The Fair Can be Sooo Much Fun!!
by Janette Everhart

There are lots of reasons to enter the Miami County Fair, not the least of which is that it is **FUN**!

I entered for the first time last year after I heard another Master Gardener call for entries. I hadn’t even considered entering. That planted the “seed” so to speak.

My first step was to get a copy of the fair book. It is available on-line (see the link below) or you can get one at the extension office. (You can also pre-enter at the office, they have provided a computer, or you can go old school!!)

I was amazed at how many classes and entry categories there are. There are 4H and FFA categories but there are also many “open” classes. Anyone can enter the open class as long as they meet the guidelines in the fair book. Everyone has heard of baking competitions, livestock and giant pumpkins. Did you know there is a craft class? There truly is something for everyone.

Last year I entered about 10 items. Several were flower arrangements in the floriculture class. They specify the size and type and you must grow the flowers on your land. I got a red ribbon for my tiny arrangement it was less than 3 inches high!! But it was my garlic that floored me. It took grand prize in the horticulture class.

I even entered a garlic braid in the craft class.

The experience was great. I got to see all the exhibits as they were coming in as well as meet some of the other entrants. It was such a great community building event for all ages.

Please, consider entering something. Get the fair book and take a look. Get involved. You will be contributing to our greater community, and having a great time doing it. If you have a child who is going to enter through Seed for Kids, why not enter something yourself? I can tell you it feels great to win a ribbon or even just to imagine a trophy.

I hope to see you there! This year, I will be helping for the first time as one of our dedicated EMG volunteer team members.

One more thing! Here’s the link for entry information, the Fair Book, Pre-entry, Class listings, well, all things fair!! Remember you can pre-enter on line!
https://www.maraisdescygnes.k-state.edu/fair/miami-county-fair/index.html
From the Chair

By Jan Thompson, mdC EMG Chairperson

RECORD YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS!!

Here we are over halfway thru 2022 and I know how time gets away. I want to remind everyone to not wait until the end of the year but record your volunteer hours soon. It is so much easier to record your hours throughout the year versus waiting to try and record in December. We are to volunteer 40 hours each year to maintain the status of an active Master Gardener.

Due to the pandemic, the past several years we were limited on the opportunities to obtain the number of hours needed. That commitment was waived and we were not required to volunteer the 40 hours. However, for 2022, Marais des Cygnes Master Gardeners are returning to the 40-hour volunteer commitment and the 10 hour Advanced Training commitment.

NEWS AND NOTES

- Becky Thorpe has eight applicants for our new EMG 2023 Class. We have room for two more applicants! Becky is needing more mentors, please contact Becky if you are interested in becoming a mentor. Please plan to come and meet our new class on Thursday, August 25th at 10:00 a.m. at Lenora’s Garden. Bring a sack lunch.

- Katelyn recently emailed an updated roster to all EMGs. Please review your information to make sure it is correct. If there are any corrections, please email Katelyn.

- The 3Q General Meeting will be held at the Paola Extension office on Tuesday, August 9th at 5:30. This will be a potluck dinner. Please plan to attend.

- Thank you to Janette E., Betsy H., Lenora L., and Carol V. for volunteering to be on the Nominating committee for 2023 Board members. If you would like to be on the Board beginning in 2023, please contact a committee member.

- The Trial Garden workday is currently Friday’s at 8:00 a.m. Trial garden is located at Lenora’s. The workday will change once the produce production picks up and we will be notified when that happens.

- A Garden Tour Planning Meeting was held on Tuesday, July 12th. Discussion ranged from a review of past garden tours, committees needed, number of gardens, etc. with new ideas included in the discussion. Several members expressed interest in helping with the tour. Several other EMGs were going to be contacted with a possible committee created. We appreciate the feedback received from several members who were not able to attend. A decision will need to be made by this September for a September 2023 tour.
This delightful project was initiated by Kristy Schmitz, an employee at the Mound City Courthouse. After visiting our Miami County Courthouse Gardens, Kristy was inspired to create similar gardens at the Mound City Courthouse.

Three of our master gardeners: Phyllis Benedict, chairperson of the Miami Courthouse Gardens, Janette Bennett, a Linn County EMG, and myself as coordinator, volunteered to lead the project. At the onset it was determined that the master gardeners would act mainly in an advisory capacity, designing the gardens, being on site for the initial planting, training local people how to plant and perform Spring and Fall cleanup, while local groups would take care of the gardens.

Everyone agreed that with such a large project, we would divide the project into phases. Phase One included the Circle Bed, the Corner Bed, and an Add-On to the Corner Bed. This area was chosen first because of its proximity to most people entering the Courthouse from the south entrance. Money to fund Phase One was obtained from our Extension Master Gardeners treasury, grants, and donations. To date, Phase One has been completed.

