



# Roots & Shoots

A Publication for Members of the MASTER GARDENER SOCIETY OF OAKLAND COUNTY, INC.

March 2017

## Reminder – March General Meeting

Tuesday, March 14, 2017

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church

5631 North Adams Road, Bloomfield Hills

Meals Served 6-7 p.m.,

Business Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

**SPEAKER: Abiya Saeed**  
*Pollinators*

This meeting is free to MGSOC Members and you'll earn an educational hour with our programs. Guests are welcome (\$5). Meet and mingle your fellow Master Gardeners! *Please wear your MG badge.* Complimentary refreshments and desserts served. Dinner of soup (winter) or salads (summer) may be purchased for \$3.

## DO YOU HAVE YOUR TICKET TO THE 2017 MASTER GARDENER EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE????

This is the last week to purchase your ticket with earlybird pricing! The Master Gardener Society of Oakland County, Inc. Garden Conference Committee is selling tickets for our 5th Annual Educational Garden Conference *Gardening and All That Jazz – Instruments for Great Design*. The date is Saturday, April 22, 2017 and this is an all-day seminar. Early bird tickets are \$70; after March 14, 2017 the price increases to \$80. This year's speakers will be Shawna Coronado, Kelly D. Norris, Jessica Walliser and Paul Zammit.

For details on the speakers and their websites, garden market, food choices, live jazz, and to register, please visit the home page of our website <http://www.mgsoc.org/index.php>. If you have questions regarding registration, please direct them to **Laura Miehls** via e-mail: [Laura.Miehls@gmail.com](mailto:Laura.Miehls@gmail.com). Don't delay! ■

**SAVE THE DATE: 2017 MSUE  
Recognition Dinner – Wednesday, May  
10, 2016 at the ConCorde Inn Forestré  
Banquet Center, M-59 and Crooks, in  
Rochester Hills. More details to come!**

## Note From Your Editor

Itching for spring to arrive? Longing to get back out into the garden? Then bring the garden inside by planting your own herb garden.

To begin, choose a pot that is 6 inches or larger with a drainage hole. Or, you can use a larger pot to grow several herbs together. It can be made of any material, but terra cotta (clay pots) is preferred, since it breathes. The downside, they dry out quickly and need to be watered more often. Use a saucer (made of any material, except clay) to protect your window sill or table. Do not layer rocks at the bottom of your pots, it does not promote better drainage.

Now, you need to add the right soil. Do not use soil from your garden, it has organisms that are not ideal for growing conditions inside. Choose a premium, potting mix with vermiculite or perlite for good drainage. A soil ph of 6 to 7 is recommended for most herbs.

You can start your herb garden from seeds or purchase healthy plants at your garden center or grocery store. Seeds take longer to become established, but it is also fun to watch them grow. Healthy plants will help you reach your goal of fresh herbs faster.

Herbs love direct sunlight, at least 4 to 8 hours a day. Place them near a south- or southwestern- facing window. Or, you can use grow lights. Keep temperatures between 65 and 70 degrees inside.

Watering needs are different for some herbs, like chives, basil, parsley, and mint, they like moist soil. Make sure you water at soil level, not the leaves. Let most herbs dry out slightly. Herbs need less water in the winter. Biggest mistake is over-watering; don't need as much water as houseplants.

Every two weeks, fertilize your herbs with a liquid fertilizer. Or, you can use fish emulsion every time you water, at a rate of one tablespoon per gallon.

Common pests, like spider mites, aphids, whiteflies, and mealybugs, can be a problem for herbs. If you detect an insect problem, you have two lines of defense. One solution, spray the plant with insecticidal soap. The other, spray

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# MGSOC INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND AWARDS

February 14, 2017

Articles by Sylvia Schult, Photos Courtesy of Margy Truza and Sylvia Schult



## 2017 MGSOC BOARD MEMBERS

Treasurer – Angela Sheperd; 1st Vice President – John VanDerAue; 2nd Vice President – Nora Melvin; President – Sally Bolle; Advisor/Past President – Margy Truza; Secretary – Julie Fromm

## 2017 MARTHA HUMPHREY AWARD – KAROL CARTER

Karol was awarded the Martha Humphrey Award for her work at Bowers Farm in 2016. Last year the farm set quite a record when 490 lbs. pounds of produce was grown and donated to the White Lake Open Door Pantry.



