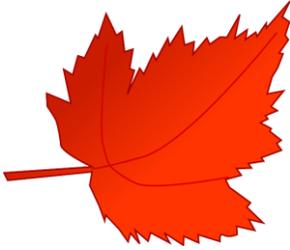


Roots & Shoots



Master Gardener
Society of
Oakland County, Inc.



October – November 2015

	<p>October 13, 2015 @ 6:30pm MGSOC General Society Meeting & Location Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church 5631 North Adams Rd, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304</p> <p>Speaker : Karen Burke Education: “Dehydrating Vegetables: Basics and Beyond”</p> <p>A business meeting will take place, prior to the start of our Educational Program.</p>
	<p>November 10, 2015 @ 6:30pm MGSOC General Society Meeting & Location Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church 5631 North Adams Rd, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304</p> <p>Speaker : John Gaydos Education: “New Annuals for 2016 and How to Use Annuals in the Garden”</p> <p>A business meeting will take place, prior to the start of our Educational Program.</p>
	<p>December 8, 2015 @ 6:30pm MGSOC General Society Meeting & Location Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church 5631 North Adams Rd, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304</p> <p>Holiday Potluck</p>



Notes from Carol

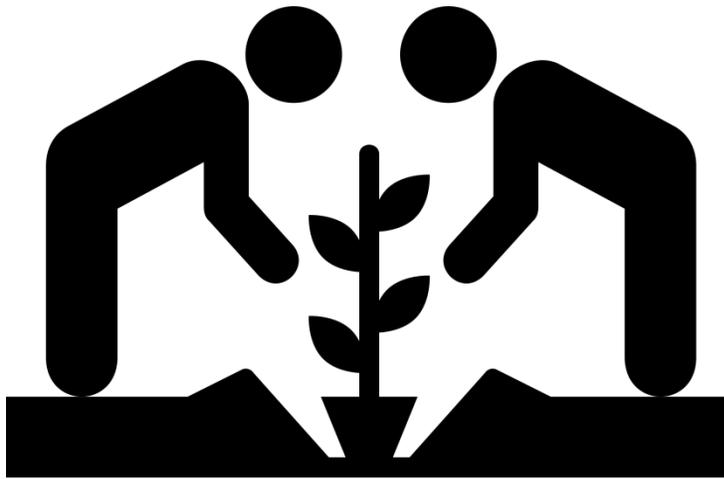
The fall Master Gardener Training class is off to a great start! We have 50 participants who are eager to learn and enjoying the classes. Classes are being held at Tollgate and are all face to face. They are 9am-1pm on Thursdays through November 19. If you would like to sit in on any of the classes, please feel free. It's a great way to get a refresher and a very different experience when not sweating over quizzes! Any currently certified Master Gardener may sit in on any of the classes and submit 2 hours of education for doing so. You might want to make a quick call or email t Lynne Shull to make sure we haven't had to change the schedule. You can contact Lynne at 248-858-0887 or shulll@oakgov.com.

Here's the schedule:

2015 Oakland County Fall Master Gardener Training Class

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Presenter</u>
Aug 20	Intro/Tollgate Tour	Lenchek/Prentice
Aug 27	Plant Science	Carol Lenchek
Sept 3	Soils	Gary Heileg
Sept 10	Lawn Care	Kevin Frank
Sept 17	Vegetables	Gary Heileg
Sept 24	IPM	Diane Brown
Oct 1	Woody Ornamentals	Mary Wilson
Oct 8	Annuals & Perennials	Rebecca Finneran
Oct 15	Small Fruit	Diane Brown
Oct 22	Tree Fruit	Bob Tritten
Oct 29	Household Pests	Beth Clawson
Nov 5	Indoor Plants	Carol Lenchek
Nov 12	Diagnostics	Diane Brown
Nov 19	Water Quality/Volunteering	Mary Gerstenberger/Lenchek

As we move into fall and colder weather, the volunteer opportunities will be fewer. If you haven't gotten your hours done to achieve your Basic Certification or for Re-certification, now is the time to jump into it! The Re-certification deadline is December 31. If you have trouble with entering your hours, please contact Lynne ASAP. Calling us for help on December 31 will not work as we are off that day! If it's been a while since you've been in the VMS system, please try to get in soon and then if you have problems there will be time to deal with it. If you try to get into the VMS and are locked out, contact Lynne. It generally means you have been made inactive due to inactivity. You may or may not be eligible to recertify and Lynne should be able to clarify the issue for you. When you get emails from Diane Brady, the VMS Administrator, it's to your advantage to open and read them! She's giving you information on the hours submission and re-certification process. If you don't understand what she is saying, contact Lynne! Lynne's contact information 248-858-0887 or shulll@oakgov.com.



