



DOWN TO EARTH

2014

VOLUME 12

12



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FEATURE ARTICLE

CHIHULY IN THE GARDENS

By Sharon Noteboom (MG 04)

Should your plans take you to Denver, be sure to visit the Denver Botanical Gardens, one of the top rated gardens in the US. The Gardens cover about 23 acres with over 40 distinct areas and thousands of species of flora. It is comprised of three distant and separate areas.

My visit took me to the York Street section. It is located near the central district of Denver in an older residential district. This is the main entrance with offices, educational buildings, a delightful garden store and Mamie's Pavilion. The Pavilion displays orchids, bromeliads, and indoor waterfall, and The Orangery. It is similar to the gardens of an Italian villa with Versailles planters in seasonal color and Italian cypress.

As you wander outside, you will come upon the Romantic Gardens. Your sense of smell will be delighted by the fragrance garden. Visually you will enjoy a palette of color in the annual garden and see coneflowers, lilies, coreopsis, and much more in the perennial garden.

The Alpine garden is a treat with its 4,000 species of mountain plants along a water-sculptured stream bed.

Among the most popular places is the Japanese garden. It has a bonsai collection of trees from the Rocky Mountain regions, as well as, tropical and sub-tropical bonsai. An authentic Tea House shipped from Japan and reassembled by Japanese artisans and a pond with floating water lilies is the centerpiece here.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)



Marnies
Pavalion

Oranger
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Roman-
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Gardens

Alpine



Japa-
nese
Gardens

Tea
House



MASTER GARDNER MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2015

January 15, 2015

February 19, 2015

March 19, 2015

April 16, 2015

May 21, 2015

June 18, 2015

July —0— Picnic

August 20, 2015

September 17, 2015

October 15, 2015

November 19, 2015 Xmas Party

December —0—

January speaker is Glen Pace of the Eastern Michigan Hosta Society and the topic is Woodland Wonders.

Snack hosts are needed, contact Cheryl Borkowski at 586-383-8695

Social from 6:00 to 6:30 at which time the meeting will commence till 7:30 followed by the speaker for the evening.

HOME GROWN 790

I have a problem with tiny insects that look like fruit flies that are all over my screens on the outside and also inside my house. They are flying around the kitchen and fall in coffee cups and the occasional wine glass. Any sugary product attracts them. My neighbors have them too. The only thing different in my area is the neighbor right next door had a big garden and then did not pick anything and I can see rotting tomatoes, peppers and squash. He said he lost interest. Is there any chance our insect problems have something to do with that non-gardener next door?

You have solved your own mystery. There are three dinky insects that can end up as unwanted houseguests. If there are indoor plants in the house, fungus gnats are one possibility. The little fruit fly-sized guys will be hovering around plants. The next dinky is the drain fly. They are associated with standing stagnant water with organic matter at the bottom. That translates into basement floor drains, unused bathrooms, laundry tubs that do not have water going into or out of them or sump pump areas. These guys fly around the windows, usually over the kitchen sink. The last is the fruit fly. They are associated with overripe fruit and vegetables. They need plant matter that has broken down enough that parts are in a liquid state. In the house, it can happen during canning season with lots of damp skins and parts of fruit are in the trash can in the kitchen. It happens when fruit juice or sugary sodas get spilled and not cleaned up and fruit flies now have a new food source. Or, as you are experiencing, the neighbor with the trash pile of fruit in a decaying state. We have not had a frost bad enough to kill many insects outside. We have just had light frosts. The rotting fruit and mild conditions are the perfect conditions for a mega fruit fly breeding operation. This is confirmed by fruit flies on the outside of the screens and neighbors having the same problem. If you can get a look at your home invader, they will have large orange or red-orange eyes. This is the most common fruit fly to find. They also go to favored feeding items like fruit juice and wine. They do love to flutter around and fall into coffee cups that have been sitting. But when the outside temperatures drop below freezing, the outside guys are dead. Keep swatting the inside guys.

How do I save the calla lily bulbs that I just dug up? I know if I leave them in the ground, they will freeze. Is this difficult?

