

The Grapevine

Construct your own seed starting tables

Richard A. Henning is used to wife Judy calling on his construction skills to enhance their home and garden.

So it was no surprise to her husband of 35 years when she asked if he might build her the seed-starting table she had spotted in a magazine.

Compared to the carousel-type rocking horse he recently carved for their new grandson or helping put on the annual show for the woodcarvers' group he belongs to, it was an easy project.

"I'm used to taking care of her requests," said the Delphi millwright who retired in August 2001.

He has built arbors and other objects for the massive plantings Judy has packed into their tiny Saginaw city lot on Adams Boulevard.

"Besides, since Judy's planted all these gardens in our yard, I don't have to cut grass. It's great!"

Although Judy Henning won't discuss the seed-starting tables during her talk at the Wednesday, Feb. 26 meeting, she will have copies of the plan available. She shares the hour-long discussion of "Seed Starting from Scratch" with fellow advanced master gardener Judy Wegner.

In addition to the talk by Henning and

Wegner, Master Gardeners are invited to bring seeds for a seed exchange. They can be vegetable, herbs, grasses, flowers, annuals or perennial seeds that were purchased or harvested. Identify the seeds as completely as possible.

The seed table plans, from Garden Gate magazine, use six 10-foot lengths of 3/4-inch PVC pipe to create a two-shelf frame that will hold four 11- by 22-inch seed trays. It stands about 4-foot-high and 4-foot-long and can be constructed so it is collapsible, Richard Henning said.

"I've built four seed starting tables for her and revised it some so she could have a third shelf to hold two more seed trays.

"Of course, you know our house isn't that large, so they're in the dining room and the bedrooms during planting season," he chuckled.

The two-shelf light stand requires six 10-foot lengths of PVC plumbing pipe along with these fittings: six caps, 24 T shapes, six four-way shapes and six L-shapes. In addition, you will need a hacksaw, PVC glue and some sandpaper. Henning estimated his cost at \$35 per unit plus the cost of two 4-foot-long shop or grow lights.

The 10-foot lengths are cut into 24 three-inch sections; nine seven-inch sections; 12 18-inch sections and 12 24-inch sections. The magazine suggests using two screws in a board to help hold the pipe as you cut. "It only took me about three hours to complete," said Henning, emphasizing that the project does not require a lot of construction skill.

"What people should know is that once you put the glue on, it doesn't come apart because it's actually melting the pipe and the fittings together. It sets up that quick.

"That's why it's best to pre-assemble it without the glue first to make sure it's going to fit. And then I glued it in sections to help keep it square, otherwise it can be a little lopsided."

Henning used a miter chop saw instead of a hacksaw, to make quick and clean cuts, then sanded the edges so there were no rough spots.

The 7-inch pieces provide the feet for the light stand while the 24-inch pieces serve as the horizontal frame the trays will rest on, including four lengths on the bottom, four lengths for the top and two lengths above each shelf to attach a shop light to. The 18-inch

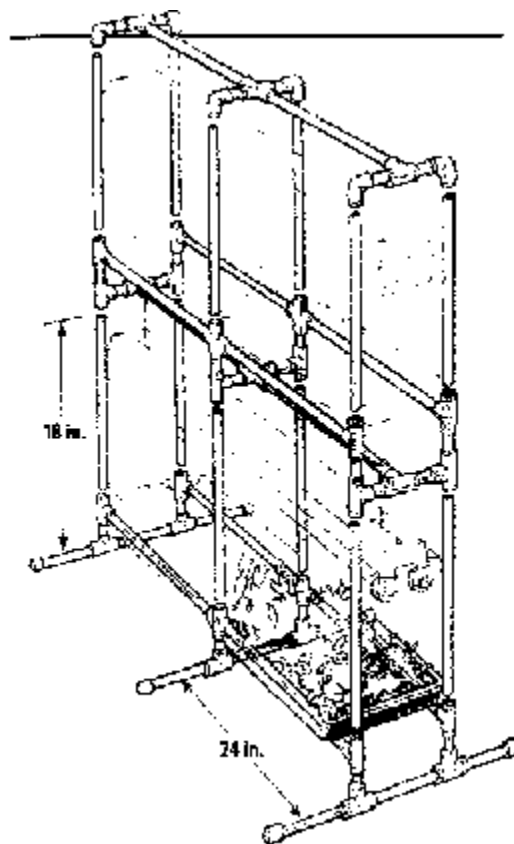
Next meeting

- € 7 p.m.-9 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26
- € Anderson Enrichment Center, Ezra Rust Drive
- € 7:00 - 7:30 p.m. Meeting
- € 7:30 - 8 p.m. Refreshments; Seed Exchange
- € 8 p.m.— 9 p.m. Judy Henning & Judy Wegner discuss "Seed Starting From Scratch"
- € One-hour education unit earned

lengths form the vertical frame.

