

Down to Earth

Michigan State University Extension Master
Gardener Program—Genesee County

Summer 2022
Volume 20, Issue 3



Howdy gardeners,

The summer is flying by and Michigan's County Fair season is upon us. I've been busily involved with the fairs in both Shiawassee and Genesee Counties. By the time you get this newsletter, Shiawassee's will be over, but the one in Genesee County takes place August 22-28. Shortly after that is the Michigan State Fair and Labor Day which signals the end of summer.

One of the things we did at the end of July was to finish the planting of the Pollinator Garden at Edible Flint's Educational Farm. In a later article, we will explain more about the native pollinator-friendly garden project made possible through a grant. Right now the plant tags from the pots label the plants. Ultimately, there will be more signage. If you'd like to see our initial progress on the project, stop by the Farm located between W. Wellington Avenue and 12th Street on Beach Street (a one-way street).

In the last DTE I mentioned that the Extension Master Gardener training for 2022 is on hold while the MSUE Consumer Horticulture team works on updates to the curriculum. We are further along with that process now. Coming in 2023 will be a two-part training. The first part will be an online 10-week fee-based course that is open to everyone in the public. Then, if individuals are interested in becoming Extension Master Gardeners after completing that course, they can then apply, train, and go through the process to become certified. If you know someone who is interested, here is the link that explains more. From that page is a link for interested folks to sign up to receive more information when it becomes available. (Signing up does not insure a spot in the course.)

https://www.canr.msu.edu/master_gardener_volunteer_program/join-us/

Happy gardening!

Barslund Judd

Inside this issue

Letter from the Coordinator	1
Feature Article	2
Project Report.....	3
Gardening with Kids.....	4-6
Time to Harvest.....	7
Volunteer Central.....	8
Ask Extension/Gardening in MI.....	9
Association Updates/Board.....	10
MGAGCM Events.....	11
Fall into Spring Registration.....	12

Newsletter Committee

- Amy Lazar (**Article Liaison**)
- Mary Yelland (**Article Liaison**)
- Mel Kennedy (**Ask Extension**)
- Kay McCullough (**Association Page**)
- Michelle Chockley (**Volunteer Central Corner**)
- Carol Pittard (**Editor**)
- Cheryl Borkowski (**Format Editor**)



*Planting
Day
at the
Pollinator
Garden*



Feature Article

Project Fresh Outreach by Michelle Chockley

Project Fresh is a Farmers' Market Nutrition Program for families who take part in the WIC program with the goal of educating expectant moms and moms of young children about how to eat healthy and spend their dollars wisely. Families attended a short class on nutrition and then visited the numerous vendors in the Ramsey Room at the Flint Farmers' Market. Vendors included Healthy Start, Health Department, GISD, MSU Extension and more. Families then received a coupon book worth \$25.00 to spend in the market on fresh fruits and vegetables.

As families approached our table, we asked, "Do you like to garden?"

We had a variety of responses, from "No, but my mom does." to "Not this year, but I want to." to "Oh yeah! We have...." Kids love to talk about what their favorite vegetables are!

We handed out Smart Gardening Tip Sheets on "Preparing the smart vegetable garden," "Choosing a smart site for your vegetable garden," "Pollination in vegetable gardens and backyard fruit," and more. We also had information on how to become a Pollinator Champion and the "Bee Aware" information about NOT killing your friendly backyard bees with pesticides.

We encouraged everyone to go to the Gardening in Michigan site (<http://www.migarden.msu.edu>) for more information and to use Ask Extension to get gardening questions answered.

Doing an outreach event is very rewarding. Everyone appreciated the information.

Bee Aware Brochure

<https://pollinators.msu.edu/sites/pollinators/assets/File/Bee%20Aware%20Tri-Fold%20Brochure.pdf>

Michigan Fresh Fact Sheets

https://www.canr.msu.edu/mi_fresh/ (Scroll half way down the page to see links to explore Fact Sheets...they include recipes)

Project FRESH Information

<https://msustatewide.msu.edu/Programs/Details/418>

WIC Project FRESH - Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

<https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/assistance-programs/wic/farmersmarket>



A big THANK YOU to Cheryl Borkowski, Amy Lazar, and Gloria Randall for volunteering with me at this 3 day event. (Gloria is missing from the photo.)



