

SE Hort Staff Meeting/2004 Master Gardener Planning Meeting
September 26, 2003
Livingston MSUE Office

Attendees: Terry McLean, Jennie Stanger, Karen Gentry, Ralph Heiden, Sandra Richards, Judy Freed, Cindy Crawford (Lois Thielike), Bob Bricault, Gretchen Voyle, Mary Wilson, Mike Creller, Dean Krauskopf, Matthew Dykstra, Bob Tritten

Welcome, New Staff and Staff Changes: Went around the room and everyone introduced themselves. Mary McLellan, Hannah Stevens, Karen Reynolds, Kristine Haan & Gary Heilig was not able to attend. Jackson - Bill Bivens & Les Schick have retired. 2 new swine agents on board, Bill's position will be replaced. Hidden Lake Gardens - losing 2 full time positions, Ellyn Meyers, director, and a grounds person. In Lenawee, Matt Shane is acting CED. Monroe - FCS being shared. 4H Program assistant retired. Genesee - Agriculture position eliminated. Wayne - CED interviewing beginning shortly. St. Clair - FCS position retired, will fill with 2 part time persons. Technology agent position eliminated. Hope to add to 4H & Family & Consumer Science persons. Livingston - Hope to add the agriculture/land use position. Washtenaw - 4H positions in transition. Oakland - Horticulture agent position being posted in October internally for 10 days, will go external if no applicants. Master Gardener Coordinator position will be filled - by November 1st. CED - interim until December 30th. Macomb - stable, no changes.

Agenda Revision/Additions: Update from Groundwater Stewardship Program, Matt Dykstra (added after EPA Worker Protection Standards)

Lunch Meeting Arrangements -
Gretchen has made homemade soups, breads, apple crisp - cost will be \$8 Fabulous!

Program Planning -
Jackson: Ralph - Fall gardening, Shade gardening, composting classes just completed Landscape Design. Discussed county website portals, plan is for a uniform home page for each county, which will link to existing county pages. Each county will have an administrator for the portal pages. Each staff person will have to create a personalized page, will have a log in and password, will connect you to EIS & Ceenet. This will be unveiled at Fall Extension Conference in October. Remember to use the MG website to promote your programs - listed by month, and linked to surrounding counties. Hidden Lakes: Karen - Course brochure with 27 programs through spring (April 2004). New garden brochure developed and distributed. MG's will be helping with classes - scout badge program implemented. Monroe: Jennie - Master Composter - now, MG this winter. Oakland: Matt - Programs on pond and lake ecology this spring. Wayne: Dean - Greenhouse Expo Nov 5 & 6 - Spanish College of Knowledge program will also be offered in January on the west side of the state. January 21st - Metro Detroit Flower Growers Association Annual Meeting. Greenhouse Training for Hispanics this spring by Dean.

Greenhouse Sanitation video in Spanish this spring by Jeanie H.
St. Clair: Mike - EAB scouting, new site found. Winter lecture series, hosta, and others. MG winter class. RUP pesticide training classes will be reduced to one session.
Genesee: Mary - MG & Master Woodlot manager EAB training on Oct 2 at Tollgate & out in the field. Muskegon, Kent, Ingham, Genesee, Oakland.
Winter protection seminar being proposed for the east side of the state.
Winter programs - Plants of Distinction either Feb or March, Pest Mgmt in the Landscape and Pest Mgmt for Turf. Pesticide applicator training next spring - program won't be cut.
Terry - Applewood Initiative for Gardening and the Community this fall, MG Winter class 2004.
Livingston: Gretchen - EAB training for MG's - 65 volunteers doing scouting and distributing info. Current Fall MG class - Winter MG 2004
Nov 3-6 MDA hosting Gypsy Moth & Exotic Pest Program in Grand Rapids.
Washtenaw: Bob - working with Mike Score on Farming a few acres program this winter, multiple sessions & tours planned. Karen is working with Soil Conservation on Home Landscape Care through libraries, plans to do that with low income groups through Comm Econ. Develop. Collaboration.
Gypsy Moth stuff. Working with Mary Wilson on EAB notebooks.
Oakland: Judy- Winter MG classes, Landscape Design series with Janet Macunovich (tentative). Current Fall MG class going on. Tollgate Evening in the Garden series was very successful this past summer.
Macomb: Sandra - Fall MG class going on, Winter Class 2004. Will be doing pesticide applicator training series with Hannah. Presenter skills class this January to MG's to build a speakers bureau. Travel tour organizer planned a Chicago trip this summer, will go again next year. Winter lecture series through library, one class a month.
Genesee: Bob - Combined fruit and vegetable growers conference trade show for Great Lakes Expo Fruit, Vegetable, and Farm Market in Grand Rapids - Amway Grand Plaza. December 9-11, 2003. Backyard Fruit Growing/ Pruning program at Tollgate in March. Statewide cider meetings, some in SE MI.
Hard cider school planned in the next year.

EPA Worker Protection Standards and Planned Use Inspections -

This summer, the EPA did visits to several farms around the state - MDA went along. Planned use survey (are growers using pesticide products safely, are they stored properly, etc.) being done at the same time. Were looking to find problems - want growers to know that they will be doing more surveys in the near future, to try to gain compliance. They found minor violations that will have to be corrected before spraying begins in 2004. Consider putting this topic on your winter programming agendas for review. Work with the growers through a checklist - Hannah has developed these. We will ask Hannah to send this to each of us. Dean mentioned that long term employees need this review - any corporation, all persons need the training.

