

The Grapevine

Bulletin of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association

February 2006 Volume 10, Issue 2

Pruning practices, pitfalls topic this month

Pruning is an art form, says Chris Reisinger, the sixth generation to run the family orchard at Leamann's Green Applebarn, 7475 N. River Road, in Tittabawassee Township.

And with 600 apple trees, spread across four acres, he has plenty of time to practice. That's beside running the shop that sells apples, cider, donuts and crafts, as well as offering tours to local school-children..

Reisinger will share tips on pruning at the February meeting of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association.

And members will have their annual seed exchange. (Please see Page 4 for details.)

"I worked with my grandfather on the trees since I was 15," says the Michigan State University horticulture graduate.

"I really enjoy it, working outside, the challenge of the spray program, trying to make it efficient and saving money while still protecting the environment, and pruning. They're all things you have to figure out."

After graduation, Reisinger worked

two years as an Extension agent in North Carolina, often teaching pruning techniques.

He returned to Saginaw County in mid-April to be closer to family, now that he and wife Karen have a son, Ethan, 18 months.

"I had planned to start a master's degree, but we were spending all of our time traveling to see family, so we decided to move back."

He took the Master Gardener class here while still in high school, at the advice of his 4-H leader, in preparation for a career as extension agent.

By volunteering at the extension office, he got a taste of what it would be like.

"Pruning is one of the hardest things to teach because there are not any hard and fast rules," Reisinger explains.

"I look at the general appearance of the tree to

see how it would grow good fruit.

"Because there are no hard, fast rules, I think that's why people have so much trouble."

In North Carolina, he found people did "stub" cutting, which he will show



Chris Reisinger of Leamann's Green Applebarn, offers his expertise on "Pruning."

Next meeting

- 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 22, at the Andersen Enrichment Center, Ezra Rust Drive
- 7 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. business meeting
- 7:30 p.m.—8 p.m. refreshments
- 8 p.m. – 9 p.m. Chris Reisinger of Leamann's Green Applebarn, Tittabawassee Township, discusses "Pruning."
- Please wear your badge. No guests.
- **Seed exchange** — Please bring seeds to share. See Page 4.

during his talk.

"What you want to do is prune to the bud or the branch," Reisinger said. "Too often, people make the cuts in the wrong place."

He'll also cover the best time to prune, because for some trees it makes a difference in their overall health.

His goal, he said, "is to give people more confidence so they have better pruning practices. That way there are less mistakes."

What he notices in Saginaw County is a general lack of pruning, rather than pruning errors.

He also will spend time on the two basic cuts, plus the proper pruning tools.

Continues on Page 2

Inside this issue:

Chicago Flower Show in March	2
President's letter	3
New vegetables on parade	3
Odds and ends	4,6
Volunteer opportunities	5
Minutes of the January meeting	6
Membership application for 2006	7

Warmer weather not wreaking havoc yet

Higher temperatures this winter shouldn't have a detrimental effect on local landscapes, says Gary Nelson, a designer for Bay Landscaping in Essexville.

"We haven't had any real drastic changes, like 50 degrees one day and below zero the next. That can cause transpiration in evergreens, resulting in needle loss and winter burn," said the 31-year veteran.

"With prolonged high temperatures you can see bud swelling, but we keep on having freezing, three to four nights a week. I have not seen a lot of sap flowing."

The problem can come later, Nelson said, when longer daylight hours and warmer weather trigger new growth.

"Later on, in February and March is when temperatures can be more extreme.

Continues on Page 2

Winter weather...

Continues from Page 1

like zero at night and 40 degrees at noon.

“That’s when you can get winter freeze and bark cracking.”

With current conditions, some broad-leaf evergreens may suffer, like boxwoods and holly, because they can’t transfoliate, or take up water. But come spring they will grow out of it, Nelson explains.

“Fortunately, we’ve had a fair amount of rain, which is giving us good soil moisture, but this is certainly the warmest winter I’ve seen in all my years in the business.

“There’s not a lot you can do when it comes to Mother Nature. You just have to let it run its course.

“From the reports I’ve seen, the trend next month is back to normal temperatures, but historically, January is the coldest month of the year.”

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Chicago Flower Show March 11-19

CHICAGO — The annual Chicago Flower and Garden Show at Navy Pier’s Festival Hall will explore how more inventive gardens can be created.

