Master Gardeners – Who We Are

The Master Gardener program is a volunteer program in which K-State Research and Extension provides classroom training in exchange for volunteer time in the community. Training consists of 40 to 50 hours of instruction in all aspects of horticulture. Instructors include specialists from Kansas State University, local extension agents, and local experts in specific subject matter.

After training is completed, volunteers are required to donate 40 hours of service per year in order to maintain active EMG status. Community service activities are coordinated by the local county extension agent. Though volunteer activities vary widely, they are educational, extension related and represent the interests of K-State Research and Extension.

Master Gardeners have become a vital part of the University’s ability to provide accurate, up-to-date and research-based information to the public. Master Gardeners in Kansas have donated thousands of volunteer hours a year, a value to the community in the millions of dollars.

How to Enroll

Download the online application at www.maraisdescygnes.ksu.edu/doc47078.ashx or call 913-294-4306 for more information. Applications should be submitted by July 31.

Mission Statement

The Marais des Cygnes Extension District Master Gardeners Association is a volunteer organization of specifically trained Miami County or Linn County residents designed to provide the public with sound, research-based horticultural information. The purpose of this Association is to participate in non-commercial, educational and community service projects for Miami County and Linn County. The Association embodies the horticultural education objectives of Marais des Cygnes Extension District cooperating with Kansas State University and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Welcome to the Marais des Cygnes Extension District Master Gardener Program

Master Gardeners are a vital part of K-State Research and Extension.

Extension Master Gardeners (EMGs) help our county agents meet the need for horticultural information in our community by donating their time, knowledge and passion.

The means of providing this information is diverse, including demonstration gardens, public presentations, horticultural “hotlines,” garden tours, sharing and caring.

Katelyn Barthol
Extension District Agent
Marais des Cygnes Extension District

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Phone: 913-294-4306
Fax: 913-294-4301

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www.maraisdescygnes.ksu.edu

Follow the Marais des Cygnes EMGs at www.facebook.com/mdcemg

Kansas State University is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision, or hearing disability, contact the Marais des Cygnes Extension District at 913-294-4306. Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
What Extension Master Gardeners Do

- Assist with garden clinics, exhibitions, and educational events for the public
- Work with youth programs to share gardening information
- Answer garden questions through the extension office hotline
- Work on community beautification projects

Enjoy sharing your love of gardening with others through various Marais des Cygnes Extension Master Gardener projects such as:

- Maintaining Public Gardens
  - Miami County Courthouse Gardens
  - KSU Extension Office Garden
  - Trial Garden
  - Lakemary Ranch Gardens

- Ongoing Advanced Training
  - Master Gardener meetings

Special Events

- Annual Awards Banquet
- Quarterly Potlucks and Programs
- Spring Gardening Symposium

Fundraisers and Education

- Annual Plant Sale
- Garden Tour (Bi-Annual)

Outreach

- Seeds for Kids
- Touch-a-Truck
- Miami County Fair
- Articles for Local Publications
- Speakers’ Bureau
- Hotline

Visit us at www.facebook.com/mdcemg

History of the Program

The Master Gardener Program is a Kansas State University Extension program. The national organization was founded in Washington State in 1970 as a training tool for volunteers wanting to assist in the delivery of educational programs on a county wide basis. In exchange for intensive training, volunteers agreed to help the extension service provide information to the public.

The Kansas program was started in Johnson County in 1980. Forty Kansas counties now have active Extension Master Gardener programs. The local program started in 1996 in Miami County. In 2015 our program expanded to include Linn County, and the district was renamed the Marais des Cygnes Extension District Master Gardeners.