

The Grapevine

Bulletin of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association

January 2004 Volume 8, Issue 1

Iris thrills with frills, color, foliage

Don't complain about iris borers to Advanced Master Gardener Peggy Shaver – or that the spring bloomers have too short a life span.

"I feel challenged when people tell me that," says the Freeland resident, who has had a love affair with the plants since she was a child, working in her parents' nursery.

"Sometimes we get a very narrow vision about a plant and I think this one has a lot to offer. Today, ornamental grasses are very popular, but irises can offer a similar feature in the garden with their tall, spiky leaves."

Members of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardeners Association can learn more at their first session of the new year. In addition, members are encouraged to bring plant catalogs to exchange.

"I was born into gardening," says Shaver, who served as the association's first president and spent four years at the top spot.

"My parents owned Alexander's Nursery so I worked around plants all the time. I can remember sorting out the names of plants when I was too little to realize what I was learning."

When she was young, her father gave

Shaver her own garden plot where she could grow whatever she wanted.

"One of the things that sticks in my mind is that I loved irises. I just thought they were beautiful and I had them in my garden. I also loved gardening and I spent as much time doing that as I could."

However, when she broached the idea of carrying on the family business, her father said it was no job for a woman so "I went into nursing instead," Shaver explains.

In the early '90s she took the master gardening class with a friend, thinking it would be a fun way to spend the winter. "I didn't realize about the volunteer aspect or the certification."

Later, when a fellow classmate suggested they form an association and offered to do the legwork, she enlisted Shaver's help. But before she knew it, the classmate and her husband transferred out of town, leaving the legacy for the remaining dozen charter members.

Although Shaver no longer serves on the board, she is an active volunteer at Dow Gardens in Midland, highly involved in the research and care of its rose garden.

Next meeting:

7 p.m. – 9 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28 at the Andersen Enrichment Center Ezra Rust Drive

7 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. business meeting
7:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. refreshments; plant catalog exchange

8 p.m. – 9 p.m. Advanced Master Gardener Peggy Shaver details "Irises"

One-hour education credit earned

"Roses are another of my loves," Shaver explains. "My mother always grew roses and one of my jobs was to help her. Plus, we always sold a lot of roses."

Shaver also gives presentations for the association, providing some 18 talks, along with helping to teach the master gardener training class. Last year she traveled 600 miles to do so.

"I really enjoy teaching," she said. "It's not that I know more, I've just had experiences I want to share – plus it's fun to tell bad tales on yourself, or about easy things that I can't grow."

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Upcoming programs for 2004

Program Director Gail Caird has organized this line-up for the new year:

- 1/28 "Iris," Peggy Shaver, Advanced Master Gardener
- 2/25 "Plant Biotechnology," Wayne Loescher, MSU professor
- 3/24 "Rock Gardening," by Tony Rezickek, U-M professor
- 4/28 "Longwood Gardens," Lynn Wiese, landscape designer
- 5/26 Garden tour and plant exchange at Grey Gitzen's home
- 6/23 Garden tour at Nancy Hales' Saginaw Township home
- 7/28 Garden tour at Janice Wazny's Merrill home
- 8/25 Garden tour at Ruth Sny's Saginaw Township home
- 9/22 "Native Landscaping Around Ponds," Matthew Dykstraw, MSUE
- 10/27 "Pruning," Jerry Somalski of Bay Landscaping, Essexville
- 11/17 "English Gardens" Peggy Shaver, AMG
- 12/8 Annual Christmas Potluck

Minutes of the November 2003 meeting

Meeting was called to order by President Judy Henning at the Anderson Enrichment Center.

Motion by Crystal Kauer to accept the secretary's report, seconded by Karen Tilden. Motion approved.

Treasurer's report by Deborah Keller, from 10/23/03 to 11/19/03:

Deposits \$193.00.

Expenditures \$349.37

Balance on hand \$5,091.55

Paid memberships: 164

Henning welcomed new members and most recent MG class visitors.

