



Green St. Louis Machine GAZETTE

Sustainability
theme of the month:
Importance of Place

February 2025
Edition

The Importance of Place!

Honoring Place and Legacy in Black Agriculture

This Black History Month, we celebrate the themes of “Place” and “Legacy” by honoring Black Americans’ contributions to agriculture—past, present, and future. After the Civil War, Black farmers built self-sufficient communities, establishing prosperous towns and shaping the agricultural landscape. Thinkers like Booker T. Washington encouraged them to carve out indispensable roles in society, while innovators like George Washington Carver taught farmers how to enrich their land and reduce waste.

Today in St. Louis, and many other places, food apartheid disproportionately affects Black communities, but St. Louis agricultural leaders like Tyrean "Heru" Lewis of Heru Urban Farming and Nick Speed of Ujima STL, are answering the call, transforming urban spaces into hubs for fresh, sustainable food. Across the country, Black farmers, scientists, and activists continue this legacy, creating solutions for a more just and equitable food system.

At Green St. Louis Machine, we are committed to supporting urban agriculture and empowering local growers. This month, we celebrate the resilience, ingenuity, and dedication of Black Urban agricultural leaders—past and present—who shape a more sustainable future for all.

Learn more about the legacies of Black farmers here: [Legacy of black farmers](#)

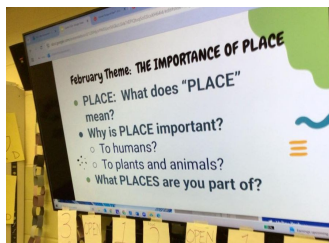
SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT

Importance of Place

Gene Slay's Girls & Boys Club



Sustainability in action! Waste



Start of the spring semester. Planting seeds in rock wool. Students planted dill, lettuce

Reduction Workshops led Missouri Botanical Garden's Earthways Center, Kassie Knight.



and sweet William that will be transferred to their tower gardens!

Doing a session on the Sustainability Theme of the Month



VISIT TO BUSCH STADIUM
Jim Hudson, age 15, representing the Boys' Club of St. Louis in a visit to Busch Stadium for a United Way celebration.
8/13/83

Gene Slay's through the years.....

The Importance of Place is certainly illustrated at Gene Slay's Girls & Boys Club in south St. Louis! Since 1929, the club has been serving as a recreation center and safe haven, providing high quality and holistic programs that respect and meet the needs of at-risk youth through academics, leadership building, health, athletics, and the arts, while positioning them for post-secondary success..

The club is a loved and respected member of the community, and today, serves 200+ youth in after-school care and summer camp! Recently, Gene Slay's connected with Earthways Center of Missouri Botanical Garden and arranged for Garden professionals to deliver sustainability sessions in their LEAP program (Leadership and Environmental Action Projects) including building a worm bin for composting and doing a waste audit. Green St. Louis Machine Garden Clubs are reatured at *Soulard* and *Dutchtown*, and they have *become* one of the most popular programs.

Green Staff of the month are Mary Bueckendorf and Valencia "Ms. Vee" Pettigrew



Mary is academic Program Coordinator at Gene Slay's Club and Green St. Louis Machine advisory team member.

Mary has a background in architecture, non-profit leadership and teaching. She was instrumental in bringing Green St. Louis Machine to Gene Slay's three campuses and implementing aeroponic and outdoor gardening, along with entrepreneurial activities related to



Vee is Dutchtown Site Manager for Gene Slay's Girls & Boys Club.

She runs the site day day to day and creates a warm loving family environment for her members and their families. She loves including the entrepreneurial component in Green St. Louis Machine. Besides Gene Slay's, Vee runs a boutique featuring women's apparel. She

what the club members are growing! According to Mary, some of her career accomplishments include having three careers - Registered Architect, Mother and Educator. Her hobbies include bears - yes real Alaskan bears, raising puppies and a new grandchild! Beyond this, Mary *presented* at MOSAC (Missouri School Age Conference) creating statewide teaching opportunities about gardening and sustainability (See January issue of the Green STL Machine Gazette).

Congratulations Mary! Green St. Louis Machine is so glad you are on our team!

loves to read. She is mother to two young children at home, all the members, junior staff and staff at Dutchtown.

Congratulations Ms. Vee! Green St. Louis Machine is so glad you are on our team!



A Generous, Anonymous Donation!!

□ We are thrilled to announce that Green St Louis Machine (GSM) has received a generous \$10,000 donation from an anonymous donor! This incredible support will help us continue our mission to foster sustainability and innovation in our community. We are truly grateful for this kindness and commitment to our cause. Thank you so much! □□

#GreenStLouisMachine
#GreenSTL_Machine #Gratitude
#CommunitySupport #Sustainability
#Innovation



Stella Erundu and Sherry Amen pose in front of Swiss chard, with the check!