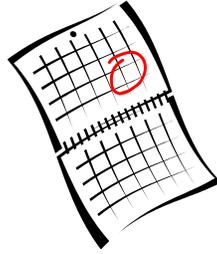
Call for Articles



This newsletter depends on you to submit articles for its bi-monthly editions. If you have visited an interesting garden while on vacation, have attended a noteworthy class, or are knowledgeable in a gardening-related topic, please feel free to write an article to share and submit it for publication in a future edition. You may report your writing time as Volunteer Hours.

The deadline for the December—January Edition is November 15, 2015.

E-mail your articles to Roots & Shoots editor Dick Wanat at rwanat155056mi@comcast.net



The Year at a Glance—MGSOC Meetings/Events for 2015

October 13	Karen Burke	Dehydrating Vegetables: Basics and Beyond	
October 19		MGSOC Board Meeting	7PM @ Extension Office
November 10	John Gaydos	New Annuals for 2016 and How to Use Annuals in the Garden	
November 16		MGSOC Board Meeting	7PM @ Extension Office
December 8	Holiday Potluck		

...from the cabbage patch



Please remember to notify our Corresponding Secretary, Nancy Schmid, with member news so she can forward the appropriate correspondence to our fellow Master Gardeners. As corresponding secretary, Nancy sends cards of cheer, congratulations and condolences to our members as the situation warrants and Nancy would welcome being alerted to any such opportunities. She would also appreciate knowing whether or not the member wishes to share their news with everyone.

Nancy has been a Master Gardener since 2010 as well as a member of the Project Support Team since then. Nancy is also the keeper of the Master Gardener cookbooks so please keep her in mind if you have news to share or need a gift for gardener.

Contact Nancy at 248.651.7639 or 586.662.9394 (cell) or via email at nancy.c.s@comcast.net.

What's Going On In the Garden

Heather Glenday of Bordine's gave our August talk to help us prepare for fall (ugh! so soon?) garden chores. The fall is a good time to give the lawn extra care including killing weeds, seeding and replacing sod. It is important to fertilize in September and continue to water if nature doesn't do it for you right up until the ground freezes. Now is the time to kill grubs in the lawn and use a mole-killer or repellent.

Japanese beetles (destructive little beasts) can be trapped (put the trap far away from the area you are trying to protect) or poisoned with insecticide. There are natural insecticides that work. Use dormant oil spray on scale insects. Watch for tomato blight, pick the yellow leaves off and use a fungicide. Blossom end rot is caused by calcium deficiency due to lack of water.

Colorful fall containers with mums, pansies, ornamental peppers, and flowering kale and cabbage can raise your spirits. Perennials to enjoy now are *Rudbeckia*, Montauk daisies, *Asters*, *Sedum*, grasses, *Anemone* and toad lily. Trees and shrubs with special fall color include chokeberry, *Viburnum*, ninebark, *Clethra*, burning bush, maple and *Ginkgo*.

Fall is a good time to plant because the weather is cool (for the gardener and the plant) so there is less stress. Give the plant plenty of time to root and establish itself before winter.

Other garden tasks for fall are deadheading and cutting back. Flowering shrubs should be pruned one month after blooming. Many perennials can be divided now. Late in the fall, perennials can be cleaned up, but leave the grasses for winter interest and cut them back to 4" in the spring. Bulbs can be planted between September and November. Use mulch that protects but lets moisture through. Use burlap for wind protection and use a wilt protector on broadleaf evergreens.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and the fall. Let's hope that El Niño brings a warmer winter here and drought relief in the west.

Submitted by Jean Gramlich



BULBS: Choosing, Planting and Growing

Janet Macunevich spoke to us in September in her usual casual and informative style on the topic of bulbs. Essentially a bulb is an underground storage chamber that contains next year's plant in embryonic form. Most bulbs need a rest period to produce flowers the next year. We all automatically think of crocuses and tulips, but those of us who share our land with bunnies and Bambi should plant daffodils, *Hyacinths*, *Iris* and *Colchicum* (fall crocus).

