

## It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas ... but the prettiest thing to see is the holly on your own front door



Photo Credit Candy  
Cane CHRISTmas  
Tree Farms Website

*"Have a holly, jolly Christmas; It's the best time of the year. I don't know if there'll be snow, but have a cup of cheer!"* Holly and mistletoe, just begins the list of greenery and plants that highlight our Christmas season. Our garden centers and nurseries offer us, not only the traditional trees and wreaths but, a variety of plants and greenery to create a beautiful, warm and natural welcoming for all our seasons gatherings.

*"Over the river and through the woods . . ."* to take us to the Candy Cane CHRISTmas Tree Farms in Ortonville. Owners Cathy and Frank Genovese began their farm working out of a pickup truck in 1978. Their first plantings from

that year were harvested nine years later in 1987. Today, their twenty acres average 1200 trees per acre - spaced six feet apart with a drip irrigation system. The Genoveses' have been devoted to the industry, maintaining best practices, honored in 2007 with FarmBureau's top award for ecological farm management; in 2009 with the Michigan Christmas Tree Association as an "Environmentally Friendly Farm; and, are verified members of the Michigan Environmental Agricultural Assurance Program. [MEAAP](#) is "a proactive environmental assurance program ensuring that Michigan farmers are engaging in cost-effective pollution prevention practices and working to comply with state and federal environmental regulations."

### MGAGCM Mission Statement

The Master Gardener Association of Genesee County is 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 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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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION



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When choosing a tree Cathy suggests pulling on a branch to see if the needles are firm, soft and supple to the touch. You can expect some older needles on the inside to fall off when you shake them, what we refer to as field debris, which is natural. You will want to shake these off before you take the tree into the house. "This year we are going to have very good needle retention because we have had several cold weeks, frost and moisture this fall," Cathy adds. "It is recommended, if you do not put the tree up right away, put it in a bucket of water. Keep the tree wrapped until you are in the house, this will make it easier to set in place. Once inside do not let the water run out. At first the tree will drink a lot of water and then taper off, that is the nature, of the tree. For those with mold allergies, you can put just a drop of bleach in the water before you pour it, which will kill the spores." <sup>1</sup>

Photo Credit Candy  
Cane CHRISTmas  
Tree Farms Website



The Candy Cane Christmas Tree farms allow customers to choose and cut their own tree. Saws are available if you do not have one and they will straighten the trunk and bail it for you to take home. They also have several precut trees along with wreaths, swags and porch pots.

Wreaths are made with white pine - measured by ring size and outside diameter - the 10 inch ring will produce a 22- 24 inch diameter and the 36 inch ring will produce a 48-50 inch diameter.

[Candy Cane CHRISTmas Tree Farms](#) is located at: 4780 Seymour Lake Road, Oxford, MI 48371

***"The holly green, the ivy green the prettiest picture you've ever seen Is Christmas in Killarney with all of the folks at home. It's nice, you know, to kiss your beau while cuddling under the mistletoe ..."*** So goes the song, but Christmas in Burton at Walker Farm and Greenhouses would have you kissing under the Kissing Ball. The Walkers take the Kissing Ball to great proportions featuring a 50-inch version every year. The Kissing Ball dates back to the Middle Ages where people in villages would wind together twine and evergreen branches in the shape of a ball. They would then place a clay figure of the baby Jesus in the center, hung in entryways as an omen of goodwill for embracing visitors. The popularity of this tradition went in and out of fashion until it was brought back in the mid-1800's with a new look including apples, herbs of lavender, rosemary, and thyme, representing loyalty, devotion and courage. And this is where the mistletoe comes in, added as a symbol of fertility – and our tradition of capturing a kiss from an expected encounter under the ball.

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It is with a heart filled with sadness I share that Frank Genovese went to our Lord's arms just a few days after this interview. He was laid to rest at St. Anne's Catholic Church on Friday November 16th . Frank was a sweet , kind and giving man with a big heart. He reached out to all who crossed his path making their world just a bit brighter. Personally he lifted me up when my world was broken - heaven has gained an angel.

The family shares, "The farm was Frank's passion and love; and, the last thing he would want to happen is for us to close the farm. This season we will be opening the day after Thanksgiving.



