Plant Sale to Benefit MSU Horticulture Gardens!

Friday    May 17th      5 pm to 7 pm       2013 MSU Garden Members Only
Saturday  May 18th      7 am to 2 pm       Open to the Public

The MSU Horticulture Gardens’ annual plant sale will be open to the public on Saturday, May 18. MSU Garden Members can get in early to search for the special treats on Friday evening, May 17.

All proceeds are used to support the ongoing activities of the largely self-funded MSU Horticulture Gardens. Support our special gardens and fill your yard with plants!

Plants available for purchase
- **Annuals** – a wide range of common and exotic, seed and vegetative, new and old.
- **Herbaceous perennials** – includes divisions from our perennial displays – an eclectic collection of common, select and rare plants. Renata (our perennial garden manager) has done her best to enhance our selection this year.
- **Ornamental grasses** – a range of tender and hardy, short and tall, common and eclectic.
- **Vegetables** – heirlooms, hard-to-find cultivars of tomatoes and peppers, eggplant, squash & melons
- **Herbs** – a wide selection of common and rare herbs.
- **Trees and shrubs**

Some plants may sell out more quickly than others. Come early for the best selection!

MSU Horticulture Garden Members

Members support our gardens, shop one day before everyone else, and receive a 10% discount on all plant purchases!

Not yet a member?
- Click here to join online or to download a paper membership form.
- You can also join onsite at our members-only sale on Friday evening or at our open public sale on Saturday. Ask for information upon arrival.
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Location
Our popular plant sale will be located in the Plant and Soil Sciences Building (1066 Bogue, MSU Campus). For maps – go to http://www.hrt.msu.edu/visitor-and-tour-information/ Please consider factoring in some extra time to avoid frustration since there are a multiple of new road construction projects on campus to make directions difficult, even if you have GPS!

Enjoy a walk through the Michigan State University Horticulture Gardens
For more information go to our website http://www.hrt.msu.edu/our-gardens/

Visit the East Lansing Art Festival
An added benefit for you, our Spring Sale this year is the same weekend as the East Lansing Art Festival, so it’s a good excuse to combine a trip to both events and make a weekend of it!

Buy 4-packs of different types of tomatoes and peppers. Be sure to look for volunteer’s favorite recipes

Our staff and volunteers will be here to make your shopping experience a happy one!
The MSU 4-H Children’s Garden, and the Garden Railway within, will be celebrating their 20th Anniversary this summer of 2013. To know its origins is to know that it is truly a labor of love.

The MSU 4-H Children’s Garden is one of five parts of the Horticultural Demonstration Gardens. It is just over ½ acre in size, and its mission is to promote an understanding of plants and the role they play in our environment and daily lives. 4-H is the youth component of Michigan State University Extension, or public outreach programs, and is one of the three parts of the Michigan State University Land Grant Mission; the other two being teaching and research. There are 64 theme areas within the Children’s Garden, all dedicated to a child’s life in some way.

Jane Taylor, first curator of the Children’s Garden, now retired, describes the beginnings, “When the land was first allocated to me in 1987 to be used for the Children’s Garden, it was located adjacent to the railroad tracks. Many huge freight trains roared past every day...it was (and is) deafening. I knew we needed to put up a fence for safety but also realized that would not really deafen the sound. The fence was funded by Grand Truck Western (Canadian National was their parent company, and now all trains carry the CN designation), so, as I was taught, ‘When life serves you lemons, you make lemonade!’, and the idea became not to try to ignore the trains but to celebrate them. So that is why I thought we needed a train in the Children’s Garden”.

“Jeff Kacos, Landscape Architect with Campus Park and Planning, and the Children’s Garden Co-Designer, and I started looking for G scale trains. We were sent an article about a Michigan company who made trains, the Kalamazoo Toy Train Factory in Bangor. Jeff and I went to visit and met the owner, who agreed to donate all the trains, track, etc. and also came to install it. A few years after the train was installed, Jeff suggested a Landscape Architect in Grand Rapids, I met with him, and he designed all the plantings.”

“On the day of dedication, August 11, 1993, we had programs for kids, and one person teaching was Diane Blain, an elementary teacher from Grand Rapids, who wrote The Boxcar Children Cookbook. She made some recipes from the cookbook using fresh garden produce. Here again, she was chosen because of the train connection to the Children’s Garden.”

Norm Lownds, MSU Professor and the current Curator of the MSU 4-H Children’s Garden arrived in 1997. He noted that operations of the Garden Railway were spotty the first few years after he arrived, but his two sons, Mike and Evan, soon took an interest in operating the trains on event days. Mike was active in operations until he graduated from High School and went off to College, at which point Evan took over for a few years.
The 4-H Children’s Garden Railway Continued
by Mike Morrow

In 2008, the 15th Anniversary of the Children’s Garden and the Garden Railway, the Capital Area Railway Society (CARS), headed up by now retired Williamston High School Science Teacher Norm Jolin and retired Michigan State Police Analyst and former Grand Truck Western Railway employee Fran Schafer, took over the operations of the Garden Railway. One of their first efforts was to expand the east loop by about 30 feet, dig out all the soil and put in new train bed, lay new track and re-ballast the entire loop. They also moved a number of large, very heavy rocks to create a tunnel where both loops came close to each other in the center of the Garden Railway. This has become the focal point for many children when trains happen to come through the tunnel at the same time.

