



MASTER GARDENER

MSU Extension Ottawa County

616-846-8250

May 2003

CHANGES TO CERTIFICATION PROCESS: Update

The Master Gardener Advisory Committee has increased the number of education and volunteer hours for Master Gardener recertification. Recertification now requires

(beginning this year):

1. Providing a minimum of 15 hours of MSUE-approved volunteer service each year and,
2. Completing five (5) additional hours of horticulture training each year.

Mary McClellan, State Coordinator, is now putting together a fact sheet explaining the structure of the Michigan Master Gardener Volunteer Program and the Advisory Committee. The fact sheet will give more information about recent certification changes. Just so you know, Washington State re-certification requirements are 10 education and 25 volunteer hours annually. Other states are even more!

Grand Haven Community Garden starts 4th season

Three Master Gardener Trainees from the Grand Haven area will be earning certification credits this summer by working at this season's community garden. Last year the small garden plot grew over 500 pounds of produce that was distributed to several charitable organizations in Northwest Ottawa County.

This year's volunteers, Ann Colt, Laurie Larsen and Peg Lepo, successfully completed their classroom training this March. Each say they want to work this year's garden as an opportunity to learn more about growing vegetables and to help support HGTV's *Plant-a-Row for the Hungry Program*.

Certified Master Gardeners and other trainees in the Grand Haven area are welcome to assist the women in their vegetable gardening efforts. If you would like to grow and donate produce from your home garden, contact

Dave VanderWege for a *Plant A Row* kit - 616-399-2667.

Plans are also being considered to supplement this season's Grand Haven Community Garden harvest by accepting donations of fresh fruits and vegetables at the Grand Haven Farmers' Market. If you would like to help with the Grand Haven Community Garden or the Grand Haven Farmers' Market donation program, please contact **Patrick Berg** by email at statepark1432@yahoo.com.

For detailed information about HGTV's *Plant A Row for the Hungry Program*, please contact **Mary Grillo, Community Action Agency Commodities Coordinator**, at 1-800-764-4111 ext. 5619 or email grill@novagate.net

Holland Community Garden off to Great Start

Approximately 14 people showed up for the first work day of 2003 for the Holland Community Garden. Yet, there is still a lot of work to be done. The next scheduled work days are on May 10 and June 7 starting at 9am. **Yes! You earn Extension hours for volunteering at the community garden!** For more information please contact **Dave VanderWege** 616-399-2667.

Michigan Farm & Garden TV

The Farm and Garden Show, popular for many years in the thumb region, is now available for viewing in our area as the Michigan Farm and Garden Show. Shows will cover topics such as the emerald ash borer, orchids and many other agricultural and non-agricultural topics. The program airs at 6am Sundays (set your VCR) on WWMT CBS (Channel 3).

Summer Conference

Want to be really inspired? If you are a certified Master Gardener in 2003, you are invited to the 2003 Master Gardener Summer Conference. Get all your education required hours in one swoop, mingle with up to 500 fellow volunteers and just have fun. Applications were mailed from Lansing early this month.

MSU Garden Day Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Celebrate MSU's Horticultural gardens during the Annual Garden Day on Aug 8 from 9am to 4pm. MSU Garden Day offers experienced and beginning gardeners a variety of workshops and activities designed to help improve your gardening skills. Topics include incorporating ornamental grasses, garden design fundamentals, invasive species, and many others. A plant sale will also be held. Cost is \$75 including two workshops, parking and lunch. Registration deadline is July 18. Register online at:

<http://www.hrt.msu.edu/outreach/GardenDay/GDRegistration.htm> or call **Sandy Allen** at (517) 355-8362 or email allens@msu.edu

E-gardening

Check out these web sites suggested by other Master Gardeners:

<http://plants.usda.gov/>
Extensive Database with information about the vascular plants, mosses, liverworts, hornworts, and lichens of the U.S. and its territories
<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/tomatoproblemsolver/>
Great tomato problem solving from Texas A&M
<http://themoleman.com/control.htm>
Interesting information on moles
<http://www.msue.msu.edu/ipm/landCAT.htm>
MSUE landscape Crop Advisory Team Alert newsletter (this one should be bookmarked in EVERY Master Gardener's favorites!)

Kitchen Garden Volunteer Opportunity

The Holland Museum will be starting a small kitchen garden at the Settlers House. The planting date is May 31, 2003 at 1:00pm. They are seeking Master Gardeners to advise and work with other volunteers. If you are interested in this project please contact **Deb Schroeder** at 392-6740.

Master Gardener Spotlight Dave VanderWege - A Rare Perennial

If you visit the Holland Community Garden and see a guy in his blue jeans, t-shirt, Australian outback hat and soiled hands (remember it's *soil*, not dirt!), it's probably Dave VanderWege. An Advanced Master Gardener, Dave is the Holland Community Garden Coordinator. Dave and wife Eleanor live in Holland where Dave grew up.

Dave is retired from a career in purchasing. Dave likes to travel and has backpacked out west many times. Dave also sings in the Evergreen Chorale. What Dave likes most is gardening. Dave likes perennials, container gardening, vegetables, and bonsai. Dave has also dabbled in fruit trees. There have been frequent Dave sightings in the greenhouse behind the house.

