

The Grapevine

Bulletin of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association

February 2004 Volume 8, Issue 2

High-tech plant breeding topic for February

Wayne Loescher knows this month's topic, "Plant Biotechnology," is bound to make some people nod off when he speaks to the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association.

But the Michigan State University professor of horticulture, plant breeding and genetics, says it's an important issue for Master Gardeners to understand.

"So far the majority of Americans are neutral on the topic of genetically modified products," explains Loescher.

"They don't seem to be terribly concerned and any debates taking place are in small groups.

They're not concerned their cooking oils or potato chips might contain genetically engineered organisms and in terms

of their buying practices, there's been very little effect."

However, in Britain and parts of Europe, consumer reluctance has impacted product sales, says the former MSU department chairman and assistant dean of graduate

studies.

"For many, when they don't understand something, they don't want to have anything to do with it. It may be part ignorance, part reluctance to change. Humans usually are conservative when it comes to change; they're not seeking big changes unless it really improves their lives."

His interest in crop improvements and productivity began early.

"I grew up on a farm in Ohio and I've long had an interest, both for environmental and economic reasons, as well as the changes in the world in which we live," Loescher says.

He's worked to improve the quality of such crops as corn, sorghum, tree fruits, potatoes and celery.

He also has made recommendations to farmers about what they can do to improve their growing conditions.

His research in plant breeding and genetics continues today as Loescher explores ways to improve the flavor and shelf life of cherries for an overall better



MSU Professor Wayne Loescher

Next meeting:

7 p.m. – 9 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25, 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;

seed exchange

8 p.m. – 9 p.m. Wayne Loescher, MSU horticulture professor, discusses "Plant Biotechnology."

One-hour education credit earned

product.

"It's important for Master Gardeners to understand the whole question of genetically modified products so they can see how they compare with natural improvements," Loescher said.

"They should be able to look at the advantages and the disadvantages as a result of the two technologies. We're looking for master gardeners to become informed and educated about the topic.

"I'll talk about traditional plant breeding, along with genetically altered organisms, the environmental impact, world populations and agriculture and Third World countries. They're all linked, related topics," he says.

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Upcoming programs for 2004

- 2/25 "Plant Biotechnology," Wayne Loescher, MSU professor
- 3/24 "Rock Gardening," by Tony Reznicek, 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, MSU Extension
- 10/27 "Pruning," Jerry Somalski of Bay Landscaping, Essexville
- 11/17 "English Gardens" Peggy Shaver, AMG
- 12/8 Annual Christmas Potluck

Minutes of the January 2004 meeting

The January meeting of Master Gardeners was called to order at 7 p.m. January 28 at the Anderson Enrichment Center.

Despite deep snow and bone-chilling winds, there was a full house of gardeners wishing for a glimpse of the spring to come.

Bill Wegner moved that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as published and Marilyn Karpicki seconded the motion.

Deb Keller read the following treasurer's report:

Opening balance	\$4,935.18
Deposits 11/19/03 to 1/27/04	407.00

Officers for 2003-04

<i>President</i>	
Judy Henning	799-4136
<i>Vice President</i>	
Aileen Cowan	865-8784
<i>Secretary</i>	
Ellie Robertson	792-4356
<i>Treasurer</i>	
Deb Keller	781-1228
<i>Program Director</i>	
Gail Caird	793-1942
 <i>Newsletter Co-Editor</i>	
Beth Bedtelyon	799-0309
<i>Newsletter Co-Editor</i>	
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.

Expenses 11/19/03 to 1/27/04 861.99
 Balance as of 1/17/04 \$4,480.19

As of 1/28/04 we have 21 paid members.

The 2004 budget will be voted on at the February 25 meeting. For 2004, the number of projects we will donate funds to has been increased to 15.

Also, the president and one other fortunate MG will again be given the \$200 reimbursement to attend the summer conference.

Annual dues are due March 1, 2004. You must be a certified member to join. Despite the deadline for submitting hours, certification hours are still coming in.

