Advanced Training Starts Again for 2022!

The complete AT schedule is on page 5.

K-State and Johnson County Zooms are approved for AT credit.

The February 8th presentation:

One of the most efficient ways to give our plants a drink while conserving water and minimizing evaporation is using Drip irrigation. The concept sounds simple but can be problematic if not done right. Rob Mortko, with his engineering background, has made the process simple enough for any homeowner to do by sharing his tips and tricks to installing and maintaining your own system for years of fairly trouble-free (or at least you’ll know what to do if there were one) service.

Rob has been a Johnson County Extension Master Gardener since 1999 and has served on its Advisory Board. Having retired from an engineering career in Corporate America, he now pursues his own plant tissue culture business in Olathe. Rob’s passion for gardening includes shade gardening, roses, and even turf grass. He has served on the Executive Board of the American Hosta Society, on the board of the American Hosta Growers Association, and as a Contributing Editor for The Hosta Journal. He is currently President of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society.

Drip irrigation is one of the most efficient ways to water. Rob has engineered his own drip irrigation system to be commonsensical, comprehensive, and easy to follow for any homeowner with a “do it yourself” mindset.

The March 8th program:

Hardscapes and Garden Paths are what made a garden instead of a series of planting beds. Newly built, they do look nice but can they withstand the test of time?

Jack Carson, with his engineering background, has built many durable paths for JOCO EMG. He generously shares his knowledge with those interested to build quality garden paths that look great for years to come.

Jack came from a family of gardeners. Two of his brothers are farmers. He is a hobby gardener. Being active in the Johnson County Extension Master Gardener program offers the opportunity to share this passion with like-minded folks while learning something new and contributing his talents. Being a retired engineer, he strengthened his garden team by offering his expertise in building a solid garden path such as the one at the Old Shawnee Town Herb Garden. Jack hasn’t found any gardening chore he doesn’t like. Gardening is a heart-healthy lifestyle.
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
Judy Moser & Lenora Larson

Seeds for Kids
Kathleen Brady-Francis
& Janette Bennett

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:
Judy Moser, Newsletter Editor
judy@springvalleynursery.com

Our New Chair

We have a new leader! Jan Thompson has taken on the task of Chair and will be an excellent numero uno!

Originally from Emporia, KS, Jan graduated from Emporia state with a degree in Education. She worked for Sprint/Embarq for 25 years.

As a single mom, she raised three sons, who are all now married. She has four grandchildren, and a baby boy due in February.

Jan moved to Miami County in 1998 with Marc Matthews, and the two began renovating a 100+ year old farm house and 40 acres. “Marc and I made it through the messiest part of the renovation and married!” says Jan. “I do have to confess that the renovation is still an ongoing process. I’ve downsized my animal population to a few chickens, two horses, dogs and cats, and a few head of beef cattle.”

Both flower and vegetable gardening are on Jan’s yearly agenda. She says, “Every spring I look forward to starting seeds and every spring I love going to the local nurseries and of course the EMG Plant Sale! I enjoy my butterfly gardens and have slowly started to incorporate more companion planting in my vegetable garden.” She loves roses and says that, come to think of it, there are not many flowers that she doesn’t love.

Jan became a Master Gardener with the class of 2016. She says it was one of her “best decisions.” She loves meeting new friends who also have a passion for gardening. She appreciates the abundance of Advanced Training classes and community projects in which we help educate the public about gardening, and says “These are just a few of the many benefits of being a Master Gardener.”

Snow pictures from Lenora (left) and Judy (below). Send us your snow pix! There’s sure to be more snow!
• The 1st Quarter General Meeting will be a Zoom on Tuesday, February 8th at 6:30 pm. Katelyn will be sending an email to EMGs so everyone can place it on their calendars.

• After much chatting back and forth, texting, and soul searching, the Awards Committee has decided to cancel the **Awards Banquet** for 2022, which was to be held on Tuesday, January 25.

  We also agreed to, hopefully, try to meet later this spring, possibly outdoors, for the presentations and, perhaps, catering by Town Square. No zoom call will be necessary for that meeting.

  Thanks for your support during this crazy time, but it will get better!

  Stay safe — Susan, Donna. Betsy

• Our **Bylaws** have been revised and approved. Thank you, Betsy, for working so hard to make this happen!

• Chet McLaughlin reports that the **Trial Garden** will stay at Lenora Larson’s next year, and he plans to work on improving the soil with manure and to “fight the thorn trees and bindweed.”

