



Gardening for Community

The October 2022 Newsletter of the UFM Manhattan Community Gardens

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President's Message

Welcome to fall, garden friends. I hope you're thriving with lots of produce overflowing from the garden and friends to share some good stories and stories from the season.

My son, James, grew the heaviest potato for the Riley County Fair this year even though we clipped the edge with the spade and it rotted out while sitting at Pottorff Hall during fair week!! We shared the garden with several

friends who found they love fresh green beans and those who love to scare the worms by pretending to eat them!



As you know, I love a good book and one of my all-time favorites was called *The Overstory*, winner of the 2019 Pulitzer Prize in fiction by Richard Powers. There's a series of multiple stories woven together that all unfold in concentric rings of interlocking fables and narratives.

It's a vast, resourceful, magnificently inventive story of a handful of creative souls who learn how to see that world and who are drawn up into its unfolding complexity. To summarize it in one word: STILL. You'll see the connection by the end!

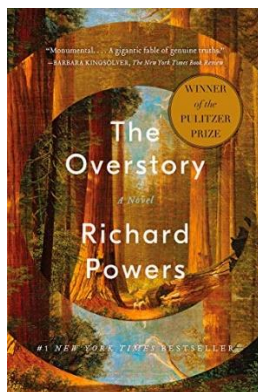
It reminds me of the dynamic garden community with so many twists and turns in the season of growing together. He promotes a 'plant consciousness' and community over

commodities. It's what we all encounter at the community garden. In this book about and beyond the topic of trees, this read will blow your mind with so many examples of how to build an understanding about all of the vital parts of our lives.

Here're three of my favorite quotes from *The Overstory*:

"People aren't the apex species they think they are. Other creatures-bigger, smaller, slower, faster, older, younger, more powerful-call the shots, make the air, and eat sunlight. Without them, nothing."

"People have no idea what time is. They think it's a line, spinning out from three seconds behind them, then vanishing just as fast into the three seconds of fog just ahead. They can't see that time is one spreading ring wrapped around another, outward and outward until the thinnest skin of Now depends for its being on the enormous mass of everything that has already died."



"The Greeks had a word, *xenia*—guest friendship—a command to take care of traveling strangers, to open your door to whoever is out there, because anyone passing by, far from home, might be God. Ovid tells the story of two immortals who came to Earth in disguise to cleanse the sickened world. No one would let them in but one old couple, Baucis and Philemon. And their reward for opening their door to strangers was to live on after death as trees—an

oak and a linden—huge and gracious and intertwined. What we care for, we will grow to resemble. And what we resemble will hold us, when we are no longer. . . ."

— **Richard Powers, *The Overstory***

Grow and read on! Lucas

Lucas Shivers – lshivers@hotmail.com

2021 MCG Annual Meeting & Picnic at Collins Lane

Gardeners, volunteers, friends, or interested folks, join us for some fun! The Fall Harvest Picnic is on Sunday, November 6, 2022 at Collins Lane. We will begin the festivities with the MCG Annual Meeting at 4:30 PM. After the meeting, the picnic begins. Drinks will be provided. Please bring a main or side dish to share. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Not Returning in 2022?

Gardeners not returning in 2023 need to notify the MCG at communitygarden@tryufm.org by January 31, 2023. Plot deposit will be refunded by request if gardener volunteer commitments are complete for the year and plot is clean by December 1, 2022 (see MGG Garden Rule 2). To request the deposit refund, contact the UFM business office at: UFM Community Learning Center, 1221 Thurston, Manhattan, Kansas 66502, phone (785) 539-8763, email: info@tryufm.org.

Contact- Jay Davis: jdsd4956@gmail.com

2023 Registration Date Check or Cash only

Returning Gardeners: 2022 MCG Gardeners who are good standing have registration priority for the 2023 season.

Following are the signup dates for **returning gardeners:**

- November 6 (Sun) 3-4 PM; before the Annual Meeting, Collins Lane
- December 7 (Wednesday) 6:30 -7:30 PM at UFM Solar Addition
- January 9 (Monday) 5:30- 6:30 PM at UFM Solar Addition

New Gardener and Returning Gardeners adding plots:

- February 4 (Saturday) 9:30-10:30 AM at UFM Solar Addition
- February 22 (Wednesday) 5:30-6:30 PM at UFM Solar Addition

Returning gardeners wanting additional plots must select and register the additional plots during a New Gardener signup period.