It's only difficult if you don't know what to do. Make sure the dug-up bulbs are indoors where it is heated. Put them in a box or on a newspaper in a single layer and separate them so they do not touch. Gently brush off as much soil as you can. As the bulbs dry, keep brushing. You do not want damp soil sticking to the bulb. The tops of the plants should be trimmed off to leave about two or three inches of stem. Don't cut flush with the top of the bulb because that invites rotting at the point. You are going to let the stem dry and shrivel into a little wizened stick. Do not wash bulbs, either. You are aiming for dry. It takes about two weeks for the skin on the outside of the bulb to dry or cure. It needs to be a bit tough to store. Get a container like a paper bag or box or old basket. The dry stem can be trimmed shorter when it is completely dry. The dried bulb can be nestled into dry sphagnum peat moss or dry Canadian peat. The advantage to an acidic packing material is that it discourages rots. Bulbs should not touch other bulbs. Or you could use dry wood shavings like they put in animal cages. The tricky part is to store your bulbs in a dry, dark area with a temperature about fifty degrees or so. If it is too warm, bulbs can dehydrate and look like prunes. Those prunes won't grow because all the moisture and life have been sucked out of them. Next spring, they are ready to go back to the soil in mid-May.

MASTER GARDNER ASSOCIATION

REGULAR MEETING November 20, 2014

The Master Gardener Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by President Dan Kah.

Review of Minutes: A review of October's minutes took place. Alan Grove motioned to accept the minutes as written. It was seconded by Marcia Kruse. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Income for the month of October was \$1,044.66 mostly from Fall Into Spring and garden stones. Expenses were \$2,660.68, mostly for Fall Into Spring. October's ending balance was \$33,198.88. Helen Mitts made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report with Alan Grove seconding it. The motion carried.

Funded Projects:

Helen is in need of reports from the chairpersons of the various projects. She has received some. They can be sent to her via e-mail.

Non-Funded Projects:

Joanie Snyder reported that Ladies Night Out went very well. The booth/table set up was very well done and easily recognizable by the people. Many items were sold. She would like to recognize the gardeners at Crossroads for their hard work to make all this possible. Joanie thanked the Board members as well for their support of the projects and also their efforts this past year.

Old/New Business:

Dan introduced the Board members and thanked each one for their work. He also thanked all the Master Gardeners present for their hard work to keep this organization viable.

There are many things that we can do as Master Gardeners. Many community projects can use our help and positive attitudes.

Special thanks were given to Marilyn Nichols, Diane Shackford and Sabrina Van Dyke, our Christmas party committee, for their planning and presentation. Everything looks wonderful.

The proposed budget was submitted to the Master Gardeners for review. Patricia Witte motioned that we accept the budget as written. It was seconded by Helen Mitts. The members voted to accept the budget as written.

Carol Pittard announced that the Capital Area MGs were having a Winter Symposium January 31, 2015. It will be held at the MSU Plant Science building. This will be the first year they will have vendors. Dick Moldenhauer will be there to sell garden stones.

There has been no announcement on the status of the coordinator position.

Marilyn announced the drawing criteria for the Xmas party gifts. It was agreed that the donated pots and holders go to the Grow Lab project. The table decorations are to go home with the attendees. There are four \$25 gift certificates for door prizes.

Dan Kah gave an invocation for our meal and the meeting adjourned at 6:56.

Respectfully submitted,

Loretta Ellwood, Secretary

LOGGING YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS IN

To all Master Gardeners! Are you having trouble logging in your hours? We have a number of Computer Buddies that are authorized with the VMS and are willing to help you. Check out the list below and give them a shout-out! They will be most helpful.

VMS website is <https://michigan.volunteersystem.org>

Enter your password, click on GENESEE and you should be in! If you forgot your password, contact either Jim Harrow (joker108@sbcglobal.net) or Ruth Simon (simonru@anr.msu.edu). Either one of us will be able to enter a new password for you.

VMS COMPUTER BUDDIES for 2014

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Dick Moldenhauer 1050 Sarah Street, Grand Blanc, MI 48439
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Carol Pittard 10237 Seymour Road, Montrose, MI 48457
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Sandy Keirns 13331 Elms Road, Birch Run, MI 48415
989-624-4346 c.keirns@speednetllc.com

Michelle Chockley 329 Myrtle, Flushing, MI 48433
810-659-8014 chockleym@gmail.com

