



MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

M O N T C A L M A R E A

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June - July, 2008

Dear Readers:

It is finally here! There is a lot to do during this time of year. Dates are listed on the calendar.

I hope you are enjoying FUN...GREEN. Remember just one small change can help the environment. As gasoline prices continue to rise, now might be a good time to consider car pooling. When you are planning on spending some time on a volunteer project, please call another Master Gardener Volunteer that lives close by and ride together. Not only will you save gas, you might make a new friend.

I know that right now times are tough for most of us. We are all trying to cut back on our commitments. However, now is the time volunteering is the most important. It is easy to close yourself off to the world around you. When times get tough, we need to strive to reach out to the world around us. Enough of the soapbox, please, just think about it.

Have fun this summer. Remember fall and winter come quickly.

Happy Gardening,

Debi



EDUCATION

FREDRIK MEIJER GARDENS

To register on-line www.meijergardens.org/education/form_register.php or call 616.975.3147

Pre-registration and pre-payment are required for all classes.

Flower Arranging for Gardeners

Tuesday June 3, 2008 - 6 to 7:30 p.m.

\$30 members, \$35 non-members

CJ Brander, Garden Designer

Take an inexpensive bouquet of store-bought flowers and make them into something special by using an interesting container and beautiful leaves and branches from your garden. CJ will show you how to properly prepare and condition flowers, and the mechanics to hold them in place.

Easy Water Features

Tuesday June 10 - 6:30 to 8 p.m.

FEE: \$20 members, \$25 non-members

INSTRUCTOR: Rick Smith, Commerce Corporation

Bring your garden to life with you-can-do-it water features suitable for gardens, patios, sunrooms and entryways. Learn about bubblers, fish, "pond-less" waterfalls and container gardens filled with water. See images of effective water features, then watch Rick demonstrate how to create a container water garden.

Prairie in a Pot

Tuesday June 17 - 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

FEE: \$40 members, \$45 non-members

INSTRUCTOR: Julie Francke, Curator of Horticulture Education

Join Julie as she introduces you to some of the most beautiful and easy-to-grow prairie plants, such as coneflowers, coreopsis and little bluestem. Then plant your own "prairie in a pot" to take home and enjoy. We will supply a nursery pot, soil and plants or you can bring your own decorative container (maximum 18 inch diameter).

Farm Market Fresh: Using Herbs of Summer

Saturday July 12 - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

FEE: \$30 members, \$35 non-members

INSTRUCTOR: Connie Hanson, Master Gardener, Grand Shire Farm

Learn how to create fresh, tasty and beautiful meals using fresh herbs, edible flowers, fresh greens and vegetables from your own garden or farmers market. Price includes plenty of tasty and fresh herb butter to take home.

FUNDamentally Green IV

Bob Lilenfeld, Advanced Master Gardener Volunteer, MSU Montcalm Extension

BACKGROUND

“Going Green” through organic gardening is a great way to protect our environment and ultimately help save our planet.

To review: By gardening organically we do not use synthetic (chemical) fertilizers and pesticides. Our plants are really part of a system that starts with growing in soil and includes the water supply, people, wildlife and insects.

To maximize your chances of growing a successful garden, pick plants, trees and shrubs that will grow naturally in our area of Michigan.

Get to know your plants, especially during season changes, so that you can notice if a problem is occurring and take corrective action.

The ultimate goal of the organic gardener is to work with natural systems and to replenish any resources that are consumed during the gardening process.

There is a lot to learn in organic gardening, but do not let it overwhelm you – let’s start with pest and disease control and then review various types of fertilizers and additives.

COMMON GARDEN PROBLEMS

I have listed some garden problems, along with suggested, products, to keep them under control:

- * Black spot on roses: Fungicidal Soap, Sulfur Formulations
- * Powdery mildew on flowers: Horticultural Oil, Baking Soda Formulations, Potassium Bicarbonate Formulations
- * Grubs: Beneficial Nematodes, Water Spraying
- * Aphides and mites: Beneficial Insects, such as ladybugs and lacewings, Horticultural Oil, Insecticidal Soap, Water Spraying (aphids), Hot Pepper Spray
- * Garden slugs: Diatomaceous Earth - crushed egg shells
- * Leaf chewing insect: Bt-Bacillus Thuringiensis, Diatomaceous Earth
- * Scale insects on shrubs and trees: Horticultural Oils
- * Carpenter ants: Boric Acid Baits, Repellants containing citrus or mints

ORGANIC FERTILIZERS/FEEDS

I have also listed organic fertilizers that are currently being utilized:

- * Seaweed and kelp: Stimulates root growth through the addition of trace minerals and nutrients
- * Fish emulsion and fertilizer: High in nutrients and minerals
- * Worm castings: Worms ingest plant matter and excrete a mineral rich soil additive
- * Bat guano: A rich manure
- * Epsom salts: Adds magnesium and sulfur to soil for bushier growth and additional flowering

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- * Manure: Rich in plant nutrients and adds to soil structure
- * Compost: Natural fertilizer and soil amendment
- * Compost tea: Liquid runoff from composting

WHERE TO PURCHASE ORGANIC AND NATURAL PRODUCTS

I have listed 12 sources of organic and natural products/companies that we have found at locals retailers, on line and in catalog mailings. Additional products that you may need should be found at the listed companies. This is just a small sampling of products that are in the marketplace – but a good place to start shopping for the products you will need to be a successful organic gardener.

