

e-News from Michigan State University Horticulture Gardens

http://www.hrt.msu.edu/our-gardens/

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## Plant Sale to Benefit MSU Horticulture Gardens!

All proceeds are used to support the ongoing activities of our largely self-funded Gardens. Support our Gardens and fill your yard with plants!

FridayMay 20th4 pm to 7 pm2016 MSU Garden Members OnlyPre-sale for 2016 MSU Horticulture Garden members only. Choose from the best selection<br/>before the big crowds on Saturday. Many of the best varieties will sell out during this sale and<br/>won't be available in the public sale. All members receive a 10% discount and you can become a<br/>member at the door. This year, we're starting an hour earlier to give you more time to shop!!!<br/>To become a garden member online, visit <a href="http://www.hrt.msu.edu/2016-garden-memberships/">http://www.hrt.msu.edu/2016-garden-memberships/</a>

SaturdayMay 21st7 am to 2 pmOpen to the PublicOn Saturday, we are open to everyone! Come early for the best selection!



#### **Plants Available for Purchase:**

For a complete list of plants for sale this year, visit our website at <u>http://www.hrt.msu.edu/plant-sale-201/</u>.

Note that we cannot guarantee availability! Become a member and come early.

- Annuals, houseplants and succulents. Daedre McGrath has collected a wide range of annuals, houseplants and succulents: rare and common, seed and vegetative, new and old.
- Herbaceous perennials. Renata Reibitz has amassed an eclectic collection of common, select and rare plants. She has also included generous divisions from our perennial displays.
- **Ornamental grasses.** Renata has divided a number of hardy ornamental grasses from our gardens. We also have a limited supply of tender grasses (grown as annuals).
- Vegetables Dan Bulkowski has perused the catalogs to bring you special tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, kale, broccoli, cabbage, Brussel sprouts, squash, melons and more. Many are heirloom and difficult-to-find treasures
- Herbs, trees, shrubs and more!

For a complete list of plants for sale this year, visit our website at <a href="http://www.hrt.msu.edu/plant-sale-201/">http://www.hrt.msu.edu/plant-sale-201/</a>. Also check Facebook at: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/MSUHorticultureGardens/">https://www.facebook.com/MSUHorticultureGardens/</a>





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### More Information for the 2016 Plant Sale

#### Location

Our popular plant sale will be located in the Plant and Soil Sciences Building at 1066 Bogue Street, MSU Campus, adjacent to our MSU Horticulture Gardens. Park in the Garden lot next to the 4-H Children's Garden or in the Vet Med lot across the street if it is full. For maps – http://www.hrt.msu.edu/visitor-and-tour-information/

Visit the Michigan State University Horticulture Gardens while you are here! There will be plenty of early action in the gardens. For more information go to our website http://www.hrt.msu.edu/our-gardens/

#### Visit the East Lansing Art Festival – May 20-22

An added benefit, our Spring Sale is the same weekend as the East Lansing Art Festival, so it's a good excuse to combine a trip to both events and make a weekend of it! For information, go to http://elartfest.com/



The calm before the storm!

Our staff and dedicated volunteers work hard to make your shopping experience a happy one!



### FORTICULTURE GARDENS MSU

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'Sequestered Sunshine'

### Itoh Peonies for Your Garden!!

Renata Reibitz – Perennial Garden Manager

We are very excited to be able to offer two very hard-to-find Intersectional Peonies at our plant sale this year. Affectionately nicknamed "Itoh" after Toichi Itoh, the hybridizer that created the first of these plants, intersectional peonies are a cross between a tree peony and herbaceous peony. These long lived peonies have the advantage of very strong stems that hold the flowers upright even after the heaviest rain. A vigorous grower, intersectional peonies come in colors such as yellow, orange and flares, colors not available in herbaceous peony, and will have up to 50 flowers on one plant when mature. Intersectional peonies do best in full sun with moist, well-drained soil and are deer resistant. They perform similarly to herbaceous peonies, dying back in the fall. They tend to be more resistant to mildew and botrytis when sited well and cleaned up in the fall.

#### We will have two cultivars to choose from in very limited quantities:

**Paeonia 'Sequestered Sunshine'** has a lovely canary yellow single to semi-double flower close to 7" wide and blooms late spring. Red tipped carpels, yellow stamen and red flares are found in the center of each blossom adding to its beauty.

**Paeonia 'Joanna Marlene'** is a semi-double 4"-6" flower that starts out a soft yellow then takes on more peachy tones as the flower matures. It is accented with a pink guard flowers and blooms mid-season. You will want to be in the garden every day to watch this beauty change!

Both of these peonies form clumps that reach around 3' tall and wide with dense, dark green dissected foliage that looks good from spring to fall.

Intersectional peonies are highly sought after by collectors and are a bit pricey, but will accent your landscape for a very long time as they are easy to grow and very hardy. A definite 'wow factor' for your garden.



