



**GENESEE COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS
DOWN TO EARTH NEWSLETTER**

VOLUME 16

MAY, 2018

ISSUE 5

Master Gardener George Louis Rappold

A Memorial

“Larger than life!” That is how George’s wife Teresa, “Terry”, describes her husband of 34 years. “When he came into a room, everyone followed along.”

George was a man who put his whole self into everything he did and followed his heart and passion along the road of life. Top of that passion was the love of his life, Terry, who he married in 1983, sharing many wonderful experiences and joys together with their children, Curt, Michelle and Robert. One of the treasured memories for them all is surely George dressing up for the family’s annual Christmas Eve party with grandchildren, nieces and nephews. “He really played the part and read the Night Before Christmas. He was a star”, Terry shares.

While most Master Gardeners have memories of George as the Co-Editor for the Master Gardener Newsletter he had many other interests through the years. As a child his first hobby was trains, beginning one Christmas after sharing the joy of trains with his cousin. From that point on trains became a lifetime adventure and his collection grew to include both HO and O scale trains.

DEDICATION TO GEORGE RAPPOLD

This month’s issue of the MGAGCM Newsletter has been dedicated to George Louis Rappold, who volunteered as Co-Editor of the newsletter for more than 3 years. The Masthead features the gardens at White Lake Oaks Golf Course that George maintained. This Masthead is just one element of the new updated layout of the newsletter. Throughout this issue we are featuring George in his memory and honoring him for his contributions as the Co-Editor.

MGAGCM Mission Statement

The Master Gardener Association of Genesee County 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 to be 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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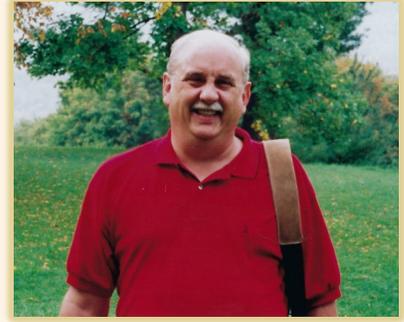
**MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION**



George Continued

Building a large-scale, display taking up half of his basement, George created a city of tracks, buildings, bridges and roads. It was his expertise designing, building and painting the structures of that city, an art of itself, that his model railroader friends often had him design for them. Ironically early in his career George even worked for the railroad.

George was also a Veteran, serving in the Armed Forces in the Military from 1966 through 1968. He treasured his friendships with the men he served with and was committed to reuniting them, working on a committee to host a 30-year reunion in 1996. Friendships were important to George and were the fabric of any hobby, interest, or commitment he made.



A vegetable garden in his backyard was more than a hobby for George it was a personal passion – “growing produce that was useful to his family was important to George”, Terry shares. He loved his vegetable garden, growing his favorites potatoes, carrots, garlic and onions along with the usual vegetables, using a hothouse to start the spring lettuce and many of his herbs. Gardening was a compliment to his love of cooking. Anyone who knew George knew that he loved to cook beautiful meals filled with the homegrown fresh vegetables from his garden. Working in the kitchen with George, preparing family meals, was one of Terry’s favorite things to do. From the Garlic Bacon Pot Roast for a weekend dinner, to the tradition of making homemade ravioli for Thanksgiving to Smoking pork shoulder for the extended families annual picnic, George’s love of cooking was a gift for friends and family.

It was this love of growing plants and putting food on the table that would bring him through one of life’s most challenging times. Just short of twelve days of early retirement George was involved in a tragic accident, hit by a car while riding his bike, sustaining a torn rotator cuff, a fractured clavicle with the worst of which, was a closed-head injury. While it was a devastating time, filled with challenge, pain and frustration, it was his perseverance and determination to live a full life again that led him to the Master Gardeners. He had been looking for a way he could spend time with others and do something he enjoyed, gardening.

