What's Growing On . . .

The latest news from the Marais des Cygnes Extension Master Gardeners

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What's Growing On . . .

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Wreaths for Residents Reminder!

Don’t forget to drop off your donations by Wednesday November 23rd! (Just prior to Thanksgiving.) There is a tote in the Hot Line Room.

We will be providing sandwiches, drinks and a sweet treat for everyone in attendance. (PLEASE RSVP!!)

We will be making 33 wreaths prior to the class room zoom meeting at 1:00.

RSVP by Friday, December 2nd to: Becky Thorpe at: vinceandbecky71@gmail.com OR Anita Boyett-Voke at: abvoke@yahoo.com

Thank you to Connie M. for your tutorial following the board meeting! (Sample wreath shown at right.)

We hope you can make this event, we think it will be a lot of fun!!

Photos by: Anita BV.

Holiday Happiness

‘Tis The Season for giving!!

We call this philanthropic opportunity “Holiday Happiness” because it is our chance to help spread holiday cheer to others in these difficult times.

The Marais des Cygnes Master Gardeners are asking for donations to match up to the $1000 approved MdC EMG program donation.

These funds will go to three food pantries in Miami and Linn Counties. More detailed information on the three pantries is on page 3.

You’re invited to donate toward our goal by sending a check between now and December 9th made out to MdC EMG, please include “Holiday Happiness” in the memo line.

Mail or drop off your donation to the Marais des Cygnes Extension Office 913 N. Pearl, Paola, KS 66071 by Friday, December 9th.

Thank you for your donation!

CALENDAR

November 12 – Social Gathering at Nighthawk Winery, 2:00 p.m.

November 17 – “Friendsgiving” with New Class and their Mentors

November 17 – Growing Old Roses, Hybrid Rugosa and Hardy Roses, 9:00 a.m.

November 18 – Budgets Due from Committee Chairs to Billie L.

December 8 – Wreaths for Residents, 9:30 a.m.

December 9 – Holiday Happiness Donation Due
receive an email when registration is available. All registration will be online via Constant Contact.

- **Lions Club** has disbanded and will no longer be handling the "courthouse garden" brick process. Phyllis B. located a contact that indicated Design4Sports handled the laser cutting in the past. We will pick up a blank brick at the courthouse and have lasered in memory of Pat Trachsel who passed away recently.

- **A Community/Educational Project** is scheduled for December 8th, 9:30 a.m. at the Extension office to assemble Holiday door swags for 33 residents of the Vintage Park, Osawatomie. All EMGs are invited to participate with the new class and their mentors with lunch provided. You will need to RSVP to either Anita or Becky for ordering lunch by December 2nd. Please donate any extra holiday items by placing in the "Wreaths for Residents" bin in the EMG Volunteer Room by November 23rd.

- The Board approved our **3rd Annual Holiday Happiness** matching donation of $1,000 for the three local food pantries: LaCygne, Osawatomie and Spring Hill. EMG members are invited to make a cash donation which is due at the Paola Extension Office by Friday, December 9th.

- **Our 2023 Garden Symposium theme is "Design with Maintenance in Mind"** planned for Saturday, February 25th. Cost is $45 for this wonderful, educational experience. EMGs will receive an email when registration is available. All registration will be online via Constant Contact.

- **Volunteer Hours** need to be entered! Several questions have come to our attention on what qualifies as a volunteer hour. If you are on a committee and work at home preparing for meetings, writing, researching, etc., keep track of these hours as they count as volunteer hours. For the mentors that attend events with their mentees, those hours count as volunteer hours. If you help with a garden on the garden tour, keep track of your hours as they count as volunteer hours. If you have any questions on whether hours will count as volunteer hours, please contact Katelyn to verify.

- The **International Master Gardener Conference (IMGC)** registration is now open. Katelyn recently sent an email with all the presentation information, cost, etc. Looks like a wonderful opportunity!

- If you have pictures of your **2022 garden** that you would like to share, please send to Anita for featuring on our "spotlight". Thank you to Barb S. sharing her beautiful container plantings on her deck. We look forward to seeing your pictures during the coming dreary winter months!

