

Roots & Shoots



Master Gardener
Society of
Oakland County, Inc.



August – September 2013



August 13, 2013 @ 6:30pm
MGSOC General Society Meeting & Location
Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church
5631 North Adams Rd, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

Speaker : Alison MacKinder

Education: “ Annuals and Combining Them With Perennials ”

A business meeting will take place, prior to the start of our Educational Program.



September 10, 2013 @ 6:30pm
MGSOC General Society Meeting & Location
Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church
5631 North Adams Rd, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

Speaker : Mike Sautter

Education: “ Honeybees: What’s All the Buzz About? ”

A business meeting will take place, prior to the start of our Educational Program.



October 8, 2013 @ 6:30pm
MGSOC General Society Meeting & Location
Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church
5631 North Adams Rd, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

Speaker : Cathy and Frank Genovese

Education: “ Christmas Tree and Spruce Declines ”

A business meeting will take place, prior to the start of our Educational Program.



Carol's Corner

It's been a wonderful summer so far! We are gearing up for the Fall MG Training class. By the time you read this there will probably not be any seats left, but if you know someone who would like to try to get in and can take a weekday morning class, have then call Linda Smith (248-858-0887) ASAP.

The Farmers Markets are running smoothly so far this year. Thank you for your participation! You may have noticed that we are no longer at the Clarkston farmers market. They are no longer able/willing to store our supplies. This is the most important criteria we have for having an information table at farmers markets. It is just too difficult to have the volunteers go off site and maneuver the heavy canopy, table, chairs, and tote into their cars and then back to the off-site storage area. We will most likely pick up another one or two markets in 2014, so stay tuned!

Wishing you the time to enjoy your backyards in the months of July and August!

Things to remember when volunteering:

- ✓ **Please wear your name badge.** If the group you are volunteering for has their own name badges, please put your MG badge on also. If you are submitting hours to MSUE for certification or re-certification, you need to be identified as a MSUE Master Gardener. It is important that our partners realize where you are coming from!
- ✓ **Do not make specific company or product brand name recommendations.** We must be non-biased in our recommendations. If you are pressed for this information, have them call the Garden Hotline at 248-858-0902. They do not give specific company recommendations but they are trained to be able to give chemical recommendations.
- ✓ **Do not guess at your answer to a question.** If someone asks you a question and you are not sure of the answers, have them call our garden Hotline.
- ✓ **If you are at an information table, please approach people when business is slow.** Spending the shift talking to our volunteer partner and not looking up at people passing by is not appropriate.
- ✓ **Enjoy yourself!**

The Fall MG Training class will be starting soon. As always I encourage you to sit it on as many classes as you can, especially if it's been many years since you achieved your basic certification. You may submit 2 hours of educational credits for each class you attend. It's a good idea to call Linda Smith at 248-858-0887, a day or two before coming to class to make sure we have not had to change the schedule.

Fall 2013 Oakland County Master Gardener Training Class Schedule

Thursdays 9:00am-1:00pm

Executive Office Conference Center

2100 Pontiac Lake Rd., Waterford

Date	Topic
August 22	Introduction/Water Quality
August 29	Plant Science
September 5	Soils
September 12	Lawns
September 19	Woodies
September 26	Household Pests
October 3	Diagnostics
October 10	Small Fruit
October 17	IPM
October 24	Tree Fruit
October 31	Indoor Plants
November 7	Annuals & Perennials
November 14	Vegetables
November 21	Volunteering/Potluck

The Year at a Glance—MGSOC Meetings/Events for 2013

August 13	Alison MacKinder	Annuals and Combining Them With Perennials	
August 19		MGSOC Board Meeting	7PM @ Extension ofc.
September 10	Mike Sautter	Honeybees: What's All the Buzz About?	
October 8	Cathy and Frank Genovese	Christmas Tree and Spruce Declines	
October 21		MGSOC Board Meeting	7PM @ Extension ofc.
November 12	Trevor Newman	Edible Landscaping – From Consumers to Producers	
November 18		MGSOC Board Meeting	7PM @ Extension ofc.
December 10	Holiday Potluck		

Practical Phragmites Control

Bob Williams gave a lecture on phragmites control for our June meeting. Bob has owned a farm on Harsen's Island for ten years, and for the last five or six years has waged an all-out battle against the phragmites that covered 15 acres. He has reduced the coverage to 0.5 acres.

