

Grass Roots Column



A Publication of
Lakeshore Garden Masters Gardening Club

www.lakeshoregardenmasters.org

March-April, 2019



Seeds of Change

As we start another year of gardening, I want you to consider the phrase, “Seeds of Change.” Change is in the air. Of course, spring is on its way, changing our season and with it comes the longing to get out into the dirt and go plant something. I always look fervently each day in March for the crocus to show the first green of the season and compare the date I see it from the date last year. The earliest I have seen it at my house is March 8th. I will have to see what happens this year with our weather-changing winter.

Our group has changed a few members: President, Vice President, and Trustees. The new members added to our leadership team are: Jean Baker, President; Kathy Nielsen, Vice President; and new Trustees; Jean Freye, Denise Thompson, and Carol Wolf. Susan Thorpe will continue to help out and work on further Monet Garden fundraising.

Here are a few things that will help you get to know me better. I am a lifelong gardener. We always had a garden when I was growing up. I continued that hobby after I married and got my own house. I grow a whole lot of everything from fruit to flowers. I was a certified Advanced Master Gardener but have not continued to renew that certification. Like many of you, I still feel as though I merit that title since I have continued to learn more and more about gardening every year.

We have a new, changed slate of speakers for our meetings with a variety of interesting topics. We have Shade Gardening, Hydrangeas, Deer Resistant Plants, New Perennials and Butterfly Plants, Drying Food, and visits to Sodini’s Blueberry Farm and Dow Gardens. Be sure to tell your friends about our meetings and invite them there. We love to see new faces to talk about gardening with!

Our group’s garden, the Monet Garden, has also changed. Thanks to several people in our group, we raised enough to put in a beautiful stamped concrete pathway that you have got to go see. We also planted over 400 tulips last fall that we will soon enjoy.

This year we will continue making improvements and hope to update you soon about them. I look forward to seeing all of you at our next meeting.

Your fellow garden lover,
Jean Baker, 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.

March Meeting

March 25– at AMG Developments (6:00 PM) Matt Mellema speaker on Hydrangeas and deer resistant plants. Potluck before speaker See pg. 4 for more information.

April Meeting

April 22 - United Methodist Church in Montague (6:00 PM) Jolene King speaker on butterfly plants and perennials. See pg. 4 for more information.

Calendar of Events

March 25 LGM monthly meeting
March 28 Monet Garden
April 9 Monet Garden
April 22 LGM monthly meeting
April 25 Monet Garden
May 4-12 Tulip Time in Holland
May 7 Monet Garden
May 20 LGM monthly meeting at Monet
June 11 Monet Garden
June 24 LGM monthly meeting
June 27 Monet Garden
July 9 Monet Garden
July 22 LGM monthly meeting
July 25 Monet Garden
August 6 Monet Garden
August 22 Monet Garden
August 26 LGM monthly meeting
September 3 Monet Garden
September 19 Monet Garden
September 23 LGM monthly meeting
October 1 Monet Garden
October 21 LGM monthly meeting



2017 Leadership Council Officers

President: Jean Baker
Baker2j63@frontier

Vice President: Kathy Nielsen
whikmn@yahoo.com

Recording/Corresponding Secretary: Sue Fiebelkorn
Sfeebe5@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Sharon Rubelman
onesister123@gmail.com

Trustees

Two year term:

Denise Thompson
thegardeningqueen@frontier.com

Carole Wolfe
whisperingpines6857@yahoo.com

One year term:

Jean Freye
Jean.freye@gmail.com

Committee Chairpersons

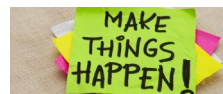
Monet Garden-Linda Hecksel
Hecksel@aol.com

Newsletter Editor-Marsha Green
greendooredu1@comcast.net

Webmaster-Marsha Green
greendooredu1@comcast.net

Membership--Susan Thorpe
holbox04@gmail.com

Plant Sharing-Kathy Nielson



Plant Sharing 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. Bring plants in a sturdy container; plus a container to take home plants
6. New LGM members are especially encouraged to participate.



2019 Schedule For Monet Garden

Hello fellow gardeners,

I'm sure you are as ready as me to get your hands the dirt!

There have been some big changes at the Monet Garden and many more yet to come!! I can't wait for you all to see it and take part in the transformation.

