

Roots & Shoots



Master Gardener
Society of
Oakland County, Inc.



August – September 2015

	<p>August 11, 2015 @ 6:30pm MGSOC General Society Meeting & Location Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church 5631 North Adams Rd, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304</p> <p>Speaker : Heather Glenday Education: “What’s Going on in the Garden”</p> <p>A business meeting will take place, prior to the start of our Educational Program.</p>
	<p>September 8, 2015 @ 6:30pm MGSOC General Society Meeting & Location Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church 5631 North Adams Rd, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304</p> <p>Speaker : Janet Macunovich Education: “Bulbs: Choosing, Planting & Growing”</p> <p>A business meeting will take place, prior to the start of our Educational Program.</p>
	<p>October 13, 2015 @ 6:30pm MGSOC General Society Meeting & Location Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church 5631 North Adams Rd, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304</p> <p>Speaker : Karen Burke Education: “Dehydrating Vegetables: Basics and Beyond”</p> <p>A business meeting will take place, prior to the start of our Educational Program.</p>



Notes from Carol

It's hard to believe its mid-summer already. I hope that you're enjoying time in your own gardens and in the volunteer projects you are working in.

This year I had the pleasure of attending the Troy Garden Walk and the Clarkston Garden Walk. What a treat! I highly recommend you go on at least one walk per year. It's a great way to find new inspiration with plant combinations and see what the latest trends are in garden art. In these 2 garden walks there were 3 Master Gardeners whose gardens were showcased. What a treat to see you in your gardens! It adds a whole new layer for me when I think of you and your gardens were wonderful! I may be a bit biased but I think they were the best gardens on the walks!

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Please take a few minutes to enter your hours if you haven't done so already this year. Lynne Shull is now our full time clerical for the Master Gardener Program in Oakland County and she will be happy to assist you if you have any problems. Please take advantage of her. She understands the system and is waiting for your call! Her phone # is 248-858-0887 and email is shull@oakgov.com. Lynne is in Monday-Friday 8:30-5:00. Leave a message if she doesn't pick up the phone and she'll call you back.

Our Fall training class will be at Tollgate. The class is full though a few have not paid yet so the wait list people may still get in. The class will be held at Tollgate on Thursdays 9a.m. -1p.m from August 20-November 19. Look for the class assistant volunteer opportunity in an upcoming Oakland Gardener.

Thanks for your ongoing support of our program. Wishing you a wonderful summer.

Call for Articles



This newsletter depends on you to submit articles for its bi-monthly editions. If you have visited an interesting garden while on vacation, have attended a noteworthy class, or are knowledgeable in a gardening-related topic, please feel free to write an article to share and submit it for publication in a future edition. You may report your writing time as Volunteer Hours.

The deadline for the October—November Edition is September 15, 2015.

E-mail your articles to Roots & Shoots editor Dick Wanat at rwanat155056mi@comcast.net



The Year at a Glance—MGSOC Meetings/Events for 2015

August 11	Heather Glenday	What's Going on in the Garden
August 17		MGSOC Board Meeting 7PM @ Extension Office
September 8	Janet Macunovich	Bulbs: Choosing, Planting & Growing
October 13	Karen Burke	Dehydrating Vegetables: Basics and Beyond
October 19		MGSOC Board Meeting 7PM @ Extension Office
November 10	John Gaydos	New Annuals for 2016 and How to Use Annuals in the Garden
November 16		MGSOC Board Meeting 7PM @ Extension Office
December 8	Holiday Potluck	

...from the cabbage patch



Please remember to notify our Corresponding Secretary, Nancy Schmid, with member news so she can forward the appropriate correspondence to our fellow Master Gardeners. As corresponding secretary, Nancy sends cards of cheer, congratulations and condolences to our members as the situation warrants and Nancy would welcome being alerted to any such opportunities. She would also appreciate knowing whether or not the member wishes to share their news with everyone.

Nancy has been a Master Gardener since 2010 as well as a member of the Project Support Team since then. Nancy is also the keeper of the Master Gardener cookbooks so please keep her in mind if you have news to share or need a gift for gardener.

