Help Needed

The extension office will be closed December 24 through January 1 and is in the process of moving to 913 N Pearl (Old KC Road), with the move projected to be complete by January 31, 2021.

Katelyn is seeking volunteers to help pack up the front room of the Extension Office, which mostly entails deciding which books to box up for the move, where we want to make better use of the available space. Unneeded books will be put on the “free” table or will be otherwise recycled. Volunteers can do this between now and January 13 (except Dec. 24 through Jan. 1).

CALENDAR

• The 2021 awards will be announced in a Zoom event. K-State will not allow face-to-face meetings until at least April 1.
• The 2021 Plant Sale will be held on April 29, 30 and May 1 in the parking lot at the new office.
• The 2021 Garden Tour is on the calendar for September 10-11.

Regularly scheduled Board meetings are the second Tuesday of each month, 9:30 am, Paola Ext. Office,* and open to all EMGs. (*Meetings are currently being held by Zoom.)

NEWS & NOTES

• The trial garden is looking for a new home. Anybody got room for about 100 feet of row and the potential to store the tomato cages? We are hoping to find a place close to Paola for easy volunteer access, but secluded enough that produce doesn’t mysteriously disappear.

• Voting for MG of the Year and Rookie of the Year will take place online, as usual. The awards will be presented at a Zoom meeting, tentatively scheduled for Tuesday evening, February 9.
• Phyllis Benedict says the new class project is to create a new garden at the Courthouse, a garden that was part of the original design.
• Barbara Shropshire has volunteered to be in charge of Advanced Training for 2021.
• Officers for 2021 are: Betsy Hasselquist, Chair; Anita Boyett-Voke, Secretary; and Laraine Crawford, Treasurer. Other members are: Sue Burns, Judy Moser, and new Board members Chet McLoughlin and Janette Bennett. The position of Vice Chair has not yet been filled. Janette Bennett’s name was suggested, as she was not present at the December Zoom meeting. (Chuckles-chuckles.)
• Turn in your volunteer hours (online) by December 31! This is important for our record-keeping and so K-State can see how much our EMGs are contributing.

Holiday Happiness

Our EMG fund raiser for food pantries in Linn County and Miami County raised more than $1,400, $500 of which was the amount the Board voted to match. EMG contributions totaled more than $900. To all who contributed, we say THANK YOU!

And we wish you and yours a very HAPPY and SAFE holiday season.

Follow the Marais des Cygnes EMGs on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mdcemg
A Time to Come Together, At Least in Spirit

By Betsy Hasselquist, MdC EMG Chair

Hope you all are doing well. We continue to experience ongoing unprecedented times, changes and challenges with Covid-19, the elections, the world, as well as in our own personal lives.

Covid-19 rampages through our communities with increasing cases and deaths and growing concerns of overrunning our health care system. As a believer in science, I implore you to take precautions for yourself and others — wearing masks, social distancing and hand washing (with soap and hot water). Our medical providers are learning better ways to treat the serious symptoms of this illness. A vaccine is on the way, giving us “a shot” of hope in getting this pandemic under control. Thank you to our healthcare workers, first responders, teachers and all essential workers.

I really feel for those whose loved ones have suffered from this virus and the pain of family members who can’t be together. Many folks are struggling from the economic effects. Try to find a way to assist others, be it financially or in kindness. Thank you to all the folks who contributed to “Holiday Happiness.” Giving to others benefits the giver and the receiver and helps alleviate stress.

The holidays accentuate anxiety for a lot of people even in the best of times. How was your Thanksgiving? What are your other holiday plans? Definitely different from the norm, (whatever that is) for my family. Am missing folks.

Get out and enjoy the festive lights, bundle up and take a walk. Peruse your seed catalogs.

Take a look at your expectations. What do you value, what traditions and what can you control or not... How do you best get there? Be flexible. Covid certainly presents challenges. Who will you or do you want to spend time with? Plan something enjoyable even via Zoom. Food is often a highlight. We’re doing a food exchange. Christmas charades provides lots of laughs in my family and we light a special candle for those folks that are missing for whatever reasons. A myriad of feelings. Feelings are okay.

Remember to practice self-care! Eat healthy, sleep, exercise, be productive, creative, pursue learning, enjoy nature, gardening, meditate, laugh, reach out to friends and family and as always, remember to breathe.

’Tis the season for self-reflection and hope.

- Health and happiness for all, our country and the world, Covid dissipating
- Unity in all spheres, social justice, equality
- Harmony, peace, healing
- Calmness, caring, kindness, acceptance, gratitude, forgiveness of self and others
- A great gardening year!

A blessing for all:
- May you be safe,
- May you be happy,
- May you be healthy,
- May you live in peace!

Wishing you the best for the New Year!!!
2021 GARDEN TOUR

“A September to Remember” Garden Tour, September 10 and 11, 2021, from 9 to 5. We have six beautiful and intriguing gardens lined up (two more are featured here), committed liaisons for support, and vendors for each garden. Sue Burns, Donna Cook and Stephanie Myers head up a committee to find sponsors. Contact Jan Thompson jkg.thompson@gmail.com or Betsy Hasselquist, bjbnium-ga@hotmail.com, garden tour co-chairs, with any ideas or questions.

Pictured here are the gardens at Whispering Elm Farm, where elderberries and healing herbs dominate the show, with entertainment provided by a supporting cast of fowl.

Shade and the serenity of country living are the highlights of Laraine Crawford’s lavishly planted and lovingly maintained gardens (pictured at right).