




The Grapevine

St. Clair County Master Gardener Association Newsletter

Volume 14 Issue 1 January 2012

 <p>2012</p>	<p>JANUARY</p> <p>17 7 pm Composting Speaker- Barb DeSalvio 8 pm Assoc. Meeting</p>	<p>FEBRUARY</p> <p>21 7 pm Herbs & Recipes Speaker-Ellen Conrad 8 pm Assoc. Meeting</p>	<p>MARCH</p> <p>17 Spring into Gardening</p> <p>19 Spring Symposium 9 am – 4 pm</p> <p>20 7 pm Binomial Nomenclature Fun with Latin Speaker-Tom Dennis 8 pm Assoc. Meeting</p> <p>23 Grapevine Deadline</p>
<p>APRIL</p> <p>11 9 am Diagnostic Hotline Training</p> <p>17 7 pm Take Back Your Garden Speaker-Julia Hofley 8 pm Assoc. Meeting</p> <p>18 5 pm Diagnostic Hotline Training</p> <p>23 Diagnostic Hotline Opens</p>	<p>MAY</p> <p>15 6 pm Potluck Location TBD Assoc. Meeting to follow</p>	<p>JUNE</p> <p>19 6 pm Potluck Location TBD Assoc. Meeting to follow</p> <p>22 Garden Tour Preview</p> <p>23 Garden Tour</p>	<p>JULY</p>
<p>AUGUST</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER</p>	<p>OCTOBER</p> <p>26 Diagnostic Hotline Closes</p>	<p>Take time to enjoy the winter garden. Catalogues are arriving so dream a little and make your “wish list”. We’re gardeners, it’ll change!</p> <p>Feel free to prune dormant plants and remove damage to trees and shrubs. Check roses to be sure they are all mulched well so they stay dormant.</p>

Thoughts from the President

Happy New Year! I hope all of you had a blessed and joyous holiday season. I know that the December Membership Meeting, with the good food, fun gift exchange and fellowship, started my celebration of the season.

As you may know by now, this year will see many changes in our association. While MSUE moves forward with their financial limitations and decreasing staff, our local association will be making some structural changes, in order to continue our mission. The relationship we have with MSUE is a partnership and what that partnership looks like and how it operates will develop as we go forward this year. MSUE will continue to focus on consumer horticultural education, and we will focus on using our gardening knowledge to serve our community.

Because MSUE values the partnership with MG associations, they are hosting a meeting with campus representatives for local association representatives. I will be attending, with another member of our board, on January 18. At that meeting, information on forming our own 501c3 (tax status), how to obtain liability insurance, and at what events it is necessary, will be shared. Our executive board has already decided to proceed with those changes so the information is very timely for us. A number of other topics to assist us in moving forward will be shared as well.

On January 11 at 4 p.m. MSUE will be providing a webinar that I encourage all of you to view, either on your computer or with a friend who has internet capability. You can get more information on the MGVP website (www.mg.msue.msu.edu) under “For Master Gardener Volunteers”.

This truly is a New Year and we will be working together on the direction as an association. I know that there will be many opportunities for our membership to assist. Please continue to stay in touch, come to meetings and if you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me or any member of the executive board!

Mary Ann Herrmann
mherrmann3027@gmail.com
810-987-4516





Michelle's Message

Hello Everyone,

My name is Michelle Jackson and, as many of you already know, I am the new Master Gardener Coordinator. For those of you, whom I have not yet had the pleasure to meet, allow me to introduce myself.

For the past 7 years I have had the pleasure of working in the retail gardening business at Northland Gardens in Lakeport, Michigan. After my first year, I was promoted to Nursery Manager, the position I held until I came to MSUE. I accepted the position as Master Gardener Coordinator in October and have since been "learning the ropes" of the job.

Along with becoming familiar with my new job I have been busy getting things together for the winter 2012 Master Gardener Course. Unfortunately, on Dec. 28 Campus insisted we cancel the course until next fall. By then they expect to have the core manual updated. We feel that this is a very important program for our Association and look forward to another year of new friendships and learning. I will be attending the course to get certified.

