



# Kent County Master Gardeners

## “Green Pages”

January-February  
2003

Dear MSU Master Gardeners,

Happy New Year—2004, I think!

OK, now let’s see how busy we can keep you in 2004. Just for a starter, we have the booth at the Annual Home & Garden Show, and if that’s not enough, our annual “Stuck on Gardening” conference is on the 28th at DeVos Hall. We have been the recipients of some great support from Show Span, the people who organize the Show. They have enabled us to schedule Alan Armitage for the conference. Enclosed are brochures for the show, along with a reservation form, and our new brochure to encourage support for the new “Demonstration” garden to be planted just North of our building—yet to be named. We will be selling bricks for the garden at our Garden Marketplace during the conference.

We encourage you to sign up soon for the Conference as it is now open to the public. The public will be mailed brochures very soon. We realize also that this might create some problem of “covering” our MG booth on Saturday. Hopefully, some of you won’t mind missing the conference in order to help us out during those conference hours. Please call me if you want to help.

Several of you have received “reports” of hours from me and they seem to be nothing more than confusing. Rest assured that I am looking into it. It seems that the reports don’t match what we have recorded for you. In looking diligently at your hours, the data base is accurate. So I might have to come up with another way of reporting your hours to you. I have also received volunteer and education hours from several of you through the “web.” Seems like a great idea and it does save me time. Just be sure you keep a hard copy for your own records.

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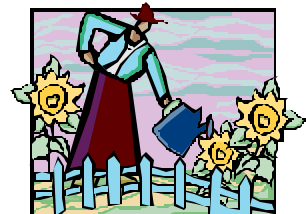
# Hotline News—New Year's 2004

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

Advanced Notice: An Advanced Diagnostic Clinic is being planned for March. This is for MGs who have an interest in furthering their knowledge of diagnostics. The Clinics are being planned for Tuesdays in March. We will have a separate mailing with more details next month.

The Diagnostic area has been pretty quiet during the Winter months and will probably not open again until late March, depending on the amount of requests received. We now have 2 printers and our books have been graciously organized by Teresa Buist, one of our MGs. In other words, we're ready for the onslaught of requests for information and diagnosis that are sure to come. We will have a portion of the MG booth dedicated to diagnostics at the Home & Garden Show. Please call Gordon if you want to volunteer to help at the booth.

Here's hoping there are no bugs bugging you and that you have plenty of time to spend dreaming in those new garden catalogs.



## E-Mail Updates

**We would greatly appreciate it if you would inform us of your current e-mail address. This is a convenient and expedient way to contact you with current opportunities and other news. Each time we send out an e-mail, several are returned to us. So...If you have not received a recent e-mail, like in the past month, we probably do not have your accurate address. Just give us a call or leave it on our voice mail, or better yet, e-mail us. Thanks a million!**

**{If you have changed your e-mail address, please include your old address.}**

# Volunteer Opportunities for 2004 (so far)

We thought it important to list the current opportunities to get you thinking ahead about trying something different this summer. Many of you continue to provide volunteer service on a regular basis at the same place. That is, of course, commendable; however, we continue to have requests from new groups who would appreciate some of our wonderful expertise and excitement about gardening.

## Our "Old Friends"

Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park—Of course we continue to encourage our MSU Master Gardeners to provide all of the services offered by the "Gardens." (Butterflies, Plant Sale, Spring Cleanup, Spring Planting, Summer Weeding, Fall Planting, Indoor or Outdoor Hort., and Docents) This year, however, there will be a need for additional persons to work in the Children's Garden which opens in late June. [For more information call Marlene Seida at the Gardens—975-3152]

Ronald McDonald House—Mary Crawford continues to work with a group of folks who maintain these gardens. [Call Mary at 940-0998]

Voigt House—Another dedicated MG, Marie Ambs heads up this project to keep the historic gardens in perfect shape. [Call Marie after May 1 at 453-3098]

Cannon Township Center—This is a continued beautification project at 6878 Belding Road, Historical Museum & Fire Dept. [Call Pat Harrington at 874-6975]

## New Opportunities

Covenant Village of the Great Lakes—Located at 2510 Lake Michigan Dr. N.W., this is a brand new Independent Living agency. They are looking for help regarding which plants, flower to grow and other advice. They are requesting 2 people to commit 2 hours per week for 8 weeks. Please call Linda Kirpes at 735-4541 Ext. 409.

Health Intervention Services—This is a small non-profit faith based health clinic for people without health insurance. They have a South facing yard and berm that need renewed plantings and upkeep. They will be in need of "donated" plants as well. Their desire is to be an attractive presence in the neighborhood that reflects the professionalism of the clinic, but also warmth and caring. They would like an on-going presence of our MGs at 15 Andre S.E. Please call Sylvia Daining at 475-1363.

