

WINTER ROCKIN WITH THE BIRDS

Every little swallow, every chick-a-dee, Every little bird in the tall oak tree
The wise old owl, the big black crow, Flappin' their wings signin' "go bird, go"



Photo Courtesy Dave Budnick

Black Capped Chickadee

As the days of winter seem to creep through, if we aren't blessed to travel somewhere warm, we sit in our cozy homes, looking out our windows at the grey skies, ice and snow. But that's not all! Winter birds are there to remind us that spring will come and sunnier days are ahead.

Perhaps you have a bird feeder outside your kitchen window and you enjoy seeing the

little birds flit in and out, but only recognize a couple of the more common birds. This month our feature article provides a little bit of information on Michigan's winter birds and how you can use this season of "indoors" to learn a little about Michigan birds and how to become an ecological steward through your love of birds.

The love and enjoyment of birds can be a first step into ecological stewardship. Doug Tallamy, renowned Professor of Entomology for the University of Delaware shares, "Insects are the most important group of animals that transfer energy captured by plants to other animals. For example, 96% of all terrestrial birds rear their young on insects. No insects; no baby birds. Ninety percent of all insects that eat plants require native plants to complete their development." ¹

To explain further, it is all about the insects when it comes to birds. But wait, there's more ... it's really all about the plants. That's right, the plants provide the food source for the insects providing the nutrients that the birds need to thrive.

CLICK ON THESE
LINKS TO GO TO PAGE

[Feature Article Pg. 2-6](#)

[2nd Feature Pg. 6](#)

[Plants of Maui Pg. 8-9](#)

[Hot Buzzzz Pg. 10](#)

[Garden to Table Pg. 11](#)

[AnnouncementsPg. 12](#)

[From the President Pg. 12](#)

[Save the Date Pg. 13](#)

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)

Feature Article Continued from page 1

Explained further by Roseann Kovalcik, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited and speaker at our Fall into Spring Conference, – “Caterpillars are high in protein, lipids and keratins - all things that are nutritional for the bird’s immune system. Birds cannot make their own keratins so they have to get them indirectly from plants and how do they do that? They get them from something that is eating plants - that is, the caterpillars.”²

Birds offer us so much enjoyment, but it is their role as pollinators and insect control that provide the greatest contributions to our gardens and ecology. Currently you may have many birds visiting your yard and feeders. Understanding the birds’ habits may help you increase, not only the number of bird visitors, but also increase the number of species that visit. Roseann’s account of bird visits to her yard, gives us insight to the scope of what we can discover over time. Through the 35 years on her property she has identified 139 species of birds. “Twenty-one of those species are resident birds – non-migratory. Thirty-six species are migratory breeding birds coming to the area to breed and eighty-two species cut through my yard on the way to somewhere else.”²



Photo Courtesy Rosann Kovalcik
Pileated Woodpecker

Creating, restoring and maintaining a birdscape is a focused effort - one that will not only be rewarding but serve as a stopover for the birds who are migrating, bringing many more species into your yard. So where does one start? It begins by looking at bird food sources and habitats. As mentioned above, birds require a healthy supply of insects, especially caterpillars, but also a habitat that provides protection, a supply of food sources and suitable conditions to breed.

“When thinking about bird habitat, it’s important to think in layers,” shares Roseann, “from canopy trees to ground cover. Different bird species rely on different layers to forage and nest. So, by providing a greater variety of layers in your yard, you can attract a greater variety of birds.”²

Michigan Audubon offers an excellent guide that, “separates each habitat layer and suggests several native plants for each layer that are known to benefit birds. Specific benefits to birds are identified for each plant. Growing conditions are included for each plant species to help you select plants best suited for your yard.”³ In addition there are the many flowers and plants we think of when planting for bees, butterflies and pollinators. Some of the most familiar include: Purple Coneflowers; Sunflowers, Milkweed, Trumpet Honeysuckle, Joe Pye Weed, Blackeyed Susan and Bee Balm, to name just a few this list can be found online as well: Detroit Audubon; [A Guide to Bird Friendly Gardens](#).

