

IF YOU GO TO NEW YORK CITY WALK THE HIGH LINE

On a summer vacation trip to New York City this year, among the sights we took in, was a walk on the High Line. This elevated garden walk, I found out through some research, was a 1.45 mile walkway through the west end of the Chelsea neighborhood - used for parties, concerts, fund-raisers and so much more. Founded in 1999 by neighborhood residents, and opened to the public in 2009, it was a labor of love, hard work and future-thinking. With a close partnership with the New York City Parks & Recreation department, the High Line was transformed from an abandoned elevated railroad into a public space.



Photo Courtesy Cheryl Borkowski

Although the walk itself is wonderful, it was the plants that captured my attention. There was such diversity - it was so cool to see all these plants so far above the city. Reading the blogs on the website was entertaining and educational. Please take a look at the website for the [High Line](#) for more information.

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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION



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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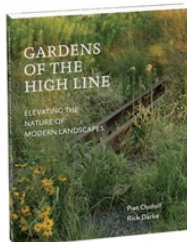


Sustainable practices are necessary in such a public place, and IPM (integrated pest management) is used throughout. The gardeners work hard to maintain a balanced ecosystem, and they keep an eye on plant stresses, pests and disease. Compost and compost tea, made from leaves and stalks removed in the spring and fall, is used for healthy biology of the soil. Beneficial nematodes, insects and pheromones have been used for pest control. Watering is accomplished by drip irrigation, and many of the plants are drought-tolerant. Watering is also done by hand, if needed, by staff and volunteers

In 2017, a plant propagation program was begun. Erin Eck, blog contributor, wrote about vegetative propagation, and seed gathering from the plants. They have had success with sweet everlasting (*Pseudognaphalium obtusifolium*) showy goldenrod (*Solidago speciosa*) and butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*). Challenges experienced were: seedlings drowned by heavy downpours, rodents, birds and cold snaps. Many of the same challenges we all face as gardeners!

The horticultural designer of the High Line, Piet Oudolf said “My biggest inspiration is nature. I do not want to copy it, but to recreate the emotion.” The plants on the High Line reflect nature in a most beautiful way. Pictures on the website are a visual feast for the eyes. To see it in person was such a treat.

a new book, ***Gardens of the High Line: Elevating the Nature of Modern Landscapes*** by Oudolf and photographer Rick Darke, who has been taking pictures of the park since 2002, well before its opening. This book gives us Oudolf’s perspective on what is to date his most famous creation. It provides a richly illustrated and informative tour through the total expanse of the High Line, from its starting point in the former Meatpacking District to its stopping point at 34th Street.



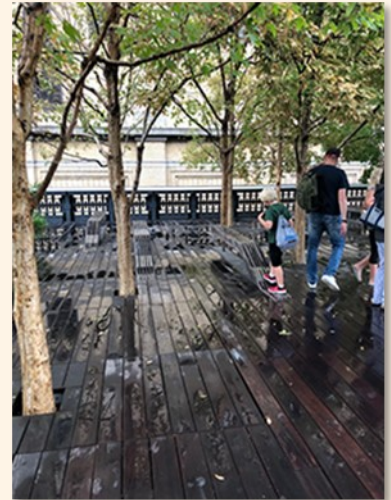
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As we walked along the pathways, I was so happy to see so many plant varieties. On the High Line website there is a plant list, and I was astonished to see how many plants there really were: Over one hundred trees and shrubs; over 200 different perennials; 40 grasses; 20 vines; 80 varieties of bulbs and much more. There was plenty of repetition with huge swaths of grasses and prairie plants. Since we were there in mid-July, there was a lot blooming, but I can only imagine what it looks like in Spring with all the bulbs, or Fall with the buff colors of the grasses; and, reds, yellows and oranges of the leaves on the trees.

We sort of fell in love with New York City, and plan to visit again...and again. As we visit at different times of year, I plan to make time to walk the High Line in different seasons.

