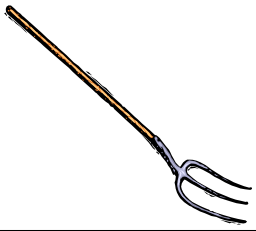


Extension Outlook



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The Dirt from 640 Temple - Kristin Kendall-Holliday

Well, we're gearing up for the M.G. Spring Brunch, and our great M.G. team is getting things ready! If you have earned a certificate or lifetime hours pin and cannot attend the Spring Brunch, your goodies will be mailed to you the next week.



We will vote on a new name for this newsletter that day. I've received lots of hilarious & creative names, but there is still time to send me YOUR ideas. The top 5 will be on the ballot. I can't wait to see all of you there!

There are several new partnerships in the works that have me really excited, which include U of D - Mercy, Friends School in Detroit, U of M - Dearborn, and Belle Isle Conservatory. I will share details with you soon, but if helping organize volunteering at any of these places piques your interest, let me know now - don't wait! Lots of creativity and energy will be needed to make these projects a reality.

Spring, Spring, Spring!! ~Kristin

Horticultural Gardening Institute News

Since the fall of 2002, MSUE has been on the leading edge of online horticulture education with its launch of the Gardening Institute. Together with Proven Winners, they launched an online program, "The Art and Science of Container Gardening".

In 2003, the American Horticultural Society also partnered with the Gardening Institute (AHS press release: www.ahs.org/press_room/030624.htm). One of the outcomes of this partnership is the new Gardening Institute program that is titled, "The Art and Science of the SMARTGARDEN™". SMARTGARDEN® is a term originated by the AHS in 2000 that refers to 10 Tenets that teach how to practice good stewardship of the earth.

There are two ways to participate in "The Art and Science of the SMARTGARDEN™" program:

- 1) Choose to only do the online program
- 2) Do the SMARTGARDEN™ event plus the online program

The event will be on April 9, 2005 at Wojo's Greenhouse in Ortonville (50 miles northwest of Detroit) and costs \$25. Those who attend the event get a discount on the online course. For more information, contact Julie Orlor at (517) 353-3123, or email info@gardeninginsitute.com, or check out the web site: www.gardeninginstitute.com/indexer/1505/content.htm

EAB Update - *Kristine Hahn, Consumer Horticulture Agent-MSUE Wayne County*

Late last fall, the state Departments of Agriculture (MDA) and Management and Budget (DMB) developed a plan to use Michigan's collective contract system to pool demand and generate lower prices for the removal of EAB (Emerald Ash Borer) infested ash trees. This three-year voluntary, self-funded program uses the state's contracting system to issue an "Invitation to Bid" (ITB), seeking multiple vendors who can meet contract criteria, and then establishing the standardized pricing listed below. This provides local government and homeowners more affordable rates for landscape ash tree removal.

There are two requirements for homeowners to participate: (1) you must live in the quarantine area in southeast Michigan (as of 12/27/04, the quarantine area includes 20 counties - including Wayne County); (2) Homeowners can only access the program if the county, township, city or village where they live chooses to participate in the voluntary program. Note that the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) is offering two-hour orientation sessions for municipalities that are interested in the program (tentatively on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month, from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.) that will be held at the MDA Southfield Regional Office (located at 26400 Lahser Road, #415, Southfield, MI 48034).

As of 3/7/05 the only municipality in Wayne County listed as participating in the program is the city of Southgate. So, if you have an ash tree impacted by EAB and want to take advantage of this program, contact your local municipality and encourage them to participate in the program, or to at least attend an Ash Tree Removal Contract Program orientation session as noted above.

The following prices are the maximum allowed under this program. Contractors will be required to provide local units of government and private landowners with bids for tree removals, when such removals have been determined by the local units of government. Pricing shall include ash tree removal for disposal as specified in section 1.101,1 description of work.

Tree Diameter at Breast Height:	1" - 10"	11" - 17"	18"-24"	25"-30"	31"-39"	40"+
Municipal Ash Trees	\$60.00	\$150.00	\$300.00	\$500.00	\$750.00	\$1,000.00
Private Ash Trees: Front Yard	\$72.00	\$180.00	\$360.00	\$600.00	\$900.00	\$1,200.00
Private Ash Trees: Back Yard *	\$90.00	\$225.00	\$450.00	\$750.00	\$1,125.00	\$1,500.00
Transportation Cost **	\$0.40	\$0.50	\$0.60	\$0.70	\$0.80	\$0.90

* Any tree behind the front surface of a structure is considered to be "Back Yard"

** Cost is "per mile-per tree size" from the removal site to nearest marshaling yard, one way.

Free Emerald Ash Borer Symposium

MSU Extension and Monroe County Community College are sponsoring an EAB Symposium, free to the public, at the college (50 minutes southwest of Detroit) on Wednesday April 6 at 7:00 pm. An expert panel will discuss EAB issues and answer questions (entomologists Dr. Dave Smitley and Dr. Erik Rebeck of Michigan State University, Dr. John Witter of the University of Michigan and urban forester Robert Gentry).

