

Grass Roots Column

A Publication of
Lakeshore Garden Masters Gardening Club

www.lakeshoregardenmasters.org



May, June 2016,



Dear Lakeshore Garden Masters,
Spring seems like it has been a long time coming, so I am a little behind in my gardening projects. I think the Monet Garden has a really good start, as Linda Hecksel organized her team for the Spring cleanup. She reports that the garden is now fully cleaned up and ready to produce. We are getting excited to see both our own gardens and the Monet in full bloom.



On this coming 6th of May I am scheduled to give a breakfast talk on "How to Raise Dahlias" to the Rocky Mountain region delegation of the National Garden club meeting at the Amway Grand. This is their annual meeting, and we are so excited that they will be in Grand Rapids this year. All of the Michigan Garden Clubs in Western Michigan are the hosts, and we hope to put on a very nice welcome to the group.

I have been reminded that my flower pot will be ready to pick up on the week of 2 May from Garden Crossings Garden Center. This is the event where we held our March meeting at their garden center and designed our own pot with the plants that they had to offer (quite a selection, I might add). Then they took the pots and cared for them for the past couple of months. I am ready to expect quite a difference than when I saw my pot last.

Happy gardening,
Rick Peters, President

Membership Update on LGM 2016

Lakeshore Garden Masters is starting the year off strong with many members who have already joined or renewed their membership for 2016. The calendar of events for this year is exciting and the first two meetings were a success! Dues are still only \$15.00 per year for the five remaining meetings of this year! New members are always welcomed. If you are unsure whether your membership is current, please contact Susan Thorpe (holbox04@gmail.com) for the most updated information.

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.

Exciting May Meeting

May 23-The Monet Garden spring "perk up" will be from 4-6 PM. At 6 PM potluck; brats from the grill will be served; bring a dish to pass, table service and a chair. There will be time in the garden after the potluck for those who cannot come earlier.

Calendar of Events

May 23- "Monet Garden Spring Perk Up" Monet Garden at 470 W. Clay, Muskegon

June 27- "Hostas and More!" Meet at Kay Anderson's, 10338 Rich Street, West Olive, MI

July 25 – "Phenology" (the relationship between climate, insects and plant life) by Elly Maxwell, Entomologist for Dow Gardens. Meet at *White Lake Library*

August - date to announced- carpooling trip to *Meijer Gardens*

September 26 – "Autumn at Howmet Woodland Garden" This is a chance for all members and guests to experience another of our community garden projects.

October 24 – "Tulips" with Master Gardener, David Van Heest. At VFW – 1061 Witham Road, Muskegon

2015 Leadership Council Officers

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dahliadoc44@comcast.net

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pamela.shriver@comcast.net

Education Programs-OPEN

Monet Garden-Linda Hecksel

Hecksel@aol.com

Alcoa-Howmet Woodland Garden-Open

Plant Exchange 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
5. envelope
6. Bring plants in a sturdy container; plus a container to take home plants
7. New LGM members are encouraged to participate.



Monet Garden Update and Schedule

The Monet Garden is looking great. We got it cleaned up in record time, thanks to those that came out. Our next work session will be on May 3, from 10:00-1:00. The May meeting will be held at the garden on May 23. We will be planting annuals at that time. The meeting starts at 6:00 with the potluck first. I'll be down there about 4:00 working, so come work before or after the meeting, or both. We always need to pull weeds, and there is a lot of thinning out and removal to be done. Thanks to those who have helped and hope to see everyone out soon!

Please join us at least once this summer if that is all you can do. Also, feel free to work anytime if the scheduled dates and times don't work for you. You can always email, text, or call me anytime. 231-557-6317.

Linda Hecksel, Monet Garden Chairperson

May 23 5:00-1:00— Group meeting at the garden

June 7 10:00-1:00
23 4:00-8:00

July 5 10:00-1:00
21 5:00-8:00

Aug 9 10:00-1:00
25 5:00-8:00

Sept 6 10:00-1:00
22 5:00-8:00



Denise hunting down stray autumn clematis at the May 3 work session at the Monet Garden. The garden is looking really good!!

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:

Joe Hill
1060 Horton Road
North Muskegon, MI 49445-1947



2016 Master Naturalist Supplemental Class

Frogging for Michigan Amphibians

Saturday, May 7, 2016 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM

Butterflies, Caterpillars & Moths- getting them to stay instead of flying by

Saturday, July 23, 2016 8:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Great Lakes Issues and Ecology

Saturday, August 20, 2016 8:00 AM to 12:30 PM

ID That Tree!

Saturday, August 27, 2016
8:00 AM to 12:30 PM

TO REGISTER Please visit this secure website:

**http://
events.anr.msu.edu/2016KentMNAT/**

Mail to:

MSU ANR Events Services / Master Naturalist

Justin S. Morrill Hall of Agriculture
446 W. Circle Drive, Room 11
East Lansing, MI 48824

Questions? Contact Ginny Wanty at (616) 632-7873 or wanty@anr.msu.edu



This is why the Monet Garden is looking so great! Be sure to plan on attending the group work session on May 23rd which includes a pot luck.



