Lenora Larson is a Marais des Cygnes Extension Master Gardener and member of local chapters of both the Idalia Butterfly Society and Kansas Native Plant Society. She maintains a 2 acre NABA (North American Butterfly Association) certified garden in the English Estate landscape style on her 27 acre property, Long Lips Farm, in rural Paola, Kansas. The garden is also certified as Monarch Waystation #875, a Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation and as a Pollinator Garden by the Xerces Society. She is on a mission to demonstrate to other gardeners that you do not have to compromise on beauty and function when you invite wildlife to share your garden.

Lenora is a proud ‘science geek’ with a degree in microbiology from Michigan State University, a career in molecular biology and a life-long interest in wildlife, especially the creepy and crawly. Her passion for butterflies began as penance when her husband caught her killing the “Parsley Worms’ on her dill. She writes a Caterpillar Food Plant section for the national Butterfly Gardener magazine, weekly butterfly blog for the Springfield Botanical Garden and contributes a monthly ‘About Butterflies’ column to the Kansas City Gardener magazine. She also attended the prestigious Cranbrook School of Art and fills her garden with hand-made sculptures and decorated vessels.

A frequent presenter to gardening and community groups, Lenora channels her inner butterfly to combine science and entertainment. Photographs of butterflies, caterpillars and their host plants illustrate the butterflies’ field of dreams: ‘plant it and they will come.’

Butterflies Go Native! Lenora Larson - Idalia Butterfly Society
For butterflies, native plants are a matter of life or death because the larval feeding stage of each species depends exclusively on a particular plant. Learn the specific natives for each of our most common Ozarks area butterflies and how to integrate them into your garden.
Kelly McGowan
Kelly obtained her BS in horticulture from Missouri State University’s Darr School of Agriculture. She is currently working on her MS in natural resources and agroforestry through the University of Missouri and a thesis project in elderberry flower production. Kelly is the Horticulture Educator for the University of Missouri Extension office in Greene County dividing her time between Extension and Friends of the Garden. Before joining Extension, she worked at the University of Missouri Southwest Center Research Farm in Mount Vernon, Missouri assisting with horticulture research. A native of north central Arkansas, Kelly lives in Springfield with her husband, two daughters, three cats and two dogs.

William (Bill) Aldrich
Bill Aldrich is the (volunteer) curator of the rose garden at the Springfield Botanical Gardens. Since 2014, he has tended the garden organically, avoiding traditional fungicides, insecticides and chemical fertilizers. He is gradually replacing older, disease-prone plants with varieties that are disease resistant.

Aldrich is a master gardener with the University of Missouri Extension. Before moving to Missouri, he was a master gardener for 14 years with the University of Illinois Extension. Aldrich is a retired journalist. He spent 32 years at the Chicago Tribune, principally as an assistant photo editor. As a freelance sideline, he wrote about gardening. Since 1981, he has been a member of the Garden Writers Association and is a past president. In 1995, he founded Chicagoland Gardening Magazine. He sold the company to its current owner in 2010. It continues today. During those years, Aldrich co-authored six books for Lone Pine Publishing.

The magazine always participated in the Chicago Flower & Garden Show and over the years Aldrich became the coordinator of the seminar program. He continued to manage seminars until 2012. He holds a Bachelor of Journalism degree from the University of Missouri.