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### Unusual Houseplants and Succulents at the Plant Sale

Daedre McGrath – Perennial Garden Manager

We are excited to have a huge selection of houseplants and succulents available for purchase at this year's plant sale. We have everything from traditional spider plants and pothos, to bizarre oddities like the corkscrew-leaved curly locks cactus and the gray-toned *Pseuderanthemum*. There are over 40 varieties of houseplants and 40 varieties of succulents available. It's a great time to start a new plant collection or beef-up your existing collection.

Did you know that most houseplants and succulents will enjoy a vacation outdoors over the summer? In fact, many tropical and desert plants will thrive outside on your patio, or even planted directly in your garden beds. Just transition them outdoors once night temperatures have moderated. It's a good idea to slowly acclimate them to outdoor light levels, or they can get sunburn. Just remember to bring them back indoors before the first chilly nights in autumn!





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## Upcoming Events in the MSU Horticulture Gardens

### Yoga in the Gardens – *FREE!* June 1, 8, 15, 22 (Wednesdays) 12:10-12:50 p.m.

We are pleased to once again offer Lunch Hour Chair Yoga Class! We'll meet, relax, stretch, and connect on the benches under the wisteria at the Entrance Pavilion. Friends of the Gardens, MSU Faculty, Staff, and Students are all welcome to participate in these free classes taught by Rebecca Kegler, Assistant Director of Recreational Sports and Fitness Services, and Registered Yoga Instructor. Pre-registration is not required.



### 2016 Bee Palooza – FREE! Sunday, June 19: 1-4 p.m.

A fun event for the entire family including exhibits on bees, plants and pollinators. The bumble bee exhibit will include a live observation colony. At the honey bee observation hive, Michigan bee keepers will be on hand to talk about what it takes to keep honey bees. Information will be available for planting gardens to attract native bees and how to build a native bee hotel. There will be even more exhibits and fun activities for kids and adults, including face painting. For more information www.facebook.com/events/846087465462409/

### 2016 Garden Day Saturday, August 6

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 <u>Best Overall Book</u> by the *Garden Writers Association*.

We will also offer 9 workshops.

For a complete program, a list and description of workshops, other information and online registration, visit <u>http://www.hrt.msu.edu/garden-day-2016/</u>



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## 4-H Children's Garden Activities!

The 4-H Children's Garden hosts a wide range of popular activities for children of all ages during the summer months! All take place in the 4-H Children's Garden unless other arrangements are made. Parking in the Garden Lot is free after 6 pm on weekdays and all day on weekends.

Following is a partial list with abbreviated descriptions. For more information and to register, visit: <u>http://4hgarden.cowplex.com/Calendar/</u>

- June 11: Garden Geocache Event (11am 2pm). Cache veterans and new enthusiasts are welcome at this geocaching adventure. Cost per child: Free.
- June 15: Garden Chefs: From Garden to Table (10am 1pm). Join us in the garden and learn all about interesting edibles and how to make delicious, easy creations. Ages 7 and up. This is a drop off program. Cost per child: \$25 per session or \$70 for all three.
- June 16: Summer Kick-off Garden Party (10am noon). Come and celebrate three months of recess at the garden! Cost per child: \$5.
- June 21: Stories for Sprouts & Seedlings (10am 11am). This program is designed especially for young children, ages 2-4. This month: If You Plant a Seed by Kadir Nelson. Cost per child: Free.
- June 22: Stories in the Garden (7pm 8:30pm). Teens will be reading stories to younger children a magical time of fun and learning. Great for kids 0 to 100! Cost per child: Free.
- June 28: Mad Hatter Tea Party (10am noon). Bring a friend and join us for a spot of tea and cake in the garden. Please wear your fanciest hat, and costumes are quite acceptable. Registration required. Cost per child: \$5.
- July 12-14: Garden Writers Workshop (10am noon). Young writers will learn about the wonderful world of writing in the garden. Using the garden as their inspiration, campers will connect writing to nature, creating poems, stories, plays and much more. Ages 7 and up. (Limited to 20 participants). Cost per child: \$30 for all three days.
- July 13: Stories in the Garden (10am 11:30am). Teens will be reading stories to younger children a magical time of fun and learning. Great for kids 0 to 100! Cost per child: Free.
- July 19: Stories for Sprouts & Seedlings (10am 11am). This month: A Green Tale by Charlotte Middleton. Cost per child: Free.
- July 20: Garden Chefs: Fun with Chocolate (10am 1pm). Ages 7 and up. This is a drop off program. Cost per child: \$25 per session or \$70 for all three.
- July 21: Train Day (10am noon). All aboard! Join us in celebrating our love for locomotives with the Lansing Model Railroad Club and the Capital Area Railway Society. Cost per child: \$5.
- July 26: Water Day (10am noon). Come cool off from the summer heat and have fun in the garden with water. We will play water games, do water art and explore all things fun about water. Come ready to get wet! Cost per child: \$5.
- July 28: Bug Day (10am noon). We will be collecting bugs, observing bugs, making bugs and even writing poetry about bugs! Our friends from the MSU Bug House will be back this year with their amazing collections of insects from all over the world! Cost per child: \$5.



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## Happy Retirement, Renata! Welcome Bethany Troy!

