Art in the Gardens – 2013

June 22-23, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Opening Reception - June 21, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Doug DeLind

Please join us at the MSU Horticulture Gardens for an exhibition of wood and ceramic sculpture by local artist Doug DeLind. Doug has been a professional artist for the past 35 years, selling his unique work at art fairs and galleries throughout the USA and Canada. Pieces will be available for purchase; a portion of the proceeds supports MSU Horticulture Gardens.

2013 Anniversary Gala - August 1

Twenty Years Growing and Better than Ever!

In honor of the MSU Horticulture Gardens’ 20th anniversary, a Garden Gala with a progressive dinner showcasing all of the MSU Horticulture Gardens, including the Michigan 4-H Children’s Garden, the Judith DeLapa Perennial Gardens, the Amien Carter Annual Trial Gardens, and the new Molecular Plant Sciences Atrium will take place Thursday, August 1. After a sit-down dinner, listen to a few short presentations by special friends of the garden that will help celebrate our past, present and future. This enjoyable fund-raising event should be a special treat for all those who have supported our beautiful gardens.

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

What? 20th Anniversary Garden Gala
When? Thursday, August 1, 2013, 6:00 - 9:30 pm
Where? The MSU Horticulture Gardens, Garden Parking Lot
The 2nd Annual MSU Bee Palooza!

When? June 23 from 1:00 – 4:00 pm
Where? The MSU Horticulture Gardens
Free parking in the Garden Parking Lot

The third week in June is National Pollinator Week and, to celebrate, the Departments of Entomology and Horticulture at MSU are hosting Bee Palooza this Sunday. This event will provide the public with opportunities to learn about all aspects of bee biology, their economic value, and their conservation. This is a family-friendly event and there will be a fun scavenger hunt for kids, and pollinator-themed face-painting. Visitors can visit stations to learn about the diversity of bees in our state, the many benefits of honey bees and wild bees, how to garden for pollinators, and the many human foods that bees support. Visitors will also be able to see live bumble bee colonies and honey bee hives (safely inside demonstration boxes). Educational material will be available to take home. The event takes place in the MSU Horticulture Gardens. Note that there may be road construction, so follow the detour signs. Bee Palooza is a joint effort by undergraduate and graduate students, staff and faculty from the Department of Entomology at MSU.

This event is FREE!
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 subjects from herbal vinegars to wedding flowers! See below for more details or go to our web site. You can also register online at http://www.hrt.msu.edu/garden-day-2013/
Contact Jennifer Sweet (hgardens@msu.edu) if you have any questions.

Garden Day Workshops

2. Herbaceous Perennial Garden Tour. Art Cameron, Director of the MSU Horticulture Gardens and Renata Reibitz, MSU Perennial Garden Manager
3. Growing Small Fruits for the Home Garden. Brad Rowe, Professor of Horticulture
4. Organic Pest Control for the Backyard Vegetable Garden. Adam Montri, Student Organic Farm
5. The Flower Fairy Garden. Beulah Hargrove, Grand Oak Herb Farm, Owner/Operator for 33 years
7. Medicinal Plants. Peter Carrington, Assistant Curator, W. J. Beal Botanical Garden at Michigan State University
8. Rediscovering the Sweet Herbs. Jessica Wright, Education Coordinator, 4H Children's Garden and Val Albright, Program Assistant, MSU Extension
9. Tom’s Top Ten Trees and Shrubs. Dr. Tom Fernandez, Associate Professor, Department of Horticulture
11. Growing Grapes in Michigan: from Planting to Squeezing the Fruit! Paolo Sabbatini, Assistant Professor of Horticulture, Michigan State University
12. Wedding Flowers with a Garden Flair. Tim Latimer, Certified Florist
Many garden catalogs advertise ‘re-blooming’ iris, often at a higher price than the regular iris. Those of us who love iris are enticed by the possibility of another bloom later in the season. What they don’t tell in the brochure is that there are different types of re-bloomers and it makes a very big difference which cold hardiness zone you plan to plant them in. Michigan’s climate is very different and the growing season much shorter than Oregon where the majority of iris are hybridized. This means that what re-blooms for them won’t always re-bloom for us. The best iris that will re-bloom here are cycle re-bloomers. After initial bloom and rapid increase, the new growth sends up bloom stalks. The iris doesn’t require vernalization (chilling period) for their second flowering which is usually in late summer or early fall.

Frequently re-bloomers take longer to establish themselves before re-blooming so you need to be patient. They can take 2 years or more before they are ready to send up a second bloom stalk. Hot summer nights can cause dormancy as do frigid nights. More water is also required during the hot dry summer to prevent dormancy. Water adequately at least every 2 weeks if rainfall isn’t sufficient to prevent them from drying out. Fertilization after initial bloom is required also. Use a low nitrogen fertilizer and do not apply directly on the plant but work in around them. Re-blooming iris increase more rapidly and may need to be divided every second or third year. To keep them blooming you can dig half the clump one year and the other half the next year.

