What’s Growing On...

The latest news from the Marais des Cygnes Extension Master Gardeners

AUGUST 2020 | 104 S. Brayman St., Paola, KS 66071 | 913-294-4306 | www.maraisdescygnes.ksu.edu

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CALENDAR

August 25
Lenora Larson will present “Ten Ways to Kill Your Plants,” 6:30, Paola Extension Office (with social distancing and masks)

September 10 — local garden tour canceled
The following two classes will be on Zoom. Katelyn will send out links. It is recommended you participate from home, although both will be available to view at the Paola Extension Office.

September 22
Nancy Chapman presents “Organic Gardening Practices,” 6:30 pm on Zoom.

October 27
Judy Sharp presents “Drought Resistant Perennials,” 6:30 pm on Zoom.

Advanced Training Online: See K-State Garden Hour on Facebook.

‘Ten Ways to Kill Your Plants’

Plants don’t want to die. All of us want beautiful gardens. So why are there so many dead plants and ugly gardens? Despite our best intentions, gardeners lapse into bad habits and poor horticultural practices that put our beloved plants at risk and waste thousands of dollars.

Solutions focus on the latest science and debunking common plant myths. Topics range from sick soil, to zone envy, to too much love. PowerPoint photographs demonstrate the challenges and successes of gardening in Kansas. This presentation is an interactive discussion; everyone who has killed a plant and/or solved a garden problem is on the adjunct faculty!

Lenora Larson is a Marais des Cygnes Extension Master Gardener and member of local chapters of both the Idalia Butterfly Society and Kansas Native Plant Society. Lenora is a proud “science geek” with a degree in microbiology from Michigan State University, a career in molecular biology and a life-long interest in wildlife, especially the creepy and crawly. She writes about butterfly gardening for three publications and is a frequent presenter to gardening groups throughout the Midwest.

Welcome New EMGs!

We are delighted to report that we have 10 potential new EMGs this year who are enthusiastic, motivated, excited to learn and will be great assets to our organization.

Short biographies and photos are being submitted now and will be published in the newsletter beginning this month (pages 5-6).

The initial EMG classes this year will be online.

IMPORTANT NOTES

Extension Office:
Work days: Tuesdays at 9 am
Sue Burns 816-510-5291
smbohmker@hotmail.com

Trial Garden:
Work days vary
Call Shirley New for info
913-837-2986 / 913-207-8981
snew@mokancomm.net

Follow the Marais des Cygnes EMGs on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mdcemg
Shout-Out to Our New Class Mentors

We so appreciate you! You are a huge part of the first impressions for our new class members. With face-to-face activities limited, social distancing and the online classes, you are more important than ever!

We will be planning a few get-togethers to get to know each other and help the new class feel a part of our group. If anyone else would like to volunteer, it would be nice to have subs in case a regular mentor cannot attend an event. Please contact Betsy or Jan if you are interested.

A BIG THANK YOU TO:
Sondra Dela Cruz
Tom Dela Cruz
Janette Everhart
Lenora Larson
Connie Murphy
Barb Shropshire
Susan Thompson
Becky Thorpe
Jeannie Trail
Carol Williams

Volunteers Install Antique Fence

The east side of the Paola Courthouse has a new feature—an ornamental antique fence. The Swan River Museum donated part of the original fencing that was around the fountain in Park Square.

Pictured are Lori Calvin and Barb Shropshire, who helped Phyllis Benedict install the fence.

Historical Society photo of the fountain in Park Square, from about 1900.
A Year to Remember

By Betsy Hasselquist, MdC EMG Chair

Some years have started to run together, but 2020 will definitely be one for the history books. What will you remember? A slew of life changes with more to come. Who, what, when, where, how and why? Hoping for profound changes for ourselves, our country and our environment. Wish for peace, reconciliation and stability for those grappling with heavy losses and personal and financial struggles.

Everyone’s experiences and perceptions are unique and each individual decides what’s right for them at a given time. Lots of tough decisions to be made and so many unknowns. Glad I’m not a parent of a school aged child right now whether pre-K through college. Can’t help but wonder how kids are being affected. People need to make the best decisions they can for their families. Who knows what will happen in this school year… and what about sports, an iconic American pastime?