When looking at the low-hanging plants, think of fruit. Birds and berries co-evolved - quite a twist of fate considering “most fruits are 5/8th of an inch in diameter, exactly matching the gape of a birds beak when it is open.”² A symbiotic relationship that propagates the plants through the birds dispersal of its seeds, while the high sugar content found in berries, provides the adult birds the nourishment they need to hunt and gather the insects to feed their babies.

[RETURN TO FRONT PAGE](#)

MGAGCM DOWN TO EARTH NEWSLETTER

Feature Article Continued from page 2

PAGE 3

Service berry – got its name as it bloomed when the ground was no longer frozen. The time when families could now dig the ground and bury deceased family members who had been in the cellar all winter. Now gathering to hold their funeral service.

The summer berries include: serviceberry, chokeberry, black cherry, and Juneberry providing the high sugar content needed for raising the family. Mid-Late summer berries are higher in fats providing storage of energy for migration. These include: wild black currant, raspberry, blackberry, red elderberry and low bush blueberry. The fall berries are lower in sugar, including black chokeberry and alternate leaf dogwood. And, finally winter berries, beginning with Winterberry, followed by wild ginger ground cover, bunchberry, Michigan holly, hawthorns and sumac.

In addition to the fruit bushes birds are also looking for places to nest and are going to use shrubs to protect themselves from

predators, an understory to nest in. When planning your birdscape also consider the other behavior of birds such as breeding and capturing flying insects. This requires a unique vantage point, some times high in the white oak tree to have its song carried across the distance to attract its mate, or just above the flowers to capture the flying insects. This is where snags come in. What are snags? Simply put, they are dead wood, a branch in a tree or sticks around the yard. “Nothing could be better than a snag for purposes of acoustics in the mind of a woodpecker,” shares Roseann. “Think of a hollowed out drum, just right for hammering. That’s what woodpeckers are doing on those dead branches that resonate so well – letting the female know he has a great territory and is ready to help her out with breeding season. Snags allow smaller birds to use them as a lookout post. It pays to peek out from a perch to get a complete view in either direction, making sure the coast is clear. Small snags are invaluable to birds that have bathed in your birdbath and need a place to shake dry.” When pruning your birdscape leave a few of these dry branches in your trees and bushes; and, for the fallen branches, gather in stack for the birds to flit in and out - a natural piece of art in motion.



Photo Courtesy
Dave Budnick
Barred Owl



Photo Courtesy Dave Budnick
Downy Woodpecker

While you contemplate how you can improve your birdscape later this spring, delight in the birds right outside your window today. Michigan Audubon shares, “Many common Michigan birds leave for winter and return in spring. Robins, sparrows, warblers and hummingbirds are among those that leave for the comforts of a warmer climate. While other birds migrate to Michigan for the winter from northern environments. Pine siskins, dark-eyed juncos, snow buntings and crossbills are just some of the birds seen in parts of Michigan only during winter.” In addition to your viewing pleasures there are many

Michigan birds that remain for the winter; Northern Cardinals, White breasted Nuthatches, Downy Woodpeckers, Redbellied Woodpeckers, Barred Owl, Blue Jays, House Finches, Mourning Doves, Rock Pigeons, House Sparrows, Blackcapped Chickadees, and Tufted Titmice.

[RETURN TO FRONT PAGE](#)

