

MSU IN BLOOM

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY HORTICULTURE GARDEN NEWS



Houseplant Sale Recap

Smash Success!

Volunteer Celebration

December 14

The Gardener's Library

Books of 2017

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MSU IN BLOOM

MSU HORTICULTURE GARDEN NEWS

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Curious Gardener- Lighted Winter Porch Pot	Dec 6
Holiday Open House	Dec 7
Wine and Chocolate Reception	Dec 12
Volunteer Appreciation Dinner	Dec 14

Visit

[HTTP://WWW.HRT.MSU.EDU/OUR-GARDENS/](http://www.hrt.msu.edu/our-gardens/)



MSU HORTICULTURE GARDENS HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2017 NOON — 7:30 P.M.

PLANT & SOIL SCIENCES BUILDING
1066 BOGUE ST. EAST LANSING, MI 48824
CONSERVATORY & HEADHOUSE, 1ST FLOOR



- NO ADMISSION CHARGE!
- POINSETTIA TREE UNDER EVENING LIGHTS!
- AT 5:30PM VISIT SANTA, EXPERIENCE CAPITAL AREA RAILWAY SOCIETY MODEL TRAINS & KIDS ACTIVITIES!
- ENJOY DECORATED HOLIDAY TREES, & REFRESHMENTS!
- NEW-PARKING!! PARK IN OUR GARDEN LOT OFF BOGUE ST. PARKING IS \$1.80/HOUR AND FREE AFTER 6PM. (COIN OR CREDIT)
- MSU-GROWN POINSETTIAS, HOUSE PLANTS, CENTERPIECES AND WREATHS WILL BE SOLD. THE SALE WILL CONTINUE WEEKDAYS FROM DEC. 8 TO 22, FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.



WWW.HRT.MSU.EDU/OUR-GARDENS



IT'S A VOLUNTEER CELEBRATION!

BY BETHANY TROY
PERENNIAL GARDEN
MANAGER

Can you believe it? The holiday season is here, and it's time to start thinking about our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. As frost covers the grasses in the perennial gardens, and we pull the last begonias out of Wilbir, we begin reflecting on our year full of hard work (and snacks!) with our volunteers. Our volunteers help us out in a number of ways, including maintenance within our 14 acres of gardens, managing the visitor's booth, assisting Jessica in the 4H Children's Garden, and with events like Garden Day and our spring plant sale. Collectively, our volunteers contributed over 3,000 hours to the gardens this year – that's equivalent to one and a half full time staff members!

Photos (clockwise from top left): field trip to Rakers Greenhouse; Tom Kearney manning the visitor's booth; volunteers enjoying a past appreciation dinner; can you spot the volunteers amid the grasses?

We welcome all active volunteers from 2017 to celebrate with us in the conservatory on December 14th from 6 to 8pm. Dinner, refreshments, and fun prizes will be available for your enjoyment. This year, we will be having an ugly sweater contest, so get out your glue guns and favorite holiday sequins and slap together the ugliest sweater you could possibly dream of! Be ready to compete, as we know we have a lot of crafty volunteers! We hope to see you there!





HOUSEPLANT AND SUCCULENT SALE MANIA!

BY JESSICA WRIGHT
EDUCATIONAL
COORDINATOR

Imagine you are surrounded by thousands of beautiful houseplants and succulents and then imagine that they are all for sale! On November 1st and 2nd the Hort Garden's staff transformed the head house into an indoor plant lover's paradise. This year's sale started off on social media with thousands of potential customers anxiously awaiting updates and sneak peeks of what they might expect for the sale. On plant sale day, the line of participants reached the parking lot, happily waiting the start of the Second Annual Houseplant and Succulent sale. Shoppers ranged in expertise but everyone was here for the plants and the people! Author Lisa Eldred Steinkopf was part of the festivities, sharing her new book and her knowledge. Our checkout lines reached far down the greenhouse hallway at one point, but most shoppers patiently waited to take their treasures home!

At the end of the first day of the sale, most of our almost 6,000 plants went to new homes, but we had many loyal plant lovers come back on the second day to pick up additional plants to take home. The 2017 Houseplant and Succulent Sale was a huge success we thank all who came out to support the gardens. Planning for the 2018 sale is already underway. We hope to see you next year!



