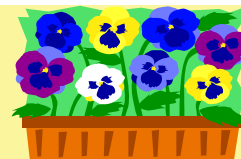


# The Grapevine



Bulletin of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association

May 2007 Volume 11, Issue 5

## Pot up plants for exchange, June 22 sale

If the warmer temperatures have you out and cleaning up the yard, please remember the annual spring plant exchange this month — and the Friday, June 22 fund-raising sale at the Saginaw Farmer's Market.

The two events are an opportunity to share your bounty with members in May and help the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association raise money in June.



Pat Bourdow in front of her Kochville Township home.

Hosting the plant exchange this year is Advanced Master Gardener Pat

Bourdow at the home she and husband Daniel built nearly 40 years ago at 6370 N. Michigan, in Kochville Township.

If you're new and don't have plants to exchange, don't worry.

You do not have to have plants to participate, but you must be a certified Master Gardener and an SVMGA member.

Each member receives a ticket upon arrival. When your number is called, you and your group are free to choose a plant.

The process is repeated until each group has chosen plants and all the plants are gone.

If you plan on bringing plants to the exchange, pot or bag them up and arrive a little early so you have time to get them set up on Bourdow's driveway.

Please remember to label each plant with the botanical name and/or common name, along with light requirements, height, color — all the pertinent data — so the new owner knows exactly what they're getting.

It's also helpful to know which plants are "enthusiastic" in their growth pattern, or invasive.

Any remaining plants go to the June 22, fund-raising sale.

Plus, you may drop off potted plants at the home of sale chairman Ruth Sny, at 4465 Mackinaw, just south of Shattuck Road.

Sny is looking for a variety of plants to interest buyers during the 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. sale.

Please label all plant donations with the same essentials as the spring plant exchange.

Sny is still looking for help in transporting, pricing and selling the plants.

### Next meeting

- 7 p.m. — 9 p.m. Wednesday, May 23, at Pat Bourdow's garden, 6370 N. Michigan, north of Tittabawassee Road, between Liberty and Kochville roads
- 7 p.m. — 7:30 p.m., business meeting
- 7:30 p.m.— 8 p.m., refreshments
- 8 p.m. — 9 p.m., annual plant exchange, view garden
- **Please wear your badge and bring a chair**
- **NO GUESTS!!**
- Park on street, driveway

Call her at 928-7315.

Proceeds go to SVMGA's general fund.

Bourdow, who serves as Kochville Township supervisor, has an advantage when it comes to gardening.

Her family owns Bourdow Trucking so earth-moving, large boulders and heavy equipment is commonplace — although that doesn't always work.

"My sons were working and found this

*(Continues on Page 2)*

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## Hotline moves into full swing

Phyllis Shlien says you don't need to have all the answers on the tip of your tongue to work the Plant and Pest Hotline.

She and others are working hard so hotline volunteers can find the answers at their fingertips as they finish the reorganization of the office and fine tune the database.

The hotline operates from 9 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday with hours extended to 3 p.m. Monday and Thursday now through the fall.

With warmer temperatures, calls to the hotline are increasing as residents want answers to treating for grubs or moths in

the pantry or more.

"There are four regular volunteers so far. I'll be using these next two or three weeks to train the people from the new Master Gardener class," says the retired Saginaw Valley State University mathematics instructor, who lives in Hemlock.

Come June, she will have time to show Master Gardeners, who have not volunteered in the office before, how to use the database and other resources.

"If you've never done it before, it takes about an hour and a half, to two hours to get familiar with what is avail-

*(Continues on Page 7)*

# Frankenmuth, Bay City have garden walks in June

Coy ponds, a prairie garden, a rock and fern garden, a waterfall and an intimate Victorian garden are all part of the offerings during garden walks in June.

The Frankenmuth Chapter of the American Association of University Women hosts its annual event from noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, June 24.

“We’ve got seven gardens on the tour,” says Sharril McNally, “and each is different and unique.

“What’s nice is our event has grown really by word of mouth, about 10 percent each year since we began. People tell us they love it and want to return.”

This year, there are two coy ponds on the garden walk, and a waterfall.

“All but one of the gardens is in Frankenmuth,” McNally said.