In 2010 he took the Master Gardeners class and began his volunteer hours on the hotline. “George

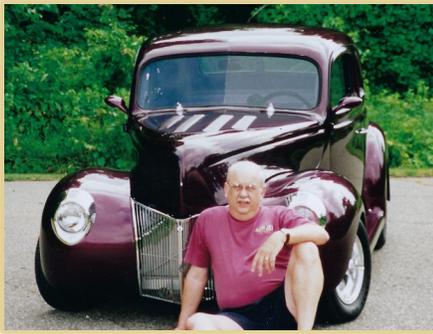


was a faithful volunteer at the hotline and that’s where we met”, Vicki Laurin shares. Teaming up with Vicki they took on the Co-Editorship of the newsletter picking up the job when the then Editor, Autumn Bagley, reached out to them. “It was George who initiated some guidelines and timeline for the newsletter,” Vicki continued. “Making the decision to have a monthly newsletter, sent out on the first of each month, was a goal we each agreed on; and, it was George’s idea to include a recipe each month. George was always excited to include a recipe he and Terry had enjoyed.

George continued from Page 2

George would spend hours looking for educational articles that would bring more knowledge to our readers.”

George’s volunteer work continued with the White Oaks Golf Club in Oakland County, maintaining the gardens around the clubhouse. As an avid golfer, this was a match made in heaven. Terry and George shared this love of the game and spent many days and weekends hitting the balls across the greens. In fact it was their mutual interests that filled their lives together. Many know of George’s other hobby, as a vintage car enthusiast. “We went to the very first, Woodward Dream Cruise and decided this was we wanted to do. From that point on we went every year - it was a riot!” Terry



shares with a broad smile. “It was only a couple years later that we bought our first classic car, a 1940 Ford Roadster, that we continued to enjoy through the years going to car shows all over.

“Wear out Don’t Rust out!” George would tell his friends! He certainly lived that life. We remember you George and with this rollout of the new design of the Genesee Master Gardeners Newsletter we celebrate your work and gardens. God’s blessings for a life well lived.

Article written by Kit Puroll with information provided through interview with Terry Rappold, and Vicki Laurin April 11, 2018.

2018 MGAGCM BUS TRIP

Join your fellow Master Gardeners for a fun-filled bus trip on Saturday, June 30, 2018. We will be visiting Lavender Hill Farms and Fernwood Botanical Garden. Lunch at Fernwood Botanical Gardens, as well water and snacks on the bus, are included in the \$65 cost. **THE DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS JUNE 4**, or until the bus is filled. Any registrations received after June 4 (or whenever the first bus is filled) will not be confirmed until we determine if there are enough participants to fill a second bus.

ABSOLUTELY NO REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER JUNE 8, SO PLEASE SIGN UP EARLY

You can download the registration form on our website: geneseecounty.org

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Gardens of Peacefulness

Board Member Spotlight – Vicki Lauren, MGAGCM Board President

Vicki Laurin's journey to the gardens began when she was a child where she found a place of peacefulness and love. From her youngest years she would spend her summers in Holly on ten acres of woods filled with wonder and intrigue. At the home of her Aunt Tommy she would while away the sunny days with her five cousins, playing, exploring nature, and helping in the gardens. It was her Aunt Tommy that took her under her wing and taught her how to care and nurture the plants and flowers.

Aunt Tommy, whose formal name was Thelma, was always known as Aunt Tommy growing up. Her own young life was filled with running and exploring and doing what the boy's did, garnering her the name "Tommy", as Vicki affectionately refers to her. "She had such a quiet gentleness about her and loved caring for her plants and flowers. "I remember when I was three-years-old she taught me how to water these plants at soil level." It was the peaceful calm and unconditional love that Vicki received that formed her love for plants, nature and the harmony of life that existed in that special place.

"As I grew into an adult I just wanted to continue that way of life. When we bought our first house I immediately planted flowers and landscaped the 1 ¼ acre yard." Little gardens of Hydrangeas, perennials and roses, including her precious St. Patrick Rose*, are scattered throughout the property, leading to a shaded walkway that winds to a pergola. This beautiful latticed pavilion is encircled with perennials, featuring a flower garden in the center. Describing this bit of heaven Vicki shares, "I remember spending the day away out there on the swing when my grandsons were little. I would rock them in the swing and they would sleep." Warm in the spring and cool in the summer, with a golf course behind it, this special space was always quiet and Vicki's favorite spot.

Following her through the yard weeding, planting and watering, her grandsons, Lucas and Jake inherited Vicki's love for nature. Lucas six-years-old, at the time, and Jake eight, both participated in the Junior Master Gardeners course, fulfilling their volunteer hours at the Genesee County Fair. Vicki's grandsons are the joy of her life, spending as much time as she can with them. Each summer she takes a trip with each one of them separately – personalized just for them.



