

The Grapevine

Bulletin of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association

April 2003 Volume 7, Issue 4

Dad's idea sprouts; son finds career

TROY, MI. – The old greenhouses next door to his parents' home were a playground for young George Papadelis and his brother, a place where they could run and hide and explore when they were kids.

"Twenty-seven years ago, this was farm country," says Papadelis, owner of Telly's Greenhouse and Garden Center, a thriving retail business on John R, off Big Beaver Road, known for its specialty plants and service.

Papadelis will discuss "Exciting Shade Gardens" at 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 23, at the Andersen Enrichment Center, Ezra Rust Drive.

"The lady next door had a wholesale nursery business, where she sold her plants at the Eastern Market, the Pontiac Market, back before there were retail sales. She died in



1976 and in 1977 my dad bought the property."

To keep his sons busy during the summer, the following year their dad suggested the boys, ages 10 and 11, set up a stand, selling annuals and vegetable plants.

"We bought seeds at Grant's grocery store and planted them, after all we had a real greenhouse right next door. Then I saw an article in a Reader's Digest magazine that showed how to propagate plants. When I saw you could make 50 plants from one, cha-ching, I knew what I was

going to do," Papadelis said. "They weren't great plants, but that first year we sold \$1,000 worth of plants. The second year we fixed up the greenhouses – the same ones my brother and I threw rocks

Next meeting	
€	7 p.m. – 9 p.m. Wednesday, April 23, Andersen Enrichment Center, Ezra Rust Drive
€	7 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Meeting
€	7:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. Refreshments
€	8 p.m. – 9 p.m. speaker George Papadelis, owner of Telly's Greenhouse and Garden Center, Troy, discusses "Exciting Shade Gardens"
€	One hour education unit earned

through the windows – and grew more plants.

"There were eight or nine greenhouses here and in six, seven, eight years, we were using all of them. We'd plant the seeds in spring and tend them and sell them after school. Later on, as the business expanded, friends and relatives would help out, selling plants while we were in school and because we couldn't drive, our parents drove us where we

(Continues on Page 2)

Inside this issue:

<i>Letter from the President</i>	3
<i>Minutes of March meeting</i>	3
<i>Newsletter moves to Web</i>	3
<i>Odds and ends</i>	4
<i>Pawlick readies roses</i>	5
<i>Trips, trips and more trips</i>	5
<i>Herb symposium in Frankenmuth</i>	6
<i>Volunteer opportunities</i>	7

Five members win top awards at banquet

Five Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association members won top honors Wednesday for their volunteer work from the Michigan State University Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program.

The recipients – all advanced master gardeners – are **Patti Decker**, Leadership Award; **Gail Caird**, Innovation Award; **Grey Gitzen**, Education Award; **Wil Hufton**, Mentoring Award; and **Judy Henning**, Master Gardener of the Year Award.

In addition, **Henning** also received the Outstanding Key Collaborator Award for her work with the Saginaw MSU Extension office from the East Central Region.

The banquet, held at Apple Mountain restaurant, is open to all certified master gardeners.

Decker, co-chairman of the Adopt-a-Garden program at the Saginaw Children's Zoo, has helped expand the popular city park's gardens from under 20 to 70 and recruited many volunteers. The Saginaw resident recently completed a manual for use at the zoo and now serves as chairman of its horticulture committee. She has totaled more than 500 volunteer hours since certification.

Caird, a Saginaw Township resident who is serving a second term as SVMGA program chairman, was lauded for drawing top quality speakers to the

(Continues on Page 2)

April speaker ...

(Continues from Page 1)
 needed to go.”

Papadelis developed a reputation for client service.

“Customers would come in and ask about a certain plant, ‘you know, my mom used to grow this plant, but I don’t know the name of it...’ Well, I’d figure out what it was and get the seeds to grow it the next year. That really helped our success.”

Although his brother bored of the business and left, Papadelis formed a partnership with his parents and continued the nursery while pursuing a pre-med program at the University of Michigan.

“I did the orders from my dorm

room and because the school let out so early, I was home in time to sell out all of my plants.”

In the 1980s, he discovered perennials, which extended his growing season.

“I had to be here all summer, but I loved what I was doing. I was growing everything my customers wanted and selling it, too.”

He decided to work full-time at the nursery for a year after graduation, rather than moving on to medical school, to determine which career to pursue.

“I loved it and I haven’t stopped since. I’ve seen the progression of sales go from \$15,000...so that now we’re well over \$2 million, not including my brother’s tree and shrub business.

