

# MSU IN BLOOM

## MSU HORTICULTURE GARDEN NEWS



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2020 Garden Member Sale	May 15
Public Sale	May 16
Garden Day	August 1

# FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

BY KRISTIN GETTER, DIRECTOR OF THE MSU HORTICULTURE GARDENS

## HOLIDAY LOOK-BACK

We had a very successful holiday season for our Gardens. Our Houseplant and Succulent sale was a success in early November, as were our holiday programs. Thank you to all the volunteers and attendees who made our Fall plant sale, Holiday Make & Take, and Holiday Open House possible!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

It's time for the 2020 Spring Program which will once again be a Spring Make & Take. Join us on Saturday, March 14, 2020 from 12:30pm to 5:00pm for a fun filled afternoon of 70's themed gardening activities. For more information, including cost and how to register, see the next page.

Our Spring Plant Sale will be Friday, May 15, 2020 for 2020 Garden Members and Saturday, May 16, 2020 for the public sale.

Mark your calendars for our 2020 Garden Day this summer! The date will be Saturday, August 1, 2020. Look for more information about this program soon.

## MASTER GARDENER IDEA BED - DESIGN CONTEST WINNER CHOSEN

Our 2020 Judith and George Mynsberge Master Gardener Idea Bed Design Contest has a winner! Catherine Coulson's Rainbow Peace Design was chosen and will be planted this spring and grown for four years (see later in this newsletter for more information). Judith and George Mynsberge generously endowed this garden to give Master Gardener's an opportunity to share their creative garden design skills and ideas.

Shown above is last year's winning design after several years of growth (designed by Sandra Lombard). The bed is 35' in diameter and receives full sun.



The past winner's (Sandra Lombard) design of the Master Gardener Idea Bed in summer 2018.

**MSU HORTICULTURE GARDENS**

# **SPRING MAKE & TAKE**

**Saturday, March 14, 2020 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 retro garden event is sure to bring out the flower-child in everyone! Join us for 3 workshops plus gourmet snacks and beverages! Attendees will create their own groovy macrame plant hanger, stellar seed sprouting jar, and far-out hanging terrarium!

Featuring staff members of the MSU Horticulture Gardens!

\$59 2020 members / \$69 General

Register on-line:  
[www.hrt.msu.edu/sp-register](http://www.hrt.msu.edu/sp-register)

**12:30-1:00 PM**  
Registration

**1:00-2:00 PM**  
Macrame Plant Hanger

**2:00-2:15 PM**  
Break

**2:15-3:15 PM**  
Seed Sprouting

**3:15-4:00 PM**  
Gourmet Snacks and Beverages

**4:00-5:00 PM**  
Hanging Terrarium

## **WORKSHOPS**

### **Macrame Plant Hanger**

Join our Director, Kristin Getter, as she walks you through how to create a Macrame Plant Hanger. Each participant will leave with a hanger and a planted pot to put in it!

### **Seed Sprouting**

Join Daedre McGrath, our Trial Garden's Manager, as she talks about how to properly and safely sprout seeds for use on salads, sandwiches, and more! Each participant will receive a seed sprouting kit to take home.

### **Hanging Terrarium**

Join our Perennial Garden Manager, Bethany Troy, as she explains how to create a hanging terrarium. Each participant will create their own to take home.

## **REGISTER NOW**

The cost is \$59 for 2020 Garden Members and \$69 for non-members. To register, visit our website:

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/hrt/our\\_gardens/spring\\_program/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/hrt/our_gardens/spring_program/).

# MASTER GARDENER IDEA BED - DESIGN CONTEST WINNER

BY KRISTIN GETTER, DIRECTOR OF THE MSU HORTICULTURE GARDENS

Congratulations to Catherine Coulson, winner of the 2020 Judith and George Mynsberge Master Gardener Idea Bed Design Contest! Catherine's design was chosen based upon its aesthetics, unique and suitable plant material combinations, and ease of maintenance.

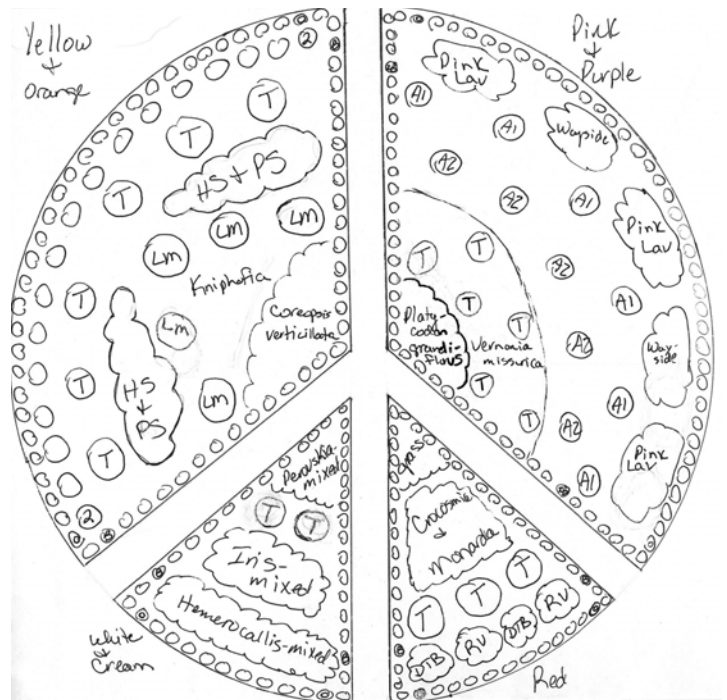
Cathy received her Extension Master Gardener certification in 2018, but has many years of gardening experience. Cathy is a member of the Livingston County Master Gardener Association (LCMGA) and has served as the board secretary and currently is the president and secretary of the LCMGA Board of Directors.

