



Inside this issue:

FEATURE ARTICLE	1
COOKS CORNER.....	3
INTERVIEW WITH JIM HARROW...	4
CARING FOR AND PROTECTING OUR TREES.....	5
HOTLINE BUZZ.....	9
MGAGCM MEETING MINUTES.....	10
DATES TO REMEMBER.....	12
OFFICERS AND SAVE THE DATE.....	13

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Defending your Turf: Crabgrass! Or is it?! (Crabgrass Prevention for the Turf-challenged Master Gardener)

The crabgrass plant might be the most misunderstood and misused name in turf grass management, only behind proper mowing practices. Similar to in Texas and Tennessee where every soda or “pop” is called a “coke”. Where it is common in these areas to hear a waitress say “what kind of coke would you like?”, you may reply with “I’ll take a ‘sprite-coke’”. This is to say that every pop is labelled with ‘coke’, where of course that is not true. Working in the lawn and garden industry for a living, the most common misconception is, I have all this “crabgrass”!

To the average homeowner, tall fescue is crabgrass, quack grass is crabgrass, barnyard grass is crabgrass, and finally, crabgrass is also crabgrass! As we all know, a weed is a plant out of place, where crabgrass seems to be used interchangeably with *an unwanted grass species* out of place. The importance of this in the big picture is if we don’t identify the plant correctly, we may apply herbicides where they are not needed! *Gasp*



When the snow melts, you may see unwanted grass types in your lawn. Rest assured these are NOT crabgrass plants. However, when your turf stand breaks out of dormancy, before you ever think about buying herbicides, your crabgrass management begins. The start of crabgrass control begins when you install your lawn. The best way to control crabgrass is to maintain a thick healthy turf stand. Proper selection of turf species for your specific conditions, and proper and judicious fertilization is the best start. But if you are like me, and didn’t know this until your lawn is mostly established, crabgrass control begins when you crank a few times on that lawn mower that has been in the garage all winter, or you place that phone call to your local mowing company.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Proper mowing practices will cut back on your crabgrass more than any other practice. Keeping your grass as tall as you can stand it and mowed frequently enough to only cut 1/3 of the grass blade off at a time will do wonders for your “future” crabgrass issues. This is because crabgrass requires the soil to be at a certain temperature before it germinates, and as much sun and dryness as possible after. The tall turf will create a moist, shady environment for the crabgrass seeds, which are currently lying dormant from the previous year. By mowing high, you will create a microclimate that is not conducive to crabgrass growth.

However, turf grass around your home does not have a continuous ability to shade the grass plants, and the soil temperature will increase eventually, and around May this won't be enough to prevent crabgrass. The edges of your driveways and sidewalks will be most susceptible to crabgrass due to the ambient heat increasing the soil temp on those areas, and the lack of dense turf will also create the best place for crabgrass seeds to germinate. Enter the pre-emergent herbicide. Pre-emergent's do not kill the seed of the plant or prevent it from germinating. Instead, the seedling will still germinate, however, the root system will be so limited by the herbicide that it will not survive long enough to become established.

Crabgrass doesn't germinate around the Genesee county areas until the Forsythia begins blooming and for about 2 weeks after that. **Always read the label of your herbicide**, it will tell you how long it will stay active in the soil. Your plan will be to put down the herbicide before the germination of crabgrass, but not so far back as to have it breakdown and not be effective when germination of crabgrass occurs. Once the crabgrass has germinated, pre-emergent herbicide will be ineffective. During this stage, the crabgrass plant is barely visible and susceptible to post emergence herbicides. Once the crabgrass plant is established, it will outperform turf, due to its prolific nature and will produce seed which will lay dormant in your lawn for years. Complete control of crabgrass may take several years due to the number and durability of the seeds. In its fully grown stage, you will finally know if what you have in your lawn is indeed crabgrass!



