

Grass Roots Column

A Publication of
Lakeshore Garden Masters Gardening Club

www.lakeshoregardenmasters.org



March, 2018



Hello Gardeners!

Seed catalogs are rolling in with tantalizing offers of discounts to order now! While I am inspired to do just that I am also in the final countdown to begin yet another level of gardening education as a Smart Gardening Volunteer with MSUE. In 2008 I received my Master Gardener certificate after 13 weeks of training and devouring a nearly 700 page manual. I was an eager learner and loved the interaction with the other fledglings in my class of over 50 in Oakland County.

That was 8 years ago..... Many changes have taken place at MSU Extension offices and they have been streamlining and getting leaner while not sacrificing their mission to bring their wealth of knowledge to all corners of the state. The streamlining meant less instructors to bring the Master Gardener classes to all eighty counties but MSUE still offers the thirteen week cycle of classes in different counties twice each year. Classes are starting next month in Traverse City, Detroit and Clinton Twp. Some are on Saturdays, others are evenings.

Until the next classes rotate into Muskegon, Ottawa or Kent County you can stay on top of what the gardening experts are talking about! One of the best websites I have found is from MSU and it gives you the choice to sign up for emailed newsletters on the topics of your choice. Approximately 15 topics of the 30+ listed related directly to gardening. They are short and often with photos but always chuck full of tips and tricks. Go to migarden.msu.edu. At this site you will find two tabs: Newsletter Sign Up which is explained above.

The second tab Ask an Expert gives you the opportunity to reach out to the experts on gardening questions of any kind at MSU Extension through the website that is available 24/7! Then if you would like to speak live with an expert we have the MSU Extension toll-free hotline at 888-678-3464. This hotline has been around for many years, but previously was manned in each county individually which was a staffing issue and frequently many counties could only answer calls on certain days of the week for several hours. Now, these calls are answered on a rotating basis by all eighty counties so that every call is answered.

Happy Gardening!

Susan Thorpe, President, Lakeshore Garden Masters

New Home For Lakeshore Garden Masters

Lakeshore Garden Masters has been meeting at the North Muskegon VFW Hall for many years and we appreciated their generosity. Last year they remodeled, and their decision was to not upgrade their audio/visual equipment nor wireless capabilities. This posed a challenge for us to attract higher level speakers that require those things for power point presentations. Our decision was to find another "home" for LGM that is centrally located and near to highways. We have chosen the AMG Developments building which is on the southeast end of the Muskegon Airport. It actually sits near the end of a runway. Their facilities are bright and new with every audio/visual need we could hope for, a nicely lit parking lot, handicapped accessible, modern bathrooms and comfortable meeting rooms. We know you will want to see our new meeting site once you see how close it will be for many of you! (See Pg. 3)



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.

Interesting March Meeting

March 26– at AMG Developments-Coleen Boyer speaks on *Soils and Amending Soil*. Regular pot luck. (See pg. 4 for more information)

April - Get Ready to Grow

April 24 - at AMG Developments-Ben Werling, speaks on *Vegetable and Fruit Gardening*. (See pg. 4 for more information)

Calendar of Events

March 26 - LGM meeting at AGM 6 PM
March 29 –Monet Garden 10 AM-1 PM
April 10 - Monet Garden 5 PM-7 PM
April 23 – LGM meeting at AGM (See Pg. 4)
April 26 - Monet Garden 10 AM-1 PM
May 8 - Monet Garden 5 PM-7 PM
May 21 - “Monet Garden Spring Perk Up” (See Pg. 4)
June 12- Monet Garden 5 PM-7 PM
June 25 - LGM Meeting at White Lake Community Library (See Pg. 4)
June 28 - Monet Garden 10 AM-1 PM
July 10 - Monet Garden 5 PM-7 PM
July 23 - LGM Meeting at Cherry Point Farm (See Pg. 4)
July 26- Monet Garden 10 AM-1 PM
August 7 - Monet Garden 5 PM-7 PM
August 23 - Monet Garden 10 AM-1 PM
August 27 - LGM Meeting at AGM 6 PM
September 4 - Monet Garden 5 PM-7 PM
September 20 - Monet Garden 10 AM-1 PM
September 24 – LGM meeting at Gavin Apple Orchard (See pg. 4)
October 2- Monet Garden - 5 PM-7 AM
October 18 – Monet Garden - 10 AM-1 PM
October 22 - LGM Meeting at AGM 6 PM



2017 Leadership Council Officers

President: Susan Thorpe
holbox04@gmail.com

Vice President: Jean Baker
Baker2j63@frontier

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

Treasurer: Sharon Rubelman
onesister123@gmail.com

Trustees

Michael Belt
michael.belt@comcast.net

David Mellema
Djmellema@msn.com

Dick/Barb Jorgensen
Dbgardens@outlook.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-Open

Plant Sharing Rules

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



Meet the New Trustee Team- The Jorgensens

Dick Jorgensen attended Michigan State University and had a long career in electronics including MSU broadcasting and forty years at Ampex Corp. in Redwood City, Calif. He became a Master Gardener in 1995.

