

Down to Earth

Michigan State University Extension Master Gardener Program—Genesee County

August 2019
Volume 17, Issue 8



Letter from the Program Coordinator

Barslund Judd

This summer has been busy! I've had the opportunity to visit some projects multiple times. This has allowed me to see the progression of the projects throughout the seasons. We are lucky to live in a county with so many beautiful and educational projects.

If you weren't able to make it to the MGAGCM summer picnic at Crossroads Village, you missed out! It was a great chance to visit the project, socialize with friends, and ride the train. I'd like to thank Joanie Snyder and the rest of the Crossroads Village team for all of the work that they do. If you weren't able to make it, you should plan to attend next year!

You may have heard that planning for the 2020 Michigan Master Gardener College is underway. It will be held June 12 & 13th, 2020 at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing, MI. Don't forget to put it on your calendars! I'm proud to say that several volunteers from our own county are involved in the planning process.

I'd like to thank Alan Grove and Dick Moldenhauer for their essential role assisting me with running the local MSU Extension Lawn and Garden hotline. Both Alan and Dick have been acting as mentors for our hotline and have helped some of the newer volunteers through the training process. They are also currently being trained as diagnosticians for the hotline. This is an incredibly important part of our local hotline services and I'm grateful to have them on the hotline team.

If you have an exciting event coming up at your project, or just want me to visit on a work day, please feel free to reach out! juddbars@msu.edu

Extension Master Gardener Class Genesee County – August 22

We need your help in sharing this information with your friends and groups who may be interested. If anyone has questions, please contact Barslund Judd, juddbars@msu.edu

Link to sign up: [August 2019 Master Gardener Class Sign up Link](#)

Location: Mott Community College - Northern Tier Center
4082 W Vienna Rd
Clio, MI 48420

When: Thursdays, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Aug. 22, 2019 - Dec. 5, 2019 (including makeup date)
No class on Nov. 28

Fee: \$325.00 Fee includes:

Deadline: August 15, 2019

\$ 25.00 for Volunteer Selection Process which includes the background check.
\$300.00 for training course, including 1,000-page training manual. There are no other out-of-pocket costs.

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Newsletter Committee

- Sue Crisp (**Project Report**)
- Mary Yelland (**Article Liaison**)
- LaDonna Gamble (**Hotline Articles**)
- Joanne Gensel (**Association Page**)
- Michelle Chockley (**VMS Corner**)
- Carol Pittard (**Editor**)
- Vicki Perkins (**Jr. MGs**)

If you are interested in writing an article for the DTE newsletter, please feel free to reach out to us! We love having new input and hearing new perspectives. We ask that articles have an educational component that is research based and utilizes solid sources.

Featured MSUE Project

Clio Veterans Memorial Park

Tammy Johns - Project Lead

Susan Crisp

Clio Veterans Memorial Park is nestled in the heart of downtown Clio. It surprises you with the impressive landscaping that flows from the arches spelling out “Veterans Memorial Park” at Vienna Road (Main St.), winding back to an open downtown parking lot. This lot allows those with canes, walkers and wheelchairs to access the grounds freely. The pathways are wide, well maintained and lined with memory bricks honoring those who served our country in all branches of the military. Pleasantly surprising are the many black stone benches that are also etched with memories of those who served our country. Benches are a welcome relief for visitors to sit and enjoy this peaceful setting.

A beautiful tree is enclosed with green spaces that are lined with military cannons, a boots-gun-helmet statue, and a beam from the New York World Trade Center. There are numerous polished black monuments honoring our military personnel. Flags fly high above to honor each branch of the military. This park is a memorial not only the military (MIA, POW); it includes the firefighters and police agencies. This is a must see project; come and enjoy the experience.

