

# Kalamazoo County MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION NEWS

January 2006

## November Meeting

- Day:** Monday  
**Date:** Jan. 16, 2006  
**Time:** 6:00 pm Brown Bag  
7:00 pm Meeting  
**Place:** Trinity Reformed Church  
326 Cork Street  
Kalamazoo  
**Topic:** Extending Your Garden Growing Season by Mike & Carol Klug  
**And:** Please wear your name badge!

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- ☞ March newsletter

### Web address:

<http://web1.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/kalamazoo/association/index.htm>

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

## From the Petal Prez

Happy New Year! Join us for the January 16 presentation on Extending your Garden Growing Season by Mike and Carol Klug. This will be an educational and fun way to spend a cold January evening.

The incoming and outgoing Board members met in December to begin planning for 2006. We will be coming to the January meeting with several agenda items: the 2006 budget proposal; gift ideas for Trinity Reformed Church; and fundraising ideas.

With the melting of December's snow, tiny green tips are already emerging from some of my spring bulbs. The hardiness of some of these plants never ceases to amaze me. These tips will continue to grow and produce beautiful flowers this spring, despite the continued cold, fluctuating weather for many months. A parallel can be drawn with the hardiness of Master Gardeners, as well.

As we begin the New Year, the Kalamazoo County Master Gardener Volunteer program faces some challenges and opportunities in how it is financed and structured. At our November Annual meeting, the association voted to support continuance of Master Gardener program with a \$3,000 financial commitment for 2006. Now we need to determine how we will raise the money for that support. Bring your ideas to the January meeting to help us determine how best to raise the necessary funds. We will brainstorm by table, and then summarize the ideas with the full group. The board will then explore these options further before the March meeting.

It's time to renew your association membership. See the Membership News on page two and act now.

As always, please let us know your thoughts and ideas for making KCMGA even better. You can contact us at or between meetings. I look forward to working with you over the year as we address the challenges and opportunities facing the Master Gardener Volunteer Program and the KCMGA. Your comments, ideas and participation in all areas of the KCMGA are essential to your association.

Until January 16, stay warm and enjoy!

*Renee R. Healy*

## 2006 MGA Board

### President

Renee Healy  
Ph:353-7564  
E: wrenhealy  
@sbcglobal.net

### Vice President/ Programs

Mike Higdon  
329-0934  
E: mikehig  
@chartermi.net

### Treasurer

Kathy Hutchins  
Ph: 375-5316  
E: tkhutchins  
@chartermi.net

### Secretary

Kathy Bielecki  
Ph: 327-7575  
E: kbielecki  
@sckazoo.com

### Communications

Ann Paulson  
Ph: 375-8877  
E: aqpauls@umich.edu

### Membership

John Nigg  
Ph: 349-5383  
E: jrnigg  
@sbcglobal.net

### MSUE MG

Ph: 269-383-8830,  
Ext. 8  
E: msue39@msu.edu

# Association News

## Calendar of Events

2006

### General Membership Meetings

#### Monday, January 16

Extending Your Garden Growing Season by Mike & Carol Klug

6:00 p.m. Brown Bag

7:00 p.m. Speaker & Meeting

#### Monday, March 20

What's New for 2006? by Jeff Romence and company

6:00 p.m. Brown Bag

7:00 p.m. Speaker & Meeting

#### Monday, May 15

Garden Photography by Bobbe Luce

6:00 p.m. Brown Bag

7:00 p.m. Speaker & Meeting

#### July – Garden Walks

#### Monday, September 18

Pot Luck & Plant Exchange

6:00 p.m. Potluck

7:30 p.m. Plant Exchange

#### Monday, October 16

Putting your Garden to Bed by Lorraine Fedorchak-Kraker

6:00 p.m. Brown Bag/

6:30 New Member Orientation

7:00 p.m. Speaker & Meeting

#### Monday, November 20

Annual Meeting & A Study of 'Cides (A Pesticides Primer) by Jeni Payton

6:00 p.m. Brown Bag

7:00 p.m. Annual Meeting followed by Jeni Payton's presentation

## Time to renew your KCMGA membership

Welcome, all, to the start of a new gardening year. A new year means it's time to pay your 2006 dues. The amount is still \$15 and payment is due by the March 20 meeting. There will, again, be an additional \$5 reinstatement fee assessed for payments received after the due date.

