

**MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION**

**IONIA COUNTY MASTER GARDENER
ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER.**

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2006

Dear Master Gardeners:

This has been a very busy year for the master gardener volunteers in Ionia County. It has also been a very busy year for the IMG Association. October 2006 will mark our one-year anniversary as a formal association.

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU

On behalf of the Ionia Master Gardener Association, and the MSU Ionia Extension Master Gardener Program, I would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to the following people:

Bill Steenwyk, Janice Ransom, and the Ionia MSU Extension office staff for their support and guidance during the past year. Our shared goal for an active Master Gardener Program in Ionia County continues.

Teresa Fahrni for her donation of ideas and all the materials for the kids "make and take" project at the Bertha Brock Fall Festival. We had 114 kids visit our booth and participate in a refrigerator magnet project to take home. The project was a great success. Teresa also attended all the planning meetings held throughout the spring and summer by the Bertha Brock Committee for the Fall Festival Event. She also took care of preparation and clean-up for all of the MG classes held throughout the spring at the Clarksville MSU Research Facility. Thanks Teresa!

Marianne Barrone for chairing our first-ever plant sale held at the Bertha Brock Fall Festival. She contributed a huge number of day lilies and irises for the sale, as well as signage and set up, and spent the entire day at the plant sale. The plant sale was definitely a success. Thanks Marianne!

Manda Powell came out and supplied that extra needed help for Marianne at the plant sale. Manda has also worked on the Hospice project throughout the summer with Danna Fuller. Thanks Manda!

Sharon Sherman and her husband put together wooden flower presses and donated them to be sold at the plant sale. They were a great

hit and we still have a few left for sale for any master gardeners who are interested. Thanks Sharon!

We would also like to thank all the master gardeners who donated plants for the plant sale. The plants remaining from the sale will be donated to Hospice in Ionia and we will have a work day in October to get together and plant them up.

Also a special thanks to all the MG volunteers who worked at the Master Gardener booths at the Ionia Home Show, the Ionia Free Fair, the Saranac Bridgefest, and the Bertha Brock Fall Festival this past year. Because of your efforts, information about our program got out into the community, and we have enough interested parties to offer the next master gardener class beginning January of 2007! Thanks to Bill and Susan Stouffer for their work on the raised bed and wheelchair accessible gardening project at Cumberland Retirement Center, and Danna Fuller for chairing the Ionia Hospice project.

Finally, a special thanks to the Ionia MG Association Executive Committee; Jim Clark, President, Teresa Fahrni, Vice President, Daneena Anderson and Rhonda Steffens, Co-Secretaries, Chris Segerlind, Treasurer, and Tera Brighton, Historian, for their help in keeping our new association going this past year.

Did I miss anyone? If I did, thank you so much for making the Master Gardener Program go in Ionia! Happy Gardening! Sandi

IMGA General Meeting

Our next meeting will be Monday, October 2 at 6:30. Dues will be collected for the new fiscal year. We will also have election of officers for the new fiscal year. If you are interested in becoming an officer in the association please contact me at sandi.clark@maryfreebed.com or 616-642-9750. Education subject will be Emerald Ash Borer at 7:30 pm, presented by Bill Steenwyk, Ionia County Extension Director. This will count as one full education hour for recertification.

Registration for the January, 2007 Master Gardener class is underway. If you know someone who is interested, refer them to the Ionia Extension Office at 616-527-5357 for details. Payment plans are available this year.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Clarksville Town Square Project

If you are interested in volunteering your time on this project, please contact Teresa at 616-693-2230.

Boyce Nature Trail and Boyce Elementary

Please contact Melissa Eldridge at the Ionia Soil Conservation office, 616-527-2620.

Bertha Brock Park

Contact Sandi Clark at 616-642-9750.

Ionia Hospice Office Building

Danna Fuller heads up this project. All work must be approved by Hospice beforehand. Please contact Sandi Clark at 616-642-9750.

October Tree Sale Ionia Soil Conservation

October 18th – tree packing 10-2. (outside) and tree instruction.

October 20th – customer pickup 10-6.

Contact Melissa Eldridge at 616-527-2620.

Planting Native Plants at Boyce Elementary

One day site preparation for planting

One day dig plants with Boyce elementary students and then plant at prepared site.

Contact Melissa Eldridge at 616-527-2620.