**CALENDAR**

**April 14**
2nd Quarterly meeting at noon. Pizza, salad and dessert will be provided. RSVP to the office, 913-294-4306, by April 10.

**April 21**
Gardening for Pollinators, Lenora Larson, MdC EMG, 6:30pm, Paola Extension Office

**April 30, May 1 & 2**
Spring Plant Sale in Paola

**May 12**
Orientation Event, 2pm, for all EMGs and anyone interested in learning more about our program.

**May 15-16**
JoCo EMG Garden Tour. Tickets at: https://www.johnson.k-state.edu/lawn-garden/public-garden-tour/tickets.html

**MARCH GARDEN CLEANUP PROJECTS AMENDED:**
Spring cleanup at the Extension Office Gardens, March 24, 9am, and the Courthouse Gardens, March 27, 10am, will continue to be held, observing the 6-foot social distance rule and with fewer than 10 people (we seldom have more than 10 anyway).

Dates and times for trial garden cleanup will be emailed.

**HOTLINE:**
Scheduled to start April 2, the Hotline will not be manned by volunteers, but consultants will be available to field questions by email or phone.

**EMG EVENTS CANCELLED THRU MAY 16**

Things are moving fast, as efforts to contain the coronavirus continue. As of late Monday afternoon, K-State has cancelled all EMG activities through May 16. Katelyn has emailed a message to all EMGs.

This decision means no board or committee meetings, no 2nd Quarterly meeting, no hotline or advanced training for now, NO SPRING PLANT SALE, no orientation event, no Touch-A-Truck, and no Johnson County garden tour. (Some of the events will be rescheduled.)

According to Katelyn, activities will continue in the Extension, Courthouse and Trial gardens, with social distancing (among the many new terms we’ve all learned recently) and the number of gardeners limited to 10 or fewer.

Volunteers are welcome to work in those gardens alone if they prefer. Check with each garden’s chair.

Katelyn says as of now both MdC extension offices are closed to the public but staff is available by phone or email.

Though this newsletter has been significantly edited to reflect the very fluid current situation, you can still read about our successful Symposium and other notes on page 2, Lenora Larson’s excellent article about aphids on page 3, and the Advanced Training schedule for the rest of the year (fingers crossed) on page 4, along with a call for a volunteer to chair the 2021 Symposium.

Please stay safe and remember, gardening relieves stress!

**Support Our Nearby Plant Sale Vendors**

The cancellation of our plant sale will mean an unfortunate loss of income for our vendors. Please consider shopping at their retail locations. Some may offer delivery.

**Boston Berry**
28801 Obannon Road
Garden City, MO 64747
913-406-8593
Bushwackerjohn@outlook.com
Edible woody perennials

**Louisburg Nursery**
10860 W. 271st St.
Louisburg, KS 66053
913-837-2174
Annuals and succulents

**Vinland Valley Nursery**
1606 N. 600 Rd.
Baldwin, Kansas 66006
785-594-2966
vinlandvalleynursery.com
Natives, perennials, pollinator plants, butterfly host plants

Follow the Marais des Cygnes EMGs on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mdcemg
Advisory Board
Chairman — Betsy Hasselquist
Vice Chairman — Phyllis Benedict
Secretary — Anita Boyett-Voke
Treasurer — Laraine Crawford
Members at Large
Sue Burns
Cathy Stainbrook
Judy Moser

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
Garden Tour 2021
Jan Thompson & Betsy Hasselquist
Publicity
Judy Moser & Lenora Larson
Seeds for Kids
Kathleen Brady-Francis & Janette Bennett
Social Media
Anita Boyett-Voke
Miami County Fair
Chet McLaughlin & Michael Poss
Pat Trachsel & Sue Burns
Linn County Fair
Mike Brown
New Recruits/Mentors
Jan Thompson & Betsy Hasselquist
Newspaper Articles
Katelyn Barthol, Extension Agent

Send news and photos to:
Judy Moser, Newsletter Editor
judy@springvalleynursery.com

2020 Symposium a Huge Success!

Kudos to Symposium co-chairs Susan Thompson and Jeannie Trail for planning and pulling off a spectacular Symposium. Attendees’ comments were glowing and 100% positive.

