

Color, size come into play for spring plants

What's new for spring?

Count on plenty of new varieties of annuals and perennials in as many colors and sizes.

That's the topic of the first meeting of 2007, when the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association gathers at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 24 at Andersen Enrichment Center.

Speaker Matt Bouvy from Abele Greenhouse and Garden Centers, 3500 Wadsworth, will share what he sees coming.

While local gardeners have been enjoying the weather and a break from hard work, Abele staff have attended the largest trade show this side of the Mississippi River, poured over catalogs, heard from sales representatives and will have more discussions before making their final choices for spring.

Bouvy, general manager and a certified public accountant, says selection isn't as easy as you imagine.



Matt Bouvy, general manager of Abele Greenhouse and Garden Centers

"At the trade show in Columbus, a lot of the plants are geared to zones 6-9 and some of the annuals don't perform well until June or July," he explains.

"We have to think of how the plants are going to look in spring and whether they will attract a buyer's eye.

"We also want to make sure the plants are going to perform because if they don't, it's a reflection on us." Some years, the choices are tough because there are so many new varieties.

"All of the seed companies, plus companies like Proven Winners — they all have their own things they're pushing," Bouvy said.

"We have to pick and choose and make as certain as we can that those claims are accurate."

Another factor that comes into play, he says, is what the plants will look like in spring.

"Angelonia, which is really a snap dragon that was developed for container growing, didn't take off the first two or three years we had it because it really doesn't come into full bloom until June, early July," Bouvy says.

"If you hadn't done the research, you

Next meeting

- 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 24, at Andersen Enrichment Center, 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., speaker Matt Bouvy of Abele Greenhouse and Garden Centers, discusses "What's New for 2007."
- **NO GUESTS!!!**
- **Please wear your badge.**

wouldn't be familiar with it," Bouvy says.

And with its unassuming appearance in spring, it sat, like an old maid at the dance.

"The same is true for Dragon Wing begonias. They're not much in a 4-inch pot in spring, but in summer they flower beautifully."

Bouvy says they also keep tabs on what Eugene Kociba at Frankenmuth Mutual Insurance is using.

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'Dynamo duo' opens spring conference

EAST LANSING — A "dynamic duo" opens the new Master Gardener Volunteer Spring Conference, set for Friday and Saturday, March 16-17.

The Learn to Grow Green event replaces the annual summer conference and promises a "new schedule, new educational garden topics and speakers and a lower cost."

In addition, the conference is timed to take advantage of the Lansing Home and Garden Show at the MSU Pavilion March 15-18.

Master Gardeners earn eight education hours by attending the full-day conference

at the Eli Broad Business College Complex on the MSU campus.

The keynote presenters are Susan Martin, marketing director for Walter's Gardens Inc., one of the largest perennial wholesalers in the country, and Danielle Smith, horticulturist and new product development and marketing expert for Spring Meadows Nursery.

Martin will focus on new perennials debuting this spring, plus give a preview of what will be new in 2008, while Smith offers the latest and greatest in flowering shrubs.

(Continues on Page 2)

Producers help plant seed...

(Continues from Page 1)

"With his contacts, he's able to get seeds and plants a year before everyone else," Bouvy says.

"When he used millet, it became very popular. Another year, he used big elephant ear plants and people came in asking for them.

"Two years ago, Kociba started using Angel's Trumpet and we got a lot of requests for that."

Color also plays a role in the selection process, he says.

"Not a lot of people are interested in white or light colors. They want to have more color and make a statement."

And, he adds, it helps if the companies producing the seeds, the annuals, or the perennials are making a big market push in catalogs and magazines.

That way consumers come looking for a specific product.

In 2006, Abele Greenhouse partnered with Rohloff Nursery at 5418 Hess to expand its offerings.

"We hope to grow the business this way," says Bouvy.

"A lot of younger people want to plant shrubs because they require less maintenance.

"That's why we thought we would expand the business to include woody ornamentals. They last longer and make a statement right away."

Abele Greenhouse and Garden Centers is owned by Bouvy's in-laws, Dave, Jerry and Chris VanOoteghem.

His wife, Jennifer, a certified public accountant, also works there.

Welcome new members!

Four new people have joined SVMGA.

They are **Gail Bender**, MG, of 4688 Crutchfield, Saginaw 48638;

Mary Weaver, MG, 911 W. Genesee, Saginaw, 48602;

Stephanie Wentworth, AMG, 1929 Douglas, Tawas City, 48763; and

Kathe Kirchner, AMG, 1657 Douglas, Tawas City 48763.

