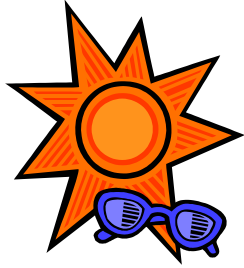


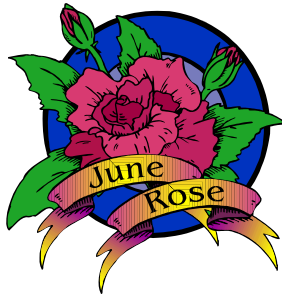
Roots & Shoots



Master Gardener
Society of
Oakland County, Inc.



June – July 2013



June 11, 2013 @ 6:30pm
MGSOC General Society Meeting & Location
Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church
5631 North Adams Rd, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

Speaker : Bob Williams
Education: " Practical Phragmites Control "

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



July 9, 2013 @ 6:30pm
MGSOC General Society Meeting & Location
Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church
5631 North Adams Rd, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

Speaker : Janet Macunovich
Education: " Design Tips for Garden Art "

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



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.



Carol's Corner

By the time you read this, the annual Recognition Banquet will be a pleasant memory. 99 people attended the dinner at White Lake Oaks Country Club. There were 28 Basic Certifications awarded, 47 Advanced Certificates, 37-250 Hours Pins, 17-500 Hours Pins, 3-1000 Hours Pins, 4-1500 Hours Pins, 4-2000 Hours Pins, 1-2500 Hours Pin, and 1-3500 Hours Pin! All who attended were given their Certificates/Pins in person. We mailed the rest to all the Honorees. Congratulations to all of you and thank you for your service!

I was so pleased to give new status to long time Master Gardeners Dr. David Thompson and Marvin Copley. They met the criteria for the new title of "Master Gardener Emeritus"! They have both given exemplary service to the MGVP for so many years. Dave Thompson will be given his award at the next MGSOC Meeting.

Master Gardener of the Year was awarded to Margy Truza! Margy took the training class in 2005 and has taken leadership roles on many projects, pretty much since her training ended. Of course, all of you know her as she has now become president of the Master Gardener Society of Oakland County. She has done so much for the Society and its projects, as well as Project RED and the Continuing Education Committee. I hope you all take the time to congratulate her the next time you see her.

I also want to recognize and thank the Banquet Committee. This hard working committee consists of Jan Stephens, Kay Kisell, John Olsen, Margaret Nemeth, Emily Banks, and Paula Brose. They take charge of this event and are responsible for the great door prizes, centerpieces, etc.

Now that the volunteer season has kicked off I'd also like to recognize all who take leadership roles in the farmers markets. These are our Master Scheduler, Ruth Parulis, and team leaders Carla Spradlin, Mary Schwark, Suzanne Huening, Paula Brose, Maria Yamasaki, Teresa Ververis, and Paul Lukasciewicz. We dropped our involvement in the Rochester Market when no one stepped forward to take on the role of team leader for it.

We will be wrapping up the *Ask a Master Gardener...Helping People Grow. Program* in 2 weeks. Denise Jones has once again taken the leadership on this project. I toured some of the sites last weekend and all the volunteers seemed to be having a good time. This program helps both the retail garden centers and our office as it's a fundraiser for us.

Thank you to all who volunteer at the markets and for Ask a MG. If you have never done this type of volunteering (information tables), I recommend that you try it. You'll then realize how much you really do know and have fun too.

The next big event is Master Gardener College on Campus on June 21/22. In case you missed the email notice, you can find the link to register at <http://mg.msue.msu.edu/>. It's a great way to get your educational credits done and meet Master Gardeners from all over Michigan. I hope to see you there!

Wishing you all a great spring and summer. I hope all your gardens grow beautifully and you make new friends amongst our Oakland County Master Gardener family and the groups we serve.

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

June 11	Bob Williams	Practical Phragmites Control	
July 9	Janet Macunovich	Design Tips for Garden Art	
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		

Ornamental Grasses



In April we met at Telly's for a talk on ornamental grasses, and George Papadelis also talked about impatiens alternatives and the newest in annuals and perennials. He gave us some very comprehensive handouts on grasses and what's new for 2013 that will be useful in planning future plantings.

Due to downey mildew, it is not advisable to plant impatiens this year. Possible alternatives are New guinea impatiens, sunpatiens, begonias ('Big,' 'Lotto,' 'Whopper,' and 'Waterfall' and 'Dragon Wings') are all possibilities.

Many of the ornamental grasses are hardy natives and do well in a broad range of soils. They can be used in masses, as groundcovers and specimens and for erosion control. There are grasses for sun and shade. Grasses are generally low maintenance with little problem with pests and diseases. They often provide winter interest, and some of them are evergreen and should never be cut back. Others are cut

back in the spring just before new growth begins. Grasses come in many heights, types of bloom and inflorescences and in leaf color and variegation.

