



What's Growing On.....

K-STATE

Research and Extension

MAY, 2024

www.maraisdescygnnes.ksu.edu

The latest news from 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

CATCHING UP....

by Rena Tedrow

We have been busy little bees over the past few months. While there were larger events and activities--the Gardening Symposium, Seeds for Kids and the Paola plant sale--there were some smaller projects that took place in their shadow. I would like to quickly share some of these projects with you. Some info will follow within the newsletter--some photos will follow at the end.

Carol Vandenberg presented the MdC Master Gardeners Scholarship to Madyson Smotherman. See article on page 8.

The plant sale was a huge success. See page 3 for Lenora's recap and the end of the newsletter for some photos.

Seeds for Kids went gangbusters! The program was expanded into Linn County this year. Hopefully there will be a huge participation in the County fairs for both counties! See page 7.

The 2023 class project is the monument sign in front of the extension office. The planter was given a bit of a 'face-lift' with new plants added. The group will continue to monitor the site and keep it maintained.



The Trial Garden has been planted. The Cut-fower garden was planned to seed this week - weather permitting.

Several short-term community projects were completed - Osawatomie Vintage Park (veggies and flowers), Paola Vintage Park (flowers & veggies), Paola Senior Center (flowers), Paola Library (needed some help removing dead plants, pruning and raking).

A lot has been accomplished this year!

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ADVISORY BOARD

Chairman-Janette Everhart

Vice Chair - Carol Vandenberg

Secretary - Susan Rogers

Treasurer - Billie Lenz

Members at Large:

Helen Kloeppe

Stephanie Myers

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

Wed's 9a - 11a

LaCygne Community Garden

Wed and/or Fri 8a - 11a

Committees

Courthouse Garden
Phyllis Benedict

Trial Garden
Dennise Fink-Morse,
Chet McLaughlin, Shirley New,

KSU Extension Office Garden
2024 Class (monument sign)
Deb Kitchell (planters by door)

Linn County Courthouse Garden
Larraine Crawford

Advanced Training
Barbara Shropshire

Awards Banquet
Donna Cook, Betsy Hasselquist,
Susan Thompson

Symposium - 2024
Janette Everhart

Plant Sale
Sue Burns, Stacie Campbell,
Lenora Larson

Garden Tour (2025)
TBD

Seeds for Kids
Betsy Hasselquist

Miami County Fair
Dennise Fink-Morse, Hort. Supt.
Betsy Hasselquist, Seeds4Kids
Supt.
Bill Vandeberg, Flori. Supt.

New Recruits/Mentors
Becky Thorpe

Other

Publicity
Lenora Larson

Newspaper Articles
Katelyn Barthol, Extension Agt.

Social Media/newsletters
Rena Tedrow, Editor

Garden Work Days...Work days will be noted on page 1 of the newsletter. When there are updates, they will be added.

Hotline...Sign up openings are still available.

Garden Symposium... The symposium will continue as a biennial event - our next one will be held in 2026. If you wish to volunteer as a leader or a co-leader for a sub-committee, please contact Janette E.

Trial Garden...Watch for the spirit pole, donated by Scott C. to appear.

Extension office (entrance) flower pots... Reminder that if you are near the extension office, please stop by to check to see if the planters are dry 2" below the soil line. If so, a pitcher is sitting just inside the door. Let's all help keep them looking great!

Annual Awards Banquet...The surveys were completed and compiled. The committee will discuss and explore options at a later date.

MiCo Fair... You are encouraged to sign up to participate in the fair that runs July 23 - 24. Through the sign-up genius you can volunteer to help with Seeds for Kids, Floriculture and Horticulture events. Aside from volunteering your help, why not enter something of your own!

Garden Tour 2025... Would you be willing to chair this event? Contact one of the board members.

Reminder... All articles, photos, etc. that you want included in the monthly **EMG Newsletter** should be sent to Rena T. at wordet01@gmail.com by the **second Thurs. of each month**. This includes any type of upcoming event that might take place before the next newsletter is distributed.

Also, email your plant/flower photos that you'd like to share. Some (not all) will appear scattered in the newsletters (periodically) and will also be saved for an end-of-the-year project.



