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

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 | 913-294-2829

Meet and Greet Class of 2022
By Becky Thorpe

On Thursday, August 25 at 10 am, the EMG 2022 new class met for the first time for a “meet and greet” at the gardens of Lenora Larson. 9 new class members, 10 mentors, and many MdC EMG members were present for the event. Each new member was introduced with a brief bio and their EMG mentor acknowledgment. As our host, Lenora welcomed all and also gave an overview of the history of her farm and gardens. Following introductions, everyone enjoyed a self-guided tour of Lenora’s garden plus the EMG trial gardens.

Good fellowship was enjoyed with sack lunches, cookies and cobbler. Over several hours much was learned and friendships initiated. Zoom classes for the new class begin on Thursday, September 1st. A group Zoom class for all new class and mentors is scheduled for Thursday, September 29 at the Paola extension office. There will also be a tour for the class of the Miami County Courthouse at 11am that same morning.

(Please see page 5 to meet some of the new class candidates of 2022!!)

Photos by Jan T. and Barb S.
"Save the Date" – February 25, 2023! Our Garden Symposium will return in 2023 at the Lighthouse Church. The theme will be "Design with Maintenance in Mind". The committee is in the process of finalizing and more details will become available in the future. Stacie and Lenora are planning a wonderful event!

4th Quarter General Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 11th at 5:00 p.m. at Wallace Park. Pizza will be provided. Bring your own drinks. Please RSVP to Katelyn by Thursday, October 6th as we need to know how many pizzas to order. (She will also send out a reminder email.)

Phyllis B. is happy to report that Helen Kloepper has volunteered to be the new co-chair for the courthouse gardens. We all agree that Helen will be a great asset to the gardens.

2023 Garden Tour planning is progressing nicely. They are still looking for a 6th garden. If you or your neighbor have a garden that you/they would be interested in having on our tour, please let Helen K. know. The committee will be previewing the gardens presently scheduled for the tour on Tuesday, September 20th.

Becky T. has graciously agreed to be a coordinator for the Short Term Community/Educational Project committee. Our next project is scheduled for December 8th to assemble Holiday door swags for 33 residents of the Vintage Park, Osawatomie location. Details to follow as they become available. Thank you, Becky!!

Barb S. is working on our 2023 Advanced Training classes. If you are interested in joining Barb to help with ideas, plan to be at the Extension office on October 18th at 5:00 prior to the Prairie Burn AT at 6:30. Katelyn, will also be emailing a survey asking for your input on Advanced Training in 2023.

Trial Garden is moving!! A workday will be planned to help prepare the site at the Paola Community Garden on Industrial Road in Paola. The site is centrally located, and water is available from the city. For the rest of this season, tomatoes and peppers will be picked and delivered to the Osawatomie Food Pantry.

The EMG Advisory Board recently voted and approved Emeritus status for Julie Perez and Judy Moser. Thank you for all your contributions to the Marais des Cygnes Master Gardeners organization!

Thank you to Rena for sharing your gardening techniques over the past three newsletters. Very innovative! If you have pictures of your 2022 garden that you would like to share with everyone, please send to Anita for featuring on our "spotlight". Thank you, Anita, for this month’s “Spotlight”.

CALENDAR

- September 17 – Leavenworth Garden Symposium
- September 20 – Tour of potential gardens for 2023 Garden Tour
- September 27 – Tree ID Session III
- September 29 – New Class Meeting at Courthouse Gardens before Group Zoom Class.
- October 11 – General Meeting at Wallace Park (RSVP by 10/6)

The 2022 Advanced Training schedule is on page 8. Please see the schedule for details on each opportunity. Watch for new programs as they are added.
Meet the Candidates for the EMG Board

Janette Everhart  
I joined the Master Gardener program in 2019. The last face-to-face course at Johnson County. I have learned so much about gardening and made such good friends since then. I have volunteered at the symposium, garden tour, hot line, extension office garden, trial garden, courthouse garden, county fair. Last year and this year I headed the nominating Committee. I have attended several board meetings to learn about how the board functions.

