



K-STATE
Research and Extension

Master Gardener
Marais des Cygnes District

JANUARY, 2026

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

It's a new year....

Rena Tedrow

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ADVISORY BOARD

Chairman-Janette Everhart
Vice Chair - Audrey Gabel
Secretary - Natalie Hartig
Treasurer - Lynn Campbell
Members at Large:
Krystal Barr
Susan Rodgers
Rena Tedrow

As usual we start our year with onslaught receipt of seed catalogs. I myself haven't purchased many seeds over the past couple of years so my receipt is down. Used to be I'd see 12-15 catalogs by now. So far, I have received four. Fine by me--less to rifle through.

The 'workdays' section will remain missing until the chairs notify the board of a start date. Although we missed the first K-State Garden Hour and Deep Roots classes, you can go back and watch them. I've added what these classes were as well as the upcoming classes in the AT calendar on page 5. Be sure you register with both sites.

A couple of things...

First, a gentle reminder... If you are a committee chair for upcoming events or projects, especially ones which requires promotion/publicity, etc., you will want something in the newsletter to promote it. Anything needs to be submitted by noon on the Thursday following the board meeting. Unless otherwise noted, board meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month. The newsletter compilation is started right after the board meeting.

Second, the December short-term project 'Wreaths for Residents' has been very popular. Unfortunately, we have run the gamut with the locations to distribute wreaths unless someone has thoughts for another location in MiCo. Suggestions, thoughts are welcome for something new. Also, please consider... Would one of you would be up for taking over this project? It would be nice to have someone volunteer this year and I'd definitely help coordinate.



Why am I stepping back? You know the saying, "When one door closes another one opens?" The door that closed (for me) this year is the farmer's market (in LaCygne)--I was the coordinator. Long story short, it won't be happening this year. That door opening gives me that extra day that I haven't had during the summer months. Why do I need it? We are hoping to get a home remodel project started this year. This is on top of me getting volunteered to help with a class reunion--with a task I was hoping not to do. But...it's our 'big one,' there may not be another, and I don't live where I grew up. The task I have will take time and will add to making my life busier on multiple levels.

I'm just thankful there is no garden tour this year!

Committees

Courthouse Garden

Phyllis Benedict

Trial Garden

Dennise Fink-Morse,
Chet McLaughlin, Shirley New,

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

Lenora Larson, Audrey Gabel,
Krystal Barr, Terri Seyl

Garden Tour (2027)

TBD

Seeds for Kids

Betsy Hasselquist
Natalie Hartig
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.

The 2026 Advisory board is up and running...

The new board has been elected and is up and running. It has been changed out on the first page. In the event you missed it here are the representatives... Chairperson: Janette Everhart; Co-Chairperson: Audrey Gabel; Treasurer: Lynn Campbell; Secretary: Natalie Hartig; At-Large members: Krystal Barr, Susan Rodgers, Rena Tedrow

Enthusiasm and leadership skills needed....

Tap your buddy and be co-chairs! Contact Janette E. or the current leaders for details on what the role requires. Open committee leader positions are needed for the following committees:

Paola Courthouse Garden: current chair-Phyllis Bennett

Fall 2027 Garden Tour: chairs-Susan Rodgers and Audrey Gabel

Seeds for Kids...

Betsy Hasselquist is passing the torch to Carol V. and Natalie H. who will be co-leaders. There is a meeting on March 18, 9:30 at the Paola Extension office. This is a meeting followed by seed packet filling and a potluck lunch .

New EMG logo (still) not yet available...

Katelyn reported at the meeting that she is hoping that the logo will be ready later in January or early February.

EMG group departure...

Susan Hain (class of 2021) has decided to leave the EMG program. If you happen to run into Susan, please extend our gratitude and best wishes.

Garden Symposium...

Plans are moving along great!

The Rookie class has been engaged to assist Rena with collecting native plant items which will be used as the centerpieces for the tables.

