

Master Gardeners of the Ozarks – 2022 Report

Master Gardener Total Impact

For 2022, the Master Gardeners of the Ozarks fulfilled their commitment to take on high-impact and ambitious projects. A total of 5,129 hours were reported in 2022 by sixty-three master gardeners who served the entire year and reported. This was a 24 percent increase in hours submitted compared to 2021. The first-year Master Gardeners are expected to provide 30 hours of service and seasoned master gardeners are only expected to provide 20 hours. This year the master gardeners who submitted hours each averaged 81 hours of service! According to the latest figures from the Independent Sector organization, the hourly wage value for U.S. volunteer hours currently is \$29.95. If you put a value on the education and service hours provided to the community, the amount totals almost \$153,613 worth of volunteer time! Continuing education is an important part of volunteer service. The master gardeners reported 935 hours of continued education this year. This averages to 15 hours per person. They are expected to submit a minimum of 6 hours of continuing education each year.



There was a first in our chapter in 2022 with six Master Gardener emeritus members who were honored for their twenty years of service. L to R: Carol Gerhart, Belle Bechtold and Jane Schwarz. Others honored were Josie Roetto, Cathy Wolven and Carol Frische.



Four members were honored as 10-year Emeritus members from the class of 2012. L to R: Becky Arnoldy, Sherry Nave, Tom Riley and Bruce Sisk. Judy Schmidt was honored from the class of 2011.

Membership, Organization and Structure

As of year-end, there were 102 master gardeners in the Master Gardeners of the Ozarks chapter. Of these, there are 54 who reside in Stone County, 42 in Taney County, four in Christian County, four in Barry County and two who reside in Boone County, Arkansas. The master gardeners were led this year by Wanda Nicol, president, Sherry Drinkall, vice-president, Ann Symington, secretary, and Cathy Preator, treasurer. Tim Schnakenberg served as advisor for the master gardener activities in the Stone and Taney County area. The chapter met monthly, alternating between locations in Stone and Taney County and the executive committee met monthly between meetings. The chapter is very proud to say that there are 37 Emeritus members who have served at least ten years in the program. Six of these members were honored in December for 20 years of service.

Internal Grant Program Funded Seven Special Projects

The internal grant committee in 2022 allocated \$4,822 for eight projects: Kimberling Senior Center, Kimberling Area Library Children's Garden, Bonniebrook, Pregnancy Life Line, Faith Lutheran Church, Festival of Trees, Forsyth Demonstration Garden and Cape Fair Community Center. The committee was chaired by Penny Meador. Funds for projects originated from local educational program activities and fund-raisers.

Master Gardener Courses Brought in New Members

Three new master gardeners were trained through the statewide on-line master gardener courses. A graduation

ceremony was conducted at a Master Gardener meeting at Shepherd of the Hills in December.

Spring Garden Workshop Brought 219 Participants

The spring gardening workshop tradition in Branson continued with 219 people participating. “Drift Into Gardening” was the theme. Ninety-five percent of participants reported that they plan to make changes in their gardening as a result of attending. A raffle, fundraiser and plant sale fetched \$3,495, providing funds for grant projects and scholarships. Mary O’Brien and Marie Ewing served as co-chairs.



A scene from the Spring Gardening Workshop in Branson

Fall Gardening Workshop Attracted 121 Participants

The gardening public enjoys participating in the Fall Gardening Workshop for reliable advice on gardening in the Ozarks. There were 121 participants that attended in Reeds Spring in September. “Light Up Your Fall” was the theme. Ninety-three percent of participants reported that they plan to make changes in their gardening as a result of attending. \$2,147 was raised for grant and scholarship projects through the plant sale, raffle and sales. Joanne Anderson served as chair of this project.



One of the eighteen tour stops at the Garden Tour. Here, Cathy Preator discusses food preservation with guests.

Bohemian Garden Rhapsody Garden Tour

Bonniebrook near Branson was the site of a very successful garden tour this year. An outstanding educational tour with eighteen tour stops were scattered over the homestead. This very well attended event was co-chaired by Mary O’Brien and Becky Arnoldy. The Bonniebrook Historical Society partnered with the Master Gardeners to make this happen.



Volunteers at a Kimberling Area Library Children's Garden work day

Twelve Garden Programs Offered on a Regular Basis throughout Stone and Taney Counties

In Forsyth and Kimberling City, there are garden programs offered every month during the growing season for the gardening public. This year, twelve programs were offered and they were all taught by master gardeners. At the Kimberling Area Library, there were 144 participants. Kathryn Kufahl chaired that effort. Numerous people also attended the “Morning in the Garden” garden series at the Forsyth Demonstration Garden. Marie Ewing chaired that series. Topics covered this year included seed starting, home hobby greenhouse, garden tool maintenance, annuals – color for the summer, tomatoes, Japanese maples, preserving and using herbs, dahlias, succulent propagation and creating combinations in the garden.



Grace Tate receives the \$1,000 master gardener scholarship for 2022. Chairwoman of the committee, Tonya Lewis, made the presentation.



Chris, Grace and Emerson Nash from Old Hat Farms hosted the June master gardener membership meeting near Reeds Spring. Old Hat Farms is a CSA, a Community Supported Agriculture

Master Gardener Scholarship Offered to College Student

Education is the primary function of master gardeners and many proceeds from educational events go toward scholarships for college students majoring in horticulture or a similar field. Tonya Lewis coordinated this effort. For 2022, the recipient for a master gardener \$1,000 scholarship was Grace Tate who was planning to attend Missouri State University in the fall and major in Agriculture Education.

Festival of Trees Efforts Raised Funds for Local Food Pantry

The Festival of Trees project tree by the Master Gardeners raised \$1,229 to support Christian Action Ministries (CAM) food pantry in Branson. Their tree won the People's Choice Award for the second year in the row. Joanne Anderson lead this project.



Gardens at Faith Lutheran Church in Branson benefited by the grant funds this year.



Volunteers at Pregnancy Life Line harvesting vegetables for families in our community.

Education and Improved Landscape Emphasis in our Communities

Some of the many other ongoing projects that made a significant impact in local communities included the Speaker's Bureau, Bonniebrook Homestead landscaping, Forsyth Demonstration Garden, Corps of Engineers Project Office Landscaping, Central Crossing Senior Center landscaping, Cape Fair Community Center landscaping, Ozarks Lake Country Senior Center garden, Kimberling Area Library Children's Garden, Harvest Community Garden in Shell Knob, Broiler Festival booth and the Stone County courthouse landscaping. There were many more smaller projects that are too innumerable to cover, but combined they make a startling impact throughout our region.