

**St. Charles Master Gardeners  
General Monthly Meeting Minutes  
March 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](mailto:sandra.newsom@gmail.com)**

Social Time: 6:00 p.m.

Program: 6:30 p.m. | Invasive Species | Presented by Ben Davis of the Missouri Dept. of Conservation.  
Ben is a Public Land Forester and Restoration Ecologist  
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 meeting to order at 8:03 p.m.

**Extension Master Gardener Program coordinator:** Eli Isele | No report. Mary Medina spoke about the Missouri Extension Education Foundation of Saint Charles County, providing a history of the five-acre Brown Road property, Extension offices and meeting rooms and gardens. The Foundation provides funds for building upkeep and staff support. The University of Missouri pays for the Extension specialists who work in the office. Mary encouraged support of the Foundation through the purchase of commemorative bricks.

**Secretary's Report:** Sandra Newsom | The minutes of the February 27, 2025 monthly membership meeting were posted in the 3/24/25 *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 February 2025 financial report was posted in the 3/24/25 *Monday Blooms* newsletter and made available at the meeting. The beginning balance as of 3/1/25 was \$26,453 and the month ending balance was \$24,993. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was seconded and unanimously approved. Cindy Heider reported that the annual audit of financial reports went very well and commended Rebecca for her excellent record keeping as treasurer.

**Committee Reports/Updates**

**Membership Committee:** Kevin Lynch | Kevin submitted a written report that in accordance with the Steering Committee meeting decision he will forward new badge requests to Eli on the 1st of each month and Eli will forward them to Debi Kelly on or about the 5th. The backlog of Master Gardener certificates will be printed out by Brenda and presented at next month's [April] meeting. Kevin expressed appreciation for everyone's patience.

Members of the Master Gardener Core Class may contact Kevin Lynch at [kevinannelynch@gmail.com](mailto:kevinannelynch@gmail.com) for instructions to create a login profile for the volunteer hours reporting system. Questions regarding how to correctly record volunteer and education hours (including seeding parties and greenhouse watering) should be directed to Kevin. 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 next In the Garden class will be held on April 12, 2025 covering Native Plants and Moles. The Scavenger Hunt is currently on hold and a Garden Class for Kids is being considered as an alternative.

Chuck Baur is the coordinator of the Speakers Bureau. The Speakers Bureau needs Master Gardeners who would like to work in a buddy system with current speakers to learn presentations, develop new presentations and engage in fulfilling requests for speakers.

The T-shirt sale is closed, and orders should be available for pick-up at the last seeding event on April 16. Orders may also be left at the Hortline desk for pickup.

**Hort Line:** Patti Kolek | A training session for Hortline volunteers is scheduled for April 1, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in Conference Room B. Hortline in-office hours at the Extension office have resumed. Patti shared Judy Klemme's experience as a Hortline volunteer. Judy recommended the Hortline volunteer experience, commending the learning resources available to research questions, support of the Hortline leadership and personal fulfillment that comes with helping Hortline callers.

**Farmers Markets:** Patti Kolek | St. Charles Master Gardener Association will be represented at the Riverwalk St. Charles Market on Saturdays beginning May 1 through September. Representatives will attend the St. Charles Senior Expo on Friday, April 4 and the Weldon Springs Plant Expo on May 17.

**Upcoming Speakers:** Val Mertz | Rosanne LeBaige will present a program on the *Impact of Light Pollution* at the April 24, 2025 membership meeting. The 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. Phebe Martin mentioned that Nicholas is also an expert on mushrooms, orchids and rare house plants.

<b>Plant Sale:</b> Donna Lindsey, Catherine Ebone, Cindy Heider <b>Greenhouse:</b> Laura Steimel, Nancy Torke, Jeanne DeBold <b>Hoop House:</b> Donna Lindsey, Cindy Heider	Donna Lindsey thanked everyone who helped with seeding, transplanting, growing and watering the pansies, onions, lettuce and other cool season crops. The Cool Season Plant Sale made \$3,316.25. The total for the 2024 sale was \$2,837. Bill and Dee Rhinesmith made cedar planting boxes that were very popular at the sale.
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A seeding and transplanting party (tomatoes, some annuals and some transplanting) will be held Saturday, March 29, from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Next parties are scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 5 (transplanting peppers); Wednesday, April 9 (transplanting tomatoes); Wednesday, April 16.

