

MSU IN BLOOM

MSU HORTICULTURE GARDEN NEWS



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GARDEN HAPPENINGS

Curious Gardener



Basket-Making

Explore the wonderful world of basket-making, with our long-time members and volunteers Juanita Elkins and Marlene Cosgrove. Each participant will receive all the supplies to make your very own basket and a bounty of spring flowers to plant and enjoy.

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

2:00pm-5:00pm

Cost: \$40 for Members

\$45 for non-Members

Parking not included

Maximum Enrollment: 25

Register for Gardener at
shopmsugardens.com

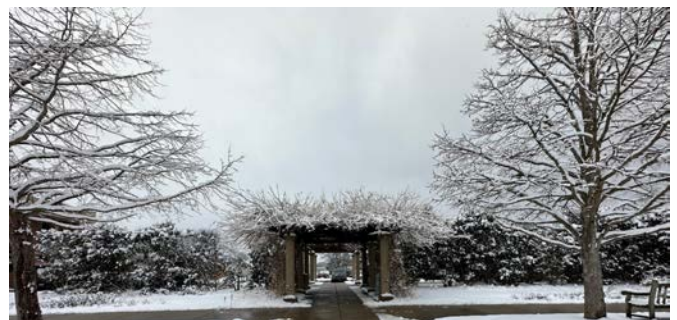
Top and middle right: The current state of our Arborvitae. Bottom right: the new privacy screen to watch for.

Garden Events

Volunteer Kick-Off	Tuesday, March 7
Basket-Making	Tuesday, March 21
Spring Plant Sale	Saturday, May 20
30th Birthday Celebration	Friday, August 4

What to Watch For

You may remember a while back, the wind took out some of our Arborvitae along the eastern edge of the lower lawn. This area is the backdrop for many weddings so we will be replacing the Arborvitae with an attractive and durable privacy screen!





Support the Gardens

Do you love the Gardens or know someone who does? Why not become a member? Or give a membership as a gift! Membership has many benefits!

- Early access to our Plant Sales
- Discounts on your Plant Sale purchases and programs
- Free admission to 200+ American Horticulture Society reciprocal gardens across the country
- And more!

Membership has Benefits

You can renew or join online here: www.hrt.msu.edu/join.

If you would like a brochure mailed to you, please contact hgardens@msu.edu or, 517-353-0443, or download one [here](#).

Did you know that you can commemorate a loved one or a special event in the Gardens? Consider purchasing a brick in memory of a special memory or event. The Gardens offers commemorative bricks in two sizes that can be engraved and permanently installed in one of several locations. Remember a loved one or special event each and every time you visit the Gardens. Find more information [here](#). If you would like a brick brochure mailed to you, please contact hgardens@msu.edu or, 517-353-0443. Purchases can be made [here](#).

Commemorative Bricks



Volunteer

Do you love plants? Do you love to garden? The MSU Horticulture Gardens staff relies on a dedicated group of volunteers who help us accomplish many tasks each year. No experience is necessary - though you may find new ways to use your skills to help!

- Weekly volunteer days
- Daily welcome booth
- Annual volunteer field trip
- Annual volunteer appreciation dinner

To learn more, visit

https://www.canr.msu.edu/hrt/our_gardens/Volunteers

or contact Bethany Troy at troybeth@msu.edu



DESIGNING OUR 2023 ANNUAL GARDEN DISPLAYS

BY DAEDRE MCGRATH, TRIAL GARDEN MANAGER

Back to Basics

It's that time of year again when I sit down and design all the display beds for the annual garden. My mantra for 2023 is "keep it simple". The gardens looked amazing in 2022, but the sheer number of plant varieties I was juggling was intense (keep in mind that in addition to my display bed material, I

also grow 250-300+ varieties for the trial program each year). This season, I'm paring things down a bit by sticking to a pretty strict color palette (photo 1) and limiting the number of varieties I utilize. The 2023 displays will feature mostly yellow, orange, red, blue, and black (which in floriculture usually means dark purple and burgundy). You will see very little white, pink, or my favorite: chartreuse. I'm also "keeping it simple" by sticking mostly to bullet-proof varieties that I have had success with in the past. The last several summers have been excessively hot, so I'm also focusing on drought-tolerant varieties, whenever possible. While I'm not planning anything ground-breaking this year, I hope to have the best-looking displays of my career.



Photo 1

Dabbling in Dahlias

Our 5-year long outdoor succulent trial came to an end in 2021. The location of this trial, the sunken garden found on either side of the annual garden fountain, was left empty last year. I hope to fill it again in 2023 with something that is almost entirely new to me: dahlias! I have evaluated dahlias in the trial garden many times, but these have typically been smaller varieties that don't really form substantial tubers. This new display will feature dinner-plate, cactus, pompon, ball, and other types of decorative dahlias. Do you have any tubers from your own collection that you would like to share with us? If so, contact me at dmcgrath@msu.edu.

Around the Block

Last year, the "Rainbow Garden" filled the outer ring surrounding the sunken garden. If I do say so myself, it was spectacular! It was also a lot of work and took several entire days to install. In 2023, I plan to continue exploring the color-block concept, but in a pared-down way. This garden will feature a repeating pattern of blue, red, black, and orange color blocks (photos 2, 3, 4, and 5, respectively). These beds are surrounded on all sides by concrete, so drought/heat-tolerant varieties are a must.

