

The Grapevine

Bulletin of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association

August 2005 Volume 9, Issue 8

Frankenmuth family fells trees, adds gardens

Carmen Lerash couldn't stand the dense, dark woods that surrounded her new husband's home in rural Frankenmuth.

"He bought it the year before we met and I just didn't feel comfortable there," says the registered nurse for the Lutheran Home Health Care agency.

"It was dark, mossy and very cold. We couldn't even grow grass, it was so heavily shaded."

Members of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association can see what Terry and Carmen Lerash have done in the 2½ years she's lived there at the August meeting.

With the help of neighbors and friends, they felled 38 mature oaks and maple trees that towered over their ranch home on South Reimer Road, opening up the space for daughter, Hannah Rose, 6, and Carmen's love of gardening.

Some 500 yards of dirt later, the Lerashes couldn't be happier. They now

have sunny front and back yards that allow them to enjoy the outdoors and better see the variety of creatures, large and small, that inhabit their five-acre woodland.

"It's so wonderful. We have a

meadow for everything from dragonflies and hummingbirds to toads and frogs, bunnies and deer. My daughter loves it and I can enjoy it, whether I'm inside or out," she explains.

The neighbors used the fallen timber for their home, while the Lerashes installed a garden berm on the back of the property filled with 1,000 bulbs, including peony tulips, to enjoy spring

blooms. Wood chips from the lumbering effort provide mulch for the new beds

The woods, which still surround the Lerash home, also blossom with trout lily, ferns, wild lobelia, May apples and trillium to name a few.

As the growing season continues, a variety of perennials begin peeking out on the new back berm, including daylilies, hearty shamrock, sunflowers – that were supposed to be cleome – sage, bee balm, cone flowers, grasses, sedum and phlox.

At the back of the house, the planting bed has been expanded from two Rose of Sharon bushes to feature spirea, a Queen of the Prairie with its lacy pink flowers, clematis, spiderwort, more sedum, lantana, lavatera, allium, Mexican hyssop, butterfly bush and other perennials.

"I call this my trial and error bed. It's where I try things first to see where it might work in the yard," she laughed.

"We can sit here at the kitchen table and watch the hummingbirds go from



Carmen Lerash has planted red morning glories and clematis to climb the arbor her husband created for their Frankenmuth garden.

Next meeting

- 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 24, at Carmen Lerash's garden, 5125 S. Reimer Road. Take M-46, turning south on Reimer, just past Ports-mouth, or take Dixie Highway towards Frankenmuth, turning north on Reimer Road. House is on east side, between Dixie and Roedel Road.
- 7 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. business meeting
- 7:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. refreshments
- 8 p.m. – 9 p.m. tour garden
- **Bring a chair; wear your badge, please. NO GUESTS.**
- Park in Lerash's driveway, or on Reimer Road.

flower to flower. My husband is just as fascinated as I am, although he did ask me if we could quit for a while so he could play golf again.

"Then when he was out on the golf course, he said to his buddy, 'that's a nice perennial grass,' and his friend said, 'man, Carmen has to let you out more!'"

While Terry was at work one day, his wife sprayed Round-Up on the front yard to make room for a new, stepped bed.

"There were all these euonymous bushes that seemed like one large one and all I could hear was this slithering sound," Lerash said with a shiver.

"A couple of days later, Terry noticed everything was dying and said, 'you did it?'"

Today, a nice brick walk winds to the front door, past an established Japanese maple and a few euonymous bushes, to a new shade garden that features hostas, reed grass, bleeding heart, Rodgersia, a variegated forget-me-not, astible and some wild lobelia.

"I call it my moonlight garden," Lerash said. "My daughter helps with this area. She helps me pick out the plants that are cool to her and tells me where I should place them."

Inside this issue:

<i>Fireflies light up dark nights</i>	2
<i>President's letter</i>	3
<i>Global ReLeaf surveys city trees</i>	3
<i>Odds and ends</i>	4,6
<i>Volunteer opportunities</i>	5
<i>Minutes of the July meeting</i>	6
<i>Register now for fall conference</i>	7

Continues on Page 2

Little lightning bugs make hot, summer nights magical

On hot, muggy, summer nights the backyard comes alive with all those creatures that have adapted their lifestyle to the dark. Many are only seen by chance. Many are only heard.

