

# The Grapevine

NEWSLETTER OF THE SAGINAW VALLEY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2009

## SVMGA INFORMATION

### Officers for 2009

President	Mary Andrews	797-3319
Vice President	Gloria Schuler	892-7679
Secretary	Katie Andrews	482-1612
Treasurer	Crystal Kauer	792-6874
Program Director	Bonnie Dutcher	777-1209
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#### Master Gardener Coordinator

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MSU is an affirmative-action, equal opportunity institution.

## Next Board Meeting

6 p.m. Tuesday, May 5th  
MSU Extension Office

## Next Meeting

7 p.m.--9 p.m. Wednesday, April 22nd  
Andersen Enrichment Ezra Rust & Fordney  
7 pm— 7:40 pm SVMGA meeting  
7:40 pm— 8 pm Refreshments  
8 pm- 9 pm Guest Speaker (See story, this page)

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## “Blossom Springs” - A Natural Growing System

This product promises not only more blooms, but more colorful blooms -- along with longer plant life and resistance to disease and pests.

In addition, it is easy to use, can reduce labor and energy costs and offer greater seasonal flexibility for large-scale growers.



Dr. Joseph A. Affholter, chief executive officer of Gantec Advance LLC –Guest Speaker, April

And it is all natural, using bionutrients developed from exotic plants that thrive in the harshest of conditions in Africa. The product is safe to use in private homes and gardens, as well as large nurseries and greenhouses.

Members of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association can learn all about Blossom Springs this month when Dr. Joseph A. Affholter, chief executive officer of Gantec Advance, LLC, which developed this innovative approach to improving plant health, speaks at the regular meeting.

The idea came out of a process to see what some “socially conscious” people from the Saginaw Valley and other parts of the United States could do to create economic opportunities in Third World countries.

The project took them to Tonga in the South Pacific, Indonesia, Nepal and finally Africa. There, they finally found the answer in the seemingly barren Saharan Desert where huge – and healthy – neem trees grow despite the extreme climate.

When one of the investigators, a horticulturist from North Carolina, realized it is the same tree that produces the neem oil he used

in his nursery, the team moved from idea to research and grant applications to see what they could develop.

Today, more than 120 Africans, most of whom don't read or write, spread across several villages, have been trained to harvest seeds from the neem trees.

“The seeds are only good for about 30 days,” explained Dr. Lanny A. Robbins, Gantec's chief technology officer and former Dow Chemical research fellow.

“They grow in the fruit, which is like an olive, that turns yellow when it is ripe. Usually birds and bats eat the fruit and deposit the seeds on the ground.”

While the Africans use neem leaves in tea as a pharmaceutical to treat prevent and treat malaria, no one had considered the seeds as having any value. The local people were amazed anyone would want them.

But with the work done by Robbins and Affholter, Blossom Springs was born, using molecules taken from these seeds and other plants.



Kathy Frost, public relations, and Dr. Lanny A. Robbins, chief technology officer of Gantec Advance LLC

Now, growers have new ways to increase plant growth and profitability, while decreasing the environmental impact with less need for pesticides, fungicides and fertilizers.

“Conventional growers don't know what a ‘healthy’ plant looks like,” says Richard A. Olson,

See Blossom Springs continued, page 6

## Minutes of March 25th, 2009 meeting

Mary K. Andrews welcomed 71 members to the Anderson Enrichment Center.

Andrews announced one educational credit would be allowed for attending this meeting; thus the reason written attendance was taken of the members present. Andrews indicate after the discussions of Association business, project managers for grant approved Master Gardener Volunteer Opportunities will briefly discuss their special projects.

Elaine Rappely moved that the minutes of the February 2009 meeting be approved as amended; Aileen Cowan seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Crystal Kauer read the treasurer's report. Kauer indicated the association has 138 paid members.

Andrews informed members, volunteers are needed Saturday, April 18 at the YMCA to help teach youths about planting seeds. Contact person for this volunteer opportunity is Mindy who can be reached at 753-7721.

