

suggested to defend against free-radical damage and cancer. Again, some of these claims have been confirmed in research studies, while others are anecdotal.

The native bush grows four to eight feet tall and is a hardy perennial. It usually sets flowers here in the Midwest in late May through mid-June and the berries ripen late July through mid-August. Full sun is preferred along with a fair amount of moisture. Over time, the bush will spread and can be cut back as needed.

The American Elderberry is different from its European counterpart. For one, it grows more as a bush rather than a tree. Also, research has shown that the American Elderberry contains an additional anti-cancer property and other antioxidants. Furthermore, recently published research shows that while the European berry must be cooked to inactivate its toxic properties, the American berry has very few toxic qualities and therefore does not need to be heated.



Elderflowers and elderberries can be enjoyed in tea, wine, cordials, syrups, tonics and a variety of foods from elderflower fritters to elderberry pie. We hope you grow to love this versatile plant as much as we do!



Whispering Elm Farm

Melissa and Colin McDonald, Owners—Paola

“Bloom where you are planted.”—The Bishop of Geneva, St. Francis de Sales

Garden inspiration comes from a variety of sources. For Colin and Melissa (a master herbalist and naturopath), it was a passion for medicinal herbs and the positive impact they can have on health that led them to make some life-changing decisions.

Their favorite plants—exceptional plants for your health that are easy to grow—are: elderberry, calendula, mullein, yarrow, dandelion, nettles, holy basil, passionflower, lemon balm, and ashwagandha.



“A September to Remember” is also sponsored by:



Master Gardener
Marais des Cygnes District



A September to Remember

September 10 & 11, 2021

Marais des Cygnes Extension District Master Gardeners 2021 Garden Tour

Kansas State University is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision, or hearing disability, contact the Marais des Cygnes Extension District at 913-294-4306. **Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service** K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Organic Medicinal Gardening

Seven years ago, they felt a calling to give up their quiet suburban life in southern Johnson County and move to the country to start a farm. While they had learned to cultivate a fairly decent lawn and garden using organic methods, taking that to a “farm-level” was completely new and a bit overwhelming.

After attending many classes and conferences and being blessed with some key mentors, their awesome teen sons and Melissa’s energetic parents, the farm began to take shape and continues to evolve from “a piece of land” into a holistic educational retreat. They now grow a wide array of culinary and medicinal herbs (specializing in elderflowers and elderberries), raise ducks, chickens and bees, and teach a variety of wellness classes at Whispering Elm Farm near Hillsdale Lake.



and answer any questions you might have.

Elderberries

In the elderberry orchard you will find roughly 1,400 elderberry bushes fresh out of berry production. The three main varieties grown there include Ranch, Bob Gordon, and Adams II. These American varieties differ from the European elders in several positive ways. Learn what sets them

apart and why you should consider adding them to your garden!

The Birds and the Bees

Bees are important workers at the farm. While elderflowers are not necessarily their cup of tea, they find plenty of other food sources available. In turn, their honey provides an excellent addition to the elderberries and other herbs for teas, tonics and syrups. The beeswax also combines nicely with the herbs to create salves, balms and lotions.

The ducks and chickens have responsibilities as well. Not only do they provide fabulous eggs but they are also tasked with compost production and providing entertainment for all ages.

You will also find a high tunnel at the farm. While very popular in the Northeast, high tunnels are finally making their way to the Midwest—and for good reason. While there is a learning curve to growing in this kind of microclimate, it does allow for year-round gardening.

Come explore and learn what this unique farm has to offer the community. The owners hope that you find peace and tranquility as you stroll the gardens and enjoy what nature has to offer.

Soil Fertility

Soil fertility is where it all begins. As an organic farm, the goal was and continues to be creating beautiful soil teaming with a wide assortment of microbes capable of providing plants with all the necessary nutrition. At Whispering Elm Farm, they believe an important part of that equation involves increasing plant diversity, but that might also be Melissa’s excuse for just a few more plants! Regardless, different plants encourage larger varieties of microbes and the production of healthy soil.

Medicinal Herbs

Medicinal herbs come in all shapes and sizes from the smallest ground covers up to the largest trees. They may be soaking up the sunshine for all to see or hiding out in a shady spot by the creek. Education has always been the focus, so you will find many signs around the farm noting the name and traditional uses of many plants. Additionally, the owners are also happy to guide you through

Elderberries

By now, most people have heard of elderberries, but not many know their rich history.

Various species of “elders” are found in many parts of the world. Until very recently, nearly all elderberries and flowers on the market were the European variety, *Sambucus nigra*, as the Europeans were first to use them commercially. However, closer to home we have a native subspecies, *Sambucus nigra subspecies canadensis* (American Elderberry) that grows in the middle and eastern portions of North America, and the berries are starting to become more widely available. *Sambucus cerulea* (blue elderberries) grows in the western US and other varieties grow in Australia, South America and Asia, and there are ornamentals now available in garden stores. *Keep in mind some varieties have no medicinal value and could be toxic if ingested.*



Archaeological excavations reveal that people have been using elders for thousands of years. Hippocrates (460-370 BC), the father of medicine, referred to elders as a “medicine chest in itself” while others have called it “the plant of God that heals everything it touches.” Elderberries have been mentioned in various writings throughout the centuries and in 1633, the first book devoted entirely to elderberries was printed. Beyond medicinal purposes, their canes have been used to make musical instruments, arrows and various tools. A plant that receives that much attention is probably worth taking notice!

The flowers, while used extensively in Europe,



are relatively new to the US market. A few years ago, for the royal wedding, Harry and Meghan’s cake was lemon and elderflower, and since then, elderflowers have increased in popularity on the culinary scene. Traditional use of the flower is for respiratory

and allergy symptoms. Additionally, they have been used to lower blood sugar, address water retention, support the nervous system and lower inflammation. Externally, a tea of the flowers has been used for eye and skin conditions. Some of these benefits can be found in published studies; some are only handed down in the literature.

Traditionally, the elderberry, high in vitamins and other beneficial properties, has been used to support the immune system, reduce inflammation, support eye health, reduce asthma/allergy symptoms, improve brain health and support healing from stroke/brain damage. Also, since the berries are very high in antioxidants, they have been





like a thick ground cover, or grasses that can be mowed or bush-cut only once or twice a year. A steep slope is also a good place to consider a rock garden with drought tolerant plants planted between the stones.

