

The City Seedling

A Publication of Master Gardeners of Greater Detroit in conjunction with MSU Extension - Wayne County

MSUE Wayne County Volunteer Hours Update

By Barb Smith, MSUE Database Coordinator

The 2004 Master Gardener year has ended and Kristin and I have prepared the year-end letters for everyone who submitted hours for 2004 (October 1, 2003 through December 31, 2004). The last letters went out in the mail the week of March 18, 2005; if you haven't received a letter by the time you read this and believe you have submitted hours for 2004, let us know. Master Gardeners in Wayne County accomplished a great deal this year:

- 19,780 volunteer hours;
- 4,194 education hours;
- 211 re-certified master gardeners; and
- 68 newly-certified master gardeners.

The letters also contain information about and a reservation form for the First Annual Master

Gardener Spring Brunch, taking place Saturday, April 30, 2005, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Fairlane Club in Dearborn. The event will include refreshments, a speaker (yet to be determined), presentation of basic and advanced certificates and lifetime hours pins, Master Gardener of the Year awards (see the Member Focus on one of last year's Master Gardeners of the Year, Sue Ann Hanson, elsewhere in this newsletter) and door prizes and raffle drawings. We will also be featuring a demonstration of the on-line hours entry system, so don't miss out!!!

Thanks for getting in those hours! Remember to submit ALL volunteer hours (including those exceeding requirements for your yearly re-certification). The more hours we report, the better we can justify and protect resources for our Master Gardener Program!



Celebrate Spring...



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Call the MGGD
Message Line:

313-438-6079

For the most
up-to-date meeting
info as well as new
announcements.

Greetings From the President of MGGD

By Beverly Donaldson

March 2005 brings the end to my two years as elected President of Master Gardeners of Greater Detroit. It has been a pleasure to serve, especially as the job was made easier by all the other Board members, committee chairs and other volunteers. Thanks to Cheryl English for being a keeper of the treasury and editing the newsletter and Janet Hagen for her able note taking at Board meetings. Also, Committee chairs Art Campbell (Membership), Sue Ann Hanson (Volunteer Opportunities

, as well as many other tasks), Barb Hayes (Programming) and Terri Light (Publicity and laying out the newsletter). Last but not least, thanks to Kristin Kendall-Holliday, our county Master Gardener Coordinator.

Hopefully our many speakers have proven inspiring and informative for MGGD members. If there are other topics you would like us to cover or you know of a good speaker, please pass the information along - we are here to help one another grow as Master

Gardeners and no good idea should go uninvestigated.

Be sure to attend the first Annual Master Gardener Brunch on April 30 - sounds like it will be a lot of fun and a chance to connect with other MGs we may not get to see most of the rest of the year.

On some of these spring days it's hard to believe that summer is on its way. For many of us, it is a time of hard work as well as pleasure. Don't forget to pause and smell the flowers - those weeds can wait!

Film: *The Future of Food*

Please join Maple Creek Farm CSA for screenings of *The Future of Food*, a film by Deborah Koons Garcia about genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

GMOs have quietly made their way into our food without our consent or knowledge. This movie is an in-depth investigation into the disturbing truth behind the unlabeled, patented genetically-engineered foods that have been introduced into the food system for the past decade. *The Future of Food* examines the complex web of market and political forces that are changing what we eat as huge multi-national corporations seek to control the world's food system. The film also explores alternatives to large-scale industrial agriculture, positioning organic and sustainable

agriculture as real solutions to the current farm crisis.

A screening is scheduled for April 16 at Trinity Lutheran Church, at the southeast corner of Van Dyke and Hall Road, 4:00 pm – arrival by 3:30 pm is advised. The screening is free, but donations of \$1.00 are requested to defray room rental costs.

An additional screening is being scheduled in the Birmingham area, date, time and location to be announced. Contact Maple Creek Farm at (810) 387-4365 or mlutz@maple-creekfarm.com to confirm screening times and locations.



Celebrate Earth Day April 22!

Upcoming Events

Community Gardening.

Our next Master Gardeners of Greater Detroit Membership Meeting will showcase community gardening with Ashley Atkinson, who has been working with the start up of the Urban Roots project, a joint effort between Michigan State University Extension, The Greening of Detroit and Earth Works Garden. Join us as Ashley expands on the opportunities and challenges of community gardening in Detroit.

Belle Isle Spring Wildflower Walk, Saturday May 7, 10 a.m. to Noon.

