



K-STATE
Research and Extension

Master Gardener
Marais des Cygnes District

DECEMBER, 2025

www.maraisdescygn.es.ksu.edu

What's Growing On....

in the world of the Marais des Cygne Extension Master Gardeners

Paola Office: 913 N Pearl (Old KC Road), Paola, KS 66071 ~ 913-294-4306

Mound City Office: 115 S 6th St., Mound City, KS 66056 ~ 913-795-2829

As 2025 comes to an end....

Rena Tedrow

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ADVISORY BOARD

Chairman-Janette Everhart
Vice Chair - Carol Vandenberg
Secretary - Helen Kloepper
Treasurer - Lynn Campbell
Members at Large:
Stephanie Myers
Susan Rodgers
Rena Tedrow

Apologies for the lateness for the Dec. newsletter. The deadline came and went for newsletter submission items--it's a busy time and we are all volunteers. Myself...I had to move on to my personal December schedule. If you are on my FB friend list, you'll have read and seen what I've been up to. To you others...by the time you read this newsletter, I will have spent 4 days straight baking then delivering said items to friends and acquaintances. At the time I typed this, I was waiting for my departure time of 8:45 so I could deliver the last 7 trays of goodies to locals in LaCygne.

Let's now get to the newsletter...

Our final short-term project for the year was 'Wreaths for Residents.' The wreaths were assembled, decorated and delivered to a senior facility after lunch. (See pg. 6 for more information.)

You will see some things missing from this newsletter and perhaps through February or March. 'Work days' and the class listings for the K-State Garden Hour and Deep Roots. Until the work days begin, the section in the lower left corner will be missing. When the 'Garden Hour' posts their classes for the year, an email will be sent from Katelyn.

In the meantime, if you have not already done so, sign up for both the Garden Hour and Deep Root sessions. Links for both are below the AT schedule on page 4.

The class that has spent months in training will move into the group as Rookies in January. Unfortunately, one individual had to drop out. At the banquet in February, the new class will be recognized. In the meantime, let's welcome to Christine Perkins, Jeanne Bryant, Jennifer Morgan, Kim Lewis, Lisa Leikam-Jones, Michael Bryant, Mindy McGinnis and Tina Leshner to our group.

Three new members and one existing member were welcomed to the 2026 Board at the recent meeting. Positions will be voted on in January. As a quick reminder, any member of the EMG group is welcome to attend the board meetings. They are on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. at the extension office. Any deviation is posted in the newsletter - such as January and February's meeting.

A quick reminder... If/when text is highlighted in [blue](#) there is a link associated. I revised the committee listing (pg 2) in order to add a space for a link to the bylaws. Be sure to read them.

Committees**Courthouse Garden**

Phyllis Benedict

Trial Garden

Dennise Fink-Morse,
Chet McLaughlin, Shirley New,
Diane Michuda

KSU Extension Office Garden

Deb Kitchell

Linn County Courthouse Garden

Theresa Barr,
Monica Chapman-Pickett

Advanced Training

Audrey Gabel, Stephanie Myers

Awards Banquet

Donna Cook, Betsy Hasselquist
Susan Thompson

Symposium - 2026

Janette Everhart, Matt Fineout

Plant Sale

Sue Burns, Lynn Campbell,
Lenora Larson

Garden Tour (2027)

TBD

Seeds for Kids

Betsy Hasselquist,
Helen Kloepper

Miami County Fair

Dennise Fink-Morse, Hort. Supt.
Betsy Hasselquist, Seeds4Kids
Supt.
Bill Vandenberg, Flori. Supt.

Recruitment/Mentors

Rena Tedrow

Other**Publicity**

Lenora Larson
Scott Schappell

Newspaper Articles

Katelyn Barthol, Extension Agt.

Social Media/newsletters

Rena Tedrow, Editor

Additional:**Bylaws**

A copy of the bylaws can be
found online.

Articles, photos, etc. to be
included in the monthly EMG
Newsletter should be sent to Rena
at mire1108@yahoo.com
by the second Thurs. of each
month.

