

Grass Roots Column

A Publication of
Lakeshore Garden Masters Gardening Club

July/August, 2016



Hello LGM Members,

About a dozen years ago, Florence Bright looked out the window of her bridal shop onto the adjacent quarter lot that was in complete disrepair. Being a Master Gardener herself, she dreamed of having that parcel turned into a garden—maybe one that would and could be a miniature of the famous Monet Garden in Northern France.

With Florence's sizeable donation, a fund was set up at the Community Foundation for Muskegon County. The City of Muskegon agreed to take care of the non-gardening aspects of the task, and with a lot of help from many Master Gardeners, the lot began a wonderful transformation. A large pond was dug, and a characteristic Monet Bridge was constructed over it. Electricity was brought in, a flag pole with US and French flags were stationed, and many characteristic plants of Monet's actual garden were planted.

Then the maintenance began with the usual weed-pulling, thinning, deadheading, and plant trimming. Annuals were planted each year, and many bulbs, corms, rhizomes, and tubers were placed along with other perennials throughout the garden. A sign was designed and placed in a prominent place in the garden so the public would know what organization was responsible for this little gem in the middle of downtown Muskegon.

Since the original formation of the garden, the Master Gardener club performed all the maintenance of the garden. The garden has a sizeable endowment fund at the Foundation, and it has been used to cover the costs of pool maintenance, fertilizer, plants, etc. Other donors have written checks directly to Lakeshore Garden Masters for immediate use.

We have been very proud of our garden, and it has struck the eye of the general public. Many outdoor weddings have been held in the garden, and many tourists have commented to the workers about how much they enjoy the stroll through the garden.

So, it has been a project that we have taken on from its inception, and we hope to be able to give back to our community a little bright spot that was created from an area of neglect.

Rick Peters, President, Lakeshore Garden Masters



Lakeshore Garden Masters meet at the May Monet Garden light work session followed by a delicious potluck, short meeting and a little more planting to work off the affects of the potluck.

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.

Interesting July Meeting Planned at White Lake Library

July 25-"Phenology" (The relationship between climate, insects and plant life.) by Elly Maxwell, Entomologist for Dow Gardens. Meet at *White Lake Library*, 3900 White Lake Drive, Whitehall, MI. This meeting will also be a membership drive for prospective new members. Bring a generous "finger food potluck" dish to share and beverage. Meeting starts at 6:00 PM.

Meijer Garden Trip

August 22-Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park. Visit includes inside and outside tours and lunch. Meet at the gardens by 10:30 AM. See page 3 for all the details.

News from the Monet Garden

By Linda Hecksel, Chairperson

The work schedule continues for this year :

July 5 10:00-1:00
21 5:00-8:00 Wine and Weed
Aug 9 10:00-1:00
25 5:00-8:00 Wine and Weed
Sept 6 10:00-1:00
26 4:00-8:00 Wine and Dine Work session

Hope to see you
at the garden!



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

JoeHill@WMiGreenGardeners.com

Trustees

Allyson Clawson

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Marsha Green

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Committee Chairpersons

Newsletter Editor-Marsha Green

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Membership--Plant Sharing-Pam Shriver

pamela.shriver@comcast.net

Education Programs/Membership—Susan Thorpe

holbox04@gmail.com

Monet Garden-Linda Hecksel

Hecksel@aol.com

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

Events at Meijer Gardens

Daylily Show, Grand Valley Daylily Society, July 9

Dahlia Show, Grand Valley Dahlia Society, August 27-28 (Starring President Peters)

Frederik Meijer Gardens Tour and Lunch

Arrive at the garden by 10:30 AM

11:00 AM tram will take us on a guided tour through the gardens which is an overview of the Sculpture Park, the American Horse, the Japanese Garden and the Michigan Farm Garden. It lasts about 45 minutes. At the last stop we exit the tram and walk back to the main building taking in other areas of interest.

1-2 PM we enjoy lunch (on your own) at the *Taste of the Gardens Café*

2:30 PM will be a guided tour indoor tour of the Tropical Conservatory, Arid Gardens and Victorian Garden. You may stay as long as you like following the final tour.