Phragmites grows 15 feet tall, limits access to waterways, reduces plant and animal diversity and is a fire hazard. Phragmites was brought from Europe in the 1800s and is used for thatched roofs in England. There are no natural predators here, and it spreads voraciously by seed and rhizomes, and a root can grow 30 feet in a year so you can't just pull it out.

There are a number of ways to attack phragmites. Goats and sheep will eat it. You can cut it every two weeks for a year or more. Cut it below the water line and it will drown. Landscape fabric will control it. Some people are working on biological controls, but there are no results yet. On large tracts, a combination of cutting, burning and herbicide has been used. Cutting stresses the plant, and burning exposes the soil and the seed bank in the soil. He does not cut or burn between April 15th and July 15th to protect nesting birds. The herbicide used is glyphosate with a surfactant. It can be used as a foliar spray, dabbed onto cut stems or wiped on with the "glove of death." One member of the audience expressed concern about affecting water quality by extensive use of herbicides. Like many environmental problems, there is not an easy answer. It is clear, though, that a small infestation could be controlled without the use of an herbicide.

—Submitted by Jean Gramlich

Ohio Kentucky Trip 2013

We gathered at the usual ungodly hour of 5 a.m. to embark on our adventure to Ohio and Kentucky, and the process was very efficient. Our first stop was at a private garden in Rossford, Ohio where owner John Vrablic had planted 700 varieties of conifers on 2 city lots over the span of 27 years. It was one of the most amazing gardens I have ever visited. With no particular overall design John created a fascinating place with curved paths that flowed into one another with new vistas awaiting the visitor at each intersection. He pruned his trees to fit the spaces available, and studied with a bonsai master to produce an artistic result. Among the trees he interspersed architectural artifacts and volcanic stones. Texture and line with many weeping specimens, a small pond, accent flowers, Japanese maples and ground cover sedums added to the overall sublime effect. Specimens that were of particular interest to me were blue concolor firs with very long needles, many different forms and shapes of blue spruce, ginkgos trimmed down so they were very bushy and leafy and blue larches.

We stopped at a public market in Dayton for lunch and shopping. There were stalls offering unusual choices for lunches and organic produce. While we were there, a total torrent of rain came, but it stopped by the time the bus came back to pick us up.

The next stop was Wegerzyn Gardens in Dayton where the children's garden including a "wiggle and a wall" made from black willow osiers forming wonderful tunnels of twisted curves delighted our crowd. A pergola covered with roses, a hop hornbeam trained into an arch and blooming wisteria over a garden bench were highlights. An allee of bald cypresses was quite unusual as was an espaliered red Japanese maple. A weeping blue Atlas cedar was a gorgeous specimen tree.

Immediately after our arrival at the Cox Arboretum, we were greeted by a full-blown storm with thunder, lightning and sheets of rain, so the gift shop did a good business. We were able to see some of the garden later including a Japanese garden with rocks and a running stream. There was a five-story tower overlooking stately trees and lawn. Of particular interest to me was a corylus contorta with purple foliage. Because the rain cut short our visit, we did not have enough time to see the whole garden. Our day ended at our hotel in Cincinnati.

In the morning our first stop was the Krohn Conservatory where the visitor is greeted by 3 huge weeping beeches. In the annual garden were small eucalyptus plants (the kind you sometimes see in floral arrangements) paired with purple pepper plants. Another attraction was red Japanese maples with twisted trunks and Japanese lilacs all in bloom. Inside the conservatory was a wall hanging of 12"x12" boxes linked and suspended by chains planted with succulents, sedums and moss. There was also an extensive display of bonsai trees. A highlight of the visit was an exhibit of the butterflies of Morocco with children delighted by the butterflies landing on them.

Yew Dell Botanical Gardens in Crestwood, Kentucky is 33 acres with many lovely large and small vistas. Plants that interested me were Oregon grape holly with bunches of blue "grapes," redbud 'Silver Cloud' (white and cream variegated leaves), hydrangea 'Little Honey' with bright gold foliage, and a hosta 'Halcyon' (truly blue). Unusual trees were a magnolia 'Colossus' with white tulip-like flowers with large red centers; a magnolia with whitish leaves 18" x 9" and an oak-leaf beech.

