



# 2021 St. Louis Master Gardener

## IMPACT STATEMENT



The St. Louis Master Gardener Program was established in 1983 by the world-renowned Missouri Botanical Garden in partnership with University of Missouri Extension. This partnership has provided horticultural education and outreach into the Saint Louis community by training volunteers to educate and participate in public and civic gardening. The Garden is home to the Saint Louis Master Gardener program and provides training space and instructors for the training. MU Extension specialists are also instructors for the St. Louis Master Gardener Training and the MU Extension office in Kirkwood is another location where Master Gardeners hold classes and events.

"The Saint Louis Master Gardener training is a wonderful opportunity for first-time gardeners and those wishing to brush up on their skills to get a crash course in understanding how to grow and care for plants. You will come out knowing more about plants than you ever thought possible!"

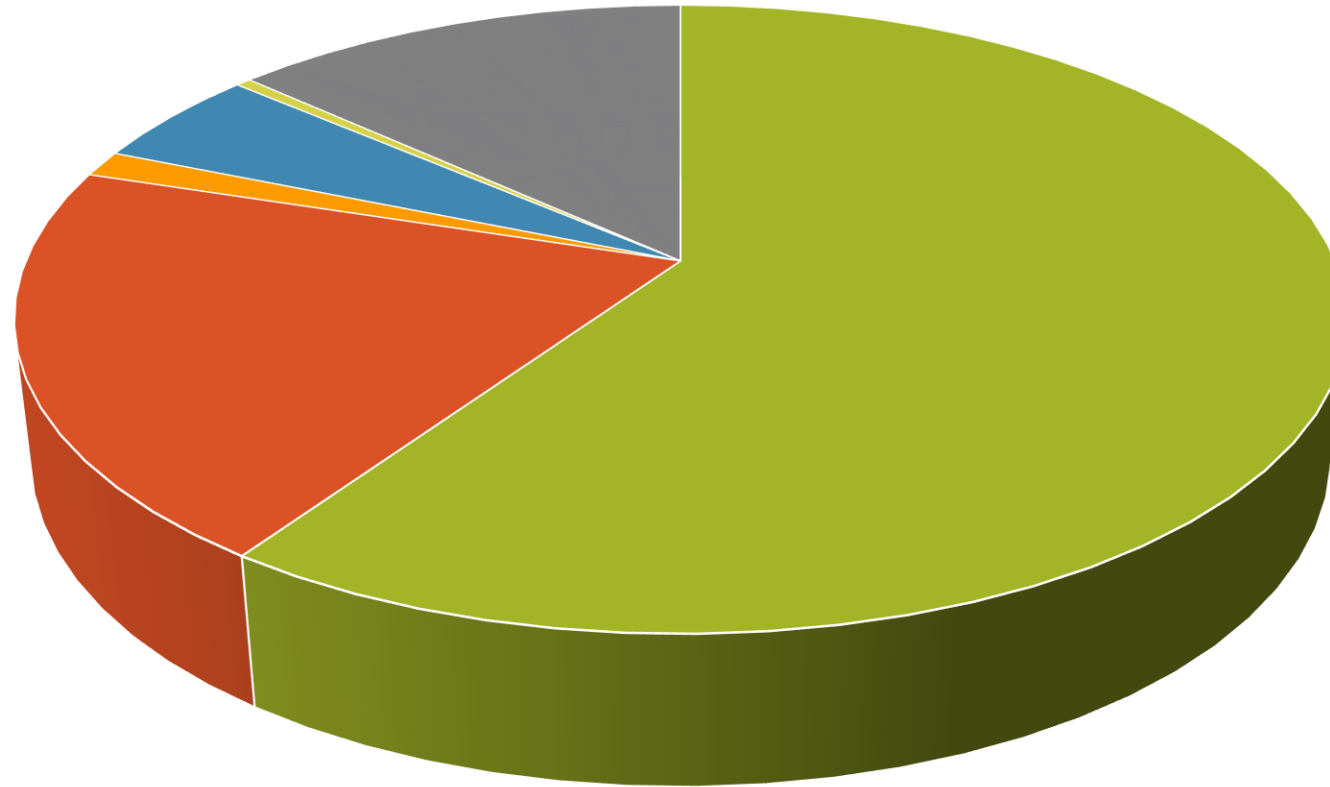
*Daria McKelvey 2019 St. Louis Master Gardener Class, Horticulturist, Supervisor MBG Kemper Center*

# TOTAL 2021 VOLUNTEER HOURS

# 39,959

- Hours logged in 64 St. Louis zip codes by 408 St. Louis Master Gardeners
- 330 Master Gardeners logged 50+ hours
- Volunteer contribution valued at over \$1,140,430

