



K-STATE
Research and Extension

Master Gardener
Marais des Cygnes District

OCTOBER, 2025
www.maraisdescygnes.ksu.edu

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- News & Notes - Pg 2-4
- Calendar - Pg 5
- Word Search - Pg 5
- EMG Board Cand. - Pg 6-7
- Adv. Training - Pg 8-9
- Panel Bios - Pg 10-11
- Our Activities - Pg 12-13

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, 8:30a
- Trial Garden/Cut flower Garden**
Tuesday's, 8:30a
- LaCygne Community Garden**
Wed and/or Fri 9a - noon
- Linn Co. Courthouse Garden**
Tuesday's, 8:30a. 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

Whassup EMGs?

Rena Tedrow

It's October... some are considering putting gardens to bed. Everyone I've spoken with this year had issues with tomatoes. I didn't rub it in by saying, "I have had no problems." Not gloating, but I still have tomatoes. Yes, those are blooms at the tippy-top. I plucked off 5 on Fri.

The successes and failures of the growing season will be our next AT - a 5-member panel discussion regarding the success and failures of 2025. See the calendar.



At our recent membership meeting, three people were recognized for having entered their hours - Betsy, Audrey and myself. Entering your hours is important - even those of you who help with ONE event or attend one AT. This information is reported and tracked by K-State for the program. Imagine if no one entered any hours... Would we even have a program available to us?

Also at the meeting, three of the new class members were introduced - Kim Lewis, Christine Perkins and Janice Ingersoll (with their respective mentors, Audrey, Terri and Barb). The class is about halfway done - they will be finished on Dec. 4th.

Plans for the Spring Symposium are underway. There may be a name change, but the topics remain the same. The next meeting is Monday at 10a at the Extension office. Please come if you'd like to be a part of it.

Finally, I've included notes for the past several months requesting members to submit a headshot. I reported at the Q4 meeting that I had 6-8 (I thought). I was wrong - there were only 4. (Note: this excludes the new class, since I have theirs.)

I'm working on compiling a new photo roster... It will contain your name, class year and a photo. **Please** email me a headshot of yourself so I can get this together for distribution in January. See page 3.

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 Kloepfer

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.

Fall Garden Tour...

There was wonderful feedback from the attendees. We had over \$4K in profit! Great job, Susan and Audrey as well as all the volunteers!

Kitchen Garden, 2025...

The pepper plants are continuing to produce! Help is still needed on Tuesday's at 8:30. The garden will likely be 'put to rest' a couple weeks after the first frost.

No 'Trial Garden' news - hopefully after January.

Spring Garden Symposium...

Mark your calendars for February 28th. The location is Town Square in Paola. The committee has nearly completed the search for speakers, which include our own Lenora Larson. See the calendar for the upcoming meeting.

Committee Reports & Budgets...

A standard form was discussed during the recent board meeting and at Q4 meeting. Chairs are requested to submit their monthly reports to the board using this standard form going forward.

Also, Lynn will be distributing each committee's budget to the chairs for review. Your 2026 budget is due October 31st.

EMG Board - Upcoming Voting...

There are four open positions on the board starting in 2026. Coincidentally, there are four individuals who would like to serve on the board but still require your vote. The following candidates are up for your vote in November (in alphabetical order): Krystal Barr, Audrey Gabel, Natalie Hartig and Rena Tedrow. Bios can be found on page 6-7. Voting will take place in November.

Miami County Courthouse Project....

With the Lions Club funding running low, we are considering seeking other 'sponsors.' If you have any suggestions, please contact any of the board members.

The newest Emeritus Member...

Sue Burns has made a request to join the rank of Emeritus. At the recent meeting, the board unanimously approved to change her status. Thank you, Sue...for your dedication to the EMG programs, especially the plant sale. Don't be a stranger - we still want to see you!

**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 not, it's now mid-Oct. December is right around the corner. People were recognized recently and there will be recognition at the annual banquet. 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.

Reimbursement for expenses...

When submitting receipts for expense reimbursement, be sure to (fully) complete the green form and include your receipts. If you have incurred an expense, and are not the chairperson for that committee, be sure to get the chair to sign the form. This form can be found in the volunteer room at the extension office, or you can ask Tracy for a copy. Mail it to the extension office or leave with Tracy or Julie.

