

2018 Master Gardener College

When I first became a Master Gardener in 2011, I would hear about the MSU educational conference, Master Gardener College and wonder what it was all about. I have been fortunate to be involved in the planning of this event for the last two years.

There were approximately 300 attendees this year! The conference began Thursday with an optional event held Toll Gate Farm and Education Center in Novi. Friday, you had your choice of attending a workshop or going on one of five educational bus trips. Friday evening was dinner, award recognitions and an opportunity to view the submissions for the Volunteer Project Sharing Forum. Friday dinner was a Certified Local Food Event with 68% of the food locally sourced!

Genesee Gold Badge recipients (1000 volunteer hour milestone!) recognized at the Friday dinner:

Beth Fromholz-Davies, Trudy Herriman, Marcia Kruse, Dick Moldenhauer, Brenda Monty, Marilyn Nichols and Patricia Witte.



Diane Brady; Mary Wilson; Marilyn Thelen, Associate Director, Agriculture and Agribusiness Institute, MSUE; and Marilyn Nichols

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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION



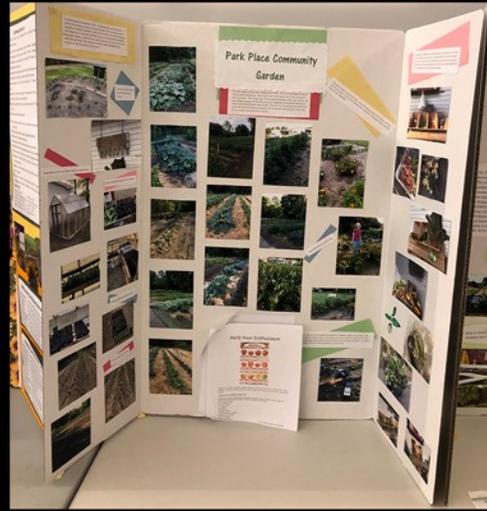
MGAGCM Mission Statement

The Master Gardener Association of Genesee County is organized exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes, specifically to instruct adults and youth in horticulture science, to educate communities about environmentally sound practices through horticulture-based activities, to promote food security and to improve the esthetic of our community. This Chapter is organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes and consistent with the purposes and mission of the Michigan Master Gardener Association, Inc. (MMGA)

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Genesee County Project Submissions for 2018

Kay McCullough - educational components in the annual Garden Tour; Deb Glasstetter - Rust Park Grand Blanc Monarch Waystation; and Susan Biron - Park Place Community Garden in Clio. Although Genesee did not place, I was very proud of the display of projects from Genesee County. There were a total of nine project submissions and I hear it was VERY close in the judging. Project winners and pictures of all submissions will be posted soon on the Master Gardener website.



Susan Biron - Park Place



Kay McCullough - MGAGCM Garden Tours



Debbie Glasstetter Rust Park

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Comments from Genesee County attendees:

Judy Trombley (class of 2016 Spring): “I found the workshop for online gardening applications very helpful. Pam Bennett shared a dozen sites and demonstrated them for us. Most interesting to me was the “Field Area Measure.” This app uses GoogleMaps to outline the specific size and shape of your garden, then calculates the area. Very useful for calculating quantities of mulch, fertilizer, etc. This app is free!”

Debbie Glasstetter (class of 2018 Spring): “Wayne Pope, professional photographer, inspired me to capture the beauty of our gardens for enjoyment long after the blooms have faded. He shared some awesome insight in cropping flower photos for interest and impact. He also helped with techniques to get close-ups of visiting pollinators. This is especially beneficial for later study and accurate, detailed identification of the pollinator. Gardening and photography – the perfect combination for Master Gardeners - grow it and show it!”

Dick Moldenhauer (class of 2006): “The 2018 Master Gardener College was held in a new venue this year. WCCC-Belleville was an excellent site to hold the conference – spacious, easy people flow, not crowded. I liked the choices of subjects and speakers available to attendees. The Professors Duke Elsner and Nate Walton presentation on keeping cavity nesting for native bees was very informative. The “Pathogens, Predators and Parasitoids, Oh My!” presentation told me how to create a healthier environment for natural, beneficial insects in my landscaping. 2018 Master Gardener College was a great conference!”



