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There were no Business or Advisory Meetings in June

Annual Open House

The annual K-State Field Day at the Olathe Research Center will be held on Saturday, July 25 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. This year’s Field Day will showcase the following research:

- Annual flower trials
- New annual introductions
- Impatiens Downy Mildew
- Year of the Coleus
- High tunnel production
- Vegetable grafting
- Soil health
- All America Selections

For more information, check out the website: www.johnson.ksu.edu/p.aspx?tabid=681

Continuing Education

by Phil Roudebusch

Given its vital importance to our hobby and avocation, it is amazing that most of us don’t venture beyond the understanding that good soil supports plant life and poor soil doesn’t. You’ve undoubtedly seen worms in good soil and have come across other soil life: centipedes, springtails, ants, slugs, ladybird beetle larvae and more. Healthy soil, however, is not just a few animals — healthy soil is absolutely teeming with life. In recognition of the importance of soils, the 68th United Nations General Assembly declared 2015 the International Year of Soils. To honor and acknowledge this event, Phil Roudebusch will present a program on “Living Soil” on July 7 at 10 a.m. at Grace United Methodist Church. The presentation will focus on all the forms of life found in healthy soil and how we can use this information to improve our gardening techniques.
Speaker’s Bureau Committee Report
by Phil Roudebush

Through May, the Speaker’s Bureau has given 19 presentations with a total audience of more than 700 people. Several interesting presentations will be given at the library in July and August. Dr. Raymond Cloyd from KSU will give a presentation at the library on July 9 titled “Controlling Harmful Insects — Is There Really Such a Thing as an Organic Pesticide?” He will discuss pesticides and whether organic options are available and effective for the home gardener. This is a great opportunity to learn more about control of insect pests from a KSU expert.

For future opportunities, check the Calendar of SCEMG Events & Advanced Training on page 6.

Brooks’ Byline
by Alice Brooks

We have been lucky this year—rain, but no flooding. Because of this unusual weather we are seeing more diseases on plants—more fireblight, anthracnose on trees, and other fungal diseases. On the other hand, annuals are thriving and pots do not need watering every day.

Some of our new Master Gardeners are also thriving. They are finding their interests, and I am finding some wonderful assets in this class. They are enthusiastic and a lot of fun to have in the office. Sign up for the Response Line and get to know one of the new people.

We are not going to be able to have our holiday gathering at Grace United Methodist Church because the room is already booked; we are looking for suggestions for a place to hold the dinner. We need space for 120-130 people. If you have any ideas, please get in touch with me. Perhaps we can start a great new tradition.

Hospitality Committee Report
Florence Deeter & Lois Stadler

Our gathering for the June picnic was a delightful evening at Lake Shawnee. Our gracious host, David Bartels, provided the comfortable and spacious Bettis Family Center for the meeting. About 100 members and guests enjoyed a meal together, which included generous assortments of delicious salads, desserts and fried chicken. Following announcements, door prizes and clean up, Dave gave a tour of the newest addition to the Ensley Gardens.

Committee Reports ...

Compost Committee Report
by Alice Brooks

Dick Dickinson has volunteered to serve as the chairman of the Compost Committee. Let’s step up and help him do a good job.

Archives Committee Report
by Judy Ashbaugh

The Archives committee is still plugging away with getting the newly digitized photos into the correct folders. We found some wonderful photos of the "early days."
Winning Essay

by Mackenzie Knox

There are a hundred different ways to give back to the community. Some people are lucky enough to be in a position where they can just donate to charity, but a large percentage of us do not have any money to give. Volunteering allows you to donate your time and efforts to a cause. In many cases, the recipient appreciates service more than money, and gives a more rewarding experience to the volunteer.

Last summer, I established a school and community garden at Robinson Middle School because many Central Park community members and students do not have easy access to nutritional, locally-grown produce. Although I have a heart for helping people and the concept of eating locally-grown foods, I actually knew little about gardening!

After participating in the Master Gardeners training, and with the support of the Community Garden Network and June Martin, I planned and planted my garden. Because of getting a late start, I had to water and weed almost every morning. I researched the bugs invading my plants and learned how to combat them. My dedication and hard work paid off in the end! The garden grew about 275 pounds of fresh vegetables, which were served in the school cafeteria and distributed to some community members and teachers and faculty members as well. The students not only received healthy food from the garden (which they all agreed tasted better than what was usually served), but they were also educated about the importance of gardening and knowing where their food comes from.

