



Gardening for Community

The April 2019 Newsletter of the UFM Manhattan Community Gardens

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President's Message

It has been a long, cold, and wet winter. At least the dry conditions of 2018 have been chased away by snow and rain. Now, continued warm weather would be nice!

I thank new Manhattan Community Garden (MCG) Board members: Molly Webb, Dawn Krause, Darin Marti, John Kobiskie, and Alan Boerger for their willingness to serve. The contributions of retiring board members David Claus, Deane Lehmann, Cheryl Arthur, and Gary Schwandt are appreciated.

For 2019, the MCG has enrolled 97% of the available plots. With the New Gardener Signup (April 13) remaining, we expect to be fully subscribed. Approximately 21% of the gardeners are new to the MCG. I ask the returning gardeners to welcome these folks and help with any questions they have.

What is new this year? We have purchased tillers and mowers to replace those that were beyond repair. Your care and respect for all equipment is appreciated.

Good communication with gardeners will continue. Chuck Marr's garden tips will keep us informed and entertained on timely topics. The MCG Newsletter will be published in April, June, and September. Expect pertinent issues to be presented in the electronic-based format. Kim Smith will continue to inform gardeners of workday and other commitments. Records of completion will be kept to ensure gardener eligibility for the subsequent year.

Please feel free to contact board members with questions and suggestions. It is our intention to make gardening at the MCG fun and productive for all in 2019.

Contact—John Piskac: piskac@att.net

Locks & Security



MCG garden equipment is secured in locked sheds. The Collins Lane gate is also locked. Each year the lock combination is changed. Gardeners were notified of the 2019 combination. Keep the combination secure. Do not provide it to non-members. The combination does not work on the yellow shed at Riley Lane as it does not contain equipment for gardener use.

TO UNLOCK: Line up the combination numbers precisely with the depressed/engraved line to the side of the numbers. Give the lock a good yank and it should open. If that doesn't work, try pushing up then pulling down.

TO LOCK: Ensure the combination numbers remain lined up then push in on the lock while rolling the numbers so they are different from this combination. Yank on the mechanism to ensure it is LOCKED.

Equipment has been stolen because a shed was left open. Each gardener is to ensure sheds are locked upon leaving. Don't assume others will lock the shed. They may not be using equipment. If in doubt, LOCK IT! The gate at Collins Lane should be locked if you are the last person leaving.

Contact- John Piskac: piskac@att.net

Disposal Costs

The MCG acquires different types of receptacles for each garden site: roll-off dumpster (one each at Riley Lane and Collins Lane sites), a lidded dumpster (Collins Lane) and trash tote (Riley Lane). Each receptacle has a specific purpose:

- Roll-off Dumpster – to be used ONLY for plant materials. This includes dead garden plants, weeds, or tree limbs from the surrounding site.
- Lidded Dumpster (Collins) and Trash Tote (Riley) – to be used ONLY for trash. Non-vegetative materials may be placed in this receptacle.

Disposal costs the MCG \$100 per pickup plus \$10 per ton of plant material disposed in the roll-off dumpster. Trash must be removed from the roll-off dumpster by the hauler and will increase the charge to \$250 per pickup and \$50 per ton. It is imperative that plant material and trash be placed in the proper receptacle.

To reduce disposal costs the MCG Board requests that each gardener:

- Recycle plant material in the plot as much as possible
- Place excess plant material in the roll-off dumpster
- Place trash in the lidded dumpster (Collins) or trash tote (Riley)
- Place no trash from home in any of these receptacles
- Place **NO HAZARDOUS MATERIALS** in any of these receptacles

Contact - John Piskac: piskac@att.net

UFM Garden Classes

UFM Community Learning Center will offer three gardening classes in April.

[Warm Season Plantings](#), April 8, is taught by a long-time gardener, Colleen Hampton and discusses both vegetables and flowers that will withstand our Kansas summer heat.

[Don't Treat Your Soil Like Dirt](#), April 27, is taught by permaculture enthusiast and community gardener, Carol Barta.

[Growing Daylilies for Beginners](#), April 27, is being sponsored by the Flint Hills Daylily Society and will cover things you need to know about soil, optimal planting locations, and how to take care of daylilies long-term.