Ophiopogons are evergreen ground covers, the most interesting one being 'Black Mondo'. It grows in part shade to sun. I have not found this grass to be hardy in my garden. Other evergreens are blue festuca and a larger, hardier species called blue oat grass (a favorite of mine). On the other end of the height spectrum is Erianthus ravennae that grows 10-12' tall and has pampas grass plumes on it. Arundo is also very tall, but the blooms shatter in the winter.

Miscanthus is the queen of grass with many forms and heights including spectacular leaves that are variegated with gold or white, some horizontally and others vertically. The shape also varies from the more open shape of zebra grass to the upright porcupine grass. A newer and more spectacular upright form is called 'Gold Bar.' 'Morning Light' is just beautiful if viewed with sunlight behind it. 'Giganteus' grows 8-12' tall and provides winter interest.

Calamagrostis x acutiflora blooms very early, and thus has a special place in the garden. 'Karl Foerster' is a common cultivar as are 'Avalanche' and 'Overdam', both variegated.

Carex 'Bowl's Golden' grows in moist shade. It provides texture and contrasting color in the garden. An eye-catcher is Hakenechloa 'Aurea' that can absolutely light up a shady spot and makes a good companion for blue hosta.

Ribbon grass is a variegated groundcover that is extremely invasive and should only be used in very controlled conditions. Another invasive species is Elymus 'Glaucus' that grows 3' tall with very blue leaves.

Panicums are switchgrasses and come in a variety of heights sometimes with foliage that can have a blue tinge and turn red as the season progresses. Japanese blood grass 'Red Baron' is red all season and can be grown in light shade, though it tends to be weedy. The pennisetums, otherwise known as fountain grasses, live up to their name with a very graceful shape, different heights and inflorescences - 'Karley Rose' has distinctive airy pink blooms. 'Red Head' is 5' tall with a heavy red inflorescence. Cultivars of Little Bluestem can be very blue with mauve on the stems as well. In my garden 'Dallas Blues' has wonderful color all season long.

I have only touched on the varieties and uses for the many grasses that are currently available for our gardens. Every garden should have at least a few specimens!

—Submitted by Jean Gramlich

Bonsai



Bonsai (pronounced bone-sigh) literally means “tree in a pot” in Japanese. Todd Renshaw gave a brief history of the art form for our May meeting. We know from tomb paintings that bonsai originated in China at least 1500 years ago, and that the original trees were collected from the mountains where the trees had been twisted and dwarfed by harsh conditions. Zen Buddhists brought the art form to Japan 800 years ago. Techniques evolved to artificially dwarf and shape young trees to make them look ancient and natural. Servicemen returning to the US after World War II brought the art form here.

Many kinds of trees and shrubs, especially those with small leaves, with different horticultural requirements can be used: azalea, burning bush, barberry, boxwood, cherry, Chinese sweet plum, cotoneaster, crabapple, dawn redwood, elm, false cypress, fig, holly, hornbeam, ivy, jade, juniper, Japanese maple, larch, olive, pine, privet, quince, schefflera, spruce, wisteria and zelkova. Fig is a good starter for a beginner, and dwarf conifers are cheap.

Use a small pot in proportion to the tree with granular soil. Drainage is extremely important, and improper watering is a major cause of problems. A bonsai tree needs the same care as a regular tree, and outdoor trees need to be kept outdoors. A rule of thumb is to grow trees that are 2 zones hardier than where they are growing (zone 3 for us). The roots need winter protection with mulch around the lower part of the pot, and the tree needs protection from the wind. After several years, the plant is removed from the pot, root pruned, and replaced in the same pot with new soil.

The bonsai artist shapes the tree by pruning, pinching, wiring and root pruning. The Japanese have refined many rules of design for different styles, achieving balance (but not symmetry). The beauty of the root base, trunk, bark, branching and foliage are all considered. Although the trees themselves are small, they should trick the viewer’s eye into seeing a full-sized tree with emphasis on great age and the illusion of great height. The trunk should taper with a slight curve or lean to suggest movement. The tree should form a triangle of unequal sides.

Bonsai is time-consuming and difficult, so the trees are expensive. If you would like to learn more about bonsai, the Four Seasons Bonsai Club meets at Telly’s Greenhouse in Troy. The club’s annual show is scheduled for June 29-30 at Telly’s.

—Submitted by Jean Gramlich

Sprinkling Cans

Eva Ehrman

Visiting to cheer a friend,
Chatting there a while,
Taking drops of fun and joy,
Helping grow a smile...
All are as water from a can,
Sprinkled here and there.
Human folk, like garden friends,
Need some love and care.

