

The Grapevine

Bulletin of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association

August 2004 Volume 8, Issue 8

Gardens replace offending grass

Gardening for Ruth Snyder began more as happenstance.

When she and husband Ronald purchased an old farm at 4465 Mackinaw in 1995, he complained about cutting the grass under all the trees on the acre and a half lot, near Shattuck Road.

"I always loved flowers and growing things, although I just putzed at it," says the former nurse and first female skilled trade machine repair machinist for the General Motors plant here. She is now retired on disability.

"So I said I would plant under them and now with the water ban in effect, I can kill two birds with one stone, watering the trees and the gardens at the same time."

It wasn't long before she began planting other areas of the spacious yard, establishing a large, circular rose garden for prime viewing from her porch.

"There was this huge solid steel ring left in the barn and the garbage wouldn't take

it, so I used that as the outline for the bed, had 22 yards of dirt hauled in and planted 28 rosebushes," says Snyder.

It's only one of the gardens Saginaw Valley Master Gardeners will see during this month's meeting at her home.

"I had a beautiful gingerbread gazebo

I originally wanted to put there, but I couldn't convince the township to let me put it up so that's what I put there instead."

Her disability doesn't allow her to bend down, but as a result there's plenty of places to sit and admire her handiwork.

Friends help with her weeding and some of the planting, like the thousands of

spring flowering bulbs that provide her yard with early color.

"I started planting geometrically, but now it's all random — although I have a friend who carefully measures, and God help that plant if it gets bigger than it's supposed to," she laughs.

"The rule in my yard is I put you in the ground, I pray, you survive or you don't."

"Jerry Baker (the plant expert) says you should talk to your plants so I walk through my garden and let my plants and shrubs and trees know how they're doing. I encourage them, but then I have the patience of Job."

When her husband complained again, this time about cutting grass between their two driveways, Snyder responded by planting more beds. The area includes a plant nursery.

"When I buy plants I try to buy ones where I'll be able to get more plants out of them.

"I divide them and put them in the nursery, wait for them to get larger and



Master Gardener Ruth Snyder proudly shows off a blooming Rose of Sharon at her Saginaw Township home.

Next meeting

- 7 p.m. — 9 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 25, at the home of Ruth Snyder, 4465 Mackinaw, off Shattuck Road, Saginaw Township
- 7 p.m. — 7:30 p.m. Business meeting
- 7:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m. Refreshments and tour of garden
- Bring a lawn chair. Parking available on adjacent side streets

then plant them where I want them," explains the mother of nine and grandmother of 21.

As her gardens increased, her backyard neighbor suggested taking the Master Gardener class.

Snyder completed the class in 2002 and has worked on the Roethke House garden and serves as the chairman for the monthly raffle drawing.

"I have over 30 areas planted now," says Snyder, who is in the midst of adding patios to both the side and back of her house.

"This year, I started planting in the backyard. I've got the side yard there planted, but I want to work all the way around the yard."

The backyard plantings include lilac, flowering almond, forsythia, flowering bulbs, and even hardy hibiscus, which she hopes will be in bloom during the Master Gardeners' visit.

"This is my first year for caladiums. I don't do too much with annuals — more for a splash of color. The daylilies have taken over now.

"My favorite flowers are roses and lilies, all kinds of lilies, Oriental, Asiatic — in every color of the rainbow — even Easter lilies get planted in my yard."

While traffic whizzes by on Mackinaw, large pine trees buffer the sights and sounds from the street.

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Minutes of the July 2004 meeting

The July Master Gardener meeting was called to order by President Judy Henning at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 28, at the Saginaw Children's Zoo.

Henning expressed our thanks to Patti Decker, chairman of the horticultural committee, for inviting us to meet at the zoo.

Vice President Aileen Cowan moved that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as published and Brian Ott seconded the motion.