Rain Runoff

Water will always take the least resistant path down the hill. Always. While sometimes the path is quite clear by the existence of a washed-out ravine, sometimes it is less obvious, so it is best to be sure by observing how water flows down your slope during a heavy rain.

The easiest thing to do, naturally, is nothing. Let the water flow where it wants and work around it. If that is not an option, you can dig and form a dry creek that will channel the water during a rain or build berms to change the contour of the slope. Berms and swales are also good ways to slow the water down long enough to infiltrate into the soil rather than let it run down into the neighbor's yard or into a pond or ditch at the bottom of the hill. Another way to hold onto some of the water is to build a rain garden or infiltration pond that pools the water temporarily.

A slope does not have to be your nemesis. By knowing your slope and coming to a mutually agreed understanding on how the two of you are to get along, a beautiful friendship can be formed.

can be planted or a higher wall(s) with more space for planting. It would be a good idea to consult an expert to determine the best, and most affordable, terracing solution.

If you chose to accept the slope as is, consider at least adding steps to make the slope easier to navigate. The rest of the slope should be planted with extremely low maintenance plants,

Campbell Highlands

Stacie and Dave Campbell, Owners—Paola

“If you’ve never experienced the joy of accomplishing more than you can imagine, plant a garden.”—Robert Brault

A walk through The Campbell Highlands is a walk through many gardens. Each area is different from the next but with a purpose or a focus that inspires the visitor to continue to the next delight. Motivated by a practical need or a creative spark, every garden bed and each of the several garden rooms has been an opportunity for a couple that likes a good project to add something awesome to their lives. The Campbells have turned The Highlands into a resort suitable for family fun with the grandchildren, peaceful reflection or good conversation around the fire pit. This garden reflects the many moods and whims of someone whose favorite phrase is “What if we do this...”



“A September to Remember” is also sponsored by: **K-STATE** Research and Extension

Master Gardener
Marais des Cygnes District

A September to Remember

September 10 & 11, 2021



Marais des Cygnes Extention District Master Gardeners 2021 Garden Tour

Kansas State University is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision, or hearing disability, contact the Marais des Cygnes Extension District at 913-294-4306. Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

About the Gardeners

Stacie is a retired mechanical engineer who originally became a gardener as a time-management tool in the mid-90s when she bought her first house. To simplify mowing she transplanted several peonies from the lawn to a single bed and added a few more flowers for interest. She loved the result so much that she used gardening to solve other landscape issues such as drainage problems, slope maintenance and the need for visual barriers from the neighbors. Surprisingly, while landscaping the terrain had a practical purpose, it was the beauty of gardening that planted the seed of an artist in the heart of this very pragmatic engineer. In 2020, she enrolled in the Marais des Cygnes Extension Master Gardener Program to learn and share with her fellow gardeners.

Dave is also a retired mechanical engineer and while he leaves the design and planning of most of the gardens to Stacie, he jumps right in during execution, especially when big equipment is needed to haul rock, soil, and compost—any excuse to use the tractor. Dave is also a model train enthusiast and after years of planning and dreaming, his train garden has finally become a reality.

About the Garden

It was the magnificent view, including a glimpse of Hillsdale Lake, that sold the property in the winter of 2014 when the landscape was covered in a blanket of snow. By spring the effects of the 2012 drought and years of neglect became apparent. Other than weedy natives and one trouper of a yellow rose (still growing at the

top of the waterfall), there was no color. Some would see despair and endless, exhausting work. Stacie saw exciting potential. She started with the addition of the vegetable garden and the Secret Garden in the back yard the first year and has continued adding new beds and features every year since. Dave sometimes asks Stacie when the garden will be done and she just laughs and laughs.



Special Features

Every corner of The Campbell Highlands has something special to enjoy. The waterfall in the upper peninsula, installed in 2020 by Swan's Water Gardens, can be enjoyed from all angles, including from inside the house. The Chicago Hardy fig tree

is the pride of the Secret Garden with wonderfully sweet figs in September until the first freeze. The fire garden was added in 2018 to reflect the idea of flames from the fire pit. This area is planted with hot reds, oranges and yellows with foliage reminiscent of flames.

The most recent addition to these ever-growing gardens is a patio surrounding a koi pond and prized train in the front yard, added just this summer.

Favorite Plants

Music Box Shrub Rose, Chicago Hardy Fig Tree, Strawberry and Vanilla Hydrangea, Cannas, Ajuga, Rhododendron, Catmint, Columbine and Impatiens.

Greatest Challenges

Other than rocks and watering—which are the bane of every Kansas gardener—the biggest challenge at the Campbell Highlands is the

landscape's steep slope. Storm water would flow around the rock ledge by the upper gate and settle by the back door, so the peninsula garden was extended to reroute the water further down the hill. The back corner that currently holds the vegetable raised beds, was a bog from the water that would seep from beneath the rock ledge. Adding an infiltration pond gives the water a

place to collect rather than make the whole area a muddy quagmire.

Stacie prefers to call such problems opportunities, rather than challenges, because they present a chance to add a unique feature that is both beautiful and functional to the garden. You can read more about gardening on a slope in the educational information below.

Gardening on a Slope

Contrary to popular belief, Kansas is not flat, especially in Miami County. The view from The Highlands is one of rolling, wooded hills, the blue of Hillsdale lake, and red-roofed farmhouses with livestock grazing in green pastures. The price of this view from the top of a hill is that one must learn to landscape and garden on a hill.

Gardening on a slope provides wonderful opportunities to design a garden that could not be duplicated on a flat area. Multiple levels require winding paths, making the garden seem bigger than it is. Plantings enjoy a vertical element that would have them hidden in a typical bed. However, successfully gardening in such an area requires you to be familiar with all the unique qualities of your particular slope so you can best take advantage of it rather than fighting with Mother Nature.

Analyze Your Slope

First and foremost, know your slope to determine what opportunities and challenges it presents. What direction does the slope face? How steep is the slope? Is it a gentle hill easy enough to walk straight up or is doing so difficult or impossible? How does the slope shed rain



runoff? Does it collect into a “creek”? Do any waterfalls form? Does the runoff settle into any specific area for an extended period after the rain stops? It may be necessary to go out and observe the area during a heavy rain to know for sure, so a good pair of waterproof boots is a must. With this information in hand, you are now ready to work with your slope to develop a beautiful garden.

