



“Manhattan Optimist Club”

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THE GRASS GAZETTE

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15 aspiring entrepreneurs were in attendance for the Lawn Mower Clinic on March 11, 2025. This annual event is co-sponsored by K-State Research & Extension – Riley County and the Manhattan Optimist Club. We started at 4:00 pm and were finished by 6:20.

Representing K-State Research & Extension were [Gregg Eyestone](#), [John Jobe](#), and Master Gardener [Karen Erickson](#).

MOC Members helping included [Bruce Bidwell](#), [Steve Boeckman](#), [Jim Franke](#), [Mile Fincham](#), and [Dan Oneill](#). Steve & Dan helped to load and then unload mowing equipment and supplies at Optimist Park.

The MOC Crew got things started by setting up tables and chairs. [Dan Oneill](#), who donated the ice for the refreshments, along with other MOC members got the refreshments and ice into the coolers. The MOC Crew also unloaded the mowing equipment and supplies into Pottorf Hall.

[Gregg Eyestone](#) presented “Lawn Care & Types of Grasses”, [John Jobe](#) discussed “How to Get and Keep a Lawn Mower Job”, and [Karen Erickson](#) reviewed “Health & Safety Issues”,

We did offer Snacks and Refreshments comprising prepackaged Doritos Cheetos Snack Mix, Cheetos Crunchy Cheese Snacks, Lay's Potato Chip Variety Pack, Nabisco Cookie Variety Pack, and choice of Water, Powerade, and Pop.

Equipment Safety presentations followed. [Jim Franke](#) did the Push Mower, [Dan Oneill](#) did the String Trimmer, and [Mike Fincham](#) did the Leaf Blower. Each participant was given a folder containing printed material that included the MOC Brochure, Mowing Safety Tips, Push Mower Safety Features, String Trimmer Tips, Leaf Blower Tips, and many more lawn care tips and information.

[Gregg Eyestone](#) and [Steve Boeckman](#) signed the graduation certificates. The certificates were designed and printed by [Gregg Eyestone](#). Gregg also produced a Poster and an article in the March 8 issue of the Manhattan Mercury for the Clinic.

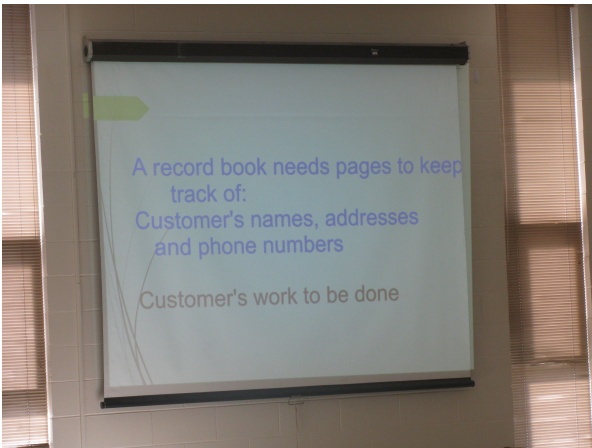
Interspersed in all of this was [Jim Blanton](#) doing his normal great job of taking pictures.

We got lucky ... we did not need to put away the tables or sweep the floor. The MOC crew helped load up the equipment and supplies into Bruce's pickup.

Thank you to everyone that helped!!!



The aspiring entrepreneurs



**One of John Jobe's Excellent slides in:
How to Get and Keep a Lawn Mower Job**



**Karen Erickson presenting:
Health & Safety Issues**



**Gregg Eyestone Presenting (Outside):
Lawn Care & Types of Grasses**



**Gregg Eyestone Presenting (Inside):
Lawn Care & Types of Grasses**



Jim Franke presenting good instruction on the Pushmower



Dan O'Neill explaining how to safely operate a String Trimmer



Mike Fincham ensuring these students know how a Leaf Blower operates



Our Volunteers setting up.



**Photos by BNB Photography
(unfortunately)**