



Ottawa County Master Gardener Program

MSU Extension Ottawa County 616-846-8250

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Airport Board Approves proposal for larger Grand Haven Community Garden.

At last month's meeting the Grand Haven Airport Board voted to recommend that the city designate an acre of airport property as a community garden. Before volunteers can begin to develop the site, the community garden proposal needs the approval of the [Grand Haven City Council](#) and the [Federal Aeronautics](#)

[Administration](#) (FAA). Both groups are expected to act on the measure later this summer in time to prepare the site for use next year.

The proposed site is currently a narrow grassy field at the west end of the airport's main runway at the southwest corner of 168th Street and Ariel View Drive. The new garden site will be visible to passing motorists and is accessible by the city's public transportation system. Several other adjoining acres of land are available should there be a need to expand the facility in the future. Preliminary plans also call for installation of a ground water well, along with an underground/above ground irrigation system.

The new garden would replace the existing community garden that is currently located near downtown Grand Haven. Once the airport's consulting engineers establish boundaries for the new garden, a group of Master Gardener volunteers from the area will establish an overall plan for the property. Any individuals interested in participating in the garden design can contact [Patrick Berg](#) by email at statepark1432@yahoo.com



Holland Community Garden is Front Page News

The Holland Community Garden was featured in the July 8 issue of [The Holland Sentinel](#). The front page article with a large picture of Advanced Master Gardener [Dave Vander Wege](#) talked about the work being done at the garden with credit given to the Ottawa County Master Gardeners. According to Dave, the article generated considerable new interest in the Garden. Way to go!

Ottawa County Sets Summer Conference Record

Ten (!) Ottawa County Master Gardeners attended the Summer Conference in East Lansing. This is a new attendance record for Ottawa County. The conference featured the World renown (and MSU graduate) Allan Armitage and Scott Kunst of Old HouseGardens in Ann Arbor. With 500 in attendance the participants enjoyed the many sessions and a picnic in the perennial garden. Next years conference is on June 21, 22, and 23. Set those dates aside NOW! It's a **great** way to get your advanced education hours.

Garden Day Deadline

It's still not too late to register for MSU's Garden Day on August 8 from 9 AM to 4 PM. Garden Day will feature 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. This is open to all so take a friend. 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/GDRRegistration.htm> or call **Sandy Allen** at (517) 355-8362 or email allens@msu.edu

Garden Walks & Tours

There is a garden walk scheduled at [Joan St. Clair's](#) house: Date: Sunday, Aug. 3, 2003; Time: 1-5 PM; Place: 14249 Leonard Rd., Spring Lake. Located east of the high school between 144th and 138th. It's the 6th house on the N. side of the road from 144th. Big barn close to road. Park along Leonard Rd. or at Jefferson School (Leonard/144th)

The St. Clair's have moved 40 large trees from their 80 acres of woods near the house. Trails for walking through the woods. They have a vehicle to provide rides for those who can't walk. Remodeled farm house and buildings open for tours. Large collection of antique farm tools, tractors, and equipment. Refreshments will be served. Phone: 616-847-0640 for more info.

DAYLILIES BY CHRISTOPHER Master Gardener Field Trip

If you have a passion for hemerocallis, don't miss this great field trip. Monday, July 21, 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM, 5806 64th Street (7/10 of mile south of Port Sheldon Street) Hudsonville, MI [The Shoreline Chapter of the Michigan MGA](#) presents an evening with Christopher Krueer, owner of Daylilies by Christopher in Hudsonville. Stroll through dozens of daylily beds filled with hundreds of unique varieties. Learn more about Mr. Krueer's hybridizing operation. Plus, attendees will be able to place orders for over 800 different hardy daylily varieties available from this popular grower. (Prices vary and all orders are shipped in mid-August).

All Master Gardeners, Master Gardener Trainees and other guests are invited to attend at no charge. One full education credit hour for re-certification will be granted. For more information, call [Margaret Hudson](#) (Grand Haven) at 616- 846-2502 or [Mary Beth Westhouse](#) (Hudsonville) at 616- 669-1237.

Garden Walks (cont.)

Long-time Master Gardener [Linda Wiltse](#) is selling her home and leaving the Grand Haven area. Her beautiful gardens are her pride and joy. Linda would like very much for other Master Gardeners to enjoy her years of hard work before she is gone. Please join us on Thursday, July 24, from 3-5 PM at Linda's house, 415 Orchard Ave., Grand Haven. Linda will give us a tour and provide some light snacks and beverages. Say good-bye to a great volunteer who has won a special place in this coordinator's heart!