Exposure

The direction your slope faces plays an important role in your gardening choices, and unfortunately, it is something that cannot be changed. A slope that faces south or west will bake in the hot afternoon sun while slopes that face north or east may

be spared from a direct blast in the heat of the day. For slopes that receive afternoon sun, it is important to select plants that prefer or at least can tolerate those conditions. Consider also that shadows on a north facing slope will extend longer down the hill so a garden with trees on their south side, may be shadier than first thought.

Degree of Slope

If you have a very steep slope that is difficult to walk straight up or mow, your choices are to change the slope or leave it as is and deal with it. A slope can be changed by terracing with retaining walls to make a series of flat tiers that



pets. According to the U.S. Forest Service, “The primary conservation threats to the ornate box turtle include:

- 1) the destruction, degradation, and fragmentation of its grassland habitats
- 2) declines in population sizes due to collection by individuals for domestic and international pet trade
- 3) road mortality and other anthropocentric (human) effects.”

Wildlife Needs Our Help

We can all help make a difference for our wildlife by adapting our properties to a habitat they will be welcomed into by providing:

- Clean water for drinking, bathing, breeding
 - Shelter from bad weather and predators or to stalk prey
 - Food from native plants and supplemental feeders
 - Safe places to raise young
 - Sustainable practices in managing the garden for a healthy habitat
 - Reclaimed grassy areas for the habitat
 - Plants for year-round diversity and eye-catching color groups to attract wildlife
- You can create a wildlife habitat garden that is both rewarding and attractive to enjoy.

Ornate Box Turtle

Allen and Laraine enjoy observing “their” ornate box turtles as they slowly maneuver around their sloping landscape. The turtles like to eat the insects, spiders and worms they find on the property. Laraine has added some plants in her gardens, such as strawberries and ground-cover raspberries, as a special treat for them.

Fortunately Kansas and five other states have protected ornate box turtles and prohibit international exporting of them. It is illegal in Kansas to take turtles from the wild to keep as

Turtle Run

Allen and Laraine Crawford, Owners—Paola

“ The garden suggests there might be a place where we can meet nature halfway.” —Michael Pollen

Turtles have always been Laraine’s favorite animal so she had a large collection of turtle art when she and husband Allen moved to their 10-acre woodlot in rural Paola. Imagine her surprise when she discovered dozens of Ornate Box Turtles (the State Reptile of Kansas) living along the shaded creek on their new property! Every spring, the turtles climb up to the flower beds and lay their eggs. Laraine quickly added many concrete turtles to keep them company. The property focuses on native plants and wildlife, but is shared by two donkeys and a goat. Allen is her partner in planning and executing the garden design and builds most of the hardscaping and art.



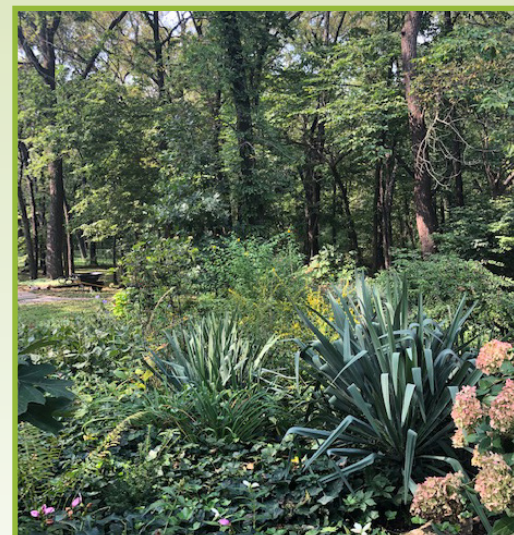
“A September to Remember” is also sponsored by:

K-STATE
Research and Extension

Master Gardener
Marais des Cygnes District

A September to Remember

September 10 & 11, 2021



Marais des Cygnes Extension District Master Gardeners 2021 Garden Tour

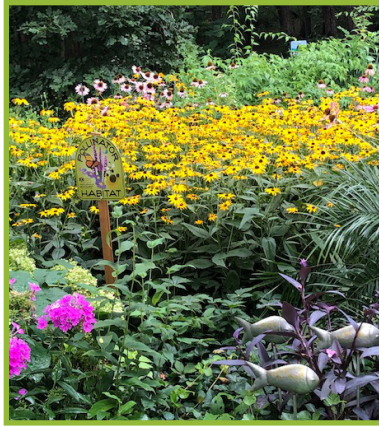
Kansas State University is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision, or hearing disability, contact the Marais des Cygnes Extension District at 913-294-4306. **Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service** K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

About the Gardeners

Laraine lived in Pittsburgh, PA and graduated from the University of Pittsburgh, PA with a degree in mathematics. Allen graduated from Kansas State University with degrees in mathematics and computer science. Both worked as computer programmers and then in corporate management positions. Allen took early retirement and bought a 300-acre cattle farm in the Ozarks, where Laraine became a Master Gardener. In 1993 the family retired to Overland Park and then to rural Paola in 2010. Allen owned an engraving company and still makes laser engraved clocks and engraved wooden objects such as plant labels. Laraine is an accomplished pianist and soloist in her church. She uses her accounting experience as our Extension Master Gardener treasurer.

About the Garden

Laraine's seven years as a Master Gardener in the lush Ozark climate had not prepared her for gardening in eastern Kansas. The five acres devoted to landscaping consist of deep shade on steep slopes. Allen terraced the front yard's unmowable slope to create an entrance garden and limbed up the mature trees to allow dappled shade. Native pollinator plants and butterfly host plants claim the few sunny beds. An erosion-prone area became a bog garden and paw-paws, a wetland shade tree, were planted by the creek. Allen decreed no hosta beds, so Laraine began her search for alternative shade tolerant plants. Catalog and internet sources provided uncommon choices, resulting in unique, diverse plant collections under the high tree canopy. Because the gardens are intended as wildlife



habitat, no insecticides are used.

