



Kent County Master Gardeners

“Green Pages”

June, 2003

Summer Activities—Trips, etc.

We are planning 3—count’em—three bus trips this summer. We would love to have you on all three trips if that works for you.

As usual, space is limited so reservations would be greatly appreciated.

Trip #3—Ontario and Niagara Frontier
September 9—11 (2 overnights)

International Master Gardener Conference—Cincinnati—June 19- 21

MSU Master Gardener Conference—
June 23—25

If you are planning to attend, please let the office know—336-3283. We might be able to help arrange for car pools.

June 12—Lab Walk with Rebecca!

August 9-10—MSU Jr. Master Gardener
“Garden Tour”

September 23—MSU Master Gardener
Plant Auction—at our new facility

Gardening with Perennials
Six successive Monday evenings beginning September 15, and concluding on October 20. Event to be held at the Eberhard Center.

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Trip #1—Hidden Lakes Gardens, Tipton Michigan

Cost for the trip will be \$130, which includes transportation, overnight accommodations at Holiday Inn Express in Belleville, 2 lunches, and admission to the Gardens. In addition to Hidden Lakes, we will visit Ralph Heiden’s home garden and, on Thursday, Nancy Lindley’s “Great Lakes Roses”, and “Arrowhead Alpines” on the way home. If you want to attend, please fill out the enclosed form or duplicate and send it in. We are planning on 43 reservations, so let us know ASAP if you are coming. Spouses and friends are welcome.

Trip #2—Chicago Botanic Gardens
August 23—(1 day trip which qualifies for 6 Advanced Educational hours) - details in July newsletter

New Digs—We’re Here! We’re Here!

We are here at our new offices and are they wonderful. Some of the veterans—i.e. Debbie and Becky are probably more overjoyed than the rest of us because they have waited so long for more space and more attractive surroundings. That we have! We are planning an official open house later in the summer; however, if you’re really curious, you are welcome to come and visit—and maybe even help on the “hotline!”

Hotline News— June, 2003

COME AND SEE OUR NEW HOTLINE DIGS!

Many thanks to our great Diagnostics Team for helping us get our beautiful new Hotline office organized! We now have three computers and three phones, plenty of light and seating — plus lots of calls and specimens coming in! Winter injury on white pines, anthracnose, and termites are the “Big Three” this month.

Why not stop by and check us out while you put in a few hours solving lawn and garden questions? Call me to schedule your hotline hours. Thanks! Sharon (336-7734)

Volunteer Opportunities

#1

We need your help!

If you are interested in community development and have a green thumb (that's us!), the **South West Area Neighborhood (SWAN)** is looking for volunteers to help in the development of a new neighborhood garden. This project would involve working with the Servants Community Reformed Church in the planning, creation and resident education of the garden. The garden will replace an abandoned lot on the corner of West Fulton and Straight Street across from the El Do Bar, in the SWAN neighborhood. Anyone interested, please call Gordon here at the office.

#2

City Care, a non-profit organization in the Wealthy Street area is asking for some MSU MG expertise in planning and developing a garden at 917 Wealthy S.E. Contact person is Jen Curtis at 475-5879. She would like someone to work with the boys (Tues. 9-12) or the girls (Mon., or Wed. 9-12). This is a great opportunity to encourage gardening among our inner-city youth and perhaps make a difference in their lives.

#3

Heartland Health Care Center—Crestview is looking for volunteers to assist us in a landscaping adventure. They are redesigning their courtyard garden and shrub area with a variety of plants. They are in need of volunteers for some design and implementation. Please call Mark Peterson at 531-0200.

Re-Certification Hours

Questions still abound in regard to the re-certification hours. Currently, that means for 2003-04, we require 10 hours of volunteer service and 3 hours of educational credit to re-certify each year. If you are not able to do that, you will become an inactive MSU Master Gardener. You will continue to receive the “Green Pages”, and in fact can make up those hours in future

years. Beginning in April of 2004, we will require 15 hours of volunteer service and 5 hours of educational credit to re-certify.

This still puts us behind several states in our requirements. For example, Wisconsin requires 24 Vol. Hours and 10 Edu. Hours, Maryland is 20 and 10, New York is 30 and 10, and Illinois is 30 and 0.

The point is not to make it harder for our MSU Master Gardeners to continue certifying, although the stiffer requirements might be a stretch for some, we do want to continue to emphasize the volunteer aspect of the program and the continuing effort to increase our knowledge and expertise.

Many Thanks

Marlene Seida, Volunteer Co-ordinator for Frederik Meijer Gardens wrote me to thank our MSU Master Gardeners for their contribution at the Annual “Giant Plant Sale.”

