



# Newsletter



Page 1

Spring 2011

Gaylord, Michigan

## 2011 Awards Banquet A Great Success

The 2011 Annual Awards Banquet is now history. The restaurant Michaywe Inn The Woods served up a delicious meal... that accompanied by some great entertainment and the conversation of good friends made for an enjoyable evening. New Volunteers In Training were welcomed to the club, some veteran board members were awarded for their participation, and many were recognized for their many hours of service. Kudos to the planners of this event!



## 2011 Master Gardener College

It's time to mark your calendar for the 2011 Master Gardener College! This year's event will be held at the Prince Conference Center at Calvin College in Grand Rapids. You'll be able to participate in more than 20 educational seminars and a Garden Party.

Educational tours will be held on Friday, June 24 and seminars will held on be Saturday, June 25. **Detailed information and registration materials will be available in May.** Certified Master Gardener Volunteers may bring one adult guest this year. (For a slightly higher fee). Visit the [Master Gardener College website](#) for updates

## "Living in Garden Time"

by Karen Blewett

Greetings fellow Master Gardeners! Well, we have spent the winter looking through garden related books, magazines and catalogs. We have dreamed, planned, and drawn up new designs for our garden beds. **Now** we can finally get outside! I hope that you have some color in your gardens to look. There is nothing like the view of golden daffodils, delicate white trilliums or any budding bush to brighten up your day! If you don't have anything, go and buy yourself a primrose or pansy to enjoy!

At our March AMGA meeting, our members voted to "Gather at the Gardens" this summer. So for our monthly meetings on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, July 27<sup>th</sup>, and August 24<sup>th</sup>, we will meet at the Otsego Conservation District Gardens. They are located at the end of Livingston Blvd.

We will start around 6:00 p.m. for work bees in the various gardens. We help maintain the Friendship Garden, the Hummingbird Garden, the Herb Garden and the Perennial Garden. So bring your hat, gloves and work tools. At 8:00 p.m. will we stop for a short meeting and refreshments. If it is raining, we will meet at the Untied Way Building. This is a great time to visit with each other, exchange ideas, and get in some volunteer time.

Please plan to include a trip to the Demo Gardens this summer! If you have any questions, give me a call at 786-7449.

Karen

## Save The Date

### September 24, 2011 - Fall Gardening Extravaganza

All day conference with keynote speaker Janet Macunovich.

Vendors, prizes, raffles, food and fun!

Registration forms/brochures available [www.otsego.org/amg](http://www.otsego.org/amg)

## May Gardening Series A Huge Success

The Tuesday evening 2011 Annual May Gardening Series that was free and open to the public was very successful this year. The theme was *Organic and Local Gardening and Cooking* with Betty Steinhoff, Stacy Jo Schiller, Gloria Torello and Diane Webber as speakers. In addition to the speakers, Jeanne wishes to thank all that attended and in particular the volunteers helping make it a success.

### Short Note From Betty Steinhoff

I have some cookbooks totally assembled and ready for sale, call and let me know how many and when you want them. Betty Steinhoff 989 350-4616. They will also be available at the composting workshop at the demo garden on June 9th and at the AMGA workbee on June 22 in the demo garden.

The cost is \$18.87 plus sales tax of \$1.13 for a total of \$20.00 each. This includes a 3-ring, hard cover binder with 688 recipes, tabbed dividers, a cookbook easel to stand it up for easy use in the kitchen and a CD with the entire cookbook (like two books for the price of one). Your name is on every recipe you submitted.

For Alpine Master Gardener Association logo wear, call Beth's Embroidery at 989-731-5528



# Newsletter



Page 2

Spring 2011

Gaylord, Michigan

## Master Gardener of the Year Awarded

(Here is a copy of the press release recounting the awards passed out at the 2011 Banquet)

At their recent annual awards banquet, the MSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteers honored Annette Yasin as the Master Gardener Volunteer of the Year for 2010. Annette attended the MSU Extension Classes to become a Master Gardener Volunteer in 2004 and has been very active in the Program since. Among other activities, Annette held three offices on the Alpine Master Gardener Association Board for six years, gave countless garden related talks and demonstrations, manned the "Ask the Master Gardener Booths" at fairs and farmer's markets, was project leader of the Friendship Garden in the Demo Garden, and chaired the Education Committee. Annette's peers nominated her for this coveted award and the final decision was made by past recipients, Lori Hansen (2006); Suzanne Stock (2007); Carol Buxton (2008); and Jeanne Freymuth (2009).

Sixty two active Master Gardeners recertified by logging 2,143 volunteer hours and 814 educational hours in 2010. Seven achieved Advanced Master Gardener status by documenting cumulative 25 educational hours and 90 volunteer hours; Sharon Agren, Cathy Brandenburg, Ginger Daggett, Roseann Kujawa, Julie Kuras, Michele Lenox and Ursula Owens.

