



# K-STATE

Research and Extension  
Master Gardener

DECEMBER 2023  
www.maraisdescygn.es.ksu.edu

## What's Growing On . . .

The latest news from the  
Marais des Cygn.es 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 | 913-294-2829

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## Awards Banquet

By: Donna Cook

The upcoming Awards Banquet is January 30, 2024 at the Paola Country Club. Please save the date! The cost of this year's banquet is \$15 for Master Gardener members and that includes the incoming members and \$38 for quests. Our emeritus status members and Katelyn's dinners will be paid for by the Master Gardeners. It will start at 6pm with a cash bar and camaraderie. Dinner is at 6:30pm followed by the meeting and awards presentations starting at 7:15pm. Awards ceremony ending at approximately 8:30pm. Social time following the meeting.

Email invites with menu will be going out the beginning of January.

**PLEASE RSVP  
no later than  
January 15th.**

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

# Great Year for Master Gardeners

By Jan Thompson

Can you believe it! 2023 is almost over! I start thinking of all the educational and community service projects that master gardeners were involved with this past year . . . and **Wow!** It's obvious the Marais des Cygn.es Master Gardeners were a busy group! We should be quite proud of our group and how we truly followed our Mission Statement.

### Special Projects:

We have our annual **Plant Sale** which was a huge success! This event provides an opportunity for all the EMG volunteers to share their knowledge

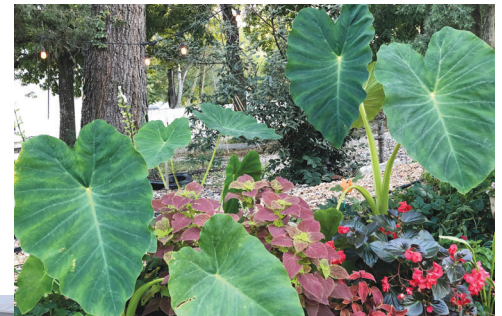


with the community on the locally grown plants as well as a major fund raiser.

Our "**Garden Design with Maintenance in Mind**" Garden Symposium was very well received with a full day of educational sessions. Numerous compliments on the speakers, lunches, and the overall organization of this event were received.



"**A September to Remember**" Garden Tour was held in September with six amazing gardens. The garden tour gives us a chance to showcase the diverse gardens found in Miami County and another educational opportunity.



### Garden Projects:

The **Trial Garden** moved to the Paola Community Garden this year. This move proved to be a fantastic one! A lot of work went into creating this deer-proof, rabbit-proof, weed-free, great soil garden. A great group effort went into the success of the trial garden.



Continued on page 3

### 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

Janette Everhart

#### Plant Sale 2024

Sue Burns, Stacie Campbell  
& Lenora Larson

#### Garden Tour

Helen Kloepper

#### Publicity

Lenora Larson

#### Seeds for Kids

Betsy Hasselquist

#### Social Media/Newsletter

Rena Tedrow

#### Miami County Fair

Chet McLaughlin & ??

#### New Recruits/Mentors

Becky Thorpe

#### Newspaper Articles

Katelyn Barthol,

Extension Agent

#### Send news and photos to:

Rena Tedrow,

Newsletter Editor

wordet01@gmail.com

**NOTE: NEW EMAIL!**

● The **Symposium Committee** is asking for donations of the following size of frames for the table centerpieces: 4x6, 5x7 and 8x10. If you have extra frames, please bring them to the volunteer room at the Paola Extension Office.

● Thank you for your donation to the **Holiday Happiness** project! We collected \$685 and combined with the \$1000 that EMG donated from our budget Billie L. sent checks to the three food pantries to help with those in need.

● Our new class has selected the **Paola Extension office signage area** as their class project. Becky T. will meet with them after the first of the year to begin planning.

● Please note **both MdC Extension offices will be closed** from December 25th thru January 1st.

● Your new **2024 EMG Board officers** are: Chair – Janette E.; Vice Chair – Carol V.; Treasurer – Billie L.; Secretary – tabled until January Board meeting.

● Phyllis and the Courthouse Garden

Committee planted **80 tulip bulbs** this Fall. A beautiful garden to see this Spring!

