

MSU Horticulture Garden News

e-News from Michigan State University Horticulture Gardens

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

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MSU Horticulture Gardens Featured!

In celebration of our 20th Anniversary, the MSU Horticulture Gardens were the star attraction in the Fall 2013 edition of MSU Developments magazine! This included features on the CE Lewis Arboretum, the 4-H Children's Garden, our summer student horticulture interns, and an interview with Judith DeLapa. All in all, it was great promotional for our exceptional gardens.

To see all the articles on the gardens in this issue, follow this link:

http://www.givingto.msu.edu/media/developments/Developments_Fall2013.pdf

A YouTube video was also made to help us celebrate with coverage of our 20th Anniversary Gala! Check it out at the following link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=otUXS8fUWE8&feature=youtu.be>

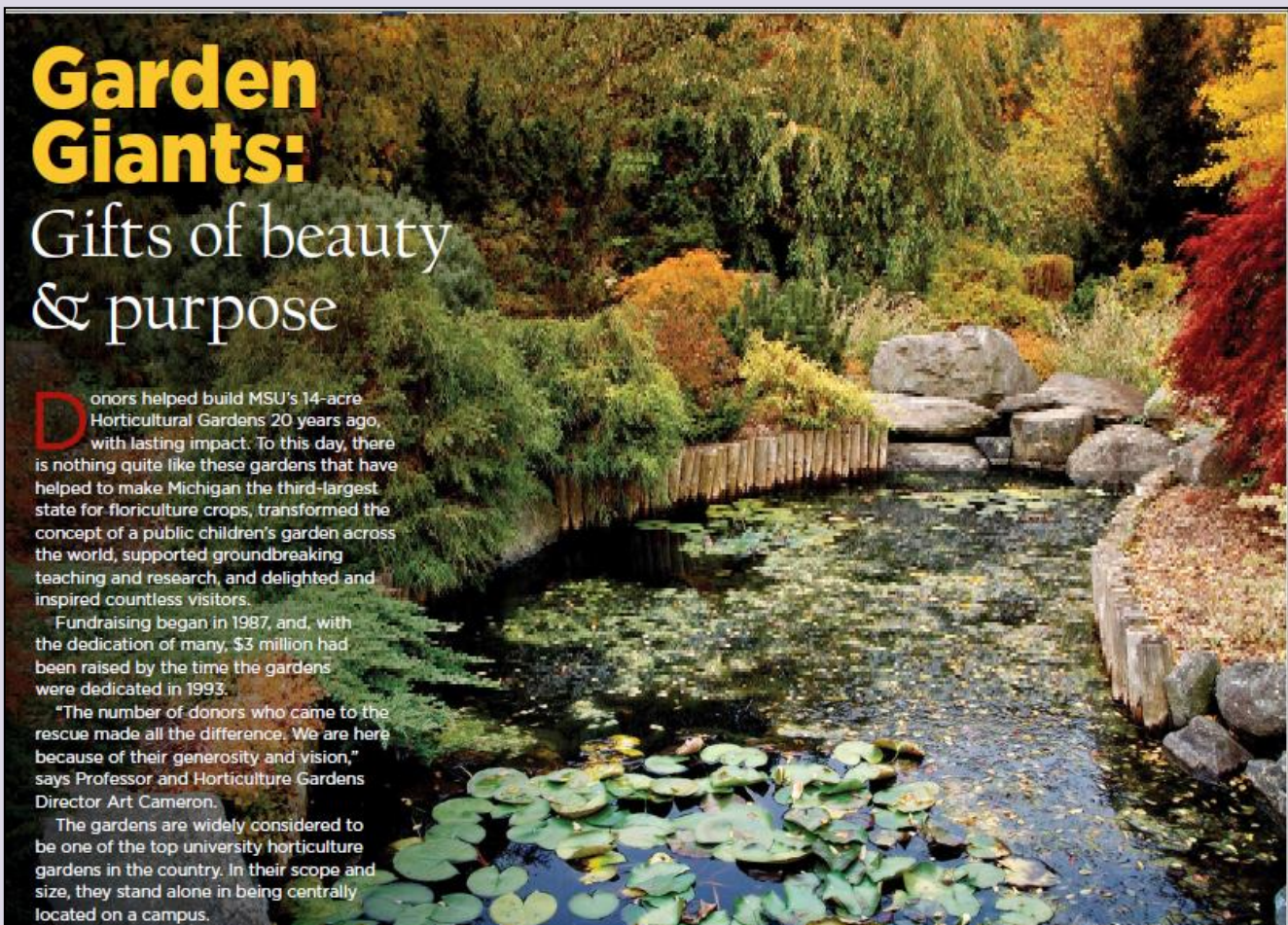
Garden Giants: Gifts of beauty & purpose