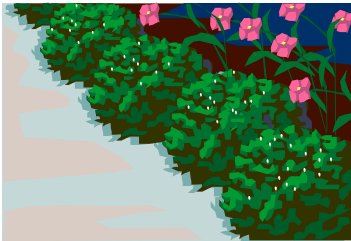


2013 Conference on Elements of Design for Sustainable Landscapes



If you were unable to attend the first-ever conference presented by the Master Gardener Society of Oakland County, Inc. you really missed a unique opportunity to hear some of the finest speakers in the country. But this conference offered so much more than just the speakers.

The committee that planned this conference for over the past year really outdid themselves. Each outstanding expert presenting was uniquely qualified to educate on their particular topic, and they were not only knowledgeable and captivating speakers, but fun!



Dr. Rick Darke kicked off the conference with a slide show of his photos of richly layered woodland landscapes, blending art, ecology and cultural geography in the creation and conservation of livable landscapes. **Melinda Myers** of *Birds & Blooms* fame, as well as books and TV, discussed garden renovations for any size landscape. The books of these two authors and speakers were sold at the conference, and were graciously autographed during the lunch break. After lunch (and perfect for keeping us all awake) **Dr. Laura Deeter** of Ohio State University amused and educated us with her lively antics on stage and extensive knowledge of sustainable landscaping. And finally, **Dr. Art Cameron** of Michigan State University presented a slide show of his personal gardens that combines perennials, annuals, herbs and vegetables for the ultimate cultivation of creativity.

Each person attending the conference was given a bag chock full of garden information, magazines, coupons and assorted goodies that only a garden-loving person would appreciate. In addition, they received a coupon for donated garden items that were pulled throughout the day.

Attendees could also purchase raffle tickets for the two grand raffle items. Our own Carol Lenchek was the winner of the *Bird Lovers Cart*, with a retail value of \$312.67, and Kathy Thomas won the *Gardener's Gadgets* price with a retail value of \$471.47! Congratulations, and many thanks to Janie Grissom who put these items together.



Our garden market was another win for us, providing participants an opportunity to shop for jewelry, garden art, plants, Master Gardener items, and a variety of other things that gardeners love to purchase.

Many thanks to the members of this very fine committee who worked tirelessly to provide first-rate speakers, and ensure that every aspect of this first conference was perfection. Our survey of attendees indicated that of over 250 garden lovers in attendance, 141 were Master Gardeners! The surveys also indicated that the

conference was an outstanding success with everyone wanting us to do it again. That's exactly what we're planning, so watch for our second annual conference coming up in 2014.

—Submitted by Sally Bolle



Renewal
by Natalie S. Thistle

Have you ever crept out early on a lovely April day
Left the dishes on the table and the beds in disarray...

And walked a way barefooted while the dew was on the grass
To break the misty cobwebs where're you chanced to pass?

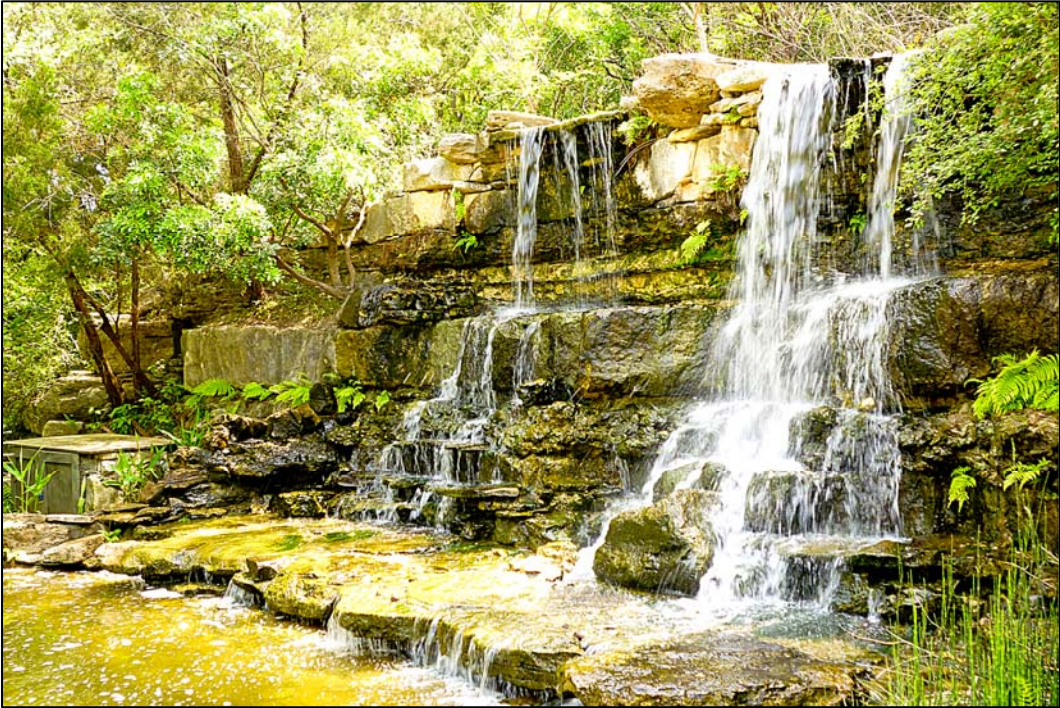
Have you seen the lilies nodding, as they gossiped with their friends
Or caught the blackbird's colors spread out where the river bends?

