

**St. Charles Master Gardeners
General Monthly Meeting Minutes
January 23, 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. | 2024 Year in Review | 2025 Planning | Presentations by the Various Leads
A Zoom link was provided for the meeting.
Program does not count for CE credit
Business meeting counts toward Vol Hours, Master Gardener Meeting

Attendance included approximately 35 in-person attendees and 12 Zoom attendees.

Immediate Past President Joe Walker welcomed the group and introduced Laura Steimel as the 2025-27 president. He passed along the Ken Peine Travelling Truck to Laura's care during her term in office.

Laura presented a short program on Greenhouse Training including rules for working in the Greenhouse, moisture control and watering cycle for growing plants along with insect control. Volunteers are needed to sign up for open shifts on the watering schedule which will be manned until the plant sales are complete.

The Women Center of St. Charles has received a grant to establish a garden on their property. Kevin Minard asked for volunteers to help the Women Center on a consulting basis to design the garden. They plan to include flowers and vegetables in the new garden.

Valerie Mertz presented the Paul Hendricks Award. The award was named for and first presented to Master Gardener Paul Hendricks who initiated several foundational and visionary changes to transform the Extension Center campus into a demonstration garden with an enhanced focus on community education. The 2024 recipient is Catherine Ebone. Catherine has made a tremendous impact on the Demo Gardens, specifically the Cottage Garden where she spends numerous hours working to improve and streamline its beauty and simplicity. She can be found every Wednesday and Saturday helping out in the other gardens and greenhouse. She has served as St. Charles Master Gardener Association secretary and is a Plant Sales Lead, Plant Sale Supply Buyer, Coordinator for the Annual Team and mentor to many. Her impact extends beyond St. Charles County to include volunteering at the Missouri Botanical Garden and Faust Park. Describing Catherine: "It seems that sharing her years of knowledge and experience just comes natural, while her patience and kindness is a gift to us all!"

Kevin Lynch of the Membership Committee presented a Master Gardener certificate and badge to Tilden Leigh.

Business Meeting: After a short break, President Laura Steimel called the business meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

Extension Master Gardener Program coordinator: Elia Isele | The Master Gardener class began on January 16, 2025 with 40 people registered.

Secretary's Report: The motion was made to approve the October 24, 2024 General Membership Meeting minutes (posted in the 1/20/25 Monday Blooms newsletter) as presented. The motion received unanimous approval.

Treasurers Report: Treasurer Rebecca Poon | The December 2024 financial report and the 2025 Approved Budget were posted in the 1/20/25 Monday Blooms newsletter and made available at the meeting. The Commerce Bank business checking account beginning balance as of 12/1/2024 was \$32,091 and the ending balance as of 12/31/2024 was \$26,974. There was no discussion, and the motion was made and seconded to approve the 2025 Budget and the December 2024 financial reports. The motion received unanimous approval.

Committee Reports/Updates

Membership: Kevin Lynch | Work is almost complete for reviewing volunteer hours in 2024. Kevin requested that volunteers use a verb when describing the specific work being recorded in the reporting system (Hrs. Description). That will help the membership committee when verifying that reported hours are recorded to the correct Local Project category. Reporting system accounts for the 2025 Master Gardener class will be set up in a few weeks.

Continuing Education/Advanced Training: The continuing education requirement for active Master Gardener status in 2025 is 6 hours with no exceptions.

Public Education: Patti Kolek | The first *In the Garden* class was held on January 11, 2025 with the second class scheduled for February 8, 2025. The public is invited to register with a fee for the classes of \$20. If attendance is low, registration could be opened to the Master Gardeners. Dawn Tucker suggested establishing a Book Club which would include Master Gardeners and the public. Dawn is compiling a suggested reading list and considering other organizational items such as meeting location, moderators, compliance with continuing education requirements. A show of hands indicated interest in the Book Club suggestion.

Upcoming Speakers: Val Mertz | Val is looking for topic ideas and speaker recommendations for monthly meetings beginning with the March 2025 General Membership Meeting. She will organize a field trip (possibly in July 2025) to the Danforth Plant Science Center demonstration gardens. Strong interest was expressed as several members endorsed this field trip saying that the native area outside the front entrance was an excellent focal point in addition to touring the Plant Science Center.

