

# MSU IN BLOOM

## MSU HORTICULTURE GARDEN NEWS



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Garden Day

August 3

Houseplant and Succulent Sale

November 2

# FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

BY KRISTIN GETTER, DIRECTOR OF THE MSU HORTICULTURE GARDENS

## CONSTRUCTION SEASON

Our construction project has been a little delayed, but is scheduled to start Monday July 8, 2019! This project includes resurfacing our Garden's Parking Lot (Lot 54, adjacent to the Children's Garden) and creating a Safe Passage sidewalk. This sidewalk will connect our building to the 4H Children's Garden so that our 14,000+ children that visit us each year will have a dedicated walkway (instead of walking through two active parking lots!).

Unfortunately, this construction will make it

difficult to enter the gardens from the Entrance Pavilion and parking may be a hassle as well. There is public parking at the Wharton Center, which is kitty corner from the Plant and Soil Sciences building. Please see the MSU interactive map (<http://maps.msu.edu/interactive/>) for more information on other public parking options.



## CHILDREN'S GARDEN MURAL

The 'Our Wonderland' mural (pictured below) has been installed in the Children's Garden!

This mural was a community project designed by Kelly Boyle and painted by children of all ages, including participants in several MSU Horticulture Garden Programs. Funding was generously provided by Art and Marlene Cameron.



### BACK FROM STUDY ABROAD

I sadly missed our Spring Plant sale this year as I was leading a 2-week study abroad program with 10 students. We visited commercial growers and nurseries, public gardens, and other universities in both the Netherlands and London. Below is a picture of our group at a micro-greens producer near Rotterdam.



### MORE NEW FACES

The Gardens have hired 15 students for the summer, some new to us and others are seasoned veterans. They include: Julia, Jadiana, Danielle, Cole, Tyler, Shane, Jack, Neo, Alexis, Sarah, Mackenzie, Alex, Annisa, Andrew, and Sam. These students, along with our volunteers, are so valuable to us! We need many hands to keep our gardens looking great! Welcome students!

### ANNUAL GARDENS

The Annual Gardens are completely planted now after a delayed installation due to so much rain. Come take a look at all the new color and bed designs!



# SPRING PLANT SALE A SUCCESS!

BY MARIAH ARTZ, PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Our 2019 Spring Plant Sale took place on Friday, May 17th for MSU Horticulture Garden Members and was open to the public on Saturday, May 18th at the Greenhouses of the Plant and Soil Sciences Building. This was the most successful Plant Sale in the history of sales at the Gardens! The sale included great deals on hanging baskets, perennials, annuals, grasses, herbs, vegetables seedlings, shrubs, and more! Fundraisers like this benefit the Gardens and help us fund for garden maintenance, educational programming, and support for our undergraduate student employees.

Thank you to all who attended our sale, we hope to see you next May! Until then, please save the date for our **2019 Houseplant and Succulent Sale** on *Saturday, November 2, 2019 from 8:00a.m. to 4:00 p.m.*



# LEFTOVERS

BY DAN BULKOWSKI, GARDENS AND GREENHOUSE MANAGER

In case you haven't heard, our plant sale was very successful. It was by far, the best year we've had at our sales. Lots and lots of plants walked out of here with happy gardeners, destined for good homes and gardens. But of course, even after the sale, we have some plants leftover. We sell out of a lot of varieties, but not everything. And we are always asked if we have another sale. NO. NO WAY. We need to start planting in the gardens. So, what do we do with the plants? Many are saved and planted in our various gardens. Some are saved for the plant sale next spring. And many are donated to different charitable organizations. This year we had nine groups come in and take what they may have needed. Senior citizen facilities, churches, garden clubs, the county jail, daycare centers, and schools are just a few of the groups that have taken advantage of our leftover plants. And the Lansing Food Bank also comes in to pick up all of the remaining vegetable flats. They have been coming in for many years to pick them up. The Food Bank does grow their own vegetable starts, but use ours to supplement what they give out to lower income folks. There is a lot of need, and desire, in the community for people to grow their own vegetables.

All total from all the different groups this year, the Horticulture Gardens donated over 50 flats of annuals, over 50 one gallon pots of perennials, and over 400 flats of vegetables. The dollar amount that those plants represent is quite a reinvestment into our community. And the plants make quite a few people smile.



*Our 2019 Plant Sale leftovers doing some good at the Food Bank.*

# REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR GARDEN DAY 2019

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BY MARIAH ARTZ, PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Garden Day is on Saturday, August 3rd, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Plant & Soil Sciences Building, featuring one of our graduates Matthew Ross. Matt is the Director of Continuing Education at Longwood Gardens where he oversees the development and delivery of over 170 programs annually in the concentrations of ornamental horticulture, landscape design, visual arts, and floral design.