“These are basically on city lots so people can see you don’t have to have a huge amount of space.”

There is a small courtyard garden, a terrace garden, plus another that makes use of whimsical art.

“We’re also including the prairie gar-

den at Frankenmuth Mutual Insurance, where the groundskeeper, Eugene Kushba will be on hand to talk about it with visitors. It’s located right behind the front garden along a wood chip path. We’re hoping people will wander through there.”

One garden is returning from years past, a larger garden in Bridgeport Township.

“We’re bringing it back because people really loved it and the owner has added a new rock and fern garden since the walk was last there.”

Two gardens will have artists selling their handiwork while another three will feature musicians.

Tickets are \$12 in advance; \$15 the day of the walk. Tickets are available at the Frankenmuth Historical Museum, Frankenmuth Community Education and Frankenmuth Florist.

Proceeds from the walk go to the Saginaw County Child Abuse and Neglect Council, the Underground Railroad and the Frankenmuth Library.

“We could still use some Master Gardeners to answer visitor questions,”

McNally says. “It’s nice to have that resource.”

She is in the process of obtaining approval from the Master Gardener Coordinator so volunteers receive full credit for the hours they work.

“The night before we have the volunteers come in so they can view all the gardens. They can either work all day or split the day up, depending on who can work.”

To volunteer, contact McNally at 652-9299.

The Bay City Garden Club hosts its annual event from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, June 21, at six homes in Bay County.

Entitled “Everything from City to Country,” the walk boasts an intimate, informal Victorian garden, utilizing mature and new plantings, along with David Austin roses, perennial geraniums, peonies and hydrangeas at the Pennicookes.

There’s also the Horaks’ formal European-style garden overlooking the Bay

*(Continues on Page 6)*

## Officers for 2007-08

*President*

Susan Scott 791-9270

*Vice President*

Karen Tilden 777-6673

*Secretary*

Melva Bond 777-4092

*Treasurer*

Crystal Kauer 792-6874

*Program Director*

Mary Andrews 797-3319

*Newsletter Editor*

Darlene Damp 746-9113  
shrew@att.net

**MSU Extension**

1 Tuscola Street  
Saginaw, MI 48607-1287

*Master Gardener Coordinator*

Nancy L. Burd, 758-2504  
burd@msu.edu

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MSU is an affirmative-action, equal opportunity institution.

## Bourdow creates garden views...

*(Continues from Page 1)*

huge boulder. They brought it back and went to put it by my pond. They dropped it and it rolled, plunk, plunk, plunk, right into the pond and we never found it!”

Bourdow says her garden was created to be enjoyed from the window views inside her home, like the red Japanese-style bridge at the back of her pond.

With seven children to raise, she focused on trees at first and a vegetable garden.

“I’ve always planted something,” she explains.

“Today I have plantings around the house and a perennial garden outside my kitchen.”

There’s a natural pond with water iris and marsh marigolds (if the muskrat leaves them alone) in the backyard and a long planting bed with flowering shrubs and

trees along the driveway.

Most of their 30 acres is wetland so there’s lots of creatures as well as plants.

“The noise of the frogs is deafening, but my grandchildren love collecting the frogs and toads,” Bourdow says.

“However, gardening is a constant challenge.”

She’s planning on turning a circle bed in the driveway into a corkscrew garden with pavers and plantings this year.

In the backyard there’s also a trail to the woods for her 17 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren to enjoy plus her secret garden.

“There’s a concrete bench from the old Civic Center the kids salvaged so it’s a nice place to sit and relax.”

*Story by Darlene Damp, editor*

## Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association mission statement

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

## Letter from the president

Well, our April showers and snow have certainly brought out the May flowers. So, even though we complain about the weather, all this moisture has been of benefit.

While we rejoice in our green lawns and the rapidly growing plants, other areas of our state and country are dry and the threat of fire is very real. As usual, Mother Nature rules in her own inimitable manner.

It seems like in just the last week, plants in my garden have grown at least a foot in height. And of course, I have those mysterious plants that I have no recollection of planting.

