

Kalamazoo County MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION NEWS

January 2004

January Meeting

Day: Monday
Date: Jan. 19, 2004
Time: 7:00 pm Meeting
Place: Trinity Reformed Church
326 Cork Street
Kalamazoo
Topic: Protecting Our Watershed with Rain Gardens by Patricia Pennel
And: Please wear your name badge!

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KCMGA Website:

<http://www.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/kalamazoo/association/>

Kalamazoo County
Master Gardener Association
P.O. Box 1026
Portage, MI 49081-1026

From the Petal Prez

We are into the new year of 2004 and there are so many good gardening things to be doing already! There are the seed catalogs that have started coming in the mail (some even broke the rules and came before the holidays!); the assessment of last year's successes and projects left undone; the new areas and projects to plan for this season; maintenance and upkeep projects; etc. Never a dull moment—snow and zero degrees or not! We can read and dream and plan and order!

In addition, there are many excellent gardening/landscaping seminars being put on all over the state, region, and beyond over the coming months. The Michigan Turf Management Foundation state conference MG invitation day, January 21; Kalamazoo Co. AgAction Day, January 23; Kent County MSUE's Plants of Distinction, February 11; *Horticulture* magazine sem-inar at Cranbrook, February 14th; and, of course, Spring Into Gardening on March 20. Check out the websites for horticulture magazines/organizations and see what is out there to take in and learn from over the winter.

Much lies ahead for KCMGA, too. Following the Annual Meeting in November, the outgoing/incoming Board met in December and immediately started addressing items you agreed we need to act on in 2004. We will come to the January 19th meeting with several proposals: the 2004 Budget; a budget and process for member scholarships to educational activities; and gift ideas to thank Trinity Reformed Church for hosting us. The Board wants to hear from you at and between meetings. Please let us know your thoughts and ideas for making KCMGA even better. Also, see membership news at the right and act now!

I am pleased and excited to let you know we have secured **Mary Walters** of Walters Gardens in Zeeland as our keynote speaker for our collaboration with Spring Into Gardening on March 20. She will present an inspirational/informational talk on new and under-used plants and plant combinations for our gardens—to give “panache.” A small, core committee will be needed to lead our part of the conference; please consider it.

Thanks to all of you who wrote, called, emailed, and otherwise contacted our state government and legislative representatives during the state budget crisis. Our actions did, indeed, play a role in keeping MSUE funds intact for the time being and allowing the MG program and our association to carry on our activities. Please remember to thank the same people for their support. I received a letter from the Governor's office, as well as several other officials on our behalf.

We are off and growing for another year. Til January 19, stay warm and enjoy,

Bobbe A. Luce

2004 MGA Board

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Membership News for 2004

Membership dues of \$15.00 are due annually no later than the March meeting. To keep the lines short, and the meetings running smoothly, please fill out the attached membership form and mail it with your check to: KCMGA, PO Box 1026, Portage, MI 49081-1026.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the 2004 meetings and events.