My prior experience working at Hewlett Packard as a consultant, manager and director helped me develop my professional skill. My education and experience help me working with computers and networks and of course, people. Over the years I have served as officers in many volunteer organizations.

I really look forward to serving on the board and helping us focus and execute efficiently, while enjoying our time together.

Helen Kloepper  
After receiving my B.S. from Webster University I worked for a United Fund agency as administrative assistant. I worked with many social and juvenile welfare agencies, represented our program for funding, and worked closely with our board. I developed an orientation program for our new board members introducing them to our program/mission and their responsibilities. This experience taught me to develop foresight, oversight, and insight which have all played a part in my work experiences.

My husband, Jim and I moved to Louisburg in 1977. We have adult sons that have remained in the KC area.

In 1976, I worked with the Allendale Foundation at the "By Jingo" camp as School Camp Program director. Developing programs for multiple schools in the KC area.

I taught in Louisburg for 29 years during which time I wrote and administered a five-year grant for our school. The grant identified 8th grade leaders and trained them to work with our struggling K-4th graders. I moved to Spring Hill Schools to work as a Science Specialist and Instructional Coach for 11 years. I was honored in both districts by being selected as their Teacher of the Year.

I have planned and created programs for Spring Hill New Teacher Academies. These helped acclimate new teachers to the district. I have made numerous presentations at Kansas Area Teachers of Science (KATS) conferences, USA-Kansas (Kansas Superintendents convention), Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE), and school board meetings.

Presently, I am working as a Clinical Supervisor for Western Governor’s University, working with Intern Teachers helping them develop the skills to successfully navigate teaching.

My retirement bucket list included beekeeping. (I have 3 hives) and joining the Master Gardener’s. I have really enjoyed meeting everyone, the classes and especially working at the Courthouse Garden.

Gardening has always been my relaxation. The more I learn the more I find I don’t know, but I sure enjoy learning and playing in the dirt.

Billie Lenz  
I’m looking forward to volunteering on the EMG board and getting to know more people in Miami County. In the past I’ve enjoyed volunteering as Treasurer of the Overland Park Foundation which includes the Friends of the Arboretum, Deanna Rose Farmstead and Arts (11 bank accounts).

I have a BS in Education and a Master’s in Business.

We live on the Chiles Airpark on 14 acres and enjoy flying our YELLOW 1946 Ercoupe Airplane. I’m starting to learn more of the tree and plant names which is why I joined the Master Gardener program in 2021. I finally do know what spiderwort is!

Vickie Vetter-Scruggs  
I live in the Paola area on acreage. I enthusiastically grow medicinal herbs, vegetables, native plants and flowers. I am a true nature and animal lover. I own and operate Orange Moon Apothecary. I enjoy conjuring up all kinds of herbal, safe and earth-friendly skin care products and teas. I also have a high tunnel, bees, chickens and goats! I have been a beekeeper for over 15 years.

I joined the Master Gardeners in 2008 and served on the board as president for four years (don’t remember which years tho).

I also did a presentation on Beekeeping and Native Bee Plants for the EMGs one year and my gardens were on the Garden Tour in 2015. I am one of two individuals that have helped manage the Paola Farmers Market for over 11 years.

I am currently attending Trinity School of Natural Health. Trinity School was founded for the purpose of presenting alternative natural health education to everyone. In October of this year I will become a Certified Natural Health Professional. And Yes, I talk to spiders!

Thank you to all of the EMG members willing to share your time and talents and serve on our board.
EMG Members Learning about Trees

On August 23rd several MdC EMG members attended the Tree ID Session I presented by Katy Dhungel, District Forester for Kansas Forest Service at Wallace Park in Paola.

