



# K-STATE

Research and Extension  
**Master Gardener**

SEPTEMBER 2023  
[www.maraisdescygn.es.ksu.edu](http://www.maraisdescygn.es.ksu.edu)

## What's Growing On . . .

The latest news from the  
Marais des Cygnes 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

**EMG 4TH QTR Meeting**  
**October 10th**  
See details in News and Notes!!

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### CALENDAR

- September 26** – AT: Managing Our Clay Soil
- September 26** – AT: What Would Mother Nature Do?
- September 28** – New Class Zoom at Paola Extension – 1:00 – 4:00
- October 4** – K-State Webinar – Putting Your Garden to Bed
- October 10** – 4Q General Meeting (Taco Dinner) – 5:30 pm
- October 17** – AT: Creating a Beautiful Landscape to Produce a Wildlife Refuge

### WORK DAYS

- Courthouse:** Wednesday – 8:00 a.m.
- Trial Garden:** Monday – 8:00 a.m.
- LaCygne Community Garden:** Tuesday & Friday • 8:00 a.m.
- Mound City Courthouse:** Varies
- New Class Flower Garden:** Varies

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

## 2023 Garden Tour

By Helen Kloepper

The 2023 garden tour was wonderful! The weather was perfect, the gardens were beautiful and our liaisons and volunteers worked very, very hard. We sold approximately 178 tickets. (Wish it would have been more, but considering the earth was scorched just a week prior with temperatures in excess of 100 degrees, we won't complain.) We had quite a diversified group of visitors, from local municipalities as well as non-local locations that included Salina, Manhattan, Wichita, St. Joseph, Warsaw and many other locations.

A dinner for garden owners and liaisons was held on August 26th. Three varieties of meat and lots of sides and other refreshments were served. Our own MdC EMG, Billie Lenz opened up her home to host the event. Everyone enjoyed themselves!

There was also a pre-tour for our volunteers on August 30th for the Paola gardens and on August 31st for the Louisburg area. The trolley car was secured but we had so many, we used a bus instead! Refreshments were served at the end of each tour. We had a great time, it was nice to have the ride and not worry about carpooling!

The attendees gave us some good feedback, I will be creating a database to make the information available for the 2025 Garden Tour.

In addition to the awesome job of our hard working liaisons, flexible volunteers and ever so gracious garden owners we had 19 people that

*continued on Page 4*



Liaison Dinner  
Photos by Jan T.



Pre-tour on the Bus!  
Photo by Carol V.

## 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

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

● Please mark your calendars for our **4Q General Meeting planned for Tuesday, October 10th at 5:30 pm** at the Paola Extension office. We're planning a **taco dinner** with all the fixings. More information closer to the date will be sent and to request RSVPs.

● It is with much regret that we need to find a **new "graphics person"** to work on our brochures, newsletters and other marketing materials. Anita has a multitude of commitments to her family and will no longer be able to be involved with the Marais des Cygnes Master Gardeners beginning in 2024. Anyone interested in learning about the graphics program used or has knowledge of any other program that can be used and can help us, please contact Anita or Jan. Please reach out if you can help so we can have a smooth transition.

● An additional responsibility that Anita handled was the **EMG social media**. Anita posted up to date information and pictures on Facebook to keep everyone informed. We will also need someone to handle that responsibility beginning in January 2024. Please contact Anita or Jan if you are interested in handling our social media.

● **Patti Armstrong**, an original founder of the Marais des Cygnes Master Gardener program, has moved to an assisted living facility in Libertyville, IL. We're sending her a "thinking of you" card. If you would like to send a card to Patti, please contact Katelyn for her address.


● Thankfully, we had cooler weather for the **2023 EMG Garden Tour**. Helen, Carol, Bill and Jim, the garden owners and all the EMG volunteers did a wonderful job showcasing the 6 gardens. Thank you all for making our "guests" feel so welcomed.

● An AT is scheduled at Vinland Valley Nursery on Tuesday, October 17th. Vinland expressed an interest in **recycling our flower pots . . . any size, round or square**. They will clean and sterilize and reuse. For those attending the AT, you can take that day. For those not able to attend the AT, please bring to the extension office and we'll transport to Vinland.

● We're getting closer to the end of the year . . . please enter all your **volunteer hours online**. If you need assistance, please contact Katelyn for help.

● Becky T. is organizing our **2nd annual wreath-making event** for Vintage Park – Paola on Thursday, November 30th at 9:30 a.m. More details will be sent as they are finalized.

● The **Mound City office** is receiving a much-needed remodel. The office will be moved to 425 Main Street. The remodel will begin in October and hopefully be completed by April 2024.

