News & Notes

- Katelyn has information about the new owners of the Ursuline campus and their plans, now taking shape. Details will be coming soon.
- A beautiful day brought a great turnout to Touch-A-Truck. More than 100 kids and families picked up seeds and information about entering the Miami County Fair.
- Our Third Quarterly Meeting will be held at Lakemary in July.
- The weather cooperated this year and the Plant Sale was an enormous success. Thanks to the volunteers who helped, and special thanks to Sondra Dela Cruz for a great job as Chair of the event!

Open House At Wendwood Gardens

Date: June 1
Time: 1 to 4 pm
For: MdC Master Gardeners and their plus-one
Place: The home of Cheri and Jim Effertz, 209 W. 175th St., Belton, MO 64012
- Appetizers and drinks will be provided.
- You may BYOB.
- Bring your own lawn chairs.
- The event will inspire you in many ways and also qualify for 1 hour of Advanced Training.
- Play “Find Cousin It”—there’s a prize for the winner! It’s going to be fun!

More information on page 2

Gardening to New Heights: Vines

“Gardening to New Heights: Vines” is the topic of the Tuesday, May 21 presentation by Lenora Larson, 6:30 pm at the Paola Extension Office. Lenora is well-known for her expertise in both gardening and hosting butterflies, but in addition to butterflies and moths she is also passionate about all pollinators, including hummingbirds. She contributes monthly to the Kansas City Gardener magazine and is a frequent presenter to gardening groups.

Lenora comments on her class: “By understanding how vines grow and by choosing appropriate garden structures, you can tame these rampant beasts into beautiful vertical elements that will enhance your garden’s design.”

Please come to hear yet another inspiring presentation by Lenora Larson.
Open House At Wendwood Gardens

Don’t miss this opportunity to see Cheri and Jim Effertz’s spectacular gardens at a special EMG Open House on June 1 from 1 to 4 pm. More than 40 years in the making (with 20-plus years of professional input from our own Deb Kitchell), the extensive gardens encompass everything from azaleas to waterfalls. Cheri and Jim truly enjoy their gardens and are eager to share the joy with all of us on June 1. BE THERE!
Part 4: Spirituality and Gardening

Spirituality comprises feelings, thoughts, experiences and behavior that arise from a search for meaning. Gardening creates beauty, hopes and dreams.

By Betsy Hasselquist

Spirituality:

Spirituality is a journey, many things to many people and thus hard to define. It’s an individual’s sense of peace, purpose, connections to others and beliefs about the meaning of life. Love, compassion, gratitude, patience, tolerance, forgiveness, curiosity, contentment come to mind. A sense of responsibility and harmony brings happiness to one’s self and others. Many cultures around the world recognize that connectedness brings health, understanding of self, others, nature, the environment, and the Creator/God/Universal Spirit.

Nature:

Gardening blesses us with contact with the earth and mother nature. Interact with nature—its sights, smells, sounds, sensations. Take a deep breath. In spring, I love the first green sprouts, the first daffodil, butterfly, blue bird, the spring bird sounds, morels, buzzards’ return, wearing a tee shirt and flip flops. Being out-of-doors, in contact with the earth, is therapeutic, helps ground us, is calming and rejuvenating. It promotes health and well-being and a correspondence to all living things. Experience a oneness with the universe. As mother earth takes care of us, we need to take care of her, our environment. “I care for it, it cares for me,” a symbiotic relationship. Gardening benefits the environment and our health. It brings people together, a connectedness to nature, our community, the world, a sharing and caring for the earth.

The Spirit of Gardening:

“The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul.”—Alfred Austin

Celebrate by digging in the earth. Planting a garden nourishes hopes and dreams. It can be relaxing and fulfilling. Gardening, spending time in nature, can be meditative, offering clarity, peace of mind, even in tasks like pulling weeds. Meditation reduces inflammation, enhances the immune system, reduces pain, obsessiveness, and improves mood. Live in the moment. Have you ever participated in a rain dance?

“`I like gardening. It’s a place where I find myself when I need to lose myself.”—Alice Sebold

Surround yourself with the spirit of plants. Enjoy nature!

For the Love of Gardening…


KEEP IN TOUCH...

MdC EMG Dwight Miller passed away on April 15, 2019. The Board voted to place a brick at the Courthouse in his honor. Many felt that Dwight, a retired CPA with a great sense of humor, would have been quite tickled at the irony of his passing on tax day.

Keep in Touch is a feature in our monthly newsletter. If you have any information about a new baby, an illness, a death, or anything else you think other EMGs should know about, please email it to judy@spring valley nursery.com.
Introduction: Insects are a part of every gardener’s life. Each month you’ll meet a common insect with advice on whether you should eradicate, tolerate or embrace this six-legged visitor. Betsy Hasselquist asked for information about the despised Squash Bugs. Please send Lenora your insect requests!

Suddenly your beautiful squash or pumpkin vine leaves look patchy yellow. You lift a leaf and dozens of grayish bugs scuttle away. YIKES! You have the highly destructive Squash Bugs, which feed by stabbing leaves and fruits with their saber-like mouthpart. They then inject a toxic brew of digestive enzymes and slurp the plant’s juices. The leaves develop yellow spots at the feeding sites, which then turn brown and the entire leaf wilts. Without effective intervention, the plant will die. Members of the Cucurbitaceae family are the specific, non-negotiable host plants for Squash Bugs, including yellow squash, zucchini, winter squash, pumpkins and occasionally melons. Squash Bugs feed on both the leaves and the young fruit.