Next month, a date is scheduled for putting together the arrangements, which then will be transported to the venue. Help will be appreciated and needed to get all arrangements taken to the venue.

See the calendar on the next page.

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 change - February:** The February board meeting will be held on Monday, February 9th at 9:30 a.m. at the Extension office.
- ▶ **February 10th: 6p-9p, Annual Awards Banquet, Paola Country Club.** **Deadline date to make your reservation is February 4th.** Cost is \$30 for EMG members and \$50 for a guest. There is no charge for Emeritus members and the 2026 Rookie Class but make sure to contact the office to RSVP. For further information please see page 12.
- ▶ **February 18th, 10am Plant sale training for Plant Ambassadors (for the annual plant sale).** Vinland Valley Nursery. EMGs are also invited to visit VVN. Please RSVP and plan to carpool. See article on page 9.
- ▶ **Feb 24th, 1:00-3:00pm, Symposium table centerpiece arrangement assembly.** Paola Extension office. Additional info in February's newsletter.
- ▶ **February 26th, 9:30am: Field trip to Planters Seed Company.** Volunteer hours-1 approved. Meet at 9:00 at the extension office to carpool.
- ▶ **February 27th, 2:00pm, Symposium set-up day at Town Square Events, Paola:** The venue will be doing most of the set-up prior to our arrival. This should be easier and shorter than is previous years
- ▶ **Symposium: Feb 28th 9-4pm:** EMGs registering--please select the option to pay by check or cash. This helps avoid some of the CC fee charges. You can mail your check to the extension office or stop in and pay by check or cash. There are 5 hours AT credit, plus potential for volunteer hours for helping during the symposium and clean up. If you will be helping day of, please arrive at 7:30am. Information regarding donations for homemade "goodies" for our guests will be in February's newsletter.
- ▶ **April 22-25, Annual Plant Sale - mark your calendar and plan to be there!**

TO DO

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- ▶
- ▶
- ▶
- ▶

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
Jan	13	6:00p	1	Backyard Prairie Series - First part of a 4-part series on installing a native garden or prairie stand. This has passed but you can go back to watch the 1st session. Below is the link for the 1 st session: Session 1 - Winter	Patti Ragsdale, president of the Kansas Native Plant Society, Extension Master Naturalist, and Executive Director of the non-profit, Botanical Belonging	Virtual-Zoom. Registration is req'd for each session. Below is the link for the 2 nd session. Once registered (& attended) you will receive a link to register for the next one.  Backyard Prairie: Spring! - Tuesday, April 7th
Jan	20	6:30p - 7:30p	1	The No-Sow Garden Self-sowing flowers, will include lists of heirloom/native annuals that succeed despite our Zone 6a winters.	Lenora Larson MdC EMG	Paola Extension Office 913 N. Pearl, Paola KS
Feb	7	11:00a-1:00p	2	DIY Native Gardening: Planting for Success with Cydney Ross presenting. A course on planning and planting a native garden for success.	Cydney Ross, Deep Roots outdoor education manager and a native landscape specialist	Anita B. Gorman Conservation Discovery Center 4750 Troost Avenue Kansas City, MO Sign up online is required at Deeprroots.org under events
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	21	9:30a-10:30a	1	Gardener's Connect Exceptional Container Gardens	Jennifer Slusher Storr, certified arborist	Merriam Community Center 6040 Slater Merriam, KS 66202 gardeners connect.org
Feb	28	9a-4p	5	2026 Garden Symposium	Lenora Larson-Soil Safari; Dr. Jonathan Aguilar-Water Worry to Water Wise; Kristopher Dabner-Explore the Elements; Anne Wildeboor-Right Plant, Right Place	Town Square Events, 15 W. Wea, Paola KS. Tickets are \$65 each. Register at: https://tinyurl.com/53hk3y7c
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!!!



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 until you unsubscribe.

