



# The Washtenaw Gardener

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## Washtenaw County Master Gardener Newsletter

### Contents

Queen Anne's Lace:  
*Dacus carota*.....1

Herb of the Year.....2

Lessons Learned.....2

The Role of Snags and  
Cavity Trees in a  
Wooded Lot .....3

Environmental  
Psychology: How the  
Environment  
Influences Our  
Feelings and  
Experiences .....4

Tales from the Hive...5

Master Gardener  
Recipes.....7

Master Gardener  
Alumni Association  
Community Gardening  
Grants.....8

Master Gardener  
Alumni Assoc.....8

Master Gardener  
Clothes .....8

Master Gardener Tote  
Bags.....8

Calendar.....9

Master Gardener  
Enrollment.....9

### Queen Anne's Lace

#### *Dacus carota*

Carol J Figarra (MG2007)

*Dacus carota* is commonly known as wild carrot or Queen Anne's Lace and can be found in dry fields, ditches and open areas. It was first introduced to North America from Europe, and the carrots we eat today were once cultivated from this plant.

Queen Anne's Lace is considered a noxious weed and a serious pest in pastures. However, it is used as food and shelter for many insects and birds, including the Eastern Black Swallowtail, honey bee, bumble bee, green lacewing, American goldfinch, Northern Mockingbird and Eastern Bluebird.

The plant grows up to four feet tall. The leaves are two to eight inches long and fern-like. Crushing the leaves will release a distinctive carrot odor. The plant is best known for its lacy, flat-topped flowers. The flowers are 3 to 5 inches wide, can be white, pink, or purple and have a distinctive dark, purplish center. Queen Anne's lace is a biennial plant spending the first year growing bigger, then blooming the second year from May to October. When the flowers turn to seed, the umbels detach from the plant and become tumbleweeds. The seeds are covered with small 'hooks' that attach to hair, fur and clothing.

The wild carrot root is edible when young, but making it a meal is not recommended since Queen Anne's Lace closely resembles the deadly Water Hemlock.

A teaspoon of crushed Queen Anne's Lace seeds has long been used in Asian cultures as a form of birth control. This was first described by Hippocrates over 2000 years ago and modern laboratory experiments on mice have confirmed this result. Caution should be used in handling Queen Anne's Lace as it can cause dermatitis.



The umbels of Queen Anne's Lace can be white, pink or purple. This photo was taken along a dirt road in Ypsilanti. The stem was also the same dark pink color.



Insects and birds use the plant for food and shelter.

The lacy flowers are lovely in wildflowers bouquets. If there are only white flowers in your area, you can change their color by changing the color of the water. This is a common science experiment in primary grades to explain transpiration. The flowers are easily dried in a flower press or between the pages of a large, heavy book. Once dried, they can be used to make pictures, note cards or bookmarks.

Because the dried flowers resemble snowflakes, one can make inexpensive Christmas tree and window adornments.

**The Herb of the Year**

Madolyn Kaminski (MG 1991)

The Herb Society of America ( [www.herbsociety.org](http://www.herbsociety.org) ) has named dill (Anethum graveolens) as its herb of the year.

Dill, an annual, contains flavonoids, furanocoumarins and coumarins and the essential oils. It's used to treat most problems of the digestive tract, such as indigestion, colic and gas, and is an effective ingredient of "gripe water" used for babies.

Used in foods worldwide, especially in Scandinavia, where it is used to flavor eggs, seafood and fish. Sprigs of dill are added to pickles

Dill is easy to grow from seed. In fact, it often reseeds itself—though not always in places you want it. If you want a wide variety of dill seeds to choose from, check out seed catalogs.

There is "Fernleaf" dill, a dwarf variety good for pots. It is slow to bolt and gives you more leaf than seed. Another variety I grew last year was "Dukat". It has very good flavor and produces a lot of leaf before flowers or seed. I had enough at season's end to give to two neighbors.

This year, "Superdukat" (johnnyseed.com ) may be worth a try. There is also "Vierling" best for ornamental uses & cut flowers and "Mammoth," the most common tall variety.

