

**Northeast Nebraska Extension Master Gardener
 Newsletter**

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

MAY 2026

Hi Everyone,

Hooray for May! We had a successful Plant Fair and now are digging into our gardens in earnest. I am delighted to see new buds and leaves on a few plants I dug in last fall after buying them at clearance prices in September. It is fun to pull back some of the cover of dried leaves and stems to find healthy tender plants, AND the male goldfinches have molted and they look fabulous in their summer feathers. May you all have a generous amount of time to enjoy your gardens.

Our next meeting is May 16th, the third Saturday of the month. We will take time to discuss the plant fair, what worked well and improvements we could make. This fun meeting is also our plant exchange, so bring your extras. Mary Pat Weber and Connie Kava are hosting us. We don't have monthly meetings over the summer and will meet again in September. Watch for summer garden tours and remember to work a bit in the garden at the Extension Office.

Thanks to everyone for participating in the Plant Fair. Thanks for bringing extra food, door prizes, tables and plants to sell at Master Gardener table. Thanks to the set up crew, the money handlers, and the people who welcome everyone. Thanks to those who do publicity and advertising, the FOOD, kid's corner, arranging for the speakers, recommending and selling the garden plants, selling the houseplants grown by MG and those who do the drawings and door prizes. I am amazed at what gets accomplished. The super heroes of this event are Pam and Wayne. Everyone, thank you for your time, sharing your skills and working together.

Sincerely,
 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 May

Birthday

Diane Lukens—May 11

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
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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***

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

TREASURER'S REPORT:



Bank balance as of 4-27-26 \$19,528.20 before Plant Fair bills are paid.

A complete report will be given at the next meeting.



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

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
- March 3—1.5 hours “Lawn and Landscape Weeds” with Elizabeth Exstrom
- March 10—1.5 hours “Using Weather and Climate Data for your Gardening Experience” with Eric Hunt
- March 14—1 hour Jill Heemstra
- April 11—1.5 hours Finalize Plant Fair Plans
- April 24/25—Plant Fair. Record your own hours.

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

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

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.

BACKYARD FARMER

Weekly: April 2—September 10, 2026
Thursdays at 7 pm on Nebraska Public Media
Saturdays at 10 am on Nebraska Public Media
Sundays at 4 pm CT on Create
Mondays at 5 pm CT on Create
<https://byf.unl.edu>



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

- 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
- September** Review that all committees have chair/co-chairs and a list of members. Give the Chairs a list of committee members
- October** Publicity Committee



Minutes from the Plant Fair and Monthly Meeting

Northeast Nebraska Extension Master Gardener Plant Fair Committee Minutes April 11, 2026

Chairman Brian Mandl called the meeting to order.

Advertising- Banners for advertising will be placed at CVS, by the Madison County Extension office, Midwest Bank and at intersection of Victory Rd and Benjamin in Norfolk. The 2 extra banners purchased will potentially be placed at Wetzels and Truex and Woodland Part/Hwy 35. Brian will check on permission.

Children's Corner-Viola reported that plans are finalized and passed around what the children will be planting in the packing material. Café-Mary Lux reported that since members will be bringing more potluck items this year that we need more serving spoons. Mary has got some from Goodwill, but more are needed. Please bring a serving utensil with your potluck item with your name on it. Everyone please bring a large potluck item or 2 items due to the increased number of vendors that will be eating.

Welcome Table- Vicki Rundell reported that 412 postcards have been sent out. Due to the shortage of tables, the centerpieces will be displayed in the lunchroom. Diane Lukens asked if we would include a note with plant purchases reminding customers of next year's plant fair. We will include these.

Tables- Wayne Ohnesorg reported that we will not have enough tables for our increased vendor numbers. We can get 120 tables from the college, but will need more. Wayne proposed that members who have tables to sign up on a sheet he had created. Several members signed up to contribute tables. Chairs will be used to create barrier edge for the plant sales area.

Set up for plant fair are: Wayne, Taylor, Kurt, Trent and Wendy will arrive at 9:30 am to map out vendor areas. NECC Horticulture students will help set up tables. Vendors will begin arriving at 1:00 pm. Plants will arrive at 2:00 pm. Please arrive by 2:00 pm if you would like to help.

Kristine Zachmeyer will do plant video. It was decided that a poster would be created with map of vendors and identification of vendors.

Cashier-Connie Dvorak expressed concern about best method to count cash. It was decided that startup money will be placed in each of 4 boxes at the start of Friday sale and will be counted by 2 people. At conclusion of Friday night sales, the money will be taken back to the Extension office and counted by 2 people and left there. On Saturday, startup money will again be placed in the 4 boxes. At the conclusion of Saturday, all the money will be taken to the Extension office and counted by 2 different people. Those who will be counting are Diane Lukens, Wayne Ohnesorg, Connie Dvorak and Pam Foltz. This way the least amount of cash will be transported daily.

Card reader-Cashier Chairman Diane Lukens reported sales from last year with use of card reader. There was difficulty with functioning of card reader last year, so this year one will be rented with a cost \$59 plus fees. We again charge an extra \$1.00 to customers who use their credit card.

Shamrock Nursery hanging plants were discussed. Sales of hanging baskets last year were poor. The group decided to have Shamrock bring 12 hanging baskets this year. If they don't sell, Shamrock will take them back.

Reminders:

- Bring boxes for plants that are purchased.
- Bring your door prize item
- Potluck items and serving utensils
- Bring wagons if you sign up to bring them.
- See reminder sheet that Pam created.