Remember that the May meeting is our annual plant exchange. While you are culling your extra plants to bring to the meeting, please remember that Friday, June 22, we will sponsor a plant sale at the Farmers Market in downtown

Saginaw. Perhaps you could set a few extras aside to donate to that fund-raiser. Ruth Sny, chairman of that committee, would appreciate donations from your gardens to add to the plants we have purchased for the sale..

I have been asked a question about the recent meeting where Mary McClellan was the featured speaker. The concern was that since she was talking about the MG program, was this not considered education hours. Put that concern to rest. This talk/discussion does qualify as education hours and can be posted in the system as such.

For those of you who were not at the April meeting, the garden journals are ready to be ordered (see form, Page 7). There are 3 colors: periwinkle blue, orange and chartreuse. As you order, there is a line for you to put the name you

wish to have on the front cover of the journal. It can be a nickname, your full name, the name of your garden or anything else that strikes your fancy. Please remember to **print this name legibly!**

If you order more than one, you can use the extra lines to put the additional names. You also have the option of ordering just the inserts. The journals are \$15.00 and the inserts are \$10.00.

We would like to start filling these orders after the May meeting. Please get them to Crystal by June 1.

I have sample journals at my home and additional order forms if you would like to contact me to stop and see them. Call me at 791-9270. There is an answering machine, if I am not home, so please leave a message.

Toodles,  
Susan



## Meet the gardener — Jan O'Dell

“The smell of spring in the woods was like woodland perfume” to this Master Gardener who used to go mushrooming with her Polish grandfather in the Owosso woods.

Grandpa always had a small vegetable garden of his own, but he would take Jan O'Dell to the Warren Avenue Farmers Market in Detroit. They would come home with vegetables and fresh rye bread. Jan can still remember the taste of that bread with “real butter.”

Jan was born in the Detroit area and after two years moved to Owosso where her dad owned and operated a grocery store. She used to stand on a pop crate to run the cash register and at age 5 or 6, she also sorted pop bottles. Through her teen years, Jan worked at her dad's gas station. Both were good training for a future treasurer of SVMGA.

After attending Lansing Community

College, Jan worked at General Motors before she began her life work with physically and mentally handicapped children in Owosso.

After marriage to husband Walt, Jan's assignment was the pre-school hearing impaired children at Shiawassee Intermediate School District. And, she learned sign language to work with the children.

Thinking Owosso would be their retirement home, Jan was content with their small lot and her trees and shrubs. But when Walt was transferred to here by General Motors, she moved to a larger home on a long, narrow lot in Saginaw.

She was content with lists of indoor and outdoor chores for the new home... until she saw an ad for the Master Gardening class in fall 1997. She felt challenged by her partially wooded lot and its wildlife. The soil was a mix of sand, clay and lime.

An education would help, says Jan, and “the many new friends have helped too.”

Jan is working on “xeriscape” gardening, using native plants with less need

for water and care; the ideal retirement garden! She says a seminar in Mount Pleasant really helped, especially with the types of plants she has used, such as wild geraniums, cranes bill and trillium. She also has planted golden rod and native grasses, but has yet to fill a low, damp area.

“Walt wants a green lawn, thus the sprinkler system was added, but it doesn't reach all of my bushes and trees,” says Jan.

In helping with the watering one day, Walt announced “I watered your pedophile” (meaning the double-file viburnum). But he really has helped, building her composter and chipping their oak leaves.

To become an Advanced Master Gardener, Jan volunteered at the Lions Park, Children's Zoo and the Soil Conservation District tree sale. A recent recipient of a 1,000-hour pin, Jan says many hours came from being our treasurer for two years.

Jan and Walt have two sons, the oldest is a nurse anesthetist at Providence Hospital in Detroit, the youngest, an independ-

(Continues on Page 7)



Jan O'Dell with her dog

## Odds and ends...

### Garden notebooks on sale

You can still order a new SVMGA garden notebook at the May meeting.

Use the 60-page notebooks to track year-to-year planting successes and failures. They also make great gifts.

See the order form on Page 7 of the newsletter. Orders must be pre-paid.

Members select their notebook color and cover preferences at time of order.

Covers will be individually printed with their names. The pages have the three-hole mylar reinforced edges.

