FALL FOLIAGE FESTIVAL will be held at Hidden Lake Gardens on Saturday, October 3, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. This is a spectacular time to visit the Gardens when fall foliage turns brilliant colors with lots of fun filled activities planned for the entire family. Wagon rides will take visitors through the arboretum. There will be hands on craft activities for kids, live animals and the grounds will be decorated with life size scarecrows. This will be a day of food and fun for the whole family to enjoy. Admission is $3 per person and free to Friends of HLG.

The Elardo Garden: On-going Beautification and Education at Hidden Lake Gardens

In memory of Don Elardo, an outdoor enthusiast, nature lover and biker, his brother Ron has established a garden adjacent to and around the Visitors Center. This garden has several areas dedicated to demonstrating shade gardening, sun gardening, hilltop planting and under-canopy gardening. The Elardo Garden is a beautiful addition to the other named areas at HLG. It serves as an educational tool for all from the devout gardener to those interested in a casual sojourn along its paths. The garden can be supported in many ways. The endowment fund at MSU is designed to provide long term care of the Elardo Garden. Designated gifts directly to HLG can provide for the purchase of new plant material. For further information on the Elardo Garden and for ways of contributing to it, contact Steven Courtney, Manager, at 517-431-2060. Come out to HLG and visit the Elardo Garden.
WOW!!!! Another busy summer just flew by. With the cool July weather and fairly moderate August weather the grounds are looking spectacular. I hope you will make time to come and visit, or visit again, at this time of year of changing colors and seasons.

This summer, we welcomed the National Hosta Convention attendees to the Ralph & Dorothy Benedict Hosta Hillside. It has been 10 years since this national convention has been held in Michigan and Hidden Lakes’ Hosta Hillside is the jewel in the crown of the Michigan Hosta Society. A successful work day in the spring and the hard work of the grounds staff made the Garden SHINE in the shade. We were fortunate to have the President of the Michigan Hosta Society, Bob Sinke, as well as Karen Wenk, a development officer for MSU and a very special person to HLG, welcoming the 375 attendees to the Hosta Hillside. I have heard some very rave reviews and I thank all who helped make the Hosta Hillside SHINE.

We also were fortunate to be a stop on a tour of the British and Dutch Conifer Societies who, of course, visited the Harper Collection of Dwarf & Rare Conifers. Our 21 European friends were blown away by the plants, the maintenance and diversity of our collection.

As some of you may know Mr. Justin (Chub) Harper passed away in March of this year, a great loss to HLG and the conifer community. We will be working hard and thinking about “Chub” when we make decisions in the collection named for him and I personally miss him a lot. He probably has made the greatest impact of any person on my horticultural career and I thank him for that. There are endowments set up for the ongoing maintenance of the Harper Collection as well as other parts of HLG. If anyone is interested in contributing to those funds please feel free to contact me.

During these uncertain economic times, there is one thing that is certain, we here at the Gardens are working hard to maintain the beauty you all enjoy. We will have to be making some changes though and the amount of times we can publish a printed newsletter is one of them. In this fiscal year, July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 we will only be printing 2 newsletters. We will be updating information on our website (www.hiddenlakegardens.msu.edu), such as classes and events as well as sending postcard reminders. We have another presence on the web at our FACEBOOK page. Become a fan of HLG and receive the class information that way. In this age of technology, we feel we need to be using it to the best of our ability but also understand that not all are interested or savvy at using it. Therefore, if you want information please call us. The staff is more than willing to tell you about a class, sign you up, and make you a Fan of the Gardens that way.

IF YOU WOULD PREFER TO RECEIVE INFORMATION ONLY ELECTRONICALLY PLEASE EMAIL ME (courtn33@msu.edu) YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS so we can remove it from our “mailing list.” Please include the email address you would like information sent to. I promise we will not overload your email box but will get you the information you need to use and enjoy the Gardens.

