

Grass Roots Column

A Publication of
Lakeshore Garden Masters Gardening Club

www.lakeshoregardenmasters.org



July, August 2017

A Letter from the LGM President

Roots Don't Have a Brain

Excerpts from *Gardening Care*, by Janet Macunovich/Steven Nikkila, 2010

"The hazy, hot eye of summer is upon the garden." Reach for the hose, but use your head to make the most of your efforts!

Herbaceous plants – annuals, perennials, vegetables, etc., that have no wood to hold them up – are simply columns of fluids. Roughly 95% water, they stand because liquid pressure holds their cell walls taut. Wilted plants may recover with watering, but damage is done during the wilt – from localized scarring of tissues and greater susceptibility to diseases that can enter through weakened tissue and stunting that occurs because the plant was not able to photosynthesize while dehydrated. In bright sun and warm air, photosynthesizing occurs faster and more water is needed to keep up the work of the plant.

No wonder plants ask for water every time we turn around in July and August. The best thing we can do is water wisely by giving them one inch of water per week. This can be determined by using a rain gauge or determine cumulative precipitation from newspaper charts. But some plants need more water due to evaporation through their leaves. Big, thin leaves lose more water through evaporation than gray, furry or needle-like leaved plants. Then consider that sandy soils need more water than clay soils as well.

A frequently mentioned myth is that shallow watering causes roots to come to the surface. Roots can't seek out moisture by "coming to the surface." Dr. Joe Vargas of MSU once said in a lecture on watering turf grass, "I've looked at a lot of roots very closely, even dissected them, and one thing I've never found is a brain. They don't know where the water is. They can't sniff it out either." Bottom line is roots can't seek out water. Roots grow if the soil around them is moist enough to supply water and nutrients needed to feed the cells.



LGM President, Susan Thorpe

So how do we, the rural and urban gardeners, in many types of soil and wind conditions determine when and how much to water? We can certainly add moisture holding organic matter to the soil. Then compost a few inches on top of the soil. These all help retain moisture. But I use the simple "finger in the soil test". I stick my index finger into the soil around the plants and if I do not feel cool, moist soil up to my first knuckle, it's time to water.

One more tip: If you are a city water user like me, watering can get expensive. Some cities and municipalities offer an alternate water meter that can be attached to your outside spigot that allows you to be billed only for the water used, not for the sewer charge as well like inside your home. I have found this to be enormously cost efficient and the new meter has paid for itself in the first year. Rain barrels are also helpful, but in a dry spring like we just had, that did not last long. So water wisely when your plants are thirsty, watch for their signs of dryness like curling leaves and drooping flower heads. And get your finger into the soil!

Happy Summer, Susan Thorpe, President. Lakeshore Garden Masters

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.

Upcoming LGM Meetings

July 24-On the road again. Bus trip to Michigan State Gardens. (See Pgs. 4,6,7 for details)

August 28-Weesies Garden Center to make a **succulent wreath** with Sandy Pickett. (See pg. 4 for details)



Calendar of Events

July 11 - Monet Garden
July 24 - LGM trip to MSU
July 27- Monet Garden
August 8 - Monet Garden
August 24 - Monet Garden
August 28 - LGM meeting Weesies Garden Center
September 5 - Monet Garden
September 21 - Monet Garden
September 25 – LGM meeting VFW Hall
October 10 - Monet Garden
October 23 – LGM meeting Spring Lake Library (New location)
October 26 - Monet Garden

It is so worthwhile working at the Monet Garden for even an hour or two!!



2017 Leadership Council Officers

President: Susan Thorpe
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Vice President: Allyson Clawson
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Secretary: Rick Peters
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Treasurer: Sharon Rubelman
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Plant Sharing-Pam Shriver
pamela.shriver@comcast.net
Education Programs-Leadership/Trustees
Monet Garden-Linda Hecksel
Hecksel@aol.com

Lakeshore Garden Master Dues

With springtime comes a new membership year, and with only a few exceptions, all current members are due now to renew their membership of \$15 for the 2017 year. Please be prepared to renew at the May 22 meeting at Monet Garden OR you can mail a check to : Sharon Rubelman, Treasurer
1599 N. Peterson Road
North Muskegon, MI 49445-9616.

