

The Grapevine

Bulletin of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association

January 2005 Volume 9, Issue 1

Tree doc taps roots for new career

David Sutton was frustrated when he couldn't find anyone in the Saginaw Valley who knew about pest and disease management for trees.

So the Midland resident became a certified arborist and opened Tri-City Tree Doctor six years ago – a return to his roots – offering tree spraying and fertilizing, insect and disease control and landscape consultation.

Sutton will discuss tree identification and tree care during his presentation at the first session of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association this year.

In addition, the meeting features a garden catalog exchange. Members are invited to bring catalogs they want to share. (But please take home any of your catalogs that remain after the exchange.)

"My Dad was an arborist, although back then there wasn't the emphasis on certification, but he believed in a more scientific and environmental approach to tree care," Sutton explains.

"Today, you have a lot of people in the business who don't really do any diagnosis – just a lot of spraying, and spraying with a lot of mixtures that aren't logical, or with chemicals that shouldn't be used together."

When Sutton complained about the lack of arborists in the Tri-Cities to his brother, who took over their dad's Flint area busi-

ness, his brother told him to open a branch here.

"Although my degrees (a master's and a doctorate) are not in horticulture, I was tagging along with Dad from the time I was 7 or 8 years old, helping him while I was in high school and college until I went on to another career."

While Sutton's work is mostly seasonal, from April through mid-November, he does spend some time in the winter consulting on tree disease, especially with evergreens. It's also easier to spot problems on some deciduous trees when there are no leaves.

"Most people don't understand tree care. They turn to a company with a recognizable name and end up with a spraying program, when the trees may not really need any care," Sutton says.

"If trees do need treatment it needs to be timed and directed. I know Master Gardeners are familiar with integrated pest management and I hope I can add to that knowledge.

"A lot of what I do is educate people, along with a lot of evaluation," Sutton

Next meeting

• 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 26, at Andersen Enrichment Center, 120 Ezra Rust Drive.

• 7 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. business meeting

• 7:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. refreshments

• 8 p.m. – 9 p.m. David Sutton of Tri-City Tree Doctor in Midland discusses "**Tree Identification.**"

• One hour education credit

• **Gardening catalog swap — bring catalogs to share**

says, adding calls usually come from homeowners who perceive a problem.

"If it's purely cosmetic, we let them know it doesn't warrant treatment, but if it does require treatment, we take care of it and visit the landscape monthly to monitor the situation."

Fortunately, he says, he has not seen a lot of emerald ash borer disease to date,

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although it could just be a matter of

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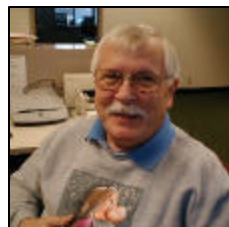
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New president outlines his goals

The new president of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association wants more of the same during his tenure.

"I want to continue the standards the organization has been held to by the previous two presidents," says Grey Gitzen, SVMGA charter member and its new leader.

"When the organization started, the MSU Extension office was on Adams in what was originally built as a doctor's office. There was really no room for of-



Grey Gitzen is the new president of SVMGA.

fices, let alone meeting space, but they let us meet in the basement."

The original 17 members not only planned to spread the word about the Master Gardener program, they wanted an avenue to provide volunteer hours and education opportunities while monitoring the activity of new Master Gardeners, he explains.

During his tenure, Gitzen wants "to maintain the caliber of speakers we've had at our past meetings," Gitzen says.

"I want to see our fall conference grow so it becomes an established practice of the organization – and one where we have maximum attendance. It would be great to

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Minutes of the November 2004 meeting

President Judy Henning welcomed members to the Andersen Enrichment Center Nov. 17, 2004.

Member Elaine Rappley moved that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as published; member Brian Ott seconded the motion.

Deb Keller read the following treasurer's report:

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Balance as of last report: | \$9,781.10 |
| Deposits 10/28 to 11/17/04 | \$1,554.00 |
| Expenses 10/28 to 11/17/04 | \$5,723.16 |
| Balance as of 11/17/04 | \$5,611.94 |

As of 11/17/04, we have 168 paid members.

The profit from the fall seminar was \$703.76.

Henning said thank you and farewell to all the members. She read a lovely thank you letter from member Elaine Rappley.

Henning requested all the outgoing board members stand and be recognized for their contributions. Besides Henning, Vice President Aileen Cowan, Treasurer Deb Keller, Program Director Gail Caird

and Secretary Ellie Robertson were applauded.

Waunita Pettiford, the mentor coordinator, requested one more volunteer to help students in the latest Master Gardener class. Shirley McNier volunteered.