For those so inclined, or do not have a forsythia tree, you can use this tool to determine when to put down your pre-emergent herbicide by using degree days. <https://enviroweather.msu.edu/>

For proper turf grass selection:

http://msue.anr.msu.edu/resources/turfgrass_species_and_cultivar_selection_e2912

For proper mowing tips:

<http://msue.anr.msu.edu/resources/mowing-lawn-turf>

Written and Submitted By: Garrett Schulte, Genesee County Master Gardener Volunteer in Training



COOKS CORNER

Beef and Butternut Chili

Ingredients

- Cooking spray
- 1 tablespoon canola oil, divided
- 1 1/2 pounds boneless chuck roast, trimmed and cut into 1/2-inch cubes
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 cups chopped onion
- 1/2 cup chopped green bell pepper
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh garlic
- 2 teaspoons diced jalapeño pepper
- 2/3 cup dry red wine
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground ancho chile pepper
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon ground red pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/4 teaspoon ground coriander
- 1/8 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 (28-ounce) can whole tomatoes, undrained and chopped

Ingredients Continued

- 1 (15-ounce) can black beans, rinsed and drained
- 2 cups (1/2-inch) cubed peeled butternut squash
- 1 cup coarsely chopped carrot
- 6 tablespoons reduced-fat sour cream or fat-free Greek yogurt
- 2 tablespoons fresh cilantro leaves

Directions

1. Heat a large Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Coat pan with cooking spray. Add 1 teaspoon oil; swirl. Sprinkle beef with salt. Add beef to pan; sauté 8 minutes, turning to brown on all sides. Remove beef.
2. Add 2 teaspoons oil to pan. Add onion and bell pepper; sauté 3 minutes. Add tomato paste, garlic, and jalapeño; sauté 2 minutes, stirring constantly. Add wine; bring to a boil, scraping pan. Cook 2 minutes. Return beef to pan.
3. Stir in ancho chile pepper and the next 7 ingredients (through kidney beans), and bring to a boil. Cover, reduce heat to medium, and simmer gently for 1 hour. Add butternut squash and 1 cup carrot, and simmer for 1 hour or until beef is tender. Ladle 1 1/3 cups chili into each of 6 bowls, and top each with 1 tablespoon sour cream and 1 teaspoon cilantro.



Nutritional Info:

Calories: 308
 Fat: 9.9g
 Saturated fat: 3.3g
 Monounsaturated fat: 3.6g
 Polyunsaturated fat: 1g
 Protein: 28.4g
 Carbohydrate: 25.5g
 Fiber: 5.8g
 Cholesterol: 55mg

From Paprika Recipe

“Sure, I’m Good For Gardening Another 20 Years”

This sentiment, surely fits the Jim Harrow we all know. With a love for all things garden related being instilled by his dad, Jim began his love for plants with growing and nurturing daylilies and bearded irises in the mid-1980s. Through his years of working with his plants he connected with Mary Wilson, State Master Gardener Coordinator for Michigan State University Extension who provided him the information needed to acquire his Master Gardeners Certification. Little did he know then what he was getting into or where the Master Gardener Extension program would lead him after joining in January of 2000.

“Whatever I’ve been studying for the last year, or, am about to

FUN JIM FACTS

His favorite house plants are the “Peace Lily and the Christmas Cactus or on occasion the next plant in bloom”

Jim “can’t go without it” gardening tools include a pair of good pruners and a special shovel called a “lady’s shovel” which is a small bladed, long handled shovel.

study.” Has always been Jim’s favorite class and what led him from flowers, to lawns to trees and shrubs - all a labor of love. In 2001 Jim began work with Bordines Nursery where he entered the Michigan Nurseryman Certification Program with eight other employees. This was an intensive study program that took place over a period of three months and culminated with a “small” quiz (300 + questions). This three-hour exam was extensive, requiring knowledge of both the common name as well as the Latin name and the correct spelling of the trees along with their leafing and flowering characteristics. In 2002 Jim received his certification, specializing in the study of Entomology, Arboriculture and IPM.

For folks living in apartments, have limited space or have trouble with mobility, including any that don’t own their residence, a container garden or potted plant can provide some enjoyment. As a suggestion, some flowers or even a tomato plant can easily grow in containers and may provide some fruit to consume.

Be sure to get permission from the owner or manager before raising any plants

“I really like the Master Gardener programs that I have worked with. And they have done a good job for themselves and for all of us in Genesee County”, Jim shares. “Vicki Laurin and the rest of the Master Gardener Board of Directors hard work continues to bring improvements to the association.” In the future of the organization Jim would like to see some additional public gardening projects for public and private businesses and organizations of Flint that have very limited budgets – creating beauty in the City of Flint, and surrounding areas.