Groundwater Stewardship Update -

Americorps positions - MDA is deciding on funding for up to 15 positions. Oakland and Washtenaw positions are up in the air. Greenhouse Assist program - new, training will be November 20, at a greenhouse in Kalamazoo. Brochure will be sent to MSUE county offices.
www.kbs.msu.edu/mgsp Internal website with all of the materials posted under publications.

Emerald Ash Borer Update - A copy of a new handout was distributed on the Biology and Management of the Emerald Ash Borer. Research data coming in: preliminary results show soil drenches with imidacloprid worked well, Talstar and Sevin worked well as trunk sprays in June & July. Tree wrap product

worked well, about 70% control. (Gretchen mentioned how the insect will start in the upper canopy, and in warmer areas first - so tree wrap may not work) Green ash is more susceptible. An EAB planning meeting for Hort Staff in each of the regions being planned. Joint MDA MSU new site protocol will be coming out shortly - next few weeks.

Extension is asking for \$1.2 Million (20K for core counties, 10K for perimeter counties) MDA had received \$14 Million.

MDA is asking for \$21 Million from the federal government for the next budget year.

Notebooks developed and distributed to government officials, now doing them for townships and villages by Bob and Mary. Cost is \$28 per notebook, in Genesee, Board of Commissioners are paying for the notebooks for the county. Project Green funding, phenology study (4 sites) was underway this summer - flowering at first emergence - Black locust and Mockorange, at last emergence, Joe Pye weed, Purple coneflower and Liatris. Diane Brown and Bob monitored, along with data collected with MG volunteers. Website www.emeraldashborer.info

New EAB Communications Coordinator for MDA - statewide

EAB Regional Coordinator for MDA interviews upcoming. When you have a new site where you found EAB, a new survey form is being created so that MSUE folks can submit samples.

Complaints with MDA include:

MSUE staff can't verify a new infestation, MDA protocol not being followed, won't inform you of outlier infestations, local MDA inspectors helpful - but new info not being offered. Frustrations with the quarantine details in infested counties which have part of the core, and can't move materials across township lines. Deb McCullough and Dave Smitley have been very attentive to the MSUE Field staff's concerns, and want our feedback. Frustrations with our role as educators by being asked to survey, etc.

Cider Tasting - Value added agricultural product - hard cider products, a fledgling industry in MI. AlMar Orchards in Flushing and Uncle Johns Cider Mill in St. Johns are the two cider mills in MI this fall marketing hard cider. There are lots of regulations to get licensed. We now have 30 wineries in the state, perhaps we will have 30 hard cider producing mills in the future.

New Publications Update - Turfgrass Problems - Picture Clues and Management Options NRAES-125- Cornell Coop Extension. Pumpkin Production Guide, NRAES-123 a NCR publication from Cornell. Pumpkin crop devastated by virus(vectored by soybean aphid) and powdery mildew. Two new blueberry publications - Japanese Beetles E-2845, and Blueberry Fruit Rot Identification Guide E-2847.

Season Update - Tremendous amount of apple scab in apples, and crabapples, defoliation. Drought issues - further north, hit really hard, southern part of the region was wet. Damage really showing on maples, and other woody ornamentals. Recommend watering right up till the ground freezes. Growth regulator to reduce shoot growth and enhance root growth - Cambistat is product name, mentioned by Sandra. Soil moisture in lower levels of the soil totally lacking. Perennial sales up about 6%, fueled by replanting after harsh winter. Fall mum crop is excellent, with cooler weather. Poinsettia crop is excellent, flooded market here in MI by exports from Canada. Willow leaf miner (flea weevil) has been browning willows. Boxelder bugs are abundant. Multicolored Asian Lady Beetles showing up, especially in fruit. Yellow jackets have devastated raspberries, due to the drought. Winter damage issues from the cold snap last December, and a second one in April,

contributed to perennial losses, as well as losses in raspberries, blueberry, grapes and peaches.

Next Two SE Horticulture Staff Meeting Dates - Spring meeting will be in Monroe - Friday, April 23rd, at 9:30am Fall meeting will be in Livingston - Friday, October 8th at 9:30am.

Master Gardener Program Update - A request for an evaluation from the county coordinators on the strengths and weaknesses. MG Coordinators meeting on October 3rd in Mt. Pleasant. Online record keeping program is still not up and running, with the September 30 deadline next week. Lots of questions and concerns about this new web based record-keeping program, and the problems with this being so close to deadline. Situation in Wayne County - on September 11, the Wayne County Master Gardener Association voted against becoming a MSUE affiliated group. Kristine Haan will be meeting with Hank Allen on October 10 to discuss severing the relationship with this group. Will not be able to use MSU or MSUE. Hope to have a new MGA group affiliated with MSUE in place by September 2004.

New LCD Projector Demo - Epson - smaller, can insert your program on a "smart card" directly into the projector. \$1,800 cost. Cards cost about \$150, can be reprogrammed. Lightweight, do not need a computer to run a program.

Feedback on new Soils Test Results system - folks don't like it as well, crop codes too specific. Inconsistent results in pounds per acre, or parts per million, tons per acre vs. pounds per thousand square feet. Improvement in that the bar graph is more readable, vs the stars.

2004 Winter Master Gardener Class Scheduling - break into groups to schedule teachers for the county MG programs.