



June, 2004

Dear MSU Master Gardeners:

A soggy greeting to you! Hope this finds you warm and dry.

Lots of things are happening here at the Extension Office. See the Calendar of Events to start planning ahead and it is not too early to start planning for the Annual Auction in September. Last year's auction revealed a number of artistic and crafty Master Gardeners, not to mention an abundant supply of new plants.

Start thinking now how you might contribute to this annual fundraiser.

The fund raising efforts for the Grand Ideas Garden continue on with gusto. We hope to have sufficient funds to break ground this fall. Here's hoping for a drier June.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebecca Finneran".

Rebecca Finneran
Extension Horticulture Educator



Kent County Master Gardeners

“Green Pages”

JUNE, 2004

Kent MSU Master Gardener Coordinator
Gordon Griffin

Inside this issue:

<i>Jr. MG Report</i>	2
<i>MSU Garden Tour</i>	2
<i>Banquet Report</i>	3
<i>Banquet Report</i>	4
<i>Heartfelt Thanks</i>	4
<i>Job Opportunity</i>	5
<i>Announcements</i>	5
<i>Storage of Pesticides</i>	6
<i>Reporting Hours</i>	6
<i>Poem</i>	7
<i>E-Mail Updates</i>	7
<i>Puzzle</i>	7

Thanks for the enthusiastic response to our Annual Banquet. We had about 140 people show up to share our celebration of volunteerism for 2003. If you were unable to attend, we missed you! Our own Joe Nelson’s ensemble “Westwind” treated us to some wonderful selections of classical and contemporary music. What a treat! Just for your information, I’ve included contents from the banquet program. Our wonderful secretary, Debbie, has mailed out the certificates and pins to those of you who couldn’t come to the banquet. If you were one of those to receive another award, they are waiting for you here at the MSU Extension office.

We just received MSU Master Gardener (Kent County) lapel pins we had made for all Advanced MSU Master Gardeners. If you are one of those special people and didn’t attend the banquet, those also are available for you to pick up. . Our congratulations to all of you who are now Certified MSU Master Gardeners, MSU Advanced Master Gardeners, Master Naturalist, and other honoraries.

We still have a number of badges for Basic and Advanced MSU Master Gardeners here at the office and quite a few Final Exams as well. If you haven’t visited the office lately, come and see what might be waiting for you.

We have are going to have to cancel the trip to Wisconsin! There simply were not enough people signed up (one) to warrant the trip. We are considering a day trip to Chicago later this summer and will fill you in when decisions are made.

Coming Up!

- June 5—Planting at Centennial Park (more inside)
- June 21-23—State MG Conference in Lansing
- July 17-18—Jr. Master Gardener “Garden Tour”
- August 19—1st “Fall” MG Class begins
- September 21—Annual Plant Auction
- September 28th—Gardening With Perennials Begins

Growingly Yours,
Gordon Griffin, MSU Master Gardener Coordinator—Kent County

Jr. Master Gardener “Garden Tour”

Judy Sink, MSU Jr. Master Gardener Coordinator

Garden Tour Volunteers Still Needed

The 2004 “Stuck on Gardening” Garden Tour is less than eight weeks away – July 17th & 18th! While we have had many Master Gardeners volunteer to help in various ways (sell tickets, staff Tour sites, help prepare Tour gardens, etc.) there are still some slots that need to be filled.

We are especially in need of MG’s to staff Barbara Jenness’s garden in the Byron Center area. If you live in that general vicinity (Wyoming, Byron Center, Caledonia, etc.), please consider helping out at this site. Barbara’s specialty is herbs, and you will be able to take some home with you. She also is an organic gardener who grows heirloom vegetables and fruits, has heirloom free-range turkeys, and goats. You will find Barbara’s garden an interesting and educational place where you can relax and share the knowledge that you have gained as a Master Gardener.

If you have been thinking about getting involved in this event but haven’t contacted us yet, please pick up the phone and give **Judy Sink** a call at **336-2544**. She will be happy to pass along your name to Carol DeVries, who is serving as volunteer coordinator for this year’s Tour. If you have already volunteered to

help but have not heard anything about your assignment, just give us a little longer. We will be sending you a letter soon! In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to give Judy a call.

Garden Tour Ticket Sales

We have received permission from Fruit Basket Flowerland to sell Garden Tour tickets in each of their locations on Friday, July 2 and 9 and Saturday, July 3 and 10. There is one shift each Friday afternoon from 4:30 – 8:30 p.m.; Saturday shifts are 8:00 – 11:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. With two MG’s each shift at each location, we need a total of 36 volunteers. As of today we still have openings for each shift at various locations, especially the Wyoming store.