Whether it’s the use of new plant cultivars, accessories or giving traditional materials a new twist, “A Capacity for Invention” opens Saturday, March 11, and continues through Sunday, March 19.

Thirteen garden vignettes will break traditional rules and help inspire gardeners to re-invent their own areas.

One display shows how mutated plants can become showstoppers while another uses a pool of bone-dry gravel to create the illusion of water.

TV host P. Allen Smith, a celebrity garden designer, will discuss “Five Things You Should Know about Garden Color: Don’t Let Your Husband Pick the Colors” and judge the large garden displays.

There also are new products on display, and new plant varieties, including annuals, perennials and shrubs.

Participating growers include Gold Smith Seeds, Spring Meadow, Hines Horticulture, Fischer USA, Proven Winners, Conrad Pyle, Yoder Brothers,

Blooms of Bressingham and All-America Selections.

Some 9,500 square feet of the show is devoted to various horticulture and flower arranging competitions. The former is expected to draw 500 entries from amateurs and professionals.

Daily seminars offer visitors information on the latest in landscaping, from water features to controlling invasive species.

Four times daily, well-known chefs and other culinary experts offer tips and tastes at the Garden Gourmet.

The show is from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Saturday; and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday at 600 E. Grand Ave.

Admission for adults is \$14 weekends and \$12 weekdays; admission for children, ages 4-12, is \$6 weekends and \$5 weekdays.

Parking is available at Navy Pier and nearby garages. The Chicago Transit Authority has direct bus service from Union Station and Ogilvie Transportation Center.

For details regarding group sales and special evening events, call (312) 222-5086 or visit chicagoflower.com.

For information, call (312) 321-0077.

Consider the tree’s basic shape...

Continues from Page 1

“It all goes back to the philosophy of what the tree is supposed to look like,” Reisinger said.

This winter he is working on the family business, doing strategic planning. Come spring, he plans to plant new apple varieties, along with more ornamental and exotic pumpkins and gourds, and expand the cut flower offerings.

“We’re also looking at doing some spring tours,” he said.

Last fall, some 5,000 schoolchildren visited the farm.

Leamann’s annual fall festival brings in thousands more for the craft show and

sale, hay rides and corn maze.

“Kids today are two generations removed from the farm. Many of them have no idea where food comes from,” he says.

“When you ask them, they say, ‘the grocery store.’

“And when you ask where does the grocery store get the food, some actually say ‘maybe the store has a garden.’

“We talk not only about what you grow on a farm, but the products you can get from crops like corn and soybeans. It’s a real eye-opener for them.”

Story by Darlene B. Damp, editor

Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association mission statement

“Joining together as Master Gardeners, our mission is to promote our enthusiasm and knowledge of gardening by a wide variety of educational and volunteer activities in a spirit of fun and friendship.”

Letter from the President

Ah, the joys and wonder of gardening in Michigan. It's the middle of January as I write this, and when I look out my bathroom window I see Snowdrops blooming. We also have Hellebores in bloom in our patio raised bed.

This not the first time these plants have gotten their seasons mixed up.

What is so appealing about these specimens is they will continue to bloom throughout the winter. Once they start they will be with us until late spring.

I hope you were able to find a catalog or two at our January exchange. There were a lot of periodicals brought in and very few left at the end of the evening.

February is the month we have our seed exchange in conjunction with our membership meeting.

Please bring in any packets of seeds you were unable to use from last season,

or seeds that you collected from your garden and would like to share with members.



If you are looking for an opportunity to accumulate some education hours during the doldrums of winter (it's never too early to start) the first of several seminars will be held at the Dow Gardens on Saturday, Feb. 25. They are offering five speakers and lunch.

If you can't make the February seminar, the Isabella County chapter of Master Gardeners will host a daylong seminar on Saturday, March 18, in Mount Pleasant. Details on both seminars were in the January Grapevine.

If you are the owner of grow lights it is time to set them up and start your seeds for the growing season to come.

I've had two of mine turned on since late November as I have a couple of *Plectrathus* I wanted to overwinter, and I slipped them soon after bringing them in for the winter.

I also have a *Brugmansia* that decided it did not want to go dormant, so I've been giving it artificial light.

