

The Grapevine

Bulletin of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association

March 2005 Volume 9, Issue 3

View new perennial varieties for 2005

Mountains of snow and frigid temperatures are making spring seem somewhere in the distant future.

"Everyone is getting cabin fever," says Paul Begick, president of Begick Nursery and Garden Center in Bay City.

"Gardeners just want to go outside and get some dirt under their nails."

He and his son, Mark, will give members of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association hope in their Power Point presentation, "New Perennials" at the March meeting.

Mark Begick, a 1992 graduate of Michigan State University, who does all the green goods buying for the nursery at 5993 West Side Saginaw Road, will discuss the 50 to 60 new perennial varieties available this season.

"We thought this perennial interest would peak, maybe even decline, but the interest seems to be continuing with steady growth. I think it's because there's so many new varieties, that offer more color, more disease resistance, more flowering time," said Paul Begick.

"Gardening today is not like when my

mom had hostas, what you call plantains, and that's all that was available. Now there are so many varieties, the list is twice as long as my arm.

"And if you pick your perennials right, you can have color all season long – and that makes it nice because you don't have to buy plants every year, like you do with annuals."

A new trend is flowering shrubs, because they, too, come in new varieties, Begick continued.

"Before you had to contend with shrubs that might get 10- to 15-foot tall and nearly as wide so you were limited as to where you could

put them.

"Today, you can get different colors, different leaves, different flowers and the shrubs stay smaller, giving you an opportunity to use more plants to vary the bloom time," he explained.

As a member of Bay City in Bloom, a local beautification and historical preservation group, he says this area still has a long way to go to catch up with gardening by Europeans, or even Canadians.

"Plantings don't have to be expensive, just cleanliness is important in making a community look better."

His brothers, Wes and Jim Begick, opened the nursery in 1950. Paul Begick joined the business nine years later, after he finished college and his military service.

"Our mom grew flowers and Dad had spruce trees. He was a farmer, worked in the Monitor coal mine and was a state legislator. He was active in the Bay County Farm Bureau and was its first president."



Paul Begick and son Mark Begick will show "New Perennials" at the March meeting.

Next meeting

- 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. Wednesday, March 23, at Anderson Enrichment Center, 120 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. Paul and Mark Begick of Begick Nursery and Garden Center, Bay City, discuss "New Perennials"
- One-hour education credit

The business began with green goods, because in those days, there really were no nurseries or landscaping services.

"We sold plants and plant care products, but today we have all the garden accessories, all the hard goods for landscaping as well as plants, shrubs and trees. Years ago a patio was a poured concrete slab – a deck was something on a ship.

"But today there are so many choices. And you not only have a garden, you can have a water garden, a perennial garden, an ornamental grass garden. Gosh, back then, grass was only something you walked on."

Gardening today is more sophisticated, he said.

"Gardeners want winter interest. They want to attract the birds with berries. They want to attract butterflies. Gardening is not so utilitarian."

He does have one overall maxim for would-be gardeners:

"Don't plant more than you can take care of," Begick said.

"Not everyone likes to work out in the yard for hours and hours. But gardening is good therapy for the mind, the body and the soul.

"Before you plant, do some background reading, have a plan so there's some rhyme and reason to what you do. Low

Inside this issue:

<i>Minutes of the February meeting</i>	2
<i>President's letter</i>	3
<i>Meet the Gardener</i>	3
<i>Odds and ends</i>	4
<i>Dow Gardens has classes</i>	5
<i>Volunteer opportunities</i>	6
<i>Host group sets 2005 schedule</i>	6

Continues on Page 4

Minutes of the February 2005 meeting

President Grey Gitzen welcomed all to the Anderson Enrichment Center at 7 p.m.

Elaine Rappley moved that the minutes of the January 2005 meeting be approved as published; Patti Decker seconded the motion.

