



K-STATE | Master Gardener
Research and Extension | Marais des Cygnes District

SEPTEMBER, 2025
www.maraisdescygn.es.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

MiCo Courthouse Garden
Wednesday's, 8a - 10a

Trial Garden/Cut flower Garden
Tuesday's, 8a

LaCygne Community Garden
Wed and/or Fri 9a - noon

Linn Co. Courthouse Garden
Tuesday's, 8-10a. Contact
Monica Chapman-Pickett or
Theresa Barr to be added to
their distribution list.

**DAYS AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT
TO CHANGE**

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

Two Month Round-up...

Rena Tedrow

Can you believe this... by the time you read this we'll have barely over a week left of September!

The month of August seemed to simply fly by... Many were consumed with plans for the Garden Tour - organizing the garden pre-tours, the owners dinner, etc. The garden tour left us tired but smiling...despite a drizzly Friday, Saturday turned out to be a lovely day.

Let's not forget interviewing and acclimating our newest nine EMG members. You will find their bios within the pages.

We also lost one of our much-loved EMGs - d. Brown. You will find a tribute to d on page(s) 7-8.

For the September newsletter...the Fall Garden Tour is a wrap. I'm not sure, but I'm pretty certain everyone involved is glad it's passed.

Do we ever rest? I think not. Next up on our agenda is planning for the Spring Symposium. The next meeting is upcoming - details are on the 'Calendar' page

Also in this month's newsletter are photos shared by our EMGs - photos taken either during the garden pre-tours or the day of the garden tour. Hope you enjoy 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

Plant Sale

Sue Burns, Lynn Campbell,
Lenora Larson

Garden Tour (2025)

Audrey Gabel, Susan Rodgers

Seeds for Kids

Betsy Hasselquist &
Helen Kloepper

Miami County Fair

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

Recruitment/Mentors

Rena Tedrow

Other

Publicity

Lenora Larson
Scott Schappell

Newspaper Articles

Katelyn Barthol, Extension Agt.

Social Media/newsletters

Rena Tedrow, Editor

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.**

Committee Budgets...

Committee chairs - please be thinking about your budgets. We are only a couple months away from budget submissions.

A form was discussed at the board meeting and will be in the development stages soon. Going forward, this will be a document you will submit monthly along with your written report.

EMG Board Nominating Committee...

It's that time of year again... Janette E., Patty T. and Lorraine M. will be seeking interested individuals to serve on the board starting in 2026. There are three open positions.

If you are interested in serving on the board, or would like to nominate someone, please contact Janette asap. Voting will be in November.

New EMG members...

Be sure to check out the bios for our newest EMG members on pages 9-12. Introduce yourself when you see them.

The 'Magic' Green Sheet...

Just a quick reminder that when you are submitting receipts for reimbursement for expenses that you need to complete the 'green' form to accompany your receipt(s). This form can be found in the volunteer room at the extension office.

Lynn C. will be doing a 'show-and-tell' at the Q4 meeting regarding what is needed for expense reimbursement(s).

EMG On-line Reporting (Hours)

Have you been entering your hours? If not, it's now mid-September. It will be December before you know it. Enter your hours using this link: [EMG hour entry](#)

Get in the habit of entering your hours more frequently. By doing this in a timely fashion, it helps Katelyn in December, at which time she starts reviewing everyone's hours. It doesn't put her in a bind and gives her adequate time to gather our stats to share during the banquet in January.

Quick Reminder.....

Look LEFT, and you will find my email address - please make sure you have this email address in your contact list. I've been repeatedly told messages are sent to me, but many are not going to the correct email address. ~Rena

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.

Q4 General Meeting and Board Meeting....

October 14th. This is the final general membership meeting for the year. You'll find additional information under 'Calendar.'

Photo Roster

It has been a few years since the photo roster was updated - it's time. This roster is only to be distributed to the EMG members - it is not for public viewing.

Please submit a photo of yourself by emailing a clear head shot of yourself to Rena by October 31st.

A couple of photos from the Cut Flower Garden, courtesy of Patty Trull.



