



K-STATE

Research and Extension
Master Gardener

What's Growing On . . .

The latest news from the
Marais des Cygnes Extension Master Gardeners

APRIL 2023
www.maraisdescygn.es.ksu.edu

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- News and Notes 2
- Calendar page 2
- Plant Sale page 3
- Barn Quilt Class 4 and 5
- Seeds for Kids, Garden Tour and Hot Line page 6
- Spot Light page 7
- AT Schedule page 8

2nd QTR Meeting Pot Luck

By Anita Boyett-Voke

After eating and visiting, the meeting was called to order at 6:30. Many items were reported on from the Treasurer's Report, Ag Agents Report, Hotline, Symposium and Garden Tour, (we agreed to start doing these in alternating years beginning in 2024). We also reported on Seeds for Kids, New Class, Community Projects, Garden Tour, AT Training and of course our up and coming Plant Sale.

It appeared everyone had a great time, thank you to all of the members who attended. A reminder that all members are welcome to attend board meetings. We are looking for someone to chair our 2024 Symposium. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 and Becky T. held a meeting with some of the members on short term community projects immediately following the general meeting. It was wonderful to see so many happy faces.

It appeared everyone had a great

The Newsletter deadline is Noon on Thursday following the Tuesday Board meetings.

On Tuesday, April 11th, immediately following the board meeting, members met at the Extension Office for the 2nd QTR General meeting, this was a pot luck meeting. Boy did we have some good luck!! Members brought in some wonderful dishes and desserts to share along with several recipes (yeah to our pending cookbook – I was doing the happy dance) and the MdC provided fried chicken from our local Price Chopper. In addition to the recipes members brought, d Brown gifted me with a copy of a cookbook that members did in 2005! Thank you d Brown!!



Photos by Anita BV.



Advisory Board

Chairman — Jan Thompson

Vice Chairman — Janette Everhart

Secretary – Anita Boyett-Voke

Treasurer – Billie Lenz

Members at Large

Helen Kloepper

Barbara Shropshire

Vickie Vetter-Scruggs

Committees

Courthouse Garden

Phyllis Benedict &

Helen Kloepper

Trial Garden

Shirley New & Chet McLaughlin

KSU Extension Office Garden

Sue Burns

Advanced Training

Barbara Shropshire

Awards Banquet

Donna Cook, Susan Thompson &

Betsy Hasselquist

Symposium 2024

YOUR NAME HERE

Plant Sale 2022

Sue Burns, Stacie Campbell

& Lenora Larson

Garden Tour

Helen Kloepper

Publicity

Lenora Larson

Seeds for Kids

Betsy Hasselquist

Social Media/Newsletter

Anita Boyett-Voke

Miami County Fair

Chet McLaughlin & Sue Burns

New Recruits/Mentors

Becky Thorpe

Newspaper Articles

Katelyn Barthol,

Extension Agent

Send news and photos to:

Anita Boyett-Voke,

Newsletter Editor

abvoke@yahoo.com

● Save **your boxes** for the plant sale. We always need lots of boxes for all the plants our customers buy at our sale. The liquor store “flats” are a perfect size so please collect. If you have an excess they can be kept at the Paola Mini Storage across from the extension office in unit 4F (it’s never locked).

● For the first time, we will offer **free gardening books** to our plant sale customers. Look thru your collection of gardening books that you no longer use and add them to our offer. Books will be found in the “Lucy Booth”. The books that are left will be donated.

● Want to let our EMG members know that **Ken O’Dell** has moved to Memphis to live with his children as his health has declined. Ken is an emeritus honorary Marais des Cygnes master gardener and was our plant sale organizer from 2006 to 2014.

● **Hotline sign-ups are needed!** Please sign up for a 4 hour shift. The link is: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090d49abac22a6f58-20231#/>

● A big thank you for the continued work on the **2 spirit poles**. Staci and Patty have taken the poles to their homes to prime, draw and paint the designs. One pole will be given to the International Master Gardener Conference (IMGC) for auction and the 2nd pole will be kept for the Marais des Cygnes Master Gardeners. The Paola Community Garden where our trial garden is located is a suggested site for our spirit pole.