A thank you was expressed to Sheila Hemstead, Karen Tilden and Pat Washburn for their efforts on the "Ask the Gardener" Project, published in The Saginaw News.

Forms were available for Education/Volunteer Hours to be submitted by December 31, 2004. Hours will be counted from October 1, 2003, through

December 31, 2004.

Master Gardener Coordinator Mary Lysogorski announced she is usually in the office all day Mondays and Wednesday mornings.

The next MG class begins Feb. 2 and runs through April 27. It will meet from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays.

Shirley McNier asked that all who ordered logo T-shirts to please pick them up.

Following refreshments, members were treated to a wonderful slide tour of English gardens visited by Advanced Master Gardener Peggy Shaver.

Submitted by Ellie Robertson, secretary

Henning provides year-end summary

At the close of December 2004 the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association (SVMGA) membership totaled 168. Our membership included Master Gardeners (MG) and Master Gardeners in Training (MGT).

The following are a few of the projects the SVMGA supported and funded:

Make-A-Difference Day, Saginaw, MI
Saginaw Township Playscape,
Saginaw, MI

Adopt-A-Garden, Saginaw Children's
Zoo, Saginaw, MI

Serving Those Who Serve Us,
Saginaw, MI

Our Presenters' Bureau is strong and continues to educate the community. The honorariums presenters receive are added to the SVMGA treasury. We hope to add several new presentations in 2005.

We partnered with the Saginaw Art Museum for the fifth year of their annual Garden Walk. Two of our members' gardens were part of the 2004 Garden Walk. Members volunteer to work at the display gardens to answer questions from garden walk visitors. This is one opportunity for members to earn volunteer hours.

Volunteer and education hours in the thousands were contributed within the community by our members.

Our monthly newsletter, "The Grapevine," is published and distributed by mail and via the State Master Gardener web page. Members help with the writing and distribution of "The Grapevine."

We have two very dedicated editors who go the extra mile to ensure the newsletter is top quality. One editor will retire at the end of this year.

Our members continue to take advantage of our catalog exchange, our seed exchange, our spring and fall plant exchanges, and our summer visits to members' gardens. They also have the opportunity to purchase our Logo Wear.

We are very proud that we held our first one-day garden seminar, "An Autumn Affair for Gardeners" in October 2004 and it was an overwhelming success. Our bulb sale at the seminar also was a success. Profits from the seminar and bulb sale were set aside to host another seminar in fall 2005.

As President of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association, I am proud to say 2004 was a productive year in every way for Association members and our community.

In January 2005 a new Board of Directors will step in.

I am confident that with this new leadership our membership will continue to grow and to do as our mission statement states, "to provide community members with up-to-date consumer horticultural information using environmentally sound practices."

Respectfully,

Judy A. Henning, President

Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association

Officers for 2005-2006

President

Grey Gitzen 792-0615

Vice President

Nancy Hales 799-2118

Secretary

Anne Birkam 754-7090

Treasurer

Jan O'Dell 793-4357

Program Director

Amy Fitkin 781-1670

Newsletter Editor

Darlene Damp 746-9113

MSU Extension

One Tuscola Street, Suite 100
Saginaw, MI 48607-1287

Master Gardener Coordinator

Mary Lysogorski 758-2500
ext. 224

Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, disability, age, religion, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status or family status.

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

Letter from the President

When I look out the window I see only things a gardener will see.

A mantle of snow is protecting and insulating the perennials and shrubs in dormancy — not a driveway full of snow that needs clearing.

The red osier dogwood hides its color in summer, but stands out in the winter garden. Not bare red sticks in the snow.

Also, all the snow is providing much needed moisture for the drought-stressed plants of last summer that are struggling to survive.

I would like to thank all of you who got your volunteer and

education hours in on time.

There are three of us who have volunteered to enter your data into the system.

As of this writing, all of the material that has been received in the MSUE office is in the state system. Special thanks to Darlene Damp and Judy Henning for a Herculean endeavor.

Please remember to bring all your spare or old seed and garden catalogs to January meeting for the



annual exchange. You may have just the catalog, with a particular seed or plant, another Master Gardener is trying to find.

Program Director Amy Fitkin has been busy putting in place a quality education program for all of you in 2005. She has relied on the interest questionnaires Gail Caird compiled last year. I'm sure you will be pleased.

I'm looking forward to the next two years as president of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association.

Thanks for your confidence.
Grey

New MG coordinator learns job, readies next class

Mary Jane Lysogorski isn't the kind of person who sits at home, wondering what to do.