Andrews discussed a request from the Au Gres Garden Club for a speaker to discuss Herb Gardening; the contact person for this volunteer opportunity is Marsha at 876-8750. Jim Benjamin volunteered, indicating he and his mom are herb gardeners and actively operate their own herb selling business.

Andrews indicated she has available hard copies of the Master Gardener Volunteer Opportunities for Saginaw County 2009 – 2010 that Nancy Burd recently sent out via e-mail.

Andrews called forward in-turn, Volunteer Managers/Coordinators to discuss or present information related to the project each oversees.

Grey Gitzen presented pins of recognition for volunteer hours served; the categories presented were as follows: 250, 500, 1000, 3000 and 6000 plus. Gitzen then requested members inform him if their re-certification cards are not on the table in the backroom; Gitzen will make sure you receive your card. Next Gitzen discussed the need for members to promote the Master Gardener Class; Gitzen had present brochures detailing the class, indicating the next class is scheduled to begin August 10 at a cost of \$250 per individual.

Jim Benjamin discussed the need for a new coordinator to oversee the volunteer manning of the MG table at the Downtown Saginaw Farmers Market each Friday during the Market's operating season. Benjamin indicated the table is manned on Fridays in two time shifts, 9 am-12 pm; 12 pm- 3 pm. Volunteers are needed to man the project and to oversee the coordinating of these volunteers. Benjamin announced Nancy Burd has called an April 14 meeting at the MSUE office, conference room 1, second floor, from 10 - 11:30 am.

Shelly Whitehead asked for volunteers to be willing to help work with Valley Lutheran High School students in putting in-place 'Lasagna Gardening System' in the Rain Garden behind the Saginaw Art Museum. Whitehead explained this gardening technique utilizes the layering of non-glossy newspaper, peat moss and mulch to act as weed suppressers, a method discussed in Patricia Lanza's books. Volun-

teers will be needed sometime in mid-May. Whitehead indicate a sign-up sheet was in the backroom.

Phyllis Shlien stressed the need for volunteers to man the Hot Line at the MSUE office, indicating the computers have been updated with lots of information, making the job of answering questions easier. Shlien is looking for volunteers to give at least 4 hours per month.

Sherry Burkhart discussed the three gardens at the Saginaw Valley County Rail Trail in St. Charles and the volunteer work that will be taking place at each location. May 8 volunteers are needed to help layering mulch and newspaper at the Eye Park site, which runs from Swan Creek Road to Benkert Road. May 7 labeling of perennials will take place at the Van Warmer Road site and the Water street site. Burkhart indicated sometime after Memorial Day she will be looking for a volunteer to help design and purchase annuals to plant around the main signage; which would entail maintaining the bed for 2-3 weeks.

Joe Leach, new Horticulture Chairperson for Celebration Square's Saginaw Children's Zoo informed association members of the Zoo's efforts to become accredited by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association. Leach indicated April 11 Zoo flowerbed clean up starts; throughout this season volunteers will be needed every other Saturday morning to perform as worker bees or to educate worker bees. Leach gave out the Zoo's new website as [www.saginawzoo.com](http://www.saginawzoo.com).

Gloria Schuler, site coordinator for the I-75 northbound rest area, indicated the beds we maintain would be featured in the May edition of the Tri County Monthly magazine. Schuler also announced the rest area has been dedicated the Larry Tibbets Rest Area, in honor of Larry Tibbets who is retiring. Tibbets worked tirelessly as the MDOT personnel who coordinated MDOT and Master Gardeners working together to maintain the beds at various Michigan rest areas. Schuler indicated volunteers are needed from 8:30 am to completion on these days for the following volunteer opportunities at the rest area: April 18, clean-up, May 2, Shrubs and perennial planting and last May 23, planting annuals. Volunteers need to bring their own tools.

Schuler indicated the Project Leader position to coordinate Master Gardener mentors is still in need of a volunteer. Waunita Pettiford is stepping down after manning the position for five years. The responsibilities of this position would be to take charge of coordinating volunteers to inform/mentor new MG trainees regarding the volunteer opportunities available for earning their volunteer and education credits toward becoming certified Master Gardeners.