Lately, as soon the sun has disappeared and the Moon has risen, hundreds of flickering lights appear, dancing over the landscape to an unheard ancient rhythm.

Meet the lightning bug. Alias's include fire fly and glow worm.

Lightning bugs are true wonders of nature. The light they emit is a cold light.

Put your hand close to an incandescent light bulb and feel the large amount of heat it emits. Light bulbs convert electrical energy into light and heat.

Only about 10% of the electrical energy is converted to light energy. The rest is heat energy.

By contrast, the lightning bug combines a chemical called luciferin with oxygen and an enzyme to produce light in specially adapted cells in the tail section of their abdomen. Over 95% of the

chemical energy is converted to light.

The light show was evolved to aid males in courting females. Each species has their own blinking code. Females of some species mimic the codes of other lightning bugs to lure a hormone-primed male to his death.

Lightning bug larvae are predaceous on an assortment of small insects and snails. No life form is damaging to plants. During the day, the adults seek shaded vegetation. When present, the larvae are found here also. The female spends her entire life in this habitat.

Lightning bugs are beetles. There are 125 species of lightning bugs in the U.S. and Canada. The adult male is the only form that flies for most of the species.

The adult males we are familiar with in Michigan are elongated, soft-bodied beetles. Most species are between a

quarter and a half inch in length. The forewings are leathery and act as covers that protect the aft-flying wings when at rest.

You will note that they are dark in color with some yellow-orangish markings. The character that distinguishes adult male lightning bugs from other similar-looking beetles is a shield on the top of their thorax (mid body section). Viewed from above, this shield hides the head.

The females cannot fly. The female and the larva (if present) can oftentimes be found in the lawn in the evening. These wingless females and most larvae also give off light. They are often referred to as (you guessed it) glow worms.

No harm, no foul. Enjoy them. Drag the kids away from the TV to see them.

Courtesy of MSU IPM staff

500 yards of dirt, 20 loads of stone later...

Continues from Page 1

And just beyond it, via the flat stone steps, is a circular path in the woods, where she has begun planting hostas and other shade plants.

"This is an experiment, too," Lerash says. "As you can see from the tipped over bucket, something raised havoc."

A sloping hill that leads to the basement has snow-on-the-mountain, but will eventually become a rose bed.

"You can't imagine the creatures I've seen down there – salamanders, crayfish, and one day a turtle was looking back at me."

The rose garden will remind Lerash of her own childhood, when her mom's garden flourished with roses.

"Back then they didn't know about perennials. She had roses and clematis. I don't use chemicals like she did because I want it to be safe for my daughter. If I use anything, it's a little Dawn dish soap."

Terry Lerash has built a garden arbor, covered with clematis and red morning glories.

"I don't care if it leans, I'm not taking those plants down," his wife says.

There's also a vegetable garden, which doesn't get much critter damage, thanks

to their dog, Rocky, who regularly patrols the yard's perimeter.

Out front, along each side of the driveway are raised beds.

"We had 20 loads of stone brought in and then dug out all the old ones, which were buried and redid this," Lerash says. "I put in a lot of flowers then moved a lot of them to the back so I'm working on replenishing this area."

Her hydrangeas show off among the daylilies, brown-eyed Susans and coreopsis. In the spring, the beds feature hyacinths, tulips, grape hyacinths and daffodils.

When the Bay City native is not at work, in the yard or enjoying her family, she is involved with the Frankenmuth Farmer's Market and the Frankenmuth Women's Club.

Terry has three sons, Chad, Aaron and Brent, who range from 14 to 22, and keep them busy.

"I worked at St. Mary's hospital for 21 years and when I had the opportunity to take a sabbatical, I did it," Lerash said.

"I told my husband I was going to use the left side of my brain to explore flowers and took the Master Gardener course. I could have never done it if I was working full-time."

Story by Darlene Damp, editor

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Letter from the President

Like many of you, I belong to several organizations related to plants and horticulture.

