What’s Growing On…

The latest news from the
Marais des Cygnes Extension Master Gardeners

SEPTEMBER 2021
www.maraisdescygnes.ksu.edu

CALENDAR

• The September 28 Advanced Training has been postponed.
• October 5, 11 am, Visit Everharts for a Tree Tour and Soil Health Info. Details at right. Complete AT schedule on page 7.

October 12, 5:30 pm, Fourth Quarterly Meeting at Wallace Park pavilion, with horticulture games and pizza from Simple Simon’s (bring your own beverage). Please RSVP by Friday, Oct. 8 to Katelyn at the Ext. office.

Courthouse Work Days:
Wednesdays at 8 am
Phyllis Benedict 913-294-4751
pabenedict51@gmail.com

Trial Garden Work Days:
Tuesdays at 8 am
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. The next meeting will be before the Quarterly Meeting at the Wallace Park pavilion 4:00 pm.

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

Tour the Farm and Learn About Soil Health

Oct. 5, 11 am, Visit Everharts: Family View Farm tour, Soil Heath. Bring lunch, chair and drink. Boots highly recommended. (Rain date Oct. 12.) Mike and Janette will give you a walking tour of the farm gardens and the SOILGANIX operation while educating you on soil health. A soil health resource list will be provided. Gardens include iris bed (some have been reblooming!), perennial bed at the barn, and vegetable, herb and cut flower garden. Lunch at the fire ring overlooking the pond.

Take a longer walk through timber after lunch if anyone wants a bit more exercise. Address: 36229 W 327th St., Osawatomie, KS 66064. ½ mile west of Osawatomie Golf Course on south side. Double green gate with building permits on it. Drive to the barn to park. Better Soil: Better Plants!

NEWS & NOTES

• Additional ATs at the K-state Garden Hour series. October 6, Backyard Birds, and November 3, Winter Interest. Katelyn will email the link. All past webinars are available on their website.

• The Board voted to continue Holiday Happiness by designating $750 matching funds to be shared between three food pantries—Osawatomie, LaCygne, and Spring Hill—and also to continue the $500 4-H scholarship.

• Congratulations to Kathy Doherty on becoming an Emeritus Master Gardener! Thanks for your many contributions and years of service.

• A Garden Tour report will be in the October newsletter.

• Remember to be turning in your volunteer hours for 2021.
Advisory Board
Chairman — Betsy Hasselquist
Vice Chairman — Sue Burns
Secretary – Anita Boyett-Voke
Treasurer – Laraine Crawford

Members at Large
Janette Bennett
Chet McLaughlin

committees
Courthouse Garden
Phyllis Benedict
Trial Garden
Shirley New & Chet McLaughlin
KSU Extension Office Garden
Sue Burns
Lakemary Liaison
Becky Thorpe
Advanced Training
Barbara Shropshire
Awards Banquet
Donna Cook & Susan Thompson
Symposium 2022
Stacie Campbell
Plant Sale 2022
Sue Burns & 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 & Sue Burns
Linn County Fair
Mike Brown
New Recruits/Mentors
Becky Thorpe
Newspaper Articles
Katelyn Barthol, Extension Agent

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

Restoring the Courthouse Medallion
By Anita Boyette-Voke

After working in the courthouse gardens for a couple of years I finally noticed the medallion located in the sidewalk was looking pretty neglected. After some discussion with Phyllis we decided that we would try to improve on its looks. We knew it would be impossible to get it restored to its original beauty, but felt that any improvement would be better than just letting it continue to be neglected.

We got on line and did some research. We did start by replacing the caulking around the medallion. I am pretty sure that at that point we both knew that this would be quite an undertaking. (The individual that had cleaned it in the past was no longer available to glean information from.) What we discovered was quite interesting. “How do you clean a bronze statue” were the keystroked words for the search engines! The results were varied and extensive. Brasso, coke, a mixture of lemon juice and baking soda, salt, flour and vinegar, and Never Dull and of course soap and water. Well, we tried several of these concoctions, mostly in vain. We got some interesting looks and inquiries not only from our fellow EMGs but people coming and going from the courthouse.