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

Balance as of last report	\$5,764.43
Deposits 1/6/05 to 2/23/05	\$1,384.26
Expenses 1/6/05 to 2/23/05	\$2,719.24
Balance as of 2/23/05	\$4,429.47

As of 2/23/05 we have 106 paid members.

Karen Tilden moved to approve the treasurer's report; Marilyn Karpicke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Kathy Lewis moved to approve the 2005 budget; Judy Henning seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Gitzen reminded members dues should be in by March 1. A completed applica-

tion should accompany the dues.

The original due date for recertification of Jan. 15 was extended to Feb. 28 by MSU.

Guests Vickie Flynn and Holly Tired from MSU Extension presented "Food Security through Family Nutrition Education Project" and asked for Master Gardeners to volunteer as mentors.

Volunteers will meet from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. March 23 at the Extension office. The program, funded by grants, is designed to help low-income families start gardens at their homes.

The Saginaw Conservation District needs volunteers for their annual sale April 21-23. (See related story, Page 3.)

Butterflies in Bloom at Dow Gardens in Midland needs volunteers March. Gitzen also had a class list offering for people to look at. (See story, Page 4.)

Judy Henning provided a sign-up sheet for the Adopt a Garden at the Saginaw Children's Zoo. Volunteers need to be willing to sign up for a minimum of one week during the summer to maintain and water the garden.

Gail Caird is still trying to contact the prison about the flats of flowers they sell. The funding for this project is iffy so she is not certain if flats will be available.

Henning and Aileen Cowan will give a presentation at the next board meeting about the speakers for the Saturday, Oct. 1, fall conference. SVSU has been paid

for the facilities. Henning and Cowan will send out "Save This Date" postcards to everyone who attended last year's conference.

Lewis had tickets for sale as a fundraiser for the Saginaw Choral Society with Abele's Greenhouse. They are \$18 and she will have them available at the next meeting.

Sign-up sheets to visit Fred Case's garden were available. The dates are Sunday, May 1 and 8. Twenty-six people can sign up per date. The sign-up sheets will be available at the next meeting.

Agriculture and Natural Resources Week is at MSU Friday to Saturday, March 4-12. Henning and Judy Wegner will give their seed starting presentation at the Garden Variety workshop Thursday, March 10.

Program Director Amy Fitkin is working on speakers for the fall. Mary Jane Lysogorski said the winter Master Gardener class is going well.

Thanks go to members who contributed raffle prizes of gloves and a handmade pin as well as to Wil Hufton for donating candles.

Elaine Rappley won the gloves, Sheila Hill won the candles and Bryan Forrest won the pin.

Following refreshments Advanced Master Gardener Bill Wegner gave an informative and fun presentation about composting and raising worms.

Submitted by Anne Birkam, secretary

Officers for 2005-2006

President

Grey Gitzen 792-0615

Vice President

Nancy Hales 799-2118

Secretary

Anne Birkam 754-7090

Treasurer

Jan O'Dell 793-4357

Program Director

Amy Fitkin 781-1670

Newsletter Editor

Darlene Damp 746-9113

e-mail: shrew@att.net

MSU Extension

One Tuscola Street, Suite 100
Saginaw, MI 48607-1287

Master Gardener Coordinator

Mary Lysogorski 758-2500, ext. 224; e-mail lysogors@msu.edu.

Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, disability, age, religion, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status or family status.

Michigan State University, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and counties cooperating. MSU is an affirmative-action, equal opportunity institution.

Aquatic Gardens has pond seminars

ZILWAUKEE — Aquatic Gardens, 824 Tittabawassee Road, offers seminars this spring for those interested in ponds.

"Successful Spring Start-up" meets at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 9, and focuses on how to get your pond cleaned out and ready for the season, including assessing the health of your fish.

Saturday, April 23, at 11 a.m. and again at 3 p.m. is Water Garden Con-

struction and Maintenance.

It looks at the options of installing a water garden, from liner types, filtration options and digging techniques to proper depths, waterfalls and stream construction. Lighting and pumps also are discussed.

