

**St. Charles Master Gardeners
General Monthly Meeting Minutes
February 27, 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. | Thanks for meeting facilitators Gabrielle Griffiths and Libby Wilson for pre-meeting setup and preparation of a delicious buffet that was enjoyed by the attendees.

Special Report on Liability Insurance Coverage: Deana Dothage, MU Extension Engagement Specialist, addressed the members to provide late breaking news on the status of liability insurance coverage for the St. Charles Master Gardeners Association. The Association operates under a 2016 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with MU Extension in St. Charles County. The MOU has been under review for many months and a final review in preparation for approving the 2025 update revealed that because of the Association's 501(c)3 tax status, the Association is not eligible for liability insurance coverage offered by the University of Missouri and the MU Extension. Deana provided a thorough review of communications among the MU Extension Council and the MG Association Steering Committee. Possible options include: 1) dissolving the 501(c)3 status to be eligible for the coverage offered by MU Extension; or 2) purchasing liability insurance (to include coverage for crime and officer/director liability) as an independent organization. The MG Steering Committee is pursuing quotes for insurance coverage. The issue of liability insurance coverage is important because of the upcoming public events already scheduled. No new events can be added until the issue is resolved. There was discussion and a question-and-answer period. This development impacts many items reported in the minutes that follow.

Program: 6:30 p.m. | **2024 Membership Awards Presentation**
A Zoom link was not provided for the meeting.
Program does not count for CE credit
Business meeting counts toward Vol Hours, Master Gardener Meeting

Membership Committee Chairman Kevin Lynch presented the 2024 Year-end Report of member volunteer hours and award recognition. Reconciliation of 2024 volunteer hours reporting revealed that there are 147 total active certified MGs [including certified (96), advanced (4) and emeritus (47) status]. In addition, there are 38 Interns working toward MG certified status and 43 Trainees in the 2025 Spring MG Core Class.

Cumulative award recognition for lifetime volunteer efforts included presentation of:

1000-hour pins for additional 1000-hour increments of service to: Cindy Platzer, Donna Lindsey, Patti Kolek, Catherine Ebone and Judy Klemme.

Engraved bricks for the initial 1,000 hours of volunteer service: Phebe Martin, Kim Barylski, Cynthia Menscher and David Romig

Annual award recognition of pins (stick on) was awarded for annual hours in increments of: 50 hours (38 members), 100 hours (20 members), 200 hours (13 members), 300 hours (6 members), 400 hours (4 members), 500 hours (0 members), 600 hours (3 members) and 750 hours (1 member).

The program was well attended, and it was fun to celebrate the outstanding achievements of the St. Charles Master Gardeners. Outgoing Membership Committee Chairman Waneta Parmenter was recognized for her outstanding leadership of the Membership Committee.

Business Meeting: President Laura Steimel called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m.

Extension Master Gardener Program coordinator: Eli Isele | Laura presented Eli's report that Eliza Pessereau had joined MU Extension as Horticulturist Specialist. She will be working mainly in the St. Louis area.

The Steering Committee had selected Joe Walker and Cindy Platzer to attend the MOMGA quarterly meeting at the extension on March 7, 2025.

Secretary's Report: Sandra Newsom | Minutes of the January 23, 2025 membership meeting were posted in the 2/24/25 Monday Blooms newsletter and made available at the meeting. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was unanimously approved.

Treasurers Report: Rebecca Poon | The January 2025 financial report was posted in the 2/24/25 Monday Blooms newsletter and made available at the meeting. The beginning balance as of 2/1/25 was \$26,974 and the month ending balance was \$26,453. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was unanimously approved.

Committee Reports/Updates

Membership Committee: Kevin Lynch | The Membership Committee encouraged members to report volunteer hours/education in a more timely fashion. The final date for reporting 2025 hours earned will be determined later but it will be moved up from the traditional 12/31 end date. There will be no extension of time allowed for reporting the volunteer hours.

The annual commitment for Master Gardener status: • 20 Volunteer hours (minimum) - with a minimum of 5 hours in the demonstration gardens, greenhouse or Hortline • 6 Continuing Education hours. The current trainee class has an additional requirement of 10 additional volunteer hours (for a total of 30 hours in their first year).

Questions regarding how to correctly record volunteer and education hours (including seeding parties and greenhouse watering) should only be directed to Kevin (kevinannelynych@gmail.com). Published guidelines are also available as a link on the chapter website <https://www.stcharlescountymastergardeners.com/> in the upper right-hand corner of the screen.

Continuing Education/Advanced Training: Bonnie Winkeler | Opportunities for CE/AT are reported in the weekly *Monday Blooms* newsletter.

Public Education: Patti Kolek | The *In The Garden* class on February 8, 2025 was attended by 43 people who had positive comments on the presentations by Beka Davis on *Landscaping* and Chuck Baur on *Ground Covers and Mulching*. Patti thanked the Master Gardener presenters for their well received *In The Garden* programs. The next *In The Garden* class will be held on April 12, 2025 covering *Native Plants and Moles*.