Plant Sale: Donna Lindsey | Plant sale income was \$25,896 in 2023 and \$27,203 in 2024. Prices of \$2, \$3 and \$4 dollars in 2023 were raised to \$3, \$4 and \$5 in 2024. Prices will remain unchanged for 2025.

Plant sale expenses were \$12,360 in 2023 and \$10,980 in 2024. The greatest expense comes from the Pro Mix soil, seeds, pots and trays. Special 2024 projects included redoing the floor in the Greenhouse and Hoop House.

The 2025 Master Gardener Plant Sales will be held:

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.

Propagation: Donna Lindsey | In the Fall 2024 Dig & Divide effort, 792 perennials were dug, divided and potted up. Most of these were seedlings from December 2023 milk jug seeding. The pots are being overwintered under row cover or in the Hoop House. A few of the plants will go to the Demo Gardens with the rest being sold at the Spring 2025 Plant Sales.

In December 2024, 81 milk jugs were seeded representing 71 varieties: 70 are natives, one is a cultivar. These will be transplanted into beds in May and June 2025, grown through the summer and dug in the fall for the 2026 Plant Sale.

All Master Gardeners, including trainees and interns, are invited to the next Seeding and Transplanting event on Saturday 01/25/2025, starting at 10 am. We will be seeding and transplanting lots of pansies, onions and other things. Training is provided and it is a great opportunity to learn, have fun, make new friends and contribute to the plant sale and demo gardens. All hours count as volunteer hours under Demo Gardens.

Upcoming dates for Seeding and Transplanting events:

Saturday, January 25, 10-3 in C room	Saturday, March 29, 10-3 in C room
Wednesday, February 19, 10-3 in C room	Saturday, April 5, 10-3 in C room
Saturday, March 8, 10-3 in C room	Wednesday, April 9, 10-3 in C room
Wednesday, March 19, 10-3 in C room	Wednesday, April 16, 10-3 in C room

Green House / Hoop House: Laura Steimel, Nancy Torke, Donna Lindsey | The Greenhouse is open with the heat turned on 1/22/2025. Waterers are needed to care for the plants growing in the greenhouse. The watering schedule is Monday through Sunday starting at 9:00 a.m. Pick a day and contact Laura Steimel (llsteimel@chartern.net) to sign up.

Demo Gardens: Cindy Platzer | Two new leads are needed for Turf Lead and Lasagna Garden Lead. Greg Eaton will provide training for the Turf Lead. The Fruit Arboretum, a 7-year project, was completed in 2024. Renovation of the Herb Garden will be a class project for the 2024 Master Gardener class. The Demonstration Gardens are an ever-evolving expression of beauty and abundance created and maintained by our talented Master Gardeners and trainees. The 2024 Demo Garden Annual Report and the 2025 Demo Garden Annual Plan were provided in the 1/20/2025 Monthly Blooms newsletter.

Greg Eaton reported that the compost area was a work in progress with a goal to create good, healthy compost. He asked that no woody material be added to the compost area. Woody material can be deposited in the designated space near the Native Garden. Greg encouraged the leads to use the finished compost. It is very good material and there is no room to transfer it for storage.

Pantry Garden: Phebe Martin | In 2024, the donations to the food pantry from the Demo Gardens came to 1,695 pounds; most of which came from the Pantry Beds, but it included donations from the Arboretum, the Herb Garden, the Square Foot Garden and the Enabling Garden. In addition, MGs dropped off an additional 1,335 pounds of produce for the pantry. The garden produced 10 pounds of mushrooms, some of which were cooked in the *Eat What We Grow* sessions. Phebe is investigating sources for mushroom spawn to inoculate new hay bales. Rhubarb was not successful in 2024 but another attempt will be made in 2025. Phebe is looking for Head-a-Bed volunteers to adopt specific beds within the Pantry Garden.