**Lessons Learned**

Nancy Quay, MG 2009

Here in the depths of winter I'm biding my time, pawing through seed catalogs, designing new beds and fantasizing about the best growing season ever.

Hmmm...perhaps I should be guided by last year's experiences.

**Less is More**

Last summer I learned that there really can be too much of a good thing. Looking forward to delectable salads, we planted a combined 27 feet of Black Seeded Simpson lettuce, Red Leaf Lettuce, Crisphead lettuce, Mild Mesclun mix, Baby Butterhead lettuce, two kinds of spinach, Rocket Arugula and Pandero



That's a lot of salad greens for two, sometimes four, people. This became abundantly clear after the 28<sup>th</sup> straight day of lunch and dinner salads—a time when I was seriously considered burying the overwhelming yield under the garage under cover of night.



So, lesson number 1: keep in mind that salad crops like leaf lettuces and

mesclun grow quickly and respond beautifully (and abundantly) to frequent cuttings. Three feet, maybe six feet, is plenty for frequent salad consumption. Twenty-seven feet is *insane*.

**Patience is a Virtue**

I was so excited last year to plant my own seedlings inside, nestled on heating pads under grow lights.

It reminded me of having babies. Only faster, of course. Plus you don't have to save for college. But back to the topic at hand.

Many, many more experienced gardeners advised me to wait until mid-April to begin the seedlings. Simply put, I couldn't wait. I was SO excited to get started. The seedlings germinated on April 9 and were ready to be planted outside in early May.

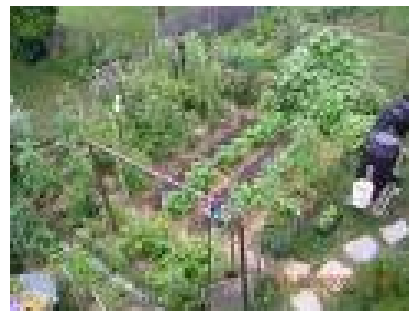
On May 14 — yes, you read that right — we planted out all the hardened off tomato seedlings, 20 plants of various types. It so happened that May 14 was an absolutely, picture-perfect Michigan spring day - warm, sunny, blue skies ... delightful. Our little seedlings (or not so little - some were about 18 inches tall by this time) seemed a bit surprised by their much larger world, but it was extremely gratifying to take in neighbors' comments about the beauty and abundance of our plot.



Two days later, we were frantically dragging every extra sheet, drop cloth and empty kitty litter bucket we could find out to the garden to cover our poor, shell-shocked and nearly frozen babies. It was pathetic. And I'm here to tell you that even without input from Martha Stewart, a garden looks stupid covered with mis-matched sheets.

So either plan ahead and buy coordinating bed linens for your garden, or remember lesson number 2: Don't plant so doggone early. May 14 is too early. In fact, it's *insanely early*.

**Stay the Course**



Spring is such an invigorating time to be in the garden. The tasks are forward-looking and fun, the weeds haven't yet taken over and after a winter indoors, it feels great to be out in the sunny warmth.

There is also an abundance of feedback for those

straight rows of small or mid-sized plants. You know what I'm talking about. These are the days you love to take someone around and point out the specialties.

Then there is late summer and early fall. School has started, days are shorter, the fireplace is looking better every day, and tending the garden is, well, a little boring.

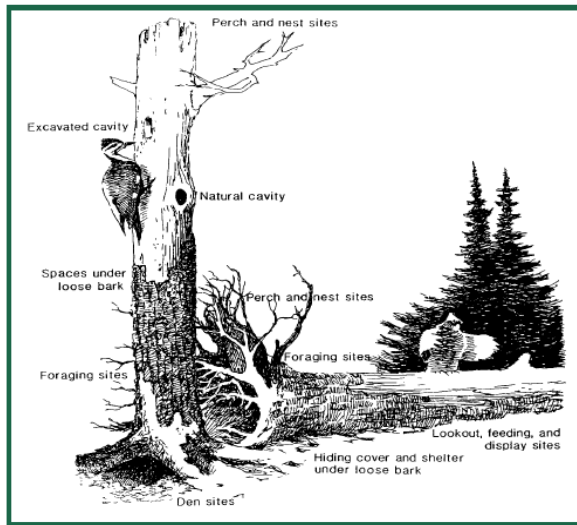
Staying the course means letting things develop in their own, sweet time. For example, before the potatoes are really ready to dig, the plants have to look - for lack of a better word - dead. Suddenly the garden isn't as pretty, and for some of us, that's tough.