Grey Gitzen reports that there are still 12 members who have not submitted their hours.

Judy Henning expressed thanks for the gift certificate to Faber's Nursery and for all the Christmas cards.

Hidden Harvest sent their thanks for the food and money donations from our Christmas party.

Mount Pleasant Master Gardeners will host a Spring into Gardening seminar again this year. It will be March 20.

Susan Scott spoke of a research pro-

ject sponsored by the National Arbor Society which invites members to purchase three hybrid hazelnut trees for \$10.

Research participants are asked to evaluate the trees at the end of summer and send some fruit for evaluation.

Judy Henning reminded us that this will be an election year and she challenged everyone to consider running for office.

Gail Caird discussed the Junior Master Gardener class which begins Feb. 17. A minimum of five students is required, however, none had enrolled by the January meeting.

There were three great prizes for the monthly drawing. Refreshments followed.

The meeting was turned over to our speaker, Advanced Master Gardener Peggy Shaver of Freeland, who discussed irises.

She whetted our appetites for the colors of summer with her beautiful slides.

We adjourned following her presentation and went back out into the reality of cold winter.

Respectfully submitted, Ellie Robertson

Biotechnology...

(Continued from Page 1)

"I've given this talk to garden clubs, service clubs and I can almost guarantee that at least one person will be adamantly opposed. Others will find it interesting. A few will nod off, but I've taught for many years so I'm used to that.

"Master Gardeners should be aware of the heart of the issue, so if the topic arises, they at least have the background to respond to questions and concerns. That's what I hope they will get out of this."

Story by Darlene B. Damp, co-editor

**Next board meeting:
 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
 Wednesday, March 3**

**Newsletter deadline:
 Monday, March 8**

**Send submissions to
 Darlene Damp, Co-Editor
 shrew@att.net
 and
 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 — and introduce yourself to someone you don't know.

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

What a surprise to see over 70 of you at our bitterly cold and snowy January meeting.

I would say that is a testimony to that night's speaker, Peggy Shaver.

Peggy always does a great job with her presentations, and this one, on "Iris," was no different.

The majority of slides she showed were from her own garden and the material she covered was concise and complete.

If you missed her presentation, you missed a good one.

I am in the process of moving furniture around in my home to make way for my seed starting tables.

Even though February is a dreary month, it holds excitement for me because I know it won't be long before I can indulge my addiction for seed starting.

As my husband says, this is an addiction he doesn't have to worry about, or

does he?

Get your seeds together, if you have any, and bring them to the February meeting for our annual "seed exchange."

Even if you don't have seeds to exchange, plan on coming to the meeting as there are always plenty of seeds for the taking.

Look for more details in the newsletter concerning the why's, how's, and what's of the seed exchange.

We will be voting on our 2004 budget at the February meeting. Please take a minute to review the budget and come prepared to discuss it, if necessary, and to vote on it.

Starting with the April meeting, the MI Gardener will again be available to members, at no charge.



Please do not take one for your neighbor or a relative, we only order a certain amount.

We are in need of a chairman for our Logo Wear Order Placing Task. Dorothy Bodeis will be placing one more order before retiring from this project.

She has done a super job and will be happy to explain what she does for this project.

Please consider volunteering for this, you do not need tons of time to do the job. You do get volunteer hours for it.

Be happy with the snow that we have, knowing that it is going to help our gardens and raise the water levels in our lakes and rivers.

If Mother Nature would turn up the heat a little, I would certainly appreciate it.

Take care, stay warm, and think spring!

Judy

Meet Master Gardener Holly Furlo

"You can't raise two crops at the same time!" (kids and flowers) was the advice given to this Master Gardener by Sally, an older friend.

She recognized the disappointment in Holly as her kids and dog ran through the flowers or as a wayward ball knocked down yet another flower.

Holly Furlo was born and raised in Bay City in a somewhat rural area where she was able to seek out wildflowers, which she dried and put on exhibit at the Bay County Fair.