Thanks to all the "Ask the Gardener"

column participants for the Saginaw News: Sheila Hempsted, Karen Tilden, Pat Washburn and Judy Henning.

Thank you also to raffle donors: Grey Gitzen, Wil Hufton and Darlene Damp

Joe and Kathy Leach reported the Christmas Potluck is Dec. 3 at the Anderson Enrichment Center. Donations of money or canned goods, paper products, etc. will be accepted for Hidden Harvest. Participants are asked to bring serving spoons. We will have surprise entertainment that evening.

Marie Ruemenapp, Saginaw County Extension Office director, discussed the possible elimination of the Extension program in Michigan as part of the Governor's budget. The elimination of the Extension program would mean the end of the Master Gardener program and much, much more.

Handouts were available with more information on the proposed budget cuts and the Extension program and MI Agricultural Experiment Station (MAES). A listing of our county legislative contacts, Governor, Senator and Saginaw County Representatives was available. Members were encouraged to contact their representatives about their feelings and possible solutions to

this potentially devastating elimination of the Extension.

Thank you Marie for bringing this situation to light for our group.

Master Gardener Coordinator Angela Irwin thanked members for turning in their recertification hours and asked for patience in receiving a response, due to computer problems. If members have not turned in their hours, please do so. Personal choice hours have to be okayed by Irwin. Contact her about questions. The dates for recertification hours in 2004 are from Oct. 1, 2003, through Dec. 31, 2004, as the state moves toward a normal calendar year. In 2005 it will be from January 1 to December 31.

Program Director Gail Caird had no report.

Ben Pawlik noted a time change for covering roses Nov. 22 at the Anderson Enrichment Center. Volunteers will meet at 9 a.m.

No new business from the floor.

The meeting was adjourned by President Henning and refreshments were served before our speaker, Chuck Martin of Dow Gardens, presented his program on "Winter Preparation: Putting the Garden to Bed."

Respectfully submitted, Aileen Cowan, vice president

Officers for 2003-04

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Judy Henning 799-4136

Vice President

Aileen Cowan 865-8784

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Ellie Robertson 792-4356

Treasurer

Deb Keller 781-1228

Program Director

Gail Caird 793-1942

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Beth Bedtelyon 799-0309

Newsletter Co-Editor

Darlene Damp 746-9113

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Michigan State University, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and counties cooperating. MSU is an affirmative-action, equal opportunity institution.

New journals available on-line

EAST LANSING – The Michigan State University Library now has a subscription to the following journals in full-text electronic format:

American Journal of Alternative Agriculture;
Canadian Journal of Botany;
Canadian Journal of Plant Science;
Canadian Journal of Soil Science;
Journal of Agricultural, Biological and Environmental Statistics;
and Journal of Plant Nutrition.

In addition, the library is negotiating

with the American Phytopathological Society of electronic access to Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions, Phytopathology and Plant Disease.

Electronic journals may be accessed from www.lib.msu.edu.

Irises continued

"What makes it great is that the people you meet through gardening are always so nice, so caring and very sharing. I always end up learning from them."

Story by Darlene B. Damp, co-editor

Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association mission statement

"Joining together as Master Gardeners, our mission is to promote our enthusiasm and knowledge of gardening by a wide variety of educational and volunteer activities in a spirit of fun and friendship."

'Happy 2004,' says President Judy Henning

It seems as if I just wished everyone a "Happy 2003" and now I am wishing you a "Happy 2004."

Time seems to fly by. I wouldn't mind if it flew right to a warm spring day. My seed and plant catalogs are looking a little raggedy after being gone through many, many times since they arrived.

My decisions on what seeds and plants to purchase changes daily (there is just so much to choose from). But I am hoping to make my decisions before our January meeting so I can bring my catalogs for our annual catalog exchange.

Remember to bring any catalogs you would like to share with your fellow Master Gardeners.

I do have to remember that I can only start so many seeds and that my gardening space is only so big.

Each year we experience some changes that affect the Association. Some changes for this year include the number of required hours for recertification.