Technically a *Crocus* is a corm, a thickened base of the stem. *Crocus minimus* blooms at the end of February! *Colchicum* can be quite unruly and needs to be divided. Snowdrops and wood *Anemones* are also corms and benefit from soaking in warm water before planting.

Lilies and fritillaries are naked bulbs, and the latter will seed itself. Winter aconite blooms extremely early and should not be mulched much. Reticulated *Iris* benefit from thick mulch which they can grow right through. Squill with its lovely blue flowers spreads readily as does *Pushkinia* which is white with a light blue stripe. Summer snowflake looks very much like lily of the valley. English bluebell crowds everything else out, and the deer love it.

There are many varieties of *Allium* which bloom over a long season. Indian quoniam thrives in wet areas. Foxtail lilies need a dry summer resting place. Sea kale has white flowers with decorative blue leaves.

Daffodils are a favorite, but Janet warns that there are no pink ones even if the catalog says there are. Rip Van Winkle daffodils are very early with tiny blooms.

Tulips also come in many varieties over a long season with taller tulips blooming later and less likely to perennialize. Species tulips are short and more likely to come true from year to year. One variety has variegated leaves. Some tulips have multiple blooms on each stem.

Tender summer bulbs like cannas (not really a bulb), *Dahlias*, spider lilies and *Amaryllis* need to be rinsed, cured and stored. They can be wrapped or stored in peat or vermiculite in a cool place or they can be placed in a pit below the frost line (for the last two winters that would have been pretty deep).

Bulbs should be in a sunny area during the time when they are actively growing. And despite all warnings to the contrary, Janet says is okay to cut back the green leaves. They can be planted under butterfly bushes which will cover up the remnants when they begin to grow. Annuals or later perennials can also cover up the area with bulbs.

When buying a bulb, make sure it feels firm. Make the planting hole at least three times as deep as the length of the bulb in a well-drained spot. In fact, "deeper is better" and can be 10-12 inches.

Janet can be reached by email: info@GardenAtoZ.com or by telephone at 248-681-7850.

Submitted by Jean Gramlich

Notes from Nutcase Nursery

Where did the summer go?

There is always much to do around here and so little time but it surely seemed that the season blew through like a straight-line wind. Of course I feel that way every year around this time, nervously awaiting the dreaded frost/freeze warnings or worse yet, no warning.

This year, while I really can't boast of any outstanding gardening accomplishments, I most certainly can account for my "whereabouts." If I was awake and it wasn't raining or feeding time, I was out --- standing, out kneeling, out raking, out weeding, usually until dark or the insects drew blood. If the neighbors felt the need to call 911 because Crazy Plant Lady was out dancing on her front lawn, so be it as I have long since ceased to care what the neighbors think.

The moles never rest and neither can I.

But this is that time of year when most sane gardeners say for now, what's done is done. Revel in the glory of the good garden stuff and remind yourself to remedy what isn't working later. Keeping a diary, pictorial or written, is a great way to not only keep track of what works and what doesn't from season to season but also provides a central location for brilliant ideas, wish lists and job reminders.

In the last issue, we had a little taste of "The Talk" which is my yearly effort intended to point out the rarely spoken-of dangers of gardening. Whether one succumbs to becoming a "collector," a "haunter of plant sales and swaps," or the "savior of the dead table" at We B Plants, gardening can be so intoxicating, it's easy to be seduced.

Gardening can fulfill and feed many psychological needs. Some of which, in no particular order, are the need to control, nurture, create, express oneself, and satisfy one's curiosity. Any one of these can go from the benign, to the sublime and possibly the pathological in no time at all.

It might start when you begin getting your volunteer hours at someplace like Tollgate. The plant sale is always the first Saturday in June and of course you will buy something. At those prices how can you pass up something to dolly up that little strip of nothing by the driveway? Plus it's for a good cause, so you fill up what little room there is in the trunk and make a mental note to bring an old shower curtain to protect the back seat next year. And maybe a box, or three.

Beware the plant swaps versus plant sales. The reason plants wind up at swaps is because there were too many of them at home. It's simple math but, if you show up at a swap with just a few specimens to trade they had better be something worthwhile or you will be shunned and your bartering capabilities will be completely off balance. You can pretty much bet that most of the swappers will be vending groundcovers and other prolific "take charge" items that will "fill in nicely" and then proceed to eat away the nearest concrete.

