



The City Seedling



**Master
Gardeners
of
Greater
Detroit**

President's Message—from Sue Ann Hanson

Since my first year as President, we've had some ups and downs. The Ups include many successful volunteer opportunities and new members. We've had great speakers, fun outings at the Edsel & Eleanor Ford Estate, and a description of Monastic Gardens. The Downs have included a shrinking treasury and the loss of the Children's Home of Detroit as our Home Base.

We've begun to address the treasury issue by launching two new fund-raising efforts. One is a calendar made up of pictures from our very own members. The other is a "wearable" sales effort that includes not only T-Shirts but

also tote bags and collapsible garden carrying bags.

The Children's Home of Detroit (CHD) is under new management and unfortunately decided they needed to begin charging room rental to all of the clubs that met at their facilities. MGGD always donated to CHD each time we met there, but the rental rates are three times what we donated. Since we can't pay the rental, we've started looking for another Home Base.

Our criteria included: low or free rent, space for thirty, open until 9pm, secure/safe parking, and the building's physical access, bus access and location

to be near our memberships. In order to determine the latter criteria, we mapped all of our members for 2007 and 2008.

The membership has come

(Continued on page 3)



Even the tulips are letting us know it's time to get started

Inside this issue:

- President's Message—from Sue Hanson
- MSU Extension News—from Anita Callender
- Belle Isle Wildflower Walk
- News From Members
- Upcoming Events

MSU Extension News—from Anita Callender

Some pretty exciting things are starting to happen out at the Venoy Satellite office.

Last year Master Gardener volunteers revamped the circle bed at the entry to the building. Brenda Dziedzic led the way by designing a wonderful display

garden to educate passersby on the importance of using native plants with no pesticides or herbicides in the garden to attract and support the various stages of a butterfly's life. All summer long, the display was beautiful to look at through my office window.

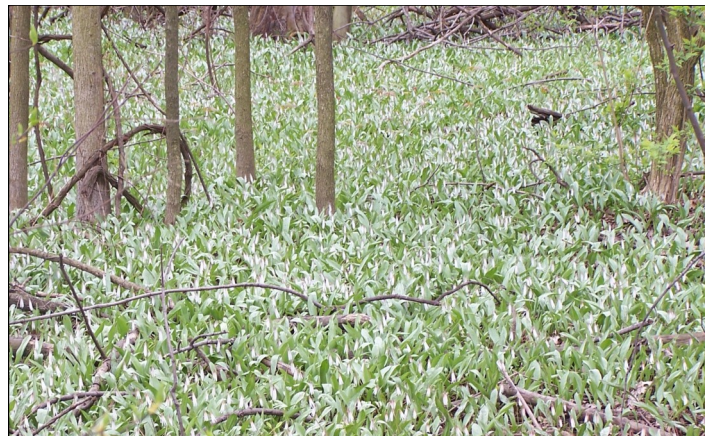
The number of people who stopped by to get a closer look was amazing. This year we are hoping to secure funding to complete the garden with a kiosk and plant markers, which Brenda designed. I can't wait to see just how beautiful it will

(Continued on page 3)

Belle Isle Wildflower Walk

Now that the non-native deer have been contained on Belle Isle at the Nature Zoo, the wildflowers are abounding in the woods again! MGGD will sponsor its 4th Annual Spring Wildflower Walk on Belle Isle. Terri Light will lead the group through about a mile of natural woodlands. She's been heading up the walk for the past three years, and was featured on Mil Hurley's 'Pointes of Horticulture' cable gardening

show. Since the weather has been a bit unusual this spring (perhaps downright strange), the walk will take place on either the last Saturday of April or the first Saturday of May, starting at 9am. Stay tuned and visit the MGGD.org website for the final date. We'll start at the handball courts on Vista Ave. Vista can be accessed from the outside island road around Belle Isle, The Strand. Hope to see you there!



White Trout Lilies in bloom on April 30th, 2005

What's happening among our members?



C. integrifolia 'Pangourne Pink' from Cheryl's garden

Cheryl English, Programming Chair and President Emeritus, celebrated the Spring equinox by getting out in her garden and clearing part of the iris bed in back. The Shelby Gardeners

Club and the Macomb Master Gardeners are both having tours of Cheryl's yard in late May (29 and 31, respectively), so she needs to get started early! If you come visit, you may run into Sandie Parrot, who is working on an article on Cheryl and her Clematis collection for publication in 2009. Cheryl has a lot of work in front of her for the next few weeks!

Sue Hanson writes: "I've almost given up growing vegetables in my backyard. Just too many trees. Thank goodness

for patio tomatoes! Do you think the Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission would approve of a full-blown vegetable plot in my front yard?? I'll have to ask!"

Bonnie Krueger has been unable to resist the seed-starting urge, even though every spring she declares it's too much trouble afterwards. "I've started hyacinth bean vine—they're easy and a lot of fun—and for the first time,

foxgloves. I'm planning to try sweetpeas and corkscrew vine as well. I can never resist those beautiful pictures on the sweet-pea seed packets!" she tells us.