In addition, SVMGA vice president Karen Tilden has a new email address: katil7@charter.net, as does SVMGA secretary Melva Bond, bigcliff1@msn.com.

Market, home show also part of the fun...

(Continues from Page 1)

Spring Meadows Nursery introduces all Proven Winners Color Choice shrubs.

The event begins March 16 with an optional opening reception and bedtime story from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. It features food and a gardener's bedtime story, read by award-winning author and Advanced Master Gardener Sarah Stewart.

Check-in for the conference is from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. March 17, followed by a welcome by Mary McLellan, state Master Gardener Program coordinator.

Master Gardeners may choose from eight offerings from 10:30 a.m. to noon; nine classes from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. and eight others from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Topics include hardy roses for Michigan; designing for small spaces; iris cultivation; youth gardens; spring bed preparation; turf; pruning; coloring with annuals; herbs; ponds and water gardens; woody plants; incorporating native plants; managing pests; designing and building garden paths; container gardening; and invasive plants.

Early registration, by Jan. 17, is \$75 for Master Gardeners and \$90 for non-Master Gardeners; after Jan. 17, \$95 for Master Gardeners and \$100 for their guests.

The fee includes continental breakfast,

box lunch, surprise gift, education sessions, Green Marketplace trade show, MG Shopping Mall and door prizes.

The welcome reception March 16 is an additional \$20 per person.

The Green Marketplace will have wearable sculptures from Etc Designs; hand-crafted planters and fountains from Farmbrook Designs; herbal soaps and potions from French Garden Creations; and garden stepping stones from Genesee Master Gardener Volunteers.

There also will be roses and rose care products from Great Lakes Roses; nature porcelain and stoneware from MCG Graphics; gourd birdhouses, feeders and more from Mount Joy Crafts; hand-painted wearable art from Nature's Artwear; hybrid daylilies from Stone Cottage Gardens and handmade iron décor from Taylored Iron Works.

Registration forms are available on-line at the state Master Gardener web site, <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/> There also is information on nearby accommodations for those who want an overnight stay in East Lansing.

All active Master Gardener Volunteers, 2006 Master Gardener Trainees and their friends may attend.

Story by Darlene B. Damp, editor

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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."

Letter from the president, Susan Scott

Hello and welcome to the year 2007!!! My year started with a “BANG” literally. I live just south of the railroad tracks on Center Road, where on New Year’s Day morning, we had a train derailment for a little excitement.

I was able to watch the railroad workers put at least one car back on the tracks and have a great appreciation for how efficiently they managed it. It is a pleasure to watch those who excel at what they do.

I tend to think of you Master Gardeners this way. You take the time to share your expertise with others, both on an individual level, and some, by presenting classes. As you learn new things, you share them within our community of gardeners and the community at large.

In this way you perform the mandate of the Master Gardener Program. Kuddos to you all!!!

After the above-mentioned excitement, I

also noticed I have Alliums up an inch or so, as well as some perennials growing. Others have told me the forsythia is in bloom.

With this unseasonable weather, spring will be an interesting time in 2007. I have been told the early bulbs will not bloom if they get hit with a freeze, but later blooming bulbs will just stop growing and wait out spring. I am going to act as if this is true and not worry about them.

So, while I await the snow that is sure to come, I have been pruning inside my house. It is time to look at books, notes and other information on gardening and organize what I wish to keep and discard anything else.

The goal is to have this done both for my work and my gardening interests. Wish me luck!

I hope you have achievable goals and

wish you well in your endeavors!

Here is a reminder to those who have not updated their MG education and volunteer hours. The deadline is Jan. 31. Please don’t make me write you a letter!

Also, January is the time to renew your SVMGA membership and pay your dues. This is hard to do without a record of your hours to check your certification!

I look forward to seeing you at the meetings. Feel free to talk to me in person, by e-mail or phone if you have any concerns.

If you e-mail me, please put SVMGA in the subject area as if I do not recognize your e-mail address, you will end up as spam and deleted.

Tootles!

Susan



Susan Scott

Meet the Master Gardener — Ricardo Romero

From making salsa to creating music, this Master Gardener is anything but bored in his retirement.

Born and raised in Saginaw, he attended Arthur Hill Trade School until 12th grade when he transferred to Arthur Hill High School. That year was cut short when he enlisted in the Marines between the Korean and Vietnam wars. While in the service he received his GED.