Because of the visibility of Phase One, many positive comments resulted which led to the Commissioners agreeing to add a line item to the Courthouse budget for Phase Two in 2023. This phase includes the entire north side of the Courthouse building. Since the budget was due by 6/30/22, our 3-person EMG team had to move quickly to design the garden, cost everything out, present it to Kristy, and lastly for Kristy to present to the budget committee.

Kristy and her Mound City group will begin to prep the Phase Two area this fall. Finally, in the Spring of 2023, Kristy’s volunteers, along with some of our EMGs will put in the garden. Again, our EMGs will provide training during the planting, and volunteers in Mound City will maintain the garden.

Phase Three and possibly Phase Four are coming in the near future.

(The drawings to the right were done by Laraine for direction as well as plant positioning and identification for the project. The photos below are the results.)
Rain Gutter Gardening System

By Rena Tedrow

Getting Started
Like a lot of you, I grew my veggies in half barrels. This photo was early in the season. I also had barrels sitting along the house as well 10 years ago. I had fairly good success but always had to figure out how to cover them with some shade cloth to prevent sun scald. The method of gardening I now use started mid-summer the last year I used barrels which was 10 years ago. I ran across the “Rain Gutter Grow System” (RGGS). I have no recollection of exactly how I ran across Larry Hall’s Facebook page, but the whole process intrigued me. It was a small group when I asked to join, a little over 300 people. Now, there are over 43,000 people all over the world (honestly). I don’t visit nearly as often. It just still a “follower” on the Facebook page, now run by his widow, Evonne. Larry started mid-summer the last year I used barrels which was 10 years ago. I ran across the “Rain Gutter Grow System” (RGGS). I have no recollection of exactly how I ran across Larry Hall’s Facebook page, but the whole process intrigued me. It was a small group when I asked to join, a little over 300 people. Now, there are over 43,000 people all over the world (honestly).

These are two of the remaining 5’ lengths (stacked). They previously sat in the corners on my patio with smaller plants (peppers, etc.). The 10” “gutters” sat under the shade house. The frames were dismantled and burned over this past winter. The pieces on top were support pieces (on the sides). I removed them and am using them as a drink holder ☺ They will be back in action this fall.

following the page using this method.

Larry also started a YouTube Channel. His videos are still out there, but, unfortunately, Larry’s channel is now run by his widow, Evonne. Larry passed away three years ago. Although still a “follower” on the Facebook page, I don’t visit nearly as often. It just doesn’t have the same vibe.

As I said, the idea intrigued me, a lot. The frames could be made as low or as high as I liked. I followed the page for a couple of months then in the fall, we bought all the necessary lumber and supplies and assembled four gutter set-ups. Too late to use that year, the frames were used the next year. Come spring, I ordered net cups, bought the ingredients for the grow mix and set about to hunt for 5-gallon used, food grade buckets. Sometimes you need a little luck finding them. That year for me it was a search on Craigslist and a drive to Joplin for 90 pickle buckets. If you put them away at the end of the season (covered), you can re-use them for a few years. Leave them out year-round, you’ll only get two years.

Like most people, in the past I used seed starter trays or anything I had around the house; prep food trays with lids, yogurt containers, etc. A few of us that followed Larry’s page, started using the net cups to start our seeds and someone came up with the idea of using cupcake trays (which you can purchase at Dollar Tree). By applying the same methodology of “gutter gardening”, you still water from the bottom. The cupcake trays have spaces, a reservoir of sorts, that the net cups fit in. Keep water in those spaces, enough to keep the bottoms of the net cups wet and they are watering themselves. (I left two open so you can see the spaces.) The key is maintaining the water, don’t let it dry out. I try to start seeds in my hoop house during March, depending on temperatures.

Although unnecessary, I start the seeds in the same mix I use for growing. It’s composed of sphagnum peat, compost, perlite, worm castings, pulverized lime (for some plants), fertilizer and Epsom salt (recipe follows later). I like to think the seedlings get a little “leg up” with nutrition. You can place 3-4 seeds (spaced) in the net cups, you just need to be aware that the seeds need to be moved a little sooner. I label either the individual cups or an entire tray with a spoon (seeds ID’d in permanent marker). Yes, it’s a recent photo, and no, I didn’t start cucumbers in these trays. It’s only an example of a spoon I had leftover. Sometimes they make it through the season.

