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# Genesee County Master Gardener Newsletter

## DOWN TO EARTH



**2015**

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### FEATURE ARTICLE

## THE ROMANTIC GARDEN

Creating a romantic garden is all about setting the right mood and creating the perfect atmosphere. Consider the feeling you get in a country garden, where romance can be found in the views of rolling hills, the sight of a path meandering through a lavender field or a glance at a pair of amorous swans in a pond. You might get that same feeling when you see a rose-covered arbor like the one in your wedding photos. Here are some tips on how you can create that mood in your home garden.

#### Setting the Scene

Privacy is an important consideration when planning a romantic garden. Achieve this with partially hidden entrances, shadowy alcoves and changes in elevation. These areas make good locations for a secluded bench or table for two. Perimeter fencing and ever-green hedges are invaluable for keeping out peering eyes.

Though peaceful, a romantic garden is not a silent, lifeless landscape. Add soothing sounds to the garden, such as the cascading water of a fountain, the melodic song of birds attracted to a feeder and the tinkling of wind chimes. You could also introduce music via hidden speakers strategically located in romantic alcoves and along garden paths.

Lights, both natural and artificial, are key in the romantic garden. Think of twilight casting mysterious reflections on an ornamental pool. You can achieve a similar effect using pole-mounted torches, antique lanterns, candles and lights of different colors and intensities.

When it comes to color choice, a romantic garden is not the place

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for bright garish hues. Instead opt for soft pastel pinks, blues and greens. These can be complemented with neutrals such as whites and creams.

Instead of straight lines and sharp corners, opt for gentle curves and irregular shapes. We see this with serpentine walls, free-form pools, wavy borders, curvaceous sculptures, and the twisted forms of plants such as wisteria vines. Meandering walkways create a sense of mystery and anticipation. Edge them with scented lavender, sweet alyssum and fragrant violets to further add to the atmosphere.

### **The Romance of Structures**

These include everything from a simple pergola to a more elaborate belvedere, gazebo or domed temple. They serve as both year-round focal points and places to steal away with your beloved one. Their romantic allure is heightened when they are covered in softly colored, scented vines and equipped with draw curtains for added privacy.

Also consider garden furniture such as a hammock or a swing built for two. A circular bench built around the trunk of a mature cherry or apple tree allows you and your partner to enjoy the leafy canopy and confetti-like blossoms. A joggle bench is one of my favorite types of seating for the romantic garden. These long wooden benches flex in the middle under the weight of their users, bringing occupants closer together. Remember also that paired objects, such as his and her lounge chairs, are more romantic than single ones.

Your garden accessories can also have romantic impact. I once mounted a framed poster of an amorous couple at a French bistro in a recessed garage window overlooking a small courtyard. This inexpensive poster significantly changed the look and mood of the space. Other romantic props could include an antique bird cage partly disguised by flowering clematis or recycled building columns joined by mariner's rope and covered in morning glory vines.

### **The Romance of Plants**

Plant selection for the romantic garden is often influenced by past memories such as the old-fashioned garden with its cherished hollyhocks, poppies, delphiniums, foxgloves and Canterbury bells. Flowers commonly used in wedding bouquets, such as lilies, roses, baby's breath (*Gypsophila* spp.) and Madagascar jasmine (*Stephanotis floribunda*), can conjure up memories of that special day.

Plant names may further influence our selection. Consider common names such as 'Blushing Brides' delphinium, sweet sixteen mallows, 'Lady in Red' fern, forget-me-nots, love-in-a-mist, 'Aphrodite' rose of Sharon, bridal wreath spirea and the sexy 'Striptease' hosta.

