

A SEEDY PLACE

STROLL THROUGH THE GARDENS

MSU Horticulture Gardens attractions

-Wilbir the Peacock: a 14-foot structure that is created with more than 3,000 bedding plants, typically pink, white and red Begonias. Wilbir, or "Will's Bird," is named for William Carson, a former director of the gardens and chief promoter of the peacock. Inside its frame, Wilbir is full of soilless planting mix, paper netting to hold it in place and Styrofoam packing materials to hold the plants in place.

-Michigan 4-H Children's Garden: Consists of 55 theme attractions and is supported by the Michigan 4-H Foundation. It's often home to children's programs and tours throughout the summer.

-Clarence E. Lewis Landscape Arboretum: Founded in 1982 and named in tribute to the late "Clancy" Lewis, an MSU horticulture professor. It is a working arboretum for MSU landscape design or build students.

-Entrance Pavilion: This is a gathering space sponsored by the Bordine family. Surrounding teak garden benches are named in honor of the first women to the gardens.

-Perennial Garden: Home to hundreds of species of flowers that thrive in Michigan. Sponsored by the Judith DeLapa family.

-Frank's Nursery Rose Garden: Sponsored by the company it's named after, includes hundreds of cultivars of roses. Many are All-America Rose Selection winners.

-Anniversary Plaza: Sponsored by Gary and Monica Veit. This is a popular wedding site that was donated in 2003 to honor MSU's leadership in the floriculture industry.

-Orientation Plaza: Built in 1989 was the first structure in the gardens, dedicated in honor of Louis J. Brand, by the employees of the John Henry Company.

-Conservatory Plaza: Dedicated to Paul Ecke Sr. and features a striking inlaid granite design.

-Amien and Florence M. Carter Annual Garden: Showcases more than 1,000 varieties of annuals.

-Liberty Hyde Bailey statue: Known as the "Father of American Horticulture," he graduated from Michigan Agricultural College (now MSU) and became the first chair of the first horticulture department in the nation.

SOURCE: THE MSU HORTICULTURE DEMONSTRATION GARDEN, 1875 MSU/AGARDENS

FACES + PLACES



HELLO, MY NAME IS Shannon Morey
Even on days when she has to be at a school demonstration at 7 a.m., it's worth it for Shannon Morey. The chemistry junior started working with MSU's Science Theatre, a student-run organization that promotes community awareness of science, when she was a freshman. She said she has enjoyed seeing how enthralled the children are with their demonstrations.
The group performs demonstrations at K-12 schools across the state on topics ranging from physics to biology to chemistry. They include adding Mentos to a bottle of Diet Coke to learn about the chemistry of food and using a swinging bowling ball to learn about energy conservation and kinetic energy.
"Being a part of Science Theatre has opened my eyes to how important science is for kids," said Morey, who would like to continue science outreach while working with her own research in academia once she's done with school.
—Compiled by Julie Baker, photo by Sam Ruiz, The State News

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Wednesday

Sow far, sow good

MSU Horticulture Gardens give students opportunity to cultivate hands-on education



By Julie Baker
THE STATE NEWS

They're not much to look at now — maybe just a few clusters of daffodils, non-descript greenery and an unassuming pavilion. But give the MSU Horticulture Gardens a couple months. That's when they'll come alive and that's when they'll be full of the perennial plants and the estimated 40,000 flowers and plants that are planted each year.

Several areas comprise what is referred to as the Horticulture Gardens, which take up more than 14 acres of MSU's campus, located between the Plant and Soil Sciences Building, the Food Safety and Toxicology Building and the Plant Biology laboratories. The gardens include the Horticultural Demonstration Garden, Amien A. and Florence M. Carter Annual Trial Garden, Perennial Garden and Michigan 4-H Children's Garden. Dan Bulkowski, garden and greenhouse manager, said many people don't even know the gardens exist until they stumble upon them one day. "There've been so many times people didn't know it was here," he said. "They'll

be walking around Plant Biology and say, 'wow, where did this come from?'"

"Getting something out of nothing"

The demonstration garden turned 15 years old last August, although Bulkowski said the gardens as a whole have been around for about 20 years. During the winter months, about five student workers and the full-time gardens employees spend their time looking through sheet catalogues with the different seed variations for some of the different trials that will be planted in the spring. Over the course of the spring, everyone is work-

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PHOTOS BY JOSH RADTKE/THE STATE NEWS

Above left: English senior Caitlin Lorenz pushes holes in a flat of dirt where she will later transplant seedlings. Lorenz is among a group of student volunteers that work at the Horticulture Gardens. Above right: Many species and colors of plants can be found in the Horticulture Gardens.

CHILDREN

Sweet Little Party Palace in Lansing hosts very pink parties for girls

By Jessica Lipowski
THE STATE NEWS

Lansing — As a child, Deborah Allen always loved to dress up and be a princess. Now, she offers other young girls the chance to do the same: becoming a princess, movie star, fairy or glam girl for the day at Sweet Little Party Palace, 1134-B N. Washington Ave., in Lansing. Allen opened the business in 2007 to provide a unique experience to the Lansing community that has not been seen before. From feather boas to col-

For more online...
For an audio slideshow of Sweet Little Party Palace, visit stateneews.com/multimedia.

orful hats and glitter makeup to rocking karaoke songs, Sweet Little Party Palace has it all for young girls to embrace their girly-girl side. "We specialize in anything that's pink and girly," Allen said. "Girls need their own place." Typically the younger girls love to be princesses, wearing Disney princess out-

fits of various colors, Allen said. But once they are about 7 years old or older, they tend to like the glam girl and diva outfits, she added. "Everything is kid-oriented. Nothing is overdone," Allen said. "It's just right for the girls. ... They have a chance to use their imagination." During the event, girls will pair up and paint their nails. They can also use glitter makeup or real makeup, depending on the age. Karaoke also is a popular feature, Allen said. Hannah Montana and

the Jonas Brothers are played all the time. In addition, girls can make jewelry and create their own bubble baths and lotions. "These are things that bigger malls have for girls, but (instead) you can come here and have a private party," Allen said. "Unlike the mega party centers ... this is a time for your party guests. This is for you." Lansing resident Melina Lerma said Party Palace is a great environment for her 4-year-old daughter, Aleazy Rodriguez. She said her daughter loves coming here,

each time like the first as she walks through the doors. "Everything is pink. And she's totally into princesses," Lerma said. "It's all about the little girls. ... Everyone can have fun here." Angela Atkins-Eddins said her daughter, Ashlyn Eddins, loves all the activities offered, as well. "My daughter is like a total girly girl," said Atkins-Eddins, a Holt resident. "She loves coming to get her nails painted, and Miss Deborah lets her dress up in the dress-

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