Although being a collector of plants can be rationalized in the name of science, collectors and hoarders have a lot in common. If you are a collector, though, there are steps often taken that only the most organized of hoarders would perform. Collectors tend to be more sophisticated. Collectors not only must have names for each cultivar, they must have appropriate labels or markers. Proper signage is like designer shoes or jewelry but for plants.

Collectors are not necessarily born, but made. The “collector” syndrome is most often innocently triggered. Seeds were sown when you worked on that little problem area around the tree in the backyard and you discovered how nicely the *Heuchera* adjusted in a part sun/part shade fairly dry environment.

Then you volunteered at a market or nursery and while you worked your shift became fascinated by all the varieties of Coral Bells you encountered - ‘Obsidian,’ a deep, deep almost black purple-leafed beauty. And ‘Amethyst Mist,’ ‘Snow Angel,’ ‘Beaujolais,’ ‘Electric Lime,’ ‘Georgia Peach,’ ‘Green Spice.’ From *Heucheras* it’s a very short jaunt to *Heucherellas*, which are highly adoptable as well. I could go on.

Maybe you just started with *Hostas* because of plain old shade.

When I left home I brought some of what we called the St. Joseph lily (*Plantaginea*) which originally came from Grandma’s backyard. And some *Hosta lanceolata* with the same story. And then a friend was separating some *H. variegata* which I didn’t have, and I eventually discovered how much Meijer detested homeless perennials at the end of the season. There I could indulge myself with very economical orphans who needed a good home. Yes, and for what wasn’t available locally I would cheerfully fill in the blanks with catalog selections. Of course they all had names too - - “Patriot,” “Loyalist,” “Sum and Substance,” “Halcyon,” “Lemon Lime,” “June,” “Paradigm,” et cetera.

At one time there were over 135 different daylily cultivars at Nutcase. They had to have names as well. I spent a small fortune on plant labels, many of which the Dingo and her brother removed as puppies because they just were in the way.

One of the main problems of being a “collector” is that the industry continually releases new cultivars to exacerbate your already delicate condition. The next main problem is simply the lack of location. There is only so much space in which to build gardens. While collecting may feed your need to nurture, creating new beds to accommodate your addiction will bite you later when you realize that there are just too many spots to nanny and it might have really been easier to just mow after all.

Being a nurturer can really get out of control. Collectors sometimes have an aura about them that emanates a slip of superiority but that’s generally because as collectors, they tend to know a great deal about particular groups of plants. Some “collectors” though, fall into a different category where they just have to have one of everything. These are the gardeners most easily seduced.

Nurturers, on the other hand, sometimes come off like the kid who comes home after school with a box of puppies he found, happier that a pig in slop but not having a clue about what to do with them. “They were being thrown away.” “They were only 47 cents apiece.” “They needed me.....” Not so much seduced as overcome with empathy. These gardeners are usually the ones who propagate, repurpose, reuse, recycle and waste not, want not.

Sadly, over the years I have found that bargaining seems to have gotten more difficult at certain stores. For many, it’s more economical to return an unhappy plant for credit to the grower than to sell it at a discount to someone who just wants to take it home, trim off the dead stuff, repot and water it. In quarantine of course. Many times the plant’s only problem is lack of water but you must also be able to spot signs of disease or insect damage because it doesn’t pay to jeopardize the many to save a few. Especially if we’re talking houseplants. Bringing a buggy baby in for the winter will provide you with entertainment opportunities you will not find amusing, unless you enjoy things like spider mites, fungus gnats and whiteflies.

This year I passed up every potential adoption of plant material but one. I broke down and purchased a box of giant *Caladiums*, which turned out to be two bulbs the size of tennis balls. (By the way, seed purchases are not counted as plant material so we don’t discuss their importance in determining where one falls on the horticulture wacko scale. I take full advantage of that immunity.)