Scented plants such as honeysuckles, jasmine, wisteria, lavender and climbing roses are mainstays of the romantic garden, as are ground-hugging scented thyme, chamomile and sweet alyssum. A moon garden of white-flowered, scented angel's trumpet (*Brugmansia* spp.), flowering tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*), moonflower vine (*Ipomoea alba*), and four-o'clock (*Mirabilis jalapa*) shimmer in the evening moonlight. For sweet dreams, try night-scented plants in a window box mounted outside of a bedroom window. There are many perfumed

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## HOME GROWN 828

**I was out walking by the big walnut tree that is in my yard. I saw quite a few white, fuzzy caterpillars around and on the tree trunk. They really showed up because they were white. I have never, ever seen these before. I need to know what to do to stop them before they kill my tree. I have got to fix this fast.**

Relax; the world and your tree are safe. But I'm a bit worried about you. What you are seeing is a Hickory Tussock Moth or *Lophocampa caryae*. Older books call them a hickory tiger moth. They belong to a large family called, ironically enough, tiger moths. All tiger moth larvae or caterpillars are densely hairy and are often conspicuously colored. The hairs are called setae. Usually, the setae have numerous tiny barbs on the ends. If people, especially children with tender skin, handle the larvae or drop them down their shirts, they often get a contact rash. If you look at your caterpillar very closely, you will see that they are not completely white. On the back, there will be eight small black tufts along the center of the back. There will be four tufts of longer black hairs called subdorsal black lashes. Two are in front, like black antennae and two are almost to the rear. I suspect those are like those parallel parking feeler guides so you knew where the curb was when parking your car in the 1950's. The hickory tussock moth has a varied diet. Let's start with the favorite foods first: hickories and walnuts. But they will feed on almost any tree or shrub. There is one generation a year and you have met the feeding stage. Adult moths do not feed. The adult moth has upper wing markings that are golden tan and white. The underwing is a very pale tan. The adults do not feed and the kiddies are almost never a problem. The good news is that you can go back indoors and enjoy a nice, cold adult beverage because your tree is just fine.

**I have this terrible weed, called bindweed, growing in my yard. It was here in a few places when I moved into this house ten years ago and now it is all over. Every year, I pull or cut them off in the spring but by the time that fall comes, they all back. It's a very clever weed. It grows under my raspberries and climbs the stems and hides from me so I can't find it. Now that I know the name of this plant, what kind of weed killer can I spray to kill it and not hurt my other plants? I am desperate for help.**

Plants cannot think for themselves. Very simply, there is no brain controlling the bindweed, so it cannot be clever nor have witty thoughts of outsmarting you. This is not a bindweed problem but rather a management problem. Bindweed is a perennial plant and if you do not pull the roots out of the ground, it will regrow. For at least a decade, bindweed has flowered and gone to seed in your yard. That means even if the plants are removed, there is a mega-storehouse of seeds waiting to germinate. There is no bindweed spray. There are three categories of plant killers. There are weed killers can kill almost everything that is green or kill grasses and leave broadleaf plants or kill broadleaf plants and leave grasses, depending on what you buy. That is as exact as the herbicide world is currently. That means you can spray a nonselective herbicide and kill everything that it hits or use a broadleaf weed killer that is used on lawns and lets the grass live. Pulling weeds once or twice a season will not get rid of them. You need to be looking and pulling once a week. Or use mulch in garden beds and under the raspberries. Apply and keep three inches of woodchips on bare soil. This keeps the seeds from getting sunlight so they cannot germinate. Immediately pull any bindweed that might emerge. Mulch will not kill plants with existing root systems. Instead of wishing for a good outcome, you need to work for it.



## COOKS CORNER

### Cider & Sweet Potato Pot Roast

#### Directions

In a 4- to 6-quart Dutch oven heat oil over medium-high heat. Add sweet potatoes and carrots. Cook for 4 to 6 minutes or until browned, turning occasionally. Remove the vegetables and set aside, reserving oil in pan. Trim fat from meat. Sprinkle meat with salt and pepper. In the Dutch oven, brown roast on all sides in hot oil over medium-high heat. In a small bowl stir together mustard, garlic, and thyme. Spread over top and sides of browned roast. Add cider and Worcestershire sauce. Bring to boiling; reduce heat. Simmer, covered, for 1 hour.