Special Features

- A 6x12-foot greenhouse, built from a kit, allows Laraine to start many of her plants from seed, while Allen starts trees.
- Allen made the garden seating, wooden planters, a large potter's bench and dozens of bird houses from hedge trees harvested on the property.
- The Biblical Garden features species of plants specifically mentioned in the Bible and Allen's wooden plant signs.
- Every garden bed contains at least one concrete turtle. Can you find it?
- Certification and signage from wildlife organizations demonstrate Laraine's interest in native animals, including National Wildlife Federation's "Backyard Habitat," Xerces' "Pollinator Garden" and Monarch Watch's "Monarch Waystation."



Laraine's Favorite Plants

- Pink turtlehead, *Chelone obliqua*, a native, much loved because of the turtle-faced bloom
- Beautyberry, *Callicarpa americana*, a native shrub with brilliant purple fall berries
- Painter's Palette, *Persicaria virginiana*, a "nativar," has variegated leaves with V-shaped markings and red spikes of flowers
- *Caryopteris divaricata*, 'Snow Fairy,' a shade shrub with variegated white and green leaves and blue fall flowers
- *Boltonia asteroides*, a native false aster or white doll's daisy, with blooms in early fall
- Oakleaf hydrangea, *Hydrangea quercifolia*, a shade-loving native shrub with large white flowers
- Celandine poppy, *Stylophorum diphyllum*, a native with large poppy-like bright yellow flowers in spring

- Wandflower or bee blossom, *Guara lindheimeri*, a native with blossoms looking like butterflies whirling in the wind
- Pentas, an annual with 5-pointed star flowers that bloom all season in shades of red, white, pink and purple
- Shade goldenrod, *Solidago flexicaulis*, a native with zigzag stems, yellow flowers in fall

Garden Habitat for Wildlife

Because Laraine and Allen's property already included many elements of a wildlife habitat, Laraine decided to focus her gardens on native plants and wildlife. The creek provided necessary water, but they also added other water sources. Fallen trees are left to provide shelter while fallen leaves are left for cover and mulch. Some grassy areas were replaced with trees, shrubs (mostly flowering) and flowering plants. Laraine believes it has been proven that gardeners can play an active role in creating safe havens for wildlife. These gardens are both beautiful and functional.

Birds

Native plants and shrubs provide seeds, berries and insects for countless species of birds. Birdhouses, made by Allen, are plentiful and bird feeders supplement birds' winter feeding.

Hummingbirds

Hummingbirds are important pollinators in the wildlife habitat garden. Hummingbirds prefer plant nectar over feeders, so Laraine and Allen make sure there are plenty of plants to attract and provide food for them. Native columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*) freely reseeds in the large shade garden providing the first-to-arrive-in-spring hummingbirds with necessary nectar after their



Greatest Challenges

Like all Kansas gardeners, Laraine and Allen battle weeds and must water the garden beds during summer droughts. The need for colorful shade plants inspires Laraine's ongoing internet expeditions to find new specimens, and the steep terrain dictates continuous erosion control.

long trip. Throughout the growing season, flowers in the warm ultra-violet spectrum are used to satisfy the hummingbirds' preferences.

Butterflies and Pollinators

Adding a sunny butterfly garden was a necessary component of the wildlife habitat for Laraine. It was designed to incorporate many butterfly host plants, including several varieties of milkweed for the Monarchs and many nectar plants.

The plants, many native, attract an array of pollinators. Each year Laraine grows colorful

nectar annuals in her greenhouse, many yellow and purple, favorites of butterflies and bees, to use in mass plantings. The plants provide a steady supply of nutritious nectar throughout the entire growing season, key to attracting butterflies and other pollinators.

Threats to butterflies and pollinators are primarily habitat loss, pesticides and disease. Establishing a wildlife habitat garden adds back some of the lost

habitat and provides an area free of pesticides. Laraine enjoys knowing that she is providing a garden for pollinators, ensuring needed food and for viewing the wonderful wildlife as a result of her efforts.



watering newly planted deciduous trees and shrubs until their leaves fall. Evergreens should be watered until the soil freezes. But as temperatures cool and days become shorter, plants use less water. In a typical year, watering evergreen plants can be reduced to alternate weeks by mid-November. During dry winters, water young plants, particularly evergreens, when the ground isn't frozen and a few days of mild weather are predicted.

For more information on watering trees and shrubs visit www.ksre.ksu.edu/bookstore/

and causes a different set of problems. Over watering can cause "wet wilt," which looks similar to wilt caused by dryness. When soil stays wet for an extended time, root damage can occur due to oxygen depletion. As a result, leaves wilt and do not recover, even if water is added.

In the absence of rainfall, continue



Blue Door: The Artful Garden

Donna Cook, Owner—Louisburg

"There is always music amongst the trees in the garden."—Nancy Thompson

In 1972, Donna Cook bought 20 acres of pasture with a tiny farmhouse on the north edge of Louisburg. She immediately started planting native trees to transform the pasture into today's towering forest. Her property is now surrounded by houses and her home has had multiple add-ons, including a second floor, an attached swimming pool and a concrete patio. The southern edge of her yard is formed by the red building that housed her business, Rabbit Creek Gourmet Foods. (Visitors will receive a tasty take-away gift!) Since her retirement in 2020, the building houses her son's business, Captain Cook's Treasure Chest, which will provide tour parking.



"A September to Remember" is also sponsored by:

K-STATE
Research and Extension

Master Gardener
Marais des Cygnes District



A September to Remember

September 10 & 11, 2021

Marais des Cygnes Extension District Master Gardeners 2021 Garden Tour

Kansas State University is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision, or hearing disability, contact the Marais des Cygnes Extension District at 913-294-4306. **Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service** K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

About the Gardener

A life-long resident of Louisburg, Donna inherited her creativity from her mother, who taught her to design and sew her own clothing when she was eight years old. Ten years in 4-H provided outlets for her interests in art, gardening and cooking. Her husband's grandmother taught her tole painting and she is now a self-taught welder, carpenter and sculptor. She founded Rabbit Creek Products in 1984 so that she could stay home to raise her son. The business grew from simple bean soup kits to over 300 products, distributed nationally.

A proud "Type A," this so-called retiree is a City Council member, a mayoral candidate, a realtor, a volunteer for many organizations, a Marais des Cygnes Extension Master Gardener, and a baby-sitting grandmother.