It has gone from 10 volunteer hours

to 15 volunteer hours and 3 education hours to 5 education hours.

Our calendar year will now be Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, and our By-Laws were updated to reflect some By-Laws mandated at the State level.

Hats off to the Potluck committee for a job well done on the organization of the Potluck, the decorations, and the entertainment – the magician kept me wondering "how'd he do that?"

Also, hats off to the members! You outdid yourselves with the many wonderful appetizers, salads, casseroles, and desserts. (I counted 20 and I think I tasted just about every one).

There has been some misunderstanding as to what are MSUE-directed projects — the hours needed to become certified as a Master Gardener — and personal choice projects.



A Project List is available for any member from either Jan O'Dell or me. It lists all of our projects and sets off the MSUE-directed projects in gray. If in doubt, ask Angela Irwin, the Master Gardener Coordinator.

Program Director Gail Caird has been working very hard lining up some great speakers for our meetings.

She also is working on some "hands-on" classes as well as looking into a possible field trip.

Knowing Gail she will come up with a surprise or two.

As you all know this is an election year for our nation and our Association.

Will each and every one of you give some serious thought to running for an office?

Each position will be vacated this year.

The jobs are easy and the rewards (although they are not in dollars and cents) are never-ending.

Judy

Introducing: Plants Plus! A chance to share

People join the Saginaw Valley Master Gardeners Association to increase their knowledge, improve their community and share their love of gardening, say board members.

But it isn't always easy to meet people at the monthly meetings and get the specific information you might be seeking.

To help, the newsletter is providing space for those who want to make contact about their interest in a particular plant, like President Judy Henning, who wants to know more about growing hydrangeas and would appreciate any helpful hints.

Or, you might have an abundance of plants you would like to give away, or a cultivar you can't find, but someone else might have.

"There's not always a lot of time to talk with people at the meetings," says Gail Caird, program director.

"I know I find myself talking with the same people and the people sitting next to me, but there's many others I've

never had a chance to meet.

"I'm hoping this could be a way to accomplish that, maybe with some focus groups, bringing people together, to get to know each other, and learn something about plants.

"I know a lot of people get to the meetings early and they could talk then, or they could share in the newsletter.

"Members often are sitting next to someone they know, so if they just introduced themselves to the two people sitting in front of them and asked what their plant interests are, it could lead to more people getting to know each other, to getting what they want out of the association," Caird says.

That's why members are encouraged to wear their nametags, to put a face with a name.

The new column is called Plants Plus! And all submissions are welcome.

Simply e-mail the information you want to list to Beth Bedtelyon at sisinc@charter.net or Darlene Damp at

shrew@att.net and we'll print it in the upcoming editions. Or ask Henning to make an announcement at the meeting to bring like minds and interests together.

**Next board meeting:
Wednesday, Feb. 4**

**Newsletter deadline:
Monday, Feb. 9**

Send submissions to
Darlene Damp, Co-Editor
shrew@att.net or
Beth Bedtelyon, Co-Editor
sisinc@charter.net

To view the monthly newsletter on the Web site, please go to:
www.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/saginaw

Please wear your name tag at the monthly meetings.

Classes focus on gardening

Turfgrass session Jan. 21

LANSING – The Michigan Turfgrass Foundation sponsors a one-day conference on lawn and landscape care from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 21, at the Holiday Inn – South Convention Center, 6820 S. Cedar.

It provides five hours of education credit on such topics as turfgrass disease management, weed control, environmentally conscious fertilizer application, soil testing, minimal maintenance landscape plant use, and improved cultivars and new uses for trees and shrubs.

Cost is \$30, including continental breakfast and lunch. For registration, call Kay Patrick at (517) 321-1660.

Design workshop Feb. 14

TROY – Horticulture magazine features a seminar on “Designing with Perennials: Planting the Total Garden Picture” on Saturday, Feb. 14, at the Michigan State University Management Education Center.