End of Year Important Dates

Please plan end of year garden activities accordingly:

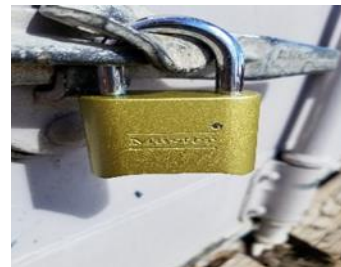
Following are approximate dates to know:

- Hoses to be removed November 5th
- Water will be turned off at both gardens around December 1st, or earlier depending on weather
- Dumpsters and restrooms will be removed by December 1st.
- Please have all plots cleaned by December 1st. Clear all plant material taller than 6 inches with the exception of perennials such as raspberry plants or over winter crops such as garlic. Dead plant material should be composted, shredded, tilled in or removed from the garden. All refuse should also be removed.

Put Away & Lock Up

Security is important at our gardens sites to help prevent theft. Unfortunately, Riley Lane is not fenced so it is pretty easy for someone to just walk in off the street. Collins Lane is fenced and does have a gate with a lock on it. Both sites have equipment sheds with locks. It is

very important that gardeners put away the tools and equipment they have used and lock up the sheds before they leave the gardens. At Collins Lane, **please lock the gate!** We do know for sure that some of the thieves at Collins last year, entered through the gate that was not closed and locked. Also, if you bring you own tools, please remove them when you leave. Some of the hand tools stolen were simply left in the plots.



This note also applies mostly to Collins since we have equipment sheds at opposite ends of the garden. For better availability, we try to split all the hand tools, tillers, wheelbarrows and mowers so there are equal numbers in each shed. Many times, we will find that equipment does not get returned to the shed it came from and end up with too many in one shed and nothing in the other. This makes it inconvenient for all as one shed is so full you can't get in it and the other has very little. In addition, someone ends up spending time looking for equipment. It certainly helps all of us if equipment is put back where it came from.

Dumpster Usage

MCG pays for dumpsters and trash bins for each garden site. We have roll-off dumpsters, lidded dumpsters and trash totes. Signs are installed in front of each dumpster that outlines what materials can be placed in each. Please follow the instructions on the signage.

Each dumpster has specific purposes which are as follows:

- Roll-off Dumpsters (the large ones) – to be used **ONLY** for plant materials that come off the garden plots or tree limbs that fall around the garden site.
- Lidded Dumpster (Collins) and Trash Tote (Riley) – need to be used **ONLY** for non- vegetative materials.

Collin's Lane will receive the roll-off, plant material dumpster, for the first week of each month through November. The roll-off dumpster will return in spring.



Plot Maintenance

All new gardeners should have received a set of rules when they registered for the gardens. Returning gardeners should have a copy of the rules from last year as they were sent out a number of times throughout the year. If you have misplaced them, they can be accessed from the UFM website. They are printed in somewhat small print but it is **very** important that you read them and know what is in them.

All of the rules are important but rules 8, 9, 10, and 20 pertain to plot maintenance. Your garden coordinators spend considerable time reviewing these rules at the gardens. These 4 rules are intended to help keep plots from encroaching and/or spreading weed seeds on neighboring plots and paths and to keep our plots in good condition in the event a gardener leaves the gardens. When a gardener leaves a plot with unwanted vegetation and items on it,

other gardeners have to help clean it up so we try to prevent this from happening.

Throughout the year, the garden coordinators will walk the gardens making observations on conditions of the paths and plots. When plots are observed to be out of compliance, emails or letters will be sent to those gardeners, asking for them to take care of the issue. The first notices will of course be as friendly as possible. Rule #20 spells out the procedure the coordinator is required to follow. In the event that you see you are unable to care for a plot due to illness or travel, feel free to contact us at communitygarden@tryufm.org and let us know your situation. We will work with you to find help you find assistance in keep your plots clean. Remember, all gardeners have an obligation to keep the gardens in good condition. We would appreciate your cooperation on this issue. Thank you.

Compost, Mulch, and Wood Chips

COMPOST

Most compost comes from the Riley County Transfer Station. This material is derived from grass clippings, leaves, and other herbaceous vegetation.

Another source of compost (available only at Collins Lane for the time being) 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 degrees F which ensures pathogen, insect larvae, and weed seeds are destroyed.

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 City of Manhattan Forestry. 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. It has been a difficult year obtaining wood chips, we are currently exploring other sources for acquisition of wood chips.

Contact: John Kobiskie: johnkks@cox.net
Jeff Hellerich: jeffhellerich@hotmail.com

THE MCG BOARD MEMBER

The Manhattan Community Garden (MCG) was established in 1974. Many individuals were important in setting the “groundwork” for the MCG during the past 46 years. The organization would not have been successful and persisted this long without quality leadership and volunteers who believed in the importance of the MCG and its benefit to the community.

