

The Grapevine

Bulletin of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association

May 2005 Volume 9, Issue 5

Amy Fitkin garden, plant exchange in May

Large native trees in both the front and backyards remind Amy Fitkin of the family's northern vacation home in Hawks.

They've also introduced her to a new way of gardening – trying to keep the landscape looking as natural as possible with native plants while still growing vegetables and herbs for family dinners.

Members of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association will tour the grounds at Amy and Glenn Fitkin's home at 5 Hunter's Ridge Drive during the May meeting and plant exchange.

Members who have plants to exchange – products of their annual spring division and cleanup – should pot them up and bring them along.

Remember to include the botanical name, light requirements, height, color – all the essentials – so their new owners will know exactly what they're getting.

Plants will be arranged on Fitkin's driveway so please place plants before the meeting starts. After a short business

meeting, the exchange will begin. Each member will receive a ticket upon arrival and when your number is called, your group is free to choose a plant.

The process is repeated, as each group is called, until everyone has a chance to choose a plant and all the plants are gone. This is an exchange, not a trade, so those with new gardens shouldn't feel they can't participate.

While some members may recall Fitkin's previous house, near the Saginaw Township Playscape, her growing family -- Glenn, 9, Graham, 7, and Jane, 4, -- required a larger home. They built on the acre lot in Thomas Township two years ago.

"Before we built, I walked the property with Jim Kalishek (a former Master Gardener coordinator) to see what were junk trees and what was worth keeping, like the serviceberry, red elderberry, cherry, hackberry, oaks and maples," Fitkin explains.

"It's in process. You look at the neighborhood and you can see everyone has a nice yard – but you should see in the backyards! With three kids and a dog, we're not quite ready for that."

But they have put in a vegetable garden, about 12 by 20 feet, for peas, onions, radishes, peppers, eggplant, tomatoes, pickles, squash, green beans, some of which Fitkin will can for later use.

"The first year we had turkey families walking through the yard, but not recently, probably because of the dog. We hear owls and see rabbits, chipmunks, and a variety of birds, including a bluebird, at the feeder," says the former engineer.

"And I know there are deer, because they chewed up the goats head while we were on vacation."



Amy Fitkin has included many native trees, shrubs and perennials in her landscape.

Next meeting

- 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. Wednesday, May 25, at Amy Fitkin's garden, 5 Hunter's Ridge Drive.
- 7 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. business meeting
- 7:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. refreshments
- 8 p.m. – 9 p.m. Plant exchange
- **Bring a chair and plants for exchange.**
- Directions: Take River Road to Frost to Hunter's Ridge. Parking on street.

In Saginaw Township, Fitkin had clay soil; at her new home it's acid, sandy soil.

"We did the front yard last year, with rhododendrons, some trilliums and a larch I brought back from up north. It's a new experience for me, I'm learning a lot about native plants."

Her herb garden is right outside the kitchen window, handy for making pesto and adding fresh seasonings to her cooking.

"The kids like to play in the back, the boys soccer, and we've got the swing set there. We have a fetch dog who's made some of the paths you see. But we like to sit here and watch the birds.

"I always loved gardening, being outside and watching things grow. I made my parents put in a vegetable garden when I was just a kid," says the Advanced Master Gardener.

"I hope my kids will love it. My daughter likes picking vegetables and my oldest boy, too, while Graham is more interested in the bugs and what's hiding in the garden."

She took the Master Gardener course to learn more about gardening – "although I didn't realize how much volunteering was involved! – but I've met great people and learned more and more."

Fitkin, who serves as SVMGA's pro-

Inside this issue:

<i>Gardening trends</i>	2
<i>President's letter</i>	3
<i>Garden walks</i>	3,7
<i>Odds and ends</i>	4,6
<i>Volunteer opportunities</i>	5
<i>A Case for wildflowers</i>	7
<i>Boehler's previews new perennials</i>	9
<i>Minutes of the April meeting</i>	10
<i>Register now for fall conference</i>	11
<i>Seminar and classes offered</i>	12

Continues on Page 2

Gardening trend stresses easy, outdoor living

Gardening trends for 2005 indicate new homeowners are making landscaping their top discretionary project.

Today, four in five American families garden, according to Kip Creel, a market research analyst with N Query, in a recent issue of *The Michigan Landscape*.

And those same families spend some \$67 billion on gardening and landscaping services combined.