Did she win first place? Oh sure, she says matter of factly, and a "grand prize." Even before taking MSU's Master Gardener class, she experienced 4-H exhibiting at MSU as a young girl. Her father was the family influence, growing vegetables and flowers. He worked at Dow Chemical while her mom taught school.

Holly married John Furlo, a teacher at North Junior High, in 1968, and they had three children, Lisa, Mark and Robert. The children have produced five grandchildren, with a sixth on the way.

Holly met John when they were students at CMU.

They have resided in Saginaw for over

30 years at the same residence.

Fortunately for Holly, one son married an MSU horticulturist. So when they decided two years ago to re-landscape, she had some help in designing and adding new plants and shrubs to her mostly shady yard.

"Basically," she said, "we changed everything!" New to her garden are Kusa dogwood, red twig dogwood, boxwoods, butterfly bush, astilbe and more. Hostas have always been there and she keeps on giving them away, only to have more in return.

When Holly refers to the gardens in her life they have been the "perfect in-laws" garden, "Sally's beautiful artist" garden and "Grandma's beautiful white hydrangeas and big red raspberry garden."

Each has been special to her. She says well-known Saginaw artist, Dorothy Kleinschmidt, painted canvases from "Sally's garden," the same garden her friend Sally started from seed. With forget-me-nots and bleeding hearts from John's grandparents, "what more could you want," she asks.

She took the Master Gardener class in the fall 2002 and recently had the opportunity to assist with the MSU conference, putting together information packets for participants. She also has done some work on the Play-

scape garden.

She is looking forward to a new MSU project to produce a resource/reference book for the office. It will help master gardeners with questions called into the office.

Holly has a bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University and a master's degree from SVSU, where she has worked full time in the Controller's office for 14 years.

She works with student accounting — "never boring, every day is different!" You can tell she feels for the students and tries to find ways the college can assist them with college expenses. Her biggest concern is the debt students will face after graduation.

Holly looks forward to gardening, cross-country skiing, reading and traveling to see her children and grandchildren.

She plans to retire sometime, but is "not sure when, how, where."

Her children live out of state, but three parents are still at home and Holly and John are very much a part of their lives.

About husband John, Holly says,

(Continued on page 5)

Odds and ends

Seed exchange at February meeting

Master Gardeners are invited to bring seeds for a seed exchange at the Wednesday, Feb. 25, meeting.

The seeds can be for vegetables, herbs, grasses, flowers, annuals or perennials that were purchased or harvested.

Please identify the seeds as completely as possible, by including the name, color, growing conditions – whatever information will help their new owners be successful in planting.

Rail Trail opportunity beckons MG designers

Two areas along the Saginaw Valley Rail Trail are first on the agenda this spring, says Aileen Cowan, vice president and project coordinator.

They are “pocket parks” and each includes a 12-foot by 12-foot pavilion, with 14-foot by 14-foot concrete pad, trash box and bicycle rack.

“I am looking for ideas for plant materials for these two sites,” says Cowan.

“The trail runs north and south with a sun exposure of east morning sun, moving west for an afternoon filtered exposure. Currently, there are natural trees, shrubs and vegetation there.

“I’m asking that your ideas be native or tough perennials, shrub or understory tree varieties, that can survive with a minimum of attention.”

Cowan says if you have used any of the varieties you suggest in your own yard please note their performance in the design plan.

“I would also ask that you include information on where the plants can be purchased – names, addresses and phone numbers – along with the costs.”

The research, Cowan said, will take some time and count as MSU-directed volunteer hours.

“So keep track of your time spent on the project,” she adds.

“The idea along the trail is to keep the look native, natural, educational and beautiful to trail users throughout the changing

seasons.

“I believe the pavilions will have picnic tables for use as destination spots along the trail – and all the more reason to show them off.”

Those who want to participate or have questions may contact Cowan at 865-8784 or scratchcreations@worldnet.att.net.

Four trough-making classes offered in April

While Program Director Gail Caird isn’t ready to detail all the field trips she has in the works this year, you may sign up for one of four trough-making classes in April.

