

The Grapevine



Bulletin of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association

February 2007 Volume 11, Issue 2

Hostas an easy fit for any garden: Hanner

Mark Hanner never gave the hostas in his yard much thought.

"Initially, we were given a green and white one...and we divided it several times and ordered some from a Dutch company," explains Mark Hanner.

Then he and his wife Becky met a Michigan hybridizer who had a gold standard, a named variety, and it piqued their interest.

But wasn't until they visited a woodland fantasy shade garden in Jackson, that the Hanners became devotees.

"On the way home, my wife and I thought 'this is the way it can be.' We had an old farmhouse with a lot of shade trees and that's exactly what we began creating 20 years ago."

Today, Hanner is president of the East Michigan Hosta Society, a group he started 10 years ago. He's also president of the Michigan Hosta Society.

Members of the Saginaw Valley Mas-



Becky and Mark Hanner of Stone Garden Nursery in Otisville.

ter Gardener Association will hear his thoughts on "Hosta Culture" at this month's meeting.

Hostas are popular perennials because of their ease of care, says Hanner, who operates Stone Garden Nursery out of their home in Otisville, due east of Clio.

"They're almost foolproof, although it is possible to kill one. In the north, where we are, they will grow in a lot of sun, almost full sun."

The wide range of colors, leaf patterns, sizes and textures make them an easy fit for any garden.

"With all the hosta growers and wholesalers, they really are inexpensive," Hanner says.

"You can get hundreds of varieties for under \$20 and most are \$10 to \$15. Tissue cultures were not done 20 years ago, so they were more expensive and people couldn't afford them."

What was only going to be a purchase of a few plants for a shady spot has become a yard with very little lawn.

"My main goal is to increase awareness and education about hostas in the garden," Hanner explains.

"Our local hosta group maintains a garden in a Lapeer park and we partici-

Next meeting

- 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 28, at 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., speaker **Mark Hanner** discusses "**Hosta Culture**"
- **Annual seed exchange** — Please bring seeds to share. (See Page 3)
- **NO GUESTS!!!**
- **Please wear your badge.**

pate in the Michigan Hosta Society hosta garden at Hidden Lake Gardens in Tipton, which truly has to be one of the finest hosta gardens in the United States.

"It's an honor and fun to be involved with taking part in such a special place that may do for others what that garden in Jackson did for my wife and I."

Hostas add tranquility to a garden, first because they're usually located in the cool, shade.

"Although they do flower, they're

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MSU's ANR Week hosts 80 programs

EAST LANSING — Already poured through your garden magazines?

Selected — and planted — seeds from your favorite catalogs?

Then why not take a look at the 80 programs offered during the annual Agriculture and Natural Resources Week at Michigan State University, from Friday, March 2, to Saturday, March 10.

A variety of state associations host keynote speakers with break-out sessions, led by experts in each field, for one day or several.

Conference topics focus on organic gardening, beekeeping, environmental educa-

tion, sustainable forests, wildflowers, herbs, gladiolus, horticultural therapy, the Great Lakes, pest management and wildlife conservation., to name a few.

Master Gardeners might enjoy the Michigan Wildflower Conference Sunday and Monday, March 4-5 which is open to all who are interested in Michigan native plants and their habitats.

Registration opens at 7:30 a.m. Morning speakers include Steve Keto, owner of Nesto Prairie, discussing "Where Have We Been, Where Are We Going in the Native Plant Movement?" along

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Hostas give garden color, texture, Zen-like feel...

(Continues from Page 1)

mostly appreciated for their foliage. You won't find any orange or yellow or red there.

"And hostas give a garden a different feel, almost like Zen quality of a Japanese garden."

While Hanner knows any number of hosta collectors, his remains fairly tame — a lot of miniatures and a dragon hosta garden.

"One bone of contention for me is the number of cultivars — something like 6,000," Hanner says.

"I think after 1,000 they start to look too much alike."

At the February meetings, he will have pictures and compare the differences.

"I'll also talk a little about the variety, the colors, the leaf patterns, the sizes, why to use them and a little about culture," Hanner says.

"Hostas are great container plants, both large and small and maybe that's my personal mission, to show how they can help solve problems."

He and his wife are both potters and they've used hostas in their own ceramic creations to fill under a maple tree at home.

