

# The Grapevine

Bulletin of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association

March 2006 Volume 10, Issue 3

## Emerald ash borer continues to spread

The grant for the Saginaw County MSU Extension's emerald ash borer education program has ended.

But the havoc this exotic beetle creates will only continue to spread, says Dan Keane, a retired forester for the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Saginaw County's former emerald ash borer education coordinator.

He's hoping to enlist Master Gardeners in what he sees as an ongoing battle. Residents will need education to make informed decisions regarding this invasive species, which has already killed 15 to 20 million ash trees in southeast Michigan.

Keane will speak at the March meeting of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association. He plans to provide members with up-to-date information on the pest and what's being done to combat it.

"My assessment is that in Saginaw County (one of 21 quarantined counties in the state), the emerald ash borer will continue to spread," Keane explains.

"What that means is that the emerald ash borer will affect the county and its residents for years to come."



Dan Keane instructs Master Gardeners who will hand out information at the home show.

In its wake will be infected trees residents and governmental units will have to decide merit a course of treatment — or not. Treatment, while effective, can be expensive.

Thousands of dying and dead trees will have to be removed, both to help halt the spread of the borer and for public safety reasons.

Removal costs could be prohibitive unless government and individuals ban together since state and federal funding for tree removal is no longer available.

"As the emerald ash borer affects more people and more units of government (due to widespread landscape planting of ash trees), there will be more questions and people will be looking to management groups for answers.

"That's where I'm hoping Master Gardeners will be able to help."

He is exploring new funding sources to survey affected areas in the county and to continue to provide information to those who have questions.

Seven Master Gardeners attended a recent training session with Keane and then manned an information booth at the home builders show at Saginaw

### Next meeting

- 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. Wednesday, March 22, at the Andersen Enrichment Center, Ezra Rust Drive
  - 7 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. business meeting
  - 7:30 p.m. — 8 p.m. refreshments
  - 8 p.m. – 9 p.m. Dan Keane, retired forester, discusses "The Emerald Ash Borer"
  - Please wear your badge
- No guests**

Valley State University. They answered questions and distributed the latest bulletins on the emerald ash borer.

"Master Gardeners understand the biology, and with training and their volunteerism, they could help educate people," Keane says

"We're going to need that kind of collaboration as the situation worsens."

Due both to the number of ash trees statewide — and the life cycle of the emerald ash borer, there is no question more trees will be infected and die, he adds.

It can take two years to determine whether an area is infested, and in that time, the pests likely have moved on to attack more trees, especially trees under

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### U.P. test reveals more about ash borer

EAST LANSING — An ash tree infested with emerald ash borer from Michigan's Upper Peninsula is giving Michigan State University researchers insights into the pest's habits.

The tree, harvested from the Brimley State Park in the Upper Peninsula on Whitefish Bay, had been girdled and used as a detection tree in 2004. It was taken down in September 2005 and brought to MSU.

"This is a white ash tree that showed no outward signs of EAB infestation, but when we peeled off the bark, we found 99 EAB larval galleries," says Deborah McCullough, lead EAB researcher and forest entomologist at MSU.

"Any larvae that were found were saved and will be used in genetic studies to determine how closely related these larvae are to each other or to EAB from

*Continues on Page 2*

## EAB difficult to detect because pests prefer tree tops...

*Continues from Page 1*

other locations found in Michigan, Indiana and Ohio.”

The tree was one of 60 ash trees MSU researchers sampled at Brimley State Park last fall in cooperation with the Michigan Technological University, the Michigan departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources to understand more about emerald ash borer.

Of 60 trees sampled, only three had the D-shaped EAB emergence holes.

“Using dendrochronology (the study of tree-ring patterns used as the basis for dating a site or assessing its environment), we can determine that trees in the Park were first infested in 2003,” says MSU entomologist Nate Siegert.

“Those EAB required two years to complete their life cycle, and the exit holes were a result of adult beetles emerging in 2005. We find that most EAB de-

velop in one year on stressed ash trees but many larvae take two years to develop on healthy trees.”

