



# Roots & Shoots

A Publication for Members of the MASTER GARDENER SOCIETY OF OAKLAND COUNTY, INC.

December 2016



Carol's "Selfie"

## CAROL LENCHEK RETIRES

By Marsha Beeman

The Master Gardener Society of Oakland County, Inc. would like to recognize Carol Lenchek for her 13 years of dedicated service to the Master

Gardener program, and 22 years with Oakland County. Sadly, on December 14, Carol will be retiring. Her devotion to the program (largest in the state) has made it a great experience for thousands of fellow Master Gardeners, myself included. What a wonderful legacy she has left, and all the people she has touched over the years in a special way.

So, thank you Carol for sharing your impressive journey with us from Huntington Woods, to Europe and India, to the University of Wisconsin at River Falls (B.A. in Agriculture / Plant Science), to Genesee County, to Oakland County holding classes in a basement, then to the Oakland County Conference Center, and to your final destination of retirement.

As an old journey ends, a new one is just beginning. Carol will not be slowing down in retirement. She plans on doing some traveling; Chicago (to see her twin sister), South Florida, and Mexico. In March, she will teach a class on indoor plants in Genesee County. The very talented educator that Carol is, she will continue teaching around the state in Grand Rapids, Northern Michigan, and the counties of Genesee, Macomb, and Washtenaw for the Michigan State University Extension. Carol also plans on volunteering at Bittersweet Farms and attending Society meetings. In the Fall of 2017, she plans on taking the Master Gardener class for herself.

Thank you Carol for your dedication and years of service. Happy retirement from all of us! ■

### SAVE THE DATE FOR CAROL'S PARTY!

A retirement party is planned in Carol's honor, to be held on Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at the **Forestré Banquet Center, ConCorde Inn**, 1919 Star-Batt Drive (Crooks and M-59, Rochester Hills, 48309. Time is 5-8 p.m., hors d'oeuvres and cash bar. Details to come!

### NOTE FROM YOUR NEW EDITOR

It is my privilege to be your new editor and to begin working with your new president, Sally Bolle.

My love of writing and flowers began at an early age in elementary school. I have continued both of these passions throughout my life. I received my B.A. in Psychology, with a minor in English from Oakland University. Then I earned my M.P.A. from the University of Southern California. For a few years, I worked as a reporter for *The Reminder* and *The Mature American* newspapers. I am a published author with three books: *Who Am I?* (McFarland, 1993), *Joan Fontaine: A Bio-Bibliography* (Greenwood, 1994), and *Where Am I?* (McFarland, 1997). Currently, I am the gardener at Oakhurst Golf and Country Club in Clarkston, where I continue my love of flowers. In April, I completed my Master Gardener classes. For over 31 years, I have written a newsletter for the senior citizens' group at my church. Now, I look forward to bringing you an informative, monthly newsletter that each of you deserve, as top-notch gardening enthusiasts.

Thank you for the opportunity to be your new editor!

Happy Gardening, Marsha Beeman ■

### HOSPITALITY AT MGSOC GENERAL MEETINGS – WE NEED YOU

By Kathy Sobanski, Team Lead, Hospitality

Each month at our monthly meetings, we offer "mini-meals" at 6 p.m. (in advance of our 6:30 p.m. business meeting). This is a fundraiser for our Society and helps cover the cost of our room at the church. It also covers our supplies. It's especially nice for those who do not have time to catch a meal before the meeting. Guests are always welcome for \$5.

We need more members to bring soup (winter) and salads (summer) main meals when requested. The Board recently made a decision that those bringing a main meal item do not pay the \$3. In addition, members can bring bread or desserts and snacks (not subject to the free meal but you do receive one hour of volunteer credit.

We also need Hospitality helpers for each meeting to help set up, make coffee and cleanup afterward. These members get volunteer hours for the amount of time served during the meeting. If you can help, please contact Kathy Sobanski at sobanskk@yahoo.com or 248-703-3801. ■



*Happy Holidays  
from the  
MGSOC Board  
of Directors!*

## ANNUAL HOLIDAY POTLUCK AND SILENT AUCTION

By now, you should have received e-blasts and information about our **Annual Holiday Potluck and Silent Auction**, taking place on Tuesday, December 13, 2016. It takes place at the same place as our Monthly General Meetings – **Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church**, 5631 North Adams Road, in Bloomfield Hills.

This meeting is different from other General Meetings as there will be a fabulous silent auction of many wonderful items – great for early Christmas shopping. We also have entertainment by the **Troy High School Choir** singing holiday carols and tables laden with delicious food. The Society will provide ham, turkey and beverages.

You must bring a dish to share that serves 10-12 people. Please call **Hospitality Team Leader Kathy Sobanski**, 248-703-3801 or e-mail her regarding food we still need if you have not yet signed up for a dish to bring. She also needs helpers for the gift table, setup and cleanup that night.

Those who desire may bring a generic \$10 gift to exchange. Bring a gift and get a gift! Participation is voluntary, but it's fun.