All sessions are free and feature discounts toward purchases at the shop. Call 752-5459 to register.

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

It's hard to become inspired about gardening when all one sees are piles of snow out every window.

This is supposed to be the doldrums of winter when nothing happens, but Old Man Winter and Mother Nature conspired to make our end of the winter season anything but dull.

We can use the snow cover to insulate the bulbs and perennials that are eager to pop out of the ground, and the eventual snow melt should help with the lake levels and make the boat owners happy.

I know October is a long way off, but I thought an update on the planning for the fall conference is in order.

With the rental of the facility in place, the chairladies have been busy securing speakers and vendors.

You will all be pleased when the final plans are announced.

In fact, Aileen Cowan is so sure she has the presenters set she is doing preliminary work on the 2006 conference.

Elsewhere in this issue of *The Grapevine* you will find some great opportunities for volunteering.

It is never too early to start accumulating your volunteer hours for the year.

Also, you don't have to stop when you reach 15 hours. Our mandate as Master Gardeners is to help the communities in which we reside.

You will also find educational opportunities.

The editor of the newsletter is always on the lookout for occasions where you can pick up educational hours if you cannot make the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association monthly meetings.

The new computer has been installed in



the Master Gardener office at 1 Tuscola Street. Thanks to all of you for supporting the motion to secure this new system.

We are renewing our membership in the Saginaw Valley Association of Nurserymen. We will continue to publish its meeting schedule in *The Grapevine*.

As members of the association we can have 15 members of our organization attend its meetings. This is another option for educational hours.

Kudos to Bill Wegner for his presentation on composting at our February membership meeting. I never knew red worms could be so glamorous.

I'm looking forward to our March meeting, and what Paul and Mark Begick will tell and show us about the new perennials for 2005.

See you all on March 23.

Grey

Meet the Gardener — Nancy Kleekamp

This Master Gardener says her dog has "first dibs" on her yard, but now that she is retired, she wishes to organize, "make a little neater" and find the right plants for her half shade, half sun yard.

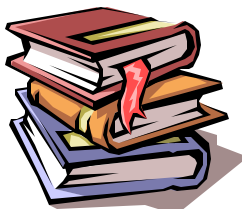
Nancy Kleekamp retired after 32 years of teaching in Saginaw Public Schools.

The last five years at Chester Miller Elementary School were her hardest ever. One year she had 19 boys and 5 girls in third and fourth grade.

"I never sat down," she said.

Teaching isn't the only thing that has kept her hopping through the years.

Nancy has been active in the National Woman's Farm and Garden Association. They meet monthly from September to June and listen to speakers on topics from garden relatedness to "safety for women," and the Saginaw water supply and that's



very important to a Master Gardener.

The busiest time of her year with this group centers around the Christmas greens sale in November.

Nancy explains that the money earned is given back in charitable donations to various community organizations, like 4H activities and scholarships to graduate students at Higgins Lake Conservation Camp.

It has even paid for the flowers and shrubs around the West Side gazebo area.

She is the past president and currently the recording secretary.

Birding is another joy of her life.

Through the Audubon Society, Nancy has adventured in some "good birding country in Panama and Costa Ricavery primitive with some wonderful birds."

She has been active with Shiawassee Wild Life during their open houses and continues to be concerned over Green Point Nature Center and the Hartley Outdoor Education Center, where she has helped with the one-day tours at the Mur-

phy farmhouse.

Nancy was raised in Grayling, but lucky for Saginaw, she married and stayed here.

She has one son, a daughter-in-law and two granddaughters living in Orange, California.

This, of course, adds to her desire to travel which she says is growing in interest.

Next tripTuscany area in Italy for 10 or 11 days with our MSU coordinator, Mary McClellan, to view the gardens there.

How exciting is that!

When asked what grows in her garden, Nancy says, "TOMATOES." They are a must and always have been!