Recently, as a member of the Saginaw Valley Hosta Society, I was able to tour Walter's Gardens in Zeeland, Michigan. They are strictly wholesale and one of the largest Hosta growers in the country.

After watching the journey a Hosta takes from inception in the tissue culture laboratory to the retail showroom, I am impressed by the tender care and many hands that help the seedling on its way to our gardens. I'm surprised the Hostas we purchase are so inexpensive.

Many thanks to Sarah Clark and her neighbors, Brooke and Paul Kowalski, for opening their combined gardens to the association for our July meeting.

Their garden is more mature than any three-year-old garden I ever attempted. Sarah's many original sculptures are a

delight and add panache to all of the plantings.

Our fall perennial exchange is fast approaching. Now is the time to inventory your gardens and decide which plants need thinning, transferring or can be shared with your fellow Master Gardeners.

It's also a good time to pot them so they are established before the exchange Sept. 21 at Anne Birkam's residence.

I got a head start when a Hibiscus Duke of Baltimore talked to me at a nursery and I had to find a location for it when I brought it home.

A very big thank you to Program Director Amy Fitkin for arranging our tour of the Frankenmuth Mutual Insurance Company Gardens. They do amazing



things with annuals and grasses.

The prairie they have established is an education to see, smell, and walk.

Because of the type of gardens the company has established they are one of the horticulture industry's test gardens, and we saw several plants that will be new on the market for 2006.

This is our last month visiting members' gardens.

In September we return to the Enrichment Center for our meetings and you will have an opportunity to accumulate education hours. Amy has a line-up of great presenters.

I hope your summer has been as full and as much fun as mine. I'm looking forward to fall and the changes it brings.

But, before that, we have one more garden to visit. I'll see you all at Carmen Lerash's garden in Frankenmuth Aug. 24.

Grey

Global ReLeaf seeks help for city tree survey

Global ReLeaf of Michigan and the city of Saginaw will again partner to complete a street tree inventory using trained Master Gardeners, volunteers from the Cathedral District Neighborhood Association and local businesses.

The inventory will help the city develop an Urban and Community Forestry Management Plan.

Master Gardeners and other volunteers will be trained and paired with professional foresters. Each team will have an assigned area of four to five blocks to complete. Each team will consist of at least one professional and 2 volunteers.

For Master Gardeners this would count as six volunteer hours, including two hours of training and four hours doing the inventory.

The inventory will be conducted within the limits of the Cathedral District neighborhood on the city's East Side.

The neighborhood is bound by Washington Ave., Genesee Ave., Remington and Weadock & Owen streets and consists of about 40 blocks.

The data collected will be used to supplement existing data collected from the Heritage Square neighborhood in 2004 and to identify and prioritize the removal of hazardous trees.

The information also will be used to locate planting sites and as a management tool for the city of Saginaw.

The inventory will be conducted from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 24.

Training workshops will be offered during the week (at a location to be determined by the volunteers) to prepare for the inventory.

Each team of volunteers and professionals will collect information on tree species, tree condition, hazard assessment, size, and any conflicts (utility,

sidewalk, paved surfaces) the tree may have.

Some teams will be using handheld GIS units from the city to locate the trees and add the information while other teams will be recording the data manually.

Those manually recording information also will use aerial photos of the blocks to locate trees.

This will later be added to the City GIS system.

To volunteer, please contact Heidi Frei, Project Forester, Global ReLeaf of Michigan, at (800) 642-7353 or hfreigrm@aol.com.

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."

Welcome new members!

The new additions to the SVMGA are:

Sharon Remer, Saginaw, Master Gardener Trainee.

Melva Bond, Saginaw, Master Gardener Trainee.

Gloria Schuler, Bay City, Advanced Master Gardener.

There are now 174 members of SVMGA.

Odds and Ends

We need you!

We cannot have a successful seminar without you. Have you registered yet for "An Autumn Affair for Gardeners?" The deadline is Friday, Sept. 16.

Please back the Association by attending the seminar. Take the time to fill out an application and send it to our treasurer, Jan O'Dell.

We look forward to seeing you.