Add potatoes, carrots, and onion to Dutch oven. Return to boiling; reduce heat. Simmer, covered, for 45 to 60 minutes or until meat is tender. Transfer meat to a cutting board and vegetables to a serving platter. Cover each to keep warm. Bring liquid in Dutch oven to boiling. Boil gently, uncovered, until reduced to desired consistency (about 1 cup). If necessary, transfer to a measuring cup and skim off the fat. Slice meat and add to platter with vegetables. Spoon sauce over meat and vegetables and serve.

#### Ingredients

##### Shop Kitchen ▼

- 12 ounces sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 2-inch chunks (2 cups)
- 6 medium carrots, peeled and cut into 2- to 3-inch pieces
- 1 tablespoon canola oil
- 2 1/2- 3 pounds boneless beef chuck roast or beef arm chuck pot roast
- Salt and ground black pepper
- 2 tablespoons coarse ground mustard
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons snipped fresh thyme or 2 teaspoons dried thyme, crushed
- 2 cups apple cider or apple juice
- 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1 medium onion, chopped

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perennials and shrubs worth looking into such as yucca (*Yucca filamentosa*), evening primrose (*Oenothera* spp.), 'August Lily' and 'Royal Standard' hostas, mock orange (*Philadelphus* spp.) and scented viburnums.

Delicate, wispy plants such as the maidenhair fern (*Adiantum pedatum*), meadow rue (*Thalictrum* spp.), tamarisk (*Tamarix ramosissima*) and various Japanese maples register with most people as more romantic compared to bulky, bold plants. Pendulous plants strike appealing poses, with weeping willows, weeping golden chain tree (*Laburnum x watereri* 'Pendula'), weeping forsythia (*Forsythia suspensa*) and beautyberry (*Callicarpa* spp.) being notables. For that special anniversary, give your sweetheart a living set of pearls in the form of 'The Bride' pearl-bush (*Exochorda x macrantha* 'The Bride'). This arching shrub has spectacular long trusses of white pearl-like flower buds in May.

Our gardens provide a unique opportunity to express romance through design and plant selection. You don't have to be a Romeo or Juliet to give it a try. The results just might surprise you.

*Text by Frank Kershaw*

# MASTER GARDNER ASSOCIATION MEETING OF OCTOBER 15, 2015

The Master Gardener Association's regular meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by President Vicki Laurin.

**Review of Minutes:** The September 17, 2015 minutes were presented by Loretta. She had not make copies. There were three corrections to be made: (1) The date for LNO is November 16, 2015; (2) There is an "and" and not "or" between 500 hours/10 years of service for emeritus status; and (3) President's Laurin's e-mail address should be [laurinvicki@gmail.com](mailto:laurinvicki@gmail.com). A motion was made to accept the minutes as corrected. The motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Michelle gave the treasurer's report. The September beginning balance was \$35,259.74. Income was \$4,239.50 generated from Fall Into Spring, Wojo's Spring fundraiser, compost and bulb sales. There were expenses of \$1,036.80, mainly speaker fees. September's ending balance was \$38,472.45 which includes the \$10.01 from the Square Up account.

**Special Projects – Kay McCullough:**

Alicia informed us the Oasis Desert Garden is taking shape. There were a lot of black walnuts picked up but the plants are doing well and the succulents don't seem to be bothered by the tree. Tuesday morning is the work day.

Carol said the Grow Labs are doing well. She picked up a lot of the cloth used, heavier than that previously used, for the labs and wants to thank the person who suggested the auto dealer where she gets it. She would like to thank the lady in charge of the business with a gift card for all her assistance.

Sherry wants help in identifying plants at the Butterfly Garden in Clio. This garden will be on the garden tour next year.

The Christmas party will be next month. There will be no white elephant sale this year. Donations of white bath towels, salsa and black beans are needed. Someone from Carriage Town will speak for a few minutes about the assistance MGs have given. Social time will be at 5:30 pm.

A chair is needed for the Clio Veterans Memorial.

Joanie said Fall cleanup is ongoing. The Genesee Belle is up and running through the Halloween event. The Crossroad group is working on different items to sell at Ladies Night Out scheduled for November 16<sup>th</sup>, 4-9 pm. Tickets are \$5. She has tickets and flyers with her tonight.

Betty Draper and Carol Groat are thankful for the plant donations at Easter Seals. Most of them have been planted. There are still a few more things to be done.