This is a fun way to start seeds as I'm always impatient and want to start my USDA zone 5 growing season early.

Also, you might just find a seed you've been looking for at our seed exchange.

Now I have to get outside and rake up some errant leaves that blew in from one of my neighbor's yards and decided to spend the winter on my lawn.

Grey

What will your garden grow this summer?

If you've paged through those 2006 new seed catalogs, you may have noticed what's new for vegetable gardeners.

Here are just a few to tempt the eye and palate, along with days to harvest and a listing of seed houses.

Carrot — 'Purple Haze' has long dark purple roots, bright orange centers. 2006 All-America selection. 70 days. (Harris, Johnny's, Jung)

Cauliflower — 'Cheddar' has orange heads that deepen when cooked. 68 days. (Harris, Jung)

Cucumber — 'Rocky' an early bird baby seedless, 3.5 inches. 46 days. (Johnny's)

'Sassy' has loads of dark green pickles. 57 days. (Harris)

Eggplant — 'Beatrice' gives early high yields of bright violet, compact fruits. 62 days. (Johnny's)

Lettuce — 'Blackjack' a leaf lettuce with burgundy ruffles. Baby leaves, 29 days; full size, 55 days. (Johnny's)

'Red Star' a red-tipped mini-butterhead. 49 days. (Johnny's)

'Tropicana' loves heat; frilly, loose-head. 52 days. (Johnny's)

Lima bean — 'Big Mama' has bean the size of a teaspoon, on 8- to 10-foot vines. 80 days. (Burpee)

Melon — 'Lily' an early, pale orange, juicy Crenshaw. 78 days. (Johnny's)
'Sensation' harvested immature it's crisp, green, white; mature, pure white and sweeter. 85 days. (Harris)

Onion — 'Ruby Ring' dark red, storing type. 112 days. (Johnny's)

Pepper — 'Carmen' a sweet Italian that goes green to red when ripe for grilling, stir fry. 2006 All-America Selection. 75 days. (Burpee, Harris, Johnny's, Jung.)

'Mariachi' a high-yield chili pepper, 2006 All America Selection, 67 days. (Harris, Johnny's, Jung)

Pumpkin — 'Wolf,' a late maturing, moderate size jack-o-lantern. 120 days. (Johnny's)

Spinach — 'Bordeaux' has red veins, green arrow-shaped leaves. Baby leaves, 21 days; mature, 32 days. (Johnny's)

Tomato — 'Black Pearl' a purplish-black cherry type that gets sweeter, fruitier with chilling. 65 days. (Burpee)

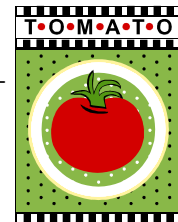
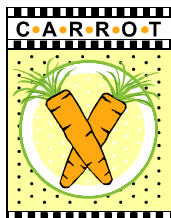
'Patio Princess' has lots of 2.5- to 3-

inch fruit, small plants. 82 days. (Burpee)

'Yellow Magic Stuffing' looks like yellow pepper, great for stuffing. 75 days. (Burpee)

Watermelon — 'Mini Yellow' small, disease-resistant. 78 days. (Johnny's).

B. Rosie Lerner, Purdue University



Next board meeting:
**5:30 p.m. Wednesday,
March 1, at MSU Extension,
1 Tuscola, Saginaw**

Newsletter deadline:
Wednesday, March 6

Send submissions to
**Darlene Damp, editor
shrew@att.net**

To view the newsletter on the
Web site, please go to:
**www.web1.msue.msu.edu/
mastergardener/saginaw**

Odds and Ends

Please bring seeds for exchange this month

Members are invited to bring any spare seeds for the annual exchange this month.

You may have collected them last fall or bought some you didn't use — all are welcome.

Please package seeds for vegetables, herbs, grasses, annuals or perennials with any information that will aid in successful planting — name, color, growing conditions, etc.

Hosta Society sets 2006 schedule of events

The Saginaw Valley Hosta Society has set much of its schedule for 2006.

Jennie Burrows, Master Gardener and TV-12 gardening expert, is the speaker at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 8, at the Rustic Inn, 133 N. Saginaw, St. Charles.

In March, the group will attend the annual Hosta College in Piqua, Ohio. You must be a member of the Michigan Hosta Society to attend this event Friday and Saturday, March 10-11.