EDITORIAL

HE Ain't It Funny How Time Slips Away is the title of a song recorded by Willie Nelson. I heard it the other day riding down the road somewhere and I got to thinking of my plans for the fall garden and house chores and somehow some of my plans went astray. The list I made has a lot of items crossed out but alas a few remain. I recounted how quickly the temperature had dropped this fall, plus a few rainy days, a few trips to my friends with MD after their name and those days when my motivation was at its lowest point. Now I am down to two items one of which will have to wait until the spring while the other is the planting of my garlic crop. I know I will have to cover over the bed just to give it a chance to get a toe hold before the official onset of winter which by the time you read this is less that three weeks away. This year I have taken all my fertilizers, weed and pest control etc. and moved them into the basement for the winter. Any liquids left in the shed will freeze for sure and the garage will not fair much better. I read this somewhere and it seems like a logical thought. I called Scotts and they told me to tightly roll up and seal the bag as tight as possible and not to put it on the garage floor and the product should be good to go when I use it again. If only the wife would let me have a worm farm in the basement. Anybody have any red wigglers?

SHE Don't sweat the small stuff. That's the name of a book written to help you get through life not worrying about the small things and concentrating on the big events in your life. This is the perfect time of year for me to apply this motto to myself and enjoy the Holiday Season. My daughter was telling me that she is going to invite her near by neighbors to her home for a cookie decorating evening. The neighbors range in all ages some with little ones and some with teen agers. Some are retired and there are others that live alone. In all cases they might not be able to bake cookies for the holidays and with my daughter opening up her home it is sending a warm gesture to the neighbors that someone care's and appreciates them. What a wonderful act of kindness. Isn't that what the Christmas Spirit is about?

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

The Board of Directors election took place at the November meeting. Congratulations to the newly elected Board of Directors: Kay McCullough, Katie Van Patten, Vickie Laurin and Alan Groves. They join the returning members: Loretta Ellwood, Helen Mitts, and Michelle Chockley. We would like to wish the newly elected and the returning members success in their new endeavor and at the same time thank Nettie Sparks, Pam Kvasnick, Dan Kah and Cheryl Borkowski for their efforts while serving on the board.



KEYLORE DOG PARK/HUMANE SOCIETY FUNDRAISER 2014

By Maggie Gregg

For the second year, the MGAGCM was invited to have an outreach station at KeyLore Dog Park in Flushing for the Humane Society of Genesee County fundraiser “Treats for Tricks” on Saturday, October 25th. MGs Joyce Bellaire, Joyce Dowd, Michelle Chockley, and Maggie Gregg participated.

Our chapter donated a large, beautiful gift basket filled with garden items selected by MG Michelle for the fundraiser raffle. The MGs passed out dog treats, parks and recreation millage info, and MSUE info on “poisonous plants and foods to pets” to 150ish Halloween costumed dogs and their owners who visited 20 outreach stations.

Terry Ashley, HSGC volunteer coordinator, designed and provided the MGAGCM Humane Society gardens four project signs for the MGAGCM station.



Top Sheila Mushkin, Joyce Dowd & Joyce Bellaire

Bottom Michelle Chockley



The Simpsons, no relation to anybody



COOKS CORNER

WHITE CHOCOLATE ROCKY ROAD

INGREDIENTS

14 oz. Good quality
White Chocolate

(you may use Dairy
Free White Choco-
late, but follow the
manufacturer's direc-
tions for melting
rather than ours)

2 oz. pistachios,
lightly toasted

2 oz. macadamia
nuts

6 oz. multi colored
marshmallows

3oz. fruit flavored,
multi colored jelly
candies

3 oz dried cranberries

PREPARATION

Line the base and sides of an 8x8 or 9x9 baking pan with wax paper and set aside.

Roughly chop macadamias, marshmallows and candy and place in a glass or stainless steel bowl.

Break the chocolate into small pieces and place in a microwave safe bowl.

Microwave for approximately 45-50 seconds, then stir. Microwave for another 30 seconds then stir again. Repeat the process if necessary, until all the chocolate is evenly melted and has reached a relatively thin consistency.

Pour the melted chocolate over the fruit, nut and candy mixture and mix well to ensure all pieces are thoroughly covered in chocolate.

Refrigerate for at least a couple of hours (preferably overnight), then remove from the fridge, place on a cutting board (the paper will be very easy to peel off) and cut into your desired shapes and sizes. This will keep very well for at least two weeks, though it will soften slightly at warm room temperature.



2015 RECERTIFICATION CHANGES AND GUIDELINES

IMPORTANT CHANGE FOR 2015: Our Membership approved at our monthly Master Gardener meeting in September 2014, that our Chapter will pay the \$5.00 per person MMGA dues out of our Chapter funds for everyone who recertifies for 2015.

