Christmas Cookie Exchange

Come and share your favorite Christmas cookies with your EMG friends! We will meet at Cafe Latte at the Jackson Hotel in Paola on Thursday, December 12, 9:30 to 11:00. Please RSVP to Jan Thompson at jkg.thompson@gmail.com or text 913.579.4150 by Monday, December 9. Also indicate type of cookie(s) you are bringing so we can label with your name and type of cookie(s).

Plan to bring at least two dozen cookies and a container to take your samples home. We encourage you to help support local business and purchase a coffee, etc. from Cafe Latte, which will help defray any cost of the room. Looking forward to seeing you and sharing Christmas cheer!

< Some of the cookies from last year’s Cookie Exchange>
**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

**HOTLINE CONSULTANTS WANTED:**

The EMG hotline is a valuable (and underutilized) resource to further our mission, providing research based gardening information/education to our community. Promote and support the hotline! Help get the word out!!!

Sign up to be a consultant who can be available to respond to hotline inquiries as an enhancement/support to the hotline hours provided. Share your knowledge, experiences and expertise.

The Extension office staff as well as EMGs working the hotline can call on these consultants to help when needed.

If you haven’t already added your name, send your name and contact information to Betsy at bjbniangu@ yahoo.com., including any specialty areas as a hotline consultant.

Please join.

In 2020, the “manned” hotline hours at the Paola Extension Office will be Thursdays, April 1 to October 1, 8 a.m. - 12 noon, in 2 hour shifts. **Please plan to sign up for at least 4 hours next year.**

*Photos by Janette Everhart taken during the New EMG Day at Lenora Larson’s Garden*
A 5th grade class from Sunflower Elementary School helped out recently at the Miami County Courthouse Gardens. The kids learned some tips and tricks from the Master Gardeners on hand that day, and it was a beautiful day to “play in the dirt!”

The students are proud of their efforts and are taking pride in their community. According to the school Facebook page, they would like to thank the Master Gardeners!
Most insects are despised or feared; however, Woollybear caterpillars enjoy universal popularity for their reputed ability to forecast winter weather. Also known as the Woollyworm, this 2" stout caterpillar is easily identified by its fur-like coat of short stiff bristles arranged as an orange middle band and a black band at the head and tail. The bristles, called setae, are not toxic, so a Woollybear is quite harmless. You’ll frequently see them in fall boogieing along the ground at speeds up to 4 feet/minute! Or they may be crawling under leaves and other garden debris as they search for a winter home. If disturbed, they curl up and “play possum.” An early freeze does not deter them since their body makes glycerol antifreeze (same stuff we use in our vehicles!). They can be frozen solid and survive to minus 90 degrees Fahrenheit. In cold climates like Alaska, they may live several years as a caterpillar before pupating in spring.

Woollybears spend winter as full-grown caterpillars and then make fuzzy cocoons when they awaken in spring. The parent, the Isabella Tiger Moth, emerges in late April as a peach colored moth with a wingspread of up to 2 inches. Since the adults’ only responsibility is mating, both sexes die after a few days of mating and egg-laying. The caterpillars hatch in May and get to work eating. Unlike the persnickety butterfly caterpillars, Woollybears dine on many different plants with over 630 species of host plants reported so far.

Whom Do You Trust, the Weatherman or the Worm?

Folklore declares that the wider the orange band, the milder the coming winter. Is this true? Actually, the orange band’s size is determined by the age of the caterpillar and it increases in width with each molt. A wide orange band verifies that the past spring and summer have been good for the caterpillar since it has grown faster and gone through its 5 molts to become more orange. If the black bands predominate, the caterpillar likely got a late start on spring eating, so the previous winter was more severe. Unfortunately, there is no information on the coming winter to be gleaned from the pattern of orange and black bands.

How disappointing! We want to believe in the Woollyworm myth, so starting in 1948, Dr. C. H. Curran, an entomologist at the American Museum of Natural History collected Woollybears each fall for eight years in hopes of validating the claim. He counted each caterpillar’s orange versus black band segments. He then compared that data to the actual winter weather. Dr. Curran reported that the Woollybear’s orange band correlated with the winter weather 40% of the time—the same accuracy as modern weathermen! Dr. Curran, his wife and friends then formed “The Original Society of the Friends of the Woollybear,” which continued annual counts as fun fall excursions rather than serious scientific research. Many cities in the northeast have Woollyworm festivals with caterpillar races and declarations of winter forecasts so the harmless superstition continues.

The Woollybear’s Family

There are 260 species of Tiger Moths in North America. The adults flaunt colorful wings and are frequently seen at porch lights. Most of the caterpillars are hairy, although only our Woollybear carries the legend of being a weather forecaster. For instance, an all-black woolly caterpillar is not predicting a harsh winter because it’s a Giant Leopard Tiger Moth, not an Isabella Tiger Moth. 🌟
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.
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. Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.