



# K-STATE

Research and Extension  
**Master Gardener**

## What's Growing On...

The latest news from the  
Marais des Cygnes Extension Master Gardeners

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

### CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

#### SEPTEMBER

**25** *Bugs and Berries: Landscaping to Attract Birds!*  
Nik Hiremath, Wild Birds Unlimited, Leawood, KS

#### OCTOBER

**9** *4th Quarter General Meeting*  
**16** *Propagating Plants from Cuttings*, Cheryl Boyer KSU

Extension Office Garden workdays are Tuesdays and Saturdays, 9 am  
Courthouse Garden workdays are Wednesdays, 9 am  
Trial Garden workdays have been changed to Thursdays at 8:00 am.  
Food is also harvested at that time.

Board meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of each month, 9:30 am, Paola office  
Newsletter deadline is noon on the Friday after each Board meeting

### PLEASE NOTE

**Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Horticulture Game Night planned for the 4th Quarter General Meeting on October 9 has been postponed until April 2019.**

**Watch for an email from Katelyn giving new details about the October 9 meeting.**

## Bugs & Berries: Landscaping for Birds

**September 25 at 6:30 pm | Paola Office | 1 hour Advanced Training Presented by Nik Hiremath**

Birds have the same needs as humans: shelter, water, a place to raise young, and food. A thoughtful approach to creating a bird-friendly habitat can be accomplished in harmony with nature. While many of the birds' needs can be met with ready-made solutions, advanced planning and some effort can significantly increase the probability of attracting birds to our yards. This presentation will include native insect host trees, shrubs and flowers to set a banquet for our common birds. Additional suggestions for water sources, nesting boxes and feeders will equip participants to maximize year-round visits from our avian friends.



Nik and Theresa Hiremath have been enjoying backyard bird feeding for decades and were thrilled to purchase the Leawood Wild Birds Unlimited in August of 2015. Graduates of UMKC, they followed Nik's career in the paper and packaging industry across the USA before returning to KC. Theresa is a retired CPA.

## Propagating Plants from Cuttings

**October 16, 1:00 pm | Paola Office 1.5 hour Advanced Training Presented by Cheryl Boyer, KSU**

Seeds aren't the only way to grow new plants. Cuttings can be an economical propagation technique. Unlike the vagaries of sexual reproduction with seeds, the offspring will be identical. Which herbaceous and woody plants are appropriate candidates? This workshop will present the selection of plant material, the timing, and methods to increase the probability of success.

Dr. Cheryl Boyer is an Associate Professor of Nursery Crops at KSU. Her academic background includes landscape architecture and nursery management. She travels the state extensively and currently serves the nursery growers in Kansas as well as the Extension Horticultural Agents and Master Gardener programs.

## 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 & Kathy Doherty

**Trial Garden**  
 Shirley New

**KSU Extension Office Garden**  
 Sue Burns & Debbie Kitchell

**Lakemary Liaison**  
 Becky Thorpe

**Advanced Training**  
 Lenora Larson

**Annual Awards Banquet**  
 Donna Cook & Susan Thompson

**Symposium**  
 Susan Thompson

**Plant Sale**  
 Sondra Dela Cruz & Lenora Larson

**Publicity**  
 Judy Moser & Lenora Larson

**Seeds for Kids**  
 Jane McLaughlin

**Miami County Fair Superintendents**  
 Chet McLaughlin & Michael Poss  
 Pat Trachsel & Sue Burns

**New Recruits/Mentors**  
 Jan Thompson & Betsy Hasselquist

**2019 Garden Tour**  
 ???

**Newspaper Articles**  
 Katelyn Barthol

**Send news and photos to:**  
 Mike Brown, Chairman  
 mlbcoach@gmail.com  
 or  
 Judy Moser, Newsletter Editor  
 judy@springvalleynursery.com

## It's Time to Elect New Board Members

Candidates to replace Advisory Board members whose terms will be up at the end of the year will be announced in the October newsletter, and members will be asked to **vote online** in November. Board members serve two-year terms and can be reelected to a second two-year term.