I am sure you are all aware of the changes taking place in regards to how MSUE and Master Gardener Associations will interact with each other in the future. These changes are currently being outlined by MSU. Our SCCMGA Executive Board members along with myself and Joe Bixler, the MSUE District Coordinator, are working together to make sure that the changes are beneficial for both groups. On January 11th at 4:00pm, there will be a webinar that will cover information that pertain to these changes. All Master Gardeners are invited. For information on how to register and attend the webinar,

please go to <http://mg.msue.msu.edu/mg/for> master gardener volunteers.

One final note: the 2012 **Spring into Gardening** event has been changed to **March 17th**, 2012. This event offers many volunteer opportunities and is a highlight event of the spring! I will have much more information on this event in the near future and will send out e-mail information on it. If you do not receive e-mail and would like to volunteer for the event, please contact me at 810-989-6935.

I look forward to the opportunity to work alongside the membership and being part of an association that contributes so greatly to the betterment of our community.

Sincerely,

Michelle Jackson, Master Gardener Coordinator

810-989-6935 mjackson@stclaircounty.org

Editor's Note: *Michelle's Message* will appear in each newsletter to be sure everyone gets the latest news from MSUE.

Spring Symposium by Lisa Sharrow

This year's Spring Symposium "**Stones, Scapes, Sensational**" is **March 24, 2012**. We are featuring speakers Gordon Hayward and Tony Avent. The registration form is enclosed in this newsletter or can be downloaded from the Master Gardener web-site, if you need additional copies.

At the January meeting the sign-up sheets for volunteers/baking will be distributed. If for some reason you will not make the meeting, please contact me for volunteering or Bette Gall for baking. As always we need lots of volunteers. This is a great way to get your hours in. The fee this year for certified master gardeners with all their hours turned in and in good standing is \$60.00.

We look forward to either working with you or seeing you at the event. Remember, we sell out early so please do not hesitate to register.

Lisa Sharrow 810-329-3722 or bloomin@4wbi.com

Bette Gall 810-3251593 or dbgall@adynet.net

Symposium Speaker

**Tony Avent,
Raleigh, NC**

**"The World of Hostas,
Past and Present",
"Perennial Favorites"**



Tony Avent, owner of Plant Delights Nursery founded this nursery to help fund the activities of Juniper Level Botanic Gardens, a display and research garden with over 11,000 plants. A graduate of North Carolina State University, Tony's horticulture professor instilled in him the quest for the newest and best garden plants from around the world.

Tony is well known as a lecturer, garden writer and recipient of prestigious awards from the American Horticultural Society, the North American Rock Garden Society, and the North Carolina Association of Nurserymen, to name a few.

Tony actually began selling plants when he was a young kid, so selling plants as an adult seemed natural to him. He quickly realized that starting a nursery was the best way to cover the costs of plant addiction without having to get a real job.

"Nurseries are for people who want to be in a business that embraces gardening, [and] enriches peoples' lives, while controlling their own destinies ... as much as Mother Nature will allow."

Tony Avent runs his nursery, Plant Delights, together with his wife, Michelle.

Seminar Location:

Cornerstone Church
4025 North Road (near Krafft Rd.)
Clyde, MI 48049
(Two miles west of Port Huron, MI)

Registrar: Alicia Cannon (810) 367-6966
Date: Saturday, March 24, 2012
Time: Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Lunch break and shopping: 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Cost: "Early Bird" registration - \$70.00;
includes lunch. Registration fee after Feb.28,
2012 - \$80.00

Local Hotel Accommodations:

Thomas Edison Inn
500 Thomas Edison Parkway
Port Huron, MI 48060
Tel: (810) 984-8000
(ask for the Master Gardener rate)

Quality Inn and Suites
1720 Hancock Ave.
Port Huron, MI 48060
Tel. (810) 987-5999
www.choicehotels.com

Directions to the Cornerstone Church of Port Huron, 4025 North Road, Clyde, MI 48049 <http://famousgod.com/maps>

From I-69 E to the Wadhams Rd. exit # 196.
Turn (north) on Wadhams Rd., 1.1 mile,
continuing past the light, (Lapeer Rd.) down
the hill, over the bridge to the next light at
North River Rd., turn right. Follow this
curving road (becomes North Road) for 2.5
miles to Cornerstone Church on the left, near
the intersection of North Rd. and Krafft Rd.
From I-94 E. merge to I-69W at #271 then
follow as above from Wadhams Rd.