Thus, lesson number 3: stay engaged, remember where the Adirondack Blues are buried and leave them alone. Go screen compost or something. But let them grow up to be the potatoes they were meant to be. Unless you are deliberately growing tater tots, it's going to be awhile before they hit the table. And I'm here to tell you, it takes an *insane* number of dime-sized potatoes to feed a Thanksgiving crowd.



Happy gardening or--*joyeuse folie!*

**The Role of Snags and Cavity Trees in a Wooded Lot**



Ron Carpinella (MG 2007, MWS 2008)

A "snag," of dead standing tree, along with downed woody trees and dying trees are all essential elements of a forest.

More than 40 species of Michigan birds and mammals use tree cavities in standing snags. Dead and downed wood provides escape cover, feeding

areas and roosting sites as well as breeding and brood rearing areas for a variety of wildlife, including shrews, bats, salamanders, tree frogs, woodpeckers, chickadees, ruffed grouse and barred owls. Wildlife species that use cavities for various life functions are referred to as primary cavity users or nesters.

The dependence of these species on dead trees ranges from absolute to incidental, but for some the presence of dead trees can make the difference between local extinction and the perpetuation of existing populations.

Woodpeckers are dependent on snags for nesting, roosting, foraging and other functions. Abandoned woodpecker nest cavities are used by other animals (secondary cavity users) as nesting sites. Some secondary cavity users are bats and bluebirds.

Another use of snags is the production of a rich source of foods. As a snag decomposes, the texture and moisture content of the wood fibers change, in turn attracting insects. As a result, snags are extensively used as foraging substrates by birds.

A number of avian and mammalian species, such as the American kestrel, some owls and a variety of mammals, use dead trees to cache prey.

Natural cavities and those constructed by primary excavators in snags provide thermally-regulated enclosures for nesting and over-wintering animals. Snags provide cooler nesting substrates during hot weather periods as compared to open nests and artificial nesting boxes.

Cavity-nesting species roost overnight in holes during stormy weather and during winter. Roosting in cavities reduces winter mortality and allows a species to live farther north than it would otherwise. This adaptive behavior has enabled many cavity nesters to become year-round residents in our winter climate. It also appears that a high percentage of the permanent resident species are cavity users.

All snags are not equal. Having snags with a diversity of different diameters is important because it meets the needs of a wider variety of wildlife.

Nuthatches or chickadees will excavate or use a cavity in a snag that is less than 6 inches in diameter. Larger animals such as squirrels, raccoons, wood ducks and woodpeckers need larger snags, often in the 20-inch diameter class.

Because more species can use larger cavities, a large snag is considered more valuable than a small one. Also, when large snags fall they leave more woody debris and are used by a greater variety of species than small snags.

Leaving tree tops and downed woody debris will protect many small plants and tree seedlings from over-browsing by deer. Woody debris, such as chip piles, provides good habitat for small mammals, amphibians and reptiles. Decomposition increases the internal temperature of chip piles attracting salamanders and many snake species. Leftover chips

in piles 3 feet or more in depth will increase the longevity of the piles and provide short term benefit to wildlife as well as limiting soil erosion.

How many snags should one have in a wooded lot? There are no hard and fast answers. Cavity-dependent wildlife must have enough snags in their habitat for their populations to survive over time. Generally, six snags per acre could be considered an absolute minimum, while as many as 30 per acre is an optimum.

Human safety is an important consideration when making decisions on managing snags. Generally, dangerous snags are tall, have large limbs and have been dead for a long time, leaving them unstable. These should be taken down.

But by leaving other snags in your wooded lot, you will help maintain a wildlife legacy for future generations to enjoy.