The 2009 Calendar Photo Contest winners were voted for at the Annual Spring Banquet & Awards Ceremony, and **Linda Pegg** has notified the winners. Now she's setting things up with a printer, so keep a look-out for the calendar to be available at the monthly meetings.

News to share?

We'd be delighted to know what the rest of you have been up to this spring! What are your planting plans this year? Are you trying anything new

and exciting? Take a photo or two as the season progresses and send them along to Sue Hanson for sharing with the rest of the members.

As seen on WMTV 5
"Pointes of Horticulture"

Linda Pegg
Advanced Master Gardener

Road Apples In The Garden

Standardbred Compost
Gardeners' Black Gold



586.246.7557
roadapplesinthegarden@yahoo.com

MSU Extension News—*from Anita Callender*

(Continued from page 1)

look this year.

This coming year is going to be even more exciting. The 4-H Educator, Laurie Rivetto, and Kristine Hahn have begun a new Jr. Master Gardener program in Western Wayne County. Through their work with the Jr. Master Gardener program, they have designed a Children's Garden, which will be located near the barn and 'farmhouse' area on the grounds. They have secured access to the Venoy facility for several weekend events. The first major event will be a charrette, to take place on Saturday, April 26, 2008 from 12 noon-4:00pm.

Many various family fun activities are planned to educate and entertain the participants. The children will be involved with creating garden signs, painting a pot, planting seedlings, and making a bird feeder - to name just a few of the scheduled activities.

Much help from Master Gardeners is needed to have the event go on without any hitches, both before the day of the event as well as at the event itself. If you have any ques-

tions on the event or would like to volunteer your services, please contact Laurie Rivetto at 734/727-7236 or email her at rivettol@msu.edu.

Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony

On February 1st we held our 4th Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony at the STITT Post in Dearborn Heights. It was the largest banquet to date with an attendance of over 130 of our Master Gardeners and their guests.

We enjoyed another great meal along with our special guests Janet Macunovich and Steve Nikkila's presentation on Garden Photography. As usual, there was an abundance of door prizes which local businesses and Master Gardeners donated.

The 2007 Unsung Hero Award was awarded to John Lambert for his tireless work and devotion to total overhaul of every Master Gardener class quiz and the final exam as well as assisting me with many computer-related projects and situations. He is such an Unsung Hero that he wasn't even in attendance that night. I needed to present him the award at the

class the next morning!

Glen King was presented the 2007 Tiger Lily Award. As many of you may know, he has been a fixture at the classes, meetings, and the offices since he became a Master Gardener in 2001. Now that his wife has retired and their home in West Branch is completed, we have been seeing him far, far, less

fly garden at the Venoy office and her unselfish dedication to furthering the knowledge of butterflies in the community has shown the true sense of the word 'volunteer.' Her passion has been contagious, as she has fostered a following of new butterfly watchers and raisers in the area.

Shad Buckmiller

Irrigation Installation & Maintenance

Landscape Projects

Brick Paving

(586) 222-8002



than we would like. He hasn't fully left our presence, but the time is drawing near when he will no longer be with us. He is already being greatly missed.

The 2007 Master Gardener of the Year Award was presented to Brenda Dzedzic. Her efforts in the founding of the Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association, the design and work she's done on the butter-

With the surveys that the attendees completed at the end of the evening, we will be able to give the Master Gardeners another great event in 2009.

Anita Callender
Master Gardener Coordinator – Wayne County

President's Message—*from Sue Hanson*

(Continued from page 1)

forth with many ideas for low cost or in-kind services. One member even offered up his basement for our meetings.

At the time of publication, the search continues. We short-listed eight sites, decided on four which would work best for large groups or weekend events, and have begun looking

at the other four sites. April will be our first meeting away from CHD. It may not be our permanent Home Base. But we will find one. We'll keep you posted!





Master Gardeners of Greater Detroit

*Master Gardeners of Greater Detroit
c/o MSU Extension
5454 Venoy Road*

www.MGGD.org

Upcoming Speakers/Events

April 23

Hardy Bamboo - Michael Harvey

May 28

Flora and Fauna of Isle Royale - Tim Killeen

June 25

Summer Send-off at Henry Ford Estate, featuring the Solstice Garden (tentative)

Online Submission of Volunteer Hours

Tally up those summer volunteer hours!
Don't wait until the last minute. Go online to:

<http://mi.mgrecord.com>

and it's easy to enter them! If you have problems,
or can't remember your user id / password,
contact Anita Callender.

Additional Contact Information

MSUE Horticulture Agent

Kristine Hahn
(734) 727-7234
hahnk@msue.msu.edu

President

Sue Ann Hanson
(313) 885-6716
mggdmail@comcast.net

Vice President

Art Campbell

Treasurer

Barb Feldman
barb@offshorespars.com

MSUE Master Gardener Coordinator

Anita Callender
(734) 727-7238
acallend@co.wayne.mi.us

Secretary

Lambro Niforos
lniforos@co.wayne.mi.us

Programs & Speakers

Cheryl M. English
cenglish@blackcatpottery.com

Volunteer Opportunities

Sue Ann Hanson
(313) 885-6716
mggdmail@comcast.net