

St. Charles County Master Gardeners Association
General Membership Monthly Meeting Minutes
May 22, 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. | Pizza Party celebration for all the hard work put into the 2025 Plant Sale
Program: 6:30 p.m. | **Problems Common to Perennials and Annuals** | Presented by Carol Graves,
St. Louis County Advanced Master Gardener.

A Zoom link was provided for the meeting.

Program does count for Continuing Education credit.

Business meeting counts toward Vol Hours, Master Gardener Meeting

Business Meeting: President Laura Steimel called the business meeting to order at 7:58 p.m.

Extension Master Gardener Program coordinator: Eli Isele | No report.

President's Report: Laura reported on a Welcome/Orientation event held prior to the membership meeting for the newest graduates of the Master Gardener On-line training class. Class members provided a brief introduction at what was likely the first in-person gathering of the on-line class. Laura and other Garden Leads provided information about the St. Charles County Master Gardener Association and the UM Extension Brown Road complex. Kevin Lynch presented a tutorial on access to the volunteer hours reporting platform and other website resources. The gathering ended with a brief tour of the gardens. A Pizza Party celebrated the class and a successful 2025 Plant Sale effort by all the Master Gardeners.

Secretary's Report: Sandra Newsom | The minutes of the April 24, 2025 monthly membership meeting were posted in the 5/19/25 *Monday Blooms* newsletter and made available at the meeting. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was seconded and unanimously approved.

Treasurers Report: Rebecca Poon | The April 2025 financial report was posted in the 5/19/25 *Monday Blooms* newsletter and made available at the meeting. The beginning balance as of 4/1/25 was \$25,074 and the month-end balance was \$48,038. The Plant Sale Profit and Loss Statement reported Plant Sale income of \$27,808.60; Plant Sale expenses of \$9,270.98; Net Plant Sale income of \$18,537.62. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made and seconded and unanimously approved.

Committee Reports/Updates

Membership Committee: Kevin Lynch | Commemorative bricks recognizing 1000 cumulative hours of volunteer service that were presented to Phebe Martin and Kim Barylski at the April general membership meeting have been installed by the Enabling Garden bird house. The following membership badges were presented:

Neil Menscher	Emeritus Master Gardener
Cynthia Menscher	Emeritus Master Gardener
David Prince	Emeritus Master Gardener
Mary Prince	Emeritus Master Gardener
Rebekah Davis	Emeritus Advanced Master Gardener
Chari Garofalo	Master Gardener
Katie White	Master Gardener

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.

Public Education: Patti Kolek | The Hortline is very active and the team is serving the community very well with this service. The Hortline library is being purged and outdated, duplicate books in the collection were offered to the members and/or will be donated to the St. Charles County Library book sale. Most research of questions received via the Hortline is being done online through trusted .edu resources.

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

In the Garden Series: The 2025 *In the Garden* series of classes held from January through April garnered 92 attendees from the community along with a few Master Gardeners. Registration fees generated income of \$1,304.89. Patti thanked team members Dawn Tucker, Chuck Baur, Joe Walker and Melanie Elick for their assistance in organizing the classes.

Upcoming Speakers: Val Mertz | Val appreciates all the speaker suggestions from the members. She is in contact with the Danforth Center with the potential of scheduling a field trip/tour of the facility.

June meeting speaker will be Nicholas Krekler. The program topic is *Landscaping the Arch Grounds* and he will explain his work as general manager, landscaping and planting the Arch grounds with Site Systems. The intricate project includes bioremediation of the soil and hand-picked specimens. Nicholas is also an expert on mushrooms, orchids and rare house plants. He has donated mushroom spawn for the Pantry Garden's benefit.

July meeting program has not been confirmed.

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

Donna Lindsey thanked everyone for their support of the 2025 Plant Sale. Almost everyone in the room was standing after recognition for being a team member,

attending seeding/transplanting parties, watering in the greenhouse, or purchasing plants! All the help was crucial for the successful sale. Fun Facts: Total revenue was \$27,808.60. Total number of plants (pots) sold was 7,326. We sold 92% of what was grown. (Many leftover plants went to the demo gardens, Boys & Girls Club, Hickey School and St. Charles County Parks Dept.) A wrap-up meeting was held on May 14 to evaluate the 2025 effort and to kick off planning for the 2026 Plant Sale.

If you purchased plants in the \$5 trade gallon size pots at the plant sale, please return the empty pots to the Hoop House. The pots will be reused for the 2026 Plant Sale.

Jeanne DeBold has taken on the role of Greenhouse Lead. The Greenhouse has trays that need to be cleaned and stored following the plant sale. The work counts toward volunteer hours and instructions are posted in the Greenhouse. If you are cleaning the trays at home, there is a designated drop off table in the Greenhouse when you return the trays.

