



K-STATE Research and Extension

FEBRUARY 2025

www.maraisdescygnets.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

MdC 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.

WORK DAYS

MiCo Courthouse Garden

Wednesday's, 8a - 10a

Trial Garden/Cut flower Garden

Tuesday's, 8a

LaCygne Community Garden

Wed and/or Fri 8a - 11a

Linn Co. Courthouse Garden

Tuesday's 8a

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

Upcoming projects....

Rena Tedrow

Have you been perusing the barrage of seed catalogs we seem to be inundated with this time of year? Perusing the pages - planning, dreaming, scheming... These are our personal projects - scouring thru the pages to see what we might want to grow. Not sure if I will be seed starting this year. I'm still waiting on the completion of a greenhouse project. There's always the plant sale.

In the next few months, there will be a fair amount of 'news' included in the newsletter related to upcoming events and projects. Of course, the one with the most notoriety at the beginning of the year is the plant sale. Concurrently, plans for the 'Seeds for Kids' program are underway as well as plans for the 2026 Symposium. Yes, we are a group of 'busy little bees.'

A new tactic we would like to try this year is to have interested individuals 'shadow' those who are heavily involved with the events/projects. It is hoped this will encourage participation - to know that things are not as daunting as they seem, and there is always support. This will allow those who have been chairs/leads involved in the events/projects for years, to step back and enjoy the event themselves if they so choose.

So...what has been going on so far? There has been a meeting earlier this month to brainstorm ideas for the Symposium, scheduled for February 2026 - a theme, location, etc. Janette Everhart volunteered to chair the event but would appreciate a co-chair. Anyone interested? Lenora Larson provided a 'history' of the past Symposiums--a list of the themes, speakers, locations, etc.--which proved very helpful. We try not to duplicate. Speaking of location...does anyone have suggestions for a location--a place that would accommodate a *large* group? Say, 200-275 people? All suggestions are welcome. A meeting date (TBD) will be scheduled for the first week of March.

Seeds for Kids...Meetings are scheduled. See a comment on the next page and the meeting dates on the calendar page.

Committees**Courthouse Garden**

Phyllis Benedict

Trial GardenDennise Fink-Morse,
Chet McLaughlin, Shirley New,**KSU Extension Office Garden**

Deb Kitchell

Linn County Courthouse GardenTheresa Barr,
Monica Chapman-Pickett**Advanced Training**Stacey Campbell &
Stephanie Myers**Awards Banquet**Donna Cook, Betsy Hasselquist,
Susan Thompson**Symposium - 2024**

Janette Everhart

Plant SaleSue Burns, Lynn Campbell,
Lenora Larson**Garden Tour (2025)**

Susan Rodgers

Seeds for KidsBetsy Hasselquist &
Helen Kloepper**Miami County Fair**Dennise Fink-Morse, Hort. Supt.
Betsy Hasselquist, Seeds4Kids
Supt.
Bill Vandeberg, Flori. Supt.**New Recruits/Mentors**

Rena Tedrow

Other**Publicity**

Lenora Larson

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.

CPR Class...

The recent class was attended by 5 people. If anyone would like to attend another class, please contact Carol so she can schedule another session. Call or text Carol Vandenberg, 913-406-6303 or email kansaswego@yahoo.com.

‘Works in Progress’...

It won't be long before we will all be starting the work in each of the gardens. The chairs for each of the gardens will be reporting the first dates to begin work for their respective gardens soon. The first report for a workday is for the Linn Co. Courthouse. It is scheduled for March 4th at 8a. Contact Monica or Theresa for more information.

Seeds for Kids

Last year 400 packets were distributed throughout Miami and Linn County locations for children in hopes they would enter their plants in the Miami County Fair. There were 100 entries at the fair last year! This year they are upping the game and doing MORE packets! See the Calendar page for additional information regarding upcoming meetings.

**Correction... (from Rena)**

Last month this photo was included to introduce the 2025 Rookie class. Through a comedy of errors, Terri's name was missing. It was pointed out; the correction made [multiple times]. When the final version was distributed, I saw her name still missing and couldn't figure out why. I sent Terri an email and apologized--right after figuring out what happened. 🙄



L to R: Krystal Barr, Molly Mead, Terri Seyl, Laura Hull, Shelly Pappan, Audrey Morris (hiding), Diane Michuda, Matt Fineout, Scott Shappell

► **Upcoming classes on the AT Calendar**

Be sure to check the AT calendar for upcoming classes that might require a quick RSVP if you plan to attend. You will find one such class on the 20th that needs an RSVP by the 18th. This was a last minute add to the calendar.

