2021 CALENDAR

- Johnson County Advanced Training sessions are listed at right.
  
  - The 2021 awards will be announced at the 1st Quarterly meeting on February 9, 6:30pm, which will be a Zoom event.

  - The 2021 Plant Sale will be held on May 6-7-8 (note: the dates have been changed) in the parking lot at the new office, with set-up on May 5.

  - 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.)

Advanced Training Sessions with JoCo EMGs

Katelyn has received permission from Dennis Patton for us to attend the Johnson County EMG Advanced Training sessions, which are being held by Zoom. Only EMGs are given access to the Zoom link, which Katelyn has sent to the membership by email. The link is the same for each training.

Call Katelyn if you have lost the link information, or need other help accessing Zoom. Please do not share the link with anyone outside of our program! It is only for the use of EMGs in the Johnson County program, and they are graciously allowing us to join them. Note that they are all morning programs and that participants will need to mute mics and turn off cameras.


- February 11, 9-11 a.m.: Creating Resilient Landscapes in a Time of Climate Change, presented by David Dods, Environmental Scientist and Engineer, AECOM.

- February 25, 9-11 a.m.: Landscaping with Natives, presented by Scott Vogt, Executive Director Dyck Arboretum of the Plains.

NEWS & NOTES

- Relocation progresses! Movers will be taking heavy items to the new offices on Monday, January 18.

- Lenora Larson has offered space for the relocation of the Trial Gardens, and committee chairs Shirley New and Chet McLaughlin have enthusiastically accepted. Plans to renovate the existing raised beds are underway.

- The order form for EMG t-shirts, sweatshirts, aprons and hats is on page 4. Orders and payment must be into the office by February 26, 2021.

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

Follow the Marais des Cygnes EMGs on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mdcemg

Moving Sale

The Extension office will hold a moving sale Friday and Saturday, January 22–23, at the 104 S. Brayman St. address.

Items for sale are office supplies, education materials, kitchen items, books, and several miscellaneous items that will not be moved to the new office location. Some items will be marked “free,” but donations will be appreciated and will be used for future extension programs.

Cash only. Times for the sale are Friday: 8am-6pm and Saturday: 8am-Noon.
New Beginnings!
2020 Was a Very @#$%^&* Year

By Betsy Hasselquist, MdC EMG Chair

E very day offers a new beginning. Envision what you’d like it to be…..

2020 started out “normal,” but then COVID-19 emerged. With it came lots of unknowns, challenging, stressful times never experienced or even imagined before in our lifetime. Who would have thought last spring that we’d still be dealing with growing pandemic concerns?

The new normal doesn’t seem normal and continues to escalate and evolve. Everyone has been affected and copes in personal ways.

COVID hit home for me in recent days, affecting people close to me and making it VERY real.

Changes have led to chronic uncertainty with losses, anxiety, depression for many and countless tests to our stamina and resiliency. Numerous stories are both heartwarming and heart breaking.

The pandemic has changed the world and has resulted in economic crisis. People have lost jobs and businesses, and people are struggling.

Divisiveness like we’ve never seen before.

Heightened awareness for social justice, an awakening for equal opportunity for all.

Communication, listening, problem solving, compromise, kindness, compassion, acceptance, patience, forgiveness…

Be part of the solutions. Educate yourself. Assess your values.

Count your blessings and nurture your relationships.

What changes have you personally experienced and how did you deal with them? What changes might you want to continue (or not), to make your new normal?

Please make responsible decisions to keep yourself and others safe and cared for physically and emotionally.

It’s time to order seeds! (see pg. 5)

Here’s to a hopeful, happy, healthy and peaceful New Year!!!

HAPPY 25th ANNIVERSARY MARAIS DES CYGNES MASTER GARDENERS!

The Miami County Master Gardeners program was established in 1996. Patti (emeritus) and Bernard Armstrong were founding members. The program joined with Linn County in 2014, and was officially renamed in 2015.

2020: A YEAR ALWAYS TO BE REMEMBERED

2020 started with lots of positive EMG energy and momentum. The brainstorming committee came up with great ideas to recruit new members, promote involvement and expand our presence in the community, promoting education and the love of gardening.

Our annual Awards Banquet was well attended. Thanks to outgoing

Continued on page 3)
New Beginnings, continued

board members and those who stepped up to cover in 2019, Laraine Crawford, Judy Moser and Jan Thompson, and to the newly elected 2020 board members, Anita Boyett-Voke, Laraine Crawford and Judy Moser.