● The first **2024 Symposium** planning meeting was held on Tuesday, September 12th. Janette E. lead the group on discussion for theme, venue discussion, etc. As details are finalized, more information will be provided for the event planned for Saturday, February 24, 2024. 

"And all at once, summer collapsed into fall" – Oscar Wilde



## 2023 New Board Members



**Stephanie  
Myers**

I am a member of your 2020 class. Since that time I have met many wonderful friends in the Marais des Cygnes District. I have loved learning about plants, soil, design, insects, landscaping, and as we all working together. I love hearing your stories and learning about everyone's talents.

I am interested in joining the Advisory Board of our group. Our group is a fairly small one which offers all of us an opportunity to take on many different roles. This diversity appeals to me because I've heard a rumor that those who keep using and challenging their brains will stay young . . . or younger anyway.

To give you a little background on how I got here: I retired in 2019 from a career in medical advertising for cancer publications. I grew up in Overland Park where my sweet father whistled while he meticulously tended to a beautiful zoysia lawn, a backyard full of thriving rose bushes, and ingenious water features that he designed and built.

I, on the other hand, live on six-plus acres outside Spring Hill where I madly try to keep up with watering, weeding, mowing, planting pollinators and composting the innocent plants I kill.

I have two kids who live in the KC area, and a year-old granddaughter, one dog, one cat and three horses.

Besides taking care of my little corner-of-the-world farm, and being with family and friends, I stay active riding and driving one of my horses, participate in a very social book club, play mahjong, and travel.



**Rena  
Tedrow**

I live in LaCygne but am not from "here." I was born in Washington and grew up in Oregon. I moved to the Kansas City area in 1985. The first question I hear when I say I'm from Oregon is always: "Why [on earth] did you move here?" I have a stock answer but will leave you to ponder the "why." I don't have a formal education, however, I am in the class of the "school of hard knocks". My work history is varied and might surprise you.

My husband and I have lived at our current residence for 25 years. We spent our first 15 years here, well, playing. We moved from the north west Shawnee area, worked in Overland Park, had a boat. We were never home. I put in a few day lilies and salvia just for color. Thirteen years ago I started growing more than my one or two tomato plants because I mentioned to my husband that I knew how to "can", as in: "Can you make . . . ?" and I did. Later, I attended a series of classes sponsored by K-State in the "Come Grow With Us" series. I wasn't sure what to expect but I thought it might help me with flower gardening. The next year (2016), I signed up to be a master gardener.

My produce gardening methods have evolved, but my interest in flowers has shifted to natives and prairie flowers. I have Lenora Larson to thank for that.

Perhaps I will have something to look at in the front besides pecan trees and "weeds" one day. Much like our lives, our gardens, yards, and more are always a work in progress.



**Carol  
Vandenberg**

I wish to express my interest and desire to run for the position of Marais des Cygnes Master Gardener board.

I am committed to the Marais des Cygnes District Mission statement which is to participate in non-commercial, educational and community service projects for Miami and Linn Counties.

I admire the work, the education, comradery and fellowship the program offers and inspired by all the extensive knowledge the members have to offer and their willingness to share. I believe I can contribute towards these goals. I have demonstrated this commitment by volunteering over the last two years for multiple committees, projects, functions, and the mentor program. These service projects, attending board meetings and educational programs have allowed me to experience and learn about the Master Gardener program and feel confident I have the qualifications and skill necessary for the job. I am eager to continue to learn as well as put my knowledge and experience to work for you.

I bring to the table a willingness to learn and help others. My experience over the years include holding board and committee positions on a national, state and local levels, organizations skills in national, state and local functions, mentoring and teaching students in the field of Vascular Technology and participating in volunteer organizations donating my time and talents over the years.

Thank you for this opportunity to run for the board and I look forward to being a functional member of the board.



Garden tour continued



express interest in becoming Master Gardeners, 13 from Miami County!! The contact information for those from Miami County will be passed on to Becky T. for possible recruitment!

Some of the feedback from the attendees were: *"All of the gardens were so different, I loved the prairie and the berms in Hillsdale."*

*"I liked it all, everything was beautiful!"*  
*"The hosts were so friendly, the map was great and I loved the natural elements."*

*"All of the owners were so friendly and approachable."*  
*"Very well planned and organized." (My favorite!)*

A couple of the suggestions were:  
*"How can you improve on this!"*  
*"Have a food truck."*

I want to thank everyone for all of their hard work and assistance in making this a successful tour!!

Photos by Carol V. and Helen K.

Garden Tool Care and Cleaning AT



Photos by: Phyllis B.

On August 15th several of our EMG members attended the AT located at Harley Davidson's shop. Harley also provided a tour of his property with a water feature, vegetable garden and unique trees.