Ricardo Romero served three years before returning to live in Detroit and working as an apprentice barber. But the money wasn’t that good, he says, and the auto plants were hiring back in Saginaw.

His second day at Saginaw Metal Castings, he almost quit! It was so hard and dirty, but he made himself “grin and bear it.” With time, he moved from job to job, each one cleaner than the last.

He worked for 35½ years with 42 ½ years credit. In the meantime, Ricardo obtained an associate degree from Delta College to “broaden his horizons” and make his job more secure.

He was a pipe fitter until the foundry consolidated the trades and he became a millwright welder.

Ricardo and wife, Irene, had four children, who have given them 16 grandchildren — and their first great-grandchild.

He speaks proudly of his kids: three are nearby, but his eldest is in Yemen where he is employed by the U. S Department of Defense as a translator interrogator.

His son has another 1½ years there so Ricardo and Irene care for their son’s home in Macomb County and the 9½- year-old cat! Under his encouragement, Ricardo’s daughter-in-law took the Master Gardener class in Macomb and in Yemen has a huge home (8 rooms) and garden full of roses. When asked if they plan to visit Yemen, Ricardo says: “I’m intrigued, but Irene says, not a chance!”

Since retiring in 2000, they have traveled to Alaska, Arizona and Mexico a couple of times. They also visited Europe twice when Ricardo was a singer in the Bay Choral Society.

Ricardo continues to sing at church

funerals at St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church.

His interest in gardening started mostly as a teen-ager when he used to help his mother in her flower garden.

He took the Master Gardener class in 2000 and since then achieved advanced status through his work at Andersen Rose Garden, Saginaw Art Museum and his church, St. Peter and Paul.

Says Ricardo about his own garden, “I have a dilemma.”

It seems Irene wants the pool for the grandchildren and she wants it close to the house.

When the pool finally fell apart he thought he would get the whole yard back, but he did get a smaller pool.

He tends a vegetable garden for his salsa-making and sections his garden like rooms with perennials in one area, grasses in another and shade plants in yet another.

By the way, Ricardo continues to cut hair. He trims Irene’s and the grandsons, but doesn’t touch the girls’ hair.

His advice to other gardeners: “Spend more time planning before actually doing. Plan ahead.”



Ricardo Romero

Story by Joan Martin

Odds and ends....

Master Gardener hours due Wednesday, Jan. 31

Master Gardeners must submit education and volunteer hours for 2006 recertification no later than Jan. 31, 2007.

If you do not have your password and log-on to enter your education and volunteer hours on-line, contact Grey Gitzen, for last names with letters A to G, at 792-0615 or jgreygzn@aol.com; Darlene Damp for letters H to M, at 746-9113 or shrew@att.net; or Judy Henning, for letters N to Z, at 799-4136 or judrich@sbcglobal.net.

Rose care at the 'Garden'

To clear up any misunderstanding about rose care at the Andersen Enrichment Center, Ben Pawlik details the local protocol.

Epsom salt is applied to roses to supply magnesium for promoting healthy color. Source: June 2003 issue of *Michigan Gardener* of Tony Lienert's To Do List.

Miracle-Gro fertilizer is an excellent choice for quick and inexpensive treatment; regular repeat treatments are necessary. Useful where a large number of roses have to be fed and economy is a factor. Source: "*The New Rose Expert*," authored by Dr. D. G. Hessayon.



The Andersen Enrichment Center is on a very limited budget.

The rose beds are covered a little early, but this is done as a date must be selected several months ahead to avoid other activities and to obtain the help of the much-appreciated volunteers. Then the holidays are around the corner and cold weather approaches. Weather is very unpredictable.

The long stems are cut back in November to avoid wind-rock in the winter.

There can't be much strength left in the ends of the stems if the leaves are drying up.

An article I recently read states it is no longer necessary to deadhead back to a five-leaf cluster as long as the stem is strong enough to support the next new growth. I use this method with discretion.

There are a handful of options from which to choose, in use of fertilizers and fungicides as they apply to certain circumstances.

Thank you ever so "mulch" for your past assistance.

Ben Pawlik

Thank you for party donations

Thanks go to the following people and organizations for donating prizes for our annual Christmas potluck.

There were so many donations, everyone attending the party received a gift. Any donations remaining will be prizes for upcoming drawings at our meetings.

