

Extension Master Gardeners of Platte County
Wednesday, July 15 , 2026 - Chapter Meeting 6:00 pm
Hosted by Lesley Rausch-Derra at her home

Attendees:

Carolyn Vellar, President	Susie Ahearn
Lesley Rausch-Derra, Secretary	Andres Dominguez
Scott Wilkerson, Program Director Youth Activities and KC Northern RR	Amy Heithoff
John Smith, Program Director Speakers Bureau	Claire Bowens
Tonisha High	Kimberly Oxley
Linda Crow	Sherri Holland
	Kimberlee Ried

President Carolyn Vellar Update: Carolyn Vellar welcomed everyone to the business portion of the evening. She also presented Kimberly Oxley with her certificate for earning her hours and becoming a Master Gardener.

Treasurer Update: Provided by Carolyn. EMGPC has \$25,000 in our treasury. \$18,000 of which is from the plant sale. The Platte County Extension will continue paying the lease and utilities on the greenhouse through 2026. Carolyn, Cindy, Lesley and Mary Jane have drafted a budget for 2027 which includes \$14,000 for funding of lease and utilities and supplies.

Plant Sale Update: Planning for the plant sale will begin this fall, with planning group being formed. Contact Mary Jane Khuen if you would like to be involved.

If you have pots /trays from the plant sale, please wash them (clean off dirt but no need to sterilize) and return them by September 1st! This will greatly help in keeping costs down.

Speaker Bureau update: A post-plant sale speakers' series will be planned for next year. We will advertise the series at the plant sale and on the website. Contact John Smith of Cindy Boersma if you would like to participate in the speaker's series.

A Fall Presentation on winterizing your garden will be given by John Smith and Cindy Boersma at the Platte City and Parkville MCCL branches. An email invite will be sent with the details in case anyone would like to attend.

Website Update: The Plant sale content with plants and care details was very helpful to the success of the plant sale. Thanks were given to Debbie and Jill who made that happen. John Smith has been updating the website with more recent content. We continue to need more help with website upkeep and Carolyn has called for volunteers.

Community Garden Update: John Smith gave the update for Glenn. Volunteers have been harvesting potatoes (42 pounds!), zucchini, and cucumbers with more harvesting to come. More volunteers are needed to help with harvesting, patio upkeep, deweeding, and apple drop clean up. Please contact Glenn, John or Lorna if you want to volunteer.

KC Northern Miniature Railroad Project Update: Of the 1500 native plants we started with, there are 350 plants left to go in the ground. We are out of cardboard so are using black plastic for weed prevention in the areas left to be planted. Many of the plants we previously planted survived the Late May/early June floods. The Railroad is doing flood control hardscaping which should help mitigate future flood damage.

In the fall we will pull the black plastic put down in July and will seed with wild garlic and crown vetch on the steep slopes.

Youth Programming:

Scott Wilkerson, Carolyn Vellar, Todd Higgins, Shatomi Luster-Edwards, and Platte R3 Staff met with the BoysGrow Organization . This group did a similar salsa project that Dr. Duff is proposing for Platte R3 school district. They are not at the scale they once were with the project. They gave advice on the program and what is needed. Dr. Aaron Duff is working on getting the certifications needed for the endeavor. When the Platte R3 district gains the Northland Career Center Campus in June 2027, they also gain a culinary center. This is in addition to the Greenhouse. EMGPC may also gain access to classroom space and land that trailers are currently on.

A new Recommended Youth Safety Best Practices for Extension Volunteers has been published and is attached to these minutes.

Update from Todd Higgins: Todd congratulated us on a successful plant sale. New Master Gardener Program Bylaws are coming soon. They will require that money raised is used for education per the purpose of EMG. We can keep a fund for reserve, but not a large stash of cash that we sit on.

Master Gardener Training flyer went out today and registration is live. The class will run from Sept 1 to October 20 on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Maple Woods. MCC affiliates (faculty, staff, students) will get \$50 off the cost of the class.

On Saturday, September 12, EMGPC will host a recruiting event to show the students what

we do. We will need volunteers that day to be at the Garden, RR and Greenhouse to meet and greet folks. More details to come.

Todd appreciates our Chapters efforts but cautions us about getting overextended. We need to increase our recruiting efforts.

All Other Business: Kimberly Oxley advised us about the ADA rules for Public and Internal facing media. We need to be compliant by April 2027. She will work with Todd on how we can check for compliance. Todd thinks MU should be able to help us with that.

Laura Reinschmidt (intern) will host a tour of her farm on Thursday August 6, 2026, at 6 pm. Please bring an appetizer to share. 13920 Missouri Route A, Liberty MO 64068 816-213-5623. More info and a calendar invite to come.

The next meeting is September 16th at 6 pm at the Platte City Branch of Mid-Continent Library. 2702 NW Prairie View Rd, Platte City, MO.

We will have a seed and plant swap for our group that night. Please make sure anything you bring is marked with identification.

The meeting concluded at 7:15 pm

Post-Meeting Garden Tour: Lesley Rausch-Derra gave a tour of her orchard and explained her successes, failures and continued challenges. Note: the tour has been approved for educational hours.

Submitted by:
Lesley Rausch-Derra
Secretary EMG of Platte County

Approved by:
Carolyn Vellar
President EMG of Platte County