated a National Historic Landscape. He paid tribute to the visionary leaders and team members who brought the project to completion. The program was well attended and concluded with a robust question and answer session. Nicholas recommended a book for further reading: Teaming with Microbes: A Gardener's Guide to the Soil Food Web by Jeff Lowenfels.

Business Meeting: President Laura Steimel called the business meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Extension Master Gardener Program Coordinator: Eli Isele | There are problems with the beehive in the garden where the bees have become aggressive. Eli recommended that everyone avoid the area around the beehive. He is working with the beekeepers to make the space usable again for the volunteers.

Hortline: Judy Klemme gave a brief presentation on Jumping Worms. A caller to the Hortline wanted to know if worms found in her landscape were jumping worms. Judy researched the caller's question and shared what she learned with the membership. She provided a description for identifying jumping worms and what to do if found in your landscape. The worms have not been reported in Missouri, but they have been confirmed in states around Missouri.

Secretary's Report: Sandra Newsom | The minutes of the May 22, 2025 General Membership meeting were posted in the 6/23/25 *Monday Blooms* newsletter and made available at the meeting. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was seconded and unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Rebecca Poon | The May 2025 financial report was posted in the 6/23/25 *Monday Blooms* newsletter and made available at the meeting. The beginning balance as of 5/1/25 was \$48,038 and the month-end balance was \$47,559. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was seconded and unanimously approved.

President's Report: Nine master gardeners from the chapter attended the State EMG Conference on June 6-7 in Columbia, MO. Congratulations to Joe Walker who was recognized as 2024 Extension Master Gardener of the Year.

Flyers are available for the purchase of fall bulbs from MOMGA. MOMGA's goal is to raise \$2,000 from the sale of bulbs through October with delivery in time for planting this fall.

The SCCMGA has the opportunity to join the All-America Selections program. AAS was founded in 1932 as an independent non-profit organization that tests new, never-before-sold varieties for the home gardener. After a full season of anonymous trialing by volunteer horticulture professionals, only the top garden performers are given the AAS Winner award designation for their superior performance. The purpose of an AAS Display Garden is to grow and display AAS winners; to educate visitors on AAS and the AAS trialing process and to introduce top performing garden varieties to the public. Benefits of becoming an AAS Display Garden include access to free seeds and plugs to grow for display in our Demo Gardens and signage for the AAS plantings. We can sell the plants that are not used for Demo Garden display, and we have the opportunity to purchase new plants that are not available.

Committee Reports/Updates

Membership Committee: Laura and Eli presented membership badges to newly certified master gardeners: Deb Randall, Kelly Kruse, LeaAnn Grimshaw and Lisa Berry.

Continuing Education/Advanced Training: Bonnie Winkeler | Opportunities for CE/AT are reported in the weekly *Monday Blooms* newsletter. Revision of the Advanced Training guidelines to bring the guidelines in compliance with UM Extension/MOMGA guidelines is in process.

The St. Charles County Parks horticulture team is offering a **Seed and Be "LEAF"** session on July 23 from 9-10:30 a.m. at the Broemmelseik Park Agriculture Garden to learn about medicinal plants, vegetables and flowers grown. Pre-registration is required. This counts as 1.5 hours CU.

Public Education: Patti Kolek | The Education Committee met on Thursday, June 26 at 5:00 p.m. just prior to the membership meeting.

Farmers Markets: Master Gardeners will participate in local farmer's markets including:

St. Charles Market (Main St. between Clark and Monroe) – 1st Saturday: May 3 -November 29

Patti reported that no one has signed up to work the market on Saturday, July 5 from 7:30 – noon.

Upcoming Speakers: Val Mertz | Val appreciates all the speaker suggestions from the members.

July meeting speaker will be Patrick Bellrose, former owner of Fahr Nursery/Greenhouse and Integrated Pest Management Consultant. His topic will be What's Bugging You?

August meeting program will be provided by Forest ReLeaf of Missouri, an organization dedicated to planting and growing a resilient tree canopy across Missouri, to support healthy people, healthy habitats, and a healthy planet.

