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Horticulture Hotline  
734-727-7242  
Tues. 1 – 4 pm  
Wed. 1 – 4 pm  
Thurs. 4 – 7 pm

Diagnostic Clinic  
Closed for the Winter-  
Will reopen May 3, 2007  
at the Satellite Office  
5454 Venoy Road.

# The Extension Outlook

Newsletter For Wayne County's Master Gardeners  
SPRING 2007

## New Master Gardener Coordinator

For those of you who may not be aware, Wayne County MSUE has hired me for the position of Master Gardener Coordinator effective January 16, 2007. I had been acting as the Master Gardener Assistant since last September. When the Coordinator position was posted, I applied, and was hired.

If you do not know who I am, I'll give you a small slice of my background. I attended the Winter 2001 Master Gardener classes, held at the Venoy facility. Within the first year, I not only completed the requirements for my Basic certification, but I also fulfilled those for my Advanced certification.

At the end of 2006 I had completed over 2300 volunteer hours in a myriad of different volunteering opportunities and projects.

At this point in time, I am working a 30-hour week. This time includes everything from supervising the hotline and the Winter Master Gardener training classes at Temple, attending both the Master Gardeners of Greater Detroit (MGGD) and the Master Gardeners of Western Wayne County (MGWWC) board and general meetings to attempting to spend time at the new office at the Venoy facility. I will also be attending different meetings, projects, trips and seminars when possible.

I hope to be seeing all of you at one time or another in my travels. If you see me, please introduce yourself to me. I know so many of you only by name and would love to put a face to that name.

Your thoughts and ideas are an essential part of keeping the Master Gardener Program in Wayne County alive and well. Without you, there would be no Master Gardener Program.

I am here to assist and facilitate different volunteer and educational opportunities. Please feel free to stop into the Venoy office or contact me at any time.

Let's all start thinking green as spring is just around the corner.

*Anita Callender*

## 2007 MSUE Master Gardener Banquet & Awards Ceremony

The 2007 Master Gardener Banquet and Awards Ceremony was held at the PLAV Post 16 Hall in Dearborn Heights on Friday February 16, 2007. The 85 attendees enjoyed an evening that included a wonderful dinner, tons of door prizes and a 50/50 raffle, where all money was distributed to three different winners.

The evenings Educational Presentation was on the **Detroit 1700 Project** delivered by Michele Wysocki, Rick Whitecotton and Colleen Flanagan.

The 2007 Tiger Lily Award was awarded to Cheryl English for her unsurpassed work with the Master Gardeners of Greater Detroit Association as well as her work throughout the East Side of Detroit.

The 2007 Unsung Hero award was given to Paul Rodman for his unending work with a varying array of projects, which he has been a part of for many years. Paul has been one of the driving forces in organizing the newest MSUE Affiliated Master Gardener Association, the Master Gardeners of Western Wayne County, and is currently acting as their President. He also writes a column for the News Herald newspapers.

Michele Wysocki was awarded the Master Gardener of the Year Award for 2007. Michele has been involved with the grow zones along Hines Drive, the Bennett Arboretum project, the Detroit 1700 project and in the organization of Master Gardeners of Western Wayne County and is currently acting as their Treasurer.

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### **Hotline To Begin Summer Hours**

Yes, spring is really here and with it comes all of the consumer questions, problems and observations. This can only mean one thing; the hotline will begin receiving many calls.

With the coming of spring, the hotline will begin Summer Hours on Tuesday, April 3, 2007.

Volunteers are needed to answer consumer calls and research solutions to their situations and problems. All volunteer opportunities for the hotline will be at the Venoy office.

#### **Hotline Hours**

<b>Tuesdays</b>	<b>1:00 pm to 4:00 pm</b>
<b>Wednesdays</b>	<b>1:00 pm to 4:00 pm</b>
<b>Thursdays</b>	<b>4:00 pm to 7:00 pm</b>

**Remember that if you are a Master Gardener in Training, you must complete at least one shift on either the hotline or at a MSUE approved informational booth.**

For more information or to sign up for a particular day, contact Anita Callender at 734-727-7238.