● **Seeds for Kids** is in full swing. The committee has put together a total of 500 packets of 4 different types of seeds to hand out to children to help

promote their love for gardening. Seeds can be found at the local public libraries as well as the Paola and Mound City offices and will be offered at our plant sale.

● Updated **EMG application forms** will be available around the first week of May. If you know of someone that may be interested in joining the Marais des Cygnes Master Gardeners, please let them know that applications are accepted from May thru July.

● We are needing a chair or co-chairs for our **2024 Symposium**. If you are interested, please let Jan T. know. Symposium will be held every other year . . . 2024, 2026, etc.

● A huge thank you to all the EMG members that signed up for the plant sale! **What a great group of volunteers!**

● The Board voted to add a line item to the **Garden Tour budget for \$3,000**. Many organizations are asking for donations from our local businesses. As we are having difficulty obtaining donations and with our treasury at its current level, the Board approved to allocate to the tour.

● **Becky T. and the short-term community project team** continues to move forward with several community projects. They will be planting a combination of flowers and vegetables in raised beds and planters at Vintage Parks located in Paola, Osawatomie, and Louisburg as well as the Paola Senior Center. Looking forward to seeing the pictures!

● **Courthouse Garden Spring clean-up work continues.** Volunteers are always welcome to come help every Wednesday morning.



CALENDAR

April 18 – Sustainable Gardening to Reduce Food Costs

April 18 – Louisburg Earth Day for all 5th Graders– Seeds for Kids

April 20 – Paola Earth Day for all 5th Graders – Seeds for Kids

April 24 – Seeds for Kids Presentation at Louisburg Elementary Schools

April 25 – Gardening as We Age

April 26 – EMG Plant Sale Set Up

April 27-29 – EMG Plant Sale

May 3 – K-State Webinar – Drought Tolerant Plants

May 11 – Thinking Outside the Arbor: Clematis Varieties, Uses and Care

The 2023 Advanced Training schedule is on page 7. Please see the schedule for details on each opportunity. Watch for new programs as they are added.

Plant Sale Report

By Lenora Larson

On April 4th, an enthusiastic crowd of EMG plant sellers filled the large meeting room at the Extension Office! Our last meeting before the Plant Sale was brought to order by Co-chair Sue Burns, who announced that all staffing shifts have been filled on Sign-up Genius, including the critical cashier spots. **THANK YOU!** Co-chair Stacie Campbell assured us that the checkout process is **EASY**, especially for credit cards, so training will be provided just before your shift begins. This is the first year that we have had a Kansas Sales Tax number (**HUGE GRATITUDE TO BOB BURNS**, who spent months researching the process for a special use sales tax #). Finally, the customer will be paying the tax (not us out of our profits), but this does mean our cashiers will be calculating tax and making change. Fortunately, most of our customers pay by check or credit card so our cashiers won't have to handle many pennies, nickels and dimes.

Wednesday, April 26th starts the festivities with a **9:00 am set-up in the Extension parking lot**. (Mr. Electric has kindly agreed to park their trucks elsewhere for the four days. Sue bribed them with the offer of a planter for their office.) Please arrive at 9:00 am. We have over 70 tables and two large tents to set up, using the diagram that Anita Boyett-Voke created with feedback from our vendor VVN (Vinland Valley Nursery). We will have laminated copies of this diagram to ensure that the carefully planned design is executed, AND we will be using our **new** plant signs, created by VVN's sign-maker. They are **GORGEOUS** and will make finding plants so much easier.

