

# MSU IN BLOOM

## MSU HORTICULTURE GARDEN NEWS



### **Spring Program**

Register Soon!  
20 Spaces Remain!

### **Celebrating 25 Years**

Enjoy several articles on  
the garden's history and  
bright future

### **Chicago Garden Getaway**

Join us for our 25th  
Anniversary Bus  
Trip in August!

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# MSU IN BLOOM

## MSU HORTICULTURE GARDEN NEWS

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

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<b>Volunteer Kick-Off</b>	Mar 13
<b>Spring Program</b>	Mar 24
<b>SHA Spring Show</b>	April 21/22
<b>Spring Plant Sale</b>	May 18/19

Visit

[HTTP://WWW.CANR.MSU.EDU/HRT/OUR\\_GARDENS/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/hrt/our_gardens/)

# SPRING MAKE & TAKE MARCH 24TH

Our Spring Make & Take event is filling up quickly! If you are looking for a relaxing, fun way to welcome spring, this hands-on event is for you! Some of our registered attendees have shared what they are most excited about in the quotes on the next page.

If our Spring Make & Take sparks your interest, be sure to **Register Soon- Only 20 Spaces Remaining!**

[REGISTER HERE](#)



**MSU HORTICULTURE GARDENS**  
*Spring Make & Take*  
**SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2018 12:30 – 5:00 P.M.**  
JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF CREATIVE FUN!  
PLANT & SOIL SCIENCES BUILDING - MSU CAMPUS  
[WWW.HRT.MSU.EDU/SP-REGISTER](http://WWW.HRT.MSU.EDU/SP-REGISTER)



**THIS ENTERTAINING EVENT COMBINES 3 WORKSHOPS PLUS GOURMET DESSERTS, COFFEE & TEA! LEARN ABOUT CREATIVE PLANT USES, CARE AND MORE!**

**FEATURING WYNNE WRIGHT OF SIXTEEN SPRIGS LAVENDER FARM & STAFF MEMBERS OF THE MSU HORTICULTURE GARDENS!**

**\$52 2018 MEMBERS / \$62 GENERAL  
[WWW.HRT.MSU.EDU/SP-REGISTER](http://WWW.HRT.MSU.EDU/SP-REGISTER)**

**12:30-1:00 PM**  
REGISTRATION  
**1:00-2:00 PM**  
LAVENDER SALT SPA BLENDS  
**2:00-2:15 PM**  
BREAK  
**2:15-3:15**  
FLOWER POT BLING  
**3:15-4:00**  
GOURMET DESSERTS, COFFEE/TEA  
**4:00-5:00**  
KOKEDAMA MOSS BALL

# WHY PEOPLE ARE EXCITED ABOUT SPRING PROGRAM

"The combined workshops give me an opportunity to bring a friend to the MSU Gardens for the first time to enjoy the fun of crafting, fellowship with garden lovers and gourmet treats!"

"I'm excited to network and hear what others are doing/have done and to learn from each other."

"I'm really looking forward to connecting and reconnecting with garden-lovers and to be back in a space that truly helped define and cultivate my love of plants!"

"What could be more fun?? An afternoon with plants, gourmet treats, good friends, and crafting. Thanks MSU Department of Horticulture!!"

"The depth of creative and artistic talent in planning these fresh and exciting programs is much appreciated!"

"My husband and I are looking forward to our date day, full of creativity and treats!"

"I can't tell you how stoked I am for this event! I mean, who doesn't love lavender? And flower pot décor? And desserts and tea? Plus kokedama moss balls - it will be great!"

"I always learn new uses and designs for materials, which I use all around my home. When the design I made at the MSU Horticulture Gardens has reached the end of its useful life, I can often repurpose materials for other designs."

# Volunteer Kick-Off

## Tuesday, March 13th starting at 9AM

### MSU Horticulture Gardens- Conservatory



**Come learn about opportunities to volunteer with us and meet with fellow volunteers. Butterfly docent training will begin immediately after the kickoff, starting at 10AM.**



## PLANT SALE 2018!

To Benefit the MSU Horticulture Gardens

Great deals on hanging baskets, perennials, annuals, grasses, herbs, vegetable seedlings, shrubs, and more!

