

The Grapevine

Bulletin of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association

August 2008 Volume 12, Issue 8

August Meeting at Japanese Gardens and Children's Zoo

You won't have to don waders like Joe Leach – or spend any time weeding.

Holly Furlo just wants members of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association to enjoy the Saginaw-Tokushima Friendship Garden at the



Holly Furlo in Japanese Gardens

meeting and annual potluck this month.

It begins at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 27, at the Japanese Gardens and then moves to the Children's Zoo for dinner under the big red and white tent in the center of the park, near the horse exhibit.

Members are asked to bring a dish to pass – there is no sign-up list – and park at the zoo since space at the Japa-

nese Gardens is limited. SVMGA provides the hot dogs, buns and condiments. Please bring a dish to pass, serving utensil and your drinks and table service.

Furlo, an Advanced Master Gardener and member of the Japanese Gardens board says of the Gardens, "We're trying to make it presentable." She has hosted a weekly weed-in at the Japanese Gardens from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. every Tuesday for the past two growing seasons.

"The bed out front is really nasty," she explained, adding that SVMGA member Sara Clark has made that area her own weeding project.

"Yvonne Becker has been working on the cutting garden, which was just a mass of weeds". This small garden has been named Roji (Chaniwa). Joe Leach used his boots to help clean up the small pond and his wife Kathy worked on adjacent beds.

See August Meeting, page 6

Next meeting

5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 27, at the Japanese Gardens and Saginaw Children's Zoo, South Washington and Ezra Rust Drive

5:30 p.m. tour Japanese Gardens, followed by dinner at the Saginaw Children's Zoo's red and white tent near the horse exhibit.

One guest allowed per member. Please bring a dish to pass, your drinks and table service. You may want to bring chairs although there are picnic tables at the zoo's tent.

MANDATORY! Wear your badge. You will be charged admission if not wearing your badge. A temporary badge will be made for your guest at the front gate.

Park at the Children's Zoo since parking at Japanese Gardens is limited. Cross at street light to Japanese Gardens.

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

Plant Exchange September 17th !!

Members! Start looking over your gardens and decide which plants you'd like to share with your fellow Master Gardeners.

Wednesday, September 17th, 7:00 p.m. at Susan Scott's house, SVMGA will have its annual fall plant exchange.

Please label your plant, and provide information as to sunny or shady, damp or dry, well-behaved or invasive—in short any info you think will help this adoptee adapt to its new surroundings.

Directions to Susan's house:

Address: 4914 Clunie
Take Center south of Gratiot, cross railroad tracks, take first left (Clunie).

Susan's house
is second drive on right.



Minutes of July 23, 2008 meeting

Susan Scott welcomed 50 members to Joan Martin's home in Saginaw Township. She thanked Joan for her hospitality; as well as Mark and Koula Legner, Carol and Ken Boertman and JoAnn Ward. Association members enjoyed touring the four beautiful gardens these neighbors graciously opened up for our view.

Elaine Rappley moved that the minutes of the June 2008 meeting be approved as published; Ruth Sny seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Scott gave a brief overview of the treasurer's report, indicating the association has 166 paid members, no money was taken in this past month and there was approximately \$300 in outgoing funds. Elaine Rappley moved that the brief treasurer's report be approved. The motion carried.

Scott discussed the August Picnic Potluck Meeting to be held at the Japanese

Cultural Gardens and Saginaw Children's Zoo. Members were reminded to **wear their badges**, bring a dish to pass, stop at the Zoo's front entrance and obtain a nametag for your adult guest and remember—the meeting begins at 5:30 pm. *Please see parking and arrival instructions on Page 1.*

Scott discussed the need for volunteers at the Playscape for weeding the flowerbeds. Amy Fitkin reiterated volunteers to water, deadhead, and weed the beds are needed for the time frame from the second week in August through first frost. Fitkin has a calendar sign up document for those interested in helping out on this project.

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

Scott made members aware they can catch a view of Jane Chard's project beds at Health Source when viewing

the TV 5 segment featuring the organization.

Grey Gitzen presented Kathryn Andrews with her MG certification.

Patty Decker asked for volunteers to help at the Zoo's Birds, Bugs, Butterflies and Blooms event. Voting will take place this day on the favorite gardens maintained at the zoo.