A Pre-Sale on Saturday, April 19 from 9:00 a.m. – noon will be held for Master Gardeners, their immediate families (who must be accompanied by their Master Gardener), Extension staff and Council members. Set-up for the Pre-Sale is on Friday, April 18 from 9:00 a.m.-noon and 1:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Signup Genius will be in the Monday Blooms so that you can sign up for particular set-up shifts. For the sale, bring your own boxes (extra boxes are not needed this year due to a donation received) and please consider paying by cash or check to alleviate the charge for processing transactions.

The Public Sale will be held on Saturday, April 26. Shoppers will need to use Signup Genius to reserve shopping times for 9:00-10:00, 10:30-11:30, 12:00-1:00 and 1:30-2:30. These reservations are required because parking is limited to 50 parking spots. Master Gardeners who cannot attend the Pre-Sale may come to the Public Sale but a reservation is required.

Signup Genius will be available for Master Gardeners to volunteer for set-up on Friday, 4/25; work the sale on Saturday, 4/26; and work the sale and take down on Sunday, 4/27. On Saturday, Master Gardeners should park in the ballfield lot to the east of the Extension office on Brown Road. Shuttle drivers will be available. Volunteers should wear a Master Gardener T-shirt. A group picture will be taken at 8:15 a.m. on Saturday. More information will be in the *Monday Blooms* newsletter.

**Demo Gardens:** Cindy Platzer, Bekah Davis | Bekah reported that Wednesday and Saturday workdays would officially open the first week in April. All volunteers can expect to find garden lead teams present on the official workdays to guide volunteer participation in the various gardens. Volunteers are needed for the lawn push mower team managed by Kevin Minard and new leads are being sought for the Lasagna Garden and the Turf areas. Earl Ahart has developed a Fairy Garden which is situated at the entrance to the large conference room. Leaf mulch has been ordered. Wood chips will be evaluated for state of decomposition and may need to be ordered. Galvanized steel beds have been installed in the Pantry Garden. Garden leads who are interested in obtaining unused material from the project including rounded ends to construct small round beds should contact Phebe Martin.

**Old Business:** The liability insurance issue has been resolved with coverage obtained for one year. The MU Extension will provide new directions for the Master Gardener Association and the Steering Committee will re-address insurance needs in December.

**New Business:** None

**Good of the Order:** Attendees were asked to return their chairs to storage and assist with taking down the tables.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Newsom, Secretary

Meeting Resources: February 27, 2025 General Meeting Minutes  
February 2025 Treasurer's Report

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 Master Gardeners  
General Monthly Meeting Attendance  
March 27, 2025

~~Donna Lindsay~~

Chari Garofalo

Maggie Huggan &

Kari McAnn

Jessie Albrecht

Lori Gale

LeAnn Grimshaw

Rebecca Poon

Linda Sutton

Jill Zupac

Gabi Griffiths

Leslie Mitchell

Katie White

Susan Rode-Paul

Valerie Murty

Kim Barylski

Ron Wepprich

al Winkel

Joann Jungermann

David & Mary Prince

Ken Reine

Pat O'Leary

Sydney Turner

Tom Culy

Jackie Johnson

Nancy Lake

Sharon Leifer

Cheryl Barglof

Kelly Rose

Catherine Eboe

Pat Sataliffe

Jeanne DeBolt



St. Charles Master Gardeners  
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Sandra Newson

Vee CLARK

Please Sign In 3-27-25

Amy Heidt

Cathy Platter

Joe Walker

Laver Stier

Rebecca Poon

Patti Kolch

Rebekah Davis

Cynthia Menscher

Paul Menscher

Paul Orf

Elizabeth Orf

Kevin Minard

Candy Boyle