Plant Exchange Rules

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



Monet Garden Updates by Linday Hecksel

We've been working hard at the Monet Garden this spring! We've had some good numbers out at our work sessions too! I can't thank everyone enough that has come out to work. We've been weeding and deadheading, of course. But we've also been digging out plants that are taking over and planting new, different ones, to fill in. We still have a way to go but we're getting there. The success this spring is all due to those that have come out to help. You guys make the difference. I love the thanks we get from people wandering through. It's all you!!! Don't forget, come out and work and get your name in a drawing to take place in October. There will be some nice prizes!

Last session we had a great group of people, I think there were 8 of us! We got a lot done, and with a good group again we could get some much needed digging and modifying done. If you can't or don't want to dig, please come out anyway. There is always a lot of weeding and dead-heading to do. Just think, if we could sustain this, we could have the garden looking good and keep it that way all summer!! When the cruise ship comes in there are quite a number of people that go through the garden. Lets keep it looking good and help put a good face on Muskegon!

Linda
231-557-6317



Monet Garden Work Schedule

Here is the work schedule for this summer:

Tuesday	July 11	10:00-1:00
Thursday	July 27	5:00-8:00
Tuesday	August 8	5:00-8:00
Thursday	August 24	10:00-1:00
Tuesday	Sept 5	10:00-1:00
Thursday	Sept 21	5:00-8:00
Tuesday	Oct 10	5:00-8:00
Thursday	Oct 26	10:00-1:00



Hard work digging out day lilies at the Monet, but a very satisfying ending for gardeners-dirt and smiles!

These have been **found** at the Monet Garden over the last few months:

- Narrow hand trowel
- Foam kneeling pad
- Scissors
- Weed puller
- Claw weeder



Come out to the garden to claim your belongings!

LAKESHORE GARDEN MASTERS
2017 Calendar

Dues \$15.00/year or \$5.00/event as guest
lakeshoregardenmasters.org



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

July 24 Bus Trip 2017 countdown is underway! Our group has planned an exciting day at the MSU Gardens to see some behind-the-scenes areas of this beautiful campus. We will be visiting and have guided tours at the *Children's Garden*, *Hoop Houses* where food is grown year around, *Students' Organic Gardens* which is very special, the *Perma Culture* area, the *Beekeeping* site and of course the beautiful flower gardens on campus. You will learn from the tour guides and still have time to wander on your own if you like. Our bus will take us to a park to eat our boxed lunch as well. Walking time is described as brief. (More information available on pages 6 and 7)

Here are the important details:

- Board the bus at the Meijer Store, 1800 Holton Road, Muskegon.
- Plan to arrive by **9:00 AM sharp**. Look for the large Dean Transportation bus.
- Bus will bring us back to the Meijer Store parking lot around **5:00 pm**.
- Cost is \$25 for Lakeshore Garden Master members or \$40 for non members. Make payment by **July 10th** to Sharon Rubelman, 1599 N. Peterson Road, North Muskegon, MI 49445-9616. Phone: 231-670-9898.
- Cost includes the bus and box lunch of turkey club sandwich, cookie and fruit from *Tim Horton's*.
- You are invited to bring extra cash to tip our bus driver, plus \$3 if you would like an additional guided tour of the Horticultural Garden.

August 28 Meet at *Weesies Garden Center*, 10022 Walsh Road, Montague, 6:00 PM. Bring a finger food potluck item and your table setting. Program is Making a

Succulent Wreath. Those wanting to make a wreath will have all materials available with a lecture-demonstration by Sandy Pickett. The cost for all of the materials is \$35.00. Those not wishing to make a wreath are invited to view the demonstration and attend the lecture.

