

**DeKalb County Master Gardener Meeting Agenda**  
**Tuesday, March 10, 2026 @ 10:00 AM**  
**DeKalb Farm Bureau and via Zoom (meeting will be recorded)**

Meeting started at 10:13 am (start was late due to technical difficulties)

**Welcome/Roll Call** – attending in person was Steve Worley, Richard Dreier, Jane school, Bonnie Konwinski, Connie Handel. Attending via Zoom was Marcia Dick, Lee Kouski, and Karen Larson.

Lee Kouski was introduced. She is a new generalist Extension program coordinator for Unit 2 (Boone, DeKalb and Ogle counties). She will be working with Peggy Anesi and other duties in the unit.

### **Extension Updates**

- GivePulse hours – Help with entering – We want to try and make it easier to enter your hours into the GivePulse system. We have come up with 2 different ways to do it that we hope will accomplish this.
  - 1) Each volunteer can enter 1 month (or more) at a time for each category as a single entry (instead of entering each day as a single entry).
  - 2) You can write down your hours on a form and Connie or Sandy will enter your hours in GivePulse quarterly on your behalf. We will lump all your hours for each category into one entry. We hope it will be easier for you if you make fewer entries in GivePulse, and easier for Connie to have less entries she has to verify. Connie will send an email explaining in detail how this will work. If you are happy with how you are already entering your hours you may continue to do it that way.
- Volunteer Gateway reminders – we are doing well, only a few volunteer who haven't completed the requirements. You will get an email when your background checks are up for renewal. Sandy will reach out to anyone who still needs to complete requirements.
- Our Sharing Pantry requests (Somonauk, IL) – 10 food parties in the Somonauk area. Jerry would like to know if Master Gardeners would help with handing out tomato plants in 5 gallon buckets to food pantry clients and educating them on how to take care of the plants at home. Possible the end of May.
- He is also putting in raised beds at the church in Somonauk and would like information on what to plant. Connie has contacted Bruce Black (Hort. Educator) to help with this.
- Appreciation/Awards Dinner – will be held in April again this year. Has usually been held on a Tues, Wed, or Thurs evening. Connie will send out a survey and we will go with the date that most can attend.
- MN Training on Mondays in Ogle County – Connie will be out of the office on Mondays from March 30 – June 1 running a Master Naturalist training in Oregon, IL.
- DeKalb Planters Project – will be Saturday, May 16. They will need help with sorting plants on the afternoon of May 15. Connie is going to check with DeKalb County 4-H to see if some of the 4-Hers would like to join in planting as a community service project.

### **Continuing Education**

- Four Seasons Gardening Webinars – Spring – 1:30 pm on select Tuesdays. Spring videos coming out soon. Connie will send an email with the link when it is available.
  - <https://extension.illinois.edu/plants/four-seasons-gardening>
  - Recording of past Four Seasons webinars are posted here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEYBGqFXZS6Sn37n1mVcY1g/videos>

### **Committee Updates**

- Garden Walk Committee
  - Saturday, July 11, 2026

- Host Gardener Brunch is Thursday, July 9, 2026 @ Blumen Gardens
- Next Committee Meeting – March meeting cancelled, April 21 at 9:00 a.m.
- Gardener's Pathway Committee
  - Next Committee Meeting – Wednesday, March 18 at 10:00 a.m. – We will go over evaluations from the February event. All are welcome to attend. Contact Connie or another committee member if you have suggestions on how to make the day better.

### **Project Sharing and Updates**

- Jr. Master Gardener Program – This is being offered to a home school group called Connect. Classes are once a month on Monday morning (9:30 – 11 am) at the garden at Salem Lutheran church (weather permitting) or inside a building next door if weather is poor. 24 kiddos attended the first session on March 2, thank you to Lori Brown, Cheryl Larson, Cathy Anderson and Lee Kouski for running the program and/or helping with the program! We could use more help from Master Gardeners if you are interested. Contact Connie or Lori Brown for more information.
- DeKalb County Earth Fest 2026 (info table) - April 11, 11 am – 3 pm. We have a few Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists who have volunteered to staff a table at this year's Earth Fest at NIU Founders Memorial Library in DeKalb. If you are interested in helping please contact Connie.
- Hort Help Desk open – April 13 The Horticulture Help Desk will open for the season with in-person coverage on Monday, April 13. Hours of operation will be M-W-F 10:00 am – noon. All DeKalb Master Gardeners are strongly encouraged to volunteer at least 9 hours or 5 shifts throughout the summer, if available (those working full time are exempt). Donna Zang is the volunteer help desk coordinator and will send out a detailed email before opening day.
- Rooted for Good – Kirkland - Open House – May 2, 11 am – 1 pm. Thank you Kay Robinson and Jane School for volunteering to present at this event! They are so excited to have you! If any other Master Gardeners would like to attend to help with answering gardening questions please contact Connie.

**Newsletter** – Please send submissions to Janice Weber at [jmweber@email.com](mailto:jmweber@email.com) – The March/April newsletter is coming out soon!

**Comments, Questions, Concerns** - None submitted

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 6:00 pm – DeKalb Farm Bureau and over Zoom