SOME TIPS

- * Always examine the product label carefully to make sure you are getting the product you want.
- * The OMRI (Organic Materials Review Institute) seal indicates the product is certified for organic production, handling and processing.
- * At Lowes and Menards, the organic and natural products are on separate shelves. At Meijer and WalMart they are mixed in with the chemical products.

ORGANIC PRODUCTS/COMPANIES

Lowes, Menards www.saferbrand.com	Safer Brand Rose & Flower Insect Killer soap (OMRI) – potassium salts of fatty acids. (Safer Brand – Low toxic pest control for home and garden.)
Lowes, Menards, WalMart www.gardensafe.com	Garden Safe Fungicide 3 (OMRI) - Neem oil used in broad spectrum insects, mites fungal control. (Garden Safe Brands – natural and organic growth plus control products).
Menards www.encapseed.com	Iron Plus AST™ - soluble iron for all soil types turns yellow to green grass (Encap – do it yourself lawn care products).
Meijer www.bonideproducts.com	Bonide Thuricide BT – Bacillus Thuringiensis biological insecticide – can be used with beneficial nematodes. (Bonide Products Inc, organic solutions for home, garden and professional agriculture).
Meijer, WalMart www.espoma.com	Earth-Tone ^R Insecticidal Soap – from plant oils. (Espoma Natural Gardening solutions – natural and organic plant food).
WalMart www.terracycle.net	Terracycle Garden Fertilizer – from liquefied worm castings. (Terracycle Lawn & Fertilizer Products).
Meijer www.purebarnyard.com	Cockadoodle Doo ^R Super premium organic fertilizer for lawn and garden. (Cockadoodle Doo [®] Lawn & Garden Products).
www.hotpepperwax.com	Hot Pepper Wax – insect and animal repellants made from hot pepper, Capsacin. (Hot Pepper Wax Products)
www.spray-n-grow.com	Spray-N-Grow – balanced system micronutrients, feed. (Spray-N-Grow – Garden products safe for people, plants and pets).
www.milkyspore.com	Milky Spore – safe bacterium lethal to white grubs. (ST Gabriel Laboratories – Environmentally safe lawn & garden products).
www.outsidepride.com	Lazy Man™ Liquid Gold – 3 in 1 soil aeration, conditioner and dethacer. (Outside Ride – Lawn & Garden Supplies).
www.gardensalive.com	Wow ^R Supreme – weed control and fertilizer for lawn. (Gardens Alive – Environmentally responsible products that work)

Enjoy your organic gardening experience. Please let me know if you have any questions.

June 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 Graduation - Class of 2007 7 p.m.	6	7 H.O. Steele 9 a.m. to noon
8	9 Heritage Village 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Central Montcalm Upper Elementary 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	18	19	20	21
22	23 Heritage Village 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.	24	25	26 H.O. Steele 4 to 7 p.m.	27	28
29	30					

July 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Board Of Directors 6:30 p.m. MSU Extension	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 MAMGA General Meeting 6:30 p.m.	9	10	11	12
13	14 Heritage Village 6 to 9 p.m.	15 Central Montcalm Upper Elementary 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.	16	17	18	19 H.O. Steele 9 a.m. to noon
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 Volunteer Appreciation Tours/Lunch 10 a.m.
27	28 Heritage Village 6 to 9 p.m.	29	30	31		

Graduation of the Master Gardener Volunteer Class of 2007

You are all invited to share with the class members of 2007 their joy in becoming certified Master Gardener Volunteers. The celebration will take place Thursday evening, **June 5, 2008**. It will be held at Montcalm Community College in the Doser Building. After the ceremony a dessert reception will be held.



All Master Gardener Volunteers are invited. Graduates will receive an invitation in the mail. *One hour of continuing education credit will be given.*



Montcalm Area Master Gardener Association General Membership Meeting

The July General Membership meeting will be held **Tuesday, July 8, 2008** at Sidney Township Hall. The speaker that evening will be Nancy Lindley from Great Lakes Roses. Those of us who have been around awhile are familiar with Great Lakes Roses. For those of you who have not, owners Roger and Nancy Lindley operate a unique nursery and rose display garden located near Belleville (between Detroit and Ann Arbor) which is devoted to winter hardy modern and antique roses, all northern grown. For more information about Great Lakes Roses, check out their web site at www.greatlakesroses.com.

Montcalm Area Master Gardener Association Volunteer Appreciation and Garden Tours

The annual Master Gardener Volunteer appreciation luncheon will be held on **Saturday, July 26, 2008**. The luncheon will be paired with several garden tours. All Master Gardener Volunteers are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please watch the mail for more information.



Habitat For Humanity



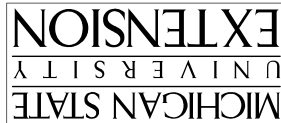
Carl and Mary Ferguson are once again leading the Habitat crew this summer. The project house in Greenville is striving to make this house "green." To be certified, points are given for native plants and drought tolerant lawn. There are plans for a rain garden on-site to control water runoff. They are asking for your help. Shaner Nursery will once again be donating many of the trees and shrubs that they need. However, there will be a need for other plant materials. **There will be a listing at the Plant Sale.** If you have any of the listed items and you would be willing to share, it would be much appreciated.

For more information contact Mary at 616.754.7264. The folks at Habitat are most appreciative and supportive of our Master Gardener Volunteers. Let's see what we can do to help them out.

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MASTER GARDENER NEWSLETTER



Look for us on the web:
www.msue.edu/mastergardener/montcalm/index.htm
www.msue.edu/montcalm (Home, Yard and Garden link)