September 25 Meet at VFW Hall, 1061 Witham Road, N. Muskegon at 6 PM. Bring a generous potluck dish to pass and your table setting. Presentation by Jason Alberts who will talk on Growing Mushrooms.

October 23 Meet at the Spring Lake Library (new location) at 6:00 PM. Bring a generous potluck dish to pass and table setting. Program is Building Your Own Rain Garden with Allyson Clawson as the presenter. This is our final meeting of the year with election of officers; attendance is important!



Sunset at the June work session at the Monet

Lakeshore Garden Masters Minutes

Minutes of the General Meeting of Lakeshore Garden Masters 22 May 2017

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by President, Susan Thorpe, at the house of Florence Bright, adjacent to Monet Gardens in Muskegon. The meeting was preceded by a work session in the garden.

Sharon Rubelman gave the treasurer's report: Lakeshore Garden Masters' checking account has \$3,230.01. Monet Garden's account has \$418.81.

Susan then brought up for consideration our current meeting site at the VFW hall. It has no facilities for projection, and we have to depend on members to come with their own projectors and screen. The ambience was also not a nice as we would like. However, Roxie pointed out that she had done an extensive survey of the Muskegon area several years ago, and the prices for the rooms were quite high. Many of the rooms were from churches that required a church member to be present at each meeting. We were all asked to look into possible sites for discussion of this topic in the future.

The second order of business was the June 26th meeting. Sandy from Weesies Bros. Nursery will be coming to the VFW hall to present a program on "How to Design a Fairy Garden". The cost of the materials for a member to make a fairy garden is \$25.00. Extra items can be purchased at individual prices. Sandy will need a count as to how many units to bring.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard W. Peters, Secretary

LGM Recipe Corner

Strawberry Salsa

Recipe courtesy of Sharon Rubelman
From-*The Canning Diva*



8 Cups chopped strawberries
2 ½ Cups sugar
¾ Cup diced Vidalia onion
½ Cup diced red onion
¼ Cup chopped fine jalapeno
(for heat keep some seeds)
2 Ounces lime juice (about 2 limes)

¼ Cup fresh chopped cilantro
½ Cup chopped red bell pepper
¼ Cup chopped green bell pepper
1/8 Cup finely chopped fresh mint
½ Teaspoon sea salt

2/3 Cup apple cider vinegar

In pan add sugar, vinegar, and sweetener; heat until sugar is dissolved.

Add onions, peppers, herbs, lime juice, and spices; bring to a boil.

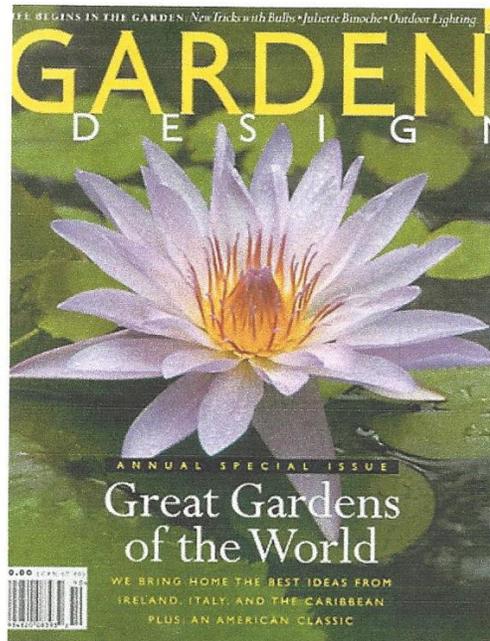
Turn off heat and add the strawberries; mix well.

Can be packed into pint jars. Wipe rims with a warm cloth to remove liquid. Seal with lids and rings.



It is spectacular at the Monet Garden. Come down and see it, in all its splendor.