Experts say that figure will only increase in the next five to 10 years as consumers switch decorating gears from their homes' interiors and focus on gardens, patios and lawns.

But that doesn't mean families want a designer garden. Instead, they want gardens to reflect their style so they can use them as a place to relax with family and friends.

With more television shows demonstrating how it's done, homeowners are learning more about

plants and what will work for their particular yards.

Families prefer simplicity, choosing flowers and plants that don't need heavy maintenance and will thrive in their environment.

"Mass plantings of colors that work together or are all in the same general color family are easier for most people to envision in the garden, and, in the long run, maintain," says Joe Gray, general manager for Hines Horticulture in the same *Michigan Landscape* article.

"Our backyards really have become an oasis, a quick get-away, in a hectic world."

Families are going to the experts for help, from weeding to mulching to mowing, because they lack the time and/or the knowledge. The latest study shows they spent nearly \$30 billion on landscape services alone.

"It comes down to the fact," says Allan Armitage, author, "that people have more money than time."

Super-sized plants are the plants of

choice, not old-fashioned flats of seedlings. And annuals — with all the new varieties and ease of care — are making a comeback. "Kong" coleus, with gigantic multi-colored leaves; double impatiens that look like roses; and vincas, sporting flowers in seven colors, will find homes with both beginner and expert gardeners.

Luxury garden purchases are second only to luxury electronics, according to a recent survey. Fountains, high-end containers, pools, sculptures and barbecues are a few of the choices.

Trellis plants, like clematis, will be big, along with romantic roses and tropicals, like hibiscus, in lush deep colors, or vines with huge leaves.

Container gardening is expanding and gardeners are relying less on chemicals to solve their problems.

Homeowners want brands they can trust, from flowers and vegetables to quality statues, benches, birdbaths and containers.

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Native plants, trees fill Fitkin's landscape...

Continues from Page 1

gram coordinator, recently completed the schedule for this year and is now working on a couple of field trips, including a tour of Celtic Conifers this month and possibly the Frankenmuth Mutual Insurance gardens in summer.

"In this neighborhood, a lot of people hire their garden work out, but I like to do it all myself," she says.

For the Christmas holiday, all 5 Fitkins and her in-laws, 22 in all, traveled to Egypt to celebrate Glenn's parents' 50th wedding anniversary.

"They had been there before and wanted to go someplace that would be a once-in-a-lifetime experience and a chance to get to know each other better," Fitkin said.

They could see the Great Pyramids from their hotel, which they visited, along with the Sphinx and the step pyramids, then flew to Luxor to see the Valley of the Kings and Queens, the

Temple of Karnak, the mummification museum, and cruised the Nile River for four days.

During their nine days, they also squeezed in a sailboat ride past the garden island, visited a mosque, the unfinished obelisk, the Temple of Philae and more.

"It was so neat to see all of it. What's amazing is how they plant every inch of arable land. They have to desalinate the soil because the Nile used to flood the plains.

"The people were friendly, although we traveled with a guide and a security guard," Fitkin says.

"My in-laws were there during the terrorist attack at the Temple of the Kings and Queens and they thought the antiquities might not last and it was something the family should see."

At the May meeting, Fitkin hopes her wildflowers will be in bloom, along with some of the other perennials she has planted.

Story by Darlene B. Damp, editor

Letter from the President

Spring in Michigan is truly a wondrous time. Each morning I tour our various flower beds looking for new overnight arrivals. I'm never disappointed.

The plants that really please me are ones that I forgot I planted, and the surprises provided by our resident squirrels; they manage to move several bulbs each year.

This spring I'm intrigued watching the bulbs bloom that I purchased last fall at "An Autumn Affair for Gardeners." The icy blue of Muscari Valerie Finnis is striking, and the dainty blossoms on the specimen tulips are a joy to behold.

Fred Case's garden was outstanding (as usual). His extensive orchid collection is impressive. Those of you who were able to tour the gardens saw an exceptional collection of native wildflowers, the likes of which are not available in any other location in North America.

This month is our spring perennial

exchange on Amy Fitkin's driveway. I've started potting volunteers from our various beds. It's interesting what comes up from vigorous root growth, adventurous stolons, or wind propelled seeds. I'm acquiring quite a collection of pass-along plants for other gardeners to enjoy. My only rule is nothing overly invasive.



As the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association continues to expand (we now have 168 members) we are outgrowing our current meeting facilities.

