Extension Master Gardeners of Platte County
Wednesday, March 19, 2025 - Chapter Meeting 6- 7:30 pm
Meeting held by Zoom

In Attendance:

Victoria Hillstrom	Claire Bowers
Rich Canning	Elisa Hill
Sherri Holland	Jill Ballard
Amy Heithoff	Linda Crow
Andres Dominguez	Lorna Ernest
Madison Stewart	Cindy Boersma
Sheila Will	Lee Ann Shenefiel
Mary Jane Kuehn	Carolyn Vellar
John Smith	Debbie Johnston
Todd Higgins	

Welcome and Introductions: Carolyn Vellar, President

- Carolyn reminded everyone of the planting seed potatoes event at Platte County Community Garden on Saturday, March 22nd at 11 am and to share the flyer with their family and friends.
- Carolyn welcomed two new transfers from MGGKC, Cindy Boersma and Sheila Will (just achieved EMG status). Please welcome our new comers!
- Todd Higgins, MU Field Specialist in Horticulture gave an introduction of himself.
    - He mentioned that March name badges have been received by MU. Hopefully Marilyn will receive the February badges by mid-April. If not to let him know. They have to be sent to Springfield, Mo for printing which is why it takes so long.
    - Todd is also working to obtain a zoom link for our chapter so we will not have to continue to use Francie's zoom.
    - Todd noted he was excited about our greenhouse progress and reminded everyone this is a learning experience.
    - Todd would like us to use CVENT for all events that are open to the public. In early April Carolyn will set up a meeting with Todd to determine what data he needs to submit our events / timing etc.
    - Todd asked Carolyn to provide information of the events we host (# of people and a few pictures) each month for reporting to MU.
    - Todd is not interested in counting the number of visitors to the Platte Community Garden each week - except when we are offering programming. He would like to know approximately how many pounds of

produce we donate at the end of the summer but it doesn't need to be an exact amount (just guesstimate).

- Each person on the call give a brief introduction.

Committee Reports:

T-shirts Debbie Johnston, Secretary/Treasurer

- Debbie has the ability to print/cut our logo onto t-shirts — if interested provide her a T-shirt and note where you would like the logo placed.
- In addition, River City T's Inc, 1436 Burlington St, North KC, MO (not far from Chicken and Pickle) has our logo and can print t-shirts / hats etc. if interested. They are open M-F 8-5. Phone number 816-472-7900.

Garden Helpline Debbie Johnston, Secretary/Treasurer

- In January the website https://www.plattecountymastergardeners.org/ was enhanced to include a Garden Helpline section. Currently Carolyn, John Smith and I are replying to the questions that come in through our mailbox - plattemgs@gmail.com We are getting inquiries about future EMG training, transfers from other extensions, and garden questions.
- If anyone is interest in volunteering for the helpline and doing research, please let us know. Lee Ann Shenefiel sent a chat during the call that she can help. I will be reaching out to her in April to set up a meeting.

Platte County Community Garden John Smith, Vice President, Platte Garden Coordinator

- John mentioned the education that is planned for the garden. On Saturday, he will be hosting a free workshop on growing seed potatoes. In April he is planning a soil test workshop. Also on April 12, Lorna Earnest is hosting How to Plant and Grow Roses. Keep an eye on our website for future events and don't forget to SHARE. https://www.plattecountymastergardeners.org/
- Later in the summer John plans to do a program on bugs and pest management.
- Mary Jane Kuehn will be planting natives along the fence behind the fruit trees. Some of the natives are currently growing in the greenhouse. She is looking for volunteers to help her plan this new native bed. On the call

Rich, Claire and Jennifer said they would love to be involved with the native bed planning.

Public Relations Committee Jill Ballard

- Jill provided an update after the call.
    - In the last 30 days we have had 272 site visitors (up 58 from last month)
    - Facebook has received 3.3k views; 159 interactions and added 13 new followers.
    - She has asked to remind everyone to share posts, like and comment. That drives views. If you post any information on your own page, please be sure to tag us.

Children's Programs Committee update/short program Lee Ann Shenefiel, Mary Jane Kuehn, Francie Stoner

- Mary Jane provided an update. The activities for the committee are on the back burner because everyone is working on the greenhouse.
- They have plans in July/Aug to host an event at the Platte County Community Garden for kids.

Platte City Greenhouse Status Elisa Hill / Mary Jane Kuehn

- The plant sale will be Saturday, May 3rd from 9 to 3 and Sunday May 4th from Noon to 3. We will also be having a fall plant sale for natives that are currently growing in the greenhouse that will not be ready for May.
- There are still many logistics regarding the plant sale to work out.
- Elisa reported everything is growing. She has taken an inventory and will be developing a simple pricing strategy based on the condition of the plant.
- She has developed a sheet by table to identify growing needs (water / fertilizer etc.)
- If you have time to help water and the greenhouse to let Elisa know. It is best to have 2 people everyday due to the volume of plants. Iif you work and have time to spare a few hours on the weekend it would be greatly appreciated. We will ensure an experienced person will be there to guide what needs to be done.
- Elisa will reach out to Jill regarding developing a QR code for each plant type we are growing.

Volunteer Opportunities: Carolyn Vellar, President

EMGPC Chapter Meetings - Wednesdays - 6:00-7:30 pm - April 16, , May 21, July 16, Sept.17, Nov. 19 - we will alternate locations between the Parkville and Platte City libraries to better accommodate everyone.

- Our next Chapter meeting is April 16 at the Mid-Continent Public Library in Platte City - 2702 NW Prairie View Road