Aileen Cowan & Judy Henning, co-chairs, "An Autumn Affair for Gardeners"

Plan now for fall exchange

President Grey Gitzen says it's not too soon to be thinking about the annual fall plant exchange.

SVMGA Secretary Anne Birkam will host the event at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 21, at her home, 2523 N. Oakley.

The fall plant exchange works just like the spring plant exchange.

Please pot up any plants that you have for the giveaway, from any divisions that you have made.

Don't forget to label ALL of the plants you bring with the botanical and/or common name, light requirements, height, color — whatever will help the new owner to make the right choice for his or her garden.

Some plants were not labeled during the spring exchange, which made it difficult for those not as familiar with plant species and varieties.

Zoo committee says thank you for 'Birds, Bugs'

On behalf of the Horticulture Committee at the Saginaw Children's Zoo, a big thank you goes to the following members for volunteering for the Birds, Bugs, Butterflies, & Blooms event at the zoo:

Melva Bond, Amy Cataline, Bryan Forrest, Holly Furlo, Bob Gubbins, Lynn Hauk, Margaret Jackson, Joe Leach, Kathy Leach, Mary Anne Malek, Janet Martineau, and Sue Vollbrecht.

We congratulate first-place winner for

the Adopt-A-Gardener contest Diane Griefe & LeAnne Iamurri; Alice Hudson and Heather Turner (Alice's daughter) for second place and Bob Gubbins and his wife, Ruth, for third place.

Honorable Mentions were given to the gardens of Nell Beebe and Marlynn Gubbins; Grey and June Gitzen, and the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association.

If you haven't been to the zoo to see the gardens, take some time and do so, the gardens are looking great.

Thanks,

Judy Porter, Grey Gitzen and Judy A. Henning, Adopt-A-Garden co-chairs

Host a summer meeting

Program director Amy Fitkin is hoping several members will host summer meetings in their gardens in 2006.

While she has Deb Keller signed up for the July meeting, Fitkin still needs hosts for the May, June and August meetings, plus the September plant exchange.

Those hosting the May and September plant exchanges should have enough room for plants, people and parking.

Those hosting a meeting are simply opening their gardens for viewing by the membership for two hours.

To volunteer, please contact Fitkin at 781-1670 or e-mail am12bgarden@aol.com.

This allows Fitkin to set the 2006 SVMGA calendar as soon as possible.

Hydrangeas for sale

Aileen Cowan has several different varieties of hydrangeas for sale.

The varieties include: a. radiata "Samantha," Hydrangea macrophylla "Lilacina," Hydrangea paniculata "Unique" and "Kyushu." Each costs \$15.

Contact Cowan at (989) 865-8984 or e-mail scratchcreations@att.net

Rail Trail gets weeded

Thank-you to Sherry Burkhart for jumping right on the request for weeding at the Rail Trailhead sign in St. Charles.

The area had been invaded by the terrible bugger, crabgrass.

I had not been by this area in awhile

and when I did stop around it looked so bad I thought I would have to turn in my MG badge.

It looks 100% better now and Sherry has saved the MG reputation!

Also thanks to all the other volunteers who have been going out to the different locations to weed — this year has been a challenge. Thanks again to all the RT volunteers!

Aileen Cowan

Hidden Lake has class

TIPTON — Go native if you want to add diversity to your landscape.

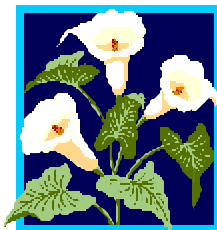
Anton "Tony" Reznicek, a University of Michigan curator, offers a lecture Thursday, Aug. 25, on native plant identification, as well as how to use these plants in your yard.

The talk is from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Hidden Lake Gardens in Tipton. Cost is \$16.

His lecture looks at native trees, shrubs, vines, grasses and herbaceous plants that are adapted the climate here — and will not become invasive.

They also can mean less care and provide habitats for birds and insects.

To register, please call (517) 431-2060.



Petoskey hosts fall seminar

PETOSKEY — Janet Macunovich of the Michigan School of Gardening is the keynote speaker at a fall gardening conference here.

