



GENESEE COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS DOWN TO EARTH NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 16

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ISSUE 7

MGAGCM GARDEN TOUR 2018

Blooms, Birds, Bees and Butterflies



Whether the visitor began the tour at the first or last sight, they were treated to gardens of beauty, strolling amongst the birds, bees and butterflies. This year's tour emphasized education and the committee made sure that there was every opportunity to acquire information and learn more about

the plants and pollinators. Colorful signs provided by SMART Gardening were posted at each site sharing information about the pollinators. Each homeowner provided handouts relevant to their particular plants and specialties along with a fun scavenger hunt question, that when completed, qualified the tour-goer an entry for a handmade quilted bag. Compliments to *Kay McCullough* and her Committee for their attention to detail and organization to create a first class garden tour. *Maggie Gregg; JoAnn Gensel, Mel Kennedy, Sabrina VanDyke, Alan Grove, Sharon Noteboom, Sandy Johnson, Sally Pettinger, Margaret Sowle, Paul Mortier, Jessica Slack, LaDonna Gamble, Corinna Graham, Alicia Ellis, Kelly Fink, Pam Redden, Michelle Wareham, Shirley Smela.*

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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION



MGAGCM Mission Statement

The Master Gardener Association of Genesee County organized exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes, specifically to instruct adults and youth in horticulture science, to educate communities about environmentally sound practices through horticulture-based activities, to promote food security and to improve the esthetic of our community. This Chapter is to be organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes and consistent with the purposes and mission of the Michigan Master Gardener Association, Inc. (MMGA)

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BEES AND BUTTERFLIES

"Pollinators are essential to our environment. Pollinating more than 85 percent of the world's flowering plants is fundamental for our food supply and natural ecosystems." So began the 2018 MGAGCM Garden Tour. This message greeted each visitor at the gardens of JoAnn Ginsel, presenting the theme of this year's garden tour. ¹



"More than two-thirds of the world's crop species are dependent on pollination, with an annual estimated value of \$18 to \$27 billion in the United States alone." ¹

Jo Ann takes this to heart, and in her first year as a Master Gardener made it a mission to help protect and increase the pollinator population adding beehives to her gardening plan.

"The honey bee is one of 400 species of native bees that live in Michigan. Understanding

habitat needs and food sources while adjusting our garden maintenance routine is a step forward in pollinator conservation." ¹

JoAnn's gardens of native plants are a welcoming home to all the pollinators that are drawn in. Those of us who are not pollinators but visitors to the gardens will also enjoy the beautiful artistic decorations that she places throughout the beds.



HOW TO ATTRACT BUTTERFLIES TO YOUR GARDEN

Grow native plants; Provide shallow dishes of water with pebbles for butterfly to stand on while drinking; Provide host plants of butterflies to lay its eggs. Parsley, dill and fennel are also good host plants. Bright colored flowers attract butterflies. They love Butterfly Bush, Lantana, Zinnias, Bee Balm, Purple Coneflowers, Sage, Butterfly Weed, Lilac, Sunflower and Marjoram.

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Feature Article Continued

GOING NATIVE

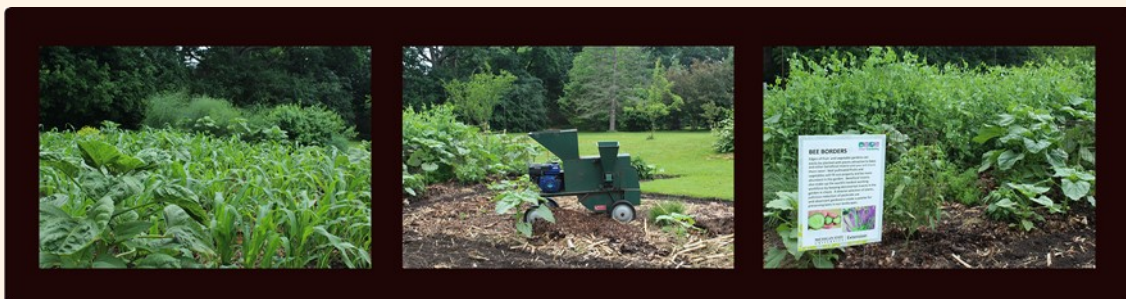
Next stop on the tour is Dick & Nancy Moldenhauer's "Going Native" gardens, featuring three varieties of milkweed and "Eco Grass". This beautiful grass is a wonderful experience, lush and cool, a perfect walk in the garden! Dick explains, "ECO Grass is a blend of fine bladed fescue grasses which are deep rooted to resist drought and grub infestations. It is intended to be low maintenance: needing few if any pesticides, fertilizers, watering or frequent mowing. I try to mow mine no shorter than 4" and would prefer 5" to 6" if my mower would go that high. This is the first year it's been in as I seeded it last August and it germinated in early September." ²



It was a delight to see a man's version of yard art with various parts of old trucks, cars and farm equipment carefully placed within the beautiful beds.

