What’s Growing On...

The latest news from the
Marais des Cygnes Extension Master Gardeners

SEPTEMBER 2019 | 104 S. Brayman St., Paola, KS 66071 | 913-294-4306 | www.maraisdescygnes.ksu.edu

CALANDER

SEPTEMBER 24
Colorful Foliage for All Seasons,
Paola Extension Office, 6:30 pm,
1 hour AT credit

OCTOBER 8
Fourth Quarter General Meeting,
6:30 pm, potluck, Paola office

OCTOBER 17
Gardening for the Birds and Bats,
Theresa and Nik Hiremath, Wild Bird Center, at the Kauffman Conference Center, 6:30 pm, 1.5 hours AT credit

OCTOBER 22
Soil and Water Quality, Jessica Barnett,
JoCo Ext. Ag Agent, Paola Extension Office, 6:30 pm, 1 hour AT credit

NOVEMBER 19
Compost Is the Answer: What Was the Question? Stan Slaughter, Paola Extension Office, 6:30 pm, 1 hour AT credit

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

Foliage Adds Stunning Color in the Garden

As flower gardeners we are always in search of ways to add more color to our gardens. Anne Wildeboor will add to our list of ways with her presentation “Colorful Foliage for All Seasons” on Tuesday, September 24, 2019, at 6:30 pm at the Extension Office.

Graduating with a bachelor of science degree in agriculture/horticulture from Kansas State University, Anne has been a horticulturist at the Overland Park Arboretum and Botanical Gardens since January 2014. She manages the greenhouse, designs the containers and gardens, and oversees anything related to horticulture at the gardens.

Join us for what is sure to be a “colorful” Advanced Training!

NEWS & NOTES

• The gardening staff at Lakemary needs more volunteer EMGs.
Contact Patricia Wolfe at wolfep70@yahoo.com if you are ready, willing and able to help. Photos of last month’s workday are on page 6.

• Wednesday workdays at the Courthouse Gardens start at 9 am, but contact Phyllis Benedict if it’s hot—sometimes they start earlier.

• Sue Burns reports that they are starting to see Monarchs at the Extension Office garden, and that they have plenty of Purple Cone-flowers, if anyone wants some for their garden—come and dig on a Tuesday workday, starting at 9 am.

• Three new recruits start the Master Gardener training program in Johnson County on September 17.

• Betsy Hasselquist and Jan Thompson are carefully considering co-chairing another super-successful fall fundraising garden tour in 2021. Lenora Larson is scouting for potential gardens.

Follow the Marais des Cygnes EMGs on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mdcemg
Four Candidates for the 2020 EMG Board

**Betsy Hasselquist:** I am running for my second term on the EMG board. I have served as chair since October, 2018. I ventured into the program in 2015 (class of 2016) after retiring as a mental health nurse of 40 years.

I love gardening. It is therapeutic, a major part of my lifestyle and values. I’ve been primarily an organic vegetable gardener for many years, but my interests continue to expand since joining our group.

I enjoy being a part of the EMG program, have made wonderful friends and connections, and value all the learning and sharing opportunities. Such a wealth of knowledge.

The EMGs will always hold a dear place in my heart from all the amazing support so many of you gave me when my home of 38 years was flooded in 2017.

I am very active in the program, co-chaired the successful 2017 garden tour, help with the symposiums and plant sales and have worked in all the gardens. I believe in the old adage that the more you put into something, the more you get out of it.

**Laraine Crawford:** I have been a master gardener for over 15 years with the Lake Area Master Gardeners in Missouri and Marais des Cygnes Master Gardeners in Paola. As a MdC master gardener I have served as treasurer for 4 years, was chairperson for updating our by-laws, hosted and created Gardening Game Night, am currently the head of Advanced Training, and work in the Courthouse Gardens.

Using my master gardener knowledge, I have volunteered at the Arboretum and Botanical Gardens in Overland Park as a gardener, a docent, and tour guide.

This year I have designed and established a Biblical Garden at my church for our 150th year celebration next year (see page 8).

I would like to serve on the Advisory Board because I feel I can offer historical information as well as ideas for the future of the master gardeners.

**Anita Boyett-Voke:** My name is Anita Boyett-Voke. Married with no children of my own, however, I have two stepdaughters and seven grandchildren, thanks to my husband of 20 plus years, Terry.