Interview with Jim Harrow took place on Nov. 10, 2017 at the MSU Flint extension office conducted by Dale Daron. and would have taken much, much more time to complete without the benefit of a first-class audio to script transcribing job by Master Gardener Colleen Putinsky.

Edited by Kit Puroll

FROM DIAGNOSTICIAN JIM’S DESK

The most requested topic that Jim gets on the hotline is regarding Spruce trees as there have been a number of different problems involving them in the past few years.

In regard to insect pests, Jim feels that currently the Japanese Beetle is the one that most bothers the homeowner. However, there is another pest on the horizon for Michigan that will be more problematic - namely, the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. It is a sucking insect that has been attacking the Hemlock trees all over the Eastern Seaboard and has worked its way into Michigan. It is very harmful due to the Hemlock tree being a high-dollar crop, in addition to an important component of the forest ecosystems.

One of the invasive plants to keep an eye on would be the Japanese Stilt Grass, as it could crowd out some of our native Michigan plants. In addition is the Japanese Knotweed, also known as Michigan Bamboo and the Burr Cucumber which is highly considered to be a plant that takes over a garden and tillable soils.

CARING FOR AND PROTECTING OUR TREES

"The wrongs done to trees, wrongs of every sort, are done in the darkness of ignorance and unbelief for when the light comes the heart of the people is always right." John Muir 5² 7² -1914

Gary Eichen, certified arborist, February's membership meeting speaker, shares, "Muir is absolutely right there is a lot of misinformation out there. It goes to the human condition." Through Gary's very professional and informative presentation members learned much about the care and preservation of trees.

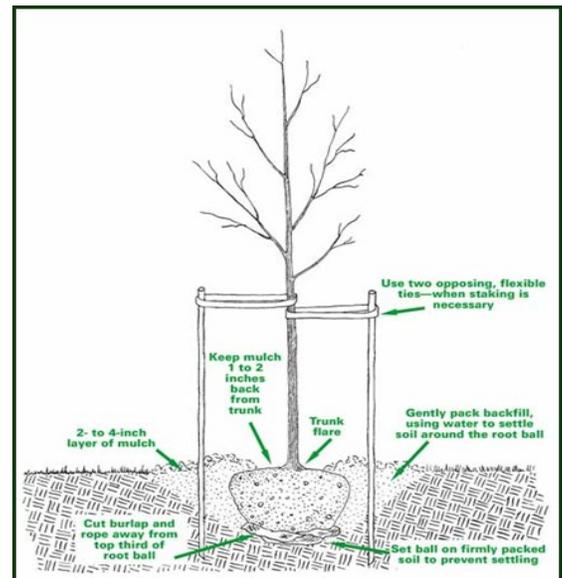
Gary has been a professional arborist for thirty years with the last twenty-two years as the Plant Health Care/Bio-Turf Lawn Manager at Mike's Tree Surgeons in Troy, Michigan. "Gary is also an accredited trainer for Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Commercial Pesticide Applicator Core Program as administered by the Michigan Green Industry Association, teaching how to become responsible professional and licensed pesticide applicators.

"People want to do the right thing, they want to take care of the trees, they know what a valuable resource they are," Gary begins, "but, the information isn't always available to them. So I am here tonight to tell you the truth about trees, insects and diseases. You can take it from here and spread the word for me."

It was Gary's spirited delivery that brought a light-hearted perspective to the topic and is incorporated in the following steps he shared. The following is taken from his presentation.