In addition to the pollinator garden, which Dick takes great pride in, he has been composting for decades. Mulching with newsprint and leaves, organic material including grass clippings and flowerbed waste is used in the vegetable garden and plant beds. He uses several methods of mulching throughout his yard including shredded leaves on the whole garden in the fall and planting yellow clover as a "green manure", which has

transformed a heavy clay soil into 8 inches of good topsoil. For his lawn, there is nothing complicated with dandelion control ... he pulls them out, while using corn gluten to minimize crabgrass germination. Dick is continuously putting his Master Gardener skills to work experimenting with new techniques to foster native plants and encourage pollinators.



Feature Article Continued

55 YEARS IN THE MAKING

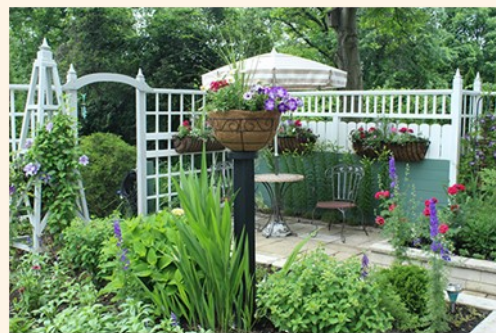


“When one gardens with the one they love, a place of peacefulness blossoms.”³ As you stroll along the handmade stone walkways, through the arbor and pergola of Marie and Richard Welton you step into a cocoon of peacefulness. The Welton’s love for each other is reflected in this 55-year labor of love. They glow as they share their story and tell how they each did their part of creating this beautiful garden of respite, Richard forming each of the stone patio blocks himself, Marie choosing plants she discovers in magazines and gardens they visit.

Sitting in the pavilion by the pool, birds chirping as they fly through the yard one would like to linger just a bit more.

“Did you know that birds are very important pollinators of wildflowers throughout the world? In the continental United States, hummingbirds are key in wildflower pollination.”⁴ “Hummingbirds hover in mid air by flapping their wings up to eighty times per second, plus their long curved beaks and a love for sweet nectar, makes them perfect pollinators.

Hummingbirds burn up a tremendous amount of energy as they dart about from flower to flower and so they are attracted to the flowers that will give them something in return for their pollinating efforts. The flowers they are particularly fond of include shrimp plants, verbenas, bee balm, honeysuckles, fuchsias, hibiscus and bromeliads.”⁵



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GARDEN TOUR CONTINUED PAGE

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WHAT DO I USE TO MAKE COMPOST?

Yes, you can make your own backyard compost! You'll need a purchased or DIY bin or you can just have a trench. Compost materials cannot include any proteins (crushed egg shells, however are OK for the calcium). Carbon-rich "browns" include dried leaves, coffee filters, straw, sawdust, newspaper, shredded paper (only if the mix doesn't have shredded credit cards or clear plastic windows from envelopes). Nitrogen-rich "greens" to add include fruit & vegetable scraps from your house or garden, grass clippings and coffee grounds. Browns to greens ratio should be 2:1 or 3:1. Because we gather most of our browns in the fall with leaf raking, many gardeners keep bags of those leaves through the winter to ensure they have enough browns to mix in. Water and occasional stirring will also greatly assist your compost pile with breaking down the organic material we need in our gardens. For more information, go to: http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/composting_a_smart_gardening_practice_to_recycle_garden_and_yard_waste



Hello fellow gardeners new and seasoned!. Volunteers love working the Hotline because they learn so much through finding answers for callers! Hotline is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9:00 a.m.-1 p.m. and the call-in number is (810) 244-8548. Some new Hotline call-in inquiries are here:

How about this heat, huh?

