



K-STATE

Research and Extension
Master Gardener

What's Growing On...

The latest news from the
Marais des Cygnes Extension Master Gardeners

MAY 2018 | 104 S. Brayman St., Paola, KS 66071 | 913-294-4306 | www.maraisdescygnnes.ksu.edu

CALENDAR

MAY

- 18 & 19** JoCo EMG Garden Tour
- 22** *Managing Pests and Weeds in Your Vegetable Garden*, Paola Office, 6:30
Nancy Kalman, MdC EMG

JUNE

- 12** *Plant Diseases: ID and Treatment*, Paola Office, **1 to 3 pm**
Judy O'Mara, KSU
- 26** *Identifying Common Yard and Garden Weeds*, Paola Office, 6:30
Jeff Hansen, Kansas Native Plant Society

Extension Office Garden workdays are Tuesdays and Saturdays, 9 am
Courthouse Garden workdays are Wednesdays, 9 am
Board meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of every month, 9:30 am, Paola office

Managing Pests and Weeds in Veggies

**May 22nd at 6:30 pm | Paola Office | 1 hour Advanced Training
Presented by Nancy Kalman, MdC EMG**

It takes courage to be a vegetable gardener in Eastern Kansas. In addition to our clay soil, unpredictable floods and droughts, and roller-coaster temperatures, we are beset by a multitude of pesky critters and weeds. Success depends on managing these threats to a bountiful harvest.

MdC EMG **Nancy Kalman** has been growing vegetables since she was a teenager on a farm in Iowa. After many years of teaching and administration in colleges around the country, Nancy moved to a small farm in Miami County. She sells her produce at local farmers markets and has learned some tricks for "winning the war" and will share them with AT attendees.

Plant Diseases: ID and Treatment

**June 12th 1:00-3:00 pm | Paola Office | 2 hours Advanced Training
Presented by Judy O'Mara, KSU**

Bring samples of disease suspects including spotty and discolored leaves from your garden. Judy O'Mara will demonstrate the analytical process to first decide whether it is insect damage, environmental stressors or a disease, which is caused by a bacteria, virus, fungus or protozoan. We will then narrow the diagnosis to the specific pathogen and discover whether there is a remedy. This will be a hands-on laboratory.

Judy received her Master's Degree in plant pathology from New Mexico State University and is currently the Director of the KSU Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. She also supports the Extension through outreach and education.

It's Recruitment Time

The time is drawing near for identifying and signing up candidates for the Class of 2019. Hopefully you saw Katelyn's memo this week with the letter outlining the requirements for the new prospects for the fall education and spring work requirements that can be shared with them.

Please take a minute to think about your spheres of influence, glean the names (and contact information) of those individuals that that you believe could and should make good, successful Master Gardeners. Think about those people you know or have met that have expressed an interest in the program.

July 9 is when KSU Extension-Olathe is needing seat commitments. They grant the Marais des Cygnes district 10 chairs but seldom have we filled more than six. You can help build our numbers through successfully recruiting more interested parties.

Please email all potential candidates' names to Sondra Dela Cruz (sondra_brinkman@hotmail.com) as soon as possible for consolidation and contact follow-up. Our future depends on it. —Mike Brown



Did you know you can actually buy dandelion seeds? Google it!

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

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

"Your Name Here"

Send news and photos to:

Mike Brown, Chairman

mlbcoach@gmail.com

or

Judy Moser, Newsletter Editor

judy@springvalleynursery.com

'A Different Twist on Things'

We all realize that

continuing technical education is of utmost value and helps separates a Master Gardener from an 'average' gardener. In this vein, a recent article caught my attention with information that we should all be aware of concerning new developments in the horticulture industry.

I don't know how you feel about Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO), the plant industry's technique of "adding in genes from outside species, including bacteria, viruses, and other plants. Inserting such genes enables crops to survive herbicide sprays or repel destructive bugs." (Think of Monsanto's Round-Up resistant soybeans.) Some people are opposed to the use of such breeding technologies (i.e., Crispr, Talen, or Zinc-finger) but the USDA, FDA, and World Health Organization assure us that the results of such usage are safe for consumption. Whether a food manufacturing company (i.e., General Mills) chooses to use non-GMO crops in their products is their business and customers' choice.

It is estimated that to bring a new traditional crop to market, "can take 13 years and cost \$136 million to develop and launch." A new bio-technology called 'Crispr-Cas9' (by its advocates, and 'GMO 2.0' by its opponents), looks ready to greatly shorten this development window. The newer gene-editing technology is described as "an extension of plant breeding, the centuries-old practice of crossing plant strains



to create improved offspring. Gene editing, the industry says, can yield the same results as crossbreeding, only faster." The results of "tweaking tomato's DNA, ...can increase the number of fruits per plant or make them bigger."

My purpose in bringing this up is so you will have an educated response to any such public questions that might arise regarding plant genetics and engineering. It's just a matter of time before the public will be asking about all this and for it to start showing up in our grains, vegetables, fruits, flowers, and/or ornamentals. I have a degree in Biology but don't yet fully understand what these new gene-editing biotechnologies entail. But I will be reading more on the subject, hope you will too.

Please take time to read the entire article for your own edification. It was in the Wall Street Journal, 16 April 2018, 'Is This Tomato Engineered? Inside the Coming Battle Over Gene-Edited Food.' — Mike Brown



Lakemary Ranch Manager and MdC EMG André Dight passed away on April 29, 2018. He will be greatly missed. Memorial donations may be given in his memory, designated for the Lakemary Ranch.

Gardens Taking Shape for 2018

Regular workdays are underway at the Courthouse Garden, the Extension Office Garden, and the Trial Garden.

Cleanup at the Courthouse began on March 23, as many volunteers came out to help with the effort. New (provisional) EMGs are responsible for the gardens on the west side of the courthouse.



Notes

- Betsy Hasselquist is looking for a chair or co-chairs to begin planning the **2019 Garden Tour**. If we don't have a chair we won't be able to have a Miami County garden tour in 2019. If you want to help, contact Betsy Hasselquist at bjbniangua@yahoo.com.
- The **Hotline** is now available for calls on Mondays and Thursdays from 8 am to noon. Volunteers may sign up for two-hour shifts at www.SignUpGenius.com/go/4090D49ABAC22A6F58-20181. If your shift is slow, consider checking with front desk staff to notify you or any calls and help out in the Extension gardens. Watering and weeding help are always welcome.
- 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.
- Changes to the By-Laws passed by an overwhelming majority of those who voted online.

The **Johnson County EMG Garden Tour** is this coming weekend, May 18 and 19. Tickets (\$15) are available at Hen House and at each of the gardens. A virtual tour is posted at www.johnson.k-state.edu.

First Community Work Day

A work day was held at d Brown's house on April 21, in spite of an iffy weather forecast. There was a great turnout, and Michael Poss served lunch. Reports are that d was very pleased with the results!



The deadline for inclusion in the Newsletter is Friday following the 2nd Tuesday of the month Board meetings

Scenes from Our Very Successful Spring Plant Sale



The weather was perfect, and everything went smoothly at the Spring Plant Sale. According to Laraine Crawford, our net profit was more than \$5,700. Huge thanks to Mary Miller for chairing the event (and to Steve Miller for his invaluable support), to all the volunteers, especially those who helped set up, cashier, and tear down, and to Lenora Larson for co-chairing and for selling every single butterfly host plant!

Sondra Dela Cruz has agreed to chair the Plant Sale next spring. No doubt Tom will be heavily involved, too, as the unsung spouses nearly always are.

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
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

Be sure to follow the Marais des Cygnes EMGs on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mdcemg