

Grass Roots Column

A Publication of
Lakeshore Garden Masters Gardening Club

www.lakeshoregardenmasters.org



March, 2017



Hello Gardeners!

Snow is falling as I write this, but I am encouraged by the lengthening hours of daylight and the stack of seed catalogs on my reading pile! I am acutely aware of my new role as your President and am honored to serve fellow gardeners by providing a forum for discussion, learning and sharing ideas.

I began gardening as a young mother and wife living in Chicago. Our slightly larger than normal city lot in a German Polish neighborhood was my blank canvas. There was a small area next to the garage that seemed to be the best for maximum sunshine and out of the way of my exploring toddlers. Not having any guidance other than curiosity and the desire to see things grow, I began with amending the soil. Not knowing about many types of natural fertilizers, I learned about a project run by the Chicago Waste Management Dept. that offered "processed" waste that was determined suitable for garden use. And it was free. So off I went with my bushel basket and a shovel in the trunk of my car to seek out this new gold for the garden. Didn't smell too bad thank goodness, so I immediately raked it into the soil and my neighbors were none the wiser. I planted all the traditional vegetables, tomatoes, cucumbers, beans.

By mid-summer, while weeding I noticed tiny tomato plants sprouting up everywhere... everywhere I put the processed waste fertilizer. I later learned that the processing did not remove tomato seeds and they self-planted and were growing all over the garden! Apparently, humans do not completely digest tomato seeds and the Waste Management Dept. couldn't do it either! Lesson learned: All that is free is not all it's cracked up to be!

Fast forward forty plus years and I have learned so much about what I thought I knew. Taking the Master Gardener course nine years ago was abundantly helpful in bringing the knowledge that I needed to add to my experience. I am still a passionate gardener and love the chase to the perfect vegetable or flower. I know many gardeners feel the same and that's what keeps us coming back every spring. So very soon we will again launch another planting season with joy and anticipation of the next best season on record.

Regards,

Susan Thorpe

"Let us be grateful to people who make us happy, they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom." -Marcel Proust



LGM President, Susan Thorpe

LGM Purpose

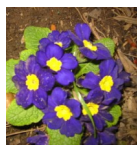
The purpose of the Lakeshore Garden Masters is to bring together gardeners for fellowship, plant exchange, educational programs, and support for volunteer garden projects.

Exciting March Meeting

March 27- Potting Party at Weesies Garden Center, 10022 Walsh Road, Montague, 6:00 PM. Everyone is asked to bring a finger food type dish to pass, table setting and beverage. Cost is \$20 per person. See pg. 4 for more information.

April Shines on Perennials

April 24 - Perennials Meet at the VFW Hall, 1061 Witham Road, N. Muskegon 6:00 PM. Bring a generous potluck dish to pass and your table setting. See pg. 4 for more information



Calendar of Events

March 11 – March Garden Day
March 27 - LGM meeting at Weesies
April 11 - Monet Garden
April 24 – LGM meeting at the VFW Hall
April 27 - Monet Garden
May 6-14 - Tulip Festival Holland, MI
May 9 - Monet Garden
May 22 - “Monet Garden Spring Perk Up”
June 6 - Monet Garden
June 22 - Monet Garden
June 23/24 - Master Gardener College
June 26 – LGM meeting at the VFW Hall
July 11 - Monet Garden
July 24 - LGM trip to MSU
July 27- Monet Garden
August 8 - Monet Garden
August 24 - Monet Garden
August 28 - LGM meeting Weesies
September 5 - Monet Garden
September 21 - Monet Garden
September 25 – LGM meeting at the VFW Hall
October 10 - Monet Garden
October 23 – LGM meeting at the VFW Hall
October 26 - Monet Garden

2017 Leadership Council Officers

President: Susan Thorpe
holbox04@gmail.com

Vice President: Allyson Clawson
alleybee@aol.com

Recording/Corresponding Secretary: Rick Peters

dahliadoc44@comcast.net

Treasurer: Sharon Rubelman
onesister123@gmail.com

Trustees

Monica Smith
smithmo3@frontier.com

Michael Belt
michael.belt@comcast.net

David Mellema
Djmellema@msn.com

Committee Chairpersons

Newsletter Editor-Marsha Green
greendooredu1@comcast.net

Webmaster-Marsha Green
greendooredu1@comcast.net

Membership--Susan Thorpe
holbox04@gmail.com

Plant Sharing-Pam Shriver
pamela.shriver@comcast.net

Education Programs-Leadership/Trustees

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

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



Monet Garden Updates

Spring is almost here; we'll be in our gardens soon. Looking forward to seeing you at the *Monet*. Here is our schedule for this summer:

Tuesday April 11 5:00-8:00
Thursday April 27 10:00-1:00

Tuesday May 9 10:00-1:00
Monday May 22 4:00-8:00

This is the May meeting. We'll be planting annuals again. I'll be there by 4:00, so come early if you want to work before the potluck/meeting. We will also work after if you can't come early.

