

MSU IN BLOOM

MSU HORTICULTURE GARDEN NEWS



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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

BY KRISTIN GETTER, DIRECTOR OF THE MSU HORTICULTURE GARDENS

CONSTRUCTION SEASON

We are getting excited for the construction of our Safe Passage sidewalk to begin May 20, 2019! This sidewalk will connect our building to the 4H Children's Garden so that our 14,000+ children that visit us each year will have a dedicated walkway (instead of walking through two active parking lots!). Unfortunately, this construction will make it difficult to enter the gardens from the Entrance Pavilion. Please look for signage when you visit on how to enter our gardens. The construction contractors have assured us they will do their best to keep a portion of parking lot 54 (right next to the Children's Gardens) open as much as possible. The construction is scheduled to be finished by August 2, 2019 so that our 2019 Garden Day should not be hampered.

GARDEN DAY

Mark your calendars for the 2019 Garden Day which will be held Saturday, August 3, 2019. Our Keynote Speaker will be Matt Ross, Longwood Garden's Director of Continuing Education. His titled talks are "Go Green, Go White, Get Variegated" and "Hidden Gems: The Best Gardens in America You've Never Heard Of".

Other talks and workshops include:

- Gardening in a Pickle
- Horticulture at Higher Heights
- Fresh from the Garden Floral Arrangements
- Let's Talk about Shrubs
- Adding Flowering Herbs to Your Garden
- The Garden in Your Beer
- Trees for Your Backyard
- Tours of the Gardens
- And more!



*Our 2019 Garden Day Keynote
Speaker: Matt Ross*

Look for more details about 2019 Garden Day soon!

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK - CONTINUED

SPRING PLANT SALE!!!!

Our annual Spring Plant Sale is just a few weeks away!!! This sale benefits our Gardens and helps us to keep growing strong. Find great deals on hanging baskets, perennials, annuals, grasses, herbs, vegetable seedlings, shrubs, and more!

HOURS

2019 MSU Garden Members only Sale*: Friday, May 17, 2019 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Public Sale: Saturday, May 18, 2019 from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm

*Memberships may be purchased on-site or purchased ahead of time online at:
www.hrt.msu.edu/join.

LOCATION

Greenhouses of the Plant and Soil Sciences Building:

1066 Bogue Street, East Lansing, MI, 48824

TIP

BYOC: Bring Your Own Cart (and boxes)!



PLANT SALE 2019!

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

Friday, May 17th: 4-7pm (*2019 MSU Garden Members only)
Saturday, May 18th: 7am-2pm (Public Sale)

1066 Bogue Street
Plant & Soil Sciences Building
East Lansing, MI, 48824

www.hrt.msu.edu/our-gardens
Email: hgardens@msu.edu
Phone: 517-353-0328
BYOC: Bring Your Own Cart!



*2019 MSU Garden members receive 10% off Plant Sale purchases. This postcard does not entitle you to membership. A 2019 MSU Garden individual membership may be purchased at the door for \$40.

NEW FACES

I am very excited to announce a few new student employees to our gardens.

First, we welcome Sarah Heim (pictured right), who will be replacing Hayley Pegram as our wedding coordinator. Sarah is a student at MSU's School of Hospitality Business pursuing her dream of working for Disney's Fairy Tale Weddings. She says, "I am so incredibly excited and grateful for this opportunity to continue working toward my goals with the MSU Horticulture Gardens as your Wedding and Social Event Coordinator. I look forward to working with the MSU Horticulture Gardens' staff, expanding our reach, and helping our guests to create unforgettable memories here. Please do contact me for your next wedding or social event, I'd love to begin working with you!" You can contact Sarah at gardens@msu.edu.



Second, we welcome Mariah Artz (pictured right).

Mariah is a junior studying Hospitality Business in the MSU Eli Broad College of Business and will be graduating in May 2020. Last summer she was the Events and Marketing Intern at Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve. She says, "I am excited to be working in a garden environment again and expanding my knowledge on event planning while working with an experienced team. I love traveling, some of my favorite places I have been to are London, Paris, Barcelona, and Dublin!". Mariah will be helping us with the Spring Plant Sale (organizing volunteers), Membership sales, Brick sales, Garden Day, and the Michigan Garden Plant Tour. You can contact Mariah at hgardens@msu.edu.



