



K-STATE
Research and Extension

Master Gardener
Marais des Cygnes District

NOVEMBER, 2025
www.maraisdescygnes.ksu.edu

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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

WORK DAYS

Only 1 left...

The cut flower garden and the kitchen garden...

Saturday, November 15th at 9:00a to put the gardens to rest for the season

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

Activities and More....

Rena Tedrow

Monday after the board meeting, I sat at my kitchen table getting this month's newsletter formatted. As I was reviewing my notes, all I could do was sigh. We were days away from being mid-November--two weeks from Thanksgiving. I realized I had wreath frames to order (still), greenery to look for, etc. How on earth did *this* happen? Wasn't it only just July?

2026 will bring changes for some of the committees - a passing of the torch if you will. Names will remain, as listed under the committee listing until changes are made. Please see page 7 for the committees this will affect.

The new class has three more Zoom sessions. Katelyn will be contacting those who have not completed the full day's class as well as those who still need to complete classes. Their final class is now 3 weeks away.

Plans for two events are in full swing or starting to ramp up - the Spring Symposium and the annual Plant Sale. Tickets for the Symposium will go live online on November 19th. Ticket cost is \$65pp. The deadline to register is Feb. 13, 2026.

Holiday Happiness is another upcoming project. See page 8 for details.

Thank you to those who have submitted your head shot photos--greatly appreciated. Each month for the past several months, there has been a note regarding this request. At this point, if I have not received your photo in the next 4 weeks, I will begin scouring the internet for photos - Facebook, Instagram, etc.

There is a longer note on page 3, but I will say this here... **Please** email me a headshot of yourself so I can get this together for Katelyn's distribution with the updated member list in 2026.

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 Kloepfer

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.**

Kitchen Garden, 2025...

The beds are ready to be put to sleep for the season. There is a work-day scheduled for Saturday, November 15th, starting at 9a for both the cutting garden and the kitchen garden.

Spring Garden Symposium...

Mark your calendars for February 28th to attend at Town Square in Paola. The link for online registration will be active on Nov. 19th. Cut-off date will be Feb. 13th. Cost is \$65 per person. See the calendar for additional information.

EMG Board - Voting is underway...

There are four open positions on the board starting in 2026. Katelyn distributed a link (Nov. 10th) for you to vote. Active and Emeritus members may vote. Although there are four positions open, your vote is still needed. The following are your candidates (in alphabetical order): Krystal Barr, Audrey Gabel, Natalie Hartig and Rena Tedrow. Bios can be found in last month's newsletter.

Chairs for Committees - Passing on the torch...

At the recent board meeting, Phyllis Benedict announced that she would like to step down as the chairperson for the MiCo Courthouse Garden in 2026. Betsy Hasselquist also announced that she would like to step down as the chairperson for the Seeds For Kids committee.

Please see pg 7 for information. Which of you would like to step up?
Please contact Katelyn asap.

Annual Awards Banquet - Q1 General Meeting...

The banquet is scheduled for February 10th from 6:00p - 9:00p at the Paola Country Club. Cost to EMGs is \$30; guests cost is \$50. There is no cost to Emeritus members and the 2027 class members.

Holiday Happiness.....

It's that time of year again! Holiday Happiness is now underway thru December 12th. See page 8. Katelyn has also distributed an email regarding this as well.

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.

EMG On-line Reporting (Hours)

Have you been entering your hours? If so, you are commended. If not, it's almost mid-Nov. December is still peeking around the corner. There will be recognition at the annual banquet in Feb. It doesn't matter if it's only one hour that you volunteered - your time matters. Use this link: [EMG hour entry](#) to enter your hours.

Why it matters... In December, Katelyn begins the arduous task of going thru every single entry that each of us make...to ensure the category and hours are reported correctly. Remember to use the approved hours. If you've attended a class, tour, etc. and it goes over, you must only use the approved time. If needed, you can refer to the AT calendars online ([Calendars](#)) in each of the newsletters. Be sure to provide good descriptions, but above all if you have questions... *call or email Katelyn*.

Wreaths for Residents...