Since becoming a Master Gardener she has planted raspberries (garden exchange) and loves to eat as she picks from her small plot.



Odds and Ends

Huron Master Gardeners sponsor spring seminar

UBLY – Huron County Master Gardeners offer its third annual Spring into Gardening Conference from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 19, at the Uby Heights Country Club

Janet Macunovich, garden designer and writer is the keynote speaker, discussing “Master Gardeners as 21st Century Shamans.” She delves into how gardeners can increase their contribution to the community’s well-being.

Participants have a choice of four programs in the morning to select from: “Wonderous Rugosas” with Nancy Lindley of Great Lakes Roses or “Hardscapes Made Easy” by Matt Esch of Esch Landscaping, and “Bog Gardening” with Barb Fenningsdorf of Boon Dock Water Plants and Perennials or “Simple Steps to Spectacular Roses” with Lidnley.

In the afternoon choose from “Native Plant Landscaping for Butterfly Habitats” by Dr. Duke Elsner, MSU Extension in Grand Traverse County or “Continuous Color” with Macunovich and “Ornamental Grasses” with collector Dr. Jim Sillers of Imlay City or “Community Supported Agriculture” by Les Roggenbuck of East River Organic Farm in Snover.

There also are vendors, exhibits and door prizes. Master Gardeners receive five education hours for attending the day-long event.

Cost is \$40. Registration forms are available on the MSUE Master Gardener web site calendar for March. For information, call (989) 269-9949.

New perennials...

Continues from Page 1

maintenance is a relative term.

“I always say you have to do some maintenance for anything to look nice – show me a window that doesn’t need cleaning sometime.”

And just in case you’re wondering, all the perennials Mark Begick will show SVMGA members this month will be available at their nursery and garden center.

Story by Darlene B. Damp, editor

Project funds available

SVMGA has awarded \$1,350 in project grants so far for 2005.

Some \$650 was used to purchase a new computer for volunteers to use at the MSU Extension office while another \$100 will ensure there are always three items available for the drawing at the monthly meeting.

Funds raised from the latter help pay for speakers at the monthly meetings. Drawings have raised \$114 this year.

In addition \$200 will go to Gardening for Gents to purchase apple trees for the heritage orchard at the Cushway House on Fordney.

Another \$200 will help purchase plants for SVMGA’s Adopt-A-Garden at the Saginaw Children’s Zoo.

SVMGA will use \$200 to purchase trees and shrubs for a giveaway at its booth during the Saginaw Art Museum Garden Walk June 15.

That leaves \$1,650 to be distributed this year in grants of up to \$200 for each project.

Applicants must fill out a Presentation/Project Material Funding Request form and return it to any board member for consideration.

The board reviews requests and notifies recipients of their awards. Funds are allocated on a first-come basis.

Those who receive grants must track what they spend and keep receipts for a final accounting to the board.

For information, contact Nancy Hales, 799-2118.

MSU offers grafting workshop

TRAVERSE CITY – A basic grafting workshop for horticulturalists and Master Gardeners meets from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 4, at the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Station, 6686 S. Center Road.

Grafting knives will be provided. Grafting experts will demonstrate traditional and newer techniques and provide hands-on activities for participants. Participants will leave with a grafted apple tree for their work.

Registration is \$50 each, including lunch and \$25 for a grafting kit, optional, available at registration or at the

workshop. There are no refunds, but you may send a substitute.

Make checks payable to MSU Extension and mail to 116 E. Philip Street, Lake Leelanau, MI 49653.

The workshop is sponsored by the Michigan Nut Growers Association, Northern Nut Growers Association at MSU Extension-Leelanau.

For information, call Cathy Fenlon at (231) 256-9888 or 256-8331.

Welcome new members!

The following people have joined the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association:

Sue Vollbrecht, Saginaw, MG trainee.

Felix J. Finian, Saginaw, MG.

Margaret Hoppe, Saginaw Township, MG.