Because our treasurer is required to give receipts for all funds received, a line of dues payers at the meeting will make things harder for her; it will also take up valuable meeting time. So please download the membership form from the website or pick one up at the January meeting and mail your payment early.

The new membership form is available on the website and can be found by following the prompts at <http://web1.msue.edu/mastergardener/kalamazoo/index.htm>. If you haven't looked at the website in a while and use the old address that starts with <http://www.msue.edu>....etc, you will get an error message.

Please send the form with your dues payment to:

**KCMGA**  
**P.O. Box 1026**  
**Portage MI 49081-1026.**

Thank you,  
John Nigg  
Membership Chair

## Farewell from Emelee

Greetings!  
It is with great sadness that I say farewell to all of you. I have enjoyed getting to know each and every one of you. I will take with me so many wonderful memories. I can also pause today and reflect on all that we, together, have accomplished over the years. I look back to the program as it was when I first began and I can honestly and without reserve state that the program continues to be better each and every year.

You have and continue to make this happen. I have always been in awe of Master Gardener Volunteers. Most of you have full time careers, families and other activities including your own gardens.... Yet, you find time in your busy schedule to help others. I have seen many of you after working all day long, go to a volunteer project, in the heat, in work clothes, donating and giving your time, helping others to

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## New MGA Members

2005



Susan Binning  
Teri Caswell  
Paula Clare  
JoAnne Davies  
Nancy Draayer  
Paula (P.K.) Fisher  
Sycketa Giacobone  
Valerie Groszmann  
Phyllis Herring  
Colleen Holloway  
Ronald Hough  
Sue Jeska  
Kathryn Kawecki  
Mary Kruska  
Nancy Lacko  
Jack Landon  
Sue Lane  
Ruth Lee  
Bridget Lemberg  
David Lemberg  
Irene Loczi-Belden  
Judy Long  
Tamara March  
Mary Moore  
Kym Mulhern  
Ann Paulson  
Sharon Pendola  
Linda Platt  
Elizabeth Puente  
Laura Pyle  
Ginna Ryan  
Thomas Sauber  
Rachel Schlegel  
Julie Simonds  
Dianne Tansey  
Sue Warren  
Shawn Willis  
Laura Woodruff

**Sue Lane**  
**KCMGA Member**  
**since 2005**  
**Class of 2005**

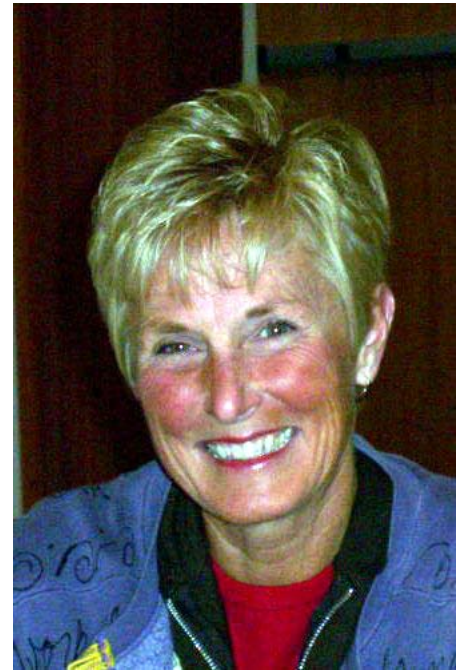


Although Sue is new to our organization, she certainly is not new to gardening. Her Grandmother had beautiful flowers and she extended the garden into the magical realm of the arts. Grandma pressed flowers to create lovely pictures and taught Sue to dye Queen Anne's Lace with colored water and to embroider—what else—lazy daisy and stem stitch.