Article written and photos provided by
Master Gardener Cheryl Borkowski



MONTHLY FEATURE ARTICLE

Have you visited some interesting gardens this summer; or, learned about an agricultural practice; or perhaps, discovered something new in horticultural wonders? Then you might just have a story to share. We are inviting all our Master Gardeners the opportunity to write a feature article. Our feature articles offer an educational component for the readers, while providing the rest of the Master Gardeners a chance to share what they have learned or experienced. It is a great way to connect and share with one another. Not everyone can attend all the wonderful classes, workshops, and conferences; but, for those who do, you can share that experience through the newsletter. If you are interested in writing an article or would like more information please contact Kit Puroll by email: all_4_adventure@hotmail.com

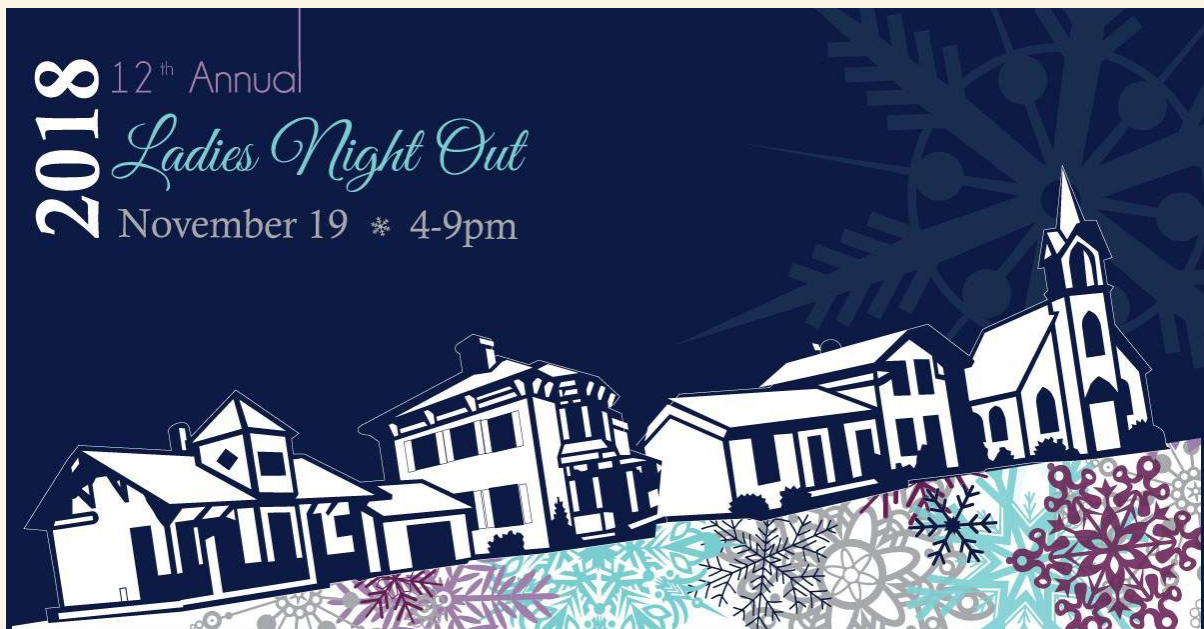
A SURPRISE AWARD

On July 3, 2018, MDOT honored Brenda Monty with the *Simply Super Service Award* for the work she has done as the Project Chair for the I-69 rest area over the past fifteen years. Brenda Monty retired from the Project Chair position this past year. Amanda Novack, Resource Analyst with MDOT, was instrumental in recognizing Brenda for her many hours of work at the I-69 (Swartz Creek) rest area, citing her additional contributions in assisting with other rest areas in Genesee County, and consulting in other counties. Brenda helped with the design and choice of plantings with a focus on getting Monarch Waystation status for some. We who have worked with Brenda are thankful for her expertise, knowledge and assistance she gives us. And, I'm sure, MGAGCM appreciates and values the many hours of work she has done for our organization. Congratulations Brenda for a job well done!

Loretta Ellwood 2007



Presented by Ponce Espaza, Transportation Maintenance Coordinator (center), Keith Brown, Davison TSC Operations Engineer along with Jocelyn Hall, MDOT Communications, (not pictured).



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BUTTERFLIES ARE EVERYWHERE

Genesee County may be considered a Monarch Corridor for the butterflies, with ten Waystation sites and counting. The perseverance, passion, and dedication of many humble Master Gardeners have made a welcome home for the migrating butterflies. Awards have been presented and recognition given to many of these sites and literally, millions of visitors, from around the world have had the opportunity to enjoy this beauty as they travel on the highways and visit the parks.