### Members earn pins

Nineteen members of Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association earned pins for the volunteer hours they worked.

Judy Henning received a pin for 5,000 hours; Grey Gitzen for 3,000 hours; and Patti Decker for 2,000 hours.

Those who put in 1,000 hours were Jan O'Dell, Ben Pawlik and Gus Schulwitz.

Jane Chard, Marilyn Karpicke and Tom Leinberger received 500-hour pins.

Pins for 250 hours went to Marge Engelhart, Grace Dunkel, Barb Boggess, Amy Fitkin, Jo Henige, Joe Leach, Janet Martineau, Shirley McNier, Colleen Sproul and Shelley Whitehead.



### The Greenhouse has container care offer again this spring

Dave Sommers of The Greenhouse in Bridgeport invites Master Gardeners to bring their own containers and plant their outdoor pots now.

Participants buy the soil and plants from the nursery while Sommers provides fertilizer, insecticide and care of the planters until Master Gardeners pick them up.

The Greenhouse is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Saturday. For information, call Sommers at 777-1880.

### Order logowear in May

Marge Engelhart has selected three logowear items for spring.

They include a knit cap for \$9; a mesh

baseball hat for \$3 and a raglan, three-quarter length sleeve cotton shirt for \$12.75.

She will have a sign-up sheet at the May meeting. Please be prepared to pay in advance.

### Chippewa Nature Center has native plant sale

MIDLAND — The Chippewa Nature Center offers native plants for sale Friday and Saturday, May 25-26.

The sale runs from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. both days at the center, 400 S. Badour Road.

Cash, checks and credit cards will be accepted. For a listing of plants, visit [www.chippewanaturecenter.org](http://www.chippewanaturecenter.org) or call (989) 631-0830 for information.

### Bridgeport seeks help for community plantings

Dave Sommers and Laura Boyles are looking for help to plant community flowerbeds along Dixie Highway in Bridgeport this spring.

Master Gardeners oversee the planting. Plants are provided, but the flowerbeds need to be weeded through the summer.

Planting begins the end of May through the first week of June.

This project is awaiting approval by the Master Gardener Coordinator for full credit hours.

The township provides watering service. Call Sommers at 777-1880.

### Clean Sweep schedules collection dates for 2007

The 2007 Clean Sweep collection schedule has six dates remaining.

The free program is open to any Michigan homeowner to dispose of unwanted herbicides and pesticides.

You must make an appointment by calling 758-3685.

The dates are May 31, June 28, July 26, Aug. 30, Sept. 27 and Oct. 25.

### Bonsai workshop in Hemlock

Lisik's Gardens, 1445 N. Iva Road, offers a bonsai workshop at 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 20.

Plant material is provided. Bring

gloves, sturdy shoes and pruners.

Lisik's Gardens is located north off M-46 on the west side of the road.

For reservations, call Britt Lundberg at (989) 837-1644 or Al Fassezke (989) 686-2411, both of the San Toshi Bonsai Club.

### Hosta sale set for June 15

The Saginaw Valley Hosta Society will sell plants at the Saginaw Farmer's Market Friday, June 15.

The sale features nearly 50 different varieties, almost an A to Z sale, from American Halo to War Paint.

They come in all colors and sizes. Prices vary.

Proceeds provide speakers for the society's monthly meetings.

### More project funds approved

Judy Wegner will get the full \$200 for the Saginaw YMCA flagpole project after Nancy Hales returned her \$200 project grant.

The prison will supply plants for the Children's Zoo butterfly garden instead.

That allowed the board to give \$64 to Barb Boggess for a project at Hemlock's Ling Elementary where Girl Scouts will plant ornamental trees and perennials.

If other project funds are returned, Boggess could receive more funds toward her \$200 request..

Next board meeting:  
**4:30 p.m. Wednesday,  
June 6, at MSU Extension,  
1 Tuscola**

Newsletter deadline:  
**Monday, June 11**  
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/)**

View the SVMGA web page at:  
**[web1.msue.msu.edu/  
mastergardener/saginaw/  
association/](http://web1.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/saginaw/association/)**

# Volunteer opportunities continue this spring

Only approved projects are listed here so that Master Gardeners may earn full credit for the volunteer hours they work.

