

# MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION NEWS

January 2005

## From the Petal Prez

Happy New Years to all of you! I hope you have had an enjoyable holiday season, as I have. As we begin the New Year, I am looking forward to working with you and the new Board to continue the successes of the association. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any other Board member with your ideas, thoughts, concerns, etc. about our mission and how we carry it out. It is through the input of all members that the association will grow and meet the members' needs. The Board will consider all ideas that fit within the mission and resources of the organization.

The snow is back, disguising much of our gardening efforts, but not preventing us from planning our gardening projects. Several gardening/landscaping seminars are coming up. The Michigan Turf Management Foundation state conference MG invitation day is on January 19, the Kalamazoo County MSUE Ag Action Day is January 28 and Introduction to Garden Design is April 16. For many other opportunities, see the MSUE website, the Master Gardener Communicator and other gardening websites or magazines.

Just a reminder that we have scholarships available to help finance gardening training for association members. I urge each of you interested to submit an application. The application and selection process will be totally confidential. Ten scholarships of up to \$100 are available to our members. For more information, the Scholarship Policy and Application are available on our website and copies will be available at our meetings.

At our November Annual Meeting, the association approved the concept of providing an educational program for association members only, with no charge to the members attending. The Board will be reviewing potential topics and speakers, reporting back to the membership regarding proposals for this training. Again, if you have any ideas, please contact any Board member.

In addition to our speaker, Jackie Smith, on Heirloom Plants from Seed to Harvest, we will be reviewing the 2005 annual budget proposed by the Board at our January 17 meeting.

Thanks to everyone who contacted their County Commissioners during the budget cutting process. If you get the opportunity, please don't forget to thank them for valuing and keeping MSUE in the County budget.

A special thanks to the outgoing Board for all of their leadership and efforts, and to all previous Boards and

members who have stepped forward to help the association become what it is today. I am honored to serve the organization and welcome your comments.

See you at the January meeting,

**Renee R. Healy**

President, KCMGA

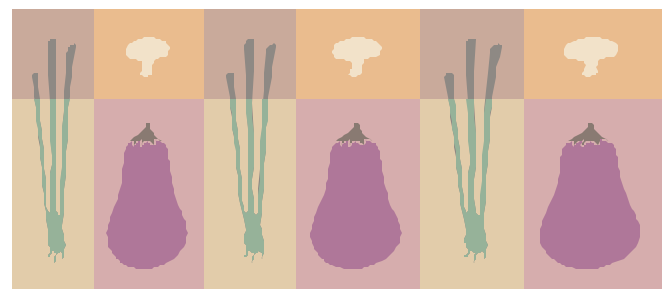
## January Program

**"The Joy of Heirloom Vegetable Gardening" Presented by Jackie Smith  
Introduced by Laurie Russel**

On Monday, January 17th, Jackie Smith will share her knowledge of endangered vegetable varieties; how to grow them, save seeds and exchange seeds with other gardeners.

Jackie's love of heirloom vegetables really began over 30 years ago with the death of her grandmother. Jackie says "She had always grown a perennial onion in her garden that I had never seen anywhere else. My father wasn't excited about "old-fashioned" varieties so I dug up a clump of her onions and planted them in my flower border. This fueled my academic studies."

Jackie has a Master's degree with an emphasis on the history of nature. She has been growing heirloom vegetables for 10 years, and sells plants and produce at the Bank Street Market. She also runs her own business, Graceful Gardens, and maintains gardens throughout the Kalamazoo/Portage area.



**2005 MGA Board**

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

**Program Planning Committee:**

Laurie Russell  
Arleigh Smyrnois  
Phyllis Thayer  
Becky Yaple

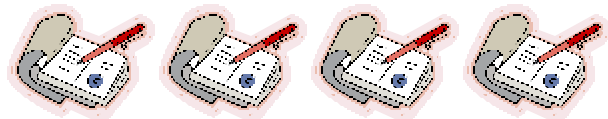


**January Treats**

Thanks to Arleigh Smyrnois, Luba Schram, Kathy Huston, Judy Nichols, Candice Gancia and Constance Nitsch for agreeing to bring food to the January meeting!

Thanks also to Sheila Johnson, Rose Quoss and PK Lytle for the tasty November refreshments. Please sign-up for the months ahead. The more the better! Thanks!