"You know it never works out with the roots of a maple tree to try and plant something in the ground, but with pots, it can make a big impact. Then, end of the season, we either plant them in a holding bed or put them in the greenhouse."

Now retired for two years, the Hanners want to spend more time on their pottery.

"We opened the nursery 10 years ago, thinking we would need something like this post-retirement, but we've found there's other things we want to do — so this will be the last year for the nursery."

They still plan to have the annual spring open house and visitors are always welcome by appointment.

Hosta lovers also will get to see the Hanner garden when the East Michigan group hosts the annual state hosta tour this summer.

Story by Darlene B. Damp, editor

Conferences offer latest information...

(Continues from Page 1)

with Lorraine Johnson, author and board member of the North American Native Plant Society, looking at "How Our Gardens Connect to the Broader Environment," and Tom Smith, owner of Grass Roots and Michigan Turfgrass Foundation executive director, on "A Historical Perspective: What Has Been Accomplished and Future Possibilities."

Concurrent afternoon sessions examine "A Global Perspective," "Attracting Beneficial Insects and Pollinators with Native Plants," "Invasive Plant and Spotted Knotweed Control" and "Forest Certification."

Monday has "The Learned Aesthetic of Native Landscapes," "Ecological Consequences of Global Climate Change," "Gardening with Native Plants to Attract Birds," and "Environmental Effects of Invasive Species."

At lunch, keynoter Lorraine Johnson talks about "Practical, How-to Native Plant Gardening for Woodlands, Meadows, Prairies."

The afternoon features a panel discussion on plant maintenance.

A variety of vendors offer books, plants, arts and crafts, and more.

For costs and registration, go to www.wildflowersmich.org.

The Michigan Herb Associates annual conference is Wednesday and Thursday, March 7-8, and includes lectures and demonstrations.

Ellen Spector Platt, author of "Lemon Herbs, How to Grow and Use 18 Great

Herbs," gives two lectures: "Luscious Lemon Herbs" and "Magical Lavender."

British garden designer Caroline Holmes also gives two talks, "Zesty Tales of Herbs" and "With Juice of Balm — If Life Hands You Lemons, Make Lemonade."

In addition, author Betsy Williams presents "Green Connections: Old Plants in a New Land," and "A Visit from Mrs. Thrift."

Jane Taylor, founding curator of the MSU 4-H Children's garden offers "Following and Celebrating the Linnaeus Parade" while co-designer Deb Kinney does "Residential Design Basics."

Other speakers include Coleen French with "Herbs from Head to Toe," Donna Frawley on "The Herbal Soup Pot," and Julie Krist with "Year-round Herbal Gifts with Make-and-Take Herb Booklet."

For more information or registration visit www.hrt.msu.edu/herb/

Those who love glads may want to explore the Michigan Gladiolus Conference Thursday and Friday, March 8-9.

It will meet at the Ramada Inn, 5050 Beckley Road, Battle Creek, near I-94.

There is a show, new gladiolus introductions, dahlias, genetics research and an update on chemicals, ending with a corm auction that night.

For registration, call Diana Langshaw at (269)731-4259.

For other conferences, visit www.canr.msu.edu/anrweek/ or call Sandi Bauer at (517) 353-3175.

Officers for 2007-08

President

Susan Scott 791-9270

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Karen Tilden 777-6673

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Letter from the president

Aah well, February is here and time to think of something to write for my column. Last month my concern was about plants starting to grow. The snow and cold weather have certainly taken care of that. As in life, weather is never static — always changing.

Usually on Sunday mornings you can find me out walking the neighborhood with the ultimate goal of picking up a Sunday Saginaw News. I started doing this with my dog when I bought my house over 11 years ago. If the weather is so bad that I can't take a long walk, then the Sunday paper never gets to my house.

This Sunday was one of the days when I got the paper. It was a wonderful morning to be walking! Everything seems better when you're roaming around in the crisp air!

This is a time for me to let my mind wander over a variety of topics. Among other things, I ended up considering my position as President of the SVMGA.

I pretty much understand my responsibilities to the membership, but wondered, if as members, you have considered your responsibilities to the President and other officers on the board.

As your board, we're only as effective as you make us. We're here to serve you, the membership. That means that I take your feedback and suggestions seriously.

I know it is intimidating to speak up at a meeting, but please feel free to call, e-mail me or corner me at a meeting to express your concerns.