Okra at Canton Farmers Market; Compost Recipe; Tomatoes staked at DTE gardens

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Mary Yelland (class of 2016 Spring): *"I attended the Friday afternoon workshop at Toll Gate on "Harvesting Excitement!" Despite the heat, I got some great ideas for my garden as well as some excellent tomato samples!"*

Joanne Gensel (class of 2017 Spring): *" This is my second year attending Master Gardener College. It's a wonderful event to learn new things, explore new places and cultivate old and new friendships. One of the seminars I attended was Tony Reznicek's "Kissing Cousins & Family Skeletons: Modern Evolutionary Biology". It has been discovered through the latest advances in DNA research that many of the plants we believed belonged in a certain family or group do not!! This will result in some plants being reclassified and renamed. Tony was delightful to listen to and created some excitement in discovering misunderstood plant ancestry. I will be attending again in 2019. It's that much fun!:"*

Michelle Chockley (class of 2011): *" My Friday bus trip included Barson's Greenhouse featuring a premier butterfly house and pond; 3B's Native Garden – a 2-acre native garden which was the vision of an EMG; Canton Farmer's Market; and DTE Energy Farm. Both Canton and DTE grow produce that is donated back to the community. I attended two of Pam Bennett's workshops. The app workshop was awesome and I, too, was a fan of the "Field Area Measure" app Judy liked. Pam's other workshop on "Pest Management in the Herbaceous Garden" was a great review of IPM principles and concepts."*

And to top it all off there were great goody bags and door prizes!

For 2019, the MSU Master Gardener College planning committee will work on organizing a bus trip for the International Master Gardener College June 17 -21, 2019 – held at the Valley Forge Casino Resort in Pennsylvania! Like the [International Master Gardener College](#) on Facebook to be updated on their events. Speakers have been posted and many awesome workshops and garden tours planned. It will be a lot of fun! Educational credits too! Stay tuned for more information.

To view photos and information on the [2018 Master Gardener College](#)

Article and Photos Submitted by Michelle Chockley

RADISHES, ROBOTS, RHYTHM AND RODS SPOTLIGHT ON THE BOARD—DICK MOLDENHAUR

“Whether you’re showing an animal, shooting a bow, learning about legislation, building a robot or something else, Michigan 4-H has a lot to offer. While youth learn about their specific project area, they’re also learning something else: critical life skills that help them contribute to their communities now and in the future.”¹

Dick Moldenhauer’s interest in gardening began in his own family’s 4,000 square foot backyard garden, as a 4-H member from the time he was ten years old through high school. Surely his story is an example of the impact that 4-H has on young people and creating a lifetime of appreciation for our environment, plants and nature.

Growing up, “Mom and Dad always had a big vegetable garden that I would help plant, weed and maintain.” Dick shares. “Mom canned and froze the vegetables for us to enjoy through the winter. I always thought the store bought vegetables never tasted as good.”

DICK’S WISDOM FOR THE MASTER GARDENERS

There is lot we are learning about microbes, bacteria and fungi with insects and native plants and also the undesired effects of our synthetic products, both fertilizers and pesticides. I think there is a new frontier opening up of better understanding plants and the idea of what we would consider weed-free. It is important that as Master Gardeners we continue to educate others about how we can preserve and protect our pollinators, plants and environment.



Dick and his wife Nancy were married in 1975 and their life together began with a garden, even though that first summer was spent in an apartment. “A friend of mine had a community garden plot that he wasn’t using and said I could plant a garden. The next year, in our new house I put in a small garden and expanded to the large garden I have today.” This garden covers his yard, including vegetables, flowers, an active compost, and Eco Grass - featured this summer in the MGAGCM Garden Tour. In case you are wondering what Eco Grass is, Dick explains, “Eco Grass is a blend of fine bladed fescue grasses which

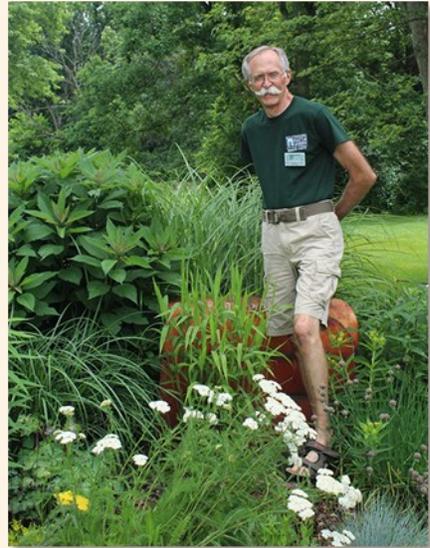
are deep rooted to resist drought and grub infestations. It is intended to be low maintenance: needing few, if any, pesticides, fertilizers, watering or frequent mowing.”²

