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

APRIL 2022
Paola Office: 913 N. Pearl (Old KC Road), Paola, KS 66071 | 913-294-4306
Mound City Office: 115 S. 6th St., Mound City, KS 66056 | 913-795-2829

More Volunteers Needed!
Plant Sale April 28-30

Advanced Training Opportunities
K-State and JoCo Zooms are approved for AT credit, page 5.
The complete AT schedule (as of now) is on page 8.

Here Comes the Plant Sale!

Plant Sale: April 27, 28, 29, 30
We will be accepting credit cards!

The annual Spring Plant Sale will again be held in the Extension Office parking lot. We will begin set-up on Wednesday the 27th at 9 am. Volunteers will set up the tables to be ready for the Vinland Valley Nursery truck, which will arrive at noon. We will unload, count the number of plants and place them on the correct table. The Louisburg Nursery truck will arrive at 3:00 pm for unloading, counting and placing.

The Sale starts at 9:00 am, Thursday the 28th. No early shopping will be allowed! This is our busiest time, so if you haven’t signed up but want to participate, please join us. We will be open until 6:00 pm Thursday night only. Friday hours are 9 to 5, and Saturday hours are from 9 am to 1:00 pm. Please sign up if you haven’t already. Or just show up! Please email and Facebook your friends. The Plant Sale has proven to be a powerful tool to fulfill our mission of educating the public about science-based horticulture. And it’s fun! -- Lenora Larson

CALENDAR
April 18: Seeds for Kids – Earth Day in Louisburg
April 19: Sustainability
April 21: Unique Methods to Boost Your Vegetable Harvest
April 27: EMG Plant Sale Set Up
April 28 – 30: EMG Plant Sale
May 10 – Short Term Community/ Educational Project & Social Activities Meeting
May 14 – Idalia Butterfly Society Program: All About Pollinators

The Newsletter deadline is noon on Thursday following the Tuesday Board meetings.

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Advisory Board
Chairman — Jan Thompson
Vice Chairman — Sue Burns
Secretary – Anita Boyett-Voke
Treasurer — Laraine Crawford

Members at Large
Janette Bennett
Chet McLaughlin
Barbara Shropshire

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
Postponed
Plant Sale 2022
Sue Burns & Lenora Larson
Garden Tour 2023
Publicity
Lenora Larson
Seeds for Kids
Janette Bennett & Betsy Hasselquist
Social Media / Facebook
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:
Anita Boyett-Voke Newsletter Editor
abvoke@yahoo.com

FROM THE CHAIR

Short Term Educational and Community Service Projects

What great ideas from the EMG group that met recently at the extension office!

We were brainstorming ideas to fulfill an EMG mission for promoting educational and community projects in Miami and/or Linn counties. No idea was a bad idea!

Numerous ideas were discussed keeping in mind if they were doable on a short-term basis and with the number of volunteers available to help as well as keeping within our $500 budget. Our ideas ranged from Habitat for Humanity land-scape plan, senior center planters, nursing home or assisted living small gardens for the residents to enjoy, Wildlife Preserve clean-up, community garden clean-up and even constructing and demonstrating raised garden beds at farmer’s markets, plant sale, etc. We left the meeting with “assignments” to find out more details on specific projects that we might want to pursue.

Our next meeting is planned for Tuesday, May 10th at 11:00 a.m. at the Extension Office. We will review and move forward in planning our new projects and presenting to the Advisory Board for final approval.

Would like to have your thoughts and ideas! Please plan to attend.
On March 4th Katelyn sent out an email with the sign-up link for the EMG Plant Sale. This is a great way to earn your volunteer hours!! We need regular cashiers, credit card cashiers and express cashiers as well as volunteers for the Tally Table and Lucy Booth. This is one of our major fund raisers. Sue B. and team are very organized and eager for us to help sell the wonderful assortment of plants from Vinland Valley Nursery and Louisburg Nursery.

A big thank you to Stacie C, Chet M. and Harley D for organizing a demonstration of a raised bed and compost bin for display at our Plant Sale.