We also plan to see tickets at the Fulton Street Farmers Market on Saturday, July 3 and 10. Shifts available at this location are 7:30 – 11:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

If you are able to help at either venue in selling tickets, please contact **Judy Sink** at **336-2544**. This is a great opportunity to not only sell Garden Tour tickets, but to make the public aware of the Kent MSUE Master Gardener and Junior Master Gardener programs. Thank you for considering this opportunity. Of course, any volunteer time in these efforts count as Kent MSUE hours.

Tour of MSU Gardens & Turf Center

Your wonderful R&R Committee (Recognition & Recreation) has planned a trip to the MSU Gardens and Turf Center.

Wednesday, July 28, 2004—Carpools will leave Grand Rapids at 9:00 a.m. and arrive at MSU at about 10:15 a.m.

Tour Time: 10:30—12:00—Include the Children’s Garden, Rose Garden, Annual and Perennial Gardens with a Docent.

Lunch—12:00—1:15—on your own (Kellogg Center, etc.)

Turf Center Tour: We will meet at the Turf Center, South on Mt. Hope on Farm Lane
The tour will be with Dr. Art Cameron

Cost: \$23.00 (tentative depending on the number of people coming—
We have to pay for Dr. Cameron.

If you are interested, please call 243-7882. This is strictly a “fun” trip, being planned by your R&R committee, not the Extension staff.

2003 Year in Review

Class of 2003 Graduates

Cynthia Ambrose
 Patricia Anderson
 Anette Baron
 Joan Beineman
 Mary Block
 Diane Brady
 Becky Brower
 Adrian Brown
 Deborah Bueche
 Yolanda Cordele
 Jay Cravens
 Tina Cronkhite
 Thomas Dalglish
 Marcille Dalglish
 Sandi DeHaan
 Carol DeVries
 Jennifer Doornbos
 Jennifer Duff
 Beth Evans
 Judith Farris
 Kristina Fowler
 Susanne Glynn
 Susan Grant
 Joyce Guikema
 Rachel Harkavi
 Patricia Herrema
 Donald Kelley
 Laurie Lamothe
 Marcia Lucas
 Barbara McGuirl
 Judith McKenzie

Shirley Miles
 Kathy Miller
 Patricia Monroe
 Christine Doele-
 Musser
 Terri Oostendorp
 Sharron Podleski
 Carol Postma
 Dana Proffer
 Marie Purwin
 Sandra Randall
 Mildred Rathbun
 Gretchen Robinson
 Carrie Roney
 Ronald Sarns
 Barbara Schmid
 Mary Scott
 Carol Smith
 Jerry Spitler
 Debra Spitler
 Dee Stanger
 KarenAnn
 Urbanowski
 John VanOrman
 Linda VanZee
 Nancy Wattles
 Valerie Wegner
 Linda Westbrook
 Anita Wierengo
 Sydney Zainea

Special Awards

250 Hours

Shelly Bartels	Joyce Kebless
Nancy Bedell	Pam Levy
Kathy Brehm	James Muller
Kim Chiavaras	Julia Orefice
John Choals	Jim Wright

Advanced Master Gardeners

Marie Ambs	Pete Kruer
Bridget Bittner	Amy Kruer
Helen Cox	Dorie Leugs
Jay Cravens	Gene Lyons
Tina Cronkhite	Cindy Meyer
Eileen Dechow	Joann Ott
Janet Dildine	Sharron Podleski
Christine Doele- Musser	Susan Pozniak
Barbara Gutting	Mildred Rathbun
Al Hansberry	James Schafer
Sheryl Helmus	Judy Sink
Bill Heys	Maurine Sneathen
Marie Hick	Debra Spitler
Barbara Jenness	KarenAnn Urbanowski
Chloe Jones	Deb Walsh
Renee Justice	Ginny Wanty
Amy Kam	Nancy Wattles
Don Kelley	Mary Yonkers
Yolanda Kozak	

500 Hours

Hildegard Adkins	Bonnie Moore
Peg Haviland	Elizabeth Ripley
Nancy Hoovler	Donna Rosa
Don Kelley	Mary Smith
Nancy Kilbourne	Betty Weller
Patricia Mirandette	Kathy Wolfe