## **Saginaw Art Museum...**

Clean-up activities are from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 12, at the Saginaw Art Museum, 1126 N. Michigan.

Planting is set for Saturday, May 26. Call Shelley Whitehead at 892-0719.

## **Cartwright Care Center...**

Becky Tillman from the James E. Cartwright Care Center is seeking Master Gardeners to design gardens that hospice patients and their families can enjoy.

Volunteers would have the opportunity of teaching gardening skills to hospice volunteers, who will be the weeders and tenders of the gardens.

Please call Becky Tillman at 583-3065.

## **Spring into Service Day...**

Master Gardeners are sought to help supervise teams of 250-plus students from 10 different Saginaw County high schools Thursday, May 17, when they clean up two local parks.

Known as Students Spring Into Service, this year's focus is Crayola Park, located between the Saginaw Family

YMCA and Ezra Rust, and the Garber Tennis Courts/ Park.

Planting will involve putting in forsythia, lilacs and day lilies in and around the parks. Others will paint fences, build a gazebo and trim trees.

It starts at 8 a.m. and goes until about 1 p.m. Call Gail Caird at 793-1942.

## **Beautification Day May 18...**

Laura Keeven is seeking volunteers to help with the annual Beautification Day from 8 a.m. to noon Friday, May, 18, in St. Charles.

Master Gardeners work with local students, who clean up and plant during the event. Contact Keeven at 865-6154 or e-mail laura2000@email.com

## **Longfellow Elementary...**

Help students at Longfellow Elementary School plant shrubs and perennials, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday to Wednesday, May 21-23.

Call Karolyn Karl, at the Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program, Bay Conservation District.

## **Saginaw Children's Zoo...**

Work days continue from 10 a.m. to noon every Saturday through May,

weather permitting, says Patti Decker, program chairman. Contact Decker at 792-6633 or e-mail rizzobfrank@aol.com

## **I-75 Rest Area....**

Gloria Schuler plans a big planting day at the I-75 Southbound Rest Area (Saginaw-Bay county line) Saturday, May 26.

"We will be planting thousands of plants in preparation of hosting the August SVMGA meeting," Schuler says.

"We also bring a dish to pass or cold beverages that day for lunch."

Contact Schuler at (989) 797-0100 (daytime) or e-mail globobarama@excite.com.

## **Andersen Rose Garden...**

The garden needs a volunteer chairman to oversee maintenance of the 250 roses there through the growing season.

The chairman makes sure the roses are treated with fungicide, fertilized, watered, weeded and deadheaded and recruits volunteers to help.

Work can be done from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday to Friday and Saturday mornings in the spring.

Call Kathleen Scott at 759-1362.

# Andersen Center hosts annual Art and Garden Festival

Learn more about gardening and find some handcrafted artwork for your yard during the third annual Art and Garden Festival Wednesday, June 13.

The Andersen Enrichment Center, 120 Ezra Rust, along with Abele's Greenhouse and Nursery Centers, will sponsor the free event, come rain or shine.

The festival is from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the center and the adjoining Lucille Andersen Memorial Garden.

It features demonstrations every half hour, plus, local experts will cover a variety of gardening topics.

Topics will range from the care and feeding of roses to flower arranging and container gardens.

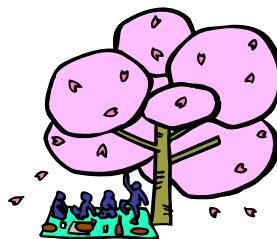
There also will be programs on hosta

culture; making compost; ponds and water features; water conservation; starting a vegetable garden; urban gardening, and more.

Vendors will have sweets and treats, such as donuts, cookies and frozen cider drinks.

Lunch will be available with sandwiches and fresh strawberry shortcake.

In addition, vendors will sell original art, miniature rose bushes, day lilies, pond plants, hostas and other unique plants.



Also on sale will be original garden artwork, decorative pavers, birdhouses, lawn ornaments, statuary, cookbooks, herb books and lawn ornaments.

Participants may make bids during the day in a silent auction, including plants, garden tools and other garden merchandise, which have been donated by local businesses.