It is from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10, at the new Community Center at the Emmet County Fairgrounds.

Macunovich will discuss "Shade Gardening and "Priming the Perennial Garden."

In addition Steve Fouch of Benzie County MSU Extension will offer "Rare and Unusual Additions to Your Landscape."

Jennifer Gelb, a landscape architect and restoration ecologist, talks about "Design Elements and Landscape Reno-

Volunteer opportunities...

Farmer's Market survey...

Volunteers are needed for the following dates to do attendance counts and dot surveys.

Four volunteers are needed for each date. The times for the Monday, Wednesday and Friday markets are: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. On Saturday it is 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The dates volunteers will work are:
Saturday, Aug. 27;
Friday, Sept. 9;
Monday, Sept. 26; and
Wednesday, Oct. 5.

If you can work any of these dates, please contact Aileen Cowan at (989) 865-8784 or e-mail scratchcreations@att.net.

Cowan says "This is always a fun volunteer opportunity as the Market is a great place to be!"

Saginaw Art Museum gardens...

Gardens at the Saginaw Art Museum are in need of weeding.

Stop by anytime when the museum is open to help out.

Dow Event Center planting...

Ruth Snyder is looking for a few strong volunteers to help plant the atrium at the Dow Event Center.

She has set Saturday, Aug. 20, as the work date. A time is yet to be determined. Please call her at 792-5688.

Saginaw County Rail Trail...

Aileen Cowan says weeds are overtaking the gardens at the Saginaw County Rail Trail.

If you have time, please pitch in to help

keep this area looking good.

For more information, call Cowan at 865-8784.

'Muth Market seeks MGs...

The Frankenmuth Farmer's Market welcomes Master Gardener volunteers to sit and answer questions during its operating hours.

For information, contact Laurajeanne Kehn at (989) 295-9766.

Events keep gardeners hopping

A variety of activities await gardeners this month and next around the state.

- **Iris sale**, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 13, at the American Polish Cultural Center, 2975 E. Maple, Troy. Call (248) 280-0848 or visit www.irisclub.org.

- **Country Garden Walk**, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 13, Romeo, featuring private gardens with working artists. Costs \$10; call (586) 752-0603.

- **Ford House and Garden Tour**, 10:30 a.m. Aug. 13 at 1100 Lake Shore, Grosse Pointe Shores. Costs \$10; reservations, (313) 884-4222.

- **Flower Pounding**, 10:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 20, at Stone Cottage Gardens, 3740 W. Willford, Gladwin. Use natural flower colors for designs. Costs \$8; call (989) 426-2919.

- **Medicinal Trees**, 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Aug. 20 at For-Mar Nature Preserve and Aboretum, 2142 N. Genesee, Burton. Identify trees and how they are used in medicine. Cost \$2; call (810) 789-8567.

- **Bromeliad Society Annual Show and Sale**, 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 20-21, Matthaei Botanical Gardens, Ann Arbor. Free; call (248) 380-7359.

- **Farm Days**, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 27, and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 28, at Warmbier Farms, 5300 Garfield, Auburn. Baby farm animals, mum dig, wagon rides, tractors and combines, plus 15 per cent off sale on anything in store with animals.

- **Dahlia Show**, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 27, Meijer Gardens, Grand Rapids. Features hundreds of specimen blooms, types and sizes; experts answer questions. Call (888) 957-1580.

- **Summer Faire**, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 27, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 28, Heavenly Scent Herb Farm, 1370 White Lake, Fenton. Garden tour at 2:30 both days; 46 artisans. Call (810) 629-9208.

- **Bonsai Show**, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Aug. 27-28, at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, Ann Arbor. Some 100 trees on display, demonstrations, experts answer questions, vendors. Costs \$3.

- **Annual workday** and auction by Michigan Hosta Society, 9 a.m. Aug. 28 at Hidden Lake Gardens, Tipton. Workday, lunch, plant sale and 1:30 p.m. auction of collector hostas. Contact janerverson@sbcglobal.net.

- **Copper garden ornament**, from 10 a.m. to noon at Heavenly Scent Herb Garden, Fenton. Features creation of copper spider web for garden; bring wire cutters and needle nose pliers. Cost is \$49.75; registration, (810) 629-9208.