This year we will also be holding a can food drive (or any non-perishable food) for **Oxford/Orion Food Pantry (FISH)** that serves North Oakland County. Fish is a national organization that stands for "Friends In Serving Humanity." Please be generous and bring as many items of food as you can to be delivered to those less fortunate than us.

**Denise Brown, Team Leader of Fundraising** and her and her industrious and talented group are putting together **THE** Silent Auction for your one-stop Christmas shopping or decorating. Bring along your credit card or checkbook (they do accept cash) and join the merriment. It's a fun-filled evening, and remember all monies raised are used to support our annual Educational Conference, grants and scholarships. If you can assist Denise with setup or cleanup that evening, please call her 248-596-9177 ■

**Master Gardener Society  
of Oakland County, Inc.**  
AFFILIATED WITH MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

**2017 Educational Gardening Conference  
Gardening and All That Jazz  
Instruments for Great Design**  
**Saturday, April 22, 2017 – Full Day**

*Keynote speakers:*  
**Shawna Coronado – Designing and Growing a Living Wall**  
**Kelly D. Norris – Plants With Style**  
**Jessica Walliser – Attracting Beneficial Bugs to Your Garden**  
**Paul Zammit – The Power of Horticulture**

*Includes a fabulous garden market with vendors selling plants, garden art and gifts. Live jazz entertainment by the Dave Tatrow Quartet.*

5th Annual Educational Conference for new and experienced gardeners – you need not be a Master Gardener to attend! Registration begins January 1, 2017. Early bloomers registration fee \$70, after March 14, 2017, \$80. Includes continental breakfast, lunch, snacks and program materials. 5 hours of Master Gardener Education Credits. Details of conference available online at:  
**www.mgsoc.org**

**Oakland Schools Conference Center**  
2111 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford, 48328 • [www.osevents.org](http://www.osevents.org)

### WELCOME! GRADUATES OF FALL 2016 MGSOC CLASS

Congratulations to the Fall 2016 Master Gardener Class! We have multiple ways to be involved, earn your volunteer hours, meet new MG friends, and become inspired to change your life. On your membership form, you checked off areas of interest and will be contacted by Team Leaders of those areas. Attending the Monthly General Meetings is a great start. Plus you'll earn education hours at the same time. Join us! ■

### THE MASTER GARDENER VMS SYSTEM

Have you input your volunteer and education hours? How about your mileage? Remember that our rules require volunteer time to be input in *half hour increments* (so you can skip the 15 minutes and round up). Maybe round down the next time.

It's so easy to get caught up in the hustle of the holidays and forget that your MG Hours need to be input by the *end of December*. When everyone tries to input their hours on December 31, it's a problem! Here is the link, so set aside a little time this week and just do it. <https://michigan.volunteersystem.org/UniversalLogin.cfm> ■

# ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING WINTER INTEREST

*By Jean Gramlich*

**Cheryl English** gave our August membership meeting talk on winter interest in the garden. With winter upon us, we don't want our garden to be a featureless plain, but rather a visually appealing space with texture, structure, and color.

We can start creating interesting structure by selecting woody plants, pruning, and maintaining them to maximize their structural qualities to form living sculptures. One of the photos showed a shrub that made a beautiful shadow on the wall behind it. Trellises and arbors used to support plants form long-lasting, garden structures, when snow and ice prevail.

Herbaceous plants can form interesting patterns in the winter, as well as, giving seeds to birds. Deadheading should wait until spring to feed the wildlife. Some lepidoptera overwinter on perennials, so they should not be cut down until May 1. Yucca, ornamental grasses, cone flowers, and hydrangeas are among the best plants for winter interest.

Trees and shrubs with unusual and colorful bark help to cure the winter blahs. Among the best of these are: paper birch, river birch, paperbark maple, sycamore, and red twig dogwood. Prune the oldest wood of shrubs, because new growth tends to be more colorful than old wood.

Evergreens, like juniper, pine, and boxwood give us texture in the snow. Many trees and other plants can provide kinetic interest, as they sway in the winter winds.

Fruits that persist into winter can provide color to delight the eye and food for wildlife, as well. Among these are: roses, holly, crab apples, redbuds, spruce cones, and clematis. Some trees like magnolia and dogwood have buds that form in the fall and persist during the winter. Oak trees hold their leaves well into the winter.

Another way of sprucing up the winter garden is to plant species that bloom late (autumn crocus, etc.) or bloom early (hellebores and snow drops), which light up the landscape when everything seems dull and gray.

Garden art which can withstand the elements does much to keep our spirits up. Sculptures can give us color, texture, and form all at once.

Cheryl English lives in Detroit. She publishes an online newsletter (request at [CEnglish@BlackCatPottery](mailto:CEnglish@BlackCatPottery) with your email address) and writes a blog at [www.blackcatpottery.com](http://www.blackcatpottery.com). ■



## DECEMBER GARDEN TIP

Dress up your barren, outdoor pots with materials from your landscape, such as, twigs, evergreen clippings, dried hydrangeas, and winter berries. For an added holiday touch, use Christmas lights, ornaments, and garland. ■

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Please visit our website for contact information for the above Board and Team Members – [www.MGSOC.org](http://www.MGSOC.org)