Last fall I had the opportunity to work in the garden with some of these kids, some of whom had no gardening experience whatsoever. By the end of the hour, they were all eating green beans right off of the plants and talking about how much they liked gardening. Perhaps some of them were even inspired to talk to their families and start their own gardens.

My hope for the future of the garden is that it will continue to expand as more people become involved with it. The garden will be sustained through the cooperation and hard work of staff and students from Robinson, members of the Central Park NIA and members of the Central Park Christian Church. I hope that one day the garden will give this broad group of people enough food to share, teach them all about the importance of gardening and bring them closer together as a community.

Art Exhibit

by Jamie Hancock

The Mulvane Art Museum on Washburn University campus is having an art exhibition through August 8 located at 17th and Jewell. The exhibit focuses on animals in mixed media from the Mulvane's Permanent Collection.

The Topeka Floral Arts Club will be displaying dried arrangements to go with the Animal Farm theme during this show. Several of our Master Gardeners members of this club. You are invited to come out in support of our members. Since Jamie is a member of this club, her arrangement will be part of the display.

For more information, visit the website: www.washburn.edu/about/community/mulvane-art-museum/exhibitions/current/Animal.html
What a great day at Avondale West Elementary School! The Master Gardeners educated and trained 40 kindergarteners and four teachers in the art of butterfly/pollinator gardening.

First, was an educational PowerPoint on the parts of a flower and how color benefits the pollinators. While “Farmer John Kerl” was installing a beautiful trellis that he made, the Master Gardeners worked with kids planting seeds and potting plants. They also made bird feeders out of toilet paper tubes, peanut butter and bird seed. Feeders were proudly hung on the trellis for the birds to enjoy! The children made beautiful hand-written thank you notes and gave them to us. Some talked about how fun it was to plant or how they loved flowers and butterflies. One said, “I want to be a Master Gardener when I grow up!”

As well as everyone can tell, sunny days have been few and far between. As great as the rain is for every garden out there, we need a little sunshine too. Not to worry -- we still have some good vegetable production happening at the demonstration garden. There are some nice Roma tomatoes hanging out there, along with the start of some Jet Stars, Cherokee Purples and Pineapple tomatoes. The Brussels sprouts look like you could pick them and eat them right off the plant! The asparagus … Well I am unable to explain exactly what the rain and sun has done for them. You will just have to see for yourself! Despite the unwieldy weather pattern, there will be some nice veggies to pick in the weeks to come. Last year it was bunnies, this year Mother Nature. What can you do except take it with a grain of salt?
Cedar Crest Native Plant Garden
by Steve Paige

A picture is worth a thousand words . . . Enough said.

Cedar Crest Perennial Garden
by Mary Lou McPhail

This picture was taken facing southeast. In the front are Speedwell or Veronica Spicata and Stella de Oro Lilies. The Speedwell is sometimes called Sunny Border Blue. What a great violet-blue flower to have in a perennial garden! It can bloom from May until the first frost. This plant needs full sun. It has a medium water requirement and is low maintenance. It is very striking outdoors and yet is a good cut flower. The best advantage to this flower is it has no insect or disease problems. Rabbit and deer will not bother it.

To contrast the soft, tall, willowy Speedwell is the Desert Candle Yucca. The Yucca is behind the Speedwell. The large white flowers are in full bloom. According to the Extension Office of Utah State University, the buds, flowers, and some of the fruits have served as food for the American Indians. Roots were used as soap and as a laxative. The leaf fibers were used for weaving mats and sandals.

Take a drive out to Cedar Crest to check out the Perennial and the Native Plant Gardens. Both are magnificent right now!

Woodland Garden

Gardens ...
Calendar of SCEMG Events & Advanced Training

June

25 — 7 p.m. — Drip Irrigation (1U), Topeka/Shawnee County Public Library
27 — 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. — Downtown Topeka Farmer’s Market, Carolyn Hull, 12th and Harrison

July

6 — 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. — Sick Plant Clinic, Fairlawn Plaza Mall
7 — 10 a.m. — Living Soil (2U), Phil Roudebush, Grace UMC
7 — 12 p.m. — Members’ Meeting, Grace UMC
9 — 7 p.m. — Insects: Is There Really Such a Thing as an Organic Pesticide (1U), Raymond Cloyd, Topeka/Shawnee County Public Library
11 — 7:30 a.m. to Noon — Downtown Topeka Farmer’s Market, Carolyn Hull, 12th and Harrison
17 — 2:30 p.m. — Newsletter Committee Meeting, Extension Office Response Line Room
25 — 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. — Downtown Topeka Farmer’s Market, Shelley Miller, 12th and Harrison
25 — 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. — K-State Research and Extension Horticulture Center Field Day, 35230 West 135th Street, Olathe, $5.00 per person at the gate

