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Hidden Lake Gardens, 6214 Monroe, Rd. (M-50), TIPTON, MI 49287
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Hidden Lake Gardens, isn't so Hidden Any More.

In the past four weeks, Hidden Lake Gardens (HLG) showed off two of its special plant collections to groups of experts. These individuals made the effort to travel long distances and were both pleased and amazed at the quality and beauty of what they saw.

The National Hosta Society toured the Hosta Hillside and the Benedict Hosta Collection on June 26th. This tour included representatives from across the United States and Canada. Most came long distances to see the collection of labeled hostas which is located in a peaceful woodland garden adjacent to the lake. The hosta collection contains over 800 varieties to admire and study.

Representatives from the British and Dutch Conifer Societies visited the Harper Collection of Dwarf and Rare Conifers on July 27th. Following their visit, Derek Spicer, Chairman of the British Conifer Society, claimed this collection to be the best planned, labeled, maintained and documented conifer collection he had ever seen anywhere in the world. The entire group was amazed at, and in awe of, the large and diverse collection of plant material which has been assembled here since 1981. The textures, shapes, and colors of these conifers are amazing to behold.



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In addition to these two collections, HLG has a Bonsai collection, conservatory, All-American demonstration garden, shrub and tree collections, lake and woodland driving and hiking trails. Steven Courtney, the HLG manager, wonders, if what we have here is good enough to draw the experts from around the country and across the ocean, why do we still find individuals who only live an hour or so away and have never visited to see the beautiful spot that Mr. Fee donated to Michigan State University for the benefit and education of the public.

Hidden Lake Gardens is owned and operated by Michigan State University under the division of Land Management. The Gardens are supported through private endowments, gifts and yearly memberships. The Gardens are open 362 days of the year with an admission fee of \$3 per person. Guided tours, requested at least two weeks in advance, are available at no additional charge. In addition to more than 6 miles of one-way paved drives, there are 5 miles of hiking trails to allow the visitor a closer look at the beauty that the Gardens provide.