# 2021 St. Louis Master Gardener Volunteer Hours



■ Community Projects  
■ MG Administration  
■ Speakers Bureau

■ MBG  
■ MG Garden Hotline  
■ St. Louis City & County Parks

# 2021 St. Louis Master Gardener Hours Awards

1000+ Hours							
Ron Brown		1890	Jim Morrison		1234		
500+ Hours							
Sandy McCoy		860	Hera Gerber		595		
John Lorenz		792	Myra Rosenthal		525		
Joanne Fogarty		614	Ron Stevens		508		
300+ Hours							
Kiersten Torrez		363	Ann Case		340		
Nancy Karpowicz		344	Ronda Anson		327		
Tessa Wasserman		342	Anita Isenberg		324		
200+ Hours							
Myra Moscowitz	293	Bridget Fletcher	251	Sherry Moschner	240	JoAnn Kresko	208
Eunice Lord	278	Joseph Ackerman	249	Laurian McGrath	231	Patricia Jung	212
Virginia Johnson	275	Pamela Hass	246	Diane Grubbs	225	James DeBoard	207
Ann Niemann	271	Suzanne Albright	246	Gloria Mahoney	225	Barb Kinsella	206
Chris Kirmaier	258	Jeff Blunt	242	Joshua Hovis	222		

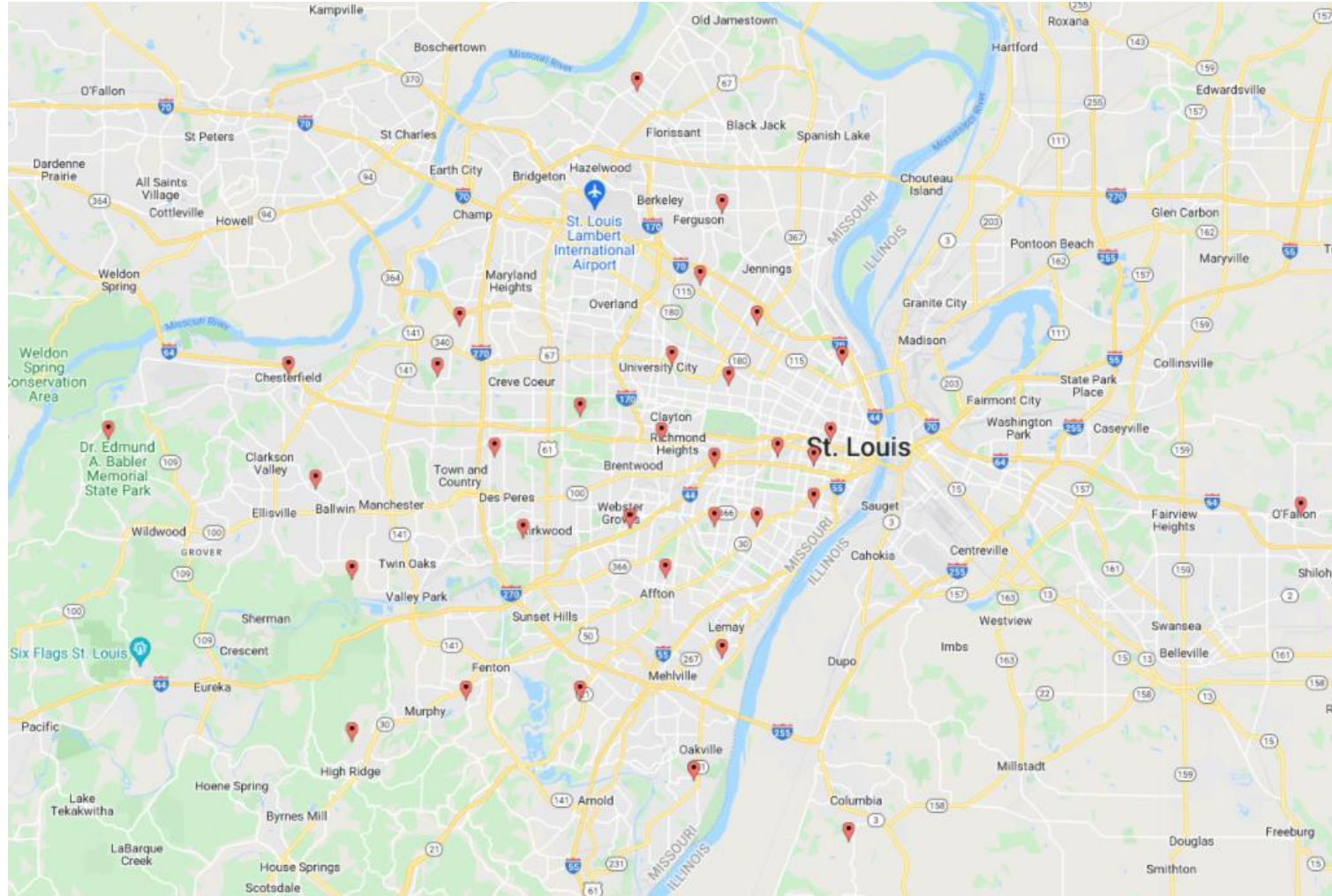
73 Master Gardeners logged between 100 and 200 hours      222 Master Gardeners logged between 50 and 100 hours  
 78 Master Gardeners logged less than 50 hours