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Photo Courtesy of  
Roman; Walker Farm  
and Greenhouses

While the Walker's also offer beautiful porch pots, wreaths and grave blankets - all natural and made right on site - it is the love you discover woven into each decoration that makes each purchase a special gift. Betty, in her sweet Southern voice, shares, "Spending this much time with the public, I become their minister, as they tell me about their husband's illness, the death of a loved one ... their struggles." The folks who come to her farm are not customers, they are "family," she passionately continues. "I couldn't replace all the love that they give. That is what time does to you. It is a lifetime." <sup>2</sup>

A lifetime indeed, beginning her farm with just a tree out front sixty years ago, her and her husband, Pearl, began "feeding the community."

First with raspberries and strawberries then came tomatoes and corn. Following the loss of Pearl, forty years ago, Betty, with the help of her son Kelly, have managed the farm, expanding it to 300 acres scattered around the area. With five acres of greenhouses onsite today they grow flowers

and vegetables from cuttings and seed begun in their greenhouses in March.

After summer flowers and fall pumpkins, Betty and her team begin the preparations for the Christmas decorations, creating each wreath, porch pot, kissing ball and grave blanket. "Everything we do is our own ..." Betty explains, "We use our own greenery, berries and natural materials." <sup>2</sup> Grave blankets are a gift of love from families to their deceased loved ones. A blanket of warm memories woven within layers of evergreen boughs and greenery, then decorated with pinecones, holly, flowers, bird decorations and ornaments. A tradition that had its roots in Scandinavia and brought to the Midwest in the 1850's as the Norwegians migrated to northern cooler climates settling in Minnesota. But you don't have to travel that far to find one ... Betty has a beautiful selection and it is her personal attention to decorating one for your loved one that makes it a special tradition for you and your family. "All my customers who have come here for years, come back for grave blankets. 'You know what my mother would want.' A family member will say and I respond 'She would like that color,' choosing a ribbon or decoration to add to the blanket." <sup>2</sup> It is this family experience that makes every visit to Walkers a memorable one.

[Walkers Farm and Greenhouses](#) is open Monday through Saturday 8am to 5pm through December 20<sup>th</sup>.



Photo Courtesy of  
Roman; Walker Farm  
and Greenhouses

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Poinsettias *Euphorbia pulcherrima* are part of the *Euphorbiaceae* or Spurge family. Originating from the warm climate of southern Mexico, in the deciduous tropical forests of southern Sinaloa down the entire Pacific coast of Mexico to Chiapas and Guatemala. <sup>4</sup> There it grows as a weed referred to as Cuetlaochitl, in translation that is "A flower that withers, mortal flower that perishes like all that is pure." <sup>5</sup> Today they refer to the plant as "*Flor de la Nochebuena*" (Flower of the Holy Night, or Christmas Eve). "During the Middle Ages (1480 – 1520) it was cultivated as a gift from the gods and Montezuma and used to adorn his palaces. It was also used medicinally to control fevers.



Photo Credit: Kit Puroll

Here in the United States we call the plant Poinsettias in honor of Joel Roberts Poinsett, a United States Ambassador to Mexico who sent cuttings to his home in Charleston, South Carolina, introducing the plant into this country in 1828.

**Believe it or not, there is even a song about a Poinsettia: "*Percy the puny poinsettia is hanging his bloom in dismay; if they had just kept him wetta; he'd be a houseplant today Folks liked the other plants betta; now he's alone on the shelf; even a plant with no uncle or aunt shouldn't spend Christmas day by himself.*"**

No need to worry about the Poinsettias being kept "wetta" at Wojo Greenhouses. They are experts in the field, growing thousands of these beautiful plants from cuttings for over fifteen years. Amando Saenz, the Poinsettia specialist who cares for these beautiful plants shares, "We keep the temperature at a constant 68-72 degree and the humidity is maintained at 70%", perfect conditions for their ability to thrive. The process of growing a Poinsettia begins in July with the cuttings planted in a two-inch pot moving through a series of pots - about a month later they are transferred to a four-inch pot and in the third stage they are moved into a six-eight inch pot. In September, the whole process begins all over again for a second planting that will be available for sales later in the season. The grooming of the plant is very similar to the process used at Candy Cane CHRISTmas Tree Farm, with the trimming of the branches. With the Poinsettias it's all about the bracts.