• The 2022 **Symposium** was canceled “due to Covid uncertainties” — and that was weeks before Omicrom!

• Plant Sale Chair Sue Burns has scheduled a **Plant Sale meeting** for January 25th at 9:00 am in Osawatomie at the Bore Da Market, 573 Main Street. Anyone interested in helping plan the 2022 Plant Sale, please be there, especially **younger folks**!

• Laraine, Phyllis and Janette B. made plans, drawings and budgets for a project at the **Linn County Court House**. Our members there will be able to earn volunteer hours without driving to Miami County. The EMGs donated $500 to the project.

• **Nancy Kalman** has volunteered to build a new “Lucy Booth” (for questions at events) and would like help in designing and painting it.

• Many thanks are in order for **Laraine Crawford** for all the work she does on the yearly budget and the financial stuff some of us don’t even understand. (Applause!)

• Be thinking about chairing or co-chairing the **2023 Garden Tour**! Betsy and Jan have written extensive plans to help the new chair(s). No need to re-invent!

• The **Financial Review Committee** needs volunteers to help with the audit for 2021. Contact Laraine Crawford if you would like to help.

• The Board voted to make a donation to the **JoCo EMGs** to thank them for giving us access to their Zoom presentations.

• With individual EMG **donations** and $750 matching funds we were able to donate more than $500 to each of three area food pantries.

• Get ready — the **Hotline** starts in April! Get ready to sign up!

• A Linn County Garden Tour just for MdC EMGs is tentatively being planned for June, 2022. Sounds like lots of fun, so let’s all go to Linn County!
2021 was an epic year for my garden. It was the year I realized a long-time goal of having a garden worthy of being on a tour. After eight years, starting from a virtually blank slate, I turned my yard into my idea of an oasis and was honored when The Campbell Highlands was included in the Miami County Garden Tour. The final push to completion came in 2021 with the addition of a new White Garden, the redevelopment of a functional work area and herb garden and the redesign of the Secret Garden, which added art and whimsy to an area that had already become stale.

2021 also saw a major change to the front yard with the addition of the raised garden containing a koi pond and a model train setup. The result was everything I could have hoped, representing years of sketching ideas, prioritizing projects, back-breaking work, and lots and lots of money.

One year, early on, I tried to keep track of all the money I was spending in pursuit of the garden of my dreams. I bought truckloads of soil, mulch and rocks developing new beds. Then, of course, trees, shrubs, perennials, had to follow. Multiple flats of annuals were also needed to fill pots and bring color all over the garden. I think I gave up tallying in June, and if I’m honest I think it was because I didn’t really want to know.

Last fall, after the tour, I took a break from gardening and just enjoyed spending time in the garden. To rest from the frenzy, I made a conscious decision to NOT do any unnecessary, if normal, fall tasks like adding trees and shrubs or even planting bulbs. I eased into fall by only doing jobs that cannot be avoided if the garden is to be kept manageable; weeding, pruning, and harvesting the last of the vegetables and fruit. It is now January and I am starting to get excited about the coming year and what I could do, but rather than developing my garden, I want to develop myself as a gardener.

This year I am challenging myself to spend nothing on the garden in 2022 or at the very least, minimize cost, to use the supplies, plants, and gardening skills I already have.

I admit that when this idea first occurred to me, I thought it would be easy. I don’t really need to put in any new beds after all. I have a full compost pile that I really should be using more. I’ve got plenty of seeds in my stash for vegetables and a few annuals and I’ve overwintered more than 50 caladiums and several pots of cannas in my garage to plant out in the spring. I should already have all that I need. Right?

Well, not really. I know I “need” at least three flats of some kind of white annual for the White Garden or it will look rather bare. I also know I need to finally do something with the slope behind the shop so it doesn’t continue to be a weedy mess every year that hypothetically needs to be weed-wacked right before a garden tour so the chaos isn’t noticed. And finally, I know there are some expenses that cannot be avoided, no matter how frugal I am. Tender water plants need to be provided for the koi pond or risk the water becoming too hot for the fish. The water bill tends to skyrocket in the summer primarily because I don’t want my plants dying a horrible death. And I must replace my unbreakable hori hori knife that I broke last fall. Okay, I know that last one isn’t a must, but I really, really want a new knife.