Karol became a Master Gardener in 2013, joined MGSOC and became an Advanced Master Gardener soon after. As a retired Veterinarian, she gets her weekly animal “fix” at Bowers Farm, while tending to the produce. Karol graduated from MI State and owned a Veterinarian clinic in Detroit until she retired 6 years ago.

In the winter, spring and early summer Karol volunteers at the Meadowbrook Greenhouse. She is also a member of the Troy Garden Club and enjoys working at the Troy Historical Village. She is Co-Chair of the ABC Garden, and helps in the 13 other flower beds when she has time. Karol has also helped at the entry-way to the Troy Public library and at the Lloyd Stage Nature Center in Troy.

Karol says that as a recent MG graduate, she is learning a lot about flowers, vegetables and the whole process of gardening. She enjoys working outside, mixing with many people and just having a lot of fun while she learns.

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The Martha Humphrey Award is awarded to a Master Gardener Volunteer who works at the Charles L. Bowers Farm, and exemplifies the hard work and effort by it’s namesake, Martha Humphrey (who is still an active volunteer at the farm).

The Sylvia Schult Award was introduced in 2010 to recognize a member of the Master Gardener Society of Oakland County whose

volunteer dedication and achievement is exemplary in serving the Society and its goals.

Photos above, Beth Brown (l) presents the Martha Humphrey Award to Karol Carter. Page 3 top, Sylvia Schult (right) presents Betty Peters with her award. Below right, Sally Bolle (l) and Sylvia Schult (r) present Nancy Schmid with the second Sylvia Schult award for this year.

Many thanks to Mary Wilson, MSUE Educator, Consumer Horticulture, for conducting the Induction of Officers and Team Leaders for us.



## 2017 MGSOC TEAM LEADERS

Hospitality Greeter – Marilyn Cunningham; Bowers Farm – Beth Brown; Hospitality Greeter – Sally Teague; Membership – Julie Kowalk; Fundraising – Denise Brown; Hospitality Leader – Kathy Sobanski; Door Prize Coordinator – Janie Grissom; Trips and Tours – Margaret Dolan; Corresponding Secretary – Nancy Schmid; Programs – Betty Peters; Absent: Hospitality Greeter – Carole Carroll and Scholarship/Grants Team – Dr. Sharon Schaefer.



## 2017 SYLVIA SCHULT AWARD – BETTY PETERS

Betty grew up on a farm in S. Dakota. She helped her Grandmother with the animals, gardening and canning. She worked over 30 years in Laboratory Medicine in various places. She was working as the Administration Director of Laboratories at Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn for 18 years when she retired.

Betty received her basic MG certification in 2010 and Advanced certification in 2011. In 2011, she joined MGSOC and volunteered at the Rochester and Lake Orion farmer's markets answering questions.

Then she started assisting Diane Bowers, who was the Speaker Chairperson. Betty took over the position in 2012 to the present. First you have to do a lot of research to find a good speaker then you: schedule a date, find out what kind of equipment they might need, have a good microphone ready for them, make sure they have transportation and a map to our meeting site, check to make sure they have not become ill the day before the meeting, and of course make sure a check is ready for them that evening. When the speaker arrives, Betty greets them, sits with them, and helps them get ready. After the meeting she helps them get their items back to their car, and then sends a "Thank You" card. Betty has a total of 6 years in this position. She also investigates and gets us the great speakers for the annual MGSOC Education Conferences.



