

The Grapevine



Happy Valentine's Day!

Bulletin of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association February 2008 Volume 12, Issue 2

A teenage dislike of lawn work turns to love of landscape design

A summer job at a local nursery not only changed Kristopher Lentner's ideas about yard work, it has become a way to use his artistic skills in a new career.

The landscape designer for Kluck Nursery in Thomas Township is this month's speaker. He will discuss replacement choices for ash trees, which have been devastated statewide by the emerald ash borer.

"It will be me or someone else from the nursery," says the Freeland native, who is expecting the arrival of his third child about the same time the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association meets. "It all depends on the baby, although I think it will probably be early."

Lentner says he hated yard work as a teen even though his parents paid him to mow their 2.5 acres of lawn. "I worked at Kluck's the summer of 1996 then came back in the winter of 2000 with a horticulture degree from Michigan State University."

He had been studying industrial design at Western Michigan University, but liked the idea of working outside and working with plants. "Kerry Middledorf was the designer here (at Kluck's) at the time and I thought 'I can do that.' Now that I know how to do yard work properly, it's not so bad.

"And from a design standpoint this gives me a creative outlet for my fine art background. I know Picasso and Michelangelo didn't make a lot of money with their art until after they died, but I can't raise a family being



Kris Lentner, landscape designer, Kluck's Nursery

a starving artist." Instead, he can follow the landscape design process all the way through, from first meeting with the client to selecting the plants to the installation.

"You probably know Debbie King (a Master Gardener and SVMGA member). She got in contact

with me and we did that in seven days, from the first meeting to the installation – and finished in time for her garden party."

Nurseries, like Kluck's, took a financial hit when the emerald ash borer struck and the state banned ash trees hoping to halt its spread. A popular choice as a shade tree, some 2,300 saleable ash trees were cut up and chipped. But what to plant in its place? Lentner says there are a number of choices that he will cover at the Feb. 27 meeting.

"A lot of times, people want what their neighbors have, but instead of having some cookie cutter landscaping, where it all looks symmetrical, there are quite a few different trees that will work," he says. Besides the usual maples and Cleveland Select pear trees, he considers hackberry, linden, locust, Kentucky coffee and some varieties of Chinese elm.

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Meet the Gardener(s) ~ Jan and Jim Meyer

She wore three inch heels to work and was offered three jobs, one with Edison Electric, one with GM Argonaut and one with the FBI while he attended law school in Detroit in the 60's.

Both of these Master Gardeners were born and raised in Saginaw, both Arthur Hill High School graduates. Jim and Jan Meyer have just celebrated their 48th wedding anniversary. Jan says because of family traditions at weddings, she had \$900.00 pinned to her wedding gown. It paid for their Florida honeymoon. After high school Jan worked at the Saginaw Police Department where she was on 24 hour call for murders and serious crimes and when she left in 1963 they replaced her with two full time people.

Jim had the opportunity to work in family business, either insurance or home building. While the insurance business held him for awhile, school was more important. He went to Michigan State University, left for three years of military service, two of those in Europe and then finished at MSU. While in law school at the Detroit College of Law, as an evening student, he worked days as a juvenile probation officer in the ADC office in Detroit. That's when Jan worked with G.M. Argonaut. They owned a home in Detroit, but there was little to no time for gardening, although, Jan says she chopped down a cherry tree that was too close to the house.

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Next meeting

- 7 p.m.--9 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 27th
Andersen Enrichment Center,
Ezra Rust and Fordney

Note! Bring seeds for Seed Exchange!

- 7 p.m. — 7:30 p.m. SVMGA meeting
- 7:30 p.m.— 8 p.m. Refreshments
- 8 p.m. — 9 p.m. Education/
Guest Speaker
(see story, this page)

Please wear your badge

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Minutes of January 23, 2008 meeting

Minutes of the January 23, 2008 Meeting

Susan Scott welcomed 92 members to the Anderson Enrichment Center.

Following our meeting, the keynote speaker for the evening was Sue Grubba, owner of Creative Scapes, who gave an informative and visually pleasing presentation about designing landscape night lighting.