The Master Gardener’s have worked on the park for many years in conjunction with veterans, local firefighters, and schools. On Veterans Day November 11, 2002, the park was officially dedicated. Jenny B’s filled two large waist high black pots with flowers. You will find corporate sponsors etched into black stone from Clio, Frankenmuth and other areas. Many facets of life came together to support the three year building of this site. Events at this site include the Memorial Day weekend Freedom 4 Veterans Run and a Veterans Day program



Clio Veterans Memorial Park

204 S Railway St, Clio, MI 48420

Officially dedicated November 11, 2002.
The park was built in three phases over three years.

For additional information about the park, contact Don Nieman at 810-487-1788 or Gregg Bryan at 810-513-5639

What is a Spotted Lanternfly?

Michelle Chockley

The Spotted Lanternfly has been added to the Michigan Invasive Species watch list.

Spotted lanternfly (SLF), *Lycorma delicatula* (White) (Hemiptera: Fulgoridae), is a sap-feeding insect native to China and other parts of Southeast Asia. It was first found in the United States in 2014 in southeastern Pennsylvania and has been spreading since then. As of May 2019, confirmed observations of spotted lanternfly had been recorded in at least 12 additional counties in Pennsylvania and in localized areas of five other states: Delaware, Virginia, New Jersey, Maryland and New York.



Why we care: Spotted lanternfly is an invasive plant hopper that causes damage directly by sucking sap from host plants, and indirectly due to mold that grows on honeydew excretions that can inhibit plant growth and cause death. SLF prefers to feed and develop on Tree-of-heaven, an invasive tree that has little economic value. Scientists in Pennsylvania, however, have reported that spotted lanternfly can also feed and develop on several other species of plants. Adults are strong fliers and can disperse a considerable distance.

What could happen in Michigan: The showy insect could affect Michigan fruit and nursery production, along with many species of trees in landscapes and forests. Spotted lanternfly poses a great threat to the fruit, hops, nursery, landscape and logging industries. Some fruit hosts include apples, plums, cherries and grapes. Tree hosts include oak, willow, maple and sycamore.



The threat: Egg masses are difficult to identify and can be transported to new areas on outdoor furniture, vehicles or other objects. Early detection of spotted lanternfly will be important for managing this pest.

Effects on humans: Spotted lanternflies cannot harm humans directly, as they neither bite nor sting, but their presence, outdoors and indoors, can be unpleasant.

What to do if you find a suspected SLF in Michigan:

If you suspect you have seen or captured one of these insects, please report it. Send a captured insect or a good quality photograph to the MSU Diagnostics Services lab.

Report what you found to one of the following:

- MSU Diagnostic: Email pestid@msu.edu or call 517-432-0988.
- Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development: Email MDA-Info@michigan.gov or call the MDARD Customer Service Center, 800-292-3939.
- Use the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network’s (MISIN) online reporting tool or download the MISIN smartphone app and report from your phone

Sources:

[Michigan Invasive Species](#)

[Spotted Lantern Fly - Integrated Pest Management MSU](#)

[Spotted lanternfly - MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources](#)

MSU EMG Outreach Report

MGAGCM Fundraiser Garden Tour

Genesee County Extension Master Gardener Tour–2019 (submitted by Kay McCullough)

It takes a village to raise a garden tour. So much is done behind the scenes with so many volunteers. First we go scouting week after week in search of a large selection of homeowners willing to have us feature their gardens on our tour. After the site selections are decided upon, then preparation for the educational components and detailed planning for the tour takes place. The ticket, with garden descriptions, directions and advertising, is designed. Businesses are contacted to sell tickets. Flyers are printed and distributed. Event promotion takes place. Funds from this event support the MGAGCM.

