

The Grapevine

St. Clair County Master Gardener's Newsletter

October 2007

Volume 10, Issue 3

Fall Plant Swap

Mark your calendars for this year's Fall Plant Swap.

The date is Saturday, October 6, 2007. 10-11 am is for Master Gardeners only and 11 am– 1 pm the general public is invited to attend. As in past years it will take place in the parking lot of the St. Clair County Administrative Building at 200 Grand River Ave in downtown Port Huron. If you would like to volunteer your time or have any questions, please call Charlene Kidd at 985-8587. The usual swap rules apply (no trees or shrubs– label with name and growth information).

OFFICERS

PRESIDENTEvelyn Carl

VICE-PRESIDENTCharlene Kidd

SECRETARYDiane Wastell

TREASURER Ellen Burns

THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Evelyn Carl

Greetings:

I hope you all have had an enjoyable summer. Now that Fall is fast approaching, it's time to assess what we have accomplished and plan for next year.

The Garden Tour was beautiful with excellent weather and wonderful gardeners, just fewer visitors this year. I believe the current economic conditions played into the decrease in the number of visitors and, unfortunately, there wasn't a whole lot we could have done about that. Anyway, I believe the members involved enjoyed the lovely day. We made a little under \$700.00. Plans are underway for next year's tour. Perhaps keeping the gardens closer together would help logistically. So, calling all Master Gardeners— Please consider volunteering your garden for the 2008 Garden Tour!

An issue that I pondered over the summer...logging in of volunteer hours. This is **very important** as you want to get credit for the hours you have donated! When logging in the hours, the State Master Gardener office is able to track and document your certification as a Master Gardener. I know many of you volunteer your time and don't worry about reporting the hours after you have met the minimum requirement for certification. The importance of reporting your hours is to show how **valuable** our association is to the State and Local offices, along with getting certified.

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THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT *Continued*



So, please, keep a log of the time you spend on approved Master Gardener events and try to log them in at the state website at least once a month. If you don't have a computer at home, you can stop by the MSU Extension office and ask to use the Master Gardener office and computer to log in your hours. If you are not proficient at using a computer, one of the staff will assist you. There are also written instructions on how to input your hours right at the Master Gardener office desk. If you have questions on this or how to log in, please contact me or the MSU Extension office at (810) 989-6935.

Another issue that needs addressing...have you signed up with the Select Alert Program?? This is a major tool allowing all of us to stay in touch. It's not just for those of us with computers. The program has the ability to contact you by phone. If there is a meeting date change, an emergency, reminders or whatever needs to be sent, it can be sent out via this program. Please consider signing up, it doesn't take long and can save hours in trying to update everyone's e-mail and phone contacts. I can't send messages to the entire group of Master Gardeners without sending in two separate groupings. It has something to do with spam and the number of messages sent. I can only send less than fifty at a time. I don't want you to miss important information. Please call Lori Brockdorff at the MSU Extension Service 989-6935 for instructions on how to sign up.

I can't believe I'm saying this— if anyone has ideas for a speaker for the November meeting (wow-this year has gone by fast!!) please contact me at evelyncarl@msm.com or call me at 810-367-7888.

Until then, THANK YOU! This has been a wonderful year full of new and exciting opportunities, new friends and learning. I'm looking forward to next year.

Blessings,

Evelyn Carl

President SSCMGA

Educational Opportunities



East China Beautification Lecture Series

First Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. **FREE**

East China Township Hall 5111 River Road (M-29) East China

OCTOBER 4th Marilyn Schriener - Decorative Wreaths

Hello everyone,

What an interesting and unpredictable growing season this has been! From very warm temperatures in early spring, to freezing again at Easter, then drought conditions and excessive heat, and finally the blessed relief of rain-this year has really challenged our gardeners! You can all really take pride in what your expertise has accomplished so far, helping low income children at the Urban Gardens, answering county residents' concerns over the Hotline, helping out at the County Park, with Habitat for Humanity, and the Garden Tour, as well as many more great project areas. I have felt very lucky to be working with you all.

Autumn is my favorite season, with the cool air, crisp leaves underfoot, and the pleasure of a harvest after a summer's work. I love the seasonal fruits and vegetables that are in such abundance now: grapes, apples, pears, winter squash, field corn, and pumpkins. Fall is the perfect time to take a walk or a bike ride, bake, and preserve what we have grown. I suggest making a potpourri "soup" with your favorite spices and herbs, and heating it gently on the back of the stove to fill the house with scent.

Also, a Concord grape pie is the perfect way to welcome people into your house. I bake the pie with no top crust, and then make little cutouts of pie crust in decorative shapes to gently lay on top of the pie after it has cooled. It makes it more festive!

Here at the Extension Office, we are also preparing for fall, but are still very busy. The Hotline continues to ring, and anyone needing hours is certainly very welcome! I am back to school, but in the office Tuesday afternoons and Saturdays, so leave me a message and I will be glad to give you a call. I am most looking forward to our Winter 2008 Master Gardener Training Course, which we are very pleased to be able to offer again this year. Tell your friends!