His passion for horticulture is contagious and he is a proud graduate of Michigan State University where he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in Horticulture Science with an emphasis on Landscape Design and Urban Forestry.



## *Morning Keynote*

### **GO GREEN, GO WHITE, GET VARIEGATED**

Why just settle for green leaves when there are so many interesting and unique variegated plants in this world? After discussing a bit of the science behind color variation in foliage and flowers; explore the wide world of variegated plants that cover the full spectrum of plants from tropicals and annuals, to trees, shrubs, and even aquatic plants.

## *Afternoon Keynote*

### **HIDDEN GEMS: THE BEST GARDENS IN AMERICA YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF...**

Your botanical bucket list is about to get a lot longer after Matthew Ross shares the stories and captivating images from some of the nation's most underappreciated public gardens. These hidden gems include a public park where guests can sample fruits from around the world, extravagant sculpture parks, and even an alpine garden overlooking some of the oldest trees on the planet.

## **COST AND REGISTRATION**

The day includes two keynote presentations, two workshops of your choice, parking, lunch and dessert from Grand Traverse Pie Company, materials, and access to the Green Garden Marketplace. The cost is (prior to July 19th): \$69 for 2019 MSU Garden members and \$79 for non-members. After July 19th: \$89 for everyone. For more information and to register, visit: [hrt.msu.edu/garden-day](http://hrt.msu.edu/garden-day)

## GARDEN DAY - CONTINUED

### GARDEN DAY WORKSHOPS

#### *Perennial Garden Tour*

Join our very own perennial plant geek, Bethany Troy, as we take a tour of the Judith DeLapa Perennial Garden. See some of her favorite plants for the Michigan garden, as well as stunning combinations at the peak of the gardening season. Wear comfortable walking shoes and be prepared to be outdoors for this session. Bethany Troy, Perennial Garden Manager, MSU Horticulture Gardens.



#### *Adding Flowering Herbs to Your Garden*

Looking to add some color to your herb garden? Learn about unique flowering herbs that are very easy to grow and have both culinary and medicinal benefits. We will also look at some container ideas (Insect Repellent Garden, Healing Garden) using these wonderful plants! Connie Hanson, owner, Grand Shire Farm, Sand Lake, MI.

#### *The Garden in Your Beer*

Take a tour through your garden and discover all the plants that you might find in your beer. We will explore the brewing process and where some of your favorite garden plants, and many more, fit into beer. We will take a short trip back to pre-15th century and explore beer before hops were used. Dr. Norm Lownds, Curator, 4-H Children's Gardens, Head Brewer, Hop Garage Brewery.

#### *Trees for Your Backyard*

Enjoy a tour of our own C.E. Lewis Landscape Arboretum where we will focus on small and mid-size tree species to add beauty to your home landscape. This is a longer walk than most sessions - wear comfortable walking shoes and be prepared to be outdoors. Susan Gruber, Academic Specialist, MSU Department of Horticulture.

#### *Horticulture at Higher Heights*

Have you seen our green roofs on campus and wondered why and how they are used? Join our Director to learn about vegetated roofs - their history, benefits, and common plant species used. You'll leave with information on how to create your own green roofed bird house at home! Kristin Getter, Assistant Professor and Director of the MSU Horticulture Gardens.

## GARDEN DAY - CONTINUED

### GARDEN DAY WORKSHOPS (continued)

#### *Let's Talk About Shrubs*

Demystify the wondrous world of shrubs with self-proclaimed woody plant enthusiast, Brian Gayheart. Participants will learn how to select, care, and maintain some of Brian's favorite shrubs he has discovered as the Plant Purchaser at one of Lansing's largest nurseries. Come prepared to relax as Brian simplifies the process of adding award winning shrubs to your home landscape. Brian Gayheart, Nursery Stock Purchaser, Cottage Gardens, Inc.

#### *Designing Small Spaces*

Small spaces in the landscape are meant to be cozy, comfortable, and a place to relax with family and friends. They serve the likes of their owners and truly benefit from personal touches. Let's take a close look at developing these cozy, personal spaces. Bob Schutzki, Associate Professor, MSU Department of Horticulture.

#### *Gardening in a Pickle*

Calling all pickle-lovers! Join us for this fun and tasty workshop on growing, preparing, and enjoying pickles. We will explore everything from the typical tasty cucumber and dill combination, to unexpected fruits, veggies, herbs, and spices with prime pickle potential. Be prepared for an indoor/outdoor workshop (some walking required) as we explore a pickle garden planted especially for Garden Day! Daedre McGrath, Trial Garden Manager, MSU Horticulture Gardens.