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During those early years Nancy, Dick and their children enjoyed “Trailer Travlin” and took their RV to State Parks and events enjoying the summer months. And it would be no surprise that Dick, a mechanical engineer, would be a street rod enthusiast. Retiring from a 40-year career with Delphi (AC Sparkplug/GM) Dick embraced a hobby he had always wanted to be involved in. I am a “street rodder”, he shares, “I have just always liked cars and working on them; and, finally fulfilled a longtime dream, when I bought a ‘53 GMC pickup truck at *Back to the Bricks* in 2011.” Visiting with other car enthusiasts at local and short distance meets like Kalamazoo and Frankenmuth, Dick has fun sharing his passion with others.



“I

Hearing about the Master Gardener program from a friend, Dick thought, “That sounds like a fun thing to learn more about.” and took the program in Lapeer County in 2006. His first project site was at SunCrest helping with the educational portion of the gardens. A year later he moved over to Genesee County where he tried various project sites one of them, ForMar where he got to know MGAGCM master gardeners better.

But, most folks know Dick as the MG who sells the garden stones. This was one of Dick’s early projects becoming a “cornerstone” of his volunteer hours — no pun is necessary. Dick researched a resource partner for making the stones when the previous vendor was no longer taking the work. He travels just outside of Toledo, where the new vendor is located, loads as much as half a ton (literally) of product in his truck, several times a year, and unloads them into storage. Throughout the year Dick loads up his truck, again and again, with about twenty-five stones at a time, weighing each roughly 20 pounds and sets up a booth at Master Gardener events throughout Southern Michigan. That is quite a workout but one that benefits our association – our Genesee County Association is the only one in the state to sell these garden stones, providing us with a very nice fundraising opportunity. When he isn’t lifting weights, Dick, serving as Board Secretary, also maintains the minutes for the general membership, board and SOP meetings, makes plant signage and manages tool sales.

¹ Want to Develop Lifeskills that will Impact Your Future? [MSUE 4-H Life Skills webpage](#)

² MGAGCM DTE Newsletter; August, 2018; [Blooms, Birds, Bees and Butterflies](#)

If street rods are his hobby, and gardening his lifelong interest, then volunteering in his faith community might be his passion. Dick shares, "You don't sit on the sidelines, you get involved and do things." For the past three years Dick has coached the First Lego League for 4th, 5th and 6th graders at Flint Eisenhower Elementary School. When the pastor at North Baptist Church asked him if he could help with the outreach project with the Eisenhower Elementary school, Dick did not hesitate, but stepped right up and took on the challenge. He leads the youth to build small robots out of Legos that are programmable. He describes the process: "After they build the robot, they create a computer program with instructions for the robot to follow. This years' theme is space travel, the participants are looking at the challenges of space travel and choosing a solution for one specific challenge. The Lego League incorporates core values for the youth to integrate into their lives at home, in the school and on the team.



Discovery: We explore new skills and ideas.

Innovation: We use creativity and persistence to solve problems.

Impact: We apply what we learn to improve our world.

Inclusion: We respect each other and embrace our differences.

Teamwork: We are stronger when we work together.

Fun: We enjoy and celebrate what we do!

It would be no wonder that this man who is an Eagle Scout and someone who has spent seven years in 4-H, would feel called to this mission of mentoring youth. The Lego League core values mirror those in both the Boy Scouts and 4-H. Values that have shaped Dick and are central to his life in family, faith and "solving problems" to improve our environment. Dick is instilling these core values into these young lives, guiding them to care for each other and our world. Bless you Dick for making a difference in our world!

SCOUT OATH

On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

4-H PLEDGE

I pledge:

- **My head** to clearer thinking,
 - **My heart** to greater loyalty,
 - **My hands** to larger service,
 - **My health** to better living,
- For my club, my community, my country and my world.

Oh, and one more thing ... In case you wondering about that "Rhythm" part mentioned in the title ... Dick is also the interim music director for his church!

What is the \$20 annual recertification fee?

The re-cert fee is used to help the MG Program become self-sustaining. Without the re-cert fee there would be no MG program. MSU contributes hundreds of thousands of dollars to the program but cannot cover the entire cost.

