

## EMGs trip to Chicago/Milwaukee a success!

Twenty-eight EMGs had a wonderful time exploring the world of gardening in the Milwaukee and Chicago area in late August. The adventurous group landed first in Milwaukee where we toured a one acre private garden that's featured plant was moss. Yes, moss and it provided a wonderful setting for the garden. Next up was the Boerner Botanical Garden that featured beautiful annual flowers and great roses. We were all jealous as they do not have rose rosette in either of these two cities. Our final Milwaukee stop was a restored private mansion from the golden era of the industrial revolution with a setting to die for overlooking Lake Michigan.

Chicago bound the EMGs first enjoyed stops at Morton Arboretum, Cantigny Park and Ball Horticulture. Ball was the highlight for the day with colorful annuals covering areas of the grounds in large sweeps of color.

Day two was out and about. Starting with the gentleman's farm, Elawa Farm loaded with vegetables and a cutting garden in Lake Forest. Next the group headed back to

Wisconsin for a tour of Northwind Perennials home of Roy Diblik, one of the leaders in the sustainable landscape movements. Conifers were on tap at Rich's Foxwillow Pine Nursery specializing in conifers and dwarf plants. The delightful evening concluded at the home of Merle Sharpe's brother in beautiful Bull Valley.

Chicago Botanical Garden filled day four which included a tour of their research facility and green roof project. The gardens were beautiful and featured many display gardens. Dinner that evening was at the restaurant of an award winning chef at Prairie Grass, which featured photos of the Kansas Flint Hills.

Before flying home the group headed downtown to Millennium Park for a tour of Lurie Gardens and the famous "bean" sculpture. Last stop was the Chicago Art Institute to enjoy the classic works of art.

A great time was had by all and if you missed the opportunity the committee that plans training and tours will be meeting, Wednesday, November 2 at 1:00 pm.



## Advanced Training

Advanced training is on the third Thursday of the month unless otherwise noted. Held at Grace United Methodist Church, 11485 Ridgeview Road, Olathe 66061. Training will begin promptly at 9 a.m. and conclude no later than noon. No registration is required, just attend and learn.

**October 20 – Rob Mortko – Hostas**

**November 17 – Landscape Renovation**

Jeff Haley, Epic Landscape

**December – No Class**

## Meetings and Events

### October

**8-9** ..... Shawnee Indian Mission Festival, 9-4  
**12** ..... Class of 2016 Graduation, 7pm  
**14** ..... Advisory Board Meeting, 9am  
**18** ..... EMG/Mentor Lunch, Noon  
**25** ..... No EMG Training class

### November

**8** ..... No EMG Training class—elections  
**11** ..... Advisory Board Meeting, 9am  
**22** ..... EMG/Mentor Lunch, Noon



### Directions for getting to the EMG members-only section of the Web

1. Go to Extension home page [www.johnson.k-state.edu](http://www.johnson.k-state.edu)
2. Click on **Lawn and Garden** (left column)
3. Click on **Extension Master Gardeners**
4. Scroll down. Click **For Members-only Login** (it's at the bottom of the EMG section)
5. Scroll down. Click under "Reporting Your EMG Hours". E-id: **jocoemg** Password: **garden**. Then click **sign-in**. All the links should show up on the screen and you can click to choose what you want.
6. Log off when are finished. The **Log-off** link is in bright yellow at the top of the right corner of the screen.

**Statewide EMG Training**

**Save the date**

**September 30 – October 1, 2016**



## ADVISORY BOARD NOTES

by Christie Cochran, Advisory Board Chair



### September Advisory Board Notes

A full Board was in attendance along with many EMG guests, our accountant Jackie Dandurand, Dennis and Nicia.

\*The Board donated \$250.00 to the Johnson County Extension Education Foundation as a benefactor sponsor.

\*The 2016 Garden Tour funds allocated to the Scholarship Reserve Fund was \$11,005.88.

\*The 2016 Field Day donation to the KSU Horticulture Center was \$1,610.00.

\*Most Demonstration Gardens spent the last month weeding, dead heading and watering.

\*Since becoming certified as a Monarch Watch Waystation, Deanna Rose tagged, released and recorded 8 Monarch in their garden.

\*Garden Gallery has a new co-chair for next season: Don Coleman.