MGAGCM DOWN TO EARTH NEWSLETTER

Feature Article Continued from page 3

PAGE 4

You may already be attracting many of these birds but if you want to increase the species your seeing at your feeder you can adjust the feed you are using. There are many seed mixes that you can find for your feeders but the seed that is most enjoyed by the majority of the birds is black oil sunflower seed. The high fat content is valuable to the birds during these cold months. "There are two kinds of sunflower seeds—black oil and striped. The black oil seeds ("oilers") have very thin shells, easy for virtually all seed-eating birds to crack open, and the kernels within have a high fat content, extremely valuable for most winter birds. Striped sunflower seeds have a thicker shell, much harder for House Sparrows and blackbirds to crack open. So if you're inundated with species you'd rather not subsidize at your black oil sunflower, before you do anything else, try switching to striped sunflower." ⁵ There are lots of seed mixes out there to help you in your decision making, avoid ones containing cracked corn, wheat and milo, seeds that the birds are not interested in and will kick out of the feeder in efforts to get to the sunflowers. Choosing instead seed mixes that include white and red millet along with safflower with an addition of peanuts. A tube feeder can be filled with nyjer and sunflower chips. This combination attracts the American Goldfinches, Lesser Goldfinches, Indigo Buntings, Pine Siskins, and Common Redpolls who devour these tiny, black, needle-like seeds. Niger or nyjer, *Guizotia abyssinica*, a daisy-like plant, a similar type as the American thistle that was replaced due to its invasive properties.



Photo Courtesy Dave Budnick
Common Red Poll

The seeds are heat-sterilized during importation to limit their chance of spreading while retaining their food value. Suet is a great addition to the bird buffet adding a tremendous energy and nutrition source for birds. Suet feeders are available in various sizes and construction but a very simple and inexpensive one will work fine. You can also use your creativity to design your own suet cakes and feeders out of pinecones; sticks and natural elements. This is a wonderful medium to provide fruits along with nuts and insects, the birds' version of a protein bar – attracting woodpeckers; chickadees and nuthatches.



Photo Courtesy Rosann Kovalcik
Pine Siskins

The birdfeeder itself can be of any design that is of your liking, but what is most important is to make sure it is clean. Bacteria can grow on surfaces where the bird droppings have accumulated leading to disease. Scrubbing them prior to use with a weak bleach solution will keep the feeder clean and safe for the visitors. Placing your feeder in a location for your best viewing is what determines most positioning but also consider if there are areas of protection for the birds nearby, bushes, shrubs, or woodpiles (also a good source of insects). And finally, choose a method of discouraging those pesky squirrels. One option that has been found to be quite successful is a slinky hung from the bottom of the feeder – a squirrel will try a few times and actually become discouraged.

[RETURN TO FRONT PAGE](#)

MGAGCM DOWN TO EARTH NEWSLETTER

Feature Article Continued from page 4

PAGE 5

Let us not forget water - birds need to stay hydrated. You can provide a traditional birdbath with a heated basin or keep it simple with an old shallow skillet filled with water. Adding pebbles will also give the birds a surface to grasp with their feet. Roseann suggests; "Using a plastic dish with the heating element built into it is the most convenient way to provide a water source. These birdbaths are thermostatically controlled and will cycle on and off to keep the water at a temperature just above freezing. Another option is the addition of a heating element that can be added to a plastic or metal birdbath.

Manufacturers of cement and ceramic bird baths warn against the use of heaters as those types of baths can break if a small crack succumbs to the effect of water freezing within." ⁶

To continue your exploration into the world of birds this issue includes part two of this article focused on a more active participation into birdwatching.

Wishing you joy and delight in the birds of winter and dreams of the birds of spring.

1. University of Maryland; [Fact sheet from presentation by Doug Tallamy Tallamy](#) explains further, "that is because plants protect their leaves with toxic chemicals. Insects can survive after eating those chemicals only after they have evolved physiological mechanisms for detoxifying them. This requires a long evolutionary history between insects and their host plants. Native insects only have such histories with native plants. They have not been exposed to plants that evolved in Europe or Asia long enough to be able to use them as host plants successfully
 2. Roseann Kovalcik, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited; Fall into Spring Conference October 6, 2018; Landscaping for the Birds
 3. Michigan Audubon; [Michigan Native Plants for Bird Friendly Landscapes](#)
 4. Wild Birds Unlimited Blog; Attract Birds by Adding a Snag to Your Yard; Roseann Kovalcik; September 3, 2016
 5. [All About Birds](#); [Feeding Birds A Quick Guide to Seed Types](#);
 6. Wild Birds Unlimited Blog; [Bird Feeding in the Winter](#); Roseann Kovalcik; December 16, 2016
-

Researched and written by Kit Puroll for the February, 2019 MGAGCM Down To Earth Newsletter.

