2020 CALENDAR

JANUARY 28, 2020
Annual Awards Banquet, Town Square, 6 pm. Tickets are $10 for members and $25 for guests. **Sign up at the Paola Extension Office by JANUARY 14.**

FEBRUARY 29
Symposium, Light House Presbyterian Church, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. **Registrations must be in the Paola office by FEBRUARY 15.**

MdC EMGs, don’t delay! Space is limited, and registrations from others are already coming in! Details on page 7.

Christmas Cookie Exchange

Don’t forget to turn in your 2019 hours before the end of the year! See page 5.

Order t-shirts and sweatshirts and other apparel items now. The order form is on page 6.

Board meetings are the second Tuesday of each month, 9:30 am, Extension Office, Paola.

Newsletter deadline is noon on Thursday following the Tuesday board meeting.

NEWS & NOTES

• Please let Betsy, Jan or Lenora know if you know of an outstanding Miami County garden we might feature on a **2021 Garden Tour.** We are especially interested in the gardens of Miami County Master Gardeners. Come on, people! Step up to the plate! Your garden is as beautiful as anyone else’s! (Editor’s note: except Ms. Larson’s, of course.)

• The Board has approved the **2020 budget** presented by Laraine Crawford.

• **A brainstorming meeting** at the Jackson Hotel is being planned for February 13 at 9:30. Let Betsy or Jan know if you have ideas for recruiting new members and promoting the involvement of current EMGs.

• Also being tentatively planned is a tea in March for EMGs and anyone interested in learning about our program. We need to be more aggressively recruiting new members who will become active in the organization!

• Something a little different is being planned for the **2nd Quarterly meeting next April 14—a noon meeting with pizza provided!**

• **HELP WANTED:** A volunteer to head up the 2020 Touch-A-Truck event!

• Mark your 2020 calendar now for our **Awards Banquet** on January 28 at Town Square.

• Save the date and register by February 15 for the **2020 Symposium.** Details on page 6.
The Jackson Hotel was the cozy site of the 2019 Christmas Cookie Exchange, organized by Jan Thompson and Betsy Hasselquist and attended by Becky Thorpe, Sue Burns, Kathleen Brady-Francis, Phyllis Benedict, Anita Boyett-Voke, Rena Tedrow, Lenora Larson, Susan Thompson, Tom and Sondra Dela Cruz, Michael Poss, d Brown, Judy Moser, and our two new EMG candidates, Cindy Katzer and Janette Everhart. Everyone went home with an assortment of wonderful cookies!
**Advisory Board**

Chairman — Betsy Hasselquist  
Vice Chairman — Phyllis Benedict  
Secretary — Sondra Dela Cruz  
Treasurer — Sue Burns  

Members at Large  
Cathy Stainbrook  
Judy Moser  
Jan Thompson  

**Committees**

Courthouse Garden  
Phyllis Benedict & Kathy Doherty  

Trial Garden  
Shirley New  

KSU Extension Office Garden  
Sue Burns & Debbie Kitchell  

Lakemary Liaison  
Becky Thorpe  

Advanced Training  
Laraine Crawford  

Awards Banquet  
Donna Cook & Susan Thompson  

Symposium  
Susan Thompson & Jeannie Trail  

Plant Sale  
Sondra Dela Cruz & Lenora Larson  

Publicity  
Judy Moser & Lenora Larson  

Seeds for Kids  
Jane McLaughlin  

Social Media  
Anita Boyett-Voke  

MiCo Fair Superintendents  
Chet McLaughlin & Michael Poss  
Pat Trachsel & Sue Burns  

New Recruits/Mentors  
Jan Thompson & Betsy Hasselquist  

Newspaper Articles  
Katelyn Barthol, Extension Agent  

Send news and photos to:  
Judy Moser, Newsletter Editor  
judy@springvalley-nursery.com  

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**Tucking the Trial Garden into Bed for Winter**

It was a beautiful day in the MdC EMG neighborhood when these hardy and hearty souls cleaned up the Trial Garden and got it ready for winter. Below, pictured left to right, Barbara Shropshire, Carol Williams, Chet McLaughlin, Dennise Fink-Morse, Mike Brown, and Shirley New.

Photos by Betsy Hasselquist

Be sure to follow the Marais des Cygnes EMGs on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mdcemg
Walkingsticks, Apparitions of the Forest

By Lenora Larson

Living for about a year in captivity.

Sexual World Champions

Like most insects, the brownish males are considerably smaller than the greenish females; however, they don’t need to be fearful of being eaten by their gentle mates. Perhaps this is why Walkingsticks hold the Insect World Record for sexual endurance. Our Walkingstick remains in the coital embrace for up to 36 hours. Some of the tropical species’ males remain inserted for three weeks, functioning as a living chastity belt to prevent other males from mating with their chosen lady love. After the September mating, the female drops her 150 eggs one by one from the forest canopy. They fall onto the forest floor and overwinter in the leaf litter for two years before hatching in May. Obviously if you rake and bag or burn fallen leaves, you risk murdering the next generation of Walkingsticks.

With a Little Help from Its Friends

Again employing mimicry, Walkingstick eggs look like legume seeds to entice songbirds and ants into eating them. What!? Why would Walkingsticks want their eggs to be eaten? Walkingsticks can’t travel very far on those delicate legs, so birds are their dispersal agents. A layer of calcium oxalate on the egg’s surface allows it to pass through the birds’ digestive tracts intact. When the bird flies and poops, Walkingsticks expand their territory. Ants are also their friends, gathering and storing the eggs in their burrows because they eat a special external portion of the egg that resembles the edible elaiosome of some plant seeds. The eggs are safe from predators and parasitoids inside the ant nest and when the Walkingstick hatches, the nymph is allowed to stroll out unharmed!