Welcome to both Sarah and Mariah! Look for other student introductions in future newsletters!

TOP ANNUAL PICKS

BY DAEDRE MCGRATH, ANNUAL TRIAL GARDEN MANAGER

We are gearing up for our spring plant sale and excited to bring you some fun new varieties. Here are a few annual varieties to keep an eye out for. We can't wait to see you at our sale in May!

Novelty Geraniums 'Mint Julep' and 'Bullseye' series

Geranium 'Mint Julep' is a fancy-leafed geranium with highly variegated white and green foliage and bright red flowers (pictured right on top). This plant sports ivy-geranium leaves, but with a more upright zonal-geranium plant habit. The eye-catching foliage of the Geranium 'Bullseye' series is chocolate brown with green edges (pictured right on bottom). Create contrast in your garden with rich foliage and bright flowers.



Coleus 'Premium Sun' Series

Coleus is a workhorse in our gardens. The Premium Sun series (pictured right) is particularly versatile because it can be grown in the sun or the shade and comes in a nice range of color and patterns. They are great massed in a bed on their own or mixed with other annuals. They are a good bang for your buck because they are great at filling space. Each plant grows 18-30" tall and 18-24" wide.



Snapdragon 'Antiquity' Series

Snapdragon 'Antiquity' (pictured right) is an open-faced snapdragon that is both cute and unique. It was a huge hit in last year's plant sale and will likely sell out again this year. This well-branched variety creates a nice colorful mound in your garden beds.

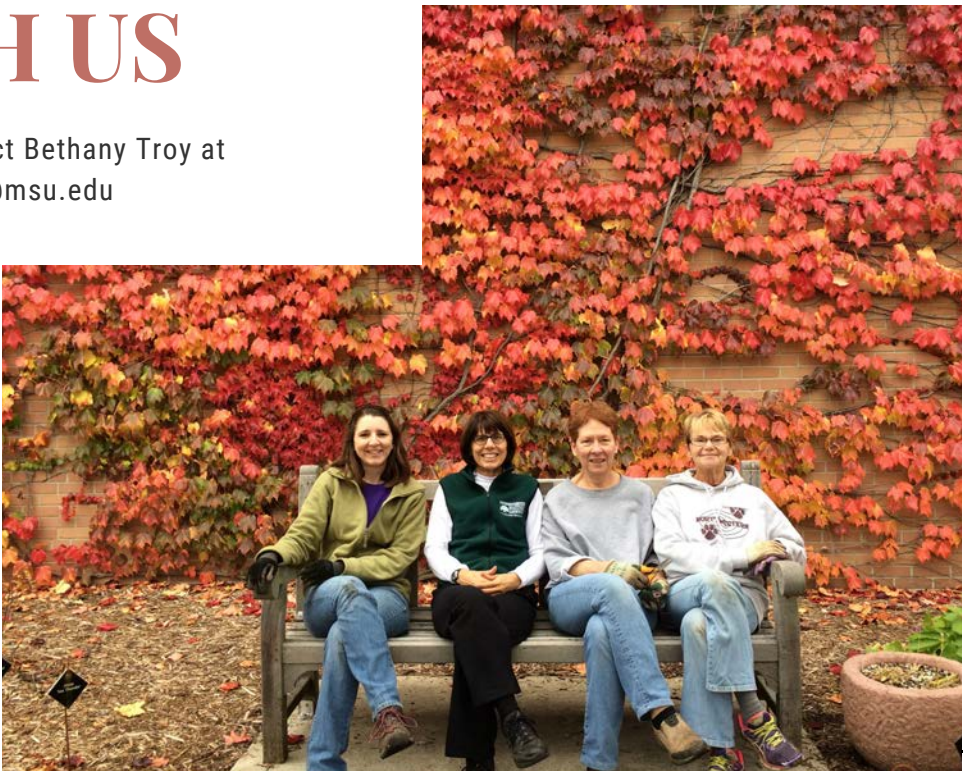




MSU HORTICULTURE GARDENS
2019 SEASON IS HERE

VOLUNTEER WITH US

Interested? Contact Bethany Troy at
troybeth@msu.edu



2019 PLANT SALE VEGETABLE SAMPLING

BY DAN BULKOWSKI, GARDENS AND GREENHOUSE MANAGER

Some of my favorite vegetable and herbs will be available for purchase at our Spring Plant Sale. Including:

Blue Beech Tomato

Blue Beech Tomato (pictured below, left) is an elongated paste type on an indeterminate (needs staking) plant. Besides canning and sauces, it is excellent for eating fresh. It's better adapted to cold temps, but it takes a long season to ripen. The name? The seed first came from Blue Beech Farm in Vermont.

Goldie Ground Cherry

Goldie Ground Cherry (pictured below, middle) is one of my favorite garden plants. It's a smallish plant in the tomato family whose yellowish sweet fruit develop in a papery husk, and when ripe, drop to the ground. They're delicious as long as you can stay ahead of the chipmunks. Besides eating them as you find them, they can be canned, jammed, and made into pies.

Biquinho Pepper

Biquinho Pepper (pictured below, right) translated from its native Brazil means "little beak"-which it does resemble a bird's head with beak. It's a slightly tart pepper with a small amount of heat. It can be eaten raw, cooked, or as in Brazil, pickled.

Desert Blush Cilantro

This Cilantro (not pictured) is slow bolting and high yielding and this cilantro has darker leaves and reddish stems compared to other cultivars. It does, however, have the same delightful flavor for my salsa and pico de gallo.



From left to right: Blue Beech Tomato, Goldie Ground Cherry, and Biquinho Pepper

A FEW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS

BETHANY TROY, PERENNIAL GARDEN MANAGER

It's the most wonderful time of the year – the sun is shining more often, plants are growing wild in our greenhouses, and our spring plant sale is just around the corner! Wondering what perennials you MUST have this year? Have a look at a few of my favorite perennials we are selling this year, and keep an eye out for our inventory on our website.

***Asclepias incarnata* 'Cinderella'**

This beautiful milkweed boasts large clusters of vanilla scented, rose pink blooms that last for months in the garden. Perfect for the pollinator-friendly gardener, as they attract everything from hummingbirds, to butterflies, to bees, and other beneficial insect friends. Native to North America, this is a must-have for a full-sun, hassle free perennial – and it's deer resistant!



***Astilbe chinensis* 'Purple Candles'**

Looking to pack a punch with some Astilbe this year? Look no further than 'Purple Candles' – a perennial that is sure to shock your neighbors with oohs and aahs as they yell out "Just how DID you grow that?" from across the street. This large (up to 42 inches in height), midsummer blooming perennial can tolerate some drought, although it prefers mainly moist soils. Great for texture, height, and color in the shade garden.



A FEW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS - CONTINUED

Buddleia 'Grand Cascade'

Make a statement with the prettiest Buddleia of all. 'Grand Cascade' sports cascading panicles of large flowers, arguably as large as a human head, reaching up to 14 inches in length and 4 inches wide. And of course, it does all the things a normal buddleia does – it attracts hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies, and they have honey-scented blooms that'll make you stop and smell the flowers. Add this beauty to your garden this year by grabbing one at our sale!



Knautia macedonica 'Thunder and Lightning'

Imagine: you awake early enough before work with enough time to drink a cup of coffee while admiring your garden. Outside, Knautia 'Thunder and Lightning' is waiting for you with its creamy-yellow variegated foliage sporting deep maroon, round flowers atop wiry stems. You approach the plant as the sun is providing beautiful lighting, accentuating the morning dew droplets. You notice a bumble bee that fell asleep on the flowers overnight. You can't help but pet the bee, enamored by its cuteness, as you say to yourself, "I'm really glad I picked up this plant at the MSU Horticulture Gardens plant sale."



SPRING PROGRAM SUCCESS!

