

Northeast Nebraska Extension Master Gardener

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

DECEMBER 2025

Hello Master Gardeners

Harvest is mostly done, as the fields are empty of their grain. We can now see to our south road the traffic that travels it day and night. Christmas will soon be here and Black Friday sales are starting soon.

You are invited to the December 13th meeting. We will meet at 8:30 to talk about the upcoming Plant Fair. The regular meeting will start at 9. Our speaker for the meeting is Shelley Junck to talk about hydroponics.

I saw on Facebook a friend had posted a picture of the Master Gardener Christmas tree that's on display at the Art Center. She said it was the best of the 20 trees that are on display. Thank you to the group that put the tree together for the display. If you haven't been to the Art Center, be sure to stop by to see our tree as well as the other trees.

Since people are having a hard time buying groceries, we decided to have a food drive at our meeting. It will be divided up between local food banks. Canned goods are welcome, as well as personal items. Everything needs to be nonperishable and not outdated.

Our hosts for the meeting are Trent Brunssen and myself.

Thank you Janice Wobbenhorst for your very interesting talk on birds. We all enjoyed it very much.

Continue to log in your volunteer and education hours.

Kathy Hayes Duval, President

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 December

Birthday

Trent Brunssen—December 11
Pam Graber—December 13
Janice Wobbenhorst—December 22
Brian Mandl—December 29

Anniversary

Mary & David Lux—December 26, 1987
Lynn & Paul Bloomquist, December 29



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.

December 13 - "Hydroponics" Shelly Junck

January 10— "Fresh Flowers" Lauren Walton and January Extension Master Gardener Banquet

February 14— "Pollinator project" Dan Vanderveen (Willow Creek Recreation Area Superintendent)

March 14— Topic to be determined, Jill Heemstra

April 11— Finalize Plant Fair Plans

April 24/25—Plant Fair

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

Holidazzle — Barnes Arboretum in Madison will again be lit up for the Christmas season starting December 7th. South Lincoln and 10th Streets.

TREASURER'S REPORT:



Bank balance as of 11-21-25 \$10,200.32

◇Meeting supplies: \$26.06

◇Deposit: \$220 Dues

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



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



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 Face-



VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP BOOK

The book has been updated for the next 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.

2025— EDUCATION HOURS:

January 11 —.75 hour "Recycled objects for the garden"
Deb Daehnke

February 4— 1.5 hours "Houseplants for the Home" Scott
Evans

February 8—1.5 hours "Ivy Folkers with Honey, "Raising
Bees"

February 11—1.5 hours "Overs and Unders—Gambling on
Good and Not-so-Good Shrubs—Kim Todd

February 18—1.5 hours "How Flowers attract pollinators"
- Emily Stine

February 25—1.5 hours "Integrated Pest Management " -
Elizabeth Exstrom

March 4—1.5 hours "Vegetables" - David Lott

March 8— 0 hours monthly meeting

March 11—1.5 hours "Creating a Native Landscape - Ian
Peterson

April 12—.45 minutes "Drip Tape" - Kurt Schrant

April 25/26—Plant Fair

July 17—Garden Tour in Wayne

August 14—Phanny's Farm Garden Tour

September 13— .50 Shared garden experiences

October 13—1.5 hours "The World of Aphids" and
identify weeds—Wayne Ohnesorg

November 8—1 hour "A World of Birds" Janice
Wobbenhorst

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

<https://nebextemgv.org>

https://nebextemgv.org/sec_Login/



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.

Information—Get to know your Extension Master Gardener members



The developer, RJ, has the VRS site back up and running. Here are a few things to know from now on.

