

please help us grow...

## MSU Horticulture Garden's Spring Program

### Saturday, April 9, 2016

*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!*

#### • **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, and 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.

**For the complete program, more details and Online Registration, please visit our website at <http://www.hrt.msu.edu/spring-program/>**

If you have questions on any of our garden programs, events, or memberships, please contact:

**Jennifer Sweet – Program Coordinator**

**517-355-5191 x1339**

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

## Spring 2016 Curious Gardener

For more information and to register, go to  
<http://www.hrt.msu.edu/curious-gardener/>

### ❖ Sharpening your *Garden Tools*

**Renata Reibitz, Perennial Garden Manager, MSU Horticulture Gardens**  
**Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> from 3 to 5 PM**

**\$20 for Garden Members; \$25 for Non-members**

Winter is a great time to get your garden tools cleaned and sharpened for spring. Sharp tools make gardening so much easier! In this hands-on class, Renata will show you how to keep your garden hand tools in tip-top shape. Bring your pruners and loppers and together we will clean and sharpen as well as talk about other maintenance that can be done to keep your tools working great. Everyone will leave with their own sharpening stone. Class limit 15.

### ❖ Succulent Living Wreath

**Daedre McGrath, Annual Plant Manager, MSU Horticulture Gardens and Jessica Wright, Youth Education Coordinator**

**Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> from 3 to 5 PM**

**\$35 for Garden Members; \$40 for Non-members**

Start your garden season by creating a stunning succulent living wreath to hang on a door, fence, or set on a table. Succulents can thrive where little else will grow! Jessica and Daedre will take you step-by-step through the process of creating your own uniquely ornamental wreath. Each participant will be provided with all plants and materials needed to make a living wreath to take home. Class limit 25.

### ❖ Growing and Crafting with *Hard-shelled Gourds*

**Daedre McGrath, Annual Plant Manager, MSU Horticulture Gardens**

**Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> from 3 to 5 PM**

**\$30 for Garden Members; \$35 for Non-members**

Daedre will show you how to grow gourds from seed in your vegetable garden, how to dry and prep them for crafting, and inspire you to create both decorative and functional items for indoor and outdoor use. Each participant will be provided with a packet of gourd seeds, a dried gourd, and all the materials to create and decorate a gourd birdhouse to take home. Class Limit: 20

### ❖ Building Bamboo Trellises

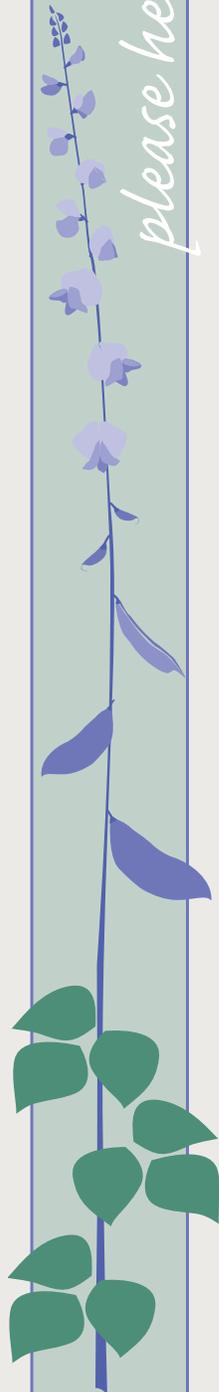
**Dr. Art Cameron, Director, MSU Horticulture Gardens**

**Tuesday April 26<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8 PM**

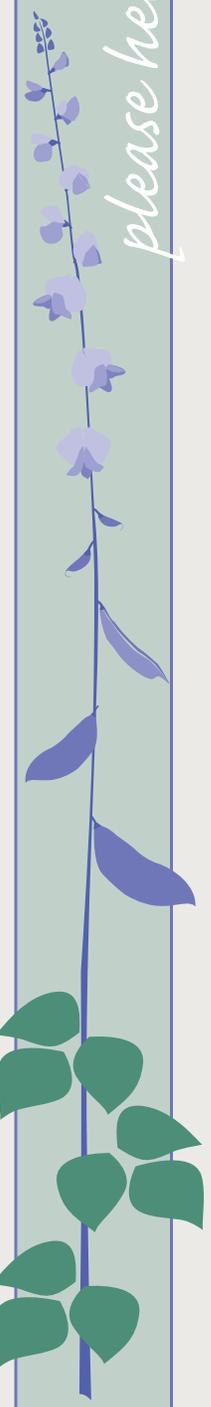
**\$15 for Garden Members; \$20 for Non-members**

