

# Manhattan Community Gardens

## Spring 2017

Welcome to all new and returning gardeners! The gardens are beginning their 43rd year at Riley Lane and the 6th year at the Collins Lane location. There is plenty of space for all who want plots and plenty of sunshine for all the plants. The Riley County Board of Commissioners has seen how wonderful the Collins Lane Gardens are doing and renewed our lease recently, this time for 10 years. We hope for similar results from the Manhattan City Commission when the time comes for the Riley Lane lease renewal.

## Notes from the Board

Midwest Concrete Materials donated 2" limestone rock for the Collins Lane roads. Doug Parker donated equipment and labor to spread the rock on the road. Please try to stay on the gravel roads as you drive around the plots at Collins. Don't cut snippets off the corners and gardeners, don't let your plants grow out to the road! Anything making it to the gravel is fair game for being run over and tire-pruned!

**Rototilling by the tilling crew is underway!** You may have noticed it rained for about a solid week or more, so the start of the tilling season was delayed. ***Please be patient, the crew is tilling as fast as they can.*** Rototilling when the soil is too wet can damage the structure of the soil so it is best to let the soil dry to the correct moisture level. If you have paid to have your plot tilled, be sure to clearly mark any perennial plants or prior plantings. If you are planning to plant perennial crops such as asparagus, rhubarb, strawberries or other small fruits, plant them on one side of the plot. This will make future rototilling easier.

The little yellow shed that was at Collins Lane will be moved to Riley Lane and placed in plot 100 next to 8th Street. A share of tools will be placed in it so the trek isn't quite so far for the East Enders. When you drop off your recycling at Howies, please thank Greg Wilson for his help moving the shed.

If you are not receiving the weekly e-newsletter from Dr. Chuck Marr or emails from MCG and would like to do so, please contact Eli at [communitygarden@tryufm.org](mailto:communitygarden@tryufm.org) and he will add you to the list.

Much time and effort was dedicated to the measurement and layout of the plots. Plots were staked with T-posts in the corners with PVC hose guides at the bottom of them. Please do not move these posts from their original locations. Flags were put in newly assigned plots to help everyone plant in the right place! Make sure you are in the correct plot before proceeding!



## Your 2017 Manhattan Community Garden Board Members

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**UFM Community Garden**

**communitygarden@tryufm.org office 539-8763**

### Find Friends on Facebook!



You may have received an email invite to **join the Manhattan (Kansas) Community Gardens Facebook page**. It is a closed page, only MCG

gardeners can post to it and see it. Requests to join are checked against the gardener list before access is approved.

Share garden info, show off your successes, ask & give advice and ideas; share plants & produce and find garden sitters when it's time for vacation.



Early to bed, early to rise, please don't call the board members when it's past 9.....

Unless it's an emergency and then you should dial 9-1-1.

Report non-emergency crimes by calling the **police NON-Emergency number:**

785-537-2112.





**Garden Socials Help Build Community!** Socials are held once the work is done or about 11:00 a.m. on most scheduled work days. Those who sign up for the socials work together to plan what to bring and whether there will be a theme or other special event. Gardeners who aren't signed up for the workday teams are encouraged and invited to attend the social and bring a potluck dish to share. We have gardeners from around the world, so our socials are great opportunities to let your taste buds travel while you stay at home.

## Socials Sign-up Lists

### May 6th

Alan Shineman  
Chance Lee  
Dr Rob Morrison  
Erin Bishop  
Graham Rose  
Jackie Macdonald  
Jilinda Johnson  
Liandi Liu  
Michael Donnelly  
Michelle Sidorfsky  
Patricia Thompson  
Ruth Rosenblatt  
Stephen Williams  
Xuming Liu

### June 10th Social

Chris Stephens  
Cristiano Lemes da Silva  
Cybil Perkins  
Darin Marti  
Jilinda Johnson  
Jo Marti  
John Exdell  
Judy Stephens  
Karen Buyle  
Teddy O Hodges  
Yuntao Zhang

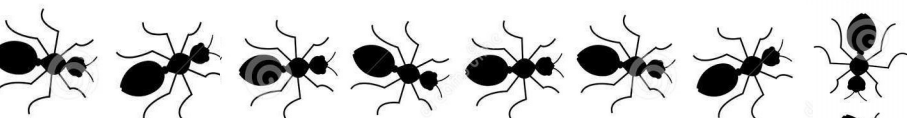
### September 9th

Anita Carroll  
Colleen Hampton  
Cybil Perkins  
Edwin Brokesh  
Kent Hampton  
Larry Lord  
Nilima Bhoi  
Prathima Chandraiah  
Susan Bergtold  
Tanda Kidd  
Teddy O Hodges  
Weiqiang Zhang

November 4th is a potluck for all and the annual meeting to hold elections for new board members. Mark your calendars now!