- **Fall Rose Show**, Sept 10-11, at Meijer Gardens, Grand Rapids. Features juried show and specimen blooms on display.

- **Fall Rose Show** by Detroit Rose Society, Friday to Sunday, Sept. 16-18, Somerset Mall, Troy. Call (248) 649-6161.

Next board meeting:
5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 7,
at MSU Extension office,
1 Tuscola, downtown
Saginaw

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

To view the monthly newsletter
on the Web site, please go to:
[www.msue.msu.edu/
mastergardener/saginaw](http://www.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/saginaw)

Minutes of the July 27, 2005 meeting

President Grey Gitzen welcomed all to Sara Clark's Saginaw Township home. He thanked Sara and her neighbors Brooke and Paul Kowalski for their hospitality.

Amy Fitkin moved that the minutes of the June 2005 meeting be approved as published; Bill Wegner seconded the motion.

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

Balance as of last report	\$3,671.08
Deposits 6/22/05 to 7/26/05	\$1,555.00
Expenses 6/22/05 to 7/26/05	\$86.85
Balance as of 7/26/05	\$5,139.23

As of 7/26/05 we have 173 paid, members with one more joining today.

Darlene Damp moved the treasurer's report be accepted; Elaine Rappley seconded the motion.

Mary Jane Lysogorski has resigned as Master Gardener coordinator. The Extension office is also in the process of looking for a new secretary. Anyone interested in applying for the coordinator's position should let Gitzen know.

Aileen Cowan needs volunteers to maintain the Rail Trail gardens. She also

has hydrangeas for sale. You can call her at 865-8784.

Judy Henning reported that the vendors are mostly in place for the fall conference. Volunteers are in place, but anyone else wishing to volunteer is welcome.

Judy Porter talked about "Stroll Through the Zoo and Get Fit Too," sponsored by the Commission on Aging Aug. 3. The Arthur Hill football team will be there again this year.

Shelley Whitehead needs help at the Saginaw Art Museum maintaining the gardens.

Members needing a roster can get them from Gail Caird.

Ruth Sny has set a work day at the Dow Events Center for Saturday, Aug. 20. Time has yet to be set.

The Saginaw Art Museum Garden Walk committee met and because paid admissions have steadily decreased over the years, there will be no Garden Walk next year. The committee recommended something else take its place.

There will be another Rose

Spectacular at the Andersen Center next year. Many suggestions have been made to improve it. This year the attendance was great.

Judy Henning invited everyone to come sit in her bench that she bought from the Bird's Nest with past gift certificates from SVMGA.

Shirley McNier asked those who have not picked up their logo wear to please pick it up.

Amy Fitkin had a sign-up sheet for the field trip to Frankenmuth Mutual Gardens on Sunday, Aug. 7.

Thanks go to Sara Clark for the handmade vase, David Quinnan for the bird house and an anonymous donor for the Master Gardener hat as prizes for the drawings.

Congratulations to Sherry Burkhardt for winning the vase, Grey Gitzen for winning the bird house and Joe Leach for winning the hat.

The meeting was adjourned, refreshments were enjoyed and members toured the beautiful gardens of Sara, Brooke and Paul.

Submitted by Anne Birkam, secretary

More odds and ends

Continues from Page 4

vation" while Tony Dunaski, a photography instructor at North Central Michigan College, offers a digital photography workshop.

Linda Zulski, a floral designer and Master Gardener, also has a workshop on "Rosemary and Ivy Topiary."

For information or registration, call Martha Lee, Master Gardener Coordinator, at (231) 348-1779, or e-mail msue24@msu.edu.

Stop by and see bench

At our December potluck, the Association gave me a gift certificate to The Bird's Nest, a great store.

About two weeks ago, I finally decided it was time to spend it, and with my husband, sister, and brother-in-law in tow off we went.

It didn't take long, maybe about 3 minutes, to find what I was looking for – an iron bench. We brought it home, placed

it in the front garden, and said WOW; it looks as if it has always been here.