Those who have already agreed to run are: Becky Thorpe (current Secretary, Class of 2012), Carmen Anthony (Class of 2017), and Cathy Stainbrook (Class of 2018).

Anyone else who would like to be considered, please contact Betsy Hasselquist at [bjbniangua@yahoo.com](mailto:bjbniangua@yahoo.com), Phyllis Benedict at [pabenedict@classicnet.net](mailto:pabenedict@classicnet.net), or Sondra Dela Cruz at [sondra\\_brinkman@hotmail.com](mailto:sondra_brinkman@hotmail.com).

## Eight New EMGs Begin Training

New EMGs will start training on September 18, with an orientation session at the Paola office at 8:45 am.

The eight new candidates and their mentors are:

Anita Boyett-Voke, Lane, Jamie Albright  
 Kathleen Brady-Francis, Paola, Jan Thompson  
 Lori Calvin, Paola, Lenora Larson  
 Brandon Johnson, Paola, Betsy Hasselquist  
 Steve Kemplay, Paola, Rena Tedrow  
 Barbara Shropshire, Paola, Jane McLaughlin  
 Fred Smead, Paola, Marty Sundquist  
 Patricia Wolfe, Stillwell, Michael Poss

Substitute mentors are d Brown, Sondra Dela Cruz, and Chet McLaughlin.

Bios and photos of the new recruits will appear in the October, November and December newsletters, two or three each month. Learn who they are so you can welcome them at upcoming events.

- Plans are taking shape for a "Garden Event" of some kind for fall, 2019. This will be a fundraiser, with ticket sales to the public and sponsorships.
- Don't forget to be **recording** your volunteer and advanced training **hours**. Instructions on page 4.
- March 2 is the date that has been chosen for the **2019 Symposium**.
- There is still time to sign up for **Hotline** duty. It is 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](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/4090D49ABAC22A6F58-20181). If your shift is slow, consider checking with front desk staff to notify you of 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.

**A**re you a minimalist or a maximalist? OR What have you done for the Master Gardeners lately? (Have you got your Service/Education Hours recorded yet?)

Volunteer work groups, such as ours, exist and survive based on the full participation of its members. We are no exception. It takes everyone, working together, to ensure our success, and survival, over time. I tend to worry a lot about the near future. I think we are on the verge of becoming a much smaller or larger group, depending on how we achieve key volunteer workgroup attributes. Several key attributes determine whether the group merely exists, fails, or excels.

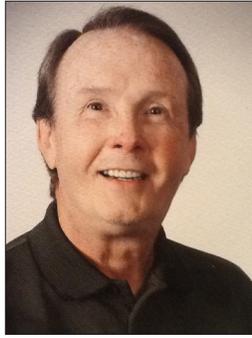
You should be aware of the known pitfalls of volunteer workgroups (think of all the civic groups that have lost membership/focus over the last thirty years: Rotary, Kiwanis, any local clubs). Research shows that they often die due to lack of interest, lack of recognition or education, and/or major age differences.

A good way to counter their effects is to replace these weaknesses with strengths. Here are five recognized contributors to group success:

#### **Mission.**

Never forget that our mission, as stated in our By-Laws, is to provide and demonstrate the best researched gardening information to the general public. We are not a church or charity, so doing “community-oriented” support is nice but not our primary function, plants are.

Looking through past local EMG publications, I discovered that there once



were efforts to identify and inventory the largest tree species in Miami County, create new public gardens, and creating “specialist” (i.e., Master of Lawn Care) positions. We need to continue developing more masterful gardeners through plant-oriented education.

#### **Relationships.**

I believe this to be the most critical challenge for us today. We are about to educate our largest recruitment class (of eight) but they were virtually all recruited by about three people. What were the rest of the 55 members doing? Do you not have any interactions with outside people or feel strongly enough about EMGs to tell others?

We have plenty of support and mentors for the new people. The hard part will always be getting them interested in the first place. It's very easy to pick up a job once the real hard work is done.