Feature Project

The Edible Flint Educational Farm: Things are a-buzzing now!

By LaDonna Gamble

In the past two years, several events have occurred that have led to positive changes at the Edible Flint Educational Farm as the pandemic has affected the way the world does business. The farm was no exception. Restrictions were in place in '20 and '21 in terms of sanitizing, masking, spacing, and visitors. Luckily, however, the opportunity to work in a "safer" outdoor setting during those two seasons saw our largest influx of volunteers and Extension Master Gardeners! Because of the larger workforce, we expanded the growing spaces and harvested well over 2 tons of produce last summer.

In addition to vegetables free to the community and a great opportunity to donate produce to the Hurley Food FARMacy (<https://www.hurleymc.com/wellness/programs/food-farmacy/>), they have also added a new pollinator garden (thanks to a grant to the MSU Extension). They have a new Director position, two Americorps staff, a summer intern, Hurley nursing students, exciting workshops (beekeeping, container gardening, plant propagating etc.), beautiful perennial spaces, an international herb garden, a beautiful mural and some key small grants that have allowed Edible Flint to dream a little bigger.



Another exciting new addition this year is the Children's Educational Garden. Renee McGarry, an Americorps worker, was the lead creator, planter, and programmer for it. Located on the southern end of the farm, that garden offers many sensory experiences where youngsters are encouraged to feel, smell, observe and sometimes taste what is growing. Several community organizations that work with children also come to offer additional experiences to attendees. Four very well attended sessions have been held so far with the next sessions planned for August 19. Children are coming from schools, day cares, and preschools with their parents.

Because this is an Educational farm, Edible Flint is so excited to finally realize the dream of offering learning opportunities to community members young and old. If you haven't been by the Edible Flint Educational Farm, feel free to visit! The farm is just adjacent to downtown Flint- set your GPS to 1628 Beach St. and you'll be there!



Gardening With Kids...

Plant Parts That We Eat by Amy Lazar

If a child can learn in a tangible way about the different fruits and vegetables that we can grow, what they have learned will be more likely to stick. If they can connect this new information to the foods they are exposed to, they may be more likely to try those new foods. Last month, children who came to Edible Flint's Children's Day on the Farm were able to participate in a hands-on activity in which they could learn about the parts of a plant, the function each part plays, and about different fruits and vegetables produced by those plant parts. The lesson plan, "Plant Parts that We Eat," was found by Kay McCullough in the *Brooklyn Botanic Garden All Region Guide* and has been reproduced with modifications below.

Plant Parts that We Eat

Materials:

- Plant or weed pulled up from the garden or image of "parts of a plant" (see below)
- Plant part cards
- Fruit and vegetable cards

Activity:

1. Head to the garden with your child and pull up a plant or weed (or use the image below of "parts of a plant").
2. Explain that all fruits and vegetables come from a plant part.
3. Use the plant you pulled up or the image of "parts of a plant" to review the functions of each plant part:

Roots(or bulbs): the part of the plant that grows in the ground and anchors the plant into the soil; also absorbs water and minerals

Stem: the part of the plant that transports water and nutrients to the rest of the plant; also holds the rest of the plant upright

Leaves: the parts of the plant that collect sunlight and turn it into food for the plant

Flowers: parts of the plant that produce the seeds so more plants can grow in the future; also the parts that attract pollinators