Also at the banquet, pins were awarded for milestone cumulative volunteer hours:

- 250 hour pins, Betty Steinhoff, Ruth Doss and Ed Doss
- 3,000 hour pin, Carol Buxton

Fifteen people were honored for completing the MSU Extension MGV training classes last fall and are considered Master Gardener Volunteers in Training until they complete 40 volunteer hours of helping MSU Extension educate the public about horticultural related topics. These volunteers are involved in many activities such as the Jr. Master Gardener Program, the Annual May Gardening Series, the Annual Fall Gardening Extravaganza, Otsego Conservation District's demo garden, native plant greenhouse and tree seedling sales.

If you are interested in plants, have enthusiasm for sharing knowledge with others and have a personal commitment to volunteerism, the MGV Program may be for you. Classes are held every other year with the next session being 2012. Call MSU Extension Office to be placed on a list if you would like to receive notice of future classes. 989-731-0272.



**2010 Master Gardener of the Year  
Annette Yasin**

## Book Review By Karen Blewett

Book: Perennials for Michigan by Nancy Szerlag and Alison Beck

Publisher: Lone Pine Publishing, Edmonton, Canada / 2002

This is one of my favorite resources books. It is a reference book on perennials. It has wonderful colored pictures and uncomplicated for any type of gardener. From ajuga to yarrow it discusses everything from plant selection to planting to pest control to plant care.

It talks about zones for different plants. It chats whether or not they are invasive or noninvasive. Also it details heights and spreading of the plants. There are helpful tips at the end of each plant description.

This is a great addition to your library of garden books.



**Happy  
Gardening**

## Swap At Spring Plant Exchange

The Edelweiss Garden Club has scheduled Saturday, June 11th from 9AM til Noon a Spring Plant Exchange at the downtown Farmer's Pavilion. This year, Carol Brown, Marlene Everett, Nancy Fussell, Kathy Hughes, Ann Kureth, Georgia Maxwell, Kathy Steel and Margaret Ward are on the Committee. This publicized event, will have Master Gardener Members on hand to answer questions and help identify plants. Indoor plants are welcome as well annuals, seeds, tubers, bulbs and lightly used garden tools and ornamentation For each plant you bring, you may take a plant. Bring plants in containers that do not need to be returned and label each plant with the name and growing environment.



# Newsletter



Page 3

Spring 2011

Gaylord, Michigan

## Attracting Wildlife With Native Plants

Native plants are an important addition to any wildlife garden. They are well adapted to survive in a particular geographic area according to the climate, soils, rainfall and availability of pollinators and seed dispersers.

Because they are indigenous to a specific region, native plants usually require less maintenance and are welcomed by wildlife, serving an important role in the local ecosystem.

Using non-native or exotic plants can sometimes cause serious problems for an ecosystem if the selected species spread aggressively and are not managed. These so-called "invasives" can outcompete native species for habitat and food, changing the landscape of an area forever.

### Wild Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)

Also known as red columbine, wild columbine has a red and yellow flower with upward spurred petals alternating with spreading, colored sepals and numerous yellow stamens hanging below the petals.

Columbine flowers contain nectar that attracts long-tongued insects especially adapted for reaching the sweet nectar.

### Northern White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*)

The northern white cedar is a resinous and aromatic evergreen tree with an angled trunk and a narrow, conical crown of short, spreading branches. Evergreen leaves are short and pointed, bark is light red-brown and cones are long and light brown and bear two tiny narrow-winged seeds.

Northern white cedars grow slowly and can reach an age of 400 years or more. The lightweight, easily split wood was preferred for canoe frames by Native Americans, who also used the shredded outer bark and the soft wood to start fires. Today, the wood is used principally for poles, cross-ties, posts, and lumber. Cedar oil for medicine is distilled from the twigs

### 2011 AMGA Officers

President Karen Blewett	989-786-7449
Vice Pres. Jeanne Freymuth	989-732-5348
Secretary Brent Stoddard	989-619-4866
Treasurer Michelle Roberts	989-705-8247

### Board Members

Cathy Brandenburg	989-731-3222
Betty Steinhoff	989-350-4616
Suzanne Stock	989-939-8624



## AMGA Upcoming Events

- June 9 Compost Workshop, Master Composters - Kathy & Steve Young, Demo Garden, 6:00-8:00 pm, free, call Jeanne
- June 22 AMGA Meeting, Demo Garden, Work bee-optional anytime 4-8:00pm, Meeting at 8:00pm
- July 11 AMGA Member Garden Tour, Jeanne's garden-3700 N Townline Rd; Optional potluck at 6:00; tour after.
- July 27 AMGA Meeting, Demo Garden, Work bee-optional anytime 4-8:00pm, Meeting at 8:00pm
- Aug 24 AMGA Meeting, Demo Garden, Work bee-optional anytime 4-8:00pm, Meeting at 8:00pm
- Sept 24 Fall Gardening Extravaganza, Janet Macunovich, Otsego Club, 8:30-4:00pm Register by 9/9, \$45, Call Dee Bureau

Have a safe and wonder filled summer!!