



What's Growing On.....

K-STATE
Research and Extension

FEBRUARY 2024

www.maraisdescygn.es.ksu.edu

The latest news from the Marais des Cygne Extension Master Gardeners

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2023 Annual Awards Banquet

Betsy Hasselquist

Thanks to all who attended. It was a great time to get together and celebrate our many accomplishments.

Welcome to the new class (Dianna Marak, Lori Stottlemire, Natalie Hartig, Lorraine McGhee, Shaun Williams) and the graduating class of official EMGs (see photo below).

Out-going and current board members were also recognized.



Congratulations to the following individuals for their accomplishments in 2023:

5-year's Service Award - Barb Shropshire

20-year's Service Award - Connie Murphy

Seeds of Knowledge - Monica Chapman

Work Glove award - Helen Kloepper

Rookie of the Year - Patty Trull

Master Gardener of the Year - Carol Vandenberg

Katelyn announced we completed over 4,000 volunteer hours last year which I believe about doubled the previous year. Did we achieve a record?

There was a recap of all our accomplishments of the past year and the plans for this year demonstrate just how much our small but mighty group impacts our community.

Please send any comments and ideas for next year's banquet to Betsy at bjbniangua@yahoo.com.

Thanks all!



Graduating class (L to R): Susan Rodgers, Patty Trull, Monica Chapman, Bob Vandenberg and Bob Burns. Not pictured: Theresa Barr, Lynn Campbell, Scott Canton, Donna McKee, Lynn Stoner.

Congratulations!

ADVISORY BOARD

Chairman-Janette Everhart
Vice Chair - Carol Vandenberg
Secretary - Susan Rogers
Treasurer - Billie Lenz
Members at Large
 Helen Kloepper
 Stephanie Myers
 Rena Tedrow

Committees

Courthouse Garden
 Phyllis Benedict

Trial Garden

Chet McLaughlin, Shirley New,
 Dennise Fink-Morse

KSU Extension Office Garden

2024 Class (monument sign)
 Deb Kitchell (planters by door)

Linn County Courthouse Garden

Lorraine 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

Publicity

Lenora Larson

Seeds for Kids

Betsy Hasselquist

Miami County Fair

Dennise Fink-Morse,
 Open position

New Recruits/Mentors

Becky Thorpe

Newspaper Articles

Katelyn Barthol, Extension Agt.

Social Media/newsletters

Rena Tedrow, Editor

NEW EMERITUS MEMBERS

Donna Cook and Vickie Vetter-Scruggs were both approved by the board to become Emeritus status members. Thank you both for your outstanding contributions! We hope we will see you often!

SYMPOSIUM RECAP

Almost 200 people attended the Symposium on Feb. 17th! The new venue--Living Proof Church, looked great! The food was delicious. The speakers were entertaining and informative. The door prizes were lovely. What more could you want on a COLD February day? All thanks to the dedicated Master Gardener volunteers. A more detailed report will be in the March Newsletter.

EMG BOARD VISION EXERCISE

Educate, grow, community involvement, knowledge, welcoming, focused, outreach, have fun, engagement, support, learning, communication, grow friendships. Do these words resonate with you? Talk to a board member and help us draft a vision statement.

LEARNING TO SPEAK PLANT LANGUAGE (Lenora Larson)

Barb has had many requests for training on learning botany and botanical nomenclature. Unfortunately, learning botanical names is exactly like learning French or Spanish because it *is* yet another foreign language!