BY KATIE MCKINNEY

Our 2019 Spring Make & Take took place on Saturday, March 16th and was a huge success! This year's Spring Make & Take featured Sara Koert from Light & Salt designs. Sara gave a presentation on calligraphy and proceeded to walk attendees through the creation of a painted garden sign. Following Sara was Michigan State University's own Daedre McGrath who led a workshop on herbal teas. Guests also followed her guidance to create an Herbal Tea Pot. After our second presentation, guests enjoyed a gourmet dessert bar and refreshments. This year, Fraser Tea supplied the gardens with a variety of tea flavors and attendees received their own sample. We rounded out the day with an air plant presentation by Bethany Troy. This presentation also included the creation of a grape vine wreath decorated with moss and air plants. We are extremely thankful to have had Sara, Daedre, and Bethany as part of the 2019 Spring Make & Take and are so thankful to everyone who made this day possible!

What Spring Make & Take Attendees said:

- "Presentations were fun, informative, and well done. Great job – Thank you!"
- "Best day ever! Thank you! As an MSU alumni & parent of an alum, I love everything this university does!"
- "Very informative and educational, I learned some new things I'm anxious to try. Loved the whole day"
- "Really excellent presentations. Make and takes were so much fun. Plan to attend next year!"
- "Always a fun way to spend an afternoon with friends"
- "This was my first event, everything was great & I look forward to the next one!"





Family Programs Spring & Summer 2019



Experience the wonder and beauty of "Butterflies in the Garden!" Watch and marvel as butterflies flutter and fly about in the Indoor 4-H Children's Garden. Visitors are invited to enjoy the garden and butterflies Monday-Friday from 2-4 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. NOTE: Butterflies will be closed Easter Sunday, April 21. Visit <http://4hgarden.msu.edu> for more information. **FREE***

Schedule a "Butterflies in the Garden" tour by calling (517) 353-0452. **\$2 per visitor.***

SPECIAL SPRING BREAK HOURS
April 1-5, M-F: Open to the public from 1 to 4 p.m. each day. There will be special activities for visitors that week.

Train schedule

Members of the Capital Area Railway Society will run the model train in the garden on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., June 6 to August 29, 2019 (weather permitting).



Summer Fun Series

Come and celebrate three months of recess at the garden! Each month we will have fun in the garden celebrating what is best about summer!

Butterfly Day

April 27 from 10 a.m.-noon

Join us in celebrating another exciting season of "Butterflies in the Garden." Come and explore the secret life of butterflies in the Indoor 4-H Children's Garden. We will discover the amazing butterfly life cycle, create butterfly gardens to take home and much more. **\$5 per child.**

Garden Geocache Event

June 1 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Cache veterans and new enthusiasts are welcome at this geocaching adventure. Bring your picnic lunch and enjoy a day of caching in the gardens. We will be finding new caches, trading travel bugs, exploring the gardens and much more. If you have a GPS unit please bring it to this event. If you do not have one, we will provide them. **FREE.**

Mad Hatter Tea Party

June 20 from 10 a.m. sharp-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. We will be playing games making hats and much more. **Registration required. \$5 per child.***

Digger Day

June 27 from 10 a.m.-noon

Come to the garden and explore the world of diggers. Front-end loaders, dump trucks and back hoes - all of these tools help with projects both big and small in our communities. MSU Infrastructure Planning and Facilities will bring some of MSU's biggest and best equipment to the garden for us to explore. We will also have activities and crafts, so come ready to dig and get dirty at this event! **\$5 per child.***



Plant sale

May 18 from 7 a.m.-2 p.m.

Our plant sale features hanging baskets, perennials, annuals, grasses, herbs, vegetable seedlings, shrubs and more.

*Event cost does not include parking.