PLANTING

The hole should be twice the size of the root ball you are putting in the ground. Dig the hole as deep as the root system, but not much deeper, so that when you have finished planting the tree or shrub, it is just as deep in the new location as in the old. When the root hole is too deep the root ball becomes very heavy and the tree settles too deep. It is better to plant the root ball a little high and let it settle. When it is planted too deep, the soil next to the bark begins to rot off exposing the inside vascular system, killing the tree. (Trunk rot, basal crown rot.) The way a tree grows – Each year, the tissue that carries the sugars and carbohydrates to the root system becomes the new bark. The tissue that carries the water up becomes the new structure wood. And a new layer is put in between them creating the familiar rings.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

The cells that are right under the bark, cannot regenerate once they are exposed to air. For more information on planting:

<https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/yardandgarden/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2016/10/HO-100.pdf>

The soil that has been removed from the hole should be used as backfill. When peat or top soil is substituted, "It is like heaven and those little roots just jump out of that peat and they say 'Oh thank you very much!'" Once the roots extend beyond the amendments and reach the native soil they literally stop growing and say, "I will just stay in the peat." Then they start circling the root ball entwining themselves trying to get more roots just in the peat. **So, dig the hole twice the size of the root ball using the native soil.** "You have to tell that tree, 'Hey, this is the soil you've got, its as good as it gets, get use to it right now.'" The basal root flare of the tree should be placed slightly above grade to help promote lateral root spread. Most roots grow within 24" of the surface as they need oxygenated soil to thrive. Very few plants have tap roots. So when a tree is planted too deep the roots begin to fail as a result of lack of oxygen.



The Root ball may be wrapped in burlap when you purchase it. While the burlap will help in transporting and setting the root ball in place it must be opened up before putting in the ground. Burlap can take ten years before it biodegrades. During that time water will not penetrate the burlap inhibiting water flow to the roots. At the very least we recommend removal of the top third. Because we know it is hard to move a tree into a hole without anything to move it. All wire wrap or caging should be removed as they can contribute to girdling. Nylon wrap will not biodegrade and should also be removed completely.

Mulches are materials placed over the soil surface to maintain moisture and improve soil conditions. Mulching is one of the most beneficial acts a homeowner can do for the health of a tree. However, improper mulching materials and practices may have little, or even negative, impact on the trees in your landscape.

<http://www.treesaregood.com/portals/0/docs/treecare/ProperMulching.pdf> Gary shares, "When people have an abundant supply of mulch they create the 'mulch volcano'". This practice holds moisture against the trunk and contributes to the bark rotting off. Mulch should be pulled back away from the trunk several inches so the base of the trunk is exposed."

Water is absolutely critical to the survival of the tree. Trees store massive amounts of water. A giant oak tree can store and move 50 gallons of water a day. They are massive storage vessels. The tree roots depend on the movement of this water providing oxygen to over 10,000 microorganisms that live within the soil. These microorganisms have a symbiotic relationship with the tree roots, some even create more entry points for water.

PLANTING IN CLAY

Raise the ground as high as possible with a third of the root ball exposed. Because of its macro pore structure it does not hold oxygen. Roots need oxygen to breathe and grow.

GIRDLING ROOTS

Roots that wrap around the trunk choke the vascular system. They start squeezing on the trunk and strangling those cells - it is literally committing suicide and strangling itself. At this point the arborist can come in and cut the roots and save the tree but, in a mature tree, these roots will be imbedded in the trunk killing it.

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In Michigan there are only three months a year where you need to water your tree - June, July and August - if you do it properly you only have to do it once a month. Water the entire root zone. The root zone can extend as far as 1/3 past the height of the tree - if you have a 100 foot tree the roots can extend 130 feet from the trunk. Roots within ten feet of the tree are structure roots that hold the tree in place. They hold the tree in the ground and do not uptake water. Concentrate on the drip line. The biggest problem that we see is overwatering. For more information on watering:

<http://web.extension.illinois.edu/cook/downloads/9236.pdf>

Pruning - Timing of pruning of trees is critical - certain species may become hosts for lethal pathogens if they are pruned during the growing season. Flowering trees should be pruned after flowering. Fruit producing trees should be pruned after fruiting. Other ornamental trees should be pruned either spring or fall. Most recommendations are spring or fall. Use the three cut method when pruning.

