

The Grapevine

NEWSLETTER OF THE SAGINAW VALLEY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2009

SVMGA INFORMATION

Officers for 2009

President	Mary Andrews	797-3319
Vice President	Gloria Schuler	892-7679
Secretary	Katie Andrews	482-1612
Treasurer	Crystal Kauer	792-6874
Program Director	Bonnie Dutcher	777-1209
Newsletter Editor	Sue Stemler	781-4656
	suestemler@chartermi.net	
MSU Extension	1 Tuscola Street	
	Saginaw, MI 48607-1287	
Master Gardener Coordinator		
Nancy L. Burd,	989-758-2500,	
	extension 231.	
	burd@msu.edu	

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MSU is an affirmative-action, equal opportunity institution.

Next Board Meeting

6 p.m. Tuesday, September 1, 2009
MSU Extension Office

Newsletter Deadline

5 p.m. Tuesday, September 8, 2009
Note date change for Labor Day Holiday
suestemler@chartermi.net
989-781-4656

Inside This Issue

Minutes of July Meeting	2
SVMGA Fall Conference Info	4-5
Volunteer Opportunities	6-7
Monthly Calendars	6-7
Schedule of Events	8

An Invitation To Marge Greskowiak's Garden

A brand new Master Gardener, Marge Greskowiak is still a trainee, but that doesn't mean she is new to the joys of gardening. She and her husband, Jerry moved into the house on Lakewood in 2002 while she was still the Business Manager of the Hemlock Public School District. Her work weeks of 50 - 60 hours left her little time for gardening.

a good place to hold plants while she decides where to plant them.



When she retired in 2003, she had planned some extensive garden work but Jerry was hospitalized several times that year and Marge was able to put in just a few roses and trees and tend a few tomato plants in an existing vegetable garden. That area is now her trial garden and she uses it as an "I really hate this plant, but everyone else likes it so I guess I'll keep it" space. It's

Once Jerry regained his health, their gardening began in earnest, with 21 new deciduous trees including weeping crab trees, linden, Japanese maples and an impressive river birch. The existing evergreen trees provide shady areas under planted with ferns, sedges, impatiens and hostas. In

Greskowiak continued on page 3

Next meeting

Wednesday, August 26 7 - 9 p.m.
The garden of Marge Greskowiak, 10025 Lakewood.

7 - 7:30 p.m. Business meeting

7:30 - 9 p.m. Refreshments & tour of garden.

Please wear your badge, bring a chair. NO GUESTS

Directions: Center road to Swan Creek (it becomes Swan Creek as you take the curve around Boehler's Nursery). Remain on Swan Creek for several miles until Thomas Road, then turn right and go about ¾ mile. Watch for white camper on left and turn left on Lakewood. The house is on the corner and parking is available on Lakewood as well as Thomas.

Alternate route: Gratiot (M46) to Thomas, then south about 2.5 miles

Minutes of July 22, 2009 meeting

President Mary Andrews welcomed 40 members and their guests to the Bridgeport Historical Village for the 6:00pm hot dog and potluck picnic.

Members and guests were invited to walk through the buildings and gardens which were opened for our event.

The business meeting began at 7:05pm.

No additions or corrections were made to the minutes from the June 24 meeting.

Patti Decker moved to approve those minutes. Melva Bond seconded the motion. Motion was carried.

Treasurer's Report:

June ending balance	\$5951.54
No income in July.	
Newsletter costs	- 177.43
Project payments	- 400.00
Andersen Center fall rental	- 225.00
	<hr/>
July ending balance	\$5149.11

Gus Schulwitz moved to approve the treasurer's report. Gail Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Marge Greskowiak was recognized as the hostess for the August 26 meeting.

Marge also requested some ideas from members attending that meeting for a few of her flower beds.

Judy Wegner asked for more volunteers to provide the snacks and beverages for the August, September and October meetings.

Mary Andrews congratulated Ruth Gardstrom for her work as the new newsletter editor.

Judy Henning reported the progress on the fall garden seminar to be held October 3 at the Swan Valley Golf & Banquet Center. The registration fee has been lowered to only \$35 and there will be both a continental breakfast and a buffet lunch included.

The planned speakers will include 2 members of the Orchid Society, Gail Caird on herb usage, a representative from Black Cat Pottery on "growing green", and Jerry Somalski from Bay Landscaping. The brochure should be available very shortly.