The \$20.00 fee (which goes to MSU) is being used:

- 1. To cover the cost of the VMS purchase/maintenance including staff time and recognition materials (pins, certs., awards, etc.)**
- 2. MG scholarships to MG College and training classes**
- 3. Maintenance and future re-design of the MG Program web site**
- 4. MG curriculum development**

Source: VMS, under STATE LINKS- "Overview of MG Program and Related Entities"

Note: None of the \$20 annual recertification fees goes to the local association.

2018 REQUIRED EDUCATIONAL and VOLUNTEER HOURS

Extension Master Gardeners and Advanced Master Gardeners must complete 20 volunteer hours annually and 10 continuing education hours annually.

Free Educational Webinars are available on VMS. From the Home Page of VMS, right side, under STATE LINKS, click on "**2018 - Free Online Education Webinar List**" and choose the one(s) you wish to view, using the password instructions.

Hours must be entered by the end of December 2018. Watch for details from Diane Brady.

Need help or have questions? Contact:

Mary Yelland-Yelland1@msu.edu, Michelle Chockley=chockley@gmail.com, Joanne Gensel - jhgensel@gmail.com

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Fall is upon us, fellow gardeners, and don't think for one second that you can rest yet! Harvesting, plant dividing, pruning and putting gardens down for winter are but a few of the tasks awaiting us before the cold arrives. The more prep work we do now, the less catching up we'll do in the spring! For those of you who are composting, remember to set aside some "browns" (raked leaves) to mix in with your "greens" (food scraps) during the winter. I'm also going to have my yard guy, bag up (rather than mulch) his last grass/leaf mixture, and save it to add to my bin this winter. I just found a new tool that stirs my bin with little effort and I believe I am clinically obsessed with compost now. Below are some recent Hotline calls with solutions:

There are black spots on my hydrangeas



The black spots are probably a fungus or bacteria that likely began earlier and progressed throughout the season. The spots are not fatal to the plants but can be rather unsightly. Caused by wet, humid conditions, the disease typically begins on the lower leaves and progresses upwardly. In the early stages of leaf development, the affected leaves need to be removed. Wetting hydrangea foliage from overhead irrigation and over-spraying from lawn irrigation systems should be avoided. Thinning out the plants to improve air flow, using fresh mulch and compost each year can also help. If you still have a problem, there are natural bacterial fungicides as well as chemical ones on the market.

Can dahlias can be trimmed after the upcoming first frost?



Yes. Dahlias should be trimmed down to about 6 inches from the ground after the first killing frost. This plant and most others with bulbs need to have this done before digging up the bulbs. For more on trimming, digging, curing and storing, read here: [Digging and Storing Tender Bulbs](#)

When is the best time to trim trees?

This is a somewhat loaded question because it depends on the type of tree! Before discussing, you need to take care and be safe when taking on this task. Unless you are seasoned in this practice, it's best to trim only what you can reach from the ground and call a professional for more challenging (higher) branches and limbs. Generally late winter is best for pruning while they are still dormant. Rules are a little different with flowering/budding shrubs and more information can be found here: [Pruning Shrubs and Trees](#)

Submitted by LaDonna Gamble



RECIPES & MORE

Moroccan Butternut Squash and Chickpea Stew

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 1/2 cups chopped yellow onion
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground paprika
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/4 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon unsalted tomato paste
- 3 cups diced peeled butternut squash
- 1 (15-oz.) can unsalted chickpeas
- 1 (15-oz.) can diced tomatoes
- 1 1/2 cups unsalted chicken stock
- 2 (8-oz.) pkg. precooked quinoa
- 2 cups arugula (about 2 oz.)
- 1/4 cup plain 2% reduced-fat Greek yogurt

Directions

Heat oil in a large Dutch oven over medium-high. Add onion and garlic; sauté 5 minutes or until golden. Stir in salt and next 5 ingredients (through pepper); cook 1 minute. Stir in tomato paste; cook 1 minute. Stir in squash and chickpeas; cook 2 minutes. Add tomatoes and stock, scraping pan to loosen browned bits. Bring to a simmer; cook 20 minutes or until squash is tender.

Heat quinoa according to package directions. Divide quinoa among 4 shallow bowls. Top evenly with squash mixture, arugula, and yogurt.

