



# BUDS and BUGS



MSU Extension—Huron County, 99 W. Soper Road, Suite B, Bad Axe, MI 48413

Volume 5, Issue 7

Huron County Master Gardener Newsletter



## SPECIAL FALL 2004 EDITION

*Please read carefully for upcoming events, volunteer opportunities and educational classes*

We had a very productive meeting at the September 8 Master Gardener meeting. Most of this issue will update you on the many activities we scheduled that night, are working on, or have discontinued. It is filled with

information and opportunities for education and volunteer hours. Be sure to read each section carefully for ways you can help make every project a wonderful success.

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### ENCLOSURES:

- \*Saturday Morning Gardener
- \*Bulb Sale Flyer
- \*Bulb Sale Order Form

## GARDEN WALK

Next year's GARDEN WALK will take place on July 9. We already have a list of potential gardens, thanks to Denise Pattison (this year's chairperson) and other observant MG's who kept note of where the good-looking and/or unique yards and gardens were. If you've noticed someone's yard looking particularly attractive, call the MSUE office (989-269-9949). Carol will place them on the

list to be contacted next year. If you're interested in filling the chairperson position, let us know. For your information, the final profit from this year's Garden Walk was \$414.19 – and that's after our purchase of double-duty signage for the Garden Walk and Spring Into Gardening. (See article on page 2) Good job, one and all!

## FAIR BOOTH

Patt Maurer gave a report on this year's FAIR BOOTH at the Merchants' Building during the Huron Community Fair. Patt was our coordinator and she (with Keri Pangborn) did a terrific job of locating area businesses willing to contribute prizes for the MG booth. Patt is also going one step further and compiling a checklist of ideas and suggestions

for next year's booth to make it easier for the next coordinator. Anyone having suggestions for this list should call Patt at 989-864-5545 or Carol at 989-269-9949. One suggestion was to have a planning meeting of all fair booth workers prior to the fair to familiarize everyone with the set-up and procedures and to answer any questions.

## **THANK YOU!**

### **to some special cooperators**

On the topic of the signage, we really need to thank some people for their donation of time and materials.

First of all, we need to thank JOE AND BEV PALMER (Joe Palmer Signs) for their help with the signs we used for the Garden Walk! They were very generous and provided them to us at cost. The signs are very visible and guided people to the right homes for the Walk. Because they are not date specific, we can use these year after year.

We're sure the signs will help with the promotion of our Spring Into Gardening Conference in March,

too! MG's are already seeing more possibilities and are coming up with additional uses for them! In order to protect them during storage and transport, Dorothy Mantey and Denise Pattison are investigating various materials and costs for covers.

We also have to thank MAURER ELECTRIC for hanging our Plant Sale banner. Maurer's works with the City of Bad Axe on banners and provides this service at no cost to us. Having this banner hung has really increased the visibility of our organization, to say nothing of the traffic at our sale.

## **FAIR GARDEN**

Tied in with this year's fair booth was the MG FAIR GARDEN. John Weis shared pictures of this year's garden and made suggestions for next year. Others joined in with lots of ideas to help expand the project. One of the ideas was having a "Vegetable" theme next year, using containers again. Start thinking of plants to grow in containers, and look for farm-style containers to plant them in.

In order to get more visitors to that area of the fairgrounds, we will have a drawing at the garden and promote it on the County Agent Show on WLEW.

Educational presentations may be scheduled for the slack times in the animal barns. Picnic tables may be a great touch in the area, fairgoers can sit, eat their ice cream and appreciate the beauty of the garden! A new sign needs to be made declaring this the "Master Gardener Fair Demonstration Garden." Plans are to have maps and brochures at the fair booth directing people to the garden and highlighting what they will see.

Anyone wanting to help with this project should contact John at 989-883-2746.

## **MASTER GARDENER SERIES**

Contacts will be made soon for the next MASTER GARDENER SERIES. We have 12 who have called to register and 86 from the fair who indicated they "might" want to take the series. The next series is tentatively scheduled for 6:30-10:00 pm beginning November 10, 2004 and running through February 2, 2005, with 2 weeks off for the Christmas/New Year holidays.

Also, the state MG office has given us permission to design our own quizzes for the next series. We need a volunteer to tackle that job. We all know there were always a couple of questions that we didn't agree with and/or couldn't find in the chapter. Maybe this will eliminate that aggravation?

