

The Grapevine

St. Clair County

Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 9, Issue 3 May 2006



Important Dates....

- May 13: Spring Plant Swap, 9 AM - 1 PM, St. Clair County Adm. Bldg., rain or shine; bring plants to swap, call Connie Rutkofske, (810) 327-6181.
- May 16: Association Meeting, 6:00 PM, potluck & hotdog roast, Jan Shue garden, 13910 Hough Rd, Allen-ton 48002, (586) 784-5284. Bring a chair and a dish to pass.
- May 18: Learning Train, Goodells County Park, Lapeer Rd. entrance, 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM, call Sharlene Aalto (810) 385-9431. Bring a sandwich and drink!
- May 23: Goodells Park Visitor Center Planting Day, 5 PM, Bette Gall, (810) 325-1593. Bring your hand tools.
- June 20: Association Meeting, 6:00 PM, Evelyn Carl garden, 1081 Richman Rd., St. Clair 48074, (810) 367-6966. Bring a chair and snack to pass.
- July - no meeting! See you at the Garden Tour!
- July 15: Garden Tour and Garden Boutique, 10 AM - 4 PM. Tickets on tour day, 2872 Harwood Dr. (off W. Water) Kimball, or call 650-0075.
- August 15: Family Picnic, 6 PM, Jeanette Wallace's garden, 5220 Davis Rd., (810) 329-3942. Bring a dish to pass and a chair.
- September 19: Association Meeting, 6 PM at The Barn, Schwehofer & Sons, 2062 Fred Moore Hwy., St. Clair 48079 (810) 329-3556. Schwehofer tour by Celeste Skalneck and Garden Design session by Robin Prudden.
- October 17: Association Meeting, 7 PM, St. Clair Co. Adm. Bldg. 200 Grand River, Port Huron, Sheri Faust, Rain Gardens. Officer nominations for 2007-2008.
- November 21: Association Meeting, 7 PM, St. Clair Co. Adm. Bldg. 200 Grand River, Port Huron - Election of officers, committees for 2007.
- December 19: Christmas Gathering, 6:30 PM induction of Honorary Members, potluck finger foods, \$10.00 gift swap.

THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

This has been an eventful spring with the wrap up of a very successful Winter Lecture Series, the excitement of the Association's first "Spring Into Gardening", two days of St. Clair County Earth Fair, Bring Your Kid To Work Day sponsored by MSU Extension for county employees, preparation for the Spring Plant Swap, Learning Train and Garden Tour. As an association we've had little rest from one major event to the next.

The Winter Lecture Series is at least six months of heavy promotion, speaker contacts, ticket and program printing. There is room setup and projection equipment to secure, books to order, volunteers to lineup and refreshments. Are we glad when it's over? YES! Are we really excited when it pays for itself and even some profit, the speakers were great and attendance was up? OH, YES!! Congratulations to chairman Lisa Sharrow and the team on a job well done!

What a thrill it was to see "Spring Into Gardening" come together under the competent direction of Kirsten Lyons and Kim Piotrowski. After a late start and numerous "bumps" along the way - the day was perfect. The children had a great time; the parents were very happy with the experience and the MG volunteers were awesome.

This year's Earth Fair was also another great time of teaching and sharing gardening with many children. The MG table had over 200 young visitors, each who built a "Beanie Baby" - bean germination craft, and every family took home a basil plant started from seed. The MG heroes who helped were fabulous and we all had a great time.

Take Your Kid to Work Day was a repeat of Earth Fair - with different people. It was a fun day, and Sheila Jobbitt and I were served a healthy lunch by MSUE for helping out.

Now if only we can finish off the rest of these events with as much or more Association participation, I'd say this was an "outstanding year" for the Master Gardener's Association.

By Laurie Dennis

MSU Summer MG Conference

Mark your calendars for the Master Gardener Summer conference, June 18 - 20, 2006, Kellogg Center and Plant and Soil Science Building Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

Featuring: Pat Lanza, author of: Lasagna Gardening, Lasagna Gardening for Small Spaces and Lasagna Gardening with Herbs

Three days of fun, food, workshops, shopping, garden tours, volunteer project sharing, surprises and much more! This conference is open to all active Michigan Master Gardener Volunteers and 2005 Trainees who are working toward certification.

Due to Michigan's downward economy and the lack of free time most people are facing, the Summer Conference will be shorter than in prior years. It will begin Sunday evening, June 18 with a welcome reception. The Green Marketplace and Master Gardener Shopping Mall will be open that evening. Monday and Tuesday will be full days of educational classes, workshops, garden tours, etc. The Conference will end at 5:00pm Tuesday, June 20.

In an effort to save printing and mailing costs we will NOT be mailing the registration brochure. All active Master Gardener Volunteers and Trainees who took the class in 2005 and are working toward their basic 40 hours will be sent (US Mail) a postcard invitation the first week in May. The postcard will give the website where they can find and print off the registration brochure. On-line registration will be available. The price of the Conference will be on the registration brochure. If you don't have Internet access, your local MG Coordinator will assist you. Conference limited to 500; first-come, first-registered.

http://web1.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/Conferences/MG_Conferences.htm

Thanks to Goodells Park Visitor Center Planting and Maintenance Volunteers

First, I would like to say "thank you" for all the work the volunteers did last summer and fall at the Visitor Center.

Now I'm asking for your help once again for the 2006 season. We would like to plant on Tuesday, May 23, 5:00 PM. If you could help plant, please bring your own tools. If you want to schedule a week for weeding, please call Bette Gall at (810 325-1593). The ground will be prepared prior to planting. We will be weeding once a week through October.

by Bette Gall

Master Gardener Coordinator

Welcome Liane Allen! Liane has agreed to serve as the Master Gardener Coordinator for limited hours each month as time and funding allows. This position is not being paid by the county, but with special hort funds. Liane is already working at MSUE as a 4-H Environmental Program Assistant and will be a life line to functions requiring a staff member. She will oversee the requests made for horticulture and help assist MG in coordinating volunteer projects. MG can call Liane at the MSUE office (810) 989-6935.

M.S.U. Landscape News

A new issue of Michigan State University's Landscape Alert has been posted at:

<http://www.ipm.msu.edu/cat06land/104-28-06.htm>

In this issue:

Landscape and nursery

- Spring treatments for emerald ash borer
- Prevent oak wilt by eliminating pruning wounds in spring and summer
- Pruning frost-damaged plants
- Recovering herbaceous perennials from frost damage in the nursery

- Weed control articles for the landscape and nursery industry

Turfgrass

- No need to use insecticides for grubs now
- Dandelion fields forever
- Gypsy moth spray window
- Christmas tree insect reports from around the state
- Douglas fir needlecast symptoms are visible

Association Garden Tour needs your help!

Saturday, July 15th, -
the big day is soon approaching and
the Association Garden Tour
is in full swing. Now all we need to
do is sell the tickets, prepare the
gardens and **provide plants for the
plant sale!** We need everyone
to take part in this event to make it a
great success. Call Dianne Wastell
(810) 364-8762, or Evelyn Carl (810)
367-6966 for garden tour and Jeanette
Wallace (810) 329-3942 or Debbie
Warshefski (810) 364-4954 for plant
sale and boutique.