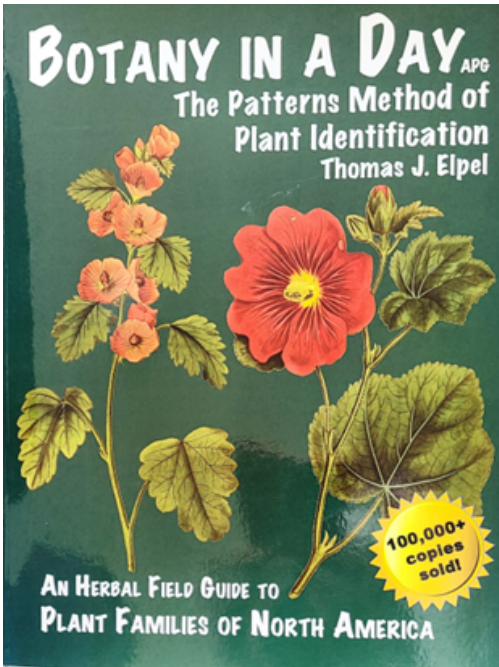
A one-hour training would likely be more frustrating than edifying. Learning a foreign language as an adult is hard, so let's make it fun!! We will organize some recommended resources for self-study. And, if there is interest, we will plan future "Botany Games" (available on the Internet at the 6th grade level) and YouTube video nights as Advanced Trainings. (Continued on next page)



Learning to Speak Plant Language - Cont.

My recommendations to get you started:

- A wonderful book, available on Amazon, ‘Botany in a Day, The Patterns Method of Plant Identification’ by Thomas J. Elpel. I find it riveting, impossible to put down! But I am a true plant geek.
- A starter-project: choose your favorite ten plants in your garden and fill out a chart. As you walk through your garden, greet each plant by its botanical name. If you don’t use it, you’ll lose it!



Below is an example.

Create a table with the information noted in the column headings, then add 10 blank rows below and note YOUR 10 favorite plants.

Common Names	Botanical Name - Google the common name -	Pronunciation - Google the botanical name and listen -	Family	Location in Garden/ Why You Love It
Example: Swamp Milkweed, Rose Milkweed, Silkweed, White Indian Hemp	Asclepias incarnata	Ah-SKLEE-pee-us In-CAR-nah-tah	Milkweed, actually a subfamily of Dogbane (Hemp) family	*Moist, sunny bed by porch *Monarch cat food *Pollinator nectar

****** Please let Barb know if you would like to play some fun botanical board games! *****

UPCOMING:

- **Feb 27** - Seeds for Kids meeting (10am-Ext office); Symposium re-cap meeting (1p - Ext. Office)
- **Mar 5** - K-State Garden Hour series, 'Selecting and Planting Fruit Trees for KS' - noon
- **Mar 5** - 'Four Seasons of Birds and Plants in Kansas City,' Elizabeth Stokes (6:30p - Ext. Office)
See description below.
- **Mar 26** - 'What Would Mother Nature Do?', Lenora Larson (Meet/Greet 6p, program 6:30p, La Cygne Library. Bring a snack to share, if you like.

**Four Seasons of Birds and Plants in Kansas City,
presented by Elizabeth Stokes**



Let's "think outside the (nest) box and the feeder" to help birds thrive! Birds rely on plants not only for food but also for shelter and nesting sites. In return, they provide pest control, pollination, and other ecosystem services, while we enjoy their beauty and fascinating behaviors throughout the year. This presentation will

discuss some bird-friendly plants that can easily be added to an existing garden, or form the basis of a new one, and attract a greater diversity of bird species to your home. We'll also have free bird posters and other educational materials to take home.

Elizabeth Stokes is an experienced birder and butterfly enthusiast. These interests led her to embrace gardening (mostly with native plants) in 2015, and she's still discovering how much she doesn't know, and how much fun experimentation in your garden can be. When she's not tending her Monarch Waystation in Olathe, she wears many hats in Burroughs Audubon Society of Greater Kansas City (your local chapter of National Audubon Society), an organization dedicated to promoting appreciation and enjoyment of birds and conservation of their habitats.

**What Would Mother Nature Do? Sustainable gardening practices endorsed by Mother Nature
Presented by Lenora Larson**

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 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 (N. American Butterfly Association) certified garden in the English Estate landscape style on her 27-acre property, Long Lips Farm, in rural Paola, Kansas.