The dendrochronology study also helped pinpoint when EAB came to Brimley State Park. Siegert says EAB-infested ash firewood brought into the park sometime between fall 2002 and summer 2003 probably was the culprit.

After emerging, beetles did not have to travel far to lay eggs, McCullough says. Other infested ash trees in the park were less than ¼ mile from the ash trees with EAB exit holes.

“This is the youngest EAB outlier infestation we’ve dated,” she says. “The earlier we catch an infested site, the better. Early on, the larval densities are low, and there is a good chance the population can be eradicated.”

Some 75 percent of the larvae were found in the branch crotches. Researchers believe that EAB like to lay their eggs on rough bark. The branch crotches are where the bark gets rough and furrowed, especially on white ash trees, which often have smoother bark than green ash trees.

“What was also important about this early EAB find is that the trees looked perfectly healthy,” McCullough says.

“Trying to detect a recent EAB infestation by visual survey only is very difficult. The adult beetles seem to spend most of their time in the canopy of ash trees, where they feed on the leaves.

Because most females deposit eggs near the leaves where they feed, the

emergence holes, often the only obvious symptom, are more common in the tops of trees. This makes it difficult to find EAB emergence holes on taller trees.

“We are getting better at detection,” she says. “We are getting better at finding EAB infestations when there are fewer larvae in the trees.”

Populations of EAB do spread on their own, especially when populations are high.

But McCullough emphasizes that human movement of infested ash wood or trees, not natural beetle movement, is responsible for spreading the pest to many areas of lower Michigan, as well as areas of Ohio and Indiana.

“Most of the outlier infestations we are finding now are more than two or three years old,” she says.

“Many are a result of ash nursery trees, firewood or logs that were infested and moved to the area before we knew about EAB. Transport of ash nursery trees and logs can be regulated and monitored.

“At this point, firewood is probably the biggest concern. We know infested ash firewood can spread EAB as well as other pests and tree diseases.

“As more people learn about EAB and the dangers of moving firewood, we hope the number of new EAB discoveries will drop.”

Working cooperatively, 940 ash trees were removed to eradicate the U.P. infestation.

For information on EAB, see the web site at [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info).

### Officers for 2005-2006

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### Master Gardeners can help...

*Continues from Page 1*

stress.

Keane says he has seen evidence that the borer is spreading from where it was first detected in the St. Charles and Thomas Township areas, despite tree removals.

Keane also serves as vice president of

the Saginaw Farmers Market board and is working with a group to start up a Farmer’s Market in Hemlock.

“We want to strengthen Soup Days and our Harvest Festival and continue to grow and bring in new customers,” Keane says. The Saginaw market opens May 26.

*Story by Darlene B. Damp, editor*

### Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association mission statement

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

# Letter from the President

This month as I write my letter, snow is falling, and as usual the roads will be a mess, but the weather prognosticators on television keep promising that better days are coming.

I'm ready, and so are the plants under my grow lights. In fact, if warmer weather doesn't arrive soon, I'll be forced to slip some of them.

At the Dow Gardens Seminar on Feb. 25, Kurt Bluemel was the keynote speaker.

His forte is grasses. He is one of the primary growers and promoters of the ornamental variety in the United States.

He said, "All of us are influenced by someone."

His influence was the renowned plants-

man, Karl Foerester.

Mine was my maternal grandmother who was a Master Gardener in Michigan's Upper Peninsula before there was such a term.

I bet if each of us took a minute to think about it we could come up with someone who was a strong influence and helped hone our gardening instincts.

I guess I'm being rather retrospective this month. Maybe it's the weather and the doldrums of winter.

I need to mention the passing of the great plantsman, Christopher Lloyd.

He spent his life making his garden at Great Dixter a legacy that will live on for



all to visit. Along with his garden and the books he wrote, he will be long remembered.

I need to publicly thank our treasurer, Jan O'Dell. As of today she has registered 137 of us as active members of the association.

No small feat, considering the time frame and confusion that surrounds her at our meetings.

March will be your last chance to pay your dues without lapsing your membership.

Spring had better arrive soon or I'm not going to have room to store all the plants that I have ordered.

Grey

## Seven flowers make All-America Selections

EAST LANSING — Seven flowers have received All-America Selections awards for 2006.

