

MSU IN BLOOM

MSU HORTICULTURE GARDEN NEWS



IN THIS ISSUE

SPRING MAKE & TAKE | BUTTERFLIES | VOLUNTEER
KICKOFF | EVENT RENTALS | CONSTRUCTION |
DECIDUOUS CONIFERS | STUDENT CORNER

UPCOMING EVENTS

Volunteer Kick-Off	Mar 12
Butterflies in the Garden	Mar 15-Apr 30
Spring Make & Take	Mar 16
Spring Plant Sale-Members only	May 17
Spring Plant Sale-Public	May 18

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

BY KRISTIN GETTER, DIRECTOR OF THE MSU HORTICULTURE GARDENS

EXCITING NEW YEAR

It has been an eventful new year for the MSU Horticulture Gardens. During last week's cold snap, our greenhouse pipes froze (in multiple places!), causing portions of our greenhouses to fall below freezing and impacting the building's heating system as well. The greenhouse staff had to work with their winter coats on for one of the days! Thankfully very little plant material was lost due to sunshine warming the greenhouses and a few well-placed space heaters.

LOOKING FORWARD

We have another event-packed year planned ahead. Our Spring Program will once again be a Make & Take event - on March 16, 2019. Registration is now open! See page 3 for more details. The butterflies will arrive March 15th and you can see them until April 30th. See page 4 for more details. And our Spring Plant Sale will once again be in early May: Friday May 17, 2019 for Garden Members and Saturday, May 18, 2019 for the public. More details on that to come later. Also, mark your calendars for the 2019 Garden Day which will be held Saturday, August 3, 2019.

PROJECTS

Two garden sculptures are in need of repair: The Leiserowitz Windows Sculpture (bottom left picture; to the right of the water fountain) and the Liberty Hyde Bailey statue (bottom right picture) to the tune of about \$30,000 in total for both projects combined). We will be looking for funding to help with that this spring so we can repair them this summer.



SPRING PROGRAM

It's time for the 2019 Spring Program which will once again be a Spring Make & Take! Join us on Saturday, March 16, 2019 from 12:30 pm to 5:00 pm for a fun filled afternoon of activities.

This entertaining event combines 3 workshops plus gourmet desserts, coffee, and tea! Each attendee will create their own rustic hand-lettered garden sign, herbal tea pot, and air plant wreath. Program details are below.

Registration

Due to limited seating, participants must register in advance. The cost for this program is \$52 for Garden Members and \$62 for non-members. To register, visit our secure registration store.



MSU HORTICULTURE GARDENS
Spring Make & Take
SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2019 12:30-5:00PM
JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF CREATIVE FUN!
PLANT & SOIL SCIENCES BUILDING - MSU CAMPUS
1066 BOGUE ST. EAST LANSING, MI. 48824



THIS ENTERTAINING EVENT
COMBINES 3 WORKSHOPS PLUS
GOURMET DESSERTS, COFFEE, & TEA!
ATTENDEES WILL CREATE THEIR
OWN RUSTIC HAND-LETTERED
GARDEN SIGN, HERBAL TEA POT,
AND AIR PLANT WREATH!

FEATURING SARA KOERT OF LIGHT &
SALT DESIGNS & STAFF MEMBERS OF
THE MSU HORTICULTURE GARDENS!

\$52 2019 MEMBERS / \$62 GENERAL

REGISTER ON-LINE:
WWW.HRT.MSU.EDU/SP-REGISTER



12:30-1:00 PM
REGISTRATION
1:00-2:00 PM
HAND-LETTERED SIGN
2:00-2:15 PM
BREAK
2:15-3:15 PM
HERBAL TEA POT
3:15-4:00 PM
GOURMET DESSERTS, COFFEE/TEA
4:00-5:00 PM
AIR PLANT WREATH

Come experience the wonder of

 **Butterflies**
in the Garden 

March 15-April 30th

Located in the Indoor 4-H Children's Garden

Plant and Soil Sciences MSU

Public hours Monday-Friday 2-4pm

Saturday and Sunday 10-4pm.