Sent from [Paprika Recipe Manager](#)

Submitted by Bobbie Parkhill

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MONTHLY FEATURE ARTICLE

Have you visited some interesting gardens this summer; or, learned about an agricultural practice; or perhaps, discovered something new in horticultural wonders? Then you might just have a story to share. We are inviting all our Master Gardeners the opportunity to write a feature article. Our feature articles offer an educational component for the readers, while providing the rest of the Master Gardeners a chance to share what they have learned or experienced. It is a great way to connect and share with one another. Not everyone can attend all the wonderful classes, workshops, and conferences; but, for those who do, you can share that experience through the newsletter. If you are interested in writing an article or would like more information please contact Kit Puroll by email: all_4_adventure@hotmail.com

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WELCOME

Genesee County Master Gardeners welcomes Barslund Judd as our new Coordinator. We look forward to welcoming you to your new home and working with you to keep Genesee County moving forward.

RETIREMENT PARTY FOR TERRY MCLEAN

Terry McLean has been a great friend to the Master Gardener's in Genesee County. Many of you know her from years ago as the Master Gardener Coordinator. Some of you know her as a teacher for a unit in your Master Gardener class. Others may be familiar with her as a leader in the extension office or from Edible Flint. After years of dedication to MSU Extension Terry is retiring at the end of the year. You are invited to help her celebrate at a retirement party, Friday, December 14 from 4-6 pm at the extension office. (605 N. Saginaw Street)

DTE SUBSCRIPTION

If you would like to subscribe to a monthly, printed/postal delivered, subscription to the DTE you can send a \$10.00 check to PO Box 981, Grand Blanc, Mi. 48480. Please write on the check that it is payment for the DTE.

MGAGCM HOLIDAY PARTY AND 2019 ELECTIONS

Come join us for our annual Holiday Party and 2019 Election of Officers on November 15, with social hour starting at 5:30 and a short business meeting at 6:00 pm. Our Master Gardeners always provide the best food. Dinner will begin soon after the meeting and, as a special treat, the Kearsley High School Choir will provide entertainment after dinner. Raffle tickets will be sold throughout the evening for a chance to win one of the two gifts made and donated by Sharon Krinder and Peggy Banks. Tickets will sell for \$1.00 apiece or 6 tickets for \$5.00. The charity this year is Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. If you would like to donate to this charity before the Holiday party you can send a check made out to "Food Bank of Eastern Michigan" to: MGAGCM, PO Box 981, Grand Blanc, 48480 or, you can donate the night of the Holiday Party.



Porch Pot made
by Sharon Krinder



Snowman made
by Peggy Banks

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AMARYLLIS BULBS

Arriving in November.
More details coming soon.

MGAGCM DOWN TO EARTH NEWSLETTER

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MGAGCM OFFICERS (2018)

President	Vicki Laurin
810-744-0725	laurinvicki@gmail.com
1st Vice President	Mel Kennedy
810-275-8822	mkennedy60@charter.com
2nd Vice President	Alan Grove
810-922-8776	plantdoc049@outlook.com
Secretary	Dick Moldenhauer
810-695-2649	rnmold1050@aol.com
Treasurer	Bobbi Parkhill
630-408-1710	bpark141@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE NOVEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Plant and Pest Hotline	3
4	5 Board Meeting	6 Cactus garden/ Easter Seals work sessions	7	8	9 Plant and Pest Hotline	10
11	12	13	14	15 Membership Holiday Party/ elections	16 Plant and Pest Hotline	17
18	19	20	21	22 Office Closed- Thanksgiving	23 Office Closed- Thanksgiving	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Plant and Pest Hotline	

THIS NEWSLETTER PREPARED BY

Vicki Laurin, laurinvicki@gmail.com.
 Kit Puroll, all_4_adventure@hotmail.com
 Edited by Sylvia Hansen

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITES

[MMGA Inc Website](#)

[MMGA Inc Facebook Page](#)

[MGAGCM Website](#)

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LEAD VMS AMBASSADOR

Michelle Chockley

810-210-6685 (cell)

chockleym@gmail.com

MSU Extension-Genesee

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

Plant & Pest Hotline

(810) 244-8548

Hours: Hotline winter hours are: Friday, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

geneseeplantpest@anr.msu.edu

Public Office Hours:

8 am - 12:00 and 1:00 pm-4:00 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

AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

HOLIDAY PARTY AND 2019 ELECTION

Come and join us for entertainment, good food, gifts, and a chance to win this beautiful porch pot.

Social hour starts at 5:30 pm,
Business meeting starts at 6:00 pm
Dinner will start after business meeting and entertainment will begin at 7:30pm.



MGAGCM DOWN TO EARTH NEWSLETTER