Julie Trinklein briefly discussed the need for volunteers Wednesday, April 22 to talk about gardening approximately fifty students at Carrolton Public School.

Sheila Hempsted requested volunteers sign-up to work with children, teaching them gardening basics as they learn to by working in assorted gardens. Saturday, May 30 beginning at 10 a.m. the youths

would be taught these practices: mulching, creating paths, moving perennials, weeding, deadheading and watering. Hempsted also discussed the upcoming Students Spring into Service date, where volunteers would work with about 200 high school students. Next Hempsted discussed the Thursday, May 14, Make a Difference Day where youth volunteers work from 8:30 to noon helping to fix-up the gardens and homes of senior citizens. Sign-up sheets are available in the back room.

Laura Keeven indicated the need for volunteers to work with 400 students during St. Charles' Beautification Day, Friday, May 22; work would focus mostly on on-going projects; except for the work at the new school.

Karen Tilden announced that Tuesday, April 29, 9 a.m. is clean up day at the MSU Demonstration Garden at the MSUE office. A sign-up sheet is available in the backroom.

Holly Furlo asked for volunteers to help plan, design, renovate and maintain beds at the Saginaw Cultural Center & Tea House. Planning meetings will take place in April; volunteers would work 6-8 p.m. each Tuesday once work begins.

Ruth Sny discussed two volunteer opportunities The Dow Event Center, where volunteers would work on planting the large planters and atrium gardens. The Common Grounds Gardens, another volunteer opportunity takes place Saturday, May 16 behind Center Courts. This project is a "Seed Folks" project promoting community gardens.

Susan Lawcock is looking for volunteers to assist anytime with clean up and maintaining of the gardens located at the Historical Society in Bridgeport.

Mary Andrews requested volunteers on behalf of Susan Scott for the Let's Go Gardening Days at Abele's; which takes place five Saturdays during the month of May. Volunteers to work in four hour shifts answering gardening questions for Abele's customers; they also may assist in plant selection.

Robert Schust asked for volunteers to help Saturday, April 18, 9:a.m. in opening the rose beds at the Andersen Enrichment Center. Volunteers should bring their own tools.

Gloria Schuler informed members of the Cow Pots availability; indicating we would be selling them at the Garden Day event being held at the Horizon Conference Center, Sat., April 4.

Thanks to the following people for donating raffle items: Tom Leinberger - tee shirt, Grey Gitzen - bug light and Gloria Schuler the green flower pot and two white flower pots.

Congratulations to the following respective winners: Karen Tilden, Xenny Johnson, Mary Weaver, David Quinnan and Bill Johnson.

*Respectfully submitted by Melva Bond, acting secretary for Katie Andrews*

## Letter from our President

Well Great Congratulations to our own Michigan State Spartans for getting to the Championship game of NCAA this year. Not only was it good to get excited about something other than politics or finances, the time they spent in "MoTown" was a great way to showcase a little bit of our State. Go GREEN, Go WHITE. Better luck next year!



As I type this letter it is still snowing out, although the daffodils and tulips are standing tall against the cold...I don't honestly know how much more of this we can take. It seems like a lifetime ago since we had more than two consecutive days of sunshine or no precipitation. In working in a garden bed, not saturated with water, it felt nice to feel the cool earth between my hands and plant those very hardy Pansy. Their faces were so happy and bright.