Take your garden vertical using bamboo trellises! Beautiful, easy to make, and extremely versatile in the garden, bamboo trellises are great for annual climbing vines and can be adapted to get tomatoes, beans and peas up off the ground. In this workshop, Art will focus on construction of a simple and effective trellis. He'll demonstrate a few variations so you will feel confident in creating your own trellises that will be the envy of your gardening friends! We will discuss how to select and purchase the bamboo. Materials are not included in the price.

*please help us grow...*



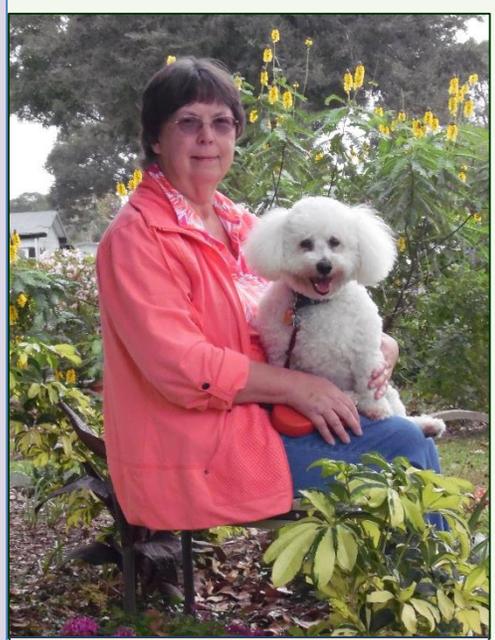
*please help us grow...*



## MG Design Contest Winner

Every four years, we hold a contest to design a new garden for the Judith and George Mynsberge Master Gardener Idea Bed in the MSU Horticulture Gardens. We announced the contest last summer and were very excited to receive nine entries from all over the state. Each entry had elements of good garden design making it so much harder to choose just one. Thanks to all our MG designers! After careful consideration, we are pleased to announce our winner:

### Sandra J. Lombard, Van Buren County Master Gardener!



*Photo courtesy of Kris Sklba Schatzer*

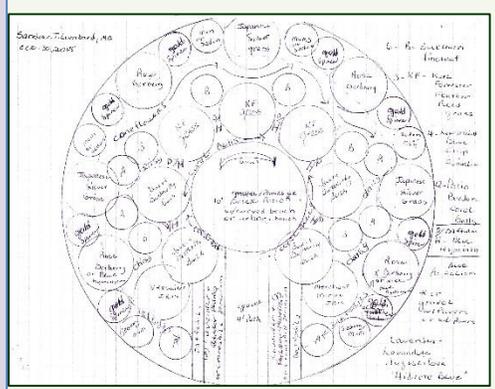
Sandra received her MG certification in 2010. Like many of us, she was greatly influenced as a child by her parent's love of gardening. Her father had a vegetable garden and Sandra helped with weeding and learned organic methods. Sandra is retired and with her husband has been working hard on landscaping their home of nearly an acre in Michigan. They have installed most of the 45 new trees and more than 50 shrubs, roses and 16 flower beds.

In 2014, they bought a home in Winter Haven, Florida where they spend their winters. Sandra has enjoyed enlarging and redesigning those beds while learning tropical gardening for Zone 9.

Sandra is a member of the Carnegie Garden Club, District III, where she served two years as president and vice-president respectively, as well as worked on several committees. She has designed planting beds for a Habitat for Humanity home in Kalamazoo and a garden for the Lion's Club in Paw Paw, Michigan

Sandra has also volunteered for the "Ask a Master Gardener" program at local garden centers, worked plant sales and hosted for garden tours and information centers at various events. In 2012, she organized and led a gardening class for Van Buren County Seniors.

Sandra put a lot of thought into her design for the Master Gardener Idea Bed. She chose low maintenance perennials, shrubs and ornamental grasses that would attract birds, bees and butterflies.



