

Down to Earth

Michigan State University Extension Master Gardener Program—Genesee County

November-December 2020
Volume 18, Issue 11



Letter from the Program Coordinator

Barslund Judd (juddbars@msu.edu)

Happy Holidays!

I hope this holiday edition of the DTE finds you healthy and in good spirits. While I'm mostly a summer person, the winter is a close second when it comes to my favorite seasons. That's probably because I'm a December baby. For me, winter means presents! Check out Michelle Chockley's article on birth month flowers. Maybe they are onto something because I love daffodils. Strangely one of my *Narcissus* 'Geranium' plants is trying to bloom right now. I guess it is an early birthday gift?

Two weeks ago I was able to make a trip to Dow Gardens and it was absolutely gorgeous. Late fall and early winter are nice times to go as they fill their beds with gorgeous mums. If you get too cold you can always drop in and visit their conservatory, which in my opinion looks like an alien spaceship. Who doesn't love an alien spaceship filled with gorgeous tropical plants?

Barslund Judd—Extension Master Gardener Program Coordinator



Orchid at Dow Gardens in the Conservatory—Barslund Judd

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Newsletter Committee

- Sue Crisp (**Project Report**)
- Mary Yelland (**Article Liaison**)
- Marie Luck-Allard (**Ask An Expert**)
- Joanne Gensel (**Association Page**)
- Michelle Chockley (**VMS Corner**)
- Carol Pittard (**Editor**)
- Cheryl Borkowski (**Format Editor**)

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 Article

Gardening for Backyard Birds

by Cheryl Borkowski

Bird photos by Jeni Page

With colder weather on its way – although the first part of November felt more like late spring – more birds depend on seeds, insects and us to help them get through the winter. At our house we derive great enjoyment from watching, feeding and watering the birds. More recently, however, I have been reading about ways to feed birds from our landscape.

I have some plants that birds like – purple coneflower and great yellow coneflower are two that will provide seeds for birds in fall and winter. In our yard birds eat berries from the serviceberry (*amelanchier*) in spring, and the cherry trees in summer. I also have an oak tree and my neighbor has several, along with maples. Birds feed their young with caterpillars from oaks in the spring and they will eat seeds from maples. We also have cedar trees which attract cedar waxwings when the berries are ripe. On lists of trees that are beneficial to wildlife, oaks are number one. As I buy new plants, I will ask myself if they are beneficial to birds and/or pollinators. https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/choosing_native_trees_and_shrubs_for_your_michigan_landscape.



Rose-Breasted Grosbeak

Hopefully birds will find insects in the leaf litter that I try to leave on the flower beds until late May. I know it's hard as we like to have nice, tidy flowerbeds, but it is beneficial to let leaves lie whenever you can. https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/dont_sweep_your_leaves_to_the_curb_mulch_them_back_into_your_lawn_or_garden.

Backyard habitat for birds should include water (a heated bird bath is great in winter), shelter and food. In our yard, we have two large yews by our deck, and birds sit in these shrubs all winter. We do feed our birds sunflower seeds (which squirrels also adore), hot pepper suet (squirrels hate it), safflower and thistle seeds. These meals, along with the water, attracts at least 12 varieties of birds to our yard.

It is also fun to identify birds even if you aren't exactly a professional birder. There is an app called Merlin from Cornell University that will help you identify birds by their habits, songs, color and location spotted. <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/search>. I hope you have a birdy (?), birdful (?), plenty-of-bird-watching-fun winter!



Baltimore Oriole



Bird Bath, Yew birds like to hide in, suet block on tree and leaves left in the flower beds.

Aphids Invade Our Rest Areas

by Loretta Ellwood

This year I saw thousands of aphids attacking several varieties of milkweed (Asclepias) plants and, for the first time, I saw them on common milkweed. Some plants, like bee balm, seem to be more susceptible to them. However, in my experience it has usually been a manageable problem. This year the aphids were so rampant that I decided to learn more about them.

