



EXTENSION

Master Gardener

Northeast Nebraska Extension Master Gardener

<http://madison.unl.edu/mastergardenerhome>
<https://www.facebook.com/NortheastNEMasterGardeners>

APRIL 2026

Hi Master Gardeners,

Welcome to the month of April. Let the blooming begin! At the end of the month, we will execute our carefully laid plans and have fun hosting our Northeast Nebraska Plant Fair and Market. According to Pam, we have a full house of vendors and actually have 2 vendors on a waiting list. That is really good news! A drawback to filling Chuck Pohlman Ag building with plants and vendors is that we don't have enough tables. Talking with Wayne, it will impact our plant sale area and the children's creative area. We need 6' and 8' tables with folding legs and card tables. At our April meeting, we will have more discussion and a sign up sheet to bring tables. People who sign up would bring the tables on Friday and take them home Saturday after 3:00.

At the March meeting we received the 2026 Plant List from Bluebird. If there is something that is not on the list or an annual that you would like to see included, mention it at the meeting. We can ask the growers if those plants are available.

This is a repeat reminder to bring a generous portion of food for the Friday afternoon potluck for vendors and members. In past years we've had 20-25 vendors, often accompanied by a spouse or helper. This year we have 40 vendors. We may be serving twice the number of people we have fed previously. Looking over last year's Vendor Evaluation, we received excellent reviews for having an organized check in and set up and secondly, for the potluck meal.

Our next meeting is Saturday, April 11th. We do not have a scheduled speaker this meeting. Planning for the Plant Fair begins at 8:30. When the discussion feels complete, there will be a short business meeting. Deb Daehnke and Wendy Winstead are hosting us.

Thanks to everyone for participating.

Gratefully, Kate Pruitt

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES—

If you would like to submit an article or information to share with the Extension Master Gardeners, please submit it by the **22nd of the month**.

Submit your article to: pkesting2@unl.edu

Member Recognition: These members have birthdays/anniversaries in April

Birthday

Kurt Schrant—April 6
Teresa Roche—April 11
Wendy Winstead—April 20
Lynn Bloomquist—April 28
Mary Birch— April 30

Anniversary

No anniversaries this month



Meeting held at:
Nebraska Extension in Madison County
1305 South 13th Street
Norfolk, NE 68701

Northeast Nebraska Master Gardener Coordinator:
Taylor Cammack, Extension Instructor
402-563-4901
tcammack7@nebraska.edu
Wayne Ohnesorg, Extension Educator
402-370-4040
wohnesorg2@unl.edu

Send information for newsletter to:
Nebraska Extension in Madison County
Attn: Pam Graber
1305 South 13th Street
Norfolk, NE 68701
pkesting2@unl.edu
402-370-4040

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Dates and Trainings to Know and Grow - Mark on Your Calendars

Regular monthly meetings:

(doors open at 8:15 am with meeting to start at 9:00 am and speaker to start at approximately 10:00 am) ***Please remember to wear your name tag to the meetings***

Plant Fair Committee meeting will start before the regular meeting at 8:30 a.m.

April 11— Finalize Plant Fair Plans

April 24/25—Plant Fair

May 16 (3rd Saturday) — No presenter. Plant Fair wrap and plant exchange

TREASURER'S REPORT:



Bank balance as of 3-24-26 \$12,567.86

Deposits:

Dues - \$40

Plant Fair Vendor Fees - \$1,050

Interest .44

2026 Membership dues are due and can be paid at the meetings or mail to Connie Dvorak. Her address is in the membership directory.

2026— EDUCATION HOURS:

- January 10 —1.00 hour “Fresh Flowers” Lauren Walton
- February 3—1.5 hours “Fruit Trees” Carol Waters
- February 10— 1.5 hours “All About Ants” Jody Green
- February 14— 1.00 hour “Pollinator Project” Dan Vanderveen
- February 17—1.5 hours “ID Trees by Other than Leaves” Justin Evertson
- February 24— 1.5 hours Insect Pollinators and Prairie Habitat

****Please remember to keep recording your hours on the Master Gardener website.****

<https://nebextemgv.org>
https://nebextemgv.org/sec_Login/



Members,
 Please save articles, thank you cards, etc. about Master Gardeners that could go in the scrapbook. - Deb Daehnke

UPDATING PICTURES FOR THE MEMBER DIRECTORY



If you would like to update your picture for the directory, I will take pictures after the Saturday meetings or call the office to make arrangements to have your picture taking during the week.