“Now it’s not just me, but 15 full-time employees, plus we bring in 40 to 50 seasonal people. We offer 4,000 perennials, grown by an expert; 2,000 annuals, a large variety of herbs and vegetables, plus we grow all our own roses with a rosarian



on staff. We also have a lady who specializes in herbs.”

The focus of his business, he says, is on unique plants not found at most chain stores.

“It’s the niche we’ve created,” Papadelis explains, “although we still have the marigolds, petunias and impatiens. However, we have varieties of those plants you can’t find elsewhere, like 400 different kinds of hostas, 100 different kinds of coleus.”

He plans to bring about 50 different new plants to the SVMGA meeting, many of which will be for sale.

Telly’s Greenhouse offers 45 minute-tours this spring, at 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 16; 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 23, and 7 p.m. Thursday, May 1.

The greenhouse, 3301 John R, is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Take the Big Beaver Road exit of I-75 east, then head north on John R, about one-half mile. Call (248) 689-8735.

Story by Darlene B. Damp, co-editor

Officers for 2003-04

President

Judy Henning 799-4136

Vice President

Aileen Cowan 865-8784

Secretary

Ellie Robertson 792-4356

Treasurer

Deb Keller 781-1228

Program Director

Gail Caird 793-1942

Newsletter Editor

Beth Bedtelyon 781-6834

Co-Editor

Darlene Damp 746-9113

MSU Extension

**One Tuscola Street
 Saginaw, MI 48607-1287**

Master Gardener Coordinator

**Angela Irwin 758-2500
 ext. 224**

irwina@msue.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.

Award winners ...

(Continued from Page 1)

monthly sessions as well as her well-researched field trips to unusual places. Caird also makes educational presentations, amassing some 250 volunteer hours total.

Master Gardeners cited **Gitzen** for his work in developing the Junior Master Gardener program, his orientations at new Master Gardener classes and his work as a docent for the MSU gardens in East Lansing. The Saginaw Township resident compiled a total 1,000 volunteer hours.

Hufton, the knowledgeable mainstay in the Extension’s Master Gardener office, spends at least three days a month researching and answering homeowner questions and mentoring other office vol-

unteers. The Saginaw resident also promotes the Master Gardener program within the community, which added up to 650 hours since certification.

Henning is serving her second term as SVMGA president. Master Gardeners said the Saginaw resident’s unflagging support of the Master Gardener program, its principles and activities led them to make her their unanimous choice for this year’s Master Gardener of the Year Award.

Henning recruits volunteers, attends numerous education conferences and serves on or chairs numerous Master Gardener committees. She also wrote Ask The Gardener last year for The Saginaw News. She has 1,500 volunteer hours.

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.”

**Next board meeting:
 Wednesday, May 7**

Letter from the President

The calendar says spring but as I look out my window, I see winter. An ice storm paid a visit early this morning coating everything in sight.

More ice and snow is predicted for today and into tomorrow. Let's hope that our spring bloomers survive this winter onslaught.

Ellyn Meyers, director of Hidden Lake Gardens, was our March speaker and her presentation was outstanding. The one-hour allotted her wasn't quite enough to cover all her material.

Ellyn told us it isn't necessary to have a large wooded area to grow wild flowers, a shaded area under a tree will suffice. Because many wildflowers bloom in the spring, Ellyn reminded us to plant flowers that will bloom after the wild

flowers are done blooming.

Our volunteer opportunities will kick into high gear when the weather starts to warm up. Be sure to check the 2003 Volunteer Opportunity List to see what projects are out there.

I know the Playscape in Saginaw Township, the Roethke House garden renovation, and the Commission on Aging projects are in need of more volunteers.

Our garden magazine exchange is held at our April meeting. Bring in whatever garden magazines you want to unload and pick up a magazine that ap-



peals to you.

He's back! I'm talking about George Papadelis. George is our April speaker and his topic is "Exciting Shade Gardens." George brings with him an unending source of information, a great amount of energy, and a natural ability to get his information across to his audience.

If you haven't experienced a presentation by George, you are in for a treat. Hope to see you at the April meeting.

Our treasury is growing. I would like each of you to take a few minutes and give some thought to an organization that we could donate some of our monies.

We will compile a list of the organizations, discuss them and then vote on it.

Take care and think spring.

Judy

Minutes of the March 26 meeting

The March meeting of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardeners was called to order by President Judy Henning at 7 p. m., Wednesday, March 26.

Speaker Ellyn Meyer of MSU Hidden Lake Gardens detailed "Wildflowers in Your Garden." She supplied a list of wildflowers and showed slides.