Using their mouth sucking parts to pierce the stem and leaf undersides of the plants, aphids withdraw plant fluids. They produce a clear, sticky fluid called honeydew. Although aphids don't cause permanent damage, large numbers of them do cause leaf distortion, discoloration and/or slow plant growth. (See attached photographs). Aphids vary in color depending on the host plant upon which they are feasting. They can go from black, brown, green, orange, red and yellow, blending in with the foliage. This makes them more difficult to see initially.

Another interesting fact is aphids can reproduce rapidly. They can produce another generation in less than seven days during warm weather. A few hundred can become thousands and thousands in a very short time. For the most part, aphids prefer herbaceous perennials. There are, however, certain situations that may lead to an overabundance of these insects on other plants as well: overwatering and over fertilizing are the two main ones.

There are natural enemies of this insect such as ladybird beetles (ladybugs in our part of the world), lacewing larvae, hover flies and small parasitic wasps that deposit their eggs inside the aphids. To help control them, it is suggested using a hard water spray (not so hard that the plant is damaged) to dislodge them, which has the least harmful effect on the natural enemies. If this isn't working, you can try a spray of 1% insecticidal soap. Again, spray hard enough to dislodge the aphids off the plant. As a last option, you can use a pyrethroid insecticide. However, this method will also destroy beneficial insects as well and the aphids could return after a month to six weeks. There are plants that the aphids avoid. Notice the marigold in the photograph. Not an aphid to be seen. They apparently do have selective tastes.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/aphids>

https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/aphids_little_green_cows_of_the_bug_world

Tallamy, Douglas W. *Bringing Nature Home*. Timber Press, 2009.

The next issue will have more information about the MDOT rest areas in Genesee County.



Outreach News, Birth Month Flowers

Outreach News

By Kay McCullough

At this time, there are no upcoming events that need EMG volunteers. Stay tuned!

November Birth Month Flower – Chrysanthemum!

By Michelle Chockley

“The chrysanthemum was first introduced into the Western world during the 17th Century. In 1753 Karl Linnaeus, renowned Swedish botanist, combined the Greek words chryso, meaning gold with anthemon, meaning flower.” Find out more about the **History of the Chrysanthemum** by visiting this link from the National Chrysanthemum Society.

<https://www.mums.org/history-of-the-chrysanthemum/>

Chrysanthemum Care - Purdue University Extension. This site suggests that you shouldn't grow chrysanthemums in the same place for more than three years to avoid problems from both disease and pests.

<https://extension.psu.edu/chrysanthemum-care>

Chrysanthemums for the Home Garden

The Missouri Botanical Garden gives information about chrysanthemums for the home. It includes graphics of twelve types.

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/Portals/0/Gardening/Gardening%20Help/Factsheets/Chrysanthemums11.pdf>

Yard and Garden: Chrysanthemums Growing - Iowa State University

This link speaks to what kind of chrysanthemums will survive the winter and includes a link to another free downloadable PDF titled “*Growing Chrysanthemums in the Garden.*” It includes classification of the flowers based upon petal shape and arrangement.

<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/yard-and-garden-chrysanthemums>



December Birth Month Flowers – Narcissus & Holly!



“Narcissus is a genus of about 50 species of bulbous perennials from Europe and North Africa.... Depending upon species or hybrid type, flowers appear singly or in clusters atop stems rising from 6-30” tall.”

Find out more about them by reading what the Missouri Botanical Garden has to say: <https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=264603&isprofile=0&basic=narcissus>

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Gardening with Kids ... Make a Pinecone Wreath

By Mary Yelland

Pinecones are produced by pine trees. Their main purpose is to keep the seeds safe. Pinecones will close in cold and wet weather. They will open in hot and dry weather. This helps ensure that the release of the seeds will be during the best time for the seeds to germinate and grow. Pinecones are used to make pretty holiday decorations and you can learn some things about them in the process.