Check out [http://www.aisregion6.org/rebloom.html](http://www.aisregion6.org/rebloom.html). They have a great up-to-date list of rebloomers that have performed well in Michigan. The Tri-County Iris Society strives to sell only irises as re-bloomers when re-bloom been proven in Michigan in local area member’s gardens.

If you are interested in submitting an article for the eNewsletter please email your ideas to [cameron@msu.edu](mailto:cameron@msu.edu)
Installation of a New Potter Park Rain Garden

by James Coletta, Graduate Research Associate
MSU Department of Horticulture

It all began when Jo Trumble and her 3rd grade class from Lyons School in South Lansing wanted to install a rain garden in the Potter’s Park Zoo parking lot. Ms. Trumble first applied for and received a grant to install a rain garden. Surveying the site with Dr. Art Cameron, we were able to select a spot that was perfect for the project. The site was included a grass strip with a storm drain just downslope of the zoo parking lot. It was here that all the grease oil and other pollutants from vehicles would either runoff into a drain or into the river during storm events. Our objective was to install a rain garden that would capture these pollutants during rain events and prevent direct runoff into the Grand River.

Zoo representatives made the whole project possible. Jill Garnett a docent taught the students about rain gardens while Tom Davidek, from the Zoo Horticulture Department, removed the existing grass and tilled the soil which was then graded into a swale to collect water. We had the benefit (challenge?) of having it rain while creating the slopes so we were able to see how the water would flow into the garden. Plants were purchased from Nature By Design, owned and operated by Vern Stephens. By using his knowledge of rain gardens and native plants Vern was able to select 300 plants that were optimal for the site conditions. He was even generous enough to donate a few extra plants for the project.

On the Saturday that we were scheduled to plant, after the students arrived they quickly took up a trowel and started planting. Before we knew it, all 300 plants were in the ground and ready for mulch to control weeds and maintain moisture during the drier months. In no time, the garden was finished and we were pounding in a sign created by one of the students for the rain garden. In less than 3 hours a group of students and parents were able to take a patch of dirt and turn it into a finished garden that should keep the river cleaner.

It may not be the largest rain garden but the fact that a 3rd grade class installed it themselves and that each student can explain how it works encourages me! This will not be the last rain garden installed in Lansing.
A bit more garden news....

Katie McCarver

Congratulations to our own Katie McCarver who was recognized as a Top 40 under 40 in the Floriculture Industry by GPN, one of the major floriculture industry trade magazines!!!
http://www.gpnmag.com/katie-mccarver

Katie McCarver – there’s more!

Unfortunately for us, Katie is leaving to continue her education in graduate school New Mexico State University. While we are sad for the gardens, we are happy for her. Katie, congratulations on what you have contributed here to the MSU Horticulture Gardens and Good Luck in your Future. We wish you the best – but we will still miss you here in the gardens!

New Color in the Children’s Garden

You may have noted peeling paint on the cement surface in the Children’s Garden in past years, but no longer! Thanks to a donation from BASF, new color was given to our rainbow and sunburst in the Children’s Garden this spring. Come check it out – it is not paint, but a polymer that should last many years before it will need touch-up. Thanks to Todd Edgington of BASF who helped make this generous gift possible!

Events and Weddings – did you know?

In 2012, the MSU Horticulture Gardens hosted 75 weddings and events. On some weekends, we can host 3 or even 4 weddings a weekend. Learn more about hosting your wedding or event in the gardens, go to http://www.hrt.msu.edu/plan-a-wedding-or-event/ Contact: Liz Ollie or Jennifer Sweet gardens@msu.edu

Geocaching in the MSU Horticulture Gardens

Capital Area Geocachers voted in 2012 for Lansing’s Best Geocaches in several categories. Two of interest to us here:
First Place Most Fun For Families:
Touring the MSU 4H Children’s Garden
First Place Best Location: Did You Know This Garden Was Here?
MSU Radiology Garden

Nice article on the MSU Horticulture Gardens

Always nice to hear good things about the gardens. Check out: http://sourcelive.wordpress.com/2013/03/19/thank-you-msu-horticulturists/
**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 and support these beautiful gardens. Members of the MSU Horticulture Gardens 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](http://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/](http://www.hrt.msu.edu/2013-garden-memberships/)

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**Consider Sponsoring a Brick or a Bench in the Garden**

Our endowment supports a good portion of our on-going salaries and maintenance costs in the gardens. Our endowment grows yearly from direct gifts and donations or one of the many donor opportunities in the MSU Horticulture Gardens. 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. Larger donations can sponsor individual garden beds or completely new gardens. Inscriptions can honor special person(s) or occasion(s) in your life. Benches can be placed in many locations throughout the gardens.

Contact: Art Cameron, email [cameron@msu.edu](mailto:cameron@msu.edu)
Amy Britton, email [britto35@anr.msu.edu](mailto:britto35@anr.msu.edu); cell 517-898-1044