After a few weeks, Phyllis decided to leave the rest of the task to me. I would have not been so persistent had it not been for her (and others) encouragement as well as help in the beginning. The gardens needed tending to as well, so off she went to pull weeds and off I went to remain on my knees rubbing and scrubbing. The unique conundrum of this particular work of art is that it is located on the sidewalk, is flat, gets foot traffic as well as weekly watering from the sprinkler system, which causes dirt and water to accumulate in the low places.

This task consumed me for the better part of the summer!! I didn’t realize I had OCD!! However, the fruits of our labor is a much improved medallion especially after putting on a coat of wax to help protect it during the coming months. Next spring I will probably take on smaller portions in sections to better clean them and reapply the wax. I think I will be putting together a work bucket this winter. I will have to let this go to some degree as I also want to pull those weeds!!

EMG Janette Everhart Conducts SOILGANIX Test

Mellissa at Whispering Elm Farm is a satisfied user of Family View Farms soil enhancement products. When applying them to her gardens this spring, she set up three demonstration gardens to show how the products affect plants.

When you visit there, look to the west of the vegetable gardens in front of the house. In the cut flower area you will see three Family View Farms markers. Melissa set up three areas, each with zinnias, basil and calendula: 1) control with no soil enhancement added; 2) SOILGANIX, the soil builder, added; 3) SOILGANIX and Agrimend, the trace mineral product, added.

In early June, the difference was substantial in terms of size of plants, number of buds and number of blooms. Janette has photos and data if you are interested, or look at Facebook@ familyviewfarms. Now, the calendula has all but disappeared from the control garden. It is believed that the survival on the other beds is due to the drought tolerance provided by increased organic matter due to the SOILGANIX. The other plants continue to thrive.—Janette
Melissa Anderson, graduate of Paola High and KSU. I have degrees in Horticulture, a minor in Agronomy, and an MBA from University of Phoenix. I have worked in the Horticulture industry for several years, primarily in perennials. I moved to supply chain while in the industry. Since then, I’ve developed a wide knowledge of telecom, pharmaceuticals, print and food manufacturing supply chains.

I am excited to begin this program and share my enthusiasm for plants. I have been extremely busy planting gardens on our property. I also collect trauma-tophyllum and philodendrons, with more than 45 different species.

My husband, Rob, and I have a son in college, and I was the one in the family responsible for most of the mowing. We typically had a vegetable garden, and my mom loved to plant and grow flowers in her rock garden. I believe my love for gardening ties more to creating special moments and memories with others while creating beautiful landscapes in their gardens.

Billie Lenz: I am an adventurer, scuba diver, and entrepreneur—a “make it happen” person. I’ve traveled to 41 countries and all 50 states. Served as Chair of the TV19 Auction, Race Day Chair for the Race for the Cure, and Treasurer of the Friends of the Arboretum. In my prior life, I’ve owned three businesses, sold accounting systems, and written over 100 computer database applications for companies like Sprint, Hallmark, Friends of the Arboretum, and other businesses. I have a BS in Education and a Master’s in Business. I’m now retired. No need for the resume anymore. Hurrah!

In the ‘70s-‘90s I owned a home with a greenhouse and lots of trees (shade garden). In 1999 I bought a home on an acre and a half, a mile from the OP Arboretum (sun gardening). In 2016 Bruce Bennett and I bought property at Chiles Airpark. It included a home, a 50x70 airplane hangar for our 1946 Ercoupe airplane, a grass runway, and 14+ acres. Luckily, four of the acres had been planted to native flowers and grasses.

Billie had hybrid tea roses along both sides of her house and had a rose garden in the back beside! There were other flowers also. Geraniums, narcissus, moon flowers and others. Grandma had such a hard time waiting out the short winter that she planted sweet peas as early as possible so that she wouldn’t have to be without flowers any longer than she had to!

My great-grandmother had moved in with her daughter (my grandmother) when she was 90 years old. There are pictures of her in the back yard among the fig and apricot trees. She lived to be 100 years old and had a clear mind, so we have heard her stories and I have always admired her “let’s get to it” pioneer spirit.