Fri. May 18th: 4–7 p.m. (\*2018 MSU Garden Members only)

Sat. May 19th: 7 a.m.–2 p.m. (Public Sale)

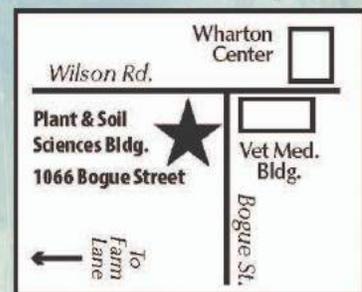
Plant & Soil Sciences Bldg., MSU

[www.hrt.msu.edu/our-gardens](http://www.hrt.msu.edu/our-gardens)

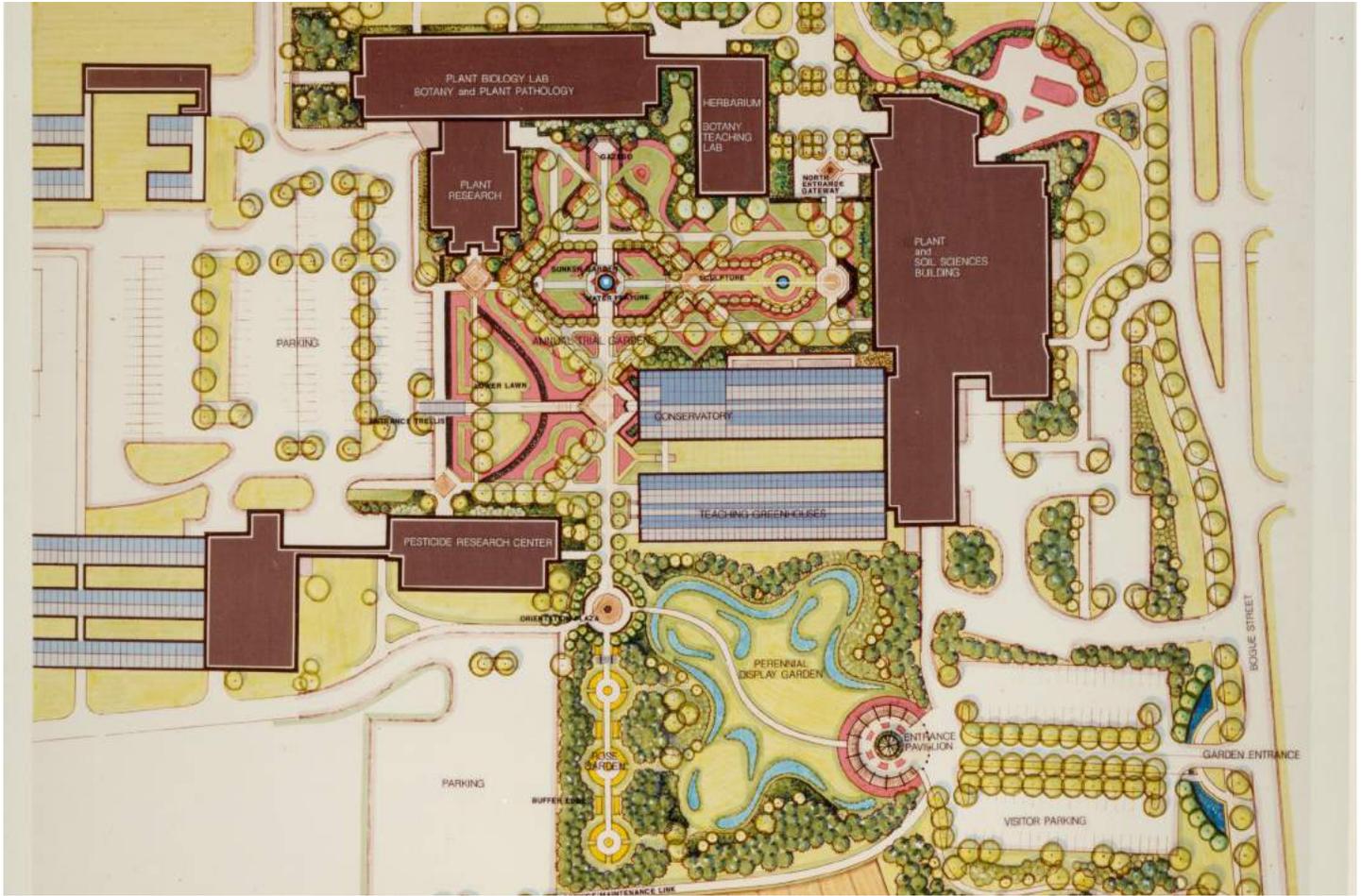
Email: [hgardens@msu.edu](mailto:hgardens@msu.edu)

Phone: 517-353-0328

BYOC: Bring Your Own Cart!



