

Grass Roots Column

A Publication of
Lakeshore Garden Masters Gardening Club

www.lakeshoregardenmasters.org



March, 2015



President's Message:

I am happy to say that I have spent almost two weeks in sunny, warm Santa Barbara, California—right when the worst two weeks of weather hit Muskegon! This never happens to me, so please don't mind if I sorta bask in my good fortune for a bit.

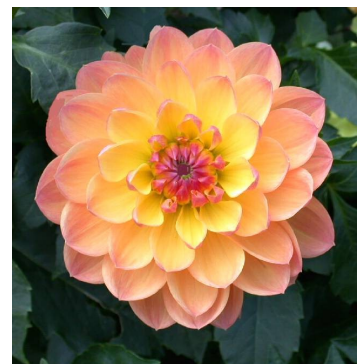
I selected a date for a board meeting, and decided to cancel it about two hours before. Three did not check their emails, so we ended up having a "mini" meeting. We were able to get our venues and programs set for the next few months, as this was the main thing I wanted to get done. Note that the meetings will be either the 3rd or 4th Mondays of the month, as we had to work around Memorial Day, etc.

I have some news concerning the Howmet Garden in Whitehall. Sharon Rubelman has asked to be relieved as chair after serving for the past nine years. Sharon has done a fine job with organizing the start-up of the Garden and seeing that the yearly plantings and maintenance are accomplished. Thank you, Sharon, for all of your fine efforts.

In continuing the full scope of what the Howmet Garden entails, Kathy Neff has volunteered to be its next chair. Kathy has a lot of experience in both gardening and administration, so *Lakeshore Garden Masters* is pleased to welcome her into this position.

One of the ideas proposed at our "mini" board meeting is whether or not we should have an LGM garden meeting for the month of August and/or September. Please think about this and talk to a board member about your feelings.

Rick Peters
President, Lakeshore Garden Masters



Pam Howden2

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

When: March 23, 2015

Where: VFW Hall, 1061 Witham Rd.,
North Muskegon

What to Bring: Dish to pass, table service, plants, bulbs, seeds or magazines to share

Program Topic: Dr. Paul Wilson will speak to a *How to Move to a Self-Sustaining Life through Gardening*. (See article on pg. 3)

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

Calendar of Events

March 23-LGM meeting at VFW in N. Musk.

May 18-Work session and potluck at Monet Garden

June 22-LGM meeting at Judy Jett's home and potluck

July 28-LGM meeting and potluck at Rick Peter's home

October 26-LGM meeting and Potluck at VFW



2015 Leadership Council Officers

President: Rick Peters

dahliadoc44@comcast.net

Vice President: Judy Jett

jj1447@comcast.net

Recording Secretary: Rita Wright

ritaawright@yahoo.com

Corresponding Secretary: Monica Smith

smithmo3@frontier.com

Treasurer: Joe Hill

hilljh@yahoo.com

Trustees

Barb Butzow

barbiman-

nie@yahoo.com

Allyson Clawson

alleybee@aol.com

Dave Lowder

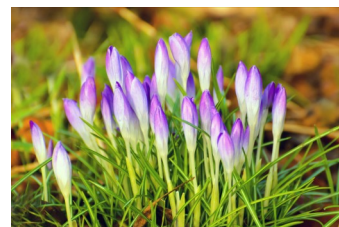
dlowder@mpsk12.net

Kathy Neff

kneff22@gmail.com

Marsha Green

greendoored1@comcast.net



Committee Chairpersons

Newsletter Editor-Marsha Green

greendoored1@comcast.net

Webmaster-Jerry Grady

jerry@firesidesurfer.com

Membership--Barbie Lathrop

barbielathrop@aol.com

Plant Sharing-Pam Shriver

pamela.shriver@comcast.net

Education Programs-OPEN

Monet Garden-Linda Hecksel

Hecksel@aol.com

Alcoa-Howment Woodland Garden-Kathy Neff

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:

Joe Hill

1060 Horton Road

North Muskegon, MI 49445-1947

Meeting Overview for Lakeshore Garden Masters

23 March 2015 - 6:00 PM meeting at the VFW Hall on Dykstra Road in North Muskegon. The program is being presented by Dr. Paul Wilson, who is a retired pathologist and master gardener. Paul has had a lot of experience in growing vegetables and fruits of various kinds. He also raises chickens, makes his own wine, and collects maple tree sap to boil it into syrup. His talk might be best entitled: "How to Move to a Self-Sustaining Life through Gardening".

Like all of our meetings, this is a pot luck affair. Please bring a generous dish to pass, table ware, and drink. Also, consider asking a gardening friend to join you.

18 May 2015 - This meeting we will be at the Monet Garden. Meet at 6:00 pm for a pot luck dinner. Bring a generous dish to pass, your chair, tableware, and drink. After dinner (or even before, if you wish) we will all socialize around weed-pulling, plant trimming, and cultivating. We will also probably have some plants to introduce into the garden. There might just be a surprise at this meeting.... You might also bring along a gardening friend.

22 June 2015 - This meeting will be in the garden of Judy Jett, our Vice President. The program will be announced at a later date. We will again have a pot luck dinner, so please bring a generous dish to pass, your chair, and tableware and a gardening friend!

26 July 2015 - We will have our meeting in the gardens of Rick Peters. Rick has some 220 dahlia plants which should be blooming nicely at the time of our meeting. Rick has raised dahlias for some 25 years. He is heavily involved in dahlia organizations and exhibits his dahlias in the various shows in the Midwest. He will speak on "How to Grow Beautiful Dahlias the Easy Way" This will be a potluck affair, so please bring your chair, a generous dish to pass and table ware. Drinks will be provided. This would be an outstanding time to bring a gardening friend. Who knows we may get a new member and a dahlia grower all in one fell swoop!



Magic Moments (ADS)

26 October 2015 - This meeting will be held at the VFW hall in North Muskegon. Program is being developed at this time. There will be the usual pot luck dinner, so please bring a generous dish to pass, table ware, and drink.

Lake Shore Garden Masters
General Membership Meeting
North Muskegon, MI
October 27, 2014

The meeting was called to order by President Joe Hill at the VFW in North Muskegon, MI, at 6:10pm on October 27, 2014.

No minutes from the July meeting were presented.

The treasury has a total of \$3,734.02... of which includes \$248.02 for the Monet Garden.

Elections were held for the 2015-2016 LGM Executive Council:
Nominees were –

President:	Rick Peters
Vice President:	Judy Jett
Recording Secretary:	Rita Wright
Corresponding Secretary:	Monica Smith
Treasurer:	Joe Hill
Trustee Candidates:	Barb Butzow, Allyson Clawson, Dave Lowder, Marsha Green, Kathy Neff

There were no nominations from the floor. A motion was given by Rita Wright to accept these candidates for the 2015-2016 Executive Council, and was seconded by Bob Frantz. Vote was unanimous to elect those individuals for the 2015-2016 Executive Council.

The Willbrandt Award for Horticulture Excellence was presented to Jean Freye. The Florence Bright Award for Community Involvement in Horticulture was presented to Roxie Westgate.

The speaker for the evening was Dr. Art Cameron who talked about *Garden Design with a Flair*. One portion of his talk centered on the use of vegetables mixed in with ornamentals to create a “wall” of color, which could also be eaten. This would maximize garden space for vegetables by not utilizing the traditional row method.

Respectfully submitted by:

Joseph Hill
October, 2014





**Clean-up at the Monet last fall.
.....Wet, dirty, but oh, so satisfying!**



Weeding and deadheading but still smiling!



Shady and beautiful Alcoa-Howmet Woodland Garden

Discouraging deer year-round in your yard: Facts versus fantasies

Give your landscape and garden a fighting chance from hungry deer by knowing the facts.