Tips from Carol DeVries (April LGM Meeting)

Carol DeVries, Advanced Master Gardener and President of the Grand Valley Daylily Society gave an insightful presentation on *Surviving Your Garden* at the April LGM meeting. Here are a few of her tips:

- Use plant markers to identify your treasured plants, because you won't remember their names! Write in a #2 pencil as it lasts forever....longer than permanent markers!
- Keep several plastic bags (Meijer type) near the back door to quickly slip over your muddy shoes when you need to get to the bathroom.
- Keep plastic bags in the trunk of your car for those unexpected finds at the store so those plants you buy don't leave a mess.
- Place 5 copper pennies in the bottom of your birdbath to prevent algae from forming on the water. The very tiny amount of copper that is leached into the water does not injure wildlife .
- Conifer sap on your hands can be removed easily with vegetable oil.
- Make a temporary pond in your yard for your potted plants while on vacation. Arrange bricks in a circle or square 2 high. Place a plastic garbage bag down secured by the second layer of bricks to form the pond bottom. Place potted plants inside the pond to collect any rain water while you are away and keep your plants hydrated.
- Ornamental grasses can be cut down in the fall and used to create your garden pathways as they are very slow to breakdown.
- Hostas only produce one set of leaves each year so when a leaf breaks off or is damaged it will not grow another until next year. So when relocating a hosta, tie up the leaves (cornstalk style) so the leaves are not damaged in the move and let them remain tied up for a time in the new location for a few days so the wind and sun to not dry them out before they get established.
- Lawn should be higher than any garden bed it touches.
- Lay chicken wire flat on the ground to prevent deer from entering your property. Then reuse that same chicken wire to encircle your trees in the winter to keep the deer away.

LAKESHORE GARDEN MASTERS 2016 SCHEDULE

May 23- “Monet Garden Spring Perk Up” Monet Garden at 470 W. Clay Street, Muskegon. This is a chance for all members and guests to experience our community garden project. Arrive at 4PM and work until 6PM. Bring a dish to pass and Brats on the Bar-B-Que will be provided. Bring gloves, garden utensils, chair, table setting, and beverage. Work session will continue after dinner.

June 27- “Hostas and More!” Meet at Kay Anderson’s, 10338 Rich Street, West Olive, MI to see this spectacular garden. Kay has been on the National Hosta Tour and cultivates a huge number of plants of all types in an extensive garden setting. Bring a dish to pass for our potluck along with your table setting, beverage and a chair. We can car pool at the Hile and Harvey Park and Ride for those living to the north. Meeting starts 6 PM.

July 25 – “Phenology” (the relationship between climate, insects and plant life) by Elly Maxwell, Entomologist for Dow Gardens. Meet at *White Lake Library, 3900 White Lake Drive, Whitehall, MI*. This meeting will also be a membership drive for prospective new members. Bring a generous “finger food potluck” dish to share and beverage. Meeting starts at 6 PM.

August-date to be announced-car pool trip to Meijer Gardens!

September 26 – “Autumn at Howmet Woodland Garden” This is a chance for all members and guests to experience another of our community garden projects. Meet at 4PM at the garden and we will work until 6 PM. Bring a dish to pass for our potluck along with table setting, beverage and a chair. Also bring gloves and garden tools. *Directions to Garden - Drive North on US 31. Take the White Lake Drive exit, turn right. Drive 3.5 mi, turn right on Zellar Road. Drive .2 tenth of a mile. Turn right onto gravel drive. Travel about .1 tenth of a mile. You are there! Garden on the left of drive and parking on the right.*

October 24 – “Tulips” with Master Gardener, David Van Heest. At VFW – 1061 Witham Road, Muskegon, MI. Who eats tulip bulbs? You will be surprised to learn this as well as growing tips, tulip history and more! Bring a dish to pass for our potluck along with your table setting and beverage. Meeting starts 6 PM.

Chicago Botanic Garden in May

Proven Winners® invites fans from across the Midwest to join us in a fun and inspirational gardening event being held in Chicago, IL on May 14th. You will meet fellow gardeners, learn from knowledgeable speakers, have a chance to purchase P W products directly, and go home with a free plant among other goodies. A catered lunch and door prizes add to the day's activities, and you'll leave with a renewed spirit to get out and garden.

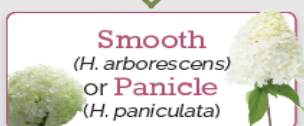
This is the perfect event to attend with your gardening friends, mom, aunt, or that neighbor who always has the most beautiful garden on your block. Make the road trip to the Chicago Botanic Garden for the show, and consider staying an extra day to take advantage of all that the garden and surrounding area has to offer. At just \$112/night (a special event rate) and free parking at the Embassy Suites Hotel, you won't find a better deal in Chicago.

Find details about this year's speaker lineup, as well as a link to our special hotel rate and register online today for the Proven Winners® Outdoor Living Extravaganza in Chicago [right here](#).



WHY ISN'T MY HYDRANGEA BLOOMING?

Which hydrangea do you grow?
(see reverse)



How long ago did you plant it?

