Congratulations to the following individuals for their accomplishments in 2023:

- 5-year's Service Award - Barb Shropshire
- 20-year's Service Award - Connie Murphy
- Seeds of Knowledge - Monica Chapman
- Work Glove award - Helen Kloepper
- Rookie of the Year - Patty Trull
- Master Gardener of the Year - Carol Vandenberg

Katelyn announced we completed over 4,000 volunteer hours last year which I believe about doubled the previous year. Did we achieve a record?

There was a recap of all our accomplishments of the past year and the plans for this year demonstrate just how much our small but mighty group impacts our community.

Please send any comments and ideas for next year’s banquet to Betsy at bjbniangua@yahoo.com.

Thanks all!
NEW EMERITUS MEMBERS
Donna Cook and Vickie Vetter-Scruggs were both approved by the board to become Emeritus status members. Thank you both for your outstanding contributions! We hope we will see you often!

SYMPOSIUM RECAP
Almost 200 people attended the Symposium on Feb. 17th! The new venue--Living Proof Church, looked great! The food was delicious. The speakers were entertaining and informative. The door prizes were lovely. What more could you want on a COLD February day? All thanks to the dedicated Master Gardener volunteers. A more detailed report will be in the March Newsletter.

EMG BOARD VISION EXERCISE
Educate, grow, community involvement, knowledge, welcoming, focused, outreach, have fun, engagement, support, learning, communication, grow friendships. Do these words resonate with you? Talk to a board member and help us draft a vision statement.

LEARNING TO SPEAK PLANT LANGUAGE (Lenora Larson)
Barb has had many requests for training on learning botany and botanical nomenclature. Unfortunately, learning botanical names is exactly like learning French or Spanish because it is yet another foreign language!

A one-hour training would likely be more frustrating than edifying. Learning a foreign language as an adult is hard, so let’s make it fun!! We will organize some recommended resources for self-study. And, if there is interest, we will plan future “Botany Games” (available on the Internet at the 6th grade level) and YouTube video nights as Advanced Trainings. (Continued on next page)
Learning to Speak Plant Language - Cont.

My recommendations to get you started:


- A starter-project: choose your favorite ten plants in your garden and fill out a chart. As you walk through your garden, greet each plant by its botanical name. If you don't use it, you'll lose it!

Below is an example.
Create a table with the information noted in the column headings, then add 10 blank rows below and note YOUR 10 favorite plants.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Names</th>
<th>Botanical Name</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Location in Garden/ Why You Love It</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Example: Swamp Milkweed, Rose Milkweed, Silkweed, White Indian Hemp</td>
<td>Asclepias incarnata</td>
<td>Ah-SKLEE-pee-us In-CAR-nah-tah</td>
<td>Milkweed, actually a subfamily of Dogbane (Hemp) family</td>
<td>*Moist, sunny bed by porch *Monarch cat food *Pollinator nectar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**** Please let Barb know if you would like to play some fun botanical board games! ***
UPCOMING:
- **Feb 27** - Seeds for Kids meeting (10am-Ext office); Symposium re-cap meeting (1p - Ext. Office)
- **Mar 5** - K-State Garden Hour series, ‘Selecting and Planting Fruit Trees for KS’ - noon
- **Mar 5** - ‘Four Seasons of Birds and Plants in Kansas City,’ Elizabeth Stokes (6:30p - Ext. Office)
  See description below.
- **Mar 26** - ‘What Would Mother Nature Do?’, Lenora Larson (Meet/Greet 6p, program 6:30p, La Cygne Library. Bring a snack to share, if you like.

### Four Seasons of Birds and Plants in Kansas City, presented by Elizabeth Stokes

Let's "think outside the (nest) box and the feeder" to help birds thrive! Birds rely on plants not only for food but also for shelter and nesting sites. In return, they provide pest control, pollination, and other ecosystem services, while we enjoy their beauty and fascinating behaviors throughout the year. This presentation will discuss some bird-friendly plants that can easily be added to an existing garden, or form the basis of a new one, and attract a greater diversity of bird species to your home. We'll also have free bird posters and other educational materials to take home.

_Elizabeth Stokes_ is an experienced birder and butterfly enthusiast. These interests led her to embrace gardening (mostly with native plants) in 2015, and she's still discovering how much she doesn't know, and how much fun experimentation in your garden can be. When she's not tending her Monarch Waystation in Olathe, she wears many hats in Burroughs Audubon Society of Greater Kansas City (your local chapter of National Audubon Society), an organization dedicated to promoting appreciation and enjoyment of birds and conservation of their habitats.

### What Would Mother Nature Do? Sustainable gardening practices endorsed by Mother Nature

Presented by Lenora Larson

Many gardeners have an antagonistic relationship with Mother Nature and attempt to impose artificial chemical and physical solutions to perceived gardening problems. However, she has been managing terrestrial plants for about 250 million years with sustainable systems that link the convergent worlds of plants, microbes and insects. When a question or challenge occurs, the gardener can take advantage of her expertise by asking, “What would Mother Nature do?” For instance, when does Mother Nature mulch? When does she clean up? How does she fertilize? What are her methods of planting, weed control and insect management? Participants will see plants in three settings: a highly managed ornamental garden, a ‘Prairie Garden’ and as a Prairie restoration. Gardeners can then choose and apply the sustainable maintenance techniques that meet their aesthetic and pragmatic goals.