Robert Sawyers, Saginaw Township, MG trainee.

Regina Romo, Saginaw Township, MG trainee.

There are 133 paid members.

Packets of seeds available for community planting

America the Beautiful Fund is again offering grants of seeds for community planting.

It is part of the U.S. Dept. of Interior’s Take Pride in America: Plant a Take Pride in America Garden. Participants receive official recognition of their projects and become eligible for a special Presidential award.

The 2003-04 seeds have a germination rate of 90 to 95 percent. Grants of 100 to 2,000 seed packets are offered on the basis of availability and relative need.

To obtain the seeds, write a short letter describing your project. Fill out the application form, available on-line at www.america-the-beautiful.org.

Enclose a check for shipping and handling -- \$14.95 for the first set of 100 packets, and \$5.00 for every additional 100 packets, specifying vegetable, flower or herb. Mail the letter, application and check to America the Beautiful Fund, 725 15th Street, NW, Suite 605, AG, Washington, D.C. 20005. For information, call (202) 638-1649.

Dow Gardens sponsors gardening classes

MIDLAND – A variety of gardening related classes meet this spring at Dow Gardens, 1018 W. Main, and Whiting Forest, one-quarter mile north on Eastman Avenue.

For registration call (989) 631-2677 or visit www.dowgardens.org.

“Rain Gardening,” from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, March 13, at Whiting Forest features Patricia Pennell of Grand Rapids discussing how to create a garden that takes the pressure off city rain water collection systems.

Homeowners and businesses can create areas in their landscape that collect water, utilizing native plants that are up to the task.

Cost is \$5 and earns one Master Gardener education credit.

“Winter Tree Inspection,” from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 16, examines how trees fared this winter.

Participants learn how to recognize signs and symptoms of disease. Cost is \$10 and earns one hour MG credit.

“Extreme Chainsaws,” from 9:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 14, demonstrates how to use a chainsaw safely, maintain it and various cutting techniques. There will be a live demonstration of the proper way to drop a tree and deal with the result. Cost is \$15 and earns one MG education credit. Register by May 6.

A pest and disease management series with Joe LaForest costs \$10 per class or \$35 for four sessions which meet from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesdays in May at Dow Gardens.

“Integrated Pest Management Basics” on May 4, covers the benefits of this approach and a practical way of implementing it. Earns one MG education credit.

“Insect Identification,” on May 11 looks at the insects that feed on plants and become pests. Earns one MG education credit.

“Disease Diagnosis” on May 18 provides an introduction to the secret world

of plant diseases and insight into their diagnosis and control. Earns one MG education credit.

“Advanced Tactics for Pest and Disease Management,” on May 25 will investigate how insect and disease problems are managed and how to make up your own unique solutions. Earn one MG education credit.

In addition, LaForest offers **“Scouting for Pests and Disease”** from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays, from April 18 to May 23, looking through the entire gardens. Cost is Dow Gardens admission and earns two MG education credits.

Dow Gardens also invites visitors to its **Rhododendron Search** from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, April 24. It hosts the largest rhododendron collection in the Midwest and has placed all of them on a plant collection database.

Learn how to access the data, photos and locations, then experience the display of blooms from April through July.

Dow Gardens is open from 9 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. daily during the spring.

Whiting Forest is open from 10 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. daily.

Admission is \$5 for adults and \$1 for ages 6 to 17. An annual admission card is \$10 and is transferable to friends and family.

Butterflies in Bloom Festival in Midland

MIDLAND — Dow Gardens’ annual Butterflies in Bloom Festival is under way in the Conservatory through Friday, April 22.

Thousands of the colorful, live insects are hatching continuously and waiting to feed at feeding dishes, decorated by area garden clubs.



If you wear bright colors, you’ll attract butterflies and if you plan your visit for after 1:30 p.m., you’ll avoid the daily school groups.

New this year are banners from local students, along with a display — The Colorful World of Butterflies — in the visitor center on the vibrancy of Lepidoptera wings.