Free Admission (parking not included)

For field trip information email
garden4h@msu.edu or
visit our website at 4hgarden.msu.edu



**CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS TO OUR
ANNUAL**

VOLUNTEER KICK-OFF

**Old and new volunteers welcome!
Bring a friend or family member and learn
about our volunteer opportunities**

**BUTTERFLY DOCENT TRAINING TO FOLLOW
IMMEDIATELY AFTER KICK-OFF**

March 12, 2019 | 8:30am

Plant and Soil Science Conservatory

**Questions? Contact Bethany Troy at
troybeth@msu.edu**

EVENT RENTALS- NOT JUST WEDDINGS!

BY DAEDRE MCGRATH, ANNUAL TRIAL GARDEN MANAGER

Are you or someone you know looking for a unique and beautiful rental space for your next event? Consider the MSU Horticulture Gardens! Host an outdoor event amongst thousands of blooming flowers. Or consider our lush indoor conservatory space, which is available year-round. Large or small, we can accommodate almost any event.

We host dozens of weddings each year, but we're also available for your next:

- Baby Shower
- Bridal Shower
- Graduation Party
- Birthday Party
- Retirement Party
- Celebration of Life
- Family Reunion
- Office Party
- Staff Retreat
- Yoga Retreat
- Luncheon or Banquet

The possibilities are limitless!



If you are interested in booking an event at the Gardens, we highly recommend taking a complimentary private tour with our wedding coordinator. From there, let our experienced staff assist in planning your event -- from tents, tables, and chairs -- to lighting. We can recommend many local companies to complete your planning needs.

To set-up a complimentary tour, or for additional planning information, contact:

Hayley Pegram, Wedding Coordinator and Program Assistant at 517-353-3770 or gardens@msu.edu.

Additional information is available on our website: www.hrt.msu.edu/plan-a-wedding-or-event.



TIME FOR A CHANGE

BY DAN BULKOWSKI, GARDENS AND GREENHOUSE MANAGER

There will be some activity and changes happening out our back door this summer. Starting on May 20th (fingers crossed), the garden parking lot will be repaved and new curb lines installed. At the same time, the “alley” that goes from the back door to the parking lot will be converted to a pedestrian sidewalk. When completed, the approximate 14,000 kids on field trips will have a safe passage to the Children’s Garden. No more student cars zipping down that drive, hurrying to park so they are not late for class. Many thanks goes to our former director, Art Cameron, who with Jessica Wright started this idea to pair up this walkway project with the parking lot redo. And also thanks to Kristin Getter, our new director, who continued the push with the University to secure funding for the safe passage.