A special thank you goes to the following Genesee County Extension Master Gardeners for their contribution to the event:

- **Scout for gardens:** Kay McCullough & Shirley Smela
- **Event promo:** Devera Brower, Mel Kennedy & Margaret Sowles
- **Educational component & materials:** Sally Pettinger & Pam Redden along with her husband, Bob, who made the cool electric boards
- **Ticket–design, descriptions, directions and flyer creation:** Kay McCullough
- **Contact businesses to sell tickets:** Shirley Smela
- **How to Tap Maple Trees slideshow:** Sharon Noteboom
- **Fairy Gardens Makers:** Marie Luck-Allard and Devera Brower
- **Advertisement sales:** Sabrina Van Dyke
- **Distribute & pick up directional signs:** Sabrina Van Dyke
- **Coordinate site volunteers:** Maggie Gregg
- **Planning Meetings:** Many of those above plus Paul Mortier and Michelle Wareham
- **Otisville Community organizers:** Peggy Banks and Sharon Kridner

Site Volunteers (**)returning year after year)/(*)1st year:

Site 1: Stephany Diana (**), Deb McKerracher (*), Paul Mortier (*), Barb Pethers (**)

Site 2: Nita Coleman (**), Sue Matlock (**)

Site 3: Ruthann Donaldson (**), Kellie Fink (*), Linda Jaworski (**)

Site 4: LaDonna Gamble (**), Sharon Kridner (*), Marie Luck-Allard (*)

Site 5: Karen DeBruyn (**), Marcia Jaremba (**), Sharon Noteboom (**), Karen Schilling (**), Joann Zitterkopf (**)

Site 6: Joanne Belill (**), Theresa Henderson (**), Christy Jones (**)

Site 7: Alan Grove (**), Maureen Wildfong (*)

Site 8: Devera Brower (*), Margaret Sowle (**), Patricia Witte (*)

Site 9: Lynette Damrau (**), Brenda Monty (**)

Overall, the garden tour went well. Of course, there are always a few “Oops” but that just means we are human. The gardens are a reflection of the community and many of those in the Otisville area were more relaxed and sometimes whimsical. Many of the visitors enjoyed the scavenger hunt at site number 2. The Otisville community added a nice touch by being very involved. They had their museum open the day of the tour and advertised the event in front of the Otisville Veterans Memorial. The weather could not have been more perfect.

Again, it takes a village to raise a garden tour. Thank you to our village of Extension Master Gardeners for all your help and support of the garden tour this year.

Gardening With the Kids

Dyed Flowers

Mary Yelland

This is a classic gardening project for kids. It is so popular because it is fun, easy, pretty and educational. Don't forget to pass it along to the next generation.

You will need:

- Daisies or other white flowers such as roses or carnations
- Liquid watercolors or food coloring
- Small vases, jars, or cups



For each color, put a few inches of fresh water in a vase or cup. Add some coloring to the water. Be generous, the more color you add the darker the flowers should get. Place the stems of your white flowers in the colored water. If you want to get a little more creative, split the stem of a flower and put each half in a different color of water. Depending on the type of flower and type of color you use, you will see the white flowers turn color in a few hours to a few days. They may have colored tips or become completely colored.

Flowers and plants get water through their roots. However, in cut flowers, since there are no roots, water travels from the cut directly into the stems and travels to the petals and other parts of the plant. Inside the stem, there are tube-like transport tissues, called xylem, that brings water and nutrients to different parts of the plant. As the xylem transfers the colored water to the petals you will see the flowers turn color.

International Master Gardener College 2019

Joanne Gensel

I recently attended my first International Master Gardener College in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania seemed pretty close to home but the "King of Prussia" provided that international mystic I was looking for! We were located right in the middle of "America's Garden Capital" with 36 public gardens within 30 miles of Philadelphia. The IMGCC was held at the Valley Forge Casino which housed 2 separate hotels. The Event Center location provided ample room to handle the 2,000+ Master Gardeners that showed up. Two meals, breakfast and lunch, were served daily. A large stage with several projectors was provided for speakers. The vendors had lots of set up room for easy shopping AND there was a huge silent auction to help with the fundraising efforts of the Pennsylvania associations. The Casino itself was a nice evening diversion for those that enjoyed gambling. The schedule for the day depended on your personal selections: informational sessions, field workshops, or garden tours.