The business meeting followed. Brian Ott moved the minutes be approved as printed; Aileen Cowan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer Deb Keller, gave the treasurer's report as follows:

Opening balance	\$8,066.90
Deposits	1,882.50
Expenditures	992.24
Balance on hand	\$8,957.16

Judy thanked Dorothy Bodeis, Darlene Damp, Raeann Krauss, Mary Ann Malek, Jan O'Dell, Judy Rich and Ellie Robertson for their work with the neck coolers for the Mt. Pleasant conference. Our profit there totaled \$255.

Margie Engelhardt reminded members registration for the MI School of Gardening "Designing the Outdoor Living Room" class, is due April 10. It is from 6 - 9 p.m. April 24 at the Extension office. Cost is \$50.

The Herb Society of America Great Lakes District will present "Celebrating

the Joy of Herbs & Beyond" May 3 at the Frankenmuth Historical Museum.

Bay City Master Gardeners present a "Designing a Perennials" workshop April 22 and 29 at the Bay County Community Center, Kennedy Drive. Cost is \$50.

Jan O'Dell discussed volunteer opportunities: The Roethke House, the Midland Conservation District tree project April 11; and Making It Safe for Play May 8. Jan asked for male volunteers for the Mentoring program.

Judy Porter said gardens at the Eleanor Frank Senior Center will be prepared for planting the week of April 28.

Grey Gitzen had flyers on MSU Garden Day, Aug. 8; 2003 MSU calendars; the MSU gardens and education hours for advanced status via the Internet.

Ben Pawlik wants help uncovering roses at 9 a.m. April 12 at the Anderson Rose garden.

Becky Geidans had samples of jewelry for sale, providing 10% back to our group.

Dorothy Bodeis is taking orders for logo apparel until April 10.

Judy spoke of funding available for projects, \$200 per project per year. So far, \$600 has been awarded.

The MG Conference 2003 is June 23-25 with keynote speaker Allan Armitage and Scott Kunst as the closing speaker.

Information will be sent out the first week of May.

Angela said the May 3 Earth Day at the Children's Zoo will have a question and answer session and composting demonstration. Charles Martin will speak at the MG Banquet April 9. The "Spring Into Gardening" conference is April 29 at Kalamazoo.

Lowe's in Midland has an opening for part-time help in their garden department.

Gail Caird told of upcoming field trips — April 30 to MI Hydroponics in Bay City; Mill Creek Nursery June 8; and Phil Lisik's June 12. Batschke's Greenhouse will supply letters to members as a fund-raiser May 17-24, bringing 10% of our purchases back to our organization.

Judy Rich has four openings in her stone bird house class from 6-9 p.m. May 5 and three for 9 a.m. to noon May 6.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Submitted by Ellie Robertson, 3/29/03

Welcome New Member

Barb Boggess, Saginaw Master Gardener Trainee

Odds and ends

Project leaders need forms

As a project leader it is your responsibility to fill out forms for your project. The forms are available in the MG Office in the file marked S.V.M.G.A.

Please take the time to pick up a set and complete the forms. They are self-explanatory. If you have any questions, give me a call.



If at all possible, take before and after photos of your project. Give the pictures to our Historian, Janet Martineau. We would like to keep a pictorial record of our projects.

Thanks, Judy Henning

Don't forget upcoming exchanges

Don't forget to bring those gardening magazines that you've read and don't want to keep to the April meeting.

Just place them on the table for the annual spring plant exchange at the May 28 meeting.

Plants may be potted up in containers or plastic bags. Just remember to label them with the botanical name and give a description of its color, height, light requirement – whatever you would want to know when you buy a plant.

And you don't have to have plants to participate in the exchange, so members with new gardens will want to come and see what "freebies" they can add to their beds.

Batschke's offers fund-raiser

Our January speaker, Kurt Batschke, has offered SVMGA a fund-raising opportunity, says Gail Caird, program coordinator.

"He is going to send a letter that members can pick up at the April meeting or at the Extension office that gives SVMGA 10 percent of the proceeds from anything we purchase at Batschke Greenhouse (1600 S. Euclid, Bay City) the week of May 17-25," Caird says.

"While it's not a discount on a purchase, it is a way to raise money for our group and applies to everything except sale merchandise."

Go on-line for advanced certificate

Michigan State University offers on-line courses for the advanced master gardener certificate through its Horticulture Gardening Institute at www.gardeninginstitute.com.

Also available are Great Gardens for Kids; the Garden Masters series with on-line audio and video tips and demonstrations from Great Gardeners; and Ask the Experts forum, to quiz MSU experts on gardening problems.