I am excited about the prospect of getting to know more of you and I can use all the help you are willing to give me!

At the January meeting, we discussed ways to make money. Funds are being cut for many programs, including the

Saginaw County Master Gardener Program.

As an organization, we voted to sell spring bulbs with proceeds of this sale going to the Saginaw County Master Gardener Program. We will collect and distribute the monies raised.

But we will have a need in mid-April for volunteers to separate the bulbs into individual orders for distribution to their recipients. So the county program gets money and we get volunteer hours. Yeah!

Personally, I am buying some because then I no longer have to think about it and will just wait for the order to come in. I have a tendency to remember summer bulbs after it is too late to plant them.

There will be more order forms and pictures of the items at the February meeting. The orders have to be in to



Crystal Kauer by Thursday, March 1, which is the day after our meeting.

I hope you will all consider supporting this endeavor.

There are many seed starters among our membership. While I aspire to someday be on a par with Judy Henning or Judy Wegner, I haven't quite made that grade yet.

Last year about this time, I started a *very modest* seed-starting adventure and did better than expected so I shall be trying it again. (See story below on seed exchange.) If any of you have any cool plants to suggest to me, that would be wonderful!

In the fall, I bring all my geranium plants and some others inside where they continue to grow and bloom all winter.

By now they are long and leggy and need to be pruned. So into a container with water they are destined to go this month.

After they root, I plant them in pots to await that warm spring sunshine.

When it comes time to do this, the days are starting to be longer and I feel like spring will soon be here — even with all the snow I see outside.

Toodles!
Susan



Susan Scott

Bring your seeds for exchange

Members are invited to bring any spare seeds they have for the annual seed 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 in separate containers.

Include pertinent information with each package that will aid in successful planting and growing.

New owners will want to know what type of seeds they are, along with the variety name, color, height, planting considerations, growing conditions, etc.

Here's hoping there's plenty to share!

Next board meeting:
**5:30 p.m. Wednesday,
March 7, at MSU Extension,
1 Tuscola**

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

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

Find the Web page at: **web1.
msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/
saginaw/association/**

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."

Odds and ends....

Bulb sale aids Master Gardener program

Buy spring bulbs this month and help supplement education programs by the Saginaw County Master Gardener Program.

SVMGA is hosting the sale to offset declining state funding for the local MSU Extension office, due to budget cutbacks.

For \$15, Master Gardeners, their families and friends may purchase either a Summer Bulb sampler (5 Anemone, 10 Freesia, 10 Glads mix, 5 Liatris, 3 Oriental lilies mix) or a Perennial Garden Sampler (3 Asiatic lilies, 5 Crocosmia, 2 daylily mix, 2

Hosta, 5 Liatris).

For \$10, buy a Six Hosta Collection, featuring plants 20

to 30 inches high for part shade to shade. For \$7.50 choose from a three-count Dahlia Dinner Plate; a three-count Begonia Non-stop; or a two-count Peony Double Red.

Five dollars buys a five-count Stargazer Lily; 25-count Gladiolus 'Purple Flora;' five-count Asiatic Lily Mix; 25-count Freesia Mix; three-count Canna Red 'King Humbert;' 25-count Gladiolus Jumbo Mix; or 10-count Liatris Purple.

And with every \$20 order, you receive a five-count Pink Fairy Lily package.

Order deadline is Thursday, March 1, and order forms will be available at the February meeting.

Please make checks, with 6 percent sales tax added in, payable to SVMGA and either give to or mail to Crystal Kauer, 5775 Mackinaw, Saginaw, MI 48604.

Delivery/pick up is tentatively set for mid-April.

State MG conference filled

Dear Local Coordinators:

I am happy to report that we have had an overwhelming response to the March 17th Learn to Grow Green Spring Conference.

So much so, that as of today we had to close registration!

The auditorium holds 600 people and we are almost there...

Please encourage (your Master Gardener Volunteers) to sign up for the 2008 Learn to Go Green Conference as soon as the information comes out in January 2008!

The 2008 Conference will be held in either March or April.

We are waiting to see how this one goes in March to see if we need to move it to April — the weather will be the deciding factor.

Mary McLellan, state MG coordinator

Apply now for project grants

Two \$200 grants have been awarded of the 15 available this year.