Photos Courtesy of :

Dave Budnick; Professional Photographer; [Photography by Dave](#)

Rosann Kovalcik; Owner of and author of [Wild Birds Unlimited](#) Blog



Photo Courtesy Rosann Kovalcik
Robins in Heated Birdbath

[RETURN TO FRONT PAGE](#)

The Art of Birding

If you are having fun at the birdfeeder identifying new birds, this is just the beginning to the interesting hobby of birding. Learning the birds songs, their habits, and how they change through the seasons are just a few of the pleasures.



Photo Courtesy Rosann Kovalcik

Now that all these great birds will be coming to your garden, what's the best way to watch them, and how can you tell what they are? Michigan Audubon shares, "When you birdwatch try to look for movement and listen for birds. Birds are often inactive during midday, but very active during the morning and evening. You don't need a lot of equipment to enjoy bird watching. Just watching a bird without special equipment is still bird watching, but optics like binoculars will help view the birds and bring them closer." ¹

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology has a fourstep approach to identifying birds:

1. First you judge the bird's size and shape
2. Then look for its main color pattern
3. Take note of its behavior
4. Factor in the birds habitat

As you spend more time observing, you will begin to take notice of the birds' lifecycles and habits. One of the most interesting life processes is that of molting. Have you ever noticed how the cardinal appears brighter in winter? It is often attributed to the brightness and contrast of the snow. But it is actually much more, rather it is a result of molting. "Like many birds, Northern Cardinals molt their feathers and grow new ones in late summer and early fall, after the breeding season is over and food is abundant. During that time people often comment about how ratty cardinals look, because so many of them molt their head feathers all at once, rendering the birds bald. But even after its head is covered in feathers again, a newly molted male cardinal isn't at his brightest. Many of his feathers, especially on the neck and back, are tipped with gray. During fall and winter, these tips slowly wear off, revealing more and more brilliant red. The birds reach the peak of brilliance right when they are selecting a mate. Against snow-covered conifers, it's a feast for our eyes, too." ²



Photo Courtesy Dave Budnick
Northern Cardinal

If you want to become more active in your at-home birding experience you can take part in a bird count. "One of the most beloved and long running is [Project FeederWatch](#) through the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. From November to April, people around the country keep track of birds at their feeders.

Continued on page 7

[RETURN TO FRONT PAGE](#)

MGAGCM DOWN TO EARTH NEWSLETTER

2nd Feature Article Continued from page 6 PAGE 7



Photo Courtesy
Dave Budnick
Cow Bird

By following a reporting formula, you can count birds as often as every week or more infrequently. New watchers will get a research kit explaining the reporting guidelines and processes to get you started. Also through the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Audubon is the [eBird](#) website. This is for reporting bird counts and interesting sightings any time of the year in any location. You can check out other birders' reports to see what cool birds are hanging out in your area. Scientists have learned a lot from citizen science reports; they have been able to map in real time how birds' migration and nesting patterns along with their ranges have changed due to climate change and habitat destruction.”³

Taking birding to a more interactive level, you can visit nature centers in your own community for a hike or visit a center that provides guided programs such as the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#) or the [Kellogg Biological Station](#) run by Michigan State University or the [Detroit Audubon](#) which offers free guided field trips.

Please share with the membership your birding experiences. Send your photos and stories to Kit Puroll for inclusion in next months DTE. Send to Kit Puroll at all_4_adventure@hotmail.com

Researched and written by Kit Puroll for February, 2018 DTE

Photos Courtesy of :

Dave Budnick; Professional Photographer; [Photography by Dave](#)
Rosann Kovalcik; Owner of and author of [Wild Birds Unlimited](#) Blog

1. [Michigan Audubon](#)
2. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology; All About Birding; [Are Cardinals Brighter in Winter](#); April 12, 2009
3. [National Audubon](#)



Photo Courtesy Rosann Kovalcik
Downy Woodpecker

[RETURN TO FRONT PAGE](#)

The Silversword and Other Plants of Maui



This past October, my husband Ed and I traveled to Maui, Hawaii for a 25th Anniversary Trip. I was immediately enthralled with the flora and fauna of the island. The trees, grass, shrubs and flowers were all different from what I am used to. The birds were different and sounded exotic to my ears. Plants that I have only ever seen indoors were growing outside, and they were HUGE!