For those of you whom missed our membership meeting in March, a recap of the volunteer projects was discussed. We all should be very proud of the amount of time and the presence that we have in our community: from keeping out the weeds at the Art Museum, I-75 rest stop, Children's Zoo and Rail trail to taking on new projects. The focus this year, with our new calendar in Grape Vine, is better communication. Getting PLENTY of volunteers to join in at these projects is

### Saginaw Valley Hosta Society Announces Meeting Schedule

- \*May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Garden Tour and Pot Luck at Phil & Ginger Lizik's
- \*June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Plant Sale,  
Andersen Enrichment Center, 11:00 – 4:00
- \*June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Plant Sale, Saginaw Farmers Market
- \*June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009  
Garden Tour, Plant Sale, Auction and Hot Dog Roast  
at the home of Jim & Ellie Vrables
- \*June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Michigan Hosta Society  
Leaf Show and Plant Sale at Michigan State
- \*July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
Wine & Dessert Party, Garden Tour and sale of any leftover plants
- \*Aug. 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Hidden Lake Gardens Work Day

For information, please contact Elaine Rappley at 781-0570 or email at [rappleyjunk@aol.com](mailto:rappleyjunk@aol.com)

critical to their success. Please mark the Projects you continue to work on or, perhaps join in on a new one!

Find a new source of inspiration and get your creative juices flowing.

Some minor changes will take form in our name badges this year. Michigan State University is looking to get more out of their logo. This will be a great way for us to represent to the communities our Mission as Master Gardeners and showcase our campus.

I leave you to look forward to warmer days and nights, with soil ready to receive the root stock of the ideas we had during this long winter. I will you strong muscles to take on all that we as individuals and a group have to accomplish.

Kindest Regards,

*Mary Kathryn*

### Fred Case Garden Will Be Open

The gardens at Fred Case's will be open Sunday May 10<sup>th</sup> from 11 am– 4 pm.

Mr. Case thinks the 10<sup>th</sup> will be the best day because everything is running late this year, but reminds us that only Mother Nature knows for sure when she will dazzle us with her best display.

For information, please contact Elaine Rappley at 781-0570 or email at [rappleyjunk@aol.com](mailto:rappleyjunk@aol.com)



## Educational Opportunities

### Spring Into Gardening

Mt. Pleasant

April 25th

The Mt. Pleasant "Spring Into Gardening" Conference is set for Saturday, April 25, 2009.

**We are moving to the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort.**

This conference is for anyone that loves to garden, whether you are just starting to garden or have done it for many years. You don't have to be a Master Gardener. You can be a friend, neighbor, relative or co-worker of a Master Gardener. We extend a warm welcome to all gardeners big and small, young and old. You just need to love gardening.

Speakers Include:

- Keynote Speaker, Pat Lanza, author of *Lasagna Gardening*.
- David Wood, "New Flowering Shrubs,"
- Tom Kimmel, "Groundcovers for the Midwest," and
- Patricia Pennell, "Rain Gardens and Drought-Tolerant Plants."

Registration brochures will be distributed in January, 2009. For more information, please feel free to contact me by email at [b.laughlin@cmich.edu](mailto:b.laughlin@cmich.edu) or call the MSU Extension Office at (989)772-0911, ext. 302.

Belinda Laughlin

Master Gardener Coordinator—Isabella County

### SVMGA Awards Three

### Additional Projects Monies

At the April Board meeting, three additional projects were approved for the 2009 year. This brings the total to fourteen projects approved thus far. For the year 2009, \$3000 has been budgeted to fund SVMGA projects.

Carrollton School Elementary Learning Garden \$200  
Julie Trinklein, Chair

Saginaw Tea House & Garden \$200  
Holly Furlo, Chair

YMCA Circle Garden \$ 75  
Bill and Judy Wagner & Dalrene Damp

### A Garden Affair-

### How Green Is Your Garden?

West Branch

April 21

Hold this date for an exciting all day seminar with three great speakers and garden related vendors.

Speakers Include:

•Janet Macunovich•Ben Franklin•Deb Hall  
Presentation topics include: •*Beginning Green*,•*Xeriscaping*,•*Returning to the Root of Gardening and* •*Basic Organic Gardening*.

This event is being held from 8 am-4 pm at Forwards Conference Center next to the Tanger Outlet Mall in West Branch.

Fee includes: Attendance at all sessions, refreshments and lunch (includes vegetarian selections).

