



Master Gardener Musings

Jackson County Master Gardener Association Newsletter

Volume No.2

Issue No.9

September, 2002

The August Meeting...



The Master Gardener Association met on Tuesday, August 20 in yet another beautiful garden. Fellow member Susan Goehring invited us to come to her wonderful family homestead to enjoy her accomplishments. Susan and her family live in a restored farm house surrounded by a white picket fence and well tended cottage style gardens. Her property hosts three ponds, that she and her husband put in, with two of those connected by a stream, that are home to a large number of fish and frogs. With a large vegetable garden, a variety of farm animals and a dog, it gives one a sense of true Americana. We were then invited poolside for refreshments served by her children.

Susan's accomplishments are many, a lovely home, delightful children, a husband that shares her dreams and one very green thumb. Thank you for sharing it with us. We all went home relaxed and refreshed. How blessed we are to have a person like Susan as one of our members..

The month of August also took us to the Dahlem Center for a Hypertufa Trough making workshop lead by fellow member, Kath Ambs. For a fee of \$20.00, ten attendees made planters from portland cement, vermiculite, peat moss and fiber

mixed with water and molded over a variety of containers. From overturned boxes, dish pans, and flower pots became wonderful, sturdy English style planters. We all had a good time, and vowed to do this again, so watch for future announcements.

Fall Plant Sale Sept. 14

The fall plant sale is fast approaching. Please keep in mind that this is a fund raising event for us, so we need the help of everyone. If you can help with setup on Friday, September 13 from 3 to 7 please call 782-8886. We also need plants! We can't have a sale if we don't have plants, so get out into your gardens and start dividing. Then bring them to the Dahlem Center either Thursday or Friday before the sale. They must be potted and labeled.

Even though we split the proceeds with the Friends of the Dahlem, this is still our largest fund raiser. The funds generated will help to have more diverse programs for the association, allowing us to bring in widely known speakers, and to give us 'seed money' for upcoming workshops.

If you are a new member, this is a great way to acquaint yourself with some of the other members in a relaxed atmosphere. The sale runs from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

JCMGA Officers 2002

President- Nancy Ewing- 782-8886
Vice Presidents- Virginia Beauchamp-589-9381
-Denise Haschke- 517-524-8300
Secretary- Susan Gruel- 782-9055
Treasurer- Betsy Meyers- 750-2841

Minutes – August 20, 2002

The meeting was held at Susan Goehring's home on County Farm Road, Jackson.

A hypertufa trough making class was announced to be held at the Dahlem Center, August 22 at 6:00 p.m. A \$20.00 fee will cover materials costs. Kath Amb's brought examples to show the group.

Reminder of the upcoming plant sale also held at Dahlem, Saturday, September 14 from 9 to 1. We need help setting up on Friday the 13 from 3 to 7. We also need your plants.

Jim Wilkins is having a hosta sale from his home business, Foxwood Hostas, Saturday, August 24.

A reminder that Daffodil Day is Saturday, October 5.

September meeting to be held at Clarence Owens's garden, October meeting at Denise Haschke's for twig chair or trellis crafts. Bring gloves and pruners. Denise brought examples of the items that can be made. November meeting will consist of elections of officers for 2003 and our end of the year dinner. After reviewing suggestion presented by the Banquet Committee, the group voted for location. The Cascades Manor House was Chosen, with menu to be determined by the committee. The program will feature Nancy Lindley from Great Lakes Roses and a program on Carefree Rugosa Roses.

We spent a delightful evening touring Susan's garden and visiting with the animals. Thank you, Susan.

Respectfully submitted by, Susan Gruel

Upcoming Events

- Sept.14- Fall Plant Sale – 9 to 1 at the Dahlem Center
- Sept. 17- JCMGA Meeting 7:00 p.m. Clarence Owens's Garden
- Sept.21- Fall Clean-up and bulb planting at the Dahlem Center 9 a.m
- Oct.5- Daffodil Day
- Oct.15- JCMGA Meeting 6:00 p.m. Denise Haschke's for twig chair or trellis making
- Nov.19- JCMGA Meeting- final meeting for 2002- Dinner and elections of officers for 2003. We will be at the Cascades Manor House starting at 6:00 p.m.
- Nov.30- Table Top Tree Workshop at Southern Exposure, Battle Creek 9:00 a.m. call (866) 554-4372 to register \$30.00 fee, we will carpool
- Jan.21, 2003- JCMGA Meeting 7:00 p.m. Extension Office, Lansing Ave.