The grayish brown adults resemble their relatives, Stink Bugs, but are skinnier and flatter with orange stripes around the edge of their abdomens. Immature Squash Bugs are called “nymphs” and look like giant, gray aphids with black legs. They gradually look more and more like their parents as they mature. The winged adults over-winter in the soil, emerge in spring to mate, and then lay clusters of orange eggs on the underside of the squash leaves.

The $64 Million Dollar Question: How to Control

Both the eggs and nymphs are vulnerable to insecticides, but you risk killing pollinators and the beneficial parasitoid flies and wasps if you spray. The adults have a waxy cuticle (skin) that makes them impervious to insecticides. A multitude of controls have been devised by desperate gardeners and some (like me) have even given up growing cucurbits. My usual insect controllers, my chickens and guineas, won’t eat those nasty Squash Bugs! If any of the following methods are working for you, congratulations!

1. The most frequently successful method of control is to consistently search out the eggs under the leaves in the early morning and hand-crush them as well as any nymphs and adults that you can catch. Control is possible but you’ll need to lift and examine the underside of every leaf, preferably daily!

2. Row covers are often recommended, BUT, the adults may already be in the soil. And you must eventually open the row covers to allow pollinators to access the flowers.

3. Plant one early sacrificial squash at a distance from the intended crop to act as a decoy.

4. Encourage parasitoids by planting members of the carrot family which are their preferred nectar source. These beneficial insects, Tachinid flies and Braconid wasps, will lay their eggs in Squash Bugs, which then die as the fly or wasp larvae dine on their living bodies. Since Universities studies verify only about 20% control with parasitoids, you’ll need to use additional tactics to achieve sufficient control.

5. Grannie swears that Nasturtiums and white icicle radishes repel squash bugs, but University studies do not agree.

6. Grannie also paints the eggs with fingernail polish or lifts them with duct tape. She may try spraying diluted Dawn Dish Soap on the nymphs and adults (1 Tb. in 8 oz. of water).

7. Place wooden boards near the vines and roll them over each morning to expose the many nymphs and adults that have hidden under them. Now what? Are you fast enough to catch and squash the scattering herd? Or you can use your shop vac to quickly suck them up, then drown in soapy water. Others report pouring hot water on the soil near the vines, then sucking up the emerging bugs with their shop vac.

Prevention

As usual, prevention is easier than control once an infestation occurs. A thorough fall clean-up of your vegetable garden will remove the over-wintering shelters used by many pesky insects. Practice crop rotation and use plastic mulch rather than straw or hay. Since there is only one generation of Squash Bugs each year, planting all the squash really late in the season may also prevent infestation. Some varieties of squash are more resistant, for instance ‘Butternut,’ ‘Royal Acorn,’ and ‘Sweet Cheese’ are reported to resist these vile pests. Good luck!
Do Not Miss the Exceptional Peonies and Clematis on Display Now at the Courthouse!

The Forecast: Colorful Flowers and Bountiful Harvests at the Extension Office (above).
## 2019 Marais des Cygnes EMG Advanced Training Calendar

Please note: More trainings will be added throughout the year as they are scheduled.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th># Hrs</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Gardening to New Heights: Vines</td>
<td>Lenora Larson, MdC EMG</td>
<td>Extension Office, Paola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1-4pm</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Wendwood Gardens Tour</td>
<td></td>
<td>209 W. 175th St., Belton, MO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Gardening with Cacti and Succulents in the Midwest</td>
<td>Judy Pigue, KC Cactus and Succulent Society</td>
<td>Extension Office, Paola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Horticulture at the Zoo</td>
<td></td>
<td>KC Zoo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Insect Friends and Foes</td>
<td>Dr. Ray Cloyd, KSU</td>
<td>Extension Office, Paola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Native Host Plants for Butterflies</td>
<td>Lenora Larson, MdC EMG</td>
<td>Extension Office, Paola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>The Healing Garden</td>
<td>Katie Kingery-Page</td>
<td>Kauffman Conference Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept.</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>Linn County Garden Tour</td>
<td>Anne Wildeboor, OP Arboretum</td>
<td>Linn County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Colorful Foliage for All Seasons</td>
<td>Anne Wildeboor, OP Arboretum</td>
<td>Extension Office, Paola</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct.</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Gardening for the Birds and Bats</td>
<td>Theresa and Nik Hiremath</td>
<td>Kauffman Conference Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Soil and Water Quality</td>
<td>Jessica Barnett, JOCO Ext. Ag. Agent</td>
<td>Extension Office, Paola</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov.</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Compost Is the Answer: What Was the Question?</td>
<td>Stan Slaughter</td>
<td>Extension Office, Paola</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Nancy Kalman’s Advanced Training class on every important aspect of garden photography was well-attended, and all our photos will be the better for our having been there. Thanks, Nancy!

Debbie Kitchell identifies plants and gives gardening tips to Patricia Wolfe and Steve Kemplay, Lakemary Ranch employees and fellow MdC EMGs. **PHOTO BY BETSY HASSELQUIST**