1. The reason for the problem was that the site was hacked. RJ gave the option to move the site to his servers. While the University's servers are protected, it has become more difficult for RJ to access and work on them. We have also been running out of the allotted space on the University's servers, so this should work out better.
 2. With this move, we will have a new site to go to log in <https://nebextemgv.org>
 3. It will also have a slightly different look, but everything functions the same way.
 4. We will no longer have this on the mastergardener.unl.edu site for people to connect to. We will need to share this link through our various outlets, including newsletters and email—Google Classroom, Top Hat, etc.
 5. DO NOT create a page on your website and have the EMGVs connect through that.
 6. It was this, or we would be getting a different link every year.
 7. This link will automatically direct them to the new login page https://nebextemgv.org/sec_Login/
 8. As we were transferring this over to RJ's servers, we discovered that two versions of the database were running on the university's servers.
 9. This may explain why some people say they entered hours, and we could not see them
- As an FYI, he did change a few usernames that were using the email address (noemail@email.com). We cannot have duplicate usernames in the system.
10. Here is the example he said to use for those who do not have an email address (that is what you need to use for usernames)
 11. First name, underscore, last name, and the User ID, so "John_Smith_10474"
- In the past, they had to use their email address; they can still use that, but for a shared couple, they need to have individual usernames.

KATHY HAYES DUVAL



I grew up southwest of Pierce and still live southwest of Pierce. When my late husband Tom and I were married, we lived in Norfolk for a short time and then moved back to the farm. Tom wasn't a farmer, but we still lived in the country.

Growing up, I went to a country school, before going to high school. It was a big change, going from a one room school, with no running water to a lot bigger school.

My parents always had a garden and the farm where we lived had a wonderful orchard. Mom canned all the vegetables and fruit, as well as meat. We had a cave, so there were potatoes and other root crops down there. We had milk cows and chickens, so we didn't need to get a lot of things from the grocery store.

I love to garden for the joy that it brings when you can harvest your food or look at the beautiful flowers that are blooming. I don't have a very big garden anymore, but a lot more flowers, as well as herbs. This year my garden didn't do very well. I have decided it was because of the weather.

Master Gardeners have been a great place to meet other people that like to garden. I met so many nice people through the years and have formed a lot of friendships. Besides the education that we have gotten and the wonderful gardens we have visited it, has been a joy to say that I'm a Master Gardener.

January "Get to Know Your Extension Master Gardener" will be Vicki Rundell



THE NORFOLK PARADE of Trees opened to the public on Thursday and will remain open until Saturday, Dec. 13, at the gallery of the Norfolk Arts Center.

The Norfolk Parade of Trees moves to arts center gallery

By **ALEJANDRO RAMIREZ**
aramirez@norfolkdailynews.com

The Norfolk Parade of Trees showcases beautiful trees decorated by local businesses and nonprofit organizations in the area, with this marking the event's second year.

The trees are sponsored by the Norfolk Arts Center Ladies Guild. The display opened to the public on Thursday and will remain open until Saturday, Dec. 13, at the gallery of the Norfolk Arts Center.

A fundraising luncheon on Thursday featured a meal and a sneak peek for people interested in seeing the trees, which were all created by local entities ranging from nonprofits to Norfolk Fire and Rescue and more.

Clare Orwig, president of the arts center board and a guild member for 18 years, explained that last year's Parade of Trees, which was the first one ever hosted by the Ladies Guild, drew a lot of at-



JENNIFER ARENS/CORRESPONDENT

SHOWN HERE is a tree with the names and photos of firefighters who died in the line of duty.

tention, with more than 600 people checking out the trees and voting for their favorite.

That interest was one of the reasons why the Parade of Trees was moved to the gallery. In addition, more trees were submitted from various groups, with 20 trees

on display this year, compared with 16 last year.

"We have a lot of different ones this year and some of the same and some nonprofits," Orwig said. "So all of us nonprofits are helping each other out."

Orwig said people who

came and saw the display last year asked if they could get their group on display for this year's Parade of Trees.

"We actually didn't do much recruiting to that effect," Orwig said, "because they saw the display and said ... how do we get our name (on the list)?"

The free Parade of Trees will be open Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., through Saturday, Dec. 13. In addition, the display will be open during the Hometown Holidays celebration on Tuesday, Nov. 25, from 4:30 to 7 p.m.