In order to be a chapter member, you must be certified on VMS and also pay \$5.00 annual MMGA dues (which will be paid by our Chapter for 2015).

YOU MUST SAVE YOUR PROOF OF CERTIFICATION IN JANUARY AND BRING TO JANUARY MEETING OR MAIL TO: MGAGCM, PO BOX 34, FLUSHING, MI 48433 IN JANUARY. THE TREASURER WILL KEEP A LIST OF EVERYONE WHO RECERTIFIES. THE LIST WILL BE SENT TO MMGA WITH ONE CHECK TO COVER THE MMGA DUES. If you do not have a printer, please contact Michelle Chockley at chockleym@gmail.com or 810-659-8014 after you have certified in January.

IF YOU HAVE A PAYPAL PAYMENT SET UP FOR MMGA FOR THE \$5.00 ANNUAL DUES, PLEASE CANCEL. MMGA CANNOT REFUND DUPLICATE PAYMENTS.

Step by Step:

Hours must be logged on to VMS by December 31, 2014. The VMS system then shuts down until 1/7/15. If you need any assistance with entering hours or passwords, contact Ruth Simon 810-639-7565, simonru@anr.msu.edu or Jim Harrow 810-233-6214, joker108@sbcglobal.net.

VMS system will reopen on 1/7/15 through 1/31/15. You can then log in to recertify and pay MSUE \$20. There are 3 steps to this process:

- Selecting your recertification status;
- Accepting Code of Conduct & Volunteer Agreements;
- Registering and paying fee to MSUE.

There will be a late recertification period from 2/1/15 to 2/15/15, but the MSUE fee increases to \$30.00.

Your links to VMS: <http://michigan.volunteersystem.org> or <https://michigan.volunteersystem.org/universallogin.cfm>

Master Gardeners who have Emeritus status go through the steps, but do not pay the \$20.00. Candidates for Emeritus status must meet all of the following criteria:

- Minimum of 500 hours of volunteer service
- 10 continuous years of volunteer service
- Exemplary service to the MSU Extension MGP
- Have limited ability to remain active

I am a former home grower. I have a new carton of 4" plastic pots and a carton of 2" pots. I have 6 + bags of vermiculite, plant labels of zinc, pots of every size from 1 gal to 5 gal. and all the liners/trays.

I have lots of chain to hang florescent lights. Heat pads and grow trays of 1/2" and 1/4". I have loads of trays with domes for seeds.

Many other things to give to anyone who could use it.

I am offering all of it FREE In part or whole. Please email me with your request.

I am Julie Zielinski @ jaz704@sbcglobal.net Or call and leave a message @ 810-629-6020



CARING FOR YOUR POINSETTIA

Find the Ideal Spot

To keep them looking good, give poinsettias a sunny, south-facing windowsill or bright filtered light. Don't press them close to a cold windowpane however, because this can damage the leaves. Keep them at about 68 degrees F during the day, and cooler at night, to prolong the display.

Watering and Feeding

Poinsettias should be watered regularly and kept evenly moist. Never let plants sit in water; always empty their saucers or planters shortly after watering.

Getting It to Bloom Again

With year-round care, you can get a plant to perform again. Water it until mid-spring, then let it dry out and allow the stems to shrivel. Keep it cool. At the end of spring, cut all growth to a couple of inches above the soil and repot it in new soil. Water well and keep it warm, feeding it with houseplant fertilizer when new growth appears. A month later, move the plant outside to a shady location, pinching out the growing tips in midsummer, before returning it indoors. Give it a sunny spot, watering and feeding regularly; then from mid-autumn, keep the plant in total darkness between 5 p.m. and 8 a.m. It will then re-flower and produce colorful bracts.

Top Tip: Leaf Drop

It's common for a few poinsettia leaves to turn yellow and drop off when you first bring them home. Don't be alarmed — the plant is just reacting to its new living conditions.

Poinsettia Gallery

Many colorful cultivars are available, and grow to about 12 inches high and 16 inches wide.

VOLUNTEER**DATES TO REMEMBER**

Davison Farmers Market. Dan Kah @ 810-732-3170.

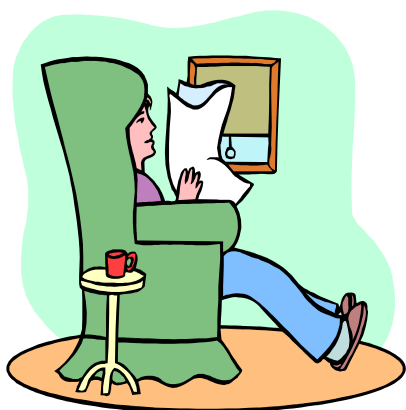
There will be no MGAGCM meeting in December..

