

**MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION**

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**IONIA COUNTY MASTER GARDENER  
ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER.**

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**JULY 2006**

**Dear Master Gardeners:**

Looks like summer is finally here – after what seems like a very long wait! The Class of 2006 completed their last session on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Eighteen participants are looking forward to completing 40 hours of Master Gardener Volunteer work.

**Certification Ceremony**

A Master Gardener Certification Ceremony and dinner was held at Clarksville Horticultural Station on Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. This was attended by approximately 50 people. Bill Steenwyk, Director of the Ionia Extension office presented ten Master Gardener Volunteers with Basic Master Gardener certification and name badges. Eighteen Master Gardener Volunteers in Training received official trainee badges. Four Master Gardener Volunteers received gold pins for contributing more than 250 volunteer hours each. This represents a contribution of 2543 volunteer hours from Ionia County! Bill extended congratulations to the volunteers for their dedication to the Master Gardener Program and continued commitment to the community. Master Gardener Volunteers grow great things!

**IMGA General Meeting**

The June IMGA meeting was held June 5 at 6:30 pm at the Clarksville Horticultural Station. Our speaker was Coleen French, of French Gardens in Portland, who presented on herb growing and collecting. Participants learned how to make an herb salve and take home a sample. Master Gardeners present received one hour of educational credit.

The next scheduled Ionia Master Gardener Association meeting will be August 7 at 6:30. Our presenter will speak on composting. Master gardeners attending will receive one hour of educational credit.

**Ionía Master Gardeners are invited to participate in family day at Bertha Brock Park Fall Festival on September 16<sup>th</sup>. We will have an information booth, plant propagation demonstration, make and take project for the kids, AND our first ever perennial plant sale. When you are dividing your plants this summer, please pot up a few to donate to the plant sale in September.**

**Just a reminder, if you have a master gardener article that will appear in any newspaper or shoppers guide, it must be cleared through Bill Steenwyk at the Ionía Extension office before it can appear in print.**

**Enjoy the great weather and happy gardening!  
Sandi**

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **Clarksville Town Square Project**

**Teresa Fahrni heads up this project, and after a bit of delay, it is finally underway. The materials for the gazebo have been purchased and is in the process of being erected. At that time, Ionía Master Gardeners will be able to work at the site. If you are interested in volunteering your time on this project, please contact Teresa at 616-693-2230.**

#### **Habitat for Humanity House in Sunfield**

**Gayle Glowńia heads up this project and is in the process of putting together a landscaping plan with the home-owner. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Gayle at 616-527-3395.**

#### **Boyce Nature Trail and Boyce Elementary**

**Melissa can always use volunteer help on the trail and also at the fall tree sale. If you are interested in working on the Nature Trail cleanup or working on the wildflower propagation and planting, or the fall tree sale, please contact Melissa Eldridge at the Ionía Soil Conservation office, 616-527-2620.**

#### **Bertha Brock Park**

**This project is in need of a chairperson and volunteers. If you are interested contact Sandi Clark at 616-642-9750.**

**Ionía Master Gardeners will participate in the Ionía Fall Festival on September 16<sup>th</sup> at the park. We will have a make and take project for kids, a plant propagation demonstration, and also our first ever perennial plant sale. We are in need of donated plants for that date and also workers for the booth. Please give me a call if you can donate plants and time for this event.**

### **Ionia Hospice Office Building**

**We have been contacted by Ionia Hospice with a request for some landscaping/planting/weeding at their office. Danna Fuller heads up this project. If you are interested call Sandi at 616-642-9750. All work must be approved by Hospice beforehand so it is important to follow protocol.**

**We are working on setting up a collaboration between MGV's and MDOT to work on a beautification project at the two Ionia I-96 rest areas. If you are interested, contact Sandi Clark at 616-642-9750.**

**If you would like to contribute to this newsletter, please contact Sandi Clark at 616-642-9750.**