

Grass Roots Column



A Publication of
Lakeshore Garden Masters Gardening Club

www.lakeshoregardenmasters.org

July, August 2019



Summer has finally arrived!

All the rain and cold weather we had this spring made me think of this old rhyme (with a few changed words courtesy of LGM).

**Rain, rain, go away,
all the gardeners want to play,
come again another day!**

As I write this, we are just getting one of our better weekends of weather. I can only hope that we have turned a corner on the weather situation and there is good news on the horizon. I know all of you are tired of this year's weather, too. As gardeners in Michigan we look forward to spring since winter sometimes seems so long, and this rainy, cold spring made the winter seem even longer than normal.

On a brighter note, I have enjoyed my Primroses, Daffodils, Dame's Rockets, and Poppies that all bring a vibrant splash of color to my garden. I'm sure you also have a few spring favorites that you look forward to seeing. Those first spring flowers help make us forget about all the bad weather we had to endure to get to that time of year when they do bloom. Then, it's on to each perennial favorite that has its own "time in the sun." Those flowers are like old friends that we miss dearly and welcome heartily.

Speaking of friends, be sure to invite your friends to come to one of our meetings this summer. We will be at Sodini's Blueberry Farm in July, and Mellema's Nursery in August. Please note that we have changed the time we meet at Mellema's to 11:00 AM and they will provide our lunch.

I hope to see you at our next meeting,

Your President and Fellow Garden Lover,
Jean Baker



LGM Purpose

The purpose of the Lakeshore Garden Masters is to bring together gardeners for fellowship, plant exchange, educational programs, and support for volunteer garden projects.

LGM Travels in July and August

July 22 -Sodini's Blueberry Farm

Pot Luck and meeting beginning at 6:00 PM and speaker to follow.(See Pg. 4 for more information) In the event of rain, this meeting will be cancelled. Car pooling is encouraged.



August 26-Mellema's Nursery

Lunch and tour beginning at 11:00 AM. See Pg. 4 for more information) Car pooling is encouraged.

Calendar of Events

July 9 Monet Garden
July 22 LGM monthly meeting
July 25 Monet Garden
August 6 Monet Garden
August 22 Monet Garden
August 26 LGM monthly meeting
September 3 Monet Garden
September 19 Monet Garden
September 23 LGM monthly meeting
October 1 Monet Garden
October 21 LGM monthly meeting



2017 Leadership Council Officers

President: Jean Baker
Baker2j63@frontier

Vice President: Kathy Nielsen
whikmn@yahoo.com

Recording/Corresponding Secretary: Sue Fiebelkorn
Sfeebe5@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Sharon Rubelman
onesister123@gmail.com

Trustees

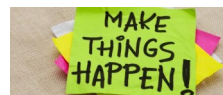
Two year term:

Denise Thompson
thegardeningqueen@frontier.com

Carole Wolfe
whisperingpines6857@yahoo.com

One year term:

Jean Freye
Jean.freye@gmail.com



Committee Chairpersons

Monet Garden-Linda Hecksel
Hecksel@aol.com

Newsletter Editor-Marsha Green
greendooredu1@comcast.net

Webmaster-Marsha Green
greendooredu1@comcast.net

Membership--Susan Thorpe
holbox04@gmail.com

Plant Sharing-Kathy Nielson
whikmn@yahoo.com

Plant Sharing Rules

1. Bring a plant; take a plant
2. Bring healthy plants with no disease or insects attached!
3. Label everything
4. Put seeds/bulbs in a zip-lock or envelope
5. Bring plants in a sturdy container; plus a container to take home plants
6. New LGM members are especially encouraged to participate.



2019 Schedule For Monet Garden

Hello fellow gardeners,

The renovations at the garden continue. Work on the bridge is continuing and in the end will have a new coat of paint. The upgrading of the sign will be next. We have replaced the roses on the main walkway and they are flourishing.

The main goal of each remaining work session is to continue to remove weeds and wandering plants. This is in anticipation of upgrading the design of the garden, which is sorely needed after nineteen years of spreading perennials! Please come down and spend some time with us, pull some weeds, and be a part of the process.

Linda, Monet Garden Chairperson
231-557-6317

July 9: 5:00 PM-8:00 PM

July 25: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

August 6: 5:00 PM-8:00 PM

August 22: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

September 3: 5:00 PM-8:00 PM

September 19: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

October 1: 5:00 PM-8:00 PM

Remember you may work at the garden at any time. Just call me for possible garden needs. Linda Hecksel-231-557-6317

Fundraising Update for the Monet

Purchase:

- in-ground perennials and shrubs
- pond plants as needed
- paint for bridge

Under consideration:

- Sign upgrade

The formal re-dedication event will be in June of 2020.