Deb Keller read the treasurer's report:
 Balance as of the last report \$3,451.18
 Deposits 6/24 to 7/28/04 39.00
 Expenses 6/24 to 7/28/04 212.03
 Balance as of 7/28/04 \$3,278.15

As of 7/28/04, we have 159 paid members.

Henning read a letter from the Saginaw Art Museum thanking our members for their help in making the

annual Garden Walk such a success.

Judy Porter presented a sign-up sheet for volunteers to help at the Saginaw Children Zoo's Birds, Butterflies and Blooms event set for Sunday, Aug. 1.

The Adopt-a-Gardens will be judged the same day.

The next series of Master Gardener classes will begin Thursday, Aug. 26, at the MSU Extension Office, 1 Tuscola, downtown Saginaw. Classes will run from 5:30 to 9 p.m.

Committees for our fall community education seminar, "An Autumn Affair for Gardeners," are in place.

Brochures have been printed and a registration form was published in the July newsletter.

There will be an announcement on TV's Channel 44 every fourth hour at 20 minutes past the hour. The announcement will run from Aug. 21 through Aug. 27 to promote the event.

Nominations for officers will be taken from the floor at the August meeting.

Marie Rumenapp, who served as director of MSU Extension, Saginaw County, is the new regional director and Ruth Miller is the new CED.

Elaine Rappley thanked all who helped with the recent Hosta Walk.

Our next meeting is Aug. 25th at the Saginaw Township home of Ruth Sny.

The meeting adjourned and members were free to tour the zoo.

Ellie Robertson, secretary

Sny garden blooms from spring through fall...

(Continues from Page 1)

The family replaced the poplar trees that once lined the front yard.

"They also make this a slightly different eco-climate, with a temperature difference of 10 to 15 degrees," Sny says.

"They also provide a lot of protection from the wind."

She is in the process of putting in soaker hoses for more efficient watering and adding planter boxes to the barn windows.

Her hobby of decorative painting is on display in the variety of garden accents she's made or painted.

"Yes, it's a continuing battle with the

bunnies, woodchuck, squirrels and even a deer, if you can believe it," Sny says, pointing to the evidence of leaves nibbled to the ground.

But with the variety and number of plants in her yard, there's always something in bloom.

"Behind the barn, I've planted a lot of tall plants, a Queen of the Prairie, that has an astilbe-type of flower and gets 6-foot-tall, Joe Pye, and others. My neighbor helps me keep it weeded back here.

"My garden is a work in process – it will never be done," says Sny and that's just fine with her.

"I'm fortunate. With my artistic eye I can see what it will look like and I can break the work down in baby steps so I can accomplish what I want to do."

Story by Darlene B. Damp, co-editor



These deer may not be real, but Sny says she does have live, four-legged visitors to her suburban garden

Officers for 2004

President

Judy Henning 799-4136

Vice President

Aileen Cowan 865-8784

Secretary

Ellie Robertson 792-4356

Treasurer

Deb Keller 781-1228

Program Director

Gail Caird 793-1942

Newsletter Co-Editors

Beth Bedtelyon 799-0309

Darlene Damp 746-9113

MSU Extension

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Master Gardener Secretary

Delfina J. R. Stacy 758-2500

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stacyd@msue.msu.edu

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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

Thanks to Patti Decker for arranging our July meeting at the Saginaw Children's Zoo.

After our business meeting and refreshments, we were able to tour the 102 gardens within the zoo. They all were beautiful and well worth seeing.

The committees for our Saturday, Oct. 2, 2004, seminar "An Autumn Affair for Gardeners" are gearing up and ready to make this seminar run smoothly.

But we need your help in making this a success by your sending in your registration for the seminar.

You won't be disappointed. You will enjoy our speakers, their topics, and the beautiful facility at Saginaw Valley State University.

I hope all of you are planning on attending. Your presence will guarantee a

success for our first venture in hosting a community education seminar.