St. Clair County Master Gardener Association Presents

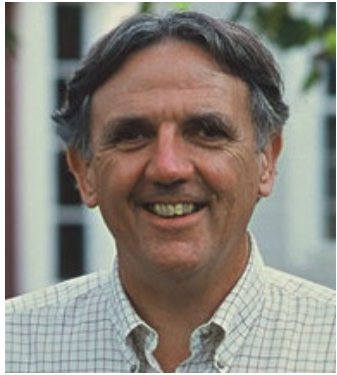


Stone, Scapes, Sensational! a Symposium

**Saturday, March 24, 2012
Cornerstone Church
4025 North Road
Clyde, MI 48049**

Doors open at 8:00 am.
Seminar: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Registrar: Alicia Cannon
Phone: (810) 367-6966
E-mail: alican@comcast.net
Early bird registration fee: \$70.00
After February 28, 2012: \$80.00
(all in U.S. funds)

MSU is an affirmative-action/equal opportunity employer. Michigan State University extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status. St. Clair County Chapter of the Michigan Master Gardener Association is affiliated with the Master Gardeners Program sponsored by the Michigan State University Extension in St. Clair County. To contact the MSUE office call (810) 989-6935.



Symposium Speaker

Gordon Hayward
Putney, Vermont,
*"The Use of Stone
in the Garden"*,
*"Placing Art in the
Garden"*

In 1971, Gordon Hayward graduated from Wesleyan University with a Masters Degree, having already begun a 17 year career teaching high school students how to write. Gordon gardened part-time for personal clients during those years and in 1977 restored the gardens around the Broadwell Manor House in The Cotswold Hills in England. For the past 20 years he and his wife Mary, (who is from the Cotswolds) have been developing a one and one-half acre garden around their 220 year old cape here in southern Vermont.

In 1984, Gordon turned to the work of garden design, lecturing and writing full time. He consults across the country for residential clients, their architects and builders. Hayward has written nine books and over 50 articles for Horticulture Magazine and Fine Gardening Magazine that relate to this work.

Hayward is a proponent of the entry garden, wide borders flanking a front walk that serves as the garden's spine. "I want you to walk through and experience the front garden rather than pass it by," he says.

"Stone, Scape, Sensational!"

When you arrive you will be welcomed with a delicious continental breakfast; featuring an array of home baked muffins and breads, fruit, coffee, tea and juice. Then experience our great speaker's topics, shopping, food, plants and fun!

Workshop Topics

Gordon Hayward: "The Uses of Stone in the Garden" Stone furnishes the framework, the structure, and the sense of permanence that transform gardens. Whether in the form of retaining or free-standing wall, as bold standing stones or as boulders at the edge of a small stream, stone lends a garden focus, providing the perfect foil to plants.

Gordon Hayward: "Placing Art in the Garden" In this garden lecture we will see gardens from across America, Ireland and England, illustrating how to form a focal point with the use of pots and garden ornaments. Define a garden path; anchor a garden with richly planted pots, or with a matched pair or statuary.

Tony Avent: "The World of Hostas – Past Present and Future." We'll take you on a journey from the arrival of hostas in the Western world to their ascendancy to the top of the perennial throne, including a look at some favorites, as well as a look into the future. Avent, with more than 600 hosta varieties in his nursery was growing hostas "before hostas were cool".

Tony Avent: "Perennial Favorites" Tony will share some of his perennial favorites for the upper Midwest including some little-known gems you may not have heard of. Come see what's hot!



Registration must arrive no later than February 29, 2012, for Early Bird registration of \$70.00; late registration is \$80.00.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____ (Future symposium brochures will be sent by email)

**Seminar fee: Early bird registration : \$70.00, includes all speakers, continental breakfast, lunch, and snack break.
Late registration (after February 28, 2012) \$80.00.**

Make check payable to SCCCMGA (St. Clair County Chapter of the Michigan Master Gardener Association)
Checks or money orders only, to be cashed upon arrival in the mail – no refunds can be made after February 28.
Mail registration to: Alicia Cannon, 7200 Drexler Rd., St. Clair, MI 48079, call Alicia at (810) 367-6966; or Lisa Sharrow at (810) 329-3722. Registration forms are also on line at <http://msue.stclaircounty.org>



COMMUNITY GARDEN—ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
3790 West Water Street
Port Huron, MI
2011 REPORT

This was the third year for our Community Garden. It turned out to be very productive even though we had a late start due to excessive rainfall in May and then some flooding in June after it was planted.