You will need:

- Pinecones
- Heavy Cardboard
- Hot glue and glue gun
- Miscellaneous craft supplies



1. Collect some pinecones. Try to find ones that are similar sized. Pinecones may be found on the ground underneath a pine tree. You may see them up in the tree as well. A pinecone can stay on the tree for more than 10 years before it drops to the ground.
2. Clean up the pinecones. You may notice some dried leaves (pine needles) caught in the cones. You may also notice some sticky sap on the cones. If it gets on your hands it may be hard to wash off. This is the liquid that carries nutrients to the tree. Remove visible debris and then give the pinecones a bath in warm water for a half hour or so. You can add some white vinegar if you have some to help get them clean.
3. Remove the pinecones from the water. You may notice that they closed up in the water. But don't worry, you will take care of that. Let the water drain off the cones until they no longer have visible water on them, then dry them out in the oven. To do this, line a baking sheet with foil or parchment (this will protect your baking sheet) and lay out the pinecones with some space between them. Put them in an oven that is about 250°F and leave them for 20-30 minutes. If they closed up while soaking in the water, you should see them open now as they become hot and dry. Let the pinecones cool before handling. You may be able to find some pine seeds down in the cones once they are open. In some species of pine trees these seeds are edible; they are called pine nuts. Commercial pine nuts come from Pinyon Pines or Stone Pines. Those trees do not grow in Michigan. However Korean pine (*Pinus koraiensis*) or Swiss stone pine (*Pinus cembra*) also grow edible pine seeds and they will grow in Michigan.
4. The pinecones are now ready for crafting. If you wish, you can paint the pinecones with some acrylic paint and let them dry.
5. Cut the desired wreath shape from heavy cardboard. Make sure you have an adult's permission and supervision to use a hot glue gun. Using a hot glue gun, glue the pinecones to the cardboard wreath.
6. Attach a ribbon or other hanger to the back of the cardboard. Add other decorations as you wish, maybe a ribbon bow, some pompoms or fake berries.
7. Hang your wreath up as a holiday decoration.

Time to Harvest ... Corn!

By Mary Yelland

WE'RE NUMBER ONE! WE'RE NUMBER ONE! You can almost hear the chant coming from the corn along the country roads in Michigan. Of course, this is not really the case, but the abundant plants would have the right to do so. Corn, with a production over 14 billion bushels a year, is the most abundant crop in our country. Looking at all the available kinds of corn and the products made from it, it is understandable why. While sweet corn is harvested in the summer, grain corn is harvested after it is dry in the late fall.

Corn, *Zea mays*, has thousands of varieties. Varieties are sometimes divided into "kinds" of corn such as dent corn (field corn), popcorn, sweet corn, flour corn, flint corn, and specialty corn. The vast majority of corn grown in the U.S. is dent corn, called such because when dry, the kernels have a dent in the top. Unless you are a farmer, chances are that if you have grown corn, it was a variety of sweet corn. Corn is actually a grain and is the only grain that is eaten fresh as a vegetable. Corn is a warm weather crop and will not germinate until the soil has warmed in the spring. The plants are wind pollinated and will pollinate better if planted in blocks instead of rows.

The corn on the cob you have on your dinner table is one of the lesser uses for corn. Corn is used in many foods in the form of corn syrup, corn oil, cornstarch, and is the largest source of commercially produced vitamin C. If you read labels you will know corn is found in a large number of items on the grocery store shelves. In spite of this, human food is only a small percentage of the usage of this widely grown plant. The number one usage is for animal feed, followed closely by ethanol production. Beyond that, it is amazing the things that are being produced from corn; plastics, paper products such as diapers, packaging materials, building materials, cosmetics, cleaning supplies, textiles, paints, explosives and even a salt substitute. Corn flour, corn meal, and corn grits are usually ground from dent or flint corn and are only different because of how finely they are ground. Here are a couple of recipes using corn meal. The first is for a holiday style cornbread that is reminiscent of hush puppies. The second is a soup thickened with corn meal that can use up some leftover holiday turkey.