Since Sue joined KCMGA she has greatly enjoyed volunteering at the Loaves and Fishes garden. She is impressed not only by the amazing vegetables, but also by the nice people who share the work.

This year Sue had fun planting the flower boxes around her new deck. They were a resplendent rainbow of impatiens, coleus, fern, begonias and caladium. Unfortunately on the sunny side of the deck trouble was a brewin'. The cherry tomatoes were lush in their pots, basking in the love and attention Sue bestowed upon them. But then—just as the delicious red blush deepened toward harvest—the villain struck. Yes! Chucky the Woodchuck—most dastardly of them all—jumped into those lovely pots and devoured Sue's tomatoes, all the while leering at her through the sliding glass door. Oh, woe is me.

**Sue Warren**  
**KCMGA Member**  
**since 2005**  
**Class of 2002**  
**Certified 2002**



Sue joined KCMGA because she enjoys gardening, sharing gardening experiences and having fun. Obviously she couldn't have come to a better place.

She is also willing to accept a challenge. Her best volunteer experience so far has been transforming the courtyard of the Angling Road School from a mess to a garden. Quite an accomplishment, wouldn't you agree? But don't ask her to pull meadow grass in 90° weather. She just might run away and hide in her nice shady hosta-filled yard. She'd really like some advice about shade gardening and in exchange, she could share some information about gardening for birds. Sounds like fun!

#### ALMOND SHORTBREAD THUMBPRINTS

1 cup butter, softened  
 2/3 cup sugar  
 1/2 teaspoon almond extract  
 2 cups flour  
 1/2 cup seedless jam or jelly

**GLAZE**  
 1/2 cup confectioners' sugar  
 3/4 teaspoon almond extract  
 1-2 teaspoons milk

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

In a medium bowl, cream together butter and sugar until smooth. Mix in flour until dough comes together. Roll dough into 1-1/2 inch balls, and place on ungreased cookie sheets. Make a small hole in the center of each ball, and fill the hole with jam or jelly. Bake for 14 to 18 minutes in preheated oven, or until lightly browned. Let cool 1 minute on cookie sheet.

In a medium bowl, mix the confectioners sugar, 3/4 teaspoon almond extract and milk until smooth. Drizzle lightly over warm cookies.

Makes 2 dozen cookies

Recipe from Paula Fisher

## Association Scholarships Available

Just a reminder that we have scholarships available to help finance gardening training for association members. There are many training opportunities available; our first scholarship was given this summer for the Summer MG Conference in Lansing.

### Thank-you!

Thank you to **Rose Quoss** for bringing treats for the January meeting.

### Volunteers needed

More treats will be needed for the meeting. If you are

The application and selection process is 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; copies will be available at our meetings.

willing to bring treats for the January meeting, please e-mail Renee at wrenhealy@sbcglobal.net.

## Farewell from Emelee

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grow. So far in 2005, you have donated over 6,432 hours and the hours keep coming in. I will sadly miss all of you as I begin this new chapter in my life. When a door is closed, there are windows that will be open.

Keep up the great work that you do. I wish you successful gardening now and always, in your neck of the woods. Until we meet again..

Sincerely,  
Emelee Rajzer

## News Deadline

The deadline for the March newsletter is February 28.

Please send information to aqpauls@umich.edu or to Ann Paulson  
4004 Old Field Trail  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008  
Ph: 375-8877

## KCMGA Lapel Pins

KCMGA lapel pins are available for purchase for \$3.50 at our meetings. See Kathy Hutchins to purchase.

# Kalamazoo County MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 1026, Portage, MI 49081-1026  
November 2006

## Cancellations

**IF it becomes necessary for safety reasons to cancel a KCMGA 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 email address on file. Please check these outlets if in doubt.**