Join Master Gardeners of Greater Detroit on a spring walk through the paths and woodlands of Belle Isle. Off the main roads of the island you will see flowers such as Trout Lily, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Spring Beauty and Golden Alexander in bloom, as well as a number of native trees and shrubs. Plant identification handouts will be

provided, but feel free to bring your own wildflower and tree and shrub handbooks for further information. Walk is weather-permitting (will still be held in light rain) and consists of one to two miles of paved and non-paved path. Please dress in warm clothing with waterproof or water-resistant footwear. Meet at the parking lot of the Belle Isle Nature Zoo (formerly the Belle Isle Nature Center). Walk will commence promptly at 10 a.m. Leading the

walk will be Terri Light, an Advanced Master Gardener and former volunteer coordinator for the native plant propagation and planting project at the Belle Isle Nature Center. For more information or directions, please call (313) 417-9970



Member Focus:

By Cheryl M. English

As a new feature of *The City Seedling*, we are initiating "Member Focus" – an opportunity to become better acquainted with a member of MGGD. For this issue, we focus on Sue Ann Hanson, our Volunteer Coordinator and newly-elected Vice President. Look for stories in future issues on other MGGD members – who you may not know quite as well as you might think!

Sue Ann Hanson 2004 Humanitarian Award Winner

We all know Sue Ann Hanson as MGGD's indefatigable Volunteer Coordinator, but few of us may be aware that she has been volunteering for numerous organizations around the Detroit area for over a decade. Her efforts to date culminated in a ceremony on January 28 of this year in which she received the 2004 Humanitarian Award for Wayne County.

Raised in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Sue moved to Detroit from Washington, D.C. in 1992 and currently resides in Grosse Pointe Park. She has been employed as a Senior Engineer with Wayne County's Department of Environment, Engineering Services Division since 2001 and has been with the county since 1999.

Sue started volunteering at Children's Hospital of Michigan in 1994 and has worked in several units at the hospital, including the emergency room, volunteer office, infectious diseases unit, playrooms and, for the past four years, the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

Her efforts in the NICU were recently spotlighted in a Detroit News article which focused on the simple tasks of caring for sick babies: feeding, changing diapers and, most importantly, simply holding them to provide comfort when their own families cannot be there and to relieve the nursing staff. She visits Children's Hospital once a week, spending two to three hours each visit.

In 1997, Sue received her Master Gardener certification from the Wayne County/Michigan State University Extension Office. Having completed her basic certification, she carried on by becoming the Volunteer Coordinator for the Master Gardeners of Greater Detroit. She passes on information from the MSU Extension Office to hundreds of Master Gardeners throughout Wayne County via e-mail and monthly member meetings. Sue has earned her Advanced Master Gardener certification and was named one of two "Master Gardeners of the Year" in 2002.

A spin-off from her Master Gardener volunteering has evolved into a family affair. At the Capuchin's Earth Works Urban Farm (located in the heart of Detroit at Mt. Elliot and Kercheval) and with Brother Rick Samyn leading the team, Sue and her husband, Charlie Bristol, help clearing vacant lots, building the greenhouse, planting, weeding and harvesting and, more importantly, organizing volunteers during the growing season. Last year, over two tons of fresh organic produce were harvested to benefit Project Fresh, associ-



Above: Sue Ann Hanson, winner of the 2004 Humanitarian Award for Wayne County, and Wayne County Commissioner Robert Ficano

ated with the Women and Infant Children program. Since her certification, Sue has contributed over 1,200 hours of her time to Master Gardener and Junior Master Gardener projects.

She is also active in her own backyard. Sue is Secretary for the Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission and assists with the Commission's two perennial exchanges, National Arbor Week poster contest for fourth graders and other beautification efforts. She has been a commissioner since 2001.

The next time you see her, ask Sue if she ever sleeps!

"Even a small amount of a volunteer's time makes a difference. Whether it's holding a baby for an hour, cleaning up a river front (or Belle Isle) once a year, or serving food at Thanksgiving or Christmas at a homeless shelter, every single volunteer hour counts and makes a difference."

-Sue Ann Hanson





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About Our Organization...

Master Gardeners of Greater Detroit is comprised of members from the Metro Detroit area with a focus on the East Side communities. We are a non-profit organization and our mission is to improve the community as a whole through education and volunteer activities in the area of gardening and the environment for homeowners, individuals, metropolitan

neighborhood or community groups.

Our meetings are the fourth Wednesday of each month at the location stated within our calendar of events. Our President, Cheryl English, extends a personal invitation for you to attend and bring a friend. Call our hotline at 313-438-6079 for meeting details. Please join us!