**MGs receive 4.5 education credit hours**

**Fees:** Before Apr 1- \$45; After April 1-\$55

This seminar is open to the public. For more details and registration information, contact the MSU Extension office at 989-345-0692. *This event will fill fast, so respond early to be assured of a seat!*

### Dow Gardens

Midland

August 21st

### Integrated Pest Management

Please join us Thursday, August 21 for a walk & talk program at the Dow Gardens.

We will begin the evening with pizza, pop, and networking at 5:30.

Dinner will be followed by a walk through guided by our experts, Dr. Dave Smitley, Entomologist; Dr. Dave Roberts, Pathologist; and Dr. Dave Sutton, Arborist.

We will focus on insect, disease, and abiotic problems with an emphasis on identification and integrated pest management.

We will conclude the evening with a panel discuss with our three guests moderated by Dow Gardens staff.

Don't miss this great opportunity to discuss specific topics with your peers, garden staff, and research experts.

Cost with dinner \$15, cost without \$10.

Please call the Dow Gardens at 1-800-362-4874 or 631-2677 to register.

### Garden Day at Grice's Tree Farm

We have a Free Garden Day at Grice's Tree Farm on M24 south of Caro. It is on April 18 from 10 - 3 We will have several areas (10) set up for demonstrations, viewing, even a book and magazine swap. We are building a pond that day at Grices. Should be fun.

For more information or details, please email Becky Mohr at [rebeccamohr@yahoo.com](mailto:rebeccamohr@yahoo.com)

**Nature has no mercy at all. Nature says, "I'm going to snow. If you have on a bikini and no snowshoes, that's tough. I am going to snow anyway."**

*--Maya Angelou*

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Saginaw Township "Seed Folks" Gardens

The ground-breaking for Seed Folks Common Ground Gardens will take place on Saturday, May 16th, with a tentative time set from 10 am-2 pm.

Ruth Snyder has been asked to provide SVMGA volunteers to man an information table about both the Seed Folk project and Master Gardener Association.

Snyder also says there is a need for a few more volunteers signing up for a garden plot. This is a wonderful chance to get volunteer hours and educate the public!

For information/questions, contact Ruth Snyder at 928-7315 or email [ruthsny@charter.net](mailto:ruthsny@charter.net)

### Dow Atrium Gardens

Volunteers are needed for planting and maintaining the large container gardens at Dow Event Center. Contact Ruth Snyder, 928-7315 or email [ruthsny@charter.net](mailto:ruthsny@charter.net)

### Let's Go Gardening Days at Abele's Greenhouse

MASTER GARDENERS! Remember when we had a program called "Let's Go Gardening" and we would be available to answer questions for shoppers at Meijer's? Well, last year we did this service for Abele's Greenhouse. Compensation was received for the hours worked and this money went to the Master Gardener Program of Saginaw County.

We spend time in Abele's perennial area and let people know we are MG's and there to help with questions they may have about plants, where to use them, etc.

This year we will May on the 2,9,16,23 and 30th we will be doing it again. I need volunteers to work in 4 hour shifts on those days.

If you have questions, or want to volunteer, you can contact Susan Scott at 791-9270 or email me at [SuHunSco@aol.com](mailto:SuHunSco@aol.com)

### Spring Into Service Day

Set for Thursday, May 14, this year's project is planting and cleaning up homes owned by elderly who need a little help getting thing in shape.

The annual countywide "Make a Difference" project is spearheaded by United Way and combines the talents of master gardeners, community volunteers and 100-150 high school students in a half-day project of beautifying the environment.

As it is shaping up now, four or five master gardeners are needed this year, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. that day.

To volunteer, call Janet Martineau at 751-3868 (cell) or e-mail her at [janetmartineau@yahoo.com](mailto:janetmartineau@yahoo.com)

### Ring Garden Seeks Volunteers

A new project we are starting in the Ring Garden is "Lasagna Gardening". This is a layering system developed and popularized by Patricia Lanza. It promises us NO DIGGING, NO TILLING, NO WEEDING! Sounds like just what we need for the Ring Garden. We will start with a couple of the larger beds, maybe more if supplies and energy holds out.