Gus Schulwitz discussed the volunteering he is participating in at the zoo; Schulwitz helps maintain the train and carousel rides.

Scott discussed the instructional volunteering MG's gave at Abeles Greenhouse this spring. The staff at Abeles said this worked out well; and it was a great promotional opportunity for our association.

*Respectfully submitted by
Melva Bond, secretary*

Next Board Meeting:

5:30 p.m. Wednesday,
September 3rd
at MSU Extension

Newsletter Deadline:
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2008
5:00 PM

Send submissions to
Sue Stemler, editor
suestemler@chartermi.net

View the newsletter at:
**web1.msue.msu.edu/
mastergardener/saginaw/**

Educational Opportunities

The Saturday Morning Gardener

Horticulture Gardens—MSU

Cost: \$25.00 per class

Poisonous Plants:
Sept. 27 9 am-11 am

Dr. Frank Telewski, curator of the Beal Botanical Garden, will discuss common poisonous plants found in Michigan. Our class will meet in Beal garden and take an informal walk around the display beds, with ample time to ask questions and learn about the plants. This is a great chance to learn from one of our area's foremost authorities on toxic plants.

For online information on enrollment status of a class, registration forms and maps, go to: www.hrt.msu.edu/outreach/SMG120.htm

For further information or accommodations for persons with disabilities, call Ann Hancock at (517) 355-5191, ext. 1348.

Letter from the president

Hello !

Well, for those of you who did not show up, we had a great time viewing gardens last month! The final count was four very different and lovely gardens. In addition to Joan Martin's great yard, we were privileged to see 3 of her neighbors yards. Two were scheduled and we received the third as a bonus. Thus we went from full sun to full shade with these gardens. Thank you to Joan and all her neighbors!



would pass on the information to everyone. This assumes you read my column of course! When using Round UP, we are told that it breaks down in the soil within 24 hrs and thus is no problem to the environment. That is true but only if your soil is good condition and has lots of compost added to it. It is the richness of the soil that causes the Round Up to break down. Nutritionally depleted soil is unable to do the job. Now, I know that our members all have great soil and are good about amending it. If you haven't added compost lately, this is another reason to do so this year.

Next month is the membership and guest summer picnic. Everyone seemed to enjoy this so much last summer so we are doing it again. We can thank Mary Andrews our program chair for this great idea!. I love it because in addition to being great gardeners, our members are great cooks. Hot dogs, buns and condiments are being provided. We will tour the Japanese Tea House Gardens at 5:30 and then retire to the zoo (in back under the tent) for good food and our meeting. There are some great gardens to tour afterwards.

FYI. I was reading through one of the gardening magazines someone brought to the magazine exchange and learned something new. I thought I

Start looking over your gardens to see what you want to split and donate to other members. We will be having our fall plant exchange on September 17th. This meeting date will be in addition to our usual membership meeting. We expect to start at 7 and finish by 8. See Details on Page 1 of this newsletter..

I also want to take this opportunity to say thank you to the members who have contributed to the newsletter. Darlene Damp with her interviews with speakers as well as members who allow us to meet and check out their

gardeners, Joan Martin with meet the gardener and Jed Fulkersons article on hummingbirds and this month's book review.

Those of you that like to write, can consider creating articles for the newsletter, or doing book reports or whatever that you think would be of interest to the membership and submit them to Sue Stemler.....our intrepid editor.

The rain still seems to come at just the right time to keep everything growing and looking good! Enjoy your gardening!

Susan

Officers for 2007-08

<i>President</i>	Susan Scott	791-9270
<i>Vice President</i>	Karen Tilden	777-6673
<i>Secretary</i>	Melva Bond	777-4092
<i>Treasurer</i>	Crystal Kauer	792-6874
<i>Program Director</i>	Mary Andrews	797-3319
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Sue Stemler	781-4656
suestemler@chartermi.net		
MSU Extension	1 Tuscola Street Saginaw, MI 48607-1287	
<i>Master Gardener Coordinator</i>		
Nancy L. Burd,	758-2504 burd@msu.edu	

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.”

Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, disability, age, religion, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status or family status.

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal opportunity institution.

Volunteer Opportunities



Drive the Train! Run the Carousel! At the Zoo!