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 wondering 'who the heck that was.' The photo roster helps with this. It is a photo 'list' of each member--name, class year. It helps the newer members identify all of our members. There are occasions when a name is brought up in discussion; many have no idea who the person is, especially if they are Emeritus. 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. **Email a clear head shot of yourself to Rena by December 1st.**

Wreaths for Residents...

Just a quick blurb so you can calendar it... Monday, December 1st 10a at the extension office. More info will be provided toward the end of next month. 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.

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

**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.

Betsy Hasselquist recently sent in photos of Monarch butterflies that stopped to take respite at her home. I asked if she would write a quick note to accompany the photos.

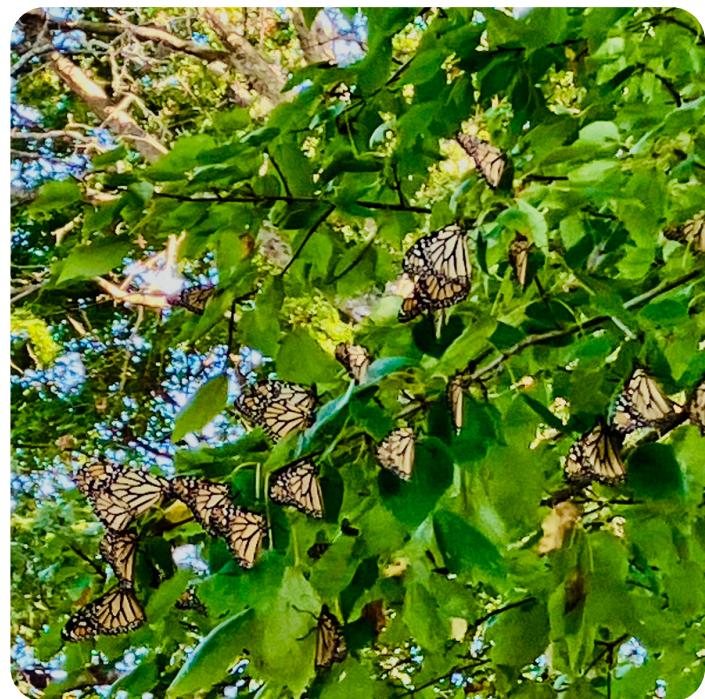


Read on...

Rena

**A Monarch Blessing
Betsy Hasselquist**

Hundreds of beautiful monarchs landed in my own backyard. Clustering primarily in a sweet gum tree, they replenished themselves on their long journey of up to three thousand miles.



This is the 3rd season I've witnessed monarchs visiting my yard during their fall migration. They stopped by for a 3 day stay and then were gone as quickly as they came.

Such a magical (and scientific) phenomenon that an entirely new generation finds refuge in the same place in Paola KS.

- ▶ **October 20th, 10:00a, Paola Extension Office:** Symposium Committee Meeting.
- ▶ **October 28th, 6:30p, Paola Extension Office:** AT - 'Ask the Experts' - a 5-member panel discussion' regarding the 2025 growing season. The panel members and their bios are on the following page(s).
- ▶ **December 1st - 10:00a- noon, Paola Extension office, 'Wreaths for Residents'.**

FLOWERS YOU'D FIND IN A GARDEN

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

LARKSPUR
 COLUMBINE
 DANDELION
 IRIS
 DAISY
 ROSE
 SALVIA
 FUSHIA
 MILKWEED
 VERBENA
 COREOPSIS
 ZINNIA
 SUNFLOWER
 CROCUS
 GOLDENROD
 DAHLIA
 VIOLA
 POPPY
 LAVENDER
 PANSY
 CONEFLOWER
 CARNATION
 LILY
 ASTER

The following individuals are seeking position on the board beginning in 2026. They are listed in alphabetical order.

Krystal Barr

Hi, my name is Krystal Barr. I started the Master Gardener program in 2024 after retiring and moving from Johnson County to Miami county in 2023. My professional career involved a lot of operational process improvement, audit, quality control, people management and just getting stuff done! I have a bachelor's degree in accounting, master's degree in finance and many additional college and non-credit classes in art and gardening.