In case you still missed it, we were featured on Giving Tuesday on Channel 4!!

*See the video clip of Green St. Louis Machine's North Side
Community Elementary School Kids by clicking the link
below!*

Watch us on Channel 4!



We need to raise \$15,000 in 2025!!

**We still have a LOT of need!
We are so thankful for the \$10,000
we received from an anonymous
donor, which greatly propelled us
toward our 2025 goal! We are
hoping to raise an additional
\$15,000 to reach our goal of**



A growing need: St. Louis nonprofits ask for help ahead of Giving Tuesday amid declining donations

firstalert4.com

\$25,000 in 2025!

Thanks for giving to us!

You can donate to The Green St. Louis Machine here!

Or visit our website::

Green St Louis Machine Website

Why do we do The Green St. Louis Machine?



Food apartheid generates high rates of food insecurity, childhood obesity, diabetes, and heart disease in St. Louis.

Thousands of children in St. Louis live in areas where there are no grocery stores nearby, and so their parents often "grocery shop" at gas stations. Eating processed food has become their lifestyle.



Many of these children have never eaten (nor know the names) of fruits & vegetables. The lack of good nutrition impacts their school performance and mental attitude as well as leads to diabetes and heart disease later in life.



YOU can make a difference in their lives today which leads to healthy adult lives later in life. We show students how to grow, harvest, prepare and eat healthy foods, thereby empowering our communities to have power and ownership over their own food! Please join us in our mission by making a donation or volunteering!



Video Clip!

You can learn more about our mission by clicking here to watch our video:

[Green St. Louis Machine Promo Video](#)

and feel free to pass this video on to your friends and family. Thank you for your support!

Download our Mission Statement Flyer!

[Click here to download](#)





Save the Date for the 2025 **GREEN GALA!**

Date: April 3, 2025

Time: 4:30 - 6:30 PM

Location: Mathews-Dickey Club, part of Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis.

Join us . . . click to get tickets!

[Register for The Green Gala](#)



and /or

Make a donation toward covering costs of The Green Gala

[Donate to Green STL Machine!](#)

This year, our keynote speaker will be globally renowned science educator, Stephen Ritz, founder of The Green Bronx Machine and our inspirer! So come, attend, volunteer, get involved, donate, or support.....!

See one of our past [Green Gala Videos](#)

There has been a lot of Growing and Gardening going on!

Kairos Academies



Kairos students explore the impact of vegetation on soil erosion using Chia seeds. Then they used the Chia sprouts for a snack at the Green STL Machine after school club. Look at those collard green leaves just harvested and about to be weighed along with a bunch! Students are recording the amount of produce they grow for this year's Green St. Louis Machine's Green Schools Quest project! Yes, the students grew those in their Tower Garden!

Mathews-Dickey Farm-to-Table Garden Club has been busy growing and eating what they grow!





Ujima brought worms to demonstrate what decomposers do....also the kids ate salad grown in MD's tower garden!
[**EEK Worms! Composting Video**](#)



Farm-to-Table Club Harvested Swiss chard the kids grew in their Tower gardens and made lentil soup! They were assisted by Stella Erond, former principal of partner school, North Side Community School!



Students harvested cilantro they grew in their Tower Gardens and followed Chef Rona Leah's recipe to make Guacamole!
[**How to make Guacamole**](#)

[**How to make Lentil Soup!!!**](#)



Education Workshop about seeds - planting basil and beets and serving sunflower seeds and Caprese skewers made with basil kids planted and grew in their Tower Gardens!
 Thank you Ujima Farm's Yong Soo and Sophie!
[**Watch us Plant Seeds!!!**](#)



Ferguson STEAM Academy



Karen Doering's 2nd grade students on the Green St Louis Machine team showing off their sprouts!

Northside Community School



Farm to Table Club harvested Romaine lettuce they grew in their Tower Gardens and made spring rolls led by Chef and Farmer Joia Walker of Inheirited Wellness!

Watch us Make Spring Rolls!!!



Planting seeds in soil and in rockwool



Aeroponic plant science. Testing pH and adding proper nutrients is important!



Greenhouse Update -Volunteers helped us in January/February at the Tower Farm!



Christian White, a high school senior who needed volunteer service hours, helped in the greenhouse Tower Farm!



Refresh Community Church's women's group, God's Golden Girls, volunteered at the greenhouse and also planted seeds to take home.