Click the following link to view the January session: [*Soil Smarts--Best Practices to Improve Soil Health*](#)

Upcoming:

Feb 4th ~ Honey Bee Colony Mgmt & Key Resources in KS

Mar 4th ~ Naturalistic Garden Design and Flexible Approaches for Every Garden



The [*Deep Roots Native Plant Webinars*](#) (Lunch and Learn) is at 12p - every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month. You can register for both the webinars and tours at deeproots.org. As above, once you register, you will receive emails regarding upcoming sessions until you unsubscribe.

Click the following link to view the January session: [*Integrated Pest Management in the Garden*](#)

Upcoming:

Feb 5th ~ Healing Gardens with Native Plants

Feb 19th ~ Edible Native Landscapes

Past recordings for both the K-State Gardener Hour & Deep Roots are available online.

DONATION RESULTS

Rena Tedrow

In the event you still have no idea what the 'Holiday Happiness' program is... It's a program we started a few years ago. While the produce gathered from the 'Trial/Kitchen' Garden goes to local food pantries, as a group we also help with funds to help pantries thru the year.

In the past, we've selected three pantries to be the recipients. In 2025 the three were the OZ Food Pantry, PACA Food Pantry and the LaCygne Community Pantry.

Thanks to our members generous donation of \$630, along with the budgeted \$1,000 we were able to distribute over \$500 to each pantry, which they greatly appreciated!



SYMPOSIUM MARKETING MOMENTUM!**Janette Everhart, Chair**

Marketing is so essential for all EMG events. Thank you to Lenora, Scott S. and Rena for making our event so visible to our target audience: local gardeners. They have perfected and delivered polished ads as well as the flyer. In December Katelyn emailed the Symposium flier to our MdC EMGs and the other KS EMG programs while Rena began the weekly Facebook postings. The Symposium ads, listings and/or articles appeared in the January issues of KC Gardener Magazine (KCG) and Gardeners Connect. Matt F. submitted the February ad and article to KCG on January 12th. As of the 16th we already had 73 online registrations. As a quick mention, the seated capacity is 184.

The 1st week of January began the focused promotional activities by Scott and Lenora. We emailed the flier to our contact list of media, organizations, Missouri Master Gardener Extension offices and the 141 Garden Tour visitors. We will continue to follow-up until (we hope), the Symposium is sold out! Your help is needed as well...

1. Please help distribute fliers to local businesses in your area during January. If you need copies, please contact the extension office to pick up flyers.
2. Please personally email the Symposium flier to all your non-EMG gardening friends and encourage them to register/attend. If you are following the EMG FB page, you can copy the links posted to share on your own FB page.

We expect to sell out, but this depends on support from all of us.

On other fronts, Rena is pulling together materials for our centerpieces--they will be natural and lovely! The plan is to give them away to 3 lucky winners at each table. There is an 'Centerpiece assembly' scheduled for Feb 24th from 1-3:00p. Rena will bring all the materials to the Paola Extension Office for assembling the arrangements. You can help pull it all together and help will be needed to transport to Town Center afterwards.

Carol V. has collected 21 gifts for door prizes. If you have something you'd like to donate, please contact Carol. Betsy has made arrangements for lunches to be delivered. Our speakers are signed up and preparing their one-page handouts. We have our AV person signed up.

There will be a committee meeting in mid-February so we can make sure all plans are aligned.

Please mark your calendars for set-up on Friday, Feb 27th and the event day, Feb 28th. We need your help both days to make sure all goes smoothly for our guests.

Remember, if you plan to attend and have a reserved seat you must register and pay for attending. No need to register if you will be on your feet as some of you who do food service throughout the event. You will get 5 hours of AT credit and of course volunteer hours for the time you are helping.

