



Hidden Lake Gardens

spring 2014

A View from the Gardens

HELP WANTED

- ✓ Are you a “people person”?
- ✓ Are you interested in volunteering at the Gardens?
- ✓ Can you commit to 8–10 hours per week?

If so, we have a position for you!

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Duties:

- Assist in the recruitment, screening, hiring, training, and scheduling of volunteers
- Coordinate orientation and training sessions and annual volunteer appreciation event
- Manage volunteer database, including schedules, hours worked, and mailing list
- Conduct outreach to local groups and organizations to recruit prospective volunteers
- Answer questions and inquiries from prospective volunteers

Please note that this is a volunteer position

For more information or to schedule an interview, please call Julie at 517.431.2060 or e-mail conley9@msu.edu

It's Finally Here...

Spring... the season of rebirth, renewal and – this year – relief. This past winter was especially challenging for residents of southeast Michigan, not least of all because it seemed to drag on *forever*. Now that spring has finally sprung, it's time to shake off any lingering cabin fever and get outdoors!

Hidden Lake Gardens provides the ideal place to do just that. This time of year, our picturesque hills, woodlands, and fields come alive with vibrant color, like the vast meadow of sunny yellow daffodils that greets visitors near the entrance and our stunning collection of flowering crabapples, blooming in every shade from pure white to deepest red.

Spring is also a time for new beginnings, like our reintroduced quarterly newsletter. Each issue will keep you up-to-date on the latest news from the Gardens, including a complete schedule of educational programs and special events. We'll also feature gardening tips, profiles of instructors and volunteers, and much more.

This issue's schedule starts on page 2. You'll see that we've got plenty of exciting events coming up, like the lunar eclipse on April 15; our International Herb Day Celebration on April 26; the Wildflowers Art Exhibition, starting April 26; and our annual plant sale on May 10.

Spring is the perfect time to experience all that Hidden Lake Gardens has to offer. We hope to see you soon!

GET INVOLVED

We love our volunteers! Join us at one of these upcoming events, open to the public. DO GOOD and HAVE FUN!

Saturday, April 12

Adopt-a-Highway

10 am – 12 pm

Participants must be over age 12

Sunday, April 27

Volunteer Work Day

1 pm – 4 pm

May 8–13

Annual Plant Sale

Hours and duties will vary; please contact us for details

To learn more about these or other opportunities, call Julie at 517.431.2060 or e-mail conley9@msu.edu

Upcoming Events

For more info, go to <http://hiddenlakegardens.msu.edu/events>

April 5, 10 a.m. — Off the Beaten Path

Get off the pavement and learn more about the fascinating property that comprises Hidden Lake Gardens. Hikes will be led by knowledgeable staff and volunteers. This hike will occur on rugged, uneven terrain and may be slightly strenuous. Participants are encouraged to be strong hikers and to wear long pants and sturdy shoes. Registration is required.

Cost: \$3 per person / \$2 per person for Friends of HLG

April 6, 1 p.m.–3 p.m. — Pruning Without Fear or Remorse

Are you intimidated by pruning? Eliminate fear by learning the proper way to prune. Participants will learn the basics indoors, and then move outside for a hands-on demonstration. Bring a pair of hand pruners; sharpening will be available. Taught by HLG staff. Registration is required.

Cost: \$20 per person / \$18 per person for Friends of HLG

April 8, 7 p.m.–9 p.m. — Bridge Grafting

This winter was a tough one for plants. We are noticing lots of damage on the trunks of trees below the snow line. Often this is fatal for the plant; however, damage can be mitigated by bridge grafting – a technique that reestablishes a connection between the roots and trunk and branches. Gerry Donaldson of HLG will discuss the conditions that lead to needing a graft and will present a technique to increase chances of survival. If you grow fruit trees or notice chewing damage on the trunks of your valued trees, this is the class for you.

Cost: Free and open to the public; regular admission rates apply

April 10, 7 p.m.–9 p.m. — All About Bluebirds

Allen Bower of Britton and Don Smith of Tecumseh will lead a presentation on bluebirds, hosted by the Lenawee County Master Gardeners Association. It will include photos of their birding adventures, personal stories, and lots of information on this fascinating species. Allen will bring houses to sell and can take orders.

Cost: Free and open to the public; regular admission rates apply

April 12 — Second Saturday Sunrise Series

Start off your day with sunrise and breakfast treats at Hidden Lake Gardens. Share 755 acres with only the woodland creatures for a few

hours as the day begins. Bring your running shoes, paints, or yoga mat! Arrive fifteen minutes before sunrise (in April, 6:45 a.m.). Hosted by HLG staff. Registration is required.