The Hotline started Thursday, April 7th and will continue each Thursday until October. Katelyn sent an email on March 22 with the Sign-Up Genius information. The hours to work are 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon and shifts are 2-hour shifts. Everyone is asked to sign-up for at least 4 hours and encouraged to sign up for more. Please remember you can always refer to the “Consultant List” and contact the “expert” for help in answering questions.

In honor of Earth Day, come hear our very own Sustainability expert, Chet McLaughlin, and learn ways we can make improvements in our lives to make a healthier world for all. The Sustainability AT is Tuesday, April 19th at the Paola Extension Office at 6:30 p.m. Chet will update and provide us information on how to reduce our environmental footprint and be more energy and water sustainable. He will have a 6-page handout and a slide show for us.

**See below for more about Chet.**

A Linn County Garden Tour just for the MdC EMGs is scheduled for Thursday, June 9th (this is a change in date reported earlier) with a rain date of June 14th. Plans are to carpool from the Paola Extension office to Linn County. Please mark your calendars, and more information is to come when it becomes available.

The 2nd Quarter Award and Recognition Dinner is scheduled for June 21, 2022. Donna, Susan T and Betsy H are working on securing the venue, catering and will let us know the pertinent information as soon as available.

The 2nd meeting for the Short Term Educational and Community Service Projects and Social Activities is scheduled for Tuesday, May 10th at 11:00 a.m at the Paola Extension office.

Seeds for Kids committee members have been busy creating almost 500 seed packages to begin handing out to Miami and Linn County kids. Ranging from a LaCygne Easter Egg Hunt, a Louisburg Earth Day for 5th graders to Paola and Louisburg elementary schools as well as public libraries they are trying hard to increase interest in gardening. Our end goal is to increase the number of entries for Seeds for Kids in the Miami County Fair in July. Our EMG Plant Sale will also be one of the sources for handing out seeds.

Background Checks are required and in process for the EMG volunteers who plan to work with children, in particular the Seeds for Kids program. We currently have 5-6 EMGs that have signed up to obtain approval. If you are interested, please contact Katelyn to begin the process. The EMG budget will pay the cost to obtain approval.

I grew up outside Washington DC in a neighborhood of homes built in the 1800’s with little lawn or garden space and big old trees. My experience with plants included hospitalization for poison ivy and going gaga at mother nature’s wonders at the National Arboretum and National Zoo. Going to KU was a real experience. I became concerned with the environment while working for Pittsburg Plate Glass Company and returned to KU for a masters in environmental engineering. I worked for KDHE and US EPA for 40 years trying to protect the people and land. I also spent 6 years in the Navy.

My grandfather and grandmother rented land near Basehor, Kansas, where they grew a beautiful garden, and preserved much of the produce in a cold cellar. I spent most of my summers with them. They were both president of the Wyandotte County Garden Club at different times.

Jane and I built an energy efficient, solar panel covered house with multiple gardens. As an environmentalist, I serve on the board of the Heartland Renewable Energy Society and volunteer at the Paola recycling center each week.

Shirley New and I have led the KSU Trial Garden efforts for the past 8 years and we donate the proceeds to the Osawatomie Food Pantry and student-led community garden, since they do not have a grocery store in town. At EPA I ended my career as the climate change/ sustainability expert. I will try to update and provide information on how to reduce your footprint and be more energy and water sustainable. The numbers are amazing.

The Life and Times of Chet McLaughlin
Vinland Valley Nursery is once again providing the natives, butterfly host plants, pollinator plants, perennials, herbs, trees, and much more that will be available at the Marais de Cygnes Master Gardener Paola Plant Sale April 28-29-30.

VINN was established in the spring of 1998 by Amy Albright and Doug Davison, whose dream to build a family-operated nursery conveniently coincided with a desire to be self-employed.

Their literal mom-and-pop establishment started with one heated greenhouse and three toddler daughters, whose toys eventually became an evolving mainstay for any children who came with their families to the nursery.

With three small children running around when they opened the nursery, Doug and Amy immediately decided to use only organic fertilizers and natural pest controls. Of course they never use neonicotinoids, which would be harmful to pollinators.

