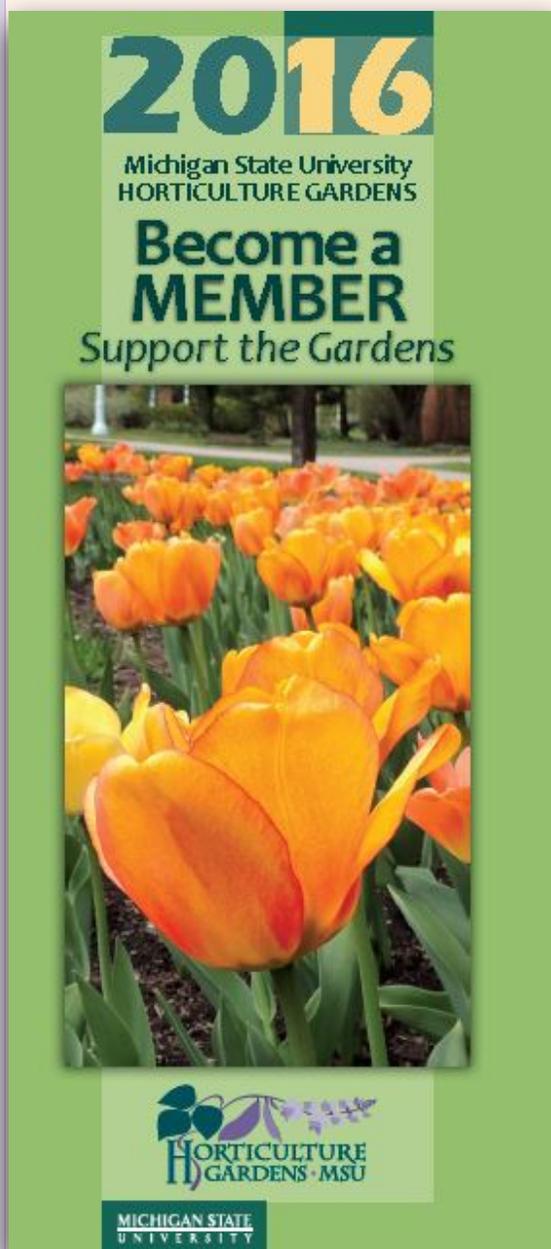


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## 2016 MSU Horticulture Garden Membership Application Now Online

Our Garden members help support our beautiful gardens while enjoying many special benefits such as exclusive invitations to our events.

For example, here are details for a 2016 Family Membership (*Limited to you, your partner and immediate dependents under age 18*)

- VIP early bird invitation to plant sale for all listed family members!
- 10% discount on plant sale purchases for all listed family members
- Free admission to AHS Reciprocal Gardens for all listed family members
- Discounts on all MSU Horticulture Programs for all listed family members
- Special invitation (for two) to our Annual VIP Wine and Chocolate Donor Reception

**To view other membership options and to join online follow this link on our Garden website:**

<http://events.anr.msu.edu/MSUGardensMembership/>

A portion of your membership is tax-deductible.

## Annual VIP Wine and Chocolate Party

Each year we host an appreciation event for **our donors of \$60 and above which includes all members at the Family Level or greater**. This year, the event will be held on Tuesday December 8. If you have given at this level, you should already have received an invitation. If for any reason you think you should have received an invitation but did not, please contact Jennifer Sweet at [hgardens@msu.edu](mailto:hgardens@msu.edu)

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## Upcoming Events in the MSU Horticulture Gardens



### Holiday Open House

Thursday, December 3rd

Noon to 7:30 PM

Plant and Soil Science Building

- No admission charge
- Park free in the Garden Parking Lot
- Join us for our ever-popular annual event featuring our 16' poinsettia tree under evening lights
- Experience Capital Area Railway Society model trains, beginning at 5:00 PM
- Enjoy decorated holiday trees, & refreshments
- Bring your children and a camera!
- Santa arrives with his sleigh at 5:30 PM



### Create Your Own Evergreen Holiday Wreath

Wednesday, December 9th

from 3:00 to 5:00 PM

B109 Plant and Soil Science Building

\$35 for Garden Members; \$45 for Non-members

Preregistration required at

<http://www.hrt.msu.edu/curious-gardener/>.

Create an inviting entrance to your home by attending our Evergreen Holiday Wreath workshop. By the end of this workshop, you have a festive wreath you can take home to enjoy over the holidays. You will be provided with all the "parts" and will be given instructions on how to assemble the wreath with evergreens, ribbons and other accessories.

Daedre McGrath and Jessica Wright, MSU Horticulture Garden Staff Members

If you have any questions, contact Jessica Wright at [hgardens@msu.edu](mailto:hgardens@msu.edu).



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## 2016 MSU Horticulture Garden's Spring Program

### Saturday, April 9th

*We have a lively program scheduled for our Spring Program including two members of the "Garden Professors", a blog site that offers science-based information on a wide range of horticultural topics! They will be joined by Adam Montri, an expert in organic farming and protected environments. An hour will be set aside for questions and answers from the experts! Online registration will be available in 2016. Stay tuned!*

#### ***Garden Zombies: Horticultural Myths that Refuse to Die***

No matter how much scientific evidence to the contrary, there are certain "garden miracles" that just won't go away. **Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott**, Associate Professor of Horticulture at Washington State University, will discuss some of those infamous products and practices, then suggest evidence-based alternatives to use in your own gardens and landscapes.