The Farmer's Markets have closed for the season and will be started up again next spring. The Flint Market will remain open until November 14<sup>th</sup>.

Sylvia Hansen showed us a representation of the interpretative sign for the project that she had designed. It has been delivered and will be set out at the trail. The new sign has the MG logo on it. If there are other projects who would be interested in similar signs, Sylvia would be the person to contact. The new Flushing City Manager and others were involved with the purchase of this sign. The cost for the new sign was \$500. It identifies pollinators and native plants.

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Maggie said the Humane Society had their major cleanup day and were assisted by the Mott Middle College students.

Diana Collison informed us that Baker Library project is moving forward. They are getting together October 21<sup>st</sup> to plant bulbs.

Lois Henderson said many of the plants will be staying up at the Jennings Memorial Library. A chair is needed for the I-23 project.

**Standing Committees – Katie Van Patten:**

Randy Tatro announced that the Fall Bulb Sale will wrap up by the end of October. He has bulbs available for purchase tonight. They will be available at the Extension office until the end of October. They are just \$2.50 a pack.

Sabrina said she brought a jar for people in attendance at the meetings and will start drawing a name each month next year until time for the bus trip. The drawing will be for a \$10 certificate which covers the price of lunch on the trip. The date for the bus trip is July 21<sup>st</sup>. She will be drawing names January through May.

Katie has looked at clothing prices and different colors. There are limited colors. She hopes to have everything in place by the next meeting.

President Laurin said her and George are looking for articles for DTE. Please help them out in this regard.

Loretta said that Fall Into Spring Conference went well. There were many good comments regarding the speakers, venue and meals. There will be a more complete report forthcoming. Dick Moldenhouer said he has 100 stones in stock and is anticipating getting more. There are two new colors: brown and tan. There are some in the office if anyone wants to stop and look at them. He only has one bag of compost left but can get more.

Kay announced that there are going to be some fantastic gardens on the tour next year. The date of the tour is June 26, 2016. The stones for this have been ordered (per Dick) and will be ready for the tour. There are pictures on our website of this past tour. You can also Google it and get there.

Gloria said that a get well cards have been sent to Betty Butcher and Jim Fearon (who recently passed). Joanie Synder said Marci Anderson was at McLaren recovering from back surgery. Alicia Ellis informed us that she had seen Betty this past week and she is doing well. Dick informed us that the catalogs from A&M Leonard are in. One is available in the office. He would like to have an order ready by December 1<sup>st</sup>. You need to have a letter with the items wanted and a check to place an order.

VMS ambassador, Ruth Simon, is encouraging everyone to get their hours entered. Don't wait until the last minutes. Abi announced that there are buddies available to help with this process. Contact the office if you need help entering hours.

Kay announced that our new website is now [geneseecountymg.org](http://geneseecountymg.org). There are pictures of projects. Sylvia has been helping with the design. There are new headings for the projects, tabs across the top for easier access. It can also be Googled through the Garden Tour to gain access. Mel has updated our Facebook page site. Sabrina informed us that the bus trip information will also be added.

**Old Business:**

Project chairs are needed at the Clio Veterans Memorial Garden and I-23 rest stop.

The tri-folds are here. They need to be used. There is a signup sheet available at the office.

Board elections are next month. Three were nominated from the floor: Christie Jones,

Michelle Chockley and Dick Moldenhauer. We need more nominees. The election committee

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has been working on this. If there are the only three nominated for the three open positions, is there a need for an election?

**New Business:**

President Laurin announced that at the Board is looking into purchasing an engraving machine. Les Frazee has been looking at prices which are in the range of \$3500. Katie pointed out that all projects need an educational component. Plant stakes are expensive. We could possibly sell plant signs to other counties as a fund raiser.

The Board is looking at a document camera purchase. Kay explained that a document camera could come in handy at our meetings and/or classes or for use by our speakers. The camera projects a 3D image on the screen. It also records and shows videos. It has magnifying ability also. Prices range from \$67 to \$1000.

Katie checked Robert's Rules and found that there can be write in candidates placed on the ballot.