One of the most interesting sessions for me was being introduced to David Gibby:

In 1972 David Gibby, Washington State University Extension Agent, launched the Master Gardener Program to address the needs and answer the questions of backyard gardeners. Today, 46 years later, approximately 95,000 Master Gardeners are active in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Canadian provinces and Korea.

Michigan Master Gardener College will be held June 12 & 13th, 2020 at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing, MI

Hotline

The Buzz!

LaDonna Gamble

Well, fellow gardeners...we were spoiled during the month of June by ample rain to keep our new transplants and seeds growing hardy. Some areas, unfortunately, experienced flooding and lost crops. July is ushering in hot, humid weather and we cannot get too relaxed. We need to continue watering our plants and crops and monitor to make sure they are staying hydrated! Some of these scattered showers we're getting are not going to be enough. Below are some hotline calls we received:



A caller wanted to know if roma tomatoes were “determinate” or “indeterminate”.

Simply put, these terms refer to the growth habit of tomato plants and basically mean “bush” or “vining”. Determinate tomatoes reach a certain plant height and stop growing within about a month. The majority of their fruit appear at the ends of branches and all mature within a month or two. Many determinate varieties are suitable for container gardening and are popular with those who can. Indeterminate tomatoes continue to bear fruit throughout the season and can be found all along the stems. The plants can grow very tall and staking needs to be done or they can be trained to a trellis (determinate plants usually still need staking or caging also). In answer to the caller's question, Roma tomatoes are determinate.

This woman has European Brown Rot on her tart cherry trees.

We often refer fruit tree questions to a staffer who specializes in them but this day we had a very capable volunteer on the call (Hi Dick M.!!). Even if a caller believes they know the name of the disease, insect or problem, we sometimes ask them if they can shoot us a picture, which is always helpful to a diagnostician. European brown rot is a fungal disease that affects tart cherries during bloom time. Related to colder weather and extended rains, researchers can use those factors and others to warn growers to look out for the possibility of an outbreak (that seems to have last occurred in 2014).



Read more here: https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/be_ready_for_european_brown_rot_in_tart_cherries_in_2014

A man called because he found ticks in his lawn.

Well, some folks are way closer to nature than this writer, as I have never had my face close enough to my lawn to see a tick! Many may think that you need to have a pet in order to have a tick problem, but that is not true. They can travel from wooded areas or hitch a ride on any wild animal visiting your property.

This site gives valuable information on tick prevention in your yard: https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/avoid/in_the_yard.html

Summer Squash

Mary Yelland

What do you do with zucchini? Go to a busy parking lot. Drive around until you find an unlocked car. Put the zucchini in the back seat and drive away FAST before you are discovered! Zucchini is just one variety of this prolific producer. So much so that it inspires jokes. Fortunately, uses are also abundant for this healthy and easy to grow vegetable.

Summer squash differs from winter squash in that it is harvested immature. It is mostly grown in 3 forms: yellow summer squash, green zucchini, and scallop or pattypan which is usually white. There are, however, varieties in shapes and colors of each. They are best harvested when they are 6-8 inches long or 3-4 inches diameter for pattypan. Once a squash gets large or the skin starts to get hard its best use is in the compost pile. Keep the fruit picked as producing a large squash will drain energy from the plant. One or two plants are usually enough for a family.

Summer squash are monoecious, meaning the plants grow both male and female flowers. The male flowers usually appear first and will not fruit. Insects will use the pollen from these flowers to pollinate the female flowers. Female blossoms have a tiny squash below the flower, and male blossoms will have a longer stem. These blossoms are also edible, and you may find recipes for stuffed or fried squash blossoms. You could also just throw them in a salad. Only a couple male blossoms are needed for pollination, you may as well eat the extras.

Whatever kind you grow, summer squash is interchangeable in recipes. Your favorite zucchini bread could also be your favorite yellow summer crookneck bread. Summer squash are incredibly versatile and can be eaten raw or cooked. They are good sliced with dip, battered and deep fried, steamed, grilled, boiled, added to stir-fry, used in baked goods, made into pickles, and even as a pizza topping. Squash should be available in the summer at farmer's markets, from a gardening friend, or maybe even found in your unlocked car in a busy parking lot.