“Trees don’t like to look stupid. Trees have told me, *‘Gary please help me - don’t make me look stupid.’*”

When pruning use the proper tools – I recommend the Fanno, the best tree saw. It is razor sharp cuts like a surgeons scalpel. A saw-zall is not a proper tool for pruning - carpentry tools are not pruning tools.” For more information on pruning: http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/tips_on_tree_and_shrub_pruning - <http://www.canr.msu.edu/hrt/uploads/534/79846/05-Pruning-Basics-Duck.pdf>



Fertilizing – Our soils can be lacking of nutrients for several reasons. Over the years through the process of our land being planted and supporting growth continuously nutrients have been depleted. Or, your soil PH may not be able release nutrients. Every nutrient has a certain span of PH that is available to a tree if that PH is outside that span no matter how much of that nutrient that you have in the soil it is not going to uptake to that tree. The tree doesn’t even know it is there. It is not in a releasable form. In addition, specific trees have specific nutrient issues. Also, if the PH is too high the nutrients can’t be released. If the soil is heavy in clay the nutrients aren’t able to release it to the tree. In many of these situations amending the soil with compost and/or organic soil amendments will provide the necessary nutrients. Fertilizer is not a health treatment. It is simply a way to replace elements that the tree roots need to survive. Fertilizer is not food. Trees require no external food source. They feed themselves through the process of photosynthesis. Nothing is food to the tree except sunlight, carbon dioxide and water. That is it. And through that amazing process in the leaf, they are converted to sugars carbohydrates, proteins, and enzymes that are sent to the roots and cause the tree to grow. Nitrogen fertilizer fools the tree - it is pure unadulterated energy. It is like Oomph *Schwarzenegger* stuff. “I feel good Umm, I feel really good today.” It fools the tree to think it is stronger than it is. The next thing the tree does is to grow extra leaves. It does not improve the tree at all. Instead, with all the additional foliage the tree is actually stressed.

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If the evening's keynote had a single mission it would be his passionate plea for everyone to be aware of the plight of the Michigan Oak trees being infected with the Oak Wilt disease. Gary shares, "Oak trees account for 30% of the trees in Michigan. If we lose this resource this state will be changed forever. We will never recover if this disease wipes out our oak trees."

Oak wilt disease is caused by a fungal pathogen that interferes with a tree's uptake of water creating a wilting syndrome, distinguished by discoloration, wilt, and defoliation, often resulting in the death of the tree. The fungal pathogen, *Ceratocystis fagacearum* forms a mat on the side of an oak tree. The pathogen spreads from diseased to healthy trees in two ways: overland and underground. Overland spread is mediated mainly by sap feeding (a.k.a. picnic) beetles (Coleoptera: Nitidulidae). However, there is some evidence that oak bark beetles (Coleoptera: Scolytidae) may also be involved. http://www.e-bnlcafe.net/mikestree/HYG_3306_09_oak_wilt.pdf Gary explains, "The beetles are attracted by the sweetness of this fungus and will go to the mat and feast - now he is covered in the fungus. Then he travels to another oak with fresh wounds and feasts on the fresh wound thereby depositing the fungus to another tree. The key here is 'fresh wounds'. The beetle can find the wound on a tree within five minutes. Fresh wood sends off an odor to the beetle and he is there immediately. From here it spreads underground - once one tree is infected, if its roots are touching the roots of a tree of the same species they will also become infected. There is no chemical control for infected trees they need to be cut down. The best defense against oak wilt is not to create wounds on oak. Never ever let anyone prune your oak trees until after November 15th and before March 15th - only prune during winter - when the beetle is not active. If you have storm damage and a branch is cracked, remove the limb immediately and paint the wound. If you have to remove an oak because it has been highly damaged you must seal and paint the stump if it is not possible to grind it at that same time. If the beetle touches the stump he deposits the fungus and it spreads throughout the living root system."

As Gary closes the evening's program, he puts a call to action to all of those in the room, "Please go out and tell everyone. Oak Wilt is killing our trees. If this disease is allowed to spread, the ecology of Michigan will never recover. The animals that live in the trees, chipmunks and squirrels and the microorganisms that live on the bark will all be affected. It is fast moving, the Red Oak species will die within two weeks, while the White Oaks might only survive two - three years. This is the single most lethal pathogen I have ever seen."

WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR IN A PRUNING COMPANY

- Do They comply with the ANCI 300 Standard *
- Do they have at least one certified arborist
- Do they remove all brush after pruning
- Are they insured 1 million in liability.

