

# Isabella County Master Gardener Volunteer Program

## Seeds of Knowledge

January/February/March 2008

### Message from the Coordinator

Well - where do I begin. . . .

As most all of you know my family has been separated since the end of August. John took a job in Kentucky and we have been trying to figure out what to do and where to go. Decisions have been made and I wanted to take this opportunity to fill you all in.

My last day of work at the MSU Extension office will be February 29th. The kids and I will then make the move down south. We will be living in a town called Pleasant View in Tennessee. My husband is coming home on March 1st and we hope to pack up the house and be on the road on March 4th or 5th.

I am leaving here with reservations, but I know that in the long run this will be the right move for our family. I have been with the Extension Office for 16 years and leaving will be very hard. I have made many friends along the way and will miss them tremendously.

I have to admit, I think one of the hardest things will be not working with you Master Gardeners anymore. This experience has been one of great frustration as well as great joy. You all have enriched my life so much that not working with you and this program will leave a huge hole in my heart. Personally I have gone through many changes in the 13 years I have run this program, from having children, to getting married, losing grandparents, family sickness, etc. You have all given me encouragement and kind words along the way and it has been greatly appreciated.

Part of me is secretly hoping that you all will feel that the program will never be the same without me!!!! (just kidding - really I am!) But mostly I know that your dedication to this program will live on, long after I am gone. I hope you will continue to give it all you have and help to enrich the lives of the people in our community. Please continue to volunteer for our existing projects and activities, as well as being on the lookout for future project ideas. It is always nice to have new ideas and opportunities to spread the Master Gardener "seeds".

Someone will be taking over the Master Gardener Coordinator responsibilities, so the program is not going to end, just because I am leaving. This will all be in place before I leave and I will work with that person in an effort to make a smooth transition.

**On a more fun note - my office is hosting a farewell reception for me on Tuesday, February 26th in the afternoon. I would love to see you there if you can make it. I'm not sure of the exact time right now, but feel free to contact the office and ask.**

We are holding a 2008 class which begins February 6th. The schedule is on the back and if you wish to monitor a class or just sit in on one, please let me know.

Again, it has been a pleasure getting to know all of you and I will miss you all so much. Nonie will have my contact information if you ever want to get in touch with me, I'd be happy to hear from you. I wish all of you well and hope that the sun always shines on you and your gardens. It has been a privilege working with you. Take care.

Fondly,  
Tracey Knack

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To contact me  
by e-mail:  
knack@msu.edu



## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

There are several educational opportunities coming up in the next few months. I'm listing below some of the details and where you can go to get more information. Consider attending some of these opportunities. It's always good to learn more!

### **Garden Design Workshop Series - CMU, Mt. Pleasant - Starting February 2nd**

Anyone who has an interest in garden design can benefit from these workshops. No prior plant or design knowledge is needed! Each workshop consists of lecture and hands-on exercises. For detailed information go to [www.michigangardendesign.com](http://www.michigangardendesign.com). To register go to: <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/programs/2008/2008-MG-Garden-Design-Series.pdf>

### **Trees and Shrubs of Isabella County Parks - Wednesday, February 13, 7:00 pm, Veteran's Memorial Library, Mt. Pleasant**

Cathy Murray will be discussing the flowering aspects and leaf forms of trees and shrubs which we don't usually think about. With controversies about pollination, these are undoubtedly important aspects of attracting pollinators to our gardens and fields



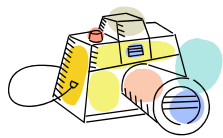
### **Know and Grow - Think Spring! - Saturday, February 23rd, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Dow Gardens, Midland**

Seminar highlights:

- Stephanie Cohen, The "Perennial Diva" and award winning author
- Janet Macunovich, The "Gardeners Personal Trainer"
- Chuck Martin & Elly Maxwell, What's Buggin' You?
- Master Gardener Marketplace featuring organic products, herbal soaps, oils, lotion, garden stones, hats, pruners, rose care items, hypertufa planters, iron works, etc.

Registration (prior to February 1st) is \$50.00. After February 1st it is \$60.00. To download a brochure visit the Dow Gardens website.

### **Basics for Garden Photography - Thursday, February 28, 7:00 pm Veteran's Memorial Library Annex, Mt. Pleasant**



Peggy Brisbane, Photographer will instruct on the basics of taking beautiful photos of your garden. If you want to improve your skills, plan on attending this seminar. It is being sponsored by the Isabella County Master Gardener Association. Education credits will be awarded.

### **ANR Week - MSU - February 29- March 8, 2008:**

\*\*Program Guides are available here at the MSU Extension Office.

Some selected options:

- 1) Annual Michigan Wildflower Association Conference - March 2nd & 3rd
- 2) Annual Michigan Herb Associates Conference - March 5th & 6th
- 3) Michigan Gladiolus Conference - March 6th & 7th
- 4) Michigan Horticultural Therapy Association Conference - March 7th & 8th

Each of the above conferences are open to members and non-members of these associations.

Registration fee is determined by this status. Information is in the Program Guides.

### **Stuck on Gardening Conference - Saturday, March 1st, DeVos Place, Grand Rapids**

This event is held in conjunction with the West Michigan Home and Garden Show and participants will be able to enjoy a 2-day pass to the show. Keynote speaker is Tracy Disabato-Aust, an internationally acclaimed author. She will be teaching participants how to implement "The Well Designed Mixed Garden." For more information contact Brenda Angelo at 616-336-7734 or download a brochure at [www.stuckongardening.com](http://www.stuckongardening.com).

