



# K-STATE

Research and Extension  
**Master Gardener**

## What's Growing On...

The latest news from the  
Marais des Cygnes Extension Master Gardeners

MARCH 2018 | 104 S. Brayman St., Paola, KS 66071 | 913-294-4306 | [www.maraisdescyignes.ksu.edu](http://www.maraisdescyignes.ksu.edu)

### Advisory Board

- Chairman** — Mike Brown
- Vice Chairman** — Debbie Kitchell
- Secretary** – Becky Thorpe
- Treasurer** – Laraine Crawford

#### Members at Large

- Phyllis Benedict
- Sondra Dela Cruz
- Betsy Hasselquist

### Committees

#### Courthouse Garden

Phyllis Benedict

#### Trial Garden

Shirley New

#### KSU Extension Office Garden

Sue Burns & Debbie Kitchell

#### LakeMary

Andre Dight

#### Advanced Training

Lenora Larson

#### Annual Awards Banquet

Donna Cook & Susan Thompson

#### Symposium

Susan Thompson

#### Plant Sale

Mary Miller & Lenora Larson

#### By-Laws Review

Laraine Crawford

#### Publicity

Judy Moser & Lenora Larson

#### Seeds for Kids

Jane McLaughlin

#### New Recruits/Mentors

Sondra Dela Cruz

#### 2019 Garden Tour

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Please send additions and corrections to Mike Brown at [mlbcoach@gmail.com](mailto:mlbcoach@gmail.com)

## CALENDAR

### MARCH

- 23** 10:00 am Courthouse Spring Clean-Up (more info on page 2)
- 27** 9:00 am Extension Office Garden Meeting (more info on page 2)
- 10:00 am Pruning Trees & Shrubs, Charles Barden, Extension Office

### APRIL

- 10** 6:00 General Meeting and Talent Show (no potluck; more info below)

## Pruning Trees & Shrubs

**March 27, 10:00 am, at the Extension Office**  
**Charles Barden, 1.5 hours Advanced Training**

This is a hands-on session, so bring gloves, snippers and loppers. After a 30-minute PPT to explain the importance and timing of pruning woody plants, we will adjourn to the Extension Office Grounds to practice what we've learned. Dr. Barden is a Professor of Forestry at KSU and the Extension contact for agents and the general public to provide information about tree selection, planting and care, and improving water quality in rural areas.

## Quarterly Meeting and Talent Show

We have many multi-talented EMGs: potters, sculptors, barn quilters, photographers, and much more. Why not show off our other talents?!

Each volunteer will have half a white table (about 4x4 ft. square and the wall space behind them) in the big meeting room on which to exhibit their wares. What you choose to bring and show (be it samples, product, write-ups, or pictures) is up to you, the exhibitor. Whether you share, trade, or contract for future business is up to you—no holds barred on



Find out who this shovel-woman is at the April 10 Show & Tell!

this first "talent show" attempt.

Please reserve a half-table indicating your desire to participate by notifying Mike Brown at [mlbcoach@gmail.com](mailto:mlbcoach@gmail.com) or 913-219-4423. If you are not interested in sharing your other hidden talents, please come and review the others' options. We will be holding a short business meeting (second quarter general meeting) to update members on upcoming events. **No potluck dinner this time, but feel free to bring cookies.**

What is *your* hidden talent? Sign up now to "show and tell" it!

Be sure to follow the Marais des Cygnes EMGs on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/mdcemg](http://www.facebook.com/mdcemg)

## Time to Garden!

Sue Burns reports that she is trying to set up initial planning meetings with the **KSU Extension Office Garden** group. Primary meeting is at 9 a.m. March 27 before the pruning class at 10 at the Extension office. "I also offer to meet the Saturday before that at 9 for those who can't make the pruning class. We have a big enough group that I'm offering to split our days between Tuesday and Saturday. Either Deb K or I will be there those days depending on Deb's schedule. We are starting at 9 a.m. but as summer comes on we have the option of changing to 8 a.m. for the heat," says Sue.

Andre Dight and the Lakemary people have built five impressive birdhouses for the gardens.

Due to the possibility that the Extension Office will need to move in the new future, emphasis in these gardens will be on annuals.

Got cabin fever? Project Chair Phyllis Benedict says the **Courthouse Garden Spring Clean-up** will be held Friday, March 23 at 10:00 am. Please bring rakes, shovels, pruners and baskets for debris. We will be raking leaves, removing leaf debris and dead bushes, trimming roses and tree limbs. We'll need a wheelbarrow or two. Don't forget your gloves!

In case of bad weather we will reschedule for the following week, March 30. Regular workdays at the Courthouse will begin at 9 am on Wednesday, March 28, and continue every Wednesday until October.

The project of the new EMG class will be the west side of the Courthouse (pictured above), with a goal of more summer color.