# St. Louis Master Gardener Training

The St. Louis Master Gardener Training Program is an annual volunteer training conducted in partnership between the Missouri Botanical Garden (MBG) and the University of Missouri Extension. The St. Louis Master Gardeners is a volunteer organization with an expressed interest in learning about gardening and helping to teach others about plants and how they benefit our environment. Formally, the St. Louis Master Gardeners' mission is to "provide research-based horticultural information to the public for community service and gardening pleasure." This is accomplished in two parts: horticultural training and volunteer service to the community.

The program attracts participants from all over the St. Louis Metropolitan area including neurosurgeons, lawyers, teachers, chemists, community activists, horticulturists, carpenters, musicians, corporate leaders, individuals from almost every profession.

# 2021 St. Louis Master Gardener Class



57 new Certified Master Gardeners from 34 St. Louis area zip codes & a 92% certification rate for the class



# 2020 & 2021 St. Louis Master Gardener Class Graduation





# 2021 St. Louis Master Gardener Training Class

- 92% of the 2021 trainees successfully completed the training and the 50 hour volunteer and continuing education requirement by December 31, 2021, to obtain their certification.
- 2 sessions – afternoon and evening every Thursday for 18 weeks beginning in January.
- Classes are three hours long and in 2021 conducted via ZOOM.
- All training materials to include, lecture PowerPoints, general sections, student photos, Extension publications, audio recordings of lectures, instructor bios, and training policies are posted on google drive for access during the entire training year.
- Small group tours and volunteer sessions held at many of the Master Gardener volunteer sites in lieu of a large volunteer site event.



# St. Louis Master Gardener Training Instructors

- Ben Chu, MBG Manager North Gardens
- Sherry Harsch-Porter Adjunct Professor Washington University
- Chris Kirmaier, Photosynthesis Researcher
- Crystal Stevens, Author & Owner of *Flourish*
- Daria McKelvey, Horticulturist & Supervisor MBG Kemper Center
- Elizabeth Wahle, U of Illinois Extension Specialist
- Glenn Kraemer, Horticulturist & Owner GR Robinson Seed & Service
- Jen Smock, Horticulturist & Manager Kemper Center
- Justin Keay, MU Extension Specialist
- Justine Kandra, Botanist Kemper Center
- Scott Woodbury, Manager Shaw Nature Reserve



# Master Gardener Chapter Highlights

The St. Louis Master Gardeners have over 25 established projects sites. In addition, many Master Gardeners have taken the initiative to create projects where there is a need. Included in the following slides are just a few of these projects .



# Bee Found



**Army Captain and Master Gardener Jeremy Idleman** is the founder of the organization called Bee Found. It all started when he shared his troubles with his uncle when he came back from serving overseas. "When I got back from Iraq in 2005, I had some issues. I actually got the idea from my uncle who was doing beekeeping since he was 12. He asked me, 'Have you ever thought of being a beekeeper?'" he recalled.

The therapeutic benefits of beekeeping help veterans with PTSD find a focus and an outlet.

Bee Found promotes social beekeeping by offering low-cost hives to new beekeepers, such as veterans and first responders, in an effort to turn them into life-long beekeepers.  
<https://www.beefound.org/>



# Covenant Place Senior Apartments

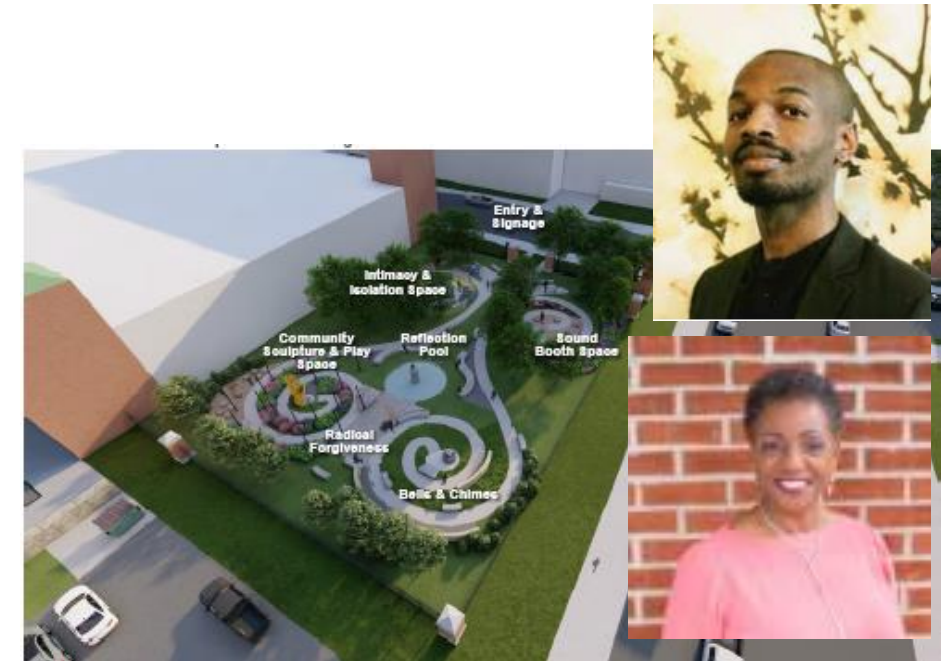
**2021 Master Gardener Adriane Denny** created designs for the containers at the Covenant Place Senior Apartments in St. Louis County. Covenant Place offers seniors apartments that are universally designed for accessible everyday living. Adriane also offered a class on container gardening for the residents of Covenant Place so that they could plant and maintain the containers.