From a gardening perspective, I have grown so many shade and sun perennials and annuals, water gardens, xero-scaping and vegetable and fruit gardens. I am looking forward to getting deeper involved in the Miami County gardening community!

My journey took root on an Iowa farm, where my parents and four siblings cultivated a deep appreciation for organic, regenerative agriculture. We raised our own meat and vegetables, instilling a profound connection to the land. Today, that foundation supports my 60-acre farm, where living sustainably, gardening, and preserving food remain my lifelong passions.

Embracing these practices is essential for me, not just for the food I grow but also for maintaining healthy hay pastures. Through applied research, I've explored innovative growing methods, including the effective use of raised beds. One of my standout techniques has been the implementation of wicking tubs, allowing for efficient water use. Additionally, I create my own compost from plant and animal waste and craft liquid fertilizers from plant materials, promoting a closed-loop system that nurtures both the soil and the plants.

Three years ago, I began integrating more flowers into my garden for natural pest management and attracting pollinators. This has transformed my landscape into a thriving, biodiverse ecosystem. Last year, I joined the Master Gardeners program, eager to deepen my knowledge of landscaping with native plants and to connect with a community of fellow enthusiasts. I am truly excited to be part of this journey, surrounded by individuals who share the same passion for sustainable living and gardening.

Audrey Gabel

Natalie Hartig

Hello, my name is Natalie Hartig. I have had a love for gardening since I was little. I helped my grandma and grandpa work all their gardens in their neighborhood when I was young. I continued to help my family garden as I grew older and have had a garden ever since I have lived on my own. I currently work full time as an ER nurse and enjoy it almost as much as I enjoy working in the garden.

I am part of the master gardener class of 2024. Since joining the group, I have helped update the computer system and purchased a scanner to start digitizing records. This will help keep records and allow them to be searched for historical information. I have enjoyed getting involved with various projects so far and look forward to working with others on future projects.



Rena Tedrow



Hi all... No formal education beyond HS but I did take some CC classes--business-related--which I abandoned. Bo-ring (to me). Later came classes required by employers (banking field). I hold a Cosmetologist's license; my big claim to fame was being the first person in the JoCo Cosmetology program to ace the written boards. I was also the oldest - I was 40yo at graduation.

I'm a practicing gardener—someone that learns as they go, likes to try different things...to see what works and what does not.

I'm from the class of 2017; the remaining (active) member. I joined to learn more about KS flowers but instead learned more about 'native' plants which are not necessarily flowers.

There was a very stressful 4-year 'break' while I dealt with family health issues, but late 2021, I plunged in to start doing my part. (Read your by-laws, kids.) Since then, I've been an 'At Large' board member, volunteered with the plant sales (copy for ads, flyers, etc.), Seeds for Kids, the Spring Symposium, the garden tour, anything someone might need help with (document-wise), composed the monthly newsletters for the past two years, and am the current chairperson for the Mentor program.

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
Oct	28	6:30-7:30p	1	End-of-Season Panel Discussion with our Expert MdC EMGs See bios on pages 10-11	Audrey Gabel, Nancy Kalman, Deb Kitchell, Lenora Larson, Chet McLaughlin	Paola Extension Office 913 N. Pearl, Paola KS
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 Feb	10-11	2 days	14	Plant It Native	Info	Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center/ Kauffman Conference Center 4750 Troost Early bird registration (\$255) ends 11/16. Full price \$315

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 6th - 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.

Here are the bio's for the five-member panel that will answer questions on Oct. 28th @ 6:30p.

Lenora Larson

Marais des Cygnes Extension Master Gardener, Lenora Larson, maintains a two-acre garden in the English Estate style on her 27-acre property, Long Lips Farm, in rural Paola, Kansas. After graduating from Michigan State University with a degree in microbiology. Her garden functions as an outdoor sculpture gallery as well as a certified butterfly garden. Lenora is a frequent enthusiastic presenter to gardening groups on a broad range of horticultural topics.

Audrey Gabel

My journey took root on an Iowa farm, where my parents and four siblings cultivated a deep appreciation for organic, regenerative agriculture. We raised our own meat and vegetables, instilling a profound connection to the land. Today, that foundation supports my 60-acre farm, where living sustainably, gardening, and preserving food remain my lifelong passions.