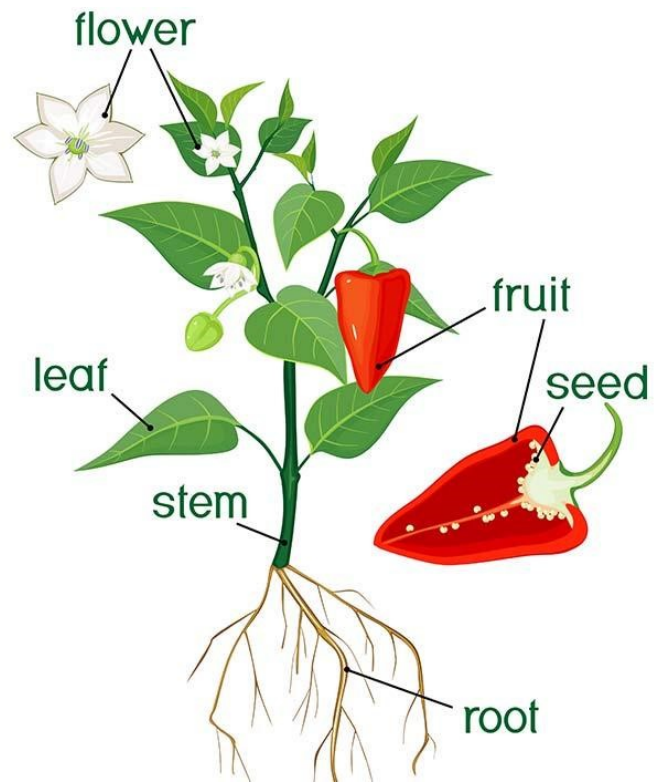
Fruit: the part of the plant that grows to protect the seeds of the flower after they have been pollinated

Seeds: the parts of the plant that fall to the ground after the fruit ripens in order to grow into new plants.




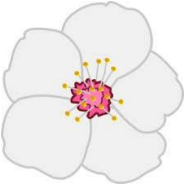


Note: Technically, fruit refers to the part of the plant that develops from the flower and contains the seeds. Vegetables come from all other parts of a plant (stem, root, leaves, flower, seeds).

4. Allow your child to cut up the produce and plant part images and play a game called "What Am I Eating?" by sorting the fruits and vegetables into the various plant part categories to which they belong.

Parts of a Plant







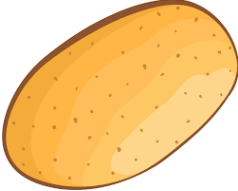







seeag.org

<p>ROOT</p> 	<p>STEM</p> 	<p>LEAVES</p> 
<p>FLOWERS</p> 	<p>SEEDS</p> 	<p>FRUIT</p> 

Plant Parts We Eat Continued from pg. 5

Produce Cards

Time to Harvest...

Tomatoes by Mary Yelland

Tomato: is it a fruit or a vegetable? Well, botanically it is a fruit because the part you eat contains the seeds. However, in 1893 the U.S. Supreme Court legally declared it a vegetable as it is usually eaten as the main part of a meal and not dessert. This decision was made to deal with imports and taxes as fruits were taxed differently than vegetables. Tomatoes are probably the most widely grown vegetable in the home garden. Commercially, Michigan grows over 160 thousand tons of tomatoes for fresh and processed sales. 70% of U.S. production is machine harvested and processed. The fresh market tomatoes are often hand-picked. Tomatoes come in many different colors and sizes. Colors can be shades of white, yellow, black, pink, orange, green, striped, and of course red. Micro tomato plant varieties grow only 6 to 8 inches tall, and the world record size for a tomato plant grew to 65 feet. As a master gardener, if you eat tomatoes, you have likely grown them. If so, you have probably run into some kind of problem with the plants. Tomatoes have a plethora of troubles. They are very sensitive to herbicides and can have damage from coming into contact with them accidentally drifting from nearby lawns or gardens. They can be plagued by bacterial, viral, fungal, and environmental problems as well. (See [here](#) for information on some of these problems) However, even with problems you may still get fruit from your plants. If you do, here are some recipes to try with them.