Cost is \$15 which includes the entrance fee and tours. (Current Frederik Meijer Gardens members pay \$5.) We need a minimum of ten people to qualify for the tour rates. Those of you that are already members of the Frederik Meijer gardens would not be counted in the ten person minimum that are required, but of course we want you to join us!

The \$15/\$5 will be collected at the door by Lakeshore Garden Masters' Joe Hill or Susan Thorpe. We need a total count PRIOR to August 22. RSVP is mandatory by August 19 to Susan Thorpe at:

holbox04@gmail.com

Any questions, please call Susan Thorpe at 248-310-2312.



Meijer Garden Heirloom Vegetable Patch

Lakeshore Garden Masters General Membership Meeting VFW Hall, North Muskegon MI April 25, 2016

The meeting was called to order by President Rick Peters at the VFW Hall in North Muskegon MI at 6:15pm on Monday, April 25, 2016. Doc Peters announced that the planters that members created in March at Garden Crossings will be available for pick up the week of May 2.

Rose of Sharon in white and pink were available for free at the meeting and members were encouraged to take one home.

Monet Garden: Linda Hecksel was not able to attend the meeting and neither was anyone else who attended the cleanup session this spring, however, Rita Wright reported that she arrived at the Monet Garden at 6:30pm and the garden was in perfect order, leaves on the curb and all the gardeners gone. Doc Peters will be preparing his World Famous Brats for our May Meeting at the Monet.

August and September Meetings: We are looking for someone to volunteer their nice garden for our meetings in August and September.

New Members: Many new members attended our meeting and it was wonderful to see them. Some time was spent on members introducing themselves and more time will be spent on introductions at the next meeting.

Speaker: Carol DeVries gave a wonderful presentation, *Surviving Your Garden*. Her talk was filled with new ideas, inspiring photos, incredible knowledge and great humor. She encouraged us to enjoy our gardens, to look for beauty – not problems, take our time and accept the limitations that present themselves. She shared ideas about gardening equipment that could help us garden more easily and invited us to add “whimsy” to our gardens.

A delicious pot luck was enjoyed by our members and President Rick Peters adjourned the meeting at 8:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted on May 7, 2016 by:
Rita Ann Wright, Recording Secretary

UPDATED LAKESHORE GARDEN MASTERS CALENDAR

2016

Dues \$15/year

lakeshoregardenmasters.org

June 27- “Hostas and More!” Meet at Kay Anderson's, *10338 Rich Street, West Olive, MI* to see this spectacular garden. Kay has been on the National Hosta Tour and cultivates a huge number of plants of all types in an extensive garden setting. Bring a dish to pass for our potluck along with your table setting, beverage and a chair. We can car pool at the Hile and Harvey Park and Ride for those living to the north. Meeting starts 6 PM.



July 25 - “Phenology” (the relationship between climate, insects and plant life) by Elly Maxwell, Entomologist for Dow Gardens. Meet at *White Lake Library, 3900 White Lake Drive, Whitehall, MI*. This meeting will also be a membership drive for prospective new members. Bring a generous “finger food potluck” dish to share and beverage. Meeting starts at 6 PM.

August 22- Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids. Plan to arrive at the park at 10:30 AM. Tram tour at 11:00, followed by lunch at the Taste of the Gardens Café (on your own), then an indoor tour of the Conservatory and gardens. Cost is \$15, collected at the door, which includes entrance to the park and tours. (Current members of Frederik Meijer Gardens pay \$5.) **RSVP by August 19.**



September 26 - “Wine and Dine at Monet Garden” This is a chance for all members and guests to experience and work on our community garden project. Meet at 4PM at the garden, bring gloves and garden tools and we will work until 6 PM. Bring a dish to pass for our potluck along with table setting, beverage and a chair. We will finish up the gardening after dinner as well. 470 W. Clay Street, Muskegon

October 24 - “Tulips” with Master Gardener, David Van Heest. At *VFW - 1061 Witham Road, Muskegon, MI*. Who eats tulip bulbs? You will be surprised to learn this as well as growing tips, tulip history and more! Bring a dish to pass for our potluck along with your table setting and beverage. Meeting starts 6 PM. We plan to have election of officers at this meeting as well.