MdC EMG Plant Sale - MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**Lenora Larson, Co-chair**

Reminders:

Location: Building #2, MICO Fairgrounds

Set-up day: Wednesday, April 22, 8:30 am to ~4 pm, includes beginning inventory

Sale days: Thursday, 9a to 6p; Friday, 9a to 5p; Saturday, 9a to 1p (10% discount on all MdC EMG purchases from 10 am to 1 pm on Saturday only)

Break-down & clean-up—Sat 1 pm to ~3 pm, includes final inventory

Members of the Plant Sale Steering Committee (Audrey, Krystal, Lenora & Terri) met with Amy Albright and Celie Davidson at Vineland Valley Nursery (VVN) in Baldwin on January 8th to begin coordinating the 2026 Plant Sale. In general, we will not change the processes developed during our highly successful 2025 Plant Sale. VVN will again be our sole plant vendor and has signed our wholesale contract.

Discussions included the need for more effective signage to display pot sizes & prices. Last years “wall necklaces” were too small and hard to see. VVN has recently revised their signage and offered to use their design and vendor to make new Pot Size/Price displays for us. Terri and Amy agreed on a total of 10 double-sided 4’ X 18” lavender signs with our logo and the pots attached. The prices will be on printed labels that can be changed when necessary. Since the Fairgrounds doesn’t allow wall tape or fasteners, the displays will be mounted on wooden 2X4’s standing in gravel-filled buckets. Audrey and the PA’s will have an “assembly party” - date TBD.

Plant selection & pricing is determined by VVN based on our sales history and VVN’s retail experience the prior year. Since we have the plant-by-plant sales numbers from 2025, this is an easy chore. However, we will make some changes based on our first year in the fairgrounds building. At Chet’s request, we will double the number of tables for vegetables! Tables for plants that sold poorly, such as Grasses, Succulents, and both Ornamental Trees and Fruit Trees will be downsized. With input from VVN, a few exciting 2026 introductions will also be added. Celie will again provide pdf inventory lists that we can download to our smart phones to help customers find specific plants and also use for the pre- and post-sale inventory counts.

Most of our seeds and plugs will be started in early February. “Our” perennials will be pulled from the main greenhouses and moved to the MdC designated greenhouse so that all sales inventory will be in this one location prior to being loaded for delivery on April 22nd. Audrey has scheduled a Plant Ambassador Sales Training at VVN on February 18, which will be open to all MdC EMGs so they can see the nursery and ask questions.

Katelyn will have sign-up lists at the February Awards Banquet. There will also be an online sign-up (via Sign-Up Genius) the first week of April for plant sale staffing. In the meantime, don’t hesitate to ask questions or offer suggestions. The Plant Sale continues to be a remarkable achievement for the MdC EMG team, plus it’s really FUN!

PLANT AMBASSADORS

Audrey Gabel

In 2025, we introduced the new role of Plant Ambassadors (PAs), which became a wonderful resource for everyone involved. Each plant group will once again be represented by two PAs, who will support the group before, during, and after the sale. The Plant Sale Committee is eager to offer helpful resources and training, starting with a fun and informative trip to Vinland Valley Nursery on February 18th. If you haven't had a chance to RSVP yet, please do so using this link: [Master Gardeners: Vinland Valley Field Trip](#)

Below is a list of the plant groups and the PAs who have already expressed interest in performing this duty again this year. We have two groups still open and most groups need a second PA. Please contact me if you would like to be a PA and let me know which plant group suits you.

Group #	Desc.	Plant Ambassador	Group #	Desc.	Plant Ambassador
1	Annuals	Laura Hull	7	Woodies	Betsy Hasselquist
2	Pollinators	Scott Catton	8	Fruits	OPEN
3	Shade	Debbie Kitchell	9	Herbs	Kim Lewis Minday McGinnis
4	Baskets & Pots	Bill Vandenberg	10	Veggies	Chet McLaughlin Dennise Fink-Morse
5	Tropicals & Succulents	OPEN	11	Ornamentals	Krystal Barr Terri Seyl
6	Butterfly	Lenora Larson Janette Everhart	12	Natives	Susan Rodgers

Plant Sale Hotties

Audrey Gabel

Over the next few months, members of the Plant Sale Committee and staff from Vinland Valley Nursery will introduce you to some of our favorites that will be available at the Plant Sale. The articles will be related to the plant categories available for sale during the plant sale. For more information and additional photographs, Google the plant or visit the Vinland Valley Nursery website and click on the [‘Plants Section.’](#)

Let’s begin with Celie and Amy’s favorite plants...

