

# Grass Roots Column

A Publication of  
Lakeshore Garden Masters Gardening Club

[www.lakeshoregardenmasters.org](http://www.lakeshoregardenmasters.org)



May/June, 2017

Hello Gardeners!

As I write, the calendar says its spring...but I wait for her still. But, by the time you read this she will have arrived in all her glory. So to prepare for another glorious growing season I wanted to share a few tips and tricks of my own.

Setting lures to attract allies in your garden will help make your job much easier. While I hate rodents and bugs as much as you do, it's helpful to know the good guys from the bad guys.

SNAKES help control small rodents and many insect pests and 99% of snakes found in yards are harmless. There are only a few poisonous species in the entire United States, so consult a good reptile book for your area. To provide shelter for these helpful feeders create a space for them by mounding some twigs and branches, cover them with a black tarp and weight the edges with rocks. You can disguise the mound with a layer of mulch.

PREDIDORY MITES are attracted to wintergreen. Soak some cotton balls in pure oil of wintergreen. Stuff the balls into empty ½ ounce vials, wrap the necks of the vials in nooses of wire and hang them wherever mites are a problem. Predatory mites will be attracted to the scent and stay to consume the pests and their eggs.

SPIDERS in a wide variety of species is an indicator of good garden productivity. Spiders are responsible for 80% of the biological control in a healthy garden. Turn terra cotta pots upside down (holes up) in your garden. Spiders enter the holes and take up residence. They will tackle earwigs, sowbugs, and beetles and feast on larvae emerging from the soil and heading toward the light. Another home for spiders is an old produce crate turned upside down in your garden. Or build small twig mounds throughout your garden to shelter spiders or stack a permanent rock pile for them. Mulching your beds with grass clippings and compost supplies the spiders with the dark, moist, sheltered environment they need to launch their bug patrols. Always avoid using broad spectrum pesticides, which destroy spiders and a host of other beneficial insects.



So don't be creeped out by the bugs, enlist them to help your garden be more productive this year!

-Taken from the book *Trowel & Error*, by Sharon Lovejoy

LGM President, Susan Thorpe

Garden with joy,  
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.

## Upcoming LGM Meetings

### It's a Garden Fest!

**May 22** Monet Garden, 470 Clay Street, Muskegon, 4:00-8:00 PM. Potluck and planting annuals.

### Fairy Gardens for Real!

**June 26** Potluck and building a fairy garden 6:00 PM VFW in N. Muskegon

For further information on these events please see page



## Calendar of Events

**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 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 VFW Hall  
**October 10** - Monet Garden  
**October 23** - LGM meeting VFW Hall  
**October 26** - Monet Garden

## 2017 Leadership Council Officers

**President:** Susan Thorpe  
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**Vice President:** Allyson Clawson  
alleybee@aol.com  
**Secretary:** Rick Peters  
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**Education Programs**-Leadership/Trustees  
**Monet Garden**-Linda Hecksel  
Hecksel@aol.com

## Lakeshore Garden Master Dues

With springtime comes a new membership year, and with only a few exceptions, all current members are due now to renew their membership of \$15 for the 2017 year. Please be prepared to renew at the May 22 meeting at Monet Garden OR you can mail a check to :  
Sharon Rubelman, Treasurer  
1599 N. Peterson Road  
North Muskegon, MI 49445-9616.

## 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. 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 Updates

It's May and the weather is beginning to get nice- May 9 and 22 are the next work sessions. May 22 will be the monthly meeting and we'll be planting our annuals. I'm excited to see as many of you who can come at the garden this summer. It's spring and anything is possible!

Linda  
231-557-6317

Here is our schedule for this summer:

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

This is the May meeting. 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



It never rains at the Monet plus gardening is fun!

### 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](http://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*.



### Exciting Monet Garden Announcement

The Monet Garden Board has decided to offer incentives to encourage more workers to help at the garden. At the last LGM meeting of the year (Oct.), all workers who have helped a minimum of six scheduled sessions will have a chance to have their LGM dues paid for the next year. Also, every worker will have their name entered (as many times as they have worked) into a drawing for exciting gardening prizes. WOW!! What a deal!

Thank you to Monica Smith, Marsha Green and Linda Hecksel for working at the Monet Garden April 27. They took out five bags of leaves and weeds! Good job ladies, and thanks for the help!



## LAKESHORE GARDEN MASTERS 2017 Calendar

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



**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!



LGM meeting and potluck April 24 at the Spring Lake Library with guest Matt Mellema, President of the Michigan Landscape Association

## Lakeshore Garden Masters Minutes of the April 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President, Susan Thorpe, at 6:35 PM. The meeting was held in the auxiliary room of the Spring Lake Library.

Marsha Willbrandt announced that Len Wright, husband of our Rita Wright, had passed away last week. A card was passed to the membership and will be sent to Rita.