Update from Wayne regarding Extension Garden.

A grant has been secured for \$800.00. A summer hire has been arranged that will be at the May Master Gardener meeting on May 16, 2026. Wayne passed around a signup sheet for planting, mulching and weeding for the spring and summer. He will let those who have started plants know when to bring plants. More information to come regarding the garden.

Submitted by Suzanne Hanlin

Northeast Nebraska Extension Master Gardener Meeting Minutes. April 11, 2026

Past President Kathy Duvall called the meeting to order at 10:13 am. Kathy shared that President Kate Pruitt wasn't feeling well.

Treasurer: Connie Dvorak-balance \$12,993.40. Since our last meeting we had deposits of dues \$40; vendor fees \$775 and \$0.54 of interest. At this point we have received \$2525 in vendor and sponsor fees. Thank you, Pam!!!

Minutes from 3/14/26: Mary asked about the question asked at the March meeting by Scott Beckman about purchasing and selling garden flags at the plant fair. This was tabled.

Deb Daehnke pointed out that her last name was misspelled.

The minutes were approved with these corrections. Motion by Karen Zierke, 2nd by Wendy Winstead.

Old Business: Connie Dvorak reported that Broberg's does not sell smaller quantities of worm castings anymore. The smallest quantity they would sell now is 2000 pounds. We are not going to buy and bag this now.

Viola McShannon reported that she has had 3 donations to the seed library in the last month-from Fedco seeds (25 packs), Cooperative Gardens Commission (125 packs and 25 bulk packs). Taylor Cammack, Extension Educator from Platte County, told us that she can probably get us some seeds leftover from the Platte County Master Gardener's (MG's) library.

We will try to meet and pack seeds this week and the week of April 27th. Vi passed around a sign-up sheet.

New Business: Lynn Bloomquist said that she is willing to work on summer garden tours and would appreciate everyone's help. Trent suggested a nut tree grower west of Yankton.

Taylor C. told us that the Platte County MG's have a garden tour on June 18th in Platte Center and Columbus. The money they raise will be used to restore a theatre in Columbus. This group is also asking for any suggestions of gardens or other spots in and around Norfolk for them to tour. The Urban Garden at NECC and Willow Creek SRA were suggested.

Continue on next page.

Get to know your Extension Master Gardener Member

Minutes continued

Deb Daehnke urged members to sign up to do "Meet your Master Gardener" and "Did You Know" for our newsletter. Reminder that our May meeting will be on the 3rd Saturday, not the 2nd Saturday. This will be May 16th. If we don't have Mexican burger meat leftover from the plant fair, we will order pizza. We will also have leftover chips, bars and pop. This will also include a plant exchange.

NECC Foundation Scholarship Luncheon will be on 4/30. Let Kathy know if you want to attend.

Take a yard sign for the plant fair!

Karen Zierke proposed that we purchase 6' or 8' tables that we will be able to use at our plant fair every year. Our bank balance is good but we need to determine if there is storage space for tables and whether there is really a need. This year we will try to fill the need with tables of our own.

We may want to use some of our money to support the garden at the Extension office.


Diane Luekens asked if we can sell extra vegetable plants at our houseplant area at the plant fair. We can.

Taylor told us that there will be plant trials this year but the details are being worked out. There isn't a sign up yet.

Taylor told us about Bloomfest at the Arbor Lodge. The guided tour of the Lilac garden is sold out but it can still be toured on our own. One of the volunteers on the restoration committee is a retired Extension Agent.

Motion to Adjourned made by Teresa Roche; 2nd by Vi. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted by Mary Lux



MARJORIE JANSEN

I live on the farm where I grew up and in the house where I was born. My education consisted of attending a one room country school until high school at Norfolk High. As Kathy Hayes Deval said, it was a huge adjustment. Some year later, I attended Northeast Community College as a non-traditional student, graduating in 1992. I retired from what was known at the time as Sherwood Medical.

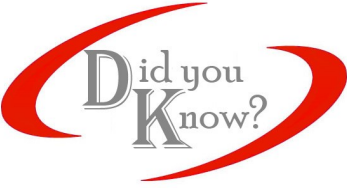
My family includes four children, all gardeners, nine grand-children and twelve great grands.

Interest in plants first began with vegetable gardening. Over time, this evolved into flowers, my current passion. This led to becoming a charter member of the Nebraska Daylily Society, joining the American Iris Society and Extension Master Gardeners.

Over the years these organizations have given me friends, plants, knowledge and access to some fabulous gardens.

Other interests include volunteering at church, book club, reading, crossword puzzles, and exhibiting flowers at the Madison County Fair.

June *"Get to Know Your Extension Master Gardener" will be ?? No one signed up for the remainder of the year.*



I love to follow other gardeners to glean ideas from projects they have done. One of my favorite ways to do this is watching content creators on YouTube. During the winter months the sun can tease me with its brightness, but alas if I go outside it belied how cold it is. So I realize it's time to watch Thyme To Garden. This channel focuses on a lady's garden from Indiana Zone 5. Unfortunately I have never heard her mention her name. She demonstrates planting her spectacular container plants, saving seeds, taking cuttings (one cost saving trick is to purchase a small begonia and use pieces of the plant to start multiple plants), starting a myriad of other plants in her basement growing room, and garden tours. She has a keen sense of color and texture combining plants in her containers. If you enjoy potting your own containers, I think you'll find some great ideas on her channel.

By Deb Daehnke