Fall Garden Tour 2027...

Susan R and Audrey M are passing the baton to some other creative, organized and dedicated Master Gardeners. If you are interested in leading or co-leading the garden tour in 2027; please contact them or Katelyn if you might be interested.

Spring Garden Symposium...

Have you marked your calendar for February 28th ? The Symposium will be at Town Square Events in Paola. Theme: Nature, Science and Garden Design. The committee has completed the speaker search. We have 4 wonderful speakers lined up. See the flyer recently emailed by Katelyn and the link to register. Please select pay by check to save us payment processing fees. See pg 9 which contains the link for sign up.

Miami County Courthouse Garden...

Terri S connected with the Rotary Club, and they have agreed to provide mulch and labor for installation. This will be very welcome help with funding and gardener power. We are also looking for a new chairperson. Phyllis B will be stepping down as the chair in 2026 but will assist those who step up.

Seeds for Kids...

Plans for 2026 will begin in January. This project also needs a new chairperson. Please contact Katelyn.

New EMG logo not yet available...

This means that name tags for new members and our clothing order will be delayed.

Photo Roster...

This is your last opportunity for active members to send in your head shot photos. Please send to Rena T. by January 12th.

EMG On-line Reporting (Hours)

Don't forget to continue adding
your volunteer & AT hours. Use this
link: [EMG hour entry](#)

Dates to be aware of...

Dec 22-23 - Katelyn will be out of the
office.

Dec 24-Jan 2 - The extension office will
be closed for the holidays.

**MdC EMG
Vision Statement**

We are recognized as a
welcoming, knowledgeable,
focused gardening volunteer
team. We grow,
communicate with, and
educate our community and
ourselves. We build lasting
connections and
friendships.

- ▶ **Board meeting date changes:** January board meeting will be held on Monday, January 12th and February's meeting will be held on Monday, February 9th. Both will be held at 9:30 a.m. at the Extension office.
- ▶ **February 10th: 6p-9p, Annual Awards Banquet, Paola Country Club.** Additional information will be in the January newsletter.
- ▶ **Symposium: Feb 28th 9-4pm;** 5 hours AT credit, plus potential for volunteer hour for prep, help during the symposium and clean up. Register now!
- ▶ **April 22-25, Annual Plant Sale - mark your calendar and plan to be there!**

HOLIDAY FIND-A-WORD

K	D	P	F	X	Z	U	I	E	M	U	K	D	E	K	H	A	S	L	J	P	S	C	U	C
B	S	J	A	D	L	T	O	K	M	G	T	P	E	O	H	Y	E	H	N	O	O	L	G	E
W	T	J	Z	H	B	M	S	V	N	H	M	U	P	C	T	T	Z	C	T	G	O	P	E	L
S	H	H	C	N	I	R	G	I	G	J	F	F	S	H	E	E	A	G	C	E	F	R	G	L
S	G	Z	I	I	Q	I	L	O	Y	A	R	W	F	F	H	M	L	E	H	U	M	B	U	G
O	I	B	D	D	K	O	R	O	E	U	O	O	D	J	M	V	B	T	R	U	B	H	Q	L
C	L	P	D	T	R	P	R	U	I	H	G	N	D	U	P	X	C	E	S	W	N	E	Y	A
N	T	H	A	A	E	E	R	T	S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C	R	R	I	M	M	L	C
J	Q	J	C	R	A	V	C	E	K	H	M	O	A	X	S	S	W	R	K	I	M	O	K	X
P	D	K	D	L	W	A	C	X	S	X	I	S	R	J	S	P	X	Y	T	K	C	A	K	R
O	C	L	A	X	K	T	Z	H	Y	H	S	A	Y	Z	Y	Z	H	R	K	X	I	A	D	E
I	M	S	E	E	I	D	F	W	R	N	O	N	P	U	F	Y	Q	J	M	H	Q	F	S	I
N	H	D	Z	F	D	Q	Y	I	O	I	H	T	B	U	F	K	U	Z	W	A	O	T	T	N
S	E	R	W	B	R	P	T	I	G	C	S	A	T	R	A	D	I	T	I	O	N	S	N	D
E	T	Z	W	K	O	Y	T	Y	V	E	D	T	P	S	Z	J	Z	D	D	T	S	C	E	E
T	I	Q	L	N	C	A	M	B	U	N	G	I	M	S	W	D	L	K	R	P	B	K	S	E
T	N	G	U	E	R	I	E	S	F	A	B	F	G	A	L	A	U	M	V	Y	G	S	E	R
I	S	M	C	O	F	G	N	U	P	C	X	S	M	Q	S	E	L	N	M	I	L	V	R	Y
A	E	Z	C	T	O	O	T	L	G	Y	T	I	X	H	R	C	I	Z	S	B	S	L	P	X
C	L	E	D	O	W	U	P	C	I	D	T	S	A	G	C	K	A	G	L	Z	I	U	O	H
N	D	O	R	M	B	Z	A	W	T	N	E	H	X	R	M	P	A	R	H	T	Z	I	N	H
K	E	C	A	I	S	T	N	E	M	A	N	R	O	X	S	T	B	K	D	S	Z	D	Y	Z
M	S	N	J	L	J	G	R	U	I	C	T	B	Q	Y	R	B	P	X	W	Z	B	M	Y	I
D	T	M	R	I	P	O	S	H	O	P	P	I	N	G	L	D	Y	K	H	F	V	I	O	P
H	R	E	R	L	T	J	W	F	N	I	P	V	L	U	G	H	C	R	H	D	O	E	C	E

