



K-STATE
Research and Extension

JANUARY, 2025
www.maraisdescygnnes.ksu.edu

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
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- News & Notes - Pg 2 - 3
- Calendar - Pg 4
- Adv. Training - Pg 5
- Be in the Know (Plant sale update) - Pg 6-7
- Plant Sale Hotties - Pg 8-9

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

**2024 was a Banner Year!
Jannette Everhart**

It can be very rewarding to take a look back at the previous year. What we accomplished in 2024 is truly remarkable. Thank you to our members for stepping up to lead and participate.

We had several successful major fundraising events: The February Symposium was well received. While we struggled with a few things at our venue, the overall feedback was very positive. We know there is continuing interest because of a few recent calls to the extension office as well as messages received via the EMG FB page...individuals asking when the next event will take place.

The plant sale was again a great success! We "weathered" a few storms and still came out smelling like a rose!

Beautiful and productive gardens: We have given so many hours to the gardens we maintain in Miami and Linn Counties. The Trial Garden provides valuable research data to K-State. We cannot possibly know what peace and joy these gardens, produce and cut flowers provide to people.

As a volunteer organization we do so much for our community: MI Co Fair, Seeds for kids, Advanced Training, Wreaths, Short term Projects. I could keep going!

I certainly gain much happiness from my association with this amazing team of gardeners! I hope you do, too! Thank you for your generous gifts of time and talent! Bring on 2025!



Committees**Courthouse Garden**

Phyllis Benedict

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

Deb Kitchell

Linn County Courthouse Garden

Lorraine Crawford

Advanced TrainingStacey Campbell &
Stephanie Myers**Awards Banquet**Donna Cook, Betsy Hasselquist,
Susan Thompson**Symposium - 2024**

Janette Everhart

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

Susan Rodgers

Seeds for KidsBetsy Hasselquist &
Helen Kloeppe**Miami County Fair**Dennise Fink-Morse, Hort. Supt.
Betsy Hasselquist, Seeds4Kids
Supt.
Bill Vandenberg, 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...**

Saturday, January 18th @ 9am at the University of Kansas Health System-Paola Campus. 10 people is the maximum. The Tuesday, January 21st session at 6pm session has been cancelled due to low enrollment. Carol will schedule another class in March. For more information, please call or text Carol Vandenberg, 913-406-6303 kansaswego@yahoo.com.

\$ Financials...

Starting this month, QuickBooks (QB) will be our new platform for financial accounting. The closing statement for December and the year-end statement was completed using Excel spreadsheet. Thanks to Lynn Campbell for making this happen!

**A new computer, printer and software!!**

The next time you visit the volunteer office you will notice these new items. Natalie Hartig will be setting everything up soon--the monitor and new printer/scanner. Training will be provided for the new computer and printer as well as a new procedure to transfer our old documents to the new digital storage. Thank you, Natalie, for applying your computer skills to improving our Volunteer Office

**Holiday Happiness...**

Thank you to all our donors who combined for \$475! We will match that with an additional \$500 and the amount divided between three local food pantries. The check will be delivered in the coming week.

**The monthly newsletter... a note from Rena**

First, if you think the newsletter looks a bit more compressed - it is. The margins have been decreased a little. It's been brought to my attention that some of you save them so I'm making it a little more convenient for you to hole punch the newsletter if you print them to put in a notebook.

In the past, there was a word limit for the pages. Different program now, so I'm going with margins. Going forward, if you are contributing an article please keep in mind the margins. Do you want your article spread out across 2-3 pages...? Probably not, so apply the KISS principle 🙄 There is approximately a 3/4" margin on each side. Plan accordingly so your article fits on one page.

The one page I cannot compress is the AT Schedule. The full width of the page is needed so the full content will display

2025 Awards Banquet Highlights



The Awards Banquet, coordinated by Betsy Hasselquist, Susan Thompson and Donna Cook, was lovely. It was held at the Homestead Legacy Restaurant in Paola. The meal was excellent and enjoyed by a very well attended group this year!



After a bit of social time, then enjoying our meal, the EMGs got down to business. Several speakers discussed the past/current/upcoming projects, and it was then time for individual recognition.

The entire class of 2025 was in attendance and have now stepped into their 'Rookie year.' Welcome to the group everyone! We sincerely hope you enjoy your work and time with the group! (See photo below.)