Barb and five other Master Gardeners developed the Twin Lakes Elementary School outdoor garden in 1998 which included a butterfly garden, raised vegetable and flower beds, plus native and wildflower beds which the children so enjoyed. Then Barb and Marcia Willbrandt worked on the Monet garden in the early days and Barb donated the solid color purple irises from her own garden to the Monet in keeping with the original design.

Dick and Barb helped to start five Christian



Reformed churches (he as a deacon and elder and Barb as pianist) in Lansing, Ann Arbor, Colorado Springs and Columbus. The Jorgensen's have been married for 68 years. They have six children living in Boulder and Denver, CO., Pensacola, FL, Atwater, OH, Grand Haven and Lowell, MI.

They still enjoy gardening at 89 years of age with a special interest in fruit trees, flowers and vegetables.!



Stunning photo of Autumn Hibiscus at the Monet

Directions—AMG Developments Building 800 Ellis Road, Norton Shores, MI

From the SOUTH:

Take US 31 north and exit at 109B for Sternberg Road West

In 0.7 miles turn Right onto Robert Hunter Drive, stay on this road for 0.5 miles

Turn Right onto Ellis Road and the AMG building will be on your left near the end of the road.

From the NORTH:

Take US 31 south and exit at 109B for Sternberg Road West

In 1 mile turn Right onto Robert Hunter Drive, stay on this road for 0.5 miles

Turn Right onto Ellis Road and the AMG building will be on your left near the end of the road.

From the EAST:

Take Interstate 96 West toward Muskegon and exit at US 31 going South

Exit at 109B for Sternberg Road West

In 1 mile turn Right onto Robert Hunter Drive, stay on this road for 0.5 miles

Turn Right onto Ellis Road and the AMG building will be on your left near the end of the road.

From DOWNTOWN MUSKEGON:

Take Seaway Drive South and turn right onto Old Grand Haven Road.

Continue past Airport Road, Hile Road and East Ellis Road and turn Right on Porter Road.

Turn Right on Robert Hunter Drive, stay on this for 0.5 miles

LAKESHORE GARDEN MASTERS 2018 Calendar of Events

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

Lakeshoregardenmasters.org

Contact: Susan Thorpe 248-310-2312 for info

March 26 – at AMG Developments, 800 Ellis Road, Norton Shores. Presenter Colleen Boyer, former MSU Horticultural Agent for Muskegon County on “Soils and Amendments”

Potluck starts at 6 PM if you wish to join us bring a dish to pass, your beverage and table setting. Program starts at 6:45 PM.

April 23 – at AMG Developments, 800 Ellis Road, Norton Shores. Presenter Ben Werling, MSU educator on “Vegetable and Fruit Gardening”. Enjoy fresh food this year the easy way! Without much room you can have a feast of fresh foods.

Potluck starts at 6 PM if you wish to join us bring a dish to pass, your beverage and table setting. Program starts at 6:45 PM.

May 21 – at Monet Garden, 470 W. Clay Street, Muskegon. This is a fun evening to spruce up and plant annuals to get our pocket-sized picturesque garden ready for visitors! Bring hand tools and dress for the weather starting at 4 PM. Finger-food potluck starts at 6 PM if you wish to join us bring a dish to pass, your beverage and table setting. Not available at 4 PM? Planting will continue after the potluck until 8 PM

June 25 – at White Lake Community Library, 3900 White Lake Dr., Whitehall. Presenter Eric Nelson, Landscape Designer, MI Certified Nurseryman and Lecturer from Weesies Greenhouse will speak on “Roses, What’s New?” identifying the newest cultivars and colors and why roses aren’t as fussy as they used to be! Potluck starts at 6 PM if you wish to join us bring a dish to pass, your beverage and table setting. Program starts at 6:45.

July 23 – at Cherry Point Farm/Market and Lavender Labyrinth 9600 W. Buchanan Road, Shelby, MI. Gather for a tour and talk on the Lavender Labyrinth. More details to follow!

August 27 – at AMG Developments, 800 Ellis Road, Norton Shores. Presenter is Jane Hart, Food Safety MSUE Educator, Health and Nutrition Institute on “Blanching and Freezing Foods”. Learn what equipment to use, what things freeze well and a variety of tips on any type of home food preservation. 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.

September 24 – at Gavin Apple Orchard, 16495 40th Avenue, Coopersville, MI. More details to follow!

October 22 Meeting and Elections! – at AMG Developments, 800 Ellis Road, Norton Shores. Meeting begins at 6 PM with Election of Officers and Awards for LGM. Followed by presenter Marsha Green, Master Gardener, on The Gardens in Alhambra, (Grenada) Spain. Potluck starts at 6:00 for everyone, please bring a dish to pass, your beverage and table setting. This is our last meeting of the year!