A guide is available from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesdays to see the behind-the-scenes mechanics of hosting a butterfly exhibit.

Saturday, March 12 and April 2, from noon to 4 p.m., artist Tim Drier of Corn-ing Studios in New York, will make glass butterflies, sign and sell them.

High school students will demonstrate origami paper folding of tiny butterflies from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 19.

A senior weekend is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, April 9-10.

Bring a photo of a loved one surrounded by butterflies and from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Meredith Powers of Creative Memories puts it together with her artistic skills for a nominal fee

Also part of that weekend are a display of plants cultivated especially for patio planters.

Handouts will be available to detail successful container gardening.

Friday, April 22, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m., you can extend the butterfly exhibit to your backyard by learning how to create your own butterfly garden.

Participants will learn many tricks and tips for hosting the different stages of a butterfly with entomologist Joe LaForest.

Cost is \$10; earns 1 MG education credit. Please register by April 21, by calling (989) 631-2677.

Next board meeting:
5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 6,
at MSU Extension office,
1 Tuscola, downtown Saginaw

Newsletter deadline:
Monday, April 11
Send submissions to
Darlene Damp, editor
shrew@att.net

To view the monthly newsletter
on the Web site, please go to:
**[www.msue.msu.edu/
mastergardener/saginaw](http://www.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/saginaw)**

**Please wear your name tags at
the meeting — and introduce
yourself to someone you don’t
know.**

Saginaw Valley Hosta Society has speakers, plans garden tours

The Saginaw Valley Hosta Society meets monthly at the Rustic Inn in St. Charles.

The group specializes in shade gardening and everyone is welcome.

Dues are \$10 per garden per year or \$25 for three years, including husband and wife or significant other.

The next meeting, set for 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 13, features Ned Brumley of Riverby Gardens in Owosso. His topic is "Ferns for the Garden."

So far this year, the society schedule also includes a Sunday, June 12, tour, plant sale, auction and potluck at Jim and Ellie Vrable's garden in Chesaning; the American Hosta Society

convention June 14-18 in Cleveland, Ohio; a June or July tour of the Walters Gardens in Zeeland; and a July 17 tour and meeting at Kathy and Rolley Berger's garden in Hemlock.

For information on the national convention, visit the convention web site at: <http://www.northcoasthostasociety.org/AHSConvention.htm>.

To join the local hosta group, make checks payable to the Saginaw Valley Hosta Society.

Mail to Jan Meyer, 29 W. Hannum Blvd, Saginaw, MI 48602.

For information, contact Elaine Rappley at 781-0570 or rappleyjunk@aol.com.



Volunteer opportunities

Andersen Center roses...

Once again Ben Pawlik is requesting your much appreciated assistance in waking up the roses at the Andersen Enrichment Center at 120 Ezra Rust Dr.

Meet at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 16, at the center.

"We will remove the leaf cover and prune the rose bushes. This task usually takes about 3 hours," Pawlik said.

Master Gardeners are asked to bring a rake and sharp pruning shears. Several tarps will be needed. Heavy gloves also are a good idea.

"This is a chance to hone up on your pruning skills," said Pawlik. "Thank You very 'mulch.'"

For information, call Pawlik at 793-4238 or e-mail Bennzita@aol.com.

Soil Conservation District...

The Saginaw Soil Conservation District is seeking volunteers to help with its annual tree and shrub sale in April at the Saginaw County Fairgrounds in Chesaning.

Volunteers are needed to help package trees and shrubs from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, April 21.

Volunteers will put tree and shrub orders together from 8 a.m. until they are done on Friday, April 22.

Volunteers also are needed to hand out orders from 7 a.m. Saturday, April 23, until all orders are picked up.

For information or to volunteer, please call Patti Copes at 781-4077, ext. 4.

Chippewa Nature Center...