The annual Great Lakes Hosta College draws 500 people from the Midwest and other parts of the U.S. and Canada for nearly 60 classes taught by experts.

There are sales of plants, garden accessories, books and tools plus a banquet — all at the Upper Valley Joint Vocational School.

Michigan Hosta Society dues are \$15 for two years and may be mailed to Sarah DaPra, 119 Blenheim Drive, Spring Arbor, MI 49283.

Registration begins Feb. 4 and may be done on-line at www.uvjs.k12.oh.us/portal/glhc/college.asp

The local hosta group meets again at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 12, at the Rustic Inn. The speaker is not yet confirmed.

Sunday, May 21, is the annual potluck, plant sale and auction at Joe and Kathy Leach's Thomas Township garden. You must be a member to buy plants. Dues are \$10 per garden per year or \$25 for three years, including spouse or significant other.

In addition, the group plans a dessert and wine meeting with plant sale at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 12, at Grey and June

Gitzen's Saginaw Township garden.

For membership information, e-mail Elaine Rappley at rappleyjunk@aol.com or Jan Meyer at jmeyer92737@sbcglobal.net.

Rock Garden Society hosts bulb specialist March 18

The North American Rock Garden Society, Great Lakes Chapter, will host a bulb specialist from Finland at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 18, at the Rustic Inn, St. Charles.

"This should be of interest to rock gardeners and others too," said Elaine Rappley.

"I understand that he speaks very good English and is a great speaker. It's not too often Saginaw gets international speakers."

Space is limited. Contact Rappley if interested. Membership for this group is \$10 per year.

Mount Pleasant daylily group has speaker Feb. 18

MOUNT PLEASANT — John Shooter of the Marietta Daylily Gardens in Georgia, is the speaker Saturday, Feb. 18, of the Central Michigan Daylily Society.

The group meets at Veterans Memorial Library. For information, contact Ginger Lisik at 642-5772.



Learn tree identification

MIDLAND — Sure you know your trees when the leaves are on, but can you identify them with the leaves gone?

Dan Veresh, a certified arborist, teaches you how to use leaf scars, buds and lenticels for identification from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21, at Dow Gardens, Eastman and West St. Andrews.

Cost is \$10. To register, go to www.dowgardens.org or call (989) 631-2677.

TV's P. Allen Smith guest at Grand Rapids conference

GRAND RAPIDS — Kent County's

Michigan State University Extension host "Stuck on Gardening" from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, March 4, at the Amway Grand Plaza downtown.

Smith will answer questions during lunch, offering a one-on-one dialogue with the well-known garden expert.

After lunch he presents "Five Things You Should Know about Color for Your Garden." He shares how to reflect your personality in choosing and arranging plants into living works of art.

Also featured are Rebecca Finneran, Kent MSUE horticulture educator, discussing "A Gardener's Journey" and showing new plants for 2006.

Pam Kater, Hidden Grove Greenhouse owner, looks at "Amazing New Annuals" and creative container designs.

Reine Moser, a landscape designer from Nunica, discusses "Four Season Gardens," from unique trees, shrubs and perennials to artwork.

Linda Charvat of Rosebay Rhododendrons in Saugatuck, offers notable species for Michigan's climate.

Cost is \$65, including a box lunch and a two-day pass to the 2006 West Michigan Home and Garden Show at DeVos Place.

Master Gardeners earn five education credits for attending the conference.

Registration deadline is Tuesday, Feb. 28. A brochure is available at www.web1.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener or call Rebecca Finneran or Helen Cox at (616) 336-3265.

Sunrise MGs sponsor woodland garden seminar

TAWAS CITY — The Sunrise Side Master Gardener Association hosts a woodland garden seminar Tuesday, April 18.

It features Rick Darke, award-winning horticultural author, photographer, lecturer and consultant, as the key speaker.

Also on the program is Chuck Martin, Dow Gardens horticulturist; Rick Myrick, district forester for Iosco and Arenac counties, and Tony Reznicek, a world authority on sedges and curator of the University of Michigan Herbarium.

(Continued on Page 6)

Cincinnati Flower Show has it all this spring

CINCINNATI, Ohio — A grand lake-side setting and exhibits staged beneath pristine pavilions and in the open air are all part of the annual Cincinnati Flower Show April 22-30.