In 1986, her barn full of antique furniture burned to the ground. However, it has arisen from the ashes like a phoenix and is again full, this time with wooden and metal materials to be repurposed into art. The inventory constantly grows as friends and family drop off "junk," knowing that her creativity will transform the gifts. David pleases his mom with birthday and Christmas gifts like a ceramic kiln, a welding kit and helmet, and a plasma cutter.

About the Garden

The gardening process consists more of painting and welding than digging and planting. Throughout the whimsical garden, sculptures, collages, vignettes and even a

painted school bus cavort among the towering trees. The front yard is a sculpture gallery featuring animals made from auto and tractor parts. The flower beds flaunt brilliantly colored metal flowers and antique metal furniture re-purposed as sculptures scattered among perennial shrubs and colorful annuals. Every wall is adorned with flat sculptures created with materials like bovine skulls and bones, painted wires and lace, and antique tools and kitchen utensils. Hypertufa sculptures hang from tree branches and concrete mushrooms sprout from the forest floor. Even though the garden is deeply shaded, there are only a few hostas because of the omnipresent hungry deer.



Special Features

Blue doors dot the property, a literal expression of the garden's name. Her favorite sculptures include a skeleton riding a Harley-Davidson motorcycle across the front yard and a giant blue-eyed red rabbit formed from a Ford Model A cowl. The barn is flanked by two six-foot-tall white rabbits. And a flock of wooden life-size chickens scratch in the chicken yard.

Donna's Favorite Plants

Many of Donna's flowers are made of wood, metal and silk. The "flower beds" are planted with collections of antiques, frogs and other creatures. All of her favorites are trees, rather than the usual perennial and annual plants:

- A huge Bald Cypress,

planted in 1976, shows off his "knees," grown huge because of run-off from the swimming pool.

- The massive sycamore provides shade for the backyard and glows at night with chandeliers and string lights.
- Pin oaks, catalpa and conifers
- Dead trees are preserved as the stage for more art, such as the 'wooden flower tree' in the front lawn.
- Bottle trees, constructed of wine bottles, wood and metal rebar, mingle with the live trees.

Greatest Challenges

Weed control is achieved with heavy wood chip mulch and frequently mowed grass paths. The trees are a mixed blessing. The shade provides cool temperatures, privacy and a sense of permanence. But shade also means that few flowering plants could prosper, even if the deer ignored them. Charlie the cat has vanquished the rodents and rabbits but the deer remain.



Newly Planted and Young Trees and Shrubs Best Management Practices

Information accessed from K-State at www.ksre.ksu.edu

Many trees and shrubs fail to survive transplant shock because they receive too much or too little moisture.

Do not plant moisture-stressed plants. Water thoroughly before planting, at planting time, and again the following day to thoroughly settle the soil and eliminate large air pockets. Water new trees frequently during the first month.

Unless it rains, water container-grown or balled and burlapped (B&B) trees one to two times a week during the first month after planting.

Watering during the first year

Proper watering throughout the first growing season often means the difference between success and failure.

Problems arise when the medium in the root ball accepts and retains moisture differently than surrounding soil. Backfill soil can be thoroughly saturated, while the medium in the root ball is relatively dry. Retain water around the base of

newly planted trees by building a low berm just outside the planting hole. This creates a basin to retain moisture until it soaks into the root ball and adjacent backfill soil.

Note: An alternative to a hand-held garden hose is a five gallon bucket with one or more small holes (1/8 inch diameter) drilled in the side near the bottom. Simply fill the bucket and let it leak slowly. Bags made specifically to retain and slowly release water are also available. After the first month, a weekly soaking to apply approximately 10 gallons of water should be sufficient to support spring- or summer-planted trees and large shrubs on most sites.

Smaller trees and shrubs may require less water, but the quantity should be sufficient to thoroughly moisten the entire root ball.

Note: In an effort to get new trees and shrubs off to a good start, it is easy to overreact and water too often. This keeps soil excessively wet

are maintenance free until after bloom season when she cuts the plants back to six or eight inches and deeply waters so they develop strong root systems. By September, the plants have sent up new leaves and are dug, divided and sold. Rather than a fall clean-up, she follows the current horticultural recommendation to “leave the leaves,” which form a self-mulch over the winter.

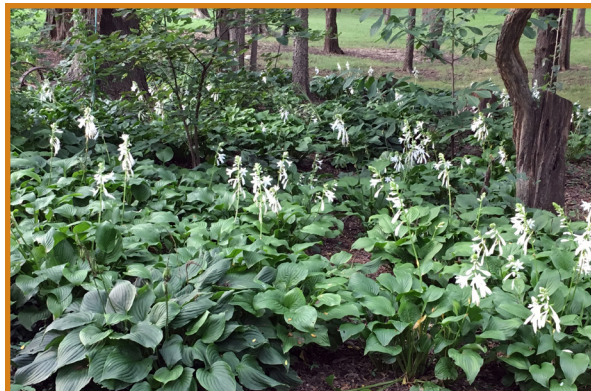
Marketing and Selling

Most collectors focus on selling limited numbers of unique hybrids rather than growing large volumes and trying to compete with the big box stores on price. Their customers are



typically fellow collectors, contacted through their society’s conventions, sales, auctions and online through social media. Selling can even be viewed as a service to fellow aficionados! And sales generate money to buy more plants for themselves. Do be aware of plant patents. It is illegal to propagate and sell patent-protected plants unless you identify them as such and pay a royalty to the breeder.

Properly researched, a collector’s garden can be a great gardening pleasure, an introduction to new friends, and a source of funds to purchase even more of your beloved specimens.