Photo Courtesy of Kit Puroll
Monarch released by Kit Puroll

This past month, Brenda Monty, former lead for the Swartz Creek Rest Area was quoted in Jocelyn Hall's contribution to the [MDOT newsletter](#): "Providing these Waystations was a very important goal for our Master Gardeners. This is something we are committed to doing for our butterfly population, and it's worth every bit of effort our team has put in." ¹

The Monarch Waystations had their beginning in the year 2000, when Chris Carpenter and Joanie Snyder shared an idea, about the potential for a partnership between MDOT and EMG's. When Chris shared this idea with EMG Leaders, Mary Wilson and Terry McLean, Mary exclaimed, "Wow! What a huge potential to provide greater visibility and the potential to fulfill the EMG Program mission of educating others in a way that hadn't been done before". ²

In May, 2016 Brenda responded to Amanda Novak's request to present the "Innovative Rest Area Management MSU Extension Master Gardeners and MDOT Rest Area Partnership" as a best practice at the National Safety Conference in October. The Rest Areas represent six of the ten Genesee County Waystations! The details of this process were reported in the DTE September, 2016 article; [Rest Area Partnership between MDOT and the MSUE Master Gardeners](#).

A measured impact on the conservation of the Monarch Butterfly is being achieved through the efforts of all of the Master Gardeners from the ten Waystation project sites - creating and maintaining butterfly breeding habitats, providing the plants for their sustainability and educating others on the endangerment of the monarch population. The following is a snapshot of what their hard work is accomplishing.

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HUMANE SOCIETY

The original Humane Society garden was established in 2004 by Project Chair, and, Humane Society Volunteer Coordinator, Terry Ashley with a Ruth Mott grant providing native plants including purple coneflowers, sedum and black-eyed susans.

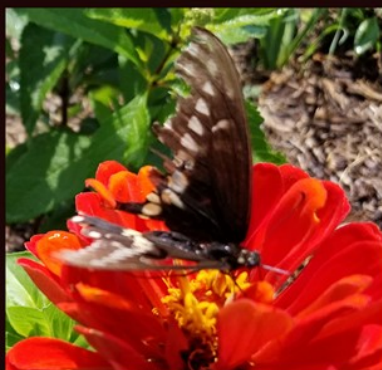
Since 2014, the gardens have multiplied to eight beds. While the beds have grown by allowing the common milkweed plants to self-seed and the addition of butterfly weed, swamp milkweed and zinnias. The garden was certified as a Monarch Waystation this August, 2018.



RUST PARK – GRAND BLANC

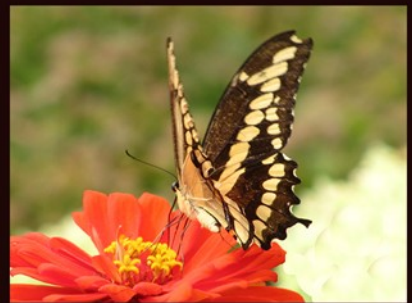
Rust Park has some “very unique aspects,” shares Debbie Glasstetter, one of our new Master Gardeners from the winter class. “Establishing a mulched walking path throughout the garden,” Debbie explains, “allows better access to the plants for cultivation and care, while providing visitors a wonderful way to walk through the gardens. By creating areas of interest - a trellis, butterfly puddler that holds water and minerals for butterflies and other insects, and a birdhouse, visitors can observe the butterflies and other insects while enjoying the beautiful blooms. A tree stump provides a place to sit quietly and watch all the activity.”

The Monarch Waystation in Rust Park, was initiated this June 2018 and certified it in August 2018. Information and photos provided by Debbie Glasstetter



I-75 NORTHBOUND DODGE ROAD

Dodge Road Rest Area became a Certified Monarch Waystation October 29, 2016. The first Area Rest Stop Waystation was led by Ruth Sutton. "It is home to numerous butterflies, bees and birds," Project Lead, Ruth Sutton shares. "This became a project site through the Master Gardeners sharing information about the Monarch Waystation program. Originally, it was just about the rest area project, but we feel, as stewards of the environment, 'what you put in, is what you will get out'. Through the Master Gardeners, we learned that Monarchs were in a steep decline and decided we could help by planting food (plants) for nectar and avoiding chemicals for weed control. Not only does this help the Monarchs it also strengthens the bird and Bee population, who are also struggling at this time. Further, the project helps support the migration south. Ponce Esparsa, of the MDOT Bay Region, has been very supportive in our efforts along with many organizations and other people. Brenda Monty has become the voice for the Monarch rest areas project. We hope these small efforts will lead to big gains in the future." Information and photos provided by Ruth Sutton.