Shirley McNier moved that the minutes of the November 2007 meeting be approved as published; Margaret Jackson seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Mary Andrews asked for a volunteer to help with calling project leaders for the MSUE approved list to verify if their projects are still viable concerns this year. A suggestion from the floor was made to have the project forms handed out at the February meeting to the project leaders to complete if their project is an ongoing concern. Jane Chard moved that the before mentioned suggestion be approved. The motion was carried.

Karen Tilden informed members the Project Materials Request Form is available for hand-out out as of today; Tilden stressed to members the deadline for submitting receipts to the treasurer for reimbursement is September 30. Tilden reminded members the same policy enacted last year is still in place; reimbursement money is distributed following submission receipts. Tilden indicated to start there is \$200 available for approval of 12 projects; Tilden then went on to remind members to hold onto their receipts if theirs are not one of the first twelve projects approved, as moneys become available for future consideration when earlier projects do not use all of the money allocated toward their use.

Tilden discussed the completion of member applications for paying dues, stressing the need to accurately complete the section for your current internet and postal addresses; along with telephone numbers.

Tilden will be heading up the projects overseeing the maintenance of the MSUE demonstration garden. Tilden indicated there is a design plan in place; volunteers are needed with update changes, weeding, watering and planting. A sign-up sheet was made available.

Crystal Kauer read the treasurer's report; indicating the income designated is from the raffle of the Venus de Milo statue. No motion for approval was made.

Susan Scott informed members Bill Wegner is heading up the nominating committee for selection of officers for the next calendar year. Shirley McNeir questioned if portions of the current board could maintain their positions. Judy Henning and Gray Gitzen indicated governing State Laws prohibit any officer from holding the same position longer the two consecutive years, unless a replacement can not be found; but they can occupy another position.

Scott discussed the Christmas potluck asking members if they liked hosting the party at First Presbyterian Church and if we should hold the party there again; members voted resoundingly, yes! Next Scott indicated that due to scheduling constraints we have to book the party for Tuesday 12/2 or 12/9; Judy Henning moved to hold the party on Tuesday, 12/9. Motion was carried. Scott next asked members if they wanted to be able to again bring an adult guest to the Christmas potluck, members by a show of hands voted yes.

Grey Gitzen discussed with members the fact that the Saginaw County Controller has omitted allocating 2009 budget dollars for the 2.5 personnel at MSUE paid by the county; 23.5 of the personnel are paid through the MSU payroll. Gitzen read a letter that has been drafted to Cheryl Hadsall, chairperson of the Saginaw Board of Commissioners, addressing the important role the MSUE extension office plays in our community; said letter has been signed by the current and past presidents of our association. A request was made to have the members present tonight to also sign the letter

or attached papers. A suggestion was made to have the letter published in the editorial section of The Saginaw News; thus informing the general public of this situation.

Gitzen discussed the need to donate money to the newly created Forestry Endowment Fund which Dan Keene, District Forester with the Saginaw Soil and Conservation District addressed at our November 2007 meeting. Gitzen moved that we donate \$500; Chris Thompson seconded the motion. The motion was carried; but later tabled by Gitzen until the 2008 budget is approved.

Susan Scott discussed the changes made to the 2008 budget as members looked on from their copies. Additional changes and corrections were discussed; members are to review the proposed budget and a vote will be taken on it at the February meeting.

Discussion then centered on how best to receive the newsletter in a cost effective and functionally acceptable mode. Once again many suggested members receive the newsletter through a link to our website, thus cutting down of the amount of postage allocated into the budget. The pros and cons of the receipt method were discussed; Gitzen will talk to Nancy Burd, MSUE coordinator regarding changing the method in which the newsletter is received by the majority of our members. The suggestion was made to try out the website link method for one month, then in February evaluate the subject again.

Ruth Sny offered deepest and sincere apologies to Christmas Potluck committee elf, Waunita Pettiford for inadvertently leaving her name off the printed program and those names submitted for acknowledgement in the January newsletter, The Grapevine. Sny praised Pettiford for a job well done!

Shirley McNier once again discussed with members Logo items, lanyards (of which the association would have to purchase 72) and embroidered patches at a cost of \$8 each. Upon questioning, McNier indicated individuals can give their clothing items to her to take to the supplier in Freeland, or they can take them themselves to have patches sewn on, or they can sew the patches on themselves. Suggestions were made to have decals made up,

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Officers for 2007-08

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

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MSU is an affirmative-action, equal opportunity institution.