Welcome to our newly full-fledged active members: Anita Boyett-Voke, Kathleen Brady-Francis, Lori Calvin, Barbara Shropshire, Fred Snead, Patricia Wolfe.

2019 New class members: Janette Everhart and Cindy Katzer.
2019 Rookie of the Year: Anita Boyett-Voke
2019 Master Gardener of the Year: Sue Burns and Laraine Crawford
2019 Work Glove Award: Laraine Crawford
2019 Seeds of Knowledge Award: Anita Boyett-Voke
2019 5 Year Award: Sue Burns, Debbie Kitchell
2019 10 Year Award: Jamie Albright. Jamie recently moved away and we wish her the best.

Kansas Expo Day booth: Sue and Betsy, on January 25. Lots of good exposure and if there had been a prize for the best booth, it would have been ours.

4-H Scholarship: $500

SYMPOSIUM: A HUGE SUCCESS, February 29.

WHEW, we pulled it off just in time. MdC EMGs provided a fabulous learning experience with prominent speakers (thank you, Lenora), a new venue to accommodate more participants with top-notch audio/visual support and wonderful snacks (lots of homemade goodies) and lunches. The new venue accommodated 250 folks and we still turned away another 60. This event has continued to increase from the 60 people who attended our first symposium in 2016.

Thank you to Susan Thompson and Jeannie Trail for spearheading and growing this great educational opportunity for the past few years AND for all the volunteers who made it possible. IT TAKES A VILLAGE! Also, want to acknowledge Connie Murphy’s foresight in coordinating disinfectant safety measures for our event, not to mention donating her beautiful wreaths for door prizes.

PUBLICITY: A big thank you to Judy Moser for our Newsletter (makes us proud) and publicity efforts and to Anita Boyett-Voke who has enhanced our Face Book presence.

AND THEN THERE WAS COVID

Sadly, lots of projects, meetings, get-togethers were thwarted. The Extension Office was closed for a while in the spring and face-to-face meetings have been restricted with social distancing. Some out-of-doors meetings were held and Zoom (a new concept back then to me) has helped our communication and progress.

Unfortunately, several projects had to be canceled or postponed:

Growing Our Group Brainstorming committee, Orientation Tea for current and potential members, PLANT SALE, Touch A Truck, SEEDS FOR KIDS, Miami County Fair open horticulture and floriculture classes, several Advanced Training opportunities, Come Grow With Us classes.

As a leader on the board, I strived to address what’s happening in this world without offending, engender hope and self-care, and keep our mission alive.

HOTLINE: A valuable educational service. The onsite hotline was not always possible, but thanks to those who offered their availability as consultants, community questions were still addressed. Please let Betsy know if you want to be added to the list, along with your area(s) of expertise.

EMG GARDENS:

COURT HOUSE GARDENS, a Miami County Gem: The additional water lines are much appreciated. Check out the antique fencing around the oak tree on the east side which originally came from around the Paola square fountain. Thanks to Phylis Benedict and Kathy Doherty and all the volunteers for your hard work.

EXTENSION OFFICE GARDENS:

“You’ve come along way, baby.” Lots of blood (mine), sweat and tears have brought these gardens to fruition. Some said nothing would grow in the south garden but they were proved wrong. These gardens matured, became more beautiful and diverse. But, alas, with the Extension Office moving, a bittersweet time, the MdC EMGs came out in force and rescued hundreds (thousands?) of plants, giving them new homes and continuing their legacy. Many thanks to Sue Burns and Debbie Kitchell and the faithful volunteers.

TRIAL GARDEN: COVID issues disrupted the trial garden this year. Changes had to be made, hampering expected outcomes. Shirley and Chet ended up growing the peppers in their own gardens. Despite these problems, they still donated copious amounts of produce to the Osawatomie farmers market with proceeds going to their scholarship program.

The trial garden will be moving to a new location in 2021. Thanks,
New Beginnings, continued

Lenora, for offering your space.

NEW 2020 EMG CLASS!!! Nine members have completed the Zoom training and many have already become involved in our program. Although we’ve been prevented from more gatherings, we enjoyed meeting for a tour at Lenora’s and the Court House Gardens. Looking forward to things to come.