The hot summer helped it catch up to where it should have been. I did a soil test again this year and the PH of the soil was right on the mark after last year's application of lime. In 2010 we had an excellent growing season and donated 2800 pounds of produce to Mid-City Nutrition (our local soup kitchen). This year we donated **over 4300 pounds** to Mid-City Nutrition.

There were 2 parts to the garden. On one part we rented out 10'X10' plots for a deposit of \$10.00 per participant. If a participant wanted more than 1 plot they could have more than one. We rented out a total of 44 plots to a total of 20 participants. If the participant took care of their plot(s) and cleaned it up at the end of the season, their \$10.00 deposit was returned. Some participants requested that their deposit be kept and donated to Mid-City Nutrition.

We had a total of 16 people who helped with the garden this year. We can always use additional help next year. If you are interested in helping, please let me know.

The total garden size was .43 of an acre. The other part of the garden was used to produce vegetables for Mid-City Nutrition (our local soup kitchen). The garden was very productive this year and we were able to donate over 4300 pounds of produce to Mid-City.

We had a large assortment of garden produce consisting of green beans, beets, cabbage, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, lettuce, muskmelon, onions, green peppers, and potatoes, several types of squash, tomatoes, turnips and watermelon. Some things did better than others, but overall it was a very successful year.

This year we were fortunate and thankful to have received a **\$400.00** grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans which covered about half the cost of the garden.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Strauss

The Diagnostic Hotline was a grand success last year. Due to the hard work and dedication of 17 Master and Advanced Master Gardeners, we answered 331 requests for information. In 2010 our total for the season was 177.

If you are interested in learning how to work the hotline, attend one of the classes being offered in April. For more information contact Michelle Jackson @ the MSUE Office.

My personal thanks to all who worked so hard and helped so many gardeners throughout the county. Bernice

DATE: _____ (COMPLETED FORM and PAYMENT required by FEBRUARY 15, 2012)
ST. CLAIR COUNTY CHAPTER of the MICHIGAN MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION
2012 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

_____ CLASS YEAR _____ RENEWAL _____ NEW MEMBER _____ INFO CORRECTION
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY: This information is available to SCCMGA and MSUE only.

NAME (print): _____ ADDRESS: _____
CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____
TELEPHONE: (Check a Contact No.) _____ (Hm) _____, _____ (Cell) _____, _____ (Bus) _____

Please CHECK any of the boxes that APPLY to your situation: _____ Do Not Publish Info _____ Do Not Publish E-mail _____ Take me off your mailing list _____ Mailing list only
(If you check the “**DO NOT PUBLISH**” box, you will **not** be contacted by **e-mail or telephone** with any association updates)

CHECK ONE: Membership year is January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012

\$10.00 Membership Fee _____ Volunteered 15+ hours & 5 edu. Hours last year for recertification _____ 2011 Class Member (MG hours completed by April 2012) _____
Gratis (no charge) _____ 2012 Class Member/Trainee (MG hours completed by April 2013) _____ Honorary Lifetime Member _____
\$12.00 Fee (mailing list only) _____ Social Member (Not a Certified MG Member or Trainee) _____ Not a Current Certified MG Member (Must HAVE BEEN previously certified) _____

Gardening Topics: Please list any gardening topics you are interested in for your monthly membership meeting or newsletter.

Would you (or do you know anyone who would) **speak on gardening topics?**

VOLUNTEER PROJECTS: Please **CHECK ALL PROJECTS** that interest **you**. Your name will be forwarded to the appropriate chairperson

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1. Community Gardens _____ | 6. Goodells Co. Park Demo Gardens _____ | 11. Speaker _____ |
| 2. Earth Fair _____ | 7. Harvest Dinner/Silent Auction _____ | 12. Spring Into Gardening _____ |
| 3. Farmer's Markets (St. Clair or Pt Huron) _____ | 8. Hospitality _____ | 13. Spring Symposium _____ |
| 4. Garden Grant Committee _____ | 9. Master Gardener Hotline _____ | 14. Write Garden Articles for Newsletter _____ |
| 5. Garden Tours _____ | 10. Plant Swap (Spring and/or Fall) _____ | |