October meeting speaker will be Joe Corio who will speak on the topic of Our Missouri Native Hollies and More. An active Emeritus Gardener in Jefferson County, Joe is currently the board chairman of Kress Farm Garden Preserve.

Plant Sale: Donna Lindsey, Catherine Ebone, Cindy Heider
Greenhouse: Jeanne DeBold, Nancy Torke
Hoop House: Donna Lindsey, Cindy Heider

If you took trays home to wash, please return them to the Greenhouse. If you purchased any \$5 perennials, the Plant Sale team would appreciate the return on those trade gallon pots.

Demo Gardens: Cindy Platzer, Bekah Davis | Phebe Martin will host an **Eating What We Grow** class on Wednesday, July 2. Menu will include kohlrabi, beets and possibly red cabbage. Registration is requested via signup on the *Monday Blooms* newsletter.

New Business: None

Old Business: None

Good of the Order: Joe Walker is working with the O'Fallon Boys & Girls Club summer program where the youth visit the Extension Garden weekly on Thursdays from 9:15-10:30. He encouraged anyone interested in working with a group of 4-5 young people with a hands-on gardening experience to please contact him.

Phebe Martin thanked the membership for all the donations received to benefit families connected to Hickey Elementary School who were impacted by the recent tornado. The supplies have been delivered, and the families were very grateful for the support.

The Steering Committee will meet on July 11, 2025. The meeting is open to all members.

Adjournment: The membership meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Newsom

Meeting Resources: May 22, 2025 General Membership Meeting Minutes
 May 2025 Treasurer's Report
 Answer Key for June Continuing Education Quiz is available via *Monthly Blooms*

University of Missouri (MU) Extension Volunteer Annual Code of Conduct
https://missouri.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3XcCMH9n9Og9M6F

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| Steering Committee for 2025: | Laura Steimel, President | llsteimel@charter.net |
| | Jackie Johnson, Vice-President | southerngirl9308@yahoo.com |
| | Mary Mason-Coyle, Treasurer | coylemp3425@gmail.com |
| | Sandra Newsom, Secretary | sandra.newsom@gmail.com |
| | Cindy Platzer, Demo Garden Co-Lead | cineater@aol.com |
| | Bekah Davis, Demo Garden Co-Lead | rdbirds19@yahoo.com |
| | Patti Kolek, Education Committee | patti.kolek@gmail.com |
| | Donna Lindsey, Plant Sale Liaison | dlind0@hotmail.com |

St. Charles County Master Gardeners
General Monthly Meeting Attendance
June 26, 2025

Ken Peine

Kevin Minard

Chuck Baur

Tilden Lerg

Don Sutcliffe

Klausner

Laura Stroud

Anne Schappe

Mike Schappe

Kelly Kruse

Chari Garofalo

Paul Gleason

Laurie Johnson

Dona Linakos

Carol Niederschmidt

Jackie Johnson

Susan Rodebusch

Tom Culey

Tammie Wright

Tom Wright

Karen Daugherty

Leslie Limberg

RON WEPPEICH

Bob Ch

Linda Sutton

Jo Ann Shew

Paula Matousek

Lisa Perry

Cindy Plake

Chamie Hunter

Sydney Turner

Andy Ascher

Susan Ascher

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Sandra Newsom

Mary Coyle

Bonnie Winkeler

Ar Winkeler

Melanie Ellick

Sharon Booker

Paul Orf

Elizabeth Orf

Gabriela Griffiths

Ratti Koleski

Doc Walker

Karen Kleaman LCMG.

Judy Glenn

Andy Deider

Catherine Eboe

Patti Baratta

Dawn Tucker

Deb Randall

Maria ~~Almeida~~

David Romig

Jeanne DeBolt

Peggy Hammond

Hubert Marts

Jessie

Leslie Mitchell

Laura Melkus

Trudy Flynn

Joann Jungermann

Amy O'Brien

Barbara Bauer

Kristine Freschi

Karen Graves

LeAnn Grimsley

Annalee May

Valerie Mertz