Thanks again to Citizens Bank, Saginaw Knitting Mills, Home Depot in Shields, Brian Ott, Lynn Hauk, Aaron's Flowers in Freeland, Candy Bouquet in Freeland, Hensler's Country Market, Sharon Remer, Meijer's on Gratiot, Lawn Doctor, Abele's Greenhouse, Bronner's, and Nanny's Nook.

Also Marie Kreinbrink, Jan O'Dell, Burt Watson Chevrolet, Pat's Food Center in Freeland, Gail Caird, Ruth Sny's R&R Sny Enterprise and Faux Fantasy Wall Art, Wil Hufton, Karen Tilden, Gloria Schuler, Joan Martin, Joe Leach and Susan Lawcock.

Also Nancy Wilson, Melva Bond, Sherry Burkhart, Grey Gitzen, Richard Henning, Judy Henning, The Avenue Hair Studio and Spa, Zehnder's of Frankenthum, Kasper's Watch, Clock and Jewelry Shop, Sears, Tom Leinberger, Boehler's Greenhouse, Wurtzel's Greenhouse, Saginaw County Conservation District, and Gentleman Gardener.

Ruth Sny, Christmas potluck chairman

New MG class starts Feb. 8

The next Master Gardener class begins Thursday, Feb. 8, at the MSU Extension office, 1 Tuscola.

Sessions are from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. each Thursday through April 26. Topics range from soil types to houseplants to vegetable gardening, all presented by experts.

Cost is \$225. To become certified, students must perform 40 hours of volunteer service as outlined under the program. Call 758-2504.

More receive certification

Yvonne N. Becker, James R. Meyer, Rosemary Tinney and Kathleen Wyatt have earned Advanced Master Gardener status.

New Master Gardeners are: Anne B. Draper, Teresa K. Harrison, Kenneth H. Maurer and Noreen A. Muellerweiss.

Other Master Gardeners who have recertified include: Theresa Bailey, Yvonne Becker, Patricia Blakeley, Patricia Burnside, Marcia Casteneda, Pat Chelsky, Pat Collier, Aileen Cowan, Bonnie Duclos, Grace Dunkle, Felix Finian and Sue Fortune.

Also Joy Gajewski, Rebecca Geidans, Robert Gubbins, Nancy Hales, Lynn Hauk, Sheila Hempsted, Judy Henning, Joyce Hetzler, Joan Hirschenberger, Charlotte Huebner, Marilyn Karpicke, Crystal Kauer, Deb Keller, Pat Korkus, Kathleen Leach, Kathy Lewis, Mary Jane Lysogorski, Catherine MacArthur, James Meyer, Marge Papenfuss, Ben Pawlik, Liz Proulx, Ricardo Romero, Regina Romo and Cora Schaeff.

Also Joyce Schultz, Bob Schust, Peggy Shaver, Colleen Sproul, Sue Stemler, Janet Tanner, Richard Tanner, Rosemary Tinney, Pat Washburn, Janice Wazny, Judy Wegner, Bill Wegner, Nancy Whalen, Shelley Whitehead and Kathleen Wyatt.

Andersen says 'thank you'

I wish to acknowledge and thank those who generously donated their time to the Andersen Enrichment Center during the closing of the rose beds Nov. 18, 2006.

Lynn Niederstadt, Lynn Hauk, Mari Zimmerman-Thompson, Chris Thompson, Pat Bourdow, Kevin Hauk Jr., Rosemary Tinney, Annie Tinney, Stella Thelen, Jane Chard, Theresa Bailey, Sue Vollbrecht, Joyce Schultz, Marcia Casteneda, Dave Quinnan, Gus Schulwitz, Ricardo Romero, Anne Birkam, Carolyn Birchmeier, Nancy Hales, Felix Finian, Helen Weitzmann, Robert Schust, Louanne Schust and Ben Pawlik.

Your efforts benefit our community. Thank you again for your continued support.

Kathleen Scott, business manager



Educational opportunities fill winter months

Dow Gardens offers series

MIDLAND — Dow Gardens is offering a Wednesday gardening series from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. with instructors Chuck Martin and Dan Veresh.

You may attend any one or all five of the classes. Cost is \$10 each or \$40 for the series.

The classes include: "Trees for Small Areas" Jan. 17 with Veresh; "Divine Use of Vines" Jan. 24 with Martin; "Trees for Large Areas" Jan. 31 with Veresh; and "Perennials" Feb. 7 with Martin and "Four Seasons of Shrubs" Feb. 14 with Martin.