Courthouse Garden Crew completed the final clean up for the season! Great job everyone!!
About the Food Pantries
By Anita Boyett-Voke

LA CYGNE
The La Cygne UMC Food Pantry is located at 402 Chestnut St., La Cygne, KS 66040 Phone: 913.757.2732.
The pantry is a community project located behind the Methodist Church along with the community garden, which provides some of the food.
The La Cygne UMC food pantry serves those who face food insecurity in La Cygne and surrounding communities. It is sponsored by the Healthy Congregations group. They receive donations from the Kansas Food Bank, 4-H groups, churches, farmers, and Hunters of America, who pays for processing of deer meat in season. Harvesters donates food for distribution on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 5:30 pm. (Days for the food pantry may vary from month to month.)
Vegetables from the community gardens are harvested prior to the first frost each year and distributed to families in need.
The community garden uses raised beds and has Tuesday and Friday morning work days. Master Gardeners participate actively and volunteers are always welcome.

OZAWATOMIE
The Oz Food Pantry is located at 800 W 6th Street, Osawatomie, KS 66064 (Next to the Senior Center) Phone: 913.755.2146.
The Pantry serves multiple families each month and is open on Wednesdays from 8:30 am -11:30 am and the 4th Saturday from 9:30 am -11:30 am. For more information, please call.
They serve southern Miami County (south of Hwy. 68). They receive food from Harvesters, Master Gardeners, farmers, the local community garden, Walmart and several other groups.
Vegetables are always welcome.
The Pantry is located at 811 6th Street next to the Senior Center. Volunteers on Wednesday morning are always welcome.

SPRING HILL
The Spring Hill Food Pantry is located at Life Spring Church. 10 N Webster St., Spring Hill, KS 913.592.5433
The pantry serves residents of Spring Hill, Gardner, Hillsdale, Paola and Olathe.
The pantry is supported through financial and volunteer support by the entire community. Each week, more than 120 families are served through the pantry. They are able to provide food to those in need through the generous support of the Life Spring congregation, the Spring Hill community and Harvesters. The Spring Hill schools, scout troops, Rotary and other groups have collected food and monetary donations to support the food pantry.
They are open on Thursdays: from: 9:00-10:30 a.m. and 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Church staff and volunteers participate and volunteers are always welcome.
When I moved to Miami County in 1981, my property was a brome/fescue pasture with no sign of its glorious past as a tallgrass prairie. Another 35 years of livestock grazing and annual applications of herbicide (as recommended by the Extension!) ensured that no native plant would even try to return. In the meantime, the “weeds” along Plum Creek Road were a lush growth of native prairie plants. I tried leaving my pasture unmowed but that just encouraged non-native thistles and grasses. I threw out many bags of prairie seeds gathered at Judy Moser/Ken O’Dell’s prairie but none came up, so it was time to do some research. To bring back prairie flowers (forbs) most references recommend a late-summer/fall prescribed burn and subsequent, consistent annual planting (and weeding) of native forb plants and seeds.

In November, 2017 I joined EKPBA (Eastern Kansas Prescribed Burn Association) and scheduled my first burn. The results have exceeded my expectations as native prairie plants are now growing across my “Prairie Reimagined.” 2022 marked the 5th year since my initial burn so with the support of EKPBA, I prepared my burn plan in February and then scheduled an Advanced Training for our EMGs on October 18. Weather permitting, a shared burn day was scheduled on October 29. I renewed my burn permit in August and the burn’s perimeter was repeatedly mowed for safety. The morning of the burn, the weather was judged ideal with 5 to 10 mph winds out of the east and 43% humidity. As required by Miami County Fire Department, I telephoned and received permission to “GO.”

Ten MdC EMGs were among the 26 volunteers who gathered at the western edge of the prairie. EKPBA supplied safety training, the equipment and the expertise. Two work crews, each supported by an ATV mounted with a water tank and sprayer lined up on the north and south edges. At noon I lit the match at the west-most point for two controlled flank fires, which were slowly guided east to create a fire line up to the far eastern edge of the prairie. Finally, it was time for the true burn! Joe Piezuch and I drip-torched the eastern edge. Immediately the head fire roared back west to Plum Creek Road, blackening the ground in only a few minutes. The burn was over and out by 1:14 pm. To my surprise, the 4 to 6-foot prairie forbs did not ignite. They remained standing, thus preserving their seeds and their hollow stems as refuges for overwintering insects, especially our native bees. This burn was a win-win, promising next year’s beauty for humans and habitat for wildlife.