Presented by National City, the show is noted for its outstanding quality and scenic vistas.

It remains the only Flower Show in North America endorsed by the Royal Horticultural Society of Great Britain.

Distinguished speakers, judges, vendors and visitors from the U.S. and Europe converge to experience the creative dynamics of a world-acclaimed show.

Grand Marquee show gardens create instant appeal with unique styles, quality plants, colors from bold to soft, coupled with a variety of design elements.

Also featured are small and large theme gardens.

Adding impact, **Single Genus Displays** showcase the many varieties of one type of plant, such as hostas, caladiums and geraniums.

A long-time show favorite is **Dramatic Table Settings**. Elaborate tablescapes are created by interior designers, artists and stylists, becoming works of art with fabulous flowers and striking accessories.

Tiffany & Co.'s centerpiece is a showstopper.

The region's most celebrated **professional florists** provide over the top, cutting-edge floral designs.

Strolling along Lake Como, visitors will linger by the row of **Container Gardens**, bursting with lush foliage and blossoming flowers.

If containers aren't your pick, an English streetscape of charming window boxes, brimming with coordinating hanging baskets, offers more visual pleasures.

Ask the Experts gives visitors an opportunity to quiz expert horticulturists with their latest gardening questions and challenges.

Candid Cooks is all about delicious fun, cooking up the ultimate in home recipes from all corners of the globe.

Confections in Bloom demonstrates spectacular sugar art in flowers!

Artists' Studio captures art inspired by nature and horticulture. Highlighted are sculpture and art for the garden, paintings, photography and fiber art.

In the **Amateur Flower Show exhibit**, artistic and horticulture classes inspire gardeners at all levels, no matter

the size of their gardens.

Two markets offer a wide selection of quality gardening products. **Gardener's Market** features more than 100 vendors from 30 states, selling everything from clippers to conservatories in an open-air shopping paradise.

The **Plant Market** includes a vast array of annuals, perennials, herbs, shrubs, trees and indoor plants. From Japanese maples to antique roses, the hardiest impatiens to the most temperamental of orchids, plant enthusiasts will find the selection of a lifetime.

The 2006 Distinguished Lecture Series welcomes:

Jennifer Bartley – *Designing the New Kitchen Garden*, at 11 a.m. April 27.

Dean Norton – of Mount Vernon, at 2 p.m. April 27.

Carl Gercens – of Longwood Gardens, at 2 p.m. April 28.

Michael Weishan – *The Victory Garden*, at 11 a.m. April 29.

Admission is \$20 for adults and \$5 for children, ages 3 to 12. Advance tickets are \$15 for adults.

For tickets call (513) 872-5194 or (800) 670-6808 or visit the Web site: www.cincyflowershow.com.

Earn volunteer hours with these projects

Mentors sought for new MG class

Juanita Pettiford is seeking volunteers to work with members of the fall Master Gardener class.

Volunteers provide information and assistance to trainees until they are certified.

To volunteer, contact Pettiford at 777-6918 or e-mail skeetni2@aol.com.

MGs help spread word on Emerald Ash Borer

Dan Keane, emerald ash borer education coordinator, needs volunteers to provide information and outreach on this exotic beetle.

Training is provided and volunteers would help man a booth at the annual

home show in mid-March.

Volunteers can count the time as volunteer or education hours. The project is approved for MSUE hours.

Call Keane at 758-2500, ext. 224 or e-mail keaned@msu.edu.

Abele Greenhouse wants MG speakers in spring

Master Gardeners can earn volunteer hours and promote the MG program as speakers this spring at Abele Greenhouse and Garden Centers, 3500 Wadsworth.

Master Gardeners would make a 50-minute presentation on a garden-related topic from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Saturdays April 29, May 6 and 20 and June 3 and 10 then have a 10-minute question-and-answer session.

In return, Abele's will make a dona-

tion to SVMGA.

Contact Karen Siegel, Master Gardener coordinator, at 758-2500, ext. 250, or e-mail siegelk@msu.edu.

Local conservation district plans 2006 tree sale

Volunteers are needed to help with the annual Saginaw Conservation District tree sale.