**Lakeshore Garden Masters
General Membership Meeting
Monet Garden, North Muskegon MI
May 23, 2016**

The meeting was called to order by President Rick Peters at the Monet Garden in Muskegon MI at 6:38pm on Monday, May 23, 2016.

Doc Peters presented the Treasurer's Report which was prepared by Treasurer Joe Hill.

Huntington Bank balance as of 04/30/2016: \$4,165.77

Deposits:	\$215.00
Checks:	\$ 50.00 (Joseph Hill – <i>Monet</i>)
Balance:	\$4,330.77
<i>Monet Garden</i> Portion:	\$980.13
LGM Portion:	\$3350.64

August Meeting: Susan Thorpe has organized a tour of the Japanese Garden at Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids on August 22, 2016. We will have a guided tour of the Japanese Garden and the exhibits contained in the greenhouses at Meijer Gardens. The cost is \$15 and we should arrive at Meijer Gardens on our own by 10:30am. Tram ride to the Japanese Garden leaves at 11:00am; we will walk back to the Greenhouse and have lunch on our own. The indoor tour begins at 2:30pm. Ten members are needed for the tour to go. RSVP to Susan Thorpe.

Membership: We are up 15-18 members.

Howmet: Dave Lowder is unable to care for the Howmet and no one has heard from Pam Shriver. Judy Jett made a motion to discontinue our participation at the Howmet Garden and Jean Frey seconded that motion. Much discussion was had regarding the garden and it was agreed that the tools in the shed belong to Howmet. All present voted in favor of suspending our involvement and Sharon Rubleman will contact Howmet and let them know we will not be involved in the garden any longer.

September Meeting: Marsha Green made a motion to have the September meeting at the Monet Garden and Jean Frey seconded that motion. Further discussion was had regarding an educational meeting instead. The Executive Committee will discuss the possibilities for the September meeting.

Monet Garden: Jean Frey, Marsha Green and Linda Hecksel have each spent more than 15 hours in the Monet Garden this spring. Mike Belt will make a diagram of all the plants in the Monet Garden.

Doc Peters prepared his World Famous Brats for our meeting at the *Monet*, members brought dishes to pass and new members joined us. Annuals were planted and weeds were pulled and sidewalks were swept and the Monet Garden was beautiful.

Respectfully Submitted on May 23, 2016 by:
Rita Ann Wright, Recording Secretary



Photo 1 by Heidi Wollaeger

Garden center retailers should encourage consumers to break the botanical boundaries and combine annuals, perennials and foliage plants for some eye-catching containers.

Posted on **May 19, 2016** by [Heidi Wollaeger](#), Michigan State University Extension

Savvy gardeners and garden center retailers know the common tip to creating beautiful, eye-catching containers: “thriller, filler and spiller.” Combination planters or deck boxes should always combine a “thriller,” which is a plant with height to add vertical appeal to the containers, and “fillers,” which are plants that are low growing to fill out the pots. Common thriller plants include canna, caladium, croton, false *Dracaena* and ornamental grasses (purple fountain grass, ornamental millet). Common fillers in combination planters include double begonias, impatiens, petunias and geraniums. The “spiller” plant is a draping or vining plant that creates interest by falling over the edge of the container. Some common spillers are licorice plant, wandering jew, bacopa, *Scaevola*, sweet potato vine, creeping jenny and *Dichondra*. While these combinations are beautiful,

[Michigan State University Extension](#) urges garden center retailers and consumers alike to be brave and break those botanical borders! Garden center retailers still use the concept of “thriller, spiller and filler,” but have gone a step beyond that: using color, form and texture to create awesome combination planters.



