

MSU Horticulture Garden News

e-News from Michigan State University Horticulture Gardens

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

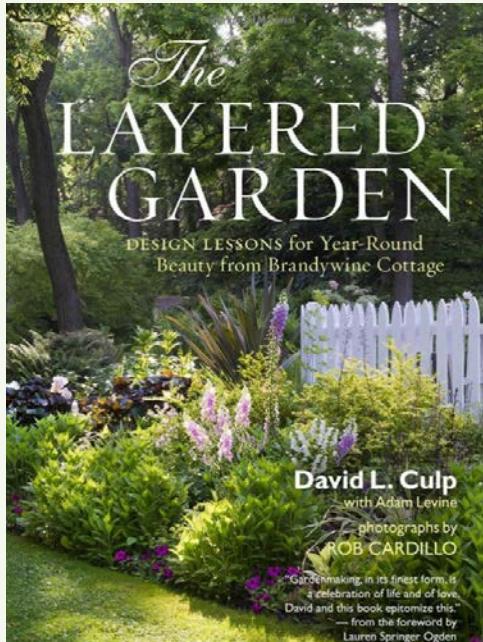
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2016 Garden Day Saturday, August 6

Keynote Speaker

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 Culp is the creator of the gardens at Brandywine Cottage in Downingtown, Pennsylvania. 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.



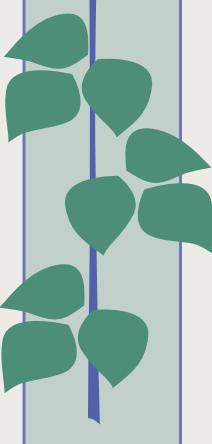
We will have a wealth of Garden Day workshops and you will be able to select your two favorites. See the next page for a complete list.

Register Now! Online registration is available at our website:

http://www.hrt.msu.edu/our_gardens/garden_day_2016



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2016 Garden Day Workshops

1. Exploring the Weird and Wonderful Garden – *Daedre McGrath*

Daedre McGrath, our Annual Trial Gardens Manager, will take you for a tour on the wild side in our “Weird and Wonderful Garden”. This garden features botanical oddities from around the world, including culinary curiosities for your kitchen garden, painful and poisonous plants for your wicked garden, and even X-rated varieties for your adults-only garden. These are plants that will truly make you say “Wow!”

2. Going Native- Using Native Plants in any Landscape – *Tom Smith*

Tom Smith, MSU Institute of Agricultural Technology and native plant enthusiast, will teach about how natives add beauty, interest, and attract wildlife to the garden. Learn how you can incorporate native plants into any location - large or small, rural or urban.

3. Herbaceous Perennial Garden Tour – *Renata Reibitz and Bethany Troy*

Bethany and Renata, our Current and Past Perennial Garden Managers, will take you on a walking tour of the Judith DeLapa Perennial Gardens and our new hosta collection. They will discuss plants, design, maintenance and proper horticultural practices. Wear comfortable shoes for walking, rain or shine!

4. The Perfect Pair: Herbs and Chocolate – *Jessica Wright and Val Albright*

What more needs to be said! Come and learn how to pair your favorite herbs with our favorite indulgence, chocolate. Jessica and her mom will provide recipes and samples to all attendees. Yummy!

5. Medicinal Plants – *Peter Carrington*

Peter Carrington, Assistant Curator of W. J. Beal Botanical Garden at Michigan State University, will introduce participants to several medical plants that can be grown in the Mid-Michigan climate. Some medicinal plants are not just from folk lore, they have proven effects that can be quite safely explored.

6. Small Spaces: Designing with a Personal Touch – *Bob Schutzki*

Is your garden small on space? Bob Schutzki, Associate Professor and Curator of the Clarence E. Lewis Arboretum, will give you some big ideas for small spaces! Explore various design concepts, as well as plant selection tips, to help maximize the small space you have available. Create your own outdoor sanctuary.