Volunteers will pack trees from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, April 20; assemble orders from 8 a.m. until completed on Friday, April 21; and then distribute orders from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 22, at the Saginaw County Fairgrounds, Chesaning.

Call the Conservation District at 781-4077 to volunteer.

Minutes of the Jan. 25, 2006 membership meeting

Grey Gitzen welcomed members to the Andersen Enrichment Center.

Nancy Cotcamp moved that the minutes of the November 2005 meeting be approved as published; Waunita Pettiford seconded the motion.

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

Balance of last report	\$5,455.03
Deposits 11/16/05 to 1/24/06	\$2,150.26
Expenses 11/16/05 to 1/24/06	\$1,614.91
Balance as of 1/24/06	\$5,990.38

As of 1/24/06 we have 12 paid members for 2006.

Marilyn Karpicke moved the treasurer's report be approved; Judy Wegner seconded the motion.

Members must be recertified to be members of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association. Some 125 of the 178 members from 2005 have recertified.

Members are asked to get their hours in before paying their dues. You should consolidate your hours when entering them on-line. You do not need to enter every date you work on a project, just the first date and total number of hours.

Gitzen passed out a copy of the 2006 budget. Members were asked to look it over and be prepared to vote at the February meeting. Members having any questions about the budget should ask a board member.

He mentioned that the association will now be paying the cost of producing and

mailing the newsletter since the Extension office can no longer afford to pay for it.

The board decided to include this in the budget and continue mailing the newsletter. The mailing list is being revised and all members will receive the newsletter in the mail. The association must mail 200 copies to receive the bulk mail rate, the cheapest way to mail it.

The newsletter was not mailed in January but was available at the meeting for members to pick up. It will be printed at the Saginaw Board of Education which offers the cheapest rate. It may not go out on a set date each month due to the Board of Education's schedule.

Bob Gubbins asked about making the newsletter available solely electronically. However, many members do not have computers at home so the board decided to include this in the proposed budget. It will still be posted monthly on the website.)

Waunita Pettiford asked for members to become mentors to the 18 people from the fall class. A sign-up sheet was available. (See Page 5.)

Dan Keane needs volunteers to help with an emerald ash borer project.

He will offer training for this project; those hours can go towards education or volunteer time. The hours are MSUE-approved. A sign-up sheet was available.

There will be a booth at the home show in March about this pest.

Angela Irwin had notebooks available for new members.

Master Gardener Coordinator Karen Siegel mentioned that the Saginaw State of the County speech stated Master Gardeners had contributed 7,000 volunteer hours last year.

She also asked members to get their hours in now. Members wishing to enter their own hours can call the office for their password.

Siegel also said Abele Greenhouses is looking for speakers to give 50-minute presentations with a 10-minute question and answer period on Saturdays, from the end of April through mid June. (See Page 5.) If interested, please see Siegel.

Abele's will be giving a donation to the Master Gardener program.

Gitzen said handouts from the November meeting were available.

Shirley McNier asked members who ordered logowear to pick it up.

Thanks go to Ruth Sny for donating the ornament and scrubby, Brian Ott for donating the label maker and Sue Stemler for donating the wind chime.

Ric Romero won the label maker, Bub Gubbins the wind chime and Bob Sawyers the ornament and scrubby.

Members listened to a wonderful presentation on water gardens from Kip Northrup of Aquatic Gardens.

Submitted by Anne Birkam, secretary

More odds and ends...

(Continued from Page 4)

The seminar is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Tawas United Methodist Church, 20 M-55.

Tickets are \$35 by April 1 or \$40 after. Tickets are available at the Iosco County Extension Office, 420 W. Lake Street.

For a seminar brochure, call (989) 362-3449 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays. Participation earns Master Gardeners 5.5 education credits.

Beekeepers offer classes

The Michigan Beekeepers Association is looking for people interested in the "Bee

Business."

The association's annual spring meeting is Friday and Saturday, March 10-11, during Agriculture and Natural Resources Week at the MSU's Kellogg Center.

It includes beekeeping classes by the Saginaw Valley Beekeepers and presentations by top industry speakers.

There is a \$25 fee for non-members. For information, call Dave Anthony at (810) 621-4371, or Terry Klein at (989) 865-9377.

Welcome new members!

As of Feb. 5, there are 75 members of

SVMGA for 2006, said Jan O'Dell, treasurer.