The bulbs were more a necessity than an obsession because I like to have a couple of pots of foliage to decorate spots where such things wouldn’t normally grow, like on the porch or at the entrance to the back. So, okay, they were also marked down. I have never had any luck resurrecting caladium corms from the dead so even though the purchase was considered an annual, I satisfied my need to control, nurture, express myself and create for \$6.98. I could cross “make pots” off my list although I never actually managed to make as many pots as I dreamed of, which is why I never write down a real number of pots to be made in the first place. As long as the list says “make pots” and I made more than one, I’m covered. This is where the art of rationalization becomes a gift and a talent.

The big jobs take precedence and the biggest job at this time of year is getting the crops harvested. For the second year in a row the broccoli has bolted and flowered instead of forming heads. It will make its way into soup at some point. The soybeans recovered from being munched by bunnies and produced a few edamame.

I have not found any recent rabbit damage, which is excellent, but I truly believe it’s only because the poor bastards can no longer find their way into the garden. The vines of cukes and squash are all over the place. The summer squash did the same thing they have done for the past few years – the front ones grow to the size of beach umbrellas and shade their littles siblings who don’t get much sun and therefore much fruit. One of the zucchini plants put out a very large fruit that of course went unnoticed. It was not visible from the front of the garden and I finally caught a glimpse of it while trying to extricate myself from the cucumbers. I crawled in on my hands and knees and wrestled it out only to discover that even the Miracle Knife could not cut through it. Peelers and paring knives barely made a mark. I have never met a zuke like that and I hated to compost it but I refused to use the axe, hacksaw or pruning saw on it. I could only remember a

suggestion I ran across for preparing hard-rinded squash which was to drop it from the top of at least a six-foot ladder.

And speaking of dangerous implements, I should have used those tools earlier in the season because I know I should never, never let the all of the volunteer tomatoes live, but I can't bring myself to murder them. It's that nurturing problem again. I applaud them for being hearty and hardy enough to rejoin us. They deserve a chance to celebrate their superior DNA. I may be handing them out for Halloween.

The wrens who built their home in the base of the hawk decoy fledged their brood and moved out of their gothic manse. Their nest was built from dried spruce twigs and looked hellishly uncomfortable, something like a bed of nails. The hawk itself will not live to be another birdhouse without some serious plastic surgery. Not only did he have holes in his private areas, there were holes in his head and the whole bird wound up sliding down the metal pole where he had been perched. Fortunately, the wrens left town before this occurred so we're pretty sure no harm was done. But I miss their singing.

One of the biggest surprises was the Dingo's response to this season's corn crop. For the first time in six years she didn't perform her ritual sampling. Normally she would take down two or three stalks when they were 3 to 4 feet high. Not tasty. Then she would take another sample about two weeks later and snatch some of the newly formed ears. Still not right. Finally the day would come when we would be greeted with a yard full of corn husks and a slightly pudgier Dingo who couldn't eat dinner for three days.

This year there was a big difference. She has learned exactly when the corn is ripe and only pulled down one stalk but was unable to detach the ear. When I got to the scene of the crime we went through the usual "Who did this" routine and I got the usual six seconds of bowed head and that was that. She has since become very adept at hiding evidence of further pilferage.

On a final and completely unrelated note, keep your peepers open at garage sales for high quality children's garden tools. Way back when, my gardening gang realized that the most opportune body size for working in the garden is that of a four year old. There weren't any implements sized for smaller people with smaller hands, not even gloves were easily located. But we managed to find some excellent kids' tools and my little pronged metal rake is the best utensil for teasing that nasty creeping Charlie from the lawn, which is what I've been doing for days and days. And days.

I had to quit or I'd miss my deadline! Now go plant bulbs, pull more weeds and feed the lawn.



MILWAUKEE TRIP...Summary...BY Sandie Parrott

It was hot, hot, hot...but no rain because everyone brought their rain gear to appease the rain gods!

Margy helped park everyone on Friday morning with her neon vest and flashlight. She looked like an airplane direction person!

Louise and Tom Hunt got everyone signed up with numbers and boarded amidst the usual confusion so we could leave on time.

Jen Grider provided us with a healthy breakfast and brunch bags with all kinds of goodies, some donated, purchased and some special chocolate all the way from Germany! YUMMY!

Our first stop at 8:30 in the morning was 12 Corners Winery. Way to start a fun trip! A nice guided discussion in the garden by the winemaker, tasting with a FREE GLASS (those women were fast and efficient!) and time to shop and we were on our way...

