



**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension  
**Master Gardener**

*What's Growing On...*

The latest news from the  
Marais des Cygnes Extension Master Gardeners

FEBRUARY 2017 | 104 S. Brayman St., Paola, KS 66071 | 913-294-4306 | [www.maraisdescyignes.ksu.edu](http://www.maraisdescyignes.ksu.edu)

**Calendar**

**FEBRUARY**

- 4 – 6:00 pm Annual Awards Dinner & General Meeting at Timbercreek BBQ, Louisburg
- 9 – 9:30 am Garden Symposium Committee Meeting, Paola Office
- 13 – 6:30 pm “What’s New in 2017?” with Rita Arnold
- 14 – 9:30 am Advisory Board Meeting, Paola Office
- 16 – 6:30 pm Garden Tour Committee Meeting, Paola Office
- 22 – 6:30 pm “Dealing with Nuisance Wildlife,” with Charlie Lee, Paola Office

**MARCH**

- 8 – 6:30 pm “An Introduction to Composting,” with Nancy Kalman, LaCygne Library
- 14 – 6:30 pm “Beginning Beekeeping,” with Sharon Dobesh, Paola Office
- 29 – 10:00 am “Invasives—Plants Gone Wild,” with Lynn Loughary, Paola Office

**On the Road Again...**

The 2017 Master Gardener Bus Tour will be **April 5-7**. The bus will be headed South to Missouri and Arkansas with stops at P. Allen Smith’s Moss Mountain Farm, Garvan Woodland Gardens, the Springfield Botanical Garden and much more! We have three fun-filled days of stops lined up and hope you will join us. For more information or to get a registration packet visit [www.maraisdescyignes.ksu.edu](http://www.maraisdescyignes.ksu.edu), stop by the Extension Office, or email Megan.



**What’s New in 2017?**

**February 13 | 6:30 pm | 2 hrs. AT Credit | Paola Community Center**

Rita Arnold, co-owner of Arnold’s Greenhouse in LeRoy, KS, will discuss the new plants that are coming out this year and what you should be on the lookout for this spring!

**Nuisance Wildlife Control**

**Charlie Lee | February 22 | 6:30 pm | 2 hrs. AT Credit | Paola Office**



Wildlife are inherently part of our environment, and many gardeners enjoy watching and interacting with various wildlife. However, few things are more frustrating for gardeners and homeowners than seeing their hard work and landscaping destroyed by wildlife. Charlie Lee, K-State Research and Extension Wildlife Specialist, will discuss effective control methods and answer commonly asked questions about nuisance wildlife.

**2017 Advisory Board**

- Chairman – Shirley New**
- Vice-Chairman – Debbie Kitchell**
- Secretary – Pat Trachsel**
- Treasurer – Laraine Crawford**
- Members at Large – Jan Putzier, Becky Thorp**

*The newsletter deadline is the 20th of the month preceding publication. Please send news and photos to [mwesterhold@ksu.edu](mailto:mwesterhold@ksu.edu).*

**Be sure to follow the Marais des Cygnes EMGs on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/mdcemg](http://www.facebook.com/mdcemg)**

## Get Ready for the Annual Spring Plant Sale

by *Mary Miller and Lenora Larson, Plant Sale Co-Chairs*

Mark your calendar for the 2017 Plant Sale **April 27, 28, 29**, located in the Rocker's Pharmacy Parking lot next to the Coop on Baptiste. While the Plant Sale is a fund-raiser, its true benefit is as an excellent opportunity to reach out and educate the public. Plus, EMGs can earn volunteer hours and socialize with each other.



Three vendors have signed contracts to supply consignment plants. Each month before the sale, we'll feature one of our vendors so you can get to know them better. Of special note: all the plants will be grown organically and are neonicotinoid-free.

Our ad and an article

will appear in the April issue of *Kansas City Gardener*.

**HELP!!! We will need helpers** for set-up Thursday morning, staffing for the three days, and clean-up Saturday at noon. Megan will post the online sign-up in March.

## Spring Garden Symposium

"Growing by Design" will be held on Saturday, **April 22** from 9:00 am – 3:30 pm. Ania Wiatr, Senior Gardener at Powell Gardens, will deliver the keynote address, "Gardens Go Native," and illustrate how native plants can be used in different garden styles to create year-round interest.

The symposium will also feature "Designing an English Garden on the Kansas Prairie" by Cynthia Gillis, "Hardscapes in the Landscape" by Jack Carson, and "The Edible Landscape" by Sherri Thomas.

Pre-registration is required by April 14th. The \$25 registration fee will include lunch and all printed reference materials. Registration forms will be available soon.

If you wish to help with the Garden Symposium, plan to attend the next committee meeting on Thursday, February 9th at 9:30 am at the Paola Extension Office.

## International Master Gardener Conference

The Oregon State University Extension Master Gardener Program and the Oregon Master Gardener Association will host the 2017 International Master Gardener Conference at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, Oregon, **July 10-14**, 2017, with support from many generous sponsors and friends.

The International Master Gardener Conference (IMGC) has been held every two years since 1987. The IMGC provides an opportunity for Master Gardeners, State and County coordinators to come together and learn through seminars and tours, celebrate successes through the International Search for Excellence Program, and meet and network with Master Gardener volunteers, faculty and staff from across the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and South Korea.

For more information visit: <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/2017imgc/>.

## Boston Berry Farms

Located in Louisburg, KS, Boston Berry Farms is focused on growing edible berries and fruit trees as well as native perennials.