Visitors are encouraged to cast a vote for their favorite tree. For more information, call the arts center at 402-371-7199.

Orwig said she expects the event to continue to grow in the future.

"Everyone wants to do it, and we appreciate the businesses that are doing it," Orwig said.

Minutes from the Monthly Meeting

Northeast Nebraska Extension Master Gardener Meeting

November 8, 2025

Plant Fair meeting-

Brian Mandl called the meeting to order.

Viola McShannon suggested that a photo op board be included in 2026 Plant Fair. Parents would be encouraged to take pictures of their children. Robin Jones stated she may have a board of the size that may work.

It was suggested that a “Demonstration booth” may be helpful so people attending the plant fair could be shown how to design a pot with flowers. Diane Lukens suggested a demonstration on planting succulents. This would possibly encourage attendees to buy our plants. Will discuss at the next meeting.

We are in need of a vendor chair to recruit vendors. Pam did an amazing job last year. Possibility of a chair and co-chair combination. Duties included would be sending e-mails to previous vendors, follow up phone calls if e-mails not returned, recruiting new vendors from holiday shows. This list is not conclusive. Will discuss further at the December meeting.

Perennial plants will be ordered by Karen Zierke, Kathy Duval and Suzanne Hanlin.

Connie Dvorak mentioned that the hanging baskets from Shamrock did not sell well. Will discuss further whether to order hanging plants for 2026 Plant Fair.

Viola McShannon communicated that we should have a chairperson responsible for recruiting speakers for the Plant Fair. Kathy Duvall volunteered. Thank you Kathy. There were suggestions for speakers. Will talk about speakers at December meeting.

Diane Lukens reminded the group that Midwest Bank would advertise our Plant and Vendor Fair on their digital sign from January until the Plant Fair date for a fee. Robin Jones voiced her opinion that this advertising is too expensive for the current advertising budget. Will discuss further at December meeting.

Submitted by,
Suzanne Hanlin



Meet Taylor Cammack

Taylor Cammack

Byline: Taylor Cammack is the new Horticulture, Landscape, and Environmental Systems (HLES) in Platte County. If you have any questions, please contact her at (402) 563-4901 or tcammack7@unl.edu

Hello! I'm Taylor Cammack, the new Horticulture, Landscape, & Environmental Systems (HLES) Extension Instructor. I am based in the Platte County office in Columbus and I serve Antelope, Boone, Butler, Cedar, Colfax, Hamilton, Knox, Madison, Merrick, Nance, Pierce, Platte, and Polk counties.

I grew up on a family farm in DeWitt, NE, and I'm a former 4-H member in Gage County. My initial interest in horticulture came from helping my grandmother with her landscape. When I wasn't helping with chores, I would be helping her move mulch and pull weeds.

I graduated with a degree in Plant and Landscape Systems from UNL in 2023. After graduation, I completed a 1-year internship with the US National Herb Garden in Washington, D.C. The Herb Garden is located at the National Arboretum.

Once my internship was complete, I worked with Nebraska Nursery & Color Gardens in Lincoln, NE. I was the Design Assistant helping in-house designers with design/build clients, retail shoppers, commercial projects, and everything in between. I also became a Certified Arborist with the Nebraska Arborist Association.

In my free time, I enjoy travelling, reading, and spending time with family and friends. I'm also a proud aunt to two nephews.

I'm very excited to be part of Nebraska Extension and ready to start serving the Nebraskans of my region. If you have any questions or would like to collaborate on horticulture programs, please don't hesitate to contact me at the Platte County office (402) 563-4901, or email me at tcammack7@unl.edu. Happy Holidays!






Platte County
NE-EMGVS

MEET & GREET

Join the NE-EMGV
Program for coffee and a
sweet treat to meet the
new Extension Instructor
for Platte County,
Taylor Cammack.

 THURSDAY
DECEMBER 4TH
1 - 3 PM
2715 13th Street
Columbus, NE