Deb Keller suggested that the photos from our sponsored projects be assembled in a display for our fall meetings like last year.

Members discussed some of the garden walks and botanical gardens they have visited this summer, such as the Fenton Garden Walk, Butchart Botanical Gardens in Victoria, BC, and the Chicago Botanical Gardens.

SVMGA members who volunteer at the Bridgeport Historical Village told members that they have a couple of plant exchanges per year, as well as concerts, car shows, and outdoor movies that are open to the public and invited anyone to visit those events.

Elaine Rappley made a motion to adjourn. Crystal Kauer seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Gloria Schuler
SVMGA Vice President

Gardening is a kind of disease. It infects you, you cannot escape it. When you go visiting, your eyes rove about the garden; you interrupt the serious cocktail drinking because of an irresistible impulse to get up and pull a weed. ~Lewis Gannit

Greskowiak continued

fact, it was when she and Jerry joined the Hosta Society that Marge met some very nice folks and decided she wanted to know them better. Because many of them were Master Gardeners, she decided to take the MG class last winter. As a trainee, she has put in many hours on the Rail Trail as well as with the Hosta Society.

Her eye for creating striking color combinations is evident in the many beds of perennials interspersed with annuals, boxwood and evergreens and she likes the she likes the 'splash' that large groups of plants make. Her favorite space is a riot of pink - lilies, columbines and petunias - while Jerry's favorite color, yellow, fills another bed with coreopsis, lilies and daisies, with mums for fall color. That bed is also backed with huge clumps of gigantic grasses which provide privacy and a barrier to the field of beans behind their lot.

A new bed has just been planted in the rear of the property with yellow daffodils for early spring, lavender blue and pink iris and pink peonies for spring, backed up by a split rail fence. For summer there are yellow and orange daylilies and white daisies and yellow mums and autumn clematis for fall. Marge envisions that area as a solid bed of daylilies one day.

There is a large, welcoming covered deck on the back of the house surrounded by roses of all kinds and providing a panoramic view of the

colorful flower beds and the many bird feeders. Despite visits from deer and rabbits, it was the invasion of Japanese beetles last year that almost caused the demise of the roses. She threatens that the roses would have to go if the beetles return this year. So far, thankfully, the roses are safe.

Against the back of the garage are two new trellises loaded with lilac clematis and edged with purple petunias and violas. She admits that 'true' purples and lavenders are other favorite colors but not when tinged with red. A new path of stepping-stones is being installed with moss roses (one of Jerry's favorite flowers) as an edging. Shredded black mulch is being applied to all the beds, thereby conserving water and preventing weeds and lightening the clay soil.

Marge says that this is the year for deciding what works and what does not and she is making many changes. She has given away over 150 plants this season to friends, family and plant exchanges. That leaves some empty space for trying new plants. Some of her tall daisies have 'flopped' with the rains but her favorite bearded iris outdid themselves this year.

Marge apologized for the condition of the front yard which is being re-done, or will be as soon as Jerry and she can agree on what should be

done. Old, overgrown shrubs have been removed and a lovely, lacy Japanese maple has been planted as a base for a new look. She is open to any suggestions from the Master Gardeners during the tour.

Looking at the riot of color in mid-July, she said, "I wonder why I volunteered my garden for the tour, many of my favorite plants won't be blooming in August, but that's the nature of perennial gardening, I guess". With her favorite reference book in hand, "The Well-tended Perennial Garden" by Tracy DiSabato-Aust and with her excellent eye for color and texture, Marge's garden is sure to provide a delightful tour for the Master Gardeners in August.

Submitted by Ruth Gardstrom
SVMGA Volunteer



AN AUTUMN AFFAIR FOR GARDENERS

SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 3, 2009



*The Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association presents a gardening seminar
8:15 a.m.—4:30 p.m. on
Saturday, October 3, 2009
Swan Valley Golf and Banquet Center
9521 Highland Green Dr., Saginaw, MI*

THE PROGRAM

It brings enthusiasts, like you, together with experts in the field and vendors to provide the latest information and products for your landscape.

Saginaw Valley Orchid Society. You want to hear this from the experts! Orchids have become the “it plant” for indoor gardening. Exotic and mysterious, these plants are treasured for their long lasting bloom. Experts from the Saginaw Valley Orchid Society will be sure to demystify this fascinating plant!

