What's Growing On...
The latest news from the Marais des Cygnes Extension Master Gardeners

OCTOBER 2021
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CALENDAR
• These are last Advanced Training opportunities for 2021

**Courthouse Work Days:**
Wednesdays at 9 am thru Oct.
**Phyllis Benedict** 913-294-4751
pabenedict51@gmail.com

**Extension Office:**
**Sue Burns** 816-510-5291
smbohmker@hotmail.com

**Trial Garden Work Days:**
Tuesdays until frost
Call **Chet McLaughlin** for info
913-963-7187 or email:
mclaughlin1944@gmail.com

**LaCygne Garden:**
Approved for volunteer hours.
**Rena Tedrow** 913-757-2551
snoski58@yahoo.com

**Board meetings** are the second Tuesday of each month, 9:30 am, Paola Extension Office. All EMGs are welcome to attend.

**Newsletter deadline** is noon on Thursday following the Board meeting.

Follow the MdC EMGs on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/mdcemg

Last 2021 Advanced Training Opportunities

**October 21, 1-3 pm,** Topic and Description TBD, Betsy Betros. This is a JoCo EMG Zoom AT (Katelyn emailed the link).

**November 3, Noon to 1 pm,** **K-State Garden Hour:**
**Winter Interest in the Landscape**
Many gardens can become dreary, drab, and colorless over the winter months, as they lose the excitement of summer. Beat this winter boredom in your garden through the texture, color, and movement of plants that will bring year round beauty to your landscape. Join Lynn Loughary, Wyandotte County Extension Horticulture Agent, as she shares a few of the must have plants that provide year-round interest in the landscape. You may sign up, if you haven’t already, at ksre-learn.com/KStateGardenHour.

**November 4, 9 to 11 am – 150 Ways to Create a Fantastic Yard Totally Tailored to You,** by Amanda Thomsen, author and blogger known as **Kiss My Aster.** This quirky presentation is sure to give an idea or 15 to every gardener in the audience. From things you never thought of to things you didn’t think you were brave enough to try, you will leave this presentation INSPIRED! Another JoCo EMG Zoom AT (Katelyn emailed the link).

**November 9, 6:30 pm** at the Paola Extension Office. Lenora Larson will present “Your Gardening Personality,” with tools to help you understand.

NEWS & NOTES

• The 2022 **Symposium** has been canceled due to Covid uncertainties.

• “**Holiday Happiness**” is on again this year. Make your checks payable to MdC EMGs and send or take them to the Extension Office asap. They will be matched up to $750 by the MdC EMG organization.

• Oh no! **Angela** is retiring at the end of the October! She will work part time through the end of the year in order to train a new hire.

• Remember to turn in your **2021 AT and volunteer hours.** Instructions are on page 6.

Muffin Exchange Planned

Becky Thorpe, New Recruits and Mentors Chair, is planning a reception on December 13 at 10 a.m. at the Miami County Historical Society Museum — a perfect way for members to meet the new recruits! This will be a muffin exchange, so everyone who wants to take home a plate of delicious muffins should bring a dozen for the exchange. The Museum is on the northeast side of the Paola square. More info next month.
“A September to Remember”
Garden Tour a Win!

By Betsy Hasselquist, MdC EMG Chair

The weather was beautiful as were the diverse gardens. So much to see, learn, and experience.

Thanks to all the garden owners, three of whom are our very own EMGs—Laraine, Stacy and Donna—for all the months of preparation and hard work and for sharing the fruits of your labor and love with us all.

The gardens were easy to find and conveniently located. Three were located west of Paola—Turtle Run, Campbell Highlands and Whispering Elm—and three near Louisburg—Blue Door, Hart’s Daylilies and Swan’s Water Gardens.

Also, thank you to all the volunteers, including several from this year’s new class who helped at the gardens making it a success, and those who helped behind the scenes with locating gardens, writing descriptions, obtaining sponsors, advertising and donating produce. Judy did her magic with the beautiful handouts for each garden. It really does take a village.

A visitor from Great Bend won the grand prize drawing at Casa Somerset.

Nine people signed up as interested in next year’s EMG training class.

Jan and I may have been overly optimistic, thinking such a wonderful outside adventure would make for record breaking attendance, but we suspect Covid and perhaps other events that weekend may have deterred some folks. At any rate, thanks to tickets sales of 380 and local sponsors we came out ahead and the tour ran smoothly. A special thanks to Allen Crawford, Laraine’s husband, who generously donated the proceeds of sales from his woodworking artistry and the plaques he made for the garden patrons.

Garden owners actually stated the flow was good through the gardens, enabling people to interact with lots of education and information exchanged. Lots of positive comments were received about the various gardens and helpful, friendly volunteers and owners.

Thanks again.
Scenes from the Garden Tour Gardens
The Fall Display at the courthouse was erected September 29th. A tour and history of the gardens was given to the new class and their mentors. The new class also helped cut back peonies at the gardens. Cider and donuts were served before the rains came. Pictured are (left to right) Barb Shropshire, Carol Williams, Carol Vandenberg, Phyllis Benedict, Becky Thorpe, and Janette Everhart. Not pictured but present were Cyndi Wilson, Susan Haim, Stephanie Myers, Laraine Crawford, and Anita Boyett-Voke.
The Worthy Garden

By Stacie Campbell

The home of Judy Moser and Ken O’Dell is tucked into a wooded paradise, complete with two large, picturesque ponds, mature trees, and the enchanting songs of birds and insects. The overall feeling upon arrival is one of peace and serenity. The landscape feels so in-tune with nature, one assumes Judy and Ken have simply carved out a place for their home amongst the verdant backdrop. However, further inspection reveals dozens if not hundreds of trees, perennials and annuals that were clearly added to enhance and delight.

Both Judy and Ken are not just idle followers of Mother Nature. They are keen plant people who enjoy working with Her to discover and nurture plants and trees that work best in their garden. If one travels further down the drive, past the magical forest surrounding the home, they find a field of recently planted tree saplings in various stages of growth and a complex of five greenhouses where the couple use their knowledge of horticulture (Ken formerly owned wholesale and retail nurseries in Memphis) to help them fill their surroundings with lush plant life.

For Judy’s part, she enjoys both starting herbs, native perennials, and a few favorite annuals and veggies from seeds and cuttings, which she plants out in the spring or gives to her kids and a few lucky friends.

Ken’s passion is growing trees, most native to Kansas but some more difficult to find in our area. He even has a giant sequoia, though it is not so giant at the moment.

Judy and Ken’s little slice of paradise has been a work of passion for more than 30 years with many of the trees, tall and mature now, planted as saplings those many years ago. Now, to ease the burden on equally mature backs and joints, they are in the process of simplifying the garden. Some areas can easily be returned to nature, where the plants and trees can find their own balance without input from a gardener. Other areas are being edited to select plants that are mostly self-sustaining.

Surprisingly, the deer, rabbits and other varmints are assisting in this editing process—at least that’s how Judy prefers to look at it. Rather than bemoaning their intrusion upon her garden, she is using her natural instinct to observe and take note of what they are eating and what they are leaving behind to help her decide what to propagate and plant. After all, why fight to grow plants only to have them eaten. As Ken always says, “They have to eat, too!” Judy would share her list with us, but it is only a list of what has been eaten in her gardens, and she has no idea who or what is doing the eating! Deer, rabbits, groundhogs, squirrels?

But if ever there were a place where magic and science meet, it is in this garden, where there is always something to learn, leading to beautiful wonders to behold. ✿
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.