\*Monet has a new co-chair for next season: Mark Stuecheli

\*Wonderscope has built a new entry and path into their garden for the children at the bus drop off point!

\*The 2017 Midwest Regional Hosta Convention, our new EMG project through 2017 only, is up and running---if you would like to volunteer on this project, contact Nicia.

Have a great Autumn season!

Christie Cochran, Advisory Board Chair



Morton Arboretum—Lisle, Illinois



# Monet Garden

by Mark Stuecheli

As we enter into the fall season, the plantings in the Monet Garden are really maturing. Gone are the holes from the hailstorm and the deer. Many of the annuals are reaching their peaks, resulting in splashes of bright colors. In the Water Garden the lotus are nearing the end of their flower production, but in their place are leaving their distinctive seed heads. Soon we will be planting bulbs to provide shape and color in our spring garden.

In late August we were lucky to be able to hear from Renee Bernhardt's daughter, Hillary, about her experience working at Monet's Garden in Giverny, France. She spoke in one of our "Monet Moments", where bits of gardening wisdom are dispensed to educate our EMGs about various aspects of gardening in the Monet Garden.



In our "Tour of the Monet Garden", we have been showcasing each of the six sub-gardens. This month we turn to the South Walk Garden, which is located on the left as you enter the Monet Garden from the main walkway leading into the Arboretum. The South Walk Garden also includes the "blue house", where all of the garden tools are kept. That building is in the spirit of the blue shed that was in Monet's Garden.



Four EMGs co-captain the South Walk Garden - Vicki Brown, Dana Flory, JJ Jensen & Susan Poore. They and the other EMGs in South Walk work hard to keep the Garden looking its best.

This year the South Walk Garden has put on an impressive display of alliums - both the tall alliums that bloom for weeks in the spring and the delightful Millenium allium that blooms in late summer. Pink pentas also have been quite showy and have worked well in combination with the Millenium alliums.



Working amongst the alliums in South Walk

Arboretum Factoid - Our Monet Garden was designed in 2003 by EMG Nancy Branum, and in the years since Nancy has continued to design each upgrade/change to the garden plan.



## Deanna Rose Farmstead

by Beth Graham

August came and went with beautiful flowers everywhere. The EMG's battled extreme heat, humidity, rain, wind and even a week of vacationing workers. A social at Paula Clayton's intercity mansion was enjoyed by this special treat. Her home being just shy of 100 years old!

Butterflies are laying eggs, larvae are climbing all over and butterflies are dancing on the wind. DRCF became a Monarch Waystation and earned its Federation of Wildlife certification this year. Butterfly nets and tagging equipment arrived just in time as 8 monarchs have been tagged and set free. It has been an education learning to tell the difference between male and female monarchs. The Black Swallowtails, praying mantis and other critters have been keeping us entertained, as well.

The Butterfly gardens have been blessed with a unique wooden fence built by Walt at the Farmstead. This has kept the children off the giant log and the surrounding flowers. Ray Stolhand has finished the watering system and now is working on the water feature in Beverly's Butterfly garden. EMG's are so lucky to have Ray in their gardens!

The Veggie folks have produced 321.25 pounds for a total year to date; they even grew 18" Purple Beans! These gardeners have had trouble like most gardens with the ever present squash beetles.

If you are looking for an enjoyable and educational garden; Deanna Rose Children's Farmstead is the place for you! We meet on Tuesday mornings starting at 9 a.m. and enter by the East Birthday Entrance.



## Garden Gallery

by Laura Sloan

Once again, our report will probably not differ much from other gardens. We missed two meetings because of rain, which we were happy about as the garden was parched.

We continue in maintenance mode with weeding, deadheading and watering. Laura Sloan did a teaching moment on the Japanese Beetles, which have now largely disappeared back into the ground, waiting for next year to wreak destruction. The garden is looking good for it having been such an up and down year.