They have a penchant for native plants because they attract and support wildlife and provide people with a hands-on way to learn about and participate in conservation. They’re thrilled that butterfly gardening has become so popular, since gardening for wildlife has been their thing for more than two decades. When gardeners grow plants and avoid hazardous chemicals in order to shelter and feed butterflies, they’re inadvertently creating safe and welcoming spaces for birds and other creatures up and down the food chain.

Now more than 20 years later, they have grown their Douglas County business into the area’s leading purveyor of sustainably grown native perennials and plants that support the environment. Amy and Doug can still be found on site along with a staff of five full-time plant enthusiasts—including Bess, the youngest of the aforementioned toddlers, who now drives the tractor instead of a tricycle. These days the crew can be found not only at the nursery selling plants, pottery, seeds, garden supplies, bulk mulch and soil, but also in the community providing landscape design, installation, and maintenance services.

Visit vinlandvalleynursery.com or call 785-594-2966. Follow them on Facebook @vvnplants.
April 21 1:00 pm - Unique Methods to Boost Your Vegetable Harvest, Speaker – Jen Stefanchik – Johnson County EMG - Traditional gardening would have you planting your veggies in straight, parallel rows with perfectly placed plants. While that is very pleasing to the eye, it is not always the best use of space. In this presentation, Jen challenges you to adopt some unique, informal gardening styles to increase your overall harvest. Through targeted plant selection and stretching your gardening space, you’ll get more bang for your buck. Jen will also recommend plant varieties with each strategy for large, small, and container gardens.

May 19 1:00 pm – Flowers: What’s New and Other Tidbits for Success, Speaker – Mike DeRee, Ball Horticulture. - Back by popular demand Mike will update us on new introductions on the market to grace our gardens. New varieties of flowers are continually hitting the market and, in this presentation, we hear about the latest and greatest. In addition, Mike will give us some inside information about the nursery trade helping us better understand the how’s and why’s of our flower gardening passion.

June 16 1:00 pm – The Fundamentals of Garden Layering, Speaker – Benjamin Vogt, Monarch Gardens, prairie-inspired design firm, Lincoln, Nebraska - With careful planning, we can create a space working in harmony with nature, expands biodiversity, builds healthy soil, and nurtures pollinators and other wildlife. In this session Ben will show how layering can achieve these goals. Benjamin Vogt owns Monarch Gardens, a prairie-inspired design firm. Benjamin is primarily a plantsman with deep prairie roots. His designs are 100% native plants and his firm specializes in converting lawn to prairie gardens that build biodiversity and support pollinators. His landscapes have been featured in Garden Design, Fine Gardening, and The American Gardener. Benjamin speaks nationally on a variety of topics and is the author of A New Garden Ethic: Cultivating Defiant Compassion for an Uncertain Future and the forthcoming Prairie Up: An Introduction to Natural Garden Design (spring 2022).

July 21 1:00 pm – Mushrooms and Their Association with Plants, Speaker – Malissa Briggle, State Botanist, Missouri Department of Conservation - Mushrooms are all around and we often never give them a second thought. In this session we will explore the importance and value of mushrooms for a healthy and diverse ecosystem.

August 18 1:00 pm – Sunflowers That Will Steal The Show, Speaker - Marilyn Schmit, Platte County Nebraska EMG - Sunflower varieties come in every color and size. They are easy to grow from seed with minimum care. Sunflowers make great cut flowers, attract pollinators, and provide winter food for birds. In this session you will learn more about varieties to grow and cultural requirements.

September 15 1:00 pm – Clematis Mythbusting, Speaker - Linda Beutler, Rogerson Clematis Garden, Curator, International Clematis Society - Clematis are one of best flowering vines for the garden. In this session you will learn all the tricks you need to know about successful culture. Learn what to do or better yet what not to do for the best clematis to grace your garden. Rogerson Clematis Garden West Linn, Oregon was found by former K-State English Professor Brewster Rogerson in 1986.

Friday, October 21 10:00 am – Speaker - Doug Kluck, Central Region Climate Services Director NOAA’s National Center for Environmental Information (NCEI) - Weather! What’s Brewing in our Future?