Hart’s Daylilies/ Thin Wallet Ranch

Lois and Bill Hart, Owners—Louisburg

“Show me your garden and I shall tell you what you are.”—Alfred Austin

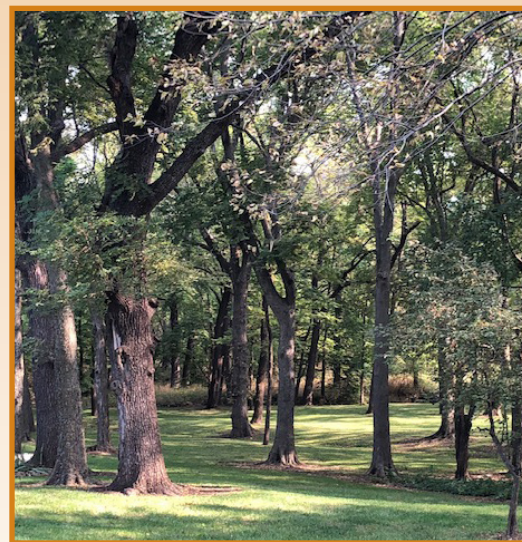
One glance at Lois Hart’s garden and you immediately know that she is a passionate collector with an eye for beauty, an artistic soul, an aptitude for organization and a mind for business. Obviously, Lois’s favorite flower is the daylily, a plant that inspired her passion for gardening and became the centerpiece of both her garden and her life. Over 900 varieties currently grace her garden. However, daylilies bloom from late June to mid-July. In September the thousands of blooms are nowhere to be seen! Fortunately, after falling in love with daylilies, Lois expanded her passion to include several large hosta gardens, over 100 varieties of lilies, many varieties of hydrangeas and clematis and colorful annuals spilling out of hanging baskets and containers.



“A September to Remember” is also sponsored by:



Master Gardener
Marais des Cygnes District



A September to Remember

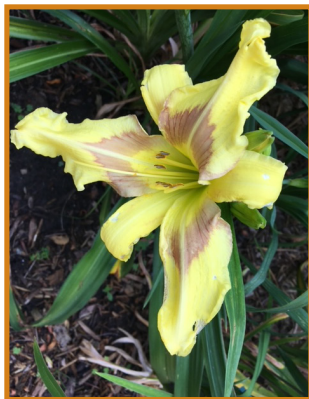
September 10 & 11, 2021

Marais des Cygnes Extension District Master Gardeners 2021 Garden Tour

Kansas State University is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision, or hearing disability, contact the Marais des Cygnes Extension District at 913-294-4306. Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

About the Gardeners

Lois was raised in Illinois and graduated from Miami University in Ohio. She worked as an accountant before retiring. Like many gardeners, she is also an artist and created the many stained glass mosaics, stepping stones and benches that are scattered throughout the garden. Lois is an active member of the Moka Daylily Society and is currently on the Board of the American Daylily Society. She served as the Director of the Missouri/Kansas/Oklahoma District from 2013 to 2018 and now serves as the Director for the California/Arizona/Hawaii District. One of her greatest honors: a fellow breeder has named a new daylily after her. The daylily 'Lois Hart' has a huge yellow flower with a mauve eye and is an apt tribute to a gardener whose passion continues to inspire others. (Photo above.)



About the Garden

Lois and Bill purchased the 40 acres of woods in 1992. Four acres were carved out for the house, lawn and gardens. Currently the garden is divided into 11 gardening rooms surrounded by expansive lawns and edged by huge native trees, reminiscent of a classic English park. Unwind in this parklike setting, the headwaters of the Marais des Cygnes River.

More than 50 years ago, the property was a dairy farm, leaving a legacy of compost. Bill tends the lawn, but the gardens are all hers. A friend suggested daylilies as a low maintenance choice, since Lois had no prior gardening experience. Lois began planting hundreds of daylilies and when she discovered the Kansas City daylily club, she began buying grocery bags of new daylilies from other members. She was hooked!

To accommodate her growing collection and her new business of breeding daylilies for sale, she laid out large rectangular beds extending from the four corners of the house so that blooms are visible from every window. To keep her garden

up to date, she buys about 30 new varieties each year and removes/sells a similar number. She holds an annual open house during the July 4th holiday for the public to view daylilies in bloom and place orders.

Special Features

Metal pieces are scattered throughout the garden, including a wind sculpture, a rustic windmill, an archway, a gate, and sculptures of a fisherman and a hunter. Her favorite art collections, besides her own stained glass work, is an

assemblage of lightning rods and balls and a large assortment of colored balls.

Favorite Plants

Favorite Daylily: from almost 2,000 varieties of Daylilies (*Hemerocallis*) she has grown, Lois has chosen five favorites:

'Discover the Stars' (Coral with quilled petals), 'Scarlet Pimpernel' (Garnet with 10" flower), 'Vicky's Radiance' (Pink with lavender halo and gold edge); 'Remember Norfolk' (Soft orange with rouge eye), and 'Jelly-filled Donut' (Yellow with red eye, double form)

Favorite hostas: 'Victory,' 'Sagae,' 'Parhelion,' and 'Brother Stephan'

Favorite Lilies: 'Black Beauty,' 'Silk Road,' 'Regale Trumpet,' 'Casa Blanca'

Favorite Clematis: Jackmanii, 'Multi-blue,' 'Bourbon,' 'Durandii'

Favorite Alliums: *Allium schubertii*, *A. christophii*, *A. siculum*, *A. bulgaricum*, *A. atropurpureum* and 'Tall Globe'

Greatest Challenges

Lois has grown almost every available perennial plant over her 29 years. We are seeing the survivors; the rest are in perennial heaven. Her biggest challenge: finding plants that flourish in the shade. For watering, she has tried many systems and settled upon oscillating sprinklers and dragging hoses. Her labeling system is described in the accompanying article (next page).

Collecting Plants for Pleasure and Profit

People garden for a multitude of reasons, such as the taste of homegrown produce, the joy of nurturing, or as an aesthetic expression. Then there are the passionate collectors, those gardeners who focus on a particular plant and must have all of them!

A collector's garden is intended to hold and showcase as many specimens as possible. If the passion evolves into a business, the garden is also used for propagation. Once you've fallen in love, look for a garden society dedicated to that plant so you can share experiences and have a source for buying and selling. For example, enter "Kansas City Daylily Society" into your search engine to discover all about the local society and how to contact them.

Garden Layout and Tracking

Form follows function, so you should design your garden beds to showcase your prized specimens. Since new perennials take several years to reach mature size, use annual flowers to fill in the empty spaces when you first plant. If you plan to divide your specimens and sell to fellow devotees, many collectors prefer long narrow rectangular beds similar to vegetable cropping. The beds should be no wider than four feet with paths on both sides so that you can easily tend and dig your plants.

Permanent markers are necessary because the plant's true identity is critical to a collector.

Do not trust your memory! Marker redundancy is recommended since plant markers are notorious for slithering away. For instance, scan the original marker into your computer or save indoors in a special box to prevent loss. Then install a tall metal marker by the plant and a second smaller marker hidden at root level.