President Laurin said the Board has been discussing changes to the By-Laws. Ruth questioned whether the membership has to vote for term limits for the officers. Permission is needed from MMGA to do this and a 2/3 vote is needed to approve. Katie recommended that an attorney look at By-Law changes before they are made or voted upon.

Abi announced that when classes start there will be a need for class aides. Five aides will be needed for each class. A phone call tree to potential students will start next week. There is a 50 person class limit for this first class that starts in January. The price for the class is \$300. On the last day of class, Abi would like the project chairs to showcase their projects and have signup sheets available for volunteers. Applications will be accepted on a first come, first service basis. An application will be available on line. Payment by credit card or a check within seven days will be needed to complete the registration process. There are three scholarships available at \$150 each. The MG certification process (40 hours) needs to be completed before the scholarship money is awarded.

Randy questioned if a 2/3 majority vote of the organization is needed to change the By-Laws and if there is going to be a ballot available for those who do not attend the monthly meeting. The power is in the organization and if a change needs a 2/3 majority vote there needs to be a presentation to the organization on VMS.

Ballots for the current election will go to Pam Kvasnicka's e-mail address.

Carol Pittard checked Sect. 11.01 of current By-Laws which state that in order to amend the By-Laws a majority of 50% of the membership + 1 is needed not 2/3.

Sue Matlock has divided a clivia plant and brought it in to give to those who want one.

The Board is working on the By-Laws and Robert's Rules.

President Laurin motioned to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Sabrina Van Dyke. The motion was approved and passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Loretta Ellwood Secretary

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## HELPING PLANTS PREPARE FOR WINTER

Dr. Leonard Perry, Horticulture Professor  
University of Vermont

Outdoors, a major change is taking place. Your trees and shrubs are preparing for winter. By January most of them will be able to withstand temperatures of 20 to 30 degrees (F) below

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**HE** Jim Fearon was a bit of a character and somewhat easy to rile but then I only knew for a short period of his life but I don't believe I will ever forget him. After the Master Gardener class ended students were required to spend twenty hours on the Hot Line. To a person those of us who were going to continue as Master Gardeners were shaking in our boots thinking of having to field questions on who know what topic. Jim was there to hold our hand, provide direction and instill confidence. I learned a great deal and a couple of times I got the answer verbally before Jim could tell me where to seek the information. He cared about the Master Gardeners and when changes came it was time for him go his own way but I feel he was still close to the Association through his friends and in his heart.

Somewhere in our countries constitution there is the statement and I make no attempt to quote: a government by the people and for the people. I just don't understand when committees appoint nominees, vote for nominees and then the same board of directors determine what office they hold. It all seems so hush hush and I am not saying there is any sort of impropriety but why can't the Master Gardeners as a whole nominate and elect the officers. Yes, I know about bi laws and Roberts Rules which seem to be a hot topic these days but why is there no direct action in the election process from start to finish by the Master Gardeners as a whole, isn't that how an election is held?

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**SHE** **January 21, 2016** is the date that we all have been waiting for . It has been wondered if it would ever happen, but the good news is our wait is over and our membership is really moving forward. If you haven't heard by now, January 21, 2016 is the class date for Master Gardener classes in Genesee County. A new beginning to a membership that has never given up and worked hard to see this day come. Congratulations Genesee County!

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## BOARD ELECTIONS

It is that time of year when we need to elect new directors to fill our board memberships. We have three open board member positions. Terms are up for Michelle Chockley, Helen Mitts, and Loretta Ellwood. The election committee has found three people to run or fill in those positions.

The only guidelines to currently follow came from the MMGA for their officers. We send the ballot out for those who will not attend in November and still might want to vote. There is no provision for write-ins. All director terms are two years. The general membership elects the Directors. The Directors elect the officers each year. Positions are not relevant for a Director ballot. All previous guidelines were nullified by the By-Laws that were adopted in 2012. On the current ballot there are three choices for three director positions. Four directors have another year in their two year term. The seven directors will select who serves in what office. The Election Committee was formed in September, met, and phone polled eligible members for volunteers to be on the ballot. The option to nominate was at the October membership meeting.