### **Environmental Psychology: How the Environment Influences Our Feelings and Experiences**

Janet Kavanagh (MG 2004)



*The body repeats the landscape.  
They are the source of each other  
and create each other.*  
- Meridel Le Sueur

Although Master Gardeners find their way into the program for an individual set of reasons, one thing we likely share is being deeply

affected by the physical world around us. We may not always be consciously aware of it, but the nature and nuances of the relationships between us and our surroundings are inherent and complex.

Horticultural learning and practice often focus on the "hard sciences" – the elements of chemistry, botany and geography that govern our craft. Successful gardening *does* depend greatly on factors like quality and quantity of soil, light, climate, nutrients and water. But at the end of the day, we also have a reaction to the work done: A sense of satisfaction, contentment or discovery. Or puzzlement or frustration at something not quite right. Are there spaces that leave us refreshed, or those we avoid? Is there a certain spot in the garden or your favorite park that feels just right and draws you back?

To understand these experiences, we must consider how our environment affects our daily lives, our behaviors and feelings, and how we help shape and influence our environment. The science at work here is psychology.

### **What is Environmental Psychology?**

Environmental psychology is the study of the complex relationships between people and their everyday physical environment, and how they affect one other.

Humans react both consciously and unconsciously to the places in which they live and work. Both natural and man-made environments have a profound effect on

feelings, behaviors, general health issues and productivity. The goal of environmental psychology is to solve problems involving human-environmental interactions and to create, manage, protect and restore environments that promote adaptive behavior and improve quality of life.

### **History**

The exact beginning of environmental psychology is unknown. During the period between the end of World War II and the 1960s, population and societal growth created a high demand for new and different spaces, and thus increased the need for environmental psychology.

Research in environmental psychology started in the 1950's, prompted by a campaign to improve mental hospitals to better meet human needs. Psychologists were able to inform architecture regarding facility design with positive impact on cognition and social and human behavior. Over the years, researchers began discovering more about the mismatches between humans and their environment. Psychologists began trying to solve these problems, thus creating environmental psychology.

Today there are many environmental psychology education and research programs throughout the world.

The type of research and training occurring in each area often reflects local, cultural and environmental contexts. Urban areas may focus on density of population, overcrowding and the stresses associated with commuting. Less developed areas may study responses to natural environments such as forest and oceans, or tracking visitors in national parks.

### **The Value of Research**

Research always begins with a question: Why are some spaces comfortable and others threatening? How can we change our environments to reduce stress, be more efficient or have fewer accidents?

A great majority of research in environmental psychology is done in the field rather than in a lab. In general, researchers diagnose problem situations and recommend solutions – they assess, analyze and advise on personal space and environments.

To solve problems involving human-environment interactions, we need to develop models or theories of human nature that predict the environmental conditions under which people will behave in a reasonable and creative manner. Such models promote better design, management, protection and restoration of environments to enhance reasonable behavior, predict what the likely outcome will be when these conditions are not met and diagnose problem situations.

Environmental psychology doesn't provide a "cookbook" for design, but more a context to promote educated guesses in the attempt to resolve design problems and make design decisions, in the hope that we may better design for human needs.

Locally, the University of Michigan hosts education and research in this area through its School of Natural Resources and Environment (SNRE), which had its beginnings in 1903. The school's objective is to contribute to the protection of the Earth's resources and the achievement of a sustainable society.

Some of the foundation models of the environmental psychology field have been developed at U-M. Faculty there explore how people form relationships with the natural world, including how they make environmentally related consumer decisions, with a focus on how "nearby nature" affects people's mental and physical health.

Faculty at SNRE are renowned in their work, and include psychologists Rachel and Stephen Kaplan. Their contribution to the field includes a critical theory on restoring attention and concentration through exposure to natural environments. Their decades of research have confirmed in many ways what we sense intuitively – green is good for you!

**Major Topics**

There are many topics to explore in environmental psychology. It addresses such dissimilar issues as place attachment and place identity, mental and attention restoration, way-finding in complex settings, the effect of environmental stress on human performance and the promotion of environmental stewardship.

If you'd like to read more about environmental psychology, check future newsletters for articles on preferred environments (or why we love our gardens), the characteristics of restorative environments to reduce environmental stress, and why we participate in conservation and sustainable living.