I-69 WOODBURY

The I-69 Woodbury has met the criteria for a Monarch Waystation and the application is being completed. Carol Pittard one of our new members is the Project Lead. Photos provided by Brenda Monty



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CROSSROADS VILLAGE

Crossroads Village is registered as a Colossal Waystation hosting five separate areas within the park. The entrance Monarch Waystation is amazing! So many butterflies fluttering from one bloom to another thrills and delights. The unique aspect of the area is the impressive use of the natural sculptural beauty of rocks and boulders. The awe-inspiring grandeur of the rocks, backed by grasses and blooms is magnificent. Information provided by MG Debbie Glasstetter. Photos provided by MG and Crossroads Project Chair, Joanie Snyder. For more information regarding the Crossroads Waystations visit last months (September) newsletter article: [Preserving the Monarch Butterfly](#) .



FLUSHING

The Flushing Butterfly Garden was initiated in 2010-11, Mary Beth Seaward has been the Project Lead since 2013.



CLIO BRIDGE PARK NORTHBOUND

The Clio Bridge Park project site was established through the donation of land by the Acheson Family who had farmed the acreage over 113 years, growing potatoes. When Master Gardener Cheri Johnson was asked to create a beautiful project for the community rest area, by the Vienna Township Business Authority (BDA), she took it on with passion, creating a 3-5 year beautification plan that included turning the park at Linden and M-57 into the Bridge Park. With the BDA collaboration and Pete Chargo, a previous BDA member, she was able to create a beautiful and inviting, handicapped accessible rest area garden walk. It didn't take long to expand this vision to include a Monarch Waystation with many native plants. Lori Fournier, the current project chair has been maintaining the gardens as well as introducing children to the gardens and butterflies through the Fairy Trail Event, now in its second year. The site has been a certified Monarch Way Station since 2010; and, has been the recipient of numerous awards including "Keep Michigan Beautiful" To read more about Lori Fournier and the Clio Bridge Park refer to the previous article in the DTE from January, 2018. [Flowers, Fairies and Magic](#) Information provided by Cheri Johnson and Lori Fournier; photos provided by Lori Fournier.



I-75 SOUTHBOUND and US-23

I-75 Southbound and US-23 are not officially Monarch Waystations as yet, but they are in the process. The walking stick, Skipper butterfly and tree toad are all from US-23. Loretta Ellwood is the Project Site Lead. Information and Photos provided by Loretta Ellwood.



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I-69 SWARTZ CREEK

Brenda Monty, the Project Site Lead and the person who was instrumental in establishing the Rest Area Monarch Waystations, shares, "Two distinctly different sun loving perennial gardens comprise the I-69 Swartz Creek site. The car side garden is dominated by mass plantings of waves of red bee balm, echinacea and Annabelle hydrangeas bordered by day lilies, and annuals for late fall color. The truck side has cottage gardens which contain over thirty varieties of perennials in continuous bloom from summer till late fall, providing visitors with an ever changing and beautiful display. A third garden includes additional nectar plants loved and needed by Monarchs. Plants such as swamp milkweed, Joe Pye weed, butterfly flower, lantana, bee balm and echinacea draw numerous butterflies, Monarchs, skippers, hummingbird moths, hummingbirds and bees to the site. We photographed our first Monarch caterpillars at Swartz Creek the summer of 2017." Jocelyn Hall, MDOT Communications, created and published *MDOT's Bay Region continuing to expand support for pollinators* on September 11, 2018, sparking interest that led to the Fox 66 news report: [Swartz Creek Rest Area Gardens Designated as Monarch Waystation for Monarch Butterflies](#).³ Brenda Monty has been the site Lead for fifteen years and retired this past spring. Current chair is Janet Horvath. Information and photos provided by Brenda Monty.



¹ MDOT News Website; *MDOT's Bay Region continuing to expand support for pollinators*; September 11, 2018

² DTE September, 2016 article; [Rest Area Partnership between MDOT and the MSUE Master Gardeners](#)

³ 25 NBC News; Nick Russo; *Swartz Creek Rest Area Gardens Designated as Monarch Waystation for Monarch Butterflies*; September 13, 2018; video and printed report.