Cost: \$10 per person / \$8 per person for Friends of HLG

April 12, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. — Easter Eggs-travaganza

Bring the little ones to celebrate Easter at Hidden Lake Gardens. Children can decorate eggs, make crafts, and hunt for eggs in the Conservatory and in the Gardens (weather permitting). Please bring 6 hard-boiled eggs to color. Registration is required. **Register early as space is limited!**

Cost: \$12 per child / \$10 per child for Friends of HLG

April 12, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. — Adopt-A-Highway

Show your pride for Hidden Lake Gardens by helping us clean up our entryway! Michigan Department of Transportation's Adopt-A-Highway program helps care for 6,400 miles of roads and volunteers have collected over a million bags of trash. Participants must be over the age of 12. Registration is requested. Free and open to the public.

April 12, 1 p.m.–3 p.m. — April Showers Bring Rain Gardens!

Rain gardens capture stormwater runoff before it can pollute our local streams, while adding an attractive, low-maintenance garden to your property. In addition to providing water control, rain gardens can also provide food and shelter for birds, butterflies, bees, and other beneficial insects. Registration is required.

Instructor: Ellyn Meyers, Horticulturist and Instructor at Lansing Community College

Cost: \$20 per person / \$18 per person for Friends of HLG

April 15, 3 a.m.–5 a.m. — Full Lunar Eclipse

See page 6 for details.

April 26, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. — International Herb Day Celebration

See page 4 for details and a schedule of events.

April 27, 1 p.m.–4 p.m. — Volunteer Work Day

Join HLG in clearing invasive plants from selected locations on the grounds. Wear work boots and gloves! Being planned by Amanda Adams, Adrian College intern.

Cost: Free and open to the public

NATURE A-Z PRESCHOOL SERIES

April 19 – Letter E for Eggs

May 7 or 17 – Letter D for Dinosaurs

June 4 or 21 – Letter F for Fish

Little ones are invited to explore the natural world through songs and crafts. Topics will center on items in nature that start with the letter of the month. Adults must attend with children. Class is open to pre-school and home-schooled children aged 3 – 7 years old. The same class will be offered on Wednesday and Saturday. Classes start at 10 a.m.

Registration is required.

Cost: \$8 per person / \$6 per person for Friends of HLG

SATURDAY "DROP IN" PROGRAMS

1 p.m.–3 p.m.

Come chat with a garden ambassador in HLG's Conservatory and look a little deeper into each month's topic.

SEEDS: April 5, 12, 19

WILDFLOWERS: May 3, 17, 24, 31

PONDING: June 7, 14, 21, 28

Cost: Free with admission, no registration required.

May 4, 12 p.m.–1:30 p.m. — Native Plants for Your Michigan Garden

Learn about the range of native “woodies” you can incorporate into your garden, including trees, shrubs, and vines ranging from deciduous to evergreen species, along with annual vines and perennial plants. An amazing variety of native woodies are not only beautiful, but “play well with others” while providing key habitat for native fauna. Registration is required.

Instructor: Cheryl English, Advanced Master Gardener
Cost: \$15 per person / \$13 per person for Friends of HLG

May 4, 2 p.m.–3:30 p.m. — Wildflowers of Michigan

Often considered too “wild and crazy” for the average gardener, wildflowers can thrive and provide years of beauty even in a small urban garden. Don't limit yourself to the development of “well-behaved” or “garden-worthy” cultivars. Learn how the species themselves can be a successful part of your garden while providing an attractive environment for our local fauna as well. Registration is required.

Instructor: Cheryl English, Advanced Master Gardener
Cost: \$15 per person / \$13 per person for Friends of HLG

May 9, 6 p.m.–8 p.m. — Plant Sale Preview for Members Only

See page 8 for details.

May 10, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. — Annual Plant Sale

See page 8 for details.

May 17, 9 a.m. — Flow Of Nature

“Courage to Blossom – A Spring Retreat at Hidden Lake Gardens” is the first in a series of seasonal retreat days. In the spring, we celebrate birthing and new life. Just like nature, we have made it through the cold and harsh days of winter. As the flowers and trees burst forth with tender and soft leaves, we too have the gift of beginning again, to re-vision our journey in this life. Join us for a day of nature walks, contemplation, artistic expression, reflection, and community as you observe nature's rebirth and discover what is ready to blossom in you. Registration is required.