A wide walk invites visitors into the center of the bed where they can sit on a bench and enjoy the nature around them. As per the request of the donor, an extensive list of 'blue' perennials were chosen to allow for alternatives if a particular plant was unavailable. Plants were chosen for seasonal interest and continuous color throughout the season.

The design will be installed in Spring 2016, and it will remain in place until 2020.

please help us grow...

## New Bathrooms Completed!

We are excited to announce the completion of two new outdoor restrooms adjacent to the 4-H Children's Garden. In 2014, the Michigan 4-H Foundation received a generous estate gift from Pete and Sally Smith, which supported endowment and general operating support for the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, and also funded the construction of new bathrooms in the outdoor Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens. "After 22 years we are very excited to finally be able to meet our visitors' needs with a state-of-the-art restroom that fits the garden, is environmentally-friendly and looks good outside and inside," said Norm Lownds, Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens curator.

In 2007, Margaret Marshall Murdoch funded the creation of the Smith Schoolyard Demonstration Garden in memory of her sister, Mary (Sally) Marshall Smith and brother-in-law Donovan (Pete) Smith. With that gift came the promise that the Michigan 4-H Foundation and Michigan 4-H Children's Garden would be

supported by charitable remainder trusts created by the Smiths, who were both MSU alumni.

"Margaret was interested in supporting the 4-H Children's Garden because of the good things she heard, because her sister and brother-in-law loved to garden and because they were MSU graduates. We discussed doing something to honor her sister as quickly as possible – thus the Pete and Sally Smith Schoolyard Demonstration Garden. Longer term, we discussed doing something to make the gardens even better, and the biggest need there was restrooms and a drinking fountain.

The new bathrooms are located between the outdoor 4-H Children's Garden and the Pete and Sally Smith Schoolyard Demonstration Garden. "We completed construction just in time to test and then shut the water off for the winter. We will open the bathrooms to the public in the spring," Lownds said. The new facility is a two-stall family restroom with sinks and drinking fountains.

Solar tubes provide much of the daytime lighting, the faucets are automatic (solar-controlled), and the fixtures are on sensors to conserve water. Additionally, the doors are on timers to automatically lock each evening. "When designing the facility, we really took efficiency and sustainability into account," said Jessica Wright, 4-H Children's Gardens educational coordinator. "The designers wanted to maintain a level of whimsy with the structure, so they tried to mimic as best they could the existing Garden House structure."

**The bathrooms will open to the public in spring 2016.**

*Text adapted from an article in the 4-H Foundation Newsletter Fall 2015, Volume 36, No. 2. For complete article and other news, <http://mi4hfdtn.org/vantage/2015/2015fallvantage.pdf#page=8>*



please help us grow...

## 2016 Plant Sale

Friday May 20 VIP MSU Garden Members only!!  
Saturday May 21 Public Sale

Mark your calendars! Our annual plant sale will be May 20 (Members only) and May 21 (General Public). We will again attempt to bring you rare, unusual and common plants to make your gardens special places! Stay tuned for more information as we get closer to the date.