Hosta group meets May 4

The Saginaw Valley Chapter of the Michigan Hosta Society meets at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 4, at botanist Fred Case's gardens. Members hope to tour Celtic Confirs then end with a potluck and plant exchange at president Elaine Rappley's home. Contact 781-0570 or rappleyjunk@aol.com.

St. Charles greenhouse reopens

Werner's Greenhouse, which closed four years ago, will reopen the family-owned and operated business Saturday, May 10, at 1125 W. Belle Ave., St. Charles.

They will have a petunias, impatiens, pansies, marigolds, geraniums, vincas and mums in flats and hanging baskets this season. They also will have vines, spikes, asparagus ferns and other greens.

"We'll be offering an assortment of heirloom tomato, pepper and other vegetable plants and a good selection of herbs, both cooking and medicinal," said a spokesperson. "Plus we sell glads for wholesale and retail."

Werner's Greenhouse also offers refills for baskets and other containers, including those at local cemeteries to refill too large to transport. Call (989) 865-9392.

Lowe's seeks seasonal employee

Lowe's of Midland is seeking a seasonal merchandising assistant for 18 hours per week through Sunday, June 1.

Employed for Zelenka Nursery of Grand Haven, the assistant works as a vendor for the store, beginning the week of April 14.

Applicants should reside in the area, be able to lift 50 pounds, work independently with customers and have basic math, leadership and communication skills. Applicants with recent nursery/horticulture education

and/or retail experience or sales education are preferred.

Pay is \$10 an hour. Contact Amy Kaiser, merchandising coordinator, at (800) 253-3743 ext. 447 or e-mail akaiser@zelenkanursery.com.

Help update vegetable survey

Input from all Michigan Master Gardeners and Extension personnel is sought to update the bulletin, Home Vegetable Garden Variety Recommendations for Michigan Gardens.

Using your experience with vegetables, consider such traits as flavor, dependability, (consistent producer), suitability for processing (canning and freezing), storage and disease resistance.

List as many favorite vegetable varieties as you like, using the specific variety or cultivar name and the categories that apply, from the list above.

Send information to Ingham County MSU Extension, Attn. Gary Heilig, 121 E. Maple Street, PO Box 319, Mason, MI 48854-0319, or e-mail to cpconier@ingham.org.



Publisher offers discount

American Nurseryman Publishing Co. will give SVMGA a 5 to 10 percent discount on a group book order, says Aileen Cowan, vice president.

"They have all different kinds of books, from Michael Dirr, who wrote the bible on trees and shrubs, to landscaping to other books that provide the A to Z encyclopedias we all want to own."

The book order must total \$1,000 minimum. Catalogs available at the April meeting; orders are due in May.

Attend meeting; get magazine

Beginning this month, members receive a free copy of Michigan Gardener magazine at the monthly meeting.

Published April through November, it features articles by experts, along with upcoming events and book reviews.

It's just another perk for members, says Judy Henning, president.

Pawlick and volunteers open Rose Garden April 12

Growing up in a family of nine children, this master gardener put in hours of work in a vegetable garden with his Dad and siblings long before it became fashionable.

He was born and raised in the city of Saginaw and said he would be playing baseball with the neighborhood boys when his dad would call him to come help in the garden.

He was told to "pull the weeds, but save the worms for fishing."

And, says Ben Pawlick, fishing is still one of his hobbies – from winter fishing in Florida to other seasons in Michigan at Saginaw Bay and Tawas.

We all know Ben is famous at the Anderson Rose Garden, but who knows about his unique upside down tomato plants?

Ben says they are quite the conversation piece and has even inspired a fellow traveler from Boston to try them out. He shared the secret of planting, but I

think a class at our monthly meetings might make planting easier to understand!

And who knows that he was a guest on Bob Barker's "Truth or Consequences" television show in 1971?

Ben worked as a bread salesman for 10 years with Taystee Bread and then for 26 years with Rainbow Bread before retiring about five years ago.

He and his wife, Zita, raised three daughters and now have 9 grandchildren who keep them, "always on the highway," and watching them in a sporting event.

Most recently, they watched a grandson win the state championship for midget travel hockey, shortly after they arrived back in Michigan from their Florida winter.

This spring will be extra special for Ben and Zita as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary May 30.

Saturday, April 12, Ben and other Master Gardener volunteers uncover the 240 rose bushes at the Andersen Rose Gar-

den. It begins his season with the roses, which doesn't end until the plants are covered once again Nov. 15.