Chicago Botanic Garden was our next stop with a tram tour, lunch on our own at a very nice café and lots of time for the gardens and gift shop. There are always gardens to save for next time...it is a huge place. My favorites were the Herb and English gardens. It feels like you are really in England! The tram tour was a nice snooze spot for many of the wine tasters...HA!

We arrived at the DoubleTree downtown for dinner on our own. Some opted for the German Fest...because we were given free tickets! Nice restaurants were in walking distance. The city was surprisingly friendly. After asking directions, one guy ran to catch up to us...to tell us he had given us incorrect directions. Wow, really nice!

SATURDAY

Saturday we slept in a little and then headed to Growing Power right in the heart of Milwaukee. Will Allen gave us a fabulous (but hot) tour and talk about his greenhouse operation. Including the nutritious micro-greens he grows for sale and his fish. WOW...they are really lively at feeding time. He also explained about the soil he mixes. Our bus driver, Vern, is a Hydroponic Farmer (I wrote an article for

the April Michigan Gardener on him this year)...he was fascinated. His whole family is going to make a road trip to see *Growing Power!*

Next was Will Radler's private garden. He is the person that developed the Knock Out™ rose...and many more trade-marked plants. His garden is a celebration of his roses, a laboratory for new varieties...and a pretty wonderful use of the money he has obtained from his success. And his fish love to be hand fed! It is also a great demonstration of how to deal with a flood plain. Half of his garden floods every spring!

Boerner Botanical Garden was next. This is a fairly small unknown garden among the many botanical gardens in the US...but very lovely. We had a catered box lunch that was a bit late...but there was time to roam the estate style gardens, trial garden and gift shop...maybe not enough time for some. There were a few that didn't want to leave, despite some people having heat and other issues.

Saturday night was the Purple Parrot swap game (AKA White Elephant). This was quite lively as usual! My name was called too soon, so I wasn't able to hold on to a wonderful ball I chose (I love balls). Lots of fun by all...

SUNDAY

Sunday started with a spiritual visit to the Basilica of St Josaphat. We were able to take a self-tour, possibly say a quick prayer and take photos of the rose window and elaborate building features. Gorgeous history echoed in this special honored place!

It just so happened that the Sales Manager of the DoubleTree, Jeff, has a gorgeous garden! He was willing to share it with us...AND he collects BOWLING BALLS...a man after my own heart! The artistic flair was everywhere, even chandeliers in the garden and little hidden sitting areas. The garden also demonstrated how to deal with a sunken area in a beautiful manner. He and his partner were so gracious that we hated to leave.

Our last stop after a quick lunch on the road was Van Atta's Greenhouses in Haslett, Michigan. We had pizza delivered for dinner while everyone shopped for all types of plants, pots, ornaments, decorations, household items and fairy garden accoutrements. They had several end of July sales in the gardens and boutique areas. Lisa, the super Sales Manager had nice places for us to sit in the gardens

and discounts for everyone! They also have display gardens, if you ever get out that way...nice people.

Thank you so much to all the people that helped: Kathy Click for the fabulous and fun games to give away all the many donated prizes I brought (2 HUGE containers). Thank you to Jean Gramlich for making all the final payments before and during the trip. Kathy and Ray Polidori for handing out the special T-shirts and for keeping the cooler filled with ice and water. Our bus driver and farmer extraordinaire, Vern Scott, for keeping us safe, on time and loading and unloading all our stuff! (Scott Farms is at many local Farmer's Markets. Check out their great produce and prices). And finally my husband, Rick, for helping to remind me of the million things I have to remember, helping to "herd" the group and pulling me off the ceiling occasionally!

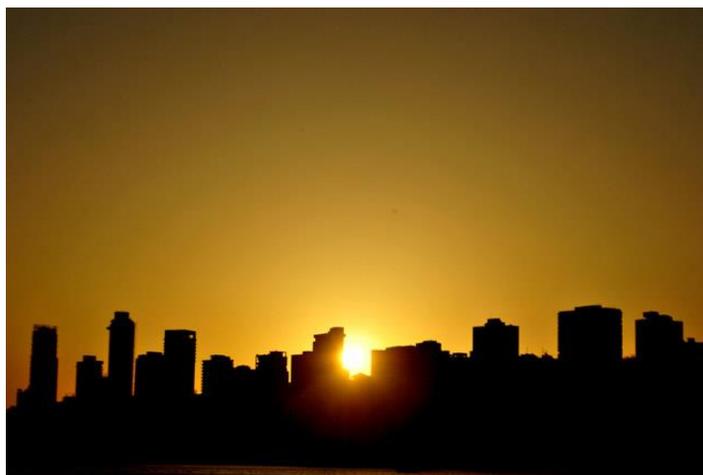
We arrived back in Pontiac, safe, a bit sunburned, with lots of photos, absolutely tired, but happy!