## 2017 SYLVIA SCHULT AWARD – NANCY SCHMID

In the fall of 2010, Nancy enrolled in the Master Gardener Class. In 2011, she received her MG Certificate and Advanced MG Certificate. This opened up another new world for her.



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Nancy is a member of MGSOC and obtained her hours volunteering at Bowers Farm, selling the MGSOC cookbooks, Project Support, Hospitality, and working MGSOC Conferences in 2014, 2015, and 2016. She has assisted with the MG training classes, helped at the Spring Expo at Bordines, and Ask the Master Gardener Booth at Auburn Oaks. Nancy is now Corresponding Secretary for MGSOC.

She also belongs to the Meadowbrook Garden Club, taking care of the flowers around Knole Cottage, along with other things that need to be done.

Nancy grew up on a farm in northern Wisconsin and got plenty of garden knowledge helping with all the vegetables and flowers they grew. When she was 18, she went to Luther Hospital School of Nursing and Eau Claire State University, in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Nancy has been a nurse for 51 years and has worked in every field of nursing such as; ICU, Staff, Management, Education, Neurology Nurse Clinician, etc. This equals to a lot of nursing positions before she retired from Beaumont Hospital in 2010. ■

## HOW TO HAVE A HEALTHY LAWN

*By Jean Gramlich*

**Gary Eichen** from *Mike's Tree Surgeons* spoke on lawn care for our March 2016 meeting. He said that if you work at your lawn a lot, it will keep on needing work. In our country, we are obsessed with lawns. We spend \$40 billion on them. We use 7 billion gallons of water on them daily. We use 3 million tons of fertilizer (we could reduce that amount by 50% if we left the clippings on) annually. We put 30,000 tons of pesticides on them. And, we use 800 million gallons of gas on mowing. We have 5 different watersheds in our area, and we need to reduce our inputs and not fertilize water.

Lawn care is a three-piece puzzle. We start with the soil and the roots. The soil is a living substance, a loose covering of broken rock particles and decaying organic matter with billions of microorganisms. We need to create 10 inches of healthy soil for good root structure, so the grass will grow well.

There are three types of grasses: those that spread by stolons (fescues and Kentucky blue grass), rhizomatic grasses (rye), and bunch grass. The roots of cool season grasses only grow in the spring and fall. They feed themselves by photosynthesis, and fertilizers supply the minerals they need to produce food.

In spring and fall, the grass should be mowed at 2- to 2.5-inches. During the summer stress periods, it should be mowed at 2.5- to 3.5-inches. In the fall, it should be mowed short to prevent snow mold. If you have snow mold, fluff the grass up with a rake and it will disappear. Never mow when the grass is wet and always let the clippings fall. Do not remove thatch!

Fertilize with 1 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet in May, on Labor Day, and Halloween. Make sure that at least 40% of the nitrogen is slow release. More is not better! Leave 15- to 25-foot buffer zones around any body of water. Water in the fertilizer for best results. Broadcast spreaders work best.

Depending on the soil, water 1- to 1.5-inches per week, divided into several light waterings.

Do not use weed and feed products. Use pesticide only locally and be sure to use protective goggles and gloves. The best time to use pesticide is after the first frost, so the pesticide reaches the roots. After application, wait one hour and then water. Crabgrass preventer should be applied when the forsythia is in bloom.

Yearly core aeration in spring or fall is the single best thing you can do for your lawn. Microorganisms in the cores will eat the thatch and add oxygen to the soil. Core aeration reduces compaction.

Moles eat grubs, worms, and grass, so grub control does not equal mole control. The easiest way to get rid of them is to find their feeding tunnel and put Juicy Fruit gum in it. Twelve grubs or less per square foot will not hurt the lawn.

Michigan Green Industry Association ([www.landscape.org](http://www.landscape.org)) has a guide to selecting lawn services with questions to ask. Many services do more fertilizer applications than necessary.