# Victory & Peace Garden

The Victory & Peace Garden will be located on Lee Avenue in St. Louis City. This project was created by Amber Johnson, Associate Provost, Professor of Communication, Saint Louis University and Founder of the Justice Fleet. St. Louis Master Gardeners will help wherever they are needed.

**Master Gardeners helping with the planning of this garden are Beverly Dyson and Trenton Ellis.**





# Emerson YMCA

**Master Gardener Sandy McCoy** manages the community garden. Volunteers grow the produce and then donate to a food pantry and YMCA members and staff. They grow an assortment of produce - peanuts, cantaloupes, lots of sweet potatoes (Sandy makes sweet potato gooey butter and sweet potato cheesecake that are incredible.) - peppers - kale - greens - tomatoes (Sandy makes delicious raspberry and green tomato jelly.)

## 2021 Highlights

- Held Juneteenth celebration with the kids and planted peanuts and pumpkins, like George Washington Carver. Had an outdoor classroom.
- EmersonY garden collaborated with the BauerY and I taught 2 classes on healthy eating. We made dishes with the Teen Camp in July.
- Every Wednesday in July and August we had Math Lab in the garden. The kids would take the temperature of the soil and compost, measure the size of fruits and vegetables and determine growth patterns, and finally on last day of lab we made a dish from the garden.
- Harvested over 65 pounds of sweet potatoes and won the 2021 Sweet Potato Challenge for Heaviest Sweet Potato from Seed St. Louis.

**Master Gardener Phedra Nelson** is the Community Wellness Director for Emerson YMCA.





# Friends of the Market Community Garden

This project was started by Master Gardener Ron Brown and his wife Ann in 2018. A few raised beds in Ferguson, MO, have now expanded to include the house and property at 28 Suburban Avenue and the former community garden down the street with over 20 garden beds.

COVID limited the participation of several organizations but it did not keep the high school students with head trauma injuries from the garden. Ron welcomed 3 high School students with special needs from Francis Howell. They came weekly to learn about gardening. In the photo on the left the students are learning about square foot gardening. Pictured on the top right is Robert who is autistic, and has a great sense of humor. He created his version of a sensory garden.

*FOMCG is a place to garden, learn, and hang out with the community.*





# Helping a Neighborhood

A disabled veteran unable to work in his garden contacted the St. Louis Master Gardeners for help. A group of six Master Gardeners spent a Saturday morning dividing plants and cleaning up the garden beds. The St. Louis Master Gardeners have helped many St. Louis homeowners.

## Olive Chapel

Founded in Kirkwood in 1853, Olive Chapel is one of the oldest A.M.E churches west of the Mississippi River. For many years a parishioner had worked to create a beautiful landscape filled with an incredible variety of perennial plants. This parishioner has been unable to work in the garden for the last couple years and **Master Gardener Carey Keller** and other neighbors noticed. They reached out to the Olive chapel pastor to offer their help. The result was a garden workday. Gardeners in the community along with Master Gardeners spent a day weeding, trimming, and dividing with spectacular results.





# JCCA Garden of Eden

Master Gardener Myra Rosenthal is in charge of the Jewish Community Center's Garden of Eden in St. Louis County. The J is a proud partner in the Garden of Eden project. The Garden of Eden is a Jewish community garden on the grounds of the J which provided thousands of pounds of produce each year to the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry at Jewish Family and Children's Services. Over 3,841 of produce was donated in 2021.

Students help in the garden and attend classes during summer camp and senior residents of the Covenant Place tend their own plots and grow their own produce. Because of a diverse population in the apartments, many interesting and less common plants and growing techniques are used.

Myra's monthly newsletter is full of garden news, gardening tips, food, and the history of Jewish Holidays.