Gary L. Eichen; Plant Health Care/Bio-Turf Lawn Manager; Certified Arborist Speaker February 15, 2018 Genesee Master Gardener Meeting; Article by, Kit Puroll, DTE Columnist

MGAGCM HOTLINE BUZZZZ

Greetings from the Genesee County Lawn and Garden Hotline volunteers! We are still taking inquiries on Fridays but will go to Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays as of April 2nd, when folks start planning for the growing season! Since last issue, here are some of the questions that the hotline volunteers have fielded:



My prairie grass fell in August and has remained down, why did that happen?

Prairie grass is a variety of grass often used as ornamental plants to add height, diversity and beauty to the garden or landscape. Many gardeners wait until spring to trim down ornamental grasses to allow new growth because of the awesome motion and color they provide in winter. The cause of this problem might be due to, too much nitrogen in the soil, but the best way to know for sure is to get a soil test. That can be done through MSU Extension!

Request for information on grafting.

Grafting is the art of joining together plant parts in such a manner that they unite and grow a new single plant. An example would be grafting parts from two different apple trees to produce a new variety of apple. Grafting can be specific to types of trees and should be researched for your needs. Here are a couple of links that you might find helpful.

http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/bridge_grafting_girdled_fruit_tree_trunks

http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/selecting_and_storing_scion_wood_for_grafting

When can I expect my roses to begin blooming?

Depending on the variety, you can expect roses to start blooming in early to mid-spring. Although many consider growing roses to be more challenging than other plants and shrubs, their beauty, scent and ability to bloom all season can make growing them worth your while!

What kind of soil should I use to root a "Christmas Tree" plant ?

The soil should be moist (but not wet), somewhat acidic, rich and sandy. A seedling tree will not be ready for Christmas for 7-12 years (6-8 feet, depending on the variety)

One caller recently purchased a home and wanted to grow native plants.

It is best to contact the DNR to get a list of native plants for your area. Native plants can be described as plants that were in an area (region, state etc) before humans settled there.

Article written by LaDonna Gamble and edited by Abi Saeed and Kit Purroll

Flushing River Trail

Work sessions begin for the Flushing Riverview Trail - Wednesday, April 28 at 9 am. Meet at the trail-head on Main St. (corner of Bueche's Plaza, by the ATM). We will prune, cut grasses, pick up trash. Bring pruners, rakes, handtools, gloves. Questions? Call Sylvia Hansen at [810-659-0130](tel:810-659-0130).

MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OF GENESEE COUNTY MICHIGAN

Membership Meeting Minutes – March 15, 2018

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Vicki Laurin at 7:06 pm.

Review of Minutes: Motion and 2nd by Nettie Sparks & Carol Putinski to accept the February 15, 2018 meeting minutes as presented. Passed.

Treasurer's Report: The beginning balance on 01FE18 was \$18,778.58. February income totaled \$616.63 and expenses were \$1,692.23. The ending balance on 28FE18 was \$17,702.98, including the Square account of \$300.14.

Mel Kennedy - Projects Reports:

Projects

Butterfly Garden (Clio)

Carriage Town
available.

Crossroads Village (Monarch Way Station) Joanie Snyder- 'Vintage in the Village' 19MY18. Sloan Car Show 23

24JN18.

Desert Oasis

Easter Seals

Grow Lab

Ask A Master Gardener

potential nurseries. Will need volunteers to work at them.

Farmers Market – Davison

Farmers Market – Flint

Farmers Market – Grand Blanc

Flint Twp. Police Dept.

Flushing Butterfly Garden

Flushing City Hall

Flushing River Trail

Humane Society

Swartz Creek Veterans Memorial

Keller Park Woody Ornamental Garden

Chairperson

Lori Fournier- The park was flooded in Feb, the impact is tbd.

Marilyn Nichols- Come visit the garden. Memorial stones are

Alicia Ellis / Kay McCullough- Grasses cut last week.

Carol Groat / Betty Draper- planning has started.

Carol Groat- Planting Tomatoes! Can always use help at the schools.

Alan Grove / Michelle Chockley- Sent out letters of request to

Alan Grove- Start 1st Saturday in May.

Need Chairperson- NR

Beth Fromholz-Davies/Alan Grove- Start Sunday 20MY18.