**TALES FROM THE HIVE**  
Richard Mendel (MG 2009)



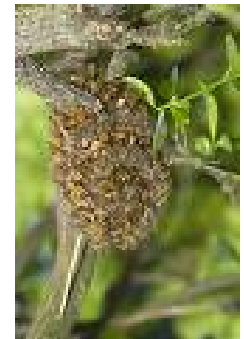
This is a question and answer column dedicated to honey bees and in some cases, bees in general. I will answer any questions of general interest you have pertaining to bees and how they interface with agricul-

ture, humans, animals and the environment. Please send your question to Richard ([brescue@att.net](mailto:brescue@att.net)). A number of questions that would be of interest to most persons will be selected and answered in the monthly newsletter. Some of the questions and answers may be short so more of them can be published. If your question is of an urgent nature or a safety issue concerning honey bees please call me direct at 734-660-8621.

**Dan F. (Q)** I drive by a person's home in Grass Lake pretty regularly and they have two bee hives in their backyard. If they were my beehives how much honey could I reasonably expect to get from them?

**Richard (A)** That is a question that can only be answered with a lot of assumptions. I will give you the long answer, which will keep you connected with reality.

Let's assume the hives were average size going into winter. (A well-prepared colony would have a hive of at least 130 pounds). Let's assume we had a winter with normal temperatures and a normal length of time before spring. Let's also assume that spring was not too long or too wet and cold and assume there is plentiful forage for the bees in a less than 2 mile radius of the hives (the closer the better). Let's assume the early spring and summer nectar and pollen availability is plentiful. Let's also assume the bee colonies are not decimated through the winter or spring by pathogens such as Nosema Cerana (a form of dysentery) or weakened by a pest known as the tracheal mite (which attacks the trachea) or a mite called Verona Destructor (which attacks the pupa and adult both), not to mention a whole host of other diseases and pests. And lastly let's not forget progressive agriculture and sterile suburban environments which include pesticides, fungicides and poison coated seeds applied with not much concern for "collateral damage."



Given all those assumptions, you could pull up to 100 pounds of surplus honey from each hive by fall. On the other hand, you could end up witnessing the death of both or at least one of your hives by late spring, even under the best management conditions.

For many reasons bees are under great stress in these current times. I think the reason beekeeping has not disappeared from agriculture altogether is due to the dedication and adventurous spirit of the individual beekeeper in today's challenging environment. There has been a tremendously increased interest in the science and wellness of bees by hobbyists and backyard beekeepers in the last couple of years. This grass roots approach may be the salvation of our dwindling bee populations.

**Sherrill B. (Q)** There were bees going into a hole up near our roof this fall. They looked like yellow jackets.

I can't tell the difference between a yellow jacket and a honey bee. My husband tried to spray them and they kept coming back. It stopped when the weather got cold. What should I do this spring?



**Richard (A)** The first step is to identify what type of bee they are. If you can find any bodies,



place them in a plastic bag and bring them to the extension agency where we can identify them .

Yellow jackets are typically smooth bodied and their yellow stripes are a little brighter than a

honey bee.

If they are yellow jackets, there is a good chance they are gone and the queen is wintering somewhere else. Among the yellow jackets, only the queen will survive the winter and if she chose your house this year, she will start raising a new brood in the spring.

But they don't store food, so you can short circuit that new cycle by immediately and completely plugging the hole they got into last year. The young will emerge and die since they won't be able to get out and find new nourishment.

If they are honey bees, then you have a different problem. If they survive the hardships of pests and pathogens through the winter, they could easily be 10, 000 strong this year.



Within the next month the queen will start laying eggs and increase the size of the hive in preparation for spring pollen and nectar.

Even if you closed all access to the hive, it could get a little dicey because the warmer it gets the more anxious they will be to get out. If there is a lot of comb and honey then you are setting yourself up for a little bit of a mess in the walls.

In your conversation you led me to believe there is an attic on the other side of the wall where they are going in. If they are honey bees, this would be a good time to check out the attic for any obvious signs of comb building or clues to exactly where they are. If they are easily accessible they can be saved. If not then you may need to determine if you want to spend the money for a professional removal or call a commercial company to kill them. Let's determine what type of bee they are before you go to the next step.

