

# Roots & Shoots



Master Gardener  
Society of  
Oakland County, Inc.



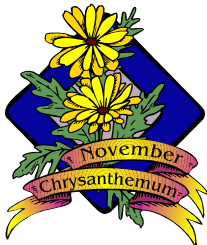
## October – November 2013



October 8, 2013 @ 6:30pm  
MGSOC General Society Meeting & Location  
Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church  
5631 North Adams Rd, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

Speaker : Cathy and Frank Genovese  
Education: " Christmas Tree and Spruce Declines "

A business meeting will take place, prior to the start of our Educational Program.



November 12, 2013 @ 6:30pm  
MGSOC General Society Meeting & Location  
Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church  
5631 North Adams Rd, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

Speaker : Trevor Newman  
Education: " Edible Landscaping – From Consumers to Producers "

A business meeting will take place, prior to the start of our Educational Program.



December 10, 2013 @ 6:30pm  
MGSOC General Society Meeting & Location  
Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church  
5631 North Adams Rd, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

### **Holiday Potluck**

A business meeting will take place, prior to the start of our Educational Program.



## Carol's Corner

It's hard to believe that it's fall already. What a crazy summer and last few weeks going from the air conditioner running to turning on the heat! I hope that your flowers and veggies did great this year!

Pretty soon the volunteer season will be winding down so make sure you put the hours in you need to recertify for 2013. You'll be notified by the VMS Administrator toward the end of year to pay your recertification fee. This process will only last a few weeks, so make sure you respond quickly if you would like to continue forward with your Certified Master Gardener status. I'll write more about this in the next issue.

I'm excited to let you know that the Continuing Education Committee has come up with our slate of classes for 2014. This group of Master Gardeners is committed to giving you high quality educational experiences. The members are Mark Boynton, Janet Downey, Barb Near, Lucy Propst, Mary Jo Showalter, Margy Truza and Nora Wojciechowski. Watch for the registration information shortly after the New Year.

### CEC 2014 Class Schedule

Class	Date	ClassTime
Seasonal Color in Your Garden	March 15	9am-1pm
Captivating Combinations	March 29	9am-noon
Spice Up Your Garden with Herbs	April 9	6:30pm-8:30pm
Garden Design 1-2-3	May 3, 17, 31, June 7	9am-1pm
Garden Design 4-5-6	Sept. 13, 20, 27	9am-1pm (9/20 at Cranbrook)

### ***The Year at a Glance—MGSOC Meetings/Events for 2013***

October 8	Cathy and Frank Genovese	Christmas Tree and Spruce Declines
October 21		MGSOC Board Meeting 7PM @ Extension ofc.
November 12	Trevor Newman	Edible Landscaping – From Consumers to Producers
November 18		MGSOC Board Meeting 7PM @ Extension ofc.
December 10	Holiday Potluck	

## Annuals and Combining Them With Perennials

Alison MacKinder who owns **In the Garden** gave us a talk in August on her favorite annuals and perennials gleaned from her years of experience as a landscaper. She treats tulips as annuals and particularly enjoys ‘Queen of the Night’ (purple) paired with dicentra or ‘Matrona’ sedum. She pairs orange tulips with purple epimedium, pansies, lady’s mantle, brunneras or hellebores. Tulips can produce a succession of color, so it is important to know the blooming period of each variety as well as the size of the bulb. She plants the bulbs about 8” deep and sprinkles them with deer repellent, covers them and then sprinkles them again and once more in the spring.



Landscapers have long used impatiens to great advantage, but they have had to find substitutes. Alison recommended begonias, especially dragon wings, the Big Series, Rosalita Four Star Series and rose bronze-leafed ones. New Guinea impatiens need babying and must not be over-watered. Lantanas and nasturtiums can be used for continuous color. Geraniums can provide a “pop” of color and can be grown into a tree form.

Mandevilla makes a wonderful container plant and can be grown in part shade. Red mandevilla with ‘Royal Velvet’ petunias and creeping jenny is a great combination. One of her slides showed a small table covered with round stones with pots of various kinds of sedums in containers of different heights. Another interesting set of containers was a series of three bowls placed on a stairway. She described verbena as “a work horse.”

In the shade favorite combinations are coral bells with annuals, hellebores with pulmonaria, hackenachloa with hosta and Japanese painted fern.

The fall brings new possibilities with bright yellow amsonia, the lovely blue perovskia, chrysanthemums and grasses at their peak. Pots can have combinations of pansies, kale and pumpkins.

—Submitted by Jean Gramlich



## Honeybees – What’s All The Buzz About?



Mike Sautter gave our September talk on beekeeping in the modern world. Humankind has collected honey for thousands of years as recorded in a cave drawing found in Spain. Ancient Egyptians kept bees, and Europeans used skeps (bell-like structures) till the late 1800’s, but it was difficult to take out the combs.