- ▶ **September 22nd, 2:00p, Paola Extension Office:** Symposium Committee Meeting.
- ▶ **September 23rd, 6:00p, Paola Extension Office:** ‘The Artistic Garden,’ presented by Lenora Larson.
 Description: Whether you lack a budget or courage, mixing art objects among your plants can be daunting. However, garden art can bring both form and function to your landscape while creating beauty and disguising eyesores. This presentation assists gardeners in answering the question, “What is art?” and defining their own artistic style. Photographs and recommendations for “safe” usage as well as horrible examples of “art gone wrong” will empower participants to fearlessly purchase or create man-made objects to place among their beloved plants. Handouts will provide guidelines and inspirations.
- ▶ **October 14th, Board Meeting & Q4 General Membership meeting:** At the Paola Extension Office. The board meeting at 4:00p--all members are welcome to attend. The Potluck dinner will start at 5:30p, with the General membership meeting to begin at 6:30p.

The entree for the potluck will be Fried Chicken. Please bring a side dish or dessert.



A few photos of the flowers and produce at the Kitchen Garden. And a sad photo...all the tomatoes and several pepper plants had to be removed. Photos courtesy of Diane Michuda, week of Sept. 2nd.





AUTUMN

WORD SEARCH

Find 8 words related to the autumn.

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

- ☐ ACORN
- ☐ MAPLE
- ☐ SQUIRREL
- ☐ HARVEST

- ☐ ORANGE
- ☐ WIND
- ☐ LEAVES
- ☐ PUMPKIN

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 |
|--------------------|-----|------------|----------------------|---|--|---|
| Sept | 23 | 6:00-7:00p | 1 | The Artistic Garden | Lenora Larson, MdC Extension Master Gardener | Paola Extension Office, 913 N. Pearl, Paola, KS |
| Oct | 28 | 6:30-7:30p | 1 | End-of-Season Panel Discussion with our Expert MdC EMGs | Audrey Gabel, Nancy Kalman, Deb Kitchell, Lenora Larson, Chet McLaughlin | Paola Extension Office 913 N. Pearl, 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.** Past recordings are available on the website.

Oct 1 - Keys to Successful Community Garden Spaces ~ Nov 5 - Climate Resilient Gardens

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

Sept 4 - Urban Green Rooftop Garden - Growing Season 12p and Sept 18th @ 6p

Oct 2 - Native Gardening with Pop Culture Aesthetics, 12p and Oct 16th @ 6p

Register for both webinars and tours at [deeproots.org](https://www.deeproots.org) (past recordings available on website)

d. BROWN TRIBUTE



Death does not escape any of us. Last month, we lost one of our beloved EMGs. It is of some comfort to know that she left this earthly world in the care of friends and family and left on her terms.

The photo at left is from d's obit. You can find it here: [link to d's obituary.](#)

A note was posted on d's FB page... There is a Celebration of Life planned - if you would like to attend, here is the information from Deb Jongenlen:

"October 11th at the Park Square in Paola by the gazebo. 10:30 - 1:30.

Please bring copies of pictures, if you have some (not originals because you may not get them back) and stories to share. Also you can bring lawn chairs if you like. No alcohol is allowed in the park. Please feel free to tell others who knew her. Hope for good weather because this is outdoors. If the weather is bad, we will have to reschedule.

This is a meeting of friends of a very special lady. She has shared her love of people to bring others together to make new friends. Perhaps we can share stories of how she changed our lives."

The remainder that follows are comments, memories and photos that some of you shared... Thank you for taking the time...



EMGs friend's lunch.

What a nice day. I couldn't make d's salve class when she had it, but she came with wonderful gift for me. A sack of containers of salve that each person from class had given to me. My sister was having surgery so I couldn't be there. Very thoughtful & kind she was. I'll miss her. ~ Deb Kitchell

Deb Kitchell

Pictured: Standing - Bob Thompson, Susan Thompson, Debbie Kitchell, Betsy Hasselquist, Jan Thompson. Seated - Michael Poss, d. Brown

d. was my mentor in the EMG group in 2013 or so. Time passes by so quickly. I remained her friend until her death in August. She was a delight to visit with and tap into her great wealth of knowledge about native medicinal plants. I admire her commitment and knowledge of Native Americans practices. She was content on her piece of gods land and cared for it until her health no longer allowed that. She will be greatly missed by Randy and me. ~ Michael Poss.

She told me once she was from the "Wannabe" Native American tribe and I said "never heard of it." She replied, "Want to be." Her connections to our great Mother Earth, Moon and Sun were inspiring, for she truly loved them. She was part of my becoming an herbalist. ~ Vickie Vetter-Scruggs

d. BROWN TRIBUTE (cont.)