If you have further questions contact the chairperson of the elections committee Pam Kvasnica at [pkvasnic2@hotmail.com](mailto:pkvasnic2@hotmail.com) or 810-658-3821.

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zero. Some could tolerate even colder temperatures. Knowing how plants prepare for winter, you can manage plant choices and their culture for better overwintering success.

However, these same plants would be killed now if the temperature suddenly dropped that low. That's because something happens inside plants that allows them to prepare for winter and become dormant. This is termed "acclimation"-- the development of cold hardiness or "hardening off." A sedum plant that may be killed by freezing soil temperatures in September, may withstand soils below zero degrees (F) in January.

But first, plants must stop growth. Growth slows for most plants as the days shorten (actually it is the lengthening nights) and grow colder. Scientists have found that short days and cold temperatures trigger the development of cold hardiness. Some believe it is the former daylength, which is stable from year to year, that triggers the first stage of dormancy and that cold triggers the true or subsequent deeper dormancy stage, sometimes called "mid-winter dormancy".

When a plant becomes dormant, cellular components change and processes slow, allowing them to withstand lower temperatures. You may see this deep dormancy termed "endo dormancy", referring to these internal ("endo") changes. Since freezing water can burst cells, some water leaves cells during acclimation. Sugars and other protective chemicals, similar to antifreeze, with lower freezing points are increased. So it makes sense that you don't want plants to enter winter waterlogged. On the other hand, you want them to not be stressed from prolonged drought periods. Ideal is to make sure that plants have sufficient water in the fall, but keep them on the dry side if possible.

Plants have a maximum level of cold they'll tolerate, this varying genetically by species and even cultivar (cultivated variety). Even within a species, the amount of cold tolerated may be determined by location or "provenance". A rhododendron from the south may be much less hardy than the same species from the north.

Plants parts can vary as well in the amount of cold they'll tolerate. This is the reason some years you may have leaves but not flowers on forsythia, flowers buds generally being less hardy than leaf buds. Or peach trees may live in an area and may leaf out, but have no flowers. Since roots are in the ground, which stays much warmer than the air, they usually tolerate less cold than the tops of plants. So the popular Japanese pachysandra groundcover, in winter, has evergreen tops hardy to -30 degrees (F) while the roots only survive in soils down to 15 degrees.

Once a plant is dormant, it tracks the winter progress through "chilling units", the number of hours not below freezing but that are at a certain level above freezing—often 40 to 50 degrees (F), ranging between 500 and 2000 hours depending on the plant. (Sugar maple requires about 2000 hours.) After this chilling, they enter a lighter stage of dormancy or "eco dormancy" ("eco" meaning external) just as they experience during fall acclimation. In this "standby mode" they can respond to specific periods and degrees of warming varying by plant as with

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the warming in spring or a prolonged “winter thaw” period. In this spring period of “deacclimation” buds are much less hardy, so may be damaged by subsequent severe cold (as happened in March 2015 in Vermont).

To help plants prepare for best winter survival, you should avoid practices that stimulate late summer growth of trees and shrubs. For example, nitrogen fertilization in August or early September may encourage a late flush of stems that can't turn off their growth before frosts. Herbaceous perennials are the opposite—good fertility right into fall, stimulating vigor and storage of more food for winter, often helps them survive better and regrow more vigorous next spring. We've seen this time and again in our cold climate hardiness research with perennials.

Fertilizer and lime applied (according to soil test results) in October or November, when temperatures are cooler and days are shorter, will not stimulate top growth until spring. Roots take up the nutrients and store them in the roots and stems. While it is best to lime in the fall—most lime takes some months to change the soil acidity—it is best to wait until growth resumes in spring to fertilize if not done by mid fall.

For shade trees and shrubs, a surface broadcast application of readily-soluble or slow release, high nitrogen fertilizer over the whole root zone is probably the most effective and easiest means of applying fertilizer. Other methods are liquid injection feeding, the poke and pour method (divvying up fertilizer into holes drilled into the soil in concentric circles around the base of the tree), or placing fertilizer pills, packets, or spikes in the root zone.