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### **Diagnostic Clinic To Re-Open**

Another sure sign of spring is the re-opening of the diagnostic clinic at the Venoy facility.

This year, the clinic will re-open on Thursday, May 3, 2007. As in the past, they will be open on Thursdays only.

Volunteers are needed to assist the diagnostic team in their efforts to help out area consumers with their inquiries. Please contact Bruce Forrest at [bruceforrest@comcast.net](mailto:bruceforrest@comcast.net) for additional information or to volunteer for a day.

#### **Diagnostic Clinic Hours**

<b>Thursdays</b>	<b>9:30 am to 11:30 and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm</b>
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### **Volunteer Hours Confirmation Letters**

Kristine and I have received several emails and phone calls in the last couple of weeks from volunteers who have noticed a few discrepancies in the information that was on the Volunteer Hours Confirmation Letters sent to all current Master Gardeners.

This had been a yearly report sent to all volunteers at the end of each certification year up until the last 3 or 4 years. I decided to begin sending these letters back out again to assist the volunteers keep track of their progress. It would also help clear up any problems, which might have come up in the reporting of their hours, in a timely fashion.

Some of the questions have been about the year of Basic or Advanced certifications. I contacted the State Data Base Coordinator and this is in part her reply.

“The record keeping was done manually for many years. Then a PC based system was shared with county offices and then finally the online system. so historical information was not always entered into the system accurately year by year when people started using the systems. Also keep in mind that the certification year used to run October through September back then.. In one county, they lumped all of the previous submitted hours into one group called “Historical Hours’ and their volunteers did not seem to mind.”

Other questions have been about the inaccuracy of the items and total hours submitted. All the information was taken directly from the MSU Record Keeping System files for hours completed through December 31, 2006.

If you have and questions or problems with the letter you have received, please fell free to contact me and I will help you out.

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### **WANTED !!! Newsletter Assistance**

Do you have a short garden story you would like to share? Have you visited a great place and would like to let others know about it? Have you found a great web-site or store you would like to share with your fellow Master Gardeners? Do you know a fellow Master Gardener who has been working on a special project and should be recognized? Let me know and we will try to include your item in a future newsletter.

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### **SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN BUTTERFLY ASSOCIATION**

Are you interested in the world of butterflies and butterfly gardens? Would you like to know how to attract butterflies to your gardens? Come join SEMBA at one of their monthly meetings held at Nankin Mills Interpretative Center located at 33175 Ann Arbor Trail on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm. Contact Brenda Dziedzic at 734-326-0578 or [semba@ameritech.net](mailto:semba@ameritech.net).

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## **MASTER GARDENERS OF GREATER DETROIT**

Have you renewed your membership yet? Have you considered joining the Association?

This is April and it is time to sign up as a member or renew your membership to Master Gardeners of Greater Detroit. Annual dues are still only \$10.00 and membership runs from March through February.

MGGD has many wonderful lectures and activities planned for the upcoming months. Their membership meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month. They usually meet at the Detroit Children's Home, located at 900 Cook Street in Grosse Point Woods.

For additional information on MGGD's membership, meetings or projects, please call their hotline at 313-438-6079 or visit their website at [www.mggd.org](http://www.mggd.org).

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## **MASTER GARDENERS OF WESTERN WAYNE COUNTY**

For those of you who are not yet aware, there are now two MSU affiliated Master Gardener Associations in Wayne County to serve the needs of our Master Gardeners.

MGWWC started membership meetings in the late fall of 2006 at the Venoy facility. They have recently had presentations on bee keeping, daylilies, backyard birding, butterfly gardens and grow zones in Hines Park. Not only have they had the educational meetings, but also they have even taken a 'road-trip' to East Lansing. There they took tours of the MSU Diagnostic lab, the MSU Student Organic Farm and the Giving Tree Farm.

MGWWC's vice-president, Bruce Forrest, has found a local company to produce MSU Master Gardener apparel at a very reasonable price. So far they have been selling tee-shirts, sweatshirts, hooded sweatshirts, aprons, gloves, and 'Cobra-head' gardening tools. The 'wearables, as they are referred to, have the MSU Master Gardener logo along with the wording 'Wayne County' silk screened on them.