Community Partner of the Month Saint Louis Science Center STEM Showcase January 18th



STEM Showcase Activity- Seed Germination "hands-on" activity! Planting seeds to take home along with a chart showing the germination and sprouting process!! #STEAM #STEM
[STEM Seed Planting Video](#)

Recipe of the Month : Pesto!



Pesto with Basil the kids grew in their Tower Gardens! Back by popular demand. This is the second time the kids made pesto this year!

Watch From Basil to Pesto!!



Pesto (Sauce or Dip)

Ingredients:

- 2 cups of fresh basil
- 1 cup of olive oil
- 2 tablespoons of lemon juice
- ½ cup of shredded parmesan cheese
- ½ fresh garlic clove 1 teaspoon of salt

Directions:

- 1 Wash & dry the basil! Rinse the fresh basil, shake off excess water and pat dry with a paper towel.
- 2 Add basil to a blender or food processor.
- 3 Add all remaining ingredients, beginning with the olive oil.
- 4 All ingredients should be blended together, and be a thick yet smooth consistency.
- 5 Add this pesto to toasted bread or fresh pasta and enjoy!

Ready in 10 minutes

Serves 8 people

260 calories

Tips

If the pesto is too thick, add more oil or stir the ingredients inside the blender and try blending again.



Recipe by Joia Walker, Farm-to-School Educator and Chef, of [Inheirited](#) Wellness. Follow her on Facebook and Instagram!

And here's the recipe. Try this and let us know what you think! **Thank you Joia Walker of Inheirited, our Chef, for this Recipe!** [Follow Joia on Social Media](#)



AMERICORPS VISTA! TWO POSITIONS ARE STILL OPEN!!

We want to let you know ASAP that Green St. Louis Machine has 2 AmeriCorps VISTA positions STILL OPEN! Could you suggest contacts/people we could forward this to such as colleagues in the organizations, schools and universities you work with?

M:STL- Green STL Machine Farmer in Chief
(<https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?fromSearch=true&id=125115>)

M:STL- Green STL Machine Outreach, Capacity & Market
(<https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?fromSearch=true&id=125116>)

These positions could be good for high school graduates or college students taking a gap year to explore career path opportunities or to gain resume-building experiences and knowledge to prepare them for applying for good jobs.....or even early retirees or people in-between jobs or careers! Full health coverage and child care is certainly appealing, as is a monthly stipend of over \$1,800!

So please help us with these great opportunities and call/text with any questions

Sherry Amen 314-757-6607, Sherry@GreenSTLMachine.org

Stella Erundu 314-590-3247, Stella@GreenSTLMachine.org



Green St. Louis Machine is dedicated to fostering sustainable empowerment around healthy food in underserved communities in St. Louis. We achieve this through our youth-centered initiative, which focuses on food justice, STEAM education, and urban agriculture. Our primary approach involves providing and supporting year-round, cutting-edge aeroponic gardening programs, within schools and youth organizations, with the goal of promoting sustainable empowerment around healthy food.



During the 2023-24 school year, we were able to serve over 450 teachers, students, and young people across nine inner city schools, two *Boys and Girls Clubs* and *R.I.S.E. Youth Center* in Spanish Lake, St. Louis County. It is worth noting that all these locations are situated within food deserts - food apartheid areas lacking consistent access to fresh and nutritious food options. Thank you for joining us in our mission!



***Thank YOU for
partnering with us!***

Wish to donate? Click here:

[Donate to The Green St. Louis Machine!](#)

Here's what your donation can do if you click on DONATE ANY AMOUNT ABOVE:



Donate award certificates for all 500 students in the GSM \$100

\$200 or more: Attend the Green Gala to be part of it as a VIP and meet Stephen Ritz himself who will be our keynote speaker!!

\$1,500 will buy a Tower Garden for a school desperate for the opportunity to grow food in a classroom!

\$2,000 will cover the food and chefs to make the students' recipes at the Green Gala!



**Donate T-SHIRTS for all 500 GSM students
\$5,000 (Can have your company logo too!)**

**Donate 500 APRONS for all Green St Louis
Machine students – \$6,500 (Can have your
company logo too!)**

**Support the GSM portion of salary for a GSM
Americorps Vista (Like the Peace Corps only
working on American soil) for a year \$5,000**

Support a GSM summer camp including field
trips to GSM's Urban Agricultural Learning
Center Greenhouse for 8 summer weeks of
2025
\$7,000



Have questions?

Sherry Amen at 314-757-6607

Email: Sherry@GreenSTLMachine.org

Stella Erundu at 314-590-3247

Email: Stella@GreenSTLMachine.org

Visit our Facebook Page:

[**Green St. Louis Machine Facebook**](#)

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