CALANDAR

• June 17, 1-3 pm, Alan Branhagen, JoCo EMG AT Zoom (description in next column).
• June 22, 6:30 pm, Hypertufa, Hillsdale Bank BBQ (description in next column).
• September 10-11 Garden Tour. A “pre-tour” for volunteers and garden owners will be held before the tour. Flyer on page 8.
• The 2021 Advanced Training schedule is on page 5. Watch for new programs as they are added.

Courthouse Work Days:
Workdays: Wednesdays at 9 am (8 am on really hot days)
Phyllis Benedict 913-294-4751
pabenedict51@gmail.com

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

Trial Garden Work Days:
Work days are being announced.
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, and open to all EMGs.

Newsletter deadline is noon on Thursday following the Board meeting.

Advanced Training June 17, 1:00 to 3:00 pm
Ten Steps to Transform Your Yard Into an Earth-Friendly Garden

Alan Branhagen, formerly of Powell Gardens and now the Director of Operations at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, will lead this JoCo EMG Zoom program. Katelyn will email the link.

Those who know Alan are in awe of his vast knowledge—specifically his love of native plants and butterflies—and all things pertaining to nature. Participants will receive two hours of AT credit.

Advanced Training June 22, 6:30 pm
Making Hypertufa Containers

Greg Beverlin, Hillsdale Bank Building, June 22, 6:30 pm

Greg Beverlin will lead us in making hypertufa garden containers at the Hillsdale Bank Building in a socially distanced workshop.

Greg co-owned Hillsdale Bank BBQ restaurant for 26 years with his wife Donna. An MdC Master Gardener, Donna passed away from cancer in 2016. Greg continues to make the restaurant’s BBQ sauce and bakes bread for sale.

There is a $30 charge for the session which includes instruction and materials—but you are asked to bring at least one old towel. If you like you can bring two or three towels to make several containers. A hand towel will make a smaller creation. Greg has a variety of plastic containers to choose from to give shape to the container you create.

If more than 15 sign up, another session will be scheduled when most of those interested are available. 1.5 hours AT credit.
**Advisory Board**

Chairman — Betsy Hasselquist  
Vice Chairman — Sue Burns  
Secretary – Anita Boyett-Voke  
Treasurer – Laraine Crawford  

Members at Large  
Janette Bennett  
Chet McLaughlin  
Judy Moser

**Committees**

**Courthouse Garden**  
Phyllis Benedict & Kathy Doherty  

**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**  
Stacie Campbell  

**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**  
Becky Thorpe & Cynthia Katzer  

**Newspaper Articles**  
Katelyn Barthol, Extension Agent

---

- **K-State has lifted restrictions on mask requirements for in-person events, but social distancing is still required. The new meeting room will hold up to 25 people, so there will be limits on in-person AT classes.** There will be a zoom option for those who choose not to attend in person.
- **Board meetings** are now being held in the meeting room at the Extension Office.

- **The 2021 Garden Tour** will be held on September 10-11. A “pre-tour” for volunteers and garden owners will be held prior to the tour.
- **The theme of the 2022 Symposium** is “How to Design a Garden without Breaking Your Back.” The date is set for February 26 at the Lighthouse Church, and Lenora Larson is working on securing speakers.

---

**Plant Sale Meeting to Be Held Soon**

Congratulations to our 2021 Plant Sale Committee: Sondra Dela Cruz, chair, Sue Burns, Chet McLaughlin, Lenora Larson, and Judy Moser. Thanks also to the many volunteers. Several folks worked all or most of the sale! Such a good turnout, and it was great being together and talking plants with each other and our customers. We welcome the new class members, some of whom have become vital, active members.

A committee meeting will be held soon to make notes for the 2022 sale while this year’s sale is fresh in our minds. **If you are interested in becoming the plant sale chair, please contact Betsy, bjbniangua@yahoo.com, 913-244-2265 by July 1.**

Sondra is stepping down as chair but will still help the committee and plans to provide updated written guidelines. The rest of the existing committee will continue to do what they have been doing (vendors, publicity, set-up, check-out, etc.) and we will be more than happy to have new members join the committee!
Trial Garden Taking Shape

Text by Janette Everhart  |  Photos by Lenora Larson

The Trial Garden has been moved to Lenora Larson’s Loose Lips Farm. With all the rain we had in May, the plants, especially the tomatoes, were looking quite unhappy! The peppers seemed to make it through the heavy water with less damage.

June 3rd was a busy day at the Trial Garden. We had to move all the cages and straw bales from Lenora’s barn down to the garden site. Much of the cardboard weed barrier had blown off so it had to be replaced. We then put straw over the cardboard and cages on all the peppers. And there are many! The tomato cages require a t-post be placed to secure the cages. It was a hot, sweaty morning and into the afternoon.