The MG Core training class facilitators are integral to the success of the training program and Patti thanked the volunteers who serve as class facilitators. The volunteer sign-up still has a couple of openings for April. There is a need for someone who could be on call to possibly help out at the last minute if an assigned facilitator cannot

make it. Those attending the Core class are asked to keep a record of their volunteer hours and enter them when they have been assigned a log-in to report member hours.

Peggy Hammond and Dawn Tucker are organizing the scavenger hunt event for the spring/early summer season of 2025 in the Demo Gardens. Cindy Platzer mentioned that the Extension office expressed concern with the current plan for the event and the number of visitors who would be on the property unattended. Plans for the scavenger hunt are on hold.

Dawn Tucker talked to the library about holding a book club there for MGs and the public, but the response was not positive. They have had difficulties with book clubs in the past. Dawn will continue to explore options. The Education Committee suggested that there be a central person in charge of advertising MG events and classes in the local news outlets. No one has been assigned, but Cindy Platzer has organized a list of those news outlets.

Hort Line: Patti Kolek | A training session is planned for Hortline volunteers on April 1, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the B room. Nancy Torke shared her experience as a first year Hortline volunteer and encouraged others to consider this opportunity. The group is fun, and learning/research resources are plentiful. A recent challenge presented to the Hortline involved the identification of problems with a cucumber crop. Research attributed to problem to the Cucumber Mosaic Virus. Volunteering can be on a flexible schedule, but a 3-hour minimum commitment is requested for a session on the Hortline.

Membership Meeting Speakers: Val Mertz | Ben Davis of the MO Dept of Conservation will speak to us about invasive species on March 27. Rosanne LeBaige will address the impact of light pollution at the April 24 membership meeting.

Plant Sale – Green House: Catherine Ebone | There is a lot of activity in the Greenhouse. The pansies are looking very good. Volunteers are needed for the upcoming seeding parties:

March 8 (Saturday) | Seeding and Transplanting Event in C Room from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

March 19 (Wednesday) | Seeding and Transplanting Event in C Room from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The upcoming plant sales are being advertised:

Cool Season Vegetables and Pansies

March 15 9:00 a.m. – noon

March 16 noon – 2:00 p.m.

Tomatoes, Peppers, Herbs, Annual, Perennials and Natives

April 26 noon – 2:00 p.m. (by reservation, Signup Genius beginning April 24 on website)

April 27 noon – 2:00 p.m.

Hoop House: Donna Lindsey | Work in the propagation area is planned for Saturday, March 1 to trim back the potted plants and to assemble benches/shelves in preparation for plant storage from the Greenhouse.

Demo Gardens: Cindy Platzer | The Herb Garden renovation project was announced to the MG training class and received an enthusiastic volunteer response. Volunteers for the project also signed up in the Fall, 2024. The

Herb Garden renovation is planned to start on March 15, 2025 with an estimated completion date by the end of April.

There are openings for Garden Leads in the Turf area and Lasagna Garden. Candy Boyle has volunteered to lead the Bulb Garden, and she is looking for a co-lead.

Old Business: Laura is seeking monthly meeting facilitators to help with meeting room set-up, refreshments, and meeting room clean-up. A signup sheet was distributed.

New Business: None

Good of the Order: Kevin Minard shared information and photographs from his recent visit to the Bridgeway Women's Center of St. Charles, a domestic violence shelter. The Center has requested help with implementing a gardening plan for several raised beds on their property. Kevin is working to assemble a team to provide assistance with the Center's efforts. The first need is to bring in soil for the raised beds with an April target date for that task.

Sydney Turner displayed new offerings for t-shirts, hats and a sun hat. The apparel store is now open and closes on March 25. Information and order placement is available through the weekly *Monday Blooms* newsletter. Orders placed by the closing date of March 25 will be distributed at the April 9th and April 16th Seeding and Transplanting events. Purchase of t-shirts is not required.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Secretary

Meeting Resources: January 23, 2025 General Meeting Minutes (published in 2/24/25 *Monday Blooms*)
January 2025 Treasurer's Report (published in 2/24/25 *Monday Blooms*)

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
Beka 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 Master Gardeners
General Monthly Meeting Attendance
February 27, 2025

Sandra Newson

Rebecca Parn

Libby Wilson

MARY COYLE

Laura Steinel

JOE WALKER

Catherine Stone

CINDY PIATZER

DONNA LINTSEY

Cynthia Menschen

Neal Menschen

Jo Ann Thone

David Wilson

Bonnie Winkler

Al Winkler

Patte Koleh

Sydney Thune

Heg Eaton

Sharon Hedges

Cindy Hadler

Deb Yerkes

Chari Garofalo

Leslie Mitchell

Nancy Tabor

Kim Banylski

David & Mary Prince

Kevin Minard

Charmen Kelly

Katie White

Chuck Baur

Sharon Goldkorn

Joan Hode Per

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Joann Jungermann

Melanie Elido

Candy Boyle

Barbara Bauer

Jan Caligiuri

Sue Farnett

Gobie Griffiths

Deb Raymer

Kevin Lynch

Joekie Johnson

Pat Storch

Tom Emley

Linda Sutton

Jeanne DeBold

Steven Hahne