# Master Gardener Veterans

Veterans from almost every branch of the service are St. Louis Master Gardeners. For these Master Gardeners, St. Louis County Parks Jefferson Barracks is a favorite volunteer site where they have accomplished incredible things. They also volunteer at several other St. Louis County Parks and contribute thousands of volunteer hours each year. Snow, rain, sleet, cold – the weather doesn't deter them from volunteering.



# Missouri Botanical Garden & Other Volunteer Sites

Master Gardeners volunteer in a variety of ways including working with children in the education department, answering questions at the Kemper Center Plant Doctor desk and Horticulture Answer Service, and working side-by-side with the Garden's horticulture staff. Due to COVID protocols, Master Gardeners returned to volunteering at the Missouri Botanical Garden in limited numbers during 2021.



- Bellefontaine Cemetery
- Brightside St. Louis
- Bring Conservation
- Compton Hill Reservoir
- Flora Conservancy of Forest Park
- Forest Park Forever
- Forest ReLeaf
- Historic Mudd's Grove
- Lafayette Park
- Litzsinger Road Ecology Center
- Midtown City Greens Community Garden
- North County Agriculture Education Center
- Olivette in Bloom
- Seed St. Louis
- Shaw Nature Reserve
- St. Louis County Parks
- The Green Center Tillies Corner
- The Weinman Shelter for Women
- UCity in Bloom
- Ujima
- Urban Harvest STL

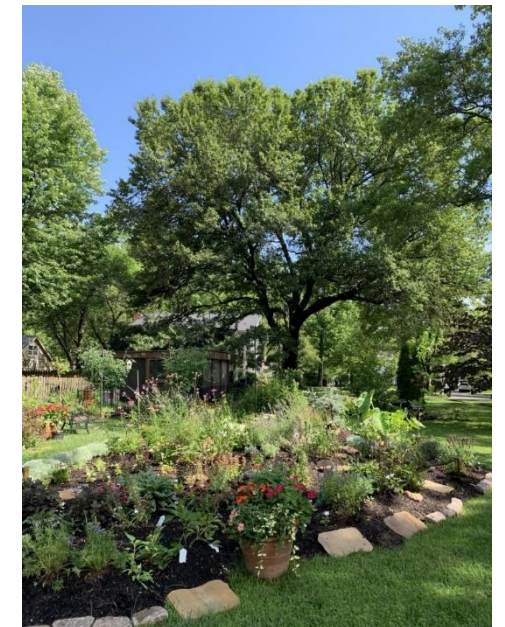


# Pollinator Garden

**Master Gardener Georgia Stobbs-Cucchi** created a pollinator and native plant garden in Kirkwood. She labeled the plants, and had it certified for the neighborhood's use. Kids and adults come through to talk about the plants, composting and Georgia's chickens.

Georgia and her husband Mike planted a large variety of native blooming perennials, some annuals that included tropicals for full summer curb appeal, and aromatic plants like lavender, sage and thyme. Lambs ear was planted for petting too, of course!

Georgia wanted the garden to be inviting for all creatures and hopefully encourage others to try something new in their yard. The garden gets lots of foot traffic and lots of questions about sustainability, chickens, and plants.





# Rogers Middle School Garden

**2021 Master Gardener Kathy Beezley** has taken on the management of the Rogers Middle School garden along with volunteer, Dave, and the students.

The pollinator garden had become over grown, so with help from the Missouri Conservation Department, the pollinator garden was burned. After the burn, Kathy added plants and will continue adding plants in 2022.

An old farmer's cart was purchased and is used to sell excess produce to the parents in the carpool pick up line. The parents LOVE it, and the proceeds help fund the garden. During the summer, produce is donated to the Affton Christian Food Pantry.

Kathy showed the students how to make soaps from lavender and other herbs harvested from the garden. They also made rosemary wreaths, lavender sachets, and dried peppers and herbs that they sold at school for Christmas gifts. The profits from these handmade items helped fund the garden.





# The Green House Venture

Blossoming from its beginning in 2015, The Green House Venture has emerged from a fledgling idea into an established program aspiring to serve as a nationwide model for elementary education in bio-science and urban agriculture.

The *Green House* Venture's mission: To educate, excite, and equip an inclusive population of elementary students to pursue a sustainable world through a hands-on program in bio-science and urban agriculture

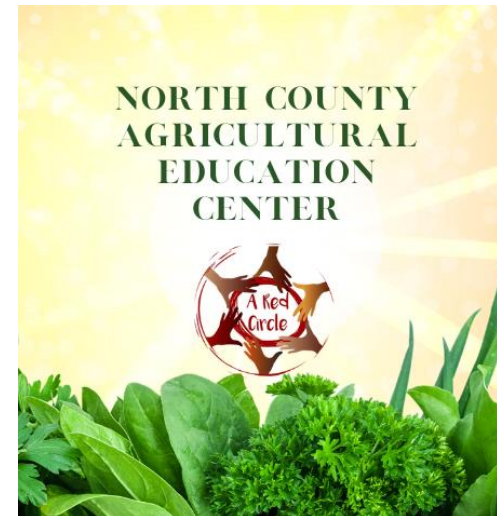
The St. Louis Master Gardeners have formed a partnership with The Green House Venture. The Master Gardeners are participating in curriculum development, garden planning, planting & maintenance, and hopefully will soon be working with the students in the garden.