The Plant Sale team has established a recognition for an **Outstanding Contributor** to the annual Plant Sale. The intent is to recognize a Plant Sale team member each year. The inaugural choice for this recognition for 2025 was **Jeanne DeBold**. While every Plant Sale team member made significant contributions, Jeanne attended almost all seeding parties, stayed to clean Room C every time, took home plants, watered and weeded in the Greenhouse regularly, helped setup for all five Plant sale events and stayed to help tear down each time. Her contributions made every aspect of the Plant Sale events better. We are proud to recognize Jeanne for her outstanding support of the Plant Sale.

If you are interested in joining the Plant Sale team, please contact any Plant Sale team member. More help is needed in annuals, vegetables and herbs, and overall help is always good. The *Monday Blooms* weekly newsletter posts news about upcoming meetings and events.

Demo Gardens: Cindy Platzer, Bekah Davis | Work on the herb garden renovation (Phase I) is almost complete and Phase II will commence soon. An open house will be held to celebrate the renovation effort.

Kevin Minard reported that the Mowing Crew is now fully staffed with volunteers.

Cindy reported that 2,500 plants (including 1,420 plants, 1 truckload of roadside day lilies, and several bags of lamb's ear) have been donated to the St. Charles County Parks. They responded with a Facebook thank you for the donation. Phebe Martin reported that 86 lbs. of veggies from the Pantry Garden and 12 lbs. of veggies from several home gardens have been donated to local food pantries.

Public garden tours are ongoing. The public and Master Gardeners are invited to attend. Registration is available on the website. Weather cancellation policy is threatening weather (thunder and lightning in the area) will normally cancel a scheduled tour. Cindy may send a cancellation notice based on weather conditions to registered guests. Several private group tours are also scheduled. Cindy encouraged everyone to consider becoming a Tour Guide. Training for and conducting tours qualifies for Advanced Training credit.

New Business: Laura reminded everyone that Master Gardeners are MU Extension volunteers and must follow standards of personal conduct. Annual review and acceptance of the Code of Conduct is required to maintain the status of MU Extension volunteer. One section of the Code of Conduct is: Be a Positive Role Model at All Times a key tenet of which is: *display mutual respect to others, practicing patience, cooperation and teamwork*. The full Code of Conduct can be accessed at: https://missouri.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3XcCMH9n9Og9M6F

Old Business: Registration is still open for the 2025 Extension Master Gardener Conference, June 6-7, 2025. Attendance limited to 130 people. Complete information is available in the *Monday Blooms* newsletter and the MOMGA website.

Good of the Order: Deanna Dothage shared information on Show Me: Neighborhood Art Week scheduled for June 1-15, 2025. It is a University of Missouri Extension art-focused program that strives to promote creative expression and public art made by residents, regardless of skill level, as a contribution to the community's sense of place and residents' sense of belonging.

Phebe Martin regularly volunteers with the Hickey Elementary School. The school was heavily damaged in the recent tornado outbreak and the students, school leaders and community need assistance with recovery. Phebe may reach out to the Master Gardeners with information on planned volunteer assistance opportunities.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Newsom

Meeting Resources:

April 24, 2025 General Membership Meeting Minutes
April 2025 Treasurer's Report
Answer Key for May Continuing Education Quiz

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

Steering Committee for 2025:

Laura Steimel, President	llsteimel@charter.net
Jackie Johnson, Vice-President	southerngirl9308@yahoo.com
Rebecca Poon, Treasurer	rebeccaympoon@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
May 22, 2025

Sandra Newson

Cindy Peterson

Sharon Boulger

Joe Walker

Patti Baratta online course

Debbie Pedges online course

Kevin Lynch

Keelin Russell

Tom Wright online course

Tammie Wright online course

Pamela Kricho

Rebekah Davis

John Goings online course

Cindy Heider

Amy O'Brien

Pheter Martin

Donna Gaudin

Kristine Fink

David & Mary Prince

Patti Koller

Cathy Boyle

Bonnie Winkler

Al Winkler

Joan Wag

Peggy Hammond

Barbara Bauer

Andy Ascher

Susan Ascher

Lisa Berry

Rebecca Poon

Anne Schappe

Mike Schappe

St. Charles County Master Gardeners
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May 22, 2025

TOM NAGLE

Cynthia Menschen

Neal Menschen

Joann Jungemann

Laura Morrison

Harold Brown

Bonnie Alinder

Kate White

Kevin Minard

Chuck Bauer

Libby Wilson

Kelly Kruse

Tom Enly

Chari Garofalo

LeAnn Grimshaw

Rosanne Glick

DD Sutercliffe

Ken Peine

Susan Koebe Pul

Deb Yerkes

JoAnn Shen