November 17 9:00 am – Growing Old Garden Roses, Hybrid Rugosa and Hardy Roses, Speaker - Dr James Roush, Associate Dean of Academic Programs and Student Success, College of Vet Medicine, Riley County EMG
Recognizing Grasshopper Eggs

By Lenora Larson

Insects are a part of every gardener’s life, and grasshoppers are among the most destructive. A grasshopper eats at least half of its body weight every day and consumes almost every type of plant, especially grasses.

Grasshoppers are the #1 herbivore in pastures and prairies, where they consume more vegetation than all the cattle, horses and bison combined! Up to 25% of crops are routinely lost to grasshopper damage.

However, grasshoppers are also considered beneficial as a primary food source for many other animals. In Africa and Asia, even humans eat grasshoppers because they are delicious (taste like chicken!) with 20% protein content. And their feces act as fertilizer, recycling nutrients back into the soil.

Life Cycle

Unlike the four-stage life cycle of ants, bees, beetles, butterflies, flies, etc., grasshoppers have only three stages: egg, nymph and adult. They skip the pupal stage so there is not the dramatic transformation of a worm-like creature into a sexually active winged adult. In fall you’ll see the smaller male grasshoppers on top of the females in their mating position. The females then insert their ovipositors into the soil and lay 30 to 50 eggs per sausage shaped egg case.

Containers with their soilless mix are favorite locations for egg-laying. Once a female has laid all her eggs, she dies. The future generation survives the winter underground in the egg case. The eggs hatch into nymphs in late April/Early May when the daytime temperatures stabilize at 60 plus degrees.

You have probably seen grasshopper eggs! If you dig in the upper 3” of soil you will find vertical egg cases full of golden eggs. The egg case is very fragile and easily spills its cache of eggs, each smaller than a grain of rice. I try to gently transport the case to the burn barrel. Then I return to the site and crush as many spilled eggs as I can find.

Grasshoppers are the enemy, even though the newly hatched nymphs are darling miniature copies of the adults. No mercy for the wicked diners on my plants! ✿

The egg case was dug out of a container. A grain of white rice shows the size of the golden eggs.

Getting to Know You and Your Garden

The joy of being an MDC Master Gardener is getting to know fellow gardeners and visiting each other’s gardens. Please consider inviting our group to your garden as a way to socialize, talk gardening, and maybe enjoy an iced tea. Don’t worry if your garden isn’t perfect or is mid-project. We’ve all been there. We would like to have several of these informal get-togethers throughout the season so if you would be willing to open your garden, please let me know by calling or texting me at 816-500-0129 or emailing me at joslyncampbell@yahoo.com. If you have a specific date in mind, just let me know. -- Stacie Campbell
Lots to do before time to plant!

Article and Photography by Janette Everhart

I know the weather is all over the place lately! Warm, sunny, dry, some rain (thankfully) then cold with flurries. We are at that in between time of year when we want to be outside planting, but Mother Nature says “Don't get ahead of yourself!”. There is still so much to do for our gardens, now, whether the weather is nice or not so nice! Think about garden work in three categories: Planning and Preparation, Infrastructure maintenance and improvements, and Plant Care. Here are some ideas in each category that you can do now!

Like any endeavor, planning and preparation are crucial to success. These cold, snowy/rainy days are perfect to spend some time sipping a hot drink and planning for your garden. But, I am not talking about looking at gardening catalogs and buying seeds or plants. Even before doing that you should take a slow walk through your dormant garden. Look with a fresh eye at the layout, the walls, the art, the pot placement, the pathways, the water features, the benches. Remember things that delighted you last year and things you recognized needed work. Start your list: Add anything that comes to mind. Then work on your list: clarifying project, thinking about your priorities, will you need help? Do you need any special tools or materials? Are there dependencies? Must you complete project 3 before you can begin project 10? What month would be the ideal time for each project. Do I have a budget? With a project list in hand, when the weather permits, you will be ready to go!

Many of those projects will be to maintain or improve your garden infrastructure. Do you need to fix a stone walkway that in not longer level? Is there part of your irrigation system what was not up to snuff? If you don't have an irrigation system, do you want one? Do you have birdbaths or pots that need cleaning and leveling? Do you have any structures (raised beds, arbors, benches) that need cleaning, sealing, or paint? Do you need to put in any edging? Do you want to add raised beds? Have you always wanted a green house or gazebo? Do you need to build a fence or other screen to hide an unsightly view? All of these types of projects you can begin now!