Donors helped build MSU's 14-acre Horticultural Gardens 20 years ago, with lasting impact. To this day, there is nothing quite like these gardens that have helped to make Michigan the third-largest state for floriculture crops, transformed the concept of a public children's garden across the world, supported groundbreaking teaching and research, and delighted and inspired countless visitors.

Fundraising began in 1987, and, with the dedication of many, \$3 million had been raised by the time the gardens were dedicated in 1993.

"The number of donors who came to the rescue made all the difference. We are here because of their generosity and vision," says Professor and Horticulture Gardens Director Art Cameron.

The gardens are widely considered to be one of the top university horticulture gardens in the country. In their scope and size, they stand alone in being centrally located on a campus.



It's All About Plants! 2014 MSU Spring Conference -



New and Underused Annuals

George Papadelis, Owner, *Telly's Greenhouse*

At Telly's Greenhouse in Troy and Shelby Township, George grows an outstanding selection of annuals, perennials, herbs, and vegetables. In this enthusiastic presentation, George will show us dozens of the new annuals available this spring and will remind us of the many wonderful underused annuals that can enhance our beds and containers. Many of these plants will be available to view during the presentation.



The Hunt for New and Improved Flowering Shrubs

Tim Wood, Product Development and Marketing Manager, *Spring Meadow Nursery, Inc.*

Every plant has a story. Join international plant hunter Tim Wood as he travels the world searching for new and useful plants for the American yard and garden. You will learn about his travels, the plant breeders he meets and the story behind the plants he finds.



Growing Native Plants: America's Roots in Your Garden

Steve Keto, Natural Areas and Preserves Manager, *Western Michigan University*

Over the last 30 years, gardening with native plants has gone from a niche hobby to mainstream landscape design. Steve will draw on his 26 years of experience propagating native plant species to help gardeners avoid pitfalls and capitalize on the potential of native plants in the garden. Steve will highlight how growing native plants brings rich history, pharmacology, aesthetics and wildlife value to the landscape, and expands a gardener's plant palette for every garden space.



Hardy Herbaceous Perennials and Graceful Grasses

Art Cameron, director of the MSU Horticulture Gardens and "plant geek extraordinaire," will share his enthusiasm for some of his favorite herbaceous perennials and ornamental grasses. Learn about some great plants – tough, pretty, huge, dainty, deer-proof – and their use in your own garden. Art will discuss some of the best performers in the MSU Horticulture Gardens and in his home garden. He will give tips on how to create a unique garden using these newest picks.

To register online, visit <http://www.hrt.msu.edu/spring-program/>

If you have any questions about registration, contact Jennifer Sweet at hgardens@msu.edu or by phone at 517-355-5191 ext 1339

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Rita Richardson and Art Cameron

2013 Volunteer and Docent of the Year

The **2013 Volunteer for the Year** award was presented at our annual Volunteer dinner in December. We are pleased to have the amazing **Rita Richardson** as our 2013 Volunteer of the year! She and her husband Tom (the 2012 recipient) have both contributed so much to our gardens! Thanks Rita!

The **2013 Docent of the Year** award was given to **Sue Gibbons**. We thank Sue for her amazing contributions to our ongoing programs and tours. She has been there whenever called upon. We appreciate Sue's dedication!

Without our faithful volunteers and docents, we would simply be unable to conduct our programs and manage our gardens to the level at which we are all accustomed!

Thanks to each and every one of our vounteers!

Volunteers rock!

In case you were wondering....