VVN has rented two box trucks for deliveries. The first, tentatively, should arrive about 10:30 am. We will be unloading 752 flats plus 45 hanging baskets and 35 trees. Yikes! Old timers will remember that in the past we spent the entire sale searching for missing inventory! But we will unload using the system we perfected last year. I will act as truck monitor and direct each flat carrier to the correct table. Fast and efficient. The second round of trucks should arrive by 2:00 pm. For overnight, hanging baskets and patio pots will be placed in Sue's trailer and flats will be placed on the ground under their respective tables. The sheriff's office will be notified and is expected to provide extra vigilance for the duration of the sale. Who would steal a plant? That is **LOW!**

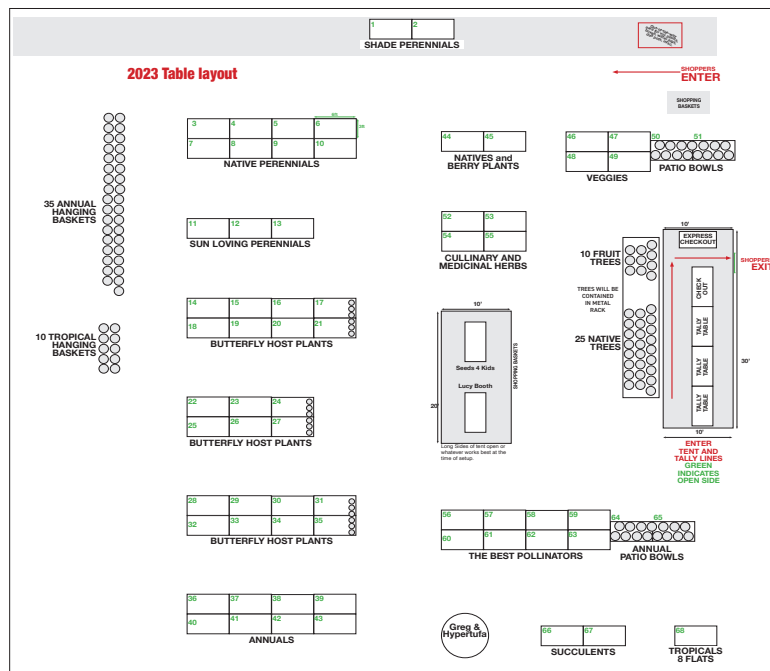
The sale opens 9:00 am Thursday and continues on Friday and half-day Saturday. **NO** advance sales, **but our Mdc EMGs will receive a 10% discount on plants sold from 11 am to 1 pm closing on Saturday!** Please arrive at 8:30 am if you are in the first shift each morning to help move flats up to their tables and water if needed. Sue will bring a water tank in her truck. We will be offering about 450 species of plants. Another

Yikes! The new signs will help and several sets of the laminated 9-page inventory list will be at the Lucy Booth. Please familiarize yourself with the plant availability before your shift begins. A *"Price by Pot-type"* will be displayed on 6 posters scattered throughout the area and checkout, which will be under a tent, with two lanes for order-holding tables. Tally sheet(s) will be filled out by the cashier or helper for each order. Tom Dela Cruz is again collecting cardboard boxes. *We always run out, so please bring beer flats from home!* A second tent will protect the "services" area with Seeds for Kids, the Lucy Information Booth and our new feature, a table of **FREE, USED GARDENING BOOKS**. Empty your book shelves and bring gardening books you no longer use. Also, Greg Beverlin will again be stationed by the succulents to sell his hypertufa containers and schedule classes. This is his sale, separate from our cashiers.

Co-chair Lenora provided an update on marketing, which has included ads and articles in Kansas City Gardening, notifications in the JOCO EMG Newsletter, Gardeners Connect, Idalia Butterfly Society and Kansas Native Plant Society. Katelyn emailed our flier to surrounding EMG programs. Sue organized the team to place fliers as follows:

- Susan Thompson – Gardener
- Patty Trull – Osawatomie
- Sondra Dela Cruz – LaCygne
- Theresa Barr – Mound City
- Billie Lenz – Louisburg
- Connie Murphy – Spring Hill
- Carol Vandenberg – Paola
- Anita is ramping up Facebook activity with weekly notifications. Please share on your F/B page each week!!!!

We are ready for the best Plant Sale ever! Now, it's in Mother Nature's hands. Could we please have four days of perfect weather?!