7. Garden Walk with the Director – *Art Cameron*

Join Art, self-proclaimed plant geek, on a “private” tour of his favorite plants and places in the MSU Horticulture Gardens. Learn about superior plants and their use in effective design combinations during this informative walk through our diverse gardens. Come prepared to walk, rain or shine!

8. Plant it Well, Enjoy it Forever – *Janet Macunovich and Steven Nikkila*

Janet and Steven make a great team presenting a complete how-to for planting every type of plant! This workshop will provide advice to help you decide what to plant where and how to plant it right. Includes important new information about correcting woody plant root packages.

9. Organic Gardening Essentials: Composting and Weed Control – *Denae Friedheim*

Denae Friedheim, Manager and Instructor, MSU Student Organic Farm/Organic Farmer Training Program will present successful organic tricks for composting common household “wastes” and for controlling weeds in the most comfortable manner! Learn how to see organic gardening as an intuitive process.

Register Now! Online registration is available at our website:

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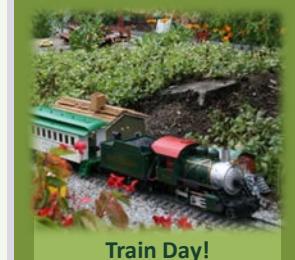
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Upcoming 4-H Children's Garden Activities!

Following is a partial list with abbreviated descriptions. All take place in the 4-H Children's Garden unless other arrangements are made.

- **July 12-14: Garden Writers Workshop.** 10 am to 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, and plays. Ages 7 and up.
Cost per child: \$30 for 3 days. Parking not included.
- **July 20: Garden Chefs: Fun with Chocolate.** 10 am to 1 pm. Join us in the garden and learn about interesting edibles! We will prepare a delicious and nutritious lunch using items from the gardens.
Cost per child: \$25 per session. Parking not included.
- **July 21: Train Day.** 10 am to 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. Parking not included.
- **July 26: Water Day.** 10 am to 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. Parking not included
- **July 28: Bug Day.** 10 am - noon. We cannot get enough of these amazing six-legged friends! Join us for what has become an annual tribute to insects in the garden. 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. Parking not included.

For more information on all 4-H Children Garden programs and to register, visit: <http://4hgarden.cowplex.com/Calendar/>



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Michigan Plant Tour

July 27 to August 5, 2016

<http://planttour.hrt.msu.edu/>

The 13th annual Michigan Garden Plant Tour returns to the MSU Horticulture Gardens from July 27 to August 5. The objective of the Tour is to educate growers and industry professionals about new and existing plant selections and how they perform in different Michigan settings. Each year we see more advanced gardeners in attendance since it is a great opportunity to learn about new and cool plants. You may also wish to consider attending our 2016 MSU Plant Trial Field Day on Tuesday, August 2. (see below).

The sites are C. Raker and Sons (Litchfield, MI), Four Star Greenhouses (Carlton, MI), Mast Young Plants (Grand Rapids, MI), Walters Gardens (Zeeland, MI) and our favorite, the MSU Horticulture Gardens here on campus. This is a terrific way to observe plant performance at different locations and grown under various conditions, both in the ground and in containers. The Michigan Garden Plant Tour is completely free, but growers would appreciate a call ahead to know you'll be coming.

You can visit the MSU Horticulture Gardens anytime from dawn to dusk. An MSU Horticulture Gardens volunteer or staff member will be in our visitors booth located on the west end of the Garden parking lot from 8 am to 4 pm Monday to Friday from July 27 to August 7. Stop by for a brief orientation, a Plant Trial Booklet, and a map of the Gardens. When visiting, please park in the MSU Garden Parking Lot, which is located on Bogue Street, just north of the railroad tracks. [Click here](#) for a map. The meters are coin and credit card operated from 8 am to 5 pm.