Susan Thorpe, chair of fundraising for the garden, expects to wrap up the fundraising by the end of summer. She states that she has found this to be a very rewarding project both personally and for the Monet Garden.



MSU Extension Hotline Available

As the growing season continues, many gardeners often have questions related to their yards and gardens. Do not delay in getting your question answered. Any gardener may call the Michigan State University Extension lawn and garden hotline staffed by Consumer Horticulture staff and specially trained Extension Master Gardeners from across the state. **Open now Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. - 12 noon and 1-4 p.m. EST, call 888-678-3464.** From plant identification to what is happening in your lawn to possible insect or disease problems, lawn and garden hotline responder teams from across the state are ready to assist.



The beautiful pink stamped concrete pathways allow for much easier walking while enjoying a visit to the Monet Garden.

LAKESHORE GARDEN MASTERS 2019 Calendar of Events

Dues \$15.00/year or \$5.00/event as guest

Lakeshoregardenmasters.org

Contact: Susan Thorpe 248-310-2312 for info

We welcome new members and look forward to seeing you at one of our future meetings! We have monthly speakers on a variety of gardening topics. We are also the caretakers of the Monet Garden and invite you to be a garden helper. See our website for more information or contact Susan.

July 22 – at *Sodini Blueberry Farm, 2345 N. Weber Road, North Muskegon*, in the event of rain, this meeting will be cancelled, so let's hope for fair weather. Outdoor potluck starts at 6 PM, if you wish to join us, bring a dish to pass, your beverage, and table setting. Program begins at 6:45 PM.



August 26 - at *Mellema Nursery, 5428 64th St., Fremont, Michigan*, Arrive at the nursery at **11:00 AM** for a tour and then lunch will be provided by the Nursery. Mellema's has a beautiful collection of perennials, annuals, fruit trees and more!

September 23rd - at *Hackley Public Library in Downtown Muskegon**. Jane Hart, retired Food Safety Educator from MSUE, on how to properly dry the delicious garden foods you have grown. If you wish to join us, bring a dish to pass, your beverage, and table setting. You are also invited to bring any extra veggies or fruit you have grown in your own garden for our attendees to take home. Program starts at 6:45.

October 21 Meeting and Elections! – at *Hackley Public Library in Downtown Muskegon**. Meeting begins at 6 PM with Election of Officers and Awards for LGM. We will be showing a video of the beginning of the Monet Garden and give updates about all the renovations. Potluck starts at 6:00 pm for everyone. Please bring a dish to pass, your beverage, and table setting. This is our last meeting of the year!

*Hackley Public Library-New LGM Meeting Venue

Hackley Public Library, located at 316 West Webster Avenue in downtown Muskegon, is the new meeting home of Lakeshore Garden Masters. Parking should not be an issue since there is a parking lot behind the library to the north and also limited parking along the street. The room being used is in the lower level and access is available from the entrance at the back of the building with no stairs to climb.



HACKLEY
Public Library

Potluck time remains the same (6:00 - 6:30 PM), this will be followed by the speaker who will conclude their presentation by 7:30 PM. The LGM business meeting will be after the speaker is finished at 7:30 PM. The group must exit Hackley Library by 8:00 PM because that is the library's closing time.

Don't forget to check FACEBOOK for both the Lakeshore Garden Masters page and also the Monet Garden page. Feel free to post on these pages and share with interested friends.



May Meeting at the Monet

The May meeting of Lakeshore Garden Masters took place at the Monet Garden. It was lightly attended because of the cool and damp weather. The real purpose of the meeting was to plant the annuals for this year. Again, *Twin Lake Greenhouse* donated a large majority of the flats.

No formal meeting took place, but some casual conversation among members about replacing the sign took place. This discussion sparked a chain of emails regarding contact with a possible donor and concluded with a discussion regarding finials and a frame for the sign.

Florence Bright-Stahl brought two new flags (USA and France) for the flagpole which was much appreciated.

June Meeting Minutes from Spring Lake Library

Meeting was held at Spring Lake Library and opened at 6:00 PM with potluck and several new members joining us! Speaker was Clarence Falstad, presenting on Shade Gardening with Style and he covered about fifty plants on power point. Some of these plants are new to the USA and he discussed some aspects of patenting new varieties. Mr. Falstad works for Walter's Gardens in Holland.

Jean Baker, President, spoke briefly on importance of supporting the Monet Garden and reminded everyone of the next workday on Thursday. She offered tomato plants to share.