Congratulations to members Nell Beebe and Marlynn Gubbins for taking 2nd place in the Adopt-A-Garden contest at the Saginaw Children's Zoo.

The SVMGA garden was not eligible to enter this year because of our first-place finish last year.

Our garden this year looks great and I thank all the committee members for their time and effort in maintaining it.

We will be back in competition in 2005.

Our last outdoor meeting will be at the



home of Ruth Snyder. Because of parking, please car pool if you can.

I will not be at the meeting; I will be in Washington visiting our daughter and family. Instead, you will be in the very capable hands of Vice President Aileen Cowan. Treat her well. Bring a chair for your comfort.

We will have our third annual Fall Plant exchange on Wednesday, Sept. 8 at the home of Gail Caird.

As you start dividing your plants, set them aside for the exchange. I was very fortunate last year in getting some beautiful daylilies from the exchange. Hope to get some great plants this year.

See you at the Anderson Enrichment Center for our September meeting.

Take care,
Judy

Upcoming events across Michigan

There are a number of special events for gardeners across Michigan, whether you're still looking for plants or want to learn something new.

Here's just a few:

Herb Fest, from noon to 4 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 15, at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, Ann Arbor. Includes a trail walk, displays, herbal remedies, herbal treats and more. \$15. To register, call (734) 461-1230.

Heritage Garden Tour, from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 21, in Ypsilanti. Features six gardens plus the new Community Garden. \$8. Call (734) 572-0432 or (734) 487-8931.

Friday Plant Sale, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 27, at Leila Arboretum, 103 Limit, Battle Creek. Features annuals, perennials, hanging baskets and more. Call (269) 969-0270 or visit www.lasgarden.org

Summer Herb Fair, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 28, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 29, at Heavenly Scent Herb Farm, Fenton. Features garden tours, artisans, food and children's area. Call (810) 629-9208.

Ann Arbor Bonsai Show, from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday and Sun-

day, Aug. 28-29, at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. More than 100 trees on display, along with demonstrations, experts to answer questions, plants, tools and more. Call (734) 998-7061 or visit www.annarborbonsaisociety.org.

Dahlia Show, Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 28-29, at Frederik Meijer Gardens, Grand Rapids. Growers from four states display their flowers. Call (888) 957-1580 or visit www.meijergardens.org.

Hosta Hillside, begins 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 29, at Hidden Lake Gardens, Tipton. Michigan Hosta Society has annual workday on nationally recognized hosta garden and meeting. Plant auction in afternoon. Call (248) 642-1619.

Rose Show, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 4-5, at Frederik Meijer Gardens, Grand Rapids. Features all variety of roses from the Grand Valley Rose Society. Call (888) 957-1580 or visit www.meijergardens.org.

Rose Show and Fall Convention, from Friday to Sunday, Sept. 10-12, at Holiday Inn on the Bays, Traverse City. Features rose displays, flower competitions, rose seminars, garden/winery/vineyard tours, wine tasting and more. Call (231) 223-7856 or (248) 449-4626.

Heirloom Seeds, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 11, at Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Road, Ann Arbor. Learn how to save heirloom plant varieties, vegetables and seed saving tips. \$30. Call (734) 994-2300 to register.

Home and Garden Tour, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 11, in Grosse Ile. Features five homes and two gardens. \$15. Call (734) 675-2944 or visit www.grosseilehometour.com.

Herb Show, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 11-12, at Frederik Meijer Gardens, Grand Rapids. Features displays, cooking demonstrations and lectures. Call (888) 957-1580 or visit www.meijergardens.org.

Great Ponds and Koi Show, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 18-19, at Frederik Meijer Gardens, Grand Rapids. Features koi displays, pond building demonstrations and maintenance, selecting water plants. Call (888) 957-1580 or visit www.meijergardens.org.

If you know of other events later this year, please don't hesitate to send them into The Grapevine, e-mail to sis-inc@charter.net or shrew@att.net.