Future Dates…

August 4 — 7 p.m. — Members’ Meeting, EMR Office
August 4 — 7 p.m. — Drip Irrigation (1U), Gene Kruse, Topeka/Shawnee County Public Library
August 8 — 7:30 a.m. to Noon — Downtown Topeka Farmer’s Market, Need Team Captain, 12th and Harrison
August 13 — 7 p.m. — Fall Lawn Care (1U), Steve Paige, Topeka/Shawnee County Public Library
August 22 — 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. — Downtown Topeka Farmer’s Market, Shelley Miller, 12th and Harrison
August 27 — 7 p.m.—Gardens to Attract Bees & Butterflies (1U), Topeka/Shawnee County Public Library

September 1 — 10 a.m. — Grass Seed Label/Common Turf Grass Weeds (2U), Chad Bullock, Grace UMC
September 1 — 12 p.m. — Members’ Meeting, Grace UMC
September 10 — 7 p.m. — Perennial Garden Layout (1U), Topeka/Shawnee County Public Library
September 12 — 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. — Downtown Topeka Farmer’s Market, Patty Parr, 12th and Harrison
September 22-25 — International Master Gardener Conference, Council Bluffs, Iowa

October 6 — 7 p.m. — Members’ Meeting, Member Gardening Tips and Tools/IMGC Report (1U), Mike Jones, EMR Office
October 8 — 7 p.m. — Houseplants & Fairy Gardens (1U), Topeka/Shawnee County Public Library

November 3 — 10 a.m. — Climate and Weather in Shawnee County (2U), Mary Knapp, Grace UMC
November 3 — 12 p.m. — Members’ Meeting, Grace UMC

December 1 — 6 p.m. — Recognition Dinner*

*Details TBD
# Treasurer’s Report

Checking Account Balance as of May 7, 2015 $18,875.19

Income and deposits:

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<td>Plant Sale Donation by Ms Cindy Evans</td>
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<td>Berryton United Methodist Women—Elsie Gibeson</td>
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<td>5/28/15</td>
<td>Green Team — Recycled Materials</td>
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<td>6/11/15</td>
<td>Meeting Can — June MG Picnic</td>
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Total Income 99.00

Expenditures:

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<td>4/7/15</td>
<td>Ck 1294 — Xeriscape plants — Barb Lewerenz (Xeriscape)</td>
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<td>Ck 1302—Metal template Westside Stamp — Millie Hodges (Membership)</td>
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<td>Ck 1304—Payment for flowers for J Domme — Leroy Russell (General Fund)</td>
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<td>Ck 1305—Digitized photos Wolfe’s — Judy Ashbaugh (General Fund)</td>
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<td>Ck 1306—Materials for Hospitality — Florence Deeter (Hospitality)</td>
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<td>Ck 1310—Scholarship — Chelsey Johnston (Scholarship)</td>
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<td>Ck 1311—Potting soil for Prairie Star Garden — Alice Brooks (Prairie Star)</td>
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<td>Ck 1312—Void check — Addressed to wrong payee (Layes error)</td>
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<td>Ck 1313—Green Team Committee materials for recycle day (Green Team)</td>
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<td>5/28/15</td>
<td>Ck 1314—Zoo and Library green fair — Elsie Gibeson (Youth Committee)</td>
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<td>5/28/15</td>
<td>Ck 1315 — Break-Through House concrete blocks — Steve Paige (Special Needs)</td>
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<td>Ck #1316 — Filing for Non-Profit 2015 Ks Sec of State — W Layes (General Fund)</td>
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Total Expenditures 2,384.47

Checking Account Balance as of June 6, 2015 16,589.72

Money Market Account as of April 30, 2015 4,072.17

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Total All Accounts as of June 12, 2015 $20,662.06

Respectfully submitted by Bill Layes

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**Here’s the Link**

**Kansas Insect Newsletter**

If you have an interest in insects this may be the website for you. Newsletters are published periodically. The June 4 issue includes the following articles, “Rose Sawflies; Corn and Wheat Update; An old friend revisited – Wooly maple/briar aphids (WMBA); Periodical Cicadas Out in Full Force; Insect Diagnostic Laboratory Report.” You can even subscribe to get an electronic version of the newsletter. To get started go to:

[http://entomology.k-state.edu/extension/newsletter/subscriptionpage.html](http://entomology.k-state.edu/extension/newsletter/subscriptionpage.html)
Sick Plant Clinic

Sponsored by: The Shawnee County Extension Master Gardeners (a volunteer program of the KSU-Shawnee County Extension Council)

If you have an ailing plant, or a “mystery” plant, take advantage of this opportunity to bring in a sample for diagnosis or identification.