# The North County Ag Education Center

**Master Gardener Erica Williams** established A Red Circle, a collaborative community nonprofit. Its signature project is the North County Agricultural Education, a community hub focused on food systems. Williams credits an array of MU Extension programs including the St. Louis Master Gardener Program, with helping her nurture her idea to fruition.

The North County Agricultural Education Center, is a collaborative growing space in Pine Lawn, Missouri where they grow food and teach about the STEM behind growing food. They also educate the community on food justice. Finally, they also introduce young people to careers and entrepreneurship opportunities in good food.





# World Bird Sanctuary

Master Gardener Angie Villa has created a cohesive landscape design for several areas at the sanctuary in addition to a series of artwork that will adorn the wooden planters in an area near the welcome center.

Angie is pictured installing the first piece in her series. Completion of the project will occur in 2022.





# Wildwood YMCA

The Wildwood YMCA Community Garden is a beautifully diverse garden with 70 community garden plots, Plant a Row for the Hungry food pantry space (donated over 5000 pounds of fresh homegrown food to local food pantries in 2021), full of fruits and veggies, herbs, flowers, native plants, milkweed (certified monarch migration garden), and amazing gardeners that love and nurture the beautiful garden.

There is a fantastic children's education garden space where children learn about gardening (planting, nurturing, and harvesting), bugs, insects, and pollinators, where their food comes from, and opportunities to taste yummy homegrown vegetables. The best part of our children's garden education program is to see kids get outside, disconnect from technology, and enjoy a safe and healing space.

A new Therapy/Sensory garden space was installed. It is ADA accessible and is a beautiful space where ALL can experience the healing impact of nature. Currently, we are working with the Pujols Family Foundation and have several groups that want to connect to this space.





# Master Gardener Programs & Initiatives

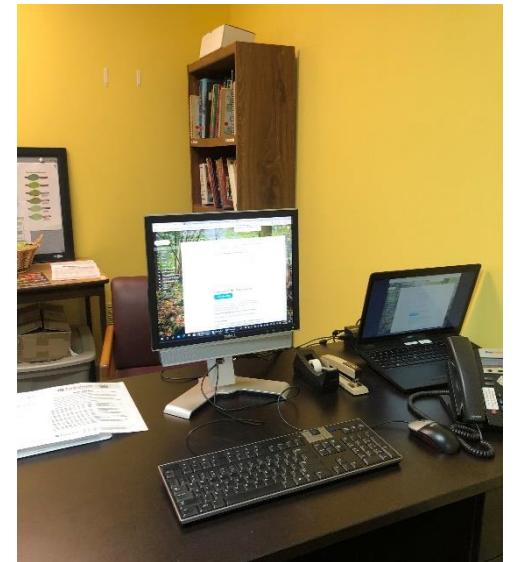
The St. Louis Master Gardeners create programs and offer services that are available to Master Gardeners and the community.

# Master Gardener Garden Hotline

Staffed by over 30 trained St. Louis Master Gardeners the answer service began with limited hours and quickly grew to a Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. service. Walk-ins are encouraged March 1st through October 31<sup>st</sup> and emails and phone calls are answered year round within 24 hours.

**Advanced Master Gardener Ronda Anson** coordinates the answer service. She trains new volunteers, , schedules volunteers, keeps volunteers up-to-date on current pest and plants diseases in St. Louis, creates quizzes for volunteers, volunteers for the service, and helps research answers .

The volunteers work on a variety of projects when not answering questions. The latest project was a pruning cheat sheet that lists pruning time and additional information for over 165 trees.





# Master Gardener Speakers Bureau

The St. Louis Master Gardener Speakers Bureau provides quality horticultural information as a public service. All speakers are Master Gardener volunteers who have completed the Master Gardener training. Each year St. Louis Master Gardeners make presentations to garden clubs, schools, businesses, churches, neighborhood and civic organizations.