You will also need tracking systems to organize all of your information on each specimen. It may be as simple as an Excel spread sheet,

sortable by acquisition date, location, height, bloom time and color, etc. A mapping system for recording the plant's location in your garden provides additional backup if the plant's marker disappears. You can draw your own map on graph paper, create from Google maps, or use one of the many gardening apps for mapping and tracking. Lois recommends PLANTSTEP flower software (www.plantstep.com). This program allows you to track bloom history, fertilizing, purchasing information, etc., and to add photographs and even create a catalog for selling your plants.

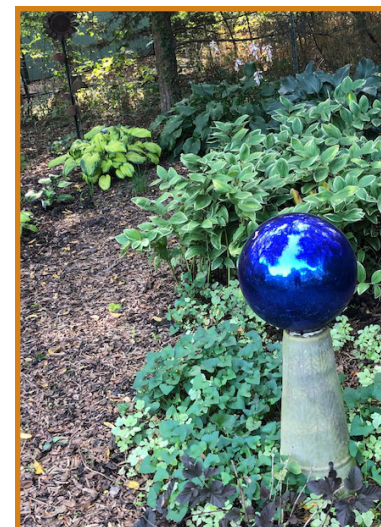
Markers and Labeling Systems

Many DIY and commercial label systems are available, but most are not permanent because the ink isn't sun-proof, no matter what the product promises. Lois recommends markers from two sources. Kincaid Markers (www.kincaidplantmarkers.com) has a large assortment of stainless steel markers and acrylic labels,

which she uses only for her favorite plants because they are expensive. She also uses the zinc Pawpaw Everlast markers, available in many sizes and configurations. (www.everlastlabel.com). Then she uses a Brother P Touch machine to print the labels, which have lasted over 20 years so far. For bulbs, she cuts 6" lengths of old mini blinds and writes labels with a non-fading cow ear marker pen (who knew!), sold at farm supply stores.

Maintenance

These special plants need extra care, especially if you will be propagating and selling. Cleaning up the gardens in the early spring makes for less work during the summer and reduces the chances of diseases. Lois says that once her daylily beds are weeded, fertilized and mulched in March, they



level and provide shade for the pond and fish while the fragrant blooms add color and beauty.

Hardy lilies will survive the winter in the pond and produce blooms that sit at the water's surface among the lily pads. The variety of bloom colors include pink, white, yellow, peach, and red.

Tropical lilies will not survive in the pond over winter and come in unusual color choices of blues, purples, bright pinks and more. Large colorful leaves with multiple blossoms tower above the foliage, which rests at the pond's surface. They typically bloom later in the day than hardy varieties as well as longer into the fall season. Night tropical lilies bloom in the evening, remaining open all night, often until 10 or 11 in the morning. Since they do not require hours of sunlight, they are perfect for shaded water gardens.

Miniature hardy lilies are perfect for smaller ponds or larger container gardens as they

produce smaller lily pads among beautiful, dainty flowers in a mixture of colors.

Lotus feature huge, vibrant and fragrant flowers with larger round bowl shaped-leaves that stand high above the water's surface. The blooms come in a variety of colors such as pink, white, red and yellow. Foliage height can range from two to six feet, depending on the variety.

Aquatic marginals are shallow water loving plants great for the edges of your pond, in the stream or on the first shelf. They also love smaller container gardens and bogs. A vast and varied assortment of foliage textures, sizes and blooming varieties add character to any pond. They typically

prefer full sun to part shade. Marginals are available in hardy and tropical versions. Aquatic marginals are great for filtering the water, helping to keep algae at bay.

Favorite Plants

Tropical water lily—*Victoria anazibuca Cruziana*
 Hardy water lily Wanvisa—*Nymphaea 'Wanvisa'*
 Water hyacinth—*Eichhornia crassipes*
 Lotus, many varieties—*Nelumbo*
 Hibiscus moscheutos—*Water hibiscus*
 Spider lily—*Hymenocallis caroliniana*
 Mosaic plant—*Ludwigia sediodes*
 Chameleon—*Houttuynia cordata*
 Water iris—*Iris pseudacorus, Iris virginica*
 Taro 'Black Marble—*Colocasia esculenta*

Swan's Water Gardens

Diane and Kevin Swan, Owners—Louisburg

"You can bury many troubles digging in the dirt." — author unknown

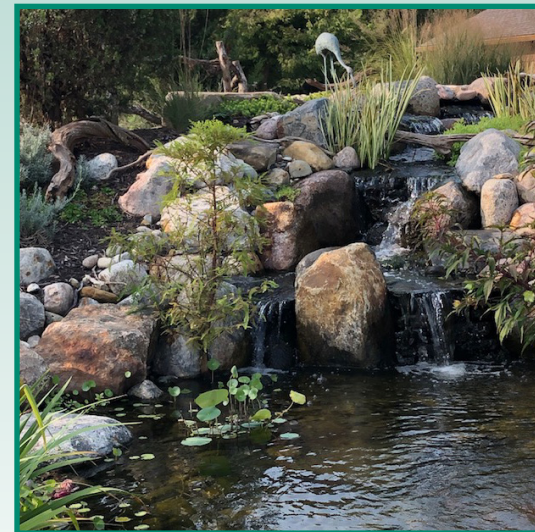
Kevin and Diane Swan's love for the unique style of water gardening began in 1994 after building their first water garden in their own backyard so they could enjoy the peace and tranquility that accompanies any water feature. After building that initial water feature they were hooked and "living the water garden lifestyle" became their passion. They took this new inspiration and turned it into a career. Swan's Water Gardens came to life as they strived to share this lifestyle with the world.



"A September to Remember" is also sponsored by:



Master Gardener
Marais des Cygnes District



A September to Remember

September 10 & 11, 2021

Marais des Cygnes Extension District Master Gardeners 2021 Garden Tour

Kansas State University is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision, or hearing disability, contact the Marais des Cygnes Extension District at 913-294-4306. Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Swan's Water Gardens—A History

For 20 years Kevin and Diane built Swan's Water Gardens on Padbury Lane in Spring Hill, KS. Eventually the opportunity arose to move to the current location near Louisburg, KS after having rebuilt the previous homeowners water feature years earlier. Story goes, the main store building was originally an old bank that was later moved to where it now sits. The history of the building is evident from the outside detail and continues inside with an intricate ceiling and charming accents. All the other buildings are original to the property which have created a small village.