The Saginaw Children's Zoo is in need of some volunteers to run the train and carousel mainly on the weekends between now and the end of September. 4 hour shifts. Saturday 9 to 1 and 1 to 5 and Sunday 10 to 2 and 2 to 6.

You don't need to be available for absolutely every opening but you should be available more than not available.

Call Gus Schulwitz 793-8989 or email guss@chartermi.net for further details and explanations.

Museum Works

There will be a clean up day at the Saginaw Art Museum on August 23rd.

Please call Shelly Whitehead at 892-0719 or email her at yisthereair@aol.com if you can help.

Bridgeport Historical Museum

This is a quick note to let everyone know how much we appreciate your help this summer in the gardens at the museum!!

Thanks to one and all.....and if you have an extra hour now and then....please consider weeding in one of the areas for us.

The front of the old barn...and the Hannay house area all need extra TLC right now. Please be careful near the old barn, though.....one of our gardeners has cut down some poison ivy...so wear your gloves, and we'll see if we can spray it, without hurting the plants that we want to keep!!

Also, keep a watch on the sign in front of the museum for upcoming outdoor movies (free) for the family. Everyone is welcome...we have had the notices published in the Bridgeport paper, too.

So, please bring your lawn chair and sit a spell with us for some old fashioned fun with an outdoor movie! When I'm given the date for the August movie night....I'll email that on to everyone.....

Susan Lawcock
moose2frog@hotmail.com

Instructors, Assistants Needed For Fall Master Gardener Class

A new Master Gardener class begins Wednesday, Aug. 20, and continues weekly through Nov. 12 at the MSU Extension office, 1 Tuscola, located behind the Temple Theater in downtown Saginaw.

Coordinator Grey Gitzen says eleven people have signed up and he has most classes all set with instructors. Sessions are from 5:30 p.m to 9:30 p.m. and designed to give participants basic horticulture principles and environmentally sound gardening practices.

There are still some spots that he needs instructors and/or assistants.

If you are interested in helping out, please call Grey at 792-0615 or email at jgreygzn@aol.com

*VOLUNTEERS DON'T GET PAID,
NOT BECAUSE THEY'RE WORTHLESS,
BUT BECAUSE THEY'RE PRICELESS.*

~SHERRY ANDERSON

(Book) Worms andBugs.....



THE ELEMENTS OF ORGANIC GARDENING

by HRH PRINCE OF WALES,

KALES PRESS, 2007, 176p., COLOR PHOTOS, \$39.95

THE BOOK DISCUSSES THE GARDENS AT HIGHGROVE (his home) CLARENCE HOUSE (in London), AND BIRKHALL (in Scotland).

BEAUTIFUL PHOTOGRAPHS, SUBSTANTIAL SCRIPT (this book is for reading , as well as looking). THE PRINCE CREDITS HIS MENTOR, LADY SALISBURY AND HER FRIEND, DAME M. ROTHSCHILD.

THE ROYALS ARE PUSHING A RETURN TO THE MORE FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPTS OF GARDENING; THE RECOVERY OF LOST NUTRIENTS, OR FROM ANOTHER ANGLE, FEED THE SOIL NOT THE PLANT.

ARE YOU A GARDEN ENVIRONMENTALIST ? THEN THIS MAY FEED YOUR SOUL.

ARTIFICIAL FERTILIZERS ARE MANUFACTURED FROM A DEPLETING OIL BASED DERIVATIVE AND CHEMICAL TREATMENTS TO RID THE GARDEN OF WEEDS AND PESTS GIVE NOTHING BACK TO THE SOIL.

SO..... WE'RE TALKING HERE ABOUT MANURE, COLLECTED

RAINWATER, INCREASED PRUNING, USE OF HOUSEHOLD SOLUTIONS.

THIS IS A VERY DIFFERENT, BUT NOT SIMPLIFIED APPROACH TO GARDENING. SOUNDS LIKE A LITTLE MORE WORK, BUT YOU CAN WORK THAT OUT WITH YOUR GARDENER.

AS ONE MIGHT IMAGINE, THE GARDENS AT HIGHGROVE ARE SUBSTANTIAL. THEY ARE DIVIDED INTO PRODUCTIVE (fruits and veggies), ORNAMENTAL (topiary, climbers, hedges and trees) AND INFORMAL

(wildflowers and woodlands) AND CHARLES EXPAINS HIS APPROACH TO SAVING HERITAGE, WHILE ADDING NEW VARIETIES, GIVING HIS GARDENS A FRESH , YOUTHFUL CONTEMPORARY LOOK.