The MCG continues today through the leadership of the MCG Board. It is important to understand that the functions of the MCG do not “just happen.” It is only through the actions of the volunteer individuals on the MCG Board and their varied talents that the organization remains viable.

Major responsibilities of the Board include:

- Administration – planning, finances and oversight, rules, and records

- Activities - signups, training, gardener work responsibilities
- Communication – newsletters, e-mails, publications, verbal messages
- Equipment and Facility Maintenance

Each MCG board member is willing to provide leadership to one of several committees established to accomplish responsibilities. The committees include:

- Equipment
- Compost and Hay
- Mowing
- Garden Site (Collins/Riley) Coordinators
- Tilling
- Communications/Records
- Newsletter
- Nominations

With nearly 200 gardeners the MCG is fortunate to have access to a good number of individuals with various skills who may be willing to serve on the Board. Are you one of these? If so, please contact any current board member for further information.

Equipment

This is about to become a busy time of the year for equipment usage. As the gardens begin to die down, it is time to chop up the residue and till into the soil for the winter. Some people chop everything with a lawn mower and then till it in. This is great, but we just want to stress safety in this endeavor since this operation is not actually an intended use of the mowers. However, it is effective. After you have chopped and tilled, please CLEAN THE EQUIPMENT. The underneath side of the mower gets compacted with plant matter that the next user does not want in his/her garden. The tillers can get vines wrapped around the tines and does not work as well. They also can tear out the grease seals and severely shorten the life of the machine. Not only will this help other gardeners, but cleaning equipment is also in the rules. Another request

for gardeners is to please hang a “problem tag” on the equipment and state the issues. We will try to get the issue resolved. We are planning on an “equipment maintenance day” to change oil, sharpen blades, and do minor repairs if we know about the problems. Be safe. Have a restful winter and be ready for spring in the gardens.

Dale Hayden, Collins Lane,
dalesmhs@gmail.com

Pat Duggan, Riley Lane, twopats6@juno.com

Records & Communications

The Board communicates with members by email 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 email, so we call them at the phone number they provided at registration. We use emails 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. So please be sure that the email you gave at registration, is **an email address you use and check often**. Feel free to contact board members with questions or to resolve scheduling conflicts.

Jay Davis – jdsd4956@gmail.com

Join the Manhattan Community Gardens Manhattan’s Best Spot for Growing Connections, Flowers and Food

Personal plots are at two sites at
1) Riley Ln. & 9th St. or 2) 1435 Collins Ln.

Our Community Gardens provide:

- water and hoses
- hand and power tools
- mulch and compost
- advice and fellowship

You provide the following for your own plot:

- donated time in 2 activities, such as 2-hour workdays or planned socials for gardeners
- an actively managed garden plot for growing your own food
- cost is income-based, \$15-\$50 per plot (depends on plot size) with a one-time \$10-\$20 deposit



2023 Sign up @ UFM Community Learning Center, 1221 Thurston St.

- Sun., Nov 6 at 3 pm - Annual Meeting (4 pm) - Returning Gardeners @ Collins Lane
- Wed., Dec. 7 at 6:30-7:30 pm - Returning Gardeners
- Monday, Jan. 9 at 5:30-6:30 pm - Returning Gardeners
- Sat., Feb. 4 at 9:30-10:30 am - New and Returning Gardeners
- Wed., Feb 22 at 5:30-6:30 pm - New and Returning Gardeners
- More information is available at www.tryufm.org/community-gardens or 785-539-8763

2021 Board of Directors		
President	Lucas Shivers	lshivers@hotmail.com
Past President	Darin Marti	dmarti7528@gmail.com
Vice President	Dale Hayden	dalesmhs@gmail.com
Secretary	Erin Bishop	erbish82@gmail.com
Treasurer	Linda Teener	linda@tryufm.org
Collins Lane Garden Coordinator	Frank Arthur	fha@ksu.edu
Riley Lane Garden Coordinator	Dean Zollman	dzollman@phys.ksu.edu
Collins Lane Equipment	Dale Hayden	dalesmhs@gmail.com
Riley Lane Equipment	Pat Duggan	twopats6@juno.com
Compost/Mulch	Jeff Hellerich	jeffhellerich@hotmail.com
	John Kobiskie	johnkks@cox.net
Communications/Records	Jay Davis	jdsd4956@gmail.com
Newsletter	Erin Bishop	erbish82@gmail.com
Nominations	Lucas Shivers	lshivers@hotmail.com
Collins Lane Mowing/Tilling	Ann Redmond	Annred97@gmail.com
Riley Lane Mowing/Tilling	Ann Redmond	Annred97@gmail.cm
Socials	Open	



**UFM Community Learning Center
1221 Thurston Street
Manhattan, KS 66502**



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