We have received a \$200 grant from the Master Gardener group for supplies towards our "Lasagna" gardening project in the Ring Garden. We hope to be one of the Valley Lutheran High School spring community service projects again this year. Starting the installation of the "Lasagna" layers will be their project this year.

Our group weed sessions will be on Saturday mornings 9ish to noon. As always you are welcome to work in the Ring Garden any other time that works for you.

Till... we meet again in the Ring Garden  
Shelley Whitehead  
892-0719

### Heritage Square Sale— May 16th

Annual plant sale will be held on Saturday, **May 16th. Note date change!** This sale will benefit the Otto Roeser Park.

Leisa Livingston, project coordinator, says, "Plants in pots are always welcome! We seem to acquire plenty of Lily of the Valley and Tiger daylilies; if you can share plants of other varieties, I'm sure they will sell quickly!"

Also needed are: Plastic Pot Containers, Plants (Indoor and Outdoor), Baked goods and tables for the day of the sale.

If you wish to drop off plastic containers, just leave them at any time on Leisa's front porch at 1020 Van Buren before May 15th.

If you have any questions or would like to help in any way, please call Leisa Livingston at 529-4502.

### Hosta Society Needs Pots

The Hosta Society is looking to obtain 5" square plastic flower pots for the 2009 Saginaw Valley Hosta Society's Hosta and Fern sales. The plants will be shipped sometime this month and need to be repotted them into larger pots.

If you have extra 5" square pots that are at least 5" deep or longer in depth please get them to Melva Bond, 777-4092 or email [bigcliff1@msn.com](mailto:bigcliff1@msn.com) or Ruth Snyder, 928-7315 or email [ruthsny@charter.net](mailto:ruthsny@charter.net)

### Saginaw Flower Project

City Councilwoman Amanda Kitterman is helping sponsor the "Saginaw Flower Project 2009". On May 17th, there will be a day of planting flowers all over Saginaw. If you are interested in helping, call Amanda at 497-9949 or email [saginawflowerprject@hisministryofsaginaw.com](mailto:saginawflowerprject@hisministryofsaginaw.com)

## A Trip Through Shiawassee Flats

I saw that they were offering a guided trip through the Shiawassee Flats. Touring the Flats was something I had always wanted to do and did not want to put it off again.

Since we are not members of OLLI, it cost a little more; but it was just so worth it!!! Well the trip was much more than I had expected. The wildlife, the trees were just great; but the best part of the Flats for me was the Water!! Our guide said the water was unusually high right then, and we could go places that could not be accessed with normal or low amounts. We took the afternoon trip and as the sun got low, I took some of the most beautiful pictures I've ever taken.

I was reminded again at our September Meeting what a wonderful treasure we have right here in Mid Michigan. Heidi Frei from the National Conservancy gave a presentation explaining the uniqueness and importance of the Water Basin System.

Most of the residents of the Saginaw Valley don't realize what a distinctive and special water system we have, right here.

Our tour guide on our four hour trip was just plain awesome. His enthusiasm and knowledge was inspiring. Just about a year ago, my husband and I took an amazing trip through the Shiawassee Flats. I had been reading the list of classes from SVSU's, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute - OLLI. I'm sorry I didn't write this article sooner. The tours have probably started already this year. They only had one listed last year but I think they ended up with at least four. (You can call the following number to check on tour availability. )

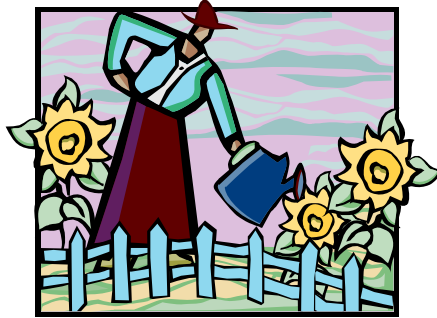
The tours are by Johnny Panther Quest Adventure Tours, [www.jpqat.com](http://www.jpqat.com)  
Phone: 810-653-3859. You can check the website for additional tours of Michigan waters.

In addition, I had no idea until I called to book the trip; our Captain is the son of Will Hufton, one of our esteemed SV Master Gardener Members!!