Contact Nancy at 248.651.7639 or 586.662.9394 (cell) or via email at nancy.c.s@comcast.net.

Care and Raising Of Dahlias

Keith Berven gave an excellent talk on the versatile dahlia for our June membership meeting. Dahlias can fulfill many functions in the garden: mass plantings, mixed in perennial beds, borders, containers and for exhibition.

The original ancestors of our beloved modern dahlias were native to the mountains of Mexico and Guatemala. As a result of a cross, dahlias have 8 sets of 8 chromosomes, so the possible variations are legion with 55,000 introduced varieties. The current handbook lists 1800 dahlias which have won a blue ribbon in the last 2 years.

Dahlias are classified by size (10), form (20) and color (15). Sizes range from giant at 10” to mini at 2”. Form describes the characteristics of the petals – flat, partially rolled, rolled, lacinated, etc. New forms do not breed true so they have to be reproduced through tissue culture. Colors include all the colors of the rainbow but blue, and some are variegated and bi-color. Different growth forms serve various purposes: garden, cut flower, borders, containers (smaller, floriferous), and show.

Tubers should be firm and have an eye on the tuber neck where it joins the old stem which will develop into a new shoot. Tubers can be planted directly into the ground when the soil temperature has reached at least 60 degrees. They should be planted 8” deep with the eye facing up and staked immediately. Fill the hole with 4” of soil and water once. The tuber will rot if you overwater. For earlier flowers plant in a pot in early May. If desired, the whole pot can be planted and dug in the fall, and the tuber can be kept in the pot for the winter. Dahlias prefer well-drained sandy loam with lots of organic matter, and they do well in raised beds. They prefer full sun but can be grown in part shade where they will grow taller. Space them 2' by 2'. Dahlias need staking – tomato cages serve the purpose well. They should be tied to the stake or cage several times during the season. Young plants do not need a lot of water, but they need 1” per week when they are larger.

Pests include slugs, earwigs, Japanese beetles, spider mites and powdery mildew. The usual remedies for these pests can be employed. When the plant has 4-8 pairs of leaves, pinching the terminal bud will increase the branches and flowers. Disbudding will produce larger, more beautiful flowers, but they will need support.

Storing tubers over the winter can be done in several ways: in the pot in a cool place or by digging and cleaning the tuber before wrapping it in plastic wrap and storing it in a cool place. Dahlias can be cloned by taking a cutting and rooting it. New varieties are found by planting the seeds and discovering what grows.

The Midwest show will be held at Washtenaw Community College on September 5th and 6th. The Southeast Michigan Dahlia Society show will be at Orchard Mall September 12th and 13th.

Submitted by Jean Gramlich

Garlic

Donna and Les Abel own the Michigan Garlic Farm in Pinckney in Livingston County and another farm in the northern Lower Peninsula. They presented our July program on their favorite plant. Their project started 38 years ago with 30 bulbs of hard-necked garlic; they planted 40,000 last October. There are 300-400 varieties of garlic, but they raise only one which they call “Northern Jewel.”

Garlic probably originated in central Asia and in the mountains of Pakistan. It has been known to man for thousands of years and has been found in Egyptian tombs from 3500 years ago; there is evidence that garlic trading may have occurred not long after the last ice age. The Spanish brought it to the Americas.

Garlic should be planted in October in well-drained soil with a pH of 6.5 to 7 and worked to a depth of 18”. Cloves are planted root side down 2-4” deep 6” apart in rows 1' apart. Garlic loves water but will rot if the soil is not well drained. Fertilizing, mulching and weeding are essential! It generally comes up around the first week in March, depending on the weather. The scapes appear in June and can be cut and used in cooking at that time, or they can be chopped and frozen for future use. If the scape is left on the plant, it will get woody, and the bulb will be smaller. If the scape is not cut, it will form an umbel with bulbils which are like small cloves. Les plants these to renew the vigor of his stock, although it takes a few years to grow a full-sized bulb. Garlic is harvested in mid-summer, cleaned (not washed) and hung in an airy place or placed in a mesh bag away from strong light to dry thoroughly. Optimum humidity is 45-50% because garlic is subject to mold and should not be refrigerated.