Don’t know about you, but I’m pretty weary of the restrictions, missing get-togethers with friends and family and hugs. People’s responses run the gamut from self-quarantine to going to Sturgis. A resurgence of cases is manifesting and I now know people whose loved ones have been affected by this devastating illness.

As a nurse, I believe in the scientific guidelines, social distancing, and masks if that’s not feasible. (Why not, if it helps us get this pandemic under control? Getting the spread of covid-19 under control will help our economy. Masks are the norm in many countries.) and hand-washing.

Take life day by day, one step at a time. Live in the now and acknowledge even small accomplishments, like laundry or making that pico de gallo. Who’s making progress on clutter? Have you washed your windows?

Back to the garden:

Gardening is expanding as an outdoor activity people can do and enjoy the benefits of nature, fresh air, exercise and growing healthy food. Lots of beautiful butterflies.

So happy to have a vibrant new class joining our EMG program!

Fortunate to have gotten some rain. Finally getting tomatoes and peppers and eggplant. Oh my… Plan to make pico de gallo and spaghetti sauce. Have also gotten into drying tomatoes. Enjoy making flower arrangements for my mom (cooped up in a senior living environment) and the ribbon cutting for my daughter-in-law’s Reign Dance Studio in Spring Hill. It’s not too late to plant lettuces, spinach and radishes.

Take care of yourself and others, physically, intellectually, emotionally, spiritually. Hope for your good health, unity, trust and a bit more rain.

Find sunflower facts at the Kansas Native Plant Society website. PHOTO BY KATHY AYERS

Want to Be on the Board?

Three board positions will be open for a 2-year term starting January 2021. Any active member is eligible and board members are permitted to run for two consecutive terms.

Sue Burns, Cathy Stainbrook and Laraine Crawford have agreed to serve on the nominating committee.

We hope to have a Linn County EMG run, in order to provide much-needed representation for that area.

Please contact a member of the nominating committee by September 4 if interested.
Most of you will remember Denise and John Johnson, owners of Boston Berry Farm based in Louisburg. In addition to being one of our plant sale vendors, they were on our 2017 garden tour. Since their nursery and landscaping business had outgrown its space, they had searched in vain throughout Miami and adjoining counties for an affordable rural property with an old farm house and a pond. Finally, they found the perfect new home, but it was in Missouri. Yikes!

In June, 2019 they packed up the Boston terriers and the berry plants and moved to Garden City, Missouri, 10 miles south of Harrisonville. John closed Bushwackers, his landscaping business and eventually took a management position with SiteOne Landscaping Supply’s Lee Summit location. Denise gladly left her banking job in Overland Park to focus full-time on creating the new Boston Berry’s nursery grounds and plant inventory.

It’s only 50 miles away! So Kathy Ayers and I made an appointment for a road trip on August 9th.

The property had been every landscaper’s dream, a true blank slate consisting of a two-story 1918 farm house (beautifully remodeled in 2000, so needing no work) and a 23 acre mix of pasture and woodlot with a creek and limestone outcroppings. John laid out the master plan of multiple beds for display and for their nursery stock so that Denise, the rapid-fire planter, could start filling them up. He restored the long and winding driveway, built two greenhouses, a deck and swimming pool, and oversaw the digging of a 2 1/2 acre pond, 15 feet deep to provide a dependable source of water for the greenhouses and gardens. In only one year, the rich black loam soil, consistent rain and Denise’s magical green thumb have combined to create an astonishingly beautiful landscape and a thriving business.

Their 2020 marketing plan was our MdC plant sale and area farmers markets, and then to become a retail nursery in 2021. Then COVID-19 shut down everything. What to do with two greenhouses full of plants? Many of their loyal Kansas customers placed orders and did the “pick up by appointment.” That was working well, so Denise posted an ad on Facebook’s Marketplace. She quickly built a following and was sold out of all inventory long before our visit.