Here is the schedule for upkeep at the Garden. (All scheduled dates are Tuesday or Thursday)

March 28: Leaf and Garden cleanup: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM
(May be rescheduled due to weather)



April 9: 5:00 PM-8:00 PM

April 25: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

May 7: 5:00 PM-8:00 PM

May 20: 4:00 PM-8:00 PM (LGM Monet meeting and planting of annuals)

June 11: 5:00 PM-8:00 PM

June 27: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

July 9: 5:00 PM-8:00 PM

July 25: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

August 6: 5:00 PM-8:00 PM

August 22: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

September 3: 5:00 PM-8:00 PM

September 19: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

October 1: 5:00 PM-8:00 PM

Remember you may work at the garden at any time. Just call me for possible garden needs.

Linda Hecksel, Monet Garden Chairperson



Keep Michigan Beautiful, Inc.

KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL AFFILIATE

On the Road With Lakeshore Garden Masters



LGM visited the Gavin Apple Orchards in Coopersville in September of 2018. The group learned about some of the new techniques used in the orchards while walking through the orchards such as trimming the trees to make them easier to pick, and new picking methods which are all done by hand but with the help of a Gavin designed picking cart,

The sorting machines for apples and other vegetables were very high tech computers. They could be programmed to sort by size, shape, color, blemishes, and many other categories. The group was amazed.

Varieties of peppers from common green bell peppers to ghost peppers were grown on site as well as yellow and green squash. Thank you to Gavin Orchards for the informative tour.

The group finished the visit with pizza and soda in the sorting room.

Directions—AMG Developments Building 800 Ellis Road, Norton Shores, MI

From the SOUTH:

Take US 31 north and exit at 109B for Sternberg Road West

In 0.7 miles turn Right onto Robert Hunter Drive, stay on this road for 0.5 miles

Turn Right onto Ellis Road and the AMG building will be on your left near the end of the road.

From the NORTH:

Take US 31 south and exit at 109B for Sternberg Road West

In 1 mile turn Right onto Robert Hunter Drive, stay on this road for 0.5 miles

Turn Right onto Ellis Road and the AMG building will be on your left near the end of the road.

From the EAST:

Take Interstate 96 West toward Muskegon and exit at US 31 going South

Exit at 109B for Sternberg Road West

In 1 mile turn Right onto Robert Hunter Drive, stay on this road for 0.5 miles

Turn Right onto Ellis Road and the AMG building will be on your left near the end of the road.

From DOWNTOWN MUSKEGON:

Take Seaway Drive South and turn right onto Old Grand Haven Road.

Continue past Airport Road, Hile Road and East Ellis Road and turn Right on Porter Road.

Turn Right on Robert Hunter Drive, stay on this for 0.5 miles

LAKE SHORE GARDEN MASTERS 2019 Calendar of Events

Dues \$15.00/year or \$5.00/event as guest

Lakeshoregardenmasters.org

Contact: Susan Thorpe 248-310-2312 for info

We welcome new members and look forward to seeing you at one of our future meetings! We have monthly speakers on a variety of gardening topics. We are also the caretakers of the Monet Garden and invite you to be a garden helper. See our website for more information or contact Susan.



March 25 – at *AMG Developments, 800 Ellis Road, Norton Shores*. Presenter Matt Mellema of the Mellema Nursery in Fremont will speak about Hydrangeas and deer resistant plants. Potluck starts at 6 PM if you wish to join us, bring a dish to pass, your beverage, and table setting. Program starts at 6:45 PM.

April 22 – at *United Methodist Church in Montague*, Jolene Kang from *Weesies* will speak about new perennials and butterfly plants. There will also be plants for purchase. Potluck starts at 6 PM if you wish to join us, bring a dish to pass, your beverage, and table setting. Program starts at 6:45 PM.

May - Tulip time trip during the second week of May. Details to follow.



May 20 – at *Monet Garden, 470 W. Clay Street, Muskegon*, this is a fun evening to spruce up and plant annuals plus get our pocket-sized picturesque garden ready for visitors! Bring hand tools and dress for the weather starting at 4 PM. Finger-food potluck starts at 6 PM if you wish to join us, bring a dish to pass, your beverage, and table setting.

June 24 – at *the Spring Lake Public Library, 123 E. Exchange Street*, Clarence Falstad on Shade Gardening. Potluck starts at 6 PM. If you wish to join us, bring a dish to pass, your beverage, and table setting. Program starts at 6:45.

July 22 – at *Sodini Blueberry Farm, 2345 N. Weber Road, North Muskegon*, in the event of rain, this meeting will be cancelled, so let's hope for fair weather. Outdoor potluck starts at 6 PM, if you wish to join us, bring a dish to pass, your beverage, and table setting. Program begins at 6:45 PM.