MIAMI COUNTY FAIR

Katelyn reported to the board members that entries and attendance for the fair were up from last year.

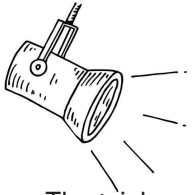
- Agriculture: 7
- Horticulture: 194
- Floriculture: 83
- Seeds for Kids: 90
- Exhibits: 468
- Total Entries: 3,261

We feel that we can call the 2023 Miami County Fair a success!!



# Trial Garden

By Chet McLaughlin, Dennise Fink-Morse and Anita Boyett-Voke



The trial garden was originally started at the Fairgrounds in 2000. After moving around for a number of



Trial Garden at the Fairgrounds.

years a home was found at Angela Sherman's. When the family decided they wanted to grow their own vegetable garden the search for a new location began.



Trial garden at Angela's

In 2021 the garden was moved to Lenora Larson's. Lenora had ample space and also offered to store items related to the garden. Unfortunately the new location proved to be a struggle. There were thorn trees and the ever annoying bind weed. In addition to these challenges, the garden fought drought conditions and when the pump for water went out the final stake was put in the ground!! It was determined that it was time to search for yet another location.

In September of 2022 Chet McL. and the team located a new "home" for the trial garden. After meeting with Lexis (our contact) at the Community Gardens in



Paola they agreed to let the Master Gardeners use a 30 ft x 40 ft area. (Chet was very excited for this change.) There is water available and the location is more centrally located for easier access for members wanting to participate.

Additionally some storage area was made available. All of these at no cost to the Master Gardeners!

Let the work begin!! Cleanup and preparation began in October of 2022. Fortunately we acquired an area that had been previously gardened by another group that abandoned the space. They also bequeathed us poles for a fence, a short perimeter fence, lots of weeds and a warning that deer will eat everything we grow. Cardboard was put down to slow the germination of seeds in the spring. Cockleburrs that had consumed the area and were bagged and burned! (Thank you Sue and Bob Burns!) The next challenge was the deer! Bambi and friends had been keeping an eye out for our vegetables! By December the short fence was installed around the new area with plans for taller fencing to keep deer out in the spring.

In March planning for the trial garden began with Shirley N. and Chet McL. laying out the garden areas and at that time Shirley N. and Leland, her husband, brought

over a tractor tiller and deep tilled the space twice for the K-State University tomatoes and peppers. On May 9th many EMG members showed up at the garden and assisted putting down cardboard and planting tomatoes and peppers. (Talk about team work!) It was determined that Monday's would be the regular work day for the



garden. On a side note, there was a small foot bridge near the garden that was in great need of repair, the Master Gardeners decided they were unable to help, however, BJ Wilson stepped up to the plate and fixed the foot bridge.



By June the short fence, which was installed for those annoying rabbits, as well as an additional 7' fence installed. A combination lock and gate was later added to minimize pilfering of the vegetables.

Even tho the deer and rabbits had eaten several of the tomato and pepper plants from K-State we had approximately 80 plants donated from Alexis Shaw, there was room for 63 and the remainder were adopted by EMG members.

Carol W. and Dennise F-M. planted several vegetables in the garden. There was a wonderful turn out of 12 volunteers helping in the trial garden. Katelyn also presented the MDC EMGs with two beautiful large signs to display at the garden. Next year one of the spirit poles will be placed at the garden.

In July Chet McL. stated that the trial gardens were looking the best he had ever seen in the 12 years he has been volunteering at the gardens. Becky T. provided some goat manure that worked great. There have been neighbors stopping by to look at the gardens and there is additional room

*Continued on Page 6.*





## Trial Garden continued

for other projects as Shirley N. tilled up a very large area.

One such project for this year was a flower cutting garden as a project for the class of 2023. The flowers the new class planted were beautiful. The zinnias and sunflowers added color and grew well as did Dennise F-M.



and Carol's V's Athena Melons and Butternut Squash.

On Monday August 14, Dennise F-M. reported that five EMGs gathered produce. It was a great day at the trial garden. The bounty included 100 tomatoes, 243 sweet peppers and 497 hot peppers.

After gathering produce Dennise



F-M. had organized for the group to convene at the extension office kitchen for a taste testing. K-state trial garden

observations now include flavor. This was enjoyed by Barb S., Carol V., Becky T., Patty T., Lynn C., Jan T., and Dennise F-M.

Ratings provided by K-state were on a 5 point scale. 1= poor 2=fair 3= good 4= excellent 5= outstanding.

The Sweet Sunset horn pepper was the overall favorite with a grade of 5 and a tie in the tomato division was between Celebrity and Big Beef with a



grade of 4.