Once you have dry-fitted the pieces, glue each section (as shown in the drawing) with PVC glue spread on the pipe and fittings and

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Officers for 2003-04

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 Editor
Beth Bedtelyon 781-6834

Co-Editor
Darlene Damp 746-9113

MSU Extension
One Tuscola Street
Saginaw, MI 48607-1287

Master Gardener Coordinator
Angela Irwin 758-2500
ext. 224
irwina@msue.msu.edu

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Minutes of the January 22 meeting

The January 22 Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by President Judy Henning. Raeann Krauss moved to approve the Secretary's report as printed. Sheila Hemstead seconded the motion.

Judy read the Treasurer's report. Deposits totaled \$367 and expenditures were \$431.88 for a balance on hand of \$6,205.10. Judy reminded all that dues were due March 1.

The new newsletter format received solid approval from everyone as shown by the applause. Judy encouraged everyone to keep the suggestions for future articles coming.

Editor Beth Bedtelyon requested e-mail addresses from those who wished to begin receiving the newsletter by e-mail.

The reporting of certification/re-certification hours was discussed by Judy and Angela Irwin. A \$10 late fee was discussed. Angela hopes we will be able to report hours by e-mail in the future.

Thank you were received from Hidden Harvest for our food donation and from Great Beginnings Christian Child Care Center for the donation of money for a butterfly garden.

Judy reviewed four upcoming seminars: Spring into Gardening on March 22 in Mount Pleasant; the Dow Gardens Tuesday Evening Series; Shade Garden Solutions; and

Great Garden Inspirations from May 29 –31 in Ohio, costing \$425.00

Both of Shirley McNier's mosaic stepping stone classes are filled. We hope to offer more in the future.

Joan Martin said the Saginaw Art Museum Garden Walk will be June 18.

Ann Birkham is the new refreshments chairman

Angela Irwin reported that nurserymen of the Saginaw area have expressed interest in Master Gardeners volunteering at their businesses, like the Meijer "Let's Go Gardening" project. Peggy Shaver offered to speak to them about the Association.

Sheila Hempstead turned in her raffle apron; Ruth Sny is the new chairman.

Patty Decker asked for volunteers for the Saginaw Children's Zoo this summer. She replaces project chairman Judy Ross.

Angela discussed the upcoming Master Gardener classes. There is the possibility of advanced classes for certified Master Gardeners.

After refreshments Kurt Batschke of Batschke Nursery discussed greenhouses of the past and gave a peek at "retro" plants coming in the future. He discussed color in the cold seasons and then answered questions.

Submitted by Ellie Robertson

Seed starting table continued.....

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 fit together. Do not glue the long vertical pipes between sections (this way it can be dismantled for storage in a small space).

Set up the stand by inserting the long vertical pipes into the bottom and middle sections, then adding the top.

"I used shop lights with two bulbs," Henning said. "The grow lights can be expensive and Judy's had good luck with the 40-watt bulbs.

"You can buy the shop lights pre-wired, where you just take them out of the box, attach them and plug them in or where you wire them yourself. There's always instructions on how to wire it yourself."

Henning said they use a sash chain on the fixture and wrap it around the horizontal PVC pipe for the light.

"This way, when Judy has first planted the seeds, she can have the light about two inches

from seeds and then keep moving it up as they grow. Most of the lights come with a chain and maybe an S hook, although you may have to get your own."

The shop light plugs into a regular outlet.

"I've also set the tables up with a timer for the lights because they need 16 to 18 hours of light a day and timers are cheap," Henning said.

"But I told Judy if the police show up one day, wondering if we're growing marijuana because our light bill is so high – she's going to jail, not me."

When it comes time to "harden off" the seedlings, Henning sets up the portable greenhouse they bought and move the plants under cover on their patio for several weeks before planting in the ground.