Nominations due in August for all board seats

The following job descriptions are intended as a guide to outline the various officer responsibilities and the approximate number of hours required to meet those responsibilities.

Please review these carefully and decide which position you would be willing to submit your name for nomination.

SVMGA President

20-25 hours per month:

- €#Presides at the monthly meetings and Board meetings; preparing agenda for both.
- €#Writes the "Letter from the President" for monthly newsletter.
- €#Is the official representative of SVMGA.
- €#Shall be the liaison between SVMGA & MSUE.
- €#Collaborates with Board to develop long- and short-term goals and Association policies.
- €#Gives SVMGA orientation presentation to Master Gardener class.
- €#Coordinates activities of SVMGA.
- €#Enforces by-laws and policies of SVMGA.
- €#Appoints committee members or solicit volunteers, oversees committees and provides direction.

SVMGA Vice President

15 hours per month:

- €#Attends monthly Board meetings.
- €#Assumes duties of President if that officer is absent.
- €#Assists the President with enforcement of by-laws, policies, and membership responsibilities.
- €#Oversees and coordinates SVMGA

projects, assists project leaders, reports to President and Board on regular basis, ensures final project summaries are completed and filed in MG office.

- €#Assists the President in overseeing committees.
- €#Assists with volunteer selection or solicitation.

SVMGA Secretary

6 to 8 hours per month:

- €#Attends monthly Board meetings.
- €#Keeps minutes of all business meetings. Provides copy to editor to be published in monthly newsletter. Places copy in notebook in MG office.
- €#Keeps minutes of Board meetings and provides copies to Board members. Places copy in notebook in MG office.
- €#Keeps attendance record of Board meetings.
- €#Secretary may be asked to complete any correspondence required by the Association.

SVMGA Treasurer

8 to 10 hours per month:

- €#Attends monthly Board meetings.
- €#Collects dues, issues receipts and deposits monies.
- €#Pays bills incurred by SVMGA.
- €#Keeps account balance.
- €#Gives financial report at monthly meetings and Board meetings.
- €#Maintains list of paid members. Forwards membership information to Board members and Roster Chairperson.
- €#Collects and deposits earnings from projects.
- €#Prepares copy of check register for audit committee review and submits end of year report.
- €#Provides categorized yearly Financial

Statement of Income and Expenses.

SVMGA Program Chairperson

6 to 8 hours per month:

- €#Attends monthly Board meetings.
- €#Arranges for speakers as determined by Board decision.
- €#Provides President with agreed upon fees and schedule of speakers.
- €#Sends confirmation letter to speaker prior to scheduled meeting.
- €#Arranges for any special set-up or equipment needed for speaker.
- €#Obtains information to properly introduce speaker or provide President with such information.
- €#Obtains check from treasurer and pays speaker on night of meeting.
- €#Send thank-you letter to speaker after event.
- €#Arranges for field trips as determined by Board decision.
- €#Submits information to newsletter editor regarding field trips, etc.
- €#Arranges Christmas Potluck site and assists Potluck Committee as required.

Next board meeting:
**9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 1,
at MSU Extension office**

Newsletter deadline:
Monday, Sept. 6

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

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

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

Eradicate poison ivy in fall for better success

If you have poison ivy in your yard, fall is a good time to eradicate it.

The plant's leaves change from green to bright orange or scarlet then, making it easier to spot and destroy.

The plants also are more vulnerable to herbicide treatment in the fall, when cooler weather prompts them to send nutrients to the roots.

Poison ivy is a woody perennial, but often is found as a ground cover or tree-climbing vine in the shade. The stems can grow to 8 feet or longer and up to 5 inches in diameter.

Poison ivy has three leaflets, two to four inches long. Leaf edges can be toothed, smooth or lobed — and one plant may have all three variations.

Odds and ends

Plant spring bulbs in September for Rail Trail

Brighten Saginaw County's Rail Trail next spring by planting bulbs this fall.