POINSETTIA
CHRISTMASCARD
CHRISTMASTREE
DECORATIONS
TRADITIONS
MISTLETOE
FRUITCAKE
CANDYCANE
ORNAMENTS
REINDEER
CAROLING
PRESENTS
SHOPPING
DECEMBER
GIFTWRAP
SCROOGE
SNOWMAN
TINSEL
SLEIGH
WREATH
HUMBUG
LIGHTS
GRINCH
SANTA
HOLLY

**Answers
on
pg. 9**

ADVANCED TRAINING SCHEDULE

2025 Marais des Cygnes Extension Master Gardener Advanced Training Calendar

Note: Additional trainings will be added throughout the year as they are scheduled

MO	DAY	TIME	# HOURS	TOPIC	SPEAKER	LOCATION
Dec	16	6:30-7:30p	1	Flower Design	Shawn Turner Turner Flowers, Ottawa KS	Paola Extension Office 913 N. Pearl, Paola KS There is a \$5 fee per person for materials
2026 Jan	20	6:30p - 7:30p	1	The No-Sow Garden	Lenora Larson MdC EMG	Paola Extension Office 913 N. Pearl, Paola KS
Feb	10- 11	2 days	14	Plant It Native	Click for Info	Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center/ Kauffman Conference Center 4750 Troost Cost \$315
Feb	28	9a-4p	5	2026 Garden Symposium	Presenters names to be added in Dec.	Town Square Events, 15 W. Wea, Paola KS
MdC Training Hours			Other training hours		Red text denotes new training added or updated info.	

Ideas for Advanced Training (AT) classes?
Contact Stephanie Myers or Audrey Gabel with your suggestions!!!



#KSTATEGARDENHOUR

K-STATE GARDEN HOUR

Join K-State Research and Extension every first Wednesday of the month from 12:00 - 1:00 pm CST

The [K-State Garden Hour](#), is held at 12:00 PM on the 1st Wed. of each month. **You must register if this will be your first time joining the webinar.**

Once registered you will continue to receive emails regarding the sessions.

The [Deep Roots Native Plant Webinars](#) (Lunch and Learn) is at 12p - every 1st Thursday of the month. You can register for both the webinars and tours at deeproots.org. Past recordings are available on the website.

Past recordings for both are available online.



Curious by Nature

WITH DEEP ROOTS

As mentioned previously, two individuals will be needed in 2026 for two activities - the Miami County Courthouse Garden and the Seeds for Kids program. If you would like to volunteer to chair either, please contact Katelyn asap.