I know visits to places like gardens can seem like a luxury but I would like you to think about this. This is a place for relaxation, meditation and contemplation. Each visitor has a different reason for visiting this Garden and I hope you will make time to return for your reasons.
Fall Classes at Hidden Lake Gardens

The Folklore of Trees
Tuesday, September 29 ~ 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Karen Gentry, horticulturist and Hidden Lake Gardens’ Education Coordinator, will take you on a journey through history focusing on trees, blending folklore along with botanical & historical facts. We will discuss many of the legends, stories and myths that surround many of our native Michigan trees. Present and past uses of trees, identification techniques, and plant nomenclature will also be highlighted. Dress for the weather.

Cost $16/$14 Friends of HLG. Pre-registration required call (517) 431-2060

Assemblage for Artists
Tuesday, October 6 ~ 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

This class will focus on finding found objects and assembling them into interesting compositions. Artists will be allowed the freedom to communicate an idea, memory, statement, etc. Included will be a hike through Hidden Lake Gardens to collect found objects in nature and combining them with other found objects. A collection of found objects will be available in the class, yet artists are encouraged to bring in found objects. For example, if interested in gardening bring in: seeds, dried flowers, tools, seed packets, pieces of fence, hose etc. Join Debra Irvine-Stiver, Director of the Youth Art Program at Adrian College and currently Art Educator in Jackson Public Schools, as your instructor. This class is geared for high school – adults.

Cost $20. Pre-registration required call (517) 431-2060

True Blue: Bluebirds on the Rise
Saturday, October 24 ~ 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Over the last decade bluebirds have been on the rise in Michigan. Bluebird populations struggle with habitat loss, completion from non-native bird species and pollutants in the environment. The increase of the bluebird population, in part, has to do with the many bluebird landlords across the state. Are you curious about this little blue native bird? Are you interested in its biology, box and site selection, egg laying to fledging? Join Allen Bower, aka “Flickerman”, for this class. Allen has received national recognition from the North American Bluebird Society for his efforts regarding bluebird conservation.

Cost $16/$14 Friends of HLG.
Pre-registration required call (517) 431-2060
Establishing & Maintaining Winter Interest in the Garden
Saturday, October 31
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Although we might not realize it, our gardens can be beautiful places for us all year round. Through careful selection, installation and maintenance of plant materials, hardscapes and garden features, we can get the most of our gardens, never again having to endure a snowy, featureless plain. Join Cheryl English, Advanced Master Gardener from Wayne County and owner of The English Landscape, as your instructor.

Cost $16/$14 Friends of HLG
Pre-registration required call (517) 431-2060

Flip This Garden
Saturday, November 14
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Based on the popular Home and Garden show “Flip This House”, this session will look at some gardens, including our own, that need “flips” after time. Join Sandy Wilkins as the instructor.

Cost $16/$14 Friends of HLG
Pre-registration required call (517) 431-2060

Pruning Fundamentals:
The Art & Science
Sunday, November 22
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The key to maintaining a beautiful and healthy landscape is to know the correct techniques for pruning. Karen Gentry, horticulturist and Hidden Lake Gardens’ Education Coordinator & Robert Gentry, Superintendent of Parks and Forestry for the City of Adrian ISA Certified Arborist, will instruct an indoor class on pruning methods, tools and timing. Emphasis will be on shaping, size reduction, thinning and renewal techniques. The class will continue outdoors for a demonstration on pruning shrubs and small ornamental trees. You will learn how to maintain natural form while eliminating future problems. Come dressed for the weather.

Cost $18/$16 Friends of HLG
Pre-registration required call (517) 431-2060

Flowers for Thanksgiving
Saturday, November 21
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Brighten your holiday table with a festive Thanksgiving centerpiece. Create your own professional arrangement decorated with carnations, mums and autumn accessories. This festive centerpiece will also make a wonderful gift for a friend or family. Bring a sharp knife, scissors and wire cutters. Class instructor, Pam Meinke, is also an instructor for the LISD Tech Center.

Cost $24/$20 Friends of HLG
Pre-registration required call (517) 431-2060

Williamsburg Christmas Workshop
Thursday, December 3
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Celebrate the holiday season with a fresh Williamsburg style decoration. Create an elegant, natural piece utilizing dried pods, cones and greens. Pam Meinke, instructor for LISD Tech Center Horticulture Program, will demonstrate easy projects that can be done at home. A beautiful door piece will be constructed during the class to take home. Please bring gloves, pruning shears and wire cutters.