Kristi Hunt- NR

Mary Beth Seaward – Start in late April working Monday @ 5:30 pm.

Sylvia Hansen – work days to be scheduled.

Sylvia Hansen- Flooded in Feb. Start in late April.

Maggie Gregg- Cleanup Sat. 28AP18 - 9:30 – 12 noon

Maggie Gregg- Cleanup Wed. 25AP18 - 9:30 – 12 noon

Lorna Woods-Johns- to send out an email on workday.

Rest Stop Projects

I-69

Janet Horvath- looking for volunteers

Otisville Veterans Memorial Park

Peggy Banks- Start the end of April, need volunteers

Park Place Community Garden

Susan Biron- Started onion & other seeds in greenhouse, more to be

- planted! Please save VG's and Spartan Stores receipts for Sue, they are worth points toward a \$1000 cash award.

Alan Grove - Standing Committee Reports:

Banquet (Spring/Awards)

Loretta Ellwood- April 19, 2018 at Crossroads. (2) MG classes will receive their certificates. Sign-up deadline is 09AP18.

Bulb Sale

Randy Tatro – bulbs on sale at the Awards Banquet too.

Bus Trip (Educational)

Sabrina VanDyke/Joanne Gensel- see handout available at meeting.

Changed to a Saturday bus trip

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10)

Clothing Vicki Laurin /Kay McCullough- March order should be in soon. April order deadline is 30AP18.

DTE Vicki Laurin / Kit Puroll – A new and exciting DTE may debut in May 2018.

Fall Into Spring Loretta Ellwood- Saturday 06OC18 @ Mott for \$70 per person.

Garden Stones/Plant Stakes/Tool & Garden supplies Dick Moldenhauer- tool order to be submitted 25AP18. Can get \$50 off a \$200 order. Begin thinking of what plant signs your projects need this year and submit your request (don't wait until May!) If you have unused plant signs please turn them in for other projects to use.

Garden Tour (Educational) Kay McCullough- Event will be Sunday 24JN18 at (7) homes in the Grand Blanc area. Kay will have a planning meeting at her house Wed. 21MR18 at 6 pm.

Hospitality Gloria Roudebush – Several people were sent cards.

Outreach Events Need Director- Events in April: a) 06-08AP18 Garden Show @ Dort Federal Event Center-filled. B) Bordines, 21-22AP18 and c) Wojos, last Saturday in April? (tbd)

Public Relations Mel Kennedy- A Mason Bee Workshop will be held on 24MR18 @ MSUE-Flint. Bee Symposium will be April 23, 2018 @ Mott RTC at 4:30 pm. Reservations should be made.

VMS Ambassadors Abi Saeed / Michelle Chockley- Thanks to Michelle for her great job on VMS!

Website Kay McCullough- Bus Trip & Garden Tour updates are online.

Abi-will present 'Communicating through Conflict' Professional Development Training on 11AP18 2-5 pm @ MSUE. Board members and Committee Chairpersons are invited.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

1. We have a vacancy on the board due to Micah Hutchinson resigning. We want to fill this position ASAP. If anyone is interested in filling this position you can talk with any board member and there are copies of the job description available that you can read. This position includes organizing our Outreach projects. Please keep in mind that this is a commitment and is time consuming.

2. The Fundraising Committee is looking for two chairpersons for the following activities:

To organize seed collection and package them to sell at outreach projects.

To chair a Silent Auction to be held at a membership meeting. This person would oversee collecting the items (gently used garden tools, books, etc.) before the auction (they can be held at the office) and overseeing the auction night of the meeting.

SOPs reviewed at membership meeting:

Nomination and Election

Job description of board members.

Announcements:

(reminder) **MGAGCM has a NEW mailing Address: P.O. Box 981, Grand Blanc, MI 48480**

Close of Meeting: Moved and 2nd by Randy Tatro & Beth Fromholz-Davies to adjourn the meeting. Passed. The meeting was adjourned by President Vicki Laurin at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Dick Moldenhauer, MGAGCM secretary

Thank You for Your Donation

Our association has some very generous people and I would like to thank the person who wishes to remain anonymous for donating \$200.00 to the membership and also to Joanne Gensel for donating a new antique style popcorn popper machine to our membership. You will be able to buy a bag of delicious popcorn as



you attend our May membership meeting. Thank you again to the two very generous members who made these donations.