### **Learn To Grow Green - March 8, 2008:** (formerly the MSU Summer Conference)

Registration: \$75.00 for Master Gardeners, Non - MG's - \$90

Registration packets are available and you can register on-line at: [http://web1.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/programs/2008/2008-03\\_2008-ConfBrochure.mgso.pdf](http://web1.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/programs/2008/2008-03_2008-ConfBrochure.mgso.pdf)

### **Bees: their Importance as Pollinators and their Current Status - Wednesday, March 12, Veteran's Memorial Library, Mt. Pleasant, 7:00 pm**

Entomologist, Julianna Tuell from MSU, will be presenting this discussion about honeybees and current controversy about their decline and effects upon plants and food supplies.



### **Spring Into Gardening Conference - Saturday, April 26 - Comfort Inn Conference Center Mt. Pleasant - 8:30 am to 4:00 pm**

Sponsored by the Isabella County Master Gardener Association, Cost is \$50.00.

Featured speakers include, Pat Westaway, Square Foot Gardening Foundation; Mark Torregrossa, NBC25; Dave Moore, Stone Cottage Gardens and Dr. Art Cameron, MSU.

We will have a vendor show with all kinds of garden related stuff! Master Gardeners will receive 5 education credits for attending.

Registration brochures will be available from the MSU Extension website after February 1st at [www.isabellacounty.org/dept/msue](http://www.isabellacounty.org/dept/msue).

If you have any questions about the above educational opportunities, please feel free to contact me.





## Master Gardeners Got a Brand New Bag!

**NOW AVAILABLE!** I have a number of bags on hand for sale to Master Gardeners. This bag has a zippered close at the top and your Master Gardener notebook fits in it! These bags will be for sale at the Spring Into Gardening Conference, but you can get yours early by stopping into the MSU Extension Office. They are \$10.00 right now to all Isabella County Master Gardeners, but will be for sale at the conference for \$15.00.



### Looking for pictures of Master Gardeners in action and Master Gardener projects

The association is working on archiving any and all pictures of Master Gardeners in action on any projects. If you run across any pictures of events or projects you have participated in, please bring them into the MSU Extension office. If they are digital, you can also send them to me at [knack@msu.edu](mailto:knack@msu.edu) or to Julie Feight at [jafeight77@charter.net](mailto:jafeight77@charter.net). Julie will be compiling them into a presentation for the recognition banquet

### Looking for Featured Gardens

I would like to see the “Featured Gardens” continue for future newsletters. If you took any pictures throughout this past growing season and would like to tell us a little about your garden and your gardening experiences, please do so. We’d love to hear about it. I would need about a page long story and a few pictures. Think about it. They are so much fun to put in the newsletters.

## Do We Have Any Writers Out There??

Our Master Gardener Association has been working with the Morning Sun and we will be featuring an bi-monthly article in the newspaper again. Ann Eby, one of our Advanced Master Gardeners, wrote several articles for this last year, but if anyone else out there is interested in writing articles, please let me know. I'm sure we can work out some sort of schedule. This will be great exposure for the Master Gardener Program as well as a great opportunity to explore your writing abilities. Think about it.



**Annual Recognition Banquet**  
**Tuesday, April 29, 2008**  
**Isabella County Bldg., Room 320**  
**6:30 pm**

(more details to come - but mark your calendars!)

One of the issues that is handled at the banquet is Executive Board Officer Elections. This year the positions of Vice-President and Treasurer are up for election. Any active Master Gardener is eligible to run for Executive Board Officer positions. If you have an interest in becoming involved with this board, please consider running for an officer position. The Executive Board helps to plan Master Gardener events, speakers, and projects, etc. If you might be interested in running for one of these positions, please contact me by the end of February. We welcome new people interested in this part of the Master Gardener Volunteer Program.



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NEWSLETTER

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## 2008 Master Gardener Class

The 2008 Master Gardener Volunteer Training Class will be held on Wednesday's beginning February 6th from 6:00 - 9:30 pm, in Room 320 of the Isabella County Building.

All Master Gardeners are welcome to sit in on any class they wish. If you are in need of some education hours or if you just want to hear something again, you may. You can also come if you want to hear a different teacher. This would give you some education hours if you need some.

We are on the Web  
[www.isabellacounty.org/dept/msue](http://www.isabellacounty.org/dept/msue)

- **February 6th - Introduction** - I could use one person's help with registration, etc.
- **February 13th - Plant Science** - Jessie Spry
- **February 20th - Soil Science** - Paul Gross
- **February 27th - IPM Plant Health Care** - Dan Rossman
- **March 5th - Lawn Care** - Bob Rau
- **March 12th - Small Fruits** - (New instructor)
- **March 19th - Vegetables** - Bill Miller
- **March 26th - Tree Fruits** - Mike Jenkins
- **April 2nd - Woody Ornamentals** - Dave Breedlove
- **April 9th - Exotic Forest Pests** - Roger Lintemuth  
**Composting** - Marney Blasey
- **April 16th - Flower Gardening** - (New Instructor)
- **April 23rd - Houseplants** - Nancy Fry
- **April 30th - Spring Planning Bee** - Put this on your calendars!
- **May 7th - Diagnostic Training** (more details to come)

If you would like to sit in on any of the classes, just let me know. If you would like to earn some volunteer hours by monitoring the classes, you would be responsible for grading quizzes and handing out quizzes at the end of class, taking attendance, etc.

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