"Even if the light stands aren't perfect," Henning said. "They'll still do the job."

Story by Darlene B. Damp, co-editor

Welcome new members

- € **Sara Clark**, , Saginaw, Master Gardener
- € **Jed Fulkerson**, Midland, Advanced Master Gardener
- € **Hilary Hare**, Frankenmuth, Master Gardener Trainee
- € **Cyd Pasterz**, Freeland, Master Gardener Trainee
- € **Waunita Pettiford**, Saginaw, Master Gardener Trainee
- € **Judy Rich**, Saginaw, Master Gardener Trainee
- € **Cora Shaeff**, Reese, Master Gardener
- € **Susan Treib**, Saginaw, Master Gardener

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."

Next board meeting
Wednesday,
March 5

Letter from the President

It was great to see the number of members who braved the single-digit temperatures to attend our January meeting.



Kurt Batschke's presentation "Twelve Months of Color" enlightened many of us on how to introduce color into our gardens (ornamental grasses, red twig dogwood) and into our homes (poinsettias, cyclamens, and bulbs) for the winter months.

Ruth Sny, a new member, has volunteered to take over the monthly raffle. I wish to thank Sheila Hempsted for a job well done and to thank Ruth for volunteering.

With our February meeting comes our annual seed exchange.

You do not have to bring seeds to participate in the exchange. There are more than

enough seeds for everyone.

But if you do bring seeds, write as much information on a slip of paper, (if the seeds are not in their original packet), and put it with the seeds.

Include height, color, moisture needs, sun/shade, you get the picture. They can be flower, vegetable, herb, or any kind of seeds. They can be seeds you harvested from your garden, seeds you were given, or seeds you purchased.

The variety and number of seeds brought to the exchange is something else.

To go along with the seed exchange, our topic this month is "Seed Starting."

Friend and fellow seed starter, Judy Wegner, and I are the featured speakers. We will try and shed some light on the ins and outs of seed starting. We will share our successes and our failures with you.

You will hear how easy, how economical, and how satisfying seed starting can be.

Hope to see you there.

As a new perk for members, this spring we will offer copies of the Michigan Gardener newspaper free at the meetings.

Take care, stay warm, and think spring.

Judy

Find Us On The Web

Saginaw Valley Master Gardeners has a new Web site from the Michigan Master Gardener homepage.

Copies of The Grapevine will be posted on the site each month, shortly after the newsletter deadline listed in each issue.

This will replace individually e-mailing the newsletter, so please bookmark this page and return often.

<http://www.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/saginaw/>

Exercise now to avoid injuries while gardening outside

Gardening is hard work – just ask anyone who tries to keep a yard in shape.

To prevent injuries this season, Tara Cunningham, adult program director at the Saginaw Family YMCA, 1915 Fordney, recommends some simple exercises.

"With gardening, you could experience muscles strains from lifting, or bad backs from improper lifting or bending," Cunningham said.

"That's where exercise can help, by giving you the strength and practice in using the proper form to do the work outside."

The YMCA offers programs to help local residents get in shape. There are exercise classes; Nautilus weight machines; free weights; a walking/running track; two cardiovascular exercise rooms with computerized walking and stair-stepper machines plus exercise bikes; two pools, and several racquetball courts.

In addition, trained staff develop exercise programs suited to individual needs and demonstrate any equipment involved.

However, those who want to exercise at home can use a variety of strength training exercises aimed at each of the muscle groups, Cunningham said.

"If you don't do any kind of strength training, you lose a half a pound of muscle a year," said the Saginaw Valley State University graduate, who majored in physical and health education.

"Your muscles can actually atrophy without

use. And retaining muscle mass is even more important as you get older, especially for women who don't usually have a lot of upper body strength to begin with."

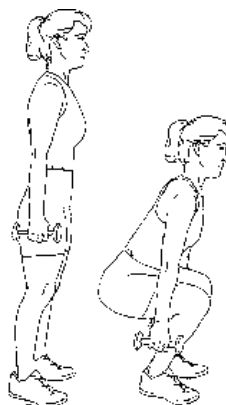
She suggests beginning any workout with a cardiovascular warm-up of seven to 10 minutes. It could be walking, riding an exercise bike, or even walking up and down stairs.

"Large muscle groups – the legs, chest and back should be worked first, then move into smaller muscle groups, like the shoulder, arms and forearms," Cunningham said.