The SVMGA board approved a grant for the annual Spring into Service project, sponsored by United Way of Saginaw County with other local agencies.

Member Gail Caird said the funds will help purchase plant material and mulch for the neighborhood spruce-up program.

A date and locations must still be determined.

Also receiving approval was the SVMGA garden at the front of the Saginaw Children's Zoo. Funds will go toward plants, fertilizer and soil amendments, said member Judy Henning.

Presentation/Project Material Funding Request applications are available from Karen Tilden, vice president, who then forwards the request to the board for action.

Beginning this year, members will receive the grant once they have turned in all receipts. Problems of receiving a final accounting for projects led the board to a reimbursement system of awarding grants.

Hosta Society sets calendar

The Saginaw Valley Chapter of the Michigan Hosta Society has set its 2007 program.

Meetings are held at the Rustic Inn, St. Charles.

The program includes: Feb. 14: Joe Leach to give concrete leaf demonstration.

March 16-17: Hosta College in Pica, Ohio. Visit <http://ihostohio.org/Portal/glhccollege.asp> to view classes and register.

April 11: Fred Case to speak on shade and wild flowers.

May 20: Potluck and garden walk at Britt Lundberg's.

June 10: Plant Sale/Auction at garden of Ron and Carolyn Weaver.

July 11: Wine and Cheese Tasting/Plant Sale in Chesaning.

Sept. 12: Tentative speaker, Chuck Martin of Dow Gardens.

Nov. 14: Anniversary Dinner, Mark Zilis is the suggested speaker.

Membership is \$10 per garden per year or \$25 per garden for 3 years.

Make checks payable to *Saginaw Valley Hosta Society*. Mail to Jan Meyer, 29 W. Hannum Blvd., Saginaw, MI 48602.

Conservation District spring tree sale under way

Apple, peach, pear, plum and cherry trees — as well as numerous conifer and deciduous tree seedlings are on sale through March 31 through the Saginaw County Conservation District.

Also available are wildlife shrubs and flowering trees.

For information or a catalog, call 781-4077 or go to www.saginawcd.org.

Welcome new members!

Three new people have joined the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association.

They are Anne M. Tinney, Master Gardener Trainee, 3873 State, Bridgeport, MI 48722, phone, 529-8295.

Xenny Johnson and Bill Johnson, both Master Gardener Trainees, 3795 Pruess, Freeland, MI 48623, phone 695-5861.

The membership application is on Page 7 of this issue. Memberships are taken through Thursday, March 1.

Members must be Master Gardeners who are certified or recertified. You also are eligible if you recently completed the Master Gardener course, but have not yet completed your volunteer hours.

Dues are \$20 per calendar year with a \$10 reduction for an additional family member.



Earn education credits, beat winter doldrums

Nursery conference...

The Saginaw Valley Nurseryman and Landscape Association has a one day seminar Wednesday, Feb. 21, at the Horizons Conference Center, 6200 State, Saginaw.

Topics include water gardening, installing concrete pavers, green construction, bioengineering living walls, business systems and shoreline management. There also will be updates on the MSU Diagnostic Lab and from the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

Cost is \$35 in advance; \$40 at the door; \$45 for non-members.

For information or reservations, call Bay Landscaping at 893-8000.

Gardening seminar in Ubley...

UBLEY — Huron County Master Gardeners are sponsoring their fifth Spring Into Gardening conference Saturday, March 31.

The session is from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Ubley Heights Country Club, 2409 E. Atwater Road.

Gardeners can take advantage of four of 10 classes, including a day-long option by Kim Francis from Rochester Hills on "Four Season Gardening."

Keynote speaker is George Papadellis of Telly's Greenhouse in Troy. Papadellis will cover "What's New for 2007 in Perennials," as well as "Container Gardening."

Other speakers include Dick Partlo, Akron, on "Garden Photography;" Dr. Chris Schilling from Saginaw Valley State University on "Alternative Fuels;" Gary Briggs, Burt, on "Fruit Trees" and "Berries;" Julia Janiak from Goldner Walsh Nursery on "Captivating Combinations," and "What's New in 2007 for Annuals and Tropicals;" and Dr. Ralph Czerepinski, Midland, on "Mushrooms in the Garden."

Master Gardeners receive five education hours for the daylong seminar.

Early registration is \$35 per person by March 8, or \$45 after March 9.