Photos by: Billie L., Barb S., and Jan T.
Meet some of the 2022 Class Members

Theresa Barr
My husband and I raised three sons here in rural Mound City. I ran a small local greenhouse years ago and have always enjoyed garden canning and dehydrating what I can grow. I grow and forage herbs for tea and tinctures for personal use only. My husband and I are retired.

Robert Burns
I worked in IT until I retired at 55 due to personal reasons. I met Susan Bohmker, a former farm girl, and ended up buying her a horse for Christmas. Later, we bought a farm near Fontana so she could look out the window and see her horse. Sue and I were married at the farm. Now I know more about brome hay and horse and chicken care than I ever wanted to know.

We have a small orchard, blackberries, and a pecan grove that came with the property. We added wine grapes and expanded the blackberries and added raspberries. We grow most tomatoes, peppers, garlic, and cucumbers in the vegetable garden. On a good year we will can up to 200 jars of pasta sauce, salsa, jams, and pickles.

Each year we experiment with a new item. This year it's paprika. The first bath of smoky paprika is complete.

As a hobby I bake bagels and artisan breads, lathe woodworking, and blacksmithing. I am part of the Kansas City Renaissance Fair. I have performed as he Master Baker and The Archbishop of Canterbury, as well as a woodworker and chain mail maker.

Lynn Campbell
I am currently retired from working in accounting and business administration, The greater Kansas City area (Lee’s Summit, Shawnee and Paola) have been my live-long home. My husband Dan (Master Gardener class approximately 2010) and I have four children and seven grandchildren all living within 45 minutes from us. We also have four horses, two dogs, and a cat.

I have always enjoyed vegetable and ornamental gardening. We live on 17 acres that require all types of land management, so I have plenty of area to experiment with. Along with horseback riding and traveling with my horses to mountain and forest destinations I quilt and spend a lot of time cooking.

I am very happy to finally be a part of this group and. Look forward to the educational program as well as the opportunity to volunteer and work on projects.

Scott Catton
Growing up in Canada, I experienced many aspects of sustainable living from gardening a 40 acre family plot to working in other family agriculture businesses.

As an avid outdoors man I came to respect the diverse ecosystems of Mother Nature which has sparked my interest in conservation of wildlife and wildflowers and applying alternative growing techniques. My goal is to educate future generations sharing what I’ve learned through the years. My motto is: “Saving the planet one pollinator at a time”.

Monica Chapman
I’m Monica Chapman from Pleasanton, KS. I live on small acreage out in the country in Linn County. I enjoy being outside as much as possible tending to my property and taking care of my animals. I am a retired rental property owner and manager.

I’m an avid equestrian and compete in endurance riding across the nation. I have hauled and competed with my horses in 25 states with a goal of as many states as possible. I volunteer on the Board of Directors for the American Endurance Ride Conference (AERC) as vice President. I am also the Trails and Land Management Committee Co-Chair for the 4500 member organization. I interact with public land owners on a continual basis for AERC.

I also have a passion for history. I am the current Treasurer the Mine Creek Battlefield Foundation in Linn County. The largest civil war cavalry battle west of the Mississippi River. If you have not visited the battlefield it is a must see.

I have always enjoyed nature’s beauty. I have a large interest in flowering plants, bushes, and trees. Management of pasture grasses and weeds. My interests also include preserving property naturally with nature erosion control and conservation efforts and easements. I also have my own beehive in a tree on my property. I love feeding my hummingbirds and providing them flowers for nourishment.

Our 2022 New Class has nine new enrollees! Check back next month for information on the remaining members!
Gutter Gardening – The “Why’s”

By Rena Tedrow

When I first started gardening my plants were in-ground in the front. Three years later, we brought home a puppy and as a result I lost more than a few plants for 2 seasons. That was the “why” I started using the half barrels.

I continued growing in barrels for 4 years, until they were too much to move around. Around this time that I happened upon the “Rain Gutter Growing System”. I showed the set-up to my husband. It seemed much easier than moving than large barrels of “soil.”