Article written and photo layout by Kit Puroll; September 21, 2018

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NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

The MGAGCM 2019 Board Nominations and Election process is now open. The four open positions are, President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President and a Director position, responsible for keeping the Event Calendar up to date on VMS. If you want to nominate someone, you need to get that members approval, and then send an email or written nomination to a member of the Nominating and Election Committee. Committee members are Dick Moldenhauer, rnmold1050@aol.com; Colleen Putinsky, chinmayababe@gmail.com and Christy Jones, jones.christine71@yahoo.com The deadline for nominations is the end of our October membership meeting, October 18, 2018.

TO RECEIVE COMMUNICATION REGARDING MGAGCM

VMS allows active master gardeners from the county to send email to those of a particular interest group. There has been some confusion regarding communication issues in the past and we are trying to clear this up. Because of this you are being requested to include MGAGCM in your interests on VMS. If you wish to continue to receive emails from MGAGCM you must make this change.

To do so follow the following steps:

1. Log in to VMS as usual just like when you are going to record volunteer hours.
2. Click on "Editing Profile." This is found on the page directly above "Add New Hours." A page should come up with your name and the privacy policy.
3. Scroll down the page. You should see a list in bold with check boxes next to each item. It is titled "Edit Interest."
4. Find the box next to "MGAGCM (Master Gardener Assoc Genesee Co MI)" and click on it. You should see a check mark appear.
5. Feel free to check other interests as well. This will allow people to contact you if there is information for these areas.
6. Scroll all the way to the bottom of the page and click the gray button that says "Save Information."

If you are having problems getting this to work or have questions you can contact one of the VMS ambassadors or VMS buddies for some help. Their information is on the bottom of the VMS home page (you will need to scroll down).

If you do not make this change you may no longer receive communication regarding the MGAGCM.

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CEDAR APPLE RUST

A caller brought in a sample of a branch of leaves that has been identified as Cedar-Apple rust. This fungus appears on, just what the name says, on cedar trees and apple trees. The caller was instructed to spray with a copper-based fungicide (chlorothalonil) in early spring. Read more about Cedar [Apple Rust](#) at the MSUE website.

Beginning October 1st, the Hotline will only be open on Fridays for the colder months. Many thanks to our hard working Hotline volunteers and to the MSU Extension staff who provide us so much technical support! To those of you who don't see any of your log sheet material in the Hotline Buzzzzz, it may be because I cannot read your handwriting, dear (was that passive-aggressive?) Anyhoo, below are some interesting calls we have received recently:

Caller wants to remove stumps remaining from Buckhorn tree. How can she remove it with Torridon RTU without killing other plants? RTU can be used. Its suggested that she drill holes in the stump and treat from the top to avoid damaging the other plants.

How do I get rid of Yellow Jackets?

For clarification first- Yellow Jackets are not bees. They are wasps and do very little in the way of pollinating (you need some fuzz on you in order to do that!). They do, however help get rid of other unwanted insects. Because they often build their nests in undesirable locations on and in your home there can be a need to remove them. If you want to spray them, use the aerosol spray in the holes after dark. Unless you really know what you are doing, leave nest removal to the experts. If you want to brave it, read on: http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/getting_rid_of_wasps_nests For removal of any pollinating insects that are in undesirable locations, please call your local Beekeeper!

There are termites in my compost pile!

Caller was advised to add more "browns" to the compost pile (the main source of browns is dead leaves) That will serve to help heat the compost.



RECIPES & MORE

DELICIOUS DELIGHTS, SAVORY SUPPERS, TASTY TIDBITS, LUSCIOUS LIBATIONS, SPICY SPECIALS, MOUTHWATERING MORSELS, SWEET SENSATIONS

Do you have a favorite homemade recipe you just love, or how about a family heirloom recipe, or maybe, a recipe that your neighbor gave you twenty years ago? We would like to share them with all the Master Gardeners. Send yours in and let's discover some new and exciting treats together. Please send recipes to Kit Puroll @ all_4_adventure@hotmail.com

CREATING MONARCH HABITAT

If you are interested in beginning your own butterfly garden the following are plants that are recommended by Monarch Joint Venture to include in your garden beds:

Milkweed is the only plant the Monarchs will use as a host plant, that is where they will lay their eggs and is the only food source of the caterpillars. There are ten species native to Michigan – the most common are common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), butterfly milkweed (*A. tuberosa*) and swamp milkweed (*A. incarnata*)¹

Once the butterfly emerges from its chrysalis it relies on good sources of nectar. Consider native plants such as Joe-Pye weed, marigolds, asters, rattlesnake-master, sunflowers, thistles, Labrador tea, blazing star, red clover, dogband, goldenrods, and ironweed.