Honorees for 2024:

- ★ 5 Year Service Award - Janette Everhart
- ★ 10 Year Service Award - Sue Burns & Debbie Kitchell
- ★ Emeritus Award - Donna Cook, Laraine Crawford, Vickie Vetter-Scruggs, and Becky Thorpe
- ★ Friend of MdC EMG Award - Deb Wilson
- ★ Seeds of Knowledge Award - Lorraine McGhee
- ★ Work Glove Award - Carol Vandenberg
- ★ Rookie of the Year - Lorraine McGhee



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



★ Master Gardener of the Year - Helen Kloepper ★



★ Work Glove of the Year - Carol Vandenberg

The two mayors in the house: Donna Cook (Louisburg) and new Emeritus member; Deb Wilson (LaCygne) receiving the 'Friend of MdC' award.



▶ **Symposium 2026 Committee**

A meeting is scheduled for January 28th at 9:30a at the Extension office to begin plans for the 2026 Symposium. Symposium date - February 21, 2026.

▶ **Annual Plant Sale**

Plans are underway for this year’s plant sale. Mark your calendars for April. It will be a busy month for training(s) and the plant sale. 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.

▶ **Next Board meeting...**

February 11th at 9:30a at the Paola Extension office. **All** members are welcome to attend!

▶ **Ideas for AT for 2025?**

Do you have ideas for Advanced Training (AT) for 2025? Drop Stacie Campbell and Stephanie Myers an email with your suggestion(s).



Garden Word Search

R	W	R	R	O	T	A	M	O	T	R	A
A	O	T	O	A	S	E	E	D	S	E	I
K	U	H	E	U	O	N	I	O	N	E	B
E	W	O	L	R	R	O	P	L	A	N	T
M	S	O	T	O	R	U	T	O	T	T	P
T	F	L	O	W	E	R	O	C	E	M	O
N	T	E	V	E	R	B	O	C	O	E	R
B	L	A	N	H	O	L	R	A	O	R	P
U	E	V	H	T	B	L	M	R	A	E	N
G	T	E	T	E	H	S	L	R	A	M	C
W	T	S	A	E	C	I	S	O	W	H	S
S	U	N	S	N	P	L	N	T	R	R	E
N	C	W	W	L	E	V	O	H	S	O	O
E	E	L	T	T	A	W	O	R	M	A	W

- BEAN
- BUG
- CARROT
- CORN
- FLOWER
- LEAVES
- LETTUCE
- ONION
- PEA
- PLANT
- RAKE
- ROOT
- ROW
- SEEDS
- SHOVEL
- THIN
- TOMATO
- WORM



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
Jan	22	11:00a	1(?)	Pnenology in Focus: Exploring Plant Cycles with iNaturalist	Dr. Carrie Selter, iNaturalist Erin Grady, M.S. Student FL Dr. Vijay Barve, Digitization P.M. Dr. Jeremy B. Yoder, Assoc. Prof. of Biology CalSt. Northridge	Register at https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/7117368795852/WN_nHJnv_U4Sy-juuxOm8X1ZQ#/registration
Jan	28	12:00p	1	Annuals vs. Perrenials	Lu Tarr, EMG MGGKC	Leawood Garden Club, Cure of Ars Catholic Church 9400 Mission Rd., Leawood
Feb	11-12	8:30a - 5:00p	Keep track of hours & check with Katelyn	Plan It Native - Landscape Conference presented by Deep Roots	Keynote speakers: Nancy Lawson Doug Ladd	Anita B. Gorman Conservation Center & Kauffman Conf. Center \$305 for 2-day all access ticket To register & for more information: www.planitnative.org
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.	

Webinar Training:



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

Past recordings are available on the website.

Upcoming:

- * Feb 5 - Maximizing Water Efficiency through Drip-Irrigants
- * Mar 5 - Establishing a Native Prairie Stand at Home

Deep Roots Native Plant Webinars, are at 12p - every 1st Thursday of the month AND every 3rd Thursday. Register for both: <https://deeprroots.org/native-plant-webinars/>
Past recordings are available on the website.