Registration forms are available by e-mailing msue32@msu.edu, or calling (989)269-9949.

Registration includes a Yard and Garden Expo event, goodie bag, lunch and

door prizes.

The Yard and Garden Expo event is free and open to the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Stuck on Gardening...

GRAND RAPIDS — Author Suzy Bales offers "A Garden of Fragrance" at the Kent County MSU Extension gardening conference Saturday, March 3.

Bales has written 13 books and serves as a contributing editor to Better Homes and Garden magazine.

Stuck on Gardening runs from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at DeVos Place downtown. Cost is \$70, including lunch.

Other speakers are growers Dave and Renee Ludema on "Secrets of Growing Great Annuals," Advanced Master Gardener C.J. Brander on "Diary of a Garden," horticulturist Danielle Smith on "Changing the Way you Think about Shrubs," and concluding with Rebecca Finneran, MSU Extension horticulture educator, on "Passionate about Plants."

Registration includes a Gardener's Marketplace and two-day pass to the West Michigan Home and Garden Show.

For information, call (616) 336-3265.

A registration form is available on the state Master Gardener Web site, call-



endar listing for March.

International MG conference in Little Rock May 2-5

LITTLE ROCK, ARK. — It's 2007 and only a few short months remain before the International Master Gardener Conference May 2-5.

The University of Arkansas and Arkansas Master Gardeners invite you to visit the Natural State where they will host the conference at the Peabody Hotel and Statehouse Convention Center in downtown Little Rock.

May is the month when gardens here are approaching their peak.

Keynote speakers include:

- P. Allen Smith, award-winning garden designer and host of the public television program.

- George Anderson, former head of The School of Horticulture at The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

- Tina Marie Wilcox, head gardener and herbalist at the Ozark Folk Center's Heritage Herb Garden, Mountain View, Ark.

- Wayne Pianta, Product Technical Specialist at Pan American Seeds (a Division of Ball Horticulture), who will speak on "Trends in Gardening."

(Continues on Page 7)

New volunteer opportunities

MG Hotline...

Phyllis Shlien is looking for volunteers to input information into the database for the Master Gardener Hotline.

Volunteers may work from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the office in three-hour blocks.

To volunteer, call her at 642-6656.

4-H conference...

Master Gardener volunteers are sought to teach on MSU's campus at a 4-H conference.

The conference is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in March.

Programs for youngsters, ages 5-18, are needed.

For information, contact Susan Scott, 791-9270 or email SuHunSco@aol.com.

Chippewa Nature Center...

MIDLAND — Chippewa Nature Center is seeking Master Gardeners to provide talks on earth-friendly gardening for its annual Green Garden Day April 21.

This year's theme is soil, but presentations may be on any gardening topic.

At least one Master Gardeners would be required to staff a display from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and present and answer questions from visitors.

For information, call the center, (989) 631-0830 or e-mail jpputts@limitlesspath.com.

Minutes of the January 24, 2007 meeting

President Susan Scott welcomed 103 members to the Andersen Enrichment Center.

Grey Gitzen moved that the minutes of the November 2006 meeting be approved as published. Raeann Krauss seconded the motion.

Susan Scott read the treasurer's report:

Balance of last report,	\$7,240.40
Deposits 12/6 to 12/31/06	142.75
Expenses 12/6 to 12/31/06	1,063.78
Balance as of 12/31/06	\$6,319.37
Less fall seminar funds	\$4,547.71
Net balance	\$1,771.66

As of 11/15/06, SVMGA has 169 paid members.

Scott discussed the need for members to pay their dues so that additional money is raised for our coffers. She also indicated it was important to include your name and e-mail address on the membership forms; all other information can be annotated as "same as before" if members have not moved or changed their telephone numbers.

Darlene Damp moved the treasurer's report be accepted; Nancy Hales seconded the motion.

Discussion took place regarding the proposed 2007 budget, which members were given copies of to review. Further review and a vote will be at the February meeting.

Scott indicated there were a couple areas where financing was still being reviewed for change. The number of pro-

ject grants was corrected to read 15.

Discussion of the proposed budget was as follows: Susan Scott explained the need to purchase an LCD Power Point Projector, then various members suggested what to look for in purchasing such equipment. Scott asked for volunteers to research feature needs and best pricing for the equipment. Kathy Lewis and Patty Burnside volunteered to head up the committee.