Garlic is well known for its medicinal and culinary uses. It lowers bad cholesterol and regulates good cholesterol, helps build the immune system, has anti-biotic properties, helps the body get rid of toxins, and has anti-inflammatory properties. When using garlic for cooking, cut, chop or crush it and then wait 15 minutes to activate enzymes that turn into allicin. If you grind garlic and mix it with olive oil, it should be frozen because the bacteria that cause botulism can grow in it otherwise.

The Abels sell their produce at farmers' markets and at the Michigan Now Festival July 31 to August 2 in Northville which features Michigan products. Their website is www.michigangarlicfarm.com.

Submitted by Jean Gramlich





SOMEONE / SOMEWHERE

Some people walk for fun, some walk for exercise, some walk with their children, some walk their dog, some walk the neighborhood, & some walk because they have nothing else to do.

Nancy Schmid walks with a purpose;
to earn money for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Walk.
Nancy does this to honor her niece, Jessie, who was overtaken by cancer.
Nancy walks so this does not keep happening to loved ones.
When Nancy finishes the 3-day walk in Dallas this November,
she will have walked 600 miles and raised over \$25,000.00 in eight years.

You may wonder how a person can walk 60 miles in 3 days. You are given a 20-week schedule to prepare yourself. Five days you walk, and on Tuesday and Thursday you do aerobics or swim. You start out walking 3 miles a day and keep adding miles until you can walk 20 miles a day. All of this sounds good, but in reality, if you cannot make 20 miles a day, there are workers who will drive you to the over-night camping area. There you are given a pink tent for the night, food to eat, and a lifetime of emotion and friendships full of laughter, hugs and tears.

On Nancy's very first walk in 2008, there were over 3,000 people, and every person in the walk had a cancer story to tell. Nancy has heard many of these stories and made many friends.

On her walk in 2009, Nancy's daughter Jen and her sister-in-law Helen walked together. They met five nurses who joined forces with them and they called themselves the Crazy 8's. Much laughter and tears flowed through their stories and experiences. Nancy's daughter Jen, continues to walk with her every year.

You may wonder how Nancy raises so much money each year. That's where her Master Gardening knowledge comes into the story. Nancy's large front and back yards are not only beautiful, but are utilized for growing and selling plants such as, Hostas, Daylilies, Persicaria, Iris, Foxglove, and Lambs Ear. She also receives plant donations from Master Gardener friends. Her patio in the back yard has plenty of space for shelves to display the plants. Her prices are very reasonable. Although you can buy plants from her at any time, she does have a special "Plant Sale Day" in July. She advertises her sale at the entrance to the sub, and Craig's List. Many of her customers come back year after year. She also uses rebates from her credit cards for this project, and she gets donations from friends and family.



Some of the plants for sale



Cart made by Nancy's Dad

Nancy grew up on a farm in northern Wisconsin and got plenty of garden knowledge helping with all the vegetables and flowers they grew. When she was 18, she went to Luther Hospital School of Nursing and Eau Claire State University, in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Nancy has been a nurse for 51 years.

Nancy met Dave at the University of Wisconsin Hospital. They married one year later and have been married for 48 years. Dave joined the Air Force and was promoted to Captain. With Dave's career they moved a lot, so Nancy got to work in the following places as they traveled: Univ. of Colorado in Denver; St. Joseph Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska; U.S. Navy Hospital in Taipei, Taiwan; Iowa Lutheran in Des Moines, Iowa; Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas, TX; and William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, MI. Nancy has worked in every field of nursing such as; ICU, Staff, Management, Education, Neurology Nurse Clinician, etc. This equals to a lot of nursing positions in many places for 46 years before she retired from Beaumont Hospital in 2010.

When Dave and Nancy moved to Taipei, they had a 15 month old boy, Christopher. Nancy worked at the U.S. Navy Hospital until her twin girls, Jennifer and Joanne, were born. They enjoyed living there for two years. They moved to Michigan in 1984. As the children grew, Nancy got involved with their school activities, such as Girls Soccer Coach for eight years. Dave and Nancy now have five grandchildren and enjoy taking vacations and visiting with them.