Our wonderful new venue comfortably held 250, and though our main goal is always education, we did raise a tidy sum.

Many thanks to everyone who helped make the event go so smoothly and flawlessly.

• Please let Betsy, Jan or Lenora know if you know of an outstanding Miami County garden we might feature on a **2021 Garden Tour**. We are especially interested in the gardens of Miami County Master Gardeners.

• Remember to tell your friends and neighbors that our **Advanced Training sessions are always free and open to the public**, and we welcome community participation.

• Katelyn will be sending an **updated membership list** soon. Also, the **apparel items** we ordered should be in the office next month.

• Let Katelyn know if you are aware of anyone who is not receiving this newsletter — **EMG or not** — who would like to be on our email list.
Aphids are among the most destructive of our insect pests. Not only do they literally suck the life out of plants, they also transmit deadly plant viruses. And their honey dew exudate attracts black sooty mold fungus that also kills plants. Even worse, because of their astounding reproductive rate, aphids are extremely difficult to eradicate. About 5,000 species of aphids have been identified world-wide. All are small pear-shaped soft-bodied sap-sucking bugs. Body colors range from yellow to orange to red to many shades of green and even brown, grey, black and a shaggy white species.

The aphid’s diet is sap, primarily from the plant’s phloem tubes. The excess water, AKA honey dew, is emitted from the anus. The aphid also has two tubes sticking out of its rump, the cornicles, which exude a protective wax. Just like butterflies and moths, most species of aphids are host plant specific. For instance, the annoying orange Oleander Aphids only feed on Oleander and Milkweed. With the certainty of death and taxes, if you have Milkweeds, you will have Oleander Aphids, which are not native, but have naturalized to become ubiquitous.

**Life Style: Female Power!**

Like all true bugs, aphids skip the pupal stage. The eggs are laid on a host plant in fall and all hatch into female nymphs the following spring. With the certainty of death and taxes, if you have Milkweeds, you will have Oleander Aphids, which are not native, but have naturalized to become ubiquitous.

**Natural Eradication**

Plants have an arsenal of chemical defenses against aphids, although these weapons are dismantled if gardeners use synthetic fertilizers. Fungi are the main pathogens of aphids and many beneficial insects ravenously devour aphids, including Lady Bugs, Lacewing larvae (“aphid wolves”) and Hover Fly larvae. Parasitoid Braconid wasps lay their eggs inside aphids which are then devoured by the wasp larvae, becoming hollow husks called “Mummies”.

Obviously, if you use insecticides, even those certified as organic, you will kill these beneficial insects and the aphid population will further explode out of control. Birds such as chickadees and wrens also feast on aphids. Many proponents of IPM (Integrated Pest Management) recommend just leaving the aphids if it’s not too severe an infestation. A healthy plant can tolerate aphids for a short time while waiting for the predators to show up.

**Human Remedies**

For small backyard infestations, spraying plants thoroughly with a strong water jet every few days and hand-crushing may be sufficient. Insecticidal soap spray is difficult to apply to the underside of leaves and only kills aphids on contact with no residual effect. Even a small missed area can quickly re-populate the entire plant. Systemic insecticides like the neonicotinoids are not very effective against aphids and some species are resistant to common insecticides. The wise gardener is eternally vigilant for aphids since early intervention is the best hope for control.

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**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. Please send Lenora your insect requests!

**March: Aphids**

By Lenora Larson

Aphids are among the most destructive of our insect pests. Not only do they literally suck the life out of plants, they also transmit deadly plant viruses. And their honey dew exudate attracts black sooty mold fungus that also kills plants. Even worse, because of their astounding reproductive rate, aphids are extremely difficult to eradicate. About 5,000 species of aphids have been identified world-wide. All are small pear-shaped soft-bodied sap-sucking bugs. Body colors range from yellow to orange to red to many shades of green and even brown, grey, black and a shaggy white species.