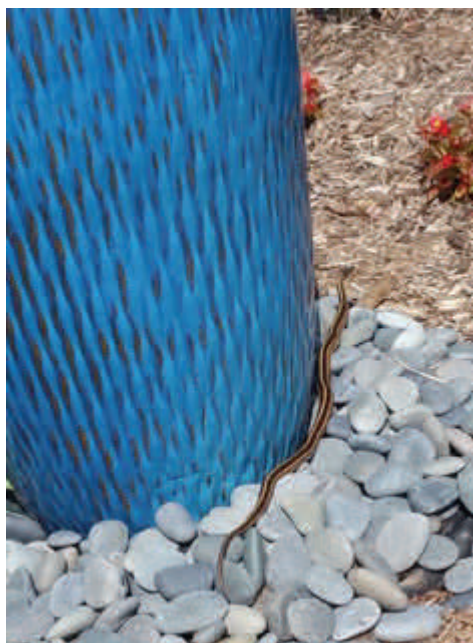
We now begin our plotting and planning for next year. Nancy Branum has been spending many hours updating the garden bed maps. This was a big job this year because of all the changes to Cottage Garden. Plus, we always do moving and switching around! Diana Wille has also been updating our pruning and maintenance schedule for our many plants. This is all in preparation for our annual fall "walk through" this next month. We are also working on budget planning for the 2017 season. The Garden Gallery is scheduled to do a program review this fall. So we will be busy with this in addition to closing down the garden.

Since there is little new news, we will discuss a garden visitor we had this month crawling around our new water feature. Named "Fred" by a visiting grandchild, this little fellow is "*Thamnophis radix*" or the Plains Garter Snake. (or maybe *Thamnophis sirtalis*" the Common Garter Snake It's hard to tell). Its estimated population density is three snakes per acre in this area. He is a harmless and beneficial snake, feeding on frogs or small mice. Interestingly these snakes have large litters— from 4-85! This snake is active from March through November. It is found throughout Kansas east of the High Plains.



Linda Truitt trimming boxwoods

We continue to appreciate our many volunteers. We have averaged 20-25 each week all summer. Thanks!



Our visitor at the water feature—a common garter snake

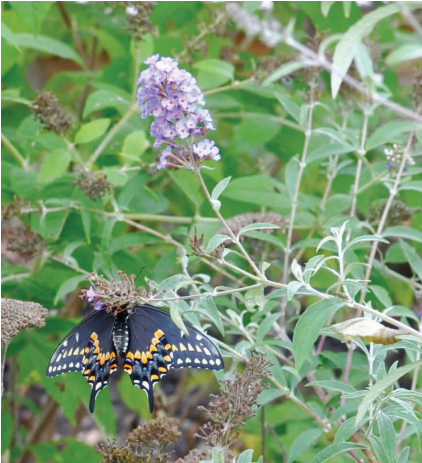




# Wilderness Science Center

by Bridget Ley

The crew was entertained by more monarchs and swallowtail butterflies in August thanks to the warm summer days. The monarchs were found on milkweed and butterfly bushes, and various stages of swallowtails were seen around paw paws, spicebush and fennel.



Ventral side (underneath) of a Black Swallowtail newly emerged from chrysalis, on butterfly bush



Zebra Swallowtail on verbena bonariensis.  
Photo by John Kenny.

Much of our time was spent weeding, pruning and hand watering. We extended the irrigation system to the east garden under the tall junipers.

Jan Curry hosted a fabulous social and we reveled in her amazing gardens filled with primarily native plants. We were fortunate to have a gorgeous morning and spent the majority of the time outside taking it all in. It was too chilly to swim but we preferred watching butterflies and birds skip from plant to plant anyway. Jan has such a strong love for native plants and gardening that about 12 years ago she decided not to buy a plant unless it fed a bird, butterfly or pollinator. She hasn't followed the rule 100% but it is clear to see that many types of wildlife flutter around happily in her gardens which are certified as both a Wildlife Habitat and a Monarch Way Station. Thank you Jan!

Senna is a stunning plant in bloom showing off bright yellow flowers and it was at its peak at the Wilderness Science Center this month. It is popular for meadow plantings and in native landscape gardens. The caterpillars of some sulphur butterflies rely on senna foliage as a food source and the seeds are eaten by some game birds.

If you enjoy native plants and wildlife come out and visit the Wilderness Science Center gardens near Blue Valley Middle school. Feel free to join us in the garden on Monday mornings at 8:30 am on our search for new wildlife!



Sulphur Larva on Senna.  
Photo by John Kenny.

# Shawnee Town

by Judy Coday

The Shawnee Town gardens looked spectacular this year during the two big September events! The Shawnee Town Craft Fair was held September 17th and the Great Griller's Blues and Barbeque Contest followed on September 23rd & 24th. EMG volunteers were on hand to answer questions, provide information and enjoy talking with the many visitors. A big "THANK YOU" goes out to all our volunteers who prepared the gardens and provided staffing for these events.