**COMMENTS or
SUGGESTIONS:** _____

PAID DUES

Date Rec'd. _____ \$ _____ CASH: _____ (OR) CHECK NO.: _____

Send this APPLICATION and your CHECK payable to SCCMGA to: Sue Powers, Treasurer, 2106 8th Street, Port Huron, MI 48060 or bring to the January or February Master Gardener Meeting. If you have any questions about this information please call Sue at (810) 982-9855 or e-mail suep2001@comcast.net

The following achievements were announced at the Harvest Dinner. Congratulations to all!

Those who completed the Basic Master Gardeners Certification in 2011 are:

Brian Boike
Barbara Caswell
Jane Distelrath
Jeanne Mackay
Elizabeth Stange
Candace Weston

Shirley Boike
Janice Clark
Carol Drellick
Kathy Sich
Rita Warfel

Those who achieved Advanced Master Gardeners status in 2011 are:

Kandi Andon
Wilma Cash
Leslie Luther
Jacqueline Prause
Colleen Smith
Karen Strevel
Carol Upleger

Shannon Campbell
Mary Ann Herrmann
Arlene Marcetti
Patricia Shirkey
Diann Sobolewski
Jill Taylor
Tracee Wargo

Service Awards:

250 hours:

Karen Allen
Pat Biebuyck
Helen Hermes
Amy Holzberger
Linda Howard

500 hours:

Bernice Boughner
Evelyn Carl
Sue Powers
Jan Shue

1,000 hours: Charlene Kidd

There is no gardening without humility. Nature is constantly sending even its oldest scholars to the bottom of the class for some egregious blunder.

What a man needs in gardening is a cast-iron back, with a hinge in it.

~Charles Dudley Warner, *My Summer in a Garden*, 1871

There can be no other occupation like gardening in which, if you were to creep up behind someone at their work, you would find them smiling.

~Mirabel Osler

Gardening is a matter of your enthusiasm holding up until your back gets used to it.

~Author Unknown

DEAR GOD,

ALL I ASK FOR IN 2012 IS A "FAT BANK ACCOUNT" AND A "SLIM BODY"...

PLEASE DON'T MIX THEM UP LIKE YOU DID LAST YEAR.

AMEN



St. Clair County Michigan Master Gardener Association Officers

PRESIDENT Mary Ann Herrman
SECRETARY Amy Holzberger
TREASURER Sue Powers
MGV COORDINATOR Michelle Jackson
GRAPEVINE NEWSLETTER PRODUCED BY Bernice Boughner

MASTER GARDENER MISSION STATEMENT

Biological environments are essential to life. Michigan State University is a primary provider of plant research and education, dedicated to the preservation and enrichment of life. The Master Gardener Volunteer Program (MGVP), available to all citizens of Michigan, is designed to develop a cadre of Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) volunteers trained in horticulture. Their knowledge and skills related to the basic plant science and home gardening enables these volunteers to improve the quality of life in their communities. This is accomplished by increasing people's appreciation for and use of plants by providing them with instruction on growing plants using environmentally sound practices.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Chapter (Association) is to bring together active Master Gardener volunteers to serve as an educational resource to MSUE St. Clair County in their common goal of providing horticultural education to the citizens within the community. It will provide its members with up-to-date horticulture information through a variety of educational programs and activities.

***Master Gardener is a Volunteer Program of
Michigan State University Extension
St. Clair County***

200 Grand River Ave. Ste. 102
Port Huron, MI 48060
(810) 989.6935

Website: msue.stclaircounty.org

Email: msue@stclaircounty.org

MSU EXTENSION is an educational organization funded jointly by the **St. Clair County Board of Commissioners**, the State of Michigan through Michigan State University and Federally through the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

MISSION STATEMENT: Michigan State University Extension helps people improve their lives through an educational process that applies knowledge to critical issues, needs, and opportunities.

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status. Issued in furtherance of MSU Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Thomas G. Coon, Director, MSU Extension, East Lansing, MI 48824. This information is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by MSU Extension or bias against those not mentioned. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested three days before the event by calling to make the arrangements, requests received after three days will be met when possible.