“And the day came when the risk to remain tight in a bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom.” –Anais Nin

Instructors: Loretta Pickford and Nancy Kitchens

Cost: \$125 per person / \$115 for members; \$135/\$125 **after May 1.** (Limited scholarships are available; contact Julie Conley for more information.)

May 17 and 24, 1 p.m.–3 p.m. — Build a Birdhouse

Hone your carpentry skills and do something nice for our feathered friends in this two-part class. Participants will learn carpentry skills such as interpreting shop plans, measuring, and safe tool operation to create a bird house. Class is open to kids in middle or high school; adult participation is required. Registration is required. Sign up early; space is limited.

Cost: \$10 per person / \$8 per person for Friends of HLG

WILDFLOWER WALKS

May 17 • May 24
11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Walk through the wildflowers that adorn the natural areas of Hidden Lake Gardens. Wear sturdy shoes and be prepared to hike, rain or shine. Tours led by HLG staff and volunteers.

Registration is required.

Cost: \$5 per person / \$3 per person for Friends of HLG

WILDFLOWER WALK FOR FAMILIES

May 31
11 a.m.–12 p.m.

This session is aimed at multi-generational audiences. Bring your family – grandma and grandpa, mom and dad, even your pesky siblings! – as we walk through the wildflowers that adorn the natural areas of Hidden Lake Gardens. Wear sturdy shoes and be prepared to hike, rain or shine. Tours led by HLG staff and volunteers.

Registration is required.

Cost: \$5 per person / \$3 per person for Friends of HLG



Wildflowers Art Exhibition
April 26–May 31

Celebrate spring with this exhibit showcasing nature's little miracles – wildflowers.

Located in the Visitor Center



SHARE YOUR PICS!

If you have photos of HLG classes or events, we'd love to see them for possible inclusion in future newsletters.

Send them to Julie at conley9@msu.edu

International Herb Day Celebration Saturday, April 26, 10 a.m.

\$5 per person / free for Friends of HLG

Herb Day is an international celebration of herbs and herbal products. This one-day event is aimed at educating and sharing ideas about the many ways herbs bring joy and well-being into our daily lives. We celebrate herbs' use in food, beverages, medicine, beauty products, and crafts, along with the art of growing and gardening with herbs. There will be diverse vendors with a wide array of plants and products for sale, plus gardening tips, educational seminars, and activities for kids.

EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

11 a.m. — The Summer Garden: Planting for Purpose and Pleasure

Acclaimed speaker Scott Stokes from Southern Exposure Herb Farm will share over 50 creative ideas for your summer garden (www.southernmoon.com)

1 p.m. — Herbal Qualities of Native Trees for Your Yard

Mary Ann Menck of Mary Ann's Michigan Trees & Shrubs will share tips for growing beautiful and useful trees to enhance your landscape (www.native-landscapes.org)

2 p.m. — Soaps and Salves: Using Your Herbal Harvest

Soap-maker Sue Becker of School House Soaps will share her secrets for making delightful herbal soaps and salves (www.SchoolHouseSoaps.com)

FAMILY-FRIENDLY DISPLAYS & HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES

Children's Activities Tent
Native Michigan Trees Display
Herbal Dyes, Spinning & Felting Demonstration

NATURE WALKS

Native Michigan Trees: Gerry Donaldson,
HLG Grounds Foreman
Wild Weed Walk: Brenda Wyatt, Herbalist

For more information, visit:
www.hiddenlakegardens.msu.edu

This event is part of a national organization:
www.herbday.org

First Aid for Winter-Damaged Trees

With spring's warmer temperatures, home gardeners can (finally) get outside and check out the effects of winter weather on their landscape plants. Winter injuries due to extreme temperatures, increased snowfalls, wind and salt effects, and increased browsing by wildlife are very common this year.

According to Michigan State University Extension, signs of damage may include broken limbs, cracked bark, browning or loss of needles, browning of broadleaved evergreens, and loss of twigs or bark. Some signs such as dieback may not be apparent until later this spring.

Deer and rodent damage is especially prevalent. We are noticing lots of damage on the trunks of trees below the snow line from voles and mice. Often this is fatal for the plant; however, damage can be mitigated by bridge grafting – a technique that reestablishes a connection between the roots and trunk and branches.

On April 8, Gerry Donaldson of HLG will discuss the conditions that lead to needing a bridge graft and will present a technique to increase chances of survival. If you grow fruit trees or have noticed chewing damage on the trunks of your valued trees, this is the class for you.

WHAT: Bridge Grafting
WHEN: April 8, 7 p.m.–9 p.m.
WHERE: HLG Auditorium
COST: Open to the public;
regular HLG admission rates apply



Burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*) showing extensive chewing damage from rodents.