The free symposium is at the La-Z-Boy Center for Performing Arts, in the center of the College campus at 1555 S. Raisinville Rd., Monroe, MI (just south of M-50 and the fairgrounds). County and campus maps are available at www.monroe.cc.mi.us

Coming soon to a computer near you...



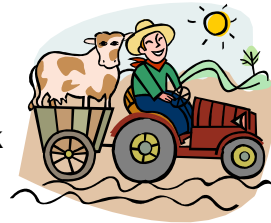
We are going to be starting online hours entry this year for all of you Wayne County Master Gardeners & Master Gardener Trainees.

Everyone will continue to be able to submit hours through the mail on paper forms. But for those of you with internet access (and an adventurous spirit!) you will be able to start entering volunteer and education hours directly into the MSUE database!

Instructions, user names & passwords will be distributed at the MSUE Wayne County Master Gardener Spring Brunch (see next page for details) on April 30.

After that, instructions will be posted on the MSUE web site, along with details about how to get your user name and password.

Got a Tractor?



The Detroit Agriculture Network (DAN) would like to hire a tractor/operator to assist with plowing for urban farms and community gardens in the City of Detroit for 3 days in early May (the operator would be responsible for transportation and liability associated with the operation of the tractor).

DAN will provide help to assist with clearing sites. The sites, which range from 1 full city lot to 2 acres, are gardens and farms that participate in the Garden Resource Program (a collaborative effort of DAN, Earth Works Garden/Capuchin Soup Kitchen, The Greening of Detroit and MSUE-Wayne County).

This program provides urban farmers and community gardeners in the City of Detroit access to resources and information in order to empower Detroit residents to grow, harvest, prepare, and preserve food for their families in their backyards and neighborhoods.

For more information, please contact or Lindsay Turpin (Garden Resource Program Coordinator) at lindsay_detroitagriculture@yahoo.com or (313) 676-0718 or Ashley Atkinson (Greening of Detroit) at (313) 237-8736.

Urban Roots Update - Kristine Hahn, Consumer Horticulture Agent-MSUE Wayne County

The pilot program "Urban Roots: A Community Gardening Program" is going very well. This course is a collaboration of the Detroit Agriculture Network, Michigan State University Extension, The Greening of Detroit and the Earthworks Garden. Our original goal was to train 24 gardeners, but due to demand, we now have 31 participants! Those of us offering the program feel very fortunate to have such a very diverse and enthusiastic group.

At the time of this writing (3/7/05), we are entering the 4th week of the 9 week Urban Roots program. The first 3 weeks focused on Community Organizing and Leadership Development. Participants had many new experiences, such as when they went outside (yes, it was cold!) and performed a site inventory and created a base map of the American Indian Health grounds. Last week we all went on a tour of the neighborhood and mapped the assets of the area.

This week we will start focusing on Horticulture subjects with Plant Science and Propagation. Taught at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen and Earthworks greenhouse, this class includes hands-on activities of starting plants from seed, cuttings and a bud graft.

We'll keep you posted on the rest of the program – I can't wait to see all the garden portfolios of the program participants!

First Annual Master Gardener Spring Brunch



We will be celebrating last year's Master Gardener accomplishments at the first annual Master Gardener Brunch (previously called the Award Ceremony).

This year's brunch will be held on Saturday, **April 30** from 10 am - 2 pm at the Fairlane Club in Dearborn (5000 Fairlane Woods Drive, phone (313) 336-4400).

The cost of this event is \$26 per person, which covers coffee, tea, juices, sweet pastries, nut breads, muffins and bagels, along with cut fruit and made-to-order omelets.

Everyone is welcome to this event! It is for Master Gardeners (currently certified or not), Master Gardeners-in-training, family and friends. You do not need to be getting an award or certificate to come. This is a celebration for all of us!

We will have a speaker at the ceremony, and will be demonstrating the new online database hours entry tools. There will be a raffle, door prizes and a few interesting displays about our current Master Gardener group. Kristin will be presenting certificates to our newest Master Gardeners, advanced certificates to our new Advanced Master Gardeners, and hour pins to people who have contributed significant lifetime volunteer hours. The event will wrap up with the presentation of the Master Gardener of the Year award and the raffle drawing.

Everyone who submitted hours for the 2004 Master Gardener year (Oct. 1, 2003 – Dec. 31, 2004) will be getting a registration form along with your year end hours letter from Kristin. If you want an electronic pdf file of the registration form, email Barb Smith (brksmith2@yahoo.com), and if you need a paper registration form mailed to you, contact Kristin (see first page of this newsletter for Kristin's contact information).

***** Registrations are due in office by April 15, 2005. *****

Would you like to work for food, work for pay, or work for MG credit?

Wayne County's newest farm, the Lakeplain Prairie Farm (in partnership with the Larkrest Farm), seeks people who are interested in learning about organic food. We practice organic agricultural methods, which do not include the use of harmful chemical pesticides. The farm is about 20 miles southwest of Detroit.