We are not eager to move, but if any of you are aware of a comparable facility that can guarantee us a meeting place on the fourth Wednesday of the month let one of the officers know. We had 107 members at

our April meeting and it got a little crowded in the foray during the refreshment break.

We have several good volunteer opportunities if you need help in accumulating your volunteer hours. On May 14, Master Gardeners will be planting perennials at the Southbound I-75 Rest Area garden. They can also use help May 22 when the annuals will be planted.

Anytime you have free time Patti Decker-Colpean and the horticulture committee can use help at the Saginaw Children's Zoo. Pat Bourdow still needs Master Gardeners for the June 15 Saginaw Art Museum Garden Walk, and Waunita Pettiford needs mentors for the current Master Gardener class.

There is still time to register for the State Master Gardener Conference in June. (See story, Page 6.)

Grey

Walk your way through Saginaw area gardens

April may have showers and May brings flowers, but June is definitely the month for garden walks in the Saginaw Valley.

The fun begins with the annual **Saginaw Art Museum Garden Walk and Sale** from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 15, featuring five gardens. They include Clint and Betty Herbosscheimer at 5920 Mackinaw, who have side gardens and eight gardens in the back of their home – with vegetables, perennials, annuals and shrubs, plus a variety of hanging baskets, birdhouses, garden ornaments and benches.

The gardens of Richard and Diane Bofferding, 1651 Kingston, behind the State Street Wal-Mart, feature hundreds of annuals, which Diane Bofferding starts from seed herself.

There's also a swimming pool, a landscaped front yard and lush, manicured lawn.

Dennis and Margaret Hoppe, 3855 Chipping Norton Drive, off McCarty

Road, tempt visitors with their charming front yard – and wow them with the natural plantings and shaded moss-covered pathways, behind the house. The Hoppes have planted accordingly and accented the yard with garden ornaments.

Carl and Rosemary Gohm Jr., 4112 Mackinaw, have a lovely landscaped pond, roses, lilies and many perennials.

Last, but not least, Raymond and Jean Thompson, 1587 Delta, offer a garden of perennials, small orchard, ornamental shrubs and garden ornaments.

And don't forget the gardens at the art museum, where vendors will be located, including the Master Gardener table. (For those interested in volunteering, see Page 6.)

The next garden walk is sponsored by the **Bay City Garden Club** from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, June 23.

It has five gardens on tour. Four are in Bay City – at the homes of Dennis and Marlene Spender, 1852 McKinley; Ray Dubay, 2200 Center; Michael and Colleen

Trecha, 312 Green Ave., and Ron and Jerry Overholt, 899 S. Powell Road.

The fifth is at the home of Sandy and Mike Stachowiak, 1180 Knight Road, in nearby Essexville.

Continues on Page 7

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

**Newsletter deadline:
Monday, June 6
Send submissions to
Darlene Damp, editor
shrew@att.net**

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

Odds and Ends

Gitzen reveals secret soil recipe

SVMGA President Grey Gitzen offers his favorite soil recipe for creating potted containers.

Take 2 parts purchased topsoil, 1 part compost, 1 part sphagnum peat, 1 part horticulture perlite and mix together.

For every pot, add 1 tablespoon of Osmote, a fertilizer, and 1 tablespoon of acrylic beads (to retain water).

For deep pots he fills a white plastic shopping bag with plastic peanuts, ties it shut and puts the tied side down in the pot to save on soil.

Creative containers, he says, have a “thriller” like Persian Shield; fillers, like miniature rose impatiens and browallia; and “spillers” to hang over the pot’s edge, like lotus vine or creeping Jenny.

To keep containers flourishing, Gitzen uses a water soluble fertilizer every other watering.

If you put hostas in pots, tip them on their side to overwinter them outdoors.

Can you answer this one?

What two plant species don’t have flowers?

- A. Pines and ferns
- B. Dead and plastic ones
- C. All of the above

Answer: C, per the April meeting!

Trees left from April sale

The Saginaw Soil Conservation District is selling trees and shrubs left from its April sale for half price.

Please call 781-4077.

Local groups sponsor plant sales, exchanges in May

The **Heritage Square Association** sponsors its annual plant sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 14, at Otto Roeser Park, 1100 Van Buren.

The association is looking for donations of plants, pots and berry plants in advance of the sale, as well as volunteers to help with the sale.

Call Arlene Holtman at 790-7225.

The **Historical Society of Bridgeport**

Garden Club offers a plant exchange at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 19, at 6190 Dixie Highway, Bridgeport.