Cupcakes

3 eggs
1 1/3 cup sugar
1/4 cup oil
1/2 cup orange juice*
1 tsp. Almond extract
2 1/2 cups flour
2 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 tsp ground cloves
2 tsp baking powder
1 tsp baking soda
1 tsp salt
1 1/2 cups shredded summer squash

Caramel Frosting

1 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup butter
1/4 cup milk
1 tsp vanilla
2 cups powdered sugar

Instructions: Beat eggs, sugar, oil, juice and almond extract. Add dry ingredients and mix well. Stir in shredded squash until well blended. Fill paper-lined muffin cups 2/3 full. Bake at 350°F for 20-25 min. or until done. Cool and Frost.

Frosting: Combine brown sugar, butter and milk in a pan; bring to a boil over medium heat. Cook and stir for 2 minutes. Remove from heat and cool to room temperature. Beat in powdered sugar and vanilla to spreading consistency. Frost cupcakes.

*to substitute concentrated frozen juice use 2 tbsp concentrate and add water to make 1/2 cup.

- 1 cup of raw summer squash has only 16 calories.
- A squash blossom should produce fruit 4-8 days after flowering.
- Summer squash can be stored in a dry plastic bag in the refrigerator for up to a week.
- Summer squash does not cross with melons or cucumbers, as commonly thought.
- Herbs that go well with summer squash include marjoram, parsley, dill, rosemary and savory.
- Interested in squash pollination? Join the [Squash Bee Pollinator Citizen Science Project](#)