She currently works at a garden center, is an independent softscape design architect and diagnostician and helps her family members and friends with their gardening needs. She's designed, created and planted beds in Eaton Rapids, Howell and Ann Arbor. She is also the Coordinator for the Demonstration Garden at the MSU Extension office in Livingston County.

Cathy's Rainbow Peace Garden design for the Master Gardener Idea Bed features blue grasses, perennials and succulents as requested by the donors combined with hardy, sun-loving perennials and bulbs in color-coordinated sections. Contained within the garden are natives, pollinators, butterfly attractors and many drought-tolerant and long-blooming species. Early, middle and late-blooming perennials provide interest all season. Daylilies with 6" or larger blooms abound in every section of the garden and bloom from the early to mid-late season and includes various rebloomers. The 3' wide pathways are designed to be the Peace Sign in aerial view and provide ease of viewing and maintenance.



**Catherine Coulson, winner of Master Gardener Idea Bed Contest**



**Cathy's Rainbow Peace Garden Design will be installed in Spring 2020 and grown for four years.**

# VOLUNTEER KICK-OFF

BY BETHANY TROY, PERENNIAL GARDEN MANAGER

Save the date for our annual Volunteer Kick-Off meeting happening on Tuesday, March 3rd at 9AM! Come learn about opportunities to volunteer with us and meet up with old and new friends as we celebrate the beginning to another gardening year. Butterfly Docent training will begin immediately after, starting at 10AM.

Our volunteers are a huge part of our organization and help in a number of ways, including our visitor's booth, butterfly house, during our plant sales, and helping outdoors to maintain our gardens. From arts and crafts, to leading tours, and getting dirty out in the garden, our volunteers work hard, have fun, and make the BEST snacks! New volunteers are always welcome, so please bring a family member or friend to the kick-off who may be interested in learning more about volunteering with us at the gardens.

For any questions regarding volunteer opportunities, contact Bethany Troy at [troybeth@msu.edu](mailto:troybeth@msu.edu).



# WILBIR

IS WAITING FOR SPRING



# REMEMBERING GERALD NESTER

BY BETHANY TROY, PERENNIAL GARDEN MANAGER

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of one of our beloved volunteers, Gerald Nester (top picture, right). Jerry was an integral part of the MSU Horticulture Gardens, working with past Perennial Garden Manager Renata Reibitz to establish our well-known Hosta collection (bottom picture, right), in which over 100 varieties were donated solely by Jerry himself. Our collection exists mainly through Jerry sharing part of his well-cared for and loved collection of Hostas, all grown at his own residence. Jerry even donated one of our most popular varieties, Hosta 'Striptease' – a favorite amongst garden visitors and professionals alike. As a visitor's booth volunteer, Jerry also loved to welcome guests to the gardens while enjoying a cup (or two) of some ice cream. He even regularly had a friendly tree frog that would visit him and hang out in the cash register – which he would remind me to look after as I would close up the booth for the day. We will miss Jerry as a part of our plant-loving gardening community, as a volunteer, and as a friend.



**Gerald Nester (left): March 28, 1942 – February 1, 2020**



**Some of Jerry's hostas on display in our Hosta collection.**



# ASK THE EXPERT

Salvaged from the now defunct Michigan Gardening Magazine, join us throughout 2020 for Daedre's final Ask The Expert questions!

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BY DAEDRE MCGRATH  
TRIAL GARDEN MANAGER



## Update on IDM

**Question:** Is impatiens downy mildew still an issue? Can I plant impatiens in my garden again?

-Bill T. From Muskegon

**Answer:** Yes, unfortunately Impatiens downy mildew can still be a problem for some gardeners. Impatiens downy mildew (IDM) is the fungal pathogen *Plasmopara obducens* that specifically impacts *Impatiens walleriana*. After the initial outbreak starting in 2011, many gardeners were instructed to stop planting *Impatiens walleriana* until a solution was found. Once your garden is infected, the pathogen can overwinter in the soil and re-infect next year's plants. If you continue to plant *Impatiens walleriana* after your soil is infected, you are providing a host for the pathogen, increasing the potential for re-infection, causing the production of more spores and re-inoculating the soil for years to come.