Susan welcomed all the members present. She then discussed the possibility of renting a 15-passenger van to visit MSU Trial Gardens, Perennial Gardens, and the Student Organic Farm. This is scheduled for 24 July. A show of hands was given to indicate the level of interest. Mike Belt will be arranging for this expedition.

For the May 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, we would like to begin about 4:00 PM at Monet Garden. The meeting will feature a pot luck with brats prepared by Rick Peters. Bring a place setting, chair, dish to pass, and beverage.

The 26 June meeting will be held at the VFW Hall in North Muskegon, beginning at 6:00 PM with our pot luck dinner. Please bring a plate setting and drink along with a generous dish to pass. Our program will be given by Sandy Pickett on "How to Construct a Fairy Garden". She will give a demonstration and discuss the fine points of making the fairy garden. Standard gardens will be available to those who wish to participate and take home a garden. The cost is \$25.00 for the basic structure.

Susan then introduced Matt Mellema, who is a nephew of our member, David Mellema. Matt did a very nice job of discussing the fine points of raising some of our most popular plants. His presentation was well-received. Questions and answers followed the program. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard W. Peters, Secretary

### Roasted Root Vegetables (recipe courtesy of Monica Smith)

1 butternut squash

1-2 sweet potatoes

1 rutabaga

4-5 carrots

I have also used fennel and turnips when making this, pick your favorites

1 medium onion cut into thick slices

2-3 garlic cloves coarsely chopped

Olive oil

3 tsp. of dried herbs (I used rosemary, thyme, and basil but an Italian blend is also good)

1 ½ tsp. salt

½ tsp. pepper

About 3 Tb. Balsamic vinegar



Peel the vegetables and cut into 1 – 1 ½ inch pieces. Toss all ingredients with just enough olive oil to lightly coat. Add the herbs, salt and pepper. I usually make this and let it sit for a few hours or overnight to let the flavor of the herbs blend. Put the mixture in a large roasting pan and bake uncovered at 375 degrees for 1- 1 ½ hrs. (depends on the size of the pieces and the amount in the pan). Stir about every 15 minutes. Add the balsamic vinegar the last 10 – 15 minutes of roasting.

## Why Prune?

Compiled by authors from *Proven Winners*

To answer this question, we need to understand what pruning does to a plant physiologically. Plants are genetically programmed for *apical dominance*. That's a botanical term that describes the simple phenomenon that plants always want to grow upward. Apical dominance is enforced by the terminal bud – the bud at the end of each stem - which produces a constant supply of hormones that keep the buds below it from growing. When that terminal bud is removed, production of those suppressive hormones ceases, and the lower buds are released. As a result, pruning stimulates a lot of new growth, as multiple buds take over the job that just one single bud was doing previously.

For the gardener, the new growth that results from pruning can accomplish any of the following things, depending on the kind of plant:

**More flowers.** This is especially true for plants that flower later in the season, like [roses](#) and [butterfly bush](#). Instead of just the terminal bud producing flowers, all of the lower buds will flower as well, multiplying the effect substantially.

**Blooming again later in the season.** Reblooming plants flower more their second time based on how much new growth they put on after their first bloom. A light trim after they've finished their spring bloom means a better show come summer!

**Better leaf color.** Many plants with variegated or colorful foliage display their best color and pattern on young growth. Pruning keeps their foliage vivid and showy.

**Brighter stem color.** Plants with attractive stems dogwood, are the most colorful on stems younger than 3 years old. Pruning encourages the fresh new growth that makes these plants so popular in our gardens.

Pruning may also be used for any of the following purposes:

**To neaten the plant's appearance.** Some plants keep last year's flowers on their stems. These can be cut off in spring to keep the new growth and the current season's flowers looking crisp and clean.

**To control the plant's height and/or spread.** Sometimes, a plant that is really too large for the space will have been planted and you will want to prune it to stay a manageable size. And some plants in a flower bed or a smaller landscape that requires some pruning to keep them tight and compact.

**To rejuvenate an old or overgrown shrub.** If you've got a very large, very old multi-stemmed shrub on your property, you can give it a new lease on life by cutting it back to short stubs in spring.

**To remove dead, diseased, or damaged wood.** Sometimes branches of shrubs die from weather, from old age, or are damaged by injury or animals like deer browsing them. Pruning is the best way to correct the damage.

Obviously, there are lots of good reasons you might prune a plant, but it's important to know that pruning is not strictly necessary. No plant dies from a lack of pruning, but plenty die from being pruned improperly! There are plenty of good reasons *not* to prune a plant: If you are happy with a shrub's size, looks, and performance, there's no need to prune it. If it is a dwarf variety it will require little to no regular pruning.

**You should never prune without a reason.** Every other decision you'll make, like when to prune and how much to prune, will come back to the reason you've decided to prune in the first place. If you don't start with a good reason, you won't be able to determine what to do next!



## 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



# 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**