**Tim H. (Q)** I just paid \$4.99 a pound for almonds at the local grocer. When I made my feelings about the high price known, I was told to blame it on the bees. What's the connection?

**Richard (A)** In order to bear fruit, three quarters of all flowering plants - including most food crops and some

colonies of bees to ensure pollination. Research indicates that shortages of pollinators for commercial agriculture is already a reality and continued decreases in wild pollinator populations will have an adverse affect on our ecosystems in the future.



Honey bees are crucial to agriculture, pollinating more than 90 commercially grown crops. In the case of the almonds, it takes about 2.2 million colonies of honey bees to pollinate the projected 800,000 acres of almond groves in California.

The much discussed Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) that has been in the news lately has been instrumental in the shortage of bees for pollination. In many situations, bees are being imported from Australia for the sole purposes of commercial pollination. Commercial pollinators are averaging \$100 per hive and up to \$140 for pollination in the California almond groves. Experiments determine that at a minimum, one hive will pollinate one acre of almond trees. Two to three colonies per acre increase the yield by 1000 percent. This emergency response obviously drives up costs over the short-term and we as the consumer are being asked to absorb those costs.



**“So Easy to Preserve”**

Have you ever had an abundance of fresh produce from your garden and wished you had the skills to preserve it for a later use?

The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension is pleased to offer the **5th edition** of its popular book,

**So Easy To Preserve.**

This beautiful book contains the latest U.S. Department of Agriculture recommendations for safe food preservation. **So Easy To Preserve** is now a 375-page book with over 185 tested recipes,



along with step by step instructions and in-depth information for both the new and experienced food preserver. Chapters include *Preserving Food, Canning, Pickled Products, Jellied Fruit Products, Freezing and Drying.*

To obtain your own personal copy for only \$15.00 contact Cindy Fischer at 222-3948 or [fischerce@ewashtenaw.org](mailto:fischerce@ewashtenaw.org) .

## Master Gardener's Recipes

### A Little History.....

It was in the 11th century that Italian desserts began a transition that would eventually make them world renowned, for it was then that the crusaders discovered sugar cane growing in Tripoli and brought it back to Italy.

Until that time, the Italians had to make do with grape syrup and honey. One of the earliest Roman desserts was cheesecake for which the recipe was simple: Mix two and one-half pounds of cheese with half-pound of flour, one egg and a quarter-pound of honey in a covered, greased earthenware pot and bake. Then cover with honey and poppy seeds.

Today there are elaborate Italian desserts for every season, holiday or occasion and Italian ice creams are generally considered as the best in the world — as either gelati, which roughly resembles our ice cream, or granite, which is a delightfully light sherbert, usually flavored with lemon, strawberry or coffee.

### Coco Meringue Bits

4 large egg whites, room temperature  
 ¼ tsp. cream of tartar  
 1 cup sugar  
 ¼ cup cocoa powder  
 1 tsp. vanilla

Preheat oven to 250 degrees. Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper or brown paper bag. Beat egg whites and cream of tartar at high speed until soft peaks form. Add sugar, 1 tbsp. at a time, beating until stiff peaks form. Slowly add cocoa powder and vanilla, beating gently until just combined.

Spoon meringue by teaspoonfuls onto paper. Bake for 45 minutes or until crisp. If bits start to brown, turn temperature down. When done, turn off oven and leave in oven for several hours to make them dry and crispy.

### Pumpkin Pie Cake

Pat Wilcox MG 2007

Topping: 1 cup cake mix  
 1/2 cup chopped nuts  
 1/2 stick margarine  
 Crust: Remain yellow cake mix  
 1 stick margarine  
 1 egg  
 Filling: 1 (1#13 oz) can pumpkin  
 3 eggs  
 1/2 cup brown sugar  
 1/2 cup sugar  
 1 1/2 tsp cinnamon  
 2/3 cup evaporated milk

Spread crust in 9-by-13-inch pan, pressing down with floured fingers. Pour filling over crust. Top with topping. Bake at 350 degrees for 50 to 55 minutes.