*Diascia integerimma* 'Diamonte Coral Rose' is the first F1 hybrid diaschia. It flowers within 60 to 70 days of seeding. Plants spread to 18 inches but reach only 8 to 10 inches in height, so they make good border plants in the garden or container plants on the deck. The 1-inch rosy coral blooms are borne on upright stems on all sides of the plant. Plants are frost-tolerant, so northern gardeners can use them to extend the growing season well into the fall.

*Viola* 'Skippy XL Red-Gold' is the first *Viola cornuta* to win an AAS award. The pansy-like flowers are 1 ½ inches across and purplish red with a yellow "face" with dark red "whiskers." The strong, dense plants showed both heat tolerance and winter hardiness, with protection. Mature plants reach only 6 inches in height and spread to 8 inches.

*Dianthus* 'Supra Purple' blooms prolifically beginning 10 to 12 weeks after seeding and impressed variety trial judges with its heat tolerance in garden trials. The lacy flowers are single, 1 ½ inches across and a bright pink-purple. In full sun, the plant reaches a height of 12 inches and looks like a bouquet just waiting to be picked. Flowers can be cut for fresh arrangements

or enjoyed in the garden.

*Nicotiana* 'Perfume Deep Purple' was bred for fragrance and the deep purple flower color. The 2-inch, star-shaped flowers are abundant. Plants can reach 20 inches tall and spread 15 to 18 inches in a full-sun garden location, though they readily adapt to partial shade and container culture. 'Perfume Deep Purple' is easy to grow from seed.

'Black Pearl' is an ornamental pepper with black leaves when grown in the sun and small, black, shiny peppers. Peppers are edible but extremely hot. Young greenhouse-grown plants will have green leaves that will turn black in the sun. Plants are vigorous and heat-tolerant, growing to 18 inches tall and spreading to 12 to 16 inches. 'Black Pearl' is easy to grow in the garden or in containers with other annuals.

*Salvia* 'Evolution' adds a new color to the *Salvia farinacea* palette -- the 6- to 7-inch flower spikes are violet rather than blue. Planted in fertile soil, the plants need little coddling to reach heights of 16 to 24 inches. They spread to 16 to 19 inches and are drought-tolerant, though irrigation during dry weather is needed for consistent flowering. Like 'Black Pearl' pepper, 'Evolution' is undemanding and rarely bothered by serious disease

or pest problems.

*Zinnia* 'Zowie! Yellow Flame' is a semi-tall plant with 3- to 4-inch semi-double blossoms that have red centers and yellow-tipped petals. In a sunny garden or large container, plants reach 24 to 29 inches in height and spread 26 to 27 inches. Flowering usually begins 8 to 10 weeks after seed is sown.

All-America Selections has been testing new unsold flower and vegetable varieties since 1932 at test gardens across the United States and Canada.

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

Newsletter deadline:  
**Monday, April 10**

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

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

## Odds and Ends

### Here's an update on SVMGA's fall conference

Just a quick update on the seminar to let you know that we have our presenters in place, and our brochure committee is ready to go as soon as a few more details are completed.

We asked for two volunteers at the February meeting to do the bulb pictures and to chair the vendor committee.

I barely sat down and I had more than two volunteers say "I'll do it."

Thanks go to Pat Washburn and to Cora Schaeff for being the first to volunteer.

If you know of a vendor or want to be a vendor at our seminar, contact Cora Schaeff at 868-3528 or schaeffca@aol.com

We will be asking for more volunteers, so be ready to raise your hand and join the fun in organizing our seminar.

*Aileen Cowan and Judy Henning*

### Plants sought for new rain gardens at Children's Zoo

Many changes are taking place at the Children's Zoo, one of which is putting in some rain gardens. The following is a list of plants the Rain Garden Committee is looking for.

If you are the proud owner of any of these plants and are willing to donate some to the Rain Garden project, please contact Judy Henning, at judrich@sbcglobal.net or 799-4136.

The plant list includes: Achillea, Anemone; Aruncus Diocious; Boltonia; Chelone; Columbine; and Echinacea.