Photo 2 by Heidi Wollaeger

When visiting some garden centers during the last week, all growers offered a variety of unusual and common species and “broke those barriers.” Who says you can’t put a foliage house plant in with other shade-loving plants? [Wenke Garden Center](#) demonstrated this by planting these colorful deck boxes (Photo 2) with a spider plant (typically

grown as an indoor houseplant) with the colorful impatiens. Also, can you plant a combination planter emphasizing foliage? Check out this stunning planter in Photo 1 by [River Street Flowerland](#) that showcases plants with green and yellow foliage that are set off by the mustard-colored container.

Book Review by Jean Freye

The Man Who Planted Trees

Lost Groves, Champion Trees, and an Urgent Plan to Save the Planet

By Jim Robbins

Spiegel & Grau

2012

Before I send this little book (216 pages) with a powerful message back to the library I thought that perhaps you, tree lovers, might be interested in it also.

First off you should know that Jim Robbins is a highly respected science writer who has contributed articles to the *New York Times*, *Scientific American*, and *Discover* to name a few. He finds himself telling the story of a Copemish, MI, shade nurseryman, David Milarch, who is on a mission to clone 100 of the world's champion trees.

David's thinking, though not specifically scientifically tested by anyone, is that champion trees are survivors and their genetic material has much to offer especially in the warming world that is coming our way. Not an easy mission, especially as his business is often hurting for funding and requires travel to some very difficult terrain; not to mention dizzying vertical challenges.

Material for cloning is found far out on branches in the most sunny places which on a champion tree is very high and far out from the security of the trunk.

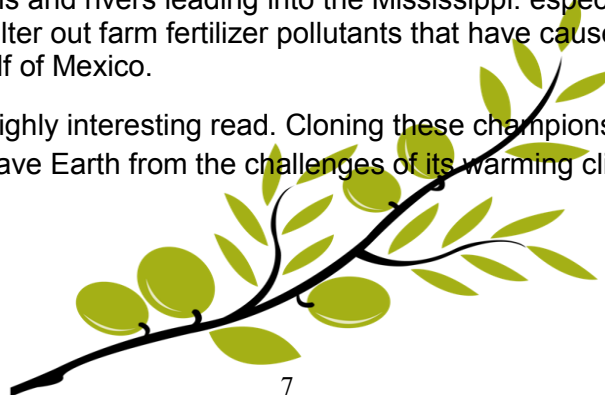
David's history and personality make for interesting reading. His tireless drive is often tripped up by his colorful personality.

Robbins became deeply interested in the plight of North American forests when the fifteen acres of his own ponderosa pine covered property were lost to the bark beetle over a five year period. Warmer winters of recent times have allowed infestations to continue unchecked. Robbins research led him to discover that forest health has not been a top priority for the government or studied by scientists. We all know that our forests are getting more and more fragmented, displacing and/or outright extinguishing species. One connection that I found very interesting is that this encroachment into forests has exacerbated animal disease transmissions to humans. Examples: HIV, Ebola, West Nile, Lyme disease.

Robbin's chapters alternate between the history of *Milarch's Champion Tree Project* and short informational chapters about some magnificent and extremely beneficial trees like the Bristlecone, Redwoods, Willow, and Yew. I learned that willows produce *salicylic acid* which is a mild antibiotic and anti-inflammatory. Egyptians used it as well as American Indians. This property also helps the chemistry of the streams along which they grow and helps the water creatures that dwell there. Willows have been used in remediation of some badly contaminated streams, a new type of ecotechnology called *phytoremediation*.

Reforestation all the streams and rivers leading into the Mississippi. especially using willows, might just be the way to filter out farm fertilizer pollutants that have caused the 8,500 square mile dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico.

This book is a short but highly interesting read. Cloning these champions may be one of the ways to help save Earth from the challenges of its warming climate.



SAVE THE DATE: AUGUST 22

FREDERIK MEIJER GARDENS

Lakeshore Garden Masters
will spend the day at Frederik
Meijer Gardens in Grand
Rapids from 10:30 – 3 PM.

Cost is \$15 which includes
guided tours and entrance to
the park.

Bring a guest and enjoy a day
in these beautiful gardens and
see the NEW Japanese
Garden!



“Freedom for All—A Nation We Call Our Own”