**“Member Profiler Reporter”** – Happy to report this posting has been filled. Along with introducing the Board Members, beginning January, the winner of the door prize pool will be profiled in the upcoming MGA Newsletter, along with a very flattering picture. Thanks to Jenny Payton for volunteering.



**March Meeting**

**Monday, March 21, 2005**

6:00 p.m. Brown Bag  
7:00 p.m. “Extending Your Garden Season”  
by Mike Klug

**News Deadline**

The deadline for the March newsletter is Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. Please submit any items of interest, including articles, education opportunities, tips, website addresses, etc., to Laura Jaeger at [laurajaeger@yahoo.com](mailto:laurajaeger@yahoo.com) or call 353-6660.

## KCMGA Newsletter Survey Results December 2004

Number of Surveys Distributed: 101  
 Number of Surveys Completed: 18 or 18%

1. How do you receive your newsletter?
  - a. 12 Mailed
  - b. 5 Look it up on website
  - c. 1 Other –New member received newsletter at meeting
  
2. How would you prefer to receive your newsletter?
  - a. 12 Mailed
  - b. 5 Website
  - c. 1 Other –Either way is fine
  
3. Do you read the newsletter?
  - a. 18 Yes
  - b. 0 No
  
4. If so, what areas?
  - a. 15 Entire Newsletter / All Areas
  - b. 2 Every Word
  - c. 1 Usually all of it
  
5. If not, what would you do differently?  
 n/a
  
6. What additional information would you like to include in the newsletter?
  - ? 6 None
  - ? 1 What is the program committee planning, jokes, photos, quiz
  - ? 1 Website recommendations, book recommendations, tips from other MGs
  - ? 1 Other county programs
  - ? 1 More personal information from members
  - ? 1 New member (?)
  - ? 1 Workshops in the area or adjoining counties
  - ? 1 Upcoming educational opportunities way in advance, contact information for volunteer opportunities, like the new “help wanted” for KCMGA needs.
  - ? 1 more what’ s happening in gardening around the area
  - ? 1 meeting agenda, volunteer opportunities
  - ? 1 local growing tips
  - ? 1 upcoming events at nurseries, upcoming sale of plants, garden events/exhibits

7. Does the newsletter add value to your membership?
  - a. 16 Yes
  - b. 1 ? New member
  - c. 1 Yes / No –more articles needed helpful hints on tools, techniques

Yes feedback responses include:

- ? Gives a timeline of upcoming events/ meetings.
- ? It is especially helpful if I can’t make it to a meeting. Also, advance notice of upcoming events helps me plan.
- ? Keeps me informed of meetings, MG happenings.
- ? Regular information.
- ? Tips and articles, calendars.
- ? Keeps me up to date in case I’ ve been gone.
- ? Helps to keep me reminded and informed. I like to keep it in my purse.
- ? It helps me keep “connected” with happenings in the area and people in the organization.
- ? Helps me plan for meetings, I pick up helpful hints now and then.
- ? Reminders to a busy person.
- ? Good to know upcoming events.
- ? Keeps me informed –what’ s going on, when I can’t attend.
- ? It makes me feel connected.
- ? Keeps us informed.
- ? Keeps me informed about the organization.
- ? I think it helps keep MGs up to date on MGA and has some interesting articles.

### **Membership Renewal Forms**

Membership is from January 1 through December 31, 2005. Membership fee is \$15 for an individual or \$20 per family and is due by the March meeting. Please **mail** your membership dues and the completed Membership Registration Form to: KCMGA, P.O. Box 1026, Portage, MI 49081-1026. Membership Registration Forms can be obtained on the website.

**January Meeting**

Day: Monday

Date: **January 17, 2005**

Time: 6:00 p.m. Brown Bag  
6:30 p.m. New Member Orientation  
7 p.m. Meeting

Place: Trinity Reformed Church  
326 Cork Street  
Kalamazoo

Topic: *"The Joy of Heirloom Vegetable Gardening"*  
*Presented by Jackie Smith*

And: Please wear your name badge!

**Cancellations**

IF it becomes necessary for safety reasons to cancel an Association meeting at the last minute, members will be notified through media coverage at WKZO and Channel 3 TV.

In addition, a notice will be sent to every member who has an e-mail address in the broadcast file. Please check these outlets if in doubt.



Kalamazoo County  
**MASTER GARDENER  
ASSOCIATION**



**January 17, 2005**

**"The Joy of Heirloom Vegetable Gardening"**

**by Jackie Smith**