Tuesday June 6 5:00-8:00
Thursday June 22 10:00-1:00

Tuesday July 11 10:00-1:00
Thursday July 27 5:00-8:00

Tuesday August 8 5:00-8:00
Thursday August 24 10:00-1:00

Tuesday Sept 5 10:00-1:00
Thursday Sept 21 5:00-8:00

Tuesday Oct 10 5:00-8:00
Thursday Oct 26 10:00-1:00

Please note the change in times this year. I'm trying to accommodate everyone's schedule. Remember you may work at the garden at any time. Just call me for possible garden needs.

Linda Hecksel, Monet Garden Chairperson
231-557-6317



Meet the New LGM Trustees

Michael Belt is semi-retired and was previously an architectural/design business owner. Last year he started a group at Northside "Come Grow with Us Garden," which includes a core group of gardening enthusiasts, master gardener, entomologist (bug guy) and hydroponic folks. Michael is a licensed commercial cook, has designed and constructed two functional greenhouses and grows edible mini-greens in a hydroponic system. He enjoys sustainable design and playing Santa Claus!

David Mellema is a lifelong Muskegon resident. He retired in 2016 from manufacturing. He is active in church and with his grandchildren. Dave is passionate about the outdoors, gardening, landscaping, and most outdoors sports. He became a Master Gardener in 2005 and an Advanced MG in 2007. Dave has a large yard/garden and several yard, landscaping and garden jobs to keep him busy in the warm months. He enjoys building bluebird boxes in the winter, and maintained and kept records for the State until recently.

For Gardeners - *Holland Tulip Festival*

The annual *Holland Tulip Festival* is May 6-14. It is offering several interesting presentations for gardeners. All tickets are available at tuliptime.com/events

Floral Arranging classes are being held on 5/8 10:00 AM, 2:00 PM and 3:00 PM. It will also be repeated on 5/9 at 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM. The classes take place at *Eastern Floral* and there will be make and take home arrangements for \$35. Advanced ticket purchases are suggested.

Tulip Pot Painting classes will be held on 5/8 at 7 PM and on 5/9 at 7 PM. They will be held at *Carolyn Stitch Studio*. Cost is \$25 plus take home a painted pot with bulbs.

Beautiful Landscapes will be the luncheon presentation on 5/9 from 11-1 PM at *Hope College Haworth Inn*. The Cost is \$25. The presentation will be given by Katy Moss Warner, President of *America in Bloom* and President Emeritus of *American Horticulture Society*.

LAKESHORE GARDEN MASTERS 2017 Calendar

Dues \$15.00/year or \$5.00/event as guest
lakeshoregardenmasters.org



March 27 Potting Party at Weesies Garden Center, 10022 Walsh Road, Montague, 6:00 PM. Everyone is asked to bring a finger food type dish to pass, table setting and beverage. Cost will be \$20 for a 12" pot/hanging basket and soil, add the cost of your choice of plants to go into the pot. *What's New in Annuals* will be presented by *Weesies'* staff.

April 24 Meet at the VFW Hall, 1061 Witham Road, N. Muskegon at 6:00 PM. Bring a generous potluck dish to pass and your table setting. A Power Point program will be on Perennials, given by Matt Mellema, David Mellema's nephew and President of the Michigan Landscape Assn. from Fremont.

May 22 Monet Garden, 470 Clay Street, Muskegon. This is our annual picnic in the garden and all gardeners asked to join in planting the annuals for this glorious garden! Members are encouraged to come as early as 4:00 PM to plant the annuals and trim up the garden. Chef Dr. Rick will provide his famous brats. Bring a generous side dish and table setting. Planting will continue after the pot luck.

June 26 Meet at the VFW Hall, 1061 Witham Road, N. Muskegon 6:00 PM. Bring a generous potluck dish to pass and your table setting. Program is How to Construct a Fairy Garden by Sandy Pickett. Those members who wish to participate will be able to buy the standard garden for \$25.00 and other garden features can be individually purchased. Those who do not wish to purchase are invited to view the materials and listen to the presentation.