This was the first time I have volunteered at the Trial Garden. It was rewarding to set up the garden to support the plants and suppress the weeds. The next few weeks hopefully the plants will recover—they should be loving this heat!

For the next work day bottled water and snacks will be provided. We also hope to have a shade canopy there to provide some relief from the hot sun.

Come on out to see how the plants are growing. It will be very interesting to see how the varieties perform. Produce is donated to the Osawatomie Farmers Market with proceeds going to local horticulture related youth scholarships. The trial garden provides research data, but more importantly, fresh produce to the people of Osawatomie who lost their grocery store.

Chet McLaughlin and Shirley New planted 200 tomato and pepper plants from K-State. Bo helped. Soggy weather did not. Great progress was made on June 3, with Shirley, Chet, Dennise Fink-Morse, Carol Williams and Janette and Mike Everhart hard at work spreading mulch and placing tomato cages. Below, cages and drip hose are all in place now!

The area before four long rows were tilled.
The Courthouse Garden

Photos by Anita Boyett-Voke
Everyone is welcome to come visit my garden most any time. It is true the lower bed hasn’t been weeded in weeks, the irises need pruning, the edging is wonky and a huge pile of mulch awaits placement down in the vegetable garden, but I still think my garden is absolutely spectacular and I love sharing it. Conversely, I want to see other people’s gardens, talk about the plants we love, why we enjoy gardening and share the crazy garden stories we all have. Unfortunately, I quite consistently hear “Oh no. I am too far behind with my gardening so I don’t want anyone to see it. “

Hmm, I suppose I understand wanting your garden to look its best, but gardens are always in a state of growth and change and there is always something that needs doing. Is there ever a “good” time when everything is perfect? Is a garden any less wondrous when chaos is knocking on the door? Who made it a rule that only perfect gardens are worth seeing? Honestly, if I waited until all the work was done, I would only have garden tours in January, and what would be the fun in that? I hate the cold.

I blame garden magazines. Lovely moments of perfection at just the right angle with no weeds in sight, no spent blooms needing to be plucked, and razor-sharp edges where the garden bed meets the lawn. Literally snapshots in time. We wander through the pages remarking on their beauty and perfection, while subconsciously comparing them to our own which now seem shabby in comparison. We forget the photo was taken specifically to highlight only the best parts and in the best light of the day. These photos show only a minute, selective parts of a bigger, wilder, picture. (Editor’s note: magazine pictures are taken by professionals, who know all the tricks.)

Yet somehow, we are convinced any decent garden always looks like this, so clearly the garden owner in the magazine is a better gardener, and we and our own garden are somehow... lesser. A sense of shame creeps into our heart and we are relieved only we can see the chaos we have allowed. Poppycock! A garden with weeds is still a garden with life and vigor, and wondrous variety. A garden in disarray is still a garden to love.

In essence, a garden is our way of controlling nature, but nature is not easily controlled. Nature will always take the lead and grow as it wants, often becoming something altogether different and even more glorious than we had planned. Colors change. Shapes adjust to account for neighboring plants. The wind twists them and the sun beckons them in unintended direction. Trying to rigidly control our gardens can be an exercise in frustration and futility, but enjoying it as it unfolds can be enlightening and joyful. Truthfully, gardens are unpredictable and temperamental and perhaps the best we gardeners can hope to do is influence a garden’s growth by attending to its needs with endless weeding, pruning, and watering. Throw in a day of rain, an out-of-town trip, a busy week at work and the tasks build up. This is normal and unavoidable. Even when in need of attention, the garden is filled with flowers, buzzing bees, ripe juicy tomatoes, and simple beauty. It is still worthy of our praise and a moment of our time to simply appreciate it without the associated burden of maintaining it.

It is important to remember a garden is not all about work and can be enjoyed without getting dirty or bringing out the clippers. I don’t know anyone who got into gardening because they needed more to do, so why is that all we talk about when showing our gardens? We garden because we love plants and watching nature unfold. Some use their gardens as an artist’s palette or a place of refuge. Spending time in our gardens nourishes us as much as it does the plants and brings tremendous joy, a sense of accomplishment, and simple peace. This is true even when the weeds seem to be winning. ✿

First in a Series. Stacie would love to feature you and your garden! Contact her at joslyncampbell@yahoo.com
Saturday the 12th Carol Williams, Chet McLaughlin and I started the reconstruction of the gardens by the sign in front of the strip mall/office. Hot work for three people. Hoping for a little more help next Saturday the 19th. We removed about seven gazillion rocks and moved them to buckets and a tarp behind the offices per the landlord’s request. Removed the nasty old landscape fabric that resembled a heavy tarp. Added close to a ton of good blended garden mix and started plantings. Watered everything well, and added brown mulch.