## SPRING INTO GARDENING CONFERENCE

The SPRING INTO GARDENING CONFERENCE is set for March 19, 2005. We need many volunteers for this event. We currently have Maxine Pettinger (a MG transfer from Illinois) getting some of her volunteer hours by calling the speakers on our list and getting their topic. Once this is complete a letter will be sent to vendors letting them know

speakers and topics. This should help them provide merchandise at the Trade Show that is geared to match the topics. Promotions can begin as soon as details are finalized. Next month we will discuss ordering goodie bags.



**Master Gardeners**  
Huron County

## GARDEN TOURS

John Weis started talking about the variety and beauty of the MSU GARDENS and how we should go to see them. Suddenly we were talking about a train or bus trip to the CHICAGO BOTANICAL GARDENS. Maxine Pettinger is checking on train arrangements -- fares and times. Melvin Hoppe is

finding out similar information for a chartered bus tour. However we go, it sounds like a delightful time. When Maxine and Melvin have finalized details, we will be contacting everyone.

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

Denny Weidman, Groundwater Stewardship Program, attended our meeting to share information on this fall's HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION. This is funded by a tri-county grant that will last until 2006 for Huron, Sanilac and Tuscola Counties. The date set for this fall's collection is October 2. We have the following volunteers

working on the actual collection day Evelyn Gainor, Ty Lubeski, Mary Falkenberg and John Weis. Denise Pattison volunteered to do the paperwork at the office.

Deadline for submitting your application is September 22.

## EMERALD ASH BORER TRAINING

If you need educational credits, attend the EMERALD ASH BORER TRAINING SESSION in Novi on Tuesday, October 19, from 9:30-3:30. Call Carol if you would like a copy of this letter. We also have a new bulletin available on "Recommended Alternatives to Ash Trees for

Michigan's Lower Peninsula." We received word that EAB has been found in Sanilac County (not far from Melvin Hoppe's home) so it may not be long before we have to address this issue here in Huron County.

## SPRING-FLOWERING BULB SALE

The SPRING-FLOWERING BULB SALE is set for Saturday, September 25, from 9:00 am–1:00 pm at the EconoLodge Inn, 898 N. Van Dyke, Bad Axe. The order form distributed at the meeting has been revised. Please do not use it or distribute it... customers will be disappointed. Thanks, Dorothea Meyer, for helping make prices more reasonable for us. Jo Doyle spoke with the EconoLodge people and they have very graciously agreed to let us use their parking lot for our sale. In case of inclement weather, we can go under their portico or inside

their facility! Be sure to thank them when you see them for their courtesy and cooperation with our project. Mary Falkenberg is working on signs to aid customers in their purchases of tulips, narcissus, daffodils, hyacinths, crocus, alliums, bulb planters and gloves.

***NOTE Those planning to work the day of the sale need to call Carol to sign up!***

## THE FARM RESTAURANT

Chef Jeff Gabriel of The Farm Restaurant, Port Austin, has volunteered to do a holiday cooking class for us. The date, time and cost for this is still being worked out.

Master Gardeners will receive education credit for this. Chef Gabriel prepared a similar class for MG's several years ago (he was in the 1999 MG class) and those attending thought it was terrific.

## MG OFFICE IMPROVEMENTS

A committee was formed to look into the BOOK-CASES/SHELVING for the Master Gardener office and library: Patt Maurer, Homer Bailey and Dorothy Mantey. This unit should be a big asset to the

MG office and simplify the job of volunteers when they work on homeowner calls or research news releases and articles.

## PLANT YOUR SEEDS, PROPAGATE YOUR PLANTS

Diane McPhee volunteered to give a PROPAGATION WORKSHOP if someone could arrange for a

facility. John Weis has taken on that task. Watch for details early next year.

## INTERNET ACCESS FOR MGs

At long last, LOGINS and PASSWORDS were handed out to MG's present at this month's meeting. The state MG program continues to work at making this recordkeeping program an easy, acces-

sible tool for MG offices, coordinator and MG's. If you would like your login and password sent to you, email [huron@msue.msu.edu](mailto:huron@msue.msu.edu) or call Carol at 989-269-9949.