During 2026, both Phyllis and Betsy will assist whoever volunteers to take on the responsibilities. The information below has been provided by both related to their respective committee/activity.

Miami County Courthouse Garden (Phyllis Benedict)

It has been my privilege to be the Chairman of the Courthouse Gardens Project for the last 12 years. I started right after my Rookie year as a temporary fill-in for Patti Armstrong when she became ill. Years later, it is time to pass the baton to another Master Gardener. The gardens are well established now and only need to be maintained.

It is a big commitment to work two hours a week, every week, from March to October. With 7 large gardens at the Courthouse, there is always gardening to be done, but more volunteers make the work go faster. It is a great time to visit while you work and get to know your fellow Master Gardeners. Each gardener has their own field of expertise, and that combined knowledge makes for a beautiful garden.

Please consider being a chairman or co-chairman to keep the Miami County Courthouse Garden Project the pride of the Paola Community.

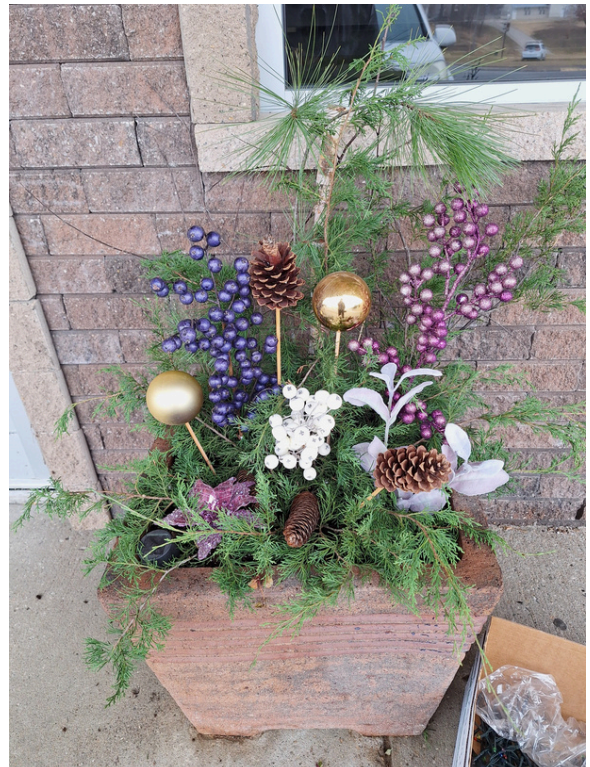
Seeds for Kids - Betsy Hasselquist

Seeds for kids is a fun, educational program.

Each year, free seeds are given to any child 18 years old & younger. We distributed 360+ packets in 2025. Kids are then encouraged to enter what they have grown in the Miami County Fair.

Join our committee as it truly takes a village from seed packaging to marketing, community events, liaisons to various schools and city libraries, educational opportunities, and volunteering at the fair.

Help plant the seed for future gardeners.



The winter arrangement in one of the two adjacent planters at the extension office entrance. Thank you Debbie K for keeping it so beautiful!

Wreaths for Residents...

Rena Tedrow

Despite snow, on Dec 1st a few EMGs made their way to the extension office to decorate wire wreath frames for this year's 'Wreaths for Residents' project. If you follow the MdC EMG Facebook page, you'll have seen the photo below already. Unfortunately, some had to leave early before the photo was taken.



We assembled a total of twenty-seven (27) wreaths - two went to office staff (Julie and Tracy), and one was made for Katelyn. Twenty-four (24) wreaths were delivered to 'Anew Healthcare Pleasanton' for the facility residents. Pictured at left, is Belinda Ernst-Smith, who I learned is my 'neighbor' around the corner and up the road 😊

We managed to surprise Katelyn this year with a purple and white wreath. Thank you, Janette E. for assembling this for her. Katelyn, if you heard me say 'score,' it was because I was certain you liked it.

This is the last year for doing wreaths since we have 'made the rounds' with the facilities. Suggestions are welcome for ideas... Also, who would like to volunteer for this project in 2026? I will help get someone going but would like someone else to take it on.