► **Seeds for Kids**

A planning meeting is scheduled for February 18th, 10:00a at the Extension office. The 'packet packing' day is scheduled for March 10th, 1:00p at the Extension office. This year, 500 packets will be assembled. And here's to hoping we don't run out and have to assemble packets again.

► **Annual Plant Sale**

Plans continue for this year's plant sale. Mark your calendars for April--it will be a busy month! The set-up day is April 23rd from 9a-3:00p. The sale takes place on Thurs, April 24th (9a-5p), Fri, April 25th (9a-6p) and Sat April 26th from 9a-3p. Additional meeting times for training for various tasks, etc. will be added later. See page 6 for updates.

► **Ideas for AT for 2025?**

Do you have ideas for Advanced Training (AT) for this year? Call or drop Stacie Campbell and Stephanie Myers an email with your suggestion(s).

► **Extension office will be closed on Monday, February 17th in observance of President's Day..**

► **Next Board meeting...**

March 11th at 9:30a at the Paola Extension office. **All** members are welcome to attend! If you plan to attend, please let one of the board members know. Occasionally, the meetings are conducted via Zoom due to weather, etc. We want to make sure anyone interested in attending are added to the distribution list.

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**FIND THESE
WORDS**

Ladybug	Season
Squash	Vegetable
Hose	Roots
Herbs	Rake
Pots	Grow
Compost	Seeds
Bucket	Heirloom
Onion	Shed
Greenhouse	Spinach
Flowers	Fruit

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
Feb	20	8:30a-10:00a	1	Companion Planning Pairing mutually beneficial plants to manage grow space, pests, disease and soil health	Anthony Reardon, K-St. Horticulture, Small Farms Agent	Casa Somerset Bed & Breakfast 16315 W. 287th St. Paola, KS RSVP BY FEB 18TH to info@miamicountycd.com
Mar	8	5:00p-6:00p	1	Idalia Butterfly Society Meeting: Container Gardening with Native Plants	Michelle Livergood Carole Tomlinson	Matt Ross Community Center 8101 Marty, Overland Park KS
Mar	22	9a - 3:15p	4? Check with Katelyn	Gardening for You, Family and Friends	3 speakers, 4 presentations See website gardenersconnect.org	Rockhurst University Campus, Science Center Bldg. 515 54th & Troost entrance - KCMO Register at gardenersconnect.org \$99 registration fee
Jun	3rd or 17th	Late afternoon	TBD	Spring Butterfly Garden visit	Lynn Fogle former JoCo EMG	Lynn Fogle's garden 15192 W. 335th St., Paola (Note: this may be a social event depending on educational content)
MdC Training Hours			Other training hours		Red text denotes new training added or updated info.	



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.** <https://hnr.k-state.edu/extension/consumer-horticulture/garden-hour/>.

Mar 5 - Establishing a Native Prairie Stand at Home * Apr 2 - Methods to Increasing Vegetable Yield

Past recordings are available on the website.

Deep Roots Native Plant Webinars - Lunch and Learn, 12p - every 1st Thursday of the month.

Native Plants at Noon, 12:00p - every 3rd Thursday.

Feb 20 Habitat Restoration @ Dillon Farm with Habitat Architects * Mar 6 - Green Roof Gardens, Part I

Register for both webinars at deeproots.org (past recordings available on website)

Learn from my mistake(s)....

by Rena Tedrow

Part of each EMG member's duties includes reporting their hours online. Your best bet is to establish a routine/schedule for this task. Trust me, you do not want to be doing this last minute in December. I speak from experience.

Last year, I made a concerted effort to add my hours on the last day of each month--for the most part I did thru May. Then I got lazy and chose to 'calendar' things in Outlook. Fast forward to November - my subscription to MS365 was up for renewal. This...just happened to be one of two sites that I had forgotten to change my payment info. The subscription had been expired for 2 whole days. Care to guess what happened...?