July 24 Bus trip to *MSU Trial Gardens* and *MSU Students' Organic Gardens*. More details and cost TBA

August 28 Meet at *Weesies Garden Center*, 10022 Walsh Road, Montague, 6:00 PM. Bring a finger food potluck item and your table setting. Program is Making a Succulent Wreath. Those wanting to make a wreath will have all of the materials available with a lecture-demonstration by Sandy Pickett. The cost for all of the materials is \$35.00. Those not wishing to make a wreath are invited to view the demonstration and attend the lecture.

September 25 Meet at VFW Hall, 1061 Witham Road, N. Muskegon at 6 PM. Bring a generous potluck dish to pass and your table setting. Presentation by Jason Alberts who will talk on Growing Mushrooms.

October 23 Meet at the VFW Hall, 1061 Witham Road, Muskegon a 6:00 PM. Bring a generous potluck dish to pass and your table setting. Program is Building Your Own Rain Garden with Allyson Clawson as the presenter. This is our final meeting of the year and election of officers. Your attendance is important!

Lakeshore Garden Masters-General Membership Meeting
VFW Hall, North Muskegon MI-October 24, 2016

The meeting was called to order by President Rick Peters at the VFW Hall in North Muskegon MI at 6:45pm on Monday, October 24, 2016.

President Rick Peters announced that an Interest Survey for 2017 has been prepared and he would like all members to complete and return the survey.

The Marcia and Doug Willbrandt Award for Horticultural Excellence was presented by Marcia Willbrandt to Barbara and Richard Jorgenson for their dedication to gardening and horticulture education over many years.

The Florence Bright Award for Community Service was presented to Linda Hecksel for her dedication to the Monet Garden of Muskegon.

President Peters introduced the proposed changes to the officer and trustee positions of the Lakeshore Garden Masters By-Laws. The changes include combining the positions of Recording Secretary and Correspondence Secretary into one position. The Officer positions will alternate between President/Secretary and Vice President/Treasurer each year and the positions of Trustee will be reduced to three trustees from five trustees. A copy of the proposed changes was attached to these minutes. All members voted in favor of the changes.

Treasurer's Report was prepared by Joe Hill and presented by Rick Peters and a copy of that report was attached.

The Slate of Officers and Trustees for LGM 2017 – 2018 was presented. Judy Jett declined to be included in the Slate. Judy Jett moved to accept the nominations, Marsha Green seconded the motion and the membership voted to accept the new officers:

Lakeshore Garden Master Officers for 2017-2018 are:

President: Susan Thorpe

Vice-President: Allyson Clawson

Secretary: Rick Peters

Treasurer: Sharon Rubleman

Trustees: Monica Smith and Michael Belt

I ♥
MEETINGS

Monet Garden: Linda Hecksel announced a work session at the Monet on Tuesday morning, October 25 at 10am. Linda would like the group to decide if they would like to keep the Monet Garden or not, as participation in the garden was low this year.

Our Speaker: David Van Heest spoke on Tulips! He shared the history of tulips and many beautiful photos of tulips. He shared planting tips and discussed strategies for dealing with common gardening pests.

A delicious pot luck was enjoyed by our members and President Rick Peters adjourned the meeting at 7:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted on October 24, 2016 by:

Rita Ann Wright, Recording Secretary

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

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

Master Gardener College 2017

We hope you've saved the date for **2017 Master Gardener College** which is June 23-24 at the University Club Complex (University Club, Henry Center and Candlewood Suites) on the Michigan State University (MSU) campus in East Lansing. The Master Gardener College planning committee is busy finalizing the details of the event to ensure it is not only educational, but also a fun and enjoyable experience for you!

Each year the committee strives to maintain the highest levels of education and learning, while making every effort to minimize the costs for the event. **Master Gardener College has not, nor has it ever been intended to serve as a money-making event for the Master Gardener Program.** The financial goal is for the event to break-even.

Master Gardener College is a unique opportunity for you **to learn from renowned experts in horticulture, participate in hands-on workshops** and network with other MSU Extension Master Gardeners. It helps you stay on the cutting edge of horticultural knowledge.

The goals of Master Gardener College are to:

Strengthen the science-based education for Extension Master Gardener volunteers and their outreach efforts.