From the time she left her parents' home in Sterling, nearly 40 years ago, to seek a career as a Girl Friday, she has kept on the go, working, raising a family and volunteering.



Mary Jane Lysogorski

This time she's hanging her hat at the MSU Extension office in Saginaw County, serving as the Master Gardener Coordinator and Horticulture Program Assistant.

She replaces Angela Irwin in the part-time position.

Lysogorski is in the process of signing residents up for the next Master Gardener class, beginning Feb. 2, getting the fall class squared away, attended several Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association board meetings and faced an array of problems head on.

Her duties also include overseeing state

certification of students and recertification of Master Gardeners now in progress, and coordinating local Master Gardener activities and volunteer opportunities.

Coordinators also must be active members of the statewide program.

"I'm just keeping my head above water," she joked. "Right now, I'm trying to get the office organized, familiarize myself with what goes on here and get my first class off the ground.

"So far, I think what surprises me most about the Master Gardener program is the number of volunteer hours Master Gardeners put in. Everyone's got their own niche or specialty."

Lysogorski took the MG class in 1989 at Delta College, shortly after she and husband Edward purchased a home on 100 acres in Bridgeport, half of it wooded.

"The seed for the Master Gardener class was planted after I attended a three-day program of the Michigan Herb Society — I had never been away by myself before, except to have a baby or for surgery," she says.

"Suddenly, I had acres and acres to do

whatever I wanted."

She experimented with different plants — and discovered exactly what deer like to eat.

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**Next board meeting:
5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 2,
at MSU Extension office,
1 Tuscola, downtown Saginaw**

**Newsletter deadline:
Monday, Feb. 7**
Send submissions to
Darlene Damp, editor
shrew@att.net

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

Please wear your name tags at the meeting — and introduce yourself to someone you don't know.

Attention project leaders: low-cost annuals available

If you will be working on a project this spring that requires the purchase of annual flowers, please consider ordering plants from the state Corrections Facility in Freeland, says Gail Caird.

The Advanced Master Gardener used donations from the prison for last October's Make A Difference Day.

Inmates who are accepted into the horticulture program at the prison learn greenhouse skills while raising annuals from seed each year, she says.

The program gives them marketable skills so they can turn their lives around once they are released.

Due to budget cuts in recent years, the prison has had to start charging a small fee, \$2.35 per flat, to cover the costs of materials used in the program.

"But it is still a terrific bargain, and a great way to stretch your project funds," says Caird. "The plants produced are very high quality."

An order form listing the varieties of annuals available for purchase will be sent out in late January. The order deadline is late February.

"These annuals are for projects only, not personal use," Caird explains.

If you are interested in ordering annuals for your project, please contact Caird at 793-1942 or sgcaird@hotmail.com. She will get a copy of the order sheet to you as soon as it arrives, and coordinate the orders.

SVMGA receives top Conservation award

Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association has received top honors from the Saginaw Conservation District.

The Partnership Award was presented to members of the SVMGA board at the district's annual meeting Jan. 12.

Conservation District leaders praised SVMGA's long-standing and continuing volunteer contributions to the district and its projects as the reason for the award.

Odds and Ends

Thank you Master Gardeners

Dear Gail:

"The gardens of kindness never fade."

The quote above seems to fit with our latest youth work day. The members of Saginaw County's Promise Giving Back Team want to thank you for sharing your skills and time to brighten the day of a deserving senior citizen.

Once again our project was so well received by everyone involved, students, Master Gardeners, the homeowners and the public that heard what we were doing. Whether you planted, painted, raked, washed windows or performed some other task, your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Your generous contribution of your time and gardening talents and coordinating donations of \$200 and plants through the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association was greatly appreciated. Thank you for being a part of another successful giving back project. We look forward to working with you again in the future.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at 755-0433, ext. 203; Joe Madison at 790-6417 or Terra Arnold at 755-0545. Thank you for supporting opportunities for our youth to give to their community and its members.

On behalf of Saginaw County's Promise Giving Back Team members,

Marsha L. Cooley

Volunteer Services coordinator for United Way of Saginaw County

P.S. The members of Master Gardeners are a great group to work with!

And from the recipients...

I want to thank you and your group of fine workers who work together as a team.

They did a fine job on my yard and all around my fence...

Jessie Daily of Janes Avenue

All the work by the youth and adults gave me a jump start.

I have been washing curtains, waxing floors and all kinds of housework since the group was here.

I have renewed energy and it is due to the loving spirit of the group.

Anne Taylor of South 27th Street

Henning offers thanks

A big thank you to the Christmas Potluck committee for the great job they did in organizing and carrying out the December Potluck.