Onion Upside-down Cornbread

1 onion	3 tablespoons sugar
2 tablespoons butter	1½ teaspoon baking powder
2 eggs	¾ cup cornmeal
8 oz. of cottage cheese	½ cup flour
¾ teaspoon salt	



Preheat the oven to 400°F. Slice onions into rings, leaving slices in order if possible. Melt butter in an 8 inch cast iron skillet. Place onion slices close together into butter filling in spaces between slices with smaller bits of onion. Finely chop any remaining onion and reserve it. Cook sliced onions in butter over medium heat for 5 minutes without disturbing the slices. While the onion is cooking, mix the batter. Beat together eggs, cottage cheese, and reserved onions. Stir in remaining ingredients. Pour batter over onions. Place the skillet in the oven and bake for 20-25 minutes until done. Let cornbread cool for 10-15 minutes. Run a knife around the edge of the cornbread. Place a plate over the pan and carefully flip the pan over and remove the cornbread. For variety you can mix in 4 oz. of broccoli and/or ¼ cup chopped cooked bacon to the batter.



Turkey (or chicken) Taco Soup

2-3 cups shredded leftover turkey or chicken	8 oz. frozen corn
1 onion chopped	1 (15 oz.) can black beans rinsed and drained
½ teaspoon garlic powder	2 (14 oz.) cans diced tomatoes
1 teaspoon dried oregano	2 cups chicken broth
½ teaspoon cumin	3 tablespoons cornmeal
½ teaspoon chili powder	

Combine all ingredients except cornmeal in a large pot. Bring to a boil. Mix cornmeal in enough cold water to make a slurry. Stir cornmeal into soup. Cook for 10 minutes. Serve with sour cream and cheddar cheese if desired.

VMS Corner

Michelle Chockley—Lead VMS Ambassador (Cell: 810-210-6685)

VMS Log in: <https://michigan.volunteersystem.org/UniversalLogin.cfm>

Reminder: The 2020 annual required hours for Extension Master Gardeners and Advanced Extension Master Gardeners is 10 education hours which are to be completed and reported in the VMS no later than December 31, 2020. (The 20 volunteer hour requirement has been waived for 2020.)

Awards and Recognitions

Normally, we would have an annual banquet to recognize accomplishments of our Extension Master Gardeners. The 2020 banquet was cancelled. Stay tuned for more information regarding this event for 2021! Recognition materials are paid for through the MSU Extension Master Gardener recertification fund. There is no charge to the County or Extension Master Gardeners.

Basic Extension MG Name Badges and Certificates plus Advanced Extension MG Name Badges and Certificates are provided for you. Certificates are usually issued at the annual Awards and Recognitions Banquet.

When do you receive a recognition Hours Bar for Volunteer Hours?

These are the hour increments for recognition:

250 hours; 500 hours; 1,000 hours; 1,500 hours; 2,000 hours; 2,500 hours; 3,000 hours; 3,500 hours; 4,000 hours; 4,500 hours; 5,000 hours; 5,500 hours; 6,000 hours; 6,500 hours; 7,000 hours; 7,500 hours; 8,000 hours; 8,500 hours; 9,000 hours. **When you reach 1,000 hours, you will receive a special Gold Badge with leather holder from MSUE.**

It is important to log your hours for approved projects so you receive your recognition for your awesome accomplishments!

Garden Watch 2020 Reminder: Email Mary Yelland photos of your personal home gardens to post in the VMS photo album (dmyelland@juno.com). We have 80 photos at this time. To view, go to VMS, left side of home screen "General Information" – "Photo Albums." Also, send Mary your favorite pictures you took at an approved project this year to be added to the VMS folder for that project.

