
Kalamazoo County MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION NEWS

May 2008

Next Meeting

Day: Monday
Date: May 19
Time: 6 p.m. Brown Bag
7 p.m. Speaker
Linda Whitlock
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](http://web1.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/kalamazoo)

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

Over the Garden Fence

Finally, Spring has arrived!

It seems we went right from winter to summer. As I wrote in my last newsletter, "Oh, Michigan weather, keep on dreaming, spring will happen!" Well, now it looks as if we may be returning to true spring. Cooler days, as well as storms are in the forecast.

As you are aware, the purpose of this organization is to provide a networking forum; provide opportunities for MGs to increase their horticultural knowledge; and enable them to share their horticultural knowledge with the community. At our March meeting we discussed some ideas how to fulfill this purpose. A committee of Julie Cain-Derouin, Arleigh Smyrnios, Alice Asmus, Becky Yaple and myself have met several times and will have some really fun and exciting news to share at the May meeting.

Linda Whitlock, MSU Extension Coordinator, provides many opportunities for Master Gardeners to fulfill both the educational and the volunteer hours for certification. Please check the website and your e-mails for these opportunities. Mark May 9 and 10 on your calendar. The MG Annual Plant sale will take place in the Georgian Room at Nazareth Complex.

Kalamazoo in Bloom has scheduled planting days for Portage and Kalamazoo. Look for details at our next meeting or in your mailbox.

Our May meeting will be filled with a variety of activities. Linda Whitlock will present a program on Container Gardening. Then to add some excitement, we will auction off the containers Linda creates during her demonstration. We will also have a spring plant exchange so remember to bring some plants to share.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our May meeting. See you at 7 p.m. at the Trinity Reformed Church. Arrive early and share a brown bag with friends.

Patti Pittman
President

KCMGA Board

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whitlo13@msu.edu

Association News

2008 Calendar of Events

General Membership Meetings

Summer Garden Walks TBA

September 15
Landscape Design

Speaker: Mike
Onderlinde

6 p.m. Potluck
7 p.m. Speaker and
Meeting, Plant Exchange

October 20

Hydrangeas

Speaker: Carol Bale

6 p.m. Brown Bag
7 p.m. Speaker and
Meeting

November 17

Houseplants

Speaker: TBA

6 p.m. Brown Bag
7 p.m. Speaker and
Meeting

Thank you, thank you

TO Paula Fisher, Lynda McKinnon, Becky Yapple, Mary Moore, Shawn Willis and Dave Sytsma for bringing treats to the May meeting

TO Jeni Payton, Suzanna King and Dave Sytsma for planning the flower sale.

Gardening in containers, a great way to accent small spaces

In May our speaker Linda Whitlock will present a program on container gardening. Linda will show us lots of fresh ideas for winning combinations—and best of we will have a chance to buy the containers she creates that evening.

Linda, Coordinator of Consumer Horticulture and the Master Gardener Program for Kalamazoo County, completed the Master Gardener class in Kalamazoo in 1999 and became an Advanced Master Gardener in 2002. In 2006 she graduated from MSU with an Associate of Science Degree in Horticulture and a Certification in Landscape and Turfgrass Management in the Institute of Agricultural Technology.

Membership Report

The new membership directory will be completed and ready for distribution at the May 19 General Meeting. If you are not able to attend the meeting and want a Directory, please contact me and I will get one to you.

Please join me in welcoming the following new members to the KCMGA:

Theresa Debelak
5062 East S Avenue
Vicksburg, MI 49097
269-327-5629
tdebelak@gmail.com

Don Kingery
2985 Hunters Meadow
Kalamazoo, MI 49048
269-342-2452
kingery@chartermi.net

Dave Sytsma
393 Fineview Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49004
269-343-7676
Mudbat69@charter.net

I will not be at the May meeting...so I wish you all happy summer gardening.

Kathy Bielecki
Membership Chair
269-372-8007 (W)
269-327-7575 (H)
kab@jlblake.com

KCMGA Lapel Pins

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

First Garden Walk features rose pruning demo

The first Garden Walk for 2008 was Saturday, April 19. The walk included a rose pruning demonstration by Mike Loftus at his home garden and hands-on pruning experience for those who brought the necessary equipment.

Following the pruning demonstration, the group visited Curtis Miller's gardens at 3814 Briar Patch in Galesburg.

Watch your e-mail for news about future garden walks.

Plant Exchange at May Meeting

There will be a plant exchange following the program on May 19. 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.

Coordinator's Comments

With the arrival of spring the Master Gardener Volunteer program is gearing up for another busy year. The current Master Gardener class will have its final meeting on May 1. Please help me welcome them into our program as you encounter them at KCMGA or volunteering.

Vegetable Gardening 101 was a huge success. I am extremely grateful for the dedication of the instructors: J.C. Schneider, Phyllis Thayer, Bob Poel, and Brenda Kolkman. They created the curriculum and have been present at each of the six class sessions. We closed the class at 50 participants and already have 38 people on the list for next year. Clearly, there is an increasing interest in vegetable gardening, eating locally and food safety.

I'm looking forward to making the presentation on "Container Gardening" to KCMGA on May 19. Come prepared to bid on one or more containers for your yard; we will be auctioning the containers at the meeting. It will be an exciting and busy

meeting and I hope you will be able to join us.

It's not too late to volunteer at the second annual Master Gardener Plant Sale on May 9 and 10. Volunteers are especially needed on Saturday, May 10. Contact Dave Sytsma at 343-7676 or at mudbat69@charter.net to volunteer. This was the largest fundraiser supporting our local Master Gardener program in 2007; we expect the sale to be even larger this year.

If you are unable to volunteer, please stop by and shop. The sale will be held in the Walnut Room at our office building (3299 Gull Road) from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. both days.

Please help advertise this sale to family, friends, and co-workers. If you would like flyers to hand out, please contact me. Special thanks to Jeni Payton, Suzanna King and Dave Sytsma for their excellent planning efforts.

Linda Whitlock
Whitlo13@msu.edu
383-8815

Second Annual Indoor Plant & Flower Sale



9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday and Saturday
May 10 & 12

Inside the Walnut Room
Nazareth Complex—HCS Building
3025 Gull Road, Kalamazoo



Flats, Perennials, Annuals
Hanging Baskets
Ensata Iris & Daylilies
Michigan Natives

Cash and checks accepted
Sorry no credit cards

A fundraiser for the
Kalamazoo County
Master Gardener Volunteers

The KCMGV program is part of MSUE, Kalamazoo County. Michigan State University is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer. MSU Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, nation origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, or family or veteran status.

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.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the September newsletter is **Wednesday, August 27**. Please e-mail information to aqpauls@umich.edu or send to Ann Paulson
4004 Old Field Trail
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-3339

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.