## 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 soon!

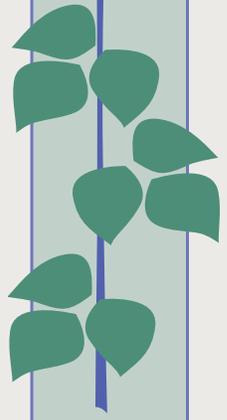


David Culp

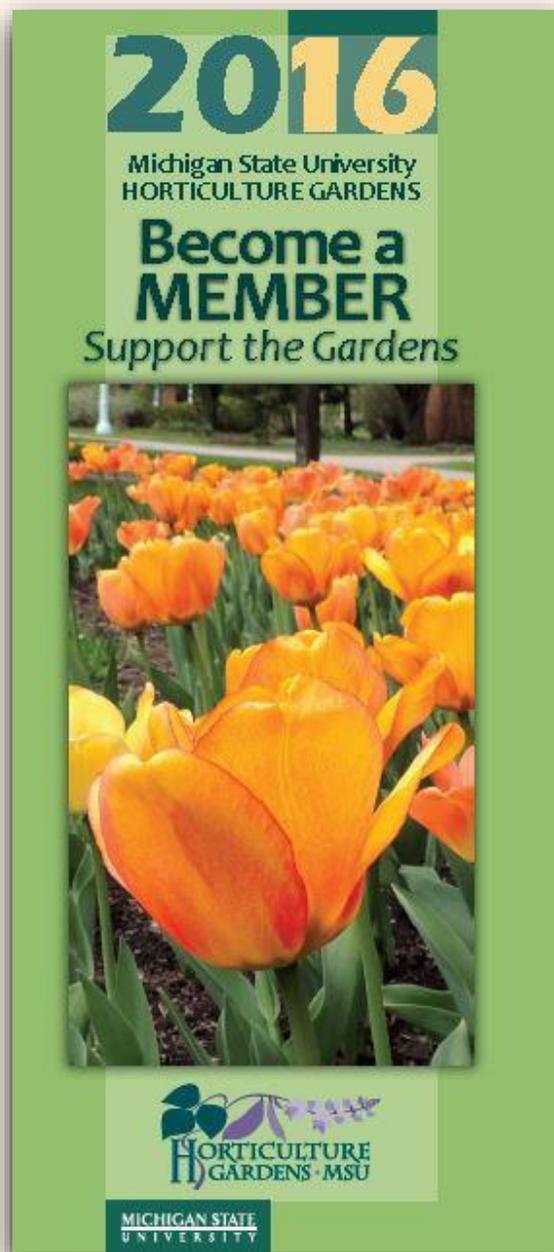
*please help us grow...*

## New Hosta Arbor Plaque Installed

A plaque has been installed to commemorate Betty and Ronald Hagaman, whose generous gift made our new Hosta Arbor possible. The new Hosta Garden was designed by our Perennial Manager Renata Reibitz and, though fully dormant now, should look fabulous this spring.



please help us grow...



## 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*)

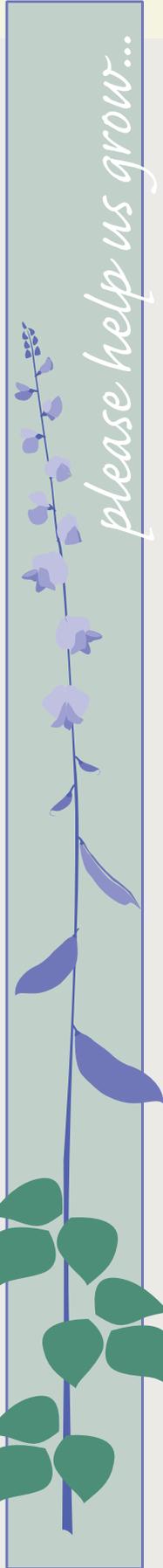
- VIP early bird invitation to plant sale for all listed family members!
- 10% discount on plant sale purchases for all listed family members
- Free admission to AHS Reciprocal Gardens for all listed family members
- Discounts on all MSU Horticulture Programs for all listed family members
- Special invitation (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.





## Follow us on Facebook

If you are a Facebook person, we have two separate Facebook pages for the MSU Horticulture Gardens. Please “like” us to learn more about our [Programs](#) and our [Weddings and Events](#). We try to post fun facts, cool photos, and other programmatic information about our gardens on both pages!

## Support our MSU Horticulture Garden Endowments

Our MSU Horticulture Gardens are largely self-funded and we generate over half of our yearly budget by MSU Horticulture Garden Memberships, spring plant sales and events and weddings, educational programs and workshops, and fees from our Annual Plant Trials. The remainder of our budget comes from endowments, which are critical since they help support staff and summer student salaries. Your gifts to our endowments helps us improve visual, educational and inspirational experiences for all our visitors!



To contribute directly to our endowment, consider sponsoring a brick, bench, lamp or garden bed. Tributes can be made to honor special person(s) or occasion(s) in your life. For more information, visit our [website](#)

Contact: Art Cameron, MSU Horticulture Gardens Director, [cameron@msu.edu](mailto:cameron@msu.edu)  
Kenneth Vaughn, Assistant Director of Development, [vaughnk8@msu.edu](mailto:vaughnk8@msu.edu)