Modern beehives have 3/8” between frames so the bees can build combs. Normally, the bees need 60 pounds of honey per beehive to make it through the winter – the rest can be taken out by the beekeeper.

There are three kinds of bees: workers, drones and queens. There is only one queen per hive, and her only job is to lay up to 1200 eggs per day. 100-300 drones only live to mate with a virgin queen. Thousands of workers take care of the thousands of eggs, larvae and pupae and forage for pollen and nectar, secrete wax and make honey, propolis and royal jelly. Propolis, sometimes called “bee glue” is a sticky plant resin used in medicines and as a basis for varnish. Royal jelly is used as a dietary supplement and fertility stimulant. Beeswax is used for making candles and cosmetics. Bee venom is used for medicines.

Researchers have studied how workers communicate with each other. When a worker finds a good source of pollen and nectar, she comes back to the hive and does a dance that directs other workers to the mother lode. Workers also keep the hive at 90 degrees year-round by fanning with their wings. In the fall, the workers throw out the drones because they are no longer needed to fertilize the queen. Bees will not defecate in the hive, so they go outside when the temperature is 40 degrees and above. In a very cold winter, bees die because they are filled with waste.

In the United States we consume 400 million pounds of honey annually, but we produce only 147 million pounds. 80% of our food production depends on pollination by bees, accomplished when the worker bee transfers pollen to a receptive stigma. A typical worker makes 10-15 collection trips per day and visits 50-100 flowers per trip.

In the presenter’s opinion, our agricultural practices are endangering the honeybees with losses of 40% of hives per year. We put the bees in a very stressful environment, moving them around to monoculture fields like almonds in California where beekeepers are paid about \$200 per hive for 4 weeks. The bees’ normal food source is not available to them, so they are fed high fructose corn syrup and sugar water – not a healthy diet for bees or humans! Bees are succumbing to pesticides, varoa mites and diseases. Genetically modified organisms (GMO crops) contain systemic pesticides that affect the bees. Probably a combination of these factors is responsible for colony collapse disorder – bees just disappear and do not return to the hive.

—Submitted by Jean Gramlich



## **This Fall at Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park (Grand Rapids)**

### **CHRYSANTHEMUMS AND MORE!**

September 20 – October 27

The annual Chrysanthemums and More! exhibition is a richly colored horticultural display featuring autumn's favorite flower accompanied by botanical elements ripe for the season. Featured prominently in several display areas, chrysanthemums will not only welcome you with bursts of color but lead you through the exhibition to such highlights as cascading chrysanthemum walls, fresh floral designs and chrysanthemum sphere topiaries.

Working together to develop a common theme, design elements such as specific plants, textures, materials and colors are developed by the horticulture department and exhibitions staff. From there each exhibition area is meticulously planned by staff and installed with a generous amount of help from volunteers. This year brings wall displays (vertical plantings) of boldly colored chrysanthemums intertwined with unique textures provided by ornamental cabbages and kale, inviting guests into the Seasonal Display Greenhouse and Children's Garden.

A returning favorite is the chrysanthemum sphere topiary. Over 1,000 fresh-cut cushion mum blooms are used to construct the five spheres that make up this unique structure. Each sphere takes about one hour to construct with the flowers lasting for about one week, at which point they are replaced with a fresh new topiary. Look for it in the Victorian Garden Parlor; it is a detail not to be missed.

A facet that truly makes this fall display unique is the use of a variety of mum types that together show off an array of textures, colors, forms and sizes. Because the exhibition is designed to delight guests in both indoor and outdoor gardens we are able to display both hardy mums and florist mums (disbuds). The horticulture staff is often asked about the differences between these varieties. Hardy mums are perennials and can tolerate cold temperatures, so they are commonly seen in outdoor autumn gardens beds. They typically have several small blooms on each stem and they don't require pinching.

Florist mums, on the other hand, are not cold hardy and they do require manipulation—training or pinching in a specific manner—to achieve one or just a few large blooms per stem. Several varieties of large disbuds will appear over the course of the exhibition. Some have giant blooms, some have petals that trail and spiral several inches, and some are of the most incredible of color combinations. Overall more than 40 different varieties and more than 2,000 mums are on display in the building alone.

If you are looking for something "More!" you will be delighted by the creative display of fall plantings that wrap around and wind through the chrysanthemum display areas. Unusual varieties of pumpkins, gourds, ornamental grasses, cabbage, kale and asters highlight another aspect of fall and lend an exclusive pairing of textures found only this time of year. Bring your family to enjoy this horticultural celebration of autumn and don't forget to mark your calendar for Mum Day on Sunday, October 20. Horticulture staff will be offering several exhibition-related demonstrations and tours and educational activities will be available for both adults and children. Make this autumn horticultural treasure a fall family tradition!