(NOTE...I am retiring from the trips and tours leadership over the next several months after 15 years! I'm moving south next year...Zone 8!...to Bluffton, South Carolina and building a dream low country cottage!

I'm mentoring a fabulous Class A group headed up by Jen Grider to continue the fun trips you have enjoyed. Participants on the Trips and Tours Team are: Margaret Dolan, Lynn Boehmer, Ann Hudak, Bev Moss, Susan Sajdak, Erin Sniderman, Jean Gramlich, Ann Wilbur, possibly Kathy Click and myself.

The 2016 trip will be to the wonderful gardens around Cleveland, OH! Watch for more info coming soon!

Thanks much! Sandie Parrott



Some Information You Should Know

MGSOC Board Members

President: Margy Truza.....(248)644-3560
1st Vice President: Sally Bolle.....(248)909-8668
2nd Vice President: Margaret Dolan.....(248)770-0524
Secretary: Ruth Vrbensky.....(248)969-6904
Treasurer: Crystal Castle(248) 860-5445

MSU Extension Oakland County Coordinator

Advisor: Carol Lenchek (248)858-0900
lenchekc@oakgov.com

Team Coordinators

Bowers Farm: Sally Bolle (Tuesday Lead)..... 909-8668
Open (Saturday Lead)
Project Support: Denise Brown (248)640-5977
Hospitality: Kathy Sobanski.....(248)858-6980
Hospitality Greeter: Carole Carroll.....(248)321-8669
& Sally Teague.....(248)546-0280
Membership: Julie Kowalk.....(248)
Programs: Betty Peters.....(248)651-8374
Door prize Coordinator: Janie Grissom.....(248)887-6096
Trips & Tours: Sandie Parrott(248)394-1532
Corresponding Secretary: Nancy Schmid..(248)651-7639
Communications: Lucy Propst.....(248)885-1082
Roots & Shoots Editor: Dick Wanat.....(248)644-5699

Web Site Address: www.mgsoc.org
Webmaster: Sheri Trout sheri@oaklandweb.com
Web Site Calendar: Peggy Wanat pwanat43@comcast.net

Mission Statement

It is the Master Gardener Society of Oakland County's Mission to assist, enable, and encourage its members to use their horticultural knowledge and experience to help the people of their communities, enrich their lives through gardening and good gardening practices.

Michigan State University Extension- Oakland County
“Bringing Knowledge to Life”

North Office Building, #26 East
1200 N. Telegraph Road
Pontiac, MI 48341
Office Hours: M- F 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Carol Lenchek...248-858-0900
Extension Educator~Master Gardener Program
Email: lenchekc@oakgov.com

Richard Wooten...248-858-0529
Interim MSUE District Coordinator
Email: wooten@anr.msu.edu

Cathy Morris...248-858-0887
Horticulture Office Assistant
Email: morrisc@oakgov.com

Charlene Molnar...248-858-0902
Horticulture Advisor
Plant & Pest Hotline
Hours of operation vary seasonally

Lynne Shull...248-858-1639
*Clerk & Contact for Certification of Volunteer
& Education Hours*
Email: shulll@oakgov.com

Robin Danto...248-858-0904
Extension Educator~Food Safety
Email: dantor@oakgov.com

Bindu Bhakta...248-858-5198
Extension Educator~Water Quality
Email: bhaktabi@msu.edu

Ed Scott...248-858-0905
Extension Educator~4-H Youth Programs
Email: escott3@anr.msu.edu

Saneya Hamler...248-452-9726
Extension Educator~Children, Youth & Family
Email: hamlersa@msu.edu

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May 15 for June/July issue
September 15 for October/November issue

March 15 for April/May issue
July 15 for August/September issue
November 15 for December/January issue

To help reduce mailing expenses, if you have Internet access we encourage you to read Roots & Shoots online at the Master Gardener Society website www.mgsoc.org.

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