Lorraine Parrish offered peony bushes for sale from her son when his home sells. Susan Thorpe gave a brief update on the 20/20 Campaign and it was noted that we have exceeded our goal of \$20,000 by a small margin and the campaign will end in July.

Meeting adjourned at 8 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Thorpe (for Sue Fiebelkorn, Secretary)



Newly painted bridge completed by United Way volunteer and Jean Baker .

What Follows Good Weather and Plenty of Rain? Biting Insects!

With the mild weather upon us, many people are enjoying into the outdoors; gardening, golfing, or just taking a walk. While there are few better experiences for the soul than a walk in the woods, there are some precautions one should take to minimize the risk posed by biting insects.



Although most bug bites are harmless, some people are prone to sensitivity from the biting insect's saliva, which is recognized by the body as a foreign substance, prompting an immune response. The more you scratch it, the more it will itch as irritation and inflammation increases. Many over-the-counter products, or plain old rubbing alcohol, can reduce this itching and inflammation.

However, when it comes to ticks, there are some potentially dangerous ailments that can be transmitted through bites. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), ticks can be infected with a variety of bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can be passed on to humans through a bite. The most common of these is Lyme disease, first diagnosed in Lyme, Connecticut in 1975.

Lyme disease has been notoriously hard to diagnose, although the increased incidence of the disease has resulted in more awareness for both the patient and medical practitioner. Typical symptoms of possible Lyme infection include initial swelling and/or itching at the site of the bite, which many times progresses into an expanding rash (possibly forming a bulls-eye appearance). As the infection progresses, flu-like symptoms can present themselves, including headache, chills, fatigue, fever, and nausea. If left untreated, Lyme's disease can cause permanent, debilitating neurological and joint problems.

The best defense against tick-borne illnesses is prevention. First, be aware of tick habitat and their methods for finding a host. Contrary to popular belief, ticks do not drop or jump on people (or animals)—they hang onto vegetation, waiting for something to brush against them, then latch on. Brushy woods and tall grassy areas provide the best opportunities for ticks to accomplish this, so be especially vigilant when exploring these areas.



It is recommended to wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and socks to provide fewer areas of exposed skin for ticks to latch onto. Additionally, since ticks usually crawl upwards, tucking pant legs into socks will increase the likelihood of seeing ticks on your pants rather than on your skin.

The CDC recommends treating clothing, boots, and outdoor gear with products containing permethrin. Insect repellents containing DEET or other Environmental Protection Agency approved ingredients can be quite effective, as well, at repelling ticks.

Finally, don't forget about pets. After venturing outdoors, be sure to thoroughly check your pet's coat for any ticks. And, talk to your veterinarian about the best way to protect your pet from ticks.

Any ticks found attached (on you or pets) should be carefully removed with a fine-tipped tweezers. Grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible and gently pull straight out, being careful not to dislodge the head into the skin. Thoroughly wash the bite area, and monitor for signs of irritation or rash.

Original article by Rob Wiener, Michigan State University Extension

Dues and LGM Membership Information

Lakeshore Garden Master Dues

Dues for the Lakeshore Garden Masters organization are due yearly from January 1-December 31. They may be prepaid at the October meeting or paid at the March meeting. Cost of the dues is \$15.00. Late dues should be mailed to:

Sharon Rubelman
1599 N. Peterson Rd
North Muskegon, MI 49445

Lakeshore Garden Master Membership

Lakeshore Garden Masters' organization is open to anyone who enjoys gardening. Meetings are once a month and open to members and guests. The get-togethers usually include a potluck, a short business meeting, and a speaker with timely information that pertains to gardens and gardening. Lakeshore Garden Master members also maintain the Monet Garden in downtown Muskegon.

Lakeshore Garden Masters Membership Information

Renewing member ____ New member ____

Name

Address

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email address _____

Dues \$15.00 for the year 2019

Paid by check # _____ Date paid _____ (Make checks payable to Lakeshore Master Gardeners)

Mail to: Sharon Rubelman
1599 N. Peterson Road
North Muskegon, MI 49445-9616

MONET GARDEN, MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN PAVER PROJECT

Yes, I want to be an enduring part of this historic endeavor. Here is my pledge.

Just print this page and mail it with your pledge to the address below. if you are unable to visit the garden, you will soon be able to view the installed and inscribed pavers on this web site.

_____ Number of standard 4" X 8" paver(s) @ \$ 50.00 each

Inscription for paver

(3 lines of 12 spaces ea. paver)

Paver one

Paver two

Please make checks payable to LAKESHORE GARDEN MASTERS.

**Linda Hecksel, Chairperson Monet Garden
2181 Green Creek Road
Muskegon, MI 49445**