Cheryl M. English, Advanced Master Gardener and owner of Black Cat Pottery will share her respect of nature in this thought provoking presentation of “**It’s Easy Being Green!**” Learn easy and economical ways to keep your garden –and the rest of the world– green and healthy, while lightening the load on your wallet.

Jerry Somalski, Vice President of Bay Landscaping, Landscape Consultant, Registered Landscape Nurseryman and past President of the Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association. Jerry’s presentation “**Reality Gardening**” will give even the most seasoned gardener a new perspective of garden design for today and the years to come.

Gail Caird, Advanced Master Gardener. From Sage to Stevia and Basil to Bay Laurel, Gail is your herb garden guru. Gail gives fresh and practical insight into the “Cultivation and Use of Herbs.” We are happy to welcome Gail back to her Master Gardener Roots here in Saginaw.

Schedule of Events

8:15 a.m. — 8:45 a.m. Registration, refreshments, and vendors (cash or check; no credit cards).

8:45 a.m.— 9:00 a.m. Welcome

9:00 a.m. — 10:30 a.m. Outstanding Orchids, the Basics and Beyond. Saginaw Valley Orchid Society.

10:30 a.m.—10:45 a.m.— Break/Vendors

10:45 a.m. — Noon “It’s Easy Being Green” with Cheryl English of Black Cat Pottery.

Noon — 1:00 p.m. Lunch/Vendors

1:00 p.m. — 2:30 p.m. Jerry Somalski, “Reality Gardening., Gardening Today with Tomorrow in Mind.”

2:30 p.m. — 2:45 p.m. Break/Vendors

2:45 p.m. — 3:45 p.m. Everyday Herbs: Growing, Using, and Enjoying Herbs in Everyday Living” with Gail Caird.

3:45 p.m. — 4:00 p.m. Conference Wrap-Up

4:00 p.m. — 4:30 p.m. Vendors

SVMGA sponsors its annual sale of unusual spring-flowering bulbs. Be sure to stop by their booth.

DIRECTIONS TO SWAN VALLEY GOLF & BANQUET CENTER

9521 Highland Green Dr. Saginaw, MI 48609
(989) 781-4411

www.swanvalleybanquet.com

FROM NORTH OR SOUTH

Take I-75 to M46. Go west on M46 through Saginaw, approximately 16.5 miles. Turn north on Kennely, (just west of Martin Chevrolet), and go 1 mile. Turn left on Highland Green (sub-division entrance) and go.3 mile to Swan Valley Golf & Banquet Center.

FROM EAST OR WEST

Follow M46 to Kennely Rd., approximately 11 miles east of Hemlock, and 4 1/4 miles west of M47. Turn north on Kennely Rd. (just west of Martin Chevrolet) and go 1 mile. Turn left on Highland Green (sub-division entrance) and go .3 mile to Swan Valley Golf & Banquet Center.

Registration

Please complete the information below and mail to SVMGA Treasurer, Crystal Kauer, 5775 Mackinaw Rd., Saginaw, MI 48604.

Registration deadline is Friday, September 18th. Early registration is \$35.00 each, late registration, after September 18th, is \$40.00. Please fill out a separate form for each person attending.

Make checks payable to the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association.

Cancellation policy: Sorry, no refunds. Substitutes acceptable. Confirmation by e-mail or postcard.

Name

Address

Phone


E-mail (conference purposes only)

Buffet Luncheon.

For conference information, call Judy Porter, at (989) 799-9962 or e-mail jlporter08@att.net

We have reduced the price of this seminar to help make it affordable to all.

August 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<p>1 7:30 am I-75 Summer Pruning cleanup Info below</p> <p>Saginaw Farmer's Market 9a-1p</p>
2	3 Saginaw Farmer's Market 12p—5 p	4 6 pm SVMGA Board MSU Extension Office	5 Saginaw Farmer's Market 10 a-3 p	6	7 Help SVMGA at Saginaw Farmer's Market 10 a-3 p Info below	8 Saginaw Farmer's Market 9a-1p
9 5 pm Newsletter Deadline	10 Saginaw Farmer's Market 12p—5 p	11	12 Saginaw Farmer's Market 10 a-3 p	13	14 Help SVMGA at Saginaw Farmer's Market 10 a-3 p Info below	15 Saginaw Farmer's Market 9a-1p
16	17 Saginaw Farmer's Market 12p—5 p	18	19 Saginaw Farmer's Market 10 a-3 p	20	21 5:30 Dow Gardens Seminar See June issue for info Help SVMGA at Saginaw Farmer's Market 10 a-3 p Info below	22 Saginaw Farmer's Market 9a-1p
23	24 Saginaw Farmer's Market 12p—5 p	25	26 Saginaw Farmer's Market 10 a-3 p 7 pm SVMGA Meet Tour of Marge Grekowiak's Garden	27	28 Help SVMGA at Saginaw Farmer's Market 10 a-3 p Info below	29 Saginaw Farmer's Market 9a-1p
30	31 Saginaw Farmer's Market 12p—5 p					