Fresh Salsa (Pico de Gallo)

Base ingredients

2 ½ cups chopped tomatoes (about 2 large or 20 cherry)
½ cup chopped onions (green, red, or yellow)
1 - 4oz. can of chopped green chilies
3 tablespoons cider vinegar
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 clove of garlic, pressed (or ½ teaspoon garlic powder)

Customize the flavor with your choice of the following

¼ to ½ cup sliced black olives
1 ½ cups (15oz. can) black beans rinsed and drained
1 cup of corn (or use 2 ears of fresh cooked corn)
1 cup diced green or red bell peppers
¼ cup chopped fresh cilantro
2 tablespoons sugar



In a large bowl, combine the base ingredients. Stir in the desired customized ingredients. You can add none or all of the remaining suggestions. Store in the refrigerator. The mix is good eaten plain as a salad, with chips or as a topping for many main dishes such as tacos, pasta, eggs, grilled chicken, baked potatoes, and grilled cheese.

Quick Tomato Soup for One

1 ½ teaspoons butter
1 ½ teaspoons flour
Pinch of onion powder
1 fresh basil leaf – optional
1 teaspoon sugar
¾ cup pureed tomatoes or tomato juice*

In a small saucepan melt butter and stir in flour. Stir in remaining ingredients. Heat until hot and slightly thickened. Remove (or not) basil leaf and serve.

* To make pureed tomatoes, place tomatoes in a blender and mix until smooth. If fresh tomatoes are not available, you can use an individual can (5.5 oz) of tomato juice and add a tablespoon of water to make ¾ cup.



Green Tomato Pie (dessert)

Double pie crust, store-bought or homemade
3 cups thinly sliced green tomatoes (5-6 medium size)
1 ½ cups granulated sugar
½ cup all-purpose flour
½ cup dried cranberries or raisins – optional

½ teaspoon ground cloves
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
Pinch of salt
1 tablespoon lemon juice

Combine sugar, flour, cinnamon, cloves, and salt. Stir in tomatoes, lemon juice and cranberries. Line a 9 inch pie pan with pastry. Fill with tomato mixture. Top with remaining crust using lattice pattern if desired. Seal and flute edges. Bake at 350°F for about an hour or until crust is browned and tomatoes are tender.



Volunteer Central Corner



by Michelle Chockley, Consumer Horticultural Assistant, chockle4@msu.edu, (810) 210-6685

Volunteer Central Login: https://msu.samaritan.com/custom/502/volunteer_login

Updates for Volunteer Central

- Forgot your password? I can now reset it for you! Give me a call or email me.
- All projects have had the description/contacts updated. If you see anything that needs correcting, let me know.
- In Volunteer Central, you can “sign up” for a project, but you still need to email/call the Project Lead. The Project Lead does not receive a notice that you have signed up.
- If you do not understand how to sign up for a project, let me know and I will do it for you or walk you through doing it yourself. Your project will then show up on your Activity List so that when you click on “Report Hours,” your project will appear on the “Select an Activity” drop-down choice along with the option to add your education hours (*2022 EMG Continuing Education Hours: Extension Master Gardener Program*).
- Keep a log of your hours and enter them monthly, every other month – whatever works for you. You can lump your hours. Example: Total hours for May and June at Crossroads, etc.
- Travel time does not count toward your volunteer hours.
- Trainees should be working on their 40 hour goal. Education is not a requirement, however, you can and should log education hours you complete. Those will go toward achieving Advanced EMG status.

EMG Hours Reminder - Don't forget to Record Your Completed Hours

This past week you should have gotten an email from Sarah Rautio (EMG State Leader) and Melissa Haug (EMG Program Assistant). It was a “general reminder to login and report your hours in Volunteer Central (VC) throughout the year. This will allow time for your local EMG Program Staff person to review them and let you know if there are any questions. You can find instructions for entering hours [here](#).”

Completed hours must be reported in VC before **December 1, 2022.**

Your current hours goal for 2022 are:

Volunteer Required Hours:

20.00

Education Hours:

10.00

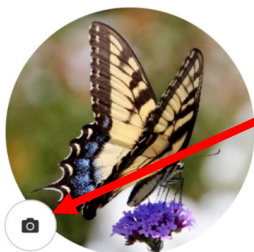
Please review your dashboard to verify your progress with completed hours in comparison to your hours goals.