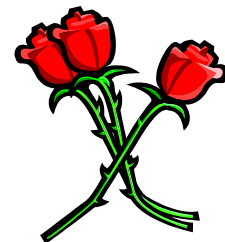
This is his fifth year at Andersen Rose Garden. He also tends 32 rose bushes at home, along with other perennials and a corner of herbs in his township lot.

Ben has volunteered at Make - A - Promise, the Master Gardener office garden, the Saginaw Township Playscape and Lutheran Seminary.

If all of the above fails to keep Ben busy, he plays golf too – another post retirement hobby!

Those who want to help may call Ben at 793-4238.

Story by Joan Martin



Caird plans trips to nearby garden centers

There's still room for 10 more people to visit **Michigan Hydroponics**, 2282 E. Salzburg Road, on Wednesday, April 30, says Gail Caird, program chairman.

"But you need to sign up because we can only take 25 people at a time. If we get more than that, we'll schedule another trip there," she says.

Members will meet Michigan Hydroponics at 6:20 p.m. to begin the tour of the tomato and lettuce growing areas promptly at 6:30 p.m.

To get to Michigan Hydroponics take Mackinaw Road north, turn right on Salzburg Road and go 1½ miles, the facility is on the right hand side of the road.

The next trip is to **Mill Creek Gardens**, near Mayville, on Sunday, June 8, says Caird, where some 1,600 different varieties of irises are grown, along with hundreds of daylily varieties and hostas.

Members who want to car pool will leave at noon from the K Mart parking lot at Gratiot and Center (look for Caird

in the open parking area the gas station).

She says it takes about an hour and 15 minutes to get to the nursery.

"Mid-May to mid-June is a great time for irises so we're sure to see many in bloom, depending on the weather – and of course they'll be for sale so it should be fun."

Also on tap is a trip Wednesday, June 11, to **Phil Lisik's garden center**, 1445 N. Iva Road, Hemlock, says Caird.

Members will meet at 6 p.m. at the K Mart parking lot, Gratiot and Center (look for Caird in the open parking area near the gas station) and arrive at Lisik's about 6:30 p.m.

"He has a nice hosta display garden," explains Caird for members who haven't been there before.

SVMGA visited there several years



ago. "He also specializes in daylilies and unusual perennials and interesting shrubs plus he has really good prices.

"People can go out there on their own, but you have to call and make an appointment because it's also his home and I think some are shy about doing that. This is a good way to see what he has."

Sign up for any of these trips at the April meeting or call Caird at 793-1942 or e-mail sgcaird@hotmail.com.

Find us on The Web

Beginning this month, The Grapevine is longer be individually e-mailed to members. The monthly newsletter is posted on the Michigan Master Gardener homepage, shortly after the newsletter deadline.

Go to <http://www.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/saginaw/> for a copy.

You need a current copy of Adobe Reader to download it. Directions for updating Adobe Reader are on the homepage above.

Please contact Beth Bedtelyon, editor, at 781-6834, or daysendfarm@chartermi.net if you have problems. The next newsletter deadline is May 12.

Herb symposium May 3 in Frankenmuth

The Herb Society of America, Great Lakes District, sponsors its annual symposium from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 3, at Fischer Hall, 613 S. Main, downtown Frankenmuth.

Entitled "Celebrating the Joys of Herbs and Beyond," it explores landscaping with thyme and other ornamental herbs, beekeeping, aromatherapy, growing lavender, ornamental grasses and herbalist Hildegard von Bingen's spelt cookies and beer.

Liz Klose is the first speaker. She has a bachelor of science degree in honors agriculture from the University of Guelph, and has worked in the horticulture, agriculture, wine and public relations industries.

She will cover landscaping with ornamental herbs in the morning and ornamental grasses in the afternoon. Both talks include slide shows.

Kathleen McComsey will introduce workshop participants to herbalist Bingen while Pat Brady will offer tips for getting started as a beekeeper.

Laurie Ball-Gish, is an artist educator turned farmer, who has created a lavender garden, using more than 50 varieties.

Ball-Gish was recently profiled in "Small Farm Today" and "American Small Farm" magazines.

Colleen Dodt, an herbalist and author of several books on essential oils, discusses "Smelling Is Believing or The Nose Knows." She has appeared on Home Matters for The Discovery Channel and filmed five shows for HGTV.

Cost is \$40 for members or \$50 for non-members, including lunch.

Registration is due Wednesday, April 30.

Make checks payable to the Herb Society of America, Frankenmuth Mid Michigan Unit, and mail to Susan Traubenkraut, 12915 Holland Road, Frankenmuth, MI 48734.