Also, thank you to the members for sharing your wonderful main dishes, appetizers, desserts, and punches with us.

A heartfelt thank you to Aileen Cowan for weaving the beautiful Santa basket for me (how'd she know that I liked Santas?) and to you members for the Christmas ornament contained in the basket engraved with "Volunteers Share and Care" - "Thank you Judy, From the S.V.M.G.A., 2001-2004." I will think of each and everyone of you each year at Christmas when I hang it on our tree. Also, thank you for the very generous gift certificate to "The Birds Nest" I can't wait to spend it.

See you in the audience.

Judy

Recertification under way for Master Gardeners

State certification of Master Gardener trainees and recertification of Master and Advanced Master Gardeners is in progress.

Once complete, new certification cards will be mailed to each individual.

Master Gardeners who have been certified are not required to have MSUE hours, however, all volunteer projects must have approval of the Master Gardener Coordinator.

A list of more than 100 approved projects is available from Mary Lysogorski, MG coordinator.

Those Master Gardeners seeking Advanced Master Gardener status must complete 25 education hours and 50 volunteer hours over two years — AND 5 education hours and 15 volunteer hours each year in order to retain certification.

State certification is required to join the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association and to attend the Summer Conference.

Master Gardeners brave weather

March 1 deadline for 2005 membership dues

Annual dues of \$20 for the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association must be paid by Monday, March 1.

Each member **must** also submit a completed application form with the dues payment. The application is available below or at the January and February meetings.

Members who join by March 1 are entered in a pool to receive the Summer Conference fee (1 member) paid by SVMGA.

“As your newly appointed treasurer, I’m asking a favor,” said Jan O’Dell.

“Because I was born with a hand tremor which causes me to have slower than normal handwriting, and to shorten the wait time in the dues payment line at the January meeting, I am asking that ,if possible, you either drop off or mail your completed membership form with your annual dues.

“I will have your receipt ready at the meeting (following the receipt of your dues payment and application form).”

Make checks payable to the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association.

Due to limited funds, individual appli-

cations are not mailed to applicants.

Drop or mail checks and application forms to O’Dell at 5122 Hickory Court, Saginaw, MI 48603.

Contact O’Dell at 793-4357 or e-mail odell5122@sbcglobal.net. Please note, this is a new e-mail address.

Applications forms are used for the SVMGA annual roster and to check state certification, a process now under way. Once complete, certification cards are mailed to Master Gardeners.

Those joining from outside Saginaw County must submit proof of certification.

SAGINAW VALLEY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

You are eligible for membership in SVMGA if you turned in your annual 15 hours of volunteer service and 5 education hours in December 2004 and have received a Master Gardener recertification card.

If you did not turn in your hours by the deadline, please contact Master Gardener Coordinator Mary Jane Lysogorski at the County Extension office (phone: 758-2500, ext. 224) to become re-certified.

You **also** are 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 must be submitted to Mary Jane Lysogorski, Master Gardener Coordinator.

Dues: \$20.00 per calendar year. New members paying dues after April 1 should contact Treasurer Jan O’Dell directly for the pro-rated 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 SVMGA Membership Roster, which is updated annually for members. **PLEASE PRINT.** If you prefer that the following information is **NOT** published in the roster 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 _____

Mail **application form & check**, payable to SVMGA, to: Jan O’Dell, Treasurer, 5122 Hickory Court, Saginaw, MI 48603.

Nurturing Nature series at Green Point

Friends of the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge sponsor a monthly series of nature-related programs.

All begin at 7 p.m. at Green Point Environmental Learning Center, 3010 Maple, Saginaw and last 60 to 90 minutes. Most feature slides or PowerPoint components along with a question and answer period.

Admission is \$2, or \$5 for a family; free to members of Friends of the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge.

The schedule is as follows:

Feb. 2, "Endangered Species" — Becky Goche, a Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge park ranger, discusses endangered and threatened species from around the world and the role of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in their protection. Wildlife items confiscated by Fish and Wildlife Service personnel over the years will be on view.

March 2, "Ornamental Grasses for the Garden" — Susan Scott, Advanced Master Gardener and member of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association, discusses the basics of using ornamental grasses in the garden: how to choose, plant and care for them.

April 6, "Landscaping for Wildlife" — Janea Little, senior naturalist at Midland's Chippewa Nature Center, discusses how to make your back yard a haven for wildlife using native plants and natural features.