Strengthen the partnership between MSU Extension, the Master Gardener Program and the Michigan Master Gardener Association (MMGA).

Increase the understanding of relevant, applied MSU research for Michigan "gardening."

Provide opportunities for MSU Extension Master Gardeners to network.

Increase awareness of meaningful volunteer service.

Create advocates for MSU Extension and the MMGA.

Build support and understanding of the Michigan horticultural industry.

We are making every effort to keep costs as low as possible for Extension Master Gardener volunteers who want to attend Master Gardener College this June, even as event costs continue to rise. This year we are trying something new with a fundraising effort, seeking financial support from sponsors. We will be looking to our MSU Extension Master Gardeners and program partners to be key components throughout this process, helping us spread the word about the conference to your fellow Extension Master Gardeners and friends, as well as providing us with ideas of companies, organizations or individuals who may be interested in sponsoring the event.

Master Gardener College success depends upon your participation. The higher the number of MSU Extension Master Gardeners (and friends) who attend the full conference, the higher the likelihood that projections can be met and event costs covered.

More detailed information will be sent in the near future regarding our fundraising efforts, as well as additional details regarding our workshops, educational sessions and keynote speaker.

We hope you will plan to join us in June!!

2017 Master Gardener Sponsorship Committee

Mary Wilson, Master Gardener Program Educator and State Coordinator,
et al



FEATURED SPEAKERS



Susan Martin is an avid gardener, writer and speaker for gardening audiences across the U.S. She has spent nearly two decades in the Horticulture Industry working in new plant development, garden design, communications, sales and marketing, including over a decade in management at the largest wholesale grower of bare root perennials in the United States. Susan finds her calling in spreading the joy of gardening to her fellow gardeners, a love which was instilled in her by her parents. She is a native of Michigan where she has been digging in the dirt since age four. Follow her on Facebook at Gardener Sue's News.



Rebecca Finmeran, Senior Horticulture Educator, MSU Extension, Rebecca received a Bachelor of Science in Horticulture with emphasis in Landscape Design from

Michigan State University. She has been serving Michigan as MSU Extension Horticulture Educator since 1987 helping the green industry and consumers learn about horticulture, the environment and pesticide safety. Finmeran teaches and sponsors numerous consumer horticulture programs across the state and is a prolific writer. Finmeran previously served on the Board of Directors for the Grand Rapids based Frederick Meijer Gardens for twelve years and is currently overseeing an urban display garden in Grand Rapids known as the "Grand Ideas Garden" located at MSU Extension, (775 Ball Ave. NE)

SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2017

PANEL SPEAKERS

'Roses: What's New and Old' with Eric Nelson, Weesies Brothers Garden Center and Landscaping
Eric Nelson is a garden designer and nursery buyer for Weesies Brothers Garden Centers and Landscaping in Montague, Michigan. Eric has been a Certified Michigan Nurserman for over 25 years. He has offered programs on horticultural topics at Frederick Meijer Gardens, various garden clubs and previous March Garden Days.

'Indoor Mini-scapes: Creating Miniature Gardens and Terrariums' with Bev Hankema, Jonkers Garden
Bev joined the Jonkers Garden team in May of 2014. Bev is responsible for ordering hard goods, gifts and houseplants for the indoor and outdoor garden shops. In addition to ordering Bev has a great eye for merchandising and design from her 15+ years of retail garden center experience, including designing fun, tiny gardens.

'Mature and Ornamental Tree Pruning' with Keith Hogan, Bartlett Tree Experts
Keith is an ISA certified arborist who has been working for Bartlett Tree Experts for the past 9 years. He has previous experience as a climber, plant health care technician and now as an Arborist Representative. Even though he no longer spends his work hours swinging around trees on a daily basis, he maintains a close connection to the trees through competitive tree climbing.

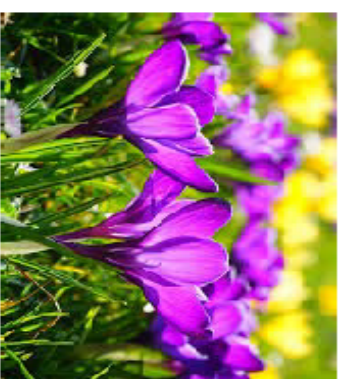
'Yoga for Gardeners' with Kaiti Skourupli
Kaiti has been a certified YogaFit instructor for 19 years. She has taught at schools, businesses, Tri-Cities YMCA, St. Patrick and St. Anthony churches, and private classes. She has instructed everyone from children to senior chair yoga. (No special equipment required, low impact).