● Appreciate everyone taking the time to enter their **volunteer hours online!** There is still time to enter if you have not. Deadline is December 31st.

● Be thinking about what **committee(s)** you would like to volunteer to work with for 2024. **Katelyn will be sending out an email in January with the sign-up link.**

● Remember that all articles and pictures for the **EMG Newsletter** should now be sent to **Rena T. at: wordet01@gmail.com.**

● Best wishes for **Anita B-V.** who is leaving us to help take care of her grandchildren. We so appreciate all she's done for the Marais des Cygnes Master Gardeners! We will miss her!

● With regret, we recently accepted the **board resignation** of Vickie V.S.. Vickie has had a lot going on this past year and feels she's not able to give 100%. We wish her a speedy recovery and a better 2024!



## CALENDAR

**Dec 25 – Jan 1 – Extension Office Closed**

**Jan 9th – EMG Board Meeting**

**Dec 31 - Volunteer Hours Due On line**

**Jan 15 – Annual Awards Dinner RSVP due**



## Great Year *Continued*

### Cut Flower Garden

The 2022 New Class made it their class project to start a cut flower garden at the Paola Community Garden. A space was created

next to the trial garden within the fenced area for this project. They selected the flowers they wanted to grow, worked the soil and planted the seeds this

past spring. The flowers flourished and were beautiful. Bouquets were delivered to the local assisted living facilities as well as the extension office. Truly a successful project and happy to say that the cut flower garden is planned for a 2nd year.

### The Miami Courthouse Garden

receives numerous compliments on the beautiful landscaping and plantings. It did have its challenges this year with



areas that ended up being out of reach of the irrigation system. We also placed new plantings at the Courthouse Annex with master gardeners purchasing and planting the bushes with reimbursement from the County.

The Mound City Courthouse area has expanded over the past year with more landscaping



planned for next Spring. Congratulations to the master gardeners for a job well done!

The Extension Office planters and signage area continue to evolve.



### Miami County Fair – Horticulture and Floriculture

This is a fun event held each year in July. The master gardeners help

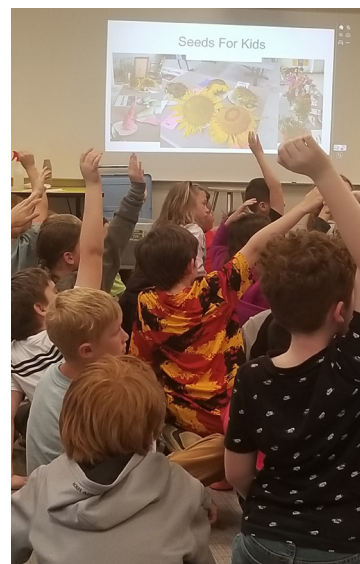
in accepting and processing the open class entries for the horticulture and floriculture departments. We do need more

volunteers for this project, so please consider becoming a volunteer. We would also like to see more EMG entries.

### Seeds for Kids

The Seeds for Kids committee distributed a record number of seed packets to Miami and Linn County children. Presentations

were made at Earth Day celebrations, local libraries and local elementary schools. A record number of entries were brought to the Miami County Fair which was very exciting to see!



### Wreaths for Residents

For the second year, the master gardeners created wreaths for the residents of Vintage Park in Paola. A



total of 40 wreaths were created and delivered. It's obvious we have a

lot of creative people in our group . . . the wreaths were beautiful!

### Holiday Happiness

EMG budgeted for \$1,000 with EMG members donating for a total of \$1685 to be donated



to the 3 area food pantries. Much appreciated by those in need and so glad we can continue this giving project.

### 4-H Scholarship

EMGs again donated \$500 for their scholarships. Helen attended the scholarship presentation last year and enjoyed being a part of the event.

### New Class

Welcome to the new class of five who completed their training recently and thank you for joining. You are encouraged to participate in any of our activities. We look forward to getting to know you!

### Emeritus

Congratulations to Julie Perez and Michael Poss. Thank you for all for your contributions to EMG!

All these activities take numerous volunteer hours, organizational skills, and diligence.