The MSU Plant Trial Garden showcases a wide range of annuals, vegetables, herbs, herbaceous perennials, and Michigan native plants. We evaluate plants submitted by breeding companies, the All American Selection Committee, and Fleuroselect. We track plant performance, vigor, uniformity, ornamental value, disease tolerance, and response to climatic conditions. This unbiased information is summarized and made available to participating companies, industry professionals, and the general gardening public. Visit http://www.hrt.msu.edu/our_gardens/plant_trials

2016 MSU Plant Trial Field Day

Tuesday, August 2, 2016

Join us for this annual event to learn about top-performing plants, talk with Gardens staff, interact with representatives from leading breeding companies, and stroll through the MSU Gardens. Registration is required for this one-time event. [Click here for more information!](#)



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New Hosta Garden Flourishes

Renata Reibitz

Retired MSU Perennial Garden Manager, and Hosta Garden Designer

It's hard to believe it has only been nine months since the hosta collection was installed! It is looking so nice this summer and has quickly become a very popular destination in the gardens!

The construction of the shade structure itself was made possible after a generous donation by Ron Hagaman in memory of his wife Betty, who loved hostas. Ron and Betty were both MSU Horticulture Garden volunteers in the past.

Things looked even better when hosta enthusiast and Garden volunteer Jerry Nester donated over 100 different hostas from his personal collection. By including these hostas and a diverse range of companion plants, we were able to create an educational and beautiful display garden that is well worth a visit.

It all started when Mother Nature broke apart the Bradford Pear trees which provided shade in the former hosta bed. This allowed us to start fresh.

Everything was removed, and the shade arbor built on the spot. Once the shade structure was standing, the fun began. Hundreds of hostas were to be planted but the challenge was to do it in a natural and inviting way. We felt the primary purpose of this garden was to display hundreds of different hosta cultivars for easy viewing.

We used stone pathways to divide up the space into sections that would allow visitors to see individual plants up close. Hostas were then placed based on size, coloration and leaf shape. To create a more woodland look, complimentary plants were added including ferns, *Heuchera* and *Tiarella*, dwarf iris, ginger, hellebores, and *Brunnera*. A donation of dwarf conifers from the American Conifer Society adds a special touch to the display, adding wonderful and interesting texture. Bulbs were added for early spring interest while the hostas are still dormant.



Continued...

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New Hosta Garden Flourishes, *continued*



Our new collection features every "Hosta of the Year" since the program began in 1996. This is a group of the best loved hostas voted by a popularity poll of the American Hosta Growers Association. Award winners are hostas that are good garden plants in all regions of the country, are widely available in sufficient supply, and retail for around \$15 in the year of selection.

This spring, three beautiful weeping hemlock trees were added to provide interest in front of the large brick wall of the CIPS building. We affectionately named them Mama, Papa and Baby bear! They really are something!

Thanks again to Jerry Nester, we also have a wonderful collection of mini hostas which we will incorporate into the design. Many will end up in containers placed throughout the display.

At this time, our collection has over 180 hosta cultivars! We hope you will come take a stroll through the collection soon!

"Hosta of the Year" Winners

All are on display in MSU Horticulture Gardens

Source - http://www.hostagrowers.org/Hosta_of_the_Year.html

2016 '[Curly Fries'](#)

2015 '[Victory'](#)

2014 '[Abiqua Drinking Gourd'](#)

2013 '[Rainforest Sunrise'](#)

2012 '[Liberty'](#)

2011 '[Praying Hands'](#)

2010 '[First Frost'](#)

2009 '[Earth Angel'](#)

2008 '[Blue Mouse Ears'](#)

2007 '[Paradigm'](#)

2006 '[Stained Glass'](#)

2005 '[Striptease'](#)

2004 '[Sum and Substance'](#)

2003 '[Regal Splendor'](#)

2002 '[Guacamole'](#)

2001 '[June'](#)

2000 '[Sagae'](#)

1999 '[Paul's Glory'](#)

1998 '[Fragrant Bouquet'](#)

1997 '[Patriot'](#)

1996 '[So Sweet'](#)

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Garden News

Rose Garden in Top Form

Many of our garden visitors have remarked that 2016 is a banner year for our rose garden! Indeed, after the cold winters of 2013-14 and 2014-5, the past winter was not nearly as severe. The roses recovered with gusto and have bloomed profusely over several weeks! Check our Facebook page for yet more photos.