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GARDENS OF PEACEFULNESS continued:

Through the years Vicki has had several career's including a school bus driver, a teacher's aid, a receptionist and a position as a Prevention Detective with Meijer. In 2002, her position at EDS was eliminated leaving her lost, but within a few months she discovered "sunshine" again in the Master Gardeners program. Grateful for the program and the opportunities it gave her to spend time with wonderful people and her love of plants. Her volunteer role took her from Crossroads to the Hotline and onto becoming a Diagnostician. Over a six-year period, her dear friend, Jim Harrow and her attended classes and conferences learning about insects, diseases, tree pruning and pesticides earning their Diagnostician licenses in 2006.

Today Vicki is completing her fourth year as board member and second term in the two year position of President. Vicki shares, "When I started out in 2003 I would have never guessed I would be in the position I am in today." Feeling accomplished through the years she continues, "We have established a very strong and successful Board and have been able to increase membership, hire Abi as our first coordinator and have successfully held four Master Gardener classes in the past three years." Looking forward she sees the organization to continue to grow and thrive as more members take on leadership roles and contribute their own talents and time.

While Vicki keeps very busy with her volunteer work and position as Merchandiser, her favorite time is spent with her family. When she can, she loves to travel sharing, "My husband, Bruce and I love Arizona - there is a spiritual feeling you have out there. One visit we climbed out on the red rock shelves - it was just so peaceful to sit there looking out over the miles surrounding us, reflecting on the world the Native Americans had walked upon hundreds of years before." Her love for hiking trails and venturing through the woods began when she was young and continues today. "I love the woods. I love to walk in the woods. I enjoy the quiet and the peacefulness of the woods - feeling closer to God."

* Vicki describes the St. Patrick Rose in the March issue of the DTE: <https://michigan.volunteersystem.org/users/documents/17DTE%5F%2D%5FDown%5FTo%5FEarth3879.pdf>

Interview conducted and article written by Kit Puroll, March, 2018

INTRODUCING A New Look

Welcome to a new look and layout of the monthly newsletter. You will find some new features and be familiar with many of the historical elements of the newsletter. We appreciate all the input from members in recommending various elements and changes, and have tried to incorporate them in this update.

Some of the updates include:

Internal document links:

- on the home page links to the main features
- links within articles to continuing pages
- links at bottom of pages to link back to the home page

Cooks Corner has been re-named to Garden to Table and will include recipes as well as features on local farms.

The use of consistent layout features will offer readers a source of information that is easy to read and navigate.

We wish to thank all our contributor writers for sharing their ideas and articles to make this a valuable, educational and enjoyable benefit to all Master Gardeners.

INSECT VERBAL COMMUNICATION

Elly Maxwell's Interpretation

"One of the aspects of insect ecology that I enjoy is communication. Insects make sounds in different ways and therefore have ears on different parts to hear them. A lot of insects have ears Anyone look at a bug's ear? Insects' ears are located on an insect's body – they develop where they need to be. The belly of a praying mantis, between her legs, there is an ear. A tympanic membrane, that allows her to detect her prey when she is flying at night. The kadydid's ears are located on the front legs."

"Insects communicate with a variety of sounds referred to as stridulation. Crickets chirp by rubbing their front legs, grasshoppers with their hind legs. Marked beetles make noises with their mouths while cicadas make noise with their abdomens. Some insects buzz, others bang their heads and some bang their bellies on rocks – all ways of communicating with their sisters and brothers."

*Bee photography credit to Elly Maxwell



MGAGCM HOTLINE

Greetings from the MGAGCM Plant and Pest Hotline. Callers and visitors are getting spring fever and planning the details of their growing seasons. For this reason, on April 2, the hotline will move from every Friday to Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays! The hours remain 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and the call-in number is (810) 244-8548. Since last issue, here are some of the questions that the hotline volunteers have fielded:

A caller requested for someone to discuss the soil testing process with him.

Gardeners should have their soil tested every 3-4 years as soil properties can change due to many factors. MSU Extension does provide soil testing for a fee and it is suggested you consider taking this action early before the rush to avoid a longer waiting period. See this link for more details: http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/soil_testing

When is the best time to prune apple trees?