In my adult life, I migrated to Kansas in stages, with stops in Colorado and Oklahoma. I have been here about 40 years now and am a very happy transplant—except for my experiencing (Continued on next page)
Cyndi Wilson: I was born, raised and lived most of my life in Ottawa, KS. My husband, Larry, and I moved to Paola 13 years ago, after our youngest went to college, to be closer to my work. Larry and I have been married for 45 years and have three married children, Curtis (Kate), Nicholas (Teal), and Heather (Luke). We have been blessed with eight amazing grandchildren, Noah, Mark, Samuel, Elaina, Aubrey, Seth, Evelyn and Sadie. I retired from Evergy (KCPL) in April of 2020 with 41 years of service and am enjoying this phase of life very much.

Spending time with my grandparents was at the top of my favorite things to do growing up. Both sets of grandparents liked to garden (flowers, vegetables and fruit), which I think is why I love doing it, too. Nothing warms my heart more than a grandchild running out to see what I am growing and asking questions about what they see. In June, my granddaughters who live in Hawaii came back to visit after being on island for a year. First thing they did was run to the garden beds—even before seeing me. I will have been a successful grandmother if I pass this love of growing things on to them. Nick’s girls already have a container garden; Heather’s kids help her with their raised beds and caring for their small fruit trees/bushes; and Curt’s boys love to check out their grandparents’ gardens on both sides of the family.

In addition to gardening, I enjoy canning, sewing, quilting, bird-watching, and volunteering for Meals on Wheels twice a week. I am looking forward to the opportunity of taking the master gardener classes and being a part of the group.

Lois Madsen: My mother was an organic gardener. In the 1960s-1970s I helped her. My back yard in my last home in California was on the annual HOA garden tour for its prolific fruit trees and beautiful flowers.

I have 22 acres in Kansas and dream of making it a beautiful garden space. I am eager to work hard to learn and to contribute. I hope to develop my black walnut forest into a producing orchard.

Having been very active in my professional associations, I have never volunteered in gardening. I love the topic and will learn fast! My goals are to become better acquainted with my adopted home, to meet people with similar passions, to learn to garden successfully in a four-season climate, and to contribute to my community.
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. New officers will be elected by the board.

Barb Shropshire:
My early memories of visiting grandparents in central Kansas include seeing the beautiful backyard flower garden of my great grandmother and my grandmother starting me in making a scrapbook of cut out floral pictures. At home, I grew up seeing my mother tending to her flower gardens and indoor plants and both she and my father working in the vegetable garden. I saw them all having the goal of beautifying their spaces both outdoors and inside. I began growing my own houseplants for my room when I was in middle school. By the time I was first married, I was planting flowers and vegetables in pots or around each home. I found myself taking on a little more planting space each place we lived with the help of my husband usually digging the new plot.

My mother became a Johnson County EMG after retiring and I knew how much she enjoyed the program and contributing to the DeAnna Rose Farmstead as her main volunteer project. When my husband and I moved to Miami County, I had a lot more yard and felt I had the time to go through the Master Gardener training. I had a desire to learn all I could about growing different plants. It was also a good way to meet more people in the area. Our home had a picket fenced garden area with flowers, shrubs and herbs that was one of the selling points for me in choosing the property. We have since added the vegetable garden, two perennial beds, fruit trees, shade trees and shrubs throughout our property. These along with a deck full of container plants all continue to occupy my gardening time. I’m always happy to see some of the perennials doing well that I received from my mother’s yard many years ago and am glad I moved some of their divisions from house to house. Last year I started a Gnome garden for our two grandsons which has been fun seeing them get excited about plants and playing with the parts and pieces they’ve been collecting.

I was in the 2018 EMG training class and have volunteered most regularly at the Courthouse garden. I took over the Advanced Training Coordinator position in 2021. There have been many challenges in keeping my plants thriving and alive in a country setting with animals and pests to compete and deal with. I’m grateful having the opportunity to learn the best practices to meet these challenges through the MdC EMG program.

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.

Laraine Crawford:
I have been a master gardener for over 17 years in the Lake Area Master Gardeners in Missouri and the Marais des Cygnes Master Gardeners in Paola. During those years I have been a volunteer at the Arboretum and Botanical Gardens as a gardener, docent and tour guide. Also I have worked at the Courthouse Gardens and designed and planted a biblical garden at my church. This year my own gardens were on our Garden Tour in September.

I served on the board as treasurer from 2015 – 2018 and again from 2020 – 2021. I would like the opportunity to continue in this role for another 2 years.