Barn Quilt Class

By Anita Boyett-Voke

On April 13th several of the MdC EMGs traveled south to the Dela Cruz farm for a class on painting barn quilts. Barn Quilt? Nope, it's not something that will keep you warm at night.

Members met at the extension office in Paola at 8:00 am with supplies in hand to carpool. Those in attendance were, Phyllis Benedict, Anita Boyett-Voke, Betsy Hasselquist, Helen Kloepper, Billie Lenz, Barb Shropshire, Rena Tedrow, Jan Thompson, Patty Trull, and Carol Vandenberg. It was a full house, or rather barn!

Sondra Dela Cruz was kind enough to host a most educational event for the MdC members. We were excited to learn how to paint barn quilt patterns.

Barn Quilts are geometric shapes (aka: quilting patterns) that are painted on wood and hung on the exterior of buildings. Typically you see them on barns, however they are also hung on homes, or *IN* homes, on cabins, stores, where ever you want to display the art. They can be in different sizes, from large to small, what ever your space will allow. Sondra has a "box" on display by her front porch (sorry I didn't get a picture) it has designs on all sides. How cute!!

Sondra, along with Dorris McElreath purchased, cut, and primed MDO boards for the class in advance. They did a lot of the preliminary work for us, how generous. They had tables with the boards on them already organized when we arrived, chairs for us to take a break, extension cords for hair dryers for drying the paint and

continued on page 5



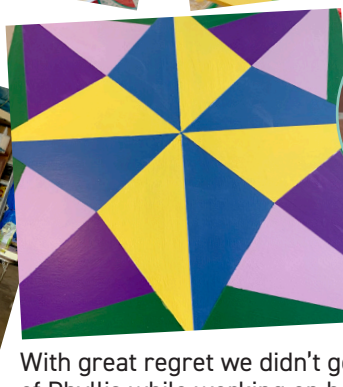
Pictures by Jan T. and Anita BV.

Barn Quilt Class *Continued*

even paper towels at each table for our messes. Everything was inside one of the barns and out of the sun. We had beautiful weather! We were given a list of supplies in advance to bring as well.

Sondra and Dorris, with their years of experience, educated and assisted all of us! They shared tips and tricks on how accomplish our goal. They also shared with us several of the designs they had done and I'm pretty sure they inspired us all to do more. We had a lot of fun, shared pizza and some desserts during a lunch break and then back to working on our project. (Tom even made an occasional appearance!) At the end of the day with feet aching, backs complaining and happy faces, I think we all did a great job and couldn't have done it with out Sondra and Dorris encouraging us along.

A **BIG THANK YOU** to both ladies. I believe we can officially call our selves barn buddies!!



With great regret we didn't get a picture of Phyllis while working on her project!

Pictures by Tom DC., Carol V.



Garden Tour

By Helen Kloeppe

Hello fellow gardeners!

The Marais Des Cygnes Master Gardeners 2023 Garden Tour will be this September 8th and 9th. We are very pleased with our gardens. We have five very different and interesting gardens and we are also featuring our own Paola Courthouse Garden making a total of six gardens on the tour.

I am hoping you can help us locate businesses you know that would be interested in becoming a Sponsor or Patron. (This would be a great help!)

Patrons donating \$350.00 or more will be featured at one of our gardens where they are welcome to feature, advertise or display their product(s) as well as provide brochures to entice people to drop by their business.

Their logo will be promoted in our advertising online, on each ticket and posted at ALL the gardens as well as on the garden brochure.

Sponsors are donors at the \$250.00 level. The sponsorship will be acknowledged online, on each ticket and posted at each garden.

Of course, donations are always welcomed and appreciated.

If you know of anyone, please contact us!

Helen Kloeppe: hkloeppe@me.com

Carol Vandenberg:

kansaswego@yahoo.com

We are looking forward to having a "September to Remember!"

Seeds for Kids

By Betsy Hasselquist



The Seeds for Kids Program continues to expand. Goals include increasing seed packet distribution and participation in the MI CO Fair, providing education and promoting the love of gardening.