### Almond Bars Liz Sweet MG 2009

1 cup butter  
 8 oz. almond paste  
 2 cups sugar  
 2 eggs  
 1/2 tsp salt  
 2 cup flour  
 1/2 cup sliced almonds

Preheat oven to 300 degrees. Cream butter and almond paste until fluffy and light. Beat in sugar and eggs to combine. Add salt and flour and stir until incorporated. Spread evenly in a lightly greased 9-by-13-inch pan. You may need to spread gently with the back of a spoon or your fingers if it is thick. Bake for about 45 minutes or until mixture is set and edges are lightly browned.

### Avocado Tomato Scallion Cheddar Quiche

Lynda Norton MG 2009

1 cup sour cream  
 3 eggs, beaten  
 3 cups grated sharp cheddar cheese  
 Dash of salt  
 Dash of black pepper  
 6 scallions, chopped  
 2 medium tomatoes, chopped  
 1 ripe avocado, peeled, pitted, sliced into strips  
 1 unbaked 10-inch pie shell

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Mix together sour cream, eggs and cheese. Stir in salt, pepper, scallions, and tomatoes. Set aside.

Lay avocado slices on bottom of pie shell. Pour cheese mixture over avocado slices and spread out evenly. Bake 40 to 45 minutes, until golden and puffy. Let set 20 minutes or so before serving.

### Feta Pesto Pasta

Deborah Myers, MG 2000

One 1-lb. box Farfalle pasta  
 One 4-oz. package of Athenos traditional crumbled feta cheese  
 One 8-oz. package of Buitoni green pesto sauce

Boil water and cook pasta as you normally would. Put drained pasta in a glass heat-resistant bowl and put pesto on the warm pasta. Mix well. Add feta cheese as you wish.

**Master Gardener Alumni Association  
of Washtenaw County  
Community Gardening Grants**

The Master Gardener Alumni Association of Washtenaw County is accepting applications from non-profit community organizations for grants to be used to support horticultural education and horticultural therapy. Grants up to \$250 are available for gardening projects in Washtenaw County. Complete information and application forms are available at <http://extersion.ewashtenaw.org> or by contacting Cindy Fischer, Master Gardener Coordinator, at 734-222-3948. Applications must be completed and returned to the Washtenaw County MSU Extension office by Monday, March 22, 2010.

MGAAWC awarded seven grants in 2009 ranging from \$50 to \$250. Projects supported were raised-bed vegetable gardens at the Dexter Senior Center, tools for the Hikone Community Garden, school gardens at four elementary schools (Burns Park, Paddock, Wines, and the Michigan Islamic Academy) and for the Junior Master Gardener Program.

The primary selection criteria include projects or programs that utilize the expertise of Master Gardeners during development or implementation, or applicants seeking to strengthen existing programs or to develop pilot programs. A program plan must be submitted for review on the project, highlighting the horticultural education or horticultural therapy aspects. A detailed description of how the award will be used must also be included, as well as a listing of other funding or resources that will be utilized for the project.

Please take the time to apply for projects and spread the word to community groups that might benefit from this grant.



**Master Gardening Clothes  
Available for Purchase**

You now can order items from a line of Master Gardener Clothing, including T-shirts, sweatshirts, denim shirts, polo shirts, fleece vests and hoodies – both pullover

and zip front. The clothing is offered in a variety of colors. Payment will need to be made at the time of the order. Prices range from \$9.50 to around \$35. Orders will be placed on a monthly basis. If you have questions, please contact Cindy at 734-222-3948



**Master Gardener Alumni Association of  
Washtenaw County News**

The Master Gardener Alumni Association of Washtenaw County meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month, September through May, starting at 7 p.m. in the basement conference room of the county building at 705 N. Zeeb Rd. Annual dues are \$20 and may be paid at any meeting or mailed to the MGAAWC Treasurer.

**•March 16 7:00pm – Sandy Wilkins – The Heartbeat of the Garden**

Please join us at 7 p.m. on March 16 to hear Sandy Wilkins discuss “The Heartbeat of the Garden.” What makes each garden unique and special? Together we will look at many different gardens and discover, that while we may all follow basic landscape principles, each garden has a "beat" of its own. Sandy, a shade gardener from Napoleon, is actively involved with a number of regional hosta organizations and was the first president of Garden Lovers of Jackson, MI.