Hort Line: Patti Kolek | A training class for Hort Line volunteers will be held on April 1, 2025. Kevin Lynch shared several interesting success stories of helping Hort Line callers describing it as a rewarding learning experience. You don't have to know all the answers. Research and ingenuity lead to good results.

Old Business

The Holiday Party on December 6, 2024 was a lot of fun. Thanks to all who participated.

New Business

2025 Code of Conduct Requirement: Please sign the Code of Conduct, if you haven't done so already, by logging into the reporting system. This is required before any participation in volunteer activities, including the seeding and transplanting parties.

Monthly Meeting Facilitators: A sign-up sheet was provided for volunteers to serve as Monthly Meeting Facilitators. Duties involve setting up tables and putting out refreshments as well as cleaning up the room at the meeting's end.

Marsha Brown Memorial: A group of Marsha's friends plans to purchase a garden bench and brass plaque to place in the Fruit Arboretum near the entrance as a memorial of our beloved friend, teacher and leader in the chapter. The amount is tentatively in the order of several hundred dollars, most likely not more than \$500. If you wish to make a small contribution to this effort, please bring cash to the February membership meeting. Cindy Platzer, Overall Garden Lead, will collect on our behalf. A report on the amount collected and how it was spent will be made at a future membership meeting. It is suggested that the remainder, if any, should be considered a donation to the Arboretum's operating expenses since this was the garden area where Marsha had dedicated much of her time and energy.

Cape County Spring Seminar: The Cape County Master Gardener group is offering lots of topics to get you ready for spring with their Spring Seminar on February 22, 2025. Registration information was provided in the 1/20/2025 Monday Blooms newsletter.

Extension Brick Fundraiser: Commemorate a meaningful person, pet, or message of your choice with an engraved brick. The bricks will be installed in walkways throughout our garden. The brick path and surrounding gardens are open to the public from dawn to dusk. Bricks are \$100 each. Proceeds will fund scholarships for county high school graduates furthering their education in Missouri. The scholarship recipient will be announced in early February 2025. Funds are also used for professional development of Extension faculty. The Foundation is a 501c3 charitable organization, so your purchase will be tax-deductible. To customize and pay for your brick, contact the Extension office at 636-970-3000 stcharlesco@missouri.edu or visit us in person.

You may also send your payment online at the link below. Please comment that it is for a brick purchase. You will be contacted to submit the information you would like engraved on the brick.

<https://extension.missouri.edu/counties/st-charles/education-foundation>



Good of the Order: Peggy Hammond gave an update on the proposed Scavenger Hunt with a planning meeting scheduled for February 1, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. She encouraged anyone interested to join the planning group for a fun, family event at the Extension gardens.

Adjournment: A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Newsom, Secretary

Meeting Resources:

October 24, 2024 General Meeting Minutes
December 2024 Treasurer's Report
2025 Approved Budget
2024 Demo Garden Annual Report
2025 Demo Garden Annual Plan

2025 Steering Committee:

Laura Steimel, President
Jackie Johnson, Vice-President
Rebecca Poon, Treasurer
Sandra Newsom, Secretary
Cindy Platzer, Demo Garden Co-Lead
Beka Davis, Demo Garden Co-Lead
Patti Kolek, Education Committee
Donna Lindsey, Plant Sale Liaison

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St. Charles Master Gardeners
General Monthly Meeting Attendance
January 23, 2025

Cindy Platten

Dawn Tucker

Joe Walker

Tilden Leigh

Rebekah Davis

Rebecca Poor

Cynthia Menses

Nancy TORKE

Chuck Baur

Maggie Huggard

Anna Lee Menden

Carmen Kelly

Dana Lindsey

Joann Jungermann

A.L. Winkler

Bonnie Winkler

Peggy Hammond

Kevin Lynch

Neal Menses

Sydney Turner

Libby Wilson

Valerie Mertz

Candy Boyle

DJ Saterliffe

Ben Waterman

Cindy Heider

Phoebe Martin

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Sandra Newson

Laura Hinal

Catherine Egan

Ratti Kolch

Barbara Bauer

Juan Pedro Ruiz

Deb Yerkes

Greg Eaton