**Extension Master Gardeners of Platte County**
**Wednesday, January 15, 2025 - Chapter Meeting 6- 7:30 pm**

**Meeting will be held by Zoom**

**In Attendance:**

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| Victoria Hillstrom | Claire Bowers |
| Rich Canning | Elisa Hill |
| Sherri Holland | Jill Ballard |
| Amy Heithoff | Helen Krause |
| Madison Stewart | Francie Stoner |
| Todd Higgins | Carolyn Vellar |
| John Smith | Debbie Johnston |

**Welcome and Introductions:** Carolyn Vellar, President

- Carolyn welcomed new Interns that graduated in December from Todd's in person class. Lisa Boyer, Sandy Jacobs, Stacy Orr, Madison Stewart, and Julie Weisz. We also have a new transfer from MGGKC, Claire Bowers. Please welcome our new comers!
- Todd gave an introduction of himself. He shared a new in person EMG class will be offered in Cameron (Clinton County) beginning March 4 (Tues/Thurs) from 6 pm to 8:30 pm. He is also hoping to offer an addition in Buchanan County during the daytime if a library can be located for the class. Each class will have a 10-12 person minimum, so please pass the word. Once the classes are finalized, Todd will provide a brochure that we can pass along so that we can spread the word in Platte County and share with friends.
- Todd also talked about the Feb 15 program which will discuss/demonstrate tree pruning. Todd will get a QR code for Jill Ballard to create the brochure by the week of Jan 20. Todd will be going to the YMCA (class portion of the program) on Feb 13 (time to be determined) to look at the meeting room. He will also go to the Platte Co Community Garden to do preliminary work prior to the program. Todd will provide more information about Feb 13th. John Smith offered to assist. John will notify us if others will be needed.

**Volunteer Hours Overview:** Debbie Johnston, Secretary

- Debbie provided an overview of the hours needed for EMG's and Interns in 2025. Todd shared that he is not enforcing the 6 hours of continuing education for EMG. He is not saying the education hours won't be accepted, its just that our focus this year will be in volunteering. EMGs are required to complete 26 hours in 2025. The members that just completed training (Interns) are required to complete 30 volunteer hours in 2025 to achieve EMG status.
- Debbie asked if any EMG's would like to volunteer to "coach" the interns to help them reach the 30 hour goal. Elisa Hill will be assisting Sandy Jacobs; Victoria Hillstrom will

be assisting Madison Stewart and Julie Weisz; John. Smith will be assisting Lisa Boyer and Stacy Orr.

**Committee Reports:**

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

- John reviewed the following document about the Platte County Community Garden. https://www.canva.com/design/DAGcG0T2kYU/C5MMdzpYhqkWm1H4-ifmag/edit?utm_content=DAGcG0T2kYU&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton

**Public Relations Committee** Jill Ballard

- Jill provided an update on the new website she has developed for our Chapter. https://www.plattecountymastergardeners.org/
- The website is a work in progress. We have included a link for "Gardener Questions". Carolyn, John and Debbie will be responding to questions coming from Platte County. Communication will only be received via the Chapter e-mailbox.

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

- Francie provided an overview of the programs they have in progress.
- The committee has met with Dylan Neuman from 4H. He is looking for help with programs for 5 to 17 yr olds - twice a week. Francie informed him that is too much for the size of our Chapter but will discuss options.
- Feb 20 will be Prairie Point Elementary STEAM Night. This program will be a program that MGGKC is sharing with us. In addition to this pollinator program, Francie's LAUGHH program will also have a demonstration on growing and eating healthy. In addition, Scott Wilkerson will have a demonstration on micro greens.
- On Feb. 22 - 4-H is tentatively planning and all day Meet and Greet with 4 breakout sessions. Francie is interested in volunteering for the event but will need help. MGGKC was also notified of this volunteer opportunity.

**Platte City Greenhouse Status** Carolyn Vellar

- Carolyn gave an update the work that has been done at the greenhouse to get it ready for us to use.
- Saturday, Jan 18 (9-1) will be greenhouse cleaning - scrubbing the old debris off the growing tables and the lower half of the greenhouse walls. Scott Wilkerson and volunteers will also be replacing the water pump. Elisa continues to learn more about how to operate the greenhouse.
- We plan to have a Program in the next few weeks to teach everyone how to fill pots to begin our growing process. An email invitation will be sent prior to this event.
- REMINDER May 3rd is our plant sale.

**Plant Sale-Seed Committee Update** Debra Johnston

- The seed committee has been meeting since December to determine what should be grown in the greenhouse. Lorna Earnst will be providing a list of tomatoes and peppers, Carolyn Vellar and Victoria Hillstrom will address Herbs and Vegetables that can be grown from seeds, MaryJane Kuehn and Francie Stoner will be providing a list of native plants, and Debbie Johnston (with the help of MaryJane Kuehn and Elisa Hill) will provide information on annuals and perennial flowers.
- After review of the Ball Culture Guide suggested by Donna Aufdenberg, it appears that perennial flowers will not fit into our timeline, so we will only be planting annual flowers.
- The seed list as of today (Jan 19) are 99.9% complete so Elisa will be able to provide Carolyn/Scott the list of potting supplies we will need for the plant sale. This will also allow Susie Ahearn to develop our timeline of when to start sowing seeds for germination, when to look for transplant opportunities etc.

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Carolyn Vellar

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

- Out next Chapter meeting is March 19 at the Parkville Library - 8815 Tom Watson Pkwy, Parkville MO 64152

Date/time to be determined - Seed Sowing Demonstration/Activity -Platte EMG-Seed Committee, Platte City Greenhouse - 1801 Branch, All EMG's encouraged to attend!

Saturday, Feb. 15th - Tree Pruning Presentation/Demonstration - Dr. Todd Higgins - 10-11 am - Presentation at Platte County Community Center South, 11 am to 12:30 - Demonstration at Platte County Community Garden-10609 Tom Watson Pkwy. EMG's encouraged to attend!!

Thursday, February 20, - 5:30 - 7:30 pm - Prairie Point Elementary STEAM Night -Platte

EMG's will have 3 Table Top Display/Demonstrations - Prairie Point Elementary, 8101 NW Belvedere Pkwy, KCMO 64152. Volunteers needed - Contact Carolyn -816-830-9124

Saturday, March 8, 2025 - 10:00 am - Building Raised Garden Beds Demonstration / Presentation - Platte County Community Garden, 10609 Tom Watson Pkwy- EMGs- John Smith, Carolyn Vellar, Glenn Reinhart, Scott Wilkerson