August 26 - at *Mellema Nursery, 5428 64th St., Fremont, Michigan*, More details to come. If you wish to join us, bring a dish to pass, your beverage, and table setting. You are also invited to bring any extra veggies or fruit you have grown in your own garden for our attendees to take home. Program starts at 6:45.

September 23rd - at *AMG Developments, 800 Ellis Road, Norton Shores*, Jane Hart, retired Food Safety Educator from MSUE, on how to properly dry the delicious garden foods you have grown. If you wish to join us, bring a dish to pass, your beverage, and table setting. You are also invited to bring any extra veggies or fruit you have grown in your own garden for our attendees to take home. Program starts at 6:45.

October 21 Meeting and Elections! – at *AMG Developments, 800 Ellis Road, Norton Shores*. Meeting begins at 6 PM with Election of Officers and Awards for LGM. We will be showing a video of the beginning of the Monet Garden and give updates about all the renovations. Potluck starts at 6:00 pm for everyone. Please bring a dish to pass, your beverage, and table setting. This is our last meeting of the year!

Lakeshore Garden Masters-General Membership Minutes of Meetings



General Meeting Minutes of Lakeshore Garden Masters

October 22, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by President Susan Thorpe at AMG Developments. There were sixteen attendees.

The election for Leadership Team Officers for 2019 took place. Susan asked if anyone wanted to self-nominate for an open position, which

includes President, Vice-President, Trustee for 2 year term or Trustee for 1 year term. Denise Thompson self-nominated for Trustee for 2 year term.

Election results were as follows:

President: Jean Baker

Vice President: Kathy Nielsen

Trustees, 2 year term: Denise Thompson; Carol Wolfe

Trustee, 1 year term: Jean Freye

Linda Hecksel spoke about the Keep Michigan Beautiful (KMB) award which was given to the Monet Garden for an outstanding contribution to beautification in the community. Marsha Green was recognized for her work in applying for the award. There was a discussion about presenting the award to the City Council, possibly at a meeting, and where the award should be hung.

Susan gave a 20 for 20 Campaign fundraising update. Donations to the Monet Garden through the Community Foundation in 2018 total \$10,561.59. The GoFundMe page has generated \$510 in donations. The total is \$11,071.59. \$5654.50 of this was spent on the new sidewalks. \$383.75 was spent on new brochures. The LGM account balance is \$3346.16 (includes money for the Monet Garden).

Susan will contact Debi Jensen about the location of the original Monet Garden painting by Collin Fry and the KMB award from the year 2000.

Linda said the weeding of Western Avenue planting continues. The city pays \$11/hour/person to the Monet Garden fund. \$1000 has been earned so far.

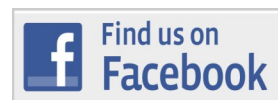
Interest surveys for 2019 programs were filled out and collected.

Marsha Green gave an interesting presentation about the gardens of *El Alhambra* in Grenada, Spain. She spoke about this ancient castle's unique water system which was originally constructed in the year 711 AD. This system uses canals and aqueducts for irrigation and beautification.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Fiebelkorn,
LGM Secretary

Don't forget to check FACEBOOK for both the Lakeshore Garden Masters page and also the Monet Garden page. Feel free to post on these pages and share with interested friends.



The Truth About Plant Catalogs Getting the Most Green for Your Green

By Jean Baker

**President of Lakeshore Garden Masters and lapsed Advanced
Master Gardener**

If you are a gardener, around January or February, you start getting a mailbox full of garden catalogs. When there's not much to do outside, it's very satisfying to see those beautiful pictures of flowers, the luscious vegetables, and other new, improved varieties of plants most gardeners are familiar with.

There are also the enticing offers of coupons, providing discounts like buy one, get one free or spend \$50, get \$50 of plants free. When one would do, why not two? Everyone loves a bargain, so why not order?

Before you fill out that order form, here are some important things to consider. Look at the growing zone of the plant. Muskegon and the West Michigan area are about a 6a or 6b. The plant you want may be beautiful, but it would never survive a winter in Michigan if it is the wrong growing zone. You can order plants with numbers lower than 6, but ordering a 7 or 8 hardiness zone plant would be like throwing away money. For very harsh winters, even plants zoned for our area may not survive. As you are looking at that plant picture, check out what light conditions the plant needs. If your yard is mostly shade, you would not want to buy a plant that needs sunny conditions. Some plants that the catalog says can tolerate part shade may grow, but not flower without enough sun.