I LIKED THE SECTION ON BIRKHALL, WHICH IS SET ON THE BALMORAL ESTATE IN SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS. THIS GARDEN PREVIOUSLY BELONGED TO HIS GRANDMOTHER (the late Queen Elizabeth).

SOME HISTORY IS GIVEN AND CHANGES MADE BY CHARLES AND HIS WIFE THE DUCHESS OF CORNWALL ARE NOTED.

IS CAMILLA HERE , YOU ASK ? SURE. SOME PHOTOS IN THE GARDEN, OF COURSE.BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO SEE FOR YOURSELF.

I'M GLAD I READ THIS WELL DONE BOOK. IT IS AVAILABLE AT THE SAGINAW/HOYT LIBRARY.

Submitted by JED FULKERSON SVMGA Volunteer



TO ALL SAGINAW COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS!!!

(No, you won't be earning hours doing this, but it's important research so will be greatly appreciated if you participate!)

Japanese beetles are a pest we have all unfortunately experienced in our gardens! Gary Heilig, Ingham County Extension Educator is doing some research and would like you, Master Gardener Volunteer to send him your observations of the feeding habits of Japanese beetles in your garden.

Please send him a list of the annuals and perennials you have seen Japanese beetles feeding on and a list of annuals and perennials that you have never seen Japanese beetles feeding on.

Gary's email address is: heilig@msu.edu

Mary McLellan
State Master Gardener
Coordinator

August Meeting continued

Some five to ten Master Gardeners volunteer there.

“We want to make it look nicer to draw people in to the gardens. We’re hoping we can make a difference like Shelly Whitehead did with the art museum gardens.”

The Japanese Cultural Center and Tea House at South Washington and Ezra Rust was created through a relationship with Saginaw’s sister city to promote an understanding and appre-



Holly Furlo

ciation of Japanese culture.

It utilizes chanoyu or the tea ceremony, education classes and a traditional Japanese garden to reflect the Japanese focus on harmony, respect, purity, tranquility and peace.

The center is a symbol of friendship and goodwill of both cities and the countries of Japan and the U.S. It also is the site of many weddings during warmer weather.

Furlo said the board is looking at renovating the gardens, which are more than 20 years old. A firm has been retained to draw up plans, but

before any work could be done, the center would have to raise funds for the project.

To ensure it remains authentic to its origins, gardeners will come from Tokushima in September to view the garden and proposed changes to the master plan.

“We’ve had a number of directors, some of whom have put their own stamp on the gardens and we just want to make sure it’s still authentic and original,” Furlo explained.

Support for the center comes from the Consulate General of Japan in Detroit, the Japan Business Society of Detroit, Saginaw Rotary, Saginaw Chapter of People to People, the Saginaw Community Foundation and others.

“We still have some storm damage we’re cleaning up, with at least one tree that needs to come down. Fortunately, with all of the pruning we did last fall, the damage was not as bad as it could have been,” Furlo added.

If the garden and plans meet approval with the Japanese gardeners, the center would like to add a rain garden by the front parking lot to deal with rainwater run-off issues. In addition, the center would like to add a watering system – if it can raise the funds.

“We also want to look at what we can do to take advantage of our waterfront location and still be environmentally conscious. Hopefully, the Japanese gardeners will have some advice for us.”

Furlo said the Japanese gardeners will offer a class for the volunteers who work there. “There isn’t enough space to open it up to more people, but if you volunteer here, you’re certainly welcome to come,” she said.

Those who have not been to the Japanese Gardens in recent years will find a new gazebo near the little red

bridge. The garden has a number of specimen trees, weeping cherry trees, which blossom in the spring, and hibiscus, which bloom in the fall.

There’s also bamboo, small Japanese maple trees and benches to take in the garden’s serene atmosphere.

“We had one of our lanterns that was taken out of the garden returned and re-installed. It was found in Lake Linton.”

The front gate will be open at the Japanese Gardens for SVMGA members.

“We encourage people to come in through the front gate and walk the path down into the garden. It is designed to help you find peace and tranquility, to clear your mind to enjoy nature’s beauty.”