Photo Credit: Kit Puroll



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To explain, an understanding of the anatomy of the plant is important. “The showy colored parts of Poinsettias that most people think of as the flowers are actually colored bracts (modified leaves). The yellow flowers, or *cyathia*, are in the center of the colorful bracts. The plant drops its bracts and leaves soon after those flowers shed their pollen. For the longest-lasting Poinsettias, choose plants with little or no yellow pollen showing.”<sup>4</sup> Amando explains, “It is these bracts that are pinched throughout the growing process to produce a fuller plant.”

Wojo's offer at least twenty varieties including traditional reds and whites, along with burgundy, tri-color and pinks – a color wheel of options. While there are no Percy's to be seen, there are Marble Star, Jubilee Pink, Gold Rush Jingle Bells, and Ice Punch all sitting proud.

Wojo's Greenhouses, also have a large interest in their porch pots and even offer a class for making your own. With roping, wreaths, grave blankets and a wide assortment of decorations Wojo's is ready for your visit. [Wojo's Davison](#) is open Monday through Sunday 10am – 5pm

Whether you are “Kissing Santa underneath the mistletoe”, “decking the halls with boughs of holly,” or “wassailing among the leaves so green” we wish you a very blessed Christmas celebrated with family and friends.

<sup>1</sup> Cathy Genovese; Candy Cane CHRISTmas Tree Farms; Interview, November 6, 2018 by Kit Puroll

<sup>2</sup> Betty Walker; Walker Farm and Greenhouses; Interview, October 30, 2018 by Kit Puroll

<sup>3</sup> Cathy Britton and Amando Saenz; Wojo Greenhouses; Interviews November 9, 2018 by Kit Puroll

<sup>4</sup> The University of Illinois; the [Poinsettia Pages](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Poinsettia Day](#) website



## We are Gardener Souls Talking to Each Other BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – JOANNE GENSEL – OUTREACH DIRECTOR

*"I should be glad if all the meadows on the earth were left in a wild state, if that were the consequence of men's beginning to redeem themselves." <sup>1</sup>*

\* Henry David Thoreau \*

"I was a hippie girl, and I was going to live by myself in a log cabin in the forest protecting the wilderness." Joanne explains as she describes how she began her younger years. Finishing college, her dreams of being a park ranger, were circumvented as she began a lifetime career in the automotive field. Beginning with General Motors and migrating to Delphi she held many positions, but it was her work in project and change management where she thrived. Her intuitiveness and ability to analyze workplace systems helped to create a dynamic department. Joanne explains; "When people needed work done they would write an engineering work order. I would identify a series of steps that had to happen to make that change. Through this process I was able to help them identify their roadblocks and they were able to take the next step to delivering results."

It is this results-driven attitude that led Joanne to the Outreach Director position. Following the class she was intent on working as many project sites as possible, to get a feel for all that was offered, and settled into working on the GCARD gardens, "because they needed help so badly," she shares.

Feeling it was important to help where she was needed, while she worked the gardens, she also volunteered at the sites that were greatly in need of support. This quickly led her to run for the board Outreach Director position. Describing this role Joanne shares, "This is where we interface with the public at various venues." These include the Ask-A-Master Gardener sites, the I-75 Memorial Day event, Heavenly Scent Herb Fair and the Mott Harvest Festival. Outreach is our opportunity to engage the public on home gardening and landscaping, answering their questions while educating them on current environmental issues. Joanne's goal is to add more tools to engage visitors at these events. These interactive tools include a small photo viewer that streams project sites with a variety of ways that the Master Gardeners are educating the public. She is also designing an electronic question and answer board, based on Kay McCullough's model, a wheel of fortune that features different questions and answers and laminated crossword puzzles that feature plants, animals, pollinators and sea-life. "The goal is to create tools that will help anyone who is interfacing with the public, engaging the visitors in conversation leading to better stewardship." Joanne continues. "While also offering the opportunity to invite others to join us as Master Gardeners."