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

Hello

Well, it is the morning after the big snow-storm of Feb 6th. My driveway is cleared and the landscape is beautiful. As much as I quickly tired of all the shoveling, this is how I remember snowstorms as a child- with the world around us covered in white. Winter couldn't seem to make up its mind until this month whether it was trying to be spring or winter with all the quick snowstorms and just as quickly melting.

After Sue Grubba spoke on outdoor lighting, I found myself figuring what I could high-light- maybe the front or back birch trees or a cool conifer. I also started looking at other people's homes and checking what I would change. How many of you found yourselves doing the same thing? It is great to have someone point your eye in a different direction!

For those of you not at the meeting in January, the group discussion on the budget brought up the idea of getting the newsletter via the internet. This would certainly be a

Minutes of Jan. 2008 meeting cont.

then they can be placed on items other than clothing. McNier will look into the availability and costs of this item.

Gloria Schuler reminded members she is still collecting flat bottom wicker or rattan baskets. Schuler discussed with members the wholesale cost availability of Cow Pots, made from leftover methane by-products. Schuler has the information for obtaining these items for those with an interest.

Waunita Pettiford moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9: 20; Patty Burnside seconded the motion.

Post adjournment Susan Scott reminded members a chairperson is still needed to head up the Refreshment Committee; if no one volunteers, there will be no refreshments served at the February meeting.

Thanks to Ruth Sny for donating the butterfly pin, Marie Areinbrink the Fiskars 10 piece garden set, Gloria Schuler the Scented jar candle and Snowman birdhouse.

Congratulations to Richad Miller for winning the butterfly pin and scented jar candle, Bob Sawyer the Fiskars 10 piece garden set, and Patricia Blakeley the snowman birdhouse.

Submitted by Melva Bond secretary

savings to our budget. So, with this newsletter, you will also get an e-mail heads up with a link that will need to be cut and pasted into your browser. This will take you to the MSU site and the newsletter. (See box below for website.) Those of you without e-mail would of course continue to get a printed copy.



Also, on the bottom of the form used to pay your dues, there is a question about how you want to receive your newsletter. Please mark that when you fill out the form so we know your preferences.

I know that at one time, we were just doing the internet notification of the newsletter. While I have forgotten the discussion that took place around that, I remember that we went back to printing it. My vote on this issue will be to continue to print and mail the newsletter. Even though I have recently upgraded to high speed internet and find myself using it more, when I want to check something out from the newsletter, I find it easier to reach across my desk and grab the most recent copy than to have to turn

Kris Lentner continued

"We don't want to repeat history and put ourselves in the same position we did with the old Chinese elm and ash trees. That's why we need to diversify. I would like to see people not be afraid to try something different.

"I'm just hoping the Master Gardeners, who know quite a bit, don't yell at me too much," he joked.

He's still working on landscaping the new home he designed in Freeland. The family moved in last October and are still unpacking.

"I have some ideas about how I want it to eventually look. I plan on a garden, along with certain things I incorporate into almost every design I do. I'd like it to be somewhat excessive – and as you know, I'm not a fan of lawns.

"I like big beds with flowers and plants you only have to deadhead or prune one or two times a year."

He also says he's hoping to recruit some Master Gardeners to help with an upcoming Garden Day in March. Lentner says he'll have more details by the February meeting. (Also see Garden Day at right.)

Darlene Damp, SVMGA member

on my computer and look for it.

The group will be discussing this at the February meeting. If you are not going to be in attendance, please e-mail me at SuHun-Sco@aol.com or call me at 791-9270 and let me know what your preferences are. After all, you get to decide this issue not me.

Now, on a fun note! Coming to a book store near you is a book featuring a landscaper/master gardener as the sleuth. The book is called "Pushing Daisies" by Rosemary Harris. Here is a link to read the first chapter free on Park Seed's web site. http://www.parkseed.com/web_images/Park/misc/pushingupdaisies-chap1.pdf

Toodles

Garden Day is planned by the Saginaw Valley Nursery and Landscape Association. Scheduled at Horizon's on Saturday, March 29th, this **first time event** will feature experts from local nurseries and landscape designers. Both landscaping and products will be showcased by the participating vendors.