**LANDSCAPING  
WITH NATIVE  
TREES AND  
SHRUBS**



**ALIEN INVASIONS**



**FOR THE BIRDS**



**BRING THE  
NATIVES HOME**



**GARDENING  
DANGERS FOR  
PETS**



**BEST GARDENING  
PRACTICES FOR A  
SUSTAINABLE  
GARDEN**



**ALL ABOUT  
ORCHIDS**



**ABC'S OF  
HONEYBEES**



**DESIGNING WITH  
NATURE IN MIND**



**CRITICAL FOR  
GARDENING – GET  
THE DIRT ON SOIL**



**ORGANIC  
GARDENING**



**MISSOURI'S WILD  
MUSHROOMS IS IT  
EDIBLE?**



**GLADES OF  
MISSOURI**

# Professional Development Classes

**Advanced Master Gardener Ann Niemann** created and taught professional development classes for Parkway School District teachers. The classes included herbs, native gardens, and pollinator gardens. The classes are continuing in 2022 and will be offered to other school districts as well.

Ann serves on the St. Louis Master Gardener Advisory Committee and she is an active member of the St. Louis Wild Ones.



# St. Louis Master Gardener Social Media

**Master Gardener Mimi Mooney** created videos of volunteer sites, Master Gardener class tours, graduation, and more. Her videos posted on the St. Louis Master Gardener Facebook page increased the followers from 500 to over 800 and it is growing.

Mimi is creating a communications plan for 2022 that will include postings on Instagram and twitter.

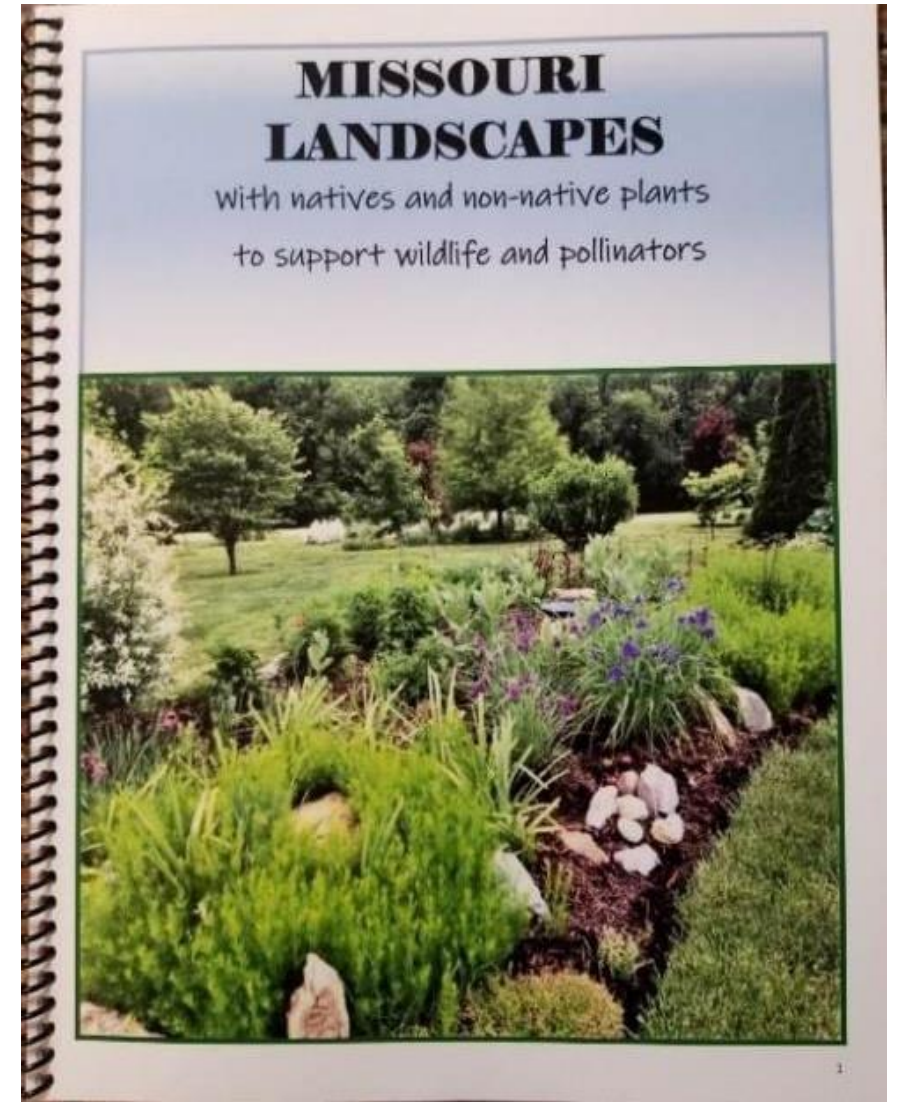




# Pollinator Design & Information Book

*Missouri Landscapes with Natives & Non-native plants to support wildlife and pollinators.* Creating healthy ecosystems for pollinators to include native plant food availability and habitats.

This book was created by Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists and includes tried and true landscape designs developed by Missouri Botanical Garden horticulturists, Missouri Master Gardeners, and Missouri Master Naturalists. All of the information needed to create the pollinator gardens is provided. Visit <https://www.stcharlescountymastergardeners.com/> for more information.