If you saw the name, Donnabeth Brown, would you know who it was? I would not have. Many of us know her as 'dee.'

I think it was 8 years ago, after a day spent with other EMGs making a healing salve, she asked if I had any place I needed to be. I did not, and a few glasses of wine later and conversation with d and her friend, I learned how she came to be...d. If you did not know the story, it came from one of her places of employment - there were two D. Brown's. She opted to go by the lower-case d, then just went by 'dee' lower case, of course.

My knowledge about gardening was primarily related to growing produce—I knew very little about KS flowers. She said that didn't matter...I'd learn. She was instrumental in me becoming a mentor so soon after I joined the EMG group. Of my 8 years being an EMG, this is my 4th time being involved in the Mentor program. Now I sit as the chairperson for the program. I hope I do her justice.

There were a few other times sharing a glass of wine with her over the next few years, then I became focused on other 'life' preoccupations. When we did speak or exchanged messages during this time, she always asked how it was going with things (that were going on at that time). She told me I was doing "a good thing and this too shall pass." And she was right.

This kind, gentle woman will be greatly missed. ~ Rena Tedrow

From Linda Hoffman....

With Patti
Armstrong...A
trip to The
Flower Farm for
Poinsettias
(2022)



Linda, d and Patti - the Sensory Garden
at the KU campus



Jackie (Linda's sister), d and Linda
on d's porch (2023)



Patti, Linda and d - A trip
to The Flower Farm (2023)



d and Linda - d's
birthday (2024)



Jeanne Bryant

I grew up in Des Moines, Iowa. I first started gardening with my grandmother. She had a large strawberry patch and many different types of flowers. My early experiences tending plants alongside her fostered a love for nature and the outdoors.

I went on to attend Iowa State, where I earned a degree in business administration. This educational foundation prepared me for my future professional pursuits.

After graduating, I tried several different management positions before landing at Allstate Insurance. Many years later, Allstate transferred me to their Overland Park office, marking a new chapter in my life.

I moved to Spring Hill KS, where I purchased a new home. During the purchase of my new home, I met Micheal as he was doing repairs. Our friendship blossomed and three years later, we were married. After 33 years at Allstate, I retired in August of 2021.

We have two adult children and two grandchildren. Spending time with my family brings me great joy. I have always enjoyed flower gardening. Two years ago, I started vegetable gardening in raised beds. I volunteer at the Spring Hill food pantry. I also enjoy sewing and since retiring have started to learn how to quilt.

Michael Bryant

I grew up in Iowa, where my interest in gardening began at a young age. My grandfather had a large garden, and I remember enjoying the time spent helping him tend to it. Encouraged by those early experiences, I soon began gardening on my own during my years in Iowa.

After my formative years, I joined the Marines and spent several years overseas, which provided unique experiences but little time for gardening. Upon returning, I transitioned into construction, specializing in drywall work. This career took me to Florida, where I dedicated twenty-five years to the drywall trade.

Later, I moved to Spring Hill, Kansas, continuing my work in drywall. There, I met Jeanne, who would become the love of my life, and we married. My career was interrupted by a knee injury, which led to a full knee replacement and a new opportunity to return to school. With a renewed focus, I earned a degree in Computer Network System Management and subsequently began working as a site support engineer for IQVIA. I remained with the company for twelve years until my retirement in May of this year.

Throughout my life, I have always been drawn to growing things outdoors, beyond just grass. Whether it was the fertile Iowa soil or the enthusiasm of youth, gardening seemed easier then. Now, in retirement, I remain eager to continue learning and to rekindle my passion for cultivating plants.





Janice Ingersol

I was born in the 'White House,' Nursing Home that is. The third of what was to be a family of seven. My parents were both raised country kids. My growing up years were mostly in the country. The only exception was four years when we moved to town in western Kansas. We moved around various houses in the area around Parker, Osawatomie, & Paola. I finally moved into Paola when I got married in 1976.

My parents put me in the garden before I was in school. I've always grown vegetables & flowers. I've added shrubs & trees since owning my home. I have one daughter, Mary. She lives in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. She has given me 6 grandchildren. She is a Home Health Aide with "Home Instead". Maybe she got the idea from me, as I was a former HHA.