Add a Photo of Yourself on the Volunteer Portal!

All you have to do is have a photo of yourself on your computer. Then click on the camera and follow the directions!



[Dashboard](#) [Logout](#)



Welcome Back, !

Volunteer since 20

EMG Roster: Saginaw Valley Region

[View Service History](#)

0 / 20.00

Volunteer Hours / Goal

0 / 10.00

Education Hours / Goal

0

Miles

[View full summary >](#)

Ask Extension

Gardening in Michigan Tidbits by Mel Kennedy

Starting and Keeping Bees in Michigan Rules and Regulations

"If you've ever considered bee keeping and wondered what is and is not allowed in Michigan," this website is a great place to begin your research. [Go to this link that was written by Meghan Milbrath & Ana Heck.](#)

Caterpillars on cole crops

"While humans may not agree on the flavor of kale, some caterpillars find it delicious. These pests are shared with other cole crops like cabbage, cauliflower, collard greens, and broccoli. They are active in Michigan right now and can strip a plant of its leaves in a short time. Scout your garden plants and remove the caterpillars described in this publication from our colleagues at Minnesota Extension." [Go to this link from the University of Minnesota Extension.](#)

Landscape trees begin to show signs of summer stress

"In the absence of rainfall, watering trees once a week is the best way to alleviate water stress. It is important to avoid overwatering and not kill trees with kindness." [Go to this link by Dr. Bert Cregg.](#)

Broadleaf helleborine: A weedy orchid invading lawns and flowerbeds

"Broadleaf helleborine (*Epipactis helleborine*) is quickly becoming a problem for lawns and gardeners this summer." [Go to this link by Angela Tenney and Erin Hill.](#)

The do's and don'ts of irrigating landscape plants

"Trees that have been heavily defoliated by the caterpillars of spongy moths, formerly known as gypsy moths, can look bare by late June. Healthy deciduous trees (trees that lose their leaves in winter like oaks) survive this leaf loss and most will put out another flush of leaves by mid or late July. This can be stressful for the trees and the most helpful thing you can do is provide sufficient water." [This article written by Dr. Bert Cregg 10 years ago may be helpful.](#)

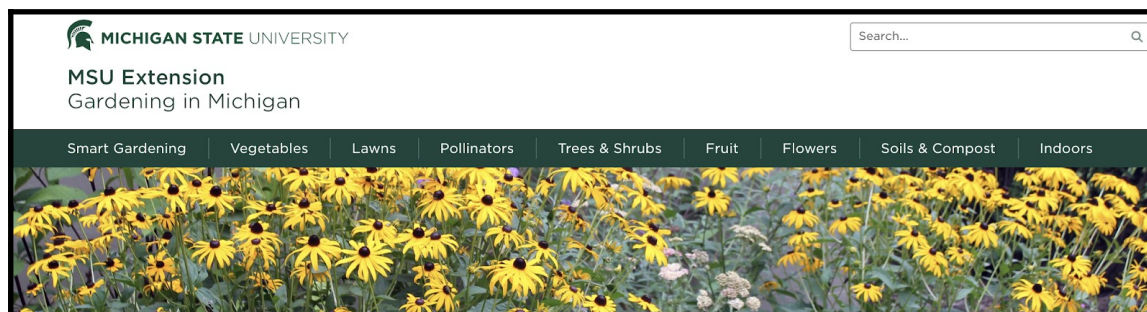
Where can you ask gardening questions? *(We are including this as a follow-up to Michelle Chockley's article in the Spring 2022 DTE published May 15th)*

"Ask Extension is an online tool that allows Michigan State University Extension experts to answer questions submitted by the public. It is also an excellent library of previously asked questions." [Go to this link for the article written by Barslund Judd and Isabel Branstrom.](#)

A Spotted Lantern Fly population has been found in Michigan

The first detection of this invasive insect has been found in Oakland County. [Go here to read the MDARD press release.](#)

You can find Smart Gardening Tip Sheets and Michigan FRESH Fact Sheets by going to this [site \(migarden.msu.edu\)](#). Click on the 'Smart Gardening' tab for Smart Gardening information or type 'Michigan Fresh' into the search box in the upper right corner.