The sale was a huge success and she is most grateful for the

947 hours of volunteer work contributed by our group. I will say that our current 2003 class were there in “droves”, in addition to those classy veterans who show up every year. Thanks folks for your willingness to support this monumental effort for the “Gardens.”

It shows that we are serious about our commitment to horticultural education. Marlene remarked that our MG's were present with the people answering questions and giving advice.

WAY TO GO FOLKS!

Banquet Echoes



For those of you who were not able to attend our Annual MSU Master Gardener Banquet, we missed you.

We had a wonderful time and turnout was great—over 150 MSU MG's and their significant others.

The banquet program included some year-end figures that I thought most of you would be interested in knowing, so I include them here.

Several of your colleagues received special recognition as follows.

MSU Master Gardener of the Year

Cheryl Tolley

MSU Emeritus Awards

Marge Graham

Reggie Smith

MSU Master Gardener Hotline Rookie of the Year

Sue Saladino

Susan Pozniak

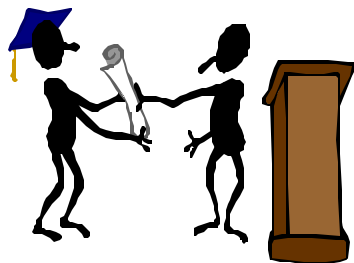
MSU Master Gardener Rookie of the Year

Pete and Amy Kruer

John Choals

MSU Master Gardener "MVP" Team Award

Debbie Eggeman



In addition, 60 received their Basic Certification certificates, and 25 received their Advanced Certification plaques.

The following received special pins recognizing advanced hours of contribution.

250 hours—Barbara Ayers, Jo Borrink, Kathy Brehm, Lynda Coulston, Mary Crawford, Keith Edwards, Sharon Globig, Jean Gnagi, Bill Heys, Nancy Hoovler, Jacki Kropf, Tamara Lundeen, Ray Prins, Stanley Roth, June Smith, Judy Titta, and Sue Van Maastricht.

500 hours—Marie Ambs, Teresa Buist, Deborah Burri, Sandra Foehl, Marilyn Goodson, Lori Hankinson, Frances Miller and Dolores Stouwie.

1000 hours—Margaret Laskowski, Chuck Rasmussen, Carol Savage, and Cheryl Tolley.

3000 hours—Betty Lawther

In the MSU Master Gardener year April 1, 2002—March 31, 2003, MSU MGs contributed over 15,730 hours of volunteer service. This equates to over \$252,466 in service value to our community.

MGs took over 5,200 hours of educational classes.

Contributions to local organizations:

Frederik Meijer Gardens	6,200 hours
Hotline	1,339 hours
Community Service	1,280 hours
MSU Extension Service	866 hours
Community Gardening	143 hours
Habitat for Humanity	124 hours
Gardening Therapy	108 hours
Various other activities	1,753 hours

Educational Classes included:

Frederik Meijer Gardens Classes	451 hours
All Kent/MSU sponsored Classes	2,753 hours
Others	760 hours

On the End of Classes

by Karen Ann Urbanowski, Class of 2003

'Twas Gordon Griffin who led the charge
as set forth by the Extension at large.
'Twas he who organized and set up,
and he who surprised us with his "get-up."
And 'twas he who got things done
while making it all lots of fun.
(Though I must admit, I'm such a twit:
I missed last week's pun!)*

*Ask hm about his hat for the "Woody Ornamen-
tals" class.

"Twere the volunteers who videotaped
and who made classes run smoothly;
Who answered questions and graded quizzes,
But who never, ever spoke rudely.
They sat in the back or front each week
To help with a myriad of things.
And though seldom were they "up front" to
speak,
They were our nuts and bolts and springs.

"Twas the varied group of guest speakers/
educators,
Holding knowledge and talent of great latitude,
Who freely gave of their time and expertise
Without impatience, rudeness, or "Attitude."

To all the above, I dedicate this,
My feeble attempt at a poem.
Thank you for your educating me
About trees, plants, meristems, and phloem!

P.S. Soon I'll go forth into the gardening world.
With the knowledge and skills you've all
shared.
But I cringe at words like "hot line", and
"diagnostics,"
"Cause they leave me feeling so scared!

[Thanks Karen Ann, for your kind words. It is a
joy to bring such creative people into the MG
world. Gordon]

Plant a Row for the Hungry

I do realize that many of our MSU Master Gardeners are of the "flora" type, but there are several of you who do "olericulture." Remember, that's the veggie persons.

When you plan your garden this year...please join the thousands of gardeners who *Plant a Row for the Hungry*. One in 10 Americans faces hunger daily or often. Last year, 21,000,000 people asked the Second Harvest food pantries and soup kitchens for food. Some were turned away because there wasn't food enough to serve them.

This year help our community feed its hungry. All you have to do is

plant a little extra in your garden... and stay tuned to find out where to deliver the "goods." I am at this time working to find an easy way for you to contribute your produce at a central location.

I would like to know if this is something you can and would do for our community and we will then keep track of the produce and submit our offerings to the national headquarters. Of course, all of the hours you spend planting, hoeing, and picking your crop count as community volunteer hours and will be gratefully recorded.

Please let me know right away if this is something you intend to do and I will keep you informed about the drop-off process.

[We have brochures (over 100) in the office and **Plant a Row markers** that you can use to label your intended crops. Thanks so much for your support of this worthwhile project.]



Will your favorite plant be “white listed?”

A recent article in “The American Gardener” detailed the controversy surrounding a proposed “white” list that would ban the importation, sale, and even possession of plants listed. The reason, of course, is to prevent the introduction of non-native and potentially invasive species.

Public comment is still being sought through Alan V. Taker, manager of the National Noxious Weed Program for the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Currently the USDA has implemented a National Plant Board to explore

the issue. However, there are no representatives from the green industry, plant societies, or gardeners involved.

A draft plan has suggested that all plants—those currently grown or those yet to be introduced— could not be legally grown or sold until they were certified as non-invasive. The question is, who will make that decision? “It is very scary to think that someone who can’t tell a petunia from a park bench can determine what is and is not to be destroyed and where”, wrote AHS member Marge Talt on the AHS Gardening Community Listserv. It is certain that this will have an

effect on the American Nursery and Landscape Association and all of us who do gardening.

Apparently you can make your concerns known by contacting the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



Jessica’s Butterfly Garden by Jack Pruitt

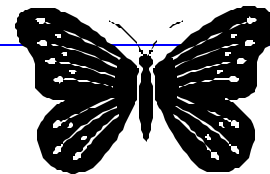
On June 7 Jack Pruitt and others will be able to give MSU Master Gardeners in training up to three hours of gardening from 9:00 a.m.—12 noon at Jessica’s Butterfly Garden. Those interested can show up with their gardening tools. If anyone has questions, call Jack at 363-6250.

Jessica’s Garden is located in Highland Park, just north of the I-196 expressway. Take Michigan to Eastern Ave., turn north, at the first street past the freeway, turn left (Frontage Ave.). This street dead-ends into the park. The garden is located behind the swimming pool. Water, restrooms, and picnic tables will be available.

You will be planting butterfly hose and nectar plants. Area garden clubs, individuals, the City of Grand Rapids, and the Grand Rapids City Employees Union all donated to this project.

Jessica’s Garden is a cooperative effort of the Highland Park Neighborhood Association and the Grand Rapids City Parks and Recreation Department.

Come join us on June 7!



...Class Notes

Just a brief note to let you know that the “**Backyard Habitat Class**” scheduled for June has been **postponed**. You will receive notification later about the exact time.

Becky’s “Lab Walk” is scheduled for Thursday, June 12. Please be at the Physical Education Facility parking lot at Calvin College by 9:15 a.m. The walk is scheduled for 9:30—11:30 and will have a diagnostic theme. No reservations are necessary and there is no cost; however, we would like a “head count”, so if you plan to go, please give us a call (Gordon—336-3283).

So..... "What are you doin'?"

Gordon wants to know! and for that matter so do the rest of us!!

I believe it was in the April newsletter that I printed out goo-gobs of volunteer opportunities. Some of you have reported to me just what you're doing, however, sitting here at my desk in my cubicle, I have no idea what's going on!

During the summer, I will probably be in the office Mon., Wed., and Fri. mornings, so give me a call and let me know what you are doing and how you are enjoying—or not— your volunteer experience. I am especially interested in those who are involved in community gardening projects. We had at least 40 people signed up for those community gardening opportunities and we would love to know how they are going.

There were several opportunities that involved other community services such as : Voigt House, Ronald McDonald House, Cannon Township Center, Family Life Center, Kent Community Campus, Wittenbach Center, etc.. It would be very helpful to know who is involved in those projects.

I really have no idea how extensively we are involved in the community unless we hear from you. If you would be as specific as possible when turning in your report forms, it would help us keep track.

Any feedback from those agencies or community groups would also be great!

Pictures!, speak a thousand words. If you have pictures, would you be so kind as to pay the extra \$5 to get them on a CD, then we can easily include them in newsletters and other "productions", i.e. conferences. [Digital images also work well.] Bring them in or e-mail them to: finnerar@msue.msu.edu

We greatly appreciate news from ANY MSU MG. There is space in our newsletter and we really want it to reflect your work.

Urban Gardening

Beginning in March, a group of folks living in the Fuller/Wealthy area met every Thursday from 4-6 p.m. to learn about gardening. We used the MSU Master Gardening manual as a guideline, teaching plant science, soil science, vegetable gardening, pruning, and container gardening. During that time, we were also planning a vegetable and flower garden behind the "Learning Center". If you haven't seen the center, it is located West of the Huntington Bank Building and the Bayard Gallery. We had a very enthusiastic and delightful group of about 5 gardeners. These are people who actually live in the area, one growing a vegetable garden almost exclusively for "Heartside Café."

If you get a chance drive by our "Neighborhood Garden Club" garden and see how we are progressing. This is our initial effort to extend our MSU Master Gardener program into a more diverse community and present it in such a way that it is helpful and useful to the people living there.

One of our own—Susan Aalsburg—has given much time, organizational effort, in addition to pots, soil, and tools to this effort. This is her heart and she has done a magnificent job at getting this truly worthwhile project "off the ground", well into the ground anyway. Stay tuned as we want to continue this effort throughout the summer and next year as well.



Jr. MSU Master Gardener “Stuck on Gardening” Tour from Judy Sink, MSU Jr. MG Coordinator

Summer is almost here, and the spring flowers are done blooming. That means there are only 10 weeks until our first Annual “Stuck on Gardening” garden tour, which will take place on Saturday, August 9, and Sunday, August 10! The groundwork has been laid; garden tour sites have been confirmed; and the tickets and brochures are in the design process. This is an exciting time, but there is still much work to be done. We need the help of all Master Gardeners to make this tour a success. How may you help? I thought you would never ask! Here are some suggested ways in which *you* can help make our tour the “talk of the town.”

- ◆ Sell tickets to your relatives, friends, and neighbors. If each MSU MG sold only 5 tickets, just think how many people we would reach!
- ◆ Put up posters advertising the tour at stores, libraries, and other locations so the public can become aware of this event.
- ◆ Help a host MSU MG prepare for the tour. This will be “light” work such as weeding, deadheading, etc. to be done the week of the tour.
- ◆ Volunteer to staff a garden site to assist by: punching (or selling) tickets, answer questions tour participants may have, help with children’s activities (2 specific sites), direct people to available parking, and give customers a tour of the site garden.

- ◆ Help by driving to garden sites and placing signs at strategic points on the route as well as at the home. We plan to have signs similar to the Parade of Homes signs that will be easily inserted into the ground and removed.

NOTE: All hours worked, in whatever capacity, will count as MSU-sponsored volunteer hours to maintain (or earn) your MSU MG Basic, Advanced, or Re-certification status.

By now, I hope you have caught the vision of this project and are excited about what you can do to make it successful. Please decide from the list above what you would be able to do and give Judy a call at **336-2544**. She is excited about the opportunity of working with you to make the public aware of the MSU Jr. Master Gardener Program and just how talented our MSU Master Gardeners are! And, of course, she will be happy to answer any questions you may have! Make plans now to help and give her a call!! She will be waiting to hear from you.



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Annual Kent/MSU Extension Plant Auction & Open House Sept. 23			
MSU Master Gardener Lab Walk with Becky	June 12	Jr. MG Garden Tour	Aug. 9-10
International Master Gardener Conference	June 18-21	Chicago Botanic Garden	Aug. 23
MSU Master Gardener Conference	June 23-25	Niagara & Royal Botanic	
Hidden Lakes Trip	July 9-10	Gardens Trip	Sept. 9-11

Future Dates:

<p>Kent County Extension Website: www.msue.msu.edu/kent Choose Home, Yard, & Garden under Agriculture. Master Gardener Website: www.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener (Both websites will contain our monthly newsletters.)</p>	<p>Gordon Griffin Kent/MSU Master Gardener Coordinator (616) 336-3283 griffing@msue.msu.edu</p>
	<p>Sharon Globig Kent/MSU Lawn & Garden Hotline Coordinator (616) 336-7734 globigs@msue.msu.edu</p>
<p>HOTLINE: 616-336-3881</p> <p>[If you want to belong to our growing number of MGs receiving the newsletter via e-mail, just contact Gordon.]</p>	

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