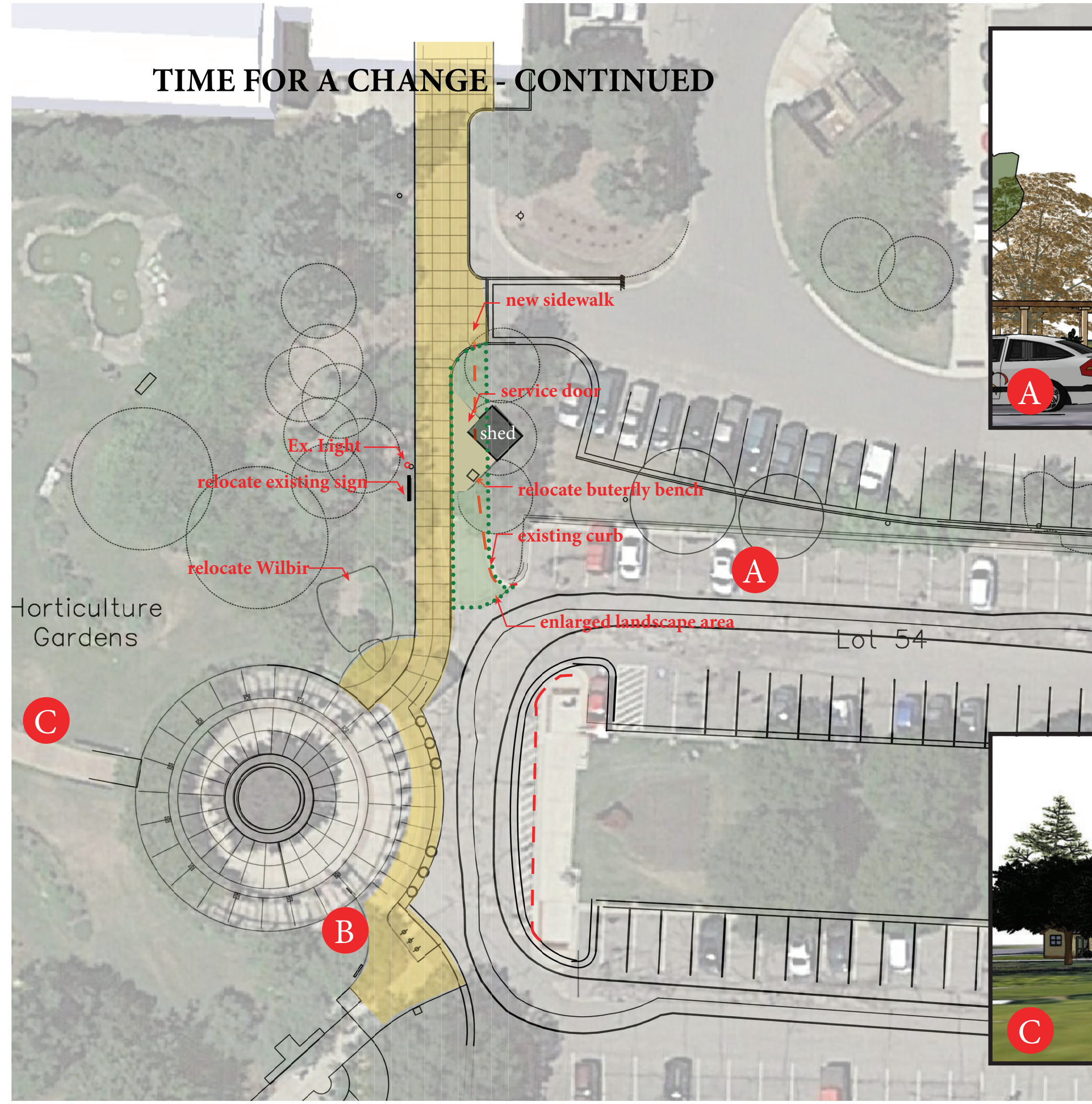
Included in the project is the opportunity for the gardens to have a new structure to welcome visitors. The blue booth that served as our “Welcome Center” was built as a temporary solution over 15 years ago went bye-bye last month. The new design is on the next page which shows that the new booth will be relocated so as to not distract from the view of the Entrance Pavilion, but still be near the parking lot for visitors to stop by. The actual style of the new structure will be different from what you see on the design. Wilbir the Peacock will be relocated out of his nest in the parking lot island and be placed in the bed by the Entrance Pavilion.

The completion date for all of this work is scheduled for August 1st (fingers still crossed). So when you visit the gardens this summer be patient with parking. We are told that half of the lot will be accessible most of the time. If not, signage will redirect you to another nearby lot. All of us here are very excited for this new and updated parking lot and safe passageway walk to be completed. We hope you will be too!



The old blue garden booth being taken away in January 2019 to make room for a new sidewalk and new booth!

TIME FOR A CHANGE - CONTINUED



DECIDUOUS CONIFERS IN MICHIGAN

BETHANY TROY, PERENNIAL GARDEN MANAGER

It's a cold day in February and you decide to brave the elements to be in nature. If you are like me, your eyes are wandering for some sort of plant life, gripping on to anything green on the forest floor. Since it is too early for spring ephemerals, my eyes wander up to observe the branching habits of deciduous trees. There's a lot of beauty in our trees that are down to their bare bones – they stand up tall, displaying their beautiful forms in the frigid cold temperatures, arching with stature and confidence as the sun rises and sets around them.

Since my heart and soul belong to conifers, this allows the perfect time for me to focus on the structure of those of the deciduous variety. Deciduous conifers form cones and needles like our typical coniferous trees, yet they change color in the fall and lose their needles annually. The needles appear to be very similar to evergreen conifers, yet they are much softer and not as 'pokey'.