Cost $35/$30 Friends of HLG
Pre-registration required call (517) 431-2060

Holiday Candle Centerpiece
Thursday, December 17
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Join Pam Meinke, instructor for LISD Tech Center Horticulture Program, in this popular workshop as she teaches you how to create a fresh evergreen centerpiece that you can enjoy long into the holiday season. Learn the steps of constructing the design using greens, candles and accessories. Each participant will create an arrangement to take home. Bring the fresh scent of evergreens into your home in a pleasing holiday display. Please bring a sharp knife, ribbon scissors and wire cutters to class.

Cost $24/$20 Friends of HLG
Pre-registration is required call (517) 431-2060
Michigan Master Gardener Volunteer Program Training

Thursday, January 14

The Master Gardener Training program begins Thursday, January 14, 2010. The class will meet for 12 consecutive weeks on Thursday from 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

The program provides extensive training in many areas of gardening, including flowers, vegetables, lawn and tree care. The curriculum is used statewide and was developed by MSU faculty. The objective of the course is to further train people who have previous experience in gardening, and to develop volunteers willing to share their knowledge with others. Volunteering is central to the program which helps disseminate research based horticulture information to the public.

Applications available in October and must be returned by December 1. Enrollment is limited to 40 students. The cost of the program, which includes the manual and materials, is $250. A limited number of scholarships (based on financial need) are available.

If you have questions regarding the program or wish to receive an application in October, please contact Hidden Lake Gardens at (517) 431-2060 and provide your name and address or visit our website www.hiddenlakegardens.msu.edu to print out an application.

Focus on Ferns
Saturday, January 30
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Ferns are an important part of our native ecosystem. With such great diversity in range, habit, sizes and forms, many ferns can be used as handsome additions to our gardens and landscapes. Join Dr. Jim Wilkins, for a look at some of our most common ferns. Learn to identify ferns by important characteristics. Discussions on the life cycle of ferns, propagation techniques and ornamental characteristics of many native and non-native ferns.

Cost $18/$16 Friends of HLG
Pre-registration is required call (517) 431-2060

It is Easy to Be Green
Saturday, February 13
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

We’re undergoing an entirely new Green Revolution, and gardeners are in the vanguard. Learn easy and economical ways to keep your garden-and the rest of the world-green and healthy, while lightening the load on your wallet. Join Cheryl English, Advanced Master Gardener from Wayne County and owner of The English Landscape, as your instructor.

Cost $16/$14 Friends of HLG
Pre-registration is required call (517) 431-2060

Antique Gardens: American Home Landscapes 1800-1940
Saturday, February 20
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

From the scanty pioneer gardens of the early 1800’s through flamboyant Victorian carpet-bedded to the “old-fashioned” perennial borders of the early twentieth century, “Antique Gardens” illuminates 140 years of American yards and gardens. In colorful, fast-paced slides, it shows how plants, outdoor furnishings and the design of American yards changed dramatically through the years. It’s an eye-opening primer on the landscape relics that survived all around us and essential background for gardeners wanting to restore a historic landscape or to enliven even the most modern garden with a touch of the past. Join Scott Kunst, owner of Old House Gardens, the country’s only mail-order source devoted entirely to antique flower bulbs, for this exciting lecture.

Cost $16/$14 Friends of HLG
Pre-registration is required call (517) 431-2060

Winter Tree Identification
Saturday, February 27
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Experience the beauty of Hidden Lake Gardens in winter. Join Karen Gentry, horticulturist and Hidden Lake Gardens’ Education Coordinator, for a winter walk through the gardens. Bud shape, leaf scars, tree bark and other botanical features will be used for tree identification. A Winter Tree Finder booklet will be given to all participants to take home. Dress for the weather.

Cost $18/$16 Friends of HLG.
Pre-registration is required call (517) 431-2060
Preschooler Classes at Hidden Lake Gardens

All Preschooler classes cost $8/$6 Friends of HLG
Pre-registration required call (517) 431-2060

Music & Movement in the Gardens for Preschoolers
Tuesday September 22
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Autumn Exploration for Preschoolers
Tuesday October 20
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

A Garden of Thanks for Preschoolers
Tuesday November 17
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Gifts from Nature for Preschoolers
Tuesday December 15
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Tracking with Timber Tots for Preschoolers
Tuesday January 12
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Adult and Preschooler classes will be held at Hidden Lake Gardens.
Please pre-register for classes by calling 517-431-2060
or downloading and mailing the registration form from
www.hiddenlakegardens.msu.edu
For more information contact Karen Gentry, Horticulture Educator at 517-431-2060.