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
FEB	27	12:00p	1	'Berried Treasure'	Steve Hess, owner of From the Summer's Garden	Leawood Garden Club, Cure of Ars Catholic Church, 6401 Mission Rd., Leawood KS Welcome to attend 10:30 mtg (bring a sack lunch), 12:00 program. Learn about planting & using berries in your yard & landscape.
MAR	2	9a - 3:00p	?	'Groovy Garden Show'	Douglas Co. eMGs	Douglas Co. Fairgrounds, 2110 Harper St., Lawrence KS. Speakers, education booths, workshops, garden art
MAR	5	6:30 PM	1	"Four Seasons of Planting for Birds"	Elizabeth Stoakes	MdC Extension Office
MAR	15 - 16	Fri.: 9:00a - 4:00p Sat.: 8:00a - 4:30p	5	"Vivid Garden - Midwest Moxie," KC Garden Symposium by Gardeners Connect	Fri - Workshop on the Garden Room Method Sat - 4 speakers, 6 presentations	Rockhurst University, 54th and Troost, KC MO, Arrupe Hall Register at gardenersconnect.org \$195 - Friday - Workshop on The Garden Room Method \$99 - Saturday - 4 speakers, 6 presentations, lunch & gift bag
MAR	23	10:00a - 12:00p	2	'Easy Care Backyard Rose Gardening'	Jerry Dreyer, American Rose Society Consultant	Loose Park Garden Center, 5200 Pennsylvania Ave., KCMO. KC Rose Society Program. Jerry will discuss basic steps for growing roses in KC and cover roses that thrive with minimal care.
MAR	26	6:00p Mtg. 6:30p Program	1	"What Would Mother Nature Do?"	Lenora Larson, MdC EMG	(Rescheduled program from last fall - same presentation as IMGc summer conf.) La Cygne Library - Swan Room , 209 N. Broadway, La Cygne. Snacks will be available at 6p - bring something to share if you like.
APR	9	7:00 PM	1	"Lily Addiction: Not That Bad Really"	Art Evans	Gardeners Connect (free speaker series), Merriam Community Center, 6040 Slater, Merriam, KS

ADVANCED TRAINING SCHEDULE - CONT.

MO	DATE	TIME	# HRS	TOPIC	SPEAKER	LOCATION
APR	20	3:00p	1	Planting for Backyard Birds	Dr. Roger Boyd, Emeritus Prof. of Biology, Baker University	Vinland Valley, 1606 N. 600 Rd., Baldwin City KS. Learn how to attract more birds to your backyard by what you plant.
MAY	14	7:00 PM	1	"Everything I Learned From a Tomato - the Taste of Summer"	Sky Kurbaum	Gardeners Connect (free speaker series), Merriam Community Center, 6040 Slater, Merriam, KS
MAY	17-18	pending	?	JoCo EMG Garden Tour	JoCo EMGs	Additional information to follow
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)

To join K-State Garden Hour, 12 PM 1st Wed. of each month, register here <http://hnr.ksu.edu/GardenHour>
 Mar. 6 - Selecting and Planting Fruit Trees for Kansas ~ Apr. 3 - Companion Plants in Your Garden

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 (past recordings available on website)

MdC Training Hours	Other Training Hours	Red text denotes new training or updated information
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*** Register online for the noon webinars at:**

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



A little humor....



Related to Seeds for Kids... Thank you notes received from children who entered their plants in the Miami County Fair. The white card (lying flat) from Kelbi Miller reads, "Thank you for the trophy Master Gardeners. I won zucchini!"

To read the remaining cards, please visit the extension office where they will be displayed.

Paola Plant Sale

April 25, 26, & 27 2024

Thursday 9:00 - 5:00

Friday 9:00 - 6:00

Saturday 9:00 - 1:00

Pesticide-free, Locally Grown
More Butterfly Host Plants than ever!



- Native Plants • Pollinator Plants
- Herbs • Annuals • Perennials • Veggies
- Succulents • Hanging Baskets • Trees
- Hypertufa Gifts!

FREE Gardening Book Exchange!
Bring some, take some!

913 N. Pearl, Paola, KS, 66071

The sale will be held in the parking lot of the Extension Offices
located at 913 N. Pearl, (Old KC Road) Paola, KS



Cash, Credit Cards & Checks Accepted

Sponsored by:

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Master Gardener
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