

St Charles County Master Gardener

Monthly Meeting Minutes (Final)

Thursday, 22 July 2021

If you have any questions, comments, or corrections before these minutes are approved please contact your MG Secretary Rebekah Davis at rdbirds19@yahoo.com

Call to Order: Joe Walker called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

Attendance: 52

Speaker: Shelby Miller- Horticulture Supervisor for the St. Charles County Parks Department.
Topic: Introduction and a guided tour of the St. Charles County Veterans Tribute Park's garden areas.

Secretary's Report: Rebekah Davis- Monthly meeting minutes for 24 June 2021 were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Rebecca Poon- The financial report for end of June 2021 was provided. Net monthly change and cash in bank was identified. Revenue and Expense totals with Net Income for 2021 were shown.

MU Horticulturalist: Justin Keay-
Joe Walker announced to the group that Justin Keay will be transferring to Pike County later in the year. Extension Secretary/bookkeeper Jan Brown will also be retiring. The Extension and MU are working to fill these positions. Check Monday Newsletters for updates.

Committee Reports-

Education: Jan Carron-
Jan Carron reported that the date for Dig-In 2022 is set, the topic is "Natives and Supporting Our Pollinators". The Education Committee needs volunteers to help organize this event. Help would include: organizing speakers, vendor support and programming. Contact Jan if interested.

Demo Gardens: Cindy Platzer-
Cindy Platzer announced that the "Demonstration Gardens" sign is back up. A box of new garden tour maps are attached to the sign with plans to also add a guestbook for visitors in the future. The self-guided garden tour is largely finished with QR codes or garden summary signs installed in each garden. New signage has been installed in the gardens, a movable "Mow Less" sign will move around to areas the mower hasn't reached yet. New brochures have been made to promote the Demo Gardens.

The Demo Gardens recently had a visit from Robert Weaver of the Gateway Gardener magazine. He will be publishing an article on the Demo Gardens in September.

Kevin Minard is still needing help with mowing. Del Moeller needs help harvesting veggies in the Pantry garden. Cindy Platzer is hoping to start scheduling tours in the Demo Gardens again and needs volunteer tour guides. Marsha Brown needs help in the Fruit Arboretum. Leslie Limberg needs help in the Native Habitat Gardens. Rebekah Davis needs help in the Bird Buffet Garden. Rebekah also reported to the group on her Wednesday morning birdwalk around the Extension grounds. She

plans to host more birdwalks to survey the birds on Wednesdays starting at 8:30 AM before the work days.

Communication: Mary Medina-
Remember to read your Monday Newsletter!

CE & AT: Bonnie Winkeler-
The Continuing Education and Advanced Training Committee is reviewing classes for possible AT credit eligibility. Check Monday Newsletters for updated listings.

Speakers Bureau: Valerie Mertz-
August 26 at Faust park. Start time is 5:00 PM (no social hour). Our business meeting will just be held in the parking lot. People should bring their own drinks and lawn chairs.

September's speaker will be Tyrean Lewis who will speak about intercity gardening and raised beds in urban settings. This meeting is planned to be in-person in the parking lot at the Extension Center.

Hort Line: Patti Kolek-
Patti Kolek reported that volunteers are back in the Extension office, there have been 72 contacts since then. No training is scheduled yet.

Membership: Waneta Parmenter and Bonnie Winkeler-
Waneta Parmenter announced that the online volunteer hours reporting system is up! Demo Gardens are now select-able on the project list in the new system, along with grouping hours by project in one record. More information will be released in the Monday Newsletter.

Community Outreach Projects-

Saint Charles Farmers market: Patti Kolek-
Patti Kolek reported on upcoming activities, contacts for the MG program are being made.

Boys and Girls Club – O'Fallon: Joe Walker-
Joe Walker reported that the kids are growing pumpkins. Things are going well.

St. Charles Historic Gardens: Terri Scheer-
Terri Scheer recognized the volunteers who are helping with the Historic Gardens.

St. Charles County Fair:
Joe Walker thanked Karen Klearman and Judy Klemme for volunteering with judging vegetable displays at the St Charles County fair on Tuesday, July 27th.

Recognition of Service Awards and ongoing volunteer service

An awards and recognition ceremony was held for the following:

- Special Recognition of Military Service Veterans and Family of Veterans
- Recognition of 2020 Paul Hendricks Award
- Recognition of Emeritus Master Gardeners (10 years of being Active members)
- 2020 Awards and general recognition

Service pins and awards that were not presented in early 2021 due to shutdown of in-person meetings were presented.

- 2021 Acknowledgment of this year's volunteer activities as yet unrecorded in database
- Demo Garden Leads and Volunteers (Brown Road and Historic Gardens)
- Committees (Education, Plant Sales, Hort Line, Speaker, Steering, Communications, Continuing Education, Outreach programs)

New Business:

Joe Walker reported the Steering Committee will be meeting August 13th with 2 members of 4-H leadership to discuss possible collaborations in 2022.

Other positions at Extension office are in process of being posted by the university.

Alexandra McKenney in the Extension office has created a TikTok channel and is working with MGs to create videos for it. The Extension Facebook is also assisting with promoting our group.

Good of the Order:

Dell Moeller mentioned harvesting is being done in the Pantry Gardens at 7:30 AM on Monday mornings.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Rebekah Davis