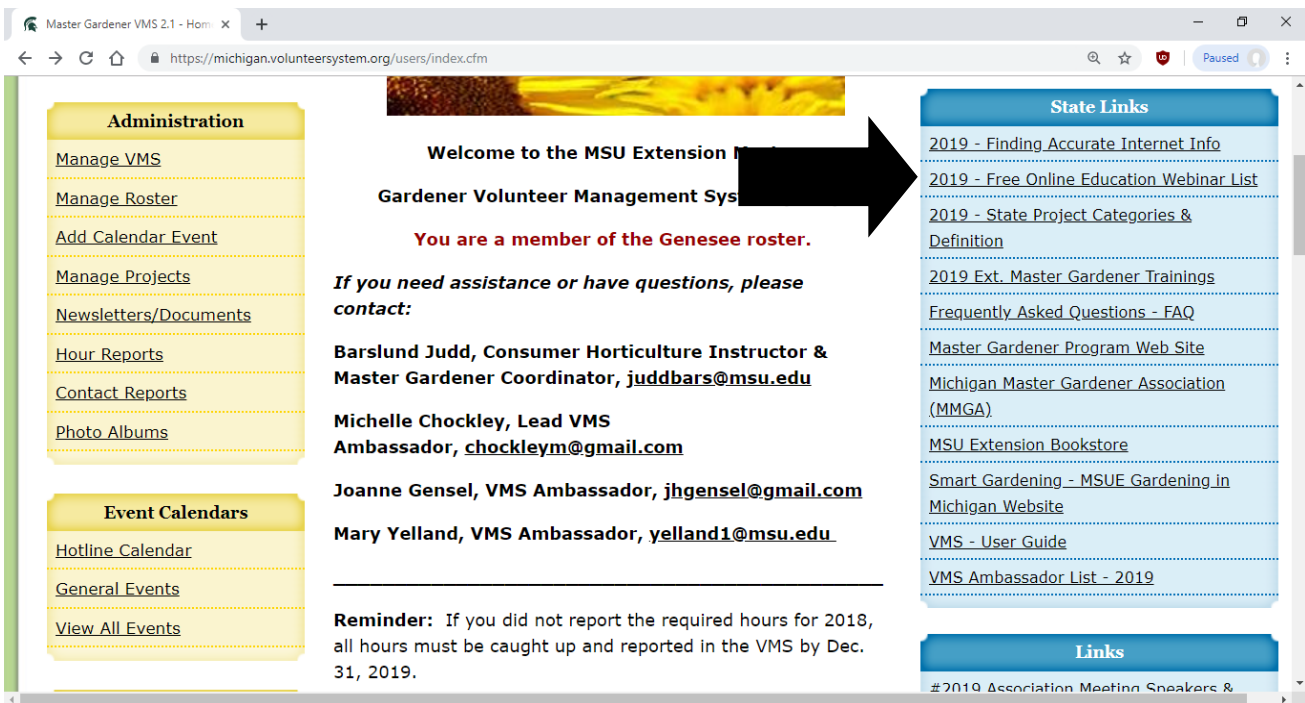
VMS Corner

Need Extension Master Gardener Education Hours for FREE?

Michelle Chockley—Lead VMS Ambassador

Log into VMS. Under **STATE LINKS** click on **“2019 – Free Online Education Webinar List”**. There are MANY choices of interest, including lawn care, pollinators, invasives, climate change, etc. The site has been updated to include information on what Project Selection you choose when entering hours on VMS. Report education hours equal to the length of the video. You will notice there is a password for each calendar year of webinars. You can go back as many years as you want. If you have any problems figuring this out, please contact Barslund Judd juddbars@msu.edu or one of your three very helpful ambassadors – Michelle Chockley, chockleym@gmail.com; Mary Yelland, yelland1@msu.edu; Joanne Gensel, jhgensel@gmail.com.

The 2019 requirement is 10 education and 20 volunteer. Some of you certified in January as being short educational hours with the plan to make up in 2019. If you are not sure of how many education hours you need to complete, please contact Michelle Chockley at chockleym@gmail.com. Don't wait until the last minute. We are here to help you!



| Genesee Co Hours & Miles beginning 1/1/19 thru | | | | |
|--|---------|---------|----------|----------|
| | 4/30/19 | 5/30/19 | 6/30/19 | 7/31/19 |
| Volunteer | 1,903.5 | 3,077.9 | 3940.65 | 4,492.25 |
| Education | 768.23 | 970.93 | 1,119.93 | 1,134.88 |
| Miles | 15,526 | 22,158 | 28,429 | 31,675 |
| (Per VMS report ran 7/31/19) | | | | |

Master Gardener Association Genesee County

The Master Gardener Association of Genesee County Michigan (MGAGCM) is an association of Extension Master Gardeners (EMGs). Membership is optional for certified Extension Master Gardeners. The MGAGCM provides support to local EMGs through project funding, plant signage, and extra educational opportunities.

Greetings from Alan Grove, MGAGCM Interim Board President

Kit Puroll has recently resigned her position as Director creating another position that will be up for election in November.

November will be an exciting month for the membership!

We will be electing 6 board positions: **President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and 2 Directors**

This can be an exciting opportunity for the membership: New Team = New Ideas!

The SOP team is busy redefining the work assignments for each board member to evenly distribute workloads that make sense for the association – real work that helps the various teams and committees be successful with their endeavors as well as streamline the time and effort spent going to board meetings. We also hope to make the membership meetings more interesting, informational and inclusive.

How do you want Genesee Master Gardeners to grow? Give us your thoughts. Talk to your friends and fellow gardeners, consider a leadership position!

The MGAGCM board meets the first Monday of the month at the **GCCARD Bldg (MSUE office)** at 1:00 p.m.

MGAGCM members are always invited and welcome to sit in and listen. If you have a topic to discuss, contact Alan Grove, President of MGAGCM, in advance to get on the agenda. We try to keep discussions timely and on topic. The minutes will be posted on the association web page on the password protected page. If you want your voice heard, this is your opportunity to speak up.

The Association belongs to you.... Working together, being part of a team, we can achieve our goals.

Genesee County MSU Extension Volunteer Master Gardeners are an outstanding group, serving and providing our community with education, support and beautifully cared for garden sites.