In planning your garden choose an area with full sun for six to eight hours a day. In preparation of the site remove all weedy vegetation. Monarch Watch adds, "Enhance your garden by incorporating other elements besides plants. Include places for pollinators to seek shelter from the wind and rain. Create wet, sandy or muddy spots for butterflies to imbibe salts and other nutrients. A location with dark stones or tiles for butterflies to perch on to warm up on cool mornings adds to the activity in the garden. Most importantly, discontinue use of all pesticides (insecticides, herbicides and fungicides) in the area, and ask bordering neighbors to do the same."²

For more information with more details on habitat, plant recommendation, and links for ordering seeds please visit the Monarch Joint Venture website; [Create Habitat for Monarchs](#).

¹ Monarch Joint Venture

² Monarch Watch; Butterfly Gardening; [Plant lists](#)

Written by and photograph provided by Kit Puroll



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PROGRAM INSTRUCTOR INTERVIEWS

The second round of interviews took place on September 10th. The interviewees gave their presentations and now it may be several weeks before an announcement is made. The three candidates did a great job giving their presentations and I know we will all welcome the candidate chosen to call Genesee County Master Gardeners their new home.

WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the year is winding down I can't help but wonder what the month of October will mean to our membership. The things that come to mind is the Fall into Spring on October 6th. It's not too late to register and enjoy the great speakers. It will also bring the close of nominations for the 2019 election. You have until the end of the October membership meeting to make a nomination. The third thing that October will bring us is the news of our new coordinator. It's exciting news for our membership and the possibility of another class in 2019.

MGAGCM OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Meeting Date: October 18, 2018

Where: GCCARD Building at 605 N. Saginaw St., Flint, Mi.

Social time: 5:30 pm-6:00pm

Speaker: Tamara Menas presentation starts at 6:00 pm, on Native Michigan Butterflies.

Business meeting: 7:15 pm

Snack providers: Dan Kah, Vicki Laurin, and Alan Grove

HOLIDAY PARTY COMMITTEE MEETING

Sharon Kridner and Peggy Banks will hold the next Holiday Committee Meeting at the Extension Office at 12:00 p.m. on October 5 2018. These new chairpersons have a lot of new ideas to make our 2019 Holiday Party a fun evening, so add the date to your calendar and come on out to see what you can do to help. Contact Sharon at 248-842-6590 or Peggy at 810-631-4040.

WINTER HOTLINE HOURS

Hotline Winter hours will go into effect the week of October 1, 2018. Hours are from 9:00 am-12:00 pm on Fridays Only.

Remember the Extension Office hours are 8:00 am-12:00 pm and 1:00-4:00 pm. If you plan on entering the office between 12:00 and 1:00 make prior arrangements as there might not be anyone to "Buzz" open the door for you at that time.

MGAGCM DOWN TO EARTH NEWSLETTER

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MGAGCM OFFICERS (2018)

President	Vicki Laurin
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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 October 2018

1 Board Meeting	2 Cactus garden/ Easter Seals work sessions	3	4	5 Plant and Pest Hotline	6 Fall into Spring Gardening Conference	
7	8	9 Cactus garden/ Easter Seals work sessions	10	11	12 Plant and Pest Hotline	13
14	15	16 Cactus garden/ Easter Seals work sessions	17	18 Membership meeting	19 Plant and Pest Hotline	20
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THIS NEWSLETTER PREPARED BY

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Edited by Sylvia Hansen

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITES

[MMGA Inc Website](#)

[MMGA Inc Facebook Page](#)

[MGAGCM Website](#)

[MGAGCM Facebook Page](#)

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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.

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MSU EXTENSION-GENESEE COUNTY
605 N. Saginaw St.
Suite 1A
FLINT, MI 48502
www.msue.msu.edu/genesee

AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

October speaker is Tamara Menas, owner of the Michigan Native Butterfly Farm in Petersburg, Michigan. An educator, Tamara, does many presentations of Butterflies and pollinators and has written several articles for area Garden Magazines.

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

MGAGCM DOWN TO EARTH NEWSLETTER