Aileen Cowan, vice president, plans the project for 10 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 15, at various sights along the trail, which begins in St. Charles.

To sign up, contact Cowan at scratch-creations@att.net or (989) 865-8784.

Candidates needed for board seats

The nominating committee will present a slate of candidates and take nominations from the floor for each SVMGA board seat at the August meeting.

Descriptions of each position, along with the time required, are included in this month's newsletter (See Page 4). Board members serve two-year terms.

All of the positions are open this year due to term expirations, so two of the current board members will help the new board get established by serving in an advisory capacity.

The positions include President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Program Chairperson.

In September, the candidates and their biographies will be listed in the newsletter and ballots will be mailed to each member.

Ballots must be either mailed or brought to the MSU Extension office **no later than one week prior to October meeting to be counted.**

Fall plant exchange set for Sept. 8

Program Chairperson Gail Caird will host this year's fall plant exchange.

It begins at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 8, at her home, 5355 N. Nottingham, off Shattuck and Center roads, in Saginaw Township.

Members are asked to follow the same procedures as the spring plant exchange.

Bring plants in pots or plastic bags and be sure to label them according to variety, climate requirements, color and growth habit so their new owners will be successful after planting them.

Members will place their plants in one area and receive a number.

Numbers will be called according to a drawing until each group has received a plant and the plants are gone.

Fall Master Gardener class begins Aug. 26

The next Master Gardener class will meet from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursdays, beginning Aug. 26, at the MSU Extension offices, 1 Tuscola.

Sessions run for 13 weeks and include speakers on a variety of topics ranging from houseplants to vegetable gardening to integrated pest management.

For information or to register, please call Delfina J.R. Stacy, Master Gardener Secretary, at 758-2500, ext. 231, or e-mail her at stacyd@msue.msu.edu.

Gardens sought for 2005 programs

It's not too early to offer your garden for the 2005 summer meetings.

Master Gardener Sara Clark will open her yard to members in July.

Openings are still available for May, including the spring plant exchange, June and August.

Regular programming runs from January to April and September to November.

Those meetings feature speakers where members earn education credit toward recertification.

December is the annual potluck.

Those interested in hosting a summer meeting may contact Gail Caird, program director at 793-1942 or sgcaird@hotmail.com or Judy Henning at 799-4136 or judrich@juno.com.

Another project receives funding

Lilacs and ninebark shrubs distributed during the Saginaw Art Museum garden walk have been paid through 2004 project funds.

The shrubs cost \$115.41 and replaced the usual offering of pine tree seedlings.

Adopt-a-Garden winners named

Winners of the annual Adopt-a-Garden competition at the Saginaw Children's Zoo were selected during the Birds, Bugs and Blooms event.

Dr. James Weir Orthopedic Surgery took first place, while Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association member Nell Beebe and Marlynn Gubbins won second place.

Third place went to USP Postal Pals Dawn Lipse. Diane Grief and LeAnne Iamurri won the People's Choice Award.

And to raise funds for ongoing projects, the zoo's Horticultural Committee sponsored a birdhouse and birdfeeder auction.

It raised \$1,300 to buy equipment, books and materials to expand next year's Adopt-a-Gardens.

Late blight affects tomatoes, potatoes

A fungus – due to wet, humid fields – is blackening tomato plants in Michigan and a number of other states.

Called late blight, it curls tomato plant leaves with dark spots, ringed by frosty white spores and dark greasy spots on tomatoes. It can even blacken the plant, making it collapse and stink.

While growers are using commercial fungicides to treat the disease, experts advise home gardeners to dispose of diseased plants in the garbage because spores can infect other fields, after being windblown for 50 miles or more.

Experts say excessive rains late in the day or early evening, causing plants to stay wet all night, along with cooler temperatures, has accelerated the problem.

Infected vegetables are not a health hazard.