✓ Check us out on facebook!
Sculpture in the Gardens

Some of you that have had a chance to visit the Gardens over the past few months might have noticed 2 new pieces of artwork. The first being “STACKED COLUMN” in the Elardo Garden and the other being “DIVERS ARC” in the temperate house of the Conservatory. The art piece in the Elardo Garden is permanent and was placed there with funding provided by Dr. & Mrs. Ronald Elardo in memory of Donald Elardo. The piece in the Conservatory is on loan from the artist and was brought to us by the Midwest Sculpture Initiative based out of the Flatlanders Studio in Blissfield. This piece was also sponsored by the Elardo’s as the first of what we hope are many pieces of art to be displayed in the Gardens. Unless the piece is purchased from the artist it will be returned to him one year after its installation. If you have interest in sponsoring a piece of artwork to be displayed at HLG, please contact Steven Courtney for more information.

20th Annual Holiday Festival Promises Enjoyment for All Ages

Saturday, December 5 - 2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Join us for our 20th annual Holiday Festival. The rolling hills at Hidden Lake Gardens are decorated with holiday images, lit by over 2,000 luminaries and colored lights. Visit Santa in the Visitors Center and gather ideas for holiday decorations from displays designed by LISD Tech Center horticulture students. There will be activities for the kids and great ideas in the gift shop for the nature lovers and gardeners on your shopping list. Come enjoy your favorite carols performed by local musicians and choirs. The festive activities begin at 2:00 p.m. and continue until 8:00 p.m. Luminaries are lit at dusk.
Admission $3 per person. Free admission for members

Evening of Lights - Holiday Light Display Saturday & Sunday December 6, 12 & 13

Enjoy a winter outing with friends and family. Come to Hidden Lake Gardens to enjoy the holiday light display. More than 2,000 candle-lit luminaries will be placed throughout the grounds. Festive designs adorn the hillsides and colorful lights accent the trees. The gift shop will be open until 8:00 p.m. for your holiday shopping. The conservatory will also be open until 8:00 p.m.
Admission $3 per person. Free admission for members
Calendar of Events

*Pre-registration is required. Please call us at 517-431-2060 to reserve your spot!

- Music & Movement in the Gardens for Preschoolers* .... Tuesday, September 22
- The Folklore of Trees* ..................................................... Tuesday, September 29
- **Fall Foliage Festival** .................................................... Saturday, October 3
- Assemblage for Artists* .................................................. Tuesday, October 6
- Autumn Exploration for Preschoolers* ........................... Tuesday, October 20
- True Blue: Bluebirds on the Rise* ................................. Saturday, October 24
- Establishing & Maintaining Winter Interest in the Garden*... Saturday, October 31
- Flip This Garden* ........................................................... Tuesday, October 6
- A Garden of Thanks for Preschoolers* ............................ Saturday, November 14
- Pruning Fundamentals: The Art & Science* ................... Sunday, November 22
- Flowers for Thanksgiving* ............................................. Saturday, November 21
- Williamsburg Christmas Workshop* ............................... Thursday, December 3
- **Holiday Festival** .................................................. Saturday, December 5
- **Evening of Lights** ............... Saturday & Sunday, December 6, 12 & 13
- Gifts from Nature for Preschoolers* ............................... Tuesday, December 15
- Holiday Candle Centerpiece* ......................................... Thursday, December 17
- Tracking with Timber Tots for Preschoolers* ................... Tuesday, January 12
- Michigan Master Gardener Volunteer Program Training* ... Thursday, January 14
- Focus on Ferns* ............................................................ Saturday, January 30
- It Is Easy to Be Green* ..................................................... Saturday, February 13
- Antique Gardens: American Home Landscapes 1800-1940* Saturday, February 20
- Winter Tree Identification* ........................................... Saturday, February 27