# 2021 Wednesday Free ZOOM Speaker Series

- The 2020 weekly lectures became a monthly speaker series in 2021
- Average attendance 93
- The talks are open to anyone who registers





# Weekly Email Update

St. Louis Master Gardeners receive a weekly email providing them with volunteer and continuing education opportunities for the coming week and beyond. The update is a way to have weekly contact with Master Gardeners. Here is an example of some of the listings.

<b>Wednesday, March 23</b>	
1.	<b>Dueling Crops: A Vegetable Program</b> -- noon ET with Aaron Bertelsen and David Mattern offered by Chanticleer Garden. Join gardeners Aaron Bertelsen and David Mattern for a virtual program about growing vegetables, fruits, and herbs. In this lively discussion, each gardener will review their approach to specific crops, growing techniques, timing, propagation, and soil, sharing what is successful in their geographic regions. The two gardeners will compare how they approach growing the same crop differently, and they will share their favorite recipes for spring vegetables, as well as long-range techniques for preserving summer harvests. Aaron and David are influenced by what they grow, where they travel, and through experimentation. Both are at the top of their game in creating both productive gardens that are aesthetically beautiful. This talk is meant to inspire gardeners at the start of the growing season and will offer time for attendees to ask questions. Zoom entry details will be sent to you the morning of the lecture (March 23). \$15
2.	<b>Hort-Happy Hour and Lunch &amp; Learn Webinar Series: Fluctuations in Firefly Populations</b> -- noon to 1:00 p.m. offered by Ohio State University Extension. Speaker Sara Lewis, Professor Tufts University. Following many decades investigating insect behavior and sexual selection, our work now focuses on insect conservation. The firefly beetles rank among our most charismatic insects, yet the conservation status of these 2200+ species remains poorly understood. Prof. Lewis is a founding member of the Fireflyers International Network, and serves as co-chair of the Firefly Specialist Group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. Our mission is to identify and work to conserve threatened firefly species around the world. Specific goals are to: (1) assess Red List status for 2000+ species, (2) prioritize key threats and conservation issues facing fireflies in different geographic regions, (3) identify knowledge gaps for future biodiversity research, and (4) advocate for threatened species at regional and global levels. FREE
<b>Thursday, March 24</b>	
1.	<b>Ask an Expert: Growing Orchids at Home</b> (Online Q&A) -- 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. ET offered by the US Botanic Garden. Orchids are beloved blooms, but their care can be confounding. Join Terry to ask your questions about growing orchids at home. From fabulous <i>Phalaenopsis</i> to delightful <i>Dendrobiums</i> , after this Q&A you'll feel confident in caring for your home orchid collection. Intended Audience: All Levels. Suitable for all learners, this program will provide a variety of content. Program providers will answer both introductory and more advanced questions. Please note: This program will be offered through the online platform Livestorm. Clicking on the pre-registration link below will allow you to register through that system. Instructor: Amanda Helin, U.S. Botanic Garden Gardener. FREE: Pre-registration required
2.	<b>Holistic Pest &amp; Disease Control</b> at 6:00 p.m. offered by Seeds St. Louis. Using proper pest management can keep your garden and orchard healthy and bountiful. This class will cover the basics of IPM (integrated pest management), how to support beneficial insects, some companion planting, common pests and diseases, and the best control techniques for the community and home gardener and orchardist. All classes are free and open to the public. Just register at the link to receive the Zoom link to join.

# Youth MG Program

The St. Louis Youth Master Gardener Program at Queeny Park is a hands-on program that fosters a love of gardening, develops an appreciation of the environment, and cultivates science, math, and creative problem solving skills.

*A partnership with St. Louis County Parks, St. Louis County Parks Foundation, University of Missouri Extension, St. Louis Master Gardeners, and the Missouri Botanical Garden.*

## What Students Say They Learned

- All about plant names.
- How important soil is to plants.
- How to plant seeds and take root cuttings.
- That many creatures are pollinators.
- Herbs can make food taste better.
- Trees are cool!

## Activities

Students dissected flowers, experimented with different soil types, and propagated plants from seeds and cuttings. They also planted a pollinator garden, tasted new healthy foods, and explored trees.





# Additional Programming Offered by the St. Louis Master Gardeners or Planned for 2022

- Cut Flower Farming Class – in partnership with St. Louis Community College
- Gardening classes for elementary school students – curriculum created by Master Gardeners
- Professional Development classes for area teachers
- Gardening classes for Master Gardeners & the community
- Master Gardener booth at gardening events & farmers markets with demonstrations
- Help Your Neighbor Day planned for fall 2022



# Thank you!



St. Louis  
Master  
Gardener

St. Louis Master Gardeners share their knowledge about safe, effective and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes and communities.