At 7:30 p.m. Advanced Master Gardener Bill Wegner will provide details on “Composting.”

For information, contact Sue Lawcock at 777-4423.

The **Woman’s National Farm and Garden Association** hosts its annual perennial exchange from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 21, in the Saginaw Children’s Zoo parking lot, 1730 S. Washington.

For information, contact Vickie Engle at 792-9552.

Those participating in plant exchanges should pot their plants and list the plants names, light and soil preferences.

Additions, changes made to membership roster

Please take a few minutes to make some additions and corrections to your SVMGA membership roster.

“Some e-mail addresses have changed, new members have joined and some people have penmanship as bad as mine when it comes to filling out forms!” says Nancy Cotcamp, who chairs that project. “Thank you for your patience.”

The changes include:

Catherine Monroe, 738 South 24th, Saginaw, 48601. Phone: 752-3485
Nicola Danks, 12271 Burt Rd., Birch Run, 48640. Phone: 624-3469

Dennis Arvanitis, 7071 E. Curtis Rd., Frankenmuth, 48734. Phone: 652-9296, or e-mail dgarvanitis@chartermi.net

Judy Henning: e-mail, judrich@sbcglobal.net

Sara Clark: business phone, 799-8198; e-mail, clarksb@charter.net

Bob Sawyers (note name correction): e-mail, rsawyers@hotmail.com

Jed Fulkerson: home e-mail, j.ifulkerson@charter.net, Arizona e-mail, houserock@npgcable.com

Patricia Bourdow: e-mail, p53bourdow@aol.com

Les Tincknell: e-mail, ldt60benton@aol.com

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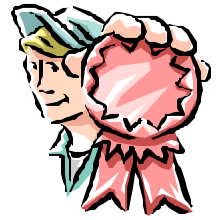
Master Gardeners receive volunteer award pins

Master Gardener Coordinator Mary Lysogorski presented award pins at the April meeting to Master Gardeners who earned 250 to 4,024 volunteer hours.

Besides members mentioned in last month’s newsletter, **Ben Pawlik** earned 500 hours.

His name was mistakenly left off the list.

Contact Lysogorski at 758-2500, ext. 224, if you did not receive your pin.



Children’s Zoo needs plants for new garden area

Thank you Master Gardeners who helped with clean-up, moved plants/shrubs, washed daylilies and survived the crazy weather (who would have thought snow) at the Saginaw Children’s Zoo, says Patti Decker.

“We are seeking plants, particularly black-eyed Susans and purple coneflowers.

“We have put in a new bed at the south end of the zoo that we have outlined with ornamental grass and would like to fill it with something colorful, yet low maintenance.

“This garden will be very visible from the train. So if anyone is dividing their coneflowers or black-eyed Susans, if they could pot them up for the zoo, they would be greatly appreciated.”

Black-eyed Susans and purple coneflowers tend to re-seed, which could easily fill that garden up.

It also will attract butterflies and colorful birds, she added.

Anyone with plant donations may contact Decker by phone or email to arrange for drop off or pick-up.

“Also anyone wanting to get on my zoo help list and receive e-mails of

Continues on Page 6

Calling all volunteers, help wanted...

Master Gardener office...

Wil Hufton is seeking volunteers to help with a backlog of calls by residents.

"It's calls about winter kill, snow mold, grubs, that sort of thing — nothing tough," Hufton added.

In addition, there is filing that needs to be completed. Call Hufton at 792-9323.

Master Gardener Coordinator Mary Jane Lysogorski is creating a calendar/sign-in sheet for those working in the office or caring for the atrium plants.

This will let volunteers know when others are working and what days are open.

HealthSource Saginaw...

HealthSource Saginaw needs volunteers for planting and maintenance of their gardens at 3340 Hospital Road.

Your reward will be the appreciation you receive from the residents, family members and staff (in addition to volunteer hours), says Jane Chard, Master Gardener.

The Activities Department also schedules a Garden Club for residents on Wednesday afternoons.

Contact Theresa Emerson at 790-7706, or Chard at 799-7507 or e-mail chardjf@sbcglobal.net.

Andersen Center roses...

Ben Pawlik is seeking weekly help in caring for the roses at the Andersen Enrichment Center, 120 Ezra Rust Dr.

Volunteers will learn overall care, including how to fertilize and spray for insects and disease. For information, call him at 793-4238 or e-mail Bennzita@aol.com.