If the soil already contains adequate phosphorus and potassium (as in a well-fertilized lawn), nitrogen is often the only element needed to enhance growth. Follow recommendations from your soil test. It is illegal in Vermont and in some other areas to apply phosphorus to lawn areas, unless recommended by a soil test, as this can end up in and pollute waterways. For the same reason, you should use a fertilizer with water insoluble nitrogen. A rule of thumb is to apply three pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet, as from 30 pounds of 10-0-10 fertilizer.

Do not use lawn fertilizers containing herbicides within the spread of trees. Otherwise, the herbicide will be taken up by the tree and kill it, just as it kills broad-leaved weeds. For established plants, most professionals recommend to mulch late, just before snow fall. This allows the soil to cool, and plants to harden off sooner. The exceptions to late mulching are bulb beds, including those for garlic, and newly planted perennials. Mulching these sooner will keep the soil warmer longer, allowing for more root growth in fall. You want them well-rooted so they don't “heave” out of the ground in spring, a phenomenon known as “frost heaving”. Roots will continue to grow until the soil temperature drops below about 40 degrees (F)—usually early to mid November in Vermont.

You can learn more about winter hardiness, particularly in perennial plants, in *Understanding Perennials, A New Look at an Old Favorite*, by William Cullina. This readable reference covers many other aspects of perennial anatomy, growth and factors affecting them such as soil—a mini course in these topics written for the lay reader.

## BUTTERFLY GARDEN NEEDS HELP

**Note from Cherri Johnston - HELP!! - Because of my health and still having to work and run towns garden committee I am not able and not knowledgeable enough to name all the plants in our butterfly garden which has to be identified for the Genesee County Master Garden Tour at Bridge Park Butterfly Garden (Clio) in June 2016!! I am so stressed and in great need of help! CAN A COUPLE EXPERTS possibly come forward and volunteer to come out to our bridge park and identify all these plants we have and then they have to be converted to Latin before the plates can be engraved for each plant. Please let me know ASAP as it is getting so cold and the deadline has been long past overdue. Thank you so much if anyone can assist!!**

**Contact: Cherri Johnston at**

**E- Mail: [clj48420@aol.com](mailto:clj48420@aol.com)**

**Telephone: 810.516.0030**

**Images of these plants are on the MGAGCM Website at the below link:**

**<http://www.geneseecountymg.org/butterfly-gardens.html> - (Look for Bridge Park Butterfly Garden (Clio) - Cherri Johnston)**

**They can also go to: <http://nativeplants.msu.edu/> - they have pictures and identification names of probably most of these plants. Most of those plants at the bench park are probably native plants!!**

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## REST STOP RECOGNITION

Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) held an appreciation coffee for the Michigan Master Gardeners of Genesee County who support the I69, US23 and I75 rest stops. Robert J. Pickell, Genesee County Sheriff, Larry Doyle, Davison Transportation Service Center (TSC) Manager, and Ponce Esparza, Davison Transportation Service Center (TSC) Maintenance Coordinator thanked the attendees. A slide show with pictures of the beautiful floral displays at the rest stops and comments from the visitors played during the meeting. Larry Doyle expressed his gratitude to the volunteers for their hard work to make these rest stops beautiful and educational. Ponce also thanked the volunteers and presented certificates of appreciation to the Master Gardener team leaders.

This was a great meeting! The attendees enjoyed the appreciation, refreshments, and conversations with the TSC staff and other Master Gardeners supporting the rest stops.

Unfortunately the plaque photos were too dark and tilted to reproduce for DTE (ed)

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## A&M Leonard Orders

Catalogs are here and available to look at in the Hot Line office. Dick Mouldenhouer will be taking orders and would like to have enough orders to send in by December 16, 2015. So now would be a great time to do some Christmas shopping for that special gardener you know. You will need a letter with the items you would like to buy along with a check and send it to Dick at 1050 Sarah St., Grand Blanc, Mi. 48439

## Are You Ready To Become A Master Gardener Volunteer?

We are pleased to announce that MSU Extension in Genesee County is offering a new course for those interested in becoming a Master Gardener Volunteer. This class is made possible by the support of Genesee County voters through the Genesee County MSU Extension Millage.