**Gary Eichen can be reached at**  
[www.mtsmgr@gmail.com](mailto:www.mtsmgr@gmail.com) ■

## *Note From Your Editor (continued)*

the plant with lemon dishwashing soap, at the rate of one to two tablespoons to one gallon of warm water. Do this once a week, as long as pests are present. It is a good practice to inspect plants on a regular basis for pests and diseases. The sooner you find them, the easier they are to control.

Now that you know how to raise herbs indoors, next month I will give you twelve herbs that will thrive in your home.

*Happy Gardening, Marsha Beeman* ■

### **Drivers Needed for 2017 Educational Conference**

Our MGSOC Conference Team is in need of individuals who would volunteer to be drivers for our 2017 Conference speakers. We need drivers for the following:

1. Picking up speakers from either Flint or Detroit airport on Friday April 21 and taking them to their hotel and to the Conference Center to check out the AV equipment for their presentations.
2. Driving the speakers to and from the Friday evening speaker dinner.
3. Picking the speakers up from the hotel early morning Sat April 22 and bringing them to the Conference Center.
4. Driving the speakers to the Detroit airport and their hotels after the Conference on Saturday, April 22.
5. Driving the speaker to the Flint airport on Sunday morning April 23.

If you are interested in being a driver please contact **Betty Peters** at [betty@peters-inc.com](mailto:betty@peters-inc.com) or 248-930-4062. You will receive volunteer hours for your time spent as a driver and we can also reimburse you for the mileage that your drive doing this volunteer work. ■



### **GARDEN RHYTHMS**

Residential Clientele Only  
**SEEKING MASTER GARDENERS**  
FOR 2017 SEASON  
PART-TIME FLEXIBLE HOURS  
as 1099 Contractor  
*Contact by March 10, 2017*  
Beverly Moss, owner  
248-217-6459

## **MARCH GARDEN TIP**

Looking to get a jump on your vegetable garden? You can begin sowing seeds indoors eight weeks before the soil temperature outside is warm enough to transplant seedlings. It is cheaper to start from seeds, and there are many more varieties to choose. Check out [burpee.com](http://burpee.com), [seedsavers.org](http://seedsavers.org), [cooksgarden.com](http://cooksgarden.com), and [raveseed.com](http://raveseed.com) for seed ideas. Use multi-cell trays or egg cartons to hold your germination mix or potting soil. Place seedlings in a south-facing, sunny window. On cloudy days, use artificial lights to give plants 16 to 18 hours of light each day. Fluorescent lights with a two-tube fixture of one red-light and one cool-white works best. Use artificial light after the plant has emerged to a height of half an inch tall. "Harden off" your plants by gradually introducing them to the outdoors at a few hours a day. Do not leave them outside over night until after a week. They need to be acclimated to outside temperatures before transplanting. Plant seedlings outside after the threat of frost has passed; usually Memorial Day. ■

### **MGSOC BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President – Sally Bolle**

**1st Vice President – John VanDerAue**

**2nd Vice-President – Nora Melvin**

**Secretary – Julie Fromm**

**Treasurer – Angela Sheperd**

**Advisor / Past President – Margy Truza**

### **TEAM LEADERS**

**2017 Educational Conference – Margy Truza**

**Trips and Tours – Margaret Dolan**

**Fundraising – Denise Brown**

**Scholarship/Grants – Dr. Sharon Schafer**

**Corresponding Secretary – Nancy Schmid**

**Hospitality – Kathy Sobanski**

**Membership – Julie Kowalk**

**Programs – Betty Peters**

**Door Prize Coordinator – Janie Grissom**

**Bowers Farm – Sally Bolle**

**Bowers Farm Saturday – Beth Brown**

**Sheri Trout – Bookkeeping / Website**

**Marketing/Communications – Sally Bolle**

### **ROOTS & SHOOTS NEWSLETTER**

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Please visit our website for contact information for the above Board and Team Members – **[www.MGSOC.org](http://www.MGSOC.org)**