I should have known better due to a past experience. I do not use *the cloud*--it's just a 'me' thing. When you do not use the cloud, MS does not save your information--and maybe not your programs. This was the second time this happened. The first time, after MS went to a subscription, similar situation. Five weeks went by before I realized I didn't have the use of any programs. I updated the payment info and then had to download all of the MS programs I used--Word, Excel, Outlook, PPT, etc. When I got to Outlook--that was my shock. I'd lost everything was saved there--contacts names, email addresses, mailing addresses, some emails, some folders...and everything that was in my calendar. Although I caught it sooner this time and did not lose the programs, I had the same result with Outlook--I lost anything calendared for the year. It only upset me because I'd lost all of my EMG hours.

Once I realized my dilemma I backtracked emails, newsletters, FB chat msgs--to figure out what I'd done and when. Thankfully, I had not deleted anything. It took me 5 weeks to sort all of this out and I'm sure I missed several hours. I barely got everything entered--I think my last entry was on either Dec. 30th or 31st.

Establish a practice where you routinely enter your hours whether it is weekly, monthly or right after you've done something. Don't be a Rena and 'think' your information can't be/won't be lost--again.



I'm using a Franklin planner again--a 'thing' from the 90s. I'm also fortunate to have a friend who gives me something (humorous) at Christmas that I can use. This past Christmas...she gave me a 'paper' calendar. Little did she know.

Need instructions or a refresher to report hours? Go to

<https://www.maraisdescygn.es.k-state.edu/lawn-garden/emg-member-information/index.html>. Under 'Forms & Other Info' select the 'Refresher Guide for Online Reporting of Yearly EMG Hours'.

LOGIN TO REPORTING SYSTEM

K-STATE
Research and Extension
Master Gardener

Submit your username and password to access the KSU EMG VRS. Use the "Forgot Your Password?" link below to reset your password.

Username

Password

[Forgot Your Password?](#)
[Forgot Your Username?](#)
[Create Account](#)
[Get Help](#)
[Home Page](#)

2025 Plant Sale Update - Lenor Larson, Co-chair

Set-up: April 23rd, Sale 24th - 26th, MiCo Fairgrounds, 401 Wallace Park Dr., Paola, Bldg #2

Planning the 2025 Plant Sale by the 3 Co-chairs (Lenora, Lynn Campbell and Sue Burns) continues on track. Rena has finished the ad and the flier. We are feeling very grown-up because Rena included QR codes with directions and maps! See the flyer on page 10.

Logistics

A major remaining task is finalizing the table layout, which Rena is drawing. We also plan to re-design the tally cards, increasing the size from 1/4 page to 1/2 page and including more detail about the pricing. This should make totaling each sale easier for our customers and cashiers.

Lynn is arranging for pickup of our tables, which are being stored at Billie's, Chet's and Shirley's. We will need help, i.e., EMGs with SUVs, early Wednesday morning to transport our supplies stored at the Extension Office. This includes "the Lucy Booth", signs, Pot/Pricing Displays and items like carts and shelves. We'll also need some volunteers to place our road signs and banners on Wednesday. These tasks will be on Sign-up Genius in addition to the shifts during the 3 days and the Saturday afternoon inventory and clean-up. The Plant Sale is "all-hands on deck ", but it is so much fun!

Marketing:

The March Ad and Article have been sent to Kansas City Gardener. Katelyn will be emailing the flier to other EMG Programs and I'll email it to area garden clubs. We'll also organize volunteers to drop off fliers to MiCo and LnCo businesses. We encourage each of you to email our flier to all your friends and family!

Rena is posting on our Facebook page. PLEASE, follow us the page if you haven't already - <https://www.facebook.com/mdcemg> and share each time Rena posts. Katelyn has added the information to the website: <http://www.maraisdescygnnes.ksu.edu>. Scroll down & select the 'Lawn & Garden' option - it will take you to a list and you will see a link for the 'MdC Gardeners on Facebook' that takes you to the FB page.

Do you have ideas for other Outreach sources for marketing? We'd love to hear from you!

Plant Ambassadors

The Plant Ambassadors have the 2025 "Tentative" list - it's very impressive with over 1,000 kinds of plants! Contact them if you have questions about any particular type of plant.

On the next page you will find the plant groups and their Ambassadors.