1000 Hours

Lori Hankinson
 Joe Nelson

1500 Hours

Carol Savage

3500 Hours

Betty Lawther

Master Naturalist

John Choals
 Lori Hankinson
 Pam Levy
 Cheryl Tolley

Other Awards

Rookie of the Year
Don Kelley

Class Volunteers
Harriet Bromberg
John Choals
Joe Nelson
Ruth O'Keefe

MSU JR.
Master Gardener
Ingrid Fournier
Lynne Prange

Extension Support
CJ Brander
Sarabeth Carr

Life Members
Teresa Buist
Pat Brookman

MSU Master Gardener of the Year—
2003
Cindy Meyer
Tammy Lundeen



Little known but
extremely important facts about MGs

**Contributions by our MSU Master Gardeners
during the MSU Master Gardener year
April 1, 2003—March 31, 2004.**

Volunteer Activities

<u>Contribution</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Total Hours	16,626	15,730
Frederik Meijer Gds.	9,036	6,200
MSU Hotline	1,334	1,339
MSU Extension	1,908	866
Community Gardens	968	143
Community Service Projects	2,046	1,495
MSU Jr. MG	300	
Garden Clubs	209	

Educational Classes

All Kent/MSU Classes	2,318	2,753
FMG Classes	480	451
Others	497	760

**The volunteer contribution of 16,626 hours equates
to \$268,323 in service value to our community.**

You do make a difference!

**Our Sincere Thanks and Congratulations to all
of you! You are all WINNERS!!**

**Rebecca Finneran—Kent Co. Extension Agent
Horticultural Educator
Gordon Griffin—MSU MG Coordinator
Sharon Globig—Hotline Coordinator
Judy Sink—MSU Jr. MG Coordinator**

Heartfelt Thanks!

My heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all of you for your thoughts, cards, help and prayers while I was keeping a bedside vigil with my father in Indiana. He passed away on April 17. Special thanks to the MG Diagnostics Team, Gordon, Becky, and each of you who stepped in to assume my responsibilities during my absence. I am back to work now but will be bringing my mother to stay with me in mid-June. I hope to be able to continue working while she's here. Love to all, Sharon

MSU Extension Employment Opportunity

New Position

Data Technician Support

Position Description:

A person is needed to input data on our web-based MSU Master Gardener data base. Other duties could include reporting hours to MSU Master Gardeners, answering questions regarding hours, and summarizing volunteer contributions.

An average of 8 hours per week during peak months (October – January), with fewer hours throughout the rest of the year would be required. Hours would be determined by work load needs and would be at the discretion of the person in collaboration with the Extension Agent Horticultural Educator and MSU Master Gardener Coordinator. Other miscellaneous duties as assigned.

Requirements:

Familiarity with Microsoft Word
 Familiarity with Microsoft Excel
 Familiarity with Microsoft Access & data base systems

Good communication skills and a willingness to communicate regularly with volunteers (in writing, by phone, and through e-mail)

Announcements

Gardening (Volunteer Hours) Opportunities at Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

MSU Master Gardeners are needed!

Spring Planting -

June 1st, 2nd, & 3rd
 (8-12 a.m. and 1-4 p.m.)

Summer Spruce-Up

July 13th, 14th, & 15th
 (8-12 only)

Fall Clean-Up

September 7th, 8th, & 9th
 (8-12 a.m. and 1-4 p.m.)

Please call Ian Warnock at 975-3173 if you are available to help. This is a great opportunity to earn those hours before the onset of Winter—what a horrible thought! [Certification year ends Dec. 31st 2004.]

Gardening for Profit Group

Our next meeting is Thursday, June 3

Those who want to join us for dinner, we will be at Forest Hills Inn at 5:00 p.m.

The meeting will be at Jim Holstege's Greenhouse at 1455 Spaulding. Turn in at the Everlasting Blooms sign and drive to the end.

Scott King, from the Michigan Dept. of Agriculture, is willing to meet with our group. He will explain

the processes of pesticide business licensing and applicators certification. This is important because they are paying attention to us out there and the non-compliance fines will wipe out your profits.

Festival Opportunity

Our Extension Director, Betty Blase has requested the following help and these will count for volunteer hours.

June 4 at the annual GR Art Festival downtown MSU Master Gardeners have been asked to help with a "tile painting" activity. At least 6 volunteers (complete with Master Gardener name tags and aprons) are needed from 1:00 - 3:00 P.M. Please call Bethanie Archbold at 336-2593 if you can help!

