About the Owners
Lynn has been a K-State Extension Master Gardener in Johnson County since 2003 even though they have lived in Johnson, Linn and Miami Counties. Both Bob and Lynn actively share design and execution duties and both are talented artists, making sculptures out of tree trunks harvested from their woods. Creativity runs in the family with painted, metal and wood artwork also contributed by their children and grandchildren. Bob’s Native American heritage is reflected in the giant dream catcher and displayed Indian artifacts.

About the Garden
Most of the plants are natives selected to enhance the sense of place and to allow for minimal maintenance. Trees are the primary horticultural focus and create a mood of serene grandeur. The Seven Sons tree and Harry Potter tree are recent proud acquisitions. Four season color is accomplished with art pieces in the winter and shrubs and perennials that have staggered blooming periods from early spring to late fall. Ornamental flowers include roses, peonies, daylilies, masses of colorful Zinnias and red Beebalm. Wildlife, especially pollinators, are welcome and the garden is certified as a Monarch Waystation. To prevent a feeling of chaos with such a diverse collection of plants and art, gardening rooms create spaces for vignettes created by carefully selected displays of plants and artwork. For instance, the garden room left of the driveway is nestled under a grove of trees and outlined by a picket fence with a garden gate, red wagon wheel, a sunflower created from a hay rake wheel and the stone “Green” garden sign.

Special Features
✦ The wood-rail fence surrounding the house combines function with history
✦ Three water features, including a koi pond and man-made stream with vertical slate waterfall create music throughout the yard
✦ The curtain of bark is a museum-worthy sculpture
✦ Tree trunks are used as pedestals for containers and sculptures

Favorite Plants
• Daylilies, a wide variety of colors and styles
• Magnolia shrubs and trees with unusual flower colors and leaf shapes
• Hydrangeas, a large variety with different blooming times, including an ‘Endless Summer’ that really does bloom in summer
• Viburnum, many varieties with white blossoms. The favorite, a leatherleaf Allegheny, is an evergreen!
• Cannas with various foliage and flower colors lend a tropical flair to the summer garden
• Ornamental Grasses of many species, including a Switch Grass nativar, ‘Dallas Blue’, which is drought tolerant and deer resistant.

Greatest Challenges
Managing erosion on the steep lot has always been a challenge. Excavations and careful placement of large rocks help to control water movement during heavy rains. The expansion of 68 Highway this spring completely reconfigured the topography of the greatly reduced front yard and required the removal of the mature walnut trees, which were sold for lumber or firewood. Dozens of other trees and shrubs were lost because they were too large to rescue and relocate. Over 100 replacement native trees were ordered from the Kansas Forestry Service, including Black and Sawtooth Oaks, Pawpaws and Eastern Red Cedars. A burn is planned for the western prairie section to control weeds and encourage the growth of native grasses and wild flowers.
Caring for Newly Planted Trees

Select the right tree for the right location—this avoids serious problems in the future. Keep the tree well-watered and in a shady location until planting. When moving the tree, lift by the root ball or pot—not by the trunk.

Plant the tree on solid ground, not in fill dirt. Before planting, remove all labels, wires, cords or anything else attached to the plant. Items left on tree can later girdle a branch or root. Dig a hole deep enough so that tree sits slightly above nursery level and wider than the root ball. Backfill the hole with the same loosened soil that was removed with no clumps, clods.

Watering is critical for success. Water the tree thoroughly—and then once a week for the first season or more. Retain water around the base of the tree by building a low berm just outside the planting hole. This creates a basin to retain moisture until it soaks into the root ball. Check moisture with a trowel, rod, screwdriver, or probe. In the absence of rainfall, continue watering newly planted trees until their leaves fall. A weekly soaking to apply approximately 10 gallons of water should be sufficient to support spring-or-summer planted trees. Water in the winter months when temperatures are above 32 degrees suggest around these times...Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Valentine’s Day.

Mulch around the tree, 2-4 inches deep, covering the drip line. Keep mulch away from the base of the trunk. Mulching conserves moisture and encourages root development.

Stake only when necessary—trees establish more quickly and grow faster when not staked. With our Kansas winds, staking may be necessary to keep from blowing over and dislodging the root ball.

Fertilizing, except for trees planted in nutritionally poor soil, newly planted trees should not be fertilized during the first year or two.

In 2012, Green’s Natural Creations was born when Lynn and Bob relocated from rural Linn County to be closer to family and to “the city”. The overgrown 8 acre property had no landscaping but with Lynn’s vision, the house was destined to become their “forever home” and the yard has evolved into an estate, organized by constructing Garden Rooms. Working as a team, Lynn and Bob have built rock walls, laid paver paths, constructed fencing and established extensive flower beds. The unkempt tree lot is now an elegant savannah with mature trees limbed up to create a canopy.

Thank you for support from:
- First National Bank of Louisburg
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A September to Remember
September 8th & 9th, 2023
Marais des Cygnes Extension District Master Gardeners Garden Tour

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