Thank you everyone and stay well!



Korean Spice Viburnum



Callicarpa (Beautyberry)

Ask An Expert

Ask an Expert is a free program offered through the MSU extension office at <https://ask.extension.org>. It allows the public to ask questions from food safety, agriculture, gardening, and natural resources. Questions can be asked, and answers emailed within two days. I answered a lot of questions this year. Listed below are two of them.

Submitted by: Marie Luck-Allard

Question:

Hello, we have what should be Annabelle hydrangeas planted on the south facing and west facing sides of our front porch. We have two hydrangeas that are definitely the Annabelle variety and the others are a mystery to us. We were told there is an issue with Annabelle's this year. This issue makes Annabelle's look like lacecaps. We are looking for a second opinion to verify or dispute this assertion. Any insight you may have is greatly appreciated! Thank you. Doug



Response:

Hydrangeas can have a distorted bloom caused by aster yellows, which affects hydrangea. However, they are viruses that can cause distortion, too. This response is quoted from a plant pathologist at University of Minnesota: *"There are several viruses that are known to infect hydrangeas and aster yellows has been identified in hydrangea as well. Both virus in hydrangea and aster yellows occur in Minnesota. Malformed flowers and unusual growth can occur with both virus and infections. The recommendation for management of both diseases is the same, remove the infected plants and compost all plant material. Purchase a healthy plant from a reputable nursery as a replacement."*

<https://extension.umn.edu/plant-diseases/aster-yellows>

Question:

Sparing my zinnia seeds from finches

I planted a lot of zinnias, and the birds especially finches love to eat the seeds. I've been trying to tag the special plants I want to keep seed from. How do I protect my seed from the birds eating it before it's ready.

Response:

Finches love to feed on seeds of plants with zinnia being one of their favorites. They have beaks well suited to plucking petals to get seeds. They are also attracted to neighborhood bird feeders. In order to discourage them, if you have a bird feeder nearby, simply remove it to hinder the finches. Also, bird netting can be used, but it is messy and requires thoughtful planning to not trap the birds. For further information, see the following links:

<https://www.birdsandblooms.com/birding/attracting-birds/plants-and-trees-that-attract-birds/attract-goldfinches-garden/>

http://www.dnr.state.mi.us/publications/pdfs/huntingwildlifehabitat/landowners_guide/Resource_Dir/Acrobat/Backyard_Mgmt.pdf

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.

Note from MGAGCM President—Joanne Gensel

Holiday Greetings Gardeners!

The year is coming to a close quickly. Remember to log ten (10) hours of education before the end of 2020 to recertify in 2021. If you have been attending the Zoom speaker meetings, you can count each session attended as one (1) hour of education. More educational webinars can be found on the VMS site. You may log as many as you earned, but you must get a minimum of 10 education hours for 2020 to stay current. If you have volunteered at an approved project, you may log the volunteer time. (Getting volunteer hours is not a *requirement this year, but they do count.*)

Ruth Steele Walker, from MMGA, reached out to me recently. We discussed the situation regarding the membership status. We have come to a satisfactory working solution. The association will be responsible to pay the \$5.00 member fee and provide the membership list to MMGA in 2021. Some items are being reviewed such as the “need for MMGA insurance” in light of MSU providing insurance at approved project sites. I will provide updates as I learn of them.

I have received many applications for membership to MGAGCM! We will be assembling a directory for the membership to use. This should make it much easier for members to reach out to each other for projects and events. If you haven't filled out an application yet, I encourage you to do it. You can send it email, text or mail or call me and we will fill out a form over the phone. See below for form.

It looks like another tough winter for live meetings, so the board will have to make do on Zoom meetings. We will do our best to get our programs in place for the time we can finally meet again live with all our fellow gardening friends. Watch for notices regarding Master Gardener College and the International Master Gardener Conference as both will be virtual this year. The costs will be reduced and the content will be great... lots of educational opportunities right at home!

