

A graphic of a spotlight with a yellow beam of light shining down from the top left corner towards the title.

# Master Garden Spotlight

Lorie Stoltz

My name is Lorie Stoltz. I am the newly elected Education Committee Chairperson. I joined OCMGA in September, 2018, after completing the level one class. I was interested in OCMGA for a number of reasons, but mainly to meet fellow gardeners and to share our love for growing plants and learn new techniques in growing vegetables and indoor plants.



I was introduced to gardening as a young girl, watching my grandfather grow the most beautiful vegetables in the fertile soil of southwest Michigan, which we fondly call “muck”. My mother continued the tradition of gardening and my memories of growing up in SW Michigan were that we had to pick and process the garden vegetables of beans, tomatoes, strawberries and vining vegetables such as melons, cucumbers, and squash. The plentiful fruits of blueberries, cherries, peaches and apples grown in SW Michigan have influenced my love of gardening and cooking. She grew vegetables that could be preserved, and I treasure memories of canning, freezing and drying fruits together.



Today, I also enjoy growing outdoor perennial plants and flowers, annual flowers, vegetables, and fruit trees on our property. I love fostering my houseplants such as wax plants, Kalanchoes, vines, jade plants and orchids indoors. I love to travel and when I am able to visit a garden, or national park, that is my goal for each trip we take. Recently in 2019 we visited Hilo, HI and the coolest garden I ever went to was Hawaii Tropical Botanical Garden. This philanthropist dream garden was created to be a beautiful example of tropical plants from all over the world, with an emphasis on orchids. The warmest garden I visited was early in 2020 when we traveled to Arizona and hiked in Saguaro National

Park where you can view a plentiful variety of different cacti; a favorite are the ancient saguaro and prickly pears.





I live on a 20 acre property that is 18 acres of woods and two acres of land for house, pole barn and garden spaces. I maximize shade gardening and have been collecting Hosta, Astilbe, hellebore, ferns, some perennials that will tolerate partial sun like Ligularia, lady's mantle, bleeding hearts, and anemones. My vegetable garden is a mix of raised beds, dwarf fruit trees, and container pots for annual color filled with canna lilies and colorful filler plants. I have a favorite summer annual plant, pollinator friendly which is the Mexican sunflower, Tithonia Sundance variety. They grow 6-8 ft tall and attract hundreds of monarchs, hummingbirds and bees.

I am married, have three children, and one grandchild. I work as an RN at Ascension Saint Elizabeth with a specialty in Hyperbaric Wound Care.