"Abdominal muscles should be worked at the end of your routine because they help stabilize your body during other exercise.

"You can perform all of the exercises or pick one from each muscle category. I recommend starting with one set of eight to 12 repetitions. As you get stronger, you can add more sets, more repetitions or dumbbells."

For the lower body – the glutes, thighs and



Parallel Squat

calves – she includes the kick back, the lunge, parallel squat and heel raise. Perform a set for each side.

For the kick back, start on hands and knees. Bring one leg forward to the chest, keeping hips level, then drive the leg back and up until straight and slightly above level with your body.

With the lunge, stand in wide stride, legs shoulder width apart, head up, back straight and bend both legs simultaneously until forward thigh is parallel to floor and back leg knee nearly touches floor.

The parallel squat begins in a standing position. With back straight, head up, bend knees until thighs are parallel to floor. Keep abdominal muscles tight; maintain weight on heels.

For the heel raise, which strengthens calf muscles, stand toes on board, heels on floor, knees slightly bent and rise up on toes as high as possible.

"Push-ups for the chest are a really good exercise," said Cunningham. "All you need is the floor and your body. You work both your chest and your pecs. You can use the typical push-up form or the modified push-up with bent knees. Hands should be a shoulder width apart."

Also recommended for the upper body are the fly and the bench press, using dumbbells (or unopened cans of food, depending on what you have at hand). For the fly, lie down with

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lower arms parallel to floor, elbows slightly bent, palms up and bring weights together over center of body so hands nearly meet.

For the bench press, lie down, arms parallel with floor and bent at elbow. With weights in each hand push up to straight arms over chest. For the low back, there is the alternative leg/arm lift and the dead lift. For the first, lie face down, extend arms and legs as straight as possible, raise opposite arm and leg.

For the dead lift, stand legs straight, back flat, bent at waist so that weights in each hand almost touch floor. Raise torso up until in line with legs. If using a barbell for the dead lift: from squat, straighten legs, keeping head up and back straight.

Moving to the upper body, there are the bent over single arm row, upright row, front deltoid raise and standing dumbbell press. For the bent over single arm row, center one knee and hand on bench. With other hand, lift weight to side of chest, keeping elbow close to body.

With the upright row, stand with knees slightly bent, grasping weights overhead and lifting to chin, leading with elbows, dumbbells close together. (May also use canned food or



Crunch: Bent Knee

milk jugs filled with water)

To build shoulder muscles, try the front deltoid raise and the press. Stand with knees slightly bent, raise one arm with dumbbell overhead, keeping elbow locked. For the press, stand with knees slightly bent, palms in, weights level with shoulders, press to straight arms, rotating palms forward at end of movement.

Build stronger forearms with the wrist curl. Grasp weights in each hand and flex wrists up toward body, keeping forearms on thighs.

To improve hand strength, grasp a hand gripper and squeeze as tightly as possible, then release. (Or use a tennis or rubber ball)

For the abdominal muscles, try the bent

knee crunch, bent leg twist and crunch and raised leg crunch, which begin lying on your back, knees bent.

For the bent leg twist and crunch, place arms behind head, tighten abdominals; raise shoulders and upper back toward ceiling. Keep head and neck in line with spine; keep low and middle back on floor.

With bent leg twist crunch, raise the upper body and one leg, then twist to touch opposite elbow to raised knee. For the raised leg crunch, put hands at head, bent legs up, ankles crossed; tighten abdominals, raise shoulders and upper back toward ceiling. Keep head and neck in line with spine; keep low and middle back on floor.

If you don't have time of all of these, Cunningham recommends at least one set each of the squat, push-ups, both low back exercises, the upright row, hand gripper, bent knee crunch and raised leg crunch.

"Exercise is something everyone should do year-round," Cunningham. "If you stick with it, it makes everyday life easier, from lifting groceries to gardening. It also helps relieve stress and improve your mental well-being."

Story by Darlene B. Damp, co-editor

Newsletter deadline

Submission deadline is
March 10, 2003

Send submissions to:
Beth Bedtelyon, Editor
daysendfarm@chartermi.net

New books at Hoyt Library

"**New Life for Old Gardens**" by Allan Seale, 2002 — Does your garden look tired? Have you tried to think of ways to make it different and failed? This book will help give that garden a face lift and restore its original beauty.