Visit www.tryufm.org for more information and to enroll in one or all of these classes.

UFM is also looking for anyone that wants to teach a class for the fall semester, August - December. Contact Kayla at kayla@tryufm.org by May 24 if you are interested.

Dick and Barbara Green Awards



Dick Green, Barbara Green, & Linda Teener

Dick Green was presented the 2018 Grassroots Community Education Award by UFM Community Learning Center. The Grassroots Community Education Award is an annual recognition given by UFM to someone who has made an outstanding contribution to grassroots community education and learning.

Barbara Green was also recognized for creating the Collins Lane Butterfly Garden that has become a recognized Monarch Way Station. The Butterfly Garden is located just east of the Collins Lane Plots. Take a moment and visit the garden.

The following narrative was supplied by Dick and Barbara Green about the Butterfly Garden at Collins Lane:

“The year that Collins Lane Community Garden opened we decided the landscape was a perfect place to establish a Butterfly Garden. With the approval of the Community Garden Board and UFM it was decided that this butterfly garden would be a Monarch Waystation sanctioned through Monarch Watch.

The first order of business was to plant host plants. A host plant is the plant on which the butterfly lays its eggs. After the caterpillars hatch they eat the leaves of that plant and grow through their stages called instars until they pupate and become a butterfly. Butterflies are plant specific and only lay their eggs on certain plants. Monarch butterflies will only lay their eggs on milkweed. Common milkweed, Swamp milkweed, whorled milkweed, prairie milkweed are all found in Kansas. Swallowtail butterflies lay their eggs only on plants from the carrot family such as dill, fennel, parsley and Queen Anne’s Lace. Painted Lady butterflies will only lay their eggs on certain plants, too. One of their favorites is Hollyhock.

We also planted nectar plants which are for the adults. Butterflies obtain their nourishment from the nectar of the flowers. Some of the nectar plants we planted were ones that bloomed from spring until early summer. They are Lilac, Coreopsis, Butterfly Bush, Catmint, and Milkweed. Nectar plants in the butterfly garden that bloom from summer to early autumn are the Mexican Sunflower, Standing Cypress, Verbena bonariensis, Joe Pye Weed, Lantana, Purple Coneflower, Goldenrod and Zinnia. Nectar plants in the butterfly garden

which bloom in Autumn are Bluemist Spirea, New England Aster, Frikart's Aster, Tartarian Aster and Sunflowers. Zinnias are native to Mexico and grow great at Collins Lane. Zinnias are one of the Monarch Butterflies favorite nectar plants and if you plant zinnias in your garden watch and see how many Monarchs you have this year.

Another important component of this garden is access to a water source. When the rain becomes scarce and it gets hot, both the garden and butterflies need water. When we first started the garden we had to stretch our hoses out over a 100' to water the garden and fill the butterfly basin. With the support of the Community Garden Board along with the hard work from a group of Collins Lane gardeners we now have our own hydrant at the butterfly garden.

We spend about 200 hours each year planting, watering, weeding, deadheading, and fighting Bermuda grass encroachment. It's a labor of love and we invite you to stop by and view the garden. In addition to the host plants, nectar plants, caterpillars, various butterflies you will find bees, spiders, hummingbirds, songbirds, skinks, snakes, moles, voles and an occasional Bobwhite quail. Everyone's dedication and hard work was rewarded when the butterfly garden at Collin's Lane received special recognition in 2017 from Monarch Watch.

We hope everyone enjoys the Butterfly Garden, but please do not disturb anything in the garden. Thank you."

Congratulations to Dick and Barbara for very deserving recognitions.

Soil Testing, Part 1

Have you considered testing the soil in your garden plot? Applying needed soil amendments will optimize yield and reduce nutrient waste. Soil testing is easy. In Part 1, we

will discuss taking and submitting the sample for review by the KSU Soil Testing laboratory. First, take a composite sample from your plot. Be sure the soil is not too wet. Samples need to be close to air dry for an accurate result. Next, within the plot dig several holes (0 – 6" deep) and place the soil samples in a bucket. Mix the combined samples in the bucket thoroughly. Take two cups of the combined sample and place in a quart sandwich bag. Remove the air from the bag before closing. The last step is to take the sample to the Riley County Extension Office (second floor of the Riley County Courthouse) for submission to the KSU Soil Testing Laboratory. For Riley County residents the fee for each basic soil test is approximately \$2. The result and recommendations will be e-mailed to you unless mailing is requested.