Perennial Garden Manager Renata Reibitz retires at the end of this month. While we are so sorry to see Renata go, we are certainly happy for her as she begins this next phase in her life! She has accomplished so much here in a relatively short time (by perennial plant standards). She has significantly expanded and refined displays and enhanced diversity throughout the Horticulture Garden's Perennial Collections. These include but are not limited to the Judith DeLapa Perennial Gardens, our native plant collection, our new hosta collection, our small but growing peony collection and the greatly enhanced shade gardens (some of which are in the picture below).

The good news is that we welcome Bethany Troy, who recently joined our staff as our new Perennial Garden Manager. Bethany is a recent MSU graduate from the Department of Horticulture and has excellent potential to continue and expand our perennial displays. Bethany was not only a top student in our program, she was the president of our extremely prolific Student Horticulture Club. With the sheer diversity of perennials in the collection, Bethany will be learning fast, but we have no doubts that she has all the skills to absorb it all and take it to the next level over the coming years. Luckily, Renata has already offered to volunteer and offer advice as needed. We really appreciate Renata's willingness to help pass on her unique plant knowledge and passions. When visiting our gardens, please give a warm welcome to Bethany.



Renata Reibitz (left) and Bethany Troy (right)



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## New Bathrooms Open!



Just in time for summer, our two new outdoor restrooms adjacent to the 4-H Children's Garden are now operational! The new bathrooms are located between the outdoor 4-H Children's Garden and the Pete and Sally Smith Schoolyard Demonstration Garden. The doors are on timers and the bathrooms will be open from 7 am to 8 pm during the summer months. This will save you quite the walk when the need arises.

### Congratulations MSU Horticulture Club!

#### MSU Horticulture Club Finishes 1<sup>st</sup> in National Competition!

A team of students from the MSU Horticulture Club (now officially renamed the MSU Student Horticulture Association) finished first place in the National Collegiate Landscape Competition in March of this year. The four-day event, hosted by Mississippi State University, consisted of educational workshops, a career fair, and 28 competitive events which have been termed the Landscape Olympics. Team members competed against 683 students representing 63 colleges and universities from across the United States and Canada.



The winning team included students from the Department of Horticulture and the Institute of Agricultural Technology. Team members were Josh Beasley, Kyle Bindseil, Aaron Bosgraaf, Beth Copeland, Lindsay Daschner, Georgina DeMoya, Nick Fortuna, Tyler Gilson, Ben Harcey, Jacqueline Kirouac, Abby Makowski, Connor McKernin, Josh Nieuwsma, Lee Rainey, Wesley Raker, Neil Rion, Austin Sale, Lauren Sieloff, Morgan Temple, Keren Terry, Corinne Tucker, Aaron Weaver, Preston Zoellner, Team coaches were Marcus Duck and Brad Rowe. Faculty members and club advisors Bob Schutzki and Tom Fernandez also attended and assisted with the team.



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### Two Facebook Pages for MSU Horticulture Gardens

- MSU Horticulture Gardens Programs
- Michigan State University Horticulture Gardens Weddings & Events

If you are a Facebook person, please "like" us to learn more about our Weddings and Events, details about our upcoming programs, or to see what has been flowering in our gardens! Help to promote and support our great gardens – pass the word!



Michigan State University Horticulture Gardens - Weddings & Events





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### Become a Garden Member Now for Early Admission and Discounts at Our Plant Sale

Garden members support our programs and gardens. Garden members gain VIP early-bird admission to our Plant Sale, 10% discount on all purchases and discounts on our MSU Horticulture Garden Programs and free or discounted admission to AHS Reciprocal Gardens (which is a huge benefit if you travel). Those who join at the family level and above are invited to our ever popular VIP Wine and Chocolate reception in December!

Go to http://www.hrt.msu.edu/2014-garden-memberships/ where you can join online, or print out and mail us a paper copy.

Your continued support of our gardens helps support garden staff, student interns and new garden development! Help keep us growing!



### Support the Gardens - Donate to a Specific Fund

There are so many ways to give to the MSU Horticulture Gardens. You can click on any of these links to give online to support any of the stated missions:

- A11405 Friends of the Garden. Gifts provide programmatic support for the Horticultural Demonstration Gardens.
- A11454 Gifts support the ongoing maintenance and improvements to our Anniversary Plaza, a very popular spot for weddings and photographs.
- A114096 Gifts support the ongoing care and improvements to the Frank's Nursery & Crafts Rose Garden and the Anderson "Ball Water Feature". A gift to this fund also provides funding for students to learn how to properly care for roses.
- A114093 Gifts support our Master Gardener Idea Garden, which allows Master Gardener volunteers to create and build new garden bed designs every four years in the Gardens.
- A11441 Gifts support the C.E. Lewis Landscape Arboretum, a hidden gem on MSU's campus. Designed as a "Learning Experience in the Making", it acts as an instructional arboretum for students interested in landscape development.

#### If you have any questions., contact:

Art Cameron, MSU Horticulture Gardens Director, cameron@msu.edu Kenneth Vaughn, Assistant Director of Development, vaughnk8@anr.msu.edu