For information, call 652-9540 or e-mail at susantrau@aol.com

Or contact Laurajeane Kehn at 652-3006 or Kehn@speednell.com.

Saginaw Township Playscape planning committee seeks plants donations

The Saginaw Township Playscape planning committee — Amy Fitkin, Debbie Doud and Debbie Keller, who are reworking the flower beds — would appreciate donations of the following:

Alchemilla mollis (Lady's Mantle); *Armeria maritima* (Sea Thrift); *Astilbe*, any pink cultivar; *Echinacea purpurea* "White Swan" (Coneflower, white); *Gailardia x grandiflora* "Goblin,"

"Burgundy," "Baby Cole," and "Dazzler" (Blanket Flower); *Heuchera sanguinea*, any color (Coral bells); *Hosta*, large blue; *Monarda didyma*, any red cultivar (Bee balm); *Perovskia atriplicifolia* (Russian Sage) or any other plants SVMGA members will part with.

Please contact Doud at 797-3931 or debbiedoud@yahoo.com.

Other Calendar of Events

🦋 **Butterflies in Bloom Festival** continues through April 20, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at Dow Gardens, Eastman at West St. Andrews, Midland. Call (989) 631-2677.

🦋 **Spring Garden Expo**, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, April 12-13, Bordine Nursery, 1835 S. Rochester Road at Hamlin, Rochester Hills, and 8600 Dixie Highway, off I-75 exit 93, Clarkston

🦋 **Delta College Flute Performance**, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, April 12, at Dow Gardens, Midland.

🦋 **Paper Easter Hats family craft**, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, April 19-20 at Dow Gardens, Midland.

🦋 **Horticulture Club Spring Show**, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 26, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 27, at MSU Plant and Soil Sciences Building, Bogue and Wilson, East Lansing.

🦋 **Spring Flower tours**, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 30 and May 7, 14, 21 and 28, at Dow Gardens, Midland.

🦋 **Plant Sale**, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 10, at Hidden Lake Gardens on M-50, eight miles west of Tecumseh.

🦋 **Perennial Exchange**, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 17, at Dow Gardens. Barter your plants other perennials.

🦋 **MSU Horticultural Demonstration Gardens Spring Plant Sale**, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, June 7, East Lansing.

🦋 **Hosta Leaf Show** from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, July 19, at the MSU Plant and Soil Sciences Building, Bogue and Wilson, East Lansing.

MSU gardens have membership drive

EAST LANSING — Michigan State University's Horticultural Demonstration Gardens annual membership drive is under way.

The gardens are celebrating their 10-year anniversary this year and will have a variety of events through the growing season.

They include Butterflies in the Garden, now through Sunday, May 11; Take a Deep Breath — Unveiling the Indoor 4-H Children's Garden on Friday, May 2; Your Gardens at MSU on Monday, June 23, during the annual Master Gardener Conference; Growing a Gardener, a \$100 per ticket or \$150 per couple fund-raiser on Thursday, Aug. 7; Garden Day, with key-

note speakers Tracy DiSabato-Aust and Art Cameron, and the Anniversary Celebration Finale with cake, ice cream and the Banana Slug String Band family concert Friday, Aug. 8.

Annual membership is available at four different levels: \$45 petunia membership; \$100 hosta; \$500 Rose; or \$1000 Beech Tree; each with different "perks."

To join, send your name, address, telephone, e-mail address with payment, specifying membership level, with a check, payable to MSU, to MSU Horticultural Demonstration Gardens, B113 Plant and Soil Sciences Building, MSU, East Lansing, MI 48824-1352.

Volunteer opportunities

The following are volunteer opportunities:

A "**Backyard Habitat Caretaker**" is needed by the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge for a one-acre demonstration area on Mower Road.

A Master Gardener or Master Gardener Trainee will teach visitors how to make their backyards more attractive to wildlife. Contact Rebecca Goche, 759-1669.

Arrowwood Elementary School is in need of help in their courtyard garden. Contact: Tom or Carol Rosser, (989) 642-4048.

There is an historical garden restoration project at the **Roethke Homes** at 1805 and 1759 Gratiot. Contact Ruth Sny, 792-5688.

Angela Irwin, Master Gardener coordinator, is seeking someone who could help **create an Excel spreadsheet** for keeping track and tallying volunteer and education hours for Master Gardeners. Call her at 758-2500, ext. 224, or e-mail irwina@msue.msu.edu.

Irwin also is looking for one or two more people to help man a **table for Earth Day** at the Saginaw Children's Zoo, Washington at Ezra Rust. The Earth Day event is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 3. Contact Irwin at 758-2500, ext. 224.