Courtesy of Betsy Hasselquist

Plant Sale Recap - Lenora Larson

We value our annual Plant Sale not only as a source of revenue, but as our best opportunity to fulfill our EMG Mission of providing science-based horticultural information to the public. Our experienced Plant Sale Committee had been working for months to ensure ample promotion, efficient checkout and an outstanding selection of organically-grown plants. The co-chairs were Lenora for plants, Sue for administration and Lynn Campbell for checkout. Bob Burns again did our financial analysis and the required sales tax paperwork for the State of Kansas. So many of you were superstars! Too many to list for fear of leaving someone out, but special kudos to those who worked all three days. Seeing our team in action is always one of the best aspects of our Plant Sale.

2024 innovations included Plant Sale Training the previous week and a PDF downloadable plant list by group with prices. We expedited checkout with 2 credit card lines and an express line. We added a “hostess” to greet every arriving customer and hand them a Tally/Group card. The Thursday afternoon inventory of sell-outs and Friday morning re-stocking definitely increased sales. We also added more signage on the tables with “Plant Group number designations” as well as on the back of the tally sheets. A poster showing the Table Layout assisted both our volunteers and shoppers to find their desired plant. Three wooden shelves to hold shoppers’ orders encouraged them to keep filling more baskets! As requested by shoppers last year, a Pie Graph illustrating how we spend the profits was hung in the checkout area.

Rena designed all the fliers, ads and the table layout, a job requiring incredible patience to deal with the ongoing opinion changes. Active marketing included articles and ads in Kansas City Gardener Magazine and Gardeners Connect Newsletter and coverage in the Miami County Republic’s Beth Connor column. Fliers and emails had been emailed to area EMG programs and garden clubs, and hung in area businesses. Rena posted and re-posted weekly on our Facebook page and encouraged us to “share” to our Facebook friends. **Everything was in place for the best plant sale ever.**



Wednesday Set-up was perfect with beautiful weather and plenty of volunteers to set up the 80 tables, 3 tents and the Harley basket and tree racks by 10:00 am. The Vinland truck arrived at 10:30 am and returned at 3 pm fully loaded with 550 species, 7,700 individual plants! Over 100 species were Kansas native prairie species and cultivars. Our triage system with LL as traffic director created fast placement of the plants and the group numbers made accurate placement so much easier than previous years. Once again, Vinland’s plants were glorious, fully-leaved out and many already blooming. Organic growing methods are a win-win.

The Theoretical Three Days of Selling started Thursday morning at 9a but the all-night rain was still falling. RAIN, RAIN and more RAIN. We had to shut down at 2p because of lightning and threats of hail and tornadoes. We did a hasty plant inventory as the storm closed in and emailed an refill order to Vinland for Friday morning delivery. Despite the rain and fewer shoppers, we had already sold-out of hanging baskets and hot peppers!

Sue received a call from the sheriff Thursday night reporting damage to the tables and tents. One of the tents is still MIA! Friday was a repeat with intermittent rain and big lightning, plus the threat of hail and tornadoes which forced another closing at 3p. Saturday was windy and cloudy with sprinkles. This was the worst weather I can remember since 2011 when I started working the plant sale! But our loyal customers still came!!! An umbrella in one hand and a basket of plants in the other, the avid plantaholics were not deterred.

Plant Sale Recap - continued

The number of shoppers was understandably lower than last year's outstanding attendance, but during our open hours, traffic was steady with serious shoppers, including some who each spent over \$500! Many remarked on the healthy plants, our reasonable prices and how incredibly organized we were!

Because of the wind, the plants were arranged on the ground instead of up on the tables on Friday and Saturday. Was this better? While it was easier to arrange and find ground level trays, they proved unmanageably heavy for most shoppers. In the future, we'll continue with up-on-tables placement during the days of the sale and underneath during the night.



Results...

Of the 7,700 plants that Vinland brought, we sold almost 5,000! Vinland was thrilled with our performance. Despite the rain (and the Arboretum's simultaneous sale) this was our second-best revenue performance ever! The financials are still in process but the approximate Gross Revenue (which includes KS sales tax) was \$39,966, compared to our record-breaking \$48,656 in 2023. So far, our expenses total \$31,178 with the plant cost as 78% of our collected revenue. The profit is \$5,355, a collections shortfall of \$1,135. Last year we had a shortfall of \$1,217 so we are again examining our processes to determine where we are losing revenue.