Work for Pay: We seek Farm employees to support our commercial market garden at Larkrest Farm. If you have farm experience or want to learn how to grow vegetables, please contact us.

Work for Food: We have a community supported agricultural farm (CSA) where consumers can participate in how their food is grown. We are taking applications now for CSA memberships for the 2005 season. Each member receives weekly shares to feed a family of four or two vegetarians.

Work for MG Credit: We are looking for Master Gardener volunteers to help with the CSA.

For more information, contact: Mary LaFrance, Lakeplain Prairie Organic Farm
22353 Beech Daly, Brownstown Township, MI 48134
(734) 789-1164 mlafrance@sbcglobal.net

In The Trenches: Database Update



- Barb Smith (brksmith2@yahoo.com)

The 2004 M.G. year has ended, and Kristin and I are preparing the year-end letters that will be sent to everyone who submitted hours for 2004 (Oct. 1, 2003 - Dec. 31, 2004).

This year we have accomplished a great deal:

- 20,220 volunteer hours
- 4,278 education hours
- 213 re-certified master gardeners
- 68 newly certified master gardeners

Thanks for getting in those hours! Just a reminder to submit ALL volunteer hours (including those beyond what you need for your yearly re-certification). The more hours we report, the better able we are to justify and protect resources for our Master Gardener Program!

Master Composter Program



The spring classes for the Master Composter program are about to begin (provided by the Wayne County Department of Environment).

To become a Master Composter, you need to attend 5 classes, pass the final exam, and do 10 hours of volunteer work after the course.

Classes will be held on Thursday evenings from 6 - 8 pm at 3600 Commerce Court, Building E in the city of Wayne. 2005 Classes will start on **April 21** and will end on May 19.

There is a \$30 registration fee that covers your class materials (which is due at registration).

To register, contact Mary Vangieson:

Phone: (734) 326-3936

Fax: (734) 326-4421

Email: mvangies@co.wayne.mi.us

A Day in the Gardens Seminar to Benefit BIBS

Have you been looking at seed catalogues and daydreaming about the sun on your back and the sweet aroma of damp spring earth? "A Day in the Gardens" was developed just for you. Held at the Belle Isle Conservatory on Sat. **April 9** from 8am-3pm, all proceeds will be donated to the Conservatory! Speakers will include Janet Macunovich and Nancy Szerlag, and Detroit's own garden vendors will be on site, selling fabulous tools, gorgeous garden art, and best of all: PLANTS! Please plan to spend either part or all of your Saturday enjoying a taste of spring! Register by April 5 for \$30 (\$25 for members) or register at the door for \$40. To register, or for more information, either call BIBS at (313) 822-2548 or see the Association of Professional Gardeners web site: www.associationofprofessionalgardeners.org

Share your Knowledge!

Every Thursday from May - September, volunteers at the Master Gardener booth at the Northville Farmers Market answer questions from folks who are visiting the market. To volunteer one or more times, contact Linda Lestock at (248) 344-1733 or Saralindassota@wowway.com. (For all of you working on Basic Certification, this counts as your hotline/booth requirement!)

MGAWC Spring Plant Sale

This year's Master Gardener Association of Wayne County plant sale is being sponsored by Belleville Greenhouses & Nursery (18045 Lohr Rd. in Belleville).

The sale is on Saturday, April 30, 2005 from 9am - 2 pm. The sponsor is generously donating a portion of the sales made this day to MGAWC.

Unfortunately this conflicts with the MSUE-Wayne County Spring Brunch, but next year we will all try to work together to minimize conflicting dates!



My Volunteer Opportunity That Became a Bed of Roses ***by Joanne Tokatlian***

If you would like to contribute a short item for the newsletter, send it to Kristen (address is on the first page)

A year and a half ago there was a volunteer opportunity listed in MGAWC's Grow Info. Located in the old Austin High School on Warren at Mack in Detroit, the Senior Community is a 210 bed nursing home/assisted living facility under the umbrella of the St. John Hospital Hospital Medical Center.

I went in for the required interview and was struck by the beauty of the building. This is not the nursing home atmosphere that many of us are familiar with. It has been open 17 years and the appointments are very luxurious. The common areas are bright, open and inviting. The exterior garden areas are just as attractive with gazebos, raised beds, benches, patios and THE ROSE GARDEN.

What a rose garden! Currently there are 240 roses, mostly hybrid teas and floribundas. In April, I took out 30 bushes which were in poor condition. Another 30 had been removed the previous year. So there is a lot of room for additions. Many of the roses were donated by the families of the residents.

Heavy pruning (24 hours just to prune), Osmocote, and two truck loads of pine bark mulch plus ample rain turned this garden into a showplace. When I finally put the whole thing to bed in mid-November, I was able to cut six dozen roses for bouquets that the residents could enjoy.

What caused me to take on this monumental project? The convenience of the location was a factor. But the interior and exterior beauty of the facility, the energy and commitment of the staff and the enthusiasm of the administrators were the real draws. There are over 80 volunteers in various departments at the Center. Each and every one is truly appreciated by the staff and residents.

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