



“Manhattan Optimist Club”

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Bruce Bidwell
Editor in Chief

Dwardt Farquardt
Assistant Editor



13 aspiring entrepreneurs were in attendance for the Lawn Mower Clinic on March 10, 2026. 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 former Riley County Extension Director [Alan Ladd](#).

MOC Members helping included [Bruce Bidwell](#), [Jim Blanton](#), [Steve Boeckman](#), [Craig Cox](#), [Jim Franke](#), 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.

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

We did offer Snacks and Refreshments comprising prepackaged Doritos Cheetos Snack Mix, Ruffles Potato Chips Variety Pack, Lay's Potato Chip Variety Pack, Nabisco Cookie Variety Pack, Cheez-It Original Baked Snack Crackers, and choice of Water, Sparkling Ice, Powerade, and Pop.

Equipment Safety presentations followed. [Jim Franke](#) did the Push Mower, [Dan Oneill](#) did the String Trimmer, and [Craig Cox](#) 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 [Craig Cox](#) signed the graduation certificates. The certificates were designed and printed by [Gregg Eyestone](#). Gregg also produced a Poster and articles in the February 24 issue of the Grass & Grain and the February 28 issue of the Manhattan Mercury for the Clinic.

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

The MOC crew put away the tables and chairs and swept the floor in addition to loading up the equipment and supplies into Bruce's pickup.

Thank you to everyone that helped!!!



Putting up the MOC Banner



Dan Oneill setting up the snack table



Craig Cox after signing the Certificates



**Gregg Eyestone Presenting:
Lawn Care & Types of Grasses**



**John Jobe Presenting:
How to Get and Keep a Lawn Mower Job**



Jim Franke presenting good instruction on the Pushmower



Dan Oneill explaining how to safely operate a String Trimmer



Craig Cox ensuring these students know how a Leaf Blower operates



Our Riley County Extension partners Gregg Eyestone, John Jobe, & Alan Ladd



Photos by [BNB Photography](#) (unfortunately) with assistance from [Jim Blanton](#)