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

FEBRUARY 2023
www.maraisdescygnes.ksu.edu

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EMG Cookbook Project
by Anita Boyett-Voke

We know there are several of our MdC EMGs like to grow herbs, vegetables, fruits and more. We are wanting to come up with a cookbook to give out at events (at our cost) that has information on growing and COOKING (with the emphasis on cooking) a variety foods. If you have a favorite recipe (or know of one) that you want to share please submit to Sue B. at: smbohmker@hotmail.com or Anita B-V at: abvoke@yahoo.com.

They can be submitted in the form of a simple photo, a word file, pdf or a neatly hand written note. We will do the rest. Please include how and what ingredient you harvested/used. The recipes will be collected and put into appropriate categories.

Our first quarter meeting is going to be a potluck, and will be a great time to prepare and share a recipe. (The food doesn’t have to be from your garden this time of year, but something that you may or will be growing.)

We know many of you are wonderful cooks and we want to make this as easy as possible for you to participate in this project. We don’t have a deadline at this time. We are looking forward to our first tasty event!

IMGC 2023 (International Master Gardener Conference) has asked us, along with other local EMG groups, to share our friendly, Midwestern community spirit by creating a unique spirit pole.

This pole(s) is to reflect our style showing our county (or counties) and its unique beauty. We are to use a garden or nature theme or design to showcase what gardening and our area means to the Marias des Cygnes Master Gardeners. A lot of possibilities to think about!

Complete information is in Katelyn’s email sent February 9th. It also includes a template for you to design and color in your message and color scheme. Remember, the bottom three inches need to be left blank.

Depending on the number of members able to participate, we could make two poles . . . maybe a Miami County and a Linn County version???

So let your creative juices flow, spirit move you and bring your ideas to the upcoming meeting at the extension office on March 7th at 10am. Patty Trull has agreed to co-chair! The finished pole(s) are due by May 1 so we will need to begin shortly.

What a fun project!

(Samples shown from various sources! The bottom one shows a sample of all four sides of a pole.)
The 2023 Advanced Training schedule is on page 7. Please see the schedule for details on each opportunity. Watch for new programs as they are added.

Conference (IMGC) Spirit Pole information was recently emailed to all EMGs. We would like to move forward with this project as the final pole due date is May 1. A meeting is scheduled for March 7th, 10:00 a.m. at the extension office to begin planning, selecting designs, drawing, painting, etc.

Short Term Community Projects are coming up with some fantastic ideas for helping us achieve our mission in our communities. They are researching ideas from repeating the planters at Louisburg Vintage Park and Wreaths for Residents to the small, wooden bridge in need of repair at the Paola Community Garden, Miami County Administration Building planters to helping beautify in front of the Paola Senior Center.

The EMG Rookies are working on their class project for a "grow and cut" flower garden in our Trial Garden space at the Paola Community Garden. Budget was approved for $250 and seeds are being ordered. Looking forward to learning more about their project.

Barb S. is providing us with another great year of Advanced Training opportunities! A special shout-out to Barb for her researching and making us aware of all the various classes available.

Wonderful News!! . . . 235 guests signed up for our 2023 Symposium! Set up is at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, February 24th at Lighthouse Church. A great program is planned with wonderful door prizes and a delicious lunch. Please remember you will receive 5 hours of Advanced Training for attending.

Everyone is invited to the first meeting of the year for Seeds for Kids. The meeting is at 10:00 a.m. at the Extension office on Tuesday, February 21st. We’re excited to hear your thoughts on growing this program.

Plans for our plant sale are progressing nicely as we get closer to our sale in late April. Lenora, Sue and Stacie have been working to “fine-tune” our processes and to make this our best sale ever. Also, a major concentration has been given to the variety and uniqueness of plants we’ll have to offer our customers. More information will be provided as we get closer to time of sale.

Great Job Katelyn! The EMG storage area is so organized! Katelyn and several of her co-workers worked on reorganizing, ordering more shelving, and finding all EMG materials a “home”. Much improved and we’re encouraged to keep all our materials in their proper space. Thank you, Katelyn!

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Advisory Board
Chairman — Jan Thompson
Vice Chairman — Janette Everhart
Secretary — Anita Boyett-Voke
Treasurer — Billie Lenz
Members at Large
Helen Kloepper
Barbara Shropshire
Vickie Vetter-Scruggs