In Soil Testing, Part 2, we will discuss the test result and applying recommended soil amendments. This information will be in the June newsletter. For more information on soil testing go to: <https://www.riley.k-state.edu/lawn-garden/soil-testing-fertilizing/index.html>

Contact - Alan Boerger : aboerger@cox.net

About the Water

The MCG has adequate water for garden use. The water at the Riley Lane site is supplied by the City of Manhattan. The treated water is the same as provided to homes and businesses. Typically, water is available at this site from March through November. After the growing season the supply is stopped to avoid loss through open hydrants.

Water at the Collins Lane site is from a well and is not treated. It can contain dissolved or suspended minerals and organic substances. For agricultural use, this water is good quality. The well is shut down by December and started in March.

Is water at either site drinkable? Obviously, the water delivered by the city to the Riley Lane site is drinkable. However, insects or contaminants could enter the distribution system within the garden. When water is not running an open hose could allow this to happen. The water at the Collins Lane site has not been tested for human consumption. So, the safe thing to do at either site is to bring your own drinking water from home.

Contact – John Piskac: piskac@att.net

Committee Reports

Records & Communications

The Board prefers to communicate with members by e-mail and uses the address you provided at registration. We keep your information secure and send messages to you in a way that does not expose your information to others. A few members have no e-mail, so we call them at the phone number they provide. We use e-mails to remind members of workdays, social events, equipment use, facility security, gardener responsibilities, and for special announcements. We also maintain records of your plot, payments, workday obligations, etc. to give you credit for your service and keep you in good standing. Feel free to contact board members with questions or to resolve scheduling conflicts. communitygarden@tryufm.org or kimberly.smith@cox.net

Socials

Meet fellow gardeners at Spring Socials! All MCG gardeners are invited to attend these events. Bring a home-made dish to pass.

The first Social will be held on **Saturday, April 6, 11:00 a.m.** at the **Riley Lane site** and will include a **seed swap** and **equipment training**.

Do you have extra garden seeds for the upcoming season? Bring them if you would like to share or trade.

The second Social will be held on **Saturday, May 4, 11:00 a.m.** at the **Collins Lane site**.

Socials put “community” in the community garden. Take advantage of these opportunities!

Contact – Melanie Derby: mel.derby@gmail.com

Workday/Social Calendar

- Saturday, April 6, 9-11 am, Riley & Collins
- Saturday, April 6, 11 am, Social @ Riley Lane, 11 am
- Sunday, April 21, 2-4 pm, Riley & Collins
- Saturday, May 4, 9-11 am, Riley & Collins
- Saturday, May 4, 11 am, Social @ Collins Lane, 11 am
- Sunday, May 19, 2-4 pm, UFM
- Saturday, June 8, 7:30-9:30 am, Riley & Collins
- Saturday, July 6, 7:30-9:30 am, Riley & Collins
- Saturday, August 10, 7:30-9:30 am, Riley & Collins
- Saturday, September 7, 7:30-9:30 am, Riley & Collins
- Sunday, September 22, 2-4 pm, Riley & Collins
- Saturday, October 5, 9-11 am, Riley & Collins
- Sunday, October 20, 2-4 pm, Riley & Collins
- Saturday, November 9, 9-11 am, Riley & Collins
- Saturday, November 9, 11 am, Annual Meeting at Collins

At registration you agreed to work board-designated activities which may have included two workdays. Kim Smith will be sending e-mail reminders prior to each workday you chose. If you cannot make your workday, let Kim know and select an alternate date to complete your commitment. Gardeners need to fulfill their commitments to maintain eligibility for the subsequent year.