Free seed packets of marigolds, sunflowers, zinnias and zucchinis with instructions are available to kids 18 years old and younger at our plant sale, local city libraries and the Paola and Mound City Extension Offices. We hope to give away 500 packets.

Educational outreach continues to expand to include Louisburg Elementary schools, Earth Day events for Louisburg, Paola and Osawatomie 5th graders, city libraries, home school programs, farmers markets and our plant sale.

Thanks to all EMGs who have worked to make this program a success- obtaining seeds, packaging, establishing educational presentation guidelines and providing programs, marketing.

TRI-STAR SEED COMPANY in Spring Hill again donated seeds. Who knew zucchini seeds would be so hard to get this season. We switched to paper seed packets to be more environmentally conscious and the paper packets were actually easier to use. Nancy K. made an entry form box to use at the plant sale so forms won't get blown away this year.

ANY child can enter their flowers and zucchini in the MI CO Fair.

Help spread the word to help kids learn about the benefits of gardening!!!



Pictures by Betsy H.

Hot Line

By Jan Thompson

It's that time of year! Hotline hours are from 8-12 every Thursday morning until October. We would like all EMG members to sign up for a minimum of 4 hours. The sessions are 2 hours each. It's a perfect time for mentors and their mentees sign up together!

We receive telephone calls as well as walk-ins to the Paola extension office. This is a community service that is highly encouraged by K-State Extension, and we need to provide as much support as possible. There are a multitude of reference materials available in the volunteer room for you to provide the research-based information.

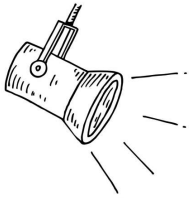
Thank you for signing up!!

Link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090d49abac22a6f58-20231#/>



Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party!'

—ROBIN WILLIAMS



Garden Spotlight

By Anita Boyett-Voke

Spring has Sprung!! This month we are again featuring photos from several of our MdC EMG members. Last month we took a peek at spring, this month we wanted you to enjoy the full beauty nature offers early in the season.

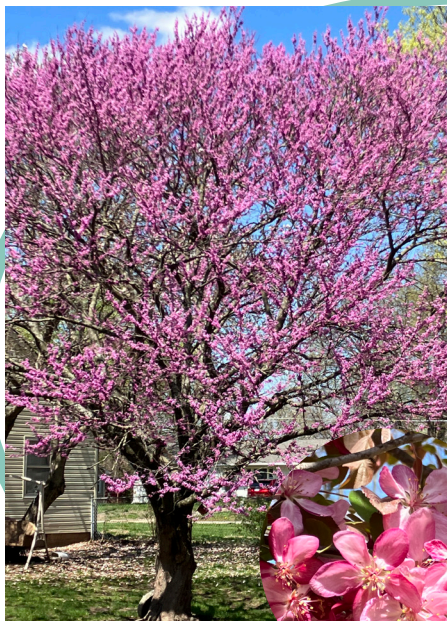
From flowering trees, to a variety of plants in full bloom and vegetables being planted, it's so nice to get outside and hear the birds and other creatures announcing the arrival of spring.

We also would like to encourage all of our members to submit their gardens for our spotlight. We want to share both your successes, failures, tips and tricks. All are welcome to submit a short article and photos. Don't be shy!!

Enjoy the pictures!!



Photos by Jan T.



Photos by Betsy H.



Photos by Anita BV.



Photos by Janette B.



2023 Marais des Cygnes Extension Master Gardener Advanced Training

Please note: More training opportunities will be added throughout the year as they are scheduled.

