Thank You for Your Welcome

As many of you already know, I began working at Hidden Lake Gardens as the managing director in early September. And in those beginning three months of employment, I have been pleasantly overwhelmed by the level of hospitality, enthusiasm, and encouragement extended to me by staff, volunteers, members, visitors, local community groups, and the Michigan State University community. As a new resident of the state of Michigan, the welcome that I have been given and continue to receive has quickly made Michigan feel like home.

Based on this incredible outpouring of support, it did not take me long to affirm what was shared with me by MSU officials and HLG staff during the hiring process – that Hidden Lake Gardens is a very special place – a true gem in the southeast Michigan region. Thanks to the many of you that have introduced yourselves to me, and I look very forward to meeting many more visitors and members at our upcoming events.

Two of those events are the Evening of Lights, taking place on December 5 and 7, and the Holiday Festival on December 6. The anticipation of seeing Hidden Lake Gardens aglow with more than 2,000 candle-lit luminaries is increasing as the cold and snow have already moved into the Irish Hills region. We welcome Santa to the Visitor Center during the Holiday Festival, and I am looking forward to seeing and meeting families as they reveal their holiday wishes to Mr. Claus. See page 4 for details.

As promoted on our website and in the Conservatory lobby, the Tropical Dome has been under renovation since May. The Conservatory and Facilities staff have been very busy with old plant and soil removal; irrigation system and water feature enhancements; electrical and lighting updates; and of course, adding amended soil and new plants! Come and see this newly renovated tropical oasis during the Tropical Dome Open House on December 8. Details and more photos are on pages 2 and 3.

Finally, I would like to thank all of those who attended our fall events: the Art of Bonsai and the Fall Foliage Festival. With an unusually cold, damp, windy day for early October, I was impressed by the spirit and bravado of so many families that attended the Fall Foliage Festival. Our parking lots were overflowing with parked cars, and despite the wicked weather, the hay wagon rides were incredibly popular. Kudos go to the HLG staff for implementing the inclement weather plan on very short notice and making Fall Fest enjoyable for our visitors.

Similarly, the Art of Bonsai event in September attracted 700 visitors and bonsai enthusiasts to Hidden Lake Gardens. Jack Wikle and the bonsai volunteers did a remarkable job planning, coordinating, and presenting a beautiful bonsai show that included bonsai plant and supply vendors, a bonsai-inspired art show, a bonsai specimen exhibit showcasing the artistic talent of local bonsai growers, and, of course, HLG’s bonsai specimen collection.

It has been a very busy fall season here at Hidden Lake Gardens. We look forward to the beauty of winter, but I have a feeling that the holiday events, coupled with the planning and preparation for the spring gardening season, will mean that only the plants will be dormant at HLG this winter. Stop in, say hello, and visit the Tropical Dome.

The Tropical Dome is re-opening! A celebration of this tremendous project is planned for December 8, along with a welcome reception for our new Managing Director Paul Pfeifer. See inside for details.
The renovation project started with repairing the Tropical and Arid Dome knee walls. New sandstone ledges were replaced where needed.

The inside of the dome was power-washed. The cement block and heater shields were repainted a sandy brown.

About two and a half feet of soil was removed and replaced with a mixture of compost from MSU and a sandy loam soil. Paul Pfeifer and Chad Czmer are hauling the new soil in.

Finally, planting time! Paul Pfeifer and Mitch Myers are planting a Triangle Palm. About 500 plants were put back in the dome.
You are cordially invited to a reception welcoming Hidden Lake Gardens’ new managing director

Paul Pfeifer
and
celebrating the re-opening of the newly renovated Tropical Dome

Monday, December 8, 2014
2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

HLG Conservatory Complex
6214 Monroe Road (M-50)
Tipton, Michigan 49287

The Cork Oak in its glory with Bromeliads attached to it.

A waterfall was added to the pool area, which includes a space for gathering and seating.

Jeff Mullins and Mitch Myers are installing the reclaimed Cork Oak trunk saved from the Arid Dome renovation.
Holiday Festivities at
Hidden Lake Gardens

Evening of Lights
Friday, December 5th &
Sunday, December 7th
from 5-8 pm
Over 2,000 candle-lit luminaries
Gift Shop and Conservatory open till 8 pm
$3 per person/free for HLG Members

Holiday Festival
Saturday, December 6th
from 4-8 pm
Musical entertainment
Crafts for children
Visit with Santa Claus
Over 2,000 candle-lit luminaries
Gift shop items for nature lovers
Dazzling holiday decorations
Refreshments
$5 per person/free for HLG Members
($20 max per car)

For more information please call
(517)431-2060 or
visit our website at
www.hiddenlakegardens.msu.edu

Volunteers wanted!
Light luminaries, help with crafts and refreshments.
Contact Julie at 517-431-2060 or
conleyj9@msu.edu
December 13 – Second Saturday Sunrise Series
Start your day off 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 supplies for your favorite way to spend the early hours. Arrive fifteen minutes before sunrise. Class will be hosted by HLG staff.
Cost: $10 per person / $8 per person for Friends of HLG.
Registration is required.