BTW, Vinland has been unsuccessfully, searching for pots in different colors for years. This would eliminate the pricing confusion between short and long 4.5" pots, which is probably a contributing factor in our shortfall.

Planned Improvements for 2025.

- The 3 co-chairs will prepare written "how to" manual to standardize our Plant Sale procedures.
- Eight "Price by Pot-type" posters will be displayed throughout the area and checkout, plus sample pots on the tables.
- We will ask for EMG "Plant Enthusiasts" (rather than "experts") - volunteers to take responsibility for each group, thus ensuring that the correct plants are on their Group's tables. For instance, Bougainvillea and Elephant Ears were discovered in the Group 6 "Perennial Sun-loving Ornamental" area on Saturday morning. No wonder they hadn't sold! That shouldn't happen with our team of Enthusiasts! The Enthusiasts will also be able to provide their Group's plant information to the public and other EMGs, plus assist with inventory management on Thursday afternoon.
- **VERY IMPORTANT!** We need to influence Mother Nature to give us four days of perfect weather.

In 2024, our EMGs and Vinland worked as an efficient team with near-perfect execution. With the planned improvements and if Mother Nature cooperates, 2025 should be even better! If you have additional suggestions, please send to Lenora, Lynn and Sue. The 2025 Plant Sale Committee will reconvene this fall and worker sign-ups will start at the Annual Banquet and continue with Sign-up Genius the first week of April. **A HUGE thank you to everyone who helped and shopped!**



UPCOMING:

- **Hotline sign-up:** Don't forget to sign up for the hotline. EMGs are required to complete 4 Hotline hours. Hours for hotline are 2-hour sessions on Thursday's at the Paola Extension office from 8a-10a and 10a-noon. You can complete all your hours on one day or select another day. Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090D49ABAC22A6F58-48540259-2024#/>

- **Presentation on May 21, 6:30p at the Extension Office... *The Love Connection: Pollinators and Flowering Plants*, Lenora Larson**

Most flowers require an animal mediator to carry the male pollen from one flower to the female ovary of another flower. Insects, especially bees, serve as the primary pollinators in the temperate zone.

Pollinators don't know that they are the love connection for plants, so the flower must first attract them with color, fragrance and/or shape. They then bribe the pollinators to return by repeatedly dispensing small doses of delectable nectar. This presentation introduces participants to the pollinators in our area, the threats that they face, and how we can help them. Humans have a vested interest in protecting pollinators since at least 70% of our foods depend on the services of these hard-working insects. It is also our moral duty as stewards of this beautiful planet to preserve the pollinators, and we need to do better.



**Invitation to Garden Party at Lori Stottlemire's - June 25!! – 10 am – 12 pm
718 10th Street, Osawatomie**

MICOEMG mid-summer tea and tour! Come ready for photos in your sundress (or dress shirt) and hats! Stroll through the Garden of the Giants! Enter a whimsical backyard built for fun! This 3rd year garden is ready for a victory lap! See the progress from beginning to end.

- Violin Serenade
- Herbalist Janet Gutierrez (20\$ Herbal oil roller make 'n take!)

Friends, fun and fellowship with MICOEMG's! Finger foods and beverages! Little Grandies Fashion show! Meet Douglas County's legend Donna Gardner - Donna Gardner, friend and head grower (20 years) from Pence Garden Center in Lawrence, KS (now Sunrise Gardens).

Seating for fellowship inside and outside to accommodate your climate preference!

Kindly TEXT rsvp by June 21st – (785-727-0194 Lori)

Request:

A few EMGs are needed to help provide refreshments – please let Barb or Lori know if you can help.