The public is welcome to come and browse among the booths. Get some ideas for a landscape addition or change, and pick up business cards of those who could help you complete your landscape transformation.

For additional information or to register for a booth, call Jeff Heinz—989-799-2281.

Next Board Meeting:

**5:30 p.m. Wednesday,
Mar 5, 2008 at MSU Extension**

Newsletter Deadline: Monday March 10, 2008

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

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

View the SVMGA web page at:
[web1.msue.msu.edu/
mastergardener/saginaw/association/](http://web1.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/saginaw/association/)

Educational opportunities beat the “Winter Blahs”!

Garden Design Series Winter / Spring 2008

Central Michigan University,
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan

This will be the last time that Garden Design Short Course Series will be offered in this format as a five day-long workshop, immersion course.

Lynn LaPointe Wiese is a registered landscape architect and designer at Longwood Gardens, a du Pont estate.

- Intro to Garden Design 2/02/08
- Adv Garden Design I 2/16/08
- Adv Garden Design II 2/23/08
- Garden Design Graphics 3/29/08
- Construction & Calculation 4/05/08

To download the brochure, visit:
<http://web1.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener>

To register, go to
<http://web2.canr.msu.edu/mg/> and click on:
Garden Design-Short Course Series.
For questions, please call MGVP State Office at 517-355-5191, Ext. 408 or email at mg@msu.edu.

Travel to the Gardens of France

May, 2008

EAST LANSING — Travel with Mary McLellan, state Master Gardener Coordinator, and see the Gardens of France.

This once-in-a-lifetime trip is set for May 2008, starting in Nice and ending in Paris.

You will visit the Chateau de la Napoule, just west of Cannes; the Italian-style gardens of the Abbaye St Andre near Avignon; Monet's garden in Giverny; Chateau Courance in the Loire Valley and so much more — not just gardens!

Although the trip doesn't begin until May 11, 2008, reservations must be made now, with a deposit for the airline and hotels.

Non-gardening spouses are welcome and many have enjoyed McLellan's previous garden tours.

Complete trip information is available at:
http://web1.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/programs/2008/2008-05-GardenTourdeFrance_Brochure.pdf

For questions, contact Robin at:
robyn@travelhouseinc.com or (269) 629-9248.

Wildflower Association Annual Conference & Educators Workshop

March 2 and 3, 2008

Michigan State University Kellogg Center

This year, Jeanne McCarty, newly appointed executive director of REAL School Gardens, is the keynote speaker. This grassroots gardening program helps children by supporting elementary school communities as they design, install and sustain outdoor classrooms.

McCarty formerly worked eight years for the Jane Goodall Institute, focused on the global youth program, Roots and Shoots, an environmental and humanitarian education program with 8,000 groups in 92 countries.

Her topic on March 3 is raising conservation-minded children who grow up with the desire to protect the world they live in — and why it's important to connect them to the natural world at a young age. In addition, there are a number of other speakers, for the sessions running from 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday's programs include the joint U.S. Forest Service and Michigan Garden Clubs' 72-acre Loda Lake Restoration Project with speaker Pat McGhan; the “Great Lakes Hummernet” with Allen Chartier discussing how to attract and feed hummingbirds; and “No Child Left Inside” with Travis Williams detailing the Outdoor Discovery Center in western Michigan in the morning.

That afternoon the concurrent programs include the choice of “Nomenclature, Why and How Changes Are Made” with L. Alan Prather; “Native Bees” with Julianna K. Tuell; “Bringing the Natural World into the Workplace” with Same Pobst; and “Native Plants and Downspouts” with Shannan Gibb-Randall looking at the problems of storm water with native plantings.

Monday's morning session includes “How to with Herbicides” with Vern Stephens; “Cherokee Fen Restoration, Madison, Wisconsin” with Perry Rosa; “Trees and Shrubs” with Connor Shaw's unorthodox growing method; the LEED certification process; “Landscaping with Wild in Mind” with Bob Welch's hands-on approach; and “Why Burn” as David Borneman discusses restoring nature with fire.

