

# MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION NEWS

November 2004

## From the Petal Prez

Greetings everyone! I hope you have enjoyed this long and colorful fall as much as I have. The leaves held on at our place until October 26 and by the wind storm on the 30th, they were all down! Wham! We spent the weekend blowing and shredding . . . it's amazing how much progress you can make outside when you don't have power inside. The garden beds are almost ready for winter, too. How about you?

As scheduled, the Annual Meeting is on November 15th. The Board will review the activities and actions taken by the Board and officers over the past year and answer any questions you may have, as well as talk about some issues we need to work on over the coming months. The website and newsletter are two items we need to assess and make more useful to our members. Please give your feedback through the survey in this newsletter—and drop them at the info table at the meeting to be included in a special drawing!

Also, on the 15th, we will elect and install the slate of officers of the 2005 Board. Many thanks to Renee Healy for moving to the presidency, and Patti Pittman, membership, and Laura Jaeger, newsletter editor, for remaining on the Board in their current positions. We will welcome Mike Higdon as vp/programs, Kathy Bielecki as secretary, and Kathy Hutchins as treasurer. Please be sure to attend and support their commitment to the leadership of our association over the coming year.

Again, our thanks to Alice Asmus, Nabil Ghazal, and Luba Schram for serving as the Nominating Committee that secured our new Board members. Great job!

Last, but not least, since this is my last Petal Prez letter, I would like to personally thank all of you for the honor and privilege of serving as president of our fine association over the past two years. We have continued to grow in numbers and enthusiasm; and clarify how we want to carry out our mission, support each other, and have fun. I've enjoyed it all and hope you have, too.

Are there ways to make KCMGA even better? Absolutely. What will it take? Your ideas and feedback are essential to the Board and membership, as is your willingness to work on a committee or other project. A little effort and input by lots of people lighten the load and produce better outcomes. I look forward to good times together.

**Bobbe A. Luce**

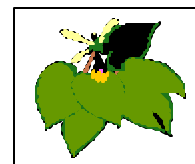
President, KCMGA

**November Program**  
**Mini Hostas: No Dwarfs in Today's**  
**Containers & Garden Beds**  
**Presented by**  
**Gary & Lois Neidert**

This presentation will examine the increasing popularity of miniature and dwarf hostas. There has been an explosion of new "minis" and gardeners are finding creative ways to use them. Gary and Lois will focus on popular and unique hostas and explore their uses in containers and in the garden.

Gary and Lois complement each other well in the garden because he likes to work on developing and tending the perennial gardens while she enjoys the creative planting of containers and annuals. Their major discord is hosta flowers. As soon as the scapes emerge, Lois is out there with her shears while Gary tries to save his favorites.

Since their one acre lot is heavily wooded, Lois and Gary have become very familiar with shade-tolerant plants. They are advanced Master Gardeners and are officers for the Southwestern Michigan Hosta Society. Gary is also on the board of the Michigan Hosta Society.



**2004 MGA Board**

**President**  
Bobbe A. Luce  
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**Vice President/Programs**  
Phyllis Thayer  
Ph: 344-6576  
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**Treasurer**  
Suzanna King  
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**Secretary**  
Renee Healy  
Ph: 353-7564  
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**Membership**  
Patti Pittman  
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**Newsletter**  
Laura Jaeger  
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Emelee Rajzer  
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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



I would like to say a special Thank You to all the Board members I have served with over the past two years. Individually and collectively, they have made my role as president very easy and rewarding. The high levels of responsibility and contribution have helped KCMGA move forward for all of us. We have had lively discussions and created positive synergy far beyond my expectations. So, my personal and organizational thanks go to: Renee Healy, Laura Jaeger, Suzanna King, Lynda McKinnon, Patti Pittman, Phyllis Thayer, and our advisor, Emelee Rajzer. And, thanks to Kathy Barney, who produced our newsletters in 2003, even though she couldn't come to meetings.