At the Buffalo Trace Distillery we took a tour explaining the distilling process and had a whiskey tasting. The gardens there are just being constructed. After dinner we had fun at the “purple garden elephant swap.”

The Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum covering 733 acres with 1200 species of trees and shrubs was started in 1845 during a cholera epidemic. There are huge vistas with stately trees and 15 man-made lakes and natural springs. One beautiful specimen was a Chinese chestnut with spiky blossoms; another was the state champion cedar of Lebanon and a state champion tall and slender fir tree. The corkscrew silver fir is whimsical with large bunches of foliage with space between like a bonsai tree. The Spring Grove dogwood is large with larger white flowers, and the Spring Grove arbor vitae is a fast-growing narrow tree that is deer resistant. Lovely specimens were a weeping katsura tree and a weeping limber pine, a black magnolia with a very wide crown and limbs almost touching the ground. Interesting maples were one with cream, green and pink leaves that were red underneath, and a small-leafed maple with peeling cinnamon bark.

In Newport, Kentucky we joined a neighborhood garden walk where the gardens were very small but lovingly designed and kept. Because the houses are very close together, there are warm microclimates where plants like crape myrtle can grow. A Japanese maple was pruned to cover a fence, and variegated boxwood caught my eye. Bayberry hedges were new to me.

We ate lunch at the Hofbrauhaus that celebrated their German heritage with food and beer. Our last stop was at the Perennial Plant Peddler in Findlay, Ohio, a nursery specializing in unusual plants. We filled the bottom of the bus with our purchases and headed home full of ideas for our own gardens.

—Submitted by Jean Gramlich



Detroit Then and Now – “Feet on the Street Tour”

You’re invited to experience the very best of Detroit’s gardens, food, art, architecture, history, music and neighborhood landmarks through the eyes of a tourist via a one-day custom coach trip sponsored by the Master Gardener Society of Oakland County. The tour is open to the public. MGSOC, Inc. is affiliated with Michigan State University Extension.

Linda Yellin, founder of “*Feet on the Street Tours*” will be our guide through some of Detroit’s prominent, nostalgic, historic and cultural tourism destinations on Saturday, September 7 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Your tour will include stops at *Lafayette Garden*, *Rivard Plaza*, *Milliken State Park Nature Trail*, *Earthworks Urban Farm and Capuchin Soup Kitchen*, a private garden in *Brush Park* historic neighborhood, *Eastern Market and Market Sheds* (tour, shop and lunch on your own). Following lunch we will proceed to *The Greening of Detroit Project* and their *Hoop Gardens*, the community gardens in historic *North Corktown*, *Campus Martius*, *East Riverwalk* area and the *Heidelberg Project*.

The trip is open to all who love to garden and those with a passion for the positive image of the city of Detroit – one need not be a Master Gardener to participate in this outstanding trip. Master Gardeners will earn education hours.

The bus departs from the Michigan State University Extension Office, 1200 N. Telegraph Rd., North Office Building, #26 East, Pontiac, MI 48341. Bus boarding will begin at 8 a.m. and depart promptly at 8:30 a.m.

Tickets are \$45, limited and selling quickly. Contact Shelley Lake at lakess@sbcglobal.net or by phone at 248-219-6437. Shelley can also answer any questions you may have about this exciting “*Feet on the Street Tour*.”

Some Information You Should Know

MGSOC Board Members

President: Margy Truza.....(248)644-3560
Vice President: Sally Bolle.....(248)813-0328
Secretary: Ruth Vrbenski.....(248)969-6904
Treasurer: Jean Gramlich(810)714-2343
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Hospitality Greeter: Carole Carroll.....(248)321-8669
& Sally Teague.....(248)546-0280
Membership: Lavon Cook.....(248)939-7047
Programs: Betty Peters.....(248)651-8374
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**Currently Available Opportunities: Communications,
Education, Project Support, Volunteer Activities**

Mission Statement

It is the Master Gardener Society of Oakland County's Mission to assist, enable, and encourage its members to use their horticultural knowledge and experience to help the people of their communities, enrich their lives through gardening and good gardening practices.

Michigan State University Extension- Oakland County
“Bringing Knowledge to Life”

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