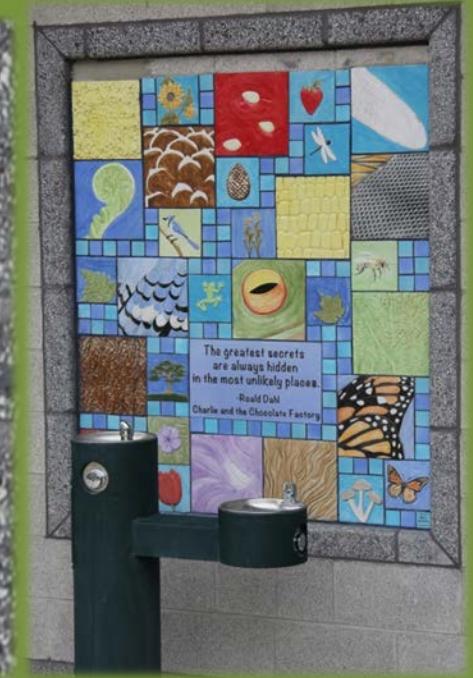
New Willow Structures Installed!

Bim Willow has once again worked his wonders, this time in the 4-H Children's Garden. Bim was a one of the creators of our popular Willow Dragon. This time he has created three small structures, both the perfect size for children to explore. They make for a great photograph!



Cool Mosaic on Restroom Walls!

Check out the beautiful mosaic on display behind the water fountains on our new restrooms located adjacent to the 4-H Children's Garden. It was created by Mary Kuilema, a talented artist from Cascade Township, Michigan. The tiles are an amazing collection of butterflies, mushrooms, frogs, ferns, pine cones and more. She has an interesting and unique style that complements our Gardens perfectly!



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Endowment for Education in the Michigan 4-H Children's Garden

The MSU Horticulture Gardens and our Programs are largely funded by past, present and future donations. You can support the gardens by adding to existing endowments and trusts. One new endowment you might wish to support was established by Dr. Donald G Borseth and Patricia Merry. This endowment was created specifically to improve the delivery of educational programs

in the Michigan 4-H Children's Garden and the Indoor 4-H Children's Garden. Considering that we hosted over 14,000 school children this past year in organized programs taught by Jessica Wright, Dr. Norm Lownds and a team of dedicated volunteers, this future funding will be perfect as the group looks for innovative ways to teach yet even more of our youth about the benefits of gardens and natural spaces in our lives. Pat Merry is an active volunteer in the gardens, often found teaching in children's programs or helping with the plant sale and garden maintenance. She and her husband Donald have given generously to other MSU Programs and we are excited to have this trust in place for the future of our Children's Garden Programming.



Donald Borseth and Pat Merry

If you wish to make a gift to support this endowment for education in the Michigan 4-H Children's Garden, here are step-by-step guidelines:

1. Log onto <http://givingto.msu.edu/>
2. Click on the Green "GIVE NOW" button in the top right corner
3. In the first line (Type Here to Search for Funds), Type A114110
4. The results should show "Endowment for Education in Michigan 4-H Children's Garden"
5. Click green "Add to Cart" button.
6. Enter amount you wish to donate
7. Click all boxes that apply underneath total
8. Click green "Proceed to Checkout" button
9. Proceed to payment and fill out information

If you have any questions., contact:

Kenneth Vaughn, Assistant Director of Development, vaughnk8@anr.msu.edu

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Plenty to see in the MSU Horticulture Gardens this summer!