ADVANCED TRAINING SCHEDULE

2024 Marais des Cygnes Extension Master Gardener Advanced Training Calendar

Note: Additional trainings will be added throughout the year as they are scheduled

| MO | DATE | TIME | # HRS | TOPIC | SPEAKER | LOCATION |
|------|-------|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MAY | 21 | 6:30p | 1 | The Love Connection: Pollinators & Flowering Plants | Lenora Larson, MdC EMG | MdC Extension Office |
| JUN | 4 | 10:00a | 1 | 'Doolin's Extraordinary Vegetable & Flower Garden | Lana Doolin, member of Louisburg Garden Club | Doolin's, 29885 Antioch, Louisburg KS. Tour a beautiful property in the country with a large, fenced raised bed vegetable garden. Gorgeous flower beds are mixed in along with in-ground plantings. Learn about Lana's methods for growing her bountiful produce. (Rain date, Jun 18th) |
| JUN | 6 | 11:30a | 1 | 12 Months of Color in Your Garden | Anne Wildeboor, OP Arboretum Horticulturist | Wyandotte Co. Extension Office, 1208 N 79th St. KCKS (Sunflower Rm) \$10 class fee, cash/check will be collected at the door |
| SEPT | 27-29 | See website Track each session, workshop & tour you attend | and consult with Katelyn regarding AT hours | "Gardening With a Purpose" | Garden Conference by NW MO Master Gardeners | MOMGA '24 - Registration open - \$135 MO Western State University https://momga.org/momga-conference/ Fri.--St. Joe Garden Tours (addtn'l cost) Sat. eve. - Keynote Speaker, Doug Tallamy Choose from 20 speakers on Sat. & Sun. |



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

June 5 - Growing Cut Flowers for the Home & Farmer's Market

July 3 - Success with Cacti and Succulents

Past recordings are available on the website.

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 [deeprooots.org](https://www.deeprooots.org) (past recordings available on website)

IF YOU HAVE THOUGHTS, OR IDEAS FOR TRAINING, CONTACT BARB SHROPSHIRE

SEEDS FOR KIDS - Betsy Hasselquist

Wowwee! Another banner year, spreading the love and benefits of gardening!

Thanks to all the master gardeners who helped with planning, seed packaging, packet distribution, increasing contacts and providing educational presentations. A big shout out to Helen who developed lesson plans and power points to be used for educational presentations.

We continue to liaison with area schools and libraries, participate in the Conservation Department Earth Day events for 5th graders (Jan, Patty & Betsy) and added Touch-a-Truck (Janette B. & Betsy), Lake Mary and other private and home schools. Last year we expanded to Osawatomie and this year, Mound City and Wea, so we have our presence in Louisburg, LaCygne, Mound City, Osawatomie, Paola. and Wea.



Community liaisons to schools, libraries include: Janette B - LaCygne & Mound City, including presentations to 4-H leaders, schools, and programs throughout the summer; Helen - Louisburg, programs for all elementary students; Patty - Osawatomie, and Carol V, Bill V, Lorraine M & Natale - Paola, lots of locations.

We handed out more seed packets than ever!!! (and still giving out seeds)! Jan is creating an e-mail list from entry forms to send out reminders and fair information.

Think about volunteering with us at the MI CO Fair July 23rd & 24th. It's fun.

Proud of all we do. It takes a village.

MIAMI COUNTY 4-H FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Carol Vandenberg

Sunday February 25, 2024, I had the honor and privilege to present the \$500.00 Marais des Cygnes District Master Gardeners Scholarship facilitated through the Miami County 4-H Foundation.

Madyson Smotherman, the recipient, is a 12 year 4-H member of the Hillsdale Hustlers 4-H Club. Madyson is active in Miami County 4-H leadership team, 4-H Ambassadors, 4-H Rabbit Club and projects in Horticulture, dog, food, fiber art, meat goats and swine. Madyson attends Fort Scott Community College and plans to go to Kansas State University and major in Agriculture. Here is an excerpt from Madyson's essay shared from Karla Hightower...

“When someone asks me what I do in my free time I always say 4-H and begin explaining what it is and why their kids or families should join! I have made friends of all ages over the years and have learned how to speak in front of a judge or a group and not show my emotions. 4-H has taught me that even if I don't win the top prize I am still a winner because I worked on or with that project and gave it my best. I took the criticism and went home to make the improvements for the next time. As I finish up my 4-H career I plan to attend a college with agriculture and come back to help the younger generations.”

Miami County 4-H Foundation was created in 2003 to provide long term, local charitable endowments to support Miami County 4-H programs. January 2015 the Foundation extended their support to include the Marais des Cygne 4-H programs and youth reaching youth and their families in Miami and Linn counties and surrounding area. The Foundation is a 501-(C) (3) through donations provides scholarships for seniors, Cloverbud, local, state and national camps and clinics, leader background verification and assist in purchasing program supplies and /or equipment as needed. 4-H programs develop compassionate and successful adults through hands on learning, family orientated fun and leadership opportunities.