And anyone who wants to help clean up the Japanese Garden may stop in any Tuesday night or between noon and 4 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday, when the garden is open – and there are no weddings, Furlo said.

Submitted by Darlene Damp
SVMGA Volunteer



AN AUTUMN AFFAIR FOR GARDENERS



The Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association presents its fifth annual seminar, "An Autumn Affair for Gardeners" from 8:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, October 4, 2008, at Saginaw Valley State University, Curtiss Hall, University Center, MI.

It brings **beginning and experienced gardeners** together with experts in the field and vendors to provide the latest information and products for your landscape. Our speakers this year are:

Dr. Bert Cregg, Michigan State University associate professor of horticulture and forestry, discusses conifers for specific sites to add year-round interest, along with pruning and dealing with conifer pests.

Bill Wegner, Advanced Master Gardener, makes composting fun. Learn the benefits, plus how to get the most compost for the least amount of work, build a simple enclosure and what makes the pile 'cook.' He'll even introduce you to his worm family, from Big Ed to Little Alphonzo!

Sue Grubba, Michigan School of Gardening senior instructor, focuses on soil preparations, annual bed clean-up, plant divisions, storing summer bulbs and planting spring flower bulbs to cut your spring chores in half.

Grey Gitzen, Advanced Master Gardener and hosta devotee, offers a presentation on shade tolerant Zone 5 perennials, including his favorite hostas and hellebores.

Early registration is \$45, including box lunch/snacks, by Friday, Sept. 22; \$50 after Sept. 22. Vendors take cash/checks. Master Gardeners earn 5 education hours. Call Judy Henning at (989) 799-4136 or Aileen Cowan at (989) 865-8784 or e-mail scratchcreations@att.net. Conference brochure/schedule: <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/saginaw/>

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ E-mail (conference purposes only) _____

Please check if you are a Master Gardener.

Please choose from one of three lunch entrées (chips, fruit cup, cookie, drink included):

Chef salad, or Turkey/roast beef croissant, or Vegetarian option, cook's choice

Mail check, payable to **SVMGA**, to SVMGA Treasurer Crystal Kauer, 5775 Mackinaw Road, Saginaw, MI 48604.

No refunds; substitutes accepted. SVSU is located between Saginaw and Bay City on M-84, near I-75.

Make Time for the Garden

*You have to make time in your garden,
not only for working but just to see.*

*Not only for planting or harvesting or
weeding, but to smell the freesias,
to look at the new rose leaves
admire the new growth thrusting out in
strong red leaves,
to see the white columbine
blooming behind the flowering quince,
the lavender ageratum at the base of the
snapdragons,
the grape leaves bursting from the seams
of last year's vines,
pink tulips about to open
inside green sheathes,
and most amazing of all-
the purple orchid sprays in that pot
you thought was dead and dry.*

*You have to walk through the garden
and say hello to each newly leafing tree,
caress the buds,
and try to see it whole,
your garden, or as much as you can-
how different greens
complement each other,
set off the yellows and flame into reds,
how daffodils and star magnolias
turn dried brown leaves
into background for
their spring painting.*

*So don't go into you garden
looking for weeds,
which will only make you bend down
and miss the point.*

Anonymous

2008 SVMGA PROGRAMS

8/27	Garden Tour and Annual SVMGA picnic Japanese Gardens and Saginaw Children's Zoo Saginaw Guest Welcome	5:30 pm	10/22	To be determined Andersen Enrichment Center, Saginaw	7:00 pm
9/24	"Water Quality in the Shiawassee Basin" Heidi M. Frei-Nature Conservancy Shiawassee Project Andersen Enrichment Center, Saginaw	7:00 pm	11/19	To be determined Andersen Enrichment Center, Saginaw	7:00 pm
10/04	An Autumn Affair—SVMGA Conference (See below) Saginaw Valley State University		12/09	Annual Christmas party First Presbyterian Church, Saginaw	

On October 4, 2008 at Saginaw Valley State University, Saginaw Valley Master Gardeners Association will sponsor an education seminar, *An Autumn Affair for Gardeners*. It is open to all gardeners and features experts sharing the latest in gardening information. For info: Judy Henning-799-4136 or judrich@sbcglobal.net or Aileen Cowan-989-865-8784 or scratchcreations@worldnet.att.net