I invite all of you to stop by, open the front gate, step into the garden, have a seat on the bench, and relax for a minute.

Each time that I look at the bench I think of all of you. Thank you, once again, from the bottom of my heart for such a great gift.

Judy

Genesee has fall seminar

FLINT — Four speakers highlight the annual Fall into Spring gardening conference Saturday, Oct. 1, at the Genesee Skill Center.

It is from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and costs \$50 before Sept. 23 and \$55 after that date.

Sue Grubba, owner of Creative Scapes, will talk about "Lighting in the Landscape."

She specializes in custom landscape designs, annual and perennial gardens and the design and installation of

landscape night lighting.

Jerry Carney, an Advanced Master Gardener and American Rose Society horticultural judge, provides "Tips and Tricks for Growing Great Roses."

He has 425 different rose varieties at his Clarkston home.

Steve Nikkila, co-owner of Perennial Favorites, a garden and landscape design firm, combines ways to improve your photography with photos of gardens and plants. All tips will work for both manual and digital cameras.

The conference concludes with George Papadellis, owner of Telly's Greenhouse, giving a peek at new annuals and perennials for 2006. To register, go to the MSUE Master Gardener web site or call (810) 244-8530.

Correction

Pat Blakely was pictured in last month's issue, not Peggy Shaver.

Register now for Oct. 1 gardening seminar

The Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association invites you to see what the fall season holds for great growing and year-round enjoyment. The second annual conference is from 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 1, 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. No refunds; substitutes are acceptable. **Registration deadline is Sept. 16.** Master Gardeners receive 4 education hours.

Conference speakers and their topics:

- Keynote speaker Brent Heath, of Brent and Becky’s Bulbs, hybridizers of daffodils and third generation of bulb growers in Virginia, introduces you to **“Bulbs as Companion Plants,”** with exquisite slides. He returns to the podium for growing **“Lovely Long-lasting Lilies and Awesome Alliums.”**
- Jerry Somalski of Bay Landscaping in Essexville, examines how to create the perfect backdrop for your plantings in **“Bones of the Garden.”**
- **“Native Woody Ornamentals”** with Chuck Martin, Dow Gardens horticulturalist, examines how they provide scale, structure, foliage, floral and seasonal interest.
- A variety of vendors will be available. SVMGA will sell bulbs for fall planting.

Conference schedule

8:15 a.m. Registration/refreshments	
8:45 a.m. Welcome	1 p.m. “Native Woody Ornamentals,” Chuck Martin
9 a.m. “Bulbs as Companion Plants,” Brent Heath	2 p.m. Break/Snack (cookies, coffee)/ Vendors
10:30 a.m. Break/vendors	2:15 p.m. “Lovely Long Lasting Lilies and Awesome Alliums,” Brent Heath
10:45 a.m. “Bones of the Garden,” Jerry Somalski	3:45 p.m. Conference Wrap-up/Questions and Answers
Noon Box lunch/vendors	4 p.m. Vendors

Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____ Are you a Master Gardener? _____

Select **one** box lunch entrée (includes chips, cookie, drink):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shaved roast beef/ham with Cheddar | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Pasta Salad |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Caesar wrap | <input type="checkbox"/> Stuffed Greek Salad Pita |

Make check, \$50 for each person attending, payable to Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association. Mail to SVMGA Treasurer Jan O’Dell at 5122 Hickory Court, Saginaw, MI 48603. For information, call Judy Henning at (989) 799-4136, e-mail judrich@sbcglobal.net, or Aileen Cowan at (989) 865-8784, e-mail scratchcreations@att.net.

Brochure/registration form available at www.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/saginaw.

Upcoming 2005 programs

- 8/24 — Tour of Carmen Lerash's garden**
 - 9/21 — Fall plant exchange at Anne Birkam's garden**
 - 9/28 — Joe LaForest, Dow Gardens pest manager,
"Identifying Insects"**
 - 10/19 — Susan Hunter Scott, AMG, "Ornamental
Grasses"**
 - 11/16 — Patricia Pennell of Grand Rapids "Rain
Gardens"**
 - 12/14 — Annual Christmas Potluck**
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