The future looks very bright for Boston Berry as Denise and John ponder whether to become a licensed retail nursery or focus on the on-site pick up. This winter Denise will develop an ordering list to post online and by spring will welcome all visitors by appointment. It’s an easy and pleasant drive, a fabulous garden experience and the hospitality of Denise and John make this a worthy trip for our EMGs!
We asked our new EMGs-to-be to write a few words about themselves to help us get to know them. We’ll include more in the September issue.

My name is **Stacie Campbell** and I am a semi-retired engineer. I was fortunate enough to go part-time earlier this year just so I could spend more time in my garden. I’ve not been disappointed.

My husband, Dave, and I moved from the suburbs to a couple acres in Miami County in 2014 in preparation for our golden years. He has his big shop and model train and I have my big garden.

I started gardening 30 years ago, well into adulthood, when I bought my first house as a single parent. You see, in order to make mowing my new lawn easier I had to move the peonies from a straight line out in the grass to a new garden bed. I liked the arrangement so much I added a few more flowers, then I added another bed, and another...

You see where this is going.

I love gardening, all of it: The idea phase, the planning, the purchasing, the installation (okay, not so much the digging part). I even enjoy the maintenance of weeding. But even more, I love speaking with other garden enthusiasts and learning about new ideas. The garden is my happy place.

My name is **David Gifford**. My wife, Lauretta, and I have had a blended family with seven children for over 33 years. We now have 18 grandchildren and one (almost two) great-grandchildren. Most live in the area so we get to see them quite often.

After retiring from the Army Lauretta and I moved to Cedar Vale, KS. We went to Cowley County Community College and received Associate Degrees before moving up to Wichita State University, where I wasn’t able to get my degree before my GI bill funding ended. Lauretta was able to complete her nursing degree though.

With no jobs in the Cedar Vale area I found a hospital that agreed to move the family to Great Falls, MT. We moved there in the summer of 1991. Our home was in the country on 25 acres. Lots of room for gardening!

Our interest in gardening comes natural for us. Both of my parents were master gardeners in Grand Junction, CO. Lauretta’s father raised a huge garden every year that provided a multitude of vegetables for his family. Trying to be as successful as our parents has been a definite challenge. Especially when living where the growing season is short and the winters are cold and long. The concept is very different from what this area has in many ways.

I am fully retired and looking forward to learning as much as I can from both classes and interaction with other gardeners. And to pass any knowledge on to others is a priority. It’s just an easy way to make the world better!

**Stephanie Myers:** I grew up in Overland Park where my dad came home from work every day to spend hours and weekends tending to his dozens of rose bushes and a zoysia lawn for our family and friends to enjoy. Now decades later, and recently retired, I am bit by the same bug. However, my situation is a bit different as I live alone (with daughter Molly and son Cole in the KC area) on six plus acres outside of Spring Hill with two dogs, two horses and Shamus the cat who runs the show. I feel like a kid right out of high school with a whole new world in front of me, excited to learn how to tend to my landscape and make it a beautiful and comfortable spot for my family and friends to come enjoy with me. In this new adventure I am eager to meet new friends and increase my community involvement! Look forward to meeting and learning with everyone!

My name is **Susan Hain**. I have lived in Spring Hill since 1995. I have a Business Administration degree from Emporia State University. I worked in various accounting jobs prior to becoming a stay-at-home mom 13 years ago. My husband and I celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary last month. We have two daughters and two yellow labs.

This summer with the pandemic I decided to try out some new crops. I added green beans, cucumbers, zucchini, dill, potatoes, sweet corn and cantaloupe. My garden is roughly a 90 square feet area and it is integrated in my landscaping around the house. I made pickles and I also canned green beans which were both a first for me. Because of limited space I only planted three stalks of corn. They produced five ears but none edible. I have learned from this summer’s (Continued on page 6)
(Continued on from page 5)

experience to not plant so many viney plants in a small area and you need more than three stalks of corn to pollinate well.

I’m very excited to be part of the Master Gardener program. Since I will soon be an empty nester, I can’t wait to get involved with volunteer opportunities and classes that are not for my kids but for me!

