Central Missouri Master Gardeners met at McClung Park on March 26. Chairman Jake Siefert called the meeting to order at 6:00 with 86 members present.

The program, “Get to Know the Good Guys,” was presented by Jacob Wilson of the Lincoln University Extension department. He showed slides and described many of Central Missouri’s beneficial insects. For example, the large wheel bugs, aka assassin bugs, actually eat Japanese beetles. He distributed copies of a handout with colorful pictures of beneficial insects and other IPM techniques currently being used.

After refreshments, Don Whitener chaired the business meeting. Jenelle Schwieterman described the work the Scholarship Committee has been doing. This year, fourteen applications were received. The committee chose three winners. Tyler Gosney and Caleb Prenger are both Turf and Grounds Management majors at Linn Tech, and Elizabeth Prenger is majoring in Plant Science at MU.

Pat Goetz, Project Co-Chair, discussed the need for more volunteers on projects. Liz Cordray needs more help with Garden ‘N Grow. The garden at RACS needs a new co-chair and additional volunteers. Pat also thanked MGs for wearing their name tags.

Bev Price and Anika Rudloff discussed preparation of perennials for donation to the Plant Sale on May 4. Bev will ask Jane Kempker to send MGs an email giving details. Anika discussed ways MGs can save money on their donated plants, such as mixing compost with the potting soil and placing a coffee filter or strip of newspaper over the holes in the pot to retain all the soil. MGs can pick up bamboo skewers for plant labels, as well as four-inch and gallon pots, for their donated plants. Native plants will be emphasized in the Perennials section at the Plant Sale this year. Anika invited MGs to call her if they want to dig some plants from her garden to donate.

Jane Davis discussed the upcoming trip to MO Botanical Gardens. Also, as co-chair of the Activities Committee, she asked for suggestions for other activities. She also discussed the upcoming changes to the Children’s Garden at the Demo Gardens.

Gail Cummins asked for a volunteer to replace herself as chairman of the Yard of the Month Committee. She also thanked the people who helped make the Spring Gardening Seminar a success, beginning with Jane Kempker and Jim Quinn at the Extension Center. The Tech Team was Sandie Cope, Elisa Oetting, Tammy Boeschen, and Kathy Mills. The Steering Committee was Jake Siefert, Clarice Brown, Todd Higgins, Sandie Cope and Jim Quinn. The Breakfast and Hospitality Committee chaired by Donna Prenger included Janet Lepper, Bev Price, Marilyn Holtmeyer, Donna Linnenbrink, Liz Cordray, Kathy Mills, Marsha Richeson, Laverne Brondel, and Patty Fischer. The Luncheon Committee chaired by Marge Talken included Lynne Stelzlini, Sandy Call, Cassandra Bates, Mary Williams, Julie Long, and Patti Fischer. The Registration Committee was Bernice Schroeder, Brenda Hancock, Janice McCrory, Ross and Irma Terry, and Sandy
Hiatte. The Site Preparation Committee was Ginny Irvin, Carol Sloan, and Donna Schuessler. The Parking Committee was Joe Holtmeyer, Dennis Bening, Jim Jecman, Mike Stelzini, and Bob Cummins. Gail thanked Jeremia Markway and Doug Moehler, staff members at Carver Farm, who helped to get the facility and parking lot ready for the seminar after the snow. Special thanks to those MG’ers who taught classes that day: Jane Davis, Ray Evans, Don Schnieders, Todd Higgins, Jake Siefert, Clarice Brown, Jesse Emmons, Scott Marion, and Jim Quinn, our horticultural specialist. She also thanked Katie Butler, Susan Stork and all who stayed late to help at the end of the day, and those who attended the classes. With the joint effort of the Extension Center, CMMG, and the facility at Carver Farm, the Spring Seminar made a profit of $2400.

Julie Long announced that the last Plant Sale 2013 planning meeting will be at Panera’s at 5:30 on April 12. More volunteers are needed in several areas, including tallying, the holding area, annuals, peppers and tomatoes. MGs and trainees were asked to sign up for plant sale committees and to pick up and display Plant Sale yard signs, car signs, business cards, and posters. Julie said that she is making pots available as well as mesh bags for donation of bulbs. She said that this year hypertufa containers will be for sale. Pictures are on the Plant Sale website. On the day of the sale, after customers leave at noon, project chairs can get free plants for their projects if they have not already picked them out at the greenhouse beforehand. MGs are asked to stay after the sale to help with cleanup, and then they will be able to buy plants at a discount. On Friday, May 4, MGs can bring perennials to donate between 6:00 a.m. to 6 p.m. At 6:00 p.m. the MG “Private Event” will begin.

Marcia Reed announced that on March 27 and 28 volunteers are needed at the greenhouse to make hanging baskets for the sale. Don announced that Plant Sale t-shirts as well as CMMG aprons are for sale.

In other business, Brenda Jones asked for some curly willow branches, which are needed for wedding decorations.

Respectfully submitted,
Bev Price, Secretary

Education: 1 hour. Administration: .75 hours