In addition, special thanks to: Karen Koziol and all of you who contributed refreshments--making our hospitality time warm and enjoyable; Rosalie Phillip, Connie Sargent and all who helped with the Garden Walks; the Program committee for quality, informative speakers; Bob and Betty Nicol and Jim and Linda Clarey for hosting us at their church; Alice Asmus, Nabil Ghazal, and Luba Schram for serving as the Nominating Committee; and **everyone** who has brought things, ideas, knowledge, resources, and their friendly selves to our meetings.

Thanks for making our association a dynamic, fun, informative gathering of gardeners.

**Bobbe Luce**  
President, KCMGA

**November Treats**

THANKS to Sheila Johnson, Rose Quoss and PK Lytle for agreeing to bring refreshments for the November meeting. Thanks to Becky Yaple, Luba Schram and Barb LeMense for the tasty October refreshments. Please sign-up for the months ahead. The more the better! Thanks!



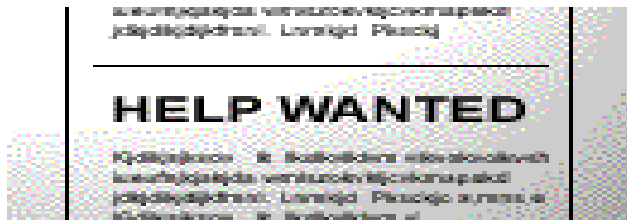
**January Meeting**

**Monday, January 17, 2005**

6:30 p.m. New Member Orientation/ Brown Bag  
7:00 p.m. " Heirloom Plants from Seed to Harvest"  
by Jackie Smith

**News Deadline**

The deadline for the January newsletter is Friday, January 7<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).



"Member Profiler Reporter" – This individual enjoys writing and would be able to introduce MGA members in the newsletter. Please contact any board member or Laura Jaeger at [laurajaeger@yahoo.com](mailto:laurajaeger@yahoo.com) or 353-6660 for additional information. Thank you!

**Newsletter Survey**

*Please complete the following survey and turn it in at Monday's meeting – completed surveys will qualify for an extra drawing gift.*

1. How do you receive your newsletter?

- a. Mailed to you
- b. Look it up on the website

2. How would you prefer to receive your newsletter?

- a. Mailed to you
- b. Look it up on the website

3. Do you read the newsletter?

- a. Yes
- b. No

4. If so, what areas?

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5. If not, what would you do differently?

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6. What additional information would you like to include in the newsletter?

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7. Does the newsletter add value to your membership?

a. Yes –please expand

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b. No –please expand

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**November Meeting**

Day: Monday

Date: **November 15, 2004**

Time: 6:30 p.m. Brown Bag  
7 p.m. Meeting

Place: Trinity Reformed Church  
326 Cork Street  
Kalamazoo

Topic: *"Mini Hostas: No Dwarfs In Today's Containers  
and Garden Beds"*  
*Presented by Gary & Lois Neidert*

**Annual Business Meeting**

And: Please wear your name badge!

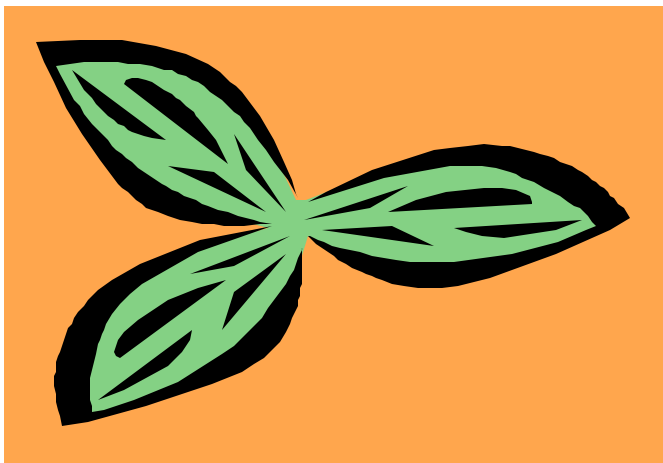
**Cancellations**

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**



**November 15, 2004**  
**Annual Business Meeting &**  
**"Mini Hostas: No Dwarfs in Today's**  
**Containers & Garden Beds"**  
**by Gary & Lois Neidert**