**•April 20 6:30pm – Annual potluck, business meeting and officer elections.**

Please come to the annual business meeting and potluck at 6:30 p.m. on April 20. We MGs are good cooks and the food is excellent. Come also to hear how last year's community grant recipient projects turned out.

We will be electing our president and secretary to two-year terms. Kathie Mahn is retiring after four very successful years as president. If you would like to run for one of these offices, or to nominate someone,

**Master Gardener Tote Bags**

Master Gardener Canvas Tote bags are for sale at a cost of \$15 each. The bag has the Master Gardener logo and “Master Gardener Volunteer” printed on one side. The bag, which has a zipper closure across the top, is large enough to hold the Master Gardener Manual. There is a bag on display at the MSU Office for viewing. Stop by the MSU office to purchase yours.



# March - April Calendar

**Conservation Stewards Program** will be offered this spring starting April 10 and running through June 5. The course is held on eight Thursday evenings and three Saturdays. 40 Hours of training is taught with both lectures and hands-on field education. Topics include ecological foundations, managing natural resources, land use, and understanding ecosystems (forest, grasslands, stream and wetlands). This program develops volunteers and provides opportunities to be involved in local conservation opportunities. This certificate program requires 40 hours of volunteering. Class fee is \$250. Contact Bob Bricault 734 222-3826 for more information. Class size is limited to 20-25 participants. Limited number of scholarships are available.

**Hidden Lake Gardens**

Arboretum and Gardens - M-50, Tipton 517-431-2060

<http://hiddenlakegardens.msu.edu/>

Call for class fees and to register

**How to Design or Re-Design your Home Landscape**

Saturday, March 27 & April 3

9 am - noon

**Organic Gardening Basics**

Wednesday, April 21

6 - 8 pm

**Living Wreath Workshop**

Tuesday, May 11

6 - 8 pm

**Matthaei Botanical Gardens**

**& Nichols Arboretum**

1800 Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor 734-647-7600

<http://www.lsa.umich.edu/mbg/>

Call for classes & to register

**Seed Starting**

Saturday, March 13

10 am - noon

**Growing Oyster Mushrooms on Logs**

Saturday, March 20

1:30 - 3:30 pm

**Raised Bed and Trellis Construction**

Saturday, March 27

10 am - noon

**Growing Mushrooms on Stumps**

Saturday, April 10

1:30 - 3:30 pm

**Walking to Wildflowers**

Wednesday, April 21

4:30 - 6 pm

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**Master Gardener Alumni Association of Washtenaw County  
Membership Enrollment Sept. 2009 thru August 2010**

(Please Print Clearly)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ MG Year completion \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: MI Zip \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (evening) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Check this box if this is an email change

**New items:**

**Gardening interests:**

**Please Circle: Yes / No** to include personal information in Alumni Membership Directory

**Mail enrollment with a check  
for \$20 dues, payable to:**

**Master Gardener Alumni  
Association or MGAA  
c/o Pat Belluci  
5312 Fox Ridge Ct  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103**

6960

Michigan State University  
Washtenaw County MSU Extension  
705 N. Zeeb Rd.  
P.O. Box 8645  
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8645

**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL ENCLOSED  
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY**



**Office Hours:** 8 a.m. — 6 p.m., Monday—Thursday, CLOSED Friday

Washtenaw County MSU Extension.....	734-997-1678
Fax.....	734-222-3990
Bob Bricault, Horticulture Agent.....	734-222-3826
Cindy Fischer, Master Gardener Coordinator .....	734-222-3948
Garden Hotline.....	734-997-1819
E-mail:.....	msuextension@ewashtenaw.org
County website:.....	www.eWashtenaw.org
State website:.....	web1.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener

*Robert J. Bricault, Jr.*

Robert J. Bricault, Jr.  
Extension Educator,  
Horticulture & Natural Resources

**This newsletter is a publication of  
the Washtenaw County/MSU  
Extension Master Gardener  
program.**

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Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by calling the Extension Educator in charge of the program two weeks prior to the program or activity to ensure sufficient time to make arrangements. Requests received after this date will be met when possible.