1,051 - Total docent volunteer hours for 2013

2,052 - Total labor volunteer hours for 2013

That makes for a whooping total of 3,103 hours. At minimum wage, that would be equivalent to at least \$30,000 in donations for the year. That makes a huge difference in the ways our garden functions, I guarantee you! Hats off to the volunteers!

2014 Volunteer Kick-off - please join us!

If you are interested in joining our fun and active group of volunteers, join us on March 11, 2014 for the Volunteer Kickoff meeting. We will meet in the headhouse of the Plant and Soil Sciences Building from 9 to 10 am. Jessica Wright will also have docent training for the Butterfly house immediately following from 10 am to 12 pm. If you have any questions, contact Jessica Wright (garden4H@msu.edu) or Renata Reibitz (reibitzr@msu.edu).



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Spring 2014 Curious Gardener Series

Our spring 2014 is starting to take shape. Two programs have been finalized with more to come. We hope to be accepting online registration soon! In the meantime, contact Jennifer Sweet or Jessica Wright if you have any questions



Sprouts, Shoots, and Microgreens March 18th 6-8 pm

Do you have the late-winter blues? Come explore the world of sprouts, shoots, and microgreens with Annual Garden Manager, Daedre Craig. These quick and easy crops can be grown indoors year-round. They take up very little space, can be grown and harvested in as little as a few days, and pack a nutritional punch. We will learn about and taste many types of sprouts and micro-crops and explore recipe ideas. In addition, each curious gardener will build a seed sprouter and a microgreen farm to take home, grow, and harvest.

Pallet Planter Box and Mixed Greens April 8th 6-8 pm

Repurposing pallets is all the rage these days and as gardeners we can jump on the trend and use them to create a rustic planter box. Join Jessica Wright, Education Coordinator for the 4-H Children's Garden and Dan Bulkowski, Garden Manager as they shows you how to create a pallet planter box. Each participant will make their own pallet planter box and fill it with a variety of greens to take home.

<http://www.hrt.msu.edu/curious-gardener/>



Possible New Welcome Center for MSU Horticulture Gardens

You may have heard rumors, and I must admit we are very excited to be in the midst of a feasibility study for creating a new Welcome Center for the MSU Horticulture Gardens. We are inspired us to develop a unique image and a wonderful new gathering space! At this end of this feasibility study, we will be seeking approval from the University to move forward with more detailed plans and a major fund-raising effort! This is certainly not a done deal, but we feel it is an important new step towards making our gardens a premier destination in mid-Michigan! We will keep you posted! Stay tuned for more updates as we continue our feasibility study and seek University approval!

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Help Us Grow - Supporting the MSU Horticulture Gardens

As Spartans and garden enthusiasts, we invite you to Help Us Grow by supporting the MSU Horticulture Gardens. In addition to the Bricks and Benches program, there are many unique ways to make gifts to the gardens. As we reach calendar year end, many supporters choose an IRA Rollover. An IRA rollover allows Michigan State University alumni and friends, 70 and older, to move (gift) any amount up to \$100,000 from their traditional IRAs or Roth IRAs directly to MSU without having to pay income taxes on the amount gifted. The IRA Charitable Rollover gift may satisfy or count against your required minimum distribution.

Other donors choose to include the Gardens in their estate plans. Making a simple bequest to the Gardens is straightforward. Sample bequest language and additional information is available online. To learn more about planned gift options including bequests please visit www.giftplanning.msu.edu.



Support the Gardens - Sponsor a Brick or a Bench

Our endowment supports a good portion of our on-going salaries and maintenance costs in the gardens. Our endowment grows yearly from direct gifts and donations or one of the many donor opportunities in the MSU Horticulture Gardens. A \$250 donation to the Gardens will sponsor a 4" by 8" brick, a \$1,000 donation to the Gardens will sponsor a 8" by 8" brick, and a \$10,000 donation to the Gardens will sponsor a garden bench. Larger donations can sponsor individual garden beds or completely new gardens. Inscriptions can honor special person(s) or occasion(s) in your life. Benches can be placed in many locations throughout the gardens.

Contact: Art Cameron, email cameron@msu.edu or Amy Britton, email britto35@anr.msu.edu