\* 2018 MSU Garden members receive 10% off Plant Sale purchases. This card does not entitle you to membership. A 2018 MSU Garden membership may be purchased at the door for \$40.



# LOOKING BACK

THE FIRST YEARS  
AT THE MSU  
HORTICULTURE GARDENS

By Doug Badgero, former  
Gardens and Greenhouse  
Manager

In August 1986, the Horticulture Department moved from the old Horticulture Building on the north side of campus just west of Student Services into the brand spanking new Plant and Soil Sciences Building (with new at the time, high-tech greenhouses). Flower beds were hard to come by those first couple of years, so we did what we could to continue the Bedding Plant Trials started on north campus. The first beds planted were right along Bogue Street between the side walk and the street. Can we talk about horrible soil? It may have been better to try and grow in the sidewalk itself! Additional beds were laid out (20'x6') along the railroad tracks between where the Children's Garden shed and the garden support structure now stand. These initial beds were some of the worse soil conditions I have ever grown in or ever would. I began to wonder if this was going to be any fun or not.

The first two years were also challenging because we continued to maintain the Gardens at the old Horticulture Building, transporting all equipment, students, and plant material back and forth.



# WILL'S BIRD

THE HISTORY OF WILBIR THE FLORAL  
PEACOCK

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BY DOUG BADGERO AND DAN BULKOWSKI,  
FORMER AND CURRENT GARDENS  
AND GREENHOUSE MANAGERS



When we first moved into the Plant and Soil Science Building, Dr. Will Carlson (Garden Director at the time) said we needed something to draw attention to the garden's new location. After seeing several floral topiaries around the world, he decided we needed something similar. He took me (Doug) to Kalamazoo to check out several topiaries at their Floral Festival. I came back to East Lansing and constructed the frame for a floral peacock, with the help of an Agriculture-Technology student, Ray Obergon. The frame was built in two pieces so we could move him outdoors through a 7-foot overhead garage door each summer.

During Wilbir's construction, we had to give him a name instead of "whatchamacallit," so we started calling it "Will's Bird", which after a while was shorted to "Wilbir." At first, we did not let this be known since we didn't know how Dr. Carlson would take it. However, he soon found out and loved it, much to our amazement. So there you have it...Wilbir!

Wilbir didn't always guard the garden's parking lot. Several of his first roosts were in various locations throughout the gardens. One spot was actually where the fountain is now located in the annual gardens. In Wilbir's current location, he originally faced East, but was spun around to look West a few years ago. A donor contributed to make Wilbir more accessible and a butterfly bench keeps him company.  
(continued on next page)



Wilbir comes in from the parking lot at the end of the season. Every winter, the old burlap “skin” is removed as well as the spent growing mix. Then students replace the burlap and pack in the new growing media. The thickness of the media is only about 12”. Most of Wilbir’s insides are filled with plastic bags of packing peanuts. The whole process of deconstruction and reconstruction takes the students about 60 hours to complete. After stuffing, the body and head are planted with about 2300 plants in mid-May. Usually begonias are used because of their disease and insect resistance. By the first week of June, a crew from campus Physical Plant come over with a big piece of equipment to hoist Wilbir into his summer home. Approximately 2,280 additional begonias are then installed into the tail section. Even though he is Wilbir the Peacock most summers, he did dress up one year as Big Bird from Sesame Street. Another year he was a flamingo, complete with an entourage of baby flamingos.

Over the years, Wilbir has become the symbol of the gardens. Many pictures of smiling guests are taken with Wilbir. If only we could get a nickel for every photo...