VanAndel Museum—Has anyone contact Sam Wilthuis at the Museum to offer help in planning their gardens? This is a great opportunity to "show our stuff" to the general public. Please call Sam at 456-0762.

Gilda's Club Vegetable Garden—A large vegetable garden in planned at Gilda's Club, 1806 Bride Street NW. The garden will be used by client's, their families and friends. This is a partnership with Grand Rapids Community College, so there are plans to involve students from the College in the project as well. Produce will be used by those involved in the Club as well as by the chef, so planting appropriate items will be important. If you want to be a part of this exciting effort, please call Gordon. Our own 2003 MSU Master Gardener, Gretchen Robinson, is coordinating this project. We may also be involved in gardening at the homes of those who are undergoing cancer therapy.



## Garden Tour “Opportunities” Available

Plans for the 2004 “Stuck on Gardening” Kent/MSU Master Garden Tour are in full swing. We have identified 11 sites that will be on the Tour Saturday and Sunday, July 17th and 18th. However, there are a couple of areas where we are in need of volunteers. NOTE: All time devoted to the Garden Tour in any way are MSU volunteer credits. So, why not join us now and get started on the volunteer hours you will need for 2004. (Remember, the re-certification year is now January 1—December 31.)

Here are the opportunities available:

Serve on the Committee that plans the Tour. There are several areas open for additional volunteers including publicity, ticket sales, site volunteer assignments, and program/ticket development.

Volunteer to staff a site for a specific time period during the tour. We need to have at least three MG volunteers available to give tours on site, answer questions, sell/verify tickets, explain the Master Gardener program, etc.

As you can see, there is something for everyone to do. We will never have too many volunteers. So why not call Judy Sink today at 336-2544 and let her know which of the above “opportunities” you are interested in—or find out more about the Garden Tour. She will be happy to share.



## Michigan Hort. Therapy Assoc. Conference

The Michigan Horticultural Therapy Association (MHTA) will hold its 26th annual conference, “Horticultural Therapy: Connecting People & Plants,” Friday, March 12, 2004. The MHTA conference features hands-on craft workshops, displays, refreshments, door prizes, the 12th annual Seedy Character contest, a visit to the MSU Indoor Children’s Garden and lunch in the conservatory. This day is useful to Master Gardeners, garden club members, teachers, landscapers, garden writers, activity directors, and volunteers. Conference fee is \$35 for MHTA members, \$45 for non-members if postmarked by March 1. For more information, visit the website at [www.mhtachapter.org](http://www.mhtachapter.org) or contact Cathy Leavey, at 517-655-4969 or [leavey12@aol.com](mailto:leavey12@aol.com). We will honor this as an Advanced Master Gardener educational opportunity at half credit for hours attended.

### Mystery Plant of the Month??

Instructions: Unscramble plant names. Use underlined letters to form the name of another plant. Clue: tri-colored leaves.

SL A B I  
P N T A I C  
C R L A G I  
T S A E D

botanical name: — — — — —



*This picture has nothing to do with the plant. Just fun to catch Becky in a “compromising” position.*

The first two persons to identify this plant—species and common name—will win a set of our new note cards with photographs by our own Becky Finneran.

Call 336-3283 or e-mail [griffing@msue.msu.edu](mailto:griffing@msue.msu.edu).

Last month’s winners were Chris Muldoon and Nancy Hoovler who correctly identified the plant as *Schizophragma hydrangeoides*. The “fake” climbing hydrangea.

**2004 MSU Master Gardener Winter Class Schedule**  
**Mondays – 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.**  
**Kent/MSU Extension Offices – 775 Ball N.E.**

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<b>Monday, January 5, 2004</b>	<b>Orientation ( 5:00-7:00 p.m.)</b> Gordon Griffin Kent Co. MSU Master Gardener Coordinator
Monday, January 12,	Plant Science (4:00 – 8:00 p.m.) Rebecca Finneran Kent/MSU Extension Horticulture Educator
Monday, January 19	Soil Science Dennis Pennington Barry/MSU Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent
Monday, January 26	IPM Amy Irish-Brown MSU Extension District Fruit & Integrated Crop Management Agent
Monday, February 2	Veggies Jim Lincoln Retired Okemos/MSU Extension Agent
Monday, February 9	Lawn Care Rick Vuyst President of Fruit Basket Flowerland
Monday, February 16	Indoor Plants Steve LaWarre Grower, Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park
Monday, February 23	Household Insects Tom Ellis MSU Dept. of Entomology
Monday, March 1	Flower Gardening Janet Macunovich Owner of “Perennial Favorites”, Author & Speaker
Monday, March 8	Backyard Fruits (Tree Fruits & Small Fruits) Amy Irish-Brown
Monday, March 15	Woody Ornamentals Rebecca Finneran Kent/MSU Extension Horticulture Educator
Monday, March 22	Diagnostic Clinic Rebecca Finneran
Monday, March 29	Pruning Lab (TBA) Rebecca Finneran