Produce is gathered every Monday morning rain or shine at 8 am. The collection is then delivered to the Osawatomie food pantry by Chet McL.

In addition to tomatoes and peppers being donated to the food pantry there were small tomatoes and 50 cucumbers from the trial garden crew. All this despite an invasion of blister bugs which Dennise F-M. headed off with pyrethrin dust (chrysanthemums) recommended by Dennis Patton. In a week, the evidence of the bugs disappeared. Multiple master gardeners have helped with the weeding and harvesting. (Dennise F-M., Shirley N., Carol V., Debbie K., Linn C., Patty T., Barb S., Carol W. and others).

The garden has now been extended to a size of 40 ft x 80 ft!! The additional space at the garden is to be used by Master Gardeners only, especially since there is a lock on the gate. The beautiful signage makes our presence known as well as who, what and why.

New cardboard will be laid and held in place with the tomato and pepper cages along with goat manure for the winter. The garden will be monitored during the off season months to make

sure it remains in tact for the spring. Our tools will be stored in the tool shed just north of the garden. Compost, straw and manure will be needed for the next season. As luck



would have it, Jan T. found a farm in Missouri offering cheap bales of straw, we purchased what we should need for 2024 and have it stored at the garden. We are pretty sure Becky T. will have more goat manure to donate!

The help of the large number of Master Gardeners made this year's garden much easier and lot of fun. Those who help out received goodies to take to their families as a reward.

We think it's safe to state that the MdC EMG's (and Chet and crew) are looking forward to next year's garden, it seems to have found a great place to put roots down!! **Thank you to all!!**



Photos provided by: Jan T., Debbie K., Carol V. and our History Book.



## 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	
Sept.	26	12:00 PM	1	"Managing Our Clay Soil for Greater Success"	Nancy Chapman, JoCo EMG at Leawood Garden Club Meeting	Cure of Ars Catholic Church, 9401 Mission Rd., Leawood
Sept.	26	6:30 PM	1	"What Would Mother Nature Do?"	Lenora Larson, MdC EMG	<b>La Cygne Library</b> , 209 N. Broadway St., Light snacks may be available Plan your own carpooling if you wish.  (This is the program Lenora presented to the IMG Conference in June)
Oct.	17	2:00 PM	1	"Creating a Beautiful Landscape to Provide a Wildlife Bridge" and Tour of Vinland Valley Nursery	Amy Albright, nursery owner	1606 N 600 Road, Baldwin City, KS 66006 Meet at 1:00 to drive to Vinland Valley Nursery Carpool will be planned closer to the date. Notify Barb if you plan to attend: barbsshops@gmail.com (Rain Date scheduled for Oct. 24)
<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>            Oct. 4 - Putting Your Garden to Bed            Nov. 1 - <b>Plants Gone Wild! - Controlling Invasive Plants</b>  <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://deeproofs.org">deeproofs.org</a> (past recordings available on website)</p>						
MdC Training Hours		Other Training Hours		Red denotes new training or updated information		

### What would Mother Nature Do?

Sustainable gardening practices endorsed by Mother Nature Presented by Lenora Larson  
 6:30 PM September 26, 2023 • La Cygne Public Library • 209 N Broadway St. • La Cygne, KS 66040

Many gardeners have an antagonistic relationship with Mother Nature and attempt to impose artificial chemical and physical solutions to perceived gardening problems. However, she has been managing terrestrial plants for about 250 million years with sustainable systems that link the convergent worlds of plants, microbes and insects. When a question or challenge occurs, the gardener can take advantage of her expertise by asking, "What Would Mother Nature Do?" For instance, when does Mother Nature mulch? When does she clean up? How does she fertilize? What are her methods of planting, weed control and insect management? Participants will see plants in three settings: a highly managed ornamental garden, a "Prairie Garden" and as a Prairie restoration. Gardeners can then choose and apply the sustainable maintenance



*Betsy Betros' Prairie Remnant*

techniques that meet their aesthetic and pragmatic goals.

Lenora Larson is a Marais des Cygnes Extension Master Gardener and member of local chapters of both the Idalia Butterfly Society and

Kansas Native Plant Society. Lenora is a proud "science geek" with a degree in microbiology from Michigan State University, a career in molecular biology and a life-long interest in wildlife, especially the creepy and crawly. She maintains a 2-acre NABA (North American Butterfly Association) certified garden in the English Estate landscape style on her 27-acre property, Long Lips Farm, in rural Paola, Kansas.

#### *Botanical Garden, Springfield, MO*



Please like and follow the Marais des Cygnes EMGs on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/mdcemg](http://www.facebook.com/mdcemg)