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Kalamazoo County  
**MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION NEWS**  
May 2007

### Next Meeting

Day: Monday  
Date: May 21  
Time: 6 p.m. Brown Bag  
7 p.m. Speaker  
Jeni Payton

Place: Trinity Reformed  
Church  
326 Cork Street  
Kalamazoo

And: Please wear your  
name badge!

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KCMGA Website:  
<http://web1.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/kalamazoo>

Kalamazoo County  
Master Gardener Association  
PO Box 1026  
Portage, MI 49081-1026

### Over the Garden Fence

## Greetings

Well, it appears that spring might have finally arrived here in West Michigan. I was beginning to wonder, when after an early teaser of unseasonably warm weather, we were greeted with the rude appearance of an early spring snow storm. I made a mad scramble to get as many of my emerging perennials covered to help minimize the ensuing damage. I struggled to find enough containers to cover the multitude of bright, shining faces of spring's messengers of joy. It was also a challenge to keep the containers in place with the strong spring winds. I am happy to report that most of my plants survived the temperature plunge and now I am on to another spring ritual—keeping the rabbits and deer from eating the succulent green shoots of all my plants.

By a show of hands, how many of you expected such an interactive presentation at our March meeting? The presentation by Jaclyn West-Frasier, an occupational therapist and master gardener got us up and moving and reminded us how important it is to stretch our muscles and joints before we start to put the stress and rigors of gardening upon them. I have been incorporating the stretching exercises into my gardening routine and have found success in reducing the soreness in my muscles and joints. Who knew that taking an extra ten minutes before plunging into my garden chores would pay dividends? Jaclyn also demonstrated different gardening tools that have been made more ergonomic and helps to make gardening more enjoyable for everyone, no matter your physical condition. Remember to stretch before going out into the garden and use your muscles wisely when lifting. We want you to remain healthy and active in the association for many years to come.

If you get a chance, check out the plant sale Mother's Day weekend on the grounds of the Kalamazoo County Human Services Building on Gull Road at Nazareth where MSU Extension is housed.

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### KCMGA Board

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## Association News

### 2007 Calendar of Events

#### General Membership Meetings

Monday, May 21, 2007  
*A Study of 'Cides: Pesticides  
and Herbicides.* Speaker:  
Jenny Payton KCMGA  
member  
6 p.m. Brown Bag  
7 p.m. Speaker &  
Meeting

June 2, 2007  
KCMG trip to Hidden  
Lake

July, 2007  
Summer Garden Walks  
TBA

### Over the Fence

(continued from page 1)

This plant sale is in support of the Master Gardener program in Kalamazoo County and several of our Association members are instrumental in this fundraiser. If you need annuals or perennials, please show your support for the program and make a purchase. Remember, mom's love flowers and there will be plenty to choose from.

I hope you can join us at the May general meeting as Jeni Payton presents "A Study of 'Cides – Pesticides and Herbicides." Till then, enjoy your gardens and remember to stretch.

### Plant Exchange at May meeting

There will be a plant exchange following the program on May 21. Participation is strictly voluntary. Rules for the Plant Exchange are below.

#### Plant Exchange Rules

- Bring no more than five (5) plants that are neatly labeled and tucked into pots or plastic bags.
- Do not bring invasive plants unless you have carefully labeled them as invasive.
- You may take plants even if you do not bring plants.

### Report from Membership Chair

The 2007 Directory is being prepared for the printer. It will be distributed at the May meeting. It is my intention to put labels on each directory to insure that each paid member receives one.

We have not had any new members since the last meeting. At this time we are at 100 strong. Even though we have lost some members, we are still an energetic group.

If you have any questions you can call me or email me. I will not be at the May meeting—a long overdue vacation is on the calendar.

I'll see some of you at the Garden Walks this summer.

KathyBielecki

E-mail: kab@jlblake.com

Phone: 327.7575

### Meeting Cancellation

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 e-mail address on file. Please check these outlets if in doubt.

Have you turned in your volunteer/ education hours this year? It's easy to do online, but if you would like help just call 269.383.8815.

### Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the May newsletter is August 28.

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

### KCMGA Lapel Pins

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

## Membership Profile by Sandra Gista

Jeni Payton

KCMGA member since 2002

Class of 2002

Certified 2003

Advanced master gardener 2004

KCMGA Historian 2002-2006

When the lilacs bloom this month, Jeni will enjoy one of her most favorite garden scents. Ever since childhood, this energetic volunteer has loved the tastes and smells of the garden. Whether it's spreading black gold compost or trying to fight the unrestrained invasives, Jeni finds satisfaction in all of her volunteer experiences. She especially enjoys bundling trees through the conservation district, and she generously contributes to the KCMGA.

Jeni created the KCMGA "friendship book" and also served as historian. Spending most of her gardening time outside leaves Jeni thinking she could use advice about house plants, although her violets do thrive. On any day, Jeni believes, "If I can just get down on my knees, listen to the birds, and pull weeds everything comes back into perspective." Sound advice for us all.

Editor's note: Due to a malfunction of the digital camera we were unable to have Jeni's photo in this newsletter. Jeni's picture will be taken at the May meeting and will appear in the September issue of the newsletter.

### Kalamazoo Farmers' Market now open

The City of Kalamazoo Farmers' Market is open for the season. Hours are 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. or until the last seller leaves the market. During May and November the market is open Saturdays only. From June through October it is open Tuesdays Thursdays and Saturdays. During August and September the market's Tuesday hours are 7 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The market offers fresh produce, plants and flowers, fresh baked goods, meat and hand made crafts.



MSU Extension—Kalamazoo Master Gardeners  
Present

A huge plant and flower sale

Saturday, May 12  
from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday, May 13  
9 a.m. to gone

FLATS

PERENNIALS

HANGING BASKETS

Come early for the best selection

Cash and checks only

Gift certificates available  
in advance. To order,  
call (269)384-8056;

leave your name and phone number  
and a staff person  
will call you back.

Proceeds from this sale will be used  
to supported the  
Kalamazoo County Master Gardener Program.