Once the first true set of leaves appear, the seedlings move into Solo cups. Using a wood-burning tool, I burn holes in the bottom and up the sides about 1/3 of the way up. PSA: Don’t do this indoors. Pick a nice, breezy day so as not to inhale the fumes. I leave them in the cups for as long as I can but try to get them out into their permanent homes before they get too “leggy.” Put the cups in any tray that holds water to follow the principle . . . let them water themselves. I got lucky and found an on-line auction for a grocery store and bought 40 deli meat trays for $10 that about 9-10 cups each and fit in perfectly.

The mix: The recipe for the first year consists of 2 (5-gal) buckets of peat moss, 1 (5-gal) bucket of good compost or worm castings, 1-1/3 cups pulverized garden lime, 1 large coffee can of Perlite (about 12 cups), 1 handful of Epsom salts. This recipe can be reused for up to three (3) years with amendments. (More later.) I think most people don’t add worm castings, but I think they help. Also, some of us opted to add a handful of 10-10-10 fertilizer. Moisten the mix as you make it. I follow the recipe, mostly, I use mushroom compost and toss in about 4 handfuls of worm castings. For tomatoes and peppers, I add a handful of bone meal. The mix works for most plants. Obviously lime isn’t needed for plants such as blueberries.

I started out using what I had, a large wheelbarrow to make the mix. It was a lot of work moving the bulk of the peat and compost. I migrated to using a kiddie pool since I had several from doing KPGS. Still, a lot of bending over, something I’m trying to avoid. Now, I use a cement mixer with a kiddie pool as the catch basin. I can move the mix to where I want to fill the containers. I believe the phrase is, “Work smarter, not harder.”

Next months RGGS, a hybrid: PVC pipe gardening, and Kiddie Pool Gardening System (KPGS)
Lois Hart Daylily Tour

By Jan Thompson, Mdc Chairperson

What a beautiful day we had for touring Lois Hart’s daylily garden. Master Gardeners and friends met on Tuesday morning, June 28th to see the hundreds of varieties of daylilies. The glorious colors were at their peak for us to view. Lois took us around all her beds with her daylilies labeled not only with the name, but date planted, height, and more. She has perfected the labeling system. She answered our numerous questions as we toured, and we became more familiar with the daylily.

Lois not only grows the daylilies but has a nice variety of perennials and annuals throughout her gardens as well as some beautiful garden art. We finished the tour by enjoying a sack lunch with Lois and a lot of “garden” talk!

It was a delightful time to see the well-kept garden and be with our fellow Master Gardeners.

Please note that Lois will be dividing her daylilies later this summer. If you are interested in any lilies that are large enough to divide, please contact Lois at 913.837.5209 or legwh85@mokancomm.net.

Hope everyone enjoyed the tour as much as I did.

Daylilly Tour Continued on page 6
Daylilly Tour Continued from page 5

Photos on pages 5 and 6 courtesy Jan Thompson, Barb Shropshire and Anita Boyett-Voke.
Save the Date
September 17, 2022

Leavenworth County Master Gardeners
Hosts:
"Live Life in Full Bloom"
Garden Symposium
8:30-4:00, Cost $45.00 per person
Box Lunch included
Tickets on sale June 1, 2022

Riverfront Community Center  123 Esplanade Leavenworth, Ks

Speakers

Kelly Norris:
New Naturalization: designing and planting a resilient, ecologically vibrant home garden

Crystal Miles:
Sustainable shrubs and trees for the commercial or private landscapes

Jonah Nelson:
Container gardening into the fall and holidays

Tee-shirts and Books will be available for purchase

Contact: Mikey Stafford 913-426-3794
Anne Rielly 913-683-4646
Find us at: leavenworthmastergardeners@yahoo.com

Currently this event is over half full, fewer than 30 spots are open, so don’t delay if you know you want to attend!!
**2022 Marais des Cygnes Extension Master Gardener Advanced Training**