**W**e are off to an amazing start for 2018!

Coming off our well-attended Awards banquet, we were surprised, then elated to have an overwhelming response to our Symposium. Thanks especially to Susan and Lenora for their leadership in making it a success even with the late change in venue. Thanks also to all the Committee members who assisted.

A very recent WSJ article stated "Places that succeed have a critical mass of creativity." This is why we're trying different things this year: changes in General Meetings, changes in Board meetings, updates to By-Laws, Procedures, and our Membership Roster. In January and again this month, we spent Board time discussing possible alternative (creative) actions that we can all help or benefit from. We do not want to detract (take hours) from what we are currently doing, yet we must offer something new and different in order to keep from becoming stale and boring. That's why this fast start is so encouraging.

Several members have asked about the upcoming 2Q General Meeting (April 10), not only inquiring about participating (about 10 tables spots spoken for so far) but about why the move away from Potlucks. If you attended any of last year's, you know the reasons. They were becoming very skimpy, "uncreative" or "ordinary" (my terms for it), with more and more



store-bought items and less-and-less homemade "potluck" options. People don't have the time or desire to spend time slaving over a stove. Meals during peak garden season should be inspirational; ours weren't. We can always reinstate them for next year, if someone can prove they will improve.

What this all boils down to is communications. That's the business we are in: "to disseminate the latest in gardening information to the public." So why should we treat each other any differently? The more we get together to share ideas and experiences, the better off we will all be.

**T**ake a look at our next three quarterly General Meetings: they are held to ensure that the membership is receiving the latest internal information and they have each been assigned a theme to foster communications. April's (2Q) meeting theme will revolve around what we do in the off season and offer a chance to get to know each other a little better/deeper personally; July's (3Q) cookout meeting is again a chance to just hang out and visit with our MG "neighbors"; October's (4Q) meeting will center around a game night, a chance to have fun and visit in an informal environment.

Look for coming changes. Our EMG website will be revamped to include more useful information and/or point you to alternative places to go. For instance, due to the sensitive content of our Roster information, we choose not to openly post it for easy access to any mass marketer that might come along. Rather, we will just include a reference to it on the website that points you to our Office Staff (Angela and Julie) for a copy. That's the way it works now, only the website will clarify the process.

It's Spring. Let's get Growing!

—Mike Brown

## Notes

- Betsy Hasselquist is looking for a co-chair and committee to begin planning the **2019 Garden Tour**. If you want to help, contact Betsy at [bjbniangua@yahoo.com](mailto:bjbniangua@yahoo.com).
- The **Hotline** will start up again in April. It will be available to take calls on Mondays and Thursdays from 8 am to noon. Volunteers may sign up for two-hour shifts at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090d49abac22a6f58-2018>
- Watch *KC Gardener* magazine for Johnson County EMG Advanced Training classes that may be of particular interest to you. All are **approved credit hours** for Marais des Cygnes EMGs. Other garden-related events and classes require Katelyn's approval for credit.
- Jane McLaughlin reports that **Seeds for Kids** will be available at the Extension Offices in Miami and Linn counties, to be picked up after April 1. They will also be given to kids at the Touch-A-Truck event in Paola at the Family Center on April 7 and at the Spring Plant Sale, also at the Family Center.
- The **Johnson County EMG Garden Tour** will be held May 18 and 19. Tickets are \$12 before May 1 (available online after April 1) and \$15 thereafter. Tickets are also available at Henhouse and at each of the gardens. A virtual tour is posted at [www.johnson.k-state.edu](http://www.johnson.k-state.edu)
- The Ursuline property has been sold and there is a possibility that the Extension Office will be needing to find a new home. Katelyn and the staff are pursuing options.
- Inactive members are encouraged to become active again in order to receive all the updates members receive.

## Sign Up Now to Help at the Plant Sale

The Spring Plant Sale is right around the corner! This year's sale will be held on April 26, 27 and 28

in the Family Center Farm & Home parking lot (808 Baptiste Drive, Paola)—the same location as last year.

While the Plant Sale is a fundraiser, its true benefit is as an excellent opportunity to reach out and educate the public.

Plus EMGs can earn volunteer hours and socialize with each other (and shop!).

As always, the sale will feature butterfly plants and native Midwest plants, but also offer tons of colorful annuals, perennials, tropicals, succulents, small trees, shrubs and berries, and vegetable transplants.

Three local vendors (to be featured in the April newsletter)

have signed contracts to supply consignment plants. Of special note: our vendors confirm that

- all the plants
- have been grown
- without harmful pesticides.
- Please make
- sure to wear your
- EMG shirt and
- name tag during
- your shift. Helpers
- are needed for
- set-up Thursday
- morning (thanks in

advance to those who can help move tables at 7 am), staffing all three days, and clean up Saturday, beginning at noon.

Even though all the slots are filled at SignUp Genius, we can always use more help, so come on out! For more information contact Mary Miller or Lenora Larson.

