

please help us grow...



For all you garden lovers!

While it is hard to believe the growing season is quickly coming to a close, there is no doubt it has been a wonderful year in the gardens! Following are just a few of the many new features and activities of 2014 in the MSU Horticulture Gardens.

Renata Reibitz, Perennial Garden Manager, and her summer student help, have really perked up our ever-growing display of herbaceous perennials. In addition, Renata has redesigned several beds in the southwest corner of the Judith DeLapa Perennial Gardens with special focus on shade plants. Over the past 20 years, the swamp oaks and river birch in this corner of the gardens have grown into beautiful trees and now provide significant shade. It was the perfect time to develop and expand our collections of *Ligularia*, *Heuchera*, *Smilacina*, *Polygonatum*s and more! Next year, these new plantings should really be coming into their own and well worth a visit.

Our Annual Trial Gardens have fared well despite the cool wet year. Annual Trial Manager, **Daedre Craig**, and her students have managed the 600+ entries wonderfully. Many of our annual displays look excellent into September, including massive displays of papyrus 'King Tut' and *Pennisetum* 'Vertigo'! It is still well worth a visit. For a list of some of our favorite entries this season, check out our website at <http://trialgardens.hrt.msu.edu/>

Last spring, our resident garden dragon was reconfigured to be brighter and longer than ever! Michigan artists Bim Willow and Lin McIntosh were up to the challenge of rejuvenating our popular dragon! He is now definitely more fearsome than ever (but still fun for the kids to run through). He has several new humps, cute little legs and a bright mouth full of teeth! Check him out when you visit!

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Our summer staff and students!

Beautiful gardens don't just happen on their own. It really does take the dedicated efforts of our remarkable staff and summer students. It was a happy bunch that posed for this photo the day before Garden Day! Starting in the front row: Nicole Fee, Erin Zerwas, Jessica Wright (4-H Youth Education Coordinator) and Deborah Trelstad; second row: Ian Quam, Jennifer Sweet (Garden Program Coordinator), Renata Reibitz (perennial Garden Manager), Tiffany Shay, Lea McKenney, and Merissa Strawstine; third row: Doug Badgero (CE Lewis Arboretum Manager), Dan Bulowski (Garden Manager), Austin Green, Enrico Sabbatini, Daedre Craig (Annual Trial Manager), Erin Favor and Cole Mauti. Not pictured are students Jacob Foy, Jonathan Jentzen, Kate Lang, Shelby Shay, John Nellis and Monica Blaze, our wedding coordinator. This group really manages to accomplish the impossible, of course with the help of our remarkable volunteers!

I personally would like to thank all of them for their efforts to make our gardens special! ACC

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2014 Fall Curious Gardener

Please join us for one or more of the following 2014 Fall Curious Gardener program events this fall! All will be located in B109 of the Plant and Soil Sciences Building, and registration is required online or by paper application in advance. It should be up online soon at:

<http://www.hrt.msu.edu/curious-gardener/>. If you have any questions, contact Jessica Wright at hgardens@msu.edu.

Floral Quilt Trunk Show and Fabric Collage Make-and-Take

Saturday October 11th from 9AM-1PM. \$25 for members \$30 for non-members.

The art of quilting has gained a resurgence in the last few years. Fabric can be used to create everything from traditional bed quilts to intricate works of art. Join quilt artist **Linda Craig** for a floral and nature-themed quilt trunk show and fabric collage make-and-take. Linda is a prolific quilter in a variety of styles including landscape quilts, similar to the work of the 2013 ArtPrize winner. Linda will inspire you with stories about her own quilts and techniques used to produce them. Then attendees will create their own 8 ½ x 11" floral fabric collage. No sewing skills are required. All materials will be provided, but bring your own fabric scissors if you have them.

Creative Tricks for a Great Vegetable Garden

Tuesday October 21st from 6-8PM. \$15 for members \$20 for non-members.

Vegetable gardening is very rewarding and a few basic tricks can go a long way, especially when trying to make the most of what you plant! MSU Horticulture Garden Director, **Art Cameron**, will cover basic challenges of growing some of his favorite vegetables and share some valuable lessons he has learned during his years of gardening here in mid-Michigan. From bamboo trellises to raised beds, watering systems and square-foot gardening, tricks abound and it is worthwhile to investigate the options before implantation in your own garden!

Vermicomposting

Tuesday November 4th from 6-8PM. \$25 for members \$30 for non-members.

Learn how to build a worm bin and what it takes to turn your kitchen scraps into wonderful vermicompost for use in your garden or home. Besides learning about the conditions that will make your worms thrive, you will make your own worm bin from a large tote to take home, full of bedding and a pound of worms! Presented by **Brooke Comer**, PhD graduate student in the Department of Horticulture.

Evergreen Holiday Wreath

Wednesday December 3rd from 6-8PM. \$35 for members \$40 for non-members.