The hot dry climate as of late can wreak havoc on our gardens. You may need to check on your plants and soil more often to ensure this heat is not attempting to take them away from you! In vegetable gardens, both over-and-under watering can cause problems. As a general rule of thumb, your veggies need about an inch of water per week. This may not sound like much, but for a 32 sq. ft. bed, we're talking about 20 gallons! In tomato plants, for example, some signs of overwatering may be yellow leaves, root rot or the tomatoes cracking as they ripen. In general, the best time to water any outdoor plants is in the morning. Watering needs may vary depending on many factors so be sure to know what works best for which types of plants.

Bees- Our friendly pollinators

A few calls came in about bees in undesirable places on caller's property (garage, deck etc.). Many of you are aware of the importance of bees and other pollinators to our food and plant existence. Please be patient and call a reputable bee keeper to remove the nest (once they coax or remove the queen out, her subjects will follow. Many gardeners actually build their own mason bee homes so they can be assured a bee population to pollinate their gardens. It's not so much of a stretch anymore to say "when the bees go, so will mankind" (scary music playing in the background...)

How do I get rid of ants?

Ants making their homes and being busy outdoors is generally nothing to worry about. But in our homes is a different ball of wax! We generally only suggest exterminators or chemicals as a last resort. One tried-and-true method to get rid of ants in your home is: 1 Tbsp. jelly mixed with 1 Tbsp boric acid and ½ cup dry dog or cat food. Place mixture around areas you have seen ants (you can make "dishes" out of aluminum foil.). To prevent future nests from exploring your home, seal all suspected openings where they may be coming in.

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ROMEO IN THE GARDEN

Board Member Spotlight – 2nd Vice President Alan

Romeo? Yes, Alan Grove has history of being a Romeo but more about that later.

Alan Grove, 2nd Vice President of the MGAGCM Board, has been a man about town - even long after his Romeo days. He can be seen at the Grand Blanc Farmers Market, Davison Farmers Market, Burton Senior Center, Lockwood Senior Center, G-Card Building and working the Hotline.

If you visit the farmers market, when Alan is volunteering, it is quite apparent he loves his time there. Alan shares, "I enjoy having people come up to me and visit - sometimes they just want to talk about their gardens and brag a little bit. If they have a nice garden they should brag about it."

"The gardening that we do is fantastic but it is getting to talk to people that gets them involved and gets them to know us." Alan continues. It is this connection that Alan makes with each person he meets that is a defining part of who he is. It comes without surprise to learn his early career was centered on helping others to understand themselves better, improving their personal relationships. With a Masters Degree in Psychology from the University of Michigan, he held a career with Genesee Friend of the Court that spanned 28 years. His initial position as an Enforcement Officer was followed by a position as Family Mediator until he retired from the Court system to begin his own counseling practice.



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MGAGCM

2ND VICE PRESIDENT

The role of 2nd Vice President includes the following responsibilities:

Maintain all standing committee updates, standing committee chairs, records and funding status.

Attend, support and participate in special events

Monitor the Association's financial performance and approve the annual budget

Distribute procurement & spending policy, approved budgets and reimbursement forms to standing committee chairs .

In addition, the 2nd Vice President also coordinates the monthly guest speakers. Alan shares; "Good speakers are booked a year and half in advance. I refer to the list of speakers I have compiled, who have spoken throughout the state at other MG events and recommendations by other MG's. I begin by making contact with the speakers and coordinating a date that works for them and us. Currently I have arranged for all the speakers through March 2018."

Alan Grove Continued

Alan's love of gardening began when he was a small child living with his Grandmother Boor. "My grandmother was an avid birdwatcher and gardener," Alan explains, "When we weren't taking walks together we would spend time in her gardens - she taught me all about gardening. She is probably the most important person in my life." Grandmother Boor's influence went beyond the gardens and had a lifelong impact on how Alan viewed the world and his unspoken commitment to helping others.

Perhaps his compassion for others had its roots during those early years when Grandma Boor took Alan on one of their walks to visit a family whose house had burned down. "She handed them money at the end of our visit. I didn't understand at the time," Alan shares. Perhaps that one moment in time set in motion Alan's role in continuing this mission to care for others who are down on their luck.

Several years ago Alan and a group of longtime friends would meet at Panera Bread in Grand Blanc on Wednesdays. Alan explains, "We called ourselves the Romeo Club (Retired Old Men Eating Out) - over coffee we would solve the world problems. One day Jeff (Jeff Snyder) suggested that we restore homes in the neighborhood that we grew up in." Alan identifies the area as the Civic Park located in Northwest Flint, and is also the area that his grandmother had lived. "Abdullah Raine, a retired Radiologist, was all in along with about five other guys, who have now either passed away or moved. Jeff, a former Catholic Priest, was also a grant writer and counselor and used his experience to acquire the much needed funding for such an endeavor."