#### ***Are Natives the Answer?***

The debate over the use of native versus exotic plants in landscapes often generates more heat than light. Some native plant advocates claim that exotics are water-hogging, nutrient-hungry pest magnets that contribute little in the way of ecosystem services; while some ecologists argue that we should judge species based on their utility and not by their origins. In this presentation **Dr. Bert Cregg**, Associate Professor of Horticulture at Michigan State University will provide an overview of some of the key scientific and philosophical questions related to the native debate.

#### ***Tips and Tricks for Successful Organic Vegetable Gardens***

Many homeowners are interested in growing their vegetable gardens organically. Join **Adam Montri**, an outreach specialist in MSU's Department of Horticulture and co-owner of Ten Hens Farm in Bath, MI, to talk about some tips for successful organic vegetable production and some tricks for extending your season earlier in the spring and later into the fall.



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## 2016 Garden Day!

Saturday August 6

We are very excited that our 2016 Keynote Speaker for Garden Day will be David Culp, author of the book **The Layered Garden** published by Timber Press. This informative and well-illustrated book was awarded the coveted [Best Overall Book](#) by the *Garden Writers Association*.

David has been lecturing about gardens nationwide for more than 15 years. His articles have appeared in *Martha Stewart Living*, *Country Living*, *Fine Gardening*, *Green Scene*, and many other publications. He is a former contributing editor to *Horticulture* magazine and served as chairman of the Mid-Atlantic Hardy Plant Society. David teaches herbaceous perennials at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, PA.

As always, we will have a wealth of Garden Day workshops and you will be able to select your two favorites. The complete program will be available next spring!



David Culp



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## To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow

“I love my job!” Renata Reibitz says enthusiastically. “I love working with plants and people, especially the volunteers.”

Reibitz oversees the Judith DeLapa Perennial Gardens.

“She loves it here, and we are lucky to have her,” says Dr. Art Cameron, Director of the MSU Horticulture Gardens. “Renata not only is a passionate and dedicated employee, but she has made significant gifts back to the gardens to help us grow.”

Renata was an undergraduate at MSU in the 1970s, which led to a career as a graphic designer. She became a serious gardener only in the 1990s and began her training by completing a Master Gardener course.

She chose to volunteer at the University of Michigan Matthaei Gardens, where she gained an appreciation for public gardens and their role in promoting the benefits of plants in our society. Only after this experience did she consider reenrolling at MSU to obtain a degree in horticulture.

By 2004, she was once again a college student. She completed her internship under the supervision of Ann Hancock in the Judith DeLapa Perennial Gardens.

“It is fair to say there was mutual appreciation – Ann fully valued Renata’s passion and knowledge in the gardens, and Renata loved her learning experience under Ann,” Cameron says.

Renata completed her degree in 2007 and worked for a few years in garden retail, design and maintenance before coming back to MSU as the perennial manager, upon Ann’s retirement.

Since then, Renata has made multiple generous gifts to the gardens. She sponsored one of the perennial beds, which she is redesigning, and donated the funds to purchase a new utility vehicle for use in the gardens.



GARDEN  
GIFTS

**Renata  
Reibitz**

“Giving has always been a part of my upbringing,” she says. “My parents taught me to give back whenever possible, and the MSU Gardens have been so important to me over the years.”

“There is no doubt that the gardens have benefitted from having Renata on board. She has expanded and redesigned several beds in the perennial gardens, started a peony collection and, most recently, redesigned our hosta display [featured in the article on Ron Hagaman]. It is fair to say the Judith DeLapa Perennial Gardens have never looked better!” Cameron says.

Renata believes that plants evoke memories of those lost. Before her father passed, he loved a *Miscanthus sinensis* ‘Morning Light’ that she had planted in his yard. After his passing, she divided the grass so that all her siblings could have a piece growing in their yards. All the divisions are still alive and growing. Every time she looks at one, she thinks of her father.



*This article is excerpted from our new publication “Garden Gifts”, published by ANR Communications in November 2015.*

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## Support the Gardens: Sponsor a Brick, Bench or Garden

Our endowment supports a good portion of our on-going salaries and maintenance costs in the gardens. It grows yearly as a result of your gifts and donations to the MSU Horticulture Gardens.

A \$250 donation to the Gardens will sponsor a 4" by 8" brick, a \$1,000 donation to the Gardens will sponsor a 8" by 8" brick, and a \$10,000 donation to the Gardens will sponsor a garden bench. Larger donations can sponsor individual garden beds or completely new gardens or garden features. Inscriptions can honor special person(s) or occasion(s) in your life.

To give online, go to: <http://www.hrt.msu.edu/donor-opportunities-bricks-benches/> or contact Dr Art Cameron, Director, at [cameron@msu.edu](mailto:cameron@msu.edu)