If you have any comments or suggestions for the association you can contact any MGAGCM board member.

Project related questions or those regarding educational or volunteer hours, should go to Barslund Judd, Master Gardener Coordinator, juddbars@msu.edu or 810-244-8531

Thank you and have a wonderful gardening season. We look forward to see and hear about your MSUE projects.
Alan Grove

MGAGCM OFFICERS (2019)

President (Acting) — Alan Grove

1st Vice President (Acting) — Joanne Gensel

2nd Vice President — Alan Grove

810-922-8776 plantdoc049@outlook.com

Secretary — Dick Moldenhauer

810-695-2649 rn mold1050@aol.com

MGAGCM OFFICERS (2019) contd.

Treasurer — Bobbie Parkhill

630-408-1710 bpark141@gmail.com

Outreach Director — Joanne Gensel

810-339-0764 jhgensel@gmail.com

Communication Director—Vacant

Master Gardener Association Genesee County

Websites:

MGAGCM Website—www.geneseecountymg.org

MGAGCM Facebook Page —www.facebook.com/groups/216904628327310/

MMGA Inc Website—www.michiganmastergardener.org

MMGA Inc. Facebook Page—www.facebook.com/MichiganMG/

Upcoming Events:

MGAGCM Membership Meeting (August 8, 2019)

(Local Herbs and Usage—with Ben Cohen, educator & owner of Small House, LLC.)

As usual we will be having our 50-50 raffle at the end of the meeting. Two donated tickets to the Fall into Spring Conference will also raffled off.

Jim Harrow Memorial Stone (August 9, 2019) in the front garden area (North Saginaw Street) of the GCCARD Building at 12:30 p.m. The ceremony should last approximately 10 minutes. Followed by a Taco Potluck Lunch at 1:00 p.m. in the main conference room of the MSU Extension Suite: contact Alan Grove with RSVPs

Fairytales Trail in Clio (August 15, 2019)

Genesee County Fair (August 19-25, 2019)

Per the email that was sent out through the VMS on 7/10/19, Contact Vicki Perkins to volunteer. vickiperkins72@yahoo.com / home: (810) 686-9547

New Master Gardener Class (August 22-December 5, 2019) (deadline: Aug. 15, 2019)

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/mgvpgenesee19f/>

Summer Herb Faire (August 24-25, 2019)

http://www.heavenlyscenherbfarm.com/event_summerfair.html

<https://visitlivingstoncounty.com/events/heavenly-scent-herb-farm-summer-faire/>

Fall Harvest Festival at Applewood Estate (September 28, 2019)

<https://www.ruthmottfoundation.org/events/fall-harvest-festival-3/>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/applewood/fall-harvest-festival/287584565376443/>

2019 MGAGCM Fall Into Spring Educational Conference

Sat. Oct. 5th, 2019

Mott Community College
1401 E. Court Street
Flint, MI 48503

Schedule, Speakers, Topics, etc.:

8:00 a.m. Registration opens; Continental Breakfast, visit vendors

8:30 a.m. Angela Nelson (Native Plants in the Landscape)

10:05 a.m. Cheryl English (Gardening for Native Birds)

11:20 a.m. Lunch (with ham, turkey and veggie wraps, potato soup, garden salad, and beverages & desserts)

12:20 p.m. Bob Tritten (Growing and Caring for Fruit Trees in the Landscape)

1:55 p.m. George Papadelis (New Plants for 2020)

Creative Catering will be our caterer and there will be various vendors available during lunch and breaks. Extension Master Gardeners, friends, and the general public are invited to attend. Extension Master Gardeners attending have been approved to receive 5 education credit hours. Early Registration closes on September 27th. More information regarding registration can be found on our website <http://fallintospring.weebly.com>. Registration is available by check, in person, and also online via PayPal.

Our speakers will provide tremendous educational value. Get a head start to promote more pollinators, birds, and insects as you diversify your garden landscape. Looking forward to seeing you October 5!