## BUDS & BUGS COLUMN IN TRIBUNE

It was agreed by those present at the monthly meeting that the MG COLUMN IN THE HURON DAILY TRIBUNE would be discontinued.

Any articles submitted to the MSUE office will be distributed to all local papers, including WLEW and the Bay City Times.

## EXPLORING OFFICE DUTIES

Working in the MG office involves but is not limited to answering homeowner calls. It also includes filing bulletins, organizing the MG desk and work area, writing news releases, finding resources for the li-

brary and the next MG series, writing letters, and much more. If you would like to tackle some of these tasks, please call to schedule your day(s).

## NEW LIFE FOR SPENT PLANTS

Denise Pattison shared a clever idea she used this year when her alliums were no longer actively blooming. She spray painted the spent flower heads – right on the stalk, right in the flower beds.

It was around the 4th of July, she had company coming, so ... she protected her house from the paint drift with a piece of cardboard ... and, *voila*, red, white and blue patriotic alliums!

## TAKE IT ONE STEP FURTHER...

A new project that MG's are experimenting with is FLOWER DRYING with recycled Silica Gel. We have several MG's (Homer Bailey, Maxine Pettinger and Dorislee Doyle) experimenting with this Sili-

caGel being provided by Jean Henne. Anyone else wanting to get in on this project needs to call the MSUE office.

## ... and A SECOND STEP FURTHER

A second part of this project could come in early April when MG's are providing centerpieces for the Thumb Rose Society's Great Lakes District Convention which will be held at the Franklin Inn, Bad Axe, on April 8 and 9. Since flowers are usually pretty limited in April, you may want to start drying

some now. NOTE: We are not limited to dried flowers OR roses. We're guessing we could need eight centerpieces. The Master Gardener Program will receive credit that they provided the centerpieces.

## PERENNIAL PLANT SALE

Our PERENNIAL PLANT SALE will be held May 14 at the Huron Expo Center, fairgrounds, Bad Axe, with set-up on the 13th. Check out your flower beds and yard now to see how many and which plants you can donate. We will be taking a tentative tally at next month's meeting so we can plan our

plant and supply (pots, soils, etc.) orders. Keep the procedures we need to follow in mind so we will pass the Michigan Department of Agriculture inspection. Would someone like to volunteer to chair this sale?

## THIS, JUST IN

The Bad Axe Public Library is working on their landscaping. They would like volunteers to help and/or provide assorted perennials. These would be "personal choice" volunteer hours. Contact Ms. Herrington at the library 989-269-8538 if this is something you would like to participate in.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Call the numbers listed for times, fees and a more detailed description of the event.

**MSU Extension, Bad Axe** (989) 269-9949  
Sept. 25 – Spring-Flowering Bulb Sale, EconoLodge Inn, 898 N. Van Dyke, 9 am – 1 pm

**MSU Extension, Bad Axe** (989) 269-9949  
Oct. 2 – Household Hazardous Waste Collection, Bad Axe Area, must be pre-registered.

**MSU Extension, Flint** (810) 244-8547  
Oct. 2 – Fall Into Spring Educational Conference, Genesee Area Skill Center, 8:30 am – 5:00 pm.

**Michigan State University** (517) 355-5191  
Oct. 2 – Fall Dried Arrangements, Saturday Morning Gardener, 9-11 am (see enclosed flyer for schedule)

**Thumb Rose Society** (989) 269-7154  
Oct. 4 – Thumb Rose Society's Pop Bottle Show (informal judging of end-of-the-season roses), 7 pm, Bad Axe Intermediate School Cafeteria, 404 Hatchet Drive, Bad Axe.

**MSU Extension, Bad Axe** (989) 269-9949  
Oct. 5 – Monthly Master Gardener Meeting, MSU Extension Conference Room, Bad Axe, 7 pm.

**MSU Extension, Bad Axe** (989) 269-9949  
Oct. 11 – COLUMBUS DAY, MSUE office closed

**MSU Extension, Novi** (810) 244-8531  
Oct. 19 – Emerald Ash Borer Training for Master Gardener Volunteers (tour included), Tollgate Education Center, Novi, 930 a.m. – 330 p.m.

**Bloomers Garden Club** (989) 479-6347

**Women's Farm & Garden** (989) 479-9075