“Sign-up will be at the February and March meetings,” says Caird, “and although I don’t know yet how much the class will cost, members must pay at sign-up – so bring your checkbook or cash.”

The cost of the class will cover materials only and each class is limited to 10 people.

In May, Caird plans a field trip to help members fill their newly created troughs.

Classes are Wednesday, April 21, and Saturday, April 24, at Aileen Cowan’s home in St. Charles and Friday, April 23, and Sunday, April 25, at Grey Gitzen’s Saginaw Township home.

The April 23 class is at 5:30 p.m. Times for the other classes, although not available now, will vary so working and non-working members may attend a session.

Wildflower conference March 7-8 at MSU

EAST LANSING – The annual Michigan Wildflower Conference and Educators Workshop is Sunday and Monday, March 7-8, at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center.

It features 23 sessions addressing the challenges of gardening at the woodland’s wetter edge; wetland identification, creation and restoration; establishing schoolyard habitats; dealing with native plant suppliers; and dragonflies, frogs and toads of Michigan and milkweed diversity.

There’s also sessions on woodland management, indigenous shrubs and trees in the urban landscape; native orchids and more.

Keynote speaker Rick Darke, an independent consultant, author and photographer, will present insights from his 20-year study of woodland stream landscape. He served on the staff of Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pa., for 20 years, first as taxonomic assistant then as curator of plants.

He played a major role in developing the garden’s indoor and outdoor displays and was directly responsible for the identification and data management of the nearly 10,000 plants in its grounds and conservatory collections.

There are three sales and exhibit areas, and education credit for Master Gardeners.

Sessions begin at 8:30 a.m. each day and lunch reservations are required.

Cost per day is \$50 for members and \$70 for non-members. Payment must be sent with registration form to Marilyn Case, Registrar, 15232 24 Mile Road, Albion, MI 49224-9562. For information, contact Case at (517) 630-8546, or e-mail MCase15300@aol.com, or Marji Fuller at (269) 948-2496 or marjif@serv.net.

For information, visit www.wildflowersmich.org.

Kalamazoo Extension hosts spring conference

KALAMAZOO – The annual Spring into Gardening conference is from 8 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Saturday, March 20, at Kalamazoo Valley Community College, 6767 O Ave.

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Welcome new members!

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

Joan Hirschenberger, Saginaw, MGT.

Kathy Lewis, Saginaw Township, MGT

Lavion Williams, Saginaw, MGT

Habitat for Humanity seeks help landscaping new homes

Habitat for Humanity plans a construction blitz at 14th and Hartsuff in June to provide homes for up to 10 families – and Master Gardeners can help without ever raising a hammer or pounding a nail.

“We’re hoping Master Gardeners will landscape the homes when they’re near completion,” says Shelly Beck, public relations spokesperson for the non-profit agency at 316 S. Jefferson.

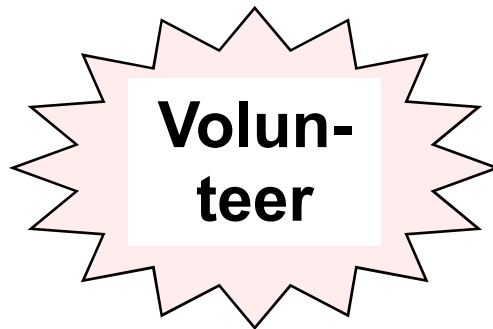
She will discuss the project at the upcoming meeting.

The one-story homes, including two to four bedrooms, depending on what each family needs and can afford, will be located on lots that are 96 feet long and between 56 and 68 feet wide.

There are five houses on 14th Street and another five on 15th Street near the intersection of Hartsuff, says Beck.

“We used to have a budget for landscaping, but with the kind of organization we are, we can’t afford that.

“(Planting) was a way for kids to get involved since you have to be at least 18 to work on construction of the home,” explains Beck, who joined the organiza-



tion last year.

“We’re hoping the Master Gardeners could come up with simple plans for the front or sides of the house, depending on how the houses face the street, that would include plants and shrubs that are hardy and easy to care for.”