Late February to early March is best, and you need at least two days with a temperature of 30 degrees or below. This is a pretty involved process, so if you want more information, please visit: http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/proper_pruning_means_healthier_more_productive_fruit_trees

A walk-in gardener brought in some small beetles she had been finding on her kitchen counters.

They were identified as dermestid beetles (also known as carpet beetles). They are harmless to humans but can get into (or come in with) your dry goods food supply. Wiping counters down with warm water and detergent can get rid of the pests.

What is the last "frost day" forecast for our area?

This is VERY important because you should never plant outdoors until the last frost date. These dates are based on history, weather patterns and other data. Here is a link to MSU's Enviroweather, where you can get the last frost date for your area. Enviroweather is a sustainable weather-based information system that helps users make pest, plant production and natural resource management decisions in Michigan. The service is online at enviroweather.msu.edu.

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Pheromones, Hormones and Pet Mantis, Oh My

“One evening I looked out on my pet polyphemus, which I kept in a cage to enjoy, there she was, and she had attracted a boyfriend. The boy swooned her - romantic right? They mated for the next nineteen hours until the boyfriend flew away the next evening. They fell in love through smell, that is, sex pheromones.”

Elly Maxwell, March’s MGAGCM speaker of the month, took a very scientific topic of chemicals and physics and brought the group to laughter as she unpacked the world of insect ecology.

Insect Ecology is the study of relationships of insects with their environment. It is how the chemicals found in pheromones, hormones and allomones manage an insect’s life cycle from birth, mating, and protecting itself through the end of life. A topic that would be very difficult to understand otherwise, kept members laughing as they became educated.

To begin an understanding of insect chemistry, Elly reflected on what one would know about our own body’s use of hormones. Hormones are chemicals manufactured by our bodies to be used by our bodies communicating within its systems and organs. For instance, pregnancy hormones, steroids, insulin and adrenaline, are all types of hormones that communicate within our body.

Insects’ hormones are like our hormones. One of the ways insects use hormones is to communicate with each other. Elly shares, “Here is a cool party trick. If you happen to have your own collection of termites you can draw several lines, making one with a Bic pen, another with a Sharpie, one with a Papermate pen, and one with a pencil. Next, shake up the termites and dump them on the lines. Interestingly, they will just smell and follow the Papermate line. The reason, they are attracted to the Papermate line is because the scent is similar to the pheromone they use to communicate with their fellow termites. For more fun, you can make a circle and they just will go around and around in a circle.”



Elly’s humorous accounts of insects just continued, “Honeybees have about twelve dozen chemicals that we know of. My favorite one, is the alarm pheromone, it smells like bananas. When you see bees sticking their little rear end up, it is their alarm pheromone communicating with their sisters letting them know that there is something to worry about.”

With a look at how we use this information to interact with the honeybee, consider the use of smoke, to control the bees when managing a hive. Bees use this alarm pheromone to communicate with each other as the beekeeper approaches, warning their “sisters” that there is danger. When smoke is used to flood the area, it masks the smell of the pheromones and the bees will not receive the message of the threat allowing the beekeeper to enter their space.

In respect to intra-species use of natural chemicals, Elly references to the allomone pheromone, a chemical substance produced and released by an individual of one species that affects the behavior of a member of another species. An example being the stinky plant, which emits a scent that protects the plant from being eaten by an herbivore. Another example from the perspective of

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Pheromones Continued ...

benefiting the insect but not the originator is that of a damaged pine tree - an open wound produces the allomone that attracts the beetle bringing disease to the tree. A third type of chemical that benefits both the pollinator and the plant, is the scent of a plant that attracts the pollinators.

Looking to how pheromones can benefit the gardener, Elly offers the example of the aggregation pheromones, and the use of various insect traps used to monitor and manage insect behavior. In the effort to manage the Japanese Beetle, traps lure the beetle in with sex pheromones. "Baited with sex pheromones the males smell it because it smells like girlfriends along with smelling like something that they want to eat. It smells like sex and food! They start letting out the aggregation pheromone and start to gather. It now smells like sex, food and buddies."