CARS was founded in September 1989, and their objectives were to build a modular HO scale railroad that could be moved and displayed at various sites, promote the hobby of model railroading and assist persons interested in the hobby to become proficient. Their modular railroad currently measures 22’ x 160’, and is on display every winter at the Impression 5 Museum in downtown Lansing, Michigan. They also have smaller travel layouts that have been set up in numerous museums, malls, conventions and other special expositions across the state of Michigan. It has been the recipient of many first place awards when competing with other modular layouts, and was once featured at the Wharton Center at Michigan State University with Andrew Lloyd Webber’s “Starlight Express”. In 2012, they took second place at the National Model Railroad Association Annual Convention in Grand Rapids. This makes them immeasurably capable of bringing improved operations and a love for demonstration to the Garden Railway.

CARS operates the trains in the Children’s Garden from 10am – 1pm on Thursdays during the summer months of May through August. About 50% of visitors to the Children’s Garden are children who come with parents, grandparents and other family members. Jessica Wright, Education Coordinator for the MSU 4-H Children's Garden, says, “Annually we have about 125,000 visitors to the garden. They come from all over the world to visit the garden since we are a popular campus destination. 10,000 children come each year on guided school groups. The school groups mostly come from the tri-county area but I have had groups come from as far as the UP. We host Train Day every year to help foster the curiosity children already have about trains and enhance their knowledge and experience. The children are in awe of the large trains that go by the garden daily and Train Day is a way for us to bring them down to their scale. We average about 75-100 attendees for Train Day each year.”

The MSU 4-H Children’s Garden is privately funded, made possible by gifts and grants. Student interns work with the Garden manager, curator and horticulturists. As a result of 20 years of operations, much of the originally donated motive power and rolling stock is close to being worn out, and donations of good used motive power and rolling stock are needed. Anyone who is in a position to consider donating items or funds to purchase items for the Garden Railway should please contact Jessica Wright at garden4h@msu.edu or phone (517) 355-5191 x1327. The children are the real beneficiaries of the donations, and the scene of two trains coming through the tunnel at the same time will continue to thrill generations of children to come.
Garden Day – Friday, August 2, 2013

Jane Taylor, founding curator of the 4-H Children’s Garden will be our opening keynote speaker. Jane conceived the idea and developed most of the well-known themes such as the pot-of-gold, the alphabet garden and the Secret Garden. In our Children’s Garden. Now retired and living in Portland, Maine with her husband Lee, we are thrilled to have Jane back in town to help celebrate our 20th Anniversary.

In the afternoon, Felder Rushing will give a lively presentation on “Slow Gardening”. Felder is a syndicated newspaper columnist, host of an NPR-affiliate radio program and the Q&A guy for HGTV. He has written or coauthored 18 gardening books. He lives half the year in England and travels across the U.S. the other half, spreading the gospel of gardening for personal satisfaction. He has always been a favorite here at MSU.

We will also have 12 workshops on herbal vinegars, herbaceous perennials, small fruits, organic pest control, wedding flowers, fairy gardening, medicinal plants, sweet herbs, trees shrubs and more!

Registration soon to open! Contact Jennifer Sweet (hgardens@msu.edu) if you have any questions.

2013 Anniversary Gala - August 1

Twenty Years and Still Growing!

In honor of the MSU Horticulture Gardens’ 20th anniversary, a formal Garden Gala will take place Thursday, August 1, the evening before Garden Day. Come celebrate the past, present and future of the Gardens with a progressive dinner showcasing the Horticulture Gardens, Michigan 4-H Children’s Garden and the new Molecular Plant Sciences Atrium. Hear early stories of Garden history and be the first to learn about the innovative progressions happening in the future.

To find out more information and to register online, please visit:
www.hrt.msu.edu/garden-gala

20th Anniversary Garden Gala
Date: Thursday, August 1, 2013
Time: 6:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Curious Gardener Series - Last class of the spring series
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/

Butterflies are wonderful!
The Indoor 4-H Children’s Garden is once again full of lovely butterflies. Come and enjoy fluttering butterflies at least into the middle of May. Park in the Garden Parking lot and come to headhouse.

Irises are wonderful!
The Tri-County Iris Society's 46th Annual Iris Show will be held Saturday, June 1st, from 8 am to 2 pm in the Horticulture Gardens Headhouse (Room B109). Set up and registration of entries is Friday, May 31st from 3 to 7 pm. Public entries are welcome. Click here to download a pdf of their flier.

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

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