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**Life Style: Female Power!**

Like all true bugs, aphids skip the pupal stage. The eggs are laid on a host plant in fall and all hatch into female nymphs the following spring. No males are needed because the wingless females are parthenogenic, able to asexually produce live offspring! The population explodes as each female matures within a week and gives birth to twelve female nymphs each day for up to 40 days. In the fall, a winged generation of females and males is produced to fly to new host plants, sexually reproduce and lay eggs for over-wintering. The spring hatch is again 100% female to beget the asexual generations until fall. One aphid and her progeny can produce 61 million aphids in a season!

**Ants, the Herdsmen**

Humans and ants are the only animals that care for livestock as a source of food. Ants keep aphids as “cows”, rubbing their bellies and drinking the resulting honey dew. In return, they actively protect and defend their colony of aphids from enemies. If the host plant dies, ants carry their aphids to a new host plant. Every summer, a brown aphid colonizes my Cottonwood Tree, but when I attempt to hand-crush them, large black ants furiously attack me.

**Natural Eradication**

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✿

Winged adult Apple Aphid (left). One aphid is really cute with its jewel-like colors and black eyes.

Lacewings lay their white eggs on a stalk dangling from the leaf.

Just leave these Oleander Aphids on Swamp Milkweed. See the white Lacewing egg? Help is on the way!
Want to Chair the 2021 Symposium?

Susan and Jeannie are stepping down from chairing the Symposium. Kudos to them for such an awesome job! Big shoes to fill, but they are still willing to help and we have an active, committed committee.

Susan and Jeannie have compiled a notebook with records, schedules and notes for the next chair(s) to use as a guide, which should be very helpful.

Anyone who might be interested in stepping up to chair this event, please feel free to discuss with Susan or Jeannie, and contact Betsy at bjbniangua@yahoo.com.

Co-chairs are encouraged for such a big project. Two brains are better than one, and it makes it more fun.—Betsy Hasselquist

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2020 Marais des Cygnes EMG Advanced Training Calendar

*Please note: More trainings will be added throughout the year as they are scheduled. April events are pending at this time, due to the coronavirus.*

<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>Apr.</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Native Food Trees and Shrubs for Humans and Wildlife*</td>
<td>Linda Hezel, Farm Steward at Prairie Birthday Farm</td>
<td>Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center, 4750 Troost, KCMO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Landscaping for Birds*</td>
<td>Colleen Winter, JOCO EMG</td>
<td>Paola Ext. Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Gardening for Pollinators*</td>
<td>Lenora Larson, MdC EMG</td>
<td>Paola Ext. Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Water Gardens*</td>
<td>Karen Fiske, Water Garden Club</td>
<td>Paola Ext. Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Flora and Fauna of the Kansas Prairie</td>
<td>Courtney Masterson, KU Teacher</td>
<td>Paola Ext. Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>3 (1 AT)</td>
<td>Making Garden Art Workshop*</td>
<td>Myrna Minnis, Artist</td>
<td>Home of Myrna Minnis,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug.</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tropicals in Kansas</td>
<td>Jodi &amp; Ken Hawkinson</td>
<td>Home of Jodi &amp; Ken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>How to Kill Your Plants*</td>
<td>Lenora Larson, MdC EMG</td>
<td>Paola Ext. Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>3 (1 AT)</td>
<td>Small Garden Tour</td>
<td>EMGs of Miami County</td>
<td>Miami County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17 &amp; 18</td>
<td>all day</td>
<td></td>
<td>Plan It Native Landscapes Conference*</td>
<td>Case Studies, Field Trips, etc., expert speakers</td>
<td>KC Convention Center, 301 W 13th St., KCMO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Organic Gardening Practices</td>
<td>Nancy Chapman, JOCO EMG</td>
<td>Paola Ext. Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct.</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>Plant ID/Taxonomy (Part of 4th Q mtg)</td>
<td>Laraine Crawford, MdC EMG</td>
<td>Paola Ext. Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>27</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Drought Tolerant Perennials</td>
<td>Judy Sharp, JOCO Emg</td>
<td>Paola Ext. Office</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

K-State has cancelled all EMG events thru May 16.

*Requires fee and registration

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Not an Extension Master Gardener? Interested in becoming one? Information is online at www.maraisdescygnes.ksu.edu or call the Paola extension office, 913-294-4306