May 4, "Rainforest Revue" — Eugene Beckham, Midland wildlife artist, offers an overview of research and trips he has made to rainforests in Belize, Costa Rica, Peru, Bolivia and Columbia and explain why rainforests are important to the ecology of the planet.

June 1, "Wildflower Folklore" — Valerie Blaschka, a Bay City State Park interpreter, discusses superstitions connected to wildflowers and their medical "signatures" (hepatica, used to treat liver ailments, has leaf lobes shaped like the

liver). (Note: Date could change. Check with Green Point the week of the presentation.)

July 6, "Cooking in the Great Outdoors" — Tonya Thompson, outdoor recreation and event coordinator for the Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, rustles up recipes for campers, explores Dutch oven cooking, cooking over a fire vs. a stove, and tips for the outdoor enthusiast.

Registration is required for this date, by June 30. Charge is \$5 since Thompson will cook food to sample. Call 759-1669.

Sept. 7, "Just What Is a National Wildlife Refuge Anyway, and Why Is There One in Saginaw" — The director, a park ranger, a law enforcement officer and a biologist with the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge in Saginaw will show slides of the land where they work and discuss their jobs managing both critters and human visitors.

Oct. 5, "Studying and Carving Birds" — Mike Ford, of Tri-City Carvers, will present a program about the skills involved in carving birds that look real. He was the featured carver at the Saginaw Bay Waterfowl Clinic and one of five Michigan carvers/artists selected to help decorate the 2002 White House Christmas tree.

Nov. 2, "Woodland Indian Life" — Kyle Bagnall, historical programs manager at Chippewa Nature Center, explores how native people used plant and animal resources to thrive in the Saginaw Valley for thousands of years.

Participants can try tanning of deer hides, making cordage from plants and starting a fire by friction.

Saturday, June 4, "Drawing in Nature Workshop" — Join Eugene Beckham, nature artist, for a crash course in drawing images of nature. It begins at 10 a.m. with "classroom" instruction. Following lunch (bring your own), participants will spend 90 minutes drawing

during a hike outside at the center.

For ages 12 and up, and registration is required by May 31 with a class limit of 15. Bring a sketch pad and No. 2 H or HB pencils. Cost is \$2, free to Friends members. Call 759-1669 to register.

Saturday, June 25, "Monarch Magic" — Join Denny Brooks, amateur naturalist and nature photographer, on a "hunt" for butterflies and dragonflies — nets and other materials provided — at 1 p.m. Brooks will discuss, inside, the basic life cycle and habitat of the Monarch and its annual migration to central Mexico. He also will explain "citizen scientist projects" that involve the Monarch.

Following the talk, participants will catch and identify butterflies and dragonflies.

Registration due June 20 due to tour limit of 20. Cost is \$2 a person, free to Friends members. Call 759-1669.

SVMGA committees

MSU Extension Office Orientation — Wil Hufton, 792-9323

Mentor coordinator — Waunita Pettiford, 777-6918

Historian — Janet Martineau, 790-7340

Refreshments — Becky Geidans, 781-1552

Member handbooks — Angela Irwin, 777-7947

Membership roster — Nancy Cotcamp, 797-3390

Newsletter Mailing, Bonnie Stewart, 793-1442

Newsletter mailing label maker — Debbi King, 791-4001

SVMGA wearables — Shirley McNier, 799-7172

Speakers Bureau — Judy Henning, 799-4136

MSUE Demonstration Garden — Peggy Shaver, 695-5489

Volunteer opportunities — Mary Jane Lysogorski, 758-2500, ext 224

Raffle — Ruth Sny, 792-5688

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."

Classes, conferences, trips

Gardening classes meet at Michigan State University

EAST LANSING – A variety of classes meet this winter at the Plant and Soil Sciences Building, Michigan State University.

“**Special Design Series by Dr. Bob Schutzki**” is from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Feb. 1, 8 and 22, and costs \$90.

The series is an expansion of last year’s class, with in-depth coverage of design principles, along with class design handouts to further illustrate class discussions.

Topics include principles of landscape design the first week, plant materials the second week and design implementation the last week.

Getting a wisteria to bloom is a challenge for many gardeners. A hands-on “**Pruning Wisteria**” class covers simple tips to encourage the vine to produce flowers.

One session meets from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. March 27, with a second session from 10:45 a.m. to noon. Each costs \$25 and is limited to 20 participants.

“**Let’s Start Our Garden**,” from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Saturday, April 16, provides hints for starting flowers and vegetables and includes seeds for varieties.

Doug Badgero, MSU Teaching Greenhouse manager is the instructor. Cost is \$40 with a class limit of 35.

Come warmer weather, try the “**Nursery Road Trip**,” which leaves at 8 a.m. Saturday, June 18, and travels to three outstanding Michigan nurseries to find new treasures for your garden.

Bring a lunch and snacks and meet by the Visitor Center of the Plant and Soil Sciences Building. Cost is \$50.

For information, please contact Ann Hancock at (517) 355-5191, ext. 348 or go to www.hrt.msu.edu/outreach/sm6120.htm.

Orchids, ponds topic of classes at Hidden Lake Gardens

TIPTON — Jan Szyren, MSU Botany Teaching Greenhouse coordinator, takes the mystery out of orchids from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 5.

Her lecture covers this large family of plants, from basic types to growing media to temperature and fertilization require-

ments.

It costs \$16. Master Gardeners earn two hours of education credit.

Those interested in construction and maintenance of an earth pond — from 2,500 square feet to 5 acres in size — can learn more from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 19.

Nanette Winowiecki, owner of the Pond Place in Highland, will examine aeration, water treatments, weed and algae control, stocking of fish, and working with state and other government regulations.

Cost is \$18. For information or registration, call (517) 431-2060.

Horticulture therapy seminar connects people, plants

EAST LANSING — The Michigan Horticultural Therapy Association hosts its annual conference from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday, March 11, at MSU’s Plant and Soil Sciences Building.

Pam Catlin, a private horticultural therapist from Prescott, Ariz., shares her 25 years of experience.

The conference also features hands-on craft workshops, displays, education sessions, lunch and more.

Cost is \$70 with registration due March 1. Visit www.mhtachapter.org or leavey123@aol.com.

Dow Gardens classes prepare for spring planting

MIDLAND — Staff at Dow Gardens will discuss low maintenance gardens and choice bedding plants this month.

Chuck Martin and Joe LaForest discuss proper site and plant selection for multi-season interest in a low maintenance garden class from 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 19. Cost is \$15.

Douglas Chapman will demonstrate how to select and seed bedding plants to grow your own in a class from 1 to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29. Cost is \$10. Seed catalogs are on display in the Visitors Center.

In February, Martin offers a display on the newest gardening rage, rain gardens, designed to collect water utilizing native plants.

To register call (989) 631-2677.

Wildflower seminar March 6-7

EAST LANSING — C. Colston Burrell, nationally known garden designer, author and naturalist, is the keynote speaker at the annual Michigan Wildflower Conference Sunday and Monday, March 6-7, at MSU’s Kellogg Center.

His talks include “Ferns: Wild Things Make a Comeback in the Garden” and “Native Plants and Ecological Design: Myths and Realities.”

Other speakers include Craig Tufts, National Wildlife Federation chief Naturalist; Saginaw’s Frederick W. Case Jr, discussing pitcher plants; Larry Mellichamp, University of North Carolina professor, on “Understanding Bog Plants” and Ray Adams of the Kalamazoo Nature Center of “Grassland Birds.”

Visit www.wildflowersmich.org.

Tree series begins in February

MIDLAND — Dan Veresh, certified arborist at Dow Gardens, offers four Wednesday sessions in February to learn more about trees.

It includes winter tree identification from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 23; tree physiology from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. March 2; pruning from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. March 9; and winter tree inspection from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. March 16.

Cost is \$10 each or \$35 for the series. To register, call (989) 631-2677.

New Master Gardener class meets Feb. 2 in Saginaw

The spring Master Gardener class begins Wednesday, Feb. 2, at the MSU Extension office, 1 Tuscola, downtown Saginaw.

It is from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and costs \$200.

Sessions meet weekly through April 27 and cover plant science, flowers, soils, small fruit, wood ornamentals, lawn care, vegetables, tree fruit, indoor plants, and integrated pest management.

To register, call Mary Jane Lysogorski at 758-2500, ext. 224.



Help needed on field trips

Program Director Amy Fitkin is seeking help in arranging and managing field trips for members this year.

Those interested may contact her at 781-1670 or am12bgarden@aol.com.

Atrium volunteers sought

Master Gardeners or trainees seeking volunteer hours can sign up now to help repot plants in the atrium outside the MSU Extension offices, 1 Tuscola.

Contact Mary Lysogorski to volunteer, 758-2500, ext 224. These are MSUE-hours for trainees.

Bring volunteer list up to date

Help update the SVMGA volunteer listing for the new year and call each of the organizations on the list to determine if projects remain current.

Also sought is a volunteer coordinator.

Contact Mary Jane Lysogorski at 758-2500, ext. 224 or e-mail lysogors@msu.edu.

New MG coordinator...

Continues from Page 3

Today they devote four to five acres to planting corn.

"I don't think there will ever be a time when I don't have tomato plants," Lysogorski says.

"I've been gardening since I was a kid. My dad grew huge onions, but I've never been able to grow them like him."

She came to Saginaw to attend computer school in Saginaw and stay close to her high school sweetheart, who was at the GM Institute in Flint.

Once here, she discovered the course was obsolete, but an instructor helped her find a job in Wickes' IBM department where she stayed for four years.

Marriage, four children and volunteering kept her busy at home for 10 years.

Then she became the first woman to take an electrical apprenticeship with Local 5577 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. She was employed in construction for 15 years.

When she quit in 1994, due to health problems, Lysogorski enrolled in Delta College's paralegal program, but ended up with a degree in criminal justice from Saginaw Valley State University.

Her volunteer work at Underground Railroad, a shelter for battered women and

their children in Saginaw, earned her a part-time job there.

In the meantime she got involved in environmental groups and started composting.

But it was her term on the Bridgeport Township Planning Commission, that led to her political aspirations.

She served as Bridgeport Township clerk for four years.

"The timing for the coordinator position was right," says Lysogorski.

"My tenure as township clerk was over and I wanted a place to go. I like being out, talking to people and helping people, plus I can do some of the job from home.

"My life has been good," she says.

The Lysogorskis are both pilots and spend their free time flying their own plane to visit their children and eight grandchildren.

"Last spring we flew out to Oregon and it was such a fun time. We saw so much – it's not like flying in an airliner, where you're up so high."

Master Gardeners may reach Lysogorski all day Mondays and Wednesday mornings at the MSU Extension office, 758-2500, ext. 224.

Story by Darlene B. Damp, editor

Pests can be most devastating to trees, says Midland arborist

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although it could just be a matter of time before it hits this area full force. There have been outbreaks in Coleman and in Shields so it's probably inevitable," Sutton says. "And with the number of ash trees in Michigan it could be a real loss, but treatments are available – trunk injections or a two to three-time spraying program during the summer."

A lot of his work, he explains, deals with fungal disease in evergreens.

"Pests can be the most devastating, and not just emerald ash borer, but bronze birch borer, which is destroying a lot of birch trees. You can treat the stem or the roots and catch the next generation of this pest and rescue a lot of birches this way.

Mites and scale can cause cosmetic problems, like galls.

"I charge a fee (\$85 and up) for a house call because I think a 'free' estimate is a conflict of interest. I don't want to sell an unnecessary service to cover my time, but I can't give my time away either," Sutton says.

The house call covers not only the tree in question, but a look at the homeowner's landscape, including a written report with Sutton's recommendations.

"I also help with tree selection and site planning. Trees cost a lot of money and if they're dying due to location, you want to make sure any replacement will be more appropriate to the site.

"I think the most common problem I see is putting a tree in shade, when the tree is not shade tolerant – and putting an

acid-loving tree in clay soil."

His work also involves consulting with property owners preparing to build who want to retain trees on their lots.

"I don't have a lot of builders coming to me because they wouldn't like our recommendations or put up with the hassle of trying to save the trees during construction – and that's why a lot of mature trees die a couple years after these new home are built."

Sutton plans to bring a Power Point program to illustrate his talk.

"What I really want to talk about is what Master Gardeners want to hear so if they have specific questions, I'd like their input. I plan on a liberal question and answer session to cover that. "

Story by Darlene B. Damp, editor

More odds and ends...

Despite threatening skies, a huge group of Master Gardeners braved the elements to cover the rose beds at the Andersen Enrichment Center at the end of the season.

A big thank you to Nancy Hales, Ric Romero, Floyd Callison, Kathy Leach, Jan Richards, June Weiler, Char Wiesenuer, Susanne Smokoska, Nell Beebe, Carolyn Buchmeir, Amy Fitkin, Jane Chard, Joyce Schultz, Amy Cataline, Bob Schust, Arlene Purvis, Dave Quinnan, Dennis Arvanitis, Mari Zimmerman-Thompson, Lou Anne Schultz, Ann Birkam, Debbie Keyes, and Gus Schulwitz.

Thank you very much,
Ben Pawlik

Hidden Harvest expresses thanks

Thank you for supporting Hidden Harvest with your generous gift of \$267, received 12/2/2004.

Hidden Harvest would not exist if it were not for organizations and people like you who care about those who are less fortunate.

Your gift will help with food handling supplies and transportation expenses as we continue the work of Hidden Harvest.

Since our beginning in June 1994, Hidden Harvest has rescued more than 5.4 million pounds of nutritious food that would have otherwise gone to waste.

This food is delivered free to more than 140 charitable organizations throughout the Bay, Midland and Saginaw region, helping those in need.

Needless to say, the agencies receiving the bounty are delighted, and so are we.

Again, thanks for your kind support over the years.

It is greatly appreciated.
Richard J. Premo,
President and CEO

Genesee County offers landscape design workshops

FLINT — The Genesee MSUE Master Gardener Volunteer Program is sponsoring two workshops on Landscape Design with instructor Lynn Wiese.

The day-long 'immersion courses' include:

Introduction to Garden Design from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 22, at the Genesee MSUE office. The inclement weather make-up date is Saturday, Jan. 29.

The second course, **Advanced Design Workshop**, requires completion of the first course. It meets from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 26, at the Genesee MSUE Office. The inclement weather make-up date is Saturday, March 12.

Cost for each workshop is \$75, and includes lunch.

If you sign up for both workshops at the same time, the cost is \$140.

Registration flyers are posted online at: www.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/Programs/2005/2005-01-genesee-intro-to-design-01-22-2005.pdf for the Intro to Gardening Design brochure, and: www.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/Programs/2005/2005-02-genesee-advanced-design-workshop-02-26-2005.pdf for the Advanced Design brochure.

Contact Janet at the Genesee MSUE Office at (810) 244-8547.

St. Clair Master Gardeners has winter lecture series

PORT HURON — The Michigan Master Gardener Association of St. Clair County has two classes remaining in its winter lecture series at the Municipal Office Center Auditorium, 100 McMorran Blvd.

Steven Nikkila, co-owner of the landscape and garden design firm Perennial Favorites, discusses **"Woody Plants"** Tuesday, March 8. Nikkila is certified in landscape technology from Oakland Community College and is a noted horticultural photographer.

Tuesday, April 12, **"Perennial Ground Covers"** is the topic of Pam Palechek, who owns and operates "Petal Pushers."

She has been designing and maintaining commercial and residential gardens and landscapes for over 20 years, specializing in perennial gardens.

Cost is \$12.50 for each. For information, call: (810) 385-3289.

Welcome new member!

David T. Quinnan, Saginaw, MG

Gitzen's goals ...

Continues from Page 1

be able to say 'no,' especially to our members who waited until the last minute to sign up," he joked.

"I would like the conference to have quality vendors. We sold bulbs at our first conference with no intention of making a profit, but we did."

Gitzen also hopes the conference will feature more nationally known speakers.

"People in Saginaw don't realize that's what we had in Fred Case (the keynote speaker at last October's conference). He's recognized nationally elsewhere."

And Gitzen wants to ensure current projects remain strong.

"But I don't want the organization to overgrow," he adds. "I don't want just numbers. I want quality."

"For me, the best part of the meeting is during the refreshments, when members are talking to each other about gardening."

Cooperative efforts with other gardening groups is a possibility too.

"Yes, it could provide more numbers, but better yet it could provide more power in ideas. Maybe that would lead us to larger projects."

And somewhere, along the way, Gitzen says, he would like SVMGA to help save the Monarch butterfly.

"The Monarch butterfly is quickly disappearing from our planet because their habitat is being destroyed," Gitzen explains.

"Judy Ross, a member and a butterfly enthusiast, pointed that out to me this past year."

"We've got to find some place where we can scatter milkweed seeds and provide them with a home. That is our obligation to future generations – to maintain the environment."

"Through Master Gardeners we have the ability to enhance the environment and the lifestyle of the people who live in our community."

"And that's exactly what we are doing, through projects like the Lions Club Park downtown, the Saginaw Township Play-scape and the Saginaw Children's Zoo."

Story by Darlene B. Damp, editor

Upcoming 2005 programs

- 1/26 — “Tree Identification,” David Sutton,
certified arborist**
- 2/23 — “Composting” Bill Wegner, AMG,
and seed exchange**
- 3/23 — “New Perennials,” Paul and Mark Begick,
Begick Nursery**
- 4/27 — “Creative Containers,” Kristin Boehler,
Boehler’s Greenhouse**
- 5/25 — Plant exchange and tour of
Amy Fitkin’s garden**
- 6/22 — Tour of Crystal Kauer’s garden**
- 7/27 — Tour of Sara Clark’s garden**
- 8/24 — Tour of Carmen Lerash’s garden**
- 9/28 — To be determined**
- 10/26 — To be determined**
- 11/16 — To be determined**
- 12/7 — Annual Christmas Potluck (tentative date)**