The laughter in the room hardly subsided when Elly told the story of her pet praying mantis. "This past fall I found a European Mantis and brought her into my kitchen and kept her as a pet. Looking sad sitting in the tank I had provided for her, I decided to allow her out to roam the kitchen on her own. I fed her honeybees from my hive, which she wholly enjoyed. My parents could not appreciate my peculiar pet, in hope to bring them around, I endearingly named her after my sister, Emily!"

"It is butterfly season at Dow Gardens!" Elly enthusiastically shared, as her presentation concluded. From now until April 15th we have [butterflies blooming](#) as they emerge from their chrysalis, feeding, and flying all within the tropical environment of The Dow Garden's conservatory."

Elly Maxwell is an entomologist at Dow Gardens, where she enjoys sharing her love of her "pets" with children and provides classes for youth at the Dow Gardens summer bug club. Her main responsibilities include IPM, beekeeping, tending the pollinator garden and coordinating turf care, but the highlight of her position is managing the Butterflies in Bloom event, which as mentioned above is in progress through April 15th.

For more information on pheromones: <https://msu.edu/user/miller20/carmona.htm>

* (While the traps are effective in capturing the beetles, note that it will also lure in more than you would effectively have in your own area.)

Elly Maxwell Presentation at MGAGCM Meeting, March 19, 2018, transcribed and article written by Kit Puroll

Wishing You Beautiful Adventures Abi Saeed

Abi has shared her love of insects, knowledge of soil, planting, growing, protecting and nurturing the world of horticulture with us for three years. We have laughed with her, learned with her and become friends. It has been a short journey but one bursting in life through many beautiful gardens sites and new friendships.



We all will always remember that it is “soil” not “dirt” and the first thing you do when you want to plant anything is “Do a soil test!”. With four classes of new Master Gardeners under her leadership Abi, can be most proud of her accomplishment.

With the news that Abi has taken the position of Agriculturist, Horticulturist, Naturalist Resource Agent for Colorado State University Extension in Gunnison, Colorado, we are sad to see her go and will miss her enthusiasm and smile. As she leaves for her new adventure in life she shares she has had the “pleasure of getting to know over 160 trainees who ‘blossomed’ into dedicated, creative, and exceptional Master Gardeners! Learning so much from each and every one and will carry that with her as she continues with her career, carrying the friendships in her heart.

As she packs up Buffy the Vampire Slayer and Princess Leia for the long ride to their new home we wish her well and exciting new adventures in her new home.

Japanese Maple Sale

Thanks again to Chris Green and Randy Tatro we have the opportunity to purchase Japanese Maple cultivars, Blood Good and Red Select. These Maples are on a “First Come First Serve” basis until supply’s are gone. If interested in buying one of these beautiful trees call Randy Tatro at: 810-232-2018. The cost of each tree is \$10.00.

Final chance to purchase spring bulbs will be at the May membership meeting.

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Recipes & More

Garlic-Bacon Pot Roast

Ingredients

- 3 - 3 1/2 pounds beef chuck pot roast
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly cracked black pepper
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 6 slices applewood smoked bacon, diced
- 1 1/2 cups coarsely **chopped onion**
- 8 **cloves garlic**, smashed
- 1 1/4 1/2 ounce can reduced-sodium beef broth
- 2 tablespoons snipped **fresh thyme**
- 1 tablespoon snipped **fresh rosemary**
- 3 medium carrots, cut into 2-inch pieces
- 10 small red and/or yellow **new potatoes**, quartered
- **Fresh thyme** sprigs

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees F. Trim fat from meat; season with salt and pepper. In a 6-quart Dutch oven brown roast on all sides in hot oil over medium-high heat. Transfer to a plate.
2. Add bacon to oil in Dutch oven. Cook until browned, stirring occasionally. Transfer half of the cooked bacon to a paper towel-lined plate; cover and chill until serving. Add onion and garlic to Dutch oven. Cook and stir about 5 minutes or until onion is tender and starting to brown. Return roast to Dutch oven. Add broth, the 2 tablespoons thyme, and the rosemary. Bring to boiling. Cover; transfer to oven. Bake for 1 3/4 hours. Add carrots and potatoes. Bake, covered, for 45 minutes more or until meat and vegetables are tender. Transfer meat and vegetables to a platter; cover to keep warm. **Skim fat** from liquid; strain liquid through a fine-mesh sieve into a bowl. Return strained liquid to Dutch oven. Bring to boiling; reduce heat. Simmer, uncovered, for 10 to 15 minutes or until slightly thickened. Serve sauce with meat and vegetables. Sprinkle with reserved bacon and thyme sprigs.