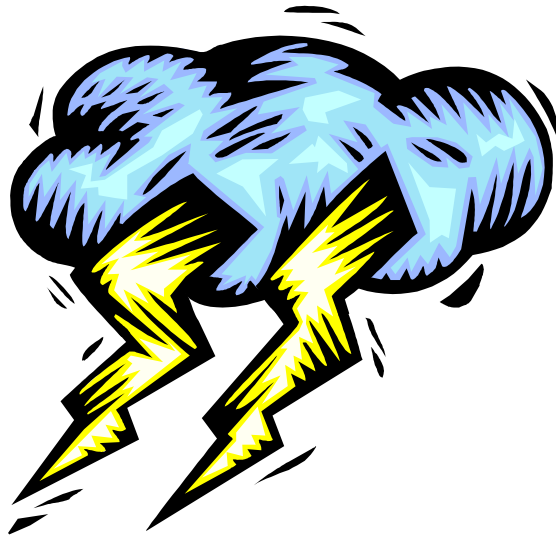
Did you hear the robin's lilting call, as he greets the coming day
And the pine boughs whispering, or feel the sun's warm ray?

The morning mist is lifting, Night's dark shadows steal away
And Spring in all her splendor makes ready for the day.

Oh, I have chores beyond the door, a dozen more or less
But I'll pause another moment here, amid this liveliness.

**Hartman Prehistoric Garden
(A Part of Zilker Botanical Gardens, Austin, Texas)**





In case of severe inclement weather such as snow, ice, hail, rain, strong winds, flooding , tornado watch or other natural calamity this procedure is to be initiated in order to cancel a preset meeting for the Master Gardener Society Oakland County members.

- The President shall contact the Society Executive Board (SEB)
- Determination of cancellation made
- President contacts the following:
 - Master Gardener Coordinator (Carol Lenchek 248.858.0900) OR
Linda Smith 248.858.0887
 - Communications Team (Dick and Peggy Wanat)
 - Project Support Team Leader (Denise Brown)
 - Church Door Poster (Margy Truza)
 - Program Team Leader (Betty Peters)

The Master Gardener Coordinator leave a phone message notifying callers of the meeting cancellation.

The Communications Team will post cancellation notice on Facebook and MGSOC Website www.mgsoc.org

The Project Support Team Leader will issue an email Blast notice of cancellation.

The Church Door Poster will place a notice on the door at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church.

The Vice President will notify the appropriate personnel at BSLC of the meeting cancellation.

The Program team will notify speaker of cancellation and advise President re: ramifications if any.

Those Society members who do not have email or who come directly from work need to verify meeting status by phoning the Master Gardener Coordinator and listening to the phone message. This procedure should be completed no later than 3 p.m. of set meeting day.

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
Team Administrator: (open)

MSU Extension Oakland County Coordinator

Advisor: Carol Lenchek (248)858-0900
lenchekc@oakgov.com

Team Coordinators

Bowers Farm: Marianne Cotter.....(248)393-0068
Project Support: Denise Brown (248)640-5977
Hospitality: Kathy Sobanski.....(248)858-6980
Hospitality Greeter: Carole Carroll.....(248)321-8669
& Sally Teague.....(248)546-0280
Membership: Lavon Cook.....(248)939-7047
Programs: Betty Peters.....(248)651-8374
Door prize Coordinator: Janie Grissom....(248)887-6096
Trips & Tours: Sandie Parrott(248)394-1532
Corresponding Secretary: Nancy Schmid..(248)651-7639
Roots & Shoots Editor: Dick Wanat.....(248)644-5699

Web Site Address: www.mgsoc.org
Webmaster: Sheri Trout sheri@oaklandweb.com
Web Site Calendar: Peggy Wanat pwanat43@comcast.net

**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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Charlene Molnar...248-858-0902
Horticulture Advisor
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Hours of operation vary seasonally

Robin Danto...248-858-0904
Extension Educator~Food Safety
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Extension Educator~4-H Youth Programs
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March 15 for April/May issue
July 15 for August/September issue
November 15 for December/January issue

To help reduce mailing expenses, if you have Internet access we encourage you to read Roots & Shoots online at the Master Gardener Society website www.mgsoc.org.

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