DAN BULKOWSKI- 2017 OUTSTANDING STAFF AWARD

BY ART CAMERON, GARDEN DIRECTOR

This year, the Horticulture Outstanding Staff Award was presented to Dan Bulkowski. He was honored for multiple achievements in his capacity as Greenhouse and Garden Manager. He was hired as our Annual Trial Garden Manager almost 19 years ago and then promoted to his current position as Greenhouse and Garden Manager when Doug Badgero retired about 10 years ago.

Dan does a multitude of jobs that fall broadly under his “official” title of Greenhouse and Garden Manager. He divides his time between essential greenhouse activities in support of our teaching (classes such as HRT 100, HRT 203 and HRT 325), the Student Horticulture Association, and all garden activities, including plant production for the gardens and for our spring plant sale. Dan oversees our staff members Daedre McGrath and Bethany Troy and helps supervise up to 15 summer student employees. He also works closely with Jessica Wright and Norm Lownds in support of the Children’s Garden, and with Bob Schutzki in support of the Arboretum. Together, they keep the gardens looking fabulous in every season. While it is true that the staff and students do an amazing job, Dan’s leadership and people skills make it all happen.

Often, Dan must juggle several issues at once. If a water line is broken, he repairs it or finds someone to do it. If a fountain is not working, Dan puts on his waders and solves the problem. If a brick is out of place, Dan sets it right. If a greenhouse vent is not working, Dan makes sure that it gets fixed. If there is a problem with a weekend wedding rental, Dan helps to resolve it. If a class has special needs for containers, potting soil, or plants, Dan will make sure they are ordered. He is resourceful and has a way of pulling things together to keep everything working. He does all this while maintaining a good sense of humor.

Congratulations Dan!



WHY PEOPLE LOVE OUR MEMBERSHIPS

Many people do not know that the MSU Horticulture Gardens are largely self-funded. Memberships help keep these beautiful gardens growing!

Our members get free admission to gardens across the nation. Take your card with you when you travel and see stunning gardens wherever you go!

Members at family level and above receive two tickets to our Wine & Chocolate donor reception in December!

Members get to shop our highly- anticipated Plant Sale the evening before the public. They also receive 10% off their plant purchases!

Great program discounts! Member benefits far exceed the cost!


Become a 2018 MSU Horticulture Garden Member!

2018 memberships are now available and provide amazing benefits that far exceed the cost! View some of these benefits on the next page. Please consider supporting our Gardens by becoming a member today!

www.hrt.msu.edu/join



2018
Michigan State University
HORTICULTURE GARDENS
Become a
MEMBER
Support the Gardens



HORTICULTURE GARDENS - MSU
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



Debra Lee Baldwin



Designing *with* Succulents

COMPLETELY REVISED SECOND EDITION

THE GARDENER'S LIBRARY

BY DAEDRE MCGRATH
TRIAL GARDEN MANAGER

I am a huge fan of going to the library and have been since I was a child. I love borrowing books on a variety of topics, but I almost always have a stack of gardening/horticulture books to peruse. Here are seven standouts, all published in 2017 that you might find of interest. I have included abbreviated descriptions of each book directly from the publishers.

Designing with Succulents by Debra Lee Baldwin

This new, completely revised second edition of a bestselling classic is a design compendium that is as practical as it is inspirational. Designing with Succulents shares design and cultivation basics; hundreds of succulent plant recommendations; and profiles of 50 easy-care, drought-tolerant companion plants. Lavishly illustrated with 400 photographs, you will find everything you need to visualize, create, and nurture a thriving, water-smart succulent garden.

Houseplants: The Complete Guide to Choosing, Growing, and Caring for Indoor Plants by Lisa Eldred Steinkopf

What's the best way to nurture your green thumb when you don't have a yard or space? Houseplants! Houseplants profiles more than 150 different plants, and gives you the best techniques to raise them to be happy, green, and healthy. And as you watch them grow, you can stimulate your inner botanist with the included information on each plant's Latin family, varieties, bloom period, mature height, and other scientific specs. (continued on next page)



THE COMPLETE GUIDE
to Choosing, Growing, and
Caring for Indoor Plants

LISA ELDRÉD STEINKOPF



Plant Craft: 30 projects that add natural style to your home by Caitlin Atkinson

Not everyone has a garden—but with only a handful of materials and a little bit of time, everyone can bring the beauty of nature into their home. Plant Craft features projects inspired by the natural world. You'll learn how to create a colorful floral mural, an elegant table centerpiece, a serene underwater sculpture, a whimsical mobile, and more. The step-by-step instructions are clear, easy to follow, and fully illustrated with color photographs, and the projects vary in difficulty.