Centennial Park Planting—Kent Co. Parks

Another great opportunity to "show our stuff" will be Saturday, June 5th at Centennial Park.

This opportunity will count as "Extension Hours" since we are supporting the mission of our Extension and will be highly visible at the great new park. On the 5th, there will be families planting 3 annual beds. We will need about 4-6 MSU Master Gardeners to supervise and help these folks know how to plant and where to plant. We will have a "plan" available, but it might be advisable to bring your own tools. Please let me know ASAP if you can help. Gordon Griffin - 336-3283.

Storage and Disposal of Pesticides & Fertilizers

By Theresa Hogerheide-Reusch, Class of 2004

As Master Gardeners we have an interest in beautifying our landscape and protecting the environment. Did you know that some of the products we use can be harmful to the environment if improperly used, stored, or disposed of?

As you know, pesticides and fertilizers should only be used as the package details. If they leak onto the ground or are over-used they can contaminate our groundwater. To prevent misuse, its best to have the *cause* defined before you treat any plant problems.

Here are some basic storage tips:

- Read the label – this will give you proper handling and storage information
- Avoid storage areas of extreme temperature and dampness
- Make sure the storage area has proper ventilation
- Keep flammable liquids separate from living areas and ignition sources
- Keep products off of the floor in case of flooding
- Create a spill kit: chemical resistant gloves, safety goggles, kitty litter (to absorb materials), broom and dustpan, and a lockable container to keep the spill contained until it is disposed of properly (see HHW below)

Generally, pesticides and fertilizers don't have expiration dates on the packaging. Yet, the potency can change with age and temperature fluctuations. If you have questions about a product you can check with the manufacturer. Old products can be dangerous and even illegal to use. Left over pesticides and fertilizers cannot be thrown out with your regular trash. They can leak out of landfills and cause harm, especially in groundwater. Fortunately, Kent County has a free service to dispose of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW). It's funded by our landfill tipping fees. HHW is still receiving DDT and Chlordane. These were banned by the EPA years ago. DDT was banned in 1972! And, Chlordane in 1988. When in doubt, bring it to the HHW program.

Products from these categories are taken in the HHW program:

- Lawn and Garden: weed killers, fertilizers, bug sprays, and poisons
- Vehicle Maintenance: waxes, cleaners, batteries, gasoline, and brake fluid
- Repair and Remodeling: adhesives, glues, and oil-based paint products
- Cleaning Agents: disinfectants, degreasers, polishes, and bathroom / kitchen cleaners
- Hobby and Recreation: charcoal lighter fluid, pool chemicals, inks, artist paints, and batteries
- Medical: left over medical drugs

Summer is a great time to clean out the garage, basement, or storage shed. And, most of us will come across some HHW materials. Last year almost 1,400 households participated in the program in Kent County. Over 78,000 pounds of HHW were collected for proper disposal. There is also a program for farmers called Clean Sweep (call 517-335-6529). The HHW products are reformulated or re-used when possible.

There are two current HHW sites with another one on the way. The existing sites are located in NW Grand Rapids and in Rockford. The new site is due to open this summer in Kentwood. To participate in the program:

- Make a list of the materials you wish to bring in (when in doubt about a material add it to your list)
- Call 616-336-2501 or 888-217-2850 to make an appointment
- Place the materials in a cardboard box on the floor or in the trunk of your vehicle
- Bring the materials on your scheduled day and time
- Kent County personnel will remove the materials from your vehicle

It's that simple.

Resources: Kent County Dept. of Public Works and the Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program

Reporting Hours

Please remember that the Official Certification Year ends on December 31st, 2004. Don't wait until March to re-certify—it will be too late. Remember, you are required to volunteer 15 hours and earn 5 education credits to remain an "Active MSU Master Gardener. Forms are available in the diagnostic area here at the Extension, or we can mail you the forms. We are currently working on sending each MSU Master Gardener a current accounting of your hours. Be patient, this is a time-consuming process.

Sacrament

I have made my spring communion
 My hungry soul to feed,
 I have made my spring communion;
 I have dug and planted seed.

My daily chores cried for me,
 A careless ear I lent,
 With spade and rake and trowel
 Close to the earth I bent.

Oh, ages deep is this hunger,
 As deep as human need
 To this disturbing fever
 This perennial greed.

This force that drives me to the
 earth
 My hungry soul to feed,
 I have made my spring commun-
 ion;
 I have dug and planted seed.