The session, co-sponsored with Cranbrook Gardens Auxiliary, is from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Speakers Lauren Springer and Scott Ogden will discuss “Plant-driven Design,” including the challenges of drought, soil, climate and site specifics. Wayne Winterrowd will examine “Perennials in the Landscape,” focusing on herbaceous perennials as companions for trees, shrubs and bulbs.

C. Greg Speichert, publisher of Water Gardening magazine, will offer “Stellar Solutions for Soggy Sites,” while Nicholas Stadden, new plant introductions director for Monrovia Plants, discusses “Perennials for Borders and Landscapes.”

Designer Nan Sinton and Winterrowd combine for “How to Deconstruct a Border,” looking at composition, shopping and planting to get the result you want.

Cost is \$99 to Horticulture subscribers or members of Cranbrook Gardens; \$109 for others, and includes a boxed lunch and all handouts.

To register, call (877) 436-7764 or online visit www.hortmag.com.

Perennials seminar Feb. 28

MIDLAND – A one-day seminar focuses on perennials – new and old – and how to care for them.

It is from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, at the Midland Center for the Arts Garden Room, 1801 W. St. Andrews.

The speakers include Chuck Martin, Dow Gardens associate horticulturist and curator of woody plants; Arthur Cameron, Michigan State University horticulture professor; Janet Macunovich, owner of Perennial Favorites in Waterford; and George Papadelis, owner of Telly’s Greenhouse in Troy.

Master Gardeners receive four hours of MSUE credit. Cost is \$40 for early registration, including lunch or \$50 for registration after Friday, Feb. 13.

Please call (800) 362-4874 to register.

Isabella offers conference

MOUNT PLEASANT – Registration is open for Spring Into Gardening, a day-long conference Saturday, March 20, at the Holiday Inn Conference Center, 5665 E. Pickard (M-20), just east of U.S. 127.

The Isabella County Chapter of the Michigan Master Gardener Association will feature four speakers, lunch, a gardening hat contest and vendors from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Cost is \$45 and Master Gardeners receive MSUE education credit.

The speakers are author Nancy Lindley, who will use photos from her new book, “Roses for Michigan” while highlighting the best varieties for this state; Mollie Hollar, who discusses bonsai; Dr. Art Cameron, MSU professor, on “Herbaceous Perennials – The Old, The New and the Trendy,” and Janet

Macunovich, of the Michigan School of Gardening, on “Garden and Landscape Renovation.”

To register, send your name, address, telephone number and Master Gardener status to MSU Extension, Isabella County, Attn. Garden Conference, 200 N. Main, Mount Pleasant, MI 48858-2321 by Feb. 20. Late registration is \$50 after Feb. 20.

For questions about the conference, call Tracey Knack, Master Gardener Coordinator, at (989) 772-0911, ext. 215.

Thumb area hosts Garden Day

BAD AXE – A full day of gardening topics is offered from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 27, at the Ubyly Heights Country Club.

The topics are: “Pond Installation and Lighting” by John and Cindy Sabowy of Elk Creek Gardens; “Irises” and “Armchair Gardening” by Advanced Master Gardener Peggy Shaver; “Culinary Herbs” by Advanced Master Gardener Gail Caird; and “Bonsai” by Larry Knabe of the Thumb Rose Society.

There’s also “Old-fashioned Roses” by Erv Ignash, Thumb Rose Society; “Small Fruits,” by Gary Briggs, Briggs Orchards; and “Water Plants” with a representative from E.G. Greenhouse Construction.

Cost is \$30 in advance; \$40 at the door, including lunch. Participants select four classes.

There are door prizes and vendors. MSUE credit is available. To register, call (989) 269-9949.

Emerald Ash Borer topic March 8

MIDLAND – An information session on the emerald ash borer is at 7 p.m. Monday, March 8, at the Midland Center for the Arts, 1801 W. St. Andrews.

Deborah G. McCullough, associate professor in the entomology and forestry departments, discusses its biology.

Kenneth J. Rauscher, director of pesticide and plant pest management for the Michigan Department of Agriculture, will talk about monitoring and regulation.