# "IN A CHILD'S GARDEN... IMAGINATION GROWS"

BY JANE L. TAYLOR

FOUNDING CURATOR OF THE MICHIGAN 4-H CHILDREN'S GARDEN

Michigan's beloved artist, author, and naturalist, Gwen Frostic, penned the title quotation for the Michigan 4-H Children's Garden at its early inception. In 1987 it was our good fortune to have the imagination, vision, and support of the MSU administration, the Department of Horticulture, and the Michigan 4-H Foundation to embark on this adventure to what became the first children's garden of its kind in this country.

Liberty Hyde Bailey, the father of American Horticulture (his statue appears in the Annual Garden), was a strong proponent of nature-study for children and said that learning about nature should "...open a child's mind by direct observation to a knowledge and love of the common things and experiences in the child's life and environment." Horticulture is defined as the art and science of cultivating plants. In planning the design of the 4-H Garden, my intention was to create interactive displays for children in a colorful and fun way that show the importance of science and plants in their everyday lives and serve as a place to nurture wonder and curiosity. Plants provide our food, clothing, and shelter; they inspire us to create beauty through art, music, and literature; they help to heal our bodies and our souls . . . and our gardens grow communities. Dr. Harold Tukey, former Horticulture Department chair, liked to say, "Horticulture is the great green carpet that covers the earth." (continued on next page)





In those early days of planning, there was little research on the advantages of outdoor garden-based learning and the impact of garden experiences on children. Our children needed a green place to explore, smell, touch, taste, see, and listen. . .with no 'NO' signs. There was almost no published research concerning outdoor garden experiences for pre-school age children. By observing children for many years, we knew 'in our gut' these early outdoor experiences were critical to a child's development. Now, over the past 25 years, many science-based research publications prove we were on the right track.

The need for green spaces that provide science-based learning, wonder, curiosity, beauty, and joy is even more evident in 2018 than it was in 1993. Our screen-addicted children lack green spaces to explore; they have no idea where their food comes from; and they are struggling from childhood obesity and lack good nutritional eating habits. The need for hands-on "learning by doing" experiences that 4-H programs provide is critical to a child's development. A new engraving in the Children's Garden sidewalk include words from L. H. Bailey in 1903: "Give the children an opportunity to make a garden. Let them grow what they will. Let them experiment. It matters less that they produce good plants than that they try for themselves."

This past year, 14,000 children visited the 4-H Children's Gardens through formal programs, and an estimated 75,000 others visited on their own. Over the past 25 years, some quarter-million children have been formally educated here along with 2 million visitors. Since the time of the 4-H Children's Garden dedication in 1993, the concept and educational significance of a public garden specifically designed for children and families has greatly expanded. Hundreds of gardens designed for children are now found from coast to coast and around the world, and the Michigan 4-H Children's Garden is considered the template for these designs. (continued on next page)

The staff 25 years ago who helped make this possible included: Jeff Kacos, Deb Kinney, and Dennis Hanson, Landscape Architects in the Division of Campus Park and Planning; Doug Badgero, Garden Manager, and his crew in the Horticulture Department; the Michigan 4-H Foundation staff; and scores of volunteers. One key component of the Horticulture Gardens is the training of student interns in practical horticulture. This hands-on summer experience has shaped the lives and careers of many who have gone on to work as professional horticulturists at universities and in public gardens around the world. One intern in 1993 was Jim Adams who is now the Supervisor of Horticulture at The White House. Another former intern was Jessica Wright, who first visited the 4-H Children's Garden at age 11 and announced this is where she wanted to work when she grew up. She studied Horticulture at MSU, followed her dream, and is now the Children's Educational Coordinator for the 4-H Children's Gardens.

I hope the many children and families who visited have come away with a deeper appreciation of our green planet, the science of growing plants, and with a desire to be good stewards of our earth. The 4-H Children's Garden was funded by private gifts, which continues to this day; these gifts provide for staffing, programs, and maintenance. Your gifts have helped make the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens possible and it is my hope your support will continue. I personally thank you for your investment in the imagination and vision. My participation has been the adventure of my lifetime. Just Imagine! Happy 25th!!





# HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE MSU HORTICULTURE GARDENS

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By Art Cameron  
Garden Director

Horticultural and botanical gardens have long been a tradition here at Michigan State University. The Gardens surrounding the old Horticulture Building on north campus dated from the 1920s! Though that was a great garden location, we knew change was coming when we learned that the Horticulture Department was destined to move to the newly constructed Plant and Soil Science Building on south campus.

During the planning of the building, it was clear that the new laboratory and teaching facilities were going to be fabulous. That was great news but several of us were concerned about how we would relocate the annual and perennial gardens that were adjacent to the old Horticulture Building. It was convenient that the Clarence E Lewis Arboretum, dedicated a few years earlier under the leadership of Dr Robert Schutzki, was located on south campus just across the railroad tracks from the planned new building. Still, what were we to do about moving the rest of the gardens?

On one memorable day around 1985, I attended a planning meeting where Horticulture Professor Dr. Will Carlson declared his vision of a “world-class garden” that would surround the new building! It was a great vision but we quickly learned that the funding for building these new gardens would have to come from private donations.  
(continued on next page)

Dr. Carlson was not one to be intimidated and, with the help of several others, was soon knocking on doors and soliciting the funds needed to initiate this large project. Planning commenced soon thereafter. Donations were made from the greenhouse and nursery industries and from numerous generous individuals.

A short time later, we learned that Jane Taylor (at that time with 4H) envisioned an incredibly unique Children's Garden that would be located on the new site. Jane, with the help of several others including Deb Kinney and other talented designers, developed the components of this amazingly creative space (the current location between the parking lot and the railroad tracks was originally destined to be evergreen trees) and started a separate fund-raising campaign! As you well know, these efforts were all successful!



On a beautiful summer's day in 1993, the new "world-class" MSU Demonstration Gardens and 4H-Children's Garden were formally dedicated. What an achievement by all those involved! What started with dreams was now a reality. The passion and commitment of a relatively small group of inspired people had come to fruition. We thank all those who helped plan, fund and build these educational and inspirational gardens.

Of course, the effort did not end there! Twenty-five years later, there is a group effort to maintain and improve the gardens! In my opinion, which is of course biased, the collective gardens look better every year! We have an excellent donor base, and we have an incredible staff. Our dedicated volunteers are the best! Together, they all work towards a common goal to make these gardens as good as they can be!

As we look to the future, I am completely optimistic! We have passionate staff, passionate volunteers, passionate donors, and passionate Friends of the Gardens! How can we go wrong? The future of the MSU Horticulture Gardens is in good hands.



You can help us celebrate our 25th birthday this year. Plan to visit our gardens multiple times during the season to see the results of everyone's labor! Attend one or more of our birthday events, some will be free while others will have a fee. Consider donating generously to support our on-going efforts.

# GETTING TO KNOW YOU

EMMIE MARSHALL-CLARKE,  
2017 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

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By Bethany Troy  
Perennial Garden Manager



Emmie Marshall-Clarke

Get to know our 2017 Volunteer of the Year, Emmie Marshall-Clarke, in this exclusive interview. Emmie has been essential in helping us prepare for our Spring Plant Sale, specifically with our large selection of veggies and herbs. Thank you, Emmie!

**When did you first start volunteering for the gardens?** I started volunteering at the gardens in 2009, the same year I was enrolled in the Master Gardener class which was taught at MSU at that time. It was a great way to accumulate the required volunteer hours for the Master Gardener program.

**What interested you in volunteering with us?** I thoroughly enjoyed the lectures and hands-on experience offered by MSU staff during the Master Gardener class. Several people who had been gardens volunteers for several years spoke highly of the experience, so I thought this was a volunteer opportunity that I would really enjoy...and I have. In 2010 the volunteer coordinator, Ann Hancock, had asked Karen Engan to gather a group of fellow volunteers to assist in the preparation and organization of the vegetable area for the annual plant sale. I was totally hooked after the “veggie girl” experience.

**Describe some of the tasks you perform as a volunteer.** The list of tasks has varied from year to year. One of my favorites is helping with the “behind the scenes” organization and set-up of the veggie and herb area of the spring plant sale. A fun task is acting as a docent in the butterfly house on the weekends. It can be crowded and crazy but watching the kids and folks who have come to photograph the experience makes it so worthwhile. Weeding and deadheading plants are typical summer tasks. (continued on next page)

I have worked in the information booth located near the entrance to the Children's Garden. I have also helped prepare for Garden Day and other adult events by assembling program handouts and working parking duty. As the summer ends, tasks involve harvesting remaining vegetables from the vegetable garden and fall clean up tasks such as pulling annual plants.