Owner-operators John and Denise Johnson moved to Kansas from Michigan 18 years ago and initially were planting just for themselves. They experienced the same shock as most transplanted gardeners: Kansas plants have to be tough! They began experimenting with natives and heirloom plants to determine the best varieties for our Kansas climate and soil.

Over the years, their research and experience resulted in such outstanding plants that friends began begging for cuttings and seeds. Thus, a business was born!

By continually proving plant tolerances in their own test garden, Boston Berry Farms offers only Kansas-hardy plants and trees that customers can buy with confidence. They also specialize in "edible landscape" selections such as Hardy Figs, Currants, Blueberries and Goji Berries.

Denise does stem cutting, seed propagation and purchasing from wholesalers all over the US to create Boston Berry's unique collection of plants to sell at the Paola Farmer's Market and to customers during their plant sales. They will also be a destination on our 2017 September Garden Tour, so you will have the opportunity to see how they've integrated edibles and natives into their landscape.

The name? John and Denise have Boston Terriers as

well as Blackberry plants, so they connected the two passions. They also own a landscape service, Bushwackers, LLC. You can reach them at 913-406-8593 or [bushwackers@mokancomm.net](mailto:bushwackers@mokancomm.net).



## 2017 Garden Tour I Committee Meeting

Plans for “A September to Remember” are revving up. Save the date for September 8 and 9. Volunteers are needed to work at each of the unique, amazing gardens.

Please submit ideas for potential vendors and sponsors to Betsy at [bjbniangua@yahoo.com](mailto:bjbniangua@yahoo.com), 913-294-3399 or Jan at [jkg.thompson@gmail.com](mailto:jkg.thompson@gmail.com), 913-579-4150.

Anyone interested is invited to attend the next garden tour meeting on Thursday, Feb.16, 6:30 pm at the Paola extension office.



**A Preview Peak  
at Three of the  
Fall Garden Tour  
Gardens for 2017**



## Master Gardener in the Spotlight: Pat Trachsel

By Mike Brown

**P**at Trachsel is an Iowa farm girl who learned gardening working beside her mother. She says she would “always be gardening” if it weren’t for needing to sleep.

Pat enjoyed the MG education she received along with her classmates and the Advanced Training sessions since. She believes in planting plants/trees/flowers that are recommended and acclimated for this part of Kansas, her favorite being the Flowering Dogwood. Be sure to ask her about her missing ready-to-eat sweetcorn story.

Pat is a Professor of Nursing for Graceland and has taught for over 20 years. She became an EMG after downshifting from full-time to part-time work. She still teaches three courses a year.



In her non-gardening hours, Pat likes to travel with her husband, Ron. Their three children, 13 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild

live close by, so family celebrations are frequent and joyful. Pat also loves playing piano and organ for her church and related events.

## Meet Andre Dight, Class of 2017

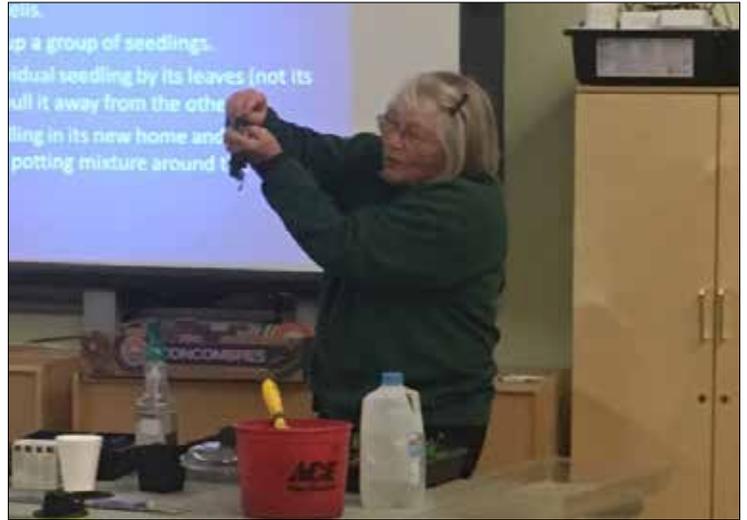
New EMG Andre Dight is the Ranch Manager for the Lakemary Therapeutic Ranch project in Paola.

It isn't too hard to notice Andre's roots in his slight accent or his use of British gardening terms, such as "allotments" (rentable community garden plots). He learned gardening from his father and continues to help him, whenever possible, on his acreage in the south of Spain, on land which has been under cultivation since Roman times. Andre also has a competitive but cooperative spirit, having grown up with four brothers, one a twin.

Andre has been in the US since 2003 and has been at Lakemary since 2014. He has a university degree in Agriculture. He lives in Olathe with his wife Gianna and their three sons.

His favorite gardening story involves his father and his twin: "I was around 16 years old and visiting my father for a week with my twin brother. He showed us how to mix concrete by hand and lay a patio and path with Spanish tiles. It took an entire week of back-breaking work, but the result was very satisfying. On the last day, his neighbor came around to see the work and said, 'Richard, I told you, you could borrow my cement mixer any time.'"

Andre recognizes the gardening challenges Kansas offers in its extreme seasonal differences and wide temperature swings. Other than his new focus on raising vegetables in Kansas, Andre also raises epiphytic cacti and American Singer canaries, entering them in song competitions.



Nancy Kalman in action!

## Spring Cleaning— Mission Accomplished!

A HUGE thank you to Laraine Crawford, Debbie Kitchell, and Jan Putzier for helping clean out the upstairs store room! It looks like a completely different room now. Stop by and take a look next time you are in the office!



## Seed Starting Class Well Received

Nancy Kalman taught the first Advanced Training class of the year. Forty-two people attended her Seed Starting class at the La Cygne Library on January 25th.