## Spring Is the Time to Volunteer!

We're looking for people to chair or co-chair the 2019 Garden Tour. Planning begins early for this fun event, so time is of the essence. Contact Betsy Hasselquist if you are interested in helping.

The Hotline gears up again in April, and the decision was made to have it on Mondays and Thursdays from 8 am to noon in two-hour shifts. Sign up online at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090d49abac22a6f58-2018>.

We have some temporarily disabled members who could use some help cleaning up their own gardens this spring. Contact Debbie Kitchell or Sue Burns if you have some excess energy left from your own garden cleanup!

Other programs that would love to have your help are:

Courthouse Gardens (Chair: Phyllis Benedict)

Extension Office Gardens (Chair: Sue Burns)

Trial Gardens (Chair: Shirley New)

Plant Sale (Chairs: Mary Miller and Lenora Larson)

Lakemary Garden: (Chairs: Andre Dight and Michael Poss)

Seeds for Kids (Chairs: Jane McLaughlin and Shirley New)

Mentor Program (Chair: Sondra Dela Cruz)

Advisory Board Nominating Committee (Starts July 2018)

Floriculture Department @ MICO Fair (Chair: Michael Poss)

# Biggest and Best Symposium Ever!



The “Gardening by Design” Symposium on March 3 exceeded our wildest expectations. There were more than 180 paid attendees, and the survey results were overwhelmingly positive, with percentages in the nineties saying they gained useful and valuable knowledge from speakers Merle Sharp, Cynthia Gillis, and Bryan Bocard.

Thirty-four percent said it was their first EMG training. They were pleased with the speakers, the Town Square facility, the lunch and snacks served, and the decorations.

About half said they learned of the Symposium from KC Gardener magazine, with the rest from the Extension and word-of-mouth.

Thanks to the Symposium committee for making all the arrangements, with Susan Thompson and Jeannie Trail as co-chairs. Lenora Larson arranged for the speakers; Betsy Hasselquist was in charge of lunch and beverages; Becky Thorpe, snacks; Nancy Kalman, photographer; Jamie Albright did Facebook publicity; Donna Cook and Brenda Wrischnik helped with registrant sign-in; and Connie Murphy and Nancy Kalman grew plants for table centerpieces, which were colorfully wrapped by committee members.

*Photos by Nancy Kalman and Judy Moser*





# Paola Plant Sale

**Thursday, April 26 11 am to 5 pm**  
**Friday, April 27 8 am to 5 pm**  
**Saturday, April 28 8 am to noon**

Annuals • Perennials  
Midwest Native Plants  
Butterfly Host Plants  
Tropicals • Succulents  
Vegetable Transplants

**808 Baptiste Drive,  
Paola, KS 66071**

Take the Baptiste Drive exit  
off Hwy. 169 and turn west.  
The sale is in the Family  
Center parking lot.

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## 2018 Calendar

Please visit the website for changes and updates, as new training may be added throughout the year.

Month	Date	Time	# Hrs	Topic	Speaker	Location
March	27	10 to 11:30 AM	1.5	Pruning Trees & Shrubs	Charles Barden, KSU	Ext Office
April	10	6:30 PM	2.0 Vol	General Meeting	"Talent Show"	Ext Office
	24	6:30 PM	1.0	Growing, Harvesting and Using Culinary Herbs	Brenda Wrischnik Mdc EMG	Ext Office
	26, 27, 28	See schedule	Vol Hrs	PLANT SALE	Mdc EMGs	Family Center Parking Lot
May	18 & 19	9 AM to 5 PM	6 Vol Hrs	JOCO Garden Tour (Purchase Tickets online or at the gardens)	JOCO EMGs	Various
	22	6:30 PM	1	Managing Pests and Weeds in the Vegetable Garden	Nancy Kalman, Mdc EMG	Ext Office
June	12	1 to 3 PM	2	Plant Diseases: ID & Treatment	Judy O'Mara, KSU	Ext Office
	26	6:30 PM	1.0	Identifying Common Garden Weeds	Jeff Hansen, KNPS	Ext Office
July	10	6:30 PM	2.0 Vol	General Meeting & Pot Luck Dinner	BBQ at Lakemary	Ext Office
August	7	6:30 PM	1	Fall Vegetable Gardening	Nancy Chapman JOCO EMG	Ext Office
	28	6:30-8:00 PM	2.0	Bartending for Butterflies	Lenora Larson, Mdc EMG	Ext Office
September	25	6:30 PM	1.0	Bugs and Berries: Landscaping for Birds	Nik Hiremath Birds Unlimited	Ext Office
October	9	6:30 PM	2.0 Vol	General Meeting & Pot Luck Dinner	Game Night	Ext Office
	16	1 to 2:30 PM	1.0	Propagating Plants from Cuttings	Cheryl Boyer KSU	Ext Office
November						
December	<b>Enjoy the Holidays!</b>					