**Huge THANK YOU for ALL you do for the Marais des Cygnes Master Gardeners!!**

*Photos used in this article are from previous newsletters and submitted by several members.*

# Trial Garden Wrap Up

By Dennise Fink-Morse

December 10th at the Jackson Hotel the trial garden group invited all interested in our new location and what improvements we would like to make. There were eleven Master Gardeners and our guest Alexis Shaw, board member of the Paola Community garden. After introductions Alexis gave us a short history of the Paola Community garden. The garden was established but expected by the city to be temporary. The Industrial park development stalled, the garden was allowed to be permanent. The garden was originally started as a learning an opportunity for the Paola Schools. Kid Wind , middle school STEM project building wind turbines was going to be a location of a turbine to help pump water to the gardens in the back area. FFA students were set to collect manure from their animals at school and work on composting kitchen scraps from the schools. The biology department was to take samples from the soil and water from a pond that was to be built, to verify that no chemicals were being used in the garden. Unfortunately COVID interrupted a great work in progress.

We learned that Biochar from Missouri Organics had been applied, Sheds were built and rain water collection was added to the sheds. Engineers were asked how to solve the low area problem with a pond to support watering individual gardens to rely less on city water. It was hoped

that the Paola community garden would be able to write a grant to purchase the building and parking lot adjacent to the garden, allowing for an ADA pathway to be built helping people gain better access to the gardens. Even though the garden is owned by the city, maintenance has been through the help of BJ Johnson, of Shifting Gears, finding lawn care companies to donate their time to mow the grassy areas. There are two permanent gardens within in its boundaries, one is from Alexis' home, and the other is a memorial garden for Regan Johnson, BJ's daughter, who had committed suicide. BJ is looking to make this a Butterfly waystation. Unfortunately the work day for her garden falls on our plant sale weekend.

There are blackberries, grapes and strawberries in the community garden. Our current trial garden is in a spot they had named the GIVING garden an actual vegetable plot that had donated vegetable sprouts planted there and would be harvested and shared with the community. Alexis told us there was a calendar full of events from Artists, sunrise yoga, and writers to bring people to the garden. What a novel concept for gardening bringing community together. Beauty, exercise, and discussion with like minded individuals in our garden. But as Master Gardeners we knew that already.

Wrapping up our Trial garden year,

we had a wonderful harvest and the idea of this meeting was truly to find out what we think needs improved on. A few important Thank you notes to Smiths Appliances for dropping off cardboard. Becky and Vince Thorpe for providing goat manure, and Patty Trull for buying materials to build new larger pepper cages in exchange for our small cages.

***So here is the new idea list to prepare for next year:***

1. Soil Test: Collected 12-12-23 by Dennise and to be paid for out of the Trial garden budget.
2. Set up email system to notify of work days.
3. Compost bins need contents turned over to break down, Harley offered to bring his tractor with bucket.
4. Coffee grounds are now being collected from Scooters and the Jackson Hotel (and possibly Cowboy Coffee shop in Family Center.)
5. Getting cardboard from Beechner Grain (no tape removal!).
6. Contact Evergy about the chipped trees they remove for mulched paths, Chet said he would contact them.
7. The community shed needs organized.
8. Watering system designed: collection of items for drip irrigation.
9. Potential for additional manure donations: Jan T, Lynn C., Dennise's contact for rabbit manure.
10. Help establish new plots for new tenants.
11. A new marking system for the plants. (I have paint markers that I would like to try but if there something else so we can compare. Right now the Sharpie fades in the sun.
12. Other donation sites?

We would love to have more gardeners to join us to marvel at the beauty, exercise our minds and backs, and enjoy lively discussions about our passion for gardening and the community.



Some of the members attending the meeting held at the Jackson Hotel. Photo by Jan T.

# Wreaths for Residents

by Becky Thorpe

Master gardeners are so great and super creative!!

On Thursday, November 30 starting at 9:30, 18 master gardeners met to make 40 wreaths for the residents of the Paola Vintage Park. We also had a cookie exchange and enjoyed cider as well. Wreath making continued to noon with Simple Simon sandwiches provided by the EMG board.

It was a wonderful time of fellowship, exchanging ideas and cookie munching. Special thanks to Rena T. for providing the wreath forms which worked great!! Many thanks to Bille L. and Susan T. for helping to set up on Wednesday the 29th. Also thanks to all master gardeners for donating fabulous wreath making materials.