One of our day trips was to Haleakala Crater National Park. A great attraction at the crater is the sunrise, and many people make the drive up at 4am to see it. However, we discovered it is so popular, that you need to make reservations months in advance to view the sunrise. After a very long, long drive up the mountain, we arrived at the visitors center, mid-morning. Touring the visitors' center, I noticed the plant display outside and discovered the Silversword plant; Haleakala 'Ahinahina,

Argyroxiphium sandwicense, sub. *Macrocephalum*. This plant (pictured) is

only found at Haleakala, where it has adapted to survive in the harsh conditions of the summit. The only place we saw them growing was at the visitors center, as the plant is endangered. They do grow on other spots in the National Park, but we did not venture to see them (I could kick myself for not going up higher, but oh well....)

The Silversword only blooms once in its lifetime, sometimes taking decades - then dies. The leaves of all Silverswords have an unusual and important ability to store water as a gel in intracellular spaces where other plant leaves contain air. There is another species called Mauna Kea Silversword that is native only to Hawaii's Big Island, and one more that is native to Kauai. There is a very good reference on both Silverswords at Wikipedia Mauna Kea Silversword. The article references wildlife, including sheep, goats and cattle, introduced into Hawaii in the 18th and 19th century, destroying many native plants on the island.



As people migrated to Hawaii to work in the sugarcane fields, they naturally wanted to bring their own animals, plants and food with them to remind them of home. This practice started centuries ago when the Polynesians discovered the Islands. Bamboo was introduced by the Chinese and Japanese when they migrated to Hawaii to work as laborers. Another example is the mongoose, which was brought to the island to eradicate the rats in the sugar cane fields, but the mongoose is nocturnal.

Continued on Page 9

[RETURN TO FRONT PAGE](#)

MGAGCM DOWN TO EARTH NEWSLETTER

PAGE 9

Maui continued from page 8

The rats continued to flourish, as did the mongoose, as its favorite food was bird eggs, and so harmed the bird population. What is our lesson here? We also saw many varieties of Eucalyptus that are very beautiful, including Rainbow Eucalyptus, but again, it's not native.

If you are fortunate enough to visit Maui, there are a couple of botanical gardens available to visit: [Maui Nui Botanical Gardens](#), and [Kahanu Garden](#). There is a great article in the January/February issue of Horticulture by Tammie Painter, titled Paradise Kept. Great reading!



Submitted by Cheryl Borkowski, MG '99 for the February, 2019 DTE Newsletter

FALL INTO SPRING

The Fall into Spring Committee has had their first meeting – Alan Grove, Marie Luck-Allard, Kay McCullough, Devera Brower, and Loretta Ellwood attended.

Next meeting will be on Friday,
February 22nd
at 10:30 am at the Extension office.
All those interested are invited to join
us in planning another wonderful event.
Anyone with questions may contact
Marie Luck-Allard at 810-230-3220



Photo Courtesy Dave Budnick

[RETURN TO FRONT PAGE](#)



Well, now that we've gotten through some winter weeks, our callers are beginning to think ahead to Spring!



A caller wanted to know the best time to apply mulch to his flower bed. Spring (early May) would be a good time to apply mulch to your landscapes. For more on the process, see this: [MSU: Mulching Landscaping Beds](#)



This man is seeing spider mites in his greenhouse.