December 13, 10 a.m. – Holiday Candle Arrangements
Create a beautiful Christmas candle centerpiece with instructor Pam Meinke. We will be using a variety of fresh Christmas greens, pine cones, ribbons, and 12” tapers to make a centerpiece that will bring those Christmas scents into your home! Please bring sharp knife, pruners, and ribbon scissors.
Cost: $30 per person / $27 per person for Friends of HLG.
Registration is required.

December 20, 10 a.m. – Nature A-Z Preschool – NATURE'S GIFTS
Little ones from ages 3 – 7 are invited to explore the natural world through songs and crafts. Topics will center on items in nature that start with the theme of the month. Adults must attend with children.
Cost: $8 per person / $6 per person for Friends of HLG.
Registration is required.

December 20, 10 a.m. – Family Class Series – Nature’s Gifts
Join HLG staff and friends as we investigate the gifts that nature gives us. We will explore the science and beauty of nature while making delightful gifts to share with loved ones. Price includes one set of gifts; additional ones will be available for purchase.
Cost: $15 per family / $12 per family for Friends of HLG.
Registration is required.

2015 Plant Sale – Planning is already underway!
May 8 – 9, 2015
Mark Your Calendar and Get Involved!

Mother’s Day Weekend: Sale for members only on Friday evening, open to the public on Saturday. Categories will reflect our collections: Annuals, Conifers, Hosta and Companions, Woodies, and Natives.
New for 2015 – Fairy Gardens!

Volunteers are currently ordering plants, planning the promotion and the day of the sale… Call Julie for more information on helping to plan the event (517-431-2060 or conleyj9@msu.edu)
Spotlight on HLG’s Volunteers – Mac Marr

For the past seventeen years, visitors have been awed by the holiday luminary displays at HLG. The powerhouse behind the displays is volunteer Mac Marr, who designs and installs them with the assistance of Jim Chamberlin.

Before Mac joined our team, the Gardens’ holiday lighting consisted of lanterns along the road and a few small, lighted stars. One year a triangle on top of a square was added to portray a rudimentary Christmas tree. Mac was stunned when he asked what it was, and replied, “That’s not a tree. I can do better!” His first design was a snowman visible from the Gift Shop; the next year he added angels, and the exhibition grew.

The displays consist of plastic milk jugs, spray-painted different colors and lit with candles. Sand stabilizes the jugs and holds the candle upright. The entire display takes 2,000 – 5,000 jugs, each with a candle. Mac, Jim, and one or two assistants set up the display in approximately four days. Using radios and lots of patience, each jug is strategically placed. Placement matters, as an image changes appearance depending on one’s viewing location; on the hills, circles can become ovals and ovals can become circles.

On the days of the festival, volunteers insert candles and light them with propane torches and lighters. Typically, lighting the display takes ten or twelve people about two hours.

Every year’s exhibit is different, and Mac draws inspiration from many sources. One of his most memorable designs was the HLG logo to celebrate our sixtieth anniversary in 2005, which used several hundred milk jugs. He also fondly recalls creating candy canes, toy soldiers, and a cross-country skier. His dreams of future displays include 3D installations and using the lanterns for more than just the holidays.

A lifelong Irish Hills resident, Mac lives on property that has been in the Marr family for more than 200 years. They are the Marr Lake Marrs, not Marr Road, he is quick to point out. Mac is a retired executive chef with a passion for unique and beautiful cakes. He is also a jack-of-many-trades, having spent time on the grounds crew at HLG as well as being a carpet installer.

Mac won’t reveal any details about this year’s event, except to allude to a possible connection to the reopening of the Tropical Dome. He, Jim, and the grounds crew will be hard at work for several weeks leading up to the festival. This year, as always, visitors can expect to be awed by the beauty and creativity of the luminary display.
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

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>one person — $35 annually</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dual</td>
<td>two adults living at same address — $45 annually</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>two adults and their children under 18 — $50 annually</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grandparents</td>
<td>two grandparents and their grandchildren under 18 — $50 annually</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family &amp; Friends</td>
<td>two adults and their children under 18, PLUS free admission for up to six accompanying guests — $65 annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grandparents &amp; Friends</td>
<td>two adults and their grandchildren under 18, PLUS free admission for up to six accompanying guests — $65 annually</td>
</tr>
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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__________________________________________

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 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 collections 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/

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