Tall Verbena/Brazilian vervain, *Verbena bonariensis*

This plant is an excellent option for pollination, nectar, and cut flowers in arrangements. If you want a low-maintenance, long-lasting, wildlife-friendly perennial that fits easily into garden borders, this is hard to beat. It blooms from early summer until frost, thriving in moist, well-drained soils with plenty of sunlight or light shade. Additionally, it self-seeds naturally and spreads across garden beds.



Ghost Fern, *Athyrrium nipponicum* is truly a favorite and prized for its beautiful foliage! This easy-to-grow perennial forms a tidy, upright mound of sturdy, silver-green fronds with lovely, deep purple midribs. It’s a wonderful choice for woodland gardens, making a lovely backdrop for hostas or complementing coral bells. It enjoys moist, shady spots but is surprisingly more tolerant of brief dry periods than many other ferns. It’s a delightful addition that can bring charm and lush greenery to your garden.

Hairy Mountain Mint, *Pycnanthemum Verticillatum* var. *pilosum* is a delightful herbaceous perennial that calls N. America and North Carolina home. This charming plant typically reaches heights of 1 to 3 feet and thrives in well-drained soils, enjoying full sun to partial shade—though it truly shines when basking in the sun. It spreads by rhizomes, which you can easily manage. It features lovely mint-scented leaves perfect for cooking and teas. Its beautiful flower clusters range from white to purple and attract wonderful pollinators from July to September.



GROUP 12-Natives: Susan Rodgers has the privilege of owning a native prairie, which has been a restoration project by her husband Tim since 2014. Their property was featured on our Garden Tour in 2023. These are three of Susan's favorites.

Bee balm, *Monarda punctata* is a popular plant among butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds due to its fragrant, edible blossoms that also serve as a mosquito repellent.

This interesting plant typically blooms in sandy soils with full to partial sun exposure. The plant features exotic flowers with colors ranging from pinkish-purple and green to beige and maroon, growing on stems that reach about 24 inches in height.

It is also one of the easier plants to grow from seed, requiring no pre-treatment and no planting depth!



Meadow Blazing Star is a great plant for attracting Monarch Butterflies as a nectar plant. It is not a host plant

Meadow Blazing Star, *Liatris ligulistylis* is the number one plant for attracting Monarch Butterflies, and a fantastic nectar plant for many pollinators, including hummingbirds. The important distinction for this beauty is that it is a nectar plant, not a host plant to Monarch Butterflies.

The fall seeds are popular with Goldfinches, and the colorful magenta and tufted blossoms often appear all at once along the stems, lasting for many weeks in late summer.

Golden Torch, *Goldenrod Solidago 'Wichita Mountains'* usually thrives in dry soils found in open woods, fields, and prairies. Susan loves the small, vibrant yellow flowers that bloom in tight clusters on sturdy, reddish stems standing about 2-3 feet tall. These charming flowers bloom from mid to late summer and are truly one of the most striking among many goldenrods.

They're a favorite for bees and butterflies looking for late-season nectar, and they play an especially important role for migrating Monarch butterflies and late season pollinators.



JOIN US FOR THE



Annual MdG &MC Awards Banquet

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2026

6:00-6:30 SOCIAL HOUR

6:30-7:15 BUFFET DINNER

7:15-9:00 AWARDS

RECOGNITION

Buffet Dinner includes salad, pork loin, chicken alfredo, roasted potatoes, vegetables, dinner rolls, & cheesecake

\$30 Members, \$50 Guests

Emeritus & New Class Members no cost but still need to RSVP.

**RSVP with payment by Feb. 4 to the
Paola Extension Office.**

No refunds

**PAOLA COUNTY CLUB
29651 OLD KC ROAD
PAOLA, KS**

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: