



Kent County Master Gardeners

“Green Pages”

July/August, 2003

Greetings MSU Master Gardeners:

This is a combined, 2 month newsletter. We, well little ole me, got behind last month mostly due to the transfer of computer data during our move. Sounds like a good excuse anyway.

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We are so sorry we had to cancel the Hidden Lakes trip. We simply did not have enough people signed up to fill the bus. Perhaps we’ll try it again another year; however, there are still two trips remaining, so hopefully, we’ll see you on one of those. More information is inside!

Soon you will be able to report your volunteer and educational hours over the web! Mary McLlellan has informed us that by January our system will be able to receive your reports. The MSU MG Data Base is being reorganized, updated, and made more user friendly (I hope), which will enable us to truly enter the cyber age. Two wonderful volunteers, Cindy Meyer and Lori McLane have been helping with this monumental task. Lori is a transfer from Oakland County and boy are we glad to have her. Both of these ladies have wonderful computer skills for which I’m extremely grateful.

We are really enjoying our new facilities. If you haven’t stopped by, please do so. The front of the building has been landscaped and we will be filling in with annuals soon. Our most popular item is the new “hot tub.” You’ll just have to visit to truly understand our excitement. Our official “Open House” will be Tuesday, September 23rd, which is also the date for our annual Plant Auction.

I’m still looking for articles, or even short paragraphs telling us what you are doing this summer. I’ve had a few verbal reports from some of you; however, it would be great for the rest of us to know the diverse volunteer opportunities you are taking advantage of. So... keep us informed!

Good Gardening!
Gordon



Hotline News—July/August, 2003

Sharon Globig—Kent/MSU Extension Lawn & Garden Hotline Coordinator

Working in our beautiful, new, fully-equipped Hotline Lab has been a welcome change for our volunteers. If you haven't had a chance to stop by and look over our new facility, please plan to do so! We are very proud of and enjoy working in such a light, bright, positive environment.

Our Hotline Volunteers have been kept busy with callers and walk-ins. June found us buried in maple leaves with fungal spots! Anthracnose was especially rampant due to our cool, wet spring. I think the heat has taken over now, and we'll soon be hearing complaints about Japanese beetles!

Special Notes to Class of 2003 Trainees

Several of you have not yet started your ten required Hotline hours. You should plan to knock off those hours before September, as the number of calls on specimens will slow down once the weather

cools and fall arrives. Please do not wait until next February to try and get in ten hotline hours! We won't have much to keep you busy then. Do it now! Call me at 336-7734 and get those hours scheduled!

Also...some of you have been forgetting to sign in on your red cards. They are on the counter in the black "recipe" box. Once your ten required hours are completed, your card will be removed. You should then sign in on the tablet like all other MG's. Thanks!

[A huge thank-you goes out to Nancy Hoover, Joe Nelson, Barbara Jenness, CJ Brander, and Sarabeth Carr for their dedication to the Hotline Diagnostics Team. We could never assist the large number of people we do without their help and willingness to share their expertise and knowledge.]

P.S. Be sure to call me at 336-7734 (rather than Gordon) for any questions or scheduling of Hotline hours.

Chicago Botanic Gardens Trip



We are pleased to offer you an EXCITING OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDENS ON AUGUST 23! See the insert in this newsletter and get your registration in early!

Even if you were at the CBC last year, there are many new sights in store for you this year. For starters, we're offering free admission to the Jr. Railroad this year. It includes a dozen miniature trains and 1,700 feet of track crisscrossed through with tunnels, over bridges, under waterfalls, and around mountains. You'll see over 6,000 plants creating the illusion of tiny landscapes. Look for more than 50 houses, bridge, etc., all made from natural materials—leaves, bark, moss. There is even a miniature replica of Old Faithful, the Golden Gate Bridge, and Chicago's John Hancock Building! This is a not-to-be-missed display!

In addition, the incredible Chapungu exhibit is at CBC this summer! The 90 sculptures on display at CBC and Garfield Park Conservatory are in Chicago for the first time ever. Hewn from the great stone monoliths of Zimbabwe, the sculptures speak of family, love, nature and spirit. Fifty of the sculptures are at CBC.

There's more! The Bromeliad Society of Greater Chicago's Plant Show will be going on in the Education Center. The Bonsai Garden has been expanded. You won't want to miss the Rose Garden, Japanese Garden, English Walled Garden, Evening Island, or the Demonstration Gardens. Oh, I could go on and on! This is a fabulous opportunity. Please join us! You'll be glad you did. I promise!

Sharon
336-7734

Project at Humane Society

by Christine Doele-Musser—Class of 2003



Sharron Podleski is a woman who gets things done. After three sessions of the Master Gardening Class—halfway through Integrated Pest Management to be specific—she decided to landscape the grounds of the Humane Society of Kent County as her volunteer project. Landscape the grounds? Yep! It was a tall order, but Sharron, who, over 34 years ago, personally introduced the environmental movement to Kenowa Hills High School by planting trees on the grounds and teaching unit after unit in her sociology classes on man's relationship with nature, figured that with help from her friend and fellow retired teacher, Christine, she could do what most professionals would consider a \$300,000 job. Never mind that the Humane Society had only a \$200 budget for landscaping and that was specified for the flag plaza only. Surely, Sharron and Christine could convince Gordon to OK the project and then convince other class members, friends, family, and local horticulture businesses to donate plants, trees, at least one truckload of black dirt, composted cow manure, peat moss, mulch, money, and—most important—time to make such a project successful. Sharron was absolutely right!

Much to the delight of Tine Dee, Development and Marketing Director of the Humane Society, Sharron's landscaping project is well underway. After Sharron and Christine planned the landscaping—a sunny garden, a shady garden, a tree screen, a wildflower garden, a flag plaza, a dog walk, and an enhanced path around the pond—and determined what plants, trees, grasses, and accents would be needed to complete their plans, more than ten class members volunteered to donate plants and work on the gardens.

Sharron's husband, Len—another retired Kenowa Hills teacher—signed on to do the rototilling, and Mona Irvine—a Master Gardener herself—agreed to serve as consultant. Actually, she ended up doing a lot of the hands-on work, as well as donating fencing and ordering trees from the State of Michigan Soil Conservation District.

Teri Thompson offered her advice as a designer, and Carrie Roney arranged for the plants left over after inventory following the Meijer Gardens plant sale to be donated to the project. Sharron's friends from the PAWS Obedience Dog Club volunteered to transport the two trailer loads of plants from the Gardens to the Humane Society. An anonymous donor agreed to pay for the unscreened top soil needed, and the Caledonia Farmers' elevator—after receiving a request from Sharron's sister Barb Olson—donated all the composted cow manure and peat moss needed. Randy Smith of Aquarius Lawn Sprinkling donated his time to install underground sprinkling at cost, and Sharron's dentist, Dr. Vitor Hugo Mastaglio, as well as the Grand Rapids Kennel Club, donated funds to purchase benches to be placed on the path around the pond. Rachel Harkavi and Jennifer Doornbos showed up one Saturday morning to help plant, and Sandi DeHaan, a regular Humane Society volunteer, has volunteered to do garden maintenance on Fridays.

Yeah, there's still much work to be done, but the gardens are growing, the trees are establishing themselves, and the grounds of the Humane Society of Kent County are a great deal lovelier than they used to be. Deidre Toller-Novak, Director of the Humane Society, recently presented Sharron and Christine with thank you gifts and warm regards on behalf of the employees of the Humane Society and the people of Kent County, citing their "backbreaking" work to beautify the grounds of the Humane Society. However, Sharron and Christine are not finished. The MSU Master Gardener project at the Humane Society will continue to develop, even as Sharron envisioned on that cold, snowy February night not so long ago. Now she is a MSU Master Gardener who gets things done!

{This is the kind of creative enthusiasm that encourages us all. Keep in mind folks, that these ladies have only just begun! Thanks so much for sharing this project with us.}



Volunteer Opportunity

Carol Greenberg is Director of Worth Residential Services, a program of the Continuing Care Group, which is part of Spectrum Health.

A new foster care home is expected to break ground in August. The home is expected to be completed and ready for occupancy by January or February of 2004. It will be a 6 bed, licensed group home for adults with traumatic brain injury. Worth Residential Services is a non-profit program and part of Spectrum Health Continuing Care Group. They operate five homes at present, all six beds, and this will add to their program in two ways: it will allow them to serve six more individuals and will also add a second Day Activity space and office space on the lower level of the structure. The home, when completed, will have approximately 10,000 square feet. It will be located between two of their existing homes on Kendall SE, which is the street immediately north of the campus at 4118 Kalamazoo SE. Also located on the campus are the other homes as well

as the nursing home and rehabilitation facility, Spectrum Health Continuing Care Center.

There is already a garden developed by a former MSU Master Gardener at their Homewards Central home. She says it is lovely, and feels it is a WRS's "jewel" on campus. That garden was completed approximately 6 years ago.

She is interested in help in the developing, designing, planting and maintenance of the gardens which will surround the home. She would be interested in talking to anyone interested in getting in on the "ground floor" of this new development. It will be a great opportunity for our new class—Class of 2004, but it would be wonderful to have some of our "seasoned" veterans to help direct the project.

Please call Gordon at 336-3283 if you are interested.

Water Quality Class



Katie Brandt, a volunteer with the West Michigan Environment Action Council (WMEAC) will be presenting a "Water Quality" class on Tuesday, July 29 here at the Extension. The class begins at 6:30 p.m.

This will be a great opportunity to earn 2 educational credit hours and learn a great deal about Michigan's groundwater stewardship program. She will also be talking about the "lawn assist" and "lake assist" issues.

If you are interested in coming, please RSVP to Gordon (336-3283).

Lunch & Learn

Our R&R committee (Rest and Relaxation, Retention and whatever else committee) has arranged a "Lunch & Learn" potluck for Friday, September 5 from 11:00 a.m.—to 1:00 p.m. in our own offices. We plan a potluck and a time to share a favorite book, garden tip, or favorite tool.

This is purely a social time, with no big plans for a speaker or no particular agenda; just a time to get together and have lunch. Please RSVP if you can come.

I realize this is plenty of notice; however, since this is a July/August newsletter, we thought you would like to plan ahead.

See ya thar!



Plant Auction/Open House

We are planning our annual “Plant Auction” for Tuesday, September 23rd, 2003, from 6:00—9:00 p.m.

Our committee has planned to solicit donated items from our MSU Master Gardeners and local businesses in order to offer good quality plants and garden items.

To be sure—the goal of the auction is to raise money to support our horticulture staff. We exist because of MSU and Kent County; however,, none of those funds completely cover the cost of our coordinator positions. Therefore, we find it necessary—and we hope fun to involve our favorite people in “fun” fundraising opportunities. Last year we generated about \$2000

thanks to your generosity.

This year we are soliciting donations of unusual, one-of-a kind garden items; i.e. artwork, stonework, jewelry, and the like that some of you might be skilled at making and donating. If you have something special you would like to donate, please call Gordon or Becky. Please understand that we want to limit the number of items, so we might not be able to accept everything.

We are also soliciting unusual plants or plants that people might be interested in procuring. If you have such a plant and want to know whether or not it might be appropriate, just give us a call. The commit-

tee will narrow down the offerings and let you know before the auction, so you can plan to deliver it.

Please call with your “offerings” by **Friday, August 22nd** so we can advertise your “goodies.”

Some of the items will be sold via a “silent auction”, other special items will be verbally auction off by our own MSU Master Auctioneer—Becky!

Our evening will also include desserts and beverages and a special opportunity to tour our new facility.

HOPE TO SEE YOU HERE!!

Summer Turf Stress

Copied from MSUE Crop Advisory Team
Alert—6/27/03

For those with in-ground irrigation systems, research from MSU has shown that light, frequent water applications reduce damage from certain diseases and insects. Hot, dry weather will naturally result in a shorter root system so it could be argued that the majority of a heavy, deep irrigation application would move past this shallow root system and not be available for the plant. If you want to give the daily or maybe every other day irrigation scheme a whirl here’s what you need to do. First of all I think it will take some tweaking based on what soil type you have, shady or sunny site, and turf species.

The research project at MSU applied 0.1 inch of water daily at about 1:00 PM. This application serves a couple purposes; it cools the turf in the heat of the day and also applies just enough water to get it through. In several areas water restrictions would certainly prevent this type of irrigation scheme. If that’s the case consider irrigating every second or third day with slightly higher amounts. The idea is to give the turf what it needs and get away from the idea that 1 inch every Saturday is the only way to irrigate.

Rain Garden Project Up-date

Patricia Pennel, Rain Garden coordinator for the West Michigan Environmental Action Council, has just informed us of the following. They have been offered the two acres at Fulton and Carlton for a native plant nursery for the rain garden project. She is looking for volunteers who might be interested in helping to spearhead getting this going? It’s two acres of sand and she needs help! She is looking for donations including compost, seeds, plants, divisions, mulch and appropriate materials to build raised beds.

I know several of you signed up for this project and I have this list. For now, however, if you can help with the implementation needs, please give Gordon a call. This is a HUGE project, so if you have access especially to those “building” materials, please let me know immediately.

Kent MSU Extension Master Gardener Information Form
(for our office purposes only)

We are trying to update our records and would greatly appreciate the following information.

You may tear this sheet off and send it in to our office, or duplicate and send it in.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number(s): _____

E-mail address: _____

Availability

___ I am available to do office work on a “when needed” basis.

___ I am available for “one shot” projects during the day.
___ “ _____ in the evening.

___ I am available for speaking engagements. These are usually for garden clubs and other similar groups. We are looking for people who have special expertise or experience in various kinds of gardening activities. (You may not be called on right away, however, we want to maintain a list.)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| ___ herbs | ___ roses |
| ___ plant identification | ___ diagnosis |
| ___ community gardening | ___ shade gardening |
| ___ gardening with children | ___ xeriscape gardening |
| ___ container gardening | ___ garden design |
| ___ bulbs | ___ medicinal herbs |
| ___ garden therapy | ___ orchids |
| ___ _____ | ___ _____ |

My current volunteer project is:

Where: _____

What: _____

[Please feel free to write more if you wish]

Jr. MSU Master Gardener “Stuck on Gardening” Tour

from Judy Sink, MSU Jr. MG Coordinator

GARDEN TOUR VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED!!

Have you asked yourself recently, “What can I personally do to assist the Kent MSUE Junior Master Gardener program even though working with children is not one of my strengths?”

Well, I have a painless, fun-filled answer for you! We are still in need of volunteers for the upcoming “Stuck On Gardening” MG Garden Tour, which will take place on Saturday, August 9, and Sunday, August 10, 2003. The entire proceeds from this fund-raising event will be dedicated to the Junior MG Program.

Here are areas where we still need assistance. We can use up to 50 more people!

- ◆ Volunteer to “cover” a garden site during one of three (3) shifts:
 - Shift #1 is on Saturday, 08/09/03, from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
 - Shift #2 is on Saturday, 08/09/03, from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
 - Shift #3 is on Sunday, 08/10/03, from 12:00 noon – 5:00 pm

IMPORTANT INFO: All time spent on the above counts as Kent MSUE volunteer hours!

What a special way to get a jump-start on the hours you need to accumulate before 03/31/04!

If you have physical limitations, we will be sure to give you “light duty” work. Just let me know that when you contact me.

- ◆ Assist a host/hostess in light prep work before the Tour. This includes light weeding, deadheading, and other minor tasks as needed
- ◆ **Sell tickets** to your friends, neighbors, and co-workers if employed. Tickets are available to sell at the Extension Office Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm, -- or by contacting Judy Sink at 336-2544. NOTE: Tickets should be available no later than July 14.
- ◆ Help place signs at the garden sites and strategic points along the route. Help will also be needed in retrieving the signs
- ◆ Assist with children’s activities at one of the sites (two gardens will have children’s activities).

Also needed is someone to help make signage for each garden to advertise their location. If you have expertise or know of someone who could help us with this, it would be greatly appreciated.

The success of this Tour depends on all of us working together. Just as all of us are smarter together, all of us can accomplish more together. You can contact me by calling 336-2544 or stopping by the Extension Office (this would be a perfect opportunity to see our new “digs”). I’ll look forward to talking with you soon!



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Future Dates:

Water Quality Class—2 Ed. Hrs. Credit	July 29—6:30 p.m. MSUE Offices
MSU Garden Day	August 8 (brochures available)
Jr. MG Garden Tour	August 9-10
Chicago Botanic Garden	August 23
Lunch & Learn at MSUE offices	September 5
Niagara & Royal Botanic Gardens Trip	September 9-11
Annual Kent/MSU Extension Plant Auction & Open House	September 23

Kent MSU Contacts—775 Ball N.E.—Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Phone: 336-3265 Fax: 336-3836

<p><u>Kent County Extension</u> Website: www.msue.msu.edu/kent Choose Home, Yard, & Garden under Agriculture.</p> <p>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><u>HOTLINE: 616-336-3881</u></p>	<p>Judy Sink Kent/MSU Jr. Master Gardener Coordinator (616)336-2544 sinkj@msue.msu.edu</p> <p>[If you want to belong to our growing number of MGs receiving the newsletter via e-mail, just contact Gordon. Perk]</p>
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