

The JOHNNY APPLESEED BROADCASTER



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Fall 2012

President's Message-Leroy Hart

In this my final message to you I would like to both look back and forward. I look back upon our April meeting with Dr. Beilstein and his talk about hostas. Perhaps some meeting we could visit his garden with over 1200 hostas. Of course the big event of the year was the regional summer conference, Many, many thanks to Cheri Kessen and her helpers for the great job they did in planning this meeting.

The location was East Lansing, Michigan, mostly on the campus of Michigan State University. On Friday was the business meeting followed by a trip to an experimental organic farm.

I was interested in how they developed compost. They do a lot of measuring the temperature of the compost pile and turning it with big machinery. In the individual garden plots they rotate the crops planted there and in the year that they let the land rest they turn the chickens loose on it to provide good fertilizer. Then we went to a greenhouse and flower shop; following the tour they served us dinner.

Saturday we visited the MSU Horticulture Gardens on the main campus. Part of this garden is called the Michigan 4-H Children's Garden. They have many sections in this garden that are especially interesting to children.. One of the buildings in this part of the garden had a green roof At the entrance to the garden was a very large peacock made of wire and covered with begonias. Also in the garden was a dragon made of branches; this was high enough that children could run through it. Lunch was at the Plant and Soil Sciences Building. After lunch we returned to the

rest of the garden. Mixed among the plantings in this part of the garden are plants that seed companies send for testing. This garden was also full of beautiful hanging baskets.

Dinner was in downtown Lansing, at the old train station. There were drinks in the depot and dinner in the dining car. After dinner was the traditional awards ceremony by Rodney Toth. From the Youngstown club: to Hugh Earnhart the Delbert Dunbar Award for outstanding service to the national, regional and local clubs; to Larry Tooker the Horticultural Achievement Award; to David Campana the Horticultural Journalism Award; to Cor Kester a Certificate of Honor. From Cleveland: to Vince Staffileno a Certificate of Honor.

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From Akron: to Leroy Hart the Green Bronze Award; to James Bell the William Moorehouse Award (Previously called the Master Gardener Award); to Sam Morlan the Horticultural Achievement Award; to Marti Williams, Clark Bordner, Chris Godard and Sue Godard Certificates of Honor.

I am already looking forward to next summer's conference, in Cleveland with Tom Davis in charge and to 2014 in the Akron area with newly elected second vice president, Sam Morlan, in charge. I have one more duty to perform before I turn the presidency of the region over to Cheri. This is the October 6 meeting at the Kingwood Center in Mansfield. Business meeting at 10:00 am, lunch at the Golden Corral and program by Denise Ellsworth. She now works at OARDC in the Entomology Department as the Program Director, honey bee and native pollinator education.

Thank you all for being so helpful to me this year. See you in October at Kingwood.

Youth Gardening

Hopefully, everyone has completed and returned their club survey. The time has come for all those members mentoring a young gardener to check on them and prepare in your clubs how you will call them into your club and reward their efforts. Every child that has been involved should be recognized even if they were unsuccessful and might have nothing to show you. Have not all of us had failures? These can be great learning opportunities for future successes. Each club is free to handle their wrap up as they wish. If you have enough plants to judge them, wonderful, if not just let the children show and tell. Everyone should be recognized with some kind of prize for their efforts. Don't forget national has "Everyone is a Winner" ribbons for 50 cents each. Everyone who followed the rules may enter the national competition. All you have to do is just send in the required papers and pictures to Cheri Kessen or Sheryl Bacon. **You do not have to be club winner, just a national participant.** Deadline for national contest is Nov. 15.

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How do you know you are a Master Gardener? (Highlighted in "Across the Fence" Allen County Master Gardeners' Newsletter)

- There is a decorative compost container on your kitchen counter.
- You would rather go to a nursery to shop than a clothing store.
- You prefer gardening to watching television.
- You plan vacation trips to arboretums and public parks.
- You buy a bigger truck so you can haul more mulch.
- All your neighbors come and ask you questions.
- Dirt under your fingernails and calloused palms are matters of pride.
- You sneak home a 7 foot Japanese Maple and wonder if your spouse will notice
- Your neighbors recognize you in your pajamas, rubber clogs and a cup of coffee
- When considering your budget, plants are more important than groceries.
- You always carry a shovel and a plastic bag in your trunk as emergency tools.
- You like the smell of horse manure better than Estee Lauder.
- Your non-gardening spouse becomes conversant in botanical names.
- You grab other people's banana peels, coffee grinds, apple cores, etc. for your compost pile.
- After purchasing \$300 worth of plants, you enter Kroger in your check register.

<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/masgar/masterwhen.html>



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Last Call for fall: Midwest Gardening

Fall in the Midwest is unpredictable at best; from record-breaking high temperatures in October to very cold start to fall. Still, Come autumn, there are tasks and much to enjoy with fall gardening.