Why the gutter system? Ease. The work required in the beginning (per previous articles) has lasted for nearly 10 years. The buckets, if stored out of the elements, may last 3-5 years.

Why the holes? The holes are cut in the buckets to allow “air pruning”. When plants get root-bound in solid containers the roots get stifled and tangled which can choke the plant. The air flow naturally prunes the roots (drying them) forcing the plant to sprout new roots that penetrate deeper into the soil.

In the beginning, I used a hole saw to cut the holes in the buckets. I have since bought the largest step-bit I could buy. The holes are smaller; and there are more holes but this was faster in my opinion.

The buckets and net cups are lined with landscape fabric. The growing medium is packed into the net cup and placed thru the hole in the bottom. (The finished “cup” looks more like a snow cone.)

Wet mix is added to the bottom to help the net cup absorb water from the gutter. The bucket is filled to approximately an inch from the top. The buckets should be allowed to sit in the gutters for 24 hours. This allows the net cup to fully absorb the water. The water is distributed 1 foot up and out. This moistens the bottom third of the bucket and it remains moist as long as water is kept in the gutter(s).

To make watering easier, refer to the August Newsletter. I discussed installing a Kerick float.

Why the Kiddie Pools? Again, ease. Like the gutters, you can auto-water using by using a float. The caveat is the float needs to be placed in a container since moved and is looking for more land to expand is garden.

I’d be happy to discuss more details of these methods of gardening if anyone is interested. Feel free to email me at: snoski58@yahoo.com

RGGS. This is merely a glimpse of her produce garden. Her blog page only includes the past 4 years. The fence railing that surrounds her produce garden is set up to hold flowers (RGGS) to draw pollinators.

Photo B is from a member in both groups, and this is only a portion of his previous garden. In this photo he created walkways between the lengths of his RGGS to save space and give the capability to pick produce from all sides. I thought that was clever. He has
Garden Spotlight
By Anita Boyett-Voke

After living in the country on 20 acres for over two decades we moved to Lenexa in 2020. (Humbled that the EMGs kept me in the fold.) I had a 30x50 vegetable garden, lots of flower beds, 3 acres of woods, cats, horses, and chickens. (Only have cats now.)

The past two years I started working on the landscape and more.
Some areas have worked out well, some, not so much. From raised beds to containers and more my “green” thumbs get a good workout. Several of the plants are from other EMG members and/or the courthouse gardens as well as purchased.
City life has proven to be quite different and challenging at times. However, the best crop of all is the grandkids. *(We help with them a lot!!)*

In the beginning, a hot mess!!

Boxwoods, Lilies, Giant Phlox, Purple Fountain Grass, Sweet Potato Vine, Variegated Liriope, Cockscomb, Purple Hyacinth Bean, and a hanging basket of Vinca.

BEST CROP EVER!!

Ornamental Grass

Vegetable Garden (Pre-drought!)

HOSTAS

Please share YOUR garden!!

No Sow Garden AT Class
By Jan Thompson

On August 16th Lenora Larson gave a wonderful presentation on “No Sow Garden”. We had a full house!!