"**Propagation Basics**" by Steven Bradley, 2002 — There are many ways to get more plants from the plants you already have. This basic guide show you how. Seed gathering, division and cuttings are just some of the topics.

"**Rodale's Illustrated Encyclopedia of Organic Gardening**" by Pauline Pears, 2002 — This encyclopedic reference source includes the basics of organic gardening, growing your own fruit, vegetables and herbs, plus A-Z sections on crops and plant problems. This is a good basic guide to organic gardening.

"**Versailles Gardens**" by Jean-Baptiste Leroux, 2002 — This guide is full of beautiful color photographs of the gardens at Versailles. A chronology and maps also are included.

Submitted by Anne Birkam

Meet the Gardener

This Master Gardener has always had an interest in "roots," not just the kind that produce flowers and vegetables, but those of her family heritage.

Although born and raised in Saginaw, she has traced her "roots" back to Canada, Poland and Germany.

Charlotte Huebner is a graduate of St. Andrews High School and Saginaw Business Institute. She worked at General Motors Corp. until her two daughters were born. She has lived in a home that she and husband Don built more than 28 years ago. Mostly woods and woodland flowers occupied her surroundings until a fire in 1991 destroyed trees on the west side of their home, changing some of her shade garden to a sunny site.

To Charlotte's delight, the peonies, "just plain, old-fashioned ones" that she removed from her parents' home 25 years ago have flourished — enough so, that she was able to provide whites, pinks and reds for a neighbor's daughter's garden wedding.

As a child, Charlotte says she was always involved in gardening. Relatives, "lots of cousins, uncles, grandparents," from Indiantown to Merrill, had vegetable gardens and she "liked being there."

When a nephew — known to local Master Gardeners as Brian Ott — took the Master Gardening course, Charlotte went too. It's no surprise she was involved in the "roots" of

our organization as she helped to develop our newsletter, "The Grapevine."

Charlotte has gone on to earn her hours with work at the Saginaw Children's Zoo in the butterfly garden and with "Adopt-a-garden."

Still with a strong desire to get to the bottom of things, this Master Gardener likes to attend as many conferences as possible. She recently spent 2 ½ days at the North American Rock Garden conference in Ann Arbor.

Charlotte wanted to know more about ferns and rocks because she has rocks from 48 states that she, her brother and brother-in-law hauled from her parents' yard, most of them to her shade garden.

After the fire, Charlotte had to do all new planting. She decided she wanted mostly flowering and fragrant plants in her front yard, which she has achieved with daphne, Miss Kim lilacs and peonies.

She also has a love for hostas and is a member of the new Hosta Society. With a desire for the unusual, she has her eye on finding a spot to plant a concolor fir, which can grow to 50 feet.

Charlotte divides her summers between Saginaw and their cottage ten miles north of Au Gres.

She says she goes out when it's warm and doesn't come in until "they stop taking yard waste."

Story by Joan Martin

Volunteer opportunities this month for Master Gardeners

These are few of the volunteer opportunities available this month to Saginaw Valley Master Gardeners. For information on other ongoing opportunities, contact Jan O'Dell, who maintains the list for the association.

Plant a Row for the Hungry

It can't get any easier than this, say Jim and Pat Stoppleworth.

"While going through those garden catalogs, why not plant a row for Plant a Row for the Hungry this year?" Call them at 249-4222, or e-mail at stoppy@chartermi.net.

Dow Gardens Volunteer/Mentor

Dow Gardens in Midland allows select individuals to work alongside professional horticulturists once a week in defined areas of the gardens.

Volunteers, who make a two- to four-hour a week commitment during the growing season, get in-depth, hands-on horticultural experience.

Rose Garden Associates work with horticulturalist Chuck Martin in the Memorial Rose Gardens, doing general care and maintenance, uncovering roses, cultivating, pruning and deadheading.

Dow Homestead Associates care for gardens around the Herbert H and Grace A. Dow Homestead with horticulturalist Dan Veresh, including culture of perennials, shrubs, trees and planters.

Herb Garden Associates work with horticulturalist Rich Gillis in Dow Gardens' Herb Garden, learning general herb care and maintenance.

For applications call Elizabeth Lumbert, education/volunteer coordinator, at (989) 631-2677 or (800) 362-4874, or email at lumbert@dowgardens.org. Applications are due Thursday, March 13.