Barry Crassweller, a consulting rosarian, will have an exhibition of old garden roses and miniature roses.

And, many of the 250 rose bushes in the Andersen Rose Garden should be in full bloom, offering an opportunity to see the many varieties.

Master Gardeners earn education credit for the talks they attend.

## Minutes of the April 25, 2007 meeting

President Susan Scott welcomed 105 members to the Anderson Enrichment Center.

Janet Martineau moved approval of the March 2007 minutes; Joyce Schultz seconded the motion.

Grey Gitzen presented newly certified Master Gardeners with their badges and certifications.

Gitzen then presented awards to the following members for attaining volunteer hours in various hour amounts: 250 hours, Marjorie Engelhardt, Amy Fitkin, Josephine Henige, Joe Leach, Janet Martineau, Shirley McNier, Shelley Whitehead; 500 hours, Jane Chard, Marilyn Karpicke; 1,000 hours, Janice O'Dell, Ben Pawlik, Gus Schulwitz; 2,000 hours, Patti Decker; 3,000 hours, Grey Gitzen; 5,000 hours, Judy Henning.

Crystal Kauer read the treasurer's report.

Mary Andrews discussed the format change for the MSU Approved Master Gardener Volunteer Opportunities. She suggested members with questions regarding their project contact Nancy Burd at the MSUE office.

Andrews also encouraged members to complete the Master Gardener Skill Survey.

Andrews then asked for volunteers to man the Plant and Pest Hotline at the MSUE office through September.

Volunteers need to participate in a one- to two-hour training class to learn about the database and resources.

A sign-up sheet is available for those interested. Andrews reminded members of next month's plant exchange.

Patty Decker was seeking help with garden clean-up at the Saginaw Children's Zoo on April 28. Decker told members of the farm garden being planned for the zoo.

Holly Furlo asked for volunteers to sign-up for pruning junipers at the Japanese Gardens.

Shelley Whitehead asked for volunteers to assist with the Saginaw Art Museum gardens Saturday, May 12.

Judy Henning asked for volunteers to help spread mulch at the Saginaw County Rail Trail's eye park April 28. May 5 volunteers are needed at the I-75

Southbound Rest Stop to prune boxwoods and plant perennials.

Gail Caird asked for donations of excess daffodils and ditch lilies for an approved project for which she volunteers.

Bonnie Dutcher has new member notebooks available for anyone needing one.

Scott informed members the spring bulbs they ordered were being distributed in the back conference room.

Scott also asked for volunteers to take over the newsletter editor position next year. Darlene Damp indicates this is her last year as editor.

Ben Pawlik explained the time frame procedure used in maintaining the Anderson Center Rose Garden and asked for volunteers to take over the tasks.

Scott suggested volunteers form a committee to share the workload as there are 250 plants to tend; a sign-up sheet was available.

Shirley McNeir presented members the logo wear she has selected for sale this spring.

Ruth Sny reminded members the drawing would be the last until the October meeting.

Sny asked for volunteers for the June 22 fund-raising Spring Plant Sale at the Saginaw Farmer's Market.

She also asked for help to plant plants and atrium at the Dow Event Center.

Scott asked for volunteers to help stage trees being planted at the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge.

She also said excess trees from the annual Soil and Conservation District sale

were available for half price.

Dave Sommer from The Greenhouse in Bridgeport requested volunteers to help plant and maintain the flowerbeds along a two-mile stretch of Dixie Highway in Bridgeport Township. (See Page 5)

Sommer has volunteered again this year to keep planted containers for Master Gardeners until the weather warms up. (See Page 4)

After refreshments members enjoyed a very informative presentation about water gardening from Mike O'Sullivan of Easy Growin' Water Gardens.

O'Sullivan also donated plants for the monthly drawing.

For the monthly drawings, thanks to Brian Ott for donating the garden tool kit; Joe Leach, the hanging ceramic watering can; Stella Thelen, the Feed the Bird Book; Zehnder Chevrolet Buick, the Lube & Oil change; and Abele's Greenhouse, the \$20 gift certificate.

Also Mike O'Sullivan for the following plants: Four Leaf Clover, Black Leaf Canna, Blue Money Wart, Pink Rain Lilly, Dwarf Blue Bells, Rain Lilly, two Monkey Flowers, Bacopa, Long Leaf Canna and Lavender Lace.