#4 of Lenora's series - BINOMINAL NOMENCLATURE PRONUNCIATION

Botanical nomenclature is useful but daunting because Latin and a bit of Greek are the languages. The Brits and east coast gardeners pronounce botanical names differently from most other American gardeners; none use the classical Latin pronunciations. My father the Harvard botanist would not allow me to take Latin in high school because he said it would confuse me. It's true that I'm easily confused, but I wish I had taken it for the vocabulary because most plant species names are descriptive Latin adjectives.

Botanical Latin was never meant to be spoken so there are no verbs or grammar, just names. And how the names are pronounced doesn't really matter because the pronunciations change by geography and over time. Thirty years ago, Americans called our favorite flowering vine "cle-MAT-is." Now we say "CLEM-ah-tis," probably the influence of English gardening shows on TV and the Internet.

Celebrate that you already know *Clematis*, a botanical name. In fact you already know many Latin names for plants' whose genus names are also used as one of its common names: Aster, Zinnia, Cosmos, Petunia, Angelonia, etc. Don't worry about pronunciation! Just Google, then practice out-loud a few times. Then say it fast with confidence. If some rude person corrects you, just say "that's how I learned to say it. But did you understand what plant I meant?" Of course, the listener did and that's what matters.



How do you pronounce the genus of Butterfly Bush, *Buddleia*? **Buhd'**-lee-uh is preferred but I've always called it **Bood'**-lee-uh. I'm not ashamed.

Botanists don't agree about the pronunciations, so we don't have to either. For instance, if you research the botanical pronunciation of the herb Thyme, you'll find at least 8 versions of *Thymus*: TEE-mus, TYE-mus, TEE-moose, TYE-moose, THEE-mus, THYE-mus, THEE-moose, THYE-moose. No wonder people feel intimidated, but take courage. You are probably correct somewhere in the world, no matter how you pronounce the name.

Some Rules for Pronouncing Scientific Names

Just like the people who run Homeowner Associations, there are people who enjoy imposing rules on others, including the rules of Latin pronunciation. For your reference, here are a few of the most common guidelines that really are helpful.

- "ch" (as in *Carcharodon*) is pronounced as a hard K.
- "ae" (as in *Lamnidae*) is pronounced EE.
- "ii" (as in *Alopiidae*) is pronounced EE-ih.
- Most vowels (including "y") are pronounced short rather than long (e.g. in math, ethics, fish, box, bus, and cyst)

Continued on the next page...

BINOMINAL NOMENCLATURE PRONOUNCIATION - continued**To be understood**

Instead of worrying about rules, I recommend adapting to how your fellow gardeners and botanists in the KC area pronounce the names. When I moved here from Michigan I called Catmint NEP-a-tah. In Kansas it's Ne-PEE-tah. No problem, both are correct, and we both know what plant I mean when I declare that Nepeta is a PERFECT plant for Kansas. Everyone with a sunny spot should be growing Nepeta, which actually LOVES Kansas, even more than most Kansas Natives! And the pollinators will thank you. BTW, Is Catmint another name for Catnip? No, and the botanical name demonstrates: Catmint is *Nepeta faassenii*, one of 8 hybrids from native East Asian species, but hybridized at the Faassen Nursery in Holland. Catnip is *Nepeta cataria*, a Kansas native plant. Obviously, they are closely related in the same genus. Both have silvery blue-grey aromatic foliage and small tubular flowers like other members of the mint family, *Laminaceae*. Some cats go crazy over *Nepeta faassenii* in your garden. Now you know why!

Resources

- Google: Type the plant's name and "How to pronounce" in the search box
- Fine Gardening Magazine (Highly recommended)
- Dictionary of Plant Names by Allen Coombs

**A little humor...**

A carrot and a cabbage entered a race. Who won?
The cabbage. Because it was ahead.

Did you hear about the gardener who was embarrassed?
He wet his plants.



EMGs IN ACTION



Former EMG Larry Sims assisting Osawatomie Vintage Park



Carol & Bill V. with Cyndi Wilson's grandsons (Noah & Mark) at the Paola Library



Sondra d-C



Susan R.



Bob B.