In 2000, Nancy was at the Michigan State Fair and visited the Master Gardener Booth. When asked why she likes to garden, she said she likes to play in the dirt. She was quickly informed that "It is not dirt, it is soil". In the fall of 2010 Nancy enrolled in the Master Gardener Class. In 2011, she received her MG Certificate and Advanced MG Certificate. This opened up another new world for her. She is a member of the Master Gardener Society of Oakland County (MGSOC) and obtains her hours volunteering at Bowers Farm, selling the MGSOC cookbooks, Project Support, Hospitality, working MGSOC Conferences in 2014 and 2015, assists with the MG training classes, helped at the 2015 Spring Expo at Bordines, and Ask the Master Gardener Booth at Auburn Oaks. Nancy is now Corresponding Secretary for MGSOC.

She also belongs to the Meadowbrook Garden Club and every Tuesday takes care of the flowers around Knole Cottage, along with other things that need to be done.

The gardens in Nancy's front and back yards are beautiful. They recently had some brick work done on their pathway to the house and are planning to put a Tricolor Beech tree in the front. As you can see by the picture below, a gardener's work is never done. Dave has dug a wide trench around their Linden tree in the front, being careful not to harm all the roots. They plan to fill this trench with mulch. As you walk up to the front door, there are many flowers and a beautiful "Twist & Shout" Hydrangea with pink and purple flowers. A beautiful fairy garden graces the front porch.

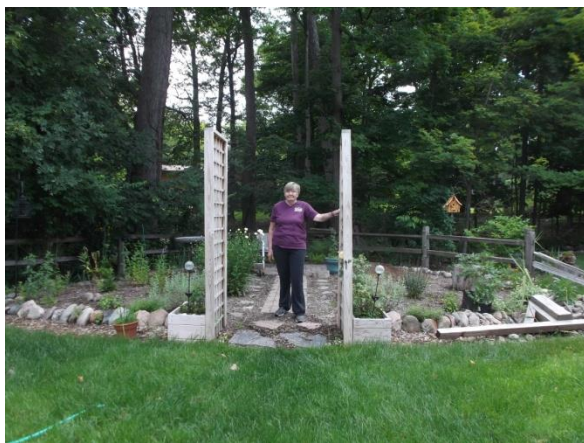


Trench work in progress



Twist & Shout Hydrangea at front entrance

Since their home is on a corner, they have a lot of room for a variety of flowers; Spiderwort, Donkey Tail, Smoke Plant, Lungwort, Solomon's Seal, Petunias, Ferns, Geraniums, Balloon Flowers, Jacob's Ladder, Bee Balm, Lupines, Goats Beard, Bugleweed, Turtlehead, a variety of Hostas, Lilly of the Valley, Shrimp Plant, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, and many more plants. I could go on and on filling the page with all the beautiful flowers and trees she has. Nancy also has a special area where she plants Hostas and other plants she plans to sell for her "Walk".



Pictures of the Woodland Garden in the back yard



One of the fairy gardens



Whimsical Treasures



Mr. Frog lives in this hole



Nancy's favorite toy in the garden--a Kaleidoscope they bought in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin

Along with all the gardening and the garden clubs, Nancy and Dave love to find the time to travel. Their dog, Sir Charles, who they got when he was born 5 years ago, travels everywhere with them. Next year they plan to take a road trip to Alaska and take Sir Charles with them. What a wonderful trip it will be. Alaska is an exciting and wonderful place to visit.

I'm sure they will enjoy the flowers and wildlife they will see. I wonder what interesting item(s) they will bring back?

Submitted by Sylvia A. Schult

Notes from Nutcase Nursery



Now is the time of year when many gardeners are faced with abundance. It could be rain, heat, zucchini or lamb's ears, garlic, quackgrass, tomatoes or mosquitoes. There will likely be something in your world that will signal your brain that enough is enough, and enough has a sneaky way of becoming too much.

I am well aware of how my Earth Mother neurosis began and how it bloomed each season. There were two activities that reinforced my fear of letting go. One was a series of failed attempts to start certain plants from seed. The other mitigating factor was overzealous weeding sprees which almost caused the loss of entire populations of specific cultivars.