Wreaths were gently boxed and delivered to the Paola Vintage Park at 1:30 that day. Carol V., Lynn C., and Susan R. assisted with the delivery. Wreaths covered the dining table and hearth area at the assisted living and we were greeted by several residents curious about each gift. It was a wonderful holiday event and we do have an inventory of materials if EMG's wish to do this again.



Photos by  
Becky T.  
and  
Billie L.



Seated, L-R: Becky T., Rena T., Lynn C., Billie L., Lorraine McG., Barb S.,  
Standing, L-R: Susan., Lynn S., Lori H., Betsy H., Stephanie M., Carol W., Cyndi W., Monica C., Carol V,  
(Peeking from behind) Susan R., Theresa B., and Chet McL. (Sorry if I got any names wrong!!)



8th Annual Garden Symposium  
Gardening by Design

# Inspirations: Why Do You Garden?

**February 17th, 2024**

**9:00 to 3:45**

Registration opens at 8:30

**Living Proof Church**

32401 Harmony Rd • Paola, KS 66071

**Tickets are \$45.00 per person.  
Seating is Limited!**

**Pre-registration is required by February 1st**

***This event is open to all!***

The registration fee includes:

A gourmet boxed lunch, snacks, and all  
printed reference materials.

**Register on line at:**

**<https://tinyurl.com/2024MdCEMGSymposium>**

**Payment can be made on line or by check.**

(Please see details at time of registration.)

Driving directions available on registration page.

**MdC EMGs receive 5 hours AT credit.**

**Other EMGs: Please ask your County Agent if AT credit  
is approved.**

**For more information call 913-294-4306.**

**You can also find the link on our Facebook  
page at:**

**[www.facebook.com/mdcemg](http://www.facebook.com/mdcemg)**

*Presented by:*

**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension

Master Gardener  
Marais des Cygnes District



**For the Love of  
Growing Food**

**Jennifer Stefanchik**  
Johnson CO EMG

How to maximize backyard  
food production, including  
vegetables, herbs and fruits.



**Beauty is in the Eye  
of the Gardener**

**Kathi Mecham**

MU Horticulture Agent  
How to plan, design and  
build a beautiful garden with  
a natural style.



**Integrating Native  
Plants into your  
Landscape**

**Sharon Ashworth, Ph. D.**

Douglas CO Horticulture Agent  
How to choose and integrate  
natives into your ornamental  
garden.



**Whispers of the Wild:  
The World of  
Native Pollinators**

**Tamra Reall, Ph. D.**

MU Horticulture Agent  
Identifying and protecting our  
native bees, butterflies and  
other insects.

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# 2023 Marais des Cygnes Extension Master Gardener Advanced Training

Please note: More trainings will be added throughout the year as they are scheduled

Mo	Date	Time	# Hr	Topic	Speaker	
Jan.	23	10:30 AM	1	"Native Plants Made Easier"	Bob Lane, Leawood Park and Recreation Director	Leawood Garden Club, Cure of Ars Catholic Church, 6401 Mission Rd., Leawood. Learn how native plants are easy to use in all styles of gardening and how increasing pollinators are a benefit to the environment.
<p>To join <b>K-State Garden Hour</b>, 12 PM 1st Wed. of each month. Register here for 2023: <a href="http://hnr.ksu.edu/GardenHour">http://hnr.ksu.edu/GardenHour</a></p> <p><b>Lunch and Learn</b>, 12:00 PM, Every 1st Thursday of the month. <b>Native Plants at Noon</b>, 12:00 PM, Every 3rd Thursday. Register for both webinars at <a href="http://deeptoots.org">deeptoots.org</a> (past recordings available on website)</p>						
Mdc Training Hours			Other Training Hours		Red denotes new training or updated information	

Barb S. is working on next years schedule and hopes to have more information in January. We want to thank her for all of the hard work she did for us this past year. GREAT JOB!!

## USDA Zone Update

by Lenora Larson

The USDA just released the new cold-hardiness zone map. We continue to warm up and are now Zone 6b. When I moved here in 1981, Paola was zone 5 and winters went to -25 degrees our first few years!! I'm not supposed to be happy, but I love global warming since I have serious zone-envy. I wanna be zone 7. So many cool plants!