Posted on **December 8, 2014** by [Gretchen Voyle](#), Michigan State University Extension inShare

Landscape and garden damage caused by deer is a common issue many homeowners have, and [Michigan State University Extension](#) horticulture educators and Master Gardener hotlines receive questions year-round on this topic. It's usually after the event and there may be little to offer other than sympathy. However, [smart gardeners](#) are those who think ahead. If this happened one year, it will probably happen another. Having a plan and carrying it out is important to limiting deer damage, but what will discourage deer will also work on rabbits and woodchucks. These ideas could be called a "three-fer" by discouraging other mammal munchers at the same time.

Fact: Use deer or animal repellants regularly on plants during the growing season. Begin applying early in the season when the tulip flower buds are beginning to emerge and hosta leaves are just in the bud, or rolled up, stage. In the spring, apply twice a week and repeat after a rain, especially if it is more than 0.5 inches. It's the same deer that are frequenting your yard. Start training them early. Deer are not going to ride the bus to your yard from another area. By late summer or fall, you may be able to reduce your repellent applications to one a week or maybe less. You can purchase repellants or look to the Internet for some mix-your-own recipes to try. By using repellants during the growing season, deer become programmed to stay away from the stinky yard. They are less likely to change their habits in the winter.

Fantasy: You only need to apply a repellant once a month for good results. You have to consider yourself an animal trainer and be consistent in your message of "don't eat here."

Fact: Add or replace some plants in your landscape with some that are considered deer-resistant. Many of these have very distinctive odors. The reason is to give you fewer plants to protect from the hungry horde. For more information on deer-resistant plants, see "[Deer-Resistant Plants For Homeowners](#)."

Fantasy: Planting deer-resistant plants in your landscape will protect the ones that are being eaten. Planting deer-resistant plants does not stop deer from sorting through the rest of the garden for a tasty treat. They just avoid eating the smelly ones.

Fact: Give deer as few reasons as possible to visit your yard. This might involve using fences in the winter. See "[Deer damage to woody ornamentals](#)" for more information.

Fantasy: Feeding deer in the winter will give them "good" things to eat instead of your landscape plants. Many well-meaning people have created problems by feeding deer cracked or whole corn. This leads to a too common problem called corn toxicity. This can cause acidosis where the influx of high carbohydrate, low fiber, readily digestible food goes into the deer's system that is calibrated for high fiber, woody browse plants. The pH drops in the deer's rumen and gut activity stops and the animal suffers from indigestion, dehydration, diarrhea and eventual death. The other problem is enterotoxemia which is an overeating disease. This can also cause the rapid death of animals in relatively good condition. Deer will also show up for any material they can get out of bird feeders or off the ground.

Fact: Using a fertilizer like Milorganite may help discourage deer. Some gardeners have found Milorganite fertilizer to be a useful tool in repelling deer. The product says it has up to five-week repellency. Other possible aids include hanging chunks of strongly scented deodorant soaps in mesh nets, sprinkling human hair on the ground from a barber shop, scattering blood meal, and getting rid of outdated spices and herbs like cinnamon, red pepper flakes, cloves and anything with a strong aroma.

Fantasy: Believing that any of the products will last the entire season or maybe a month. You have to consider that you are always on duty and are trying to think about deterring the invaders at the gate. Any of these tips and techniques will have various amounts of success. It may be impossible in some cases to prevent damage completely. The number of deer in an area and available food will make results differ. In the winter, the longer there is continuous snow cover on the ground, the more desperate deer become. They can dig through a few inches, but if it is heavy, deer may be forced to venture to places they regularly don't go. Think ahead to prevent deer damage; it's so much easier than trying to repair it.

This article was published by **Michigan State University Extension**. For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To have a digest of information delivered straight to your email inbox, visit <http://bit.ly/MSUENews>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).