Dave says, "I can't help gardening, it's in my genes". Dave is probably right. His grandmother seldom went to the store. She fished and grew most of her produce in the garden. Dave's dad was the head gardener for P.T. Chef at the Hazelbank Estate in the Holland area. His boyhood home also had many perennials and annuals, especially the irises and peonies so carefully cultivated by his dad.

Dave joined the Master Gardener ranks in 1996 and soon after received his advanced status. He is a regular at the Master Gardener Summer Conference. Dave has earned about 1900 hours as a class volunteer and through the library, farmer's market, Habitat for Humanity and the Holland Community Garden. Under Dave's supervision and the hard work of Dave and many others a desolate parcel of land was transformed into a productive garden that serves many in the community.

So, next time you're in Holland, stop by the community garden and see what can happen with the vision of one master gardener. Maybe you will even see a hat poking up over the tomato trellises. Check it out! It may be that rare perennial *Vegibundus davidii* commonly known as Dave.



Chemicals and Consequences

In a recent Detroit Free Press article, Michigan State University Museum's wildlife specialist Jim Harding notes a decline in a frequent garden visitor, the garter snake. Harding suggests that increased pesticides and chemical use could play a role in snake decline, due to the poisoning of their food supply of earthworms and insects from pesticides. Remember: there are *consequences* to everything you do in the garden. Use chemicals and pesticides judiciously and ALWAYS READ THE LABEL!

For more critter info check out <http://critterguy.museum.msu.edu>

Field Trip for Master Gardeners

Heritage Laurels
616-842-4407
13313 Fillmore St
West Olive, MI 49460-8912
May 24, 3:00 p.m.

Last year's visit was a big success and many MGs have requested a trip for this spring. Jeri Kiel, owner of Heritage Laurels Nursery in West Olive, specializes in Rhododendrons, Azaleas and Mountain Laurels. She will explain the process of clone propagation and take you on a tour of her greenhouses. No fee. Show up if you are interested.

Holland Farmer's Market

The Holland Farmer's market is coming up fast. Those of you that have signed up to work the Master Gardener table should have received an e-mail or phone call to let you know your scheduled date. You must confirm your date by May 16 or it may be given to someone else. If you were not contacted get in touch with **Barry Andersen at (616) 399-5117 or bandersen@triton.net**

Jenison Community Garden Needs Help

The Jenison garden has come a long way in the past year or two. A huge tree was removed this year that was blocking the sunlight. The soil has been amended tremendously since last year with shredded leaves and over 10 yards of compost and there are plans to add an automatic watering system this year.

The garden is 40 x 80 feet and used for growing vegetables that are donated (*Plant A Row*) to financially disadvantaged senior citizens who come to the senior center, and also to residents of a low-income senior apartment complex in Jenison.

If you would like to volunteer for this project please contact **Jeff VanHouten at (616) 669-0771 or vanhoutj@trinity-health.org**

Michigan Master Gardener Association Shoreline Chapter President's corner



It would be easy to become depressed with all that is going on around us: unemployment, corporate corruption, SARS, war, etcetera. But gardeners are a hopeful bunch. We plant trees because we have a vision of what it can be years from now. We plant a bulb in fall in the hopes it will come up in spring. We search through catalogs of plants and seeds with a vision of what we can do with them. We put our hope in that little carrot seed. For the last several months a group of Master Gardeners from Ottawa, Kent and Allegan counties have worked with that same hope to form a local association chapter for Master Gardeners. They had a vision of a better Master Gardener program that helps Master Gardeners and trainees stay in the loop and not go it alone; a program where the coordinator is not overwhelmed. I am hopeful as we move to our first annual meeting. We will be signing up members and electing officers and best of all we will be joining forces for a better future for Master Gardeners in the shoreline area. Please come join the festivities as we celebrate our future and help the shoreline grow.

—Barry Andersen Ottawa County

**You are Invited To a
Master Gardener Party!**



The Shoreline Chapter of the Michigan Master Gardener Association is having its first annual event and you are invited!

When: May 19, 2003

Where: Pigeon Creek Lodge in Pigeon Creek Park,
12524 Stanton Street,
West Olive (Olive Township)

Time: 6:30 - 9:00

Picnic! Forest Ecology Walk with Ann Colt from the County Conservation office! Door Prizes!

Annual Meeting :

We will be electing our first officers and taking membership applications and dues (\$10.00 for annual membership.)

Meet other Master Gardeners, 2003 Master Gardener Trainees and exchange ideas and information about volunteer opportunities!

**We will provide grilled brats
(meat and vegetarian style),
buns, condiments, coffee and tea.**

Please bring a salad or dessert dish to pass, your own table service and your own beverages.

Come to this fun event and see what the **Michigan Master Garden Association, Shoreline Chapter** is all about. This is the **OFFICIAL KICKOFF** event of the association and we are extremely excited for its potential. This organization seeks to bring area **Master Gardeners** together to form a network of resources, build community, organize educational opportunities, create social events, and much more. If you have ideas, suggestions, contributions for the future of the Shoreline Association, would like to run for an officer position or just want to come for the fun, we hope you will attend this event!

Anyone who has ever been certified as a Master Gardener anywhere in Michigan, or is a 2003 Master Gardener Trainee is welcome!