Nancy Hales presented the Garden Journal fund-raising idea and a lively discussion concluded with members agreeing there was substantial interest and more research was needed. Patty Decker moved the fund-raising idea move forward; Grey Gitzen seconded the motion. The member vote carried the motion.

Phyllis Shlien asked for volunteers to input data into the software program being used for the MSUE hotline. She indicated the goal is to have the hotline manned from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. A protocol for data entry has been established. Contact Shlien at 642-6656 to volunteer.

Vice president Karen Tilden outlined new procedures for project grants. Receipts must be submitted before reimbursement will take place.

Scott asked for volunteers to work with Pat Washburn and treasurer Crystal Kauer on establishing standard operating procedures for the annual audit.

Scott said 4-H is seeking breakout speakers for its conference from 9:30 a.m.

to 3 p.m. March 24 on the MSU campus. Dixie Sanbourne is the contact person; Scott has additional information for those who are interested.

Scott also presented a spring bulb sale as a potential fund-raiser for the Saginaw County MSUE Master Gardener Program. Bulbs bought through EuroBlooms would be sold, and half the money raised would go to the local program.

Mary Andrews moved the fund-raising project be accepted; Shirley McNier seconded the motion.

Four or five volunteers are needed to sort and package bulbs once they come in. Order forms were given to interested members. Checks and order forms can be mailed to the MSUE office or Crystal Kauer. (See story, Page 4.)

Pat Burnside had tickets for the annual Saginaw Piecemakers Quilt Guild quilt drawing.

Thanks to Mary Andrews for donating the Hawaiian fern and Joyce Schultz, the bird feeder. Also part of the drawing were a lube job and hibiscus plant left over from the Christmas party.

Nancy Hales won the lube job; Margaret Jackson, the hibiscus; Phyllis Shlien, the bird feeder; and Kathy Berger, the fern.

Follow the meeting, the speaker for the evening was Matt Bouvy, general manager of Abele Greenhouse and Garden Centers, who gave an informative presentation on new plants for spring.

Submitted by Melva Bond, secretary

SVMGA standing committees

MSU Extension Office orientation — Phyllis Shlien, 642-6656
Mentor coordinator — Waunita Pettiford, 777-6918
Historian — Need a volunteer
Refreshments — Becky Geidans, 781-1552
Member handbooks — Need a volunteer
Membership roster — Karen Tilden, 777-6673
Newsletter mailing label-

maker — Debbi King, 791-4001
Newsletter mailing committee — Bonnie Stewart, 793-1442
SVMGA wearables — Shirley McNier, 799-7172
Speakers bureau — Judy Henning, 799-4136
MSUE Demonstration Garden — Sara Clark, 964-7141
Volunteer opportunities — Mary Andrews, 797-3319,
Prize drawings — Ruth Sny,

928-7315
Christmas potluck — Ruth Sny, 928-7315
Not receiving the newsletter? — Karen Tilden, 777-6673
An Autumn Affair for Gardeners — Judy Henning, 799-4136, and Aileen Cowan, 865-8784
Newsletter submissions — Darlene Damp, 746-9113

SAGINAW VALLEY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

You are eligible for membership in SVMGA if you completed 15 hours of volunteer service and five education hours in 2006 and recorded them on-line or turned them in to the Master Gardener Coordinator by Jan. 31, 2007.

If you did not turn in your hours by the Jan. 31, 2007, deadline, please contact Master Gardener Coordinator Nancy Burd at MSU Extension, 758-2504 or burd@msu.edu.

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

Dues: \$20 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 SVGMA Membership Roster, which is updated annually for members.

PLEASE PRINT.

If you prefer that the following information is **NOT** published in the roster check here _____.

Name: _____

No change in information from last year (check here) _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP _____

County: _____

E-mail: _____ Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Master Gardener Status: MG Trainee_____ Certified MG_____ Advanced MG_____ AoS_____

Class Year _____ New Membership_____ Renewal_____

Mail **application form & check**, payable to SVMGA, to: Crystal Kauer, 5775 Mackinaw Road, Saginaw, MI 48604.

Think spring with Chicagoland Flower Show....

(Continued from page 5)

Basic registration for the conference is \$275 and continues through April 1.

For information, call (501) 671-2174 or visit <http://mg2007.uaex.edu>.