MIDLAND – Chippewa Nature Center is looking for Master Gardeners to develop displays or presentations for its earth-friendly Gardening Day event for all ages from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 16.

Topics can include heirloom seeds, seed starting, propagating perennials, extending the growing season, controlling pests, composting, improving soil, maintaining garden tools, weed identification, fertilizers, conserving water in the garden, good pests, worm composting, lawn care and more.

Deadline to sign up is Saturday, March 19.

The nature center is located at 400 S. Badour Road.

For information, contact Judy Packard at (989) 686-1231 or email jpputts@charter.net.

Global ReLeaf of Michigan...

Global ReLeaf of Michigan needs

volunteers to help plant trees in the Houghton/Jones neighborhood of the city of Saginaw.

The program is a volunteer, non-profit, 501c3 corporation, based in Ann Arbor, that co-sponsors neighborhood tree plantings with local citizen groups, providing 50 percent of the plant materials through competitive matching grants.

ReLeaf helps organize and plan the tree planting and provides a planting demonstration and quality control for local volunteers on planting day.

Grants come in part from the Detroit Edison Foundation, Chevrolet/Geo Environmental Program and United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service, State and Private Forestry.

SVMGA President Grey Gitzen will discuss the project at the March meeting.

There will be a sign-up sheet for those interested in volunteering.

Dow Mentoring Program...

Want to learn more about good horticultural practices?

Volunteer to work side by side weekly with a Dow Gardens horticulturalist during the growing season.

Opportunities are available in the Herb Garden, Rose Garden and Dow Homestead. Call (989) 631-2677.

Top planting picks for 2005

- Hosta of the year:**
 Striptease
- Perennial of the year :**
 Helleborus x hybrids
- Shrub of the year :**
 Dwarf Oregon Holly
- Urban tree of the year:**
 Chanticleer Pear
- Hybrid Tea Rose of the year:**
 "Voluptuous"
- Floribunda Rose of the Year:**
 "Tuscan Sun"

SVMGA committees

- MSU Extension Office Orientation** — Wil Hufton, 792-9323
- Mentor coordinator** — Waunita Pettiford, 777-6918
- Historian** — Janet Martineau, 790-7340
- Refreshments** — Becky Geidans, 781-1552
- Member handbooks** — Angela Irwin, 777-7947
- Membership roster** — Nancy Cotcamp, 797-3390
- Newsletter mailing**— Bonnie Stewart, 793-1442
- Newsletter mailing label maker** — Debbi King, 791-4001
- SVMGA wearables** — Shirley McNier, 799-7172
- Speakers Bureau** — Judy Henning, 799-4136
- MSUE Demonstration Garden** — Peggy Shaver, 695-5489
- Volunteer opportunities** — Mary Jane Lysogorski, 758-2500, ext. 224
- Raffle drawings** — Ruth Sny, 792-5688

Upcoming 2005 programs

- 3/23** — "New Perennials," Paul and Mark Begick, Begick Nursery and Garden Center
- 4/27** — "Creative Containers," Grey Gitzen, AMG
- 5/25** — Plant exchange and tour of Amy Fitkin's garden
- 6/22** — Tour of Crystal Kauer's garden
- 7/27** — Tour of Sara Clark's garden
- 8/24** — Tour of Carmen Lerash's garden
- 9/28** — To be determined
- 10/19** — To be determined (note date change due to room scheduling conflict)
- 11/16** — To be determined
- 12/14** — Annual Christmas Potluck (note one week later due to room scheduling conflict)

Master Gardener Nancy Kleekamp...

Continues from Page 3

She loves red poppies and yarrow and has a new interest in grasses.

Nancy loves the people in our organization and the great speakers.

She feels the shared contentment, satisfying experiences and the joy of growing something.



Besides being a nature lover, a bird watcher and conservationist, Nancy has also become a quilter.

She has already made eight quilts since retiring.

She must do that after dark because that would be the only time left to sit down.

Story by Joan Martin