Beck said in looking at the Valley magazine, published by The Saginaw News, she spotted SVMGA as a potential solution to helping the new homeowners give their yards the finishing touch.

Plant materials would be donated by members or others who want to help with that aspect of the blitz.

In coming up with a design, Master

Gardeners would take into account soil and light conditions, as well as design basics.

“We rely on the donation of materials and labor for everything that we do,” Beck says.

Each home has a porch, wide enough for chairs and a table, and could also accommodate planters.

“Planting is the Master Gardeners’ niche,” Beck says.

“Hopefully they’ll want to take advantage of the opportunity. We’re just looking for something simple and tasteful.

“It’s up to the Master Gardeners to figure out what they might like to do.”

She said students from Saginaw Valley State University will provide site clean-up prior to the construction kick-off Friday, June 11.

Construction is expected to be completed Saturday, June 26. Ground-breaking is Saturday, April 17.

Those who are interested in the project may sign up at the meeting.

Story by Darlene B. Damp, co-editor

More odds and ends

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Mary Walters, vice president of the Perennial Plant Foundation, will demonstrate new and underused plants that can be put in the garden with “panache,” using extensive photos of color and texture combinations.

Other topics include cooking with herbs; managing your backyard orchard; champion trees; integrated pest management; building and maintaining a pond and waterfalls; thinking outside the flower box; landscape design basics; heirloom vegetable gardening; flower arranging; hostas; gardening with children; stepping stones; and inviting birds into the yard.

The conference costs \$70, plus additional fees for those who sign up for such classes as stepping stones, \$35, and flower arranging, \$15.

Conference registration is due Friday,

March 5.

For information and/or registration, go to www.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/kalamazoo, or call Emelee Reifschneider at (269) 383-8815.

Attention Mentors!

Please remember to make the final contact to your assigned MG Trainee during the month of February.

Special thanks to Gail Caird, Amy Fitkin, Tom Leinberger, Mary Anne Malek and Joyce Schultz.

Your commitment to mentoring ensures the growth and success of our association!

Nature Conservancy has weed control book

The Nature Conservancy’s Wildland Invasive Species Program offers an on-line publication of its Weed Control Methods Handbook.

The handbook provides information

every natural areas manager needs to know about weed control methods.

It consists of seven chapters and six appendices, nearly 200 pages. It reviews manual, grazing, fire, biocontrol, and herbicide techniques.

There are in-depth discussions of 11 different herbicides, plus a great deal of support information on herbicide use.

The handbook is free for the download at <http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu>.

Furlo....

(Continued from page 3)

“don’t put a shovel in his hands or give him a pruning shears.”

However, this same kindhearted soul puts in a vegetable garden for Holly’s mom in the spring.

He can use my shovel anytime!

Story by Joan Martin

Conferences offer variety of topics

Advanced garden design workshop March 11

EAST LANSING – Instructor Lynn LaPointe Wiese leads a one-day workshop on advanced garden design from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, March 11, at the Michigan State University's Engineering Building, Room 1345.

Participants must have completed one of the following to enroll: Designing with Perennials in March 2003 at MSU; or Designing the Mixed Garden in April 2003 in Bay City, or June 2003 at the annual MG Summer Conference or September 2003 at the Ohio State Master Gardeners.

Attendees will apply the design theory they learned in the introductory workshop to more complex design exercises, utilizing hands-on designing.

Lecture material and slides will support each exercise and be in a written manual for participants to take home. Master Gardeners earn six hours of continuing education credit.

Plant knowledge will help participants fully benefit. Attendees should bring plant selection resource books, such as "The Well-Designed Mixed Garden" by Tracy DiSabato Aust.

Cost is \$75 including a boxed lunch (vegetarian style available). Payment is by check, Visa or Master Card. For information, visit mg@msu.edu or call (517) 355-5191, ext. 408.