Embracing these practices is essential for me, not just for the food I grow but also for maintaining healthy hay pastures. Through applied research, I've explored innovative growing methods, including the effective use of raised beds. One of my standout techniques has been the implementation of wicking tubs, allowing for efficient water use. Additionally, I create my own compost from plant and animal waste and craft liquid fertilizers from plant materials, promoting a closed-loop system that nurtures both the soil and the plants.

Three years ago, following my retirement, I began integrating more flowers into my garden for natural pest management and attracting pollinators. This has transformed my landscape into a thriving, biodiverse ecosystem. Last year, I joined the Master Gardeners program, eager to deepen my knowledge of landscaping with native plants and to connect with a community of fellow enthusiasts. I am truly excited to be part of this journey, surrounded by individuals who share the same passion for sustainable living and gardening.

Debbie Kitchell

My gardening business is basically flower bed maintenance, spring cleanup, weekly or every two-week maintenance along with putting in small plantings, and spring/summer and fall annuals. I also plant flowerpots for people. I can pick up plants, but I try to convince them to pick up their own plants that they might like. Additionally, I take care of their houseplants if they ask. I love the quietness of the gardens, all I hear are the birds, see lots of caterpillars and chrysalis and I get to use my bird identification. Where I work there are woods between homes and you can't see the other houses. This year the board let me plant two dozen butterfly weeds in two different irrigated areas and some in their gardens. At another home I've done a butterfly garden. That was one of my goals!

Nancy Kalman

After teaching at Johnson County Community College for 15 years I decided to become a full time administrator and moved to the state of Washington. That is where the master gardener program started. I retired in 2000 and moved to a small farm in Miami county. I wanted to be around people that loved gardening as much as I do, so I started training as a master gardener soon after moving to my farm. I helped with the Farmers' Market that the master gardeners sponsored in Paola. That lead to many years as a vendor in several markets. I grew an acre of strawberries and had pick-your-own strawberries in the spring and a pumpkin patch in the fall. Between spring and fall I had a CSA. I was on the board of the Growing Growers program and had an apprentice for several years.

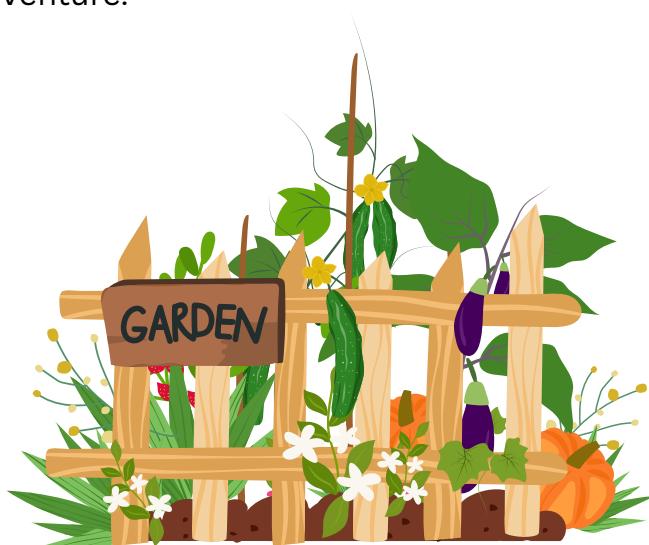
I still love learning about gardening. You need to read '*The Light Eaters*,' by Zoe Schlanger.

Chet McLaughlin

I have been a part of the Marais des Cygnes Extension Master Gardener's since 2012 and learned about tomato and pepper growing from the best: Shirley New, Judy Moser, Nancy Kalman, Marty Sundquist, Carol Williams and Dennise Fink-Morse.

As a graduate of KU in Environmental Engineering and 40 years career employee at EPA specializing in solid waste, recycling, composting, hazardous waste, sustainability and climate change, I knew very little about plants, bugs and soils before joining master gardeners. Being part of a team working on the KSU Trial Garden has not only taught me a new appreciation of sustainability but introduced me to a means to help our community while assisting with research on better plants to nurture in our Kansas environment.

Every year is a new adventure.





Adding fall decorations to the Miami County Courthouse Garden...



Adding mulch to the Miami County Courthouse Garden...





Before.....



.....After