Long Lips Farm Prairie Burn
By Lenora Larson
Prairie Burn Continued

Before the Burn

Forbs Left Standing After the Burn

Photos on pages 4 & 5 by: Lenora L. and Barb S.
Garden Spotlight

By Barb Shropshire

This past year my husband, Clay, spent his free time redoing and expanding our over 20-year-old deck serving as chief architect and builder. He had the goal of making the deck large enough to provide room to walk around a multitude of my potted plants. By the end of the summer, we were able to use the deck and had several outdoor gatherings complete with string lights and fire pit!

Since my knee replacement limited me in keeping up my in-ground flower beds, I focused on the container plants. The deck always gives me a challenge with the changing sunlight from the roof line throughout the season. I move them around as needed to keep the plants healthy and prevent scorching.

I have a shady spot that I put begonias and impatiens along with the fern and coleus. The sunny areas are filled with petunia, Angelonia, and other sun-loving plants. I’m always amazed at the size the small early spring plants have grown by end of season. I fertilize them regularly until the hot weather when I just manage to keep them watered, sometimes 2X a day so they can survive the sweltering heat! I try to keep up with pinching and cutting back and re-potting if necessary. Seeing the hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees all around the deck is a treat throughout the summer!

I like to overwinter a few of my favorites in the garage and outbuilding and get a head start in spring if the plants survive. Next year’s project – a greenhouse!

We even had a few tomatoes in the vegetable garden and many volunteer cantaloupes came up in the compost we added!
2022 Marais des Cygnes Extension Master Gardener Advanced Training

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

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<tr>
<th>Mo</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nov.</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
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<td>Growing Old Roses, Hybrid Rugosa and Hardy Roses</td>
<td>Dr. James Roush, Assoc. Dean of Acad. Programs &amp; Student Success, College of Vet Med., Riley Co. EMG</td>
<td>JoCo EMG AT Zoom link <a href="https://ksu.zoom.us/j/92427567597?pwd=eTh4SW5QYit6SUVZNm5NiV4OzNyZz09">https://ksu.zoom.us/j/92427567597?pwd=eTh4SW5QYit6SUVZNm5NiV4OzNyZz09</a></td>
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To join K-State Garden Hour, use link below: [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)

If you’re needing more Advanced Training hours, the below AT opportunities are available for end of year catch-up:

- **K-State Garden Hour Recordings**, see above AT Calendar. You can watch previous recordings.
- Last JoCo Zoom: November 17, 9am, Growing Old Roses, Hybrid Rugosa and Hardy Roses.
- Native Plants at Noon from Deep Roots: [https://deeproots.org/native-plants-at-noon](https://deeproots.org/native-plants-at-noon). Recordings are available under the Webinar tab.
- The Pollinator Habitat 101 recordings are available on the website under the Recordings tab. There are 5 sessions with 5 different speakers. Registration is required through the link: 'Webinar Registration - Zoom'.
- Another Prairie Burn opportunity: EKPBA has a Burn scheduled for Sunday, Nov.13 at 1:00pm! The Dickersons: 31270 Hedge Lane • Paola KS 66071 (Not available for AT hours.)

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**BE SURE TO GET YOUR HOURS REPORTED!!**

Go to the on line reporting site at: [ksuemg.org](https://ksuemg.org)

Click on the On Line Reporting at the top. (The site has been updated and looks different.)

**Step 1.** On Line Reporting will take you to the Login window. Log on to the system using your own username and password. (If you have forgotten your information see the links at the bottom and follow the prompts.)

Once you have entered your Username and Password, Sign In. (You can also save your user name and password for future recordings.)

Once signed in it will take you to the main menu and will also show you the status of your hours.

**Step 2.** Once in the main window click on Report New Hours.

**Step 3.** From this window you can enter your AT and Volunteer hours. **Note: areas with a red * are required fields.**

Use the Drop Down menus to select the appropriate category, sub categories, dates etc. Enter a description and location.

Be sure to save your work. Once you have saved your work, select “Add New” and repeat the process.

Click on Exit at the top to end your session.

Please like and follow the Marais des Cygnes EMGs on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/mdcemg](http://www.facebook.com/mdcemg)