Committees
Courthouse Garden
Phyllis Benedict & Helen Kloepper

Trial Garden
Shirley New & Chet McLaughlin

KSU Extension Office Garden
Sue Burns

Advanced Training
Barbara Shropshire

Awards Banquet
Donna Cook, Susan Thompson & Betsy Hasselquist

Symposium 2023
Stacie Campbell

Plant Sale 2022
Sue Burns, Stacie Campbell & Lenora Larson

Garden Tour
Helen Kloepper

Publicity
Lenora Larson

Seeds for Kids
Janette Bennett & Betsy Hasselquist

Social Media/Newsletter
Anita Boyett-Voke

Miami County Fair
Chet McLaughlin & Sue Burns

New Recruits/Mentors
Becky Thorpe

Newspaper Articles
Katelyn Barthol, Extension Agent

Send news and photos to:
Anita Boyett-Voke, Newsletter Editor
abvoke@yahoo.com

CALENDAR

February 21 – Seeds for Kids
10:00 a.m.
February 21 – The Art of Gardening
AT – 6:30 p.m. Via Zoom
February 24 – Symposium Succulent Potting Session – 1:00 p.m.
February 24 – Symposium Set Up at Lighthouse Church – 3:00 p.m.
February 25 – Garden Design with Maintenance in Mind Symposium
March 7 – Spirit Pole Meeting
10:00 a.m.
March 8 – Combined AT - Hydroponic and Flower Arranging – 4:00 p.m.
March 11 – Healthy Yards Expo

"Anyone who thinks gardening begins in the spring and ends in the fall is missing the best part of the whole year; for gardening begins in January with the dream."
– JOSEPHINE NUSE

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Plant Sale Update

By Sue Burns

We had a great first meeting Friday February 3rd. Quite a few folks showed up and it was much appreciated. Katelyn shared the list of all who have signed up for the Plant Sale... we are still short quite a few volunteers.

The next, and final, meeting is April 4th, 9:30 at the Extension office. We would like everyone who signed up, and who will be in Kansas that day, to please attend the meeting. Katelyn will be posting the on line sign up the first week of March. BIG favor to ask. We need more folks to sign up and show up for check out and tally tables. I know many people plan on being there, and can’t commit to an actual time, and don’t sign up. Unfortunately that doesn’t work for check out and tally tables. We have to know exactly who we can count on, and do training prior to the big day. It’s not that complicated, honestly! Even if you could commit to half day it would be very helpful!

Lenora has been busting her behind to fine tune our plant list... providing the best of the best, making sure we do our best to provide the types and quality people have come to expect. As always what we do best is us... talking and teaching.

We start set up on Wednesday April 26th at approximately 8:30am. Two trucks will bring everything from Vinland in 2 loads. We should be done by 5pm on Wednesday and on Thursday we’re there from 9am to 5pm, Friday 9am to 6pm, and Saturday 9am to 1pm. Vinland will pick up after 1:00. We will do clean up, table tear down etc. We’re often done before 3 with the clean up. Then we party... and go into a coma!

On January 24th at the Extension Office Nancy Kalman, our very own MdC EMG, presented a Seed Starting AT session. We had several of our members attend this very informative presentation. Thank you Nancy!!

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Miami County Courthouse

Looking magnificent in all seasons, the Miami County Courthouse was built in 1898 and is now listed on the National Historic Register. It has a foundation of Carthage Limestone with the walls made of fireproof pressed bricks. The roof is black with red slate on the tower and gables. The interior is quarter sawn oak with a natural finish. It was built at a cost of $45,000. This beautiful building is a showcase for our community!

The Marais des Cygnes Master Gardeners began working with the Lions Club and County Commissioners in 2008 to make huge improvements to the historical grounds surrounding the Courthouse. A sidewalk helped improve the flow of pedestrian traffic through the beautiful gardens. The installation of a water sprinkler system helped immensely with the plantings to survive the hot, dry Kansas summers. The gardens have expanded over the years becoming a Monarch Watch with the beautiful butterfly gardens which are covered with Monarchs in the Fall.

Phyllis B. has chaired or co-chaired the Courthouse Gardens since 2012. In the past Phyllis worked with the Lions Club but with the Lions Club disbanding in December 2022, she will work with Superintendent of Grounds, County Commissioner or County Administrator depending on nature of the project. What a great job Phyllis and her team have done in the gardens.

Helen K. volunteered to become Phyllis's co-chair in 2022. Volunteers listed below will be part of the team to work in the Courthouse Gardens for 2023. We so appreciate all volunteers at the Courthouse Gardens! The Courthouse and surrounding gardens are very important to our community and a showcase for the Marais des Cygnes Master Gardeners. If you didn't get signed up to help, please know you are welcomed to come and help when you can.

Courthouse Volunteers:
- Melissa Anderson
- Susan Hain
- Stephanie Myers
- Becky Thorpe
- Bill Vandenberg
- Carol Vandenberg
- Carol Williams
- Cyndi Wilson

By Jan Thompson
Gale McRoberts: "The Art of Gardening Monet Style"

Gale has been a lifelong gardener. After raising her family, she entered the Johnson County Extension Master Gardening Program. Since 2010 she has worked in the Monet Garden at the Overland Park Arboretum. She also serves as a bed captain of the South Walk section of the garden. As a bed captain, she is responsible for the planning and ordering of plants, the planting and weekly maintenance of the garden as well as the collaboration with fellow bed captains and the coordination of volunteers working in her section.

As an artist, her interest in Monet aligns with both his works of art as well as his famous garden in France. She has conducted historical research on Claude Monet to prepare this presentation which provides insight into how Claude Monet used color and design elements to create a unique gardening style. She will be taking us on a tour of both the Garden in Giverney, France, and our award-winning Monet Garden right here in Overland Park.