Kim Smith – Records: kimberly.smith@cox.net

Carl Reed – Collin Lane

Coordinator: carl_reed@cox.net

Pat Duggan – Riley Lane Coordinator:

twopat6@juno.com

Garden Tilling

Between Riley Lane and Collins Lane our tilling committee now tills approximately 10% of the plots. If you have chosen to have your plot tilled, make sure you have inspected your plot. All plant waste must be removed as well as cages, stakes, bricks, etc. Tilling committee members are not responsible for removing waste and other obstacles before tilling. If your plot is not ready on time, the tillers will move on and you'll have to make another appointment.

View this video before your plot is tilled, whether you have paid for tilling or plan to do it yourself. <https://youtu.be/sjSXfUzUcao>

Derek Frasier: derek4sier@gmail.com

Equipment

Power and hand tools are available to MCG gardeners for about any task. The Equipment Committee handles maintenance of motorized equipment such as oil and filter changes, blade sharpening, etc. It is the responsibility of the gardener to return equipment to the storage area **clean** and **full of fuel**. Cleaning mowers and tillers involves using the hose and water to

remove soil and debris from the blade or tines. **Do not turn the machine over or on its side** as oil or gas will clog the air filter. Handles can be hooked in the wash area making it easy for one person to clean under the machine. Do not use water on a hot engine. Tags are available in the shed to note any non-functioning motorized equipment.

Hand equipment (hoes, shovels, rakes, etc.) should be cleaned after use and returned to its proper place.

New gardeners are required to attend an **Equipment Orientation** session. The following sessions are scheduled:

- **Saturday, April 6, 11:30 a.m. at Riley Lane site**, in conjunction with the work day/social. Social begins at 11:00 a.m.
- **Saturday, April 13, 9:00 a.m. at Collins Lane site**

Contact - Aran Ryan:

aranryan@centralmechanical.com

Mowing

MCG members who choose mowing as their garden service are responsible to keep surrounding areas attractive. Not all of us will mow. However, each gardener can help make this task easier and safer for those who do. Gardeners whose plots border the grassy perimeter need to keep adjacent areas free from non-vegetative material. Glass, plastic, sticks, rocks, and bricks have been encountered by those that mow. This is dangerous and damages lawnmower blades.

Learn how to use mowers during equipment training held **April 6, 11:30 a.m. at Riley Lane** or **April 13, 9:00 a.m. at Collins Lane**.

Contact - Fred Peterson: bjpdfp@sbcglobal.net
Or

Molly Webb: mollymcwebb@gmail.com

Compost, Mulch, Wood Chips

The MCG provides several types of material to enhance garden plots and paths.

COMPOST

Most compost comes from the Kansas State University livestock facility. Its origin is the manures of cattle, poultry, and hogs. The carbon source required in composting is from animal bedding and other available vegetative materials. Composting temperature can reach over 150° F. which ensures pathogens, insect larvae, and weed seeds are destroyed.

Another source of compost (available only at Collins Lane) is from the Riley County Transfer Station. This material is derived from grass clippings, leaves, and other herbaceous vegetation.

The benefits of using compost are:

- Improved soil tilth
- Increased soil water holding capacity
- Enhanced soil microbial action
- Increased plant nutrients including phosphorus and potassium with some nitrogen in the animal based compost

Composts from both sources are not considered “organic” by the USDA standards.

MULCH

The MCG provides prairie hay for mulch. It is used to conserve moisture and control weeds. Good quality prairie hay is composed of perennial native grasses and forbs mowed prior to seed production. It should not contain weeds. Reasonable amounts of prairie hay mulch can be tilled into the soil and composted in place.

WOOD CHIPS

Wood chips are obtained from the Riley County Transfer Station. They are to be used on the paths between garden plots. Since wood chips do not readily biodegrade they should not be used in the garden plot as mulch.

Contact: John Kobiskie: johnkks@cox.net

2019 Board of Directors		
John Piskac	President	piskac@att.net
Dawn Krause	VP/Nominations	dawnmichellekrause@gmail.com
Linda Teener	Treasurer	linda@tryufm.org
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Kim Smith	Records	kimberly.smith@cox.net
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David Claus	Past President	dclaus171@gmail.com



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