SPONSOR: "Lakeshore Garden Masters" MSU / SOF Bus Trip



(photo courtesy via internet just to highlight MSU's great variety
And not intended to infringe on any copyrights)

Bus Day Trip to:

**Student Organic Farm (Holt) and
MSU Horticulture Gardens (E. Lansing)}**

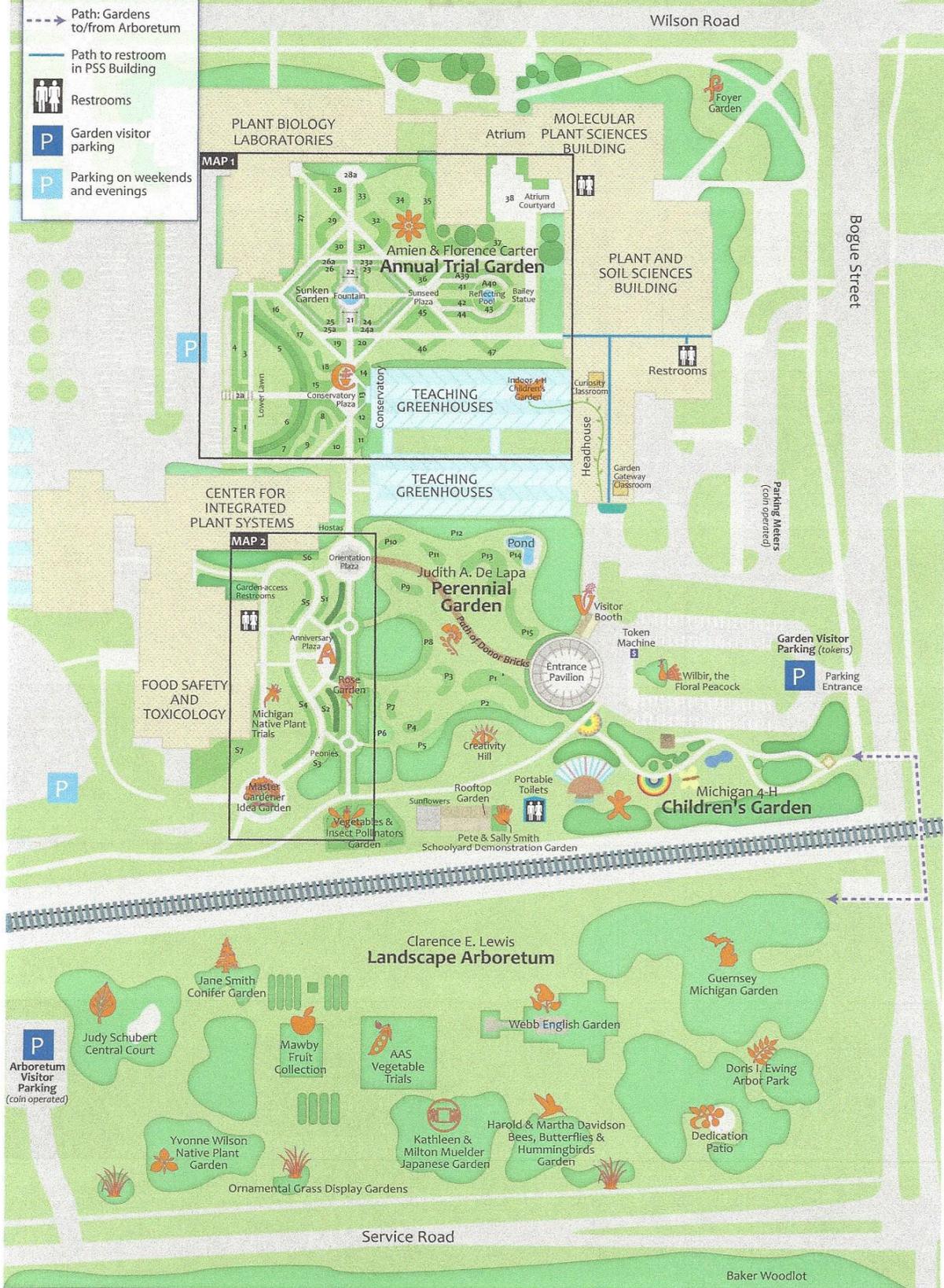
**Date: Monday July 24, 2017 - 9:00 am arrive at
Northside Meijers at 1800 Holton Rd. – Park in
Meijers Lot – look for bus – return by 5:00 pm.**