Chicagoland Flower Show...

Perhaps no event in the Midwest generates as much buzz as Chicagoland's Flower and Garden Show March 10-18.

The show has expanded its name and relocated to the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 5555 N. River Road, Rosemont, Ill, near O'Hare Airport.

With the move to Rosemont, the show

features major expressway access plus more than 200,000 square feet of display space for the gardens and 100-plus exhibitors in its Garden Market.

The theme gardens showcase top landscape builders and designers.

There's also seminars, presented by gardening professionals who have made horticulture their lives.

They will share tricks and tips of the trade including ideas to give gardens a fresh new look.

The Garden Gourmet provides culinary demonstrations by top Chicagoland chefs.

New this year is the Teaching Garden,

designed for the novice and avid gardener alike. It will feature a working garden with experts offering advice for budding Green Thumbs.

Show hours are 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday through Thursday; and 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Admission is \$12 for adults and \$5 for children weekdays; \$14 for adults and \$5 for children, weekends.

Parking is \$11.

To learn more, visit the Web site, www.chicagolandflowerandgardenshow.com

Three new annuals receive All-America Selections awards for 2007

EAST LANSING, Mich.— Three new annuals and a pepper have received All-America Selections awards for 2007, the 75th year of the seed trial program.

'Holy Mole' is the first hybrid pasilla-type pepper, the one used to make the famous mole sauce.

In side-by-side trials, it showed improved vigor, earliness and considerably higher yield than comparison varieties.

The immature green peppers are 7 to 9 inches long and ready for harvest about 85 days after transplanting.

Fruits left to mature on the plant will turn a deep chocolate brown. Plants are highly virus-resistant.

Plants reach about 3 feet tall and grow well in gardens or patio containers in full sun, thriving on summer heat.

Petunia **'Opera Supreme Pink Morn'** received a bedding plant award for its

striking 2 ½-inch flowers — iridescent pink with white centers and yellow throats — continuous flowering and its spreading habit, which covers the soil and helps shade out weeds.

Plants reach a height of 4 to 6 inches but spread 3 feet in sunny locations.

No pruning or deadheading is needed to keep plants looking good all summer.

Vinca **'Pacifica Burgundy Halo'** is another bedding plant award winner.

It is the first vinca with a burgundy halo surrounding a large white center.

The mound-shaped plants reach 1 foot in height and spread in full sun, and show proven heat and drought tolerance.

Plants flower continuously all summer without pinching.

Celosia **'Fresh Look Gold'** bears bright golden plumes that remain fresh-looking all season.

Because the plumes remain attractive, there is no reason to deadhead.

That and the general lack of pest problems make 'Fresh Look Gold' care-free and dependable in a sunny garden, tolerating heat, humidity and rain in AAS trial gardens across North America.

Plants reach a height of about a foot. All-America Selections is a non-profit organization whose mission is the introduction of superior flower and vegetable varieties.

Its flower trial garden sites include Michigan State University.

The organization celebrates its 75 anniversary in 2007.

Story courtesy of Michigan State University

Upcoming SVMGA programs

- 2/28 — Mark Hanner, Michigan Hosta Society, "Hosta Culture"
- 3/28 — Mary McLellan, state Master Gardener coordinator, "Master Gardener Program Update"
- 4/25 — Mike O'Sullivan, EZ Growin, "How Deep Is the Water?"
- 5/23 — Annual spring plant exchange at Pat Bourdow's Kochville Township garden
- 6/ 27 — Tour of Mary Andrew's Saginaw Township garden
- 7/25 — Tour of Bridgeport Historical Society gardens with Susan Lawcock and Sandy Lundy
- 8/22 — Tour of I-75 southbound rest stop at the Saginaw-Bay county line, with hot dog roast
- 9/26 — Chris Lentner, Kluck's Nursery, "Landscape Trees"
- 10/24 — To be determined
- 11/28 — To be determined
- 12/4 — Annual Christmas potluck, First Presbyterian Church fellowship hall

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

Spring and fall plant exchanges are offered annually, along with a variety of field trips, depending on members' interests. There also is a fall seminar, An Autumn Affair for Gardeners, on Saturday, Oct. 6, to help educate all gardeners on current horticulture practices.

Several fund-raisers are planned for 2007 to supplement the operating budget.