This poem was written in the
 spring of '78 after spring planting
 by Blanche Mullen. Blanche in
 now 95 year young. She was my
 7th grade art teacher.

Terry Ladner graciously gave us
 permission to print this in our
 newsletter.

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.}

P U Z Z L E

Find the 62 Different Kinds of Insects and Their Kin

P
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S	K	P	S	K	B	Y	D	H	O	N	E	Y	B	E	E	J	G	L	ANT	FLY	PRAYING MANTIS	
K	I	P	C	O	E	N	A	E	L	F	C	T	K	O	M	B	O	L	U	ANTLION	FRUIT FLY	SCARAB
I	P	I	A	N	T	G	D	R	M	I	H	C	A	O	R	K	C	O	C	APHID	GNAT	SCORPION
P	T	R	R	E	N	O	D	Y	M	R	O	Y	T	M	U	E	A	U	F	BEE	GOLDBUG	SILVERFISH
P	G	N	A	T	H	Y	Y	I	I	E	L	H	Y	O	O	P	R	S	R	BEETLE	GRASSHOPPER	SKIMMER
E	G	U	B	Y	D	A	L	P	M	F	L	L	D	L	H	F	C	E	E	BLOWFLY	HARVESTMAN	SKIPPER
R	T	B	B	E	I	L	O	F	N	L	F	F	I	I	F	O	D	G	M	BLUEBOTTLE	HONEYBEE	SOW BUG
S	S	I	O	Y	E	N	N	O	E	Y	I	I	D	I	R	I	B	O	M	BOLLWEEVIL	HORNET	SPIDER
S	K	O	M	R	L	T	G	R	A	S	S	H	O	P	P	E	R	Y	I	BORER	HORSEFLY	STINKBUG
G	N	I	W	E	C	A	L	M	R	D	R	R	I	S	S	F	L	M	K	BUMBLEBEE	KATYDID	TERMITE
L	V	E	M	B	R	C	E	E	A	N	N	O	T	O	A	F	K	H	S	BUTTERFLY	LACEWING	THRIP
T	E	E	H	D	U	A	G	M	A	N	N	H	O	W	C	U	O	C	CENTIPEDE	LADYBUG	TICK	
E	D	A	W	S	R	G	S	A	A	A	T	H	T	O	I	B	G	R	N	CHIGGER	LEAFHOPPER	TSETSE FLY
K	E	M	F	W	I	E	B	M	F	N	O	I	L	T	N	A	I	N	I	CHINCH BUG	LOCUST	WALKING STICK
C	P	M	I	H	L	F	T	L	E	R	U	B	S	Y	K	C	Y	E	C	CICADA	LOUSE	WASP
A	I	G	C	F	O	S	R	D	U	Q	U	G	U	B	K	N	I	T	S	COCKROACH	MAYFLY	YELLOW JACKET
J	T	C	L	G	E	P	E	E	S	E	N	I	S	E	F	S	E	I	C	CRICKET	MEALY BUG	
W	N	Y	A	V	U	P	P	O	V	I	B	U	T	T	E	R	F	L	Y	DADDY LONGLEGS	MIDGE	
O	E	E	R	D	I	B	M	E	K	L	U	O	F	F	M	T	U	H	N	DAMSELFLY	MILLER	
L	C	A	W	L	A	L	D	L	R	L	I	O	T	I	L	Y	E	C	B	DRAGONFLY	MILLIPEDE	
L	H	T	L	B	O	L	A	L	O	C	U	S	T	T	Y	C	E	U	EARWIG	MITE		
E	L	I	V	E	E	W	L	L	O	B	E	E	B	E	L	B	M	U	B	FIREFLY	MOSQUITO	
Y	M	C	H	I	N	C	H	B	U	G	T	S	E	T	S	E	F	L	Y	FLEA	MOTH	

Puzzle is compliments of Deb Daning, our new "puzzle master." Sorry, no prizes, just something useful for you to do with this newsletter! Enjoy!!

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

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Future Dates:

Centennial Park Planting	June 5
MSU Master Gardener Summer Conference	June 21st-23rd
MSU Jr. Master Gardener “Garden Tour”	July 17th & 18th
Carpool Trip to MSU Gardens & Turf Station	July 28th
2004 MSU Master Gardener “Fall” Class begins	August 19th
Fall Plant Auction	September 21

Kent MSU Contacts—775 Ball N.E.—Grand Rapids, MI 49503

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



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