Also Eryngium; perennial Geranium; Lamium; Lecantheum "Becky"; Liatris; Mini Monarda; Perovskia; Pulmonaria; Sedum 'Autumn Joy'; Sedum (ground cover); Veronica Speedwell 'Sunny Border Blue'; Black Mondo grass; Little Blue Stem grass; any low growing carex.

Thank you,

*Children's Zoo Rain Garden Committee*

### Regarding containers at The Greenhouse in Bridgeport

The dates for container planting at The Greenhouse in Bridgeport are: from 9

a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 15 and 22.

Call the owner, Dave Sommer, at 777-1880 to sign up and get the details.

Sommer has volunteered to keep planted containers for Master Gardeners until the weather warms up.

Tell Sommer you are a Master Gardener and heard about the project from me.

*Aileen Cowan*

### Butterflies in Bloom opens March 13 at Dow Gardens

MIDLAND — Experience thousands of colorful, live butterflies March 13 to April 23 when Dow Gardens hosts the annual event.

New this year is a brand new butterfly, the Banded Orange Longwing (Dryadula

phaetusa), an exhibit on the amazing mechanics of butterfly flight and new feeding stations.

There are special events each weekend: Butterfly Gardening March 18-19 and April 8-9 and 22-23; Clowning Around with Jewels the Clown March 25-26; Destination Dow Gardens, March 27-31; April Fool's Fun April 1-2; and Easter weekend, April 15-16.

The gardens, located adjacent to the Midland Center for the Arts off Eastman and West St. Andrews, is open from 9 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. daily.

Admission is \$5 for adults, \$1 for ages 6-17 or \$10 for an annual card.

### Fred Case garden in magazine, open for spring tours

The March/April issue of *Midwest Living* magazine has an article and photos on Saginaw's own Fred "Mr. Trillium" Case, Jr.

He has nearly all of the 38 species of native North American trilliums.

Master Gardeners who want to see his garden in person may sign up at the March meeting.

Case also has a large collection of wildflowers, pitcher plants, unusual shrubs and trees on 40 acres in Thomas

Township.

He will allow 25 people to visit his garden at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 7, and another 25 people at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 14.

### Trough class details set

Two trough-making classes will meet this spring, sponsored by SVMGA.

Judy Henning and Aileen Cowan will teach a session at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 29, at Cowan's home.

The pair require participants to wear sturdy rubber gloves as protection from the chemicals used.

Cowan lives at 13505 W. Burt Road, off M-52, five miles south of St. Charles.

Grey Gitzen will lead the second session at 2 p.m. Thursday, May 11, at his home, 1400 Coolidge, north of Brockway.

Each session is limited to 25 people. Cost is \$7.

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

### Get your hours in!

Just a reminder to have your county's client hours and certifications updated before the end of the month!

We will be creating mailing labels for the MG Summer Conference by March 31, 2006. Thanks and think spring!

*Julie Winegard, system administrator*

### Dow Gardens offers classes

MIDLAND — Dow Gardens offers several education opportunities this month.

The mentor application deadline is Friday, March 10. It teaches good horticulture practices and volunteers work alongside a horticulturist weekly during the growing season.

There's also "Plants and People of Honduras," with Gavin Green, Whiting Forest manager, who spent 27 years there as a forester for the Peace Corps.

It is from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 16, and earns MGs one-half hour education credit.

Cost is \$5. Register by March 9 please.

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## Earn volunteer hours with these projects...

### Rose bed clean-up, pruning

Roses at the Andersen Enrichment Center will be uncovered at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 8.

Project leader Ben Pawlik says this task usually takes about three hours.

He asks participants to bring a rake and sharp pruning shears.

"Also a few tarps are needed to remove the leaves," Pawlik says.

"We now have a group of seasoned experts on the job, so knowledge will be abundantly available. Rose bushes will be pruned."

A sign-up list will be available at the March meeting. For information or to sign up, call Pawlik at 793-4238.

### Abele Greenhouse wants MG speakers in spring

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

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

In return, Abele's will make a donation to SVMGA.

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

### Local conservation district plans 2006 tree sale

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

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

Call 781-4077 to volunteer.