What about projects related to plants? There is still a lot you can and should do now that is not planting. Do you have any dead or unattractive (Dennis would say “ugly”) plants you need to remove? Are there bare areas in our lawn that need to be seeded? Do you need to add organic matter around your plants? What needs to be pruned – check www.maraisdescygnes.k-state.edu for specifics. Do this research now if you don’t already know. Are you revamping your garden design? Need to move some plants, divide some? Do you have ground cover that is out of control? Have any early bloomers like Hellebores? The old leaves can be cut crumples and left under the plant for mulch and extra nutrients. Cut back your perennial grasses. If you break them up, they make a great mulch and you just leave them in place. There may be some seeds you want to start inside. And yes, you will probably want to make a list of new plants to get at our plant sale!!

Warm weather will be here permanently very soon, but don’t wait. Get started on planning and prepare, then get some of your infrastructure and plant projects completed. Get out there and enjoy your garden, now. You will be happy you did all summer long!
# 2022 Marais des Cygnes Extension Master Gardner Advanced Training

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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Mo</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>#Hr</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar.</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Incorporating Ground Cover into the Landscape</td>
<td>Dennis Patton, JoCo Horticulture Agent</td>
<td>JoCo Extension, register at <a href="https://www.johnson.k-state.edu/classes-events/index.html">www.johnson.k-state.edu/classes-events/index.html</a> to receive Zoom link, registration is limited.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar.</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Decision-making to Identify Trees (specific to EMGs)</td>
<td>Kim Bomberger, KS Forest Service</td>
<td>JoCo Extension, register at <a href="https://www.johnson.k-state.edu/classes-events/index.html">www.johnson.k-state.edu/classes-events/index.html</a> to receive Zoom link, registration is limited.</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Moon Gardening</td>
<td>Narcy Chapman, JoCo EMG</td>
<td>JoCo Extension, register at <a href="https://www.johnson.k-state.edu/classes-events/index.html">www.johnson.k-state.edu/classes-events/index.html</a> to receive Zoom link, registration is limited.</td>
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<td>Apr.</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Successful Organic Gardening</td>
<td>Zac Hoppenstedt, JoCo Horticulture Agent</td>
<td>JoCo Extension, register at <a href="https://www.johnson.k-state.edu/classes-events/index.html">www.johnson.k-state.edu/classes-events/index.html</a> to receive Zoom link, registration is limited.</td>
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<td>Apr.</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sustainability: Part I</td>
<td>Chet McGlaughlin, MoCo EMG</td>
<td>MoCo Extension Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr.</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Getting the Most Out of Your Vegetable Garden</td>
<td>Jen Stefanichik, JoCo EMG</td>
<td>JoCo Extension, register at <a href="https://www.johnson.k-state.edu/classes-events/index.html">www.johnson.k-state.edu/classes-events/index.html</a> to receive Zoom link, registration is limited.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Butterflies in Your Vegetable Garden: Friend or Foe?</td>
<td>Lenora Larson, MoCo EMG</td>
<td>MoCo Extension Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Hypertufa Container Making</td>
<td>Greg Beverlin</td>
<td>Hillsdale Bank BBQ, $30 to make 2 containers, limit 10, 2nd session will be added if needed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>The Fundamentals of Garden Layering</td>
<td>Benjamin Vogt, Monarch Gardens, Lincoln, NE</td>
<td>JoCo Extension, register at <a href="https://www.johnson.k-state.edu/classes-events/index.html">www.johnson.k-state.edu/classes-events/index.html</a> to receive Zoom link, registration is limited.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug.</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No Sow Garden</td>
<td>Lenora Larson, MoCo EMG</td>
<td>MoCo Extension Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct.</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Understanding a Prairie Burn</td>
<td>Al Lozier, Pres Eastern KS Prescribed Burn Assoc.</td>
<td>MoCo Extension Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct.</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>1:00 - 4:00 PM</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Participate in a Prairie Burn</td>
<td>EKBA Team</td>
<td>Lenora Larson’s Long Lids Farm, back up date Sunday, Oct. 30.</td>
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