Hoping your holiday season is happy and that everyone you love lives a while longer.

Be safe, wear a mask, keep your distance!

BE POSITIVE! TEST NEGATIVE!

Joanne

****MGAGCM = Master Gardener Association Genesee County Michigan (*our local level association*)**
(MGAGCM is one of affiliate chapters that make up MMGA, Inc. Membership is NOT required to be an Extension Master Gardener. Membership is for fundraising and social purposes.)

***MMGA = Michigan Master Gardeners Association, Inc. (*our state level association*)**

MGAGCM Board of Directors

President	Joanne Gensel	jhgensel@gmail.com	(810) 339-0764
1st Vice President	Sabrina VanDyke	brie0212@gmail.com	(810) 407-0808
2nd Vice President	Loretta Ellwood	ldellwood@aol.com	(810) 344-7383
Secretary	Margaret Sowle	leemar4321@frontier.com	(989) 723-6074
Treasurer	Michelle Wareham	m.wareham@yahoo.com	(810) 919-2945
Outreach Director	Kay McCullough	birdieball@aol.com	(810) 635-9341
Communication Director	Mel Kennedy	mkennedy60@charter.net	(810) 275-8822

Flower of the Month, Continued:

One site suggests that the December birth flower is the Paperwhite Narcissus. Dixie Sandborn from Michigan State gives advice:

Force flower bulbs to grow indoors to battle the blues

https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/force_flower_bulbs_to_grow_indoors_to_battle_the_blues

The Narcissus - Purdue University Cooperative Extension

Find out about types of Narcissus, steps and information growing the bulbs, and classifications of Narcissus including cultivar examples from the American Daffodil Society.

<https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/yardandgarden/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2016/10/HO-11.pdf>

The plants we know as holly belong to the *Ilex* genus. They have berries, which are technically called drupes, all of which can be harmful if eaten by humans and pets, but provide birds with an important food source in the winter. They are dioecious, too, which means they produce male and female flowers on different plants. In order to get drupes, a male of the same species has to be planted nearby! Additionally, there are both deciduous and evergreen species. Michigan has two native species both of which are deciduous. *Ilex verticillata*, called Winterberry or Michigan holly is more common and cultivars can be found at some local nurseries while *Ilex mucronata* is much less known.

Read some of these links to find out more information about this “berried” treasure!

American Holly—More than Just a Holiday Decoration – Piedmont Master Gardeners

<https://piedmontmastergardeners.org/article/american-holly-more-than-just-a-holiday-decoration/>

Hollies for the Home Garden – University of Arkansas (an 18 page booklet)

<https://www.uaex.edu/publications/pdf/MP310.pdf>

Holly: a Christmas tradition – Michigan State University Extension

https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/holly_a_christmas_tradition

These hollies stay jolly when it’s cold out – The Ohio State University

<https://cfaes.osu.edu/news/articles/these-hollies-stay-jolly-when-it-s-cold-out>

Winterberry: Michigan’s native holly – Michigan State University Extension

https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/winterberry_michigans_native_holly



Master Gardener Association of Genesee County, MI (MGAGCM)
Individual Chapter Membership Application

By completing information, signing and returning application, you are a member of the MGAGCM Chapter. Upon budget approval, MGAGCM will pay MMGA \$5.00 dues.

Name: _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Emergency Contact _____ Phone _____

As a member of the Master Gardener Association of Genesee Co Michigan, I hereby agree to uphold the mission of Michigan State University Extension and the Master Gardener program.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

MGAGCM Chapter Directory

I give my permission to be in the MGAGCM Chapter Directory which will go out to our members. Contact will only pertain to MGAGCM activities, you will not be added to any other mailing lists.