## SVMGA has \$3,000 in project funds available for 2006

Some \$3,000 is available this year for local gardening projects, spearheaded by Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association members.

First to tap into grants is Master Gardener Sharla Hammer who will use the \$200 award to help residents at Hoyt Nursing Home plant perennials.

Besides purchasing perennials, she will buy potting soil and fertilizer for the effort.

Her request was approved at the March board meeting.

Members may apply for grants 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 SVMGA board reviews requests and notifies recipients of their awards.

Funds are allocated on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Those who receive grants must keep track of what they spend and keep receipts of their purchases for a final ac-

counting to the board.

That accounting is due upon completion of the project.

Project leaders also should contact Karen Siegel, Master Gardener coordinator to determine the type of hours volunteers will earn working on the project.

Siegel is reviewing SVMGA projects to update this information.

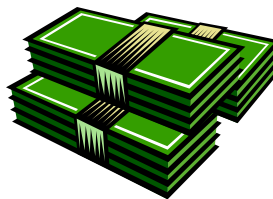
Members are urged to make application as soon as possible.

Last year, SVMGA was unable to honor all requests for funding due the number of requests.

In 2005, grant funds were used to purchase a new computer for Master Gardener volunteers to use at the MSU Extension office.

Other projects ranged from purchasing apple trees for the Cushway House on Fordney to buy plants for SVMGA's Adopt-a-Garden at the Saginaw Children's Zoo.

For information or to obtain a project request form, please contact Nancy Hales, vice president, at 799-2118.



## Huron County Master Gardeners offer Spring into Gardening conference

UBLY — Nine speakers will offer tips to improve your garden during the annual Spring into Gardening conference Saturday, March 25.

It runs from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Ubyly Heights Country Club.

The conference is divided into four class sessions, allowing participants to choose from one of three topics per time period.

Topics range from "Basics of Weather" and "Just Say No to Bambi and Thumper" to bonsai, daylilies, pruning and gardening with heirloom plants.

Nancy Szerlag, author and garden writer for The Detroit News, is the keynote speaker after lunch. Her topic is

"Exciting Plants, Cool Tools and Hot Pots."

Other speakers are TV-25 chief meteorologist Mark Torregrossa; Kim Francis, Country Gardens Design; Coleen French, French Garden Creations; Jerry Somalski, Bay Landscaping; Dave and Mary Moore, Stone Cottage Gardens; Larry Kanaby, San Toshi Bonsai Society; and Dian McConnel.

There also are vendors, and a catered lunch for \$40.

Master Gardeners receive five hours of education credit.

For a brochure, visit MSUE Master Gardener web site, or call (989) 269-9949.

# Minutes of the Feb. 22, 2006 membership meeting

Grey Gitzen welcomed 97 members to the Andersen Enrichment Center.

Anne Birkam asked that the January meeting minutes be revised to state Shirley Oryczak donated the wind chimes. Ruth Sny moved the minutes of the January 2006 meeting be approved as revised; Elaine Rappley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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

Balance last treasurer's report	\$5,990.38
Deposits 1/25/06 to 2/21/06	\$1,578.00
Expenses 1/25/06 to 2/21/06	\$451.88
Balance as of 2/21/06	\$7,116.50
Designed fall seminar funds	\$2,638.12

As of 2/21/06 we have 89 paid members.

Elaine Rappley moved the treasurer's report be approved; Aileen Cowan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Nancy Hales will have the mailing list revised by April 1. Gitzen will soon be sending out letters to members from 2005 who have not entered their hours. The deadline for membership dues is March 1.

Gitzen presented the 2006 budget to the members. Patti Decker moved the budget be accepted; Brian Ott seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Gitzen presented a by-laws revision to the membership. The board decided to present the amendment because the association will now be paying for the cost of mailing the newsletter. The amendment would mean that the newsletter would no longer be mailed to students taking the class. Current by-laws state we will mail the newsletter to those students for a year. After much discussion Kathy Berger

moved that to approve the revision. Judy Henning seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Chippewa Nature Center is having an earth-friendly garden day again this year. SVMGA will play a part in this program. Gitzen had a sign-up sheet for anyone who is interested in this volunteer project.