Butterflies in Bloom

Dow Gardens Conservatory in Midland sponsors its annual Butterflies in Bloom festival from Monday, March 10, through Sunday, April 20.

Volunteer opportunities are available during the week or on the weekend. Weekday needs include:

Butterfly guides, from March 10 to Monday, April 14, share an hour or more with mid-Michigan students, walking school groups to the barn; leading an interactive 20-minute program; taking students to see the live butterflies in the conservatory or attending an orientation.

Early Morning Display Caregivers feed and take care of butterfly display from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. before the Conservatory opens. Volunteers are assigned a day of the week after training and an orientation.

Weekday Conservatory Butterfly Caregivers work from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. or 2 p.

m. to 4 p.m. one day a week. Volunteers attend an orientation, welcome visitors and school groups, host the Butterfly Information Keep Station, release butterflies from the emergence case. (Humidity level is high.)

Chrysalid Pinning Assistants help place the chrysalids in the emergence case when shipments of butterflies arrive.

Weekend volunteer opportunities include:

Barn hosts orient visitors to the arts, crafts and other activities at the part from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. or 1 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. They also orient other volunteers like face painters, storytellers and musicians, and stock craft tables.

Weekend Conservatory Butterfly Caregivers work from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. They welcome visitors, care for the butterflies, release butterflies from the emergence case and host the Butterfly Information Station.

Activity leaders share talents such as face painting, flower arranging, storytelling, music, art and costumed characters.

Contact Elizabeth Lumbert, education/volunteer coordinator, at (989) 631-2677, (800) 362-4874, ext. 310, or email at lumbert@dowgardens.org.

Upcoming classes

Make a stone birdhouse

New member Judy Rich offers a class on making a stone birdhouse at the MSU Extension office, downtown Saginaw.

Sessions are from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, April 14; 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 5; or 9 a.m. to noon Tuesday, May 6.

Cost is \$15, which covers all materials. Each class requires at least five people, but no more than 10.

Members may sign up at the February meeting with payment. Make checks payable to the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association. For information, call Rich at 249-5474.

Entry gardens class March 31

Janet Macunovich, a founder of the Michigan School of Gardening in Livonia, will lead a three-hour class on "Best Foot Forward: Entry Gardens" from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, March 31, at MSU Extension, downtown Saginaw.

She will discuss how to make your entryway into the garden grand by assembling the best features for each space. Cost is \$50.

Members may register, with payment due in full, at the February meeting.

In April, SVMGA plans to sponsor another evening class from the Michigan School on "Designing the Outdoor Living Room." A date is still under discussion.

Each is worth three education hours.

The Michigan School offers certificates in gardening fine arts or landscape and garden design.

Library sponsors free class

A free class on how to find information on gardening on the Internet will meet Saturday, March 22, at the Hoyt Library, 505 Janes.

The class, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., will teach people how to find information on different gardening topics.

It will cover several gardening-specific Web sites; how to evaluate a Web site to ensure the information is reliable; how to use a search engine to find information; and how to use the magazine articles database to find articles from magazines about different gardening topics. It is taught by reference librarian Anne Birkam.

To register, call 755-0904.

Project funds available

We have available a limited amount of money to fund projects.

To request project funding simply complete a S.V.M.G.A. Presentation/Project Material Funding Request form and give it to any Board member.

The Board will review the request and you will be notified by Secretary Aileen Cowan as to its acceptance or rejection.

The allotted amount is \$200 per project per year.

The funds are dispersed on first-come, first-serve basis.

If you have any questions, call Judy Henning, at 799-4136 or Aileen Cowan at 865-8784.

Odds and ends

Required hours will increase

Beginning in October 2003, the amount of hours required for recertification of master gardeners and advanced master gardeners will change, says Mary McLellan, Michigan Master Gardener Program state coordinator.

To re-certify, you will need a minimum of 15 hours of volunteer service a year. Also required is five hours of horticultural education training each year.

If you have questions, please call Angela Irwin, 758-2500, ext. 224.

Workshop meets March 22

MOUNT PLEASANT – Orchids, herbal tea gardens, ornamental grasses and an English-Dutch garden tour are all part of a day-long conference Saturday, March 22, at the Holiday Inn Conference Center, 5665 E. Pickard (M 20).