Class Information:

Begins on January 21st 2016

Meets every Thursday for 14 weeks

Located in the MSUE office in Flint (605 North Saginaw, Suite, 1A)

9:00am-1:00pm

Cost is \$300.00

There are multiple scholarships available through the website.

Additional scholarships available through the Genesee County Master Gardener Association (MGAGCM) For more information, or to register, visit our website: For more information, or to register, visit our website: <http://events.anr.edu/event.cfm?folder=mgvpgenesee2016>.

If that link does not work:

Go to [mg.msue.edu](http://mg.msue.edu)

Click on “become a master gardener volunteer”

Click on “upcoming master gardener training courses”

Choose the “Flint” course at the bottom

The only way to register is through the website. We recommend that you pay by credit card to reserve your spot immediately. If you pay by check, your spot will only be reserved when we receive it.

For more information : Abi Saeed, Consumer Horticulture Program Instructor, Master Gardener Coordinator, 810-244-8531

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**MGAGCM November Holiday Party** will be held on November 19th, 2015 at Crossroads Village, 6140 Bray Rd, Flint. Social hour will be at 5:30 until 6:00 with music provided by Eddie Barney. A very short business meeting will begin promptly at 6:00 as we will be electing three new board members. . Dinner will be served after the business meeting . At 7:30 Marilyn Nichols and a representative from Carriage Town will give a short talk on Carriage Town Missions.

There will not be a Silent Auction this year as in the past, but contributions to Carriage Town Missions will be accepted. Along with cash donations there is a great need for white bath towels, salsa in jars or cans, and black beans.

Meat will be provided , bring a dish to pass, your appetite and your Holiday Spirit!

There will be ample parking in the regular parking lot at Crossroads Village.

### **NOVEMBER 16, 2015**

- Ladies Night Out is in it's 9th year and is one of our favorite events at Crossroads Village. It's a night of fun, shopping, demonstrations, crafts and food. The perfect night out with your girlfriends at the perfect price! For more information contact Joanie Snyder at 810-631-6640

### **DTE SUBSCRIPTION**

If you are one that likes to receive a monthly subscription of the DTE it's that time of year that you need to pay for 2016. Please make a check out to MGAGCM for \$10.00 and send it to PO Box 34, Flushing, Mi. 48433 .

Payment deadline is January 31, 2016.

**MGAGCM OFFICERS (2015)**

President	<b>Vicki Laurin</b>
810-744-0725	laurinvicki@gmail.com
Vice President	<b>Kay McCullough</b>
810-635-9341	birdieball@aol.com
Secretary	<b>Loretta Ellwood</b>
810-444-4549	ldellwood@aol.com
Treasurer	<b>Michelle Chockley</b>
810-659-8014	chockleym@gmail.com

THIS NEWSLETTER PREPARED BY:

Vicki Laurin, laurinvicki@gmail.com. George Rappold, grappocp@att.net, of counsel Ruth Simon .

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITES

MMGA Inc Website at:  
[www.michiganmastergardener.org](http://www.michiganmastergardener.org)

MMGA Inc Facebook Page at:  
[www.facebook.com/MichiganMG](http://www.facebook.com/MichiganMG)

MGAGCM Website at: Genesee County  
MG.org



**MSU Extension-Genesee**  
 605 N. Saginaw St. Suite 1A  
 Flint, MI 48502  
 (810) 244-8500

**Plant & Pest Hotline:**  
 (810) 244-8548  
 Hours: Friday Only - Fall/Winter Hours  
 8:30 am-1:00pm

[geneseeplantpest@anr.msu.edu](mailto:geneseeplantpest@anr.msu.edu)

**Public Office Hours:**  
 8 am - 1 pm Monday through Friday.

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MSU EXTENSION-GENESEE COUNTY  
605 N. Saginaw St.  
Suite 1A  
FLINT, MI 48502  
[www.msue.msu.edu/genesee](http://www.msue.msu.edu/genesee)

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