Spring is officially here! Well almost....

Spring officially begins with the vernal equinox which occurs this year at 7:02 am on March 20. Of course in Michigan, spring weather can include a bit of sunshine and a bit of snow. The snow came just a few days ago, in fact, and Renata Reibitz took a couple wintery photos of our dragon and yarn exhibit.

Don’t get discouraged, though, since early spring flowers are also peeping through the snow. Winter aconites, helebore and hepatica selections are already blooming in the gardens as are witch hazel and snow drops. If you need a bit of early color, come and visit the gardens soon. By April, early bulbs and shrubs should be showing off big time since our staff and volunteers planted thousands more bulbs last fall! It should be yet another beautiful spring show.

Winter aconite (Eranthis hyemalis) are tough little plants that flower very early in Michigan. Flowers typically open on sunny days and close back up when it’s cold. Renata took the photo on the left on March 13 and the photo on the right a day later! It is a colorful member of the ranunculus family and is typically sold as a dormant crown in the fall. It can naturalize under trees, but plant plenty for a bit of punch in the early spring. It goes dormant in late spring, so be careful if you are gardening in that same area later in the year. They do best in organic soils with plenty of leaf litter.
Spring Design Program - April 27

The MSU Horticulture Gardens will host four prominent speakers for an all-day program.

The ever-popular Janet Macunovich will give a hands-on workshop on Designing with Perennials where you will first take a beautiful virtual tour of gardens to visualize form and texture. Then you’ll use models to experiment with Janet’s process for arranging plants in the landscape for all-season interest.

Dr. Bob Schutzki will give you tips on how you can develop your own creative edge. He will review the basics and show you ways to organize and transform your landscape space.

Dr. Art Cameron, MSU Horticulture Garden Director, will take you on a colorful and imaginative journey through gardens near and far, where he will give you ideas for designing your garden with a bit of creative flair!

Dr. Norm Lownds, 4-H Children’s Garden Curator, will take you for a virtual romp through the 4-H Children’s Garden exploring how to design for the kid in each of us. View the gardens with the eyes of curiosity and wonder to discover the amazement and fun in the garden. Norm will help you insert these ideas into your own garden. Come prepared to have some fun.

The all-day program will take place on campus in the new building adjacent to the Plant and Soil Science Building. This new facility has an excellent lecture hall and atrium where lunch will be served and the Garden Marketplace vendors will be open for business.

The cost for MSU Horticulture Garden members is $69 for a full day program including lunch. Nonmembers pay $79. Find further information and to register online or download an application at http://www.hrt.msu.edu/spring-design-program/

Curious Gardener Series - April 16 and May 14

Waking up the Garden April 16 6-8 PM

When spring arrives do you know what to do to give your plants, shrubs, trees and evergreens the best start possible? Join Renata Reibitz who will discuss the various tasks required to wake up the Perennial Gardens at MSU. Topics will range from weeding, dividing and pruning to amending and mulching the soil. If the weather is nice, plan on a walk through the gardens.

Themed Herb Containers May 14 6-8 PM

Get to know your herbs through touch, smell, and mostly importantly taste. Herb containers are great if you are a cooking enthusiast, but don’t forget to quench your thirst after a long day of gardening. Katie McCarver will help you create your very own themed (it’s a surprise) herb container to enjoy all summer long. Herbal cocktails and mocktails will be provided as an example of just how far the use of your herb container will go this summer.

http://www.hrt.msu.edu/curious-gardener/
Upcoming events in the MSU Horticulture Gardens

Curious Gardener Series – April 16 and May 14
Two great programs remain – see first page of eNewsletter and visit our website at:
http://www.hrt.msu.edu/curious-gardener/

Spring Design Program – April 27, 8:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.
A full-day program featuring 4 experts in landscape design and maintenance. For further information, see first page and visit our web site at:
http://www.hrt.msu.edu/spring-design-program/.

The MSU Horticulture Gardens Plant Sale
The MSU Horticulture Gardens is pleased to host our annual plant sale with a huge new group of interesting plants – annuals, perennials, vegetables, herbs and select woody plants.