You may not have a greenhouse but, even indoor plants and your outdoor plants and veggies can fall victim to spider mites! These pests are so small, you will probably see evidence of their fine webbing first. You may see the mites once their population explodes and their destruction is well underway. Spider mites can be white, tan, red or black, depending on their type, and most thrive in warm dry environments. These arachnids pierce and suck individual plant cells, robbing plants of their nutrients. If they are not controlled, this activity can eventually kill the plants. Control processes vary depending on types of plants, environment (indoors/outdoors) etc. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) solutions are available for all of these situations. See more here: [Ohio State](#)

[Extension; Spider Mites and Their Control](#)

I found a bedbug in my hotel room. How can I make sure I don't bring them in my house?



This is a call we would normally refer to the Health Department as they need to keep track of bedbug infestations in the area and may be better equipped to assist callers with solutions. Since the State of Michigan has recently become one of the more heavily infested states (along with the eastern 1/3 of the country and the State of California), this might merit some attention. Yours truly experienced firsthand being devoured by bed bugs during a trip to NYC a few years back and that was no joke! These creatures are about the size of an apple seed and feast on human blood. They can be extremely difficult and expensive to get rid of - this caller was smart to try and be proactive before inviting these little travelers into his home. The best thing to do is be proactive and hunt for bed bugs (or blood droppings or eggs) upon arrival at the hotel.

Keep suitcases off the floor and when you return home, there are steps you can take to keep them out of your home. Throw all your clothes in a hot dryer as the heat will kill them. Vacuum your suitcase, shoes etc. before taking them in the house. Hotels get picked on a lot, but you can just as easily take bed bugs home from cruise ships, busses, subways, dormitories, apartment complexes and movie theatres! Read on this subject from the State of Michigan: [Don't Let the Bed Bugs Bite](#)

Researched and written by LaDonna Gamble; January, 2019

[**RETURN TO FRONT PAGE**](#)



RECIPES & MORE

JOE'S PUMPKIN CHEESE CAKE

Directions

Make crust:

1. Place rack in the middle of oven and preheat oven to 350 degrees. Butter the sides and bottom of a 9-inch springform pan. Place a round of parchment in the bottom of the pan and butter the parchment.
2. Stir together the finely ground gingersnaps, melted butter, and salt in a bowl until well combined. Wrap your fingers in plastic wrap and press the crumbs onto the bottom and approx 1 1/2 inches up the sides of springform pan.
3. Bake for 10 minutes, then cool completely on a rack. Once cooled, place on a large sheet of heavy duty aluminum foil and wrap sides of pan in preparation for baking in a water bath. Set aside.

Make filling:

1. Decrease oven temperature to 325 degrees. Place a kettle or pot of water on to boil.
2. In the bowl of a stand mixer (or using a large bowl and an electric mixer) beat cream cheese and light brown sugar at medium high speed, 3 to 5 minutes, until fluffy. Add eggs, 1 at a time, beating well after each egg addition. Scrape down sides of bowl as necessary. Add vanilla, pumpkin puree, spices, and salt, and beat at low speed until smooth. Pour into cooled crust.
3. Place foil-wrapped filled springform pan into a roasting pan. Carefully pour the hot water into the roasting pan and around the wrapped springform pan, taking care not to splash the cheesecake. Place roasting pan in oven and bake for about 1 hour, until the cake is puffy around edges but still trembles slightly in the middle when pan is shaken gently. Turn off oven, crack oven door, and let the cheesecake sit in oven for about 1 hour. Remove pan from oven, carefully lift out of waterbath, and let cool completely on a rack.
4. Chill, loosely covered, at least 8 hours prior to serving. When ready to serve, run a blunt knife around edge of cheesecake to loosen it from springform pan and remove sides of pan.

In November, 2016, I took a watercolor painting class in Edisto Beach, South Carolina with five other women, the instructor, Suzy, and her husband, Joe, cooked for us. It was a perfect setting in a beautiful beach house with no television; just painting, talking, and eating Joe's wonderful meals. He shared many of his recipes with us. This recipe is just one of the spectacular desserts we enjoyed after one of his fine dinners. Submitted by Sylvia Hansen

[RETURN TO FRONT PAGE](#)

Ingredients

For Crust:

8 ounces gingersnaps, finely ground in food processor

6 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted and cooled

Pinch kosher salt

For Cheesecake:

32 ounces cream cheese (4 eight-ounce packages), softened

3/4 cup light brown sugar

4 large eggs, room temperature

1 teaspoon vanilla

1 1/2 cups pumpkin puree

1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

1/4 teaspoon nutmeg

1/4 teaspoon allspice

1/4 teaspoon kosher salt

Words from the President

Happy February! I'm sure by now some of you have started getting that "itch" to start planning your gardens and thinking of what new veggie you want to grow this year, or new perennial you want to invest in. The catalogs should be arriving soon, and that will give you even more ideas!