Upcoming:

- * Feb 6 Pruning Trees, with MO Dept. of Conservation
- * Feb 20 Dillon Farm, with Shannon Tyree & Larry Rizzo

2025 Plant Sale Update

**WHEN: April 23rd - 26th, 2025; INDOORS at the MiCo Fairgrounds, 401 Wallace Park Dr., Paola
Lenora Larson, Co-chair**

The 3 Co-chairs, Lenora Larson (Plants), Lynn Campbell (Money) and Sue Burns (Logistics) have been busy! And Rena Tedrow, since she is doing the graphics (which includes ads & table layout).

Our Progress to date:

- ✏ The 3 chairs have reviewed and updated the administrative procedures.
- ✏ Lynn has prepared and submitted the 2025 Plant Sale budget to the Board.
- ✏ Lenora has sent the 2025 Plant Sale contract to our vendor, Vinland Valley Nursery. (VVN)
- ✏ Lenora and VVN have reviewed 2024 plants, the sell-outs and losers. VVN will generate a downloadable PDF file of the 2025 inventory--organized by Plant Group--for our use.
- ✏ Katelyn arranged for the committee plus Janette & Rena to tour building #2 on December 16th.
- ✏ Rena & Sue are working on translating our parking lot's table layout to the Ag Building. We will use the Fairground's 35 tables, but we need a total of at least 86. And we need our tables that are hole-drilled to hold the ID signs.
- ✏ Rena has designed the flier and the Ad for promotion of our sale. It will be forwarded to Katelyn for approval soon.
- ✏ Rena has posted the first F/B story. PLEASE SHARE TO YOUR F/B FRIENDS!
- ✏ Katelyn has created an event on the K-St website and on FB. We've linked to VVN to use their huge social media presence also.
- ✏ Sue has planned our signage--we can staple to the walls--NO use of tape! She's ordering additional banners for display along the route & at the Extension ("You're in the wrong place") and at the fairgrounds ("This is the Plant Sale"). We'll start posting after April 1st.
- ✏ Lenora has written the March article for KCG and is working on the April article.
- ✏ The calendar listing has appeared in the January issue of 'Kansas City Gardener' & will run through April.
- ✏ We have Plant Ambassadors for all 14 Plant Groups! (See below for list) Hooray and thank you to our wonderful EMGs!

Plant Ambassadors

EMG members have volunteered to be a representative "Plant Ambassador" for one of our 14 "Groups" of plants to help with inventory and customer information. We especially need help on Wednesday, April 23 during set-up to make sure that the right plants are on the right table. Why? Because we will do a pre-sale & post-sale inventory. These 14 Groups were established by Vinland Valley Nursery many years ago and relate to the type of plant and/or its horticultural needs. All PAs have received the massive list of plants supplied and sold in 2024. Below are the PAs assigned to each group.

Group # * Type * Plant Ambassador(s) [PA]

1. Pollinator & Annual Flower Pots (Scott Catton)
2. Shade lovers (Debbie Kitchell)
3. Butterfly Host Plants (Lenora and Janette Bennett)
4. Herbs, culinary and medicinal (Audrey Morris)
5. Native Perennials (Susan Rodgers)
6. Ornamental Perennials (Krystal Barr & Teri Seyl)
7. Sun-loving Annuals (Laura Hull)

Group # * Type * Plant Ambassador(s) [PA]

8. Hanging Baskets (Bill Vandenberg)
9. Tropicals (i.e., houseplants & Coleus) (Monica Chapman-Pickett)
10. Vegetables (Chet McLaughlin)
11. Succulents (Natilie Hartig)
12. Grasses (Natilie Hartig)
13. Berries (Diane Michuda)
14. Trees and Shrubs (Betsy Hasselquist)

Next Steps....

- ✏ The Ad will appear in the March and April KCG.
- ✏ Katlyn and Lenora will email our flier to area EMGs, Master Naturalists and Gardening Clubs
- ✏ 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
- ✏ All suggestions are very welcome!

Please plan to sign up! There will be approximately 7,000 plants and hundreds of shoppers. Your help is needed. Plus, it's really fun!



**We are our own best customers
in order to help
other customers**



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.

GROUP 5, Native Sun-loving Perennials

These are our beloved native Kansas prairie plants and PA Susan Rodgers has the privilege of owning a native prairie, which has been a restoration project by her husband Tim since 2014. Their property was featured on our Garden Tour in 2023. After much consideration, Susan finally settled on three favorites.

