

St Charles County Master Gardener

Monthly Meeting Minutes (Final)

Thursday, 25 March 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: 63

Speaker: Dr. Jennie Atkins- Topic: "The science of growing degree days and how do they help gardeners?"

Charlotte Wiggins- Topic: Phenology; Blooms, Bees, and GDDs

Speakers' presentations are applicable to Continuing Education (CE)/Advanced Training (AT) credit hours.

Secretary's Report: Rebekah Davis- Monthly meeting minutes for 25 February 2021 were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Rebecca Poon- The financial report for end of February 2021 was provided. Net monthly change and cash in bank was identified. Revenue and Expense totals with Net Income for 2021 were shown. Rebecca provided several charts detailing Class Balances and Demo Garden expenses/budget details for the membership to view. The members mentioned it being helpful to see the table format for the Class Balances occasionally.

MU Horticulturalist: Justin Keay-

Joe Walker mentioned to the membership about the formal letter Justin Keay sent out to the membership announcing that the Education Chair position has been made an official voting member on the Steering Committee.

Committee Reports-

Education: Jan Carron-

Jan Carron reported that the 2021 Dig-In was a success! Revenue was mentioned. There will be no "Fall Into Gardening" event this year due to COVID. Jan also reported on the Digital Media Subcommittee: Zack Blair has released a new YouTube video with Val Mertz. Members were invited to the next Education Committee meeting (scheduled for 13 April), Zoom invites will be provided in the Monday Newsletter.

Plant Sale: Marsha Brown and Libby Wilson-

Cool Season Plant Sale Wrap-Up: Marsha Brown reported the highest recorded revenue from the Cool Season Plant Sale this year. Only two trays of plants were left over.

Spring Plant Sale: Marsha reported that there have been about 25-30 MGs overall helping prepare for the Spring Plant Sale. There will be a MG only Pre-Sale, an announcement will come in the Monday Newsletter for the dates and details.

Greenhouse: Laura Steimel and Nancy Torke-

Laura Steimel mentioned help is needed in the Greenhouse for evening watering.

Demo Gardens: Cindy Platzer-

Cindy Platzer reported on the status of the Demo Gardens. We are not having typical Wednesday and Saturday workdays due to COVID. Cindy reported that individual gardens are scheduling workdays and encourage members to join a demo garden "team" instead. Masks are still required while working onsite and all work must be scheduled in advance with Cindy. Contact Cindy Platzer for help with signing up with a garden.

Communication: Mary Medina-

Mary Medina mentioned to the group to keep reading the Monday Newsletters (which are released every Monday around 5:00 AM) for the latest Master Gardener news. Also keep checking the chapter's website for updates. Anything that is to be included in the Monday Newsletter must be sent to Joe Walker.

Website: Mary Carey-

Mary Carey is looking for a Webmaster trainee/Co-Lead. Training and support will be provided.

Membership: Waneta Parmenter and Bonnie Winkeler-

Waneta Parmenter reported that there has been a delay in the release of the new Membership Database, it is expected to be up by mid-April. Recording hours must continue to be done at home. The new 2021 MG Membership Directory has been released in the Monday Newsletter.

Continuing and Advanced Training (CE and AT): Bonnie Winkeler-

Bonnie Winkeler will continue to provide CE and AT opportunity lists in the Monday Newsletter.

Speakers Bureau: Valerie Mertz-

Valerie Mertz mentioned to keep an eye out for upcoming events in the Monday newsletter.

April 22 Meeting - Carol Gravens "PLANTS THAT CHANGED THE COURSE OF HISTORY"

May 27 Meeting - Keith Duncan "Seeing the Unseen"

August 26 Faust Park Fieldtrip Opportunity: A Zoom poll was conducted for the membership to decide if/when they would be interested in visiting Faust Park for a tour and presentation by Micha Kornblum 8/26 5:00 pm. Pole results showed majority were interested in visiting at any time, the Steering Committee will discuss and plan the trip with Faust Park.

Hort Line (HL): Patti Kolek-

Hort Line support continues at home. Send MG photos that need to be stored or sent to the website to the Hort Line.

Community Outreach Projects-

Historic Gardens: Terri Scheer-

Terri Scheer reported that volunteers are in place. Planting will begin soon, the site opens 1 April. This project is located at the First State Capital building in downtown St. Charles.

Progress South Elementary Outdoor Classroom: Deb Yerkes-

Deb Yerkes provided a history of the outdoor classroom gardens to the group. MNs and MGs Collaborated on spring cleaning.

Boys and Girls Club - O'Fallon: Joe Walker

Joe Walker reported tentatively set classes for Thursdays.

June 17 – August 5 (except week of July 4) 9:00 AM till 10:00 AM

Outdoor garden area: Raised beds and orchard area

2 B&G staffers will be present for support during classes

Approx. 12-15 kids, varying ages (kindergarten to 3rd grade)?

Calling for Volunteers:

Will need assistance prepping gardens before June 17. Need help planting some early vegetables and flowers. Help with kids during class to do nature walkabouts and planting.

Missouri Master Gardeners Association (MOMGA): Joe Walker-

Joe Walker reported that the Monthly Newsletter came out on March 17th, if you have not received it contact Joe. There are 2,957 active Master Gardeners Statewide. A Master Gardener “mini-conference” is being planned. A two-day event with several educational tracks is anticipated. The date is not yet set.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Boys and Girls Club - St Charles

New Staff requesting visit/assessment of their garden's 6 raised beds. Contact Joe Walker if interested in assisting.

Lake Saint Louis Farmers market (at the Meadows mall)

Joe Walker discussed having a booth (perhaps once a month) from April until November. This is an opportunity to meet and talk to the families who attend. The purpose of community events is to promote awareness, encourage the public to attend our classes and visit the garden, and provide info about Hortline service. More discussion on this next month, contact Joe Walker if interested in participating.

Good of the Order:

Joe Walker mentioned to the group that volunteer time for committee work (meetings and meeting preparation) still count towards MG hours.

Please remember to record your hours at home

CE time = ½ hr. for newsletter quiz (Thanks to Tom Conley)

CE/AT time = Speaker presentation

Volunteer time = business meeting and preparation

Thank you to this month's facilitators: Zoom Co-hosts Jan Carron and Beka Davis

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Rebekah Davis