Monday afternoon there is a panel on native plant maintenance issues, for plantings large and small. Registration deadline is Saturday, Feb. 23, for the sessions which promote the principles, ethics and methods of landscaping with native wildflowers and associated habitats.

Registration costs \$45 for Sunday or Monday only or \$80 for both days for Wildflower Association members; rates are \$65 for a single day session or \$120 for both days for non-members.

For a conference brochure, see the web site at www.wildflowersmich.org or e-mail Jean Weirich, treasurer, at weirichj@gaiagrass.com or call (517) 627-7927.

Master Gardener Spring Conference 2008

Learn to Grow Green

March 8 9:00 am-4:30 pm
Lansing—MSU campus

MSU campus is the setting for this year's spring conference.

Melinda Myers, best known for her gardener friendly and practical approach to gardening is the featured speaker. Melinda has more than 25 years of horticultural experience in both hands-on and instructional settings.

She has authored 19 books, including “Can't Miss Small Space Gardening” and Birds & Bloom's “Ultimate Gardening Guide”. Melinda also hosts *Great Lakes Gardener* on PBS stations and “Melinda's Garden Moments” on network television stations.

Break-out sessions, garden vendors, door prizes, food, fellowship & fun are all included. Open to all Master Gardener volunteers and friends.

Cost: Active MGVP: \$75 Gardener friends: \$90

To register or for more information: Phone (517) 355-5191, Ext. 1-408

Email: mgvp@msu.edu

Web: <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/>



Designing with Great Plants

St. Clair County Master Gardener Association
March 15 9:00 am-4:00 pm

The keynote speaker for this workshop is Tracy DiSabato-Aust, author of the best selling books, "The Well-Tended Perennial Garden" and "The Well-Designed Mixed Garden."

Tracy DiSabato-Aust, aka "the Queen of Deadheading," has earned international acclaim as one of America's most entertaining and knowledgeable garden writers and professional speakers. She has extensive experience in the United States and abroad, working for over 30 years in the industry, speaking for over 25 years and designing for over 20 years.

Her experience includes stints at Longwood Gardens in the U.S., The Montreal Botanical Garden in Canada, the Kalmthout Arboretum in Belgium, and Knightshayes Court in England. She earned a B.S. and M.S. in Horticulture from The Ohio State University. Her first book, "The Well-Tended Perennial Garden", which has been referred to by many as "the bible for perennial maintenance," has become Timber Press' best selling book in their publishing history.

Other speakers at this day long event are Sue Grubba, Steve Nikkila and Rick Lazell, instructors from the Michigan School of Gardening.

Cost: Before Mar 1: \$70 After Mar 1: \$80—Includes box lunch

To register or for more information: Registrar: Barb Haman (810) 367-6667
Email: barbhaman@comcast.net



The Saturday Morning Gardener— 2008

Horticulture Gardens—MSU

● *Potagers-The Art of Vegetable Gardening*
March 1, 2008 9-11 am

2 Education Credits

"Potager" is a French term for kitchen garden. A potager is usually of fusion of the gardener's desire for vegetables and a plot that is beautiful as well as useful and productive. Beulah Hargrove, owner of Grand Oak Herb Farm, will discuss potagers, heirloom, varieties of vegetables and growing them organically. **Cost: \$25**

● *Designing Beds and Borders*

Special Extended Class
April 12, 2008 9 am-12:30 pm

Note: 3 Education Credits for this class

How would you like to be able to design your own breathtaking garden beds or borders? Join registered landscape designer Lynn LaPointe Wiese as she walks you through the design process. You will learn how to apply garden design theory in a practical way. A comprehensive manual will be yours to take home. No plant knowledge is required. **Cost: \$40**

● *Container Gardening*

May 10, 2008 9-11 am

2 Education Credits

Join Vicki Buell, former owner of Homeland Gardens, as she shows you how to design a

one-of-a-kind container garden. Vicki's containers include annuals, perennials and grasses as well as other plants you might not associate with container gardening! A container, all media and plants for the container will be provided as part of your registration fee. *If you wish to make a second container, plants, media and containers are available for purchase on a per-item basis in class.* **Cost: \$45**

August and September classes will be highlighted in upcoming Grapevine.