Refreshments please...

Volunteers are sought to bring refreshments for the May, June and July meetings.

Refreshments include a tray of cookies, cupcakes, etc. and two bottles of pop.

Call Becky Geidans at 781-1552, or e-mail rsgeidans@yahoo.com.

Saginaw Art Museum gardens..

The Saginaw Art Museum, 1126 N. Michigan, has set work days for its historic gardens.

Both earn Master Gardeners and trainees volunteer hours.

There is a garden clean-up from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, May 15.

Other work dates are from 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, including May 28, for planting; June 11 for Garden Walk clean-up; July 16, Aug. 20 and Sept. 17 for weeding and deadheading; and Oct. 15 for end of the season clean-up.

Contact Shelley Whitehead at 892-0719.

Art Museum Garden Walk...

For the Saginaw Art Museum Garden Walk, Pat Bourdow needs volunteers from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 15.

She is seeking one volunteer to work from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and another eight volunteers to work from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. or 6 to 8 p.m.

Volunteers answer visitor questions about plants and cultivation.

Call Bourdow at 755-8879 or sign up at the May meeting. She needs names and telephone numbers of volunteers.

Southbound I-75 Rest Stop..

Planting at the Southbound I-75 Rest Stop is set for 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 14 and 28.

Please bring shovels and hand trowels and wear your Master Gardener badges. Deadheading is done in summer.

The I-75 rest stop is an MSUE-approved project for MG trainees.

For information, contact Gloria Schuler at 8927679 or globobarama@excite.com.

Farmer's Market survey...

Aileen Cowan is seeking volunteers to help with a market survey and answer questions from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Friday, May 27, and 9 a.m. to 1

p.m. Saturday, May 28, at the Saginaw Farmer's Market on South Washington.

Contact Cowan at (989) 865-8784 or e-mail scratchcreations@att.net.



Dow Event Center...

This project has two co-chairmen, but will need volunteers to plant the enclosed garden and six to eight containers.

Sign up at the May meeting or contact Ruth Sny, 792-5688.

Mentors needed for trainees...

Mentors are needed for many of the 18 Master Gardener Trainees who recently completed the MSU course.

Those interested may sign up at the May meeting. Contact Juanita Pettiford at 777-6918 or skeetni2@aol.com.

Welcome new members!

Two more people have joined SVMGA. They are:

Master Gardener Trainee Patti Collier, 3932 Trimm Rd., Saginaw, phone: 642-5844, e-mail: dpcollier@aol.com.

Master Gardener Trainee Debra Krzciok, 4651 Lakeview, Beaverton, 48612 (Gladwin Co.), e-mail: dkrzciok@stmarys-saginaw.org

There are now 168 members.

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."

More odds and ends...

Continues from Page 4

upcoming volunteer work dates should also e-mail me at rizzobfrank@aol.com or phone (989) 792-6633.

"We have some massive plantings to be done but no date scheduled since we don't know yet when we can pick up the plants."

More projects receive funding; money still available

Four projects grants were approved at the May board meeting, leaving \$450 available for 2005.

Those receiving approval included:

- \$200 for the Saginaw County Rail Trail eye park for trees, shrubs, fall bulbs and mulch.
- \$200 for HealthSource Saginaw's residents garden for plants and bulbs.
- \$200 for the Saginaw Art Museum, for fabrication and installation of 300 feet of steel rings around the gardens.
- \$200 for Swan Valley Middle School for mulch and soil; Kluck's has donated shrubs for the high school seniors' beautification effort.

To obtain project funds, in grants up to \$200, fill out a Presentation/Project Material Funding Request form and return it to any board member for consideration.

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

Project fund recipients must track what they spend and keep receipts for a final accounting to the board.

Call Nancy Hales, vice president, at 799-2118.

SVMGA 'Adopt-a-Garden' readies for spring planting

Judy Henning says members will plant the SVMGA "Adopt-a-Garden"

Thursday, June 2. A rain date is set for June 3.

Henning says enough volunteers signed up in to handle weekly maintenance during the growing season.

She added that there is a waiting list of 30 people who want their own "Adopt-a-Garden" at the zoo. Lack of funding did not permit more garden beds to be developed.

Dates set for next MG class

The fall Master Gardener class begins Thursday, Aug. 25, at the MSU Extension Office, 1 Tuscola.

Sessions will meet weekly from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursdays, through Nov. 17.

Cost is