For seven years I tried propagating *Knautia*. Finally I managed to birth one plant and I set it out in a place of pride only to have it become a gangly, deep-cranberry colored bunch of buttons that have absolutely no sense of style or decorum. And while I couldn't get them to grow from seed year after year, they had the nerve to migrate across the driveway by themselves just for spite after they eventually sprouted.

Morning glories were another fiasco. It was embarrassing because they should have been so easy. Finally I managed to sprout some to grow on the back fence behind the vegetable garden. Now they're everywhere. I pull all I see knowing full well that there will be seedlings that will manage to survive no matter how diligent I am. And that's okay because a few are manageable. When they begin to strangle the asparagus, lilacs and peonies, something's got to be done. I am grateful they are annuals but they still can get carried away making seeds. I prefer the little bush morning glories with the deep royal blue flowers. For climbing vines, I'll take cardinal flower and scarlet runner beans any day.

As another example, the *Lychnis coronaria* (rose campion) is totally out of control this year for two reasons. The first is that I was unable to thin it last season and the second is that many years ago I thinned it so well it disappeared. Fortunately, the fuzzy-leafed, glow-in-the-dark, magenta colored biennial had dropped enough seed for a small-scale repopulation and I learned my lesson. For now, the sanitation guys will again think I'm crazy for filling a big compost can with soft gray leaves and flowers that were so pretty but blocking most of the paths.

You can't save everything. That's how backyard nurseries are born. You have to be strong and sensible. When there is a culprit that makes its way through life by prolifically producing seed, make certain that you are out there with clippers the minute the flowers fade. The common Asiatic orange lily, the ones usually seen on the side of a country road, set seed bulbils on their stalks. To control some of their hussiness you can run your hand down the stem and knock the bulbils off and dispose of them. Waiting for the blooms to finish will allow the bulbils to ripen and that gives them much better opportunity to propagate. They are fun but get carried away. At least the adult *Lilium* are easy to remove, very unlike Lily-of-the-Valley (*Convallaria*) or the

accursed ladybells (*Adenophora*), which have migrated to the class of weeds instead of perennials.

And weeds are what I planned to write about this edition but first there are a few news flashes to share.



The moles are back in last year's spots and more. The Dingo is somewhat confounded by the moles because she knows that digging is not an approved activity. But worse, this year we have rabbits! She is flabbergasted by bunnies. The poor dog knows she isn't supposed to be in the garden but that's where the scents are the strongest. The bunnies have had a population explosion and between them, the moles and the cabbageworms, things are disappearing instead of growing.

It may be another strange season.

Some bald-faced hornets decided to build a nest under the front awning so I couldn't wash the windows or fool around in that bed much. I managed to prune the Baptisia and boxwoods without irritating them too much, but that was early on. Later all it took to cause a swarm was a tap on the glass. The exterminator said that they were getting calls for these pests very early this year. Normally they deal with these hornets in late August. I told the man that I expected him to take them back to the farm where they would live happily ever after. That's when he offered me the senior discount.

The first sign of a warm-blooded critter problem was the disappearance of a whole pepper plant. Then half of the one row of edamame was neatly sheared at an angle from the back of the row to the middle. I put a cold frame over the worst part of the row so the plants will resprout leaves and hopefully catch up. Two days later the rest of the row was chewed down. But it gets worse.

I was sitting in the middle of the carrot and radish patch pulling weeds and leaned up to refresh my spine only to catch sight of a large rabbit munching the rest of the soybeans not ten feet from me.

Of course I hollered. The Dingo was hiding in the *Hostas* under the willow, staring down a squirrel in the spruce across the path, clear on the other side of the yard. She came bounding, but the bunny was out of the garden and out of the yard, thanks to its ability to fit its diamond shaped head and body through the chain link fence.

Among pleasant surprises: I am happy to report that the corn was knee-high before the Fourth of July and I didn't have to hire a toddler to measure it against. And I was absolutely delighted to have the Cherry Brandy *Rudbeckia* I planted last year come up with claret-colored blooms that are fantastically rich and sturdy. I also happened to finally raise a Chinese *Delphinium* from seed after thirty years of trying to grow them. Plus, it is the most perfect Lion's blue which looks wonderful with the bush morning glories.