.Lenora Larson_ is a Marais des Cygnes Extension Master Gardener and member of local chapters of both the Idalia Butterfly Society and Kansas Native Plant Society. Lenora is a proud ‘science geek’ with a degree in microbiology from Michigan State University, a career in molecular biology and a lifelong interest in wildlife, especially the creepy and crawly. She maintains a 2-acre NABA (N. American Butterfly Association) certified garden in the English Estate landscape style on her 27-acre property, Long Lips Farm, in rural Paola, Kansas.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MO</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th># HRS</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>SPEAKER</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FEB 27</td>
<td>12:00p</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>'Berried Treasure'</td>
<td>Steve Hess, owner of From the Summer’s Garden</td>
<td>Leawood Garden Club, Cure of Ars Catholic Church, 6401 Mission Rd., Leawood KS. Welcome to attend 10:30 mtg (bring a sack lunch), 12:00 program. Learn about planting &amp; using berries in your yard &amp; landscape.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR 2</td>
<td>9a - 3:00p</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>‘Groovy Garden Show’</td>
<td>Douglas Co. eMGs</td>
<td>Douglas Co. Fairgrounds, 2110 Harper St., Lawrence KS. Speakers, education booths, workshops, garden art.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR 5</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>&quot;Four Seasons of Planting for Birds&quot;</td>
<td>Elizabeth Stoakes</td>
<td>MdC Extension Office</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| MAR 15 - 16 | Fri.: 9:00a - 4:00p | 5 | "Vivid Garden - Midwest Moxie," KC Garden Symposium by Gardeners Connect | Fri - Workshop on the Garden Room Method Sat - 4 speakers, 6 presentations | Rockhurst University, 54th and Troost, KC MO, Arrupe Hall. Register at gardenersconnect.org
$195 - Friday - Workshop on The Garden Room Method
$99 - Saturday - 4 speakers, 6 presentations, lunch & gift bag |
| MAR 23 | 10:00a - 12:00p | 2 | ‘Easy Care Backyard Rose Gardening’ | Jerry Dreyer, American Rose Society Consultant | Loose Park Garden Center, 5200 Pennsylvania Ave., KCMO. KC Rose Society Program. Jerry will discuss basic steps for growing roses in KC and cover roses that thrive with minimal care. |
| MAR 26 | 6:00p Mtg. 6:30p Program | 1 | "What Would Mother Nature Do?" | Lenora Larson, MdC EMG | (Rescheduled program from last fall - same presentation as IMGC summer conf.)
La Cygne Library - Swan Room , 209 N. Broadway, La Cygne. Snacks will be available at 6p - bring something to share if you like. |
| APR 9 | 7:00 PM | 1 | "Lily Addiction: Not That Bad Really" | Art Evans | Gardeners Connect (free speaker series), Merriam Community Center, 6040 Slater, Merriam, KS |

Note: Additional trainings will be added throughout the year as they are scheduled.
### ADVANCED TRAINING SCHEDULE - CONT.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MO</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th># HRS</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>SPEAKER</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APR</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>3:00p</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Planting for Backyard Birds</td>
<td>Dr. Roger Boyd, Emeritus Prof. of Biology, Baker University</td>
<td>Vinland Valley, 1606 N. 600 Rd., Baldwin City KS. Learn how to attract more birds to your backyard by what you plant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>&quot;Everything I Learned From a Tomato - the Taste of Summer&quot;</td>
<td>Sky Kurbbaum</td>
<td>Gardeners Connect (free speaker series), Merriam Community Center, 6040 Slater, Merriam, KS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY</td>
<td>17-18</td>
<td>pending</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>JoCo EMG Garden Tour</td>
<td>JoCo EMGs</td>
<td>Additional information to follow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUN</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10:00a</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>‘Doolin’s Extraordinary Vegetable &amp; Flower Garden</td>
<td>Lana Doolin, member of Louisburg Garden Club</td>
<td>Doolin’s, 29885 Antioch, Louisburg KS. Tour a beautiful property in the county with a large, fenced raised bed vegetable garden. Gorgeous flower beds are mixed in along with in-ground plantings. Learn about Lana’s methods for growing her bountiful produce. (Rain date, Jun 18th)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To join K-State Garden Hour, 12 PM 1st Wed. of each month, register here: [http://hnr.ksu.edu/GardenHour](http://hnr.ksu.edu/GardenHour)

Mar. 6 - Selecting and Planting Fruit Trees for Kansas ~ Apr. 3 - Companion Plants in Your Garden

Lunch and Learn, 12:00 PM, Every 1st Thursday of the month. Native Plants at Noon, 12:00 PM, Every 3rd Thursday
Register for both webinars at [deeproots.org](http://deeproots.org) (past recordings available on website)

**MdC Training Hours** Other Training Hours **Red text denotes new training or updated information**

* Register online for the noon webinars at: [https://hnr.k-state.edu/extension/consumer-horticulture/garden-hour/](https://hnr.k-state.edu/extension/consumer-horticulture/garden-hour/)
A little humor....

Me: Plants seeds

5 minutes later...
Checks to see if seeds have sprouted.

Related to Seeds for Kids... Thank you notes received from children who entered their plants in the Miami County Fair. The white card (lying flat) from Kelbi Miller reads, “Thank you for the trofey Master Gardeners. I won zucchini!”

To read the remaining cards, please visit the extension office where they will be displayed.
Paola Plant Sale
April 25, 26, & 27 2024
Thursday 9:00 - 5:00
Friday 9:00 - 6:00
Saturday 9:00 - 1:00

Pesticide-free, Locally Grown
More Butterfly Host Plants than ever!

- Native Plants
- Pollinator Plants
- Herbs
- Annuals
- Perennials
- Veggies
- Succulents
- Hanging Baskets
- Trees
- Hypertufa Gifts!

FREE Gardening Book Exchange!
Bring some, take some!

913 N. Pearl, Paola, KS, 66071
The sale will be held in the parking lot of the Extension Offices located at 913 N. Pearl, (Old KC Road) Paola, KS

Cash, Credit Cards & Checks Accepted

Sponsored by: K-STATE Research and Extension
Master Gardener Marais des Cygnes District