If you have questions, want to see some pictures my email is [ktrizah@hotmail.com](mailto:ktrizah@hotmail.com)

If you get a chance to go, dress really, really, really warm and enjoy!

Contributed by Kathy Berger  
SVMGA Member



### Certifications for Master Gardener for Saginaw County 2009-2009

#### Advanced Master Gardener

Dr. James Benjamin  
Robyn Lynn Bierlein  
Miss. Amy Michelle Cataline

#### Recertified Master Gardener

Dr. James Benjamin  
Mr. John Grey Gitzen  
Ms. Crystal M. Kauer  
Mrs Barbara Jo Milwrick  
Ms. Susan Marie Stemler

### Blossom Springs continued

Gantec president.

"They are so chemically dependent for their success, but we have been able to show them that this product, which is incredibly potent, works. Their plants grow quicker and last longer."

Gantec officials hope to have some of the product for sale at the meeting, depending on whether they obtain a sales tax license by the April 22 meeting.

If not, both the liquid and granular forms may be ordered on-line at [blossomsprings.com](http://blossomsprings.com). The website also details more about the natural growing system and the company.

Story by Darlene B. Damp  
SVMGA Volunteer

### Contact Information for Project Workdays & Meetings

I-75 Rest Area: Gloria Schuler  
Day Ph: 797-0100  
[globobarama@yahoo.com](mailto:globobarama@yahoo.com)

#### Let's Go Gardening at Abele's:

Susan Scott  
Ph: 791-9270  
[SuHunSco@aol.com](mailto:SuHunSco@aol.com)

#### Saginaw Flower Project

Amanda Kitterman  
497-9949  
[saginawflowerproject@hisministryofsaginaw.com](mailto:saginawflowerproject@hisministryofsaginaw.com)

#### Saginaw Art Museum Ring Garden

Shelley Whitehead  
Ph: 989-892-0719  
[yisthereair@aol.com](mailto:yisthereair@aol.com)

#### Spring Into Service Day

Janet Martineau  
751-3868  
[jmartineau@thesaginawnews.com](mailto:jmartineau@thesaginawnews.com)

#### Saginaw Rail Trail

Sherry Burkhart  
799-7629  
[sherrlb@hotmail.com](mailto:sherrlb@hotmail.com)

#### Seed Folks Common Ground Gardens

Ruth Sny  
928-7315  
[ruthsny@charter.net](mailto:ruthsny@charter.net)



# May 2009



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 ●8:30 am I-75 Compost perennial plantings Info pg 6  ●Let's Go Gardening Abele's Greenhouse Info page 5
3	4	5  ●6 pm SVMGA Board MSU Extension Office	6	7 ●Rail Trail Perennial Label See Rail Trail at left	8 ●Rail Trail Eye Park Mulch See Rail Trail at left	9 ●Let's Go Gardening Abele's Greenhouse Info pg 5
10 ●11 am-4 pm Fred Case Garden Info pg 3  ●5 pm Newsletter Deadline	11	12	13	14 ●Spring Into Service Day 8 am-12:30 pm Info pg 5	15	16 ●Let's Go Gardening Abele's Greenhouse Info pg 5 ●Heritage Neighborhood Assn Plant Sale pg 5 ●Seed Folks Ground-Breaking Info pg 5
17 ●Saginaw Flower Project Info on pg 6	18	19	20	21	22 ●St. Charles Beautification Day See St. Charles at left	23 ●7:30 am I-75 Annual planting Pizza lunch Info pg 5  ●9 am- 12 pm Art Museum CleanUp Info pg 5 ●Let's Go Gardening Abele's Greenhouse Info pg 5
24	25	26	27  ●7 pm SVMGA Meet Anderson Enrichment	28	29	30 ●Let's Go Gardening Abele's Greenhouse Info pg 5

## SVMGA Members:

If you wish to have project, education or meeting info inserted in next month's calendar, email your scheduled meeting and work dates.