Yes _____ No _____ Initial _____

Photo Release

I give permission to MGAGCM to use my name, photographic likeness or audio-video recording that includes me while I participating in a Michigan Master Gardener activity. I give permission for my image to be used in all forms and media for advertising, trade or any other lawful purposes and I acknowledge that since my participation is voluntary, I will not receive financial compensation. Yes

_____ No _____ Initial _____

Complete this form and mail to

MGAGCM

P.O. Box 981

Grand Blanc, MI 48480

Membership is open to every member who meets the yearly Extension Master Gardener (EMG) certification and every new Extension Master Gardener Volunteer in Training (EMGVIT) currently working on basic certification. Per our Chapter Bylaws, all regular members of the Chapter must also be Regular Members of the MMGA (Michigan Master Gardener Association). All members of MGAGCM are members of MMGA by default after submission and receipt of this application.

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin or gender.

Questions: Contact Joanne Gensel 810-339-0764

jhgensel@gmail.com

Master Gardener Association Genesee County

Websites

MGAGCM website—www.geneseecountymg.org

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

MMGA, Inc. website—www.michiganmastergardener.org

MGAGCM Events:

Jan. 16: **Seed Starting 101 – Deirdre Hope**

Project ID: Food: General Gardens

Feb. 20: **Cactuses and Succulents That Will Prickle Your Fancy – Barslund Judd**

Project ID: Community: Beautification - Public Areas

Mar. 19: **Michigan Invasives: A Look At The Past, Present and Future – with Brian Van Patten**

Project ID: Environmental Stewardship: Invasive Pests and Plants **Cancelled due to COVID-19**

Apr. 16: ~~Extension Master Gardener Banquet [Potluck—MGAGCM provides chicken and beverage—watch for link to sign up!]~~ **Postponed**

May 16: ~~MGAGCM Native Plant Sale~~ at Davison Farmers Market (Saturday, starting at 9:00 a.m.) **Postponed until September 12th.**

May 21: ~~Flowering Plants for the Cutting Garden—Jane Giblin~~ **Cancelled and presentation changed to Yellow Stripey Things: Bees, Hornets and Wasps – Abi Saeed / Project ID: Environmental Stewardship: IPM - General**

June 18: ~~Meeting at Wojo's (Wojo's Speaker...TBA)~~ **Cancelled**

June 28: ~~Genesee County Extension Master Gardener Tour 2020 (Sunday, from 10 a.m.—5 p.m.)~~ **Postponed**
Project ID: Community: Beautification—Public Areas (If you visit all the sites, you'll get 3.5 Ed. Hrs.)

July TBD: ~~MGAGCM July Picnic (at Crossroads Village)~~ **Cancelled**

Aug. 20: ~~The Year in Blooms: Pollinators and their Relationship with Native Plants—Vince Ste. Marie~~
Project ID: Environmental Stewardship: IPM—Pollinators ~~Food Safety in the Home Garden – Micah Hutchinson~~
Project ID: Food: General Gardens

Sept. 12: ~~MGAGCM Native Plant Sale~~ at the Davison Farmers Market (rescheduled from May 16th) *[The link has an order form, plant list, and plant information.]* **Postponed 'til 2021**

Sept. 17: **Gardening for Pollinators – Jay Blair last minute chg: Hops in the Home Garden – Barslund Judd**
Project ID: Environmental Stewardship: IPM - Pollinators Food: General Gardens

Oct. 10: ~~Fall Into Spring~~ **Cancelled**

Oct. 15: **Native Michigan Wildflowers and Why You Want Them in Your Landscape – Sara Thomas**
Project ID: Environmental Stewardship: Native Plants

Nov. 19: **Small Fruits and Nuts for the Home Landscape – Dr. Nate Walton**
Project ID: Food: General Gardens

2020 MGAGCM meetings and or presentations are held on the third Thursday of each month in the GCCARD Building, 601 N. Saginaw Street, Flint, MI 48502-2009 (except December & unless otherwise noted).

Update: Going forward from March 2020, meetings will be held via Zoom and a link will be sent to members.