Parched Patch

Last year, in two new beds in the northwest corner of the annual gardens, I created a cottage-style garden in antique colors. I liked how the design turned out, but we found out that this area is even hotter and drier than I anticipated. This area was also difficult to water because the beds are so deep. So, to make life easier, if you visit that area this summer, you will see a display of drought-tolerant annuals. In addition to a variety of *Portulaca* cultivars, I plan to display *Coleus*, *Celosia*, *Salvia*, *Lantana*, *Gomphrena*, and *Vinca*, among others.



Photo 2, Blue: *Salvia* Rockin' Blue Suede Shoes, *Senecio vitalis* 'Serpents', Kale 'Tuscan', *Evolvulus* 'Blue My Mind', *Salvia* 'Sallyfun Deep Ocean', and *Kalanchoe marnierianum*



Photo 4, Black: *Cordyline* 'Red Sensation', *Impatiens* 'Sun Harmony', *Colocasia* 'Black Magic', *Hibiscus* 'Mahogany Splendor', *Coleus* 'Premium Sun Dark Chocolate', and Ornamental Pepper 'Black Pearl'

Photo 3, Red: *Canna* 'Toucan Scarlet', *Impatiens* 'Sun Harmony Red', *Salvia* 'Summer Jewel Red', *Portulaca* 'Mega Pazzaz Red', and *Coleus* 'ColorBlaze Rediculous'



Photo 5, Orange: *Portulaca* 'Mega Pazzaz Orange', *Impatiens* 'Sun Harmony Deep Orange', Marigold 'Bonanza Deep Orange', *Leonotis leonurus*, *Coleus* 'ColorBlaze Sedona Sunset', and *Lantana* 'Gem Ruby'



2022 IN PICTURES

BY AMY MCCAUSEY, WEDDING & EVENT COORDINATOR

Brandi Hughey Saidy
August 2022



Vik Mazumder
July 2022



Nathan Spencer
July 2022



Torrence Riddick
September 2022



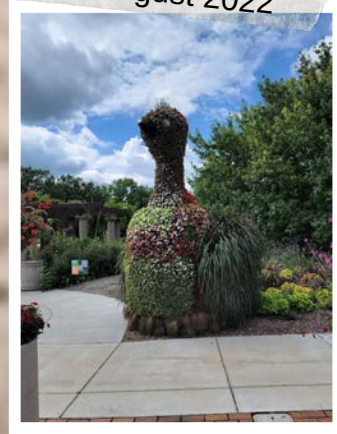
HH BB
October 2022



Karen (Local Guide)
September 2022



Trevor Diehl
August 2022



Susan Hamrick
September 2022

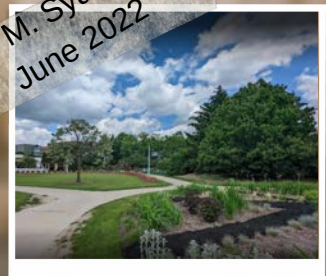


Emily Turner
May 2022



We love to see all the beautiful photos that are posted to Google by our garden visitors. Here are some of our favorites from 2022.

M. Syarif
June 2022



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2022

BY BETHANY TROY, PERENNIAL GARDEN MANAGER & VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

It's time to celebrate a near-and-dear volunteer of the year for 2022! Tom Bolt was named our Volunteer of the Year at our Appreciation Dinner back in December. We can always count on Tom to show up, with a smile on his face, and ready to work! He has helped us so much in each garden – and I always appreciate that he loves to dump the wheelbarrows for us. During break, he lets us know when he's ready to put us all back to work. I like to look at him like he's my boss sometimes. This past summer, we went on a fun adventure to Detroit with our students, staff, and volunteers – and Tom drove us in a charter bus! It was during this experience that our student, Dante, named Tom Bolt the G.O.A.T. (the Greatest Of All Time). We agree! We asked Tom a few questions to get to know him better.

How long have you been volunteering at the gardens?

What got you interested in volunteering with us?

I've been volunteering about 6 or 7 years. I've always enjoyed visiting the gardens and enjoyed working with flowers and also thought I could learn more about gardening.

What keeps you coming back?

I enjoy working with the staff and other volunteers. And there is always more that volunteers need to do to help the gardens look so good.

What are some of your hobbies outside of gardening?

I enjoy spoiling my grandchildren, and working on my flower gardens. I still play softball each week in the summer (and twice a week during the winter in Florida), and try to stay active by playing pickleball, tennis, and golf.



Where is your favorite place you have traveled?

My favorite trip was a 21-day bus trip through 7 European countries with my wife and friends. In 2022, I took an 11-day river cruise from Paris, France to Normandy to view the D-Day locations.

Any other information you'd like to share?

I still occasionally drive charter buses for Dean Trailways and have for almost 20 years since I retired from the State of Michigan. In addition, I have delivered Meals on Wheels for over 40 years and have donated over 400 pints of plasma at the Red Cross.

Thank you so much for your hard work and dedication to the gardens, Tom! A brick will be placed in our brick pathway to honor Tom amongst our other recognized volunteers. Make sure to congratulate Tom on his award the next time you see him!




MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Horticulture
Gardens

2023 Volunteer Kick-Off

Tuesday, March 7, 9AM



LOCATED IN THE CONSERVATORY OF THE
PLANT & SOIL SCIENCES BUILDING
1066 BOGUE STREET, EAST LANSING, MI 48824