Welcome Renata Reibitz!
Renata joined our garden staff this winter and will be largely responsible for our herbaceous perennial collections amongst other duties. She is an MSU Horticulture graduate and even worked as an assistant to Ann Hancock a few years back. She will bring added energy and attention to our fabulous Judith DeLapa Herbaceous Perennial gardens. (Please note that I inadvertently used Renata’s previous last name in my last email – she had been a student in my class and old memories die hard! She now is officially a Reibitz! Sorry Renata).

Curious Gardener Program – 2 classes remaining:
Build a Bamboo Trellis, Tuesday, April 10, 6-8 pm. Dr. Art Cameron, Garden Director, will teach this hands-on workshop to show you how you can build bamboo trellises for various vegetables and ornamentals including tomatoes, pole beans, cucumbers, and black-eyed Susans. Bamboo will be available for purchase. You can register on site.

Whimsical Spring Containers, Tuesday, April 17, 6-8 pm. Katie McCarver, MSU Horticulture Gardens Annual Trial Manager, will teach you how to make your very own creative cool-season combination container, which you can take home with you at the end of the session. You’ll have not just an ordinary container, but a work of art! For more information and to register, [http://www.hrt.msu.edu/curious-gardener-spring-201/](http://www.hrt.msu.edu/curious-gardener-spring-201/)

For those of you who wait until the last minute, you can register on site!

There will be 2 Plants sales on campus in the next two months!
2012 MSU Horticulture Club Spring Show and Plant Sale – April 21 and 22
The MSU Horticulture Club (primarily composed of our undergraduate students in the Department of Horticulture) will host its annual plant sale on April 21 and 22. Come see the amazing display garden the students put together in the Conservatory and purchase plants. All proceeds go to support ongoing activities of the Horticulture Club. For more information on this popular event, go to [http://www.msuhortclub.com/spring-show/](http://www.msuhortclub.com/spring-show/)

2012 MSU Horticulture Gardens Plant Sale – May 19 (Members on May 18)
The MSU Horticulture Gardens will host its annual plant sale on Saturday, May 19. All MSU Garden Members can get in early on Friday evening, May 18. This is the same weekend as the East Lansing Art Fair, so combine the two and make a weekend of it! This popular plant sale will be located in the Plant and Soil Sciences Building. All proceeds support the MSU Horticulture Gardens. For more information and directions go to our website [http://www.hrt.msu.edu/garden-calendar/](http://www.hrt.msu.edu/garden-calendar/)

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Butterflies are Flying Again!
The Indoor 4-H Children’s Garden is full of action this month. Butterflies once again are in full flight – and the greenhouse is a hotbed of activity. Bring the family – and see the butterflies. An official Butterfly Day will be held on Saturday, April 28 from 10 am to noon. Parking is free on the weekends. Come join us to celebrate another exciting season of “Butterflies in the Garden”. The cost of this program is $5 per person and parking is free. Come and explore the secret life of butterflies. We will discover the amazing butterfly life cycle, create butterfly gardens to take home, and much more.

2012 Garden Day – Friday, August 3, 2012
Please mark the date! Stephanie Cohen, “Perennial Diva” will be our opening keynote speaker. She has written a popular book (Perennial Gardener’s Design Primer) and appeared on several TV shows expressing her love of herbaceous perennial plants! She is full of energy and a barrel of laughs. In the afternoon, the mother-daughter team of Jessica Wright and Val Albright will give a lively presentation on “Tips and Tricks for Getting Herbs from Garden to Table”. Last year, Jessica and Val had standing room only at their workshops on cooking with herbs – so this year we have asked them to take center stage! We will also have 12 workshops on subjects such as composting, rooftop and rain gardens, native and perennial plants, horticulture therapy and cultivating creativity in the garden. Registration soon to open! Contact Jennifer Sweet (hgardens@msu.edu) if you have any questions.

New Landscapes and Closed Roads
On your next visit to the gardens, you will find that the new Plant Science Addition that connects Plant Biology with the Plant and Soil Science Building is now finished and occupied. Of more interest to many of you will be that the new landscape at the southeast corner of Bogue and Wilson is being installed as I type. This new landscape was designed by our University Landscape Designers and features the creative use of a number of native and exotic plants ornamental plants less utilized on the MSU campus. There will also be display beds for annuals and herbaceous perennials. On the south side of the new building is a nice courtyard. You will also find that Bogue Road is now permanently closed between Wilson and Shaw to make room for the new building associated with FRIB and the cyclotron.
What’s Blooming in the Garden?

If you visit the gardens in April, expect to see tulips and daffodils, our expanding collection of hellebores, flowering shrubs such as forsythia and of course, any number of early spring flowering perennials. Redbuds are in bloom while magnolias are just beginning to color up and maples are quickly leaving out! In the vegetable garden, we are planting peas, fava beans, and a slew of greens such as mizuna and beets.

Thanks to our Volunteers in the MSU Horticulture Garden

Thanks to all our volunteers! Our garden staff works hard to keep our gardens looking great each year, but there is no doubt that we could not do it without the help of our amazing volunteers. Each Tuesday morning from 9 am to noon, 20 or more faithful volunteers arrive with gloves, clippers and kneepads to help as needed in the greenhouse and gardens. Last Tuesday, they potted up new plants for our display gardens and plant sale. Next week, many will probably be outside pulling weeds, tidying beds, dividing perennials, or planting new vegetables. If any of you have some extra energy and time on your hands and would like to join our volunteer group, please contact Katie McCarver (mccarve4@msu.edu).

Consider Sponsoring a Brick or a Bench in the Garden

We have many donor opportunities in the MSU Horticulture Gardens including Bricks and Benches. All include an inscription for the dedication. A $250 donation to the gardens will sponsor a 4” by 8” brick, a $1,000 donation to the gardens will sponsor a 8” by 8” brick, and a $10,000 donation to the gardens will sponsor a Garden Bench. We work closely with donors to find a suitable location in the gardens for your brick or bench. Contact Art Cameron (cameron@msu.edu or 517-355-5191 ext 1338)