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

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

Bordine Nursery Seminars

Mark your calendars! Details coming soon!

● *Mother's Day Workshop for Kids*

All kids must be accompanied by an adult
March 15

● *New Plant Varieties for 2008*

March 29 & April 5

For information call Bordines-Clarkston
248-625-9100 or
Bordines-Rochester Hills
248-651-9000

Spring into Gardening Conference Ubyly Heights Country Club, Ubyly

March 29 9 am—5 pm

This year's conference is being expanded to give participants a wide variety of educational choices. Conferees will choose two of the six morning sessions and an additional two classes in the afternoon. Morning sessions include "The Basics of Weather" by Mark Torregrossa, Stormcenter 25 Chief Meteorologist. Mr. Torregrossa will teach the basics of the weather, and how to use this info to have a great garden. Kim Francis, Country Gardens Design, will be teaching "Just Say 'No' to Bambi and Thumper", followed by "Shade Gardens: Beyond the Basics." Ms. Francis will offer techniques to help control wildlife in your garden, along with information on how to incorporate bulbs, perennials, trees and shrubbery into your shady gardening spots.

During the lunch break, Nancy Szerlag, Detroit News Garden Writer, will be the keynote speaker, discussing the new and interesting plants that you may find this gardening season. The afternoon sessions will begin with "Daylily Forms" by Mary Moore, Stone Cottage Gardens, and "Bonsai" by Larry Kanaby, San Toshi Bonsai Society of Bay City. Mr. Kanaby will be talking about fertilizing, watering, correct soil mixture, and potting of plants. The day will wrap up with "Pruning Ornamental Trees and Shrubs" by Jerry Somalski, Bay Landscaping. Mr. Somalski will present ways to allow your plants to have their natural form, yet still keep their size under control. Dian McConnel will also be offering an afternoon session on "Gardening with Heirloom Plants." She will discuss the sources of heirloom flowers, roses, vegetables, and fruits. She'll also discuss seed-saving and basic propagation techniques.

In addition to these classes, the day will also include a Yard and Garden Expo with vendors selling and displaying their products and services. Some of the vendors who will be present on March 25 are French Garden Creations and JP's Tree Service.

Master Gardeners attending this conference will receive **5 education credits**. Registration for the conference is \$30 per person which includes 4 of the 12 classes offered, catered lunch, refreshments, door prizes, goodie bag and Yard and Garden Expo. Anyone wanting a brochure with a map and more detailed information on the day's program is invited to contact the Master Gardener program at MSU Extension, 99 W. Soper Road, Suite B, Bad Axe, MI 48413, or call (989) 269-9949. Registrations received after March 7 will be \$40 per person.

Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association 2007 Annual Report

As of December 31, 2007, the membership totaled 167 members. This includes Master Gardener trainees as well as certified Master Gardeners. Both the spring and fall Master Gardener classes brought us new members as well as enthusiastic volunteers.

The organization held its 4th Fall seminar. There was a wealth of information available from our speakers and vendors. Although the numbers of attendees was slightly less than anticipated partly because of additional competition from other counties, I still count this a successful part of our mandate to educate.

This year, the Board made some changes to various forms and procedures. We now have a specific process to follow for the auditing of our books.

We also changed both the form and the procedure for applying to the Board for funds for various projects. In the past, checks were issued for the amounts requested and then the Vice President had to collect the unspent monies. In 2007 we changed that so that as the monies were spent, the receipts could be sent to the Treasurer for reimbursement. This made

it less likely that receipts would get lost. Overall, this seemed to work well.

The members and a guest enjoyed a summer picnic at the I-75 rest stop for our August meeting. Because of the enthusiastic response, we have decided to do it again and potentially this will become an annual event.

Our Christmas Pot Luck was held this year at First Presbyterian Church and members and a guest enjoyed great food, lively conversation and wonderful entertainment both during and after the dinner. A good time was had by all.

The Presenters Bureau for the SVMGA organization is still educating our members at our meetings as well as other groups around the area. This year the booklet listing speakers and their topics was updated. The booklet reflects new topics as well as eliminating topics which either were not in demand or no longer had members who were available to speak.