## Related activities at Meijer Gardens

### JAPANESE GARDEN TRAM TOURS

Saturday and Sunday, October 26 and 27

Various departure times

FEE: \$3 Adults. \$1 Kids

Take a behind-the-scenes tram tour around the Japanese Garden.

### MUM DAY

Sunday, October 20, 1-4 pm

FEE: Included with admission

Enjoy walking tours lead by the horticulture staff as well as informational demonstrations. Visit the Children's Garden for interactive fall-themed stories, amazing autumn games and a fascinating naturalist walk.

### GIANT PUMPKINS AT MICHIGAN'S FARM GARDEN

October 19-20, 1-4 pm

FEE: Included with admission

Weighing in at hundreds of pounds, these pumpkins will amaze kids and adults alike. Enjoy pumpkin cooking demonstrations at 1:30 and 3pm,

### GIANT TISSUE PAPER MUMS

Sunday, October 20, 1-4 pm

FEE: included with admission

Make a big, eye-catching tissue paper mum to wear in your hair or pin to your shirt. Choose from an assortment of fall colors and different petal shapes. Be inspired by mums all around you as well as your own imagination

### HALLOWEE-ONES

Friday, October 25, 10 am-12 pm

FEE: Included with admission

Dress your child in costume and enjoy this special event designed for our youngest visitors. Participate in a costume parade and listen to Halloween-themed stories. Celebrate Halloween with your wee-ones.

*Selected items reprinted from Seasons / Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park / Autumn 2013*

## Some Information You Should Know

### **MGSOC Board Members**

**President: Margy Truza.....(248)644-3560**  
**Vice President: Sally Bolle.....(248)813-0328**  
**Secretary: Ruth Vrbenski.....(248)969-6904**  
**Treasurer: Jean Gramlich .....(810)714-2343**  
**Team Administrator: (open)**

### **MSU Extension Oakland County Coordinator**

**Advisor: Carol Lenchek ..... (248)858-0900**  
[lenchekc@oakgov.com](mailto:lenchekc@oakgov.com)

### **Team Coordinators**

**Bowers Farm: Marianne Cotter.....(248)393-0068**  
**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: Lavon Cook.....(248)939-7047**  
**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**  
**Roots & Shoots Editor: Dick Wanat.....(248)644-5699**

**Web Site Address: [www.mgsoc.org](http://www.mgsoc.org)**  
**Webmaster: Sheri Trout [sheri@oaklandweb.com](mailto:sheri@oaklandweb.com)**  
**Web Site Calendar: Peggy Wanat [pwanat43@comcast.net](mailto:pwanat43@comcast.net)**

**Currently Available Opportunities: Communications,  
Education, Project Support, Volunteer Activities**

#### 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.

Marie Ruemenapp  
248-380-9100 or 248-858-0885  
MSU Extension District Coordinator  
Email: [ruemenap@msu.edu](mailto:ruemenap@msu.edu)

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

Robin Danto...248-858-0904  
*Extension Educator~Food Safety*  
Email: [dantor@oakgov.com](mailto:dantor@oakgov.com)

Tom Schneider...248-858-0905  
*Extension Educator~4-H Youth Programs*  
Email: [schneidert@oakgov.com](mailto:schneidert@oakgov.com)

Carol Lenchek...248-858-0900  
*Extension Educator~Master Gardener Program*  
Email: [lenchekc@oakgov.com](mailto:lenchekc@oakgov.com)

Linda Smith...248-858-0887  
*Horticulture Office Assistant*  
Email: [smithlin@oakgov.com](mailto:smithlin@oakgov.com)

Cathy Morris...248-858-1639  
*Clerk & Contact for Certification of Volunteer  
& Education Hours*  
Email: [morrisc@oakgov.com](mailto:morrisc@oakgov.com)

Bindu Bhakta...248-858-5198  
*Extension Educator~Water Quality*  
Email: [bhaktabi@msu.edu](mailto:bhaktabi@msu.edu)

Saneya Hamler...248-452-9726  
*Extension Educator~Children, Youth & Family*  
Email: [hamlersa@msu.edu](mailto:hamlersa@msu.edu)

Eva Poole...248-858-1993  
*Extension Educator~Children, Youth & Family*  
Email: [ander204@msu.edu](mailto:ander204@msu.edu)

Roots & Shoots is a joint publication of MSU Extension-Oakland county and Master Gardener Society of Oakland County. Submit articles for publication to Dick Wanat [rwanat155056mi@comcast.net](mailto:rwanat155056mi@comcast.net) by suggested deadlines below.

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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](http://www.mgsoc.org).

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