Potted: make your own stylish garden containers by Annette Goliti Gutierrez and Mary Gray

Create your own show-stopping containers made from everyday materials such as concrete, plastic, metal, terracotta, rope, driftwood, and fabric. The 23 step-by-step projects include new spins on old favorites, along with never-before-seen ideas like a chimney flue planter and wall planters made from paint cans. Packed with color photographs and simple instruction, Potted is for anyone who wants to turn an outdoor space into a stylish oasis.

Rock Gardening: Reimagining a Classic Style by Joseph Tychonievich

Rock gardening has been surging in popularity due to time and space constraints, chronic drought in the American West, and a trend toward architectural plants. Rock Gardening brings this traditional style to a new generation of gardeners. It includes a survey of gorgeous rock gardens from around the world, the techniques and methods specific to creating and maintaining a rock garden, and profiles of the top 50 rock garden plants. (continued on next page)



PLANT CRAFT

30 PROJECTS THAT ADD NATURAL STYLE TO YOUR HOME



CAITLIN ATKINSON



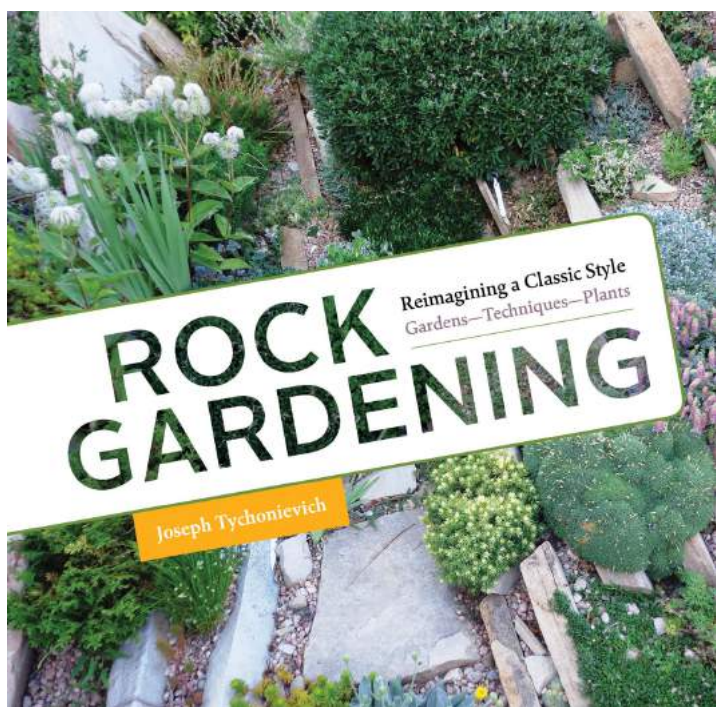
POTTED

Make Your Own Stylish Garden Containers

ANNETTE GOLITI GUTIERREZ & MARY GRAY



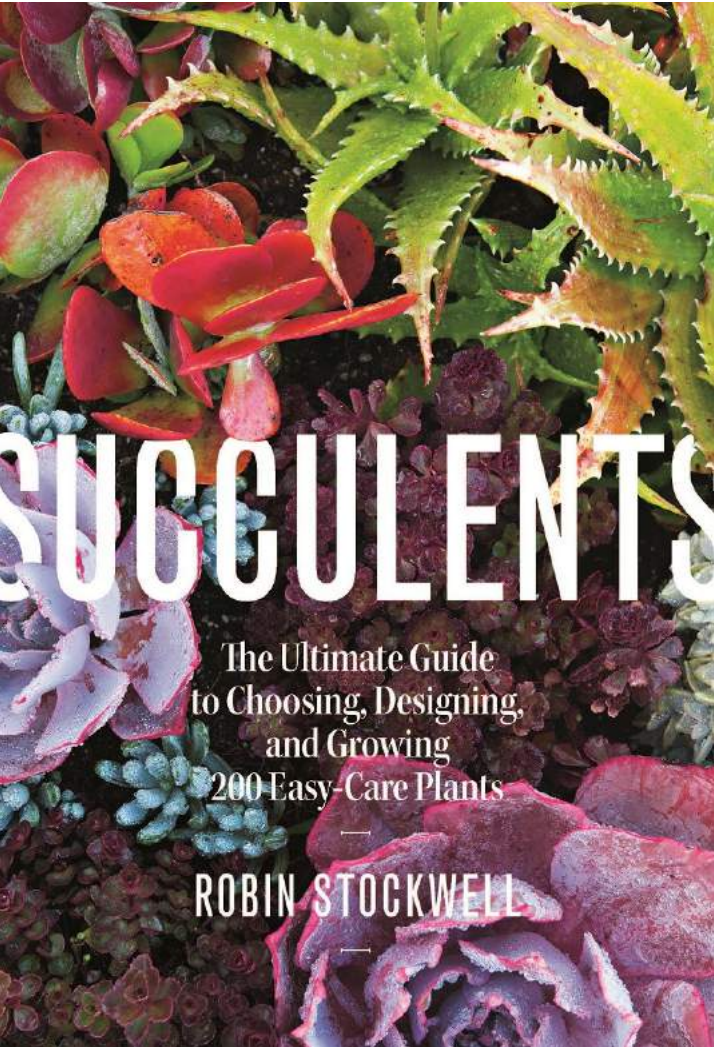
23 EASY, AFFORDABLE PROJECTS



ROCK GARDENING

Reimagining a Classic Style