#### *Fresh from the Garden Floral Arrangement*

Discover all your garden has to offer for unique fresh floral arrangements. This hands-on session will help you learn how to use your garden as a palette for floral arrangement, discover flowers that can be foraged for unique designs, and how to cultivate some of the best flowers for planting in your next cutting garden. Each participant will make a custom floral arrangement to take home. Dixie Sanborn, 4-H Specialist, Michigan State University.

## Thank you to our 2019 Sponsors!

### **Silver**

Capital Area Master Gardeners  
Michigan Hosta Society

### **Bronze**

LandMark Landscape Inc.  
VanAtta's Greenhouse and Flower Shop



# THIS GARDEN DAY WORKSHOP IS KIND OF A BIG DILL!

BY DAEDRE MCGRATH, ANNUAL TRIAL GARDEN MANAGER

When it came time to select my Garden Day workshop topic for 2019, I had two main objectives: 1) select a theme for the VIP Garden to go with my workshop, and 2) incorporate food (because who doesn't love snacks, right?). Somehow this morphed into a pickle-centric workshop. Without giving too much away, here is a brief overview of what you can expect in the "Gardening in a Pickle" session at Garden Day 2019. Register today!



While we will learn about typical pickle plants (say that three times fast!) like cucumber and dill, we're going to focus more on unusual edibles with pickle potential. The plants included in the theme garden (and up for possible discussion) include: bay leaf, beets, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrot, cauliflower, coriander, cucumber, dill, edamame, eggplant, garlic, ginger, green beans, Mexican sour gherkin, mustard seed, nasturtium, okra, onion, peppers (8 kinds!), lettuce, radish (3 kinds!), summer squash, tomato (7 kinds!), watermelon, West Indian gherkin, and zucchini.



Here's a little teaser into one of the more unexpected pickle plants (pictured above):

## **Raphanus sativus var. caudatus** **Radish 'Rattail'**

Instead of producing edible roots, this radish variety goes straight to flowering and produces crisp, edible seed pods. The seed pods are subtly spicy (more like arugula than a typical radish) and are delicious in salads and stir-fries, but are also great pickled. The Latin name translates to "radish with a tail". These plants continue to produce well in hot weather, making them a good mid-summer replacement for cool-weather radishes.

# JULY IN BLOOM

BETHANY TROY, PERENNIAL GARDEN MANAGER

July in the gardens can be an interesting time, as all of our spring and early summer bloomers are spent and the second hurrah in late summer hasn't quite started yet. Don't fret – we have plenty of perennials in the gardens that will be sure to catch your eye as they blaze on throughout July! Here's a sneak peak of what you will see as you visit the gardens in the next month. Remember – our season is a little behind this year, so the following plants will be what is blooming in July this year with our cool, wet spring!

## **Achillea sp.**

Yarrow is a common favorite amongst gardeners, and while we have some that have already started to bloom, there are plenty that are awaiting their July debut. Great for pollinators and for a wonderful mid-summer show! Pictured here is *Achillea millefolium* 'Strawberry Seduction'.



## **Liatris spicata**

Blazing Star is a personal favorite of mine. These vertical, upright flower stalks really pack a punch that last for weeks. The changing buds as they open down the stem is truly a sight to see – check up on this plant every day as it is blooming, as it is full of surprises! Pictured here is *Liatris spicata* 'Floristan Violet'.



## **Lilium sp.**

We all love lilies! They are a common 'gateway plant' into the world of horticulture, as their scent is as mesmerizing as their look. There are a number of different lilies throughout the gardens in different beds, so be sure to take a stroll and let us know your favorite! Pictured here is *Lilium lancifolium* 'Flore Pleno'.



**Monarda sp.**

Another common favorite is Monarda because of its ability to support beneficial pollinators and woo us with its color and high volume of flowers. An extra favorite amongst hummingbirds, be sure to visit the VIP garden to see Monarda 'Jacob Cline' in action. Who knows – you may be graced by a hummingbird sighting while you are there! Can you spot any other varieties of Monarda during your visit?



**Hakonechloa macra**

I have to add a non-flowering plant to this, as Hakonechloa (Japanese forest grass) is a commonly overlooked, beautifully textured perennial grass that really steals the show. Remember – perennial gardening isn't all about what is flowering, but how we continue to keep interest with foliage and textures throughout the season. Stop by and see this in our woodland garden! Pictured here is the cultivar 'All Gold'.