Master Gardeners earn 1.5 education hours per class. To register, call (989) 631-2677.

Martin is a Dow Gardens horticulturist with 20 years of experience in private and public gardens. He also writes a weekly garden column for The Midland Daily News and has worked at Dow Gardens since 1984. His interest and expertise is in plant culture, maintenance, plant identification, native plants, and roses.

Martin has a master of science degree in horticulture and a master's in business administration.

Veresh has been in the arboriculture and horticulture field for over 30 years. He has a bachelor of science in forest management and a master's in urban forestry from Michigan State University.

Veresh is a certified arborist with the International Society of Arboriculture.

Whiting Forest has classes

MIDLAND — Whiting Forest offers classes this winter.

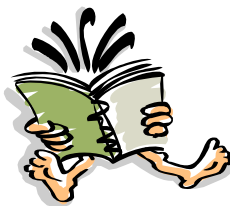
Sessions earn Master Gardener education credit and costs vary.

Discover the fascinating world of beekeeping and the delicious things you can do with the honey from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 27. Cost is \$5.

Or get an update on the emerald ash borer situation threatening ash trees across Michigan in a class from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24. Cost is \$5.

From 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 29, the focus is on native plants.

Learn how to propagate herbaceous and woody natives from seed in this free class. Call (989) 631-2677.



Know and Grow seminar...

MIDLAND — It's not too late to sign up for a one-day conference Saturday, March 3, sponsored by Dow Gardens from 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. at the Midland Center for the Arts Theater, Eastman and West St. Andrews.

Dr. Allan Armitage, University of Georgia — Athens horticulture professor, discusses "If Native Plants are the Next Great Garden Passion, Shouldn't We Be Buying the Good Stuff?"

Dr. William Mathis of the Wild Orchid Co. in Doylestown, Pa., examines "Hardy Terrestrial Orchids: The Best Kept Secret in the Gardening World."

Douglas Chapman, Dow Gardens horticulturist and director, details "Propagating Your Landscape," while Tom Kimmel of Twixwood Nursery in Berrien Springs, outlines his specialty, "Hardy Groundcovers for the Midwest."

Master Gardeners earn five education hours for the seminar. Registration by Feb. 1 is \$50, including lunch, and \$60 after Feb. 1. Call (989) 631-2677 or visit www.dowgardens.org.

Spring into Gardening...

MOUNT PLEASANT — Master Gardeners in Isabella County again sponsor their annual Spring into Gardening Conference Saturday, April 21, at the Comfort Inn.

Featured speakers are Tony Avent of Plant Delights Nursery; Scott Kunst of Old House Gardens; and Coleen French of French Garden Creations.

Some 15 to 20 vendors will have garden-related goods for sale.

Cost is \$50, including lunch. To be put on the mailing list, call Tracey Knack at (989) 772-0911 or e-mail knack@msue.edu.

More information, including registration, will be available later this month.

(Continues on Page 6)

New volunteer opportunities

Bridgeport beautification....

Tuscola County Master Gardener Laura Boyke seeks Master Gardeners to assist with 22 flower beds in Bridgeport Township and provide education at a local greenhouse.

The flower beds, part of the Bridgeport Beautification Committee effort, are located on Dixie Highway and planted with annuals and perennials that must be maintained through the season.

Contact Boyke at 751-7978 during the daytime; 673-5686, evenings or e-mail laubil@centurytel.net.

Dow Gardens, Whiting Forest...

MIDLAND — Be a guide for Dow Gardens and Whiting Forest.

The first orientation session for this new program is Thursday, Feb. 15. Do-cents learn about the gardens and staff, then share their knowledge with tour groups throughout the year.

Contact Elizabeth Lumbert, assistant director of education at (989) 631-2677 ext. 310, or fax (989) 631-0675.

Mentor with horticulturist...

If you can make a weekly commitment

(Continues on Page 6)

Next board meeting:
**5:30 p.m. Wednesday,
Feb. 7, at MSU Extension,
1 Tuscola**

Newsletter deadline:
Monday, Feb. 12
Send submissions to
**Darlene Damp, editor,
shrew@att.net**

View the newsletter at:
**[web1.msue.msu.edu/
mastergardener/saginaw/](http://web1.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/saginaw/)**

Minutes of the November 15, 2006 meeting

Grey Gitzen welcomed 73 members to the Andersen Enrichment Center.