The gardens seem to thrive in heat and look especially beautiful in late summer and early fall. The new pepper bed is a great addition to the Herb garden and was especially showy during the summer months. The Dipper Gourds completely covered our rope trellis and required weekly pruning to keep them restrained. Plants such as celosia, giant dried alliums, and amaranth looked fantastic! Various culinary herbs - basil, oreganos, and mints have been harvested weekly and taken to Shawnee Services at the end of the workday. The cuttings go off the shelves as soon as they are delivered. The Country Garden was very colorful as well with the many brightly-colored zinnias, angelonia, lantana and daylilies.



**"Garden Gleaning"**  
topics presented in September: Kala Musick – Angelonia; Jack Carson – Hyacinth Bean Vine; Jan Sungail – Sneezeweed. The gleanings have been so interesting and educational this year. Great job all!





# Evergreen

by Anne Harvey

An attitude of gratitude.

“We love what you do in the garden. It really changes the resident’s lives.”  
“When my son visits he always pushes my chair around in the garden and it gives us something to do together.” “I just love it when I come outside and see the butterflies” “I look forward to seeing you all come on Tuesdays.” “This place is so pretty, the flowers make me grin.” The result of our few minutes of searching out eggs, caterpillars and chrysalis’ each week is a clear sign that another part of the cycle of nature has found a safe refuge to eat, and continue the next generation of life. Last week we found 21 caterpillars! Flowers blooming prolifically are an indication that we have done a good job of putting the right plant in the right place.

I don’t want to boast of these spontaneous thank-yous, so much as I want to share that the Horticultural therapy we strive for is in fact meaningful to our lives too. How often in life does someone stop to say you made a difference? One likes to imagine it happening- but to really hear it is another, far rarer event. For our small team of Kansas State Extension Master Gardeners at Evergreen, we know we make a difference in the lives of others. We know it because we hear it. We see it happen. Sometimes the words aren’t there but the smiles between us are as great as the words. I hope that everyone hears these words from time to time. And I dare say it is why we keep coming back to Evergreen.



Michael McDemott, Jay Feltheim, Lynn Maxwell, and Anne Harvey surround resident Henry with our one pumpkin and multiple fingerling potatoes



## Backyard Garden

by Kate Pettijohn

By October, the backyard garden is winding down after a successful year. We have harvested more than 1000 LBS of produce to-date sharing it with our volunteers, the K-State staff and distributing it to the food pantry at New Hope Presbyterian on Black Bob in Olathe. There were many beautiful flowers provided from the cutting garden so we had many beautiful bouquets to take home. The herb garden harvest allows us to dry the herbs to use during the winter months.

On August 11, we hosted a friends and family night at the backyard garden. Everyone was able to stroll through the cutting garden, protein garden, grape vines, orchard, berry patch, perennial beds, and the inner vegetable gardens with all the raised beds and containers.

On August 16, a group of Sedgwick county master gardeners visited the K-State Research facility and toured the Backyard garden (see below).

On September 28, we had the BYG End of Season Dinner Party in the gazebo and surrounding area. The party started at 4:00 PM and lasted into the evening. We all brought lots of good food and lots of great conversation.

Harvesting continues as the last of the crops are available. We are cleaning up the beds to make them ready for the winter months.

The wildlife fence did a great job in its first season defending our crops, orchard and berries against the critter's hunger and destruction.



Visiting Sedgwick County EMGs



# Santa Fe Trail

by Kala Musick & Ruth Ann Unruh

The Junior Master Gardener program at Santa Fe Trail has begun its tenth year with 32 enthusiastic enrollees. B.J. Schulenburg from the Wildlife Committee kicked off our year with a butterfly and moth presentation. The students enjoyed the beautiful slides of the butterflies and moths found in our area and the opportunity to see and handle some of the caterpillars.

We are looking forward to many fun activities and programs this year. Among the highlights are identifying trees with a guest botanist and dissecting owl pellets with Operation Wildlife. The JMG's also enjoy helping plant and maintain the school's Monarch Watch certified butterfly garden.

We welcome any Master Gardeners who can join us on the second Wednesday of each month at Santa Fe Trail (71<sup>st</sup> and Lamar) from 2:45 until 4:15.