NORFOLK DAILY NEWS ARTICLES



Articles for the Norfolk Daily News can be emailed to Ashley at agracey@norfolkdailynews.com

Also, email your article to Pam and she will put it on the Extension Master Gardener Facebook page.

VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP BOOK



The book has been updated for the this year on activities or projects. The book will be available at the meetings, or you may stop at the Extension Office M-F 8-12 and 1-5.

PRELIMINARY MONTHLY TIME LINE

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| April | Publicity – news release to media
Tie up loose ends for Plant Fair
Get cashier supplies
Post Cards ready to mail
Thank you to Vendors |
| May | Plant Fair follow up and evaluation
Thank yous to Speakers and NECC
Plant Fair Chairs and Committee Chairs established for next year's Plant Fair |



Minutes from the Plant Fair and Monthly Meeting

Northeast Nebraska Extension Master Gardener Plant Fair Committee Minutes March 14, 2026

Brian Mandl called the meeting to order at 8:30.

Café-Mary Lux says that things are on track. She will inventory our box of supplies at the Extension Office and get what is needed and will buy chips and pop where the price is best. Still need 3 people to bring bars; passed around the sign up sheet.

Potluck-Mary described the event for our new members. Please make more food than last year because we have almost twice as many vendors this year (Thank you, Pam!). Everyone should bring more of their food or a second item. A couple of people will bring crock pots of chili. Someone could bring hot dogs and buns.

Video of our plant slides-Kristine Zachmeyer would still like to show us the video at our next meeting so we know about the plants we will be selling. Discussed showing it in the area of the tables at the Gardener's Café and in the room where our talks will be given. Will ask Wayne about this and will work on figuring out how to have it repeat so we don't have to manually restart it.

Suggested adding slides with information about pairing our plants based on sunlight, soil water needs. Kristine will work on this and maybe add tips on container planting.

We are encouraged to ask shoppers if they need help and tell them about our plants especially since most will not be blooming at the time of the Plant Fair. Our plants are arranged alphabetically in the sale area. (We didn't all know this.)

Set up on Friday-Kurt Schrant, Chair; Scott, Wendy and Trent will be at the Ag Complex at 9:30 to grid the area for the Vendors. The rest of us can come whenever we need to for our jobs. Usually around 1:00-2:00.

Scott asked if he should order garden flags from Blackburn Manufacturing. These are plastic holders with a 3x5" sign with a cute saying. Cost \$100/1000 flags. One saying but 2 colors.

Brian will see if Suzanne found anything out about worm castings. Can we repackage large bags into smaller ones for sale?

Vendors-Pam has done a great job; 41 vendors confirmed! One that sells succulents would like to offer a "make and take" opportunity at her booth but would need 1 or 2 more tables and maybe chairs. We aren't selling any or many succulents so will allow with an additional cost of \$5 per extra table to vendor. Pam and Taylor made sure there is room for this on their map.

Pam has a poster of vendors with logos that she will share with Kristine for a slide show.

Kids' Corner-still need some cans from 6oz. of tomato paste for wind chimes and thin foam packing material for seed snails. Aubrey is hoping to offer a community project involving painted rocks that would go in an area of the garden at the Extension office. At the Plant Fair people would paint 2 rocks-one for this garden and one to take home.

Vi added that Pam Bergstrom is going to bring Buckeye seed left from an event.

Bench cards-Connie thanked Pam for her work on these as they used to be downloadable from Bluebird Nurseries website but weren't this year so Pam had to create them.

Meeting was adjourned. Submitted by, Mary Lux

Northeast Nebraska Extension Master Gardener Meeting Minutes. March 14, 2026

President Kate Pruitt opened the meeting at 9:15.

Minutes of the February meeting were approved with motion by Vi McShannon and second by Joyce Eucker.

Financial Report: Connie Dvorak said that our balance is \$12,177.86. Since the last meeting she deposited dues, sponsorship fees and vendor fees and we earned interest on our money.

Business: Deb Dahnke asked for obituaries and any newspaper articles relating to our group for the scrapbook.

Taylor Cammack gave awards missed at our banquet: 10 year award to Viola McShannon. and 25 year award to Marjorie Jensen.