1. Harvest all the ripe produce you can. Be sure to check tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, beans and herbs, as well as fall crops of kale, Swiss chard and carrots.
2. Clean any remaining house plants that you brought outside for summer while they're still outside. Look for and remove pests, then bring plants back in the house for winter before the first freeze.
3. After the fall freeze, cut off stalks and foliage on tender bulbs. Like canna or dahlias, and compost them. Then dig up those bulbs and store them in a cool, dry location to over winter.
4. Some plants that are used as annuals in the Midwest can also be dug up and stored over winter.
5. Compost your annuals and veggie plants after they freeze and wilt.



6. Remove and store your stakes, garden furniture and any accessories that won't benefit from being left in harsh winter weather.
7. If you have a water garden or a fountain, there's a recognized ritual to preparing ponds of winter. Start this ritual.
8. Rake or collect your leaves and compost them as much as you can.
9. Some people winterize roses, cutting them back hard in the fall and mulch around them heavily. Still, many cut off roses in early spring.

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10. Prune off the dead and ratty-looking perennial foliage on peonies and daylilies. However, you can leave much of perennials through the winter for interest rather than leaving bare ground.
11. Plant your bulbs before the ground freezes. Some years bulbs can be planted quite late.
12. Divide and or Transplant plants
13. Catch a few sales at local nurseries and stores. This is a good time to plant shrubs and trees.
14. Decorate for fall. Mums, pansies, snapdragons, grasses and reeds, ferns ornamental kale and Swiss chard are some to plant and enjoy



15. Around Thanksgiving or early December is when to prune yews (Taxus) and other evergreens. The clippings make terrific greens to place in vases and create wreaths and swags.
- 16 Don't forget our feathered friends. Place some feed out for them in late fall. Remember you planted your gardens for the birds. Help them out this winter.

Adapted from Dr. Mark Miller at:

<http://www.learn2grow.com/gardeningguides/seasonalgardening/fall/LastCallMW.aspx>

<http://www.thevegetablegarden.info/resources/planting-schedules/zones-5-6-planting-schedule>

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Fall - Ideal for Planting Trees

By Rosie Lerner, Extension Consumer Horticulture Specialist, Purdue University



Because spring is the time for new growth, most people think of planting trees and shrubs then. But cool temperatures and adequate rainfall make fall a good time to plant as well. The soil may be warmer and less damp than in spring, and you may have more time to get the job done in fall.

Fall-planted stock does demand extra attention. Plants may not have enough time to establish a good root system before winter hits.

Cold winter winds and sunshine cause plants to lose water from their branches, and the roots must be able to replace that water if plants are to survive. Evergreens, particularly broad-leaved evergreens, are more susceptible to winter desiccation because their leaves have more surface from which to lose water than narrow-leaved evergreens and bare trees.

Select balled-and-burlapped or container-grown plants rather than bare-rooted stock. Bare-root plants should only be planted in late winter or early spring while the plants are still dormant. Avoid planting large trees in fall. They can be risky to transplant in any season, but are particularly so when foliage is present. Leave the large trees to spring, and get a professional to do the moving. They have the proper equipment.

Some species of plants do not adapt well to fall planting because they are unusually susceptible to winter damage. Magnolia, dogwood, tulip tree, sweet gum, red maple, birch, hawthorn, poplars, cherries, plum and many of the oaks are among the plants that are best saved for spring planting. However, you can often justify the risk by finding exceptional bargains in the fall. Many garden centers are motivated to sell the stock because of the expense of keeping the plants over winter.

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Plant trees and shrubs early enough in the fall for the plant to develop a good root system. Soil temperatures should be well above 55F at the depth of 6 inches at planting time. This condition usually exists until early to late October, depending on your location. Of course, weather conditions vary from year to year and with microclimates around the home landscape.

Water plants thoroughly when needed to supply about 1 inch of water per week. Continue watering until the ground is frozen, even after deciduous plants have lost their leaves. Wrap the trunks of thin-barked, young trees in late November to prevent frost cracks, sunscald, and animal damage, but be sure to remove the wrap in March.

Ground covers and shallow-rooted shrubs may be heaved out of the ground by alternating freezing and thawing of the soil that often occurs in winter. A 2- 4 inch layer of mulch can help prevent wide soil temperature fluctuations. Apply materials such as compost, shredded bark or straw in late November or early December, after plants are fully dormant and the soil is cold.

<http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/falltreeplanting.html>

See information about planting trees from Purdue University Consumer Horticulture

<http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/HO-100.pdf>





Kathy's Kibitzin'

The cicadas sing --

Tables -- laden with harvests;

Kitchens hum along.

When I hear the song of the cicada, I know the second busiest time of year is upon us gardeners. In the spring we are frantic to get the seeds and plants into the ground so they can get on with their growing and producing. Now, in late summer and early fall, that bounty is screaming to be picked, eaten, and put up!