Hydrangeas add color, flowers to your landscape

Does it seem like everyone has a hardy hydrangea except you?

Brett Myers, a horticulturist at Leila Arboretum in Battle Creek, is used to hearing complaints about hydrangeas not flowering like they're supposed to – and the problem may not be your fault.

Most hydrangea, from the Greek words for water and vessel, come from Japan, China and eastern North America, along the Appalachian Mountains.

Their native habitat is woodland settings, often at the edges of woods or in the interior where an area receives some light penetration through the tree canopy.

"They tolerate wind, salt, grow in full sun to shade, but they need good drainage," Myers said.

"Like the rhododendron, you want to plant it high. If there's too much water or fertilizer it can suffer root rot."

He says there are two main groups, the "pretty flowers" of macrophylla, or big leaf and serrata, for serrated leaf, and those that have white flowers.

The color of the "pretty flower" varieties is influenced by the pH of the soil.

Aluminum ions in the soil act on the crimson pigment, turning sepals blue.

At strong acid levels (4.5 to 6) intense blues are formed, while at pH lev-

els of 6.5 to 7.5, pink colors are obtained. Testing your soil will provide your pH level.

"To adjust the color, you have to do it in advance of the blooms," said Myers.

"The plants need access to iron. However, iron uptake is limited by the pH of a soil, particularly neural pH levels (7)."

To lower the pH of a soil, deeply till three pounds of aluminum sulphate per 100 square feet, then plant. Water generously to make this work well. Planting is best done in the spring or the fall.

For an established bed, top dress with aluminum sulphate over the root zone in November and again in March.

As a guide, he suggests one-quarter pound per stem.

"To maintain lower pH water weekly during the growing season with a solution of ¼ ounce aluminum sulphate plus ¼ ounce iron sulphate per gallon of water."

With the spent flowers so high in aluminum, Myers suggests composting them around the plants to replenish the supply of aluminum used each year by the plants.

"Hydrangeas can suffer powdery mildew. They need air movement and the fungicide must be applied in advance, every two weeks. If you see it, it's too late to treat it," Myers said.

Because the "pretty flower" species flower on old wood (not including the new Endless Summer), it is important to bury

the plants in shredded leaves so flower buds are not damaged by fluctuating temperatures in the spring.

"These plants are quick to break dormancy and that's why the buds get damaged," Myers adds.

He suggests leaving pruning to spring time, cutting stems back to the highest live buds, but not more than 1/3 of the stem.

The other species that bloom on new wood include: *arborescens* (Annabelle); *paniculata* (Pee Gee, Grandiflora, Swan, Pink Diamond, Limelight); *quercifolia* or oak leaf (Snow Queen, Alice, Snow Flake); *anomala* var. *petiolaris* (Tilifolia); and *Schizaphragma hydrangioides* (Chinese climbing hydrangea).

Endless Summer flowers on both old and new wood, with two flower sets, May to June and July to August, with flowers going from pink to blue.

Pruning is not necessary for *quercifolia*, while pruning of *macrophylla* and *serrata* is done primarily to remove old dead canes, improve the shape and collect the flowers.

Arborescens are cut back to the ground each year in the winter or early spring. *Paniculata* are pruned back to two good buds in winter or early spring if late frosts are common.

For more information on these showy plants, try Michael Durs' books, "Hydrangeas" and "Woody Plants."

Night gardens offer fragrance, evening viewing pleasure

EAST LANSING — It's easy to design flower plantings for daytime viewing.

But evening is a special time in the garden if you choose the right plants.

Mary McLellan, Extension Master Gardener program coordinator at Michigan State University, says night gardens often feature white flowers and blossoms that are fragrant in the evening.

They're planted close to a porch, patio or window that's often left open at night so flower smells waft indoors.

"For viewing in the moonlight, any summer-blooming annual or perennial with white or light-colored flowers that stay open at night will add to the dis-

play," McLellan says.