**What other hobbies do you enjoy outside the garden?** Photographing backyard plants and wildlife as well as travel destinations. Walking, hiking, and participating in cooking or craft classes. Perusing the pages of a good book and cheering for the Spartan men's and women's basketball teams, to name a few.

**What is your history with Michigan State University?** I returned to learn as an adult and earned a BS in Packaging from MSU, then worked as a designer in Richardson, TX and Seattle, WA. My husband, though semi-retired, is an Associate Professor at MSU. What area of the garden would you consider your favorite? It varies depending upon the season...during late fall/winter/early spring, the perennial garden. The children's garden is a fun summertime destination and the annual garden is particularly interesting during plant trials.

**What do you enjoy most about volunteering with us?** Interacting with fun, knowledgeable, and creative gardens staff and meeting other very interesting volunteers who vary in age from students to 90 years old.

**What is your all-time favorite plant?** This is a difficult question as I have many favorites depending upon the setting. In general, scented herbs, pollinator plants, and bird favorites tend to interest me the most. For now, pineapple sage, agastache, and blue false indigo.



Emmie has helped immensely with organizing and inventorying the vegetables and herbs for our spring plant sale!



# CHICAGO

## Garden Getaway



Come join our globetrotting Garden Director, Art Cameron, as we experience a whirlwind Windy City Garden Tour!



**2 days / 1 night**

<u>Member</u>	<u>Non-member</u>
<b>\$329.00</b>	<b>\$359.00</b>
per person/double occupancy	

Presented by:

## MSU Horticulture Gardens

Tour date:  
**August 21 - 22, 2018**  
 Tuesday - Wednesday

For reservations and information please contact:  
**Bianco Tours Sales Dept.**  
**(734) 946-7021**

**YOUR BIANCO TOUR INCLUDES:**

**Round Trip Transportation:**  
 Via deluxe highway motorcoach. Equipped with reclining seats, overhead storage, & restroom for your comfort and convenience.

**Accommodations:**

- 1 Night at the Fairfield Inn and Suites in downtown Chicago

**Included Meals:**

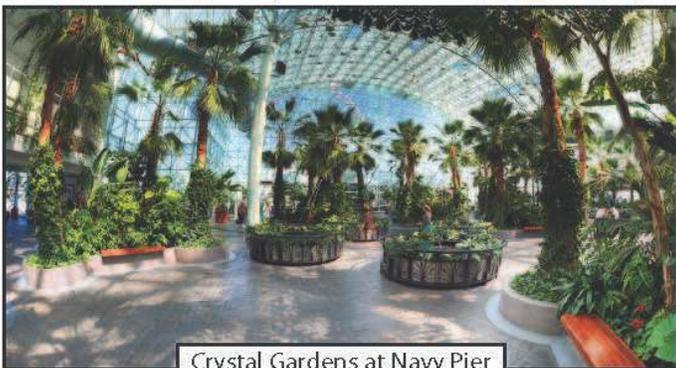
- 1 Breakfast & 1 Dinner

**Featuring:**

- **Chicago Botanic Garden** - 385 acres with 25 gardens designed by the world's foremost landscape architects.
- **Lincoln Park Conservatory** - This indoor conservatory features greenhouses with tropical displays, divided into four areas.
- **Gardens at Ball Horticultural Company** - Containing nine acres of display beds for annuals, perennials, cut flowers and vegetables.
- **Crystal Gardens at Navy Pier** - A beautiful indoor, one-acre, botanical garden with beautiful views of the lakefront.
- **Lurie Garden** - Five acres of Millennium Park are dedicated to eco-friendly botanical landscaping with city views.