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Horseshoe Waterfalls  
Munising, MI  
Photo Courtesy Joanne Gensel



Henry David Thoreau wrote Walden Woods, reflection of his exploration of nature during his stay on Waldon Pond in Concord, MA for two years, two months and two days. He is regarded as one of the most powerful voices today for preserving our environment and is seen as the “father of this century’s environmental movement.”<sup>3</sup>

The need for more project site help is an issue close to Joanne’s heart. Seeing first hand how so many project sites struggle for volunteers she hopes to work with members on creating a plan that will address this “road block”. Joanne suggests emphasizing the Master Gardener “role of volunteerism from the time of application into the program, in the interview process, and through the classroom - integrating project site “lunch and learns” throughout the course along with Master Gardener mentorship – all in an effort to kick that roadblock down the road.”



Joanne’s gift of creating process for resolving problems is really backseat to her real passion, environmental stewardship. Sharing, “I always try to be open on how to make the world a better place.” This was her intent in her beehive project, the feature of her gardens during this past summer’s garden tour. Joanne’s vision of being a beekeeper has now evolved through her education and sense of stewardship for the bee population. While disease and pesticides are understood as threats to the bees, Joanne’s observations have expanded her understanding of the plight of the bee. As more home

beekeepers come on board another layer of challenge arises. She explains, “While the interest in raising bees has grown, when this is done in urban areas, where nectar and pollen sources are scarce, the bees are competing for the limited supply of the food sources. This practice is making it difficult for even the healthy bees to sustain themselves. I have been struggling with this thinking - what I set out to do and what I am really doing. I am thinking a better activity for me, is to plant natives with high pollen and nectar content providing new sources for the bees to forage. That would be a better use of my energy and help the bees that are out there trying to survive.”

The need for more project site help is an issue close to Joanne’s heart. Seeing first hand how so many project sites struggle for volunteers she hopes to work with members on creating a plan that will address this “roadblock”. Joanne suggests emphasizing the Master Gardener “role of volunteerism from the time of application into the program, in the interview process, and through the classroom - integrating project site “lunch and learns” throughout the course along with Master Gardener mentorship – all in an effort to kick that roadblock down the road.”

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“Walden is the report of a man torn by two powerful and opposing drives—the desire to enjoy the world ... and the urge to set the world straight. One cannot join these two successfully, but sometimes, in rare cases, something good or even great results from the attempt of the tormented spirit to reconcile them.”<sup>4</sup>

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## Spotlight on the Board Member Continued:

Joanne's vision of the earth and ecology may have been influenced by the work of Henry David Thoreau, one of her favorite authors. Thoreau was a social reformer, naturalist, philosopher, scientist and transcendentalist who lived in the mid-nineteenth century. In Thoreau's words, "We can never have enough of nature. We must be refreshed by the sight of inexhaustible vigor ... We need to witness our own limits transgressed, and some life pasturing freely where we never wander." Joanne shares this philosophy from her own experiences this past summer from her trip to Munising, Michigan, where she hiked several trails visiting waterfalls. "The scenery was beautiful but at the same time, seeing how the trails had been compacted down by so many hikers, like myself, was depressing. To preserve this beauty we need to become better stewards of nature and the environment." It is truly this gift of stewardship that Joanne embraces and with passion shares with us all. Thank you Joanne for all your efforts in protecting the bees and pollinators and educating others for their preservation.

- 1 Walden Life in the Woods; Henry David Thoreau; 1854
- 2 [Blooms, Birds, Bees and Butterflies](#); MGAGCM, DTE Newsletter; August, 2018
- 3 [Thoreau and the Environment](#); Helen Bowdain
- 4 E.B. White, [Essays of E.B. White](#)

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## RETIREMENT OPEN HOUSE

In Honor Of

**Terry McLean**

After 24 years of service with  
Michigan State University Extension  
a Celebration Planned

**Friday, December 14th,  
2018 Open House with Refreshments  
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

MSU Extension Genesee County Office  
605 N Saginaw Street, Suite 1A  
Flint, MI 48502

**It's Wonderful When Someone as Deserving  
as Terry Finally Gets to Retire,  
Stop by to Congratulate Her!!!**

RSVP's appreciated by December 7th  
clarkde@msu.edu or 810-244-8500

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## Fall Into Spring Revisited



Photo Courtesy: Brenda Monty

October 6<sup>th</sup> started out wet and gray, but turned out to be a wonderful, sunny and educational day inside the Mott Community College Events Center. Our speakers, thanks to Cheryl Borkowski, enlightened us with their information and insight about pollinator habits and habitats, landscapes and native plants. All of which are very important to our world today.