Curiosity Camps

Garden Writers Workshop

July 9-11 from 10 a.m.–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 by creating poems, stories, plays and much more. Ages 7 and up. (Limited to 20 participants). **Registration required. \$30 for all three days.***

Camp Monet

August 6-8 from 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Young artists will love spending three days in the gardens creating marvelous projects. Campers will use inspiration from the garden to make projects that involve sketching, painting, sculpting, dying, weaving and much more! Lunch will not be provided, so please bring a lunch each day. We will eat together in the garden. Ages 7 and up. (Limited to 20 participants). **Registration required. \$70 for all three days.***

Garden Chefs from Garden to Table

August 13 from 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Join us in the garden and learn all about interesting edibles and how to make delicious, easy creations for friends and family. Participants will harvest from the garden and create yummy snacks and a tasty lunch. Ages 7 and up. This is a drop-off program.

Registration required. \$25 per person.*



Train Day

July 18 from 10 a.m.–noon

All aboard! Join us in celebrating our love for locomotives with the Capital Area Railway Society. Watch trains of all shapes and sizes, help us construct a train village in the garden, discover what happens on the tracks and much more! **\$5 per child.***

Water Day

July 25 from 10 a.m.–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! **\$5 per child.***

Bug Day

July 31 from 10 a.m.–noon

We cannot get enough of these amazing six-legged friends! Join us for what has become an annual tribute to insects in the gardens. 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! **\$5 per child.***

Bubble Day

August 15 from 10 a.m.–noon

Come celebrate the end of summer vacation at the garden with bubbles! As we explore the wonderful world of bubbles we will paint, eat, and even make music with bubbles. Don't forget to invite your friends and family to come to this bubblicious bash! **\$5 per child.***

Holiday Open House

December 5 from 5–7 p.m.

Enjoy our displays of poinsettias and 16' poinsettia tree under evening lights. Bring your camera and the kids. Santa will arrive in his sleigh at 5:30 p.m. MSU poinsettias, centerpieces and wreaths will be for sale. Enjoy some holiday refreshments. **FREE.**



IMPORTANT PARKING NOTE

You must park in a space designated as a "Pay by Plate" parking space. Signage has been installed in these areas. Parking spaces not marked as "Pay by Plate" may be reserved for permit parking. Parking in a space not designated as "Pay by Plate" parking may result in a parking violation. Immediately after parking, enter license plate number and payment into the lot's SPOTON pay station or via the MSU SPOTON app. Pay stations accept cash payment or credit cards. They do not give change back nor are refunds issued for time paid for, but not used.

splendid stories

stories in the Garden

June 12 from 7-8:30 p.m.*

July 10 from 10-11:30 a.m.

August 14 from 7-8:30 p.m.

Teens will be reading stories to younger children—a magical time of fun and learning. Great for kids 0 to 100! **FREE.**

Stories in the Garden is a partnership between the East Lansing Public Library and the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens. Interested teen readers should contact the East Lansing Public Library directly at elpd.org or by phone 517-351-2420. Sign up to be a reader soon!

stories for sprouts & seedlings

Third Wednesday of each month from 10-11 a.m.

This program is designed especially for young children, ages 0-4, to experience the wonders of gardening through stories and hands-on projects. This program meets on the third Wednesday of every month and each session will feature a different book with an accompanying nature activity. **FREE.***

May 15 — *Monarch and Milkweed* by Helen Frost and Leonid Gore

June 19 — *Up in the Garden Down in the Dirt* by Kate Messner

July 17 — *My Busy Green Garden* by Terry Pierce

August 21 — *Sunflower House* by Eve Bunting

September 18 — *Your Nest Here with Me* by Helen Yolen
and Heidi E. Y. Stemple

October 16 — *Bloom* by Deborah Diesen

Be sure to register early!

Register at <http://4hgarden.msu.edu> or call (517) 353-0452.