Lakeshore Garden Masters-General Membership Minutes of Meetings



September 25, 2017 - LGM Meeting

Susan Thorpe opened the meeting at the VFW in Muskegon with updates on the Monet Garden regarding the impending sale of the property and use of the garage. Florence Bright-Stahl had agreed to ask the realtor to create an addendum to allow the new owners to sign the permission for LGM members to use one half of the garage for storage of tools and items related to the Monet Garden.

Interest Surveys were distributed to attendees and returned completed at the end of the meeting.

Several members renewed their membership and two guests were in attendance.

Allyson Clawson was the presenter on the topic of Rain Gardens. She had a nice display of her work at a condo complex near Leppink's Store in Norton Shores where she created a large rain garden to keep water from spilling on to the patios of the condos. Many types of grasses were used and other flowering perennials that have taken hold and now appear to be well established.

The Nominating Committee reported making progress in finding candidates for October elections.

Treasurers Report: \$3321.11 balance in LGM Account
\$100.00 income from Bricks for Monet Garden
\$ Debits \$50.00 for MSU Garden Tour and \$3.00 bank services

Monet Garden Balance: \$248.53
\$ 92.19 to Marsha Green for plants for the garden
\$120.64 to Linda Hecksel for plants and weed preventer

Meeting adjourned 7:45 pm



Allyson Clawson, LGM member and speaker for the October 2017 meeting.

Lakeshore Garden Masters-General Membership Minutes of Meetings

October 23, 2017 - LGM Meeting

Meeting opened by Susan Thorpe at the Spring Lake Library. Final updates on Monet Garden: Florence Bright-Stahl closed on her Clay Avenue home adjacent to the Monet Garden yesterday Oct. 22). The addendum was not included in the closing as the realtor felt it would be too cumbersome and we should create a contract directly with the new owners. Michael Belt agreed to provide the contract draft for us to see.

Susan then shared that the *Circle Michigan Magazine* has asked for photos of the Monet Garden and a brief description to use in their publication that comes out in December and is circulated among many thousands of travel agents both domestic and international. This magazine has a one year shelf life and is printed in four color. Also, we have our updated Monet Garden brochures printed and Susan handed out copies to the attendees. Many thanks for the hours of preparation and printing connections to Marsha Green!

Michael Belt did a brief presentation on homemade herb bread and offered it for sale after the meeting.

We then held elections with a slate of candidates as follows: Vice President: Jean Baker to 12/31/20, Secretary: Sue Fiebelkorn, Treasurer: Sharon Rubelman, Trustees: Dick Jorgensen and Denise Thompson nominated from the floor.

Election Results: Jean Baker, VP to 12/31/20, Sue Fiebelkorn to 12/31/19, Treasurer, Sharon Rubelman to 12/31/19, Trustee, Dick Jorgensen to 12/31/19.

Presenter Chris Byrnes talked on Floating Gardens that have been successful along the Chicago River in the loop which can be duplicated on Muskegon Lake to create more recreation areas. This was a very last minute change in speakers as Jason Albert was not available to talk on growing mushrooms and Michael Belt was kind enough to locate a last minute speaker.

Linda Hecksel handed out awards for the Monet Garden and did drawings for nice gift items as a thank you to everyone that helped in the Monet Garden this year.

Susan closed the meeting at 8:00 pm and reminded everyone that the next meeting is March 26, 2018

Monet Garden Work Schedule for 2018

March 29 –Monet Garden 10 AM-1 PM
April 10 - Monet Garden 5 PM-7 PM
April 26 - Monet Garden 10 AM-1 PM
May 8 - Monet Garden 5 PM-7 PM
May 21 - “Monet Garden Spring Perk Up”
(See Pg. 4)
June 12- Monet Garden 5 PM-7 PM
June 28 - Monet Garden 10 AM-1 PM
July 10 - Monet Garden 5 PM-7 PM

Monet Schedule (Con't)

July 26- Monet Garden 10 AM-1 PM
August 7 - Monet Garden 5 PM-7 PM
August 23 - Monet Garden 10 AM-1 PM
September 4 - Monet Garden 5 PM-7 PM
September 20 - Monet Garden 10 AM-1 PM
October 2- Monet Garden - 5 PM-7 AM
October 18 – Monet Garden - 10 AM-1 PM

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.

Membership Information

Please Print Clearly

New Member _____ Renewing Member _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Tele. # _____ Cell Phone # _____

Email Address _____

Dues \$15.00 for Year _____ Paid in Cash Paid By Check # _____

Date Paid _____ Dues Received By _____

Can also mailed to:

Sharon Rubelman
1599 Peterson Rd.
North Muskegon, MI 49445



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**