

Northeast Nebraska Extension Master Gardener

<http://madison.unl.edu/mastergardenerhome>

<https://www.facebook.com/NortheastNEMasterGardeners>

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 6

Hello Master Gardeners,

Even though we are in the throes of winter, I am thinking of the bulbs I planted in October and counting down the weeks until they show themselves. We have gained over an hour of daylight since winter solstice.

Our Annual awards banquet last month was a success. Lauren Walton talked about her journey from gardener to having a business buying and selling plants and fresh flowers out of her garden. She answered our gardening questions and came with some bulbs and root stock for sale. Twenty eight people were recognized for their participation in our Nebraska Extension Master Gardeners group. The food was excellent of which there was plenty. The gift exchange brings the best out of us!

You are invited to our next meeting, February 14th, Valentine's Day. The Plant Fair Planning Meeting starts at 8:30 which is open to all interested. Our business meeting will begin at 9:00, followed by our guest speaker, Dan Vanderveen, Willow Creek Recreation Area Superintendent. He will be talking about their pollinator project. Hosts for the meeting are Vicki Rundell and Kate Pruitt

We are still looking for someone to be a chairperson for the committee that follows up with vendors for our Plant Fair. Don't be shy! Pam has sent out emails and Janyce McQuistan has offered to make some of the calls. We want to call the vendors who have not responded to the emails and follow up with them.

The sign up sheets that Wayne sent around for starting plants from seed for the Community Garden need more growers. Remember that each line represents one plant. If you can start 10 pepper plants, you would put your name on 10 lines. We will talk again in February and hopefully get the slots on the sign up sheets for plants filled.

If you have overgrown house plants, now is the time to divide them or root some of the stems for sale at EMG table at the Plant Fair. Get the plants established before they go on sale. The Plant Fair is April 24-25. Viola would appreciate any of those small (6oz), narrow tomato paste cans for wind chimes and plastic sheeting used for packing that she will use for seed snails, both used for projects at Kid's Corner at Plant Fair.

Kate Pruitt, 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 February

Birthday

Marjorie Jansen—February 7
Jane Jensen—February 11

Anniversary

Trent & Marla Brunssen—February 23, 1991



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 Gruber
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.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT:



Bank balance as of 1-28-26 \$10,879.94

Deposits:

Vendor Fees \$425

New Member Dues: \$250

Dues: \$240

Interest: .85

Expenses:

Nursery Stock Distributors License: \$140

2025 Sales Tax: \$96.23

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 Facebook page.



2026—EDUCATION HOURS:

January 10 —1.00 hour “Fresh Flowers” Lauren Walton

****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.

VOLUNTEER



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.



*Happy
Valentine's
Day*

Minutes from the Plant Fair and Monthly Meeting

Northeast Nebraska Extension Master Gardener Plant Fair Committee Minutes January 10, 2026

Brian Mandl called the meeting to order.

Linda Douglas accident with leg injury was discussed. We will keep her in our thoughts as she recovers in Kearney.

Viola McShannon talked about what is needed for the Children's corner.

Mary Lux informed group that there is a signup list to either bring bars or donate \$10. Mary is also collecting cardboard boxes for the plant fair.

Vendors- Pam Foltz has sent out e-mails to recruit vendors. She needs help with follow up phone calls. Please consider helping with this.

Advertising-Brian mentioned we need 2 more banners. Connie Dvorak will get banners ordered from Blackburn Manufacturing in Neligh.

Perennial plants have been ordered from Bluebird Nursery. Shamrock Nursery will again provide annual plants. Please start propagating plants to sell at the Master Gardener's table.

Vicki Rundell will again head the welcome table. She needs a list of speakers and times for the postcards. Reminder for prizes for give away table.

Remember to bring your creative centerpieces.

Connie Dvorak will do plant fair flower cards and information.

Kristine Zachmeyer will do the flower video again this year. She inquired about length of slide show; 10 or 15 minutes?

Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by, Suzanne Hanlin

Northeast Nebraska Extension Master Gardener Meeting Minutes. January 10, 2026

President Kate Pruitt opened the meeting.

December minutes- Need correction of January speaker's name. Should be Lauren Walton, not Lauren Waddle. Change approved motion by Teresa Roche with 2nd by Karen Zierke.

Treasurer's report by Connie Dvorak-Checking balance \$10,380.71. Dues have been added. Reminder if you haven't paid your dues, please do.

Norfolk Catholic students Christmas tree was awarded 1st place at the Norfolk Art Center Parade of Trees.

Viola McShannon talked about seed donations and asked members to help with seed sorting and packaging. A sign-up list was presented with dates.

Wayne Ohnesorg sent a signup sheet around to members to start plants for the Extension garden. He also said there is a possibility of some funds for the garden pending decision by the government food program. Wayne will let us know more at the next meeting.

Kate Pruitt announced a guest for the meeting. Jane Lindsay was welcomed.

A chairperson for the vendors for the Plant Fair is still needed. No one has volunteered. Mary Birch volunteered to help with follow up calls. Pam Foltz stated that is sometimes hard to contact vendors via phone during the day. She has made calls in the evening when at the office for Master Gardener education meetings. Robin Jones suggested that when vendors express interest to ask them the best time to contact them. Wendy Windstead suggested giving vendors a discount if they signup early or give them a chance to pick their spot. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Kathy Duval suggested that the President term be 2 years instead of one year. She communicated that 1 year may not be long enough. A discussion was held among the members. Wayne Ohnesorg suggested that the new bylaws that were revised last year be followed to see how the process works. Robin Jones asked that the bylaws be sent to all members. The bylaws will be e-mailed and printed in next year's member directory.