Over the past five years this ambitious and faith-filled group of men have restored eleven homes, restoring an average of one every six months. The process begins by identifying foreclosed homes, which they purchase for as little as \$500, making an agreement with the City land bank that taxes are not due until the work is completed and a resident takes possession. "We do some of the painting, landscaping, and repairs ourselves while outsourcing things like the electrical, plumbing and windows. Over the years the Ruth Mott Foundation and AM Davison's, as well as a couple of the local churches have provided much of the funding, while we supplement the rest of the costs personally." Families chosen for these homes are provided education on maintaining the home and financial responsibility and are given full ownership after two years of responsibly paying their taxes - further contributing to the revival of this community.

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Alan Grove Continued

Alan's genuine care for others flows through his life and into the work he does as a Master Gardener. In describing his latest project of organizing outreach for the seniors in the area he shares; "I have helped coordinate three presentations in the past few months at the Senior Centers on container gardening and how to start a garden - it was really fun to do. The seniors are wonderful to work with and are amazing. I just enjoy working with them." On the garden sites he is encouraging the new Master Gardeners telling them, "This is not my garden, it is our garden and if you have any ideas we'll do them - I like to allow people to branch out -do their own thing. I think that is important."

"I love being a Master Gardener and I love to share that with others, educating and praising others for doing a good job."

Interview with Alan Grove, June 8, 2018, transcribed and written by Kit Puroll for August, 2018 DTE

To Receive Communication Regarding MGAGCM

Using VMS any active master gardener from the county can send email to those of a particular interest. There has been some confusion regarding communication issues in the past and we are trying to clear this up. Because of this you are being requested to include MGAGCM in your interests on VMS. If you wish to continue to receive emails from MGAGCM you must make this change.

To do so follow the following steps:

1. Log in to VMS as usual just like when you are going to record volunteer hours.
2. Click on "Editing Profile". This is found on the page directly above "Add New Hours". A page should come up with your name and the privacy policy.
3. Scroll down the page. You should see a list in bold with check boxes next to each item. It is titled "Edit Interest".
4. Find the box next to "MGAGCM (Master Gardener Assoc Genesee Co MI)" and click on it. You should see a check mark appear.
5. Feel free to check other interests as well. This will allow people to contact you if there is information for these areas.
6. Scroll all the way to the bottom of the page and click the gray button that says "Save Information"

If you are having problems getting this to work or have questions you can contact one of the VMS ambassadors or VMS buddies for some help. Their information is on the bottom of the VMS home page (you will need to scroll down).

If you do not make this change you may no longer receive communication regarding the MGAGCM.



Recipes & More

Fresh Green Beans and Red Potatoes with Smoked Kielbasa

Ingredients

- Bacon, 6 strips
- Onions
- Fresh green beans, trimmed
- New red potatoes
- Smoked kielbasa or turkey sausage
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions

Cut bacon stripes into pieces and brown until cooked through. Add green beans and onions to bacon and drippings and sauté until onions are transparent. Add water to cover green beans and cook until almost tender on medium heat. Cut new red potatoes into quarters and add to the bean mixture. Cut the smoked sausage at a 45 degree angle, to your desired thickness and add to the mixture. Add water to cover the mixture and cook until potatoes are cooked through.

Serve with corn bread.

This is the perfect summer dinner from your garden or favorite Farmers Market.

How Do You Educate Seven Million People?

National statistics tell us “70% of all Americans are involved in gardening in some way”. In Michigan that comprises seven million people!” Rebecca Finneran shared at the May meeting of the MGAGCM.



Our role as Extension Master Gardeners is to educate our communities using “simple, research-based messages adapted for home gardeners, centered on environmental stewardship.” MSUE Consumer Horticulture Educator, Rebecca Finneran explains further, “If our goal is for the gardener to adopt new, earth-friendly gardening habits, it takes ‘seven impulses’, that is, having someone tell you about it, read about it, research it, at least seven times before they say “I can do that.”