Spotlight on Bluebirds

The Eastern bluebird, *Sialia sialis*, is a cavity nester. Its nests can sometimes be found in wooden fence posts, hollow trees, and abandoned woodpecker holes. But due to habitat loss, the widespread use of steel fence posts, and competition from starlings and house sparrows for nest sites, bluebirds face a critical housing shortage just when they need it most — at nesting time.

Hidden Lake Gardens is helping bluebirds thrive and multiply by providing that housing, in the form of 44 nest boxes scattered throughout the grounds. Our seven volunteer bluebird monitors check the boxes on a weekly basis and log activity. This takes about five hours per week, for a total of more than 100 volunteer hours over the course of the nesting season. The bird counts from HLG are incorporated into state-level counts each year.

On April 10, local bluebird experts Allen Bower and Don Smith will share photos and stories of their birding adventures, hosted by the Lenawee County Master Gardeners Association. Allen has received national recognition from the North American Bluebird Society for his efforts in bluebird conservation. Birdhouses will be available for purchase after the presentation.

WHAT: All About Bluebirds presentation
WHEN: April 10, 7 p.m.–9 p.m.
WHERE: HLG Auditorium
COST: Open to the public; regular HLG admission rates apply

To learn more about these fascinating creatures, visit www.michiganbluebirdsociety.org



HLG volunteer bluebird monitors are (clockwise from left) Deb Waibel, Bob Pardee, Bonnie Doutlick, Kristal Brown, Tom Boyer, Judy Stetten, and Butch Stetten. Tom Boyer and Bonnie Doutlick are celebrating 10 years of volunteering in 2014.

Easter Eggs-travaganza!

Here are some photos from last year's celebration.
Join us this year on Saturday, April 12 at 10:00 a.m.
Register early – space is limited!



Top right: Catelyn Emery-Hall (owner of the bunnies) colors eggs

Above: All the kids adored petting Annabelle the bunny

Right: More than 25 children participated in 2013

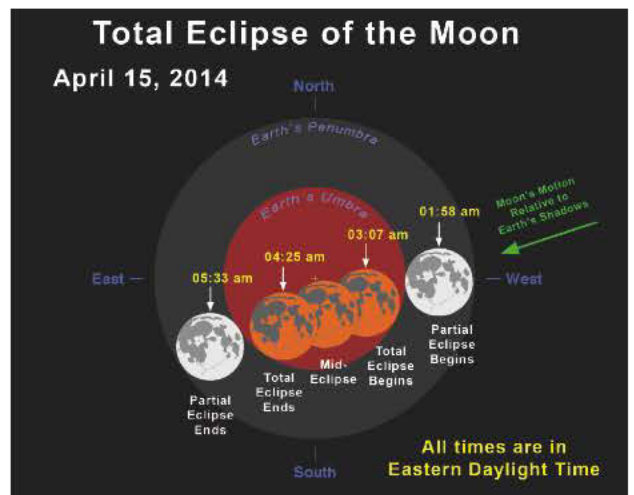


View the Upcoming Total Lunar Eclipse at Hidden Lake Gardens

Witness the magic of a total lunar eclipse on the night of the full moon! Hidden Lake Gardens provides the necessary "dark sky" conditions to experience this rare event. Telescopes will be set up outside, live streaming inside. Event will occur rain or shine! Hosted by Mark Fairclough, astronomer at Adrian College and Eastern Michigan University. Registration is requested.

This will be the first total lunar eclipse visible from North America since December 2011. The total eclipse phase will last about 77 minutes. Lunar eclipses are considered to be safe to watch with the naked eye.

- WHAT:** Full Lunar Eclipse
WHEN: April 15, 3 a.m.–5 a.m.
WHERE: Outdoors through telescopes; indoors via live streaming video in the Auditorium
COST: Free and open to the public



Graphic courtesy of Fred Espenak, www.MrEclipse.com

Friends of Hidden Lake Gardens

Our members keep the Gardens flourishing! When you become a “Friend” of Hidden Lake Gardens, you support the financing of new displays and plant collections, the renovation of existing ones, and the labeling of the specimens. Your support also helps us to educate visitors of all ages and maintain our facilities.