Congratulations to the respective winners: Joan Martin, Annie Tinney, Lynn Hauk, Bob Sawyers, Stella Thelen, Ruth Averill, Holly Furlo, Sheila Hill, Grey Gitzen, Amy Fitkin, Mary Weaver, Rosemary Tinney, Joan Hirschenberger, Kathy Lewis, and two-time winner Nicolas Danks.

*Submitted by Melva Bond, secretary*

### Vendors have displays at Bay City walk...

*(Continues from Page 2)*

City Country Club ; Broekers' turn-of-the-century garden with patio, fountain, pond, rock garden and greenhouse, plus the Carveys' country garden filled with more than 100 trees, ornamental grasses and a pond.

A wooded setting at the Thomas/Borneo garden is the backdrop for annuals and perennials while at the Markey farm style house, there's a one-acre pond, gazebo, waterfall, stream and gardens filled with perennials, grasses, shrubs and

trees.

Tickets are \$10 and a box lunch costs \$10. Proceeds go to landscape the Veterans Memorial Park Monument Project and education.

Tickets are available at My Secret Garden, Herman Hiss Jewelers, Begick Nursery, Three French Hens and Violet's Blue, which along with artist Annoinette Super also will have displays at the gardens.

Tickets also are available at other locations in Bay City.

## Garden Journal Order Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_



Blue



Orange



Chartreuse

Color:	Quantity:	Total :	Name to be printed:
Periwinkle blue _____	@\$15 each = _____	_____	_____
Chartreuse _____	@ \$15 each = _____	_____	_____
Orange _____	@\$15 each = _____	_____	_____

Make checks payable to Crystal Kauer, 5775 Mackinaw Road, Saginaw, MI 48604

## Wanted: volunteers who like to investigate, learn more

*(Continues from Page 1)*

able in the office," Shlien says. "We go over how to answer the phone because most of the time you say you will get back to them, unless it is one of the seasonally recurring questions.

"At first it may seem overwhelming, but you have all the time you need to find the answers using the database, the core manuals, books, and if you're good with a computer, the Internet."

And that is exactly how Shlien began,

### ***O'Dell likes travel...***

*(Continues from Page 3)*

ent semi-truck driver who crisscrosses the country.

Just as she was influenced as a youngster with that cash register, so was their son, whom she took to see "Smokey And The Bandit," says Jan.

Jan has traveled throughout the U.S., including Alaska. Right now, there will be no more trips until after "dog scout camp" this summer. For one week Jan and Indy Annie, a Bengi-looking dog, will train together to make travel more amenable.

P.S. A note of interest for some readers: Jan was born at Highland Park General Hospital. Wil Hufton was a director of that hospital and I am a graduate of its school of nursing.

*Joan M. Martin*

training with long-time expert Wil Hufton after her MG class.

"He showed me and another trainee what to do. We sat with him for an hour and a half, he asked us to do a few things and left. By the time we finished, our required five hours were up...and it was fun!

"As I was walking out, one of the girls in the office said there was only Wil to answer the hotline and he only came in one day a week. So I came in last summer and it mushroomed from there," says Shlien.

"It's better for the hotline if it is covered and better for the Master Gardener program. A minimum of 4 hours is required per month; this is one morning or

2 two-hour sessions in a month.

"You keep busy, whether you are answering the phone, looking up information or sending out information. It's not good to make people wait two or three weeks for an answer."

While people who are still employed probably aren't available, retirees or those who can't handle the sun or physical work anymore are perfect.

"If you have time, please help. It's a great pastime for people who like to help others and dig about to find the answers.

"You would be surprised how much *you* learn!" she says.

To volunteer, please call Phyllis Shlien at 642-6656.

## Cornell has tip for forcing narcissus

ITHACA, N.Y. — The paperwhite narcissus is a popular bulb for indoor forcing in the winter.

They do not require a cold period and are simply put in pots with soil or in dishes with gravel, marbles or other decorative material.

To prevent them from growing too tall and flopping over, Cornell University researchers use dilute solutions of alcohol.