Rattlesnake Master *Eryngium yuccafolium* is a common forb (broad-leaved plant) of the tall grass prairie ecosystem. Indigenous people used it as an antidote for rattlesnake bites and wove baskets from the fibrous leaves. Despite the lack of flashy flowers, gardeners love its architectural appearance with flower stems 3 to 4 feet tall topped by globular umbels. Although in the carrot family, it is not a Black Swallowtail host plant. And butterflies are not attracted to the flowers; however, native bees, wasps and flies eagerly forage for the pollen.



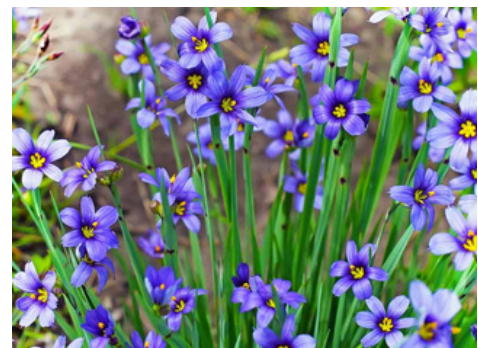
Rattlesnake master is a favorite among the 2,000 Kansas native plant species!



Snow-on-the Mountain is a spectacular long-blooming native annual, extremely drought-tolerant!

Snow on the Mountain *Euphorbia Marginata* is actually an annual but it vigorously self-seeds to reappear every year. (Even I must admit that it is invasive, but that's a virtue in my garden.) Like Poinsettias, a fellow member of the Euphorbia family, the flowers are minute and nondescript; however, the colorful "petals" are actually bracts, which remain attractive for months. In my prairie, it grows to 18" but in my well-watered garden it achieves a height of 4 feet. Stunning!

Blue-eyed Grass *Sisyrinchium angustifolium* grows in my full-sun prairie garden, but Susan treasures it in the partial shade of her woodland garden. Again, proving the folly of common names, it is NOT a grass, rather a species in the Iris family. As a ground-cover it prefers moist acidic soil and spreads into small clumps by rhizomes and by self-seeding. Achieving a height of 12", the blue flowers bloom May thru June. It may need supplemental watering during the summer.



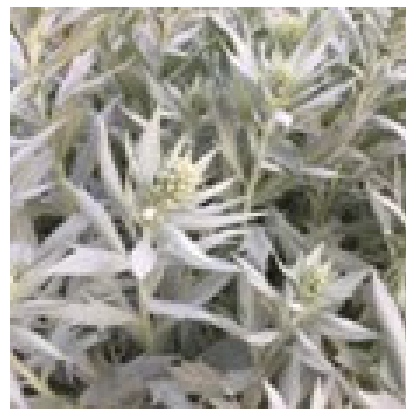
Blue-eyed Grass

GROUP 5, Native Sun-loving Perennials - Continued

Amy's choices

As owner of Vinland Valley Nursery, Amy grows a huge selection of natives. In fact, our sale featured only natives at the insistence of the famous Ken O'Dell who ran our sale until 2014. Like Susan and I, Amy puts Rattlesnake Master at the top of her list. She also joins me in a fondness for the Artemesias and Baptisia.

Artemesia 'Valerie Finnis', is a variety of the species *Artemesia ludoviciana*, known as White Sagebrush, Silver Wormwood, Mugwort, Cudweed, etc, etc. The flowers are unremarkable, but whether growing wild in a prairie or in your garden, the drought-tolerant foliage is pure silver. Herbalists value *Artemesia* as an anti-inflammatory medicinal herb and a mosquito repellent. Some consider 'Valerie Finnis' invasive but that is not my experience.



Artemesia has velvety, silver foliage with lance-shaped leaves and pale yellow flowers add contrast all season in beds and borders. Foliage is aromatic and makes a great addition to arrangements as well. Hardy and easy to grow!



Blue False Indigo *Baptisia australis* is another native prairie plant beloved by both ornamental and native gardeners. Native species have blue, white or yellow flowers but recently breeders have introduced numerous varieties of sunset-colored blooms. I still prefer the blue. My *Baptisia* has thrived in full sun for over 40 years with a tap root that confers drought-tolerance. It is also a butterfly host plant and a pollinator favorite.

Stems with seed pods are valued additions to dried flower arrangements.

An aside....

This is a continued series through April. Each month, you will see an article related to the plant categories that will be available for sale during the plant sale.

Are you enjoying what you are seeing?