Threats to Survival

Walkingsticks are a favorite snack for Praying Mantids, songbirds and beetles. Bats are its most successful predator because they hunt by echolocation and aren’t fooled by the Walkingstick’s many disguises. Just as butterfly and moth caterpillars are parasitized by egg-laying wasps and flies, the Walkingstick becomes a host to specialized parasitoid wasp and fly larvae. Other threats include deforestation, climate change and massive insecticide use. Our native Walkingstick is secure, but many of the tropical Walkingsticks are at special risk because of unregulated collection for the pet trade. Yes, I have kept both for pets but I always release them when they grow to sexual maturity so that they are free to find love and fulfill their destiny.
As we move toward the end of the reporting year I want to pass along a few helpful reminders about reporting your hours and to help everyone remember how to do it.

1) We offer several Advanced Training opportunities each year. However, there are many other opportunities available in surrounding counties. Nearly any program provided by K-State Research and Extension, regardless of location, will count for Advanced Training hours. If you have questions about whether workshops or programs offered by other organizations will count, just email me and check.

2) Volunteer hours should only be reported for time spent working on approved Master Gardener projects and events (Garden Tour, Courthouse Gardens, Extension Office Gardens, Trial Gardens, etc.).

3) Make sure to report all your hours, even if you have put in more than 40 hours of volunteer time or 10 hours of Advanced Training. I know you all put in a lot of hard work throughout the year. It’s ok to brag on yourself and it makes our organization look better in the statewide reports!

—Katelyn Barthol

Online Hour Reporting Refresher Guide
Reporting Site: ksuemg.org

Entering Volunteer Hours
• Log on to the system using your own username and password
  • If you have forgotten your password, click on the “Forgot Username or Password” link and it will email the information to you.
• Click on “Access the Reporting System”
• Click on “Report New Hours”
• Select a project category and subcategory
  • All EMG projects are sorted under different categories. You pick the category, then choose the subcategory where our EMG projects are listed.
  • Administration – Please list anything you do to support the EMG program’s business, like board meetings, general meetings, committee meetings, prep time, etc. under this category
  • Outreach – Anything that you do to educate the community including the Courthouse Gardens, Trial Gardens, Extension Office Gardens, Seeds for Kids, Hotline, Garden Symposium, Garden Tour, etc.
  • Fundraising - Plant Sale
  • Advanced Training – All trainings, field trips, etc. go here.
    • Subcategories
      • Marais des Cygnes – Any trainings offered by the MdC District
      • K-State – Any trainings offered by other EMG groups or K-State
      • Other – Any APPROVED trainings that are provided by non-EMG groups or non K-State EMG groups.
• Click on the calendar box and select a date.
  • We like for them to be as accurate as possible, but these dates do not have to be exact.
• Enter the number of hours you wish to report.
• Please enter something descriptive in the Location and Description boxes so it is clear what you did.
• Please enter the estimated number of people you came in contact with as an EMG at that event.
• Click on “Save.” To enter more hours, you will need to click on “Add New.”
• Repeat these steps as needed until you have entered all your volunteer projects and advanced training hours.

If possible, please begin entering an estimated number of people that you had contact with as an EMG. This is very helpful when we are doing reports.
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All orders WITH payment are due to the Extension Office by January 31, 2019

Make Checks Payable to: Marais des Cygnes Extension Master Gardeners

Tax is included in the price
Gardening by Design
5th Annual Spring Gardening Symposium in Paola
‘The Color-filled Garden’

February 29, 2020
9:00 am – 3:30 pm
Check-in: 8:30 am

The Lighthouse Church
1402 E. 303rd St., Paola, KS 66071
(Park and enter on west side)
Paola map at www.maraisdescygnes.ksu.edu

This event is open to all, but pre-registration is required and must be in the Paola office by February 15—space is limited! The $40 registration fee includes a boxed lunch, snacks, and all printed reference materials.

Name: __________________________________
Email: __________________________________
City/State: ______________________________
Telephone: ______________________________

Make your $40 check payable to the MdC Extension Master Gardeners and mail with this form (or you may access a printable form at www.maraisdescygnes.ksu.edu) to:
K-State Research and Extension
Marais des Cygnes District–Paola Office
104 S. Brayman, Paola, KS 66071

MdC EMGs receive 5 hours advanced training credit. Other EMGs: ask your County Agent if AT credit is approved. For more information call 913-294-4306.

Timothy Moloney
Professor of Landscape Design, UM–Columbia
365 Days of Amazing Color

Susan Mertz
Powell Gardens Director of Horticulture
Colorful Low-Maintenance Gardens

Ania Wiatr
Bluestem Garden Consulting owner. Formerly Senior Gardener at Powell Gardens
Designing with Colorful Native Plants

Lenora Larson
MdC EMG, butterfly expert and gardener extraordinaire
Eye Candy: Color Theory for the Gardener and Beyond Impatiens: The Colorful Shade Garden

K-STATE
Research and Extension
Master Gardeners
Marais des Cygnes District

Kansas State University is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision, or hearing disability, contact the Marais des Cygnes Extension District at 913-294-4306.