Dr. Rufus Isaacs, professor of entomology at Michigan State University, was our first speaker, introducing us to the many types of native bees, wasps and other insect pollinators. Who knew there were so many? Major bee families that live in our area include not only the fuzzy bumble bees and honey bees

that we are all familiar with, but many others, such as mason bees, sweat bees, carpenter bees, as well as a variety of wasps - also important pollinators. Dr. Isaacs informed us about their food sources, and the various ways these pollinators hibernate and reproduce in the spring. Emphasizing the importance of providing a friendly habitat for the pollinators to overwinter and reproduce, he provided information on how to build and create suitable habitats.

Our second speaker, Rosann Kovalcik, an avid birder and owner of Wild Birds Unlimited in Grosse Pointe, is also a blogger and author. Having written several articles about Michigan birds, she explained how the plants we choose will draw birds and the insects they eat to our gardens. Although the pollination benefits of birds are limited, they do disperse seeds and are drawn by the numerous insects as a food source. She further shared, how the more pollinators there are, the more birds are drawn to the gardens - emphasizing the importance of natives, and noting various studies that support the use of native plants for birds and insects. Her handout listed various local sources for native plants including a list of books, authors and websites.



Photo Courtesy: Kit Puroll

Jean Persely, an Advanced Master Gardener and certified landscaper, was our third speaker. Her topic "Naturally Natives" taught us the importance of using native plants in our gardens and yards. We learned the difference between a "native" and a "nativar". The native plant is openly pollinated by pollinators and is genetically diverse. A nativar plant is a native plant controlled by breeders by means of cuttings, propagation and division. They are genetically identical. In many cases a "nativar" plant does not attract the pollinators in the same way because of this. Ms. Persely showed the importance of natives in our gardens. Her handout listed many of the same sources as Ms. Kovalcik as well information on the native plants in our area that are most valued by the pollinators.

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## Fall into Spring Revisited Continued

Last, but not least, was George Papadelis owner of Telly's Greenhouse. Our "What's New?" guru gave us a visual trip through the 83 plants that will be introduced in 2019. This is no mean feat to do in 75 minutes but George was up to the challenge. The slides he showed were an amazing collection of various colors, sizes and shapes of new plants. We learned the pluses and minuses of the plants, and the ones that we would most likely see in our area in the coming season. As always, George was able to answer questions about the new plants as well as the past season's plants. This presentation certainly gave us much more to think about for our plans next year, and generated the usual "Gee, that is a great plant. I would like to try it but, where would I put it?" scenario that we gardeners deal with every Spring.

In summary, October 6<sup>th</sup> this year was an entertaining and educational day. The speakers, through their various topics and knowledgeable information, were able to show us the importance of pollinators and the importance of native plants to attract them. The facts, tidbits and hints for us to maintain this connection between the pollinators, native plants and our environment are so important; and, are invaluable in our care and planning for our gardens and yards. Finally, George gave us all something to think about as to what we want to plant next year.

— *Written and submitted by Loretta Ellwood; Class of 2007*



We want to thank everyone who helped with the Christmas party this year. We hope everyone enjoyed the night out and had a good time. Whether you helped to set-up, clean up, brought a dish to pass, brought an item to donate, donated to our charity or sold tickets, or picked up the food and ran errands, we really appreciated all your help to making a beautiful celebration!

- Enjoy the holidays -  
Peggy Banks & Sharon Kridner

Thank you all who participated in the raffle and Food Bank of Eastern Michigan fundraiser. The Raffle brought in \$350 and \$200 was donated to the Food Bank.



### What is the \$20 annual recertification fee?

The re-cert fee is used to help the MG Program become self-sustaining. Without the re-cert fee there would be no MG program. MSU contributes hundreds of thousands of dollars to the program but cannot cover the entire cost.

The \$20.00 fee (which goes to MSU) is being used:

1. To cover the cost of the VMS purchase/maintenance including staff time and recognition materials (pins, certs., awards, etc.)
2. MG scholarships to MG College and training classes
3. Maintenance and future re-design of the MG Program web site
4. MG curriculum development

Source: VMS, under STATE LINKS- "Overview of MG Program and Related Entities"  
Registration begins after the new year and details will be forwarded by Diane Brady.

