Extension Master Gardeners of Platte County
Wednesday, April 16, 2025 - Chapter Meeting 6- 7:30 pm
Platte City Mid-Continent Library

In Attendance:

Victoria Hillstrom	Jill Ballard
Rich Canning	Elisa Hill
Amy Heithoff	Linda Crow
Andres Dominguez	Lorna Ernest
Cindy Boersma	Glenn Reinhart
Carolyn Vellar	Debbie Johnston
John Smith	Scott Wilkerson
Susan Ahearn	Francie Stoner
Carrie McCarthy	

Committee Reports:

Seed Committee -

- Carolyn thanked the members of the seed committee and Scott Wilkerson (greenhouse system management) who have been working since September to prepare for the Plant Sale May 3rd and 4th. From cleaning the greenhouse, repairs to the greenhouse, planting seeds, watering seedlings/plants daily it's been quite the learning experience.
- Carolyn reminded everyone that we need EVERYONE's help with the plant sale. We have 3 hour shifts and need 10 people for each shift. Susie created signup sheets in the back of the room for everyone to select which days/times work best for them.
- Francie asked everyone to take a sign or multiple to advertise the sale in our yards/neighborhoods. Scott shared the ordinance prevents us from posting signs within 40 feet of the side of roadways. The signs should be returned for next year, so please do not violate signage ordinances.

Public Relations Team -

- In order to share flyers as events are scheduled we have created a PR team that will help us advertise. If you are aware of a location we have not listed, please let us know so that we can add it to our list. We prefer to have at least 2 contacts per location.

  Green Hills Library
  - Carolyn Vellar
  - John Smith (backup)

Parkville Library and YMCA
- Debbie Johnston
- Victoria Hillstrom (backup)
- John Smith (backup)

Riverside Library and YMCA
- Cindy Boersma
- Claire Bowers

Platte City Library and YMCA
- Carrie McCarthy

Smithville Library
- Stacy Orr
- Shirley Curtis-Klein

Westin Library
- Francie Stoner
- Susie Ahearn

Platte Community Garden -

- John reminded everyone that Saturday's are working days in the garden. He emails out several times a week with an update as to what the workday will entail.
- John will be hosting a tomato event on May 17th. Carolyn/John are finalizing the information and will let Jill know when it is approved so the flyer can be developed and the CVENT form completed by Debbie to be sent to Todd Higgins.

Developing ideas for new Programs -

- John shared that a form on our website https://www.plattecountymastergardeners.org was developed on the member page (password is ourgarden1) to allow members to suggest an event or workshop. The form is "Do you have an event or workshop idea? Complete this form giving 60 days notice before the event. This gives the leadership time to review the idea, approve it, develop a flyer for the event and complete the CVENT form required by MU Extension to promote the event.
- Glenn has agreed to do a presentation on attracting hummingbirds to your garden in June. He will be completing the form so that we can begin the process.

- We are looking for more suggestions on events/programs so please speak up if you have an idea.

VMS -

- Many questions were raised regarding reporting hours. Below is an explanation of every local project. Below are instructions that will hopefully clarify how to report hours in VMS.

- As an EMG you will be required to report 26 volunteer hours per calendar year. Interns are required to report 30 hours within a year of completing training. At this time, we are not REQUIRING education hours, however, we plan to have an education opportunity at each of our Chapter meetings. Remember to include your travel time when inputting your hours. Also use .25, .50, .75 for partial quarter hours.

  The local projects we use are the following:

  - **Chapter Administration** - self explanatory - attendance at a chapter meeting should be reported here.
  - **Education** - horticulture related continuing education classes, videos, or training. This would include training shared at our Chapter meetings.
  - **EMGPC Greenhouse** - any activity related to the Platte City Greenhouse
  - **Garden Helpline -** responding to emails from the plattemgs@gmail.com email address
  - **Intern Activities** - horticulture related activities for INTERNS only. This should be the only local projects interns should use.
  - **MGGKC Project Support** - if you volunteer at an MGGKC event or project you would log your hours here.
  - **Outreach Activities** - creating table top displays at events, attending chapter sponsored events, presentations, helping a neighbor etc., volunteering in a garden other than Platte Co Community Garden.
  - **Platte Co Community Garden** - activities that take place specifically at this garden.

Fall Event -

- Scott shared he is planning an event for EMG/Laughh/4H this fall.

- We will be getting 4H involved in the greenhouse to grow mums, ornamental kale as well as other 4H community activities.
- One of the goals of this event is to share the value that these organizations bring to Platte County.
- Scott has been in contact with Platte County Extension Council and they have agreed to provide $2500 for marketing/advertising the event.
- Scott has also contacted the Platte newspaper to write articles about the organizations. He will be asking some of the members to be included in those interviews.
- Elisa provided a tour of the greenhouse to the Extension Council members last week and they were very impressed with our project. FYI - the Council provided the initial $10k to fund the greenhouse,

Tour of the Greenhouse -

- At the conclusion of the meeting we adjourned to the greenhouse for a tour for those members who have not visited.