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.

Good To Know – MGAGCM Membership News & Updates – News from the Board

Garden Tour

The garden tour was Sunday, August 7, 2022, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and was a great success. Each home had very unique features including welded yard art, a cut-flowers garden, an ornamental pond, a cactus garden and more. We would like to thank the volunteers who shared educational information with guests. Luckily, the rain held off until the very end. It was a good time for all!

Fall into Spring Educational Conference

Date & Location: October 8, 2022, at Mott Community College Event Center

Speakers:

Jan Bills – Owner Two Women and a Hoe
Sandra Wilkins – Talented landscaper
Erin Hill, Ph.D. – Authority on weeds
Gene Hopp – Owner of Frankenmuth Florist

- See the last page of this newsletter for the schedule and registration.
- [This link takes you to the online information](#). You can pay online, but there is an additional \$2.00 fee to pay by credit card!

2022 Garden Tour



MGAGCM Board of Directors

President	Joanne Gensel (1 Yr)	jhgensel@gmail.com	(810) 339-0764
1st Vice President	Kay McCullough (2 Yr)	birdieball@aol.com	(810) 635-9341
2nd Vice President	Loretta Ellwood (1 Yr)	ldelwood@aol.com	(810)344-7383
Secretary	Margaret Sowle (2 Yr)	leemar4321@frontier.com	(989) 723-6074
Treasurer	Carol Mitsdarfer (2 Yr)	cmitsdrfer@comcast.net	(810) 659-7320
Communication Director	Debbie Glastetter (2 Yr)	glasstetterd@aol.com	(810) 694-1449
Hospitality Director	Sharon Kridner (1 Yr)	sakridner@aol.com	(248) 842-6590

Master Gardener Association Genesee County

Websites

MGAGCM website—www.geneseecountymg.org

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

MMGA, Inc. website—www.michiganmastergardener.org

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

Events for MGAGCM Members:

Jan. 20: [Garden Risk Management](#) – Micah Hutchison and Anna Williams *[via Zoom only] (1 hr. Cont. education credit)*

Feb. 17: ~~Functional Gardening: Common Plants and Herbs for Tea~~ — with Stephanie Stoneburg (in person AND via Zoom) cancelled because of weather and substituted with the following:

Urban Gardening 101: Soils and Water w/ Barslund Judd & Micah Hutchison thru Edible Flint (via Zoom)

Mar. 17: **Functional Gardening: Common Plants and Herbs for Tea** – Stephanie Stoneburg (Her slides were shared.)

Ap. 21: **The Impact of Global Climate Change on Pollinators** – with Terry Ryan Kane

May 19: **Color and Texture in the Spring Garden** – Glen Pace

June 13 & 16-17 [Master Gardener College](#) – Mon. June 13 is virtual & Thurs./Fri. (June 16-17) is in person at MSU

June 16: **Home Composting Made Easy** – Amy Freeman

July 24: **Picnic at Crossroad Village** – It starts at noon.

Aug. 7: **Garden Tour** of the Swartz Creek area

Aug. 18: **Every Native Plant Has A Story** – Angela Nelson

Sept. 15: **Teaching Science to Kids in the Garden Even When You Don't Think You Can** - Darren Bagley

Oct. 8: **Fall into Spring Conference** – Mott Community College Events Center ([Link to Conference site](#))

Oct. 20: **Gardens Rich With Color Are Full of Bulbs** - Rebecca Finneran

Nov. 17: **Holiday Party** at Burton Senior Center if circumstances allow

2022 MGAGCM meetings and or presentations are held on the third Thursday of each month at:

Burton Senior Center

3410 S Grand Traverse Street

Burton, MI 48529 *(except December & unless otherwise noted)*

Project ID/Focus Areas are no longer available nor required when entering your education hours in Volunteer Central so be complete in your description when entering the hours in the system. Include the name of the speaker and his/her topic. Also, include where it took place.