**WHEN:** Monday, July 6

**TIME:** 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

This event is designed to help people with their ailing plants including ornamentals (trees, shrubs, flowers), vegetables, fruit crops, turfgrass, and indoor plants. Master Gardener volunteers, local Extension personnel, and specialists from the Departments of Plant Pathology and Horticulture at Kansas State University will be on hand to diagnose plant problems, identify plants, weeds and insects and discuss general pest care.

The Sick Plant Clinic is sponsored by the Shawnee County Extension Master Gardeners (a volunteer program of the KSU-Shawnee County Extension Council).

If you have an ailing plant, insect problem or weed infestation, take advantage of this opportunity to bring in a sample for diagnosis or identification. Use the Response Line guidelines for collecting samples for diagnosis.
When you are in Oklahoma City, stop by the downtown area and visit the Myriad Botanical Gardens. My husband and I did just that recently while we were there attending the Women’s College World Series. This 15-acre site provides respite and tranquility in the center of a bustling downtown OKC.

We spent a few minutes strolling through the outdoor gardens, most of which were planted on slopes around a man-made running stream and small lake. Since we were limited on time, we opted to spend most of our time at the Crystal Bridge Tropical Conservatory.

The Conservatory looks like a large glass tube laying on its side. It has over 13,000 square feet of plant displays. It houses two distinct climates: the Tropical Wet Zone is watered daily, while the Tropical Dry Zone at the other end of the building receives water from April through September which is followed with five months of drought. The sounds from the multiple waterfalls are soothing and peaceful.

Elevated walkways allow you to get an up-close view of palm trees, as well as various types of epiphytes such as bromeliads, orchids, air plants and some cacti. Hundreds of Zebra Longwing Butterflies flitted throughout the Conservatory. They reproduce freely within their local environment and live up to eight months.

From the Zombie Palm with the wicked looking spines that cover its trunk, which were used to make Voodoo dolls, to the beautiful orchids, to the rare Cycad, you’ll find something to amaze you. Stop by for the afternoon. Perhaps one of the two resident double yellow-headed Amazon parrots will even tell you, “Hello!”

Did You Know … ?

The New Master Gardeners class dates are coming up soon. Referrals from Master Gardeners are not accepted, so please have potential new gardeners contact the Extension Office with their application. Here are the dates for this year’s class.

Friday, August 14 – Applications are due in the Extension Office by 5 p.m.
Thursday, August 20 – New Master Gardener Orientation
Thursdays on September 3, 10 (no class on the 17th) and 24 – Training Classes
Thursdays on October 1, 8, (no class on the 15th), 22 and 29 – Training Classes
Thursday, November 5 – New Master Gardener last class and graduation

A Monarch In the Making
by Lynn Weaver

This bouquet came from our property in the country. We were admiring the beautiful flowers when we noticed a welcome hitchhiker – a monarch caterpillar!

It is about ½-inch long at present. We are going to keep an eye on him. When he is a little bigger, we’ll put him in a jar with fresh milkweed leaves and hope he makes a chrysalis.

On the Road With …
Christina & Bobby Walker

Photo by Lynn Weaver

When you are in Oklahoma City, stop by the downtown area and visit the Myriad Botanical Gardens. My husband and I did just that recently while we were there attending the Women’s College World Series. This 15-acre site provides respite and tranquility in the center of a bustling downtown OKC.

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Lobster Claw (Heliconia sp.)
Shawnee County Master Gardeners Newsletter is published monthly for the Shawnee County Extension Master Gardeners, a volunteer program of K-State Research and Extension Agency in Shawnee County. Mission Statement: Improving our community through horticulture.

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service. K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Kansas State University is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision, or hearing disability, or a dietary restriction, please contact Jamie Hancock, horticulture agent, 785-232-0062, extension 104.

Volunteer forms and newsletter archives on the web at www.shawnee.ksu.edu

“Here’s The Scoop!” is produced by the Newsletter Committee. Committee members are:

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We welcome your news, photos, and ideas for the newsletter. Contact us!