Kate asked us to pick up copies of the handouts from our Tuesday night EMGV classes.

Friday night potluck at Plant Fair-please bring more food than last year. We have more than twice as many vendors this year so please bring more of whatever you want to bring or a second dish of some kind.

Seed Library-Vi did her applications for seeds and a donation is already coming from one company. In 2 weeks, Vi will set up some more times to pack seeds.

We will not have a speaker next month but can probably fill the time with plans for the Plant Fair!

Slide Show of plants at Plant Fair-Kristine Zachmeyer was asked to make a separate slide show of our vendors to give them some publicity during the Plant Fair.

Fliers-Robin Jones was given recommendations of some places to put fliers up around Norfolk. Pam will have the flier available once the vendors are updated.

Continue on next page.

Get to know your Extension Master Gardener Member

Minutes continued

Taylor Cammack gave us an update from Wayne Ohnesorg—An \$805 dollar grant for the community garden at the Extension Office has been received. However, he is still counting on the plants that we signed up to provide and that will leave the money for other needs in the garden. Will probably plant the garden the 3rd week in May.

The office is looking for a temporary/summer intern but our help will still be needed in the garden with planting, harvesting, delivering food and maintenance.

Taylor’s report: Composting Program on May 28 at 6:30 at the Extension Office presented by the Nebraska Recycling Council. Will want information about local composting efforts.

Garden and Vegetable Trials-will happen this year; still getting organized, Taylor will get info out when available.

Plant Fair Speakers: Wendy Winstead and Kathy Duvall-At the Haskell Ag Lab where Wendy works there are some possible speakers. The group was very interested in one on soil testing and using manure in our gardens. The list of speakers will be given to Vicky for they postcards that will be mailed.

The meeting was adjourned -motion by Wendy Winstead, second by Deb Daehnke.

Meeting was adjourned. Submitted by, Mary Lux



WENDY WINSTEAD



A little bit about this Nebraska Girl...

I’ve “bloomed where I was planted” too many times to count. I’m a tumbleweed of sorts- I rolled into this world in the northern mid-plains of Montana, crossed 3/4 of this country to Virginia where my sister was born, and blew back into the sandy soils of western Nebraska to welcome my brother into our family; and that’s just the 1st 3 years of my life.

Though we moved around a lot- I attended 10 schools in 4 different states K-12 (NE, IA, FL, MO- 3 during my HS years alone)- I felt grounded when I connected to nature. My Midwest roots run deep.

First garden I remember our family having was in Potter, NE that was so big we even had room for corn! But my fondest memories come from where this little seed sprouted; my Grandma and Grandpa’s farm between Walthill and Winnebago, NE, and the place 3 miles away from them where we lived for 2 years. I remember how the setting sun streamed over the pasture through the mulberry tree and down into the living room of our trailer. How the tall Nebraska grass rustled and swayed with the breeze and an occasional cat slipping through its stalks. While we had a garden, I spent many hours in the stand of lilacs near the house and in the trees and grasses, sneaking over the barbed wire fence into the neighbor’s pasture to eat some of those wonderful mulberries. Playing in Grandma’s grove and picking Ginko leaves. Running across hay bales. Helping Grandma pick strawberries or beans in the garden. Helping Grandpa pick apples from the trees. Watching the afternoon and evening sun dance and flicker with the silvery cottonwood leaves dancing and whispering in the wind.... a small sample of why I’m happiest outside.

I finally got my own in-ground garden in 2022 when I moved to my little cottage. My 13ft x 27ft rectangle garden, fenced with 2ft chicken wire, covered in aged manure, with 2 cattle panel arches, continues to evolve. So, too, does my lawn, transitioning from a manicured lawn to my own little “park” that includes a cottage perennial garden, herb garden, and many more bushes, flowers, and plants. This labor of love that will take years to complete, but I imagine sitting beneath the buckeye tree on a porch swing, soaking in the fresh air and living environment all around me.

My growing passions? Veggie garden (eating what I grow, preserving, and sharing), perennials, natural fences, pollinator habitats, working with my ecosystem instead of fighting it.

Other interests- writing, singing, crocheting, creating art, free handing mazes, traveling, affordable and sustainable housing, learning in general.

This tumbleweed has taken root and sends songs carried on Nebraska winds to wander in my stead.

May “Get to Know Your Extension Master Gardener” will be Marjorie Jansen