DTE Yearly Subscription is due January 31, 2015. If you enjoy reading a hardcopy of the DTE you need to send a \$10.00 check to Michelle Chockly by Jan. 31 st. PO Box 34, Flushing, Mi 48433, made out to MGAGCM.

January 15, 2015 meeting speaker will be Glen Pace of the Eastern Michigan Hosta Society. Glen's subject is "Woodedland Wonders"

All meetings start at 6:00 pm (social time);6:30 Business Meeting and 7:30 Program.

We need snack hosts for the January meeting! Please contact Cheryl Borkowski at 586-383-8695 if you can bring a snack.



IT'S ALL ABOUT...MIXING IT UP-WINTER SYMPOSIUM. Held at the Plant and Sciences Building on MSU's Campus in East Lansing, Saturday, January 31, 2015. You will earn 5 education hours. Cost is \$35.00 for CAMG , \$45.00 for non-member Active, Certified MGV'S and \$55.00 all others. For more information : <http://mgacac.wordpress.com>



Condolences to Mary Faith Down and her family as her husband Ken Down, passed away November 26, 2014. Please keep Mary and her family in your thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

Daffodil (*Narcissus*)

nar-SIS-us Amaryllidaceae

These beloved bulbs mainly bloom in late winter and early spring, breaking the spell of winter with their large blossoms saturated in cheery tones. *Narcissus* naturally occur in meadows, woodlands, along watercourses, and in rocky outcroppings up to subalpine altitudes. The mainly yellow or white flowers are comprised of 6 petals surrounding a corona. *Narcissus* are classified into 13 Divisions according to different flower forms or by botanical name: 1 Trumpet; 2 Large-cupped; 3 Small-cupped; 4 Double; 5 Triandrus; 6 Cyclamineus; 7 Jonquilla; 8 Tazetta; 9 Poeticus; 10 Bulbocodium; 11 Split-corona; 12 and 13 Miscellaneous. The term "heirloom" refers loosely to bulbs existing before 1940. *Narcissus* make superb companions to herbaceous and woody plants, and their uses in the landscape are numerous: in formal spring displays, mixed herbaceous or shrub borders, deciduous woodland plantings, rock gardens, naturalized in large scale meadow plantings or lawns, and in containers or greenhouse displays.

Noteworthy characteristics:

Most are hardy to Zone 5, and a cold treatment is necessary to initiate bloom. They can be forced, and make excellent cut flowers, but their sap can cause other flowers in the same vase to wilt prematurely.

Care:

Grow in average, well-drained soil in full sun or partial shade (see individual species for specific requirements). In autumn, plant bulbs from 1.5 to 5 times the bulbs' height (3 inches or more in cold climates). Under glass, grow in 1 part grit and 2 parts soil mix. Deadhead seed heads (except those of species, for dispersal) and allow leaves to photosynthesize for 6 weeks before cutting back, including plantings in turf. Lift and divide clumps if they become overcrowded or perform poorly. Bulbs may be forced in autumn in a cold frame; plant with tops visible, keep moist, and when rooted, move to a cool greenhouse (less than 64°F).

Propagation:

Separate bulbs and replant in early summer or early fall.

Problems:

Narcissus bulb fly, narcissus nematode, bulb scale mite, slugs, narcissus basal rot, other fungal infections, narcissus yellow stripe virus, and other viruses.



MGAGCM OFFICERS (2014)

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**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITES:**

WWW.msu.edu/genesee

Click on the Master Gardener tab on the left side of the main page.

State Master Gardener web page:
<http://mg.msue.edu/>

Master Gardener Recordkeeping Program:
<http://michigan.volunteersystem.org> or
https://michigan.volunteersystem.org/Univ_ersalLogin.cfm

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geneseeplantpest@anr.msu.edu

Public Office Hours:

8 am - 1 pm Monday through Friday.

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AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Merry
Christmas

The text "Merry Christmas" is written in a red, cursive font. The word "Merry" is on the top line, and "Christmas" is on the bottom line. The letter "C" in "Christmas" is significantly larger than the other letters. There are two holly leaves with red berries: one is positioned to the right of the "y" in "Merry", and the other is positioned to the left of the "C" in "Christmas".