Our MdC EMG Symposium Bridges Nature, Science, and Garden Design

Matt Fineout

Mark your calendar for Saturday, February 28, 2026, for our 9th biennial Symposium: Nature, Science, and Garden Design.

Marketing for the event is well underway, and the four presenters are engaging experts with a wealth of knowledge you won't want to miss! Check out the flyer on the following page in the newsletter.

Our very own EMG Lenora Larson takes you on a *'Soil Safari,'* followed by Dr. Jonathan Aguilar from K-State, bringing you from *'Water Worry to Water-wise.'* In the afternoon, professional landscaper Kristopher Dabner will guide you in *'Using the Natural Elements in Garden Design.'* The final session with Horticulture Supervisor Anne Wildeboor from the OP Arboretum & Botanical Gardens will help you through "right plant, right place" in *'Informed Plant Selection and Placement.'*

Registration deadline is February 13th, but don't delay! We expect to sell out. The all-day event is just \$65 (including a gourmet boxed lunch and door prizes) and provides five (5) hours advanced training credit for MdC EMGs. Doors open at 8:30 a.m.

Participants must register online* at

<https://tinyurl.com/53hk3y7c>

Note: The Symposium Committee is requesting that when the MdC EMG participants register that you opt to make your payment by check or cash to reduce online payment processing fees. You may mail your check to the extension office (913 N. Pearl, Paola KS 66071) or stop by the office and leave your payment - check or cash.



This is an excellent opportunity to learn great things in depth, socialize and network with other gardeners and horticulture professionals, and take part in a special community event. As always, you are encouraged to volunteer to help. EMGs will need to buy a ticket for the day, unless you are volunteering for the whole day and will not use a seat at the event tables.

For more information, visit the MdC EMG Facebook page at www.facebook.com/mdcemg or contact Symposium Committee co-chairs Janette Everhart or Matt Fineout.

Nature, Science, and Garden Design

February 28, 2026

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Doors open at 8:30 a.m.

**Town Square Events
15 W. Wea, Paola, KS**

Tickets are \$65.00 per person. Registration is required by February 13, 2026.

Registration includes gourmet boxed lunch, refreshments, snacks and printed materials.

This event is open to all!

**Must register online at
<https://tinyurl.com/53hk3y7c>**

Payment can be made online or by check.

(Please see details at time of registration for driving directions.)

**MdC EMGs receive 5 hours AT.
Other EMGs: contact your
County Ag Agent.**

**For more information, call
913-294-4306.**

Details can also be found on our Facebook page at:
www.facebook.com/mdcemg



Soil Safari

Lenora Larson

MdC Extension Master Gardener

Learn about your soil's attributes and needs for your plants' health.



Explore the Basics of Water

Dr. Jonathan Aguilar

Professor and K-State Irrigation Specialist

Go from 'water worry to water wise.'



Natural Elements in Garden Design

Kristopher Dabner

President and Creative Director,
The Greensman, Inc.

Explore the elements and learn how they can energize your design.



Plant Selection and Placement

Anne Wildeboor

Horticulture Supervisor,
Overland Park Arboretum and Botanical Gardens

Abide by the mantra, 'Right plant, right place.'

Presented by:

K-STATE
Research and Extension

Master Gardener
Marais des Cygnes District

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.

PAOLA SPRING PLANT SALE MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Lenora Larson

It's not too soon to be thinking about our 2026 Plant Sale because time moves quickly for gardeners. Winter will soon be over and we'll be selling and buying plants in April. HOORAY!

DATES: Set-up is Wednesday, April 22

SALE DATE(S): The sale starts at 9 a.m. Thursday (the CRAZY DAY!), on Friday and runs through Saturday until 1 pm. All MdC EMGs will receive a 10% discount from 10 am to 1 pm on Saturday! (No hoarding, no 'saving' or setting aside plants prior to the designated time frame on Saturday. Period.)