Located on eight acres, Swan's is the ultimate water garden destination. What started as one water feature and surrounding grass has grown to be so much more in just seven short years. Swans designs, installs and maintains water features, hardscaping and landscaping.

See eleven distinct water features, including naturalistic waterfalls, streams and ponds amid strolling gardens. It is a designated Certified Wildlife Habitat, a place unlike any other.

The Gardens

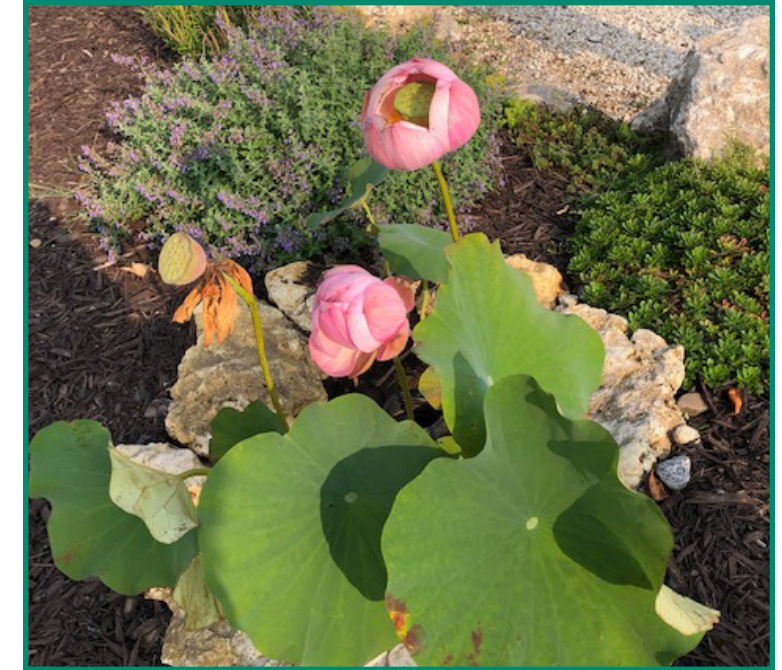
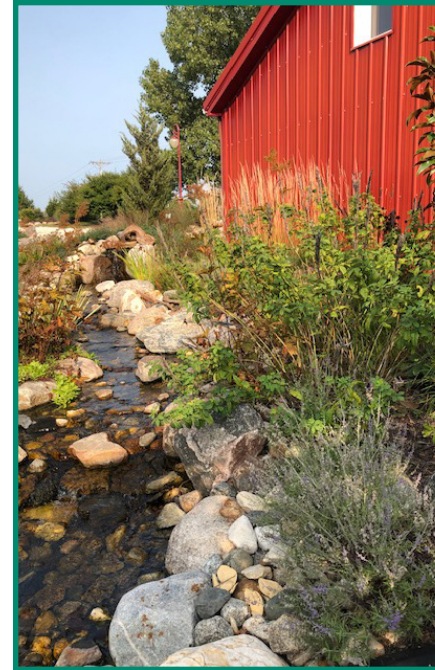
Imagine the breathtaking sights and sounds of a true water garden paradise. Glistening waterfalls catch your eye; a cadence of ripples and waves wash your troubles downstream. A school of fish, painted across a crystal clear canvas, swim about a rainbow of lilies blooming proudly above the surface. The gentle breeze over calm water brings a reflection of sunshine to life. All the senses are at peace.

Most people get to experience this scene in one water feature in their own backyard, but at Swan's you can enjoy this many times over as you tour the village and surrounding gardens, including a field of lavender. You'll find ponds large and small, waterfalls, flowing streams, and bubbling rock fountains.

Exploring Swan's Water Gardens leads to

discovering a vast selection of aquatic plants throughout the ponds, from the tropical giant Queen Victoria Water Lily that showcases stunning beauty with a hidden defense, to the Lotus' showy blooms and leaves standing proud above the water. Hardy and tropical water lilies in an array of colors dress the water's surface while countless marginal aquatic plants with intriguing names such as Lizards Tail, Obedient Plant, Bloody Dock, Society Garlic, and Mosaic Plant

adorn streams and waterfalls. Though Swan's specializes in water gardens, they take pride in their landscaping as well. Diane's love and knowledge of perennial and native plants has led to a large following of plant lovers from all around the Kansas City metro to visit and enjoy the many expanding landscape gardens. The "Secret Garden" is host to many shade plants. The "Kansas Native Garden" is home to a pondless waterfall and stream, a visitor favorite. The "Strolling Garden" path lined with a birch tree tunnel leads to the dainty "Pink and White Garden" that invites you to sit and enjoy the views of the lavender field and large natural pond complete with singing bull frogs. A stroll through Swan's many gardens will surely leave you more at peace than when you arrived.



Water Gardens

A water garden is a thriving ecosystem built around a body of water. Aquatic plants, fish, sunshine, rain, and the nitrogen cycle all play an integral role in the balance of this ecosystem. Like with any garden, achieving a vibrant, self-sustaining atmosphere is as relaxing as it is rewarding. For those who want all the sights and sounds of a stream and waterfall without the maintenance of a pond, a pondless feature achieves the same look with the body of water existing underground, not exposed to the elements. Although you won't have any fish or lilies, a pondless feature can be the perfect naturalistic look to your backyard!

Balancing The Pond's Ecosystem

See for yourself the effects of a balanced ecosystem and learn what it takes to make it

work. A filtration system uses a combination of under gravel filtration, filter medium, aeration, aquatic plants, and beneficial bacteria, leaving water crystalline clear and aquatic life flourishing.

Beneficial bacteria consume excess nutrients in the water preventing the growth of single-cell algae. Aerators are essential for the growth of beneficial bacteria and the health of fish. Aquatic plants complete the pond's ecosystem by providing shade and absorbing excess nutrients. The goal is to achieve a healthy, balanced ecosystem with little or no algae growth and crystal clear water!

Types Of Aquatic Plants...

Don't Water Them, Don't Weed Them

Water lilies produce extraordinary blossoms in an abundance of colors. The lily pads seek water