Cost is \$2. Master Gardeners receive one hour credit. To register, call at (800) 362-4874.

Welcome new members!

The following are new members of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardeners Association:

Stephanie Wentworth, Tawas City, a Master Gardener.

Bryan L. Forrest, Saginaw Township, a Master Gardener

Conservation District needs help

The Saginaw Conservation District needs volunteers for its annual tree packaging and distribution project on April 7, 8 and 10.

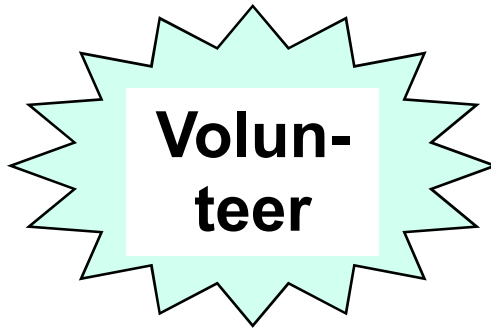
Volunteers work shifts from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day at the Saginaw County Fairgrounds in Chesaning.

For information, please call Melissa Higbee, 781-4077.

Wrap wildflowers, trees

MIDLAND – The Midland Conservation District will have its annual wildflower and fruit tree wrapping from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, April 12-14.

Conifers, shrubs and ground covers



will be packaged each day at the Pinecrest Barn, off M-20. Lunch is provided.

For scheduling details and/or directions, please call Deborah Rodgers at (989) 687-9760.

Butterfly helpers sought

MIDLAND – Mark your calendars for

Dow Gardens' Butterflies in Bloom, beginning Monday, March 1. The annual event continues daily through Sunday, April 18.

Volunteer Coordinator Elizabeth Lumbert is seeking butterfly guides, butterfly caregivers and chrysalis pinning assistants for Monday through Friday assignments.

On the weekends, volunteers are needed as hosts in the arts and crafts barn, butterfly caretakers and activity leaders.

For information, or to volunteer, contact Lumbert at (989) 631-2677 or (800) 362-4874.

Or email her at lumbert@dowgardens.org.

Odds and ends

MG mentors: please call trainees

Jan O'Dell, mentor coordinator, reminds members who volunteered to serve as mentors, to contact your assigned Master Gardener Trainee this month.

Those who have not received a recent copy of the Volunteer Opportunities list should call O'Dell at 793-4357.

Master Gardener class begins

MSU Extension offers a Master Gardener training class, beginning Tuesday, Jan. 20, at the Saginaw County office, 1 Tuscola, downtown Saginaw.

It meets for 13 weeks, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays, except for a session from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 3. Cost is \$200.

Those interested in attending may contact Angela Irwin, Master Gardener coordinator, at 758-2500, ext. 224.

An extra-special thank you

To Bob Schust, Marie Kreinbrink, Marlynn Gubbins, Anne Birkam, Lou Anne Schultz, Delores Hignite, Amy Fitkin, Bryan Forrest, Ric Romero, Sheila Hill, Dan Hill, Joyce Schultz, Nell Beebe, Jane Chard, Nancy Hales, Kathy Lewis, Mari Zimmerman-Thompson, Lavion Williams, Janet Martineau and Suzanne Smokoska, I extend a big thank you for coming early and doing another

great job in covering the roses at the Enrichment Center.

This effort allowed me to get a running start to Alma to see my grandson play in a state semi-final football game. He made me a proud grandpa by running back a kick-off 71 yards for a touchdown and then later scoring the game's winning touchdown.

His team went on to win a state championship at the Silverdome.

He later was selected as a first team All-State player in Division 7. Just as important – he makes the honor roll in school.

I could smell the "Roses." Thank you ever so much.

Ben Pawlik

McLellan leads spring tour

EAST LANSING – Mary McLellan will lead "English Spring Gardens" from Wednesday, May 19, to Saturday, March 29.

The tour, limited to 18 people, includes visits to London, the Cotswolds and the Chelsea Flower Show.