Gardens—Techniques—Plants

Joseph Tychonievich



SUCCULENTS

The Ultimate Guide
to Choosing, Designing,
and Growing
200 Easy-Care Plants

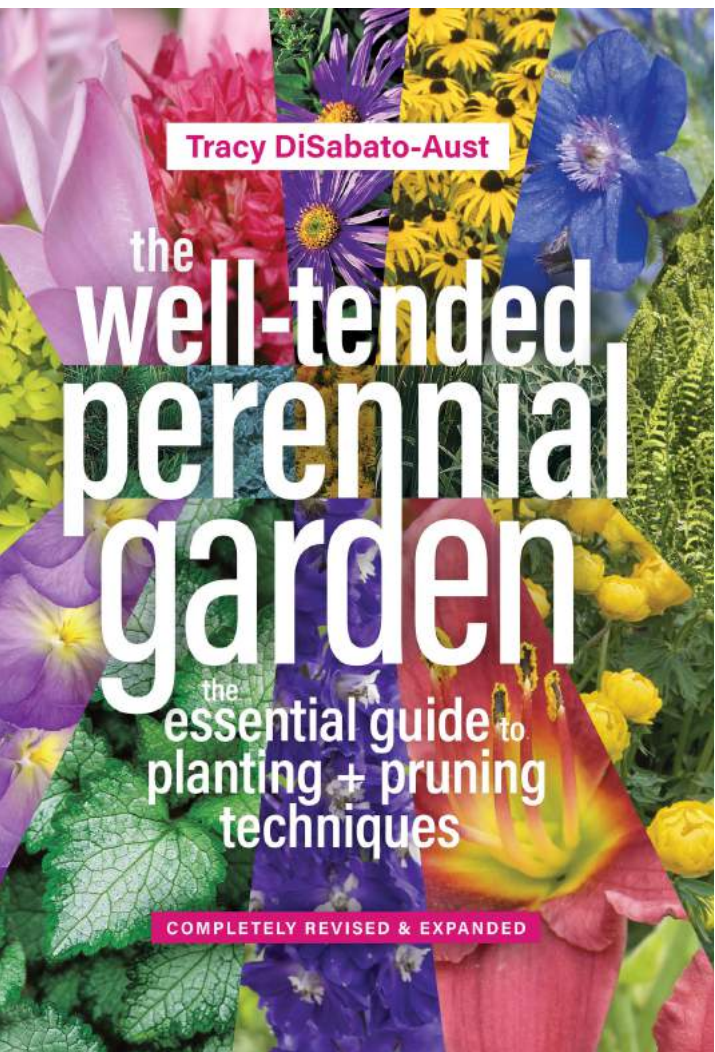
ROBIN STOCKWELL

Succulents: The Ultimate Guide to Choosing, Designing, and Growing 200 Easy Care Plants by Robin Stockwell

Succulents are the ultimate easy-care plant: versatile, effortless to grow both indoors and outdoors, and drought tolerant. This handbook highlights 200 of the easiest, most useful, and gorgeous plants, and shares advice on care and cultivation. Readers will find inspiration for imaginative and exciting new ways to use succulents in striking garden designs, containers, vertical walls, and indoor arrangements, as well as step-by-step projects.

The Well-Tended Perennial Garden: The Essential Guide to Planting and Pruning Techniques, Third Edition by Traci DiSabato-Aust

Since its original publication nearly thirty years ago, *The Well-Tended Perennial Garden* has helped home gardeners successfully plan, plant, and tend their gardens. Novice and experienced gardeners alike will benefit from Tracy's thorough details on the essential practices of perennial care along with growing information for new species and cultivars, on-trend garden design advice, a monthly planting and maintenance schedule, and details on native plants and gardening for wildlife.