September 2009

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		1 6 pm SVMGA Board MSU Extension Office	2 Saginaw Farmer's Market 10 a-3 p	3	4 Help SVMGA at Saginaw Farmer's Market 10 a-3 p Info below	5 Saginaw Farmer's Market 9a-1p Help at Frankenmuth Farmer Market 8a—2p Info below
6 5 pm Newsletter Deadline	7 Saginaw Farmer's Market 12p—5 p	8	9 Saginaw Farmer's Market 10 a-3 p	10	11 Help SVMGA at Saginaw Farmer's Market 10 a-3 p Info below	12 Saginaw Farmer's Market 9a-1p Help at Frankenmuth Farmer Market 8a—2p Info below
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27	28 Saginaw Farmer's Market 12p—5 p	29	30 Saginaw Farmer's Market 10 a-3 p			

Contact Info -Project Workdays

I-75 Rest Area: Gloria Schuler Day
Ph: 797-0100
globobarama@yahoo.com

Saginaw Farmers Market-Coordinator

Waunita Pettiford
Ph: 777-6918

Volunteers Needed

MG's needed to cover MG booth at

Frankenmuth Farmer's Market, Saturdays through October.
Time to be covered is 6 hrs, 8am-2pm. Shift may be split or cover entire shift, one or two persons. Please call Ila Ezop at 989.652.9287. Thank You!

Now that August has arrived,
 most of the weeding is done,
 the harvest is about to come in, and it is
 time for the gardener to take time for R and
 R. That means rest and relaxation,
 so here in this month's gardener to
 gardener are some famous and some not
 so famous gardening quotes. Get an ice
 cold tea or lemonade, put your
 feet up and read on.



"Too old to plant trees for my own gratification, I shall do it for my posterity." by Thomas Jefferson

"Show me your garden and I shall tell you what you are." by Alfred Austin

"A garden is evidence of faith. It links us with all the misty figures of the past who also planted and were nourished by the fruits of their planting." by Gladys Taber

"Where flowers bloom, so does hope." by Eleanor Roosevelt

"The kiss of the sun for pardon,
 The song of the birds for mirth,
 One is nearer God's heart in a garden
 Than anywhere else on earth."
 by Dorothy Frances Gurney

www.wisdomquotes.com

"Gardening requires lots of water-- mostly in the form of perspiration."
 by Lou Erickson

"In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt."
 by Margaret Atwood

"Unemployment is capitalism's way of getting you to plant a garden."
 by Orson Scott Card

"My garden will never make me famous, I'm a horticultural ignoramus."
 by Ogden Nash

"I have never had so many good ideas day after day as when I worked in the garden." by John Erskine

"Let no one think that real gardening is a bucolic and meditative occupation. It is an insatiable passion, like everything else to which a man gives his heart." by Karel Capek

SVMGA 2009 PROGRAMS

8/26	SVMGA meeting & Tour of Marge Greskowiak's Garden See Page 1	7:00 pm
9/23	SVMGA Meeting To be determined Andersen Enrichment Center, Saginaw	7:00 pm
10/3	An Autumn Affair for Gardeners-SVMGA Seminar Swan Valley Conference Center See Pages 4-5 for complete information	
10/28	SVMGA Meeting To be determined Andersen Enrichment Center, Saginaw	7:00 pm
11/18	SVMGA Meeting To be determined Andersen Enrichment Center, Saginaw	7:00 pm
December, 2009	Annual Christmas Party First Presbyterian Church, Saginaw	

An Autumn Affair for Gardeners

On Saturday, October 3rd, SVMGA will present an education seminar, An Autumn Affair for Gardeners. This seminar will be held at Swan Valley Conference Center. It is open to all gardeners and features experts sharing the latest in gardening information. See Page 4-5 for complete info.

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."

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

Click on County webpages; click on Saginaw County; scroll to bottom and click on month you wish to view.