As a member of the board I feel I can offer historical information as well as ideas for the future of the extension master gardener program.

Judy Moser:
Years before I became an EMG I helped my husband, Ken O’Dell, grow plants for the plant sales then held at Ursuline. I had the pleasure of meeting and working with many of the early EMGs. (During the plant sales, Paul Schonbachler brought me chocolate donuts.) Retirement freed me to take the EMG training classes in 2017.

Our greenhouse is still my happy place, partly because everything I do there is done standing straight up (not bending or stooping). But I also enjoy doing EMG graphics projects, including this newsletter and publicity for the Plant Sale, Symposium, and Garden Tour—all of which I do sitting down! I vigorously applaud the “younger” people who do the actual back-breaking work in our various garden projects, and the brave souls who do AT presentations. ✨
Ken and Jody Hawkinson invited the MdC EMGs to visit their amazing tropical garden on August 24th. Six intrepid EMGs from Miami County (and one current trainee) made the trip to see this one-of-a-kind garden in Shawnee, KS. Everybody else missed a real treat!

Most interesting to me is that Ken is the creative genius and designer. Jody proudly declares that she is merely the set of hands that follows Ken’s instructions.

There are actually three garden areas: the front yard, the back yard and the wooded back, back-yard.

With the delighted permission of the neighborhood owners, Ken has created duplicate banana, canna, and zinnia gardens around each mailbox in the neighborhood so that one drives into a magical extended garden. They also have a large mixed planting garden bed that takes up most of their partial sun front yard (pictured at right).

Then one walks through a gate to the back yard that is mostly an inground pool surrounded by a narrow strip-bed of tropical plants, especially four-foot-tall giant elephant ears.

Then, one walks through a plain gate into an acre and a half of tropical paradise. A canopy of huge native trees provides the shade, and multiple beds of winter-hardy bananas maintains the tropical look, abetted by annual elephant ears and cannas. Pots of annuals such as coleus, impatiens and begonia provide pops of color. Many of these pots are mounted on tree stumps cut at eye level or above.

My favorite garden tip: someone

(Continued on next page)
asked how Ken keeps the squirrels from destroying all of the pots, especially the raised pots on stumps at eye level. He replied that when he finishes creating a pot, he lays a big, fresh dog poop across the surface. With three dogs delightedly racing through “their” garden, ground level pests are discouraged and an unlimited supply of dog poop is produced to protect the aerial pots. At 84, Ken still climbs rickety ladders to water all these pots! Jody holds the ladders, heart in mouth.

This garden is not only an amazing horticultural triumph, it is an example of 60 years of peaceful marital collaboration.

Left to right, above: Stephanie Myers, Stacie Campbell, Susan Hain, Janette Everhart, Jody Hawkinson, and Lenora Larson. Middle picture: Ken Hawkinson with some of his hardy bananas. The group, chatting in the lovely shade of “the tropics.”

TROPICAL TOUR

Left to right, above: Stephanie Myers, Stacie Campbell, Susan Hain, Janette Everhart, Jody Hawkinson, and Lenora Larson. Middle picture: Ken Hawkinson with some of his hardy bananas. The group, chatting in the lovely shade of “the tropics.”

2021 Marais des Cygnes Extension Master Gardener Advanced Training Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>#Hr</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 28 Postponed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Your Gardening Personality</td>
<td>Lenora Larson, MdC EMG</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 5</td>
<td>11am</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Visit Everharts—Tree Tour and compost info, bring lunch, chair and drink</td>
<td>Janette Everhart, MdC EMG</td>
<td>36229 W. 327th St., Osawatomie; rain date Oct. 12 if necessary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>1-3pm</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Photographic Field Guide to the Butterflies of KC Region</td>
<td>Betsy Betros</td>
<td>JoCo EMG AT Zoom link (see Katelyn’s email from 2/18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 4</td>
<td>9-11am</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>150 Ways to Create a Fantastic Yard Totally Tailored to You</td>
<td>Amanda Thomsen</td>
<td>JoCo EMG AT Zoom link (see Katelyn’s email from 2/18)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MdC Training Hours
Other Training Hours—check with Katelyn to see if other Zoom training is AT eligible. The JoCo EMGs plan to Zoom AT classes in January, February and March.