CG Tours & Trips

Call us at (517) 353-0452 to discuss your specific needs and together we can create experiences that will impact your kids for years to come. Here are two great opportunities:

4-H Children's Gardens Tours

Arrange a special tour of the 4-H Children's Gardens with one of our knowledgeable docents to lead the way. Listen to stories about different plants growing in the gardens, learn about how plants are important in our daily lives and explore the gardens with all of your senses through taste test challenges, smelly explorations and more! You can also request an optional scavenger hunt that provides an opportunity for focused exploration of the gardens individually or in small groups. **\$2 per garden visitor.***

Discovery Field Trips

Schedule a class or group Discovery Field Trip. Discovery Field Trips combine experiential exploration of the garden with a focused hands-on thematic lesson. Begin your garden discovery with a short tour and scavenger hunt. Then discover more through one of our interactive discovery topics designed to meet the needs and interests of children. Discoveries include: Important Plants, Plant Evaluation, Salad Bowl Experiment and Plant Problems. Discoveries occur in the gardens, using their unique resources while incorporating sketching, journaling, technology and group conversation. Your visit can last from two hours to the entire day or even multiple days. We work with the teacher/leader to create discoveries that fit your student's interests and needs as well as address your curriculum and interests. **\$3 per student.***

*Event cost does not include parking.



ABOUT THE

MICHIGAN 4-H CHILDREN'S GARDENS

The Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens consist of three educational gardens – the outdoor Michigan 4-H Children's Garden, the Indoor 4-H Children's Garden and the Pete and Sally Smith Schoolyard Demonstration Garden. The outdoor garden season is Apr. 1 through Oct. 31. The indoor garden is open year round. The gardens, part of the MSU Horticulture Gardens, are located at the corner of Bogue St. and Service Rd. on the campus of Michigan State University.

TO REGISTER FOR EVENTS

Register online at <http://4hgarden.msu.edu> or call the 4-H Children's Gardens at (517) 353-0542.

Registration is required for all events.

GARDEN EVENT E-LIST

Sign up for our e-list to receive information on garden events by email. Sign up at the 4-H Children's Gardens or by sending an email to garden4h@msu.edu.

VISIT THE GARDEN ONLINE

Find out more about the 4-H Children's Gardens and take a virtual tour at: <http://4hgarden.msu.edu>.

CONTACT

For more information, contact:

Jessica Wright, Education Coordinator
Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens
Michigan State University
1066 Bogue St.
East Lansing, MI 48824
Email: garden4h@msu.edu
Phone: (517) 353-0452

Dr. Norm Lownds, Curator
Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens
Michigan State University
1066 Bogue St.
East Lansing, MI 48824
Email: lownds@msu.edu
Phone: (517) 353-0349

Pardon our Dust



When you come to visit the 4-H Children's Gardens this summer, you will have to deal with some construction. We are doing everything we can to get these projects done quickly and in a way that has minimum impact on our visitors. Please be patient and follow the signs.

The construction projects will provide two big improvements that are long overdue:

- A new safe passageway from the building to the 4-H Children's Gardens and
- Parking lot resurfacing.

We are very excited about both of these projects and are sure they will be worth any temporary inconvenience. The safe passage will provide a safe, separated walkway that goes from the Plant and Soil Sciences Building to the 4-H Children's Gardens. This is a really big deal when we are hosting hundreds of kids each day and moving between garden and building multiple times during the day.

Resurfacing the parking lot has been a need for several years. This work will get rid of the potholes and provide a smooth parking surface. We are sure this will make your visit more pleasant.

Story Walk

Once you have navigated the construction or enjoyed the new parking lot and walkway, have some fun with our StoryWalk®, a joint project with the Capital Area District Libraries (CADL). Follow the StoryWalk® book through the garden to both read a book and enjoy the activities (talking, skipping, singing and playing) between stations. This is a great way to enjoy the 4-H Children's Gardens even more!

We look forward to seeing you in the 4-H Children's Gardens this summer! Make plans to visit many times. We will be here. Our plants will be putting on their best show, just for you!

Help us Grow!

The Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens and its programs are made possible by private donations to the Michigan 4-H Foundation and Michigan State University.

The Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens need your continued support. Think about how you might support the gardens to insure their beauty and to provide fun learning experiences for kids that encourage them to let their imaginations grow. Please consider making a donation, buying a brick, sponsoring a theme garden or program, or becoming a volunteer.

If you have questions or would like more information on giving to the gardens, please contact the curator, Dr. Norm Lownds at (517) 353-0349 or the Michigan 4-H Foundation at (517) 353-6692.