PLACE: Thanks to Katelyn, who has again contracted with the Fairgrounds, we offer INDOOR SHOPPING at the Miami County Fairgrounds Bldg #2, 401 Wallace Park Drive, Paola, KS.

PLANTS: The sale features pesticide-free locally grown plants from our longtime vendor and partner, Vinland Valley Nursery. In addition to the usual selection of butterfly host plants, pollinator flowers and native perennials, there will be ornamental annuals, perennials, herbs, succulents, hanging baskets, and veggies. No trees... They didn't sell last year. (Was it because we were indoors??)

WE WILL NEED YOUR HELP! This is a huge endeavor, with over 1,000 different kinds of plants-over 7,000 pots. As the main fundraiser for our EMG programs, we expect to gross over \$53,000! More information will be coming to let you know how you can help, including being on hand to assist shoppers throughout the sale. In the meantime, be thinking about your own needs! Which plants will you buy for your garden this year? Please support your EMG organization. Most of you already have the 2025 plant list on your smart phone and can check availability. Or contact Audrey Gabel, who is Team Leader for our Plant Ambassadors. She can provide the list and also guide you as to which of the 14 plant groups might be the most fun for you to volunteer.

Any questions? Contact Lenora, Lynn Campbell, Krystal Barr, Terri Seyl or Audrey Gabel



Our first year indoors, at the start of the 2025 sale we had 89 full tables. By Saturday afternoon, they were almost empty! It took only one small truck to return the remaining plants to Vinland.

ANSWER TO PUZZLE...

K	D	P	F	X	Z	U	I	E	M	U	K	D	E	K	H	A	S	L	J	P	S	C	U	C
B	S	J	A	D	L	T	O	K	M	G	T	P	E	O	H	Y	E	H	N	O	O	L	G	E
W	T	J	Z	H	B	M	S	V	N	H	M	U	P	C	T	T	Z	C	T	G	O	P	E	L
S	H	H	C	N	I	R	G	I	G	J	F	F	S	H	E	E	A	G	C	E	F	R	G	L
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O	I	B	D	D	K	O	R	O	E	U	O	O	D	J	M	V	B	T	R	U	B	H	Q	L
C	L	P	D	T	R	P	R	U	I	H	G	N	D	U	P	X	C	E	S	W	N	E	Y	A
N	T	H	A	A	E	E	R	T	S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C	R	R	I	M	M	L	C
J	Q	J	C	R	A	V	C	E	K	H	M	O	A	X	S	S	W	R	K	I	M	O	K	X
P	D	K	D	L	W	A	C	X	S	X	I	S	R	J	S	P	X	Y	T	K	C	A	K	R
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S	E	R	W	B	R	P	T	I	G	C	S	A	T	R	A	D	I	T	I	O	N	S	N	D
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T	I	Q	L	N	C	A	M	B	U	N	G	I	M	S	W	D	L	K	R	P	B	K	S	E
T	N	G	U	E	R	I	E	S	F	A	B	F	G	A	L	A	U	M	V	Y	G	S	E	R
I	S	M	C	O	F	G	N	U	P	C	X	S	M	Q	S	E	L	N	M	I	L	V	R	Y
A	E	Z	C	T	O	O	T	L	G	Y	T	I	X	H	R	C	I	Z	S	B	S	L	P	X
C	L	E	D	O	W	U	P	C	I	D	T	S	A	G	C	K	A	G	L	Z	I	U	O	H
N	D	O	R	M	B	Z	A	W	T	N	E	H	X	R	M	P	A	R	H	T	Z	I	N	H
K	E	C	A	I	S	T	N	E	M	A	N	R	O	X	S	T	B	K	D	S	Z	D	Y	Z
M	S	N	J	L	J	G	R	U	I	C	T	B	Q	Y	R	B	P	X	W	Z	B	M	Y	I
D	T	M	R	I	P	O	S	H	O	P	P	I	N	G	L	D	Y	K	H	F	V	I	O	P
H	R	E	R	L	T	J	W	F	N	I	P	V	L	U	G	H	C	R	H	D	O	E	C	E