The Japanese Beetle and You

The Japanese beetle (*Popillia japonica* Newman) is a destructive exotic insect that feeds on the fruit and foliage of many plants, from garden flowers to shrubs and trees. Researchers are asking Michigan citizens to help them better understand this farm and garden enemy by logging their sightings on a new web page. By visiting

<http://www.pmcenters.org/northcentral/jbettle/>

Michigan homeowners, gardeners, farmers and others who find Japanese beetles in their environments can quickly report when, where and how many beetles they've seen. They can also describe any damage the beetles have caused.

"We're interested in trying to predict the range of Japanese beetle throughout the north central region, starting with Michigan," says [Rufus Isaacs](#), Michigan State University (MSU) assistant professor of entomology. "The web site is a place where people can provide info on when and where they saw the pest. We also provide photos of other insects that can be mistaken for Japanese beetle."

Web site visitors can also explore their options for controlling Japanese beetles in the yard, garden or farm field. The Japanese beetle study is a joint effort between Isaacs and a climatologist at the University of Illinois. The two will look at climate data and the beetle sighting reports to predict how far the Japanese beetle will spread across Michigan.

"By getting good info on where it is currently we can predict how far we expect it to eventually move," Isaacs points out. "The more reports we have, the better it will reflect what's really happening in the state." Residents can visit the web page and report Japanese beetle sightings as many times as they

encounter the insect. A map showing the beetle's distribution across the state will be developed on the basis of the reports, and it will be updated each week throughout the summer.

Anyone who logs on and provides a report will receive a research summary at the end of the year.

Identifying Ash Trees

MSU IPM Program - Due to the recent discovery of the emerald ash borer (EAB) in Michigan, it is important to be able to recognize and identify ash trees. To date, the EAB has only been found on ash trees. MSU now has a brand-new publication: **E-2892 Distinguishing Ash from other Common Trees**. This bulletin provides a simple key to help you distinguish between some common deciduous landscape trees frequently confused with ash, including: elm, box elder, mountain ash, walnut, and hickory.

Excellent photos and drawings make it very easy to correctly identify six separate species of deciduous trees. Get a copy from the MSU Extension Office, your bulletin catalog, or go to <http://ceenet.msue.msu.edu/bulletin/ctgma st.html>

From the Coordinator:

If you've never been to England it's time to think about a trip abroad. The Brits are passionate gardeners, and they know their stuff. I was fortunate to be there from mid-May to early June, just as their gardens are nearing peak but still with enough distance to go that everything green surged with lush growth. Unlike Americans, who so often have huge amounts of space in which to garden, the English maximize their small landscapes with absolute brilliance. In my opinion, American gardeners too often end up with a very segregated landscape, a series of plots with yards of turf surrounding them, all surrounding a house that looks as if being held in place by rows of shrubs clinging to its foundation. (I often think if all those yews were ripped out the house might just collapse). English gardens, most of them quite informal, seem to gently cascade from everywhere you turn, as if every vantage point has been artfully considered. As one thing tapers off, another begins. When you enter a house or a building, you have the distinct sensation of being carried along to the threshold by the surroundings themselves.

Once indoors you will never stop catching glimpses, new views, of the gardens outside as you pass by a window.

The uncanny skill of integrating flowers and foliage so sensuously appears to be an atavistic trait in the blood of the English, but of course it is learned. They pass it on to each generation the same way we pass on the love of turf grass and "foundation" plantings (yews and more yews).

The **Chelsea Flower Show** in London is indeed everything it's cracked up to be: acres and acres of breathtaking flowers on exhibit by vendor, many of them in the floriculture business for over three hundred years. The downside is crowds. The show is enormously popular and there is talk of moving it to a new location as a result. Fortunately, due to the Brits' respect for queuing, the lines move along at a reasonable pace, but the sheer number of exhibits is daunting. If you ever decide to visit this show, give yourself at least one full day.

Back in the USA.

Speaking of turf, a recent gardening article in the Detroit Free Press used the term "lawn nazi." I had to laugh. We all know exactly what he meant !

Hooray Volunteers!

Last summer after having no volunteers for hotline I swore I'd pack this office with trainees in summer 03, and I want to thank all of you who have scheduled time at the MG office this summer answering the phone (or twiddling your thumbs on slow days). See...it's not so scary after all! You came, you learned, and you undoubtedly got to leave with at least one great story about a whacked-out question. My personal recent fave: "The ground outside smells moldy." Um...because there is MOLD in it? I did not recommend a soil test.

The world IS a better place because of Master Gardeners!

"Bringing Knowledge to Life"

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