A third consideration is the soil type. If a plant needs moist, rich soil, and your soil is like the sandy type many people in West Michigan have, the plant will have difficulty surviving unless you add significant amendments. No matter what type of soil, the young plants you get from catalogs need a lot of TLC. They need regular watering and tending to allow them to establish their new root system.

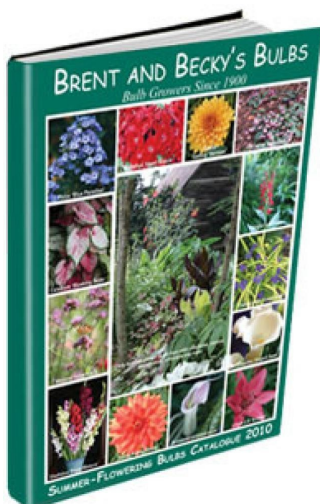
Now that you have checked all the boxes so your plant seems right for your garden area, what else could there be? Well, there are still a few things to consider. Those beautiful pictures aren't the plant you are going to get. You are probably going to get a very small plant in a small pot or even just a bare root seedling. I usually repot them and let them grow inside for at least a few weeks until they get over the shock from going through the mail. Sometimes the plants need to be kept inside longer since the catalogs tend to send plants well before your growing season starts.

Another piece of good advice is to research the plant using a Google search. You will find garden forums where people who have bought the plant have described their experiences with trying to grow it and will tell you if the plant is as good as it is described in the catalog. Other sites may tell you more about possible pests and diseases. One example I have personally experienced is with Honeyberries, a plant similar to blueberries with earlier fruits that are more elongated than round. The pictures in the catalog make the berries look large, but in my experience, they are very small and it takes a lot of them to make even a handful. If I had known that, I probably would not have ordered them.

You are now probably thinking, forget about those catalogs. They seem like a lot of trouble and a waste of money. Hold on a minute until you consider how those catalogs expose you to recently developed plants you never knew about that could enhance your garden. New cultivars are always being developed that outperform traditional plants or that can provide a whole new look to your garden. At the least, the catalogs are a pleasant diversion on a cold winter day.

Here is a personal example of a plant I loved that I bought from a catalog. Several years ago I ordered a climbing plant called Major Wheeler Honeysuckle for my pergola. I had never seen it in garden centers, but it looked pretty in the catalog. By the second growing year, the Honeysuckle had climbed to the top of my pergola and had beautiful flowers that bees and other insects loved. It has been one of my favorite flowers in my garden.

My final word on catalogs is that with care and research, ordering from a catalog can provide valuable new plants for your garden that will give you hours of enjoyment and make your garden a showplace. Just do your research so you get the most green for your green.



Dues and LGM Membership Information

Lakeshore Garden Master Dues

Dues for the Lakeshore Garden Masters organization are due yearly from January 1-December 31. They may be prepaid at the October meeting or paid at the March meeting. Cost of the dues is \$15.00. Late dues should be mailed to:

Sharon Rubelman
1599 N. Peterson Rd
North Muskegon, MI 49445

Lakeshore Garden Master Membership

Lakeshore Garden Masters' organization is open to anyone who enjoys gardening. Meetings are once a month and open to members and guests. The get-togethers usually include a potluck, a short business meeting, and a speaker with timely information that pertains to gardens and gardening. Lakeshore Garden Master members also maintain the Monet Garden in downtown Muskegon.

Membership Information

Please Print Clearly

New Member _____ Renewing Member _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Tele. # _____ Cell Phone # _____

Email Address _____

Dues \$15.00 for Year _____ Paid in Cash Paid By Check # _____

Date Paid _____ Dues Received By _____

Can also mailed to:

Sharon Rubelman
1599 Peterson Rd.
North Muskegon, MI 49445



MONET GARDEN, MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN PAVER PROJECT

Yes, I want to be an enduring part of this historic endeavor. Here is my pledge.

Just print this page and mail it with your pledge to the address below. if you are unable to visit the garden, you will soon be able to view the installed and inscribed pavers on this web site.

_____ Number of standard 4" X 8" paver(s) @ \$ 50.00 each

Inscription for paver

(3 lines of 12 spaces ea. paver)

Paver one

Paver two

Please make checks payable to LAKESHORE GARDEN MASTERS.

**Linda Hecksel, Chairperson Monet Garden
2181 Green Creek Road
Muskegon, MI 49445**