Please include your name, phone number and email address. I will try to get all of your dates on each coming month's calendar. Because of the timeline for printing and mailing of the newsletter, I will be printing the NEXT month's calendar in each newsletter.

**Deadline for May newsletter (June calendar) is Sun., May 10th—5:00 pm**

# Fare To Make Deer Dine Elsewhere

This list first went out to Janet Macunovich's readers in the book "Growing Concerns 1996", which has been updated and reissued as *Clipping a Crabapple*. It's one of six books on Janet's complete library CD *Asking About As-ters*.

Many deer country gardeners contributed to this list, all of whom know the truth of the term "rarely". Nothing is ever completely safe from deer. They will eat almost anything when they are very hungry. Also, even if a new plant fails to make a deer's list of favorites, it may be severely damaged just from the herd's taste-testing. What deer don't eat the often lie on, thrash while scraping their antlers, or trample. The best defense is applied in botanical gardens and arboreta, where fences exclude deer.

## Shrubs Rarely Eaten by Deer

Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)  
 Bayberry (*Myrica odorata*)  
 Blue mist spirea (*Caryopteris x clandonensis*)  
 Bottle brush buckeye (*Aesculus parviflora*) \*  
 Boxwood (*Buxus* spp.) \*#  
 Daphne (*Daphne mezereum*)\*  
 Grapeholly (*Mahonia aquifolium*)\*@  
 Holly (*Ilex* spp.)\*#  
 Japanese Andromeda (*Pieris japonica*)\*  
 Juniper (*Juniperus* spp.)#  
 Quince (*Chaenomeles speciosa*)#  
 Rose-of-Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*)#  
 Snowball hydrangea (*H. arborescens*)\*#  
 Spirea (*Spiraea* spp.)  
 Summersweet (*Clethra alnifolia*)  
 Viburnum (*Viburnum* spp.)\*#  
 Witch-hazel (*Hamamelis* spp.)\*@



## Trees Rarely Eaten by Deer

Beech (*Fagus* spp.)\*  
 Black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)  
 Blue spruce (*Picea pungens*)  
 Callery pear (*Pyrus calleryana*)  
 Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)  
 Fir (*Abies* spp.)  
 Japanese white birch (*Betula platyphylla*)  
 Linden (*Tilia* spp.)  
 Magnolia (*Magnolia* spp.)\*  
 Norway spruce (*Picea abies*)  
 Red pine (*Pinus resinosa*)  
 Redbud (*Cercis Canadensis*)\*  
 Serviceberry (*Amelanchier* spp.)\*  
 Smoke tree (*Cotinus* spp.)

No notation—full sun is best  
 \*-best in 4-6 hours sun  
 @-OK in less than 4 hours sun  
 #-many report "not eaten", but I have seen damage

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 Janet Macunovich

## SVMGA 2009 PROGRAMS

4/22	"Blossom Springs" - Natural Growing Systems Dr. Joseph A. Affholter, CEO of Gantec Advance LLC Anderson Enrichment Center, Saginaw	7:00 pm
5/27	Garden Tour and Plant Exchange Home of Mary Andrews	7:00 pm
6/24	Garden Tour—To be determined	7:00 pm
7/22	Picnic and Tour Bridgeport Historical Museum	TBD
8/26	To be determined Anderson Enrichment Center, Saginaw	7:00 pm
9/23	To be determined Anderson Enrichment Center, Saginaw	7:00 pm
10/3	An Autumn Affair for Gardeners-SVMGA Seminar Swan Valley Conference Center	
10/28	To be determined Anderson Enrichment Center, Saginaw	7:00 pm
11/18	To be determined Anderson Enrichment Center, Saginaw	7:00 pm
December, 2009	Annual Christmas Party First Presbyterian Church, Saginaw	

## An Autumn Affair for Gardeners

On Saturday, October 3rd, SVMGA will present an education seminar, An Autumn Affair for Gardeners. This seminar will be held at Swan Valley Conference Center. It is open to all gardeners and features experts sharing the latest in gardening information.



## 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."

## Newsletter Submissions To:

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

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