Our newsletter, The Grapevine, has been going strong and 2008 will see changes there as our editor of many years has stepped down. Copies of the newsletter are mailed to the membership as well as the trainees and can

also be accessed on line through MSU Master Gardener web site. This newsletter is written and distributed by membership volunteers.

Some of the projects that have been aided by our members include:

Adopt-A-Garden, Saginaw Children's Zoo
Saginaw, Mi
Make a Difference Day
Saginaw, Mi
I-75 Rest Stop
Bay County,
The Dow – Front Entrance
Saginaw, Mi

As President of the SVMGA, I see our group as the preeminent resource within our community to promote gardening. The enthusiasm and knowledge of our members as well as their dedication to passing this information on to others, is truly amazing!

*Submitted by Susan Scott
SVMGA President*

Odds and ends...

Attention Project Chairmen

Project Materials Funds Request forms will be available at the February and March meetings

Those who receive grants must account for funds spent and turn in receipts by Sept. 30, 2008 for audit purposes.

Contact Tilden at 777-6673 or e-mail katil7@charter.net.

Earn Volunteer Hours

Demonstration Gardens at Extension Office

Vice President Karen Tilden will be heading up a committee of volunteers to work on Demonstration Gardens at the Extension Office.

This is a terrific opportunity for new (and seasoned) members to spend some time with their fellow Master Gardeners and beautify the building grounds as well. An early meeting is planned, with committee developing plans to enhance and update the existing garden. Work will begin this spring.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the February meeting.

Meet the Gardener(s) continued

Both Jim and Jan were influenced by their mothers in gardening. Jim says he helped his Mom with her roses, but darned if he can grow them now. However, he moved some of her hostas to their home on Hannum and they are now 15 feet across. They bought their home from an old Italian couple who had grape vines from Italy until a friend helped trim them when Jim was not watching.

Gradually Jim has changed the look of his garden. He and a neighbor built a retaining wall out of old cement blocks where he has ornamental grasses.

Jan's Mom loved her vegetable garden with which Jim and Jan helped her. Jan still laughs when she thinks of her 93 year old mother climbing over a three foot bunny fence to tend her vegetable garden, which was moved to Jim and Jan's yard after her home was sold.

Together they raised two children while they continued to work, Jim as an estate planner/tax attorney for 27 years and Jan (after children grown) who put in 20 years at Blue Care Network as an executive secretary, retiring in 2004. Both tried to "slow down" a year ago, but now are working together in estate planning, real estate and family law.

About five years ago, they decided to take the master gardening class. They have worked together on projects such as the Hosta Society, Hosta Day at Hidden Gardens and the I-75 rest stop. Jan has been secretary-treasurer for the Hosta Society and has worked Adopt-a-Garden at the Children's zoo.

When able they have traveled. Jim, who served in Germany, loved traveling in Europe. Together they visited Spain ten years ago. Says Jim, "The most beautiful gardens I've ever seen". In April, they will go with ten other people on a cruise in Mexico.

Then it's back in the garden. Jan says: "We are always a week behind. Jim does more than I do, but we always shop together for new plants". It was rather difficult to summarize all that this couple has achieved separately and together. If they'd bottle their energy, we'd all buy some!

*Submitted by Joan Martin
SVMGA member*

March 1 deadline for 2008 membership fee

Annual dues of \$30 for the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association must be paid by Saturday, March 1, 2008.

Each dues payment must be accompanied by a completed membership application form. The application is available below or at the January and February meetings.

Treasurer Crystal Kauer 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.

Checks should be made payable to the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Associa-

tion. Due to limited funds, individual applications will not be mailed to applicants.

Those who are unable to attend the January or February meetings may mail their check and application form to Kauer at 5775 Mackinaw Road, Saginaw, MI 48604. For more information, call Kauer at 792-6874 or email cmkauer@chartermi.net

Applications forms are used to develop the annual roster and to check certification status. It is also used as the mailing list of all members receive the monthly newsletter.

The local recertification process is under way, but not yet complete.

Hours must be recorded on-line or submitted in writing no later than Jan. 31, 2008. Education and volunteer hours for 2008 recertification must have been completed by Dec. 31, 2007

Those joining from outside Saginaw County are required to have proof of certification or recertification.