VMS ENTERING HOURS

Please use this list as a guide for entering hours when attending MGAGCM Monthly Meeting
1 educational hour
Your VMS Event
Description:
MGAGCM monthly meeting speaker, (name/topic)

Look for VMS updates and information each month.

YOUR GUIDE FOR ENTERING EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION ON VMS

JANUARY – 1/18/18 – Deb Hamilton, Edible Flint

VMS Apply to Project: Food: Community Gardens

FEBRUARY – 2/15/18 - Gary L. Eichen, Certified Arborist, “An Evening in the Gardens”

VMS Apply to Project: Community – Beautification: Public Areas

MARCH – 3/15/18 – Elly Maxwell, Entomologist, “Garden Insect Ecology”

VMS Apply to Project: Environmental Stewardship: IPM - General

APRIL – No Speaker/Banquet

MAY – 5/17/18 – Rebecca Finneran, MSUE Horticulture Education, “Smart Gardening”

VMS Apply to Project: Community – Beautification: Public Areas

JUNE – 6/21/18 – At Wojo’s – To be announced

VMS Apply to Project: Community – Beautification: Public Areas

JULY – No meeting – Picnic at Crossroads

AUGUST – 8/9/18 – Julia Hofley, Writer/Educator, “Fall Finale in the Garden”

VMS Apply to Project: Community – Beautification: Public Areas

SEPTEMBER – 9/20/18 – Karen Golden, Variations Horticultural Services (owner); “Heirloom Tomatoes”

VMS Apply to Project: Food: General Gardens

OCTOBER – 10/18/18 – Tamara Menas, Owner - Michigan Butterfly Farm, “Michigan Native Butterflies

VMS Apply to Project: Environmental Stewardship: Native Plants

NOVEMBER – Elections/Holiday Gathering – no speaker

DECEMBER – No Meeting

1/22/18 - MC

SPRING MUSINGS

Reprinted from the May, 2015 Editorial by George Rappold

There was an article in the newspaper recently and we have all heard the statement to the effect that this is Michigan, “wait a minute and the weather will change”.

Yes the weather has been topsy tervy lately and I have lost some direct sows in the garden much to my dismay and spent several hours today replanting. Perennials that were in full bloom last year are looking like they didn’t make it through the winter. It took three days to be able to return to my volunteer job mostly due to high winds, snow (?) and rain. I tried to turn over the garden earlier this month and couldn’t get through the frozen ground but when I look outside at the front border the tulip bulbs are three inches tall. How do they do that? Mother Nature will never cease to amaze you.

2018 MGAGCM GARDEN TOUR

The Garden Tour will be here before we know it. It is just two months away Sunday, June 24 from 10 AM to 5 PM. The focus area for this self-guided tour is Grand Blanc. This year we have seven homes with only ten miles from beginning to end. . . Passionate gardeners will be showing off their beautiful gardens for visitors to “Ooh” and “Aah.” Visitors will be inspired as they walk away with new ideas for their own gardens. All garden tours are not created equal. We are heavily increasing the educational component with a bees, butterflies and native garden focus. Each site will have Genesee Master Gardeners who will share scientifically based information related to each garden. Each garden will have one or two educational focuses. We will also have several interactive posters at some sites. Our committee is currently working on identifying appropriate topics for each garden. We will work at providing additional information or links for the master gardeners to brush up. We will have the educational scavenger like like year. The guests really enjoyed discussing the garden questions in the car and then finding the answer at the next site. Instead of a quilt raffled off like last year, we will have a sturdy garden bag to raffle. The good news is that by doing this, the master gardeners who visit the sites on the tour date will be able to earn one-half educational hour for each site. They will not earn educational hours by attending other garden tours. Master gardeners may receive volunteer hours for helping the home owners at the sites or MG may volunteer the day of the tour. Sign up early to volunteer by contacting Maggie Gregg by calling 810-655-6357 or e-mailing MaggieKG424@comcast.net. This is a fund raiser for our organization. We hope that you are able to attend. We have updated our Genesee County Garden Tour web page (GCgardentour.weebly.com).