**Note: None of the \$20 annual recertification fees goes to the local association.**

### 2018 REQUIRED EDUCATIONAL and VOLUNTEER HOURS

**Extension Master Gardeners and Advanced Master Gardeners must complete 20 volunteer hours annually and 10 continuing education hours annually.**

Free Educational Webinars are available on VMS. From the Home Page of VMS, right side, under STATE LINKS, click on "**2018 - Free Online Education Webinar List**" and choose the one(s) you wish to view, using the password instructions.

Hours must be entered by the end of December 2018. Watch for details from Diane Brady.

Need help or have questions? Contact:

Barslund Judd - [juddbars@msu.edu](mailto:juddbars@msu.edu) Michelle Chockley - [chockleym@gmail.com](mailto:chockleym@gmail.com) Joanne Gensel - [jhgensel@gmail.com](mailto:jhgensel@gmail.com)



You would think fellow plant and pest-interested friends would go dormant in these cooler months, but there is still plenty of activity, curiosity and interest to keep our Hotline buzzing! Read some of the inquiries below!

**Caller has mushrooms growing in his lawn (in November!) and wants to know how to safely get rid of them.**



First of all, our caller was strongly advised to wear rubber gloves during this process. Mushrooms are a fungus and must be treated as such. In addition, many mushrooms are harmful to children and pets, especially when ingested. Once you have taken these measures, gather and dispose of the mushrooms as they appear. This is not fail-safe as the fungus is still in the soil and spores can still travel to your lawn in the wind, animal droppings etc.

**How can I get rid of Buckhorn without harming my other plants?**



Buckhorn plantain is a common perennial weed. Glyphosate can be applied to kill the weed but it needs to be applied directly to the weed with a sponge to protect the adjacent plants. There are additional methods to remove the weed manually during specific life cycles. For more on this: University of Idaho Extension; Idaho Green Thumbs How To; [Weed Control in Idaho Lawns](#)

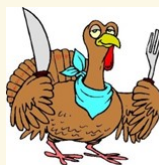
**Is there a proactive approach to stop gypsy moths?**

Gypsy moths at the caterpillar stage have voracious appetites for the leaves of several trees, especially oak. The most effective way to prevent the destruction these pests can cause would be to remove the eggs, as the damage is done once they develop into caterpillars. For more information on removal of gypsy moths read this: Michigan State University Extension; [Eliminating egg masses now will prevent leaf eating gypsy moth caterpillars next spring](#)

**One caller recently had a lawn service re-seed his lawn (end of October) and needs to know if that is too late for germination.**

This is too late for germination but hopefully those seeds will germinate in the spring. The best time to seed your lawn is between August 15 and September 15.

**HAVE A GREAT**



**THANKSGIVING!**

*Researched and written by LaDonna Gamble; November, 2018*

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## RECIPES & MORE

### ROASTED POTATOES & ASPARAGUS WITH PARMESAN

#### Ingredients

- 1 ½ lbs. of baby red skin potatoes, halved or quartered
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 lb. asparagus, trimmed and cut into 2-inch segments
- ½ cup finely grated Parmesan cheese

#### Directions

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Place potatoes on a large rimmed baking sheet. Drizzle with olive oil, season with salt and pepper, and toss to combine. Roast for 20 minutes.

Remove from oven. Add asparagus to the potatoes; toss to combine, then season gently once again with salt and pepper. Return to oven and roast until asparagus is tender and potatoes are lightly browned, 10 minutes or longer. Toss with the Parmesan before serving. Makes about 8 servings.

This recipe can be made up to 2 days ahead; do not toss with Parmesan. Reheat on baking sheet at 350 degrees until hot, about 20 minutes. Toss with Parmesan before serving. Refrigerate any leftovers.

This is a family favorite and easy to prepare. It is tasty reheated. From "Taste of Home" magazine.

— Loretta Ellwood, Class of 2007

## It's All About... The Ins & Outs of Gardening

If you're looking for a gift for yourself or a gardening friend, consider a registration for the Capital Area Master Gardeners' Annual Winter Symposium—**It's All About...The Ins & Outs of Gardening**.

The four topics and speakers are:

**Perennial Plant Geek – Top Picks for the Michigan Garden** – Bethany Troy, Perennial Garden Manager, MSU Horticulture Gardens.