Create an inviting entrance to your home by attending our Evergreen Holiday Wreath workshop. After this workshop, you will be filled with the holiday spirit and have a festive wreath you can enjoy over the holidays. You will learn how to assemble a wreath made with evergreens, and will be provided ribbons and other accessories to adorn your wreath. Presented by **Daedre Craig**, **Jessica Wright** and **Renata Reibitz**, all on our staff in the MSU Horticulture Gardens.

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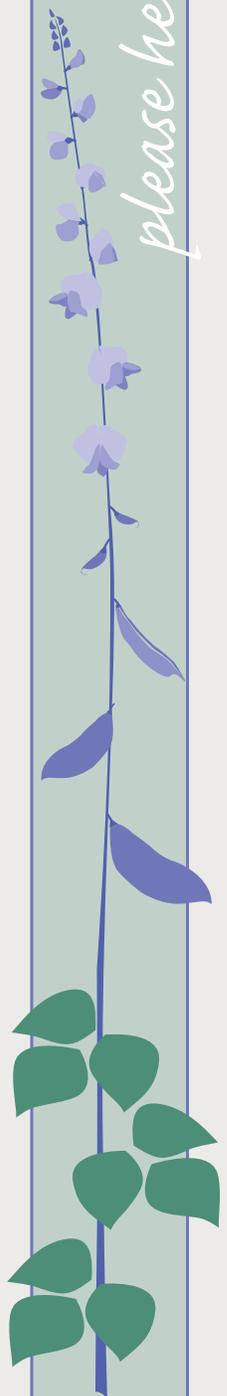
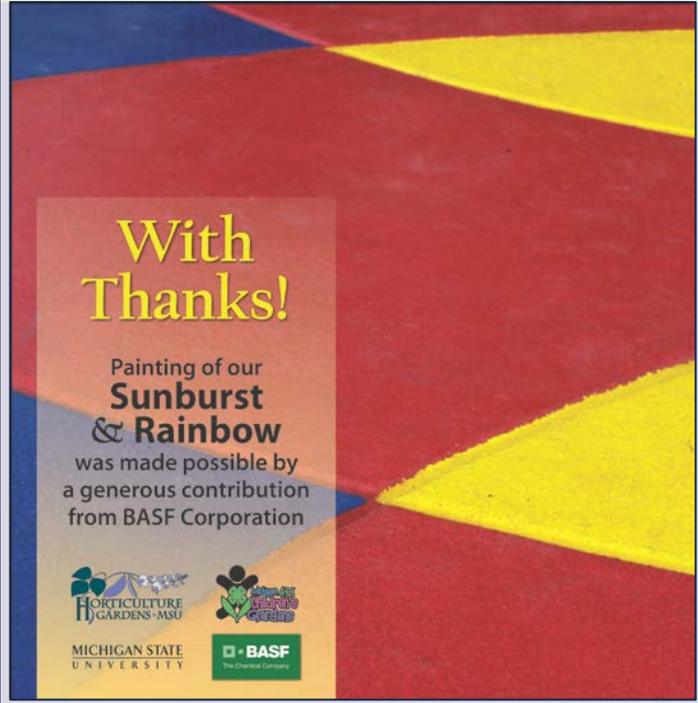
Thank you to BASF!

For the past many years, the surfaces of our colorful sunburst and rainbow in the Michigan 4-H Children's Garden had been deteriorating. Yearly maintenance was required to keeping it looking as good as it did, which wasn't really that good! By the end of each year, it was cracked and blistered as you see below!



Thanks to a generous gift from BASF Corporation, the original paint was removed, the cement smoothed and a new polymer applied which is said to last at least ten years.

BASF is an innovator in surface coatings and we look forward to testing their colorful product under the feet of each of our thousands of visitors each year!



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Check out our MSU Horticulture Gardens Facebook pages!

We host two Facebook pages – one for our Weddings and Events, and one for our Garden Programs. Updated regularly by our staff, they provide a fun way to vicariously visit the gardens! ‘Like’ what we are doing, and help spread the word.



Weddings in the Gardens!

We love to host weddings and events in the gardens. In fact, there were over 50 weddings and receptions just this past summer. You can read the comments of our recent happy couples on our Facebook Page. If you would like to be married in the gardens, or host a wedding or event in the gardens, please contact **Monica Blaze**, our wedding coordinator, at gardens@msu.edu.

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Support the Gardens - Sponsor a Brick or a Bench

Our endowment supports a good portion of our on-going salaries and maintenance costs in the gardens. Our endowment grows yearly from direct gifts and donations or from one of the many donor opportunities in the MSU Horticulture Gardens. A \$250 donation to the Gardens will sponsor a 4" by 8" brick, a \$1,000 donation to the Gardens will sponsor a 8" by 8" brick, and a \$10,000 donation to the Gardens will sponsor a garden bench. Larger donations can sponsor individual garden beds or completely new gardens. Inscriptions can honor special person(s) or occasion(s) in your life. Benches can be placed in many locations throughout the gardens.

Contact: Art Cameron, MSU Horticulture Garden Director, cameron@msu.edu
Samantha Adler, Assistant Director of Development, adlersa2@msu.edu