The *Smart Gardening* Initiative grew out of an understanding of this concept when Professor Dr. David Smitley considered the outcomes of his research to raise the mowing heights to control grubs. “This has been my life’s work,” he shared with his colleague Rebecca Finneran, “The commercial people are doing great, they are raising the mower height. Golf courses are doing it, but I drive through neighborhoods and nobody is doing it.” Rebecca saw the bigger problem however, “We haven’t told them; or, we haven’t told them seven times!” Sharing with the group she explained further, “This is what researchers do fabulous research, put it in a binder, publish a paper and put it on a shelf. Who is going to get that message? Who will benefit if they don’t know?” And from that enlightenment, the campaign, *Mow High Campaign* was launched; and, the concept of a new way of marketing the wealth of horticulture research had begun.

During a time when the MSUE resources, funding and staff, were low, the remaining staff rethought how they could put those resources to better use by thinking smarter. Statewide consumer horticulture educators began to share their program plans with each other and realized quickly how their more efficient use of resources had greater results reaching more people. While the *Hotline* and *Ask an Expert* resources were the foundational method to educating gardeners, we were not always reaching the home gardener. Realizing this, the team made it a mission to increase the “impulses”; or, face-to-face contacts, establishing a strategic plan to effectively and efficiently communicate with the seven million statewide gardeners. State fairs, local events and farmer’s markets, conferences and workshops all became opportunities to share the educational resources provided by MSUE; and, *Smart Gardening* became the vehicle to get the resources into their hands.

The *Smart Gardening* initiative was the delivery system for the resources, a form of “toolkit” of researched-based knowledge including; videos, tip-sheets, and handouts. The materials are shared by trained *Smart Gardening* volunteers who can answer questions and further direct the backyard gardener to additional resources such as the [MIGarden](#) website, *State Lawn and Garden Hotline* and *Ask an Expert*. The MIGarden website was created to provide the average gardener a resource to turn to anytime. Providing them the research-based science, adapted for the home gardener, on how to care for their lawns, vegetable gardens and plants.



MGAGCM DOWN TO EARTH NEWSLETTER

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Directing people to the site is accomplished by providing every event visitor a *Smart Gardening* bookmark with the website address.

This strategic plan has resulted in the education of Michigan gardeners and is growing exponentially. The outcomes of 143 statewide events last year included the distribution of tip sheets (“¾ of a million to date) and an increase in hotline activity - serving 8800 people.” The impact on improved use of soil through gardening smartly resulted in “93% raised the mowing height, 82% did a soil test, 91% mulch leaves into their turf and they choose phosphorous-free fertilizer, 87% garden to enhance pollinators, and 61% said they shared the information with others - that is how we make a difference in Michigan”, Rebecca shared with a proud smile. (Based on 2017 survey results.)

To continue this strategic outreach to Michigan home gardeners, more trained *Smart Gardeners* are essential. To become an “Extension Master Gardener Smart Gardening Volunteer” (EMG SGV) you must be an active, re-certified MSU Extension Master Gardener volunteer and complete the *Smart Gardening* training. The complete training requires about 8-9 hours of education including reading all the printed materials, including the 30 tip sheets, 9 short videos of 3-5 minutes each and content webinars to enrich your knowledge of subject materials. EMG’s can count all the time spent reviewing materials toward their annual educational requirements and there is no charge. To acquire more information on how to become a Smart Gardener and receive the check-list please contact Michelle Chockley by phone: 810-210-6685 or email: chockleym@gmail.com

For more information on the program visit the [Smart Gardening Resources](#) and [Online Gardening Classes](#).

MSU Extension—Genesee County is an educational agency funded jointly through the Board of Commissioners, by the state through Michigan State University and federally through the United States Department of Agriculture.

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UPCOMING MILLAGE

Michigan State University Extension programs in Genesee County are supported by a millage. The 0.04 millage is up for renewal on August 7, 2018. This cost about \$2 for the average household in Genesee County.

Programs including Master Gardener, 4-H, urban agriculture, food and nutrition, and traditional agriculture are all supported by Michigan State University Extension. MSU Extension is a 3-way partnership between the federal, state, and county government. If the county does not contribute to the partnership, Genesee County residents lose access to state and federal resources that are supported with their tax dollars.

MSU Extension was started in Genesee County in 1912 with our first agricultural agent, and continues through today. The idea behind Extension is to share the knowledge of the university and with people to help them in their everyday lives, and to take the questions from the community and work with the university to find answers. The idea behind Extension is to empower people with education.

One recent example of community questions that needed answers is around the Flint water crisis. MSU Extension staff worked with campus experts to help understand what can be done with diet and behavior changes to mitigate the effects of lead. MSUE also put together resources about how lead can affect gardening.

In the health and nutrition area, we teach people about what they can do on their own to improve their quality of life. We don't provide food subsidies, but we teach folks how to make the most out of their limited food dollar. We teach folks how to safely prepare and preserve food around their home. We teach folks how to manage their own health through nutrition and behavior.

We work with community partners to help the community have a system of providing fresh healthy food for their families. We partner strongly with edible Flint to turn vacant lots into a wonderful community resource which provides food and beauty to neighborhoods.

All these programs are made possible through the Genesee County taxpayers by their payment of a millage. The 0.04 millage is up for renewal on August 7, 2018; this is not an increase, but will maintain funding at its current level.

People take the Master Gardener program thinking they are going to improve knowledge to help their own home gardens, but the program does so much more than that. Master Gardeners are not certified until they do service in the community that is educational. We want the investment in the Master Gardener volunteers to be doubled and re-doubled as they improve the community and teach others how to do the same.

4-H empowers young people to work on projects of their own design. Unlike K-12 education, where youth are learning specific things for a standardized test, 4-H works with young people to seek out their own knowledge, be critical thinkers, and develop life skills. We want to empower youth to adapt to any situation they encounter through skills in project areas, whether that be animals, the arts, science, or politics.

All these programs are made possible through the Genesee County taxpayers by their payment of a millage. The 0.04 millage is up for renewal on August 7, 2018; this is not an increase, but will maintain funding at its current level.

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Continuation of Feature Article: Garden Tour

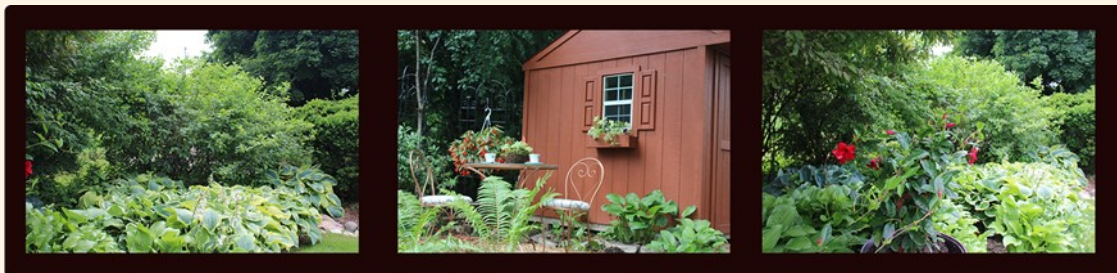
EYE CATCHER

"Coleus were discovered in 1853 in the mountains of Java by plant explorer Karl Blume, and until 2006 were named for him (*Coleus blumei*). Many gardeners know coleus--that tender annual grown in gardens for its richly patterned and colored foliage. Yet many may not realize that in recent years hundreds of cultivars (cultivated varieties) have been introduced, most growing well in the sun of northern climates. In fact, for many of these newer selections the colors get better colors in the sun. Just keep them well watered when young. If in a good heavy loam, plants even may survive drought quite well." ⁶



Paul and Terry Mortier's gardens feature these beautiful plants along with many hostas and perennials transplanted from their Ohio home and interspersed with annuals. To complete the picturesque setting Paul dug a pond himself over a two-year period – the water cascading over the rocks is a restful place to linger.

"The hosta plants are the highlight of Paul Terry's gardens and something they are most proud of. In East Asia, hostas have been grown in gardens for centuries. Chinese documents mention hostas as early as the Han Dynasty 206 BC-220 AD, and in Japan they show up in scripts preceding the Nara period beginning in 710 AD. The 1829-1830 importations of hostas by Philipp von Siebold started hosta cultivation in the West, first in Europe in the early 1830s, and they reached North America just a few years after." ⁷



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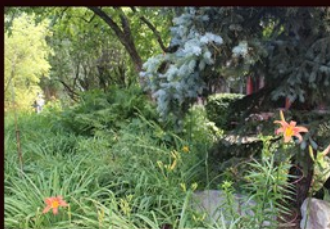
FLOWERING PARADISE



The fifth home garden on the tour belongs to Stuart and Kathy Weiner, featuring a variety of plants including many perennials that border a large turf area. The visitor is reminded of the importance of a “bee friendly lawn”. Flowering plants like clover in the lawn are great source of nectar and pollen for the pollinators.

While the focus is often on the variety of plants during a tour, it should be noted how important design, art and landscape elements are to a site as well. When creating design consider your lifestyle and how you want to enjoy your area. For Stuart and Kathy they wanted an area they could appreciate while enjoying their hot-tub - a leisure activity that brought the elements of the gardens together with relaxation. As seen in some of the previous home tours, seating and dining areas can be incorporated into the design plan.

If you have children perhaps a tree-house or playscape might be a mini focal point. Another design element is garden art, which all the tour sites share. In the Weiner’s yard an intriguing wire and metal form of a lady catches the eye amongst the lilies and delphinium and is one of several decorative pieces. Other features that can be considered in design might be benches, butterfly houses, birdbaths, accent lighting, sundials, gazing balls, rocks, mirrors, window frames, or chimes. While all these options sound exciting, use in moderation, you don’t want to pull the focus away from the plants that you have worked so hard on being center stage.



SEASON BLOOMS



Flowers, flowers everywhere ... Allen and Patricia Flowers' beautiful rose garden, at the corner of their property, is a welcoming focal point for those strolling by as well as their visitors.

The Smoke tree was a show-stopper as the smoky blooms captured the eye with wonder. The flowery clusters are "billowy hairs (attached to elongated stalks on the spent flower clusters) which turn a smoky pink to purplish pink in summer." ⁸ And this is a tree

that just keeps giving as the autumn foliage brings beautiful shades of yellow, red, orange and purple. "A North American native, American Smoketree is tolerant of a wide range of adverse urban conditions - wet soil, wind, drought, and compacted soil. Plants grow well and are native to high pH, alkaline soil and should be located in full sun or partial shade. Best flowering, form, and overall attractiveness is achieved in full sun. May need occasional irrigation on sandy soil. It is reportedly difficult to transplant but this is easily overcome by growing in containers." ⁹



Allen and Patricia take pride in all their hard work designing and creating their flowerbeds since they moved into their new home six-years ago. They have carefully selected and nurtured their snowball viburnum to a thriving beauty complimenting their lilac, forsythia and hydrangeas throughout the yard.



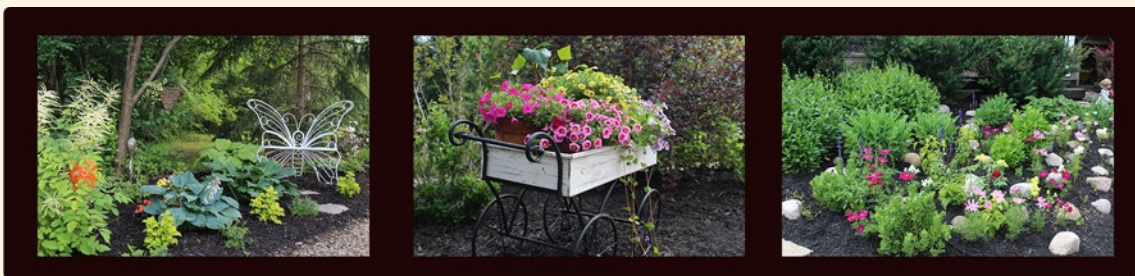
IMAGINE

"Imagine", a perfect title for this little bit of paradise. Dan Adas has spent decades creating a home of tranquility and beauty. A visitor is drawn in, not only by the lushness of the gardens, but also by the gentle sound of the water cascading over the rocks of the waterfall, set center-stage. As you linger along the stone walkways listening to the birds chirp and taking in the cornucopia of flowers, hostas, bushes and art you might just want to take your shoes off and sit awhile at one of the other two waterfalls - letting your mind imagine you are on a tropical island sipping a margarita.



If you are "imaging" a waterfall in your own yard, consider "that landscaping water elements are eye-catching and functional - eye-pleasing landscape consists of several different elements working harmoniously together. One landscaping element that greatly contributes to the overall beauty of a design is water - providing some unexpected benefits. **It brings the sounds of nature to your doorstep and** will attract natural wildlife and enhance your local ecosystem. As soon as your water feature is installed, you'll begin to notice an increase in wildlife on your property. Birds will

visit, and dragonflies will dart around. Instead of a barren span of horizontal land, your yard will become a haven for beneficial wildlife. **Water features can be adapted to fit smaller space, require very little maintenance and give you an opportunity to make your landscaping one-of-a-kind.**" ¹⁰





¹ Smart Gardening; Gardening for pollinators: Smart plants to support pollinators; Rebecca Finneran, MSUE

² Dick Moldenhauer, MGAGCM Master Gardener and Vice President; personal description of Eco Grass.