I have been CNA, CMA. I have worked in Louisburg, Overland Park, Prairie Village, & Osawatomie. I have also worked in electronics at King Radio Corp. in Olathe & Paola. I've also worked at the State Hospital. I have also been a substitute, teacher.

I have lived at my present home for forty years this November. My garden this year was a long my south fence line. Other years I've had it next to the house & in the back yard. I have Elderberries in the front yard. I can them & make juice for my daughter & her family. I also have four Iris beds, mostly purple. I am currently learning Spanish.

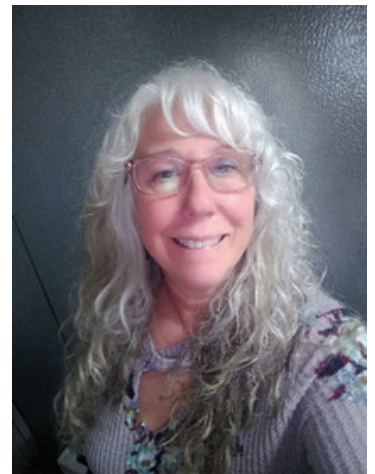
Lisa Leikam Jones

I am a recently retired public servant who has worked in technology for more than 25 years. As an eager gardener I'm looking to increasing my nominal knowledge of garden practices, guidelines, and principals.

Having focused on floral and design of landscape areas has resulted in collections of iris, daylilies, and Hosta while incorporating as many native plants as possible.

The prospect and anticipation of increasing a working knowledge and exploring new and different aspects of gardening is very exciting.

Looking forward to making new friends and engaging in community outreach with K State Extension Marais des Cygnes District Master Gardeners.





Tina Leshner

I grew up in Michigan but have lived the last 20 years of my life in Omaha, Nebraska, with my husband and three children. I was on the landscape committee for my neighborhood which entailed creating a pollinator garden that I helped plant. I've always enjoyed being outside weeding and planting and can't wait to begin growing trees, vegetables and flowers on our property. And after seeing Lenora's garden I would also like to have a butterfly garden.

Kim Lewis

My name is Kim Lewis and I am addicted to growing flowers and vegetables.

My husband, Mike and I moved to our home September 2014. I could hardly wait to start planting! My vision for flowers was to have something in bloom for the entire growing season. I believe that I have accomplished that.

In the fall of 2020, I decided that I wanted to start a U-pick flower farm. With the help of my best friend and sister-in-law, Melissa, we opened for business spring of 2021. We enjoyed seeing the excitement and joy that our flowers brought to our customers. We even had the opportunity to provide flowers for two weddings. After three years in business, we made the decision to turn our business into a hobby farm. I love to share my flowers with anyone that I can.

My most recent adventure has been collecting seeds and cuttings from all the flowers and vegetables to plant next season. It has been very rewarding not to mention cost effective.



Mindy McGinnis

70's model with a Christian heart, proud wife, mom, and grandma. Spent 34 years engineering roads and bridges, but my soul blooms in the garden. From my grandma's garden to my first greenhouse job at age 13, gardening/flowers has been my peace, passion, and little touch of sass.



Jennifer Morgan

Hi! I am Jennifer Morgan. I grew up in Overland Park Ks in the home my parents still live in today. My husband and I have lived in Spring Hill for 8 years. We have a daughter and a son, both married, who live in the KC metro area and most importantly an 18-month-old granddaughter. I retired from the Shawnee Mission School District 3 years ago after 21 years as a teacher and elementary school principal and my husband, James, still works for the school district.

I love family, problem solving, teamwork, and nature. It is important to have a balanced life of continuing education, and wellness. The health benefits nature provides through color, texture, scent, and beauty are the foundation to wellness. I want to learn more about plants and how through correct conservation and cultivation they can provide a healthy and happy environmental balance for everyone.

Christine Perkins

I live in southwest Miami County on 42 acres. Vegetable gardening, beekeeping, playing board games, and hiking are some of my hobbies. We have lived in our home for almost 25 years and enjoy the outdoors. Before having children, I majored in accounting and worked in banking management. I raised three daughters and homeschooled them for academic reasons. We have one new grandson who lives locally.

I love making hot sauce from our variety of peppers including Ghost, Trinidad Scorpion, and Carolina Reaper. I also enjoy canning salsa and spaghetti sauce. We have an orchard that has peach, apple, apricot, pear, and cherry trees. I look forward to learning a lot and contributing to this community.