'Tools & Tool Tips from the Pros' with Paul Keifer, owner Specialty Gardens, Allison Jesty, Irrigation Specialist, Hope College and Greg Dunn, owner Blackbird Farms CSA
In this panel discussion three gardening professionals will discuss the 'go to' gardening tools and provide tips for sourcing, using and maintenance.



P.O. Box 96, West Olive, MI 49460

www.wmnla.com
Visit us on Facebook.com/
MarchGardenDay



March Garden Day

2017

Saturday, March 11, 2017

A Celebration of Gardening!

Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.

Grand Haven Community Center
421 Columbus Street
Grand Haven, Michigan

Registration includes lunch
\$45 in advance
\$50 at the door
Space is limited to 250 people.

Sponsored by the West Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association

MARCH GARDEN DAY

Schedule of Events

8:00 Registration & Check-In

Visit exhibits, indoor gardens & silent auction. Professionals will be available to answer your gardening questions.

9:00 Session 1

Lessons Learned Under the Trees with Susan Martin

Shade. Most of us have it, but many of us are unsure what to do with it. Over ten years of experience gardening in every degree of shade near the Lake Michigan shoreline has taught Susan many lessons and ignited her passion for shade gardening, which she will gladly share with you. You'll learn how to take advantage of the conditions you have, not those you wish you had, and discover life beyond hostas in the shade garden.

10:30 Session 2

Smart Plants for Pollinators

with Rebecca Fineran

Supporting native bees and beneficial insects right at home is the first step in conservation of these species. By choosing the right plants and adopting "Smart Gardening" behaviors, we can help our native bee and insect populations thrive. Join Rebecca for a look at a wide palette of plants as well as conservation techniques to encourage pollinators.

11:45 - 1:15 Breakout Sessions & Lunch Break

This is a great time to tour the indoor gardens, visit the booths, attend a 30 minute Breakout Session, & enjoy lunch which is included with registration.

Help us go Green!

Please recycle all compostable/biodegradable/recyclable materials in appropriate containers!

Choice of Breakout Sessions

1. What's New and Old in Roses, Eric Nelson

2. Indoor Miniscapes: Creating Miniature Gardens and Terrariums, Bev Harkema

3. Mature and Ornamental Tree Pruning, Keith Hogan

4. Tools and Tips from the Pros, Paul Keifer, Allison Jesky, Greg Dunn

5. Yoga for Gardeners, Kathi Skorupski
(Low impact, no special equipment needed)



Check us out on Facebook for pictures

1:45 Silent Auction Closes

Please be present to win items. MasterCard & Visa accepted. Thank you for your support of the WMNLA Scholarship & Horticulture Education Grant!

1:45 Session 3

Moving Beyond Pretty: Plants with Bonus Points with Susan Martin

When the plant catalogs begin to arrive, our eyes are filled with botanical eye candy. The challenge is to look beyond the pretty flowers and actively seek out plants that deliver more color for shade, food for pollinators, greater durability and many other gardening solutions. As you begin to see plants from a new perspective, consider resisting impulse buys and selecting plants in a more intentional way instead. We're moving beyond pretty and into the realm of more.

3:00 March Garden Day concludes.

March Garden Day is sponsored by the West Michigan Nursery & Landscaping Association, a local non-profit organization of gardening and landscape professionals. Proceeds from this event help fund the WMNLA Scholarship Programs.

Attendance will qualify for 5 Education Credits toward Master Gardener Re-Certification. MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY MASTER GARDENER EXTENSION

MARCH GARDEN DAY REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email Address: _____ (registration confirmation will be sent by email)

Please select your luncheon choice:

- ☐ Ardell's Amazing Chicken Salad Croissant, fruit, dessert
☐ Roasted Garden Veggie Wrap, fruit, dessert

Please complete and return this form with your pre-registration fee of \$45.00 by March 1, 2017.

Mail pre-registration forms to: WMNLA, PO Box 96, West Olive, Michigan 49460. Please make checks payable to "WMNLA."

For additional information visit www.wmnl.com, visit us on facebook or email the March Garden Day Committee at wmnla2013@gmail.com.

Advance registration at local garden retailers: Grand Haven Garden House in Grand Haven & Jonkers Garden in Holland.

On site registration is \$50.00.

Registration is limited to 250 people.