Still, the challenge is on. I vow to only spend money on essentials and other than the water bill, I will keep track of everything I do spend. Any new plants will come from my own seed stash, gifts from friends, trading seed starts and divisions of my own plants (I have LOTS of Echinacea by the way) or by bartering my time in exchange for divisions from someone else.

I’ve already had one friend tell me it is sacrilege to limit my garden this way, but I believe that not only can it be done but that it will still be beautiful and abundant. I will keep you posted.

The cone flowers need to be divided and perhaps traded for other plants?
# 2022 Marais des Cygnes Extension Master Gardener Advanced Training Calendar

Please note: More trainings 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>Jan.</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Plant Hunting Around the World and New Discoveries</td>
<td>Mark Weiltington, Dir. of the JC Raulston Arboreum, NCU</td>
<td>Zoom link: <a href="https://kstate.zoom.us/j/6276725069?pwd=R05paGFyby9PaVXo6tetZVMe6NQT09">https://kstate.zoom.us/j/6276725069?pwd=R05paGFyby9PaVXo6tetZVMe6NQT09</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan.</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Native Plants at Noon - Virtual (a monthly series, every 3rd Thursday)</td>
<td>MO Dept. of Conserv., Alix Daniel &amp; Cyndey Ross, partnering with Deep Roots</td>
<td>Registration required at: <a href="https://deeproots.org/native-plants-at-noon/">https://deeproots.org/native-plants-at-noon/</a> (Info in January KC Gardener Magazine)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan.</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Native Plants: Winter Beauty - Virtual</td>
<td>MO Dept. of Conservation</td>
<td>Registration required at: <a href="https://mdc.mo.gov/events">mdc.mo.gov/events</a> or call 688-0283-0364 (Info in January KC Gardener Magazine)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Drip Irrigation for Yards and Containers</td>
<td>Rob Moriko, JoCo EMG</td>
<td>Zoom link: See Katelyn’s email from Jo Co when available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb.</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Science in Public Gardens</td>
<td>Susan Pell, U.S. Botanic Gardens</td>
<td>Zoom link: <a href="https://kstate.zoom.us/j/6276725069?pwd=R05paGFyby9PaVXo6tetZVMe6NQT09">https://kstate.zoom.us/j/6276725069?pwd=R05paGFyby9PaVXo6tetZVMe6NQT09</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb.</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>9:00-11:00 am</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Adv. Tree id: Common Trees (See Katelyn’s email from 2/2)</td>
<td>Kansas Forest Service</td>
<td><a href="https://www.kansasforest.org/events/virtualTreeID.html">https://www.kansasforest.org/events/virtualTreeID.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hardscapes and Garden Paths</td>
<td>Jack Carson, JoCo EMG</td>
<td>Zoom link: See Katelyn’s email from Jo Co when available</td>
</tr>
<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>Zoom link: <a href="https://kstate.zoom.us/j/6276725069?pwd=R05paGFyby9PaVXo6tetZVMe6NQT09">https://kstate.zoom.us/j/6276725069?pwd=R05paGFyby9PaVXo6tetZVMe6NQT09</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr.</td>
<td>5 or 19</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sustainability: Part I</td>
<td>Chet McGlaughlin, McDC EMG</td>
<td>McDC Extension Office</td>
</tr>
<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>Lena Laroe, McDC EMG</td>
<td>McDC Extension Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Hyperufa Container Making</td>
<td>Greg Beverin</td>
<td>Hildalea Bank BBQ, $30 to make 2 containers, limit 10, 2nd session will be added if needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug.</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No SoV Garden</td>
<td>Lena Laroe, McDC EMG</td>
<td>McDC Extension Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct.</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Understanding a Prairie Burn</td>
<td>Al Lorier, Pres Eastern KS Prescribed Burn Assoc</td>
<td>McDC Extension Office</td>
</tr>
<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>EKPBA Team</td>
<td>Lena Laroe’s Long Lips Farm, back up date Sunday, Oct 30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MDC Training Hours

| Other Training Hours |

To join K-State Garden Hour, use link below: See Katelyn’s email from Jan. 6 for flyer.

12 PM 1st Wed. of each month
Feb. 2 - Indoor Seed Starting
March 2 - Landscape Design 101

[https://hnr.k-state.edu/extension/info-center/k-state-garden-hour-webinar-series/k-state-garden-hour.html](https://hnr.k-state.edu/extension/info-center/k-state-garden-hour-webinar-series/k-state-garden-hour.html)

MORE SNOW!