**Box Lunch provided and eat in park – special
Dietary concerns with advance notice.**

**Lakeshore Garden Masters, if member, will pay
Half cost – your cost about \$25, including lunch.
Plan to give driver tip and \$3 if guided tour at
MSU Horticulture Garden – see attached map.**



- Path: Gardens to/from Arboretum
- Path to restroom in PSS Building
- Restrooms
- Garden visitor parking
- Parking on weekends and evenings



Sun, Shade or Perhaps Something in Between

From Proven Winners Staff Writings

One of the most basic questions on gardening is whether you are looking for a sun or shade plant, or maybe something in between. This simple idea can be difficult to define if you don't understand what constitutes full sun, full shade, and partial sun/shade. This article will go over the basics of sun and shade and how to determine which category different areas should be labeled.

Gardening doesn't have a lot of black and white issues; a lot of having a garden is in understanding the many different shades of gray. How easy it is to put a sun plant where it gets too much shade or a shade plant where it gets too much sun? Part of the problem is that many people aren't certain just exactly what constitutes full sun or full shade, much less partial sun or shade.

The rules of thumb are these:

Full Sun is 6 or more hours of direct sun a day

Partial Sun or Partial Shade is 4 to 6 hours of direct sun a day

Full Shade is less than 4 hours of direct sun a day

So how can you avoid torturing your sun plants with too much shade and your shade plants with too much sun?

One way is to draw a simple diagram of your garden. Then one day when you have time go out every hour, starting first thing in the morning, and mark which areas have sun or shade. Count the number of hours each area has sun to determine which conditions apply. The angle of the sun will impact how much sunlight each area gets. Northern exposures become much shadier in the winter and southern exposures get much more sun in summer. You may want to check the hours of sun each area receives every few months to get a really good feel for the amount of sunlight each area gets as the seasons change.

Full sun plants like bright sunny areas. Many full sun plants will be perfectly happy with sun 14 hours a day, every day. Some plants are happy with sun 14 hours a day, unless it gets hot then they like some afternoon shade (when the sun is hottest.) How do you know which sun plants prefer a bit of a heat break? If the plant is noted as being great for early spring it is a good bet that it will be happiest with some afternoon shade. Some plants that fall into this category are: Pansies, Diascia, Dianthus, Osteospermum, and Argyanthemum.

(Continued from Page 8)

Plants that are noted as heat and/or drought tolerant are generally pretty tolerant of even hot afternoon sun. Plants in this category include: Angelonia, Baptisia, Phlox, Scaevola, and Chrysocephelum.

Partial sun and partial shade are probably the most confusing category. The two terms are fairly interchangeable. These plants prefer 4 to 6 hours of sun a day and would be happiest getting their sun mostly in the morning and/or evening with shade through the middle of the day. If a plant is called partial sun the emphasis is on making sure the plant gets at least 4 hours of sun a day. If a plant is called partial shade then greater emphasis is placed on the plant not getting more than 6 hours of direct sun.

You may also see the term Dappled Shade. Dappled shade refers to areas where there is a mixture of sun and shade, generally because a deciduous tree is nearby. Dappled shade is similar to partial shade. Plants in this category are often woodland plants and will do best with little full sun (even morning or evening sun). These plants thrive in sun that has been filtered by trees: Heuchera, New Guinea Impatiens, Hosta, Ligularia, and Tiarella.

Full shade plants prefer to get little direct sun. They like less than 4 hours of direct sun a day and prefer morning and evening sun to mid-day sun. Full shade plants should also do outstanding in dappled shade conditions. An area that will be shaded by a fence or wall will need to get several hours of sun in either morning or evening for plants to do well. Full shade does not refer to dark places. All plants need at least some light. Some plants in this category include: Begonia, Oxalis, Hosta, Coleus, Heucherella.



Osteospermum



Phlox



Tiarella



Heucherella