As you know, it is recertification time. I hope you have done the first step to recertify with MSUE, and soon it will be time to take the next step of recertifying with MMGA. The following is the process as outlined by our Treasurer, Bobbie Parkhill.

As most of you are already aware, in an effort to maintain a balanced budget for 2019, MGAGCM will not be paying individuals' \$5.00 Michigan Master Gardener Association (MMGA) dues this year. Each individual will be responsible for paying the \$5.00, which covers membership in MMGA, including insurance when working on Master Gardener projects. Membership in MMGA is a prerequisite for membership in MGAGCM.

Because of the size of our Association, MMGA has asked that we collect the \$5.00 from individuals and aggregate the funds so that we only send one check for our members. In order to do this, we ask that you follow this process:

1. After you re-certify for 2019, please make a \$5.00 check payable to MGAGCM. (MGAGCM will cash all checks and write one check for the total amount to MMGA.)
2. Include the following contact information along with your check: Name, address, phone number and email address.
3. Mail the check to:

MGAGCM
P.O. Box 981
Grand Blanc, MI 48480

(Please do not send the check to the MSUE office or leave it in the Treasurer's folder at the office.)

4. Your check to MMGA is due March 1, so please mail your check no later than February 21 to allow for time to process it.

If you have already paid your \$5 directly to MMGA, would you be so kind as to email Bobbie Parkhill at bpark141@gmail.com and let her know that you are already paid so that we can keep our records straight. Please include your contact information when you email Bobbie.

[RETURN TO FRONT PAGE](#)

MGAGCM DOWN TO EARTH NEWSLETTER

PAGE 13

MGAGCM OFFICERS (2019)

President	Vicki Laurin
810-744-0725	laurinvicki@gmail.com
1st Vice President	Mel Kennedy
810-275-8822	mkennedy60@charter.com
2nd Vice President	Alan Grove
810-922-8776	plantdoc049@outlook.com
Secretary	Dick Moldenhauer
810-695-2649	rnmold1050@aol.com
Treasurer	Bobbi Parkhill
630-408-1710	bpark141@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE FEBRUARY 2019

Mon, Feb 04, 2019

Master Gardener MGAGCM Board Meeting

Wed, Feb 06, 2019

Last Day to Sign up for 2019

Plants of Distinction Seminar –

Novi [Waiting List Only]

Tue, Feb 12, 2019

Smart Gardening

Volunteer Orientation - Livingston Co.

Wed, Feb 13, 2019

Last day to register for

SG Lawns Workshop - Grand Rapids

Wed, Feb 13, 2019

2019 Plants of Distinction Seminar - Novi

Fri, Feb 15, 2019

Smart Gardening Lawns Workshop –

Grand Rapids

Thu, Feb 21, 2019

Membership meeting: Gary Eichen-

Topic: Insects and Diseases

Fri, Feb 22, 2019

Last Day to Register for 2019 Smart Gardening

Conference - Grand Rapids

THIS NEWSLETTER PREPARED BY

Vicki Laurin, laurinvicki@gmail.com.

Kit Puroll, all_4_adventure@hotmail.com

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

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

605 N. Saginaw St.

Suite 1A

FLINT, MI 48502

www.msue.msu.edu/genesee

AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

February 2019 MGAGCM Speaker

GARY EICHORN

Certied Arborist

Plant health care * Bio-turf manager

Speaking on insects and diseases

February 21st

MGAGCM DOWN TO EARTH NEWSLETTER