The Midland Conservation District will **package trees** for sale this month. If you can assist, please call Deborah Rogers at the Conservation District Office, (989) 687-9760.

EAST LANSING — Master Gardeners and Master Gardener trainees are sought for the annual **Master Gardener Summer Conference** Monday through Wednesday, June 23-25, at Michigan State University.

Volunteers are needed for brochure and registration mailing, 9 a.m. to noon Monday, April 28; stuffing packets from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, June 12; setting up registration and merchandise areas from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, June 22; and greeting participants June 23 at registration desk

and bus transport area, from 6:45 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the Kellogg Center and 1 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. at the Plant and Soil Science Building.

Also registration from 6:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. June 23 at the Kellogg Center; selling Master Gardener merchandise and garden books in various shifts June 23-34; assisting speaker/presenter during classes June 23-25; assisting during book signing June 23, time to be announced; meal door monitor during lunch and dinner June 23-25; and serving as back-up volunteer for last-minute issues for one day, June 23, 24 or 25.

Ellen Fritz, an Ingham County Master Gardener and team captain of the volunteer committee, also is seeking arts and crafts people to create professional looking banners and flowerpots for class signs and evaluations.

Volunteers who work during conference times must attend a training session, date and time to be determined later. Volunteers must work at their designated time and place.

To volunteer, e-mail your name, county, date of certification or recertification and daytime phone by Tuesday, April 15, to Fritz at efritz@peoplepc.com.

Seven to 10 volunteers are still needed for **Making It Safe to Play**, a one-time beautification and spring clean up Thursday, May 8, at park and playground sites in Saginaw County.

Master Gardeners serve as supervisors for teams of high school students who have volunteered for the event. MGs may do as much or as little physical work as they want, says member Gail Caird,

"We'll meet around 8:30 a.m. and be done around 1 p.m. although we'll probably only be on site from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Part of that time will be taken up with building teams and getting teens to the site."

To volunteer sign up at the April meeting or contact Chris Gabriel, United Way at 755-0505, or Alina Doud, Saginaw Community Foundation at 755-0545.

Regarding the **Plant A Row project** mentioned in last month's newsletter, Jan

O'Dell offers the following information from project chairman Jim Stoppleworth to clear up questions she received.

Like any of the projects listed here, time spent with the Plant A Row project counts toward volunteer (choice) hours.

1. All the produce goes to Hidden Harvest, which distributes it among 35 non-profit agencies in Saginaw, Bay and Midland counties.

2. Last year, Plant-A-Row gardeners in the Saginaw area raised 23,000 pounds of fresh produce that Hidden Harvest distributed. They hope to top that this year, especially in these tougher economic times.

3. If enough Master Gardeners participate, Hidden Harvest can pick up the produce at one or more central locations so Master Gardeners don't have to deliver them to Hidden Harvest on Hayden Street (although they are certainly welcome to do so).

4. All vegetables and culinary herbs are appreciated, even zucchinis. Especially preferred are paste tomatoes, lettuce and greens, cabbages, sweet corn, cucumbers and other common vegetables. There also is a special request from Hidden Harvest for pumpkins this year (a week or two before Halloween).

Thanks for helping us! says Jim Stoppleworth. For brochures, or questions, contact stoppy@chartermi.net.

The **Japanese Tea House** needs trees trimmed and pruned. Please contact Yoko Mossner, 793-5210.

Help prepare the **Saginaw County Commission on Aging** senior garden bed for spring planting.

Duties include dividing perennials, cutting back plants, turning over and amending existing beds at 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 29, at 2355 Schust. Bring your own tools; refreshments provided. Contact Judy Porter at 797-6875 (w) or 799-9962 (h). Rain date is April 30. You may come earlier if you wish.

Help out at the Saginaw Art Museum **Garden Walk** June 18. Sign up at April/May meetings or contact Elaine Rappley at 781-0570 or rappleyjunk@aol.com.

Beware the Emerald Ash Borer, the new exotic beetle moves in

A new exotic beetle from Asia was discovered feeding on ash (*Fraxinus* sp.) trees in southeastern Michigan. It was identified in July 2002 as *Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire (Coleopter: Buprestidae).



Larvae feed in the phloem and outer sapwood, producing galleries that eventually girdle and gill

branches of entire trees. Evidence suggests that *A. planipennis* has been established in Michigan for at least five years. Surveys to determine the extent of the infested area are underway, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service.