Speaker for February 14th meeting will be Dan Vanderveen, Willow Creek Recreation Area Superintendent, speaking about pollination program.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Suzanne Hanlin, 2nd by Joyce Eucker.

Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by, Suzanne Hanlin

Get to know your Extension Master Gardener Member



LYNN BLOOMQUIST

I have always lived in the wonderful state of Nebraska. My roots are in Bloomfield, but most of my life has been spent on an acreage just outside of Wausa, where we moved in 1990. My husband and I have been blessed with seven children and nine grandchildren.

I have been an educator since 1992, teaching in a variety of roles including Kindergarten, Title I director/teacher, Elementary Guidance, and Middle School Social Studies. I retired in 2023 and now substitute teach part-time. While I do miss teaching full-time, I enjoy that subbing still gives me the opportunity to work with children.

My hobbies include cooking, crafting, traveling, thrifting, and decorating, but the hobby I am most passionate about is flower gardening. I credit both of my grandmothers for instilling in me a love of gardening, especially flowers. The grandmother I spent the most time with lived in Bloomfield, and I spent countless hours with her in her vegetable and flower gardens. We often brought flowers indoors to arrange in vases. From those experiences, I entered items from the garden into 4-H exhibits at the Knox County Fair.

My other grandmother lived in El Paso, Texas, and had a passion for growing roses. Although they had a small backyard, it was filled with rose gardens. I remember admiring them and being amazed that they bloomed year-round, unlike in Nebraska where our growing season is much shorter. These grandparents even named my mother Rosia, which means “rose.”

On our acreage today, we have several flower beds that I care for while my husband takes care of the yard work. It brings me so much joy to work in the dirt—planting and watching the flowers grow. Like most flower gardeners, I love purchasing plants, designing the gardens, and planting new flowers each year. I especially enjoy bringing those flowers into our home and creating arrangements using blooms that appear at different times throughout the spring and summer.

In retirement, I would like to learn more about herbs and start a small vegetable garden where I can harvest what we grow. I am also very interested in learning proper flower-arranging techniques.

It has been a blessing to learn from all of you. I have gained so much gardening knowledge over the past year and a half as a UNL Volunteer Master Gardener. I am excited to continue learning, growing, and—most importantly—developing meaningful friendships along the way.

Favorite quotes:

“The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul.” Alfred Austin

Taken from Treehugger.com

Luther Burbank:

“Flowers always make people better, happier, and more helpful; they are sunshine, food, and medicine for the soul.” Luther Burbank

Taken from Treehugger.com

March “Get to Know Your Extension Master Gardener” will be Suzanne Hanlin

DID YOU KNOW

Can bees remember flowers they have visited before or if certain flowers were visited by other bees? YES! After watching a bee pollinator session through the University of Minnesota, I thought I'd do a little checking.

Some bees are able to detect electrical fields, recognize smelly footprints, notice scent markers that change in a flower, detect pheromones, tastes, colors and ultraviolet light. They can also communicate by a “waggle dance”. Although these tactics are much more pronounced than this paragraph can convey, they serve a very important purpose. These all help bees avoid wasting time on flowers that are low or have no pollen left, thus enhancing their ability to find suitable plants.

Bees also don't like pungent smells, so will often avoid, onions, peppermint, and garlic to name a few.

If you've ever been working in your garden and think you recognize a bee from a few days ago, maybe you do. The articles I read were very interesting discussing this subject. You might want to check it out.

Deb Daehnke

EMGV Training/Upcoming Education Opportunities

TRAINING



Virtual/Upcoming Education Training

PlantNebraska's Winter Talks [PlantNebraska Plant Talks 2026](#)

GRO Big Red Virtual Learning Webinars [GRO Big Red Virtual Learning | Horticulture, Landscape, and Environmental Systems | Nebraska](#)

Monthly starting in March

3/11 The Road to Ripe: Growing Great Tomatoes - Dana Freeman

EMGV Statewide Zoom Trainings Zoom Link: [EMGV Statewide Training](#) Passcode: 268458 (No sign-up required)

February-March - 6:30 pm — 8 pm

2/3 - Fruit Trees with Carol Waters

2/10 - All About Ants by Aunt Jody with Jody Green

2/17 - ID Trees by Other than Leaves with Justin Evertson

2/24 Acre Prairie with Ron Seymour

3/3 - Lawn and Landscape Weeds with Elizabeth Exstrom

3/10 - Using Weather and Climate Data for you Gardening Experience with Eric Hunt

Nicole Stoner's In-Person/Zoom Trainings (Info to come)

Friday 2/6 - Pruning Fruit Trees 10 am -12 pm

Friday 3/6 - Shoebox Hydroponics (there is a cost for this) 10 am-12 pm

Friday 3/20 - Herbicide Drift & Damage to Plants - 10 am-12 pm

Faller Landscape In-Person Training Seminars (Info to come)

Education Opportunities Outside of Nebraska

Iowa State Extension's [Home Gardening Webinar Series | Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Master Gardener](#)

Penn State Extension Forest Seminar Series [Planting for Pollinators](#) (2/10 11 am or 6 pm)

Minnesota State Extension [Annual Pollinator Series](#) (Jan 26-28th)

Upcoming in-person dates to remember

February 1st, 2 pm —3 pm - Seed Swap at the Columbus Library

February 14th, Plant Fair at 8:30 am and the meeting at 9:00 am - Monthly Meeting at the Madison County Extension Office

March 8th, 2 pm — 3 pm - Beginner's Guide to Composting at Columbus Library