Free Manure Compost

Anyone who would like some sheep manure compost for their gardens can call Gloria Bellairs at (517) 589-0443. The Bellairs moved to their E. Territorial Rd. farm three years ago from Clarkston, where they regularly provided Master Gardeners with their 'black gold'. Their address is 3770 E. Territorial Rd., Take 106 to Cooper Rd., right on E. Territorial to the farm. Look for the sheep! They ask that you call before you come, and bring your own container, i.e. a garbage can or leaf barrel.



A garden says much about the gardener. It speaks of patience, hard work, and a desire to make others happy and the World a more beautiful place.

Volunteer Opportunities

- Dahlem Plant Sale – Sept.14 – the plant sale proceeds are divided equally between the Master Gardener Association and the Friends of the Dahlem. We need volunteers for the plant check-in days (the 12th and 13th) and for the day of the sale. This has always been a popular volunteer time, so call Nancy at 782-8886 to get your name on the list.
- Fall clean up at the Aware Shelter. Contact Nancy and she will make arrangements for you to go.
- Fall clean up and bulb planting at the Dahlem Center – Sat., Sept.21 – 9:00 a.m. Bring your own pruners and trowels. Shovels and rakes are available.

These projects are open to anyone who wishes to help, so don't be shy!



May the light always find you on a dreary day.
When you need to be home, may you find your way.
May you always have courage to take a chance,
And never find frogs in your underpants!
-A nonymous-

From the president...

I hope that each of you has had much fun this year as I have. I admit that the heat has diminished my pleasure from gardening (I wilt quicker than the plants), but there certainly have been plenty of events to keep me satisfied. The beautiful gardens that we have toured, those of Denise Haschke, Jill Wilkins, Virginia Beauchamp, Shirley Dowding and Susan Goehring, have been both inspirational and testimony to what dedication and a love for gardening can accomplish. The Spring Plant Sale was a great way to get to know some of you better. The sidewalk at the Dahlem Center is absolutely breathtaking and inspires compliments from all who pass through. We made Hypertufa troughs at a workshop on a beautiful late summer evening under the direction of our own delightful Kath Ambs. I taught a class on Butterfly Gardening to 19 eager students at the Butterfly Fiesta that Dahlem held in August. I was lucky enough to be able to attend both the Summer Conference and Garden Day at MSU. These are both great fun and wonderful ways to spend time with friends. We had the First MG Reunion Picnic in June. It was a warm evening, but still a good time. And most recently, a small group of us traveled to Southern Exposure Herb Farm for a delightful evening. We left Jackson at 4:30 with a picnic dinner in tow for the 45 minute drive. When we arrived, we dined on the patio surrounded by beautiful flower beds, artistic garden amenities, and very large container gardens, while being serenaded with classical music. We had a few minutes to browse through the barn/gift shop before joining others back on the patio for a class on Herbal Weaving. The owner Scott, and his assistants, guided us through the process after taking us to the herb gardens to harvest our materials. With a large selection of plants such as Cinnamon Basil, sweet annie, Licorice Basil, lavender, and thymes, we were euphoric as we wandered the gardens. We were then taken to the cutting gardens for selections of sunflowers, salvia, zinnias cockscomb and tansy to add color to our wallhanging. Did I mention the blueberry muffins, iced tea and classical music that all added to a relaxing, very enjoyable evening. We all came home feeling pampered and very happy with our Herbal Wallhangings. We look forward to our return trip on November 30 for a Table Top Tree workshop. We've been having way too much fun!

I want to close by welcoming new member, Mary Ann Drake, and inviting her and all of you to join us as we finish out the 2002 year with our trips to Clarence Owens', Denise Haschke's and the November Banquet. Come join the fun!

Nancy Ewing

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www.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/jackson/association



The September Meeting

The next JCMGA meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the garden of Mr. Clarence Owens. As autumn quickly approaches, the gardens are beginning to fade. This is our last chance to tour a garden this year, and what a garden to have as a final offering. Mr. Owens is widely known for his work with hostas, is a retired science teacher, and active in the Men's Garden Club. You can find us at 3390 Allston Dr., Jackson by taking Kibby Rd., Take a right on Pine Ridge Dr., then a left on Harwich Lane, then left on Allston Dr. The Owens' home will be on the left side of the street.

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to see the gardens of this very interesting man!