New members are:

Mary Kathryn Andrews, Saginaw Township, MG trainee.

Susan Lawcock, Bridgeport, MG trainee.

Sandra Lundy, Saginaw, MG trainee.

Catherine Anne MacArthur, Free-land, Master Gardener.

Memberships may be turned in at the February meeting, or mailed to O'Dell by the March 1 deadline. Please complete the entire application form.

2006 membership fee due March 1

Annual dues of \$20 for the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association must be paid by Wednesday, March 1.

Each dues payment **must** be accompanied by a fully completed membership application form.

The application is available below or at the February meeting.

Members who join by March 1 are entered in a pool to receive the Summer Conference fee (1 member) paid by SVMGA.

Treasurer Jan O'Dell asks members who plan to turn in dues at the meetings to have their checks and membership

applications filled out ahead of time to ease her job, when dealing with so many people.

Please make checks payable to the SVMGA. Due to limited funds, individual applications are not mailed to applicants.

Those who are unable to attend the February meeting, may mail their check and completed application form to O'Dell at 5122 Hickory Court, Saginaw, MI 48603.

For information, call O'Dell at 793-4357 or e-mail her at odell5122@sbcglobal.net.

Applications forms are necessary be-

cause they are used to develop the annual membership roster and check certification status.

Only certified members may attend meetings.

The association also plans to mail a newsletter to all members so an up-to-date address is important.

As members know, the recertification process is under way. It is expected to be completed this month.

Those who are joining from outside Saginaw County are required to have proof of certification or recertification along with their application.

SAGINAW VALLEY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

You are eligible for membership in SVMGA if you turned in (or filed on-line) your required annual 15 hours of volunteer service and 5 education hours. All members must be certified Master Gardeners.

If you did not turn in hours, please contact Master Gardener Coordinator Karen Siegel at the MSU Extension office (phone: 758-2500, ext. 250) to become re-certified.

You also are eligible to join if you have recently completed the Master Gardener course, but have not yet completed your volunteer hours.

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

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

Name: _____

No change from last year INCLUDING E-MAIL (check here) _____

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 _____

You may turn in the **application form & check**, payable to SVMGA, at the February meeting or mail to: Jan O'Dell, 5122 Hickory Court, Saginaw, MI 48603.

Upcoming 2006 programs

- 2/22 — Chris Reisinger, Leaman's Green Applebarn, Freeland, "Tree Pruning." Seed exchange.**
- 3/22 — Dan Keane, retired forester, "Emerald Ash Borer."**
- 4/26 — Terry McLean, Genesee County Master Gardener coordinator, "Diagnostics and Master Gardener Hotline."**
- 5/24 — Plant exchange; site to be determined. If interested, please contact Amy Fitkin, 781-1670.**
- 6/28 — Tour of Melva Bond's Buena Vista Township garden**
- 7/26 — Tour of Deborah Keller's Thomas Township garden**
- 8/23 — Tour of Mark Torregrossa's Weather Garden**
- 9/27 — George Papadellis of Telly's Greenhouse, Troy, "Ground Covers."**
- 10/25 — To be determined**
- 11/15 — Nancy Lindley of Great Lakes Roses, "Winter Hardy Roses."**
- 12/6 — Annual Christmas potluck**

Meetings from January to April and September to December are at the Andersen Enrichment Center. Meetings in May through August are at members' homes or other garden sites. Field trips are still in the works.

January newsletter not mailed; sorry for the inconvenience

Members who normally get the newsletter by mail did not receive the January edition due a number of problems.

First it was late due to a large printing backlog — and the Martin Luther King holiday — at the Saginaw Board of Education office, where issues are now processed.

Then, Debbie King, the label maker, fell on the ice and suffered a concussion, making it impossible to deliver the labels

and mail the newsletter in time for the January meeting.

King has recovered, after a brief hospital stay.

The newsletter is still posted monthly on the Saginaw County Master Gardener web site, usually the same week as that month's deadline.

Those who do not own computers may always read or get a copy via computer at the local library.

We apologize for the problem last month and thank you for your patience.

Publication of the newsletter is now dependent on the Board of Education Print Shop's schedule due to cutbacks in the Extension office..

Our goal is always to have it to you as quickly as possible.

Darlene Damp, editor