Next Saturday we will complete the north side and both small ends. Looking to put peonies on the ends. We already have bee balm, asters, sedum and Russian sage on the south. That will be mirrored on the north. I have some iris to add to both sides as well but forgot to bring it. Goal is to make a pleasant garden that reflects the many goals of the Master Gardeners and K-State. Drought tolerant, low maintenance. They should fill in nicely.

The landlord must approve. He offered us more of the front lawn. Told him no at this point but also said to never offer a MG more places to plant things cuz we might take him up on it. He thinks we should now put planters in front of ALL the businesses out there with pretty plants :) :) :)!

Please consider coming out on Saturday the 19th at 9 a.m. If we have a few more people we could honestly finish up in 1 to 1 1/2 hours.

Thanks! — Sue
## 2021 Marais des Cygnes Extension Master Gardener Advanced Training Calendar

Please note: More training sessions will be added throughout the year as they are scheduled.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mo</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>#Hr</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1-3pm</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ten Steps to Transform Your Yard into an Earth-Friendly Garden</td>
<td>Alan Branhagen, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Director of Operations</td>
<td>JoCo EMG AT Zoom link (see Katelyn's email from 2/18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Making Hypertufa Containers</td>
<td>Greg Beverlin</td>
<td>Hillsdale Bank BBQ, $30 to make two containers, limit 15 participants, second sessions will be added if needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1-3pm</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Plant Exploration of Asia</td>
<td>Mark Weatherington, Director of JC Raulston Arboretum, NC State U</td>
<td>JoCo EMG AT Zoom link (see Katelyn's email from 2/18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug.</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1-3pm</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Landscaping for Attracting Birds</td>
<td>KSRE Geary County Ag Agent Chuck Otte</td>
<td>JoCo EMG AT Zoom link (see Katelyn's email from 2/18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tour Tropical Garden</td>
<td>Ken &amp; Jodi Hawkinson</td>
<td>10501 W. 50th Pl., Shawnee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept.</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1-3pm</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Favorite Flowering Shrubs</td>
<td>Susan Mertz, Powell Gardens Dir. of Hort.</td>
<td>JoCo EMG AT Zoom link (see Katelyn’s email from 2/28) (same as 2/20 presentation, only one will count)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>28</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Your Gardening Personality</td>
<td>Lenora Larson, MdC EMG</td>
<td>Possibly in person at the Ext. office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct.</td>
<td>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></td>
<td>21</td>
<td>1-3pm</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Topic and Description TBD</td>
<td>Betsy Betros</td>
<td>JoCo EMG AT Zoom link (see Katelyn’s email from 2/18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9-11am</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td></td>
<td>JoCo EMG AT Zoom link (see Katelyn’s email from 2/18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18</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

---

**New Emeritus Member Approved at June Board Meeting**

Long-time EMG Richard Piezuch has applied for emeritus membership status. The Board approved his request at the June 8 meeting.

Richard attended the second Kansas Master Gardener class in Johnson County in 1981, under EMG Agent Larry Stouse, and was active while living there. After he and his wife, Alice, moved to Miami County in 1994, Richard worked with Herschel George and others to form the EMG group in Miami County. Alice attended the first Miami County EMG class in 1996. Both were active members until Alice’s Alzheimer’s disease journey forced both to become inactive members. That journey ended in late 2019, just prior to Covid-19. Now that the pandemic is more or less under control, Richard would like to rejoin his prior social memberships.

We welcome you back, Richard!

---

Follow the Marais des Cygnes EMGs on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/mdcemg](http://www.facebook.com/mdcemg)
2021 Miami County Fall Garden Tour

“A September to Remember”
Presented by the Marais des Cygnes Extension District Master Gardeners

Friday & Saturday, September 10th & 11th, 2021, 9 am to 5 pm

Tickets: $15 (cash or check only)

Enjoy unique gardens in Miami County!
This year’s Garden Tour will feature six gardens located around Paola and Louisburg.
This diverse group of gardens will showcase butterfly gardens, water features, hardscape usage, art in the garden, and much more!

- Tour held rain or shine
- Start the tour at any garden
- No pets or strollers, please
- Sign up for the drawing
- Your $15 ticket is valid for both days of the tour!

Tickets available at each garden during the tour, or at the Marais des Cygnes Extension District–Paola Office, 913 N. Pearl, Suite #1, Paola, KS 66071

For more information call 913-294-4306 or visit www.maraisdescygneshs.ksu.edu or www.facebook.com/mdcemg
Garden Tour map will be available on the website and Facebook prior to the tour.

K-State Research and Extension

Master Gardener
Marais des Cygnes District

Kansas State University is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision, or hearing disability, contact the Marais des Cygnes Extension District at 913-294-4306. Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.