Particularly well suited are flowers that open late in the day, such as four o'clocks (*Mirabilis jalapa*). A large annual plant with huge, fragrant flowers is angel's trumpet (*Datura* spp.). (McLellan points out all parts of these plants are poisonous.)

It's large enough (36 to 60 inches in height and 18 inches in diameter) to be used in a sunny spot for an annual hedge. It also grows well in containers.

Blazing-star (*Mentzelia lindleyi*) prefers a sunny spot, where it may reach 12 to 48 inches in height and produces fragrant yellow flowers.

Other fragrant annuals include mignonette (*Reseda odorata*) and flowering to-

bacco (*Nicotiana glauca*). Mignonette grown from seed, prefers a shady area (it doesn't transplant well). Flowering tobacco, also poisonous, grows best in moist soil and full sun to partial shade.

The woolly, silver foliage of dusty miller (*Senecio cineraria*) contrasts to plants with dark foliage, day or night. Ornamental grasses with light-colored or variegated foliage provide textural interest and display plumelike seed heads late in summer.

The potential star of any night garden is evening primrose (*Oenothera glazioviana*). Its large, yellow buds burst into bloom at dusk, taking just 15 seconds to unfold.

Many of these plants are pollinated by large, night-flying moths, she notes.

Gardening seminar Oct. 2 in Saginaw

Don't give up on gardening when the leaves turn color!

The Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association invites you to its inaugural fall seminar, "An Autumn Affair for Gardeners," from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 2, 2004, at Saginaw Valley State University, Regional Education Center, Ott Auditorium.

The university is located off M-84 (Bay Road), near Pierce Road, between Saginaw and Bay City.

You do not have to be a Master Gardener to attend. The seminar, including four classes, box lunch and snacks, costs \$50. **Registration deadline is Sept. 15.** Master Gardeners receive four education hours.

Conference topics and speakers are:

- #### Keynote speaker Frederick W. Case Jr., internationally known plant expert, will open the day-long conference, discussing **"Wildflowers."** Case has lectured worldwide, won top national horticultural honors, and authored four books and numerous papers.
- € **"Forcing Bulbs and Bulbs for Fall Planting"** features Grey Gitzen, Advanced Master Gardener, detailing how to force bulbs into bloom indoors and what to do this fall for a beautiful outdoor floral display next spring.
- € **"Turf Management"** with Jerry Somalski, owner of Bay Landscaping, Essexville, provides his special expertise on improving your lawn, from seed selection to maintenance.
- € **"The Garden in the Fall"** with Advanced Master Gardener Peggy Shaver covers all the tasks necessary in fall to prepare for winter and be ready for spring.

Conference schedule

- 8:30 a.m. — Registration/refreshments (pastries, coffee, juice)
- 9 a.m. — Welcome
- 9:15 a.m. — "Wildflowers" with Frederick W. Case Jr.
- 10:30 a.m. — Break
- 11 a.m. — "Forcing Bulbs and Bulbs for Fall Planting" with Grey Gitzen
- Noon — Box lunch
- 1:30 p.m. — "Turf Management" with Jerry Somalski
- 2:30 p.m. — Break/Snack (cookies, apples, drink)
- 2:45 p.m. — "The Garden in the Fall" with Peggy Shaver
- 3:45 p.m. — Conference wrap-up

Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

E-mail (conference purposes only) _____

Select one entree for box lunch, which includes chips, cookies, drink:

Roast beef/provolone cheese sandwich _____

Turkey/Swiss cheese wrap _____

Vegetarian _____

Make check, \$50 for each person attending, payable to Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association. Mail to SVMGA Treasurer Deb Keller, 1604 N. Thomas Road, Saginaw, MI 48609. You will receive written confirmation. There are no refunds; substitutes are acceptable. For information, please call Gail Caird, (989) 793-1942; Judy Henning, (989) 799-4136; or email sgcaird@hotmail.com or judrich@juno.com.