Plant Exchange

Spring is finally here and most of your perennials should be poking their heads up and may be you have found that you have too many of the same plants or you are just tired of a perennial and want to plant something new in its spot. Well, dig up what you don't want and bring to our May 17, MGAGCM monthly meeting for the plant exchange. Please put the name of the plant on the container or plastic bag and remember you don't have to bring a plant to take a plant home. If you have any questions please call Alan Grove at 810-922-8776 or Kay McCullough at 810-635-9341

Thanks to Randy Tatro bulbs will be available to purchase the night of the Awards Banquet. Let's help make Randy's load lighter going home and buy some bulbs to plant in that empty spot every gardener has.

MGAGCM Clothing Order on Hold Until Further Notice

Dates To Remember

April 19, 2018, is the date for this year's MGAGCM's annual awards banquet. It will be held at Crossroads Village. At this event we get to meet and greet other members of our chapter. We will honor those who earned achievement awards during the past year and, for the first time in several years and welcome new members to our organization.

A great buffet meal will be served. A power point presentation of the many and various projects in which MGAGCM is involved will be shown. This will be a chance to meet our hardworking Board members and make new friends as well as greet old ones. Please come and join us at this event. Further updates and the reservation form will be in DTE and on our website, VMS as well as the Extension office. Hope to see you there. A link has also been added to the home page of VMS - right side, lower corner - under "Links" to access the registration form.

MGAGCM May Membership Meeting

What a meeting we have in store for you in our May 17, 2018 meeting. Get ready to sort through those gently used garden tools and books that are still in good condition, but you haven't used in some time. We are having a Silent Auction and if you would like to donate an item you can contact Pam Malow-Isham and let her know what you are donating. If you could take a picture and send it to her in a text or email that would be great. Her email is: pam@x1now.com and phone: 810-869-2288. Don't forget that all the proceeds go to our membership's general fund and this is another idea that is becoming a reality from our Fund Raising Committee. After letting Pam know what you are donating you can take the item to the Extension office to stay until the night of the meeting.

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

THIS NEWSLETTER PREPARED BY:

Vicki Laurin, laurinvicki@gmail.com,
Kit Puroll,
all_4_adventure@hotmail.com and of
counsel Ruth Simon.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITES

MMGA Inc Website at:
www.michiganmastergardener.org
MMGA Inc Facebook Page at:
www.facebook.com/MichiganMG
MGAGCM Website at: Genesee
County MG.org
MGAGCM Facebook Page at:
<http://facebook.com/groups/2169046232310/>

Link to VMS: <https://michigan.volunteersystem.org>

SAVE THE DATE

Mon. Apr. 2	Board meeting	1 pm-3pm			GCCA RD Bldg.
Thurs., April 5	OUT-REACH EVENT	10-11 am		Com-posting presentation	Burton Senior Center
Mon., April 16	MG course ends	9 am – 1 pm	Multiple	Multiple	GCCA RD Bldg
Thurs., April 19	Awards Banquet	5:30 pm social 6 pm dinner 7 pm awards	No speaker	MG Awards	Crossroads Village*
April 23	Bee Symposium	5-9 pm	TBD	Bee culture	MCC RTC Bldg.

Abiya (Abi) Saeed

Consumer Horticulture Program Instructor

Master Gardener Coordinator

810-244-8531-saeedabi@anr.msu.edu

Michelle Chockley, VMS Ambassador. 810-695-8014

MSU Extension-Genesee

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

Plant & Pest Hotline:

(810) 244-8548
Hours: On April 2, Hotline summer hours will begin. Hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 8:30 am to 1:00 pm.

MGAGCM Mailing address:

PO Box 981, Grand Blanc, Mi.
48480

MSU EXTENSION-GENESEE COUNTY
605 N. Saginaw St.
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AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

The Master Gardener Association of Genesee County Michigan volunteer program cordially invites Master Gardeners, Master Gardeners-in training and their guests to the 30th Annual Banquet, Thursday, April 19, 2018 at the Crossroads Village Mill Street Dining Room