PLANT GROUPS AND AMBASSADORS

Group #	Page #	Description	# Types*	Plant Ambassador(s)
1	1	Pollinator Flowers Natives & Ornamentals	28	Scott Catton
2	2	Shade Native & Ornamental	44	Debbie Kitchell
3	3	Butterfly Hosts (Not just Milkweed!)	40	Lenora Larson Janette Bennett
4	5	Herbs Culinary & Medicinal	40	Audrey Morris
5	6	Prairie Natives Perennials	53	Susan Rodgers
6	8	Ornamentals - Sun Perennials	48	Krystal Barr Terri Seyl
7	11	Annuals - Sun Dahlias, Geraniums, etc.	46	Laura Hull
8	12	Hanging Baskets Floral Patio Pots	2	Bill Vandenberg (Lucky Bill, LOL!)
9	12	Tropicals Coleus, Impatiens, etc.	22	Monica Chapman-Pickett
10	14	Vegetables Esp. Tomatoes & Peppers	28	Chet McLaughlin Denise Fink-Morse
11	15	Succulents	8	Natalie Hartig
12	15	Ornamental Grasses	8	Natalie Hartig
13	16	Fruit Berries & Trees	28	Diane Michuda
14	17	Woodies Trees & Shrubs	23	Betsy Hasselquist

* Types could mean different species or varieties or hybrids of kind of containers

Next Steps

- Once Rena has completed the table set-up it will be shared so we can begin familiarizing ourselves with the layout
- We'll determine training needs for our Plant Ambassadors, Cashiers and other helpers
- Sign-up Genius staffing will begin in March
- Training will be scheduled by mid-April for all volunteers, especially the cashiers and PAs

Plant Sale Hotties.....

Lenora Larson

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. For more information and additional photographs, Google the plant or click on the Plants Section in the Vinland Valley Nursery website - <https://vinlandvalleynursery.com/>.

GROUP 6 - ORNAMENTAL SUN-LOVING PERENNIALS...

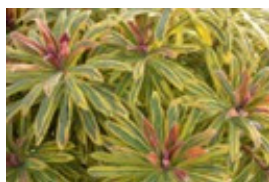
Ornamental perennials are still the most favored plants in horticulture because they have been selected and bred to fulfill gardeners' demands for beauty. Arguably, these are the best plants collected from around the world and many have been "improved" by hybridization. But success depends on our EMG mantra, "right plant, right place". Plant Ambassador Krystal Barr has focused on ornamentals for years as she downsized her lawns and created her first gardens in Lenexa. After much consideration, Kystal finally settled on three of her favorites, and one that she plans to try.

Sedum 'Lime Zinger' forms a thick ground cover 5" tall and spreading to 18" that acts as a "green mulch", blocking weed growth. This hybrid's light green succulent foliage is edged in red and pollinators flock to the umbels of light pink flowers that bloom in August. In full sun and well-draining soil, it flourishes along edges, in rock gardens and even in containers.



Joe-Pye Weed 'Baby Joe' *Eutrochium (Eupatorium) maulatum (dubium)*. In my garden, this would be considered a native plant! However, it is a patent-protected hybrid that doesn't come true from seed. Its native parent grows up to 8 feet while this dwarf remains 2 to 3 feet tall. Requirements include full sun and moist soil. The rose-lavender umbels bloom in late summer to the delight of pollinators.

Coreopsis verticillata 'Crazy Cayenne' is another hybrid of a native species, part of the 'Sizzle & Spice TM' series. It is shorter and more compact than the species and flaunts fiery orange flowers in early to late summer. Bees and Butterflies flock to the blooms, while deer usually avoid. Note that hybrids are not necessarily sterile and since they have been bred to have larger flowers and longer bloom-periods, pollinators may even prefer a hybrid over the original species!



Euphorbia X martini 'Ascot Rainbow' is another drought and heat-tolerant member of the ubiquitous Euphorbia family with glowing variegated yellow and pink bracts on 18" stems. This hybrid is at the top of Krystal's shopping list as a new experiment. I've grown it for years, both in the ground and gracing containers. Hardy in our zone 6b winter, it must have well-drained soil or may succumb to root-rot. Mine is spending the winter indoors with only an occasional light sprinkle of water.

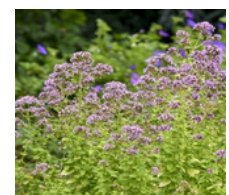
AMY'S CHOICES...