Tracy DiSabato-Aust

the well-tended perennial garden

the essential guide to
planting + pruning
techniques

COMPLETELY REVISED & EXPANDED



JOIN US FOR GARDEN DAY

AUGUST 4TH, 2018

TRACI DISABATO-AUST

IS OUR

KEYNOTE SPEAKER!



A POINSETTIA OF A DIFFERENT COLOR

BY DAN BULKOWSKI

GARDENS AND GREENHOUSE COORDINATOR

Many of you are saying, “Poinsettias already? It’s too early!” However, we have had our poinsettias in the greenhouses since early August. It takes a while to get them up to a decent size and coloration for you to take home and enjoy. Here are a few of the poinsettias we have grown, besides the classic red, pink, and white types. There are literally dozens and dozens of different varieties out there.



Red Glitter (top photo) has red and white mottled bracts. It’s a novelty type similar to the variety Jingle Bells. Winter Rose (or Christmas Rose, middle photo) has ruffled bracts that make the “flower” look like a rose. Clever how they named that one. I’ve seen it used as a cut flower in arrangements. Premium Ice Crystal (bottom photo) has large rosy pink bracts with creamy centers.



Poinsettias are very sensitive to the temperatures and chilling winds of winter. So be sure to ask for a sleeve when you purchase your poinsettia to help protect it on the journey between the store and your vehicle. Even when the plant is protected you should limit its exposure to the elements. If a poinsettia is chilled to below 50 degrees it can begin to drop leaves. At home, you want to place the plant in bright, indirect sunlight for at least 6 hours per day. Don’t place your poinsettias near a cold draft or places with excessive heat (radiators, appliances, fireplaces). If your poinsettia has a pot cover or foil wrapper, pierce the bottom to allow proper drainage. Or remove the pot cover, water it in the kitchen sink, then replace the pot cover after it drains. Water when the soil is dry to the touch or when the plant feels “light” when you pick it up. Do not allow your poinsettia to sit in standing water.



Midge Morrow with author Helen Yoest at Garden Day 2017

MSU ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

By Art Cameron
Garden Director

Recently, our very own Midge and Mike Morrow received the MSU Alumni Service Award. What an honor! Both Midge and Mike Morrow have contributed extensively to the MSU Horticulture Gardens over the past ten years and more. Midge is highly regarded as one of our top volunteers. Midge teaches and helps in our 4H Children Garden programs, helps organize our plant sale each spring, helps in maintenance during our Tuesday volunteer days (which often involves hands-on weeding!), and makes herself available for any special needs that we may request. She volunteers with a smile, a passion for horticulture, and a level of determination to make our Gardens the best they can be. Mike has been a volunteer and active in running the model trains in the 4H Children's Garden over the years.

For the 4-H Children's Garden programs, Midge teaches children of all ages under the guidance of Jessica Wright and Dr. Norm Lownds. She shares her enthusiasm in so many ways. You can see the children respond with questions, smiles, and eyes open in wonder as she teaches about the world of plants. Her contributions are invaluable since we host nearly 14,000 children each year in formal programs. (continued on next page)

The MSU Horticulture Gardens are largely self-funded and one of our key fund-raising activities each year is the plant sale. Midge has also been a key volunteer for the past several years and has been intimately involved in preparing, stocking, organizing, and selling the plants! As always, she gives her best for the sake of our gardens and it's always wonderful to see her smiling as she tackles the next task. Over the years, she has played a key role in the plant sale setup and organization of other volunteers to keep our displays well stocked and everything operating smoothly.

At the MSU Horticulture Gardens, we also rely on volunteers to help weed and maintain our beds. I think it is very noteworthy that Midge is willing to help on these tasks too. It is common to see her along with the others on her knees cleaning and weeding the beds. Midsummer, it is a sweaty process to be sure, but Midge manages to do it with a smile.

Midge and Mike have been donors to the MSU Horticulture Gardens and our programs and more than once have helped me to connect with other potential donors, yet another valuable asset they bring to the table. There is no doubt in my mind that the MSU Horticulture Gardens are significantly better because of their efforts.

Congratulations to Mike and Midge.
Thank you for all you have done for the
MSU Horticulture Gardens!



Midge Morrow stocking
and organizing plants at
our spring plant sale