³ Kit Puroll, Quote for MGAGCM Garden Tour article; MGAGCM Newsletter, August, 2018

⁴ [United States Department of Agriculture, Forests](#) website

⁵ [The Bird Channel](#); The important Role of Birds in Pollination; October 31, 2007

⁶ University of Vermont Extension; [What's New In Coleus](#); Dr. Leonard Perry, Extension Professor

⁷ Heritage Garden; [Hosta \(Hosta Plantaginea\)](#)

⁸ Missouri Botanical Garden; *Cotinus Obovatu*

⁹ Fact Sheet 208 *Cotinus Obovatus*; Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Publication date: November 1993.

¹⁰ Green Impressions; [5 Benefits that Water Features Provide to your Landscape](#); Joe Schill; January 21, 2013

Photography, Art Design and Article written by Kit Puroll, July 27, 2018 for August 2018 DTE

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WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

The summer of 2018 has been busy with our long time projects and several new projects. If you need volunteer hours there are plenty of opportunities for you to choose from. You can find these on VMS with days and times of activity at each project.

We also have a few more Outreach Projects coming up that are always a fun time of learning as well as educating the public. Check these opportunities on VMS as well.

The Fundraising Committee has a project in the works that will require more about that as soon as the details are finalized.

I would like to welcome Mary Yelland as the new interim Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator Volunteer for Genesee County.

By time you receive this newsletter there will only be a few days before the Millage Election. Remember to let your friends and family know the importance of this renewal and encourage them to vote!

My thanks and appreciation go out to all volunteers, chairpersons, VMS ambassadors, Lori Imboden, Mary Yelland and last, but not least our MGAGCM Board for keeping Genesee County moving forward!

MGAGCM AUGUST MEMBERSHIP MEETING

August MGAGCM Meeting will be held one week early due to the Back to the Brick. So mark your calendars to meet on August 9, at 5:30 pm for social hour.

Our speaker for this month is Julia Hofley who spoke to our membership last year with many requests to have her return. She is an educator and a professional writer on subjects for both professional and amateur gardeners. Her topic this month will be "Fall Finale in the Garden". As Julia did last time, she is bringing a few plants/flowers from her personal garden to be raffled off. Included in these will be her favorite hardy mum called Hillside Sheffield Pink.

Our business meeting will follow after a short break. Snack providers are: Mel Kennedy, Bobbie Parkhill, JoAnn Gensel and Alan Grove.

FUTURE SPEAKERS FOR MGAGCM MEETINGS

September 20, 2018, Karen Golden, owner of Variations Horticultura Services. Topic: Heirloom Tomatoes.

October 18, 2018, Tamara Menas, Owner of Michigan Native Butterfly Farm. Topic: Michigan Native Butterflies.

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MGAGCM OFFICERS (2018)

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| President | Vicki Laurin |
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| 2nd Vice President | Alan Grove |
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| Secretary | Dick Moldenhauer |
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| Treasurer | Bobbi Parkhill |
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SAVE THE DATE

THIS NEWSLETTER PREPARED BY

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and of counsel Ruth Simon.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITES

MMGA Inc Website

MMGA Inc Facebook Page

MGAGCM Website

MGAGCM Facebook Page

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(810) 244-8500

Plant & Pest Hotline

(810) 244-8548

Hours: Hotline summer hours are:
Monday, Wednesday and Friday,
8:30 am to 1:00 pm.

geneseeplantpest@anr.msu.edu

Public Office Hours:

8 am - 12:00 and 1:00 pm-4:00 pm
Monday through Friday.

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| 5 | 6 <u>Plant and</u> <u>Pest Hot-</u> <u>line</u> Board Meeting | 7 <u>Cactus</u> <u>garden/</u> <u>Easter</u> <u>Seals work</u> <u>sessions</u> | 8 <u>Plant and</u> <u>Pest Hot-</u> <u>line</u> | 9 <u>Member-</u> <u>ship</u> <u>Meeting</u> | 10 <u>Plant and</u> <u>Pest Hot-</u> <u>line</u> | 11 |
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August MGAMCM SPEAKER

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