Please note: More training opportunities 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>July</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mushrooms and Their Association With Plants</td>
<td>Malissa Briggie, State Botanist, MO Dept. of Conservation</td>
<td>JoCo EMG AT Zoom link  <a href="https://kau.zoom.us/j/927767256987?pwd=RUSpFxyv9Pa1VncpHej2VMidsNQT09">https://kau.zoom.us/j/927767256987?pwd=RUSpFxyv9Pa1VncpHej2VMidsNQT09</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug.</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No Sow Garden</td>
<td>Lenora Larson, MdC EMG</td>
<td>MdC Extension Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug.</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sunflowers That Will Steal the Show</td>
<td>Marilyn Schmit, Plattee County, NE EMG</td>
<td>JoCo EMG AT Zoom link  <a href="https://kau.zoom.us/j/927767256987?pwd=RUSpFxyv9Pa1VncpHej2VMidsNQT09">https://kau.zoom.us/j/927767256987?pwd=RUSpFxyv9Pa1VncpHej2VMidsNQT09</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug.</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tree ID Session I</td>
<td>Katy Dhungel, District Forester for Kansas Forest Service</td>
<td>Wallace Park in Paola, meet at main shelter, bring lunch and drinks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept.</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Clematis Mythbusting</td>
<td>Linda Beuhler, Rogerson Clematis, Kansas, Curator, Intern. Clematis Society</td>
<td>JoCo EMG AT Zoom link  <a href="https://kau.zoom.us/j/927767256987?pwd=RUSpFxyv9Pa1VncpHej2VMidsNQT09">https://kau.zoom.us/j/927767256987?pwd=RUSpFxyv9Pa1VncpHej2VMidsNQT09</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept.</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>8:00 AM - 12 PM</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Monarch Tagging Event</td>
<td>Monarch Watch (more info pending)</td>
<td>Baker Wetlands Discovery Center, Lawrence, KS; see monarchwatch.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept.</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>8:30 AM - 4:00 PM</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Garden Symposium “Live Life in Full Bloom”</td>
<td>Hosted by Leavenworth County EMGs</td>
<td>Riverfront Community Center, 123 Esplanade, Leavenworth, KS; $45 per person includes 3 speakers and box lunch; more info and register at <a href="https://leavenworth.k-state.edu/lawn-garden/master-gardeners/">https://leavenworth.k-state.edu/lawn-garden/master-gardeners/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept.</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tree ID Session II</td>
<td>Kim Bomberger, Community Forester, Kansas Forest Service</td>
<td>John Brown Park, Osawatomie, Meet at shelter house NE of the Adair Cabin (Rain date, Thurs., Sept. 29)</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 Lozier, Pres. Eastern KS Prescribed Burn Assoc.</td>
<td>MdC Extension Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct.</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>1:00 - 4:00 PM</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Participate in a Prairie Burn</td>
<td>EKBA Team</td>
<td>Lenora Larson's Long Lips Farm, back up date Sunday, Oct. 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov.</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Growing Old Roses, Hybrid Rugosa and Hardy Roses</td>
<td>Dr. James Roush, Assoc. Dean of Academic Programs and Student Success, College of Vet Med, Riley Co. EMG</td>
<td>JoCo EMG AT Zoom link  <a href="https://kau.zoom.us/j/927767256987?pwd=RUSpFxyv9Pa1VncpHej2VMidsNQT09">https://kau.zoom.us/j/927767256987?pwd=RUSpFxyv9Pa1VncpHej2VMidsNQT09</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**2022 Marais des Cygnes Extension Master Gardener Advanced Training Calenadar**

**Some additional information/details concerning some of the above AT classes.**

**Lenora Larson’s Aug. 16 AT Class Description:** The No-Sow Garden (1 hour) Self-sowing flowers take responsibility for their own procreation, returning year after year without your re-planting them. Learn which flowers are candidates and the necessary horticultural techniques.

**Tree ID Series:** Have you been wanting to refresh or sharpen your skills in identifying native trees in our area? We have the answer with our Tree ID AT classes scheduled for this fall. This is a hands-on opportunity to study trees with the experts and tour some of our local spots for brushing up on what was covered in our EMG Training how ever many years ago!

**Tuesday, August 23** • Tree ID Session I at Wallace Park, Paola • Katy Dhungel, District Forester for KS Forest Service 10:00 AM • meet at main shelter, bring your own lunch and drink to enjoy for after the presentation. There will be some walking on gravel paths so comfortable shoes are advised. (Insect repellent, sunscreen, and hat, etc. may be desired.)

**Tuesday, September 27** • Tree ID Session II at John Brown Memorial Park, Osawatomie Kim Bomberger, KS Forest Service Community Forester from K-State 10:00 AM • Kim will lead us on a tour of the park. Meet at shelter house NE of Adair Cabin.

Please note: the Sept. 7 K-State Garden Hour topic is Recommended Trees for Kansas, presented by Dr. Jason Griffin

**EMGs AT Info:**

On Saturday, September 17, 2 out of town events are new on the AT Calendar (we know you can’t attend them both). Carpooling will be organized if needed and/or desired. Please email Barb Shropshire at barbshrops@gmail.com if you plan to attend one of these events and are interested in carpooling. The Monarch Tagging Event is free to the public and registration not required. The Garden Symposium requires registration. (See page 7 for details!!)

Due to a lack of space, next month we will provide an EMG Tree Identification Workshops Resources and References, Spring 2022 by Kim Bomberger, Kansas Forest Service.

Please like and follow the Marais des Cygnes EMGs on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mdcemg