Vinland Valley Nursery is well-known for its inventory of natives, but ornamentals are still the most popular plants. Amy has chosen two of her favorites and pollinators agree.



Centaurea montana 'Mountain Bluet', native to Europe, is the perennial Cornflower, also known as Bachelor's Button. It blooms from May to August in full sun on 18 to 24" stems. Many consider it invasive since it enthusiastically self-seeds and forms colonies, which is perfect for a meadow. Deadhead if you wish good behavior in your garden.

Origanum 'Drops of Jupiter,' an ornamental hybrid oregano, grows 10" tall and up to 24" wide, forming a purple-flowered mat of chartreuse foliage. Like other oreganos, full sun and well-draining soil are mandatory for these Mediterranean natives. The fragrant leaves are edible but too bland to be useful as an herb. Grow for its beauty and pleasing the pollinators.



Our Plant Sale Vendor: Vinland Valley Nursery Lenora Larson



Vinland Valley Nursery in Baldwin City is owned and operated by Amy Albright and her husband Doug Davidson. Our former EMGs Judy Moser and Ken O'Dell helped Amy and Doug to establish their Douglas County nursery in 1998. Subsequently the MiCo/MdC EMGs purchased their plants on consignment for our annual Plant Sale through Ken O'Dell. When Ken retired in 2014, we began buying our plants directly from Vinland. Like her mother Judy, Amy is a graphic designer and “plant whisperer,” who is able to coax life from the smallest seeds and wispiest seedlings. Vinland Valley is a true family business with all three daughters and their significant others plus other employees with over 20 years-experience.

Vinland Valley takes pride in their wide selection of plants grown without the use of pesticides, visible proof that you don't have to resort to chemical warfare to grow beautiful, healthy plants. While they are well-known for their huge inventory of native prairie perennials, they grow a complete range of nursery plants including sun-loving ornamental perennials and annuals as well as shade-loving hostas, heuchera and ferns plus woodland spring flowers. They also offer annual bedding plants in flats, pots and hanging baskets. Their wide selection of succulents and tropicals can create an exotic look in your garden. Herbs and selected veggie seedlings, again grown without pesticides, are provided for the discriminating vegetable gardener. Trees and shrubs include edible fruit trees and berry bushes as well as native and ornamental woody plants and ornamental grasses for landscaping. The Vinland Valley staff offer their customers extensive expertise in selecting and growing plants. We take advantage of this expertise to select the plants that we offer to our customers.



Amy has been a wildlife gardener for over twenty years. As a result, Vinland Valley grows hundreds of host plants for butterflies and other invertebrates as well as plants that provide food and shelter to wildlife, such as birds. Vinland Valley enthusiastically participates in area master gardener and extension events and seeks input from organizations like Monarch Watch for best practices on selecting and growing plants. The current interest in pollinators has made it possible for them to continue increasing their diversity of pollinator garden offerings. They also offer horticultural workshops, which Katelyn has been approving as Advanced Trainings, including classes on Seed-starting, Landscape Design and Nursery Plant Shopping.

Many of us drive to the Baldwin nursery year-round. The pottery barn is filled with terra cotta and ceramic pots as well as seeds, tools, gardening supplies and books. Mulch, compost, and topsoil are available for pickup or delivery. Vinland Valley also provides landscape design, planting and gardening maintenance services! Vinland is truly a full-service operation, owned and staffed by knowledgeable and caring people. We are proud that Vinland Valley Nursery is our Plant Sale partner.



During our plant sale, Vinland Valley will be delivering multiple truckloads of plants to us on April 23rd and will support our sale through Saturday the 26th.



NEW
LOCATION!!

**Miami County Fairgrounds
Building #2**

401 Wallace Park Dr. 🌸 Paola, KS 66071

INDOOR
SHOPPING!!

Pesticide-free and Locally Grown

🦋 Butterfly host plants 🌸 Native plants 🌸 Annuals
🐝 Pollinator flowers 🌿 Herbs 🌻 Perennials 🌳 Trees
🧺 Hanging baskets 🍇 Veggies & berries
🌵 Succulents

Cash, Credit Cards and Checks accepted

Scan here



for driving directions

For additional information call 913-294-4306

visit www.maraisdescyignes.ksu.edu

or follow us on www.facebook.com/mdcemg

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