< 2 years

Needs more time to develop a root system. Mulch and keep well watered; it will bloom in time.

2+ years

How much light does it get?

4+ hours

Did you cut it back?

Yes

When?

fall

Deer damage or low light

Buds removed - blooming may be delayed or not occur. Prune in late winter or early spring.

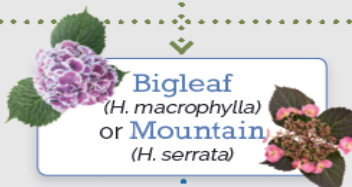
< 4 hours

Needs more sun

No

Deer damage or low light

late spring/summer



Did you cut it back?

Yes

Oops! You cut off the flower buds. Avoid pruning.

No

Do you live in a cold climate?

Yes

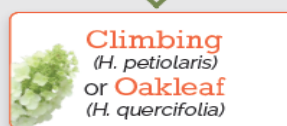
Flower buds were killed by cold. Move to a more protected spot; protect plant on spring nights when frost or freeze threatens.

No

Too much shade or deer damage

But it's a reblooming hydrangea!

Not all reblooming hydrangeas are equal - some need to reach a certain height to set new wood buds. Let's Dance® reblooming hydrangeas were developed to bloom sooner.



How old is the plant?

< 5 years

These plants tend to need to be more mature to flower well. Give them more time.

5+ years

Did you cut it back?

Yes

Oops! You cut off the flower buds. Avoid pruning.

No

Deer damage or low light

Still have questions about hydrangeas or other Proven Winners ColorChoice Shrubs? We're here to help you be successful in the garden! Visit www.provenwinners.com/feedback.

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HYDRANGEAS DEMYSTIFIED

Which hydrangea do you grow?

There are six main types of hydrangeas commonly grown in North American gardens.

Hydrangea Fun Fact There are about 49 species of hydrangeas. Four species are native to North America, including smooth hydrangea and oakleaf hydrangea.

CITYLINE® Rio Hydrangea



Bigleaf

(also known as florist's hydrangea, hortensia, mophead, or lacecap)
Hydrangea macrophylla

- Hardy to USDA zone 5
- Bloom on old wood: do not prune, protect in winter

Proven Winners® varieties:
ABRACADABRA® series,
CITYLINE® series, EDGY® Hearts,
LET'S DANCE® series, PARAPLU®

BOBO® Hydrangea



Panicle

(also known as peegee hydrangea)
Hydrangea paniculata

- Hardy to USDA zone 3
- Bloom on new wood: prune in late winter/early spring

Proven Winners® varieties:
BOBO®, FIRE LIGHT®, 'Limelight',
LITTLE LIME®, 'Little Lamb',
PINKY WINKY®, QUICK FIRE®,
LITTLE QUICK FIRE®, ZINFIN DOLL™

INCREDIBALL® Hydrangea



Smooth

(also known as Annabelle hydrangea)
Hydrangea arborescens

- Hardy to USDA zone 3
- Bloom on new wood: prune in late winter/early spring

Proven Winners® varieties:
INCREDIBALL® series,
INVINCIBELLE® Spirit series

Hydrangea petiolaris



Climbing

Hydrangea petiolaris

- Hardy to USDA zone 4
- Bloom on old wood: do not prune

TUFF STUFF® Hydrangea



Mountain

Hydrangea serrata

- Hardy to USDA zone 5
- Bloom on old wood: do not prune

Proven Winners® varieties:
TUFF STUFF® series

GATSBY MOON® Hydrangea



Oakleaf

Hydrangea quercifolia

- Hardy to USDA zone 5
- Bloom on old wood: do not prune, protect in winter

Proven Winners® varieties:
GATSBY™ series

Color

All hydrangeas undergo some color change as their flowers age, but only bigleaf and mountain hydrangeas can change their color in a predictable, controllable way. It is not solely the pH of the soil that is responsible for this change – it is actually the presence of aluminum in the soil.

- Certain varieties of bigleaf hydrangeas cannot change color. The rich red blooms of CITYLINE® Paris hydrangea are a good example. Similarly, white varieties of bigleaf hydrangea will not change color.
- It is easier to change a hydrangea from pink to blue than from blue to pink, but both endeavors involve making chemical application in specific amounts at specific times. A soil test is necessary to determine the best course of action. If you decide to try to change the flower color, shop for products carefully and read all directions.
- Pennies, nails, aluminum foil, or coffee grounds in the soil will not change the color!

Tips for Success

- Moist but well-drained soil (hydrangeas will not tolerate wet feet – ever!)
- Some sun each day. Most people think of hydrangeas as shade plants, but they look and flower best with at least four hours of sun, ideally in the morning. Panicle hydrangeas are the most sun tolerant, and can take full sun in northern climates.
- Plenty of water, especially as they are getting established. Hydrangeas have shallow roots, so they dry out quickly. A two to three inch layer of shredded bark mulch is a useful addition to any hydrangea planting.

Hydrangea Fun Fact Hydrangeas are notoriously water-needy, but the "hydra" part of their name actually refers to the seed capsules' resemblance to ancient Greek water-carrying vessels.