Mo	Date	Time	# Hr	Topic	Speaker	Location
Apr.	18	6:30 PM	1	Sustainable Gardening to Reduce Food Costs	Nancy Chapman, JoCo EMG	MdC Extension Office
Apr.	25	12:00 PM	1	Gardening As We Age	Kevin Nelson, DoCo EMG	Cure of Ars Catholic Church, 9401 Mission Rd., Leawood. Kevin presented at MdC Garden Symposium this year. If you missed his amusing and informative talk, the Leawood Garden Club has arranged him as their speaker.
May	11	11:30 AM	1	Thinking Outside the Arbor: Clematis Varieties, Uses and Care	Linda Beutler, Curator of the Rogerson Clematis Collection at Lusher in Lake Oswego, OR	Zoom - Register at: https://ksu.zoom.us/j/6123456789
May	16	5:00 PM 6:30 PM	1 1	Hydroponics 101: Vegetable Gardening Native Bumble Bee Boxes for Habitat - How to Monitor & Care for the Bees	Scott Catton, MdC EMG	MdC Extension Office Bring your sack lunch and drink
May	25	3:00 PM	1	Tour of Deb Wilson's Amazing Garden - date change due to better bloom time	Deb Wilson	334 E. Grand St., La Cyne Deb will give a tour and talk about the planting and care of iris. A time for socializing and snacks will follow. Rain date will be scheduled if needed.
June	6	10:00 AM	1.5	The Garden Gallery Guided Tour	Marcia Ruse, JoCo EMG	In person walk and talk, JoCo Admin. Office, 119th & Ridgeview Rd., Olathe; a picnic or lunch location afterwards will be planned
June	17, 18	9 AM - 4 PM	6	IMGC Garden Tour	KC meto area	6 gardens, \$45 Tickets may be purchased and more information at: www.johnson.k-state.edu
June	18, 20, 21	7:00 PM	1 per session	IMGC Evening Featured Speakers	6/18 Leigh Hunt, Kew Gardens 6/20 Sarah Dykeman, author 6/21 Dan Hinkley, landscape designer	OP Convention Center, \$49 per session or all 3 for \$109; includes light snacks Tickets may be purchased and more info at: www.johnson.k-state.edu
Aug.	15	6:30 PM	1	Garden Tool Care and Cleaning	Harley Davidson, MdC EMG	Davidson barn

To join **K-State Garden Hour**, 12 PM 1st Wed. of each month. Register here for 2023: <http://hnr.ksu.edu/GardenHour>
 May 3 - Drought Tolerant Plants for a Changing Landscape
 June 7 - Drought Tolerant Lawns of Kansas - Warm Season Turfgrasses
 Lunch and Learn, 12:00 PM, Every 1st Thursday of the month. Native Plants at Noon, 12:00 PM, Every 3rd Thursday. Register for both webinars at deeproots.org

MdC Training Hours	Other Training Hours	Red denotes new training or updated information
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Tuesday, April 18 – 6:30 pm – Sustainable Gardening to Reduce Food Costs.

Nancy Chapman, a Johnson County Exchange Master Gardener will give a presentation on growing your own food.

Raised in Los Angeles, in 1976 Nancy returned to her Kansas roots and received a degree in Agricultural Economics from Kansas State University. She has been an Extension Master Gardener volunteer since 2007 and has also been a member of the EMG Speakers Bureau for over 10 years. She helps steward a Giving Grove fruit tree orchard in Kansas City, Missouri, where orchards are planted in food insecure neighborhoods and the fruit is free to pick.

Growing your own food can be challenging, but with a little knowledge and patience, you'll be rewarded with a bountiful harvest.

Tuesday, May 16 – 5:00 pm – Hydroponics 101: Vegetable Gardening.

MdC Scott Catton will be presenting on hydroponic vegetable gardening and will give us expert tips on doing this from your home.

6:30 pm – Native Bumble Bee Boxes – How to Monitor and Care for the Bees

Scott will explain how to build bumble bee boxes, start a colony and maintain them to increase our environment's pollinators.

Scott is the owner of Bee Wild Seeds. Scott grew up in Canada and experienced many aspects of sustainable living from gardening a 40-acre family plot and helping other agriculture businesses. He is an avid outdoorsman and has respect for the ecosystem, wildlife, and wildflowers as well as alternative growing techniques. His goal is to educate not only future generations, but fellow master gardeners by sharing what he has learned over the years. His motto is: "Saving the planet one pollinator at a time".