Our Members only VIP Plant Sale will be the evening of Friday, May 17, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Become a member and gain early access to our ever popular plant sale. This is your chance to have first choice of the best new plants we will offer. We can never guarantee enough of every plant to please all of you.

Our Main Public Plant Sale will be Saturday, May 18, 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Open to all, shop ‘til you drop! If you come late, you might just get some bargain basement sales on overstocked plants. You can never be sure just what you might find!

2013 Garden Day
Friday, August 2, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
We are pleased to host one of our 4-H Children’s Garden co-founders, Jane Taylor, for an entertaining presentation on Gardens Grow Communities! Always on the national speaking circuit, Jane can make you laugh and smile while she fills you full of inspiration.

Felder Rushing will return to delight us all as our second keynote speaker this summer! Promoting his new book “Slow Gardening”, his gardening stories are appreciated by all.

Garden Day includes your choice of two workshops and lunch. You will also have time to tour the gardens which are usually at their peak in early August! We look forward to another educational and entertaining day.
MSU Horticulture Club Spring Show and Plant Sale!
Saturday April 20th, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday April 21st, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sensory Overload!
The theme for this year’s display will be Sensory Overload and the MSU Horticulture Club is putting together displays that will indeed titillate your sense! Come check it out – support the students and grab some great new plants for your garden!

The students state on their web page (http://www.msuhortclub.com/spring-show/)
The Spring Show is the MSU Horticulture Club's biggest event of the year! It's part indoor garden show and part giant plant sale! It’s perfect for plant lovers, those who are looking for cool garden ideas, or those who would like a small vacation from the cold grayness that is Michigan in early spring. It is also a great event to bring the whole family as there is a room filled with fun garden themed children’s activities! The plant sale will feature plants that have been donated from companies all over the state of Michigan and have been cared for from plug or seed by the MSU Hort Club members all semester. The proceeds from this sale go towards helping the Hort Club maintain its presence at industry conferences and trade shows, fund educational tours, and take on more community service projects. To learn more about the Hort Club and what events we participate in please visit our web site. We hope to see you at this year's Spring Show and for years to come!

The Annual Spring Show and Plant Sale is hosted by the Michigan Horticultural Education Foundation, a non-profit organization. Money raised from this sale is used to provide educational opportunities for members of the Michigan State University Horticulture Club.
Become a Member of the MSU Horticulture Gardens

The MSU Horticulture Gardens are largely self-funded and depend on generous contributions from interested garden enthusiasts and supporters like you! Please consider joining as an MSU Horticulture Garden Member. Members of the MSU Horticulture Gardens not only support our day-to-day activities, they enjoy many special benefits, such as discounts to all our special events and programs. They also gain early entry to our members-only 'VIP' Plant Sale. Members also receive a 10% discount on all purchased plants and items.

All MSU Horticulture Garden members gain special admission privileges to over 200 American Horticultural Society reciprocal gardens, providing cost savings that can more than make up for your MSU Gardens membership fee! If you travel and visit other gardens, even in Michigan, you can quickly recoup the Membership fee and more. To learn more about the AHS Reciprocal Admissions Program, visit www.ahs.org/events/reciprocal_events.htm

Membership are per calendar year, January 1 through December 31 and benefits vary with the level as described below:

Individual Member $35
- VIP early bird plant sale invitation
- 10% discount on all plant sale purchases for individual member
- Free admission to AHS Reciprocal Gardens
- Discounts on MSU Horticulture Garden programs

Family Membership $50
All of the above for you, a spouse, and immediate dependents, plus:
- VIP wine and chocolate donor reception invitation

Contributor $100
All of the above, plus:
- Five free parking tokens

Patron $1,000
All of the above, plus:
- One free Garden Day admission
- Unlimited parking during the garden season (sorry, this excludes MSU employees and students)
- Honorary brick in the Garden walkway (a $250 value)

Portions of the membership fee may be tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

We welcome your gift in any amount. Thank you!

To join online or to download a printable membership application, please visit our website at http://www.hrt.msu.edu/2013-garden-memberships/