

Christian County Master Gardeners

The mission of the Missouri Master Gardener program is to train volunteers to educate others about safe, effective and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes, and communities. The Christian County Master Gardeners volunteer their time to help others in Christian County learn about gardening and environmental stewardship.

2022 was a great year for Christian County Master Gardeners! We added several new members and continued maintaining our projects throughout the county. Our various educational presentations were open to the public with good attendance. Those included "Creating Milk Jug Mini Greenhouses" by David McCurdy, Christian County Master Gardener; "Native Bee Communities" by Daphne Mayes, The Xerces Society; "Growing Lavender" by Kelly McGowan, University of Missouri Extension Service; "Climate Change" by Joe Pitts, James River Basin Partnership; "Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design" by Brent Forgey, Nixa Police Department; "Echinacea – The Wonderful Coneflower" by Kathryn Kufahl, Master Gardeners of the Ozarks; and "Growing Elderberries" by Patrick Byers, University of Missouri Extension Service.

Our Facebook page, maintained by Meg Daniel, Christian County Master Gardener, has been very active. Of particular interest was our gardening "Tip of the Day" contributed by our members. Our Facebook page is also linked to numerous local groups.

Kirsten Markley, Christian County Master Gardener set up and manages our website. Information is provided to the public on local educational presentations as well as our presentations and activities. There is a 'member only' portion of the website also where our by-laws, roster, etc. information is available.

Two of our members, Ed Kucab and Beth Platt, presented educational information to the public at the Christian County Library's "seed library" kick off in February.

Members who reported one hundred or more volunteer hours during 2021 were presented with recognition bars to be added to their name badge.

A \$100 core training scholarship was presented to Meg Daniel and Cheryl Lovato, who completed their Master Gardener training during 2021.

Our horticulture hotline reopened in March and ran through October. Several of our members participate in this task.

The Secret Plant Buddy activity was well received again this year. This is a fun and educational activity for our members.



A donation of hundreds of tulip bulbs from Baker's Creek Seed Company kept us busy in January getting all those bulbs in the ground at our project sites throughout Christian County.



A new addition to our project list this year is the Ozark Branch of the Christian County Library where we established, planted, and maintained various bulbs and perennials. There are some of those tulip bulbs in bloom in the Spring.

Public gardening projects are planned, planted, and maintained by volunteer members from Spring through Fall.

Gardening projects not pictured include Clever Butterfly Garden and City Park, Nixa X Center, and Gardens at Woodfield



Ed Kucab, 2023 President, presents Virginia Roberts, outgoing President with a congratulatory proclamation, a beautiful floral/plant arrangement and a memory book containing personal messages from members.



2023 Officers and Committee Chairs
Patricia Loe, Dennis & Patty Baker, Linda Smith, Ed Kucab, Kirsten Markley, Sue Heflin, Eric Binai, Beth Platt