Fall Into Spring

Our Speakers:

Jan Bills is the author of the *Late Bloomer*, a national speaker, certified landscape designer, advanced Master Gardener and owner of the Detroit-area landscape design company *Two Women and a Hoe*. In her presentation "Gardening For All Seasons" she will explore simple and practical practices during the design and maintenance process to ensure gardening success without compromising sustainability and environmental impacts.

Gene Hopp will be sharing insights from his successful community gardening in Frankenmuth, Michigan. He will give us his pro-tips and details from his many years of experience in the beautification of downtown Frankenmuth each summer – 300 hanging baskets, the best growing soil, planting design, fertilizing and irrigation tips.

Erin Hill, Ph.D. is part of the multi-disciplinary team in MSU Plant & Pest Diagnostics. Her presentation details the life cycle of weeds and how understanding this enemy can lead to more strategic control efforts – cultural, mechanical and chemical. She will focus on weeds of interest to the participants' experiences in her presentation, "Wicked Weeds and What To Do."

Sandra Wilkins says that when a garden is in its infancy or after seasons of time it will need a flip. In her presentation "Flip This Garden," she will show before and after pictures of how to make dramatic changes to your home landscape or Master Gardener project. Her garden was featured on the local television series "Where We Live," the American Hosta Society National Convention, the International Conifer Society Tour, and highlighted in the Michigan Gardener.

Schedule

October 8, 2022

8:00 am – Registration, Continental Breakfast and Garden Market open

Shop our market of vendors who offer for sale many hand-made or one-of-a-kind items, including garden stones, garden art, herbal products, unique gardening supplies & more! Note: some vendors only take cash or checks.

9:00 am **"Gardening For all Seasons"**
Jan Bills

10:00 am Break – Garden Market open

10:30 am **"Community Gardening"**
Gene Hopp

11:30 am Lunch and Garden Market open

1:00 pm **"Wicked Weeds and What To Do"**
Erin Hill, Ph.D.

2:00 pm Break – Garden Market open

2:30 pm **"Flip This Garden"**
Sandra Wilkins

5 hours of educational credit for Master Gardeners

Questions? Call or email Marie Luck-Allard at 8104104487 mariekallard@gmail.com

Or, Check out our website:

<https://fallintospring.weebly.com>

- No refunds will be issued, however you may find your own substitution.

Location:

**Mott Community College Events Center
1401 E. Court St. • Flint, MI 48503**

Directions: Take either I-75 or I-69 to I-475, exit at #7 Court St. From the North, turn left onto Court St., ½ mile to Gorman Dr. Turn left on Gorman, turn left into the parking lot.

The MCC Event Center is in the Library building adjacent to the parking lot. There will be directional signs. For further information: http://www.mcc.edu/maps_mail.shtml

Fall Into Spring

Saturday, October 8, 2022

8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Mott Community College Events Center

Name _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone # _____

Email address _____

Early registration is \$70.00 by August 1. Registration **after** August 1-Sept. 10 will be \$75.00. No tickets sold at the door. No refunds. (Continental breakfast & lunch included - provided by Italia Gardens)

5 hours of educational credit for Master Gardeners

Amount enclosed: _____

$\frac{\text{\# attending}}{\text{X}} \times \frac{\text{Registration fee}}{\text{Total enclosed}}$

Make checks payable to: MGAGCM

Mail registration to:

MGAGCM

Fall Into Spring Conference

P.O. Box 94

Flushing, MI 48433

To pay by credit card go to

<https://fallintospring.weebly.com>

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Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by calling 810-922-8776 by Sept. 14, 2022 to ensure sufficient time to make arrangements. Requests received after this date will be met when possible.