After retiring in April of 2018 I enrolled in the Marais des Cygnes Master Gardener program. I have been volunteering, learning (aka: advanced training), the plant sale, attending meetings and expressing my “ideas/opinions.” (Typically I am not afraid to express myself. My ideas aren’t always better, but can be different.) My interests vary from animals and art, to cooking, sewing and growing things. I hope to continue to grow personally and learn from/with my fellow members. There are still a lot of weeds in my head, so I have a lot to learn!! I am looking forward to seeing what the next year has in store for us all. I still have issues remembering names! One of many character defects I possess. I am a work in progress.

**Judy Moser:** EMG training became possible for me after I retired in 2017, though I had been involved with Miami County EMG plant sales for many years with my husband, Ken O’Dell. These days I enjoy doing EMG graphics projects as I recover physically from pulling weeds in our own gardens, in addition to helping with the Plant Sale, Symposium, and other events and activities.

Members will be asked to vote online in November. Board members serve two-year terms and can be reelected to a second two-year term.
Everyone Enjoyed the Linn County Garden Tour!

Not only was it a fabulous day chock full of ideas and inspiration, attendees will each receive one hour of Advanced Training credit. Many thanks to the Linn County EMGs who worked hard and made their gardens so perfect!
September: The Monarch Migration

By Lenora Larson

Monarch flies south to Mexico in fall and returns to the U.S. in spring. Amazing! And we don’t even know how they find their way!!

The Journey North

Obviously, if you fly south, then somehow you got north. To understand, let’s go back to the winter of 2019. Millions of Monarchs from throughout the Midwest had congregated in their over-wintering site in the Sierra Madre Mountains. After a brief snooze, the Monarchs awakened in late January for an orgy of breeding. When the males ran out of sperm, they died. In February and March, the now “pregnant” females began flying across the Gulf of Mexico to the United States in search of Milkweed, the only plant that their caterpillar can eat. Weather conditions dictated how far the female flew. The first generation may have been on the coast or as far north as Kansas. Once the ladies laid their eggs, they died, but the stage was set for the northward generational migration.

Depending on temperature and moisture, the egg hatches in 5 to 10 days. The emerged caterpillar eats Milkweed for about 14 days, then metamorphosizes into a butterfly during a 14-day stay in their chrysalis. The butterfly is genetically programed to mate, fly north and lay eggs on milkweed for the next generation. The cycle repeats for up to a total of four generations moving north in spring and summer. The Monarchs may end up as far north as Ontario, Canada; incidentally, the northernmost range of Milkweed.

Heading South

By now it is August. The days are cooler and the sun is lower in the horizon in Ontario and Minnesota. Scientists postulate that this change in air temperature and the direction of the sun triggers dramatic changes in the appearance and behavior of the northern-most Monarchs. Instead of enthusiastically mating when they emerge from their chrysalids, the butterflies fly south. (Incidentally, scientists are studying this suppression of sexual urges in hopes of developing a new birth control method for humans!) Physically, (Continued)
the individuals of the migrating generation are much larger and brighter than the previous reproductive generations. And instead of surviving for only a few weeks, the females will live for as long as 8 months.

By mid-September, migrating Monarchs from points further north are winging through Kansas, while the reproductive Monarchs that are still in our gardens are mating and laying eggs. These two populations do not mix, but as the fall temperatures and sun direction move south, the offspring of “our” Monarchs emerge from their chrysalids in the migratory phase and join the journey south. The migration moves at a rate from 50 to 100 miles per day, taking about 2 months for each individual.

A male Monarch on his way to Mexico in September fuels up on nectar from this Sedum. Other nectar-rich fall flowers include Asters, Goldenrods and Sunflowers.

Nectar becomes critical as the “power drink” that fuels the migration, breeding, and the return to the U.S. in spring.

Is There Hope?

Because of the switch to GMO corn and soy bean crops that survive spraying of herbicides such as Round-up, the Midwest will never again contain millions of acres of Milkweeds. Fortunately, people do care, and ongoing media attention has provided new hope that the decline can be turned around. Each of us can make a difference in our own yards by foregoing insecticides and planting spring/summer Milkweeds and nectar-rich fall flowers.