Kay McCullough

Garden Tour Chair

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MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was opened by 1st Vice President, Mel Kennedy at 6:00 p.m.

A motion was made to accept the March meeting minutes as written by Loretta Ellwood and seconded by Alan Grove. The meeting minutes were approved as written.

Bobbie Parkhill reviewed the Treasurer's report for March: The beginning balance was \$17,402.84, income was \$1,048.86, expenses were \$768.25 leaving a balance of \$17,683.45

It was announced that there will be a Silent Auction at the May membership meeting. If interested call Pam Malow-Isham at 810-869-2288.

There will also be a plant exchange at the May membership meeting. Call Alan Grove at 810-922-8776 or Kay McCullough, 810-635-9341 for any questions.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm

Meeting minutes taken by 2nd Vice President Alan Grove

MSU Extension—Genesee County is an educational agency funded jointly through the Board of Commissioners, by the state through Michigan State University and federally through the United States Department of Agriculture.

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal opportunity employer. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.

WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

I want to personally thank Mel Kennedy and Alan Grove for the outstanding job they did in planning and overseeing the outreach projects in April. They each stepped up and did what needed to be done and thank you to all who volunteered at these projects as well. You all are what makes Genesee County awesome.

SILENT AUCTION

At our May MGAGCM monthly meeting we will be holding a Silent Auction. If you would like to donate a gently used garden tool or garden book please contact Pam Malow-Isham at: 810-869-2288 or be prepared to purchase a treasure for your self at the silent auction.

PLANT EXCHANGE

Also at our May membership meeting we will be holding a plant exchange. If you are bringing a plant to exchange remember to bring the plant in a container with the name of the plant attached. Also, you can take a plant home even if you didn't bring a plant to exchange. It's a great situation as you can separate those plants that are getting to big and you might be helping a new gardener get started in their gardens.

MGAGCM MAY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

May 17, 2018 will we hold our monthly membership meeting. Starting at 5:30 pm we will enjoy social hour with friends and snacks provided by, Loretta Ellwood, Judith Trombly, Marilyn Nichols and Alan Grove.

Out speaker, Rebecca Finneran, who is a Horticulture Educator and Master Gardener Administrator, will be speaking on Smart Gardening.

After a 10 minute break we will hold our monthly business meeting.

POP CORN, POP CORN, WHO'S READY FOR SOME POP CORN?

As part of our fund raising efforts and thanks again to Joanne Gensel for the purchase of the Pop Corn Popper, we will be selling bags of delicious pop corn for \$1.00 a bag. The making of this pop corn has been mastered by our own Alan Grove who holds the title of : Master Pop Corn Popper. So, show your support to our membership and buy a bag or two pop corn.

MGAGCM DOWN TO EARTH NEWSLETTER

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MGAGCM OFFICERS (2018)

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Treasurer	Bobbi Parkhill
630-408-1710	bpark141@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE

Thurs, May 3	OUT-REACH EVENT	10-11 am		Starting a New Gar- den- presenta- tion	Burton Senior Center
Mon., May 7	Board meeting	1 pm- 3pm			GCCAR D Bldg.
Thurs., May 17	Member- ship meeting	5:30 pm social 6 pm speak- er 7 pm meeti ng	Rebecca Finneran, horticulture educator, Master Gardener program administra- tor	Smart Gar- dening	GCCAR D Bldg.

THIS NEWSLETTER PREPARED BY

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CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITES

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(810) 244-8548

Hours: Hotline summer hours are:
Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 8:30
am to 1:00 pm.

geneseeplantpest@anr.msu.edu

Public Office Hours:

8 am - 1 pm Monday through Friday.

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AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

MGAGCM SPPEAKER OF THE MONTH

Rebecca Finneran is our guest speaker for our May General Membership meeting on May 17th. She has been a horticulture instructor at Michigan State University for 28 years. She currently holds the title of West Michigan Horticulture and Master Gardener Program Administrator. She is also Senior Specialist on the Smart Gardening Program. She will speak on the subject of Smart Gardening explaining what it is and how to become one. Some of us may have met her a few weeks ago as she was an instructor at our Master Gardener Class that just finished a week ago.



MGAGCM DOWN TO EARTH NEWSLETTER