“Spring into Gardening” is sponsored by the Michigan Master Gardener Association, Isabella County Chapter, and earns Master Gardeners four hours education credit.

Speakers include Kathy Jones, owner of Orchids by Katheron; Coleen French, owner of French Garden Creations and an advanced master gardener; Dr. Art Cameron, MSU horticulture professor; and Mary McLellan, Michigan Master Gardener Program state coordinator.

A variety of vendors also will have products for sale.

The conference is from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. and costs \$40, including speakers, deli lunch, door prizes and goodie bag.

Registration is due Monday, Feb. 24. Mail your name, address, daytime telephone, Master Gardener status and year, and favorite gardening tip with a check payable to Master Gardener Association, to MSU Extension – Isabella County, Attn. Garden Conference, 200 N. Main, Mount Pleasant, MI 48858-2321. For information, call Tracey Knack at (989) 772-0911, ext. 215.

MSU has on-line programs

EAST LANSING – The MSU Horticulture Gardening Institute offers a container gardening program.

It features Container Recipes: From Apples to Zinnias in April with a container gardening plant trial for Master Gardeners with the founding sponsor, Proven Winners.

In October, Container Design looks at the art, science and future of container gardens.

To register, contact www.gardeninginstitute.com.

Hosta chapter hosts speaker

The Saginaw Valley Chapter of the Michigan Hosta Society meets at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 11, at the Rustic Inn, 133 N. Saginaw, St. Charles.

Jan Everson will detail the activities of the state organization and show slides of the 2002 National Hosta Convention.

The new chapter welcomes those interested in Hostas or shade gardening. Members also hope to put together an agenda for the year.

For information, contact Elaine Rappley at (989) 781-0570 or e-mail rappleyjunk@aol.com; or contact Jan Meyer at jmeyer7317@chartermi.com.

Chilhuly glass at Meijer Gardens

GRAND RAPIDS – Frederick Meijer Gardens hosts an exhibition by glass artisan Dale Chilhuly that continues through May 11.

“Color and Light” is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday at 1000 E. Beltline. Admission is \$7 adults; \$6 seniors; \$5 students; \$3.50 children.

Visit the Web site at mejergardens.org for a schedule of events.

Pesticide training in March

FLINT – Because the number of certified applicators are lacking and certified applicators must re-certify every three years, MSU Extension – Genesee County has 3 workshops in March.

Sessions are from 8:30 a.m. to noon Tuesdays at G-4215 W. Pasadena Ave, Flint. Cost is \$20, not including manuals or certified applicator fees. Certification exams are available after each review session.

Sessions include Core Manual Review March 11; Turf Grass Manual Review, March 18; and Ornamentals Manual Review, March 25; worth 2 recertification hours each.

Genesee has turf grass class

FLINT – Dr. James Crum, Michigan State University soil specialist, opens a Tuesday, March 4, program on turf grass management at the Holiday Inn, 5353 Gateway Center.

The daylong workshop looks at the challenges of growing healthy turf grass, while taking into consideration pesticide and fertilizer use. It provides four pesticide applicator recertification credits for 3A or commercial core.

Cost is \$65, including lunch, refreshments and handouts. Call (810) 244-8512.

Design with perennials

EAST LANSING – A one-day Designing with Perennials workshop, open to all gardeners, meets from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, March 6, at Michigan State University, Plant and Soil Sciences Building, Room A101.

Instructor Lynn LaPointe Wiese, a licensed landscape architect in Mount Pleasant, will cover the design concept, site selection and evaluation, design principles, creating a plant palate and drawing your own design.

She also will discuss the integration of trees, shrubs, grasses and annuals within the perennial garden using lecture, slides and hand-on exercises.

Cost is \$63, including lunch (vegetarian-style available). To register by Friday, Feb. 28, mail your name, address, daytime phone and e-mail address with a check, payable to MSU, or Visa or Mastercard number and expiration date, to Master Gardener Volunteer Program, MSU, 422 Plant and Soil Sciences Bldg., East Lansing, MI 48824-1325.

For information, e-mail at www.mg@msu.edu or call (517) 353-3774.

Spring catalog has trees, wildflowers

The Midland Conservation District has conifers, trees, shrubs and wildflowers for sale in its 2003 catalog.

Orders are due Monday, March 10. For a copy, call (989) 687-9760. Tree pick-up is Friday, April 11; wildflowers and fruit tree pick-up date is Friday, March 28.