Monarch Watch counts the number of hectares (one hectare = 2.47 acres) where the migrated Monarchs have hunkered down during their winter diapause in the Sierra Madre Mountains of Mexico. The 2018-19 count was the highest in 12 years! Monarch Watch is cautiously optimistic that 2019-20 will continue this upward trend.
EMGs Help Out at Lakemary Ranch

On August 27th, MdC EMGs gave a little help to the Lakemary staff in sprucing up the gardens in preparation for Lakemary’s 50th anniversary.

“The Ranch” is the animal and garden therapy center. Pictured below is the Andre Dight Memorial barn. The barn quilt was made by Doris McElreath.

PHOTOS BY PATRICIA WOLFE

“Steve and I and all of Lakemary want to thank you SO MUCH for your time and energy donated Tuesday. We are so thankful and appreciative for all you’ve done and continue to do for us here at “The Ranch.” Everything looks so much better!

The pictures don’t begin to show how hard you worked.

Thanks again so very much!

Patricia”

Congratulations to Patricia Wolfe, fellow EMG and a teacher at Lakemary, who has been named the 2020 Janet Sims Teacher of the Year by the Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom among teachers who instill in their students a passion for learning about agriculture. She will be considered for the 2020 National Excellence in Teaching about Agriculture Award, according to the Miami County Republic.
Scenes from Wednesday’s Workday at the Courthouse

Laraine Crawford, Carol Williams, Kathleen Brady-Francis, and Phyllis Benedict. PHOTOS BY LARAIN CRAWFORD

HELP WANTED

Do you have a problem with deer in your garden, and if so, what strategies have you used to outsmart them? Email your ideas to judy@springvalleynursery.com. This would make a very interesting and useful article. Or at the very least, a “misery loves company” lament.

Full disclosure, I need your ideas to use in my own gardens. Deer have decimated our hundreds of hostas and daylilies and are now eating things I never imagined they liked. So I’m approaching this as my next gardening challenge!—Judy M

Lenora Larson sent this photo of her Calotropis gigantea (aka Tree Milkweed) in bloom, saying, “Clearly it’s a milkweed.”

This is one of Lenora’s hand-raised Spicebush Swallowtails, just emerged from its crysalis and drying its wings before being released.
Biblical Gardens at Antioch Community Baptist Church

By Laraine Crawford

I have been interested in Biblical plants for many years. This year the opportunity arose to actually create a Biblical Garden for my church’s 150th anniversary in 2020. Many hours were spent on the researching of plants and the design of the garden. In June this year's Biblical Garden finally was finished being planted.

The Biblical Garden design contains various plants that have been authentically identified as plants which grew in the Holy Land during the time in which the Bible was written. Plants were chosen that were reasonably available today, reasonably easy to grow, and closely resemble the original species. Plants are labeled with their common name, scientific name, and Biblical verse and reference.

Our two garden areas reflect the kinds of gardens that were grown in Biblical times. One area reflects the gardens of wealthy people, consisting of many flowers, a water feature and fruit. The other area reflects a garden of common people, featuring fruit, herbs and vegetables.

Many people this year have already enjoyed reading about plants in the Bible through the signage. It is my hope that many more will enjoy the garden at our church’s 150th celebration in September 2020.

These are some of the plants included in the Biblical Garden:
- Date Palm (*Phoenix roebelenii*)
- Fig ‘White Marseilles’ (*Ficus carica*)
- Needle Palm (*Rhapidophyllum hystrix*)
- Viburnum ‘Blue Muffin’ (*Viburnum tinus*)
- Hyssop ‘Sandstone’ (*Hyssopus officinalis*)
- Lemon Grass (*Cymbopogon citratus*)
- Chamomile (*Anthemis matricaria*)
- Wormwood (*Artemisia schmidtiana*)
- Paper Plant (*Cyperus papyrus*)
- Bamboo ‘Sunset Glow’ (*Fargesia rufa*)
- Chaste Tree (*Vitex agnus-castus*)
- Wild Senna (*Senna hebecarpa*)
- Common Millet (*Panicum miliaceum*)
- Black Wheat (*Triticum durum*)
- Willow, Variegated Dappled (*Salix integra ‘Hakuro-Nishiki’*)
- Oso Easy Rose ‘Peace Rose’ (*Rosa Hybrid*)

There are also Broom Tree, Flax, Grape Vines, Mallow, Poppy, Sage, Rue, Mint, Allium, Lily, and several other herbs.