Chicago Botanic Garden



Crystal Gardens at Navy Pier

*Tour price includes gratuities for above trip inclusions.*  
**BIANCO TOUR DIRECTOR & DRIVER GRATUITIES ARE NOT INCLUDED.**

*Escorted by a professional Bianco Tour Director*  
*Coffee & snacks served on the first morning*  
*Alcoholic & non-alcoholic drinks & snacks on return trip*



Bianco Tours does not own or operate any of the suppliers of services or accommodations for your trip. As a result, it is not responsible for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any such supplier or of any third party over whom Bianco Tours has no control.



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# CHICAGO GARDEN GETAWAY

## Day 1

Good morning! We begin our journey to Chicago with a cup of hot coffee and snack served by a professional Bianco Tour Director. Stops are made en route for comfort and convenience. Upon arrival in the “windy city”, we visit the **Chicago Botanic Garden**. We enjoy a narrated tram tour to familiarize us with the grounds before we enjoy free time on our own to explore. The Chicago Botanic Garden offers hundreds of acres of beauty, serenity, awe and wonder. Set on 385 acres with 25 gardens designed by the world’s foremost landscape architects, we find waterfalls, English walled and rose gardens, native prairies, water gardens, warm greenhouses and exhibits. This afternoon, we visit the **Lincoln Park Conservatory**. This indoor conservatory, built in the late 19th century, features greenhouses with tropical displays, divided into four areas; the Palm House, the Fernery, the Orchid House and the Show House. Following our visit, dinner is included at **Food Life**; an urban dining venue with 14 distinctive kitchens that serve real food made from scratch daily. This evening, we check into the Fairfield Inn and Suites Chicago Downtown located just steps from the Magnificent Mile.

## Day 2

Breakfast at the hotel is included this morning before we depart for the **Gardens at Ball Horticultural Company**. The Gardens at Ball have been the evaluation and testing grounds for the world’s wealth of horticultural introductions and improvements for over 80 years. The site contains nine acres of display beds for annuals, perennials, cut flowers and vegetables, including the newest plants from the industry’s leading breeders and marketers. This afternoon, we have lunch on our own and an opportunity to visit **Crystal Gardens at Navy Pier**. The Crystal Gardens is a beautiful indoor, one-acre, botanical garden with beautiful views of the lakefront. This six-story glass atrium with a 50-foot arched ceiling holds over 80 live palm trees, lush foliage, hanging twinkle lights and dancing leapfrog fountains. Before we depart for home we stop at one more garden, **Lurie Garden**. Five acres of Millennium Park are dedicated to eco-friendly botanical landscaping with city views. A dinner stop is made on our own en route home for our convenience.

### IT'S EASY TO JOIN A BIANCO TOUR!

Reservations for \_\_\_ participants. Just complete the form below and include a **\$20.00** deposit **per person** to hold your reservations. Full payment is due 30 days prior to departure. A charge of \$125.00, based on double occupancy, may be levied on all cancellations made within 30 days of departure. No refunds within 24 hours of departure. Please make checks payable to: **Bianco Tours** - 12555 Universal Dr. • Taylor, MI 48180.

Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Private room:	Members \$435.00	Non-members \$465.00
Address: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Double room:	\$329.00	\$359.00
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Triple room:	\$294.00	\$324.00
Email: _____	Date:	8/21/18	
Phone #: _____ Roommate(s): _____	Code:	8N80863.1.2	
	Tour:	Chicago Garden Getaway	
	Group:	MSU Horticultural Gardens	

CREDIT CARD PURCHASE (print clearly)

*(A 3% convenience charge will be added to the above prices for credit card purchases)*



Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
(month) (year)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount being charged: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*I have read and accept the conditions regarding cancellation refunds and payments*

# Over the River and through the **WOODS**

←←← to →→→

MSU Student Horticulture Association's  
2018 Spring Show

## **PLANT SALE**

April 21 9am-6pm

&

April 22 10am-4pm

Plant and Soil Sciences Building  
1066 Bogue St. , East Lansing, MI 48824

Click Here For  
Additional  
Information



Fascination of  
Plants Day

## **From Seed to Fruit**

**Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>**

**10 am – 3 pm**

**Molecular Plant Sciences Building  
1066 Bogue Street, East Lansing**

Additional Information:

<https://mps.natsci.msu.edu/fopd/>

- *Explore the world of plants*
- *Enjoy fun hands-on activities*
- *Meet MSU plant researchers*

**MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY**