

**St. Charles Master Gardener**  
**General Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**October 26, 2023**

**If you have any questions, comments or corrections before these minutes are approved, please contact your MG Secretary, Catherine Ebone at [catherine.ebone@gmail.com](mailto:catherine.ebone@gmail.com)**

A straw poll was conducted to determine whether members were willing to commit to hosting the 2026 Statewide Master Gardener Conference.

Following the poll, Mary Medina, St. Charles MG member, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the top Botanical Gardens around the country.

**Call to Order:** Joe Walker called the meeting to order at 7:45.

**Steering Committee Elections:** MG bylaws state that Steering Committee officers are elected at our October General Meeting with 2 members being elected every year. This year the vice president and treasurer positions were up for reelection. With the absence of any nominees, Laura Steimel, vice president, and Rebecca Poon, treasurer, agreed to serve another term. They were elected for another two-year term.

**Program Coordinator:** Eli Eisle—There was nothing new from Eli who was not present. He is still working on In-Person Core Training. Sign-ups for facilitators were being sought.

**Secretary's Report:** Catherine Ebone—Minutes for the September 2023 General MG meeting were approved as submitted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Rebecca Poon—Net expenses and funds remaining were listed for September 2023. Revenue included 2 engagements from the Speakers Bureau. Budgets have been requested for 2024. A motion was made and approved to accept the financial report as submitted.

**Membership:** Sydney Turner, Waneta Parmenter—Sydney urged members to get their hours up to date. The reporting system stops submissions on New Year's Eve. Twenty volunteer hours are required each year with 5 being in the demo garden. Six hours of education are required to remain active.

**Paul Hendricks Award Nominations:** Val Mertz—Nominations for the Paul Hendricks award have to be made before the end of October. Nominations need to be sent to Val Mertz.

**CE & AT:** Bonnie Winkler—There is a new list of CE hours in the Monday Morning News.

**Plant Sale:** Marsha Brown, Catherine Ebone—Seeding Parties will be held Jan. 6 and Feb. 3. Demo gardens will be doing their own seeding this year.

**Hoophouse:** Donna Lindsey—Dig and Divide is continuing. To date 612 pots have been planted. Poly will go up on the Hoophouse in November. Milk Jug seeding will be Dec. 9.

**Education:** Patti Kolek—The education committee is still looking for a coordinator for the Speakers Bureau. If there is a topic you would like to present, contact Patti Kolek.

**Farmers Market:** Patti Kolek--Farmers Market are finishing up for the season.

**Hortline:** Patti Kolek--Hortline is winding down.

**Demo Gardens:** Cindy Platzer—From the Garden hardscapes are being installed. The Demo Gardens are looking for perennials for these gardens. A list is being prepared. The first killing frost is expected on Sunday. The hoses have not been winterized. Hoses need to be disconnected by Sunday.

The bricks honoring MGs who have completed over 1000 hours will be installed Nov.4. Volunteers are needed for this project. The tool shed has been cleaned out. The tool sharpening class will be held Nov. 11 at 10 am. Tools will be cleaned up at this time. If you use any tools in the shed after that, you 'll need to clean up your tools.

Phoebe Martin will be growing mushrooms in the Pantry Garden. The pantry garden is looking for 4 bales of hay for this project. If anyone knows of anyone who can donate these please let Phoebe know. Garlic is going in on Saturday.

**Upcoming Speakers:** Val Mertz—If anyone has any ideas for speakers, please contact Val.

### **New Business:**

The Holiday party will be Dec. 1.

Winter/Spring classes “In the Garden” will be held in January, February and March 9 am to noon. Dawn Tucker is the coordinator. She is looking for facilitators.

Phoebe Martin is recruiting for the Pantry Garden. She needs Pantry Bed Heads which will be in charge of individual beds.

The next steering Committee meeting will be Nov. 10.

The next general meeting will be in January.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25.

Respectively submitted,

Catherine Ebone