W E L C O M E
to our group!

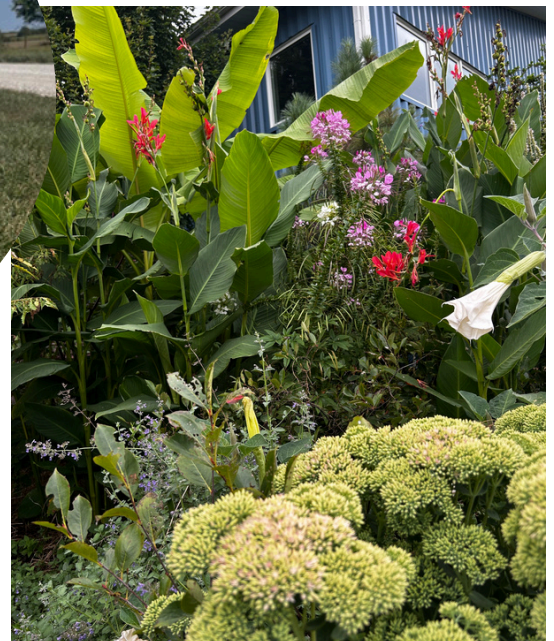
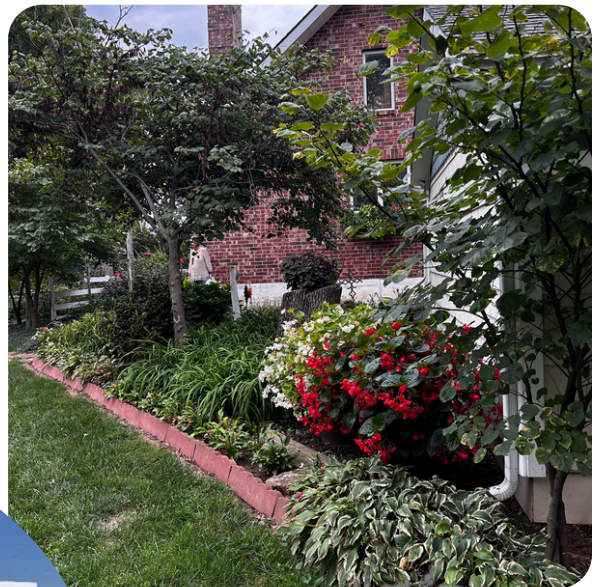
Summary - Audrey Gabel and Susan Rodgers

During the garden tour, a total of 444 volunteer hours were logged, excluding the time contributed by owners and vendors. The event sold 299 tickets, generating \$5,980 in sales. Your efforts have made this event a success. The feedback from the surveys shows that the most popular aspects were the variety of gardens and the opportunity to interact with master gardeners. The primary sources for attracting attendees were the Kansas City Gardener publication and by word-of-mouth.

Without your support, this event would not have been possible. Each and every one of you played a crucial role in making the 2025 September to Remember Garden Tour a success. Thank you so much for your time and commitment.



For your viewing pleasure...here are some photos submitted from our EMGs taken at the five gardens which were on the tour...thank YOU!
Did you have a favorite garden this year?





Texanna's Scarecrows.....

We did not get to see them during the pre-tour.
Scott Catton's wife, Melissa, took pics for us...

Miss Floozy



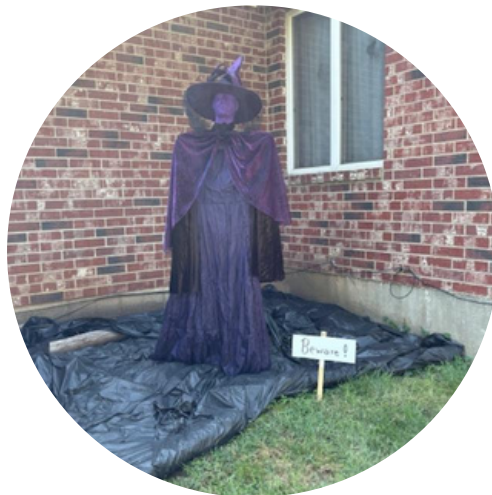
Butterfly Girl



Pumpkin Princess



Jungle Queen



Cowboy Joe



Farmer Bob



Flower Lady