Sadly I haven't seen Herald the Hummer or any of his relatives but a wren has spent hours trying to make a nest inside the plastic hawk that I use to supposedly scare things away. The robin population has bloomed like the bunnies' and they cleaned all the Black Swallowtail butterfly larvae I had growing on the dill but I also think they probably cleaned up many of the cabbageworms as well.

I have yet to see a Monarch and all of the milkweeds are in bloom.

The raspberry crop has been beautiful this year and every time I pick 3 cups I have to make jam. One of the biggest problems I have time-wise is trying to get people to understand that when you are farming, no matter what the scale, there are things that must be done and they must be done when they must be done. You are always juggling weather, conditions and opportunities. Not to mention sabotage.

How else do you explain a bright yellow Asiatic lily growing smack dab in the center of an almost thirty year old daylily? Or common milkweed suddenly appearing in a well-managed, highly visible specimen garden? I can understand why thistle appeared after a black walnut tree was evacuated --- juglone suppresses and/or kills a lot of plants --- but I am always fascinated at how Nature finds a way.

I have had many fern-leafed *Dicentra* in my career and they are not necessarily long-lived. But many, many years ago I put one in the driveway garden where conditions, I thought, were ideal. The plant disappeared from the bed and wound up living happily inside of a yew on the property line about five feet away. It's still alive, robust, and, although elderly, thriving inside its woody cage in a river rock mulch.

The pink *Epimedium* moved itself from the front to the sideyard a few years after it was purchased, over twenty feet from its original location. Its sister, a white one was planted in the *Hosta* garden and moved itself ten feet. I could understand if they were propagated and the mother plant stayed put while seed could be migrated these distances but why argue with their success?

We want to talk about weeds this issue. While we may have "favorite" weeds, those two words are rarely used together in most gardeners' lives. The closest I can get to a favorite weed is probably the purslane that has turned itself into a miniature groundcover between the flagstones on the back walk. They are adorably to scale with their space and don't turn into the gangly, succulent pads that signal us when the ground is warm enough for beans, corn and squash in the big garden.



So since weeds are just plants where we don't want them, I mention them in no particular order. I can start with one of my most pesky weeds, *Glechoma hederacea*, otherwise known as Creeping Charlie or ground ivy. It's a groundcover that supposedly prefers shade by my Charlie doesn't play favorites. It grows everywhere. One very good way to deal with it is to rake it. It has shallow roots and most of it comes out readily. I also use a big meat fork to pry up the ends so I can peel back to the main root and pull it. However you rid it

from your lawn, do not compost it until you have laid it out on preferably hot cement to cook itself dead. Or you could just consider it a ground cover that has cut little blue flowers and smells like mint, because it is in the mint family. But, you know you can't really trust mint either.

Another adorable pest, Chickweed (*Stellaria media*), is best gotten before it flowers because it produces thousands of seeds and the seeds are not what you want around. If you are mowing low, you should increase blade height. Pull it and its shallow roots out with your favorite garden tool and you can eat it raw or cooked. It supposedly tastes just like chicken – I mean spinach.



Dandelions as a weed are usually welcomed as the first sign of spring but that impression comes from our tendencies to become deluded after protracted winters. We're usually up for anything that blooms but they too are opportunists and will grow anywhere. The most sensible and organic method of dealing with them is to pull them with a tool designed for such work like a V-shaped weeder. If you hear a snap, you didn't get the entire root so be on the lookout for a re-sprout and hit it again. Definitely dispose of them before they make fuzzies but keep in mind that ladybugs feed on dandelion flowers and you can put the leaves in salads if you haven't been poisoning things.

Another weed that can be dispatched with the same tool as used for dandelion removal is the popular plantain (*Plantago major*). It's presence is an indication that your soil is dense and compacted. It hangs out in moist shade as well as high traffic areas. You might want to keep some around though because a poultice of muddled plantain leaves has a healing effect on the skin and even treats poison ivy. It's interesting to watch young children treat a boo-boo by finding a plantain, chewing the leaves and slapping it on a mosquito bite. They usually belong to herbalists.