**Debbie Day:** My husband Don and I live in Lane, Kansas. I currently work for the Osawatomie State Hospital and am volunteering in the greenhouse there.

I am the daughter and granddaughter of farmers on both sides of my family. Some of my best memories are snapping beans in the sweltering heat with my mother, grandmother and cousins.

We have a large garden each year that includes peas, radishes, lettuce, beans, cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers and tobacco (for Don). I love to can and to “put food by.”

I have lived in many states including Colorado, California and Oklahoma. However, Kansas has always been home.

Through the Master Gardener program, I hope to spread the joy of gardening and working with soil to others with similar interests and continue to volunteer for the State hospital by offering “horticulture therapy.”

My name is **Helen Kloepper**. I am a wife, mother of two grown sons, and a retired educator.

I worked in Louisburg in the Elementary and Middle School for 29 years. Then was offered a position as a science coordinator in Spring Hill. While there, I led the elementary science program and worked at Spring Hill Elementary School as the Instructional Coach.

During my 40 years in education I taught science, service-learning, and led many after-school clubs including a Garden Club for kindergarten and first grade students.

My love for gardening began when my mother turned over our gardens to me, claiming a “brown thumb.” I especially enjoyed planting, growing and harvesting our vegetables and herbs.

After retiring, I was able to follow a dream and became a beekeeper. The bees are so wonderful to watch and I have learned so much from them. My interest in keeping bees led me to become interested in native plants. I spent a spring working with Rhodes Gardens with their native plants.

When not checking on the bees or my boys, I enjoy reading and now Zooming book club meetings. I also received a ukulele as a retirement present from my family and I am enjoying learning to play, though singing along is still a challenge.

Through the Master Gardener training, I am looking forward to learning more about gardening, volunteering in our community and making new friends.

**Watch for four more bios in next month’s newsletter.**
FROM THE USDA–APHIS:

Have you received a package of unsolicited seeds in the mail? The U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA–APHIS) has now provided us with instructions regarding what individuals should do with the unsolicited seed packages.

Below is a procedure for you to follow for submitting your seed packages to USDA–APHIS. They will analyze the seed and determine the species and whether any pathogens or insect pests are present and they will be able to work with other federal agencies to try to determine where these packages are coming from and how to stop them.

Remember: Do not plant the seeds, and please limit handling of the seeds if you have opened the package. If you have already planted the seed, please report it to KDA at 785-564-6698 or KDA. PPWC@ks.gov, even if you have already called or sent an email.

Option 1 (PREFERRED):
Double-bag the seeds and all of the original mailing packaging (if you still have it) in sealable plastic bags (e.g., Ziplock bags), removing air pockets. Fold over to reduce size, and completely cover the folded-over bag with duct tape. This minimizes risk by preventing bag breakage and preventing water and sun reaching the seeds. Discard in the trash.

Following this procedure will help reduce the chance of an exotic invasive species of plant or plant pest from being introduced into our environment. At this time, we have been given no reason to believe the seeds being sent pose a health danger to people or animals; if you or your pets exhibit any symptoms of concern, contact a medical professional.

We appreciate your assistance and cooperation.

If you have additional questions:
USDA–APHIS: 1-844-820-2234
KDA Plant Protection and Weed Control program: 785-564-6698

Unsolicited Seeds Alert

Unsolicited Seed Package Submission Form

Homeowner name: __________________________________________
Address: ____________________________  City  State  ZIP
Email address: ____________________________________________
Phone number: ____________________________________________
When did the package arrive? ________________________________________
How many packages like this have you received? ________________________________
Were any seeds planted?        ☐ Yes  ☐ No
If so, provide the location. __________________________________________
Did you order anything from an e-commerce site before receiving this package? (ex. Amazon, Wish, etc.) ☐ Yes  ☐ No
If so, provide website name and date of your order:  __________________________  __________________
Did you order any seeds this year? ☐ Yes  ☐ No
If so, what kind of seed did you order and, ____________________________________________
What company did you order seeds from? ________________________________________

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