Therapists plant connections

EAST LANSING – The Michigan Horticultural Therapy Association hosts its annual conference Friday, and Saturday, March 12-13, at Michigan State University, Plants and Soils Building. The theme is "Horticulture Therapy: Connecting People and Plants."

Keynote speaker Mitchell Hewson will share the dynamics of using horticulture as a therapeutic tool with a variety of specialized populations. Author of "Horticulture as Therapy," he has 30 years experience as a horticulturalist therapist at Homewood Health Centre in Guelph, Ontario.

Cost is \$35 for members and \$45 for non-members for registrations post-marked by March 1. Annual membership

is \$15 and open to all. A boxed lunch is included (vegetarian available) and parking is free.

For information, visit www.mhtachapter.org or contact Cathy Leavey at (517) 655-4969 or leavey123@aol.com.

Heirloom bulbs topic of talk

LATHRUP VILLAGE – Scott Kunst, landscape historian and preservationist, discusses "Heirloom Bulbs: 4 Seasons, 40 Centuries" Monday, March 15, at the Lathrup Village Municipal Building Community Room.

He uses a slide lecture focusing on a season-by-season encyclopedia of antique varieties that are still available today – wild hyacinths, Aztec tuberoses, colonial daffodils, Victorian tulips and more.

Also available will be information tables on healthy garden practices, composting, rain gardens, mulching, biodiversity and lawn care from 6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., prior to Kunst's talk.

The free session, sponsored by the Village Gardeners of Lathrup Village meets at 27400 Southfield Road, three blocks north of I-696.

For information, call Susan Arneson at (248) 443-1703, evenings and weekends or (313) 202-7842 days.

Herbs highlight conference

DEARBORN – Get ready for spring with a one-day workshop Saturday, March 20, sponsored by the Master Gardener Association of Wayne County.

Spring Day: Herbs for Gardeners meets from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Henry Ford Estate at the University of Michigan Dearborn campus, west side of Evergreen, between Ford and Michigan Ave.

Topics include Herb Gardens and Greenfield Village Projects; Culinary Use of Herbs by Henry Ford Estate chef Peter Veach; and Herbs: Pretty and Practical Players in the Home Garden and Landscape by Susan Betz, Michigan Herb Associates. A fourth program is still to be determined.

Cost is \$27 for members and \$30 for non-members, including a box lunch of chicken salad croissant, smoked turkey and cheese or grilled portabella mush-

room.

Mail your name, mailing address, day and evening phone, e-mail address and lunch choice to MGAWC Spring Day, 19978 Silver Spring Drive, Northville, MI 48167-1942 by Thursday, March 11. Confirmation is sent if registrants send a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

DiSabato-Aust visits Battle Creek for talk

BATTLE CREEK – The "queen of deadheading" Tracy DiSabato-Aust presents "The Well-Designed Mixed Garden" at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 6, at Lakeview High School Auditorium.

Author of the "The Well-Tended Perennial Garden," her talk centers on demystifying landscape design by providing basic principles, based on her 15 years of experience.

For tickets, call (269) 789-1836.

The program earns Master Gardeners 1.5 hours of continuing education credit.

Here's who to contact

Here's who to contact within the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association:

Aileen Cowan, if not receiving the newsletter, 865-8784

Nancy Cotcamp, member address or e-mail change, 797-3390

Gail Caird, program director, 793-1942

Wil Hufton, MSU Extension Office orientation, 758-2500, ext. 206

Jan O'Dell, mentor coordinator, 793-4357

Janet Martineau, historian, 790-7341
Anne Birkam, refreshment chairperson, 754-7090

Bonnie Stewart, newsletter mailing committee, 793-1442

Dorothy Bodeis, SVMGA clothing, 799-6086

Judy Henning, speakers bureau team, 799-4136

Peggy Shaver, MSUE Demonstration Garden planner, 695-5489

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 February meeting.

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. Local recertification cards have been mailed by Angela Irwin, Master Gardener coordinator.

For 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 February meeting or mailed to: Deborah Keller, Treasurer, 1604 N. Thomas Rd. Saginaw, MI 48609.