And how about that crabgrass!!! One of the all-time pains which sprouts per the temperature and has the audacity to later spread out and make roots with all of its little crab parts. It grows faster than your basic everyday grass and stays out there forever although it's an annual. First off, don't cut lower than 3". Crabgrass loves the open air above it and spreads its legs in all directions. A good tactic is to administer corn gluten before anything sprouts and you can judge the proper timing by listening to the *Forsythias*. The one redeeming quality of this weed is that it normally stays green when everything else turns brown. Unfortunately it's chartreuse green which almost glows in the dark.

Another crabby turf weed is annual Bluegrass (*Poa annua*). It is a cousin of Kentucky blue grass but definitely not perennial and thrives in damp, compacted soil that has often been a site for over fertilized Kentucky blue. Getting rid of it is pretty labor-intensive because it basically needs the gardener's hand for pulling, tilling or hoeing it out. Large areas need to be solarized and reseeded and it is another fine candidate for going after with corn gluten. It's only saving grace which is short-lived is that in the spring it looks normal enough to fake your lawn into looking green and thick.

Then there is my only form of weed entertainment, Quackgrass (*Agropyron repens*). When you're out in the heat and humidity, trying to clean and clear the weeds from perennial food

crops like the Egyptian walking onions and the berry bushes you need to cultivate a game mentality. Quackgrass establishes itself by its gangly root system and seeds which form on the stems. I entertain myself when working on it by trying to obtain the longest piece I can by weenie-ing out the roots with my fingers. When conditions are right (moist, loose soil) you can be very successful in ridding yourself of this curse but I don't really think that you can get it all. I have found some amazing networks of rootage which go very deep. Unfortunately, at every point there's a break, it re-propagates itself. Whatever you do, DON'T TILL IT. On the redemptive side, the Dingo loves to eat it but only if she picks it herself (it must not touch human hands) and used as a mulch, dead of course, it will deter slugs.

Last but not least you have white clover (*Trifolium repens*) which isn't always considered a weed. Although it tends to move into sparse areas that are low in N, you can use a hoe or a tiller to remove it, then spread a little compost over the area and reseed. For a more preventive mode, feed with a slow-release nitrogen fertilizer at the proper times for cool and warm season grasses. (Early spring and fall for the cool-season grasses and mid to late spring for warm season grasses.) I don't stress over clover because it's good for the bees, it extracts nitrogen from the air and fixes it in the soil. Sure I would love to have a stunning lawn but I would rather have bees. Remember, no bees, no food.

Many of the above weeds respond to corn gluten as a control product. It has 10% nitrogen in it so it's a useful fertilizer; it's safe for children and pets although I really don't like the Dingo eating it but she loves her corn; and when it's used at the proper time (pre-emergence) researchers at Iowa State University discovered that it reduced survival of dandelion, crabgrass, annual bluegrass, buckhorn plaintain, curly dock, purslane, lambs quarters and redroot pigweed by an average of 60%. With repeated applications you can get as much as 90% control of those weeds. Since corn gluten's anti-weed functionality comes from its ability to smother or prevent seeds from sprouting you would never use it on a lawn you are going to seed or on a newly-seeded lawn. Since it has 10% N, you only need to use 2# per 1000 square feet of lawn if you don't remove your clippings or 3# if you pick up your clippings. Keep in mind, when leaving your clippings you can reduce fertilizer applications for the season by one.

Now get back out there and say goodbye to some of the abundance you have, whether it's raspberries, weeds or insect pests. And thanks to the Ph.Ds. at the University of Illinois, Washington State U., North Carolina State and Iowa State University for providing the science behind this article.

HARVEST TABLE

Does your house of worship or club have a Harvest Table, where fresh flowers, fruits and vegetables are brought in and offered for a donation? One area church takes in over \$1,000 in donations for its feeding the hungry program every year.

Many seniors do not tolerate standing in check-out lines. They are able to attend services and have access to fresh produce.

Try It!

Submitted by Andrew Berry



Some Information You Should Know

MGSOC Board Members

President: Margy Truza.....(248)644-3560
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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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