

THE GREEN SCENE

Newsletter of the
MIDLAND COUNTY
MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION



Next meeting: Tuesday, September 12, 2006, 6:30 PM.

Location: Dow Howell Gilmore Associates, 4300 W Sugnet, Midland
Pat Sellenraad with DesignScape in Frankenmuth will be speaking to us about the challenges of landscaping in a wetlands environment. This is your chance to see this unique facility up close.

Directions: Going west on Saginaw Road, go past Dow High and turn left into Northwood's main entrance. After making the turn, proceed for about 1/4 mile and turn right. Then on your right you will see the new office complex. (To your left is the gate into Northwood.)

Hi Gardeners,

This has been quite a summer, some things grew like mad and some didn't do much.

I have one rose; the plant is beautiful but not one bloom - what a deal.

I hope every one is ready for the fall and the clean up work putting our gardens to bed, hopefully we will have a nice fall to work in the gardens.

The Farmers Almanac has predicted that this winter will be a very cold one coast to coast and they are 80% to 85% accurate in their predictions. Guess we should get out the old fur bunny and the snow blowers.

Have a good September.

Sue Wilber, President

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MASTER GARDENER FALL CONFERENCE

"An Autumn Affair for Gardeners" will once again be held at the SVSU Campus in Saginaw, on Saturday, October 7, 8:30 am to 4 pm.

Keynote speaker is Bill Cullina, nursery manager and propagator of the New England Wildflower Society's Garden in the Woods in Massachusetts. Topic: 'What the heck's gonna grow there? Native trees, shrubs and vines for challenging situations.' Also: 'Beyond black-eyed Susans and border phlox: exceptional native perennials for creative gardening'

Sally Shepardson, Advanced MG, offers 'Environmentally sound gardening and integrated pest management'.

Charles 'Chuck' Martin, Dow Gardens, discusses 'Green pollution: Invasive plants in Michigan'.

Registration deadline is Friday, Sep 15. Early registration is \$50, after Sep 15 \$55. No refunds.

JAPANESE BEETLE CONTROL

Heavy rainfalls during the egg-laying season has resulted in a "bumper-crop" of these voracious pests. Beetle traps are a two-edged sword, you'll not only attract Japanese beetles from your garden, but also those from your neighbors. Pesticides recommended for control are very toxic to beneficial insects. The University of Maryland has tested three products that appear to have minimal impact on beneficials; neem (extracted from the tropical neem tree), permethrin (a pyrethroid), and a new one, CX-8101, which is used in Europe and is expected to be registered here soon.

All three were about equally effective in reducing the number of beetles and their damage. Three applications were made in July, but because the neem seemed to have a short residual effect of 3-4 days, it was applied five times.

Source: The Avant Gardener, August 2006

YELLOW JACKET PROTECTION

As wasps are actually beneficial insects, predators feeding on many pesky pests, it's a good idea not to eradicate them in the garden. To protect yourself and the foods that they are attracted to from these sometimes bothersome "do-gooders", use sheets of scented fabric softener.

Source: The Avant Gardener, August 2006

AMERICA'S NATIONAL GARDEN

Opening on October 1, the garden is a three-acre site on the Capitol Grounds, serving as an annex to the U.S. Botanic Garden and featuring rose, water, butterfly and regional gardens to welcome the millions of visitors to Capitol Hill and the National Mall.

Source: The Avant Gardener, August 2006

HARVESTING ASH LUMBER

The destruction of millions of ash trees by the emerald ash borer has prompted Ohio State University to hold workshops on harvesting the lumber from these trees: for information go to <http://woodlandstewards.osu.edu>.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Summer is winding down, the weather is still looking good from a sunny point of view, but the lack of rain is a serious problem for our woody plants. Remember to water your recently planted trees and shrubs (within the last two years) on a regular basis until frost settles in permanently. Perennials also benefit from regular watering at this time of the year, as their leaves are producing sugars going into the root systems, storing energy for next years growth. Bulbs need to be watered into fall as well, they need to start growing roots before the ground freezes. Fall clean-up should involve scouting for slugs and snails, every single one of them is capable of producing a bumper crop of children next year. Bulbs need to be watered into fall as well, they need to start growing roots before the ground freezes.

Britt

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The deadline for articles for the next newsletter is June 18, 2006.

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