

Master Gardener Project Annual Report
11/27/2023

2023 Johnson County Master Gardener Plant Sale & Flea Market
Emil Rinderspacher, Project Chair

Number of MG Involved: The number of Master Gardeners involved in the presale activities and the sale will be available early in 2024. Last year 73 Master Gardeners worked 1666 hours in sale activities. I don't know if this includes those who spent time growing plants or digging plants from their gardens.

Number impacted: Because funds raised support all MG activities and programs, all MG are impacted.

Summary

The 14th annual Master Gardener Plant Sale & Flea Market was held on Saturday, May 20, 2023, in Buildings B and C of the Fairgrounds. Gross sale income was \$17,530 which was about \$1,500 less than in 2022. Sale income included \$12,752 from plants; \$2,548 from flea market; \$563 from gift items; \$108 from donations. Silent Auction income was \$1,559. Sale expenses totaled \$1,873 and were covered by our sponsor Hills Bank (\$1000) and the MG general fund (\$1000).

Approximately 3200 plants were donated by Master Gardeners and approximately 2200 sold. We used inventory numbers from 2022 to inform the number and type of plants we accepted for the sale. Plant photos were universally praised as a fantastic addition to the sale. We will expand those efforts in 2024. Two weather events really did a number on our potted plants at the Heritage Barn. But the plants looked terrific on sale day thanks to our great volunteers who spend almost two days grooming, pruning and staking. We thank the estate of longtime Master Gardener Sheralyn Flesher for the donation of an extensive amount of garden items for the flea market.

15th annual Plant Sale & Flea Market is scheduled for Saturday, May 11, 2024. Because of a scheduling conflict last year, we held the Sale a week later than we wanted to. In 2024 we are back to the Saturday before Mother's Day which we hope will become our annual sale date.

Greatest Success of Project: I consider the amount of money raised to be a success. Equally important was the chance for Master Gardeners to work together and get to know each other. I was especially pleased with the number of new interns who got involved.

Needs: Cooperation from the Fair Board in use of facilities and equipment. Adequate budget to continue buying pots and supplies.

Planned Changes: Coordinators will evaluate their areas and make improvements. Planned changes for 2024 are listed in the 2023 Plant Sale & Flea Market Final Report.