Cost is \$2,999 for double occupancy; \$3,459 for single occupancy, and includes full accommodations and breakfasts.

A \$500 deposit is due with registration; final payment by Saturday, Feb. 14.

For information, call (517) 353-3774 or e-mail mclella3@msu.edu.

Letters, e-mails help save MSUE

Quick and directed response statewide to Gov. Jennifer Granholm's proposed cut of MSU Extension programs resulted in more letters, e-mails, calls and faxes than any other topic, according to a recent article in the Detroit Free Press.

Writer Marty Hair said state representatives received thousands of contacts from constituents protesting the move.

MSU Extension will receive \$28.6 million while the Agricultural Experiment Station will get \$33.2 million in the next fiscal year.

Christmas Party a success!

The Christmas Party was attended by 65 enthusiastic Master Gardeners.

We wish to thank all who attended, as well as Bill Wegner for providing the music and the businesses and organizations that made donations to the door prizes – McDonald's Nursery, Farm Services, Batschke's, Keit's, Begick's, Gaudreau the Florist, Manion Hardware, Faber's, Phil Lisik and the National Woman's Farm and Garden Association.

We also want to thank the following members who either made personal contributions or contacted one or more

(Continued on page 6)

You know you're a Master Gardener if:

You deadhead plants wherever you go.

You not only tell people what nursery you got plants from, but give them driving directions.

You buy corn for the neighbor down the block so he'll keep feeding the deer and keep them away from your yard.

You have many rocks in your garden.

Your hands don't come clean from April to September.

You think manure is a FINE birthday present!

You understand that compost happens.

You run out of room in your yard and start gardening at the neighbor's.

You might be a normal gardener when: You buy well-composted cow manure to top dress your garden. You might be a Master Gardener when: You buy the cow.

You spent years pulling rocks out of

your yard and are hauling them back for rock gardens.

When someone says they're interested in the Master Gardener program, you know when it is offered in the surrounding five counties and can recite the Web site without looking it up.

You tell folks about a plant you gotta get because of how it looks during the winter months with a foot of snow on the ground.

MSU Master Gardener Program

Odds and ends

(Continued from page 5)

of the businesses: Nancy Cotcamp, Patricia Bourdow, Judy Henning, Brian Ott, Ruth Gardstrom, Karen Tilden, Nancy Kleekamp, Patty Decker, Jan Richards, Anne Birkam, Aileen Cowen, Joan Martin, Ruth Sny, and Joe and Kathy Leach.

The ice candles were created by Shirley Oryczcak; the large container arrangements by Tom Lienberger; the punch by Bonnie Duclos; and the centerpieces by Elaine Rappley and the Christmas Party Committee.

Virgil, "Man of Mystery" McDonagh delighted and amazed the group following a great meal.

Thanks to all who made a contribution to Hidden Harvest. We should all remember the brief message Rich Premo gave, and consider planting some vegetables with the surplus going to Hidden Harvest.

Compliments also must go to all the great cooks who made this a wonderful evening.

The Christmas Party Committee members were: Shirley Oryczcak, Joan Martin, Anne Birkam, Bonnie Duclos, Aileen Cowan, Elaine Rappley, and Joe and Kathy Leach

Our apologies to anyone we missed. Please let us know so our final report can be complete. Again, a big thank you to all made the Christmas Party a success.

Duclos provides party recipes

Bonnie Duclos has provided the punch recipes from the annual Christmas party, due to the number of requests. Enjoy!

Glacier Punch

1 23-ounce bottle sparkling water with

raspberry or blackberry flavor
1 750 ml bottle sparkling white grape juice

1 10-ounce bottle sparkling water with citrus or tropical flavorings
Mix together and serve cold.

Banana Pineapple Slush

2 cups sugar
6 cups water
1 46-ounce can pineapple juice
2 12-ounce cans frozen orange juice
1 12-ounce can frozen lemonade
5 finely mashed bananas
Lemon-lime soda

Bring sugar and water to boil and cool. Add juices and bananas. Blend together and freeze.