**Smart Planning for Your Vegetable Garden** – Rebecca Kranz, MSU Extension.

**The Top 10 Things Affecting Trees** – David L. Roberts, Ph.D., Senior Academic Specialist, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, MSU

**Toxic Plants and Their Friends** – Peter H. Carrington, Ph.D., Assistant Curator, W.J. Beal Botanical Garden, MSU.

**Where:** Plant and Soil Sciences Building on MSU's Campus in East Lansing

**When:** Saturday, January 26, 2019

**Earn:** 5 Master Gardener education hours

**Cost:** \$40.00 for CAMG members / \$50.00 for non-member Active, Certified MGVs / \$55.00 all others

A link to the association web site can be found at: <http://mgacac.wordpress.com>

There you can find a link to the brochure, information about hotel rooms, vendors who will be at the conference (as they become available), a link to directions, etc.

If you have questions, you can email: [mga.cac@gmail.com](mailto:mga.cac@gmail.com)

## Words from the President

It's hard to believe that 2018 is soon going to be behind us and a brand new year is just around the corner. I would like to thank each member for your support by volunteering at one or more of our 70 projects, and appreciation to project chairpersons for stepping up and leading one or more of these projects. Thank you for all the behind-the-scenes volunteers who keep things going, but don't want any attention or credit for doing a good deed. Thank you to all the volunteers that worked in the hot summer sun or the cold rainy days, and those who worked a weekend outreach project. We have had another successful year and these are some of the accomplishments for MGAGCM:

- ◆ 7 Gold Badges were awarded at Master Gardener College to MGAGCM EMGs
- ◆ 10,000-hour award was given to Alicia Ellis
- ◆ Purchased a coffee maker
- ◆ Spring bulb sale
- ◆ Tree sale
- ◆ Fall bulb sale
- ◆ Garden Tour
- ◆ A new PA system was purchased by donations from three board members
- ◆ Fall into Spring Conference
- ◆ Barslund Judd has joined us as Consumer Horticulture Program Instructor



# MGAGCM DOWN TO EARTH NEWSLETTER

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## MGAGCM OFFICERS (2018)

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**SAVE THE DATE DECEMBER 2018**

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2	3 <a href="#">Board Meeting</a>	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 <a href="#">Happy Holidays!</a> <a href="#">No membership meeting this month</a>	21	22 <a href="#">Office closed</a>
23 <a href="#">Office closed</a>	24 <a href="#">Office closed</a>	25 <a href="#">Office closed</a>	26 <a href="#">Office closed</a>	27 <a href="#">Office closed</a>	28 <a href="#">Office closed</a>	29 <a href="#">Office closed</a>
30 <a href="#">Office closed</a>	31 <a href="#">Office closed</a>					

## THIS NEWSLETTER PREPARED BY

Vicki Laurin, laurinvicki@gmail.com.  
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Edited by Sylvia Hansen

## CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITES

[MMGA Inc Website](#)

[MMGA Inc Facebook Page](#)

[MGAGCM Website](#)

[MGAGCM Facebook Page](#)

## LEAD VMS AMBASSADOR

**Michelle Chockley**

810-210-6685 (cell)

chockleym@gmail.com

## **MSU Extension-Genesee**

605 N. Saginaw St. Suite 1A  
Flint, MI 48502  
(810) 244-8500

## **Plant & Pest Hotline**

(810) 244-8548

Hours: Hotline winter hours are: Friday,  
9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

[geneseeplantpest@anr.msu.edu](mailto:geneseeplantpest@anr.msu.edu)

## **Public Office Hours:**

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

**RETURN TO FRONT PAGE**

MSU EXTENSION-GENESEE COUNTY  
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FLINT, MI 48502  
[www.msue.msu.edu/genesee](http://www.msue.msu.edu/genesee)

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## **DOWN TO EARTH PRINTED SUBSCRIPTION**

If you would like to subscribe to a monthly, printed/postal delivered

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New Subscription starts January 1, 2019

A banner for the MGAGCM Down to Earth Newsletter. It features a green background with a white picket fence in the foreground and trees in the background. The text "MGAGCM DOWN TO EARTH NEWSLETTER" is written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the middle.

**MGAGCM DOWN TO EARTH NEWSLETTER**