\*\*Because most MCG Gardeners bleed purple, the **September 9th** workday & social is subject to change depending on the home football schedule.\*\*

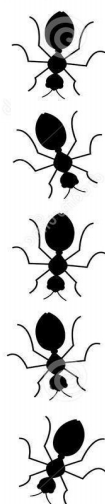


### October 7th\*

Anoj Atapaitu  
Colleen Hampton  
Dr Rob Morrison  
Hailey McClellan  
Kent Hampton  
Ki Ja Suh  
Kum Higgins  
Livia Olsen  
Nancy Knorp  
Nilima Bhoi  
Prathima Chandraiah  
Sylvia Beeman

### November 4th\*

Brian Switzer  
Brohgan Dieker  
Ceaven Evans  
Ellen Stauffer  
Emily O'Connor  
Jenell Williams  
John Exdell  
Livia Olsen  
Michael Rhodes  
Mike Stauffer



## Caution!! Warning!!! Danger!!!

If you use pesticides, including herbicides, apply them to **YOUR PLOT ONLY!** As tempting as it may be to sprinkle pre-emergent or spray your neighbor's border weeds, don't do it! Let a board member know if there is an issue with weeds or other pests.

*Be good to the environment!*

**Read, understand and FOLLOW the label directions before using ANY pesticide!!**

Remember, organic does not mean safe!! Organic pesticides can harm you or other unintended victims.

## Gleanings from Gardening Books at the Manhattan City Library.....

This is my second year of working on the newsletter. You may see some repeat advice if you're a repeat gardener. That's because gardening tips don't change much from year to year and I used up all my ideas last year. A couple weeks ago, I escaped to the library to write because I get a little too much help from my kids at home. I pulled a stack of gardening books off the shelf and started leafing through, borrowing ideas & jotting down triggered memories and deep thoughts....such as, why do mother plants only have daughter plants?



My mom taught me what her mom taught her, such as using 2 sticks with string tied to them to make straight rows. I don't bother with such precision these days. But, when my mom made crooked rows, she always figured her mom was looking down from heaven saying "that's not how I taught you to plant a garden." Remember geometry class and the definition of parallel lines? That's what my grandma expected. I've tried creative curvy lines and initially they are fun, later, they were just a hassle to work around. Straight rows— single, double or wide are easier to manage.

**Grow up, not out....** Train long and lean or tall, bushy crops to grow up. Growing up saves space, your back and can help reduce spread of diseases. Tomatoes, pole beans, cucumbers, gourds, and peas are a few that come to mind that do well when taught to grow high.

**Horticulture...** The art and science of growing food for the body and food for the soul. You can mix ornamentals in with your vegetables. Annual flowers attract bees and butterflies which help attract pollinizers for your vegetables. Only pesticides labeled for your vegetables or fruits should be used in the food garden, not those labeled for ornamental plants. Do this around your home and call it "edible landscaping".

**Sing while you sow....** An old favorite hot pepper 'Copacabana' always required the Barry Manilow song while working around it. "Sunshine on My Shoulders" is good for any sunny day in the garden or "Tomorrow" from Annie on the not so sunny days when you're stuck inside. "Killing Me Softly with His Song" (or as I sing it, Killing them Softly....) comes to mind while picking potato and harlequin bugs and dropping them into a bucket of soapy water. What are your favorite gardening songs?

**Don't poke your eye out**—old tennis balls make great toppers for electric fence posts and other pointy stakes. Cut an X with a sharp knife and slip them on. Don't cut your fingers!

**Don't rip your skin open**—I find myself staggering along the paths after long hours of weeding because I ignored my advice of getting the weeds when they were small. I've been known to rip holes in shirts and skin alike. Empty, washed Yoplait yogurt containers make great toppers for t-posts. Because of their shape, they don't blow off and they stand up to sunlight for 2+ years.

**Zip it good!** I had an duh!/aha! moment last fall while tearing out tomato cages and plants. Zip-tie the t-posts **to the outside** of the tomato cage rather than putting the cage over the t-post. It's much easier in the fall to snip the zip, then pull the cage leaving the plant and post behind. You can also put two large cages side by side with one t-post between them and zip-tie both cages to one post.



Happy gardening!!

Susan Schoneweis, MCG Newsletter Chairman



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### Snips & Snails & Gardening Tales....

1. The soil at Riley Lane & Collins is a sandy loam and it drains very well! Even after all the April showers we've received, the soil will be ready to plant after just a few days of sunshine (whenever that is.) Skip the raised beds and deep furrows you may have needed in other locations, you don't need them! In fact raised beds tend to dry too quickly and furrow irrigation isn't efficient for this soil type.
2. Save your organic matter & save water! Adding organic matter to the soil helps to act as a sponge and hold water for your plants. Mulch with the weeds you pull or put them in your compost pile. Don't waste the nutrients in them by putting them in your trash. Better yet, eat your edible weeds for a good dose of vitamins & minerals! Henbit, lambs quarters, dandelion greens can add creative tastes to your meals.
3. The weeds are coming! The weeds are coming! In fact, some are here, so don't let them stay. Scrape the soil surface with a hoe to control weeds when they are tiny. Every day or week you wait because you think "I'll do it tomorrow" potentially adds several hours of work to your chore list. Do as I say, not as I do!
4. No time to sit and read? Visit the Manhattan Public Library and get your State of Kansas Library card. You can download free audiobooks and "read" while you work. Who says multitasking isn't efficient?

Lay tools with tines down for safety!