While the canner steams and the pressure cooker whistles, I think about the path that brought me here. Many years ago, (1950's) I read my first organic gardening book. (Was it even called that way back then??) *How to Have a Green Thumb Without An Aching Back*. Ruth Stout is the author. She was 76 years old then. Today, you might read *Lasagna Gardening* by Patricia Lanza. It is labeled "a new gardening system," but it sounds the same to me. Or, maybe you've heard of no-till gardening....it's all the same. And it works! The older I get, the more I appreciate it.

Over the years, off and on, I've subscribed to *Organic Gardening Magazine*, published by Rodale Gardening Institute. It leads me down the path of composting, recycling, protecting the environment, and conserving resources. In the past few years, I've read *Walden* by Henry David Thoreau. It can be a hard read until you become accustomed to his writing style. But, by the end of the book, one begins to feel a connection with his philosophy. Thomas Dewar cites "Minds are like parachutes; they only function when open." Perhaps I've been open to the ideas since my early 20's so I've absorbed the ideas.

Somewhere along the way, I read *Prairie Earth* by William Least Heat Moon for the first time. Recently, I've read it again. The author travels the counties of Kansas, making observations; talking with residents; and concluding. It is loaded with quotes from people of renown which highlight his observations. He gives not only a philosophical view, but also tells the story as a historian,

sociologist, and geologist. (I think I must read it again!)

More recently I've had occasion to read two books which have wormed their way into my psyche. The first is *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life*. Barbara Kingsolver, with sidebars from her daughter and husband, describes her family's life when they decide to eat for one year on only what they can produce themselves, or is produced within a 50 mile radius of where they live. The result of that decision is that they ate in abundance what was in season and put up what they couldn't eat for the lean winter months. Yes, there were sacrifices, but oh my there were also so many wonderful and fulfilling memories.

Michael Pollan is the author of many books. I've read most of them, but the one that has had the most lasting affect on me is *The Omnivore's Dilemma; A Natural History of Four Meals*. I haven't felt the same about eating processed food since reading the book. Mr. Pollan points out that we've become so fanatic about the individual elements of nutrition and have refined them and synthesized them to such an extreme that we are now eating mostly synthetic foods rather than natural foods.

I do realize that we choose what we read, based on leanings that we've grown up with...a little thought here, an idea there, something someone said when we were youngsters...etc. But, we've all become gardeners for some reason or other. Some for the beauty of the flower or the landscaping around our homes. Some for that first tomato or green bean fresh from the garden. Whatever is the reason that you've become a gardener...I invite you to read some of the books that have been on my journey to the place that I'm in. Kathy Lee, igarden2@aol.com
The Gardeners of America - Fort Wayne



Johnny Appleseed Broadcaster

Central Great Lakes Gardeners News

Please remember to mark your calendar for the TGOA-MGCA 2012 Board and Members Annual Meeting in Fort Wayne, IN. Friday/Saturday October 19 - 20.

Please see registration form and Meeting Schedule in this newsletter



Fort Wayne Fort



Fort Wayne Indiana

Kingwood Gardens, Mansfield Ohio, Saturday, Oct. 6 CGLG Regional Meeting. Business meeting at 10:00AM. Lunch at Golden Corral. Speaker is Denise Ellsworth who is with Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC). She is the Ecology Department specializing in pollinators, bees, etc.. She was the speaker at last year's summer meeting in Amish Country.



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Documents regarding the 2012 Board and Members meetings are on the website on the National Convention page:

Here is a shortcut to the page: <http://www.tgoa-mgca.org/Convention.htm>

The 2012 Awards Page has been updated to include the many awards this year, mainly membership awards. These are expected to be announced or given at the National Board/Members meeting in October.

Short cut to Awards Page: <http://www.tgoa-mgca.org/Awards2012.htm>

The TGOA/MGCA September/ October 2012 National Newsletter is now on our website in the Members Only Newsletter Page. Here is a short cut to that document <http://bit.ly/t5DaAf>

The latest Club Officers Directory update is now on our website in the Directories page in Members Only. Here is a shortcut to that page:

<http://bit.ly/fY851W>

The Gardener's Calendar 2013 is available from the Web Site:

13 full pages of beautiful prize winning garden and horticulture photographs from annual TGOA/MGCA Photography contests. This calendar is excellent for gifts and business promotions.

Buy in bulk or singly, for sale to the public and affiliated clubs and members. Order form on TGOA Web Page. www.tgoa-mgca.org/





2012 CENTRAL GREAT LAKES GARDENERS MEETINGS AND CONFERENCE DATES
Gardening in Education and Excellence in Horticulture Since 1932

2013 National Convention- Springfield, Illinois. June 20 - 22, 2013.
TGOA-MGCA 2012 Board and Members meeting - October 20, 2012 Fort Wayne IN. - Cheri Kessen
Regional Meeting- October 6 - 10:00AM Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio - Leroy Hart - 330-836-1207

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