MGWWC holds their membership meetings at the Venoy facility on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm. They hold their board meetings, which are open to all, at the Venoy facility as well, on the fourth Thursday of the month. For additional information on the Association, meetings, membership, or the items that they have for sale, please call Bruce Forrest at (313) 295-1889.

By the way... Wayne County has the greatest number of Master Gardeners and is the only county to have two MSUE affiliated Master Gardener Associations!

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## **Updated Volunteer Opportunities List Available**

Most of you have most likely either lost your list of MSUE Wayne County Volunteer Opportunities or have found that the contact people or the phone numbers have changed.

I have put together a **current** list for reference. If you would like me to send a copy to you, please contact me and I will make sure that you receive one. They will also be available at the meetings of both MGGD and MGWWC for your convenience.

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## **Updates To The Recordkeeping Database**

For those of you who enter your volunteer and education hours directly onto the MSU recordkeeping database, there have been a few changes that I would like to make you aware of.

As you are inputting the 'group' information, you must now place your entry into one of the drop down categories. You can no longer enter a group that is not in the list and have it approved. For those of you have entered a group lately, I have had to manually place it into an existing group. These groups have been updated as well. Please note these changes as you are entering your hours.

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## **Listing Your Upcoming Events**

*If you would like to have your programs or events listed in the upcoming newsletters, please send me the following information.*

**WHO:** Sponsor of the event (MGWWC, BIBS, etc)

**WHAT:** Short description of event

**WHERE:** Location of the event

**WHEN:** Day and date of the event  
Time that event begins

**COST:** Will there be a charge for this event or program and how much

**CONTACT PERSON:** **We will not be able to publish any program or event without having this information. This is also a mandatory requirement for items sent out on the weekly listserv messages. We must have a person to contact, their phone number or an email address for volunteers to obtain any additional information. As Kristine and I rarely have all of the details of a given project or program, we need your help in conveying your wishes and needs to the Wayne County Master Gardeners.**

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## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### APRIL

April 5	7:00 pm	Venoy Office	MGWWC general meeting with speaker John Gaydos from "Proven Winners"
April 18	7:00 pm	Nankin Mills IC	SEMBA general meeting with presentation on 'Choosing the Best Plants to Attract Butterflies.'
April 25	7:00 pm	Det. Children's Home	MGGD general meeting topic TBD
April 21	10:00 am	Det. Garden Center	DGC workshop on Oshibana: The Japanese Art of Pressed Flowers Under Rice Paper (\$)
April 25	6:45 pm	Venoy Office	MGWWC board meeting
April 28		Belle Isle	MGGD Wildflower Walk (\$)

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### MAY

May 3	7:00 pm	Venoy Office	MGWWC general meeting with speaker Steve Turner on African Violets.
May 5	9:00 am	Bennett Arboretum Hines Drive Park	Tree Team recognition and native plant installation
May 15	6:00 pm	Elmwood Cemetery	DGC "Elmwood Cemetery Tree Identification And History Tour" with Bob Bricault and Chancey Miller (\$)
May 16	7:00 pm	Nankin Mills IC	TBD
May 23	6:30 pm	Edsel and Eleanor Ford Estate	MGGD Garden Tour of the Estate –non members (\$)
May 24	6:45 pm	Venoy Office	MGWWC board meeting

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### JUNE

June 1	9:00 am	Four Star Greenhouse	Spring Consumer Day (\$)
June 2		Indian Village	MGGD/DGC and Grosse Pointe Herb Society home and Tour of Indian Village
June 16	10:00 am	Marcia Geibel home	DGC sponsored Hypertufa Workshop (\$)
June 20	7:00 pm	Nankin Mills IC	TBD
June 27	TBD	EarthWorks Garden	MGGD and MGWWC Summer Send Off

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*Remember that if you have anything interesting, informative, or just plain good to share with your fellow Wayne County Master Gardeners, please pass them along to me. I will consider all of them for future Newsletter publications.*

*Your feedback is very important to me as well. Send me your thoughts and suggestions of what you would like to see in your newsletter.*

*I hope that you all have a wonderful spring season and that your gardens are all that you hope for.*

*Anita Callender  
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*Your next Newsletter will be available the first week of July*