Adults are large and a brighter green than any of the native North American species of *Agrilus*. The slender, elongate adults are 5 to 13.5 mm long, and females are larger than males. The adult body is brassy or golden green overall with darker, metallic emerald green wing covers. The top of the abdomen, under the wing covers, is a metallic coppery red and is seen only when the wings are spread).

The prothorax, to which the first pair of legs is attached, is slightly wider than the head, but the same width as the base of the wing covers. The back edges of the covering on the prothorax are sinuate or wavy and the top is sculptured with tiny, transverse wavy ridges. The surfaces of the wing covers are granularly roughened. The tips of the wing covers are rounded with small teeth along the edge.

Larvae reach a length of 10 to 14 mm, are cream-colored and dorso-ventrally flattened. The brown head is mostly retracted into the prothorax and only the mouthparts are visible externally. The 10-segmented abdomen has a pair of brown, pincer-like appendages on the last segment.

The Emerald Ash Borer appears to have a one-year life cycle in southern Michigan, but could require two years to complete a generation in colder regions. Adult emergence begins in mid to late May, peaks in early to mid June, and continues into late June.

The adults are active during the day, particularly when conditions are sunny and warm. Most beetles remain in protected locations in bark crevices or on foliage during rain, heavy cloud cover, high winds or temperatures above 32 degrees.

Chinese literature indicates beetles usually fly within two meters of the ground. The likelihood of long distance flights is not known. Adults, which may be present into July, feed on up to 0.45 cm of foliage a day, leaving irregularly shaped patches of leaf tissue with jagged edges.

Information from China indicates male adults live an average of 13 days while females live 21 to 22 days. Females can mate multiple times and oviposition begins 7 to 9 days after the initial mating. Females lay to 65 to 90 eggs during their lifetime. Eggs are deposited individually on the bark surface or in bark crevices on the trunk or branches. In southeastern Michigan, the oviposition period likely extends into mid to late July.

Eggs hatch in seven to 10 days. After hatching, first instar larvae chew through the bark and into the cambial region. Larvae feed on phloem and the outer sapwood for several weeks.

The S-shaped feed gallery winds back and forth becoming progressively wider as the larva grows. Galleries are packed with fine frass. Individual galleries usually extend over an area that is 20 to 30 cm in length, though the length of the affected area can range from 10 to 50 cm. In some areas, woodpeckers feed heavily on larvae.

The insect overwinters as a full-grown larva in a shallow chamber excavated in the sapwood. Pupation begins in late April or early May. Newly eclosed adults may remain in the pupal chamber for 1 to 2 weeks before emerging head first through a D-shaped exit hole that is 3 to 4mm in diameter.



In Michigan the emerald ash borer has been observed only in ash trees. It has killed green ash (*F. pennsylvanica*), white ash (*F. americana*) and black ash (*F. nigra*) as well as several horticultural varieties of ash.

Infestations of emerald ash borers can be difficult to detect until a canopy of dieback begins. Evidence of infestation includes D-shaped exit holes on branches and the trunk. Callus tissue produced by the tree in response to larval feeding may cause vertical splits 5 to 10 cm long to

occur in the bark above the gallery.

Distinct frass-filled larval tunnels etch the outer sapwood and phloem of the trunk and branches. An elliptical area of discolored sapwood, likely a result of secondary infection by fungal pathogens, sometimes surround larval feeding galleries in live trees.

Infested branches in the canopy die when the serpentine tunnels excavated by feeding larvae girdle them. Many trees appear to lose about 30 to 50 percent of the canopy in one year and the tree is often killed after two to three years of infestation.

Frequently, a profusion of epicormic shoots arises at the margin of live and dead tissue on the trunk. When trees die, dense root sprouting occurs.

Emerald ash borer killed trees of various sizes and condition in Michigan. Larvae successfully developed on trees as small as 5 cm in diameter, but pole-sized and saw timber-sized trees also were killed.

Stress likely contributes to vulnerability of ash trees and recent summer droughts may have contributed to high emerald ash borer populations in southeastern Michigan.

However, emerald ash borer attacked and killed apparently vigorous trees in woodlots and urban trees under regular irrigation and fertilization regimes.

Deborah G. McCullough, MSU entomology and forestry assistant professor, and David L. Roberts, MSU Extension specialist and district horticulture agent

Volunteers are needed to hand out questionnaires at the Farmer's Market booth at the **Hidden Harvest** annual spring event Monday, April 14.

Master Gardeners work one- to two-hour shifts, from 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Horizons Conference Center, State Street and earn volunteer hours.

The questionnaire seeks input from residents in what they would like from the **Farmer's Market**. Contact Aileen Cowan at 865-8784 or scratchcreations@worldnet.att.net