Although they are generally much more expensive, you can still get that "Impatiens look" by planting New Guinea Impatiens or any of the impatiens hybrids that are currently (continued on next page)

### Photos:

Top- severe Impatiens Downy Mildew infection

Middle- IDM-resistant Imara XDR series

Bottom- IDM-resistant Beacon series





on the market, as they are not susceptible to the pathogen. However, good news is on the horizon! A couple plant breeding companies are working on introducing varieties of *Impatiens walleriana* that are highly resistant to IDM! We evaluated a handful of these new resistant varieties in our 2019 MSU Trial Garden and found them to hold up all summer without developing the disease (which we know is present in our soil). The Imara XDR series from Syngenta and Beacon series from PanAmerican Seed will both be available in 2020.

## Moldy Potting Mix

**Question:** I just potted a plant using some potting mix I store in a plastic container in my garage. As I was scooping it out, I noticed some mold on the wall of the container. Can I use it, or should I throw it away?

-Charlene P. from Spring Arbor

**Answer:** I would go ahead and use it! We go through hundreds of bags of potting mix each year. Technically the potting mix is supposed to be sterile, but we often find sheets of moss, mold, mycelium, and sometimes large mushrooms inside the bags. We have never had a problem with any kind of disease transferring from the potting mix to our plants. For the potting mix to actually be sterile, it would have to be heated up to kill off any insects, spores, bacteria, etc. The minute you expose the potting mix to air, or have it come in contact with your plant material, it's no longer sterile anyhow.

Also note that potting mix is not the same thing as soil. Potting mix is usually a soil-free mixture of peat moss and perlite. Sometimes it can contain bark, coconut fiber, sand, or fertilizer granules. If you use actual soil or compost to pot up plants (which I do not recommend), there will definitely be a much higher chance of passing along undesirable pests and diseases.

**Photos:** Mold in your potting mix is generally not a reason for concern.





# Family Programs Spring & Summer 2020

## Summer Fun Series



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 12. 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 6-10, 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 4 to August 27, 2020 (weather permitting).



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 25 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 6 from 10 a.m.-1 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. For those that are new to geocaching come to the introduction class, Geocaching 101, from 10-11 am in B109 Plant and Soil Sciences. **FREE.**

### Mad Hatter Tea Party

**June 18 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 23 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 16 from 7 a.m.-2 p.m.**

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



# Curiosity Camps

## Garden Writers Workshop

**July 7-9 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 4-6 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.\***



\*Event cost does not include parking.

## Water Day

**July 13 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.\***

## Train Day

**July 23 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.\***

## Bug Day

**July 30 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 13 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 3 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

Visitors during the week needing to park on campus will have a parking fee in addition to any registration cost to attend the event. 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 faculty/staff permit parking. Parking in a space not designated as "Pay by Plate" parking may result in a parking violation. Immediately after parking, enter your 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 10 from 10-11:30 a.m.

July 8 from 7-8:30 p.m.

August 12 from 10-11:30 a.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 [elpl.org](http://elpl.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 — *The Very Impatient Caterpillar* by Ross Burach

June 20 — *The Amazing Life Cycle of Plants (Look and Wonder)* by Kay Barnham

July 15 — *Bee: A Peek-Through Picture Book* by Britta Teckentrup

August 19 — *Over and Under the Pond* by Kate Messner

September 16 — *Potato Pants!* by Laurie Keller

October 21 — *Big Pumpkin* by Erica Silverman

Be sure to register early!

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



# 4-H 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.



# Make Your Garden Visit Special!

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:lownds@msu.edu)  
Phone: (517) 353-0349

## Experience plants

When you visit the 4-H Children's Gardens we want you to experience plants. Here are some plant experiences to do during your visit:

- Touch and smell the flowers and leaves.
- Smell the Popcorn flower and wonder, "why would a plant smell like buttered popcorn?"
- Touch the leaves of Sensitive Plant and Lamb's Ear.
- Find a flower that is your favorite color and show it to someone.
- Take pictures of the plants in the garden.
- Look for a butterfly or a bee pollinating a flower.
- Encourage everyone you visit with to experience plants.

## Scavenger Hunt

As you walk through the garden look for the QR code Scavenger Hunt signs. Scan the code with your phone and have some fun learning more about the garden and plants. At each stop you will learn something about that theme garden and something about the plants. Then there will be something to do and a clue to help you find the next sign. Have some fun exploring and learning as you become a 4-H Children's Garden expert!



## Share your garden story

Finally, share your garden stories with us. The 4-H Children's Garden is all about the stories. Plant stories, theme garden stories and stories of children in the garden. We would love to hear your Great Garden Stories and see your photos. Visit our web site and click on the Share Your Stories and Photos link to upload your stories and photos. We look forward to hearing from you and enjoying your 4-H Children's Garden stories and photos!

## 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.

# 2019 HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

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