K-STATE PAOLA EXTENSION OFFICE MOVING. The Paola Extension Office location on the former Ursuline property is moving this month. See their Face Book page for details.

NEW LOCATION: 901 N. PEARL, PAOLA KS. Phone remains the same: 913-294-4306.

VOLUNTEER AND ADVANCED TRAINING HOURS: The yearly requirement of 40 volunteer hours and 10 Advanced Training hours were waived this year due to the pandemic.

HISTORY PROJECT: d Brown began documenting our history and Patti Armstrong proceeded with this endeavor. Thank you, Judy Moser for assimilating tons of bits and pieces of our legacy and bringing it to fruition as accurately as possible, although certainly with many omissions and inconsistencies. A paperback book will be produced soon.

HOLIDAY HAPPINESS: A new venture in partnership with our mission. We donated $500 in matching funds to two food pantries in Miami and Linn counties. I’m excited to announce that MdC EMGs donated $975, so a total of $1,475. The board approved a $750 matching fund to three area food pantries for 2021. We can make a difference in these tough times. Thank you!

Lots of people do a lot. Please know your efforts and camaraderie are much appreciated. Keep in touch.

MOVING AHEAD IN 2021: Let’s keep our fingers crossed!

Plant Sale new location and new dates, May 6-8, 901 N. Pearl, Paola Court House and Trial Gardens Seeds for Kids Garden Tour- September 10 & 11 AND SO MUCH MORE...

Let’s work together for a better world! ✿

EMG Clothing Order Form

Name
Address
Phone
Email

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<th>Color</th>
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All orders WITH payment are due to the Extension Office by February 26, 2021

Make Checks Payable to: Marais des Cygnes Extension Master Gardeners

All items 2XL & Up - Add $3.00 each

Grand Total

Tax is included in the price
Order Seeds Early!

By Nancy Kalman

For a newspaper article this winter I decided to do an article on ordering seeds early. I did a lot of research on seed companies. I decided not to include some information that was not very positive. But I thought that you, as a Master Gardener, might deem the information useful.

I start almost all of my plants, mostly vegetables, in my basement under lights. I have for years. I order the seeds in December or early January. Last year the nurseries were overwhelmed with orders and their workers had to maintain social distance, so some orders were really late in arriving. An open pollinated pole bean that I ordered in January didn’t arrive until April. Just in time for planting.

The last couple of years I decided to purchase some of the more common seeds from a big box store. Some catalogs are charging 4 or 5 dollars per packet for seed. The box store is usually 2 or 3 dollars and sometimes a lot less. Early in the spring I picked up three packets at a big box store. I put the seeds in potting mix and had nothing germinate from one package. The other two were fine. You have to remember that the seeds that arrive at the store were shipped, probably by truck. It is unknown where the seeds are stored.

The other, more interesting, happening was purchasing cucumber seeds. I had already direct seeded a row of cucumbers out in the field. I had a gap. When walking through the big box store I found the exact cucumber that I always plant. I was a happy camper and bought two packets. I planted the seed in the gap, watered, grew the plants and watched as the cucumbers set on. Only, they were not the variety that I wanted or was labeled on the packet. I contacted Ferry Morris and they said I could fill out a form on their web site and they were send me replacements. They said it was due to using a semi-automatic filling machine. In other words, some of the previous seeds were still in the machine. On the form that they wanted me to fill out it said that they would substitute if they were out of the seed I wanted. I contacted them, asking if they had the cucumber I wanted, because it was not listed in their on-line catalog. No reply! I did not fill out the form. I was not a happy camper after all.

During my research, I decided to check the reviews for Ferry Morris. I always thought of them as a reputable seed source. I found several comments that the seeds that they bought were not what they had expected. Some comments said that the packets had very few seeds, if any. Ferry Morris has also gone to an on-line catalog only. They are concentrating on sending seeds to big box stores. Maybe their sales have increased to the point that quality control is lacking.

I will still purchase seeds from the big box stores or garden centers, but also purchase backups. Seeds are living organisms and must be handled with care.

Bagworm Reminder

Thought this photo would be good for the January issue as a reminder to keep searching for/destroying bagworm cases on your Junipers and other vulnerable shrubs and trees. Each female bag contains hundreds of the small yellow eggs, which will hatch as caterpillars in June. These moth caterpillars construct a bag of silk and twigs and begin devouring its host plant. I HATE BAGWORMS! —Lenora Larson