Have a beautiful and blessed fall season.

Cassandra Hackstock

EDUCATION

If you missed it this year, make sure you don't next year. The East China Beautification Lectures are free and most of the speakers have been locals. Lectures run from May to October. We will be listing them in next year's newsletter. Just another opportunity to get additional educational hours. I personally attended many of the classes this year and they were all excellent.

Car pooling would be helpful for those of you who live around Port Huron. The East China Township Hall is located immediately south of the St. Clair Power Plant on M-29.



Julie Wallace

NEW MASTER GARDENERS

Welcome to Bill Westerman, Aggie Reynolds, Sharon Rowse, Karen Allen, Chris Danner and Ruth Ann Bales who received their 2007 MG Certifications.

HARVEST DINNER



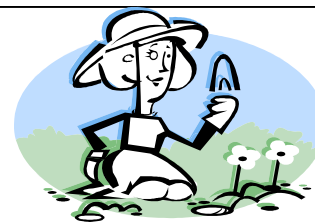
The Harvest Dinner will be held on November 10th at 5:00 p.m. at the Goodells Community Center in Goodells Park. Call Lisa Sharrow at (810) 329-3722 to volunteer for set-up or cleanup.

Volunteer Opportunities



Lecture Series 07	Barb Haman	(810) 367-6667	barbhaman@comcast.net
	Jan Shue	(586) 784-5284	jshue@4wbi.com
Garden Tour	Evelyn Carl	(810) 367-7888	evelyncarl@msn.com
	Jan Shue	(586) 784-5284	jshue@4wbi.com
Boutique, Plants			
School Grant	Linda Howard	(810) 359-8883	greenlady7457@yahoo.com
	Janice Messmer	(810) 985-8738	
Spring Into Gardening	Pam Beal	(810) 984-8605	greengardengal@hotmail.com
Goodells Park	Bette Gall	(810) 325-1593	walesdog@advnet.net
Plant A Row			
Publicity	Sheri Faust	(810) 985-9356	Sfaust@stclaircounty.org
Plant Swap-Spring	Connie Rutkofske	(810) 327-6183	Woodsedge@advnet.net
Plant Swap-Fall	Charlene Kidd	(810) 985-8587	Charlenekidd@comcast.net
Hospitality			
Harvest Dinner	Lisa Sharrow	(810) 329-3722	bloomin@tir.com
Silent Auction			
Newsletter	Julie Wallace	(810) 329-8701	jwallace@stclaircounty.org
Earth Fair	Laurie Dennis	(810) 385-3289	Lolo52@aol.com
	Tom Dennis	(810) 385-3289	Lolo52@aol.com
Soil District Tree Bundling			
Habitat for Humanity	Bernice Boughner	(810) 987-8516	boughner@comcast.net
<u>Beautification Committees</u>			
Peace Garden	Charlene Kidd	(810) 987-8587	Charlenekidd@comcast.net
Marysville	Bev Burns	(810) 364-1311	Bevbums@comcast.net
Ira Township			
St. Clair	Debbie Blake	(810) 329-7237	warmandsunny@sbcglobal.net
East China Twp.	Dee Cramm	(810) 765-8879	

Volunteer Opportunities *Continued*



Marwood Manor

Evangelical Home Sue Powers (810) 982-9855 powers.robert@comcast.net

Fort Gratiot Nature Trail

Tom & Laurie Dennis (810) 385-3289 Lolo52@aol.com

Educational Gardens St. Clair Co. Admin. Building

Farmer's Market Information Booth

St. Clair Mike Garrett (810) 325-1198

Vantage Point Cassandra Hackstock

MSU Extension Diagnostics Laboratory and Hotline

Mondays through Friday from 8 am until 4:30 p.m. May through November

Contact: Cassandra Hackstock at chackstock@stclaircounty.org or 989-6935

4-H Urban Gardens Mid-May through Mid-September

Algonac Elementary 10 am until noon on Thursdays

Woodrow Wilson Elementary (Port Huron) 6-8 pm on Thursdays

Belle River Elementary (Marine City) 3:30-6:30 pm on Wednesdays

Contact: Liane Allen at lallen@stclaircounty.org or

Cassamdra Hackstock @ chackstock@stclaircounty.org or 989-6935

Various 4-H Programs

Including but not limited to judging at the 4-H County Fair and Spring Achievement Program.

As well as helping at gardening or nature related workshops.

Contact: Lori Warchuck at lwarchuck@stclaircounty.org or 989-6935

4-H Classroom Grow Units

Throughout the school year

Assist in the assembly, set up and/or breakdown of plant growing stands. Aid in classroom presentation along with 4-H staff.

Contact: Liane Allen at lallen@stclaircounty.org or

Cassandra Hackstock @ chackstock@stclaircounty.org, or 989-6935