**We do have limited space for those of you who wish to “audit” one or more of the classes. Please call Gordon if you plan to attend, especially on March 1. You will be asked to be seated at the back of the classroom. Tables are reserved for students in the class.**

# Visioning Up-Date

**Website Committee**—The Website committee is working on developing a simpler way to access our website. Currently you can access information, which includes the monthly -bi-monthly newsletter by using either the Kent Co. website or Master Gardener website. (Please see information regarding URLs on the back of this newsletter.) We are able to post our Master Gardener class schedule and articles about up-coming events. We are working to make the site more comprehensive by providing links to CAT Alerts, relevant diagnostic information, and as another access to the diagnostic hotline. All of this involves checking with the website managers and relevant information from other sources. Please stop by and visit both websites! We would be very interested in your suggestions. Make suggestions to Gordon at griffing@msue.msu.edu.

**Environment/Conservation Committee**—This committee recently met to determine how to improve the “Advance Master Gardener” Master Naturalist class. Many of you asked about it last Spring and were not able to attend. This is just a heads-up, so pay attention! The classes will be held throughout the Spring and Summer. The first class is scheduled for April 15 at the current time. All classes will be held on Saturdays, some of them for much of the day. The cost will remain \$150 and includes all six sessions, materials and handouts. Couples wishing to share materials may deduct \$35.00 from their registration. Outlines are being developed for each class in conjunction with the teachers. There is also a possibility of repeating the “Backyard Habitat” or a similar class which will be open to the public. If you are interested in taking the class, let Gordon know. We have not set a date yet for registration, but it should be fairly soon.

**Community Gardening**—This group has also met and made plans to survey those who have expressed an interest in community gardening in the past. The purpose is to determine what people are interested in doing, where they might like to work, and what skills/knowledge they might bring to a project. We are determining what is appropriate for MSU Master Gardeners to do and then to match the project to the volunteer. If you have inklings of a community gardening project, please let Nancy Hoovler know about it. (866-1303)

**Demonstration/Trial Gardens**—You will soon receive a brochure regarding the new garden, which is still not named. There are many issues to consider in the development of what we hope to be a wonderful and diverse garden. The Kick-off event for the selling of “bricks” to support the project will begin at our Spring ‘Stuck on Gardening’ conference on February 28th at the new DeVos Place. We are really excited about this new opportunity to demonstrate to our citizens some of what MSU Master Gardeners are capable.

## Notes of concern

Two of our very active MSU Master Gardeners have received some not-so-good news in the past month. Mary Zeh just received news that she has been diagnosed with Leukemia. She is currently in the hospital and is undergoing chemo-therapy for several weeks. After that, it will be determined what steps to take next. Sue Osgood has also been diagnosed with breast cancer. She is also undergoing therapy.

I know that both of these families would greatly appreciate your thoughts and prayers. I’ve included an address should you wish to send an encouraging note to them. Mary is unable to receive any plant material due to her condition, but cards and notes are appreciated.



Kent/MSU Extension  
775 Ball Avenue NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

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## Future Dates:

Winter Class of 2004 Home & Garden Show & Spring “Stuck on Gardening” Conference at DeVos Place	Began Jan. 5 February 26-29 February 28
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## Kent MSU Contacts—775 Ball N.E.—Grand Rapids, MI 49503

<b><u>Kent County Extension</u></b> <b><u>Website:</u></b> www.msue.msu.edu/kent Choose Home, Yard, & Garden under Agriculture.	<b>Gordon Griffin</b> Kent/MSU Master Gardener Coordinator (616) 336-3283 griffing@msue.msu.edu	<b>Judy Sink</b> Kent/MSU Jr. Master Gardener Coordinator (616) 336-2544 sinkj@msue.msu.edu
<b><u>Master Gardener Website:</u></b> www. msue.msu.edu/mastergardener (Both websites will contain our monthly newsletters.)	<b>Sharon Globig</b> Kent/MSU Lawn & Garden Hotline Coordinator (616) 336-7734 globigs@msue.msu.edu	<b>[If you want to belong to our growing number of MGs receiving the newsletter via e-mail, just contact Gordon.]</b>
	<b><u>HOTLINE: 616-336-3881</u></b>	



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