You may be more familiar with our evergreen species – spruces, firs, and pines, but there are around 20 species (three genera) of deciduous conifers in the world. The MSU Horticulture Gardens houses a few species, three of which we will discuss: *Larix decidua*, *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*, and *Taxodium distichum*. We also house *Ginkgo biloba*, however, they are more closely related to cycads than conifers, so we will come back to that another time.

Larix decidua, or European larch, is a native to the mountains of central Europe that grows large (over 60 feet tall) with a pyramidal shape, horizontal branching, and drooping branchlets. As the tree ages, the shape can become more irregular. Needles turn a golden yellow in the fall before dropping, and come out in spring in cute tuft-like clusters. They are tolerant of some light shade, but intolerant of dry soils and pollutants. We have a native larch – *Larix laricina*, or the eastern larch, if natives are your thing. You can also find this, along with a weeping variety of *L. decidua* in the arboretum at the gardens.

Larix decidua. Left: foliage;
Right: form.



DECIDUOUS CONIFERS IN MICHIGAN - CONTINUED

Metasequoia glyptostroboides, or dawn redwood, is a large tree growing up to 100 feet tall and 25 feet wide. Its bark characteristics (right top) and form (right lower) are shown at the right. Dawn redwood is a magnificent specimen, known to have existed over 50 million years ago via fossil records, displaying a conical shape with branching at 45 degree angles. Underneath the branches you will find depressions that we call 'armpits' – a great ID characteristic that helps to distinguish this tree from *Taxodium*. Twigs, needles, and cones are in opposite pairs. This tree needs space, but would make an excellent landscape tree in the right conditions.



Taxodium distichum, or bald cypress (left), is yet another large and long-lived tree that grows in moist to wet soils, and can handle standing water for periods of time. Its bark characteristics (left top) and form (left lower) are shown at the left. Closely related to dawn redwood, bald cypress develop 'knees' – knobby root growths which come up above the water surface around the tree for extra oxygen in more anaerobic soils. Known in the south for being covered in Spanish moss in swamps, bayous, and near rivers, here it adapts well to drier conditions. You can find this specimen in the arboretum near the Japanese Garden. Another great landscape tree if you have the space!

STUDENT CORNER

MACKENZIE HIATT, MSU HORTICULTURE STUDENT

I'm a Junior in the Horticulture B.S. degree at MSU concentrating in Landscape Design. I found the gardens in March of 2017. I was nearing the end of my freshman year at MSU and still felt far from knowing what I wanted to do with my time here. It was early spring and most of the greenhouses were empty, but I'll never forget seeing the conservatory for the first time. The perimeter of ferns and ficus trees with their glossy green leaves stretching up toward a glass sky felt like an oasis after enduring a long, cold winter. Walking up and down the halls I saw a posted job application and took a leap. I'm so glad I did. That summer I found love in so many places. In flowers, friends, and the smell of earth. In the joy of planting and watching things grow. Even the ache in my bones after a long day of working outside in the midsummer sun felt rewarding. When the season came to an end, I enrolled in the Horticulture program and found my place at this university.

I have spent two summers working in the greenhouses and the annual, perennial, and rose gardens. This job has allowed me to further my knowledge and apply my education every day. I have made many wonderful friends at the gardens and in the Horticulture program. To some it is just a job, but to me it will always be a special place. Even in the winter when the greenhouses are empty and the majority of the activity slows and sleeps, I still return for the warmth and the welcoming work environment. That wouldn't be possible without my mentors Dan, Bethany, and Daedre. They are all wonderful educators and deserving of recognition for the differences they make in students' lives and the beautiful work they do for the gardens. They have inspired me to become an educator after I graduate.

The gardens are a wonderful place for young people to work because they allow us to develop an appreciation for nature and discover the joy that beauty in nature can bring to those who care for it and those who come to see it. Students feel proud of the work they do, admiring the tasks they complete individually and as a team, especially when visitors find peace and joy in it too.

Left: Mackenzie holding one of her favorite *Echeverias*. Right: Mackenzie working alongside Mike and Alex this past summer.