Photos by Jan Thompson.
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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<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sept. 15 - 17</td>
<td>See Monarch Watch website for more info</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>Monarch Watch 30 Year Celebration (Fri. Monarch Symp. and Garden Tour &amp; Sat. Tagging)</td>
<td>See monarchwatch.org/ events/</td>
<td>Lawrence, KS; see monarchwatch.org. This is not an organized activity for MdC EMGs.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sept. 17</td>
<td>8:30 AM - 4:00 PM</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Garden Symposium “Life in Full Bloom” (carpool plan will be organized for those interested)</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 Leavenworth Co. office 813-364-5700</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sept. 27</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tree ID Session III</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>
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<td>Oct. 5</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tree Board Fall Seminar</td>
<td>Prairie Village Tree Board 4 speakers</td>
<td>Meadowbrook Clubhouse, 9101 Nall Ave., PV (Dennis Patton, Arborist Ivan Katzer, Sub. L &amp; G, Heartland Tree Alliance Mgr. Sarah Crowder)</td>
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<td>Oct. 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>
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<td>Oct. 21</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Weather! What’s Brewing in Our Future</td>
<td>Doug Kluck, Central Region Climate Svc. Dir., NOAA’s National Center for Envir. Inform. (NCEI)</td>
<td>JoCo EMG AT Zoom link <a href="https://ksu.zoom.us/j/92247566799?pwd=eTh4SW5QYit6SUVZNmJ5NV4QzNzZ09">https://ksu.zoom.us/j/92247566799?pwd=eTh4SW5QYit6SUVZNmJ5NV4QzNzZ09</a></td>
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<td>Oct. 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>
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<td>Nov. 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 Acad. Programs &amp; Student Success, College of Vet Med., Riley Co. EMO</td>
<td>JoCo EMG AT Zoom link <a href="https://ksu.zoom.us/j/92247566799?pwd=eTh4SW5QYit6SUVZNmJ5NV4QzNzZ09">https://ksu.zoom.us/j/92247566799?pwd=eTh4SW5QYit6SUVZNmJ5NV4QzNzZ09</a></td>
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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
Oct. 5 - Improving Soil Health in the Landscape and Garden, Dr. DeAnn Presley
Nov. 2 - Wildlife Damage Prevention and Control in the Lawn and Garden by Dr. Drew Ricketts
https://hnk.k-state.edu/extension/info-center/k-state-garden-hour-webinar-series/k_state_garden_hour.html

MdC Training Hours Other Training Hours

Tuesday, September 27th  
Tree ID Session III  
Where: 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 the shelter house NE of the Adair Cabin.  
1 hr AT  
(Rain Date: Thursday September 29th.)

Prescribed Burn AT: October 18, 2022, 6:30pm.
If you love your land, set it on fire! Prescribed burning is a safe, effective, and economical way to manage grasslands. The goals of a fall burn are safety, remaining within the intended boundary and enhancing the growth of native forbs. By reducing fuel load, a prescribed burn can significantly reduce the risk of wildfires in many areas. Prescribed fire is a natural, ecological practice caused by lightning as well as a historical land management tool used by indigenous peoples. This presentation will discuss the process used by the Eastern Kansas Prescribed Burn Association (EKPBA) for its members.

Bio: Al Lozier is currently President of Eastern Kansas Prescribed Burn Association (EKPBA). He lives in Paola and approves and oversees all burns conducted by the organization. Al is a retired business owner who operated a water treatment company that specialized in city, well, pond and lake water from 1988-2016. He is a level 5 Certified Water Treatment Specialist.

Burn at Long Lips Farm!
Excitement! Attend and participate in a prescribed burn October 29th!
In addition to our 10/18 AT, you can participate in a small prairie prescribed burn tentatively scheduled for October 29, mid-morning. Mother Nature is in charge of timing since weather conditions, especially wind speed, will determine whether we can conduct the burn. Burn Boss Al Lozier will be monitoring the weather and let us know whether we can proceed on Saturday the 29th or on Sunday the 30th, or reschedule for a future date.

Burn address: Long Lips Farm • 27995 Plum Creek Road • Paola, KS 66071
Note: Membership in EKPBA is required to schedule a burn. Participation in other member burns is also required. Lenora has been an active member since 2017.

Are you interested in helping to plan our 2023 AT events?  
Join us October 18 at 5:00 pm at the extension office to give your ideas and/or join the committee!  
Bring a sandwich to eat before the 6:30 pm AT on Prairie Burns.
If you have questions or any AT suggestions please reach out to Barb at: barbshrops@gmail.com

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