#### **Change.**

It is truly inevitable. Just as gardening has changed over time, so should our ways of dealing with

it. Master Gardener efforts began in the Pacific Northwest in the 1970s, as part of the early environmental movement. The universities in the NW tend to still lead in introducing and accepting new gardening techniques. As long as new ideas don't contradict our KSU objectives, why not try more teaching or using more organic or sustainable techniques? Be creative.

#### **Vision.**

It has been said that “a people without vision are doomed.” Having worked in the corporate world for years, it was easy to see who would or would not survive based on how they perceived working with the general public in the future. Having worked as a vendor to them for 20 years, it was easy to see that Sprint Telephone was never going to be a first-class telephone carrier because they never really believed in customer service. Thinking about the future, and acting differently because of it, will make all the difference in the long run. Study your gardening options. Share your views of the future of gardening with others.

#### **Focus.**

We sometimes make the right things too difficult to do and the wrong things too easy to do. It's easy to take the easy route but that doesn't make it right. Decide to be the best at some new gardening aspect and then do something about it.

Take the time to develop your responses to these five new challenges. Do you have a two-minute spiel to share on how to become a Master Gardener or why you became one? The future of our organization depends on you doing your homework.

—Mike Brown



*Deb Kitchell sent this photo of her “whimsical” white Alliums, aka Garlic Chives, in bloom. Chives are lavender and bloom in late spring, but Garlic Chives bloom in late summer. Be sure to deadhead or they will come up everywhere!*

As we move toward the end of the reporting year I want to pass along a few helpful reminders about reporting your hours and to help everyone remember how to do it.

1) We offer several Advanced Training opportunities each year. However, there are many other opportunities available in surrounding counties. Nearly any program provided by K-State Research and

Extension, regardless of location, will count for Advanced Training hours. If you have questions about whether workshops or programs offered by other organizations will count, just email me and check.

2) Volunteer hours should only be reported for time spent working on approved Master Gardener projects and events (Garden Tour,

Courthouse Gardens, Extension Gardens, etc.).

3) Make sure to report all your hours, even if you have put in more than 40 hours of volunteer time or 10 hours of Advanced Training. I know you all put in a lot of hard work throughout the year. It's ok to brag on yourself and it makes our organization look better in the statewide reports!—*Katelyn Barthol*

## Online Hour Reporting Refresher Guide

Reporting Site: [ksuemg.org](http://ksuemg.org)

### Entering Volunteer Hours

- Log on to the system using your own username and password
  - If you have forgotten your password, click on the “Forgot Username or Password” link and it will email the information to you.
- Click on “Access the Reporting System”
- Click on “Report New Hours”
- Select a project category and subcategory
  - All EMG projects are sorted under different categories. You pick the category, then choose the subcategory where our EMG projects are listed.
  - **Administration** – Please list anything you do to support the EMG program’s business, like board meetings, general meetings, committee meetings, prep time, etc. under this category
  - **Outreach** – Anything that you do to educate the community including the Courthouse Gardens, Trial Gardens, Extension Office Gardens, Seeds for Kids, Hotline, Garden Symposium, Garden Tour, etc.
  - **Fundraising** - Plant Sale
  - **Advanced Training** – All trainings, field trips, etc. go here.
    - **Subcategories**
      - Marais des Cygnes – Any trainings offered by the MdC District
      - K-State – Any trainings offered by other EMG groups or K-State
      - Other – Any APPROVED trainings that are provided by non-EMG groups or non K-State EMG groups.
- Click on the calendar box and select a date.
  - We like for them to be as accurate as possible, but these dates do not have to be exact.
- Enter the number of hours you wish to report.
- Please enter something descriptive in the Location and Description boxes so it is clear what you did.
- Please enter the estimated number of people you came in contact with as an EMG at that event.
- Click on “Save.” To enter more hours, you will need to click on “Add New.”
- Repeat these steps as needed until you have entered all your volunteer projects and advanced training hours.

**If possible, please begin entering an estimated number of people that you had contact with as an EMG. This is very helpful when we are doing reports.**