To serve, thaw four hours before serving. Mix with equal amounts of lemon-lime soda.

Youngsters create valentines

Midland – Visit Dow Gardens with your child and take a close look at the parts of a flower in "Valentines and Flowers" from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. or 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11.

There also will be stories and a craft session to create Valentine gifts.

Cost is \$4. To register, call (800) 523-7649 by Feb. 4.

Looking for presenters

If you've been thinking you're interested in more than gardening, why not try your hand at community presentations?

The association is preparing to revise its Speakers Bureau brochure and would like new presenters and topics. Presenters earn credit for each talk they give, including preparation time.

Typical presentations are about 45 min-

utes long. For information, contact Peggy Shaver at 695-5489.

Mark your calendar

Greater Lansing Orchid Society Show, Feb. 28-29, at MSU Plant and Soil Sciences Building. Call (517) 355-5191.

Spring Home and Garden Show, April 2-4, Novi Expo Center, Novi.

Michigan Orchid Society Show, April 4, Laurel Park Place Mall, Livonia. E-mail RosieKiley@aol.com

Master Gardener Summer Conference, June 21-23, MSU. Registrations mailed in May to active MGs.

Garden Day, Aug. 6, MSU. Details to follow.

Here's who to contact

Angela Irwin, Master Gardener Coordinator, MSUE-directed projects and any other Master Gardener questions, 758-2500 ext. 224

Aileen Cowan, member address or e-mail changes, 865-8784

Gail Caird, program director, 793-1942
Wil Hufton, MSU Extension Office orientation, 792-9323

Jan O'Dell, mentor coordinator/volunteer opportunity list, 793-4357

Bonnie Stewart, newsletter mailing committee, 793-1442

Anne Birkam, refreshment chairman, 754-7090

Debbi King, newsletter mailing label maker, 791-4001

Dorothy Bodeis, SVMGA clothing, 799-6086

Peggy Shaver, speakers bureau, 695-5489

Janet Martineau, historian, 790-7341

Please have membership application and dues ready

5bbi U dues of \$20 for the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association must be paid by Saturday, March 1.

A completed application **must** accompany the dues payment. An application is available below or at the January and February meetings.

If you are turning in the application form and payment at a meeting, please complete the form before standing in line.

Treasurer Deborah Keller will accept the membership application with a \$20 check, payable to the Saginaw Valley

Master Gardener Association. Due to limited funds, individual applications will not be mailed to applicants.

Those who can not attend the meetings may mail the membership application with their check to Keller at 1604 N. Thomas Road, Saginaw, MI 48609.

The Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association will require proof of certification or recertification from those who are certified outside of Saginaw County.

For more information, call Keller at 781-1228.

SAGINAW VALLEY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

You are eligible for membership in SVGMA if you turned in your annual 10 hours of volunteer service and 3 education hours in September 2003 for recertification.

If you did not turn in hours, please contact Master Gardener Coordinator Angela Irwin at the Saginaw County Extension office (phone: 758-2500) to become recertified.

You are also eligible to join if you have recently completed the Master Gardener course but have not yet completed your volunteer hours. If extenuating circumstances exist, a written request for an extension may be submitted to Angela Irwin, Master Gardener Coordinator.

Dues: \$20.00 per calendar year. New members paying dues after April 1 should contact the treasurer directly for the prorated amount. Each additional family member, living at the same address, will be given a \$10 reduction in their membership fee.

The following information will be used for the SVGMA Membership Roster, which is updated annually for members. **PLEASE PRINT.** If you prefer that the following information is **NOT** published in the newsletter check here _____.

Name: _____

No change in information from last year (check here _____)

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

County: _____ E-mail: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Master Gardener Status: MG Trainee _____ Certified MG _____ Advanced MG _____

Class Year _____ New Membership _____ Renewal _____

The **application form & check payable to SVMGA** may be turned in at the January or February meetings or mailed to: Deborah Keller, Treasurer, 1604 N. Thomas Rd. Saginaw, MI 48609.