Add water as you normally would, then wait about 1 week until roots are

growing and the shoot is green and growing about 1-2 inches above the top of the bulb.

Now, pour off the water and replace it with a solution of 4 to 6 percent alcohol (just about any hard liquor.) Example: add 1 part booze to 7 parts water.

Then simply use this solution instead of water for further irrigation/watering of your bulbs. The result is a plant that's 1/3 shorter, but with flowers just as large, fragrant and long-lasting as usual.

And, it won't need stakes to prop it up.

## New perennials on parade for local garden enthusiasts

An annual parade of new perennials made their debut at the Gardening for Gents meeting in April.

Boehler's Greenhouse, 5080 Swan Creek Road, hosts the session to show off its new offerings for the upcoming growing season.

Some 26 new varieties are available. They include:

**Baptista Purple Smoke**, a larger variety at 4' tall that blossoms the first year. Sun, partial sun.

**Centaurea Amethyst in Snow**, full sun, white flower with purple eye, for cut flowers.

**Columbine Salmon Rose**, a double clematis-like flower, reddish stems. Sun.

**Coreopsis Jethro Tull**, 3-inch yellow bloom, 18" tall, full sun.

**Corydalis Chocolate Stars**, chocolate at first, green in summer, prefers shade.

**Daylily Going Bananas**, lemon yellow bloom, better flowering than Stella d'Oro, 19-22".

**Daylily Ruby Stella**, brilliant red 3" flower, slightly fragrant, rebloomer. Sun.

**Dicentra Gold Heart**, chartreuse leaf,

dark pink flower with gold center, spring to summer blooms, will come back if cut back.

**Echinea Summer Sky**, bi-color, orange with halo, 5" flower, sun.

**Echinea Sundown**, new darker orange, 40" tall. Sun, partial sun.

**Euphorbia Bonfire**, mounding habit, doesn't seed around, chocolate/chartreuse leaf, yellow flower.

**Geranium Orkney Cherry**, 10" tall, brilliant pink flower, burgundy leaf.

**Heuchera Brownies**, white flower, heat tolerant, burgundy/green leaf.

**Heuchera Mystic Angel**, white flower, purple center, dark purple vein, 12" tall, full sun.

**Hosta Paradigm**, variegation intensifies as it ages, Hosta of the Year, striped, spotted leaf.

**Lewisia Little Plum**, 6" tall, for wet rock gardens, late spring/summer, coral/purple flower.

**Lewisia Sunset Group**, taller, pink flower.

**Penstemon Ruby Candle**, 24" tall, big, brilliant red flower for 8 weeks,

drought tolerant, sun.

**Phlox Junior Dance**, 18-22" tall, pink flower, green leaf, sun.

**Phlox Junior Dream**, 18-24" tall, bright purple, sun.

**Phlox Miracle Grace**, 14-16" tall, purple flower with white center, sun.

**Polemonium Iceberg Point**, (Jacob's Ladder) rock garden dwarf, purple bloom.

**Salvia Purple Volcano**, tiny violet flower, 12" spike, red/green leaf, butterfly magnet.

**Sedum Maestro**, red buds, pink flowers, grey/green leaf, sun.

**Sedum Xenox**, 10-14" tall, green/mauve leaf turning to purple, pink flower, sun.

**Tricyrtis Blue Wonder**, late flowering, partial shade, 18-24" tall, summer/fall, butterfly magnet.

Boehler's also has the new John Paul hybrid tea and the Rainbow Knock Out shrub roses, along with a pink silver lace vine.

Our thanks to the Gents for inviting The Grapevine to share the preview.

## Upcoming SVMGA programs

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 — Tour of I-75 Southbound Rest Stop at the Saginaw-Bay county line, with hot dog roast; members may each bring 1 guest

9/26 — Chris Lentner, Kluck's Nursery, "Landscape Trees"

10/24 — Joel Miller, Goldner Walsh Nursery, "Freaks, Witches Brooms and Chimeras in Michigan's Landscape"

11/28 — Ned Bromley, Riverby Gardens, "Glorious Ferns"

12/4 — Annual Christmas potluck, First Presbyterian Church fellowship hall

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.