SAGINAW VALLEY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

You are eligible for membership in SVGMA if you turned in your annual 15 hours of volunteer service and 5 education hours by December 31, 2007.

If you did not turn in hours, please contact Nancy Burd at the County Extension office (phone: 758-2500, ext. 224) to become recertified.

You also are 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 Nancy Burd, Master Gardener Coordinator.

Dues: \$30.00 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 \$15 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 _____

Class Year _____ New Membership _____ Renewal _____

I prefer to receive my SVMGA Monthly Newsletter by: Mail _____ email _____

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

GARDEN GUIDANCE

Planting a Tree or Shrub?

From *The Lakeshore Guardian*
December 2007

If you are planning to plant a tree or shrub next spring, the fall is the time to select and prepare the planting site. For best results, the growing conditions in the planting site need to match the site requirement of the tree or shrub you're planting. Be sure to take into consideration the size of the mature plant.

Selecting a plant that will do well in a particular spot means thinking about such things as the soil type and drainage, exposure to sun and wind, and proximity to buildings, septic and sewage systems, utility wires and other things that affect how much room a plant will have to grow.

On the plant side, you need to consider preference for well drained or moist soils, need for full sun or filtered light, ultimate size, form, presence or absence of flowers and fruits, susceptibility to pest problems and storm damage, and hardiness - whether the plant can survive a typical Michigan winter.

Once you know what you're going to plant and where you're going to plant it, you can begin preparing the site in the fall. If the site is in a lawn area, use a grass herbicide such as glyphosate (Roundup) or a sheet of plastic, cardboard or old carpet to kill the grass.

Fall is a good time to remove grass with herbicides because they work best when grass is actively growing. They also work well in the spring, but eliminating grass from the planting site in the fall gives you a head start next spring - you can plant as soon as conditions permit.

Killing or removing grass and other weeds in the fall and mulching newly planted trees gives seedlings and small trees a better chance to survive by eliminating competition and shading. It also eliminates the need to mow and trim around newly planted ornamentals.

Keeping lawn mowers, string trimmers and other equipment at a distance prevents mechanical damage to tender bark.

How do you mulch your trees? Envision a doughnut of mulch around the trunk of the tree but not lapping up to the bark. This will conserve soil moisture, insulate the roots against frost heaving and protect the tree bark from damage caused by mowers or trimmers.

Piling up mulch around the bark is a bad idea for several reasons. It provides shelter for mice that can gnaw the bark and girdle the trunk. Dampness under the mulch may promote fungal diseases. Mulch sloping away from the trunk directs water away from tree roots.

If you are moving trees such as nut trees (beech, butternut, oaks, walnuts), they should be transplanted before they develop their long taproot. Disturbing the taproot by cutting or bending weakens the tree and might eventually kill it. It is best to move this type of tree before it gets four feet tall.

For more information on planting trees, contact the Master Gardener Program at the MSU Extension office, 989-269-9949.



2008 SVMGA PROGRAMS

2/27	Kris Lentner, Landscape Designer, Kluck's Nursery Anderson Enrichment Center, Saginaw	7:00 pm	7/23	Garden Tour at the home of Joan Martin, Saginaw Township	7:00 pm
3/26	Heidi Frei, Nature Conservancy "Water Quality in the Shiawassee Basin"	7:00 pm	8/27	Garden Tour and Annual SVMGA picnic Japanese Gardens, Saginaw	7:00 pm
4/23	Charlene Harris, Michigan Conifer Society "Conifers: The Backbone of the Garden"	7:00 pm	9/24	To be determined Anderson Enrichment Center, Saginaw	7:00 pm
5/28	Plant exchange Location to be determined	7:00 pm	10/22	To be determined Anderson Enrichment Center, Saginaw	7:00 pm
6/25	Garden Tour at the home of Sharla Hammer, Freeland	7:00 pm	11/19	To be determined Anderson Enrichment Center, Saginaw	7:00 pm
			December, 2008	Annual Christmas party	

Each October, SVMGA sponsors an education seminar, An Autumn Affair for Gardeners. It is open to all gardeners and features experts sharing the latest in gardening information.