The Saginaw Children's Zoo is undergoing major renovations. Patti Decker had a sign-up sheet for anyone interested in volunteering at the zoo where there are many opportunities available.

There will be a fund-raising event at the zoo June 15, which is the target date for having the zoo look beautiful.

Judy Henning had a sign-up sheet for SVMGA's Adopt-a-Garden at the Children's Zoo.

Becky Geidans asked people to sign-up for refreshments.

Two education opportunities include P. Allen Smith who will speak at the Grand Rapids Amway Center March 4 and the Sunrise Side Master Gardeners' seminar in East Tawas on April 18. Elaine Rappley had flyers for those interested in the Sunrise Side Master Gardeners' seminar.

Judy Henning announced that Bill Cullina who is with the New England Wildflower Association will be our keynote speaker at the fall conference Saturday, Oct. 7.

She asked for volunteers, one to get pictures of the bulbs we are going to sell and have them available at the conference for people to see; and another person to take charge of the vendors.

Aileen Cowan mentioned that Dave Sommers of Bridgeport would like to have

interested members come to his greenhouse and choose plants, pot them up and he will baby-sit them until we are ready to take them home.

He is in Texas right now but when he gets back in March, Aileen will contact him to let him know we are interested. More information will be forthcoming in the newsletter.

Elaine Rappley will have a sign-up sheet at the next meeting for members interested in touring Fred Case's garden. He will have open garden days the first two weekends of May.

Karen Siegel mentioned Huron and Isabella counties are having seminars for which education hours are available. Members can check these Master Gardener web sites for information.

She is also looking for volunteers to give 45-50 minute presentations on weekends at Abele's starting in May. Members interested in this opportunity should see her. Siegel also had Master Gardener recertification cards available.

Thanks go to Sue Stemler for donating the garden trellis, Joan Martin for donating the eyeglass holder, Grey Gitzen for donating the label maker and Karen Tilden for donating the flamingo. Congratulations go to David Quinnan for winning the label maker; Mary Anne Malek, the garden trellis; Gitzen, the flamingo; and Donna Kieselbach for winning the eyeglass holder.

Chris Reisinger gave an informative presentation on pruning accompanied by a demonstration which all enjoyed.

*Submitted by Anne Birkam, secretary*

## More odds and ends

*(Continues from Page 4)*

For information or registration [www.dowgardens.org](http://www.dowgardens.org) or call (800) 362-4874.

### Nature series begins

The Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge sponsors two horticulture-related talks during its Nurturing Nature series.

It meets every first Wednesday of the month through December at Green Point Nature Center, 3010 Maple.

Dan Keane, retired forester, discusses "Emerald Ash Borer," at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 5, providing the latest information on the infestation.

"Fungi and More" on Aug. 2 features Janea Little of the Chippewa Nature Center, on mushrooms found here and across Michigan. Admission is \$2.

### MSU Hort Club has show

EAST LANSING — The Michigan

State University Horticulture Club will have its 18th annual Spring Show Saturday and Sunday, April 22-23.

This year's theme focuses around many of the common homes, gardens and landscapes seen everyday — but with ways to improve by adding small touches of creativity.

It also features education opportunities and vendors. Contact [hortclub@msu.edu](mailto:hortclub@msu.edu) or call (517) 432-3946.

# 2006 membership fee due

Annual dues of \$20 for the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association must be paid in March.

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

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

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

applications filled out ahead of time to ease her job.

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

Or mail your check and completed application form to O'Dell at 5122 Hickory Court, Saginaw, MI 48603.

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

Applications forms are necessary because they are used to develop the annual

membership roster and to check certification status. Only certified members may attend meetings.

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

As members know, the re-certification process is under way. It is expected to be completed soon.

Those who are joining from outside Saginaw County must have proof of certification or re-certification along with their application.

## SAGINAW VALLEY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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

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

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

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Master Gardener Status: MG Trainee \_\_\_\_\_ Certified MG \_\_\_\_\_ Advanced MG \_\_\_\_\_

Class Year \_\_\_\_\_ New Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Upcoming 2006 programs

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

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