A quick mention... Monday, December 1st 10a at the extension office. This year's recipient is 'The Residences' in Pleasanton, KS. At this time, there may be 20 wreaths with maybe a few extra for their entry area.

For those of you who are new... We decorate 8-10" metal wreath frames with Christmas decorations then deliver them. There are some leftover decorations in the storage room, but if you have 'old' Christmas decorations, jewelry, etc., that you'd like to donate, please let Rena know. A bin will be placed in the volunteer office for donations on Monday, November 17th.

Suggestions and thoughts for what we can do in 2026 are welcome...

Photo Roster

It has been about five years since the photo roster was last updated... There are members that participate in one event per year which leaves many, especially our new members, wondering 'who the heck that was?' As members move to Emeritus status, the newer members may never get to meet them. A photo roster helps.

The photo roster is basically a 'list' of each member--photo, name, class year. It helps the newer members identify our members. Occasionally a name may be brought up in discussion which some may have no idea who the person is. It's nice to help put a face with a name if/when a name is mentioned.

Regardless of whether you are active, inactive or Emeritus, please submit a photo of yourself. The deadline is being extended to January. **PLEASE... Email a clear head shot of yourself to Rena by January 2nd.**

- ▶ **November 26th, EMG Board Voting closes.** Please see Katelyn's email on November 10th for the link or contact Katelyn to have her resend to you.
- ▶ **November 27th and 28th - Paola Extension Office is closed for the Thanksgiving holiday.**
- ▶ **December 1st - 10:00a- noon, Wreaths for Residents,** Paola Extension office, 'Wreaths for Residents'. Lunch will be provided; RSVP to Rena if you plan to attend and would like lunch.
- ▶ **December 4th - last class day for the 2026 class!**
- ▶ **December 12th - Holiday Happiness donation deadline:** Last chance to turn in your donation which will go to three local food pantries. **See page 8 for information.**
- ▶ **February 10th - 6p-9p, Annual Awards Banquet, Paola Country Club.**

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

**Find the EMG
Active members with
5+ years
(does not include
Emeritus members)**

JANETTE EVERHART
BETSY HASSELQUIST
DENNISE FINK MORSE
PHYLLIS BENEDICT
HARLEY DAVIDSON
SONDRA DE LA CRUZ
CHET MC LAUGHLIN
JANETTE BENNETT
DEBBIE KITCHELL
BARB SHROPSHIRE
MARTY SUNDQUIST
CAROL WILLIAMS
LENORA LARSON
CONNIE MURPHY
NANCY KALMAN
JAN THOMPSON
RENA TEDROW

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	2	9:00a-2:00p	.5	Seminar: Soil Health Lunch will be served	Linn Co. Soil Conservation Dist.	Linn Co. Fairgrounds - 4H Bldg. 8510 Hwy 7, Mound City KS Please RSVP to sreagan@ckt.net if planning to attend
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 Early bird registration (\$255) ends 11/16. Full price \$315 after 11/16
Feb	28	9a-4p	5	2026 Garden Symposium	Presenters names to be added in Dec.	Town Square, 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!!!





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 at 12:00 PM on the 1st Wed. of each month. **You must register if this will be your first time joining the webinar.**

Nov 5 - Climate Resilient Gardens

Dec 3 - Gifts for Gardeners

Past recordings are available on the website.

Curious by Nature WITH DEEP ROOTS

The [**Deep Roots Native Plant Webinars**](#) (Lunch and Learn) is at 12p - every 1st Thursday of the month.

Nov 20th, - Prescribed Fires with the JoCo Parks and Rec. Dist., @ 12p and Nov 20th @ 6p

Dec 4th - Caney Mtn. Conservation Area History & Habitats w/MO Dept of Conservation, 12p - Guest Expert Randall Roy, MDC; Dec 16th @ 6p - Guest Expert Susan Farrington, MDC

Register for both webinars and tours at deeproots.org. Past recordings are available on the website.

WANTED - COMMITTEE CHAIRPEOPLE

As mentioned earlier, it was brought up during the recent board meeting that 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.

Note from Rena...