In addition, master gardeners are needed to sort and distribute. Volunteers earn education credits toward certification/recertification.

Help needed for banquet

Help organize the annual Master Gardener Banquet, set for Wednesday, April 9, and earn volunteer credit.

Contact Angela Irwin, Master Gardener coordinator, at 758-2500, ext. 224.

Gardening workshop April 26

KALAMAZOO — A spring gardening conference meets from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 26, at Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Texas Township Campus.

Cost is \$75. For registration form and program details, call Emelee Reifschneider, consumer horticulture agent, at (269) 383-8830 or visit the Web site at www.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/kalamazoo/index.htm, or e-mail reifschne@msue.msu.edu.

Dues reminder

5bbi U dues of \$20 for the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association must be paid by Saturday, March 1.

A completed application must accompany the dues. An application is available below or at the February meeting.

It may be turned in to Treasurer Deborah Keller with a \$20 check, payable to the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association at the February meeting. Due to limited funds, individual applications will not be mailed to applicants.

Those who can not attend the meeting may mail the membership application with check to Keller at 1604 N. Thomas Road, Saginaw, MI 48609.

The Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association will require proof of certification or re-certification from those who are certified outside of Saginaw County.

For more information, call Keller at 781-1228.

Calendar Of Events

- #
#####Master Gardener Banquet, Wednesday, April 9.
- #####Saginaw Art Museum Garden Walk, Wednesday, June 18.
- #####Greater Lansing Orchid Society Show, Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 22-23. Call (517) 355-0348.
- #####MSU Horticulture Student Spring Show, Saturday and Sunday, April 26-27.
- #####Butterflies Are Blooming, March 1 to April 30, at Frederik Meijer Gardens, Grand Rapids. Call (616) 957-1580.
- #####MSU Plant Sale, Saturday, June 7. Call (517) 355-3770 or 355-0348.
- #####International Master Gardener Conference, Thursday to Sunday, June 19-22, in Cincinnati, Ohio. Contact www.ifas.ufl.edu/~conferweb/mg/
- #####MSU Master Gardener Summer Conference, Monday to Wednesday, June 23-25, in East Lansing.
- #####MSU Garden Day, Friday, Aug. 8.
- #####Hosta Leaf Show, Saturday, July 19. Call (800) 533-9366, ext. 3125.

Logo Wear On Sale

New items and new colors are available in logo wear this year, says Dorothy Bodeis, who will take orders at the February and March meetings.

Besides the usual offering of sweatshirt and long- and short-sleeved T-shirts with the association's emblem silk screened or embroidered on the front, this year's selection will include a polo shirt, denim shirt and tote bag.

New colors include forest green and a light sage green.

The deadline to order is Tuesday, April 1.

For information, call Bodeis at 799-6086 or e-mail her at gardendb2002@yahoo.com.

Who are you????

In order that we may get to know one another please wear your nametag at the monthly meetings.

"I see faces from month to month but I cannot put a name to those faces," said President Judy Henning. "Even if you are a long time member, wear your nametag, the person next to you may not know who you are."

**SAGINAW VALLEY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

You are eligible for membership in SVGMA if you turned in your annual 10 hours of volunteer service and 3 education hours in September 2002 and have received a Master Gardener re-certification card. If you did not turn in hours or receive this card, please contact Angela Irwin at the County Extension office (phone: 758-2500) to become re-certified. You are also eligible to join if you have recently completed the Master Gardener course but have not yet completed your volunteer hours. If extenuating circumstances exist, a written request for an extension may be submitted to Angela Irwin, Master Gardener Coordinator.

Dues: \$20.00 per calendar year. New members paying dues after April 1 should contact the treasurer directly for the prorated amount. Each additional family member, living at the same address, will be given a \$10 reduction in their membership fee.

The following information will be used for the SVGMA membership Roster, which is updated annually for members. **PLEASE PRINT.** If you prefer that the following information is **NOT** published in the newsletter check here _____.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

County: _____ E-mail: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Master Gardener Status: MG Trainee _____ Certified MG _____ Advanced MG _____

Class Year _____ New Membership _____ Renewal _____

Mail **application form & check**, payable to SVMGA, to: Deborah Keller, Treasurer, 1604 N. Thomas Rd. Saginaw, MI 48609.