Enjoy the many benefits of membership:

- **Free Admission**
- **Member Discounts:** 10 to 20 percent off courses, workshops, and lectures; 10 percent off gift shop purchases
- **Members-Only Plant Sale Preview**
- **Reciprocal Gardens Program:** Free admission and discounts at 300 gardens across the country through the American Horticultural Society (search by zip code by visiting www.ahs.org/gardening-programs/rap)

Membership Categories

Single: one person — \$35 annually

Dual: two adults living at same address — \$45 annually

Family: two adults and their children under 18 — \$50 annually

Grandparents: two grandparents and their grandchildren under 18 — \$50 annually

Family & Friends: two adults and their children under 18, PLUS free admission for up to six accompanying guests — \$65 annually

Grandparents & Friends: two adults and their grandchildren under 18, PLUS free admission for up to six accompanying guests — \$65 annually

Those who support the Gardens at higher levels receive all benefits, as well as invitations to Special Supporter Events:

Sponsor: \$100 • **Contributor:** \$250 • **Benefactor:** \$500 • **Leadership:** \$1000

For more information, please call our office at (517) 431-2060

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- Single — \$35
- Dual — \$45
- Family — \$50
- Grandparents — \$50
- Family & Friends — \$65
- Grandparents & Friends — \$65
- Sponsor — \$100
- Contributor — \$250
- Benefactor — \$500
- Leadership — \$1000

Method of Payment

- Check enclosed
- VISA / Mastercard / Discover / American Express

Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Name 1: _____

Name 2: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

This is a gift membership, given by:

Mail completed form to:

**Hidden Lake Gardens
6214 Monroe Road (M-50)
Tipton, MI 49287**

Hidden Lake Gardens

This year's PLANT SALE is all about highlighting plants in our collections!

Plant Sale

Saturday, May 10
10 am – 2 pm

HLG is offering plants that we know and love, and think you will love, whether you are new to gardening or you are an expert

Annuals • Conifers • Hostas • Native plants • "Woodies" – Trees & Shrubs

Plant Sale Preview

Current HLG Members ONLY!

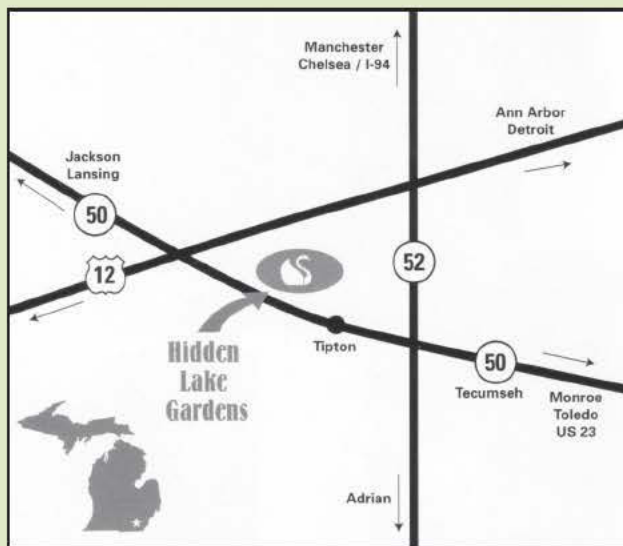
Friday, May 9
6 pm – 8 pm

Members are invited to shop Friday night to avoid the Saturday rush! Memberships will be available to purchase at the entrance.



Hidden Lake Gardens

Open Year-round:
April – October, 9 AM – 7 PM
November – March, 9 AM – 4 PM



Hidden Lake Gardens is located in southeastern Michigan, near Tipton. It is approximately eight miles west of Tecumseh on M-50.

Hidden Lake Gardens is a 755-acre botanical garden and arboretum owned by Michigan State University. Tucked away in the Irish Hills region of southeastern Michigan, it's a scenic and serene destination for family outings, picnics, trailwalking, bicycling, sightseeing, and more.

The Gardens' picturesque landscapes beckon nature lovers, photographers, and gardeners of all ages. Its five miles of paved one-way roadways and ten miles of marked hiking trails provide access to woodland areas, meadows, and glacial kettleholes.

Notable display gardens include the renowned Justin C. (Chub) Harper Dwarf and Rare Conifer Collection with more than 500 specimens, the Ralph H. (Herb) and Dorothy Benedict Hosta Hillside, and the Elsie MacCready Memorial Bonsai Collection.

The Gardens offers guided tours, classes, and special events, including our ever-popular plant sale that takes place each year on the second weekend in May.

While you're in the area, discover more of Lenawee County and the Irish Hills. Visit historic Tecumseh, Brooklyn, and Adrian for food, shopping, art, antiques, and fun.

<http://www.visitlenawee.com/>
<http://www.irishhills.com/>
<http://www.downtowntecumseh.com/>
<http://adriancity.com/>