Anita Boyett-Voke wrote an article a few years ago. Jan T. sent it to me (thank you Jan), and I am plagiarizing parts of it to save for future newsletters.

Why give money to the food pantries you ask? While canned goods and fresh produce is a good way to help local pantries, cash donations are equally important. When food is donated you're directly feeding people, but it also creates a large volume of groceries that needs to be stored, categorized and distributed.

The MdC EMGs donate produce from the trial garden every year. While these are most welcome, a cash donation helps food banks with bulk purchases especially when there is knowledge of immediate needs/requirements of the communities they serve.

If you are new to the group, you are probably wondering, "What exactly IS Holiday Happiness?" Simply put, our group hopes to spread a little 'Holiday Happiness' by helping some of the local food banks. The EMG program will match your generous donation up to \$1,000. It is a great way to give back to your community and help those who may be in need.



The three food pantry recipients this year are: PACA Food Pantry (Paola), the Oz Food Pantry (Osawatomie) and the LaCygne Community Food Pantry.

Please bring your check to the Extension office on or before December 12th. You can also mail it in to 913 N. Pearl, Suite 1, Paola KS 66071, again to reach the office on or before December 12th. Make your check payable to MdC EMG and include a memo/note that your donations is for Holiday Happiness.

If you have any questions, please contact Katelyn.

Winter Strategies - Continued info from Panel Discussion on Oct. 28th...

Lenora Larson

At the EMG Panel discussion on October 28, I shared my garden's winterizing procedures. The mantra "Leave the leaves" guides me. Also during the fall and winter, I cut all the standing stems and ornamental grass fronds into 4" pieces and lay them down where they had been growing as a weed-suppressing mulch. By summer, the mulch has been digested into compost and by fall, the garden debris becomes a rich black soil. I have not fertilized my garden beds in 44 years because this soil contains all the necessary nutrients for the microbes and plants. I also don't have to buy mulch. My mature and lushly planted gardens produce enough leaves, stems and twigs to cover the two acres with 3 to 4" of mulch every fall. I don't even have a compost pile because no plant waste is removed from the garden. Mother Nature and I agree: no bagging or transporting plant debris for us!

The Faux-Greenhouse

My other overwintering tactic protects my many tropical tender perennials that would perish in our Kansas zone 6a winter. Like human snowbirds who travel to zone 10 regions like Florida, Arizona and south Texas, my plant-snowbirds travel to the zone 10 of my basement. In 2013, I hired an electrician, explained what I wanted, and within 24 hours I had my greenhouse. The 36 running feet of T-8 fluorescent lights installed in the ceiling and a permanent humidifier create a sunny moist tropical climate. Equal numbers of pink-colored (warm) and blue (cool) T-8 fluorescent light bulbs provide the full light spectrum needed by plants. A timer ensures automatic 16-hour days. The concrete floor prevents water damage, and the bathroom sink faucet has a standard garden hose fitting. Watering is simplified by keeping the plants in plastic bins according to their watering needs rather than watering plants individually.

I turn the lights on in mid-October when I start bringing tropical perennials indoors. (Do not bother bringing in annuals; they are genetically programmed to die after one growing season.) The lights are turned off by mid-May when all the plants have been returned outside to my "Tropics of Kansas" garden room, which is conveniently placed by the basement door. Incidentally, this garden also contains winter-hardy perennials that look tropical, like my Musa Basjoo bananas that have survived 18 years outdoors in the snow and ice. They grow to 15 feet every summer.

Easy and inexpensive, in 12 years, I've only had to change the bulbs once, and last month I had to replace one of the ballasts. I just stroll downstairs in my slippers to tend my tropical plants. In February, I also start summer bulbs such as caladiums and canna and grow cuttings such as coleus, plectranthus and various tradescantia vines from the "mother plants" that I brought indoors the previous October. There's even enough light to overwinter blooming lantana, begonia and hibiscus to warm my soul. Invaders like mealy bugs and spider mites are annoying but kept under control with insecticidal soap spray.

You too could have a convenient indoor greenhouse. The challenge is convincing your family to relinquish a precious room for your plants!



ANSWER TO PUZZLE...

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