Nancy Lindley from Great Lakes Roses gave an informative presentation about roses for Michigan.

After the presentation Mary Andrews asked members to return the forms she passed out that evening for ideas for future presentations, presenters and field trips.

She also asked for volunteers to host the summer meetings for the next two years.

Judy Henning moved that the October 2006 minutes be approved as published; Waunita Pettiford seconded the motion.

Jan O'Dell read the following treasurer's report:

Balance of last report	\$11,881.32
Deposits 10/26 to 11/14/06	\$2,105.88
Expenses 10/26 to 11/14/06	\$6,739.08
Balance as of 11/14/06	\$7,248.12
Funds for the fall seminar	\$4,181.71

As of 11/15/06 we have 169 paid members.

Bob Gubbins moved the treasurer's report be accepted; Pat Yockey seconded the motion.

Bill Wegner nominated Crystal Kauer to be secretary of the association for 2007-2008. Judy Henning moved that

she be accepted. Jan O'Dell seconded the motion.

Crystal Kauer takes the place of Sherry Burkhart who was unable to fill the position.

Shirley McNier had order forms for logo wear. Anyone wishing to order logo wear should give McNier an order form or mail it to her by the weekend.

She will be ordering jackets, maroon jerseys for men, light blue jerseys for women, two-tone caps and visors.

Bob Schust reminded members who signed up to help winterize the rose garden at the Andersen Center that the date is Saturday, Nov. 18.

Joan Martin had tickets available for the Symphony Holiday House Walk on Dec. 7.

Mary Zimmerman Thompson announced Holly Mart at the Andersen Center is Dec. 7. Lunch is available for \$4.

Grey Gitzen needs volunteers to help with the plants in the atrium at the MSU Extension office. The plants are infested with mealy bugs and need to be isolated and sprayed before it is too late.

Judy Henning asked members to contact either her or Aileen Cowan with suggestions for speakers for next year's fall conference.

Ruth Sny asked members who signed up for the Christmas potluck to let her know if they would be unable to attend as she has a waiting list.

Thanks go to Ruth Sny for donating a calendar, Rosemary Tinney for the ceramic fruit set and an anonymous donor for the picture frame.

Congratulations to Darlene Damp for winning the calendar, Mary Weaver, the ceramic fruit set; and Wil Hufton, the picture frame.

Submitted by Anne Birkam secretary

Volunteer now...

(Continues from Page 5)

this summer, you can work side by side with a horticulturist this summer in Dow Gardens' Herb Garden, Rose Garden, or Homestead Kitchen Garden.

Contact Elizabeth Lumbert, assistant director of education at (989) 631-2677 ext. 310 or fax (989) 631-0675 for an application.

Applications are due Saturday, March 10. Late applications are not accepted.

St. Charles greenhouse...

Laura Keevan is looking for Master Gardeners to help establish a greenhouse at St. Charles High School.

A variety of projects are available. Contact her at (989) 865-6154.

Butterfly volunteers...

MIDLAND — The Butterfly Festival, set for March 12 to April 22, is approaching quickly.

Please consider volunteering at Dow Gardens.

Opportunities include chrysalid pinning, tour guide, caring for the butterflies, and working in the Butterfly barn.

Weekday as well as weekend opportunities are available. Contact Elizabeth Lumbert, assistant director of education at (989) 631-2677 ext. 310 or fax (989) 631-0675.

Seminars provide education credits...

(Continues from Page 5)

Wetland conservation...

Michelle Vander Haar, a private lands biologist for Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, discusses how landowners can restore wetlands and grasslands on their property.

Her talk is at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7, at Green Point Environmental Learning Center, 3010 Maple, Saginaw.

Cost is \$2 at the door.

Ogemaw perennial seminar...

WEST BRANCH — Ogemaw County Master Gardeners and MSU Extension host a perennial garden seminar from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 24, at the Forward Conference Center, off I-75.

Nancy Szerlag, Master Gardener, au-

thor and Detroit freelance writer, is the keynote speaker. Her topic is "Plant Selection and Design for Perennial Gardens."

Also speaking are Chuck Martin, Dow Gardens horticulturist, on "Maintaining Your Garden for Maximum Performance"; Debra Green Abraham, Searfoss Development environmental director, on "Environmental Rain Gardens," and Mary McLellan, state Master Gardener Coordinator, on "Architectural Elements for Your Garden."

Cost is \$40 by April 1, including a hot buffet lunch, vendors and educational displays; or \$50 after April 1.

Master Gardeners earn 4.5 education hours.

For a brochure contact Roy Elie at (989) 345-0692 or e-mail elier@msu.edu.

March 1 deadline for 2007 membership fee

Dues of \$20 for 2007 membership in the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association must be paid by Thursday, March 1.

Each dues payment must be accompanied by a completed membership application form.

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 spring conference fee (1 member) paid by SVMGA.

Treasurer Crystal Kauer asks members who plan to turn in dues at the meetings

to have their checks and membership applications filled out ahead of time to ease her job in dealing with so many people.

Make checks payable to SVMGA. Due to limited funds, individual applications are not be mailed to applicants.

Those unable to attend the January or February meetings, may mail their check and application form to Crystal Kauer at 5775 Mackinaw Road, Saginaw, MI 48604.

For information, call Kauer at 792-6874 or e-mail cmkauer@chartermi.net.

Applications are used to develop the

annual roster and to check certification status.

It also is used as the mailing list so all members receive the monthly newsletter.

The local recertification process is under way, but not complete.

Hours must be recorded on-line or submitted in writing no later than Jan. 31, 2007. Education and volunteers hours for 2007 recertification must have been completed by Dec. 31, 2006.

Those joining from outside Saginaw County are required to have proof of certification or recertification.

SAGINAW VALLEY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

You are eligible for membership in SVMGA if you completed 15 hours of volunteer service and five education hours in 2006 and recorded them on-line or turned them in to the Master Gardener Coordinator by Jan. 31, 2007.

If you did not turn in your hours by the deadline, please contact Master Gardener Coordinator Nancy Burd at MSU Extension, 758-2504 or burd@msu.edu.

You also are eligible to join if you recently completed the Master Gardener course, but have not yet completed your volunteer hours.

Dues: \$20 per calendar year. New members paying dues after April 1 should contact the treasurer directly for the pro-rated amount. Each additional family member, living at the same address, is given a \$10 reduction in the 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 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 _____ AoS _____

Class Year _____ New Membership _____ Renewal _____

Mail **application form & check**, payable to SVMGA, to:
Crystal Kauer, 5775 Mackinaw Road, Saginaw, MI 48604.



Some of the charter members of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association gathered for a picture at the annual Christmas potluck. This is the association's 10th anniversary. Pictured are (back row, left to right) Tom Leinberger, Kathleen Haucke, Pat Blakeley, Elaine Rappley, Lois Beinlein, Karen Tilden, Gail Caird, Nancy Cotcamp, Shirley McNier, Grey Gitzen; (front row, from left) Bonnie Stewart, Raeann Krauss, Debbi King, Pat Washburn, Peggy Shaver, Judy Henning and Judy Wegner.



Presidents of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association got together for this picture at the Christmas potluck. They are, from left, Peggy Shaver; new president Susan Scott; Judy Henning and outgoing president, Grey Gitzen.

Upcoming SVMGA programs

- 1/24 — Matt Bouvy of Abele Greenhouse and Garden Centers, "What's New for 2007"
- 2/28 — Mark Hanner, Michigan Hosta Society, "Hosta Culture"
- 3/28 — Mary McLellan, state Master Gardener coordinator, "Master Gardener Program Update"
- 4/25 — Mike O'Sullivan, EZ Growin, "How Deep Is the Water?"
- 5/23 — Annual spring plant exchange at Pat Bourdow's Kochville Township garden
- 6/ 27 — Tour of Mary Andrew's Saginaw Township garden
- 7/25 — Tour of Bridgeport Historical Society gardens with Susan Lawcock and Sandy Lundy
- 8/22 — To be determined
- 9/26 — Chris Lentner, Kluck's Nursery, "Landscape Trees"
- 10/24 — To be determined
- 11/28 — To be determined
- Early December — Annual Christmas potluck, date and site to be determined

Meetings from January to April and September to December are at the Andersen Enrichment Center. Meetings in May through August are at members' gardens or other garden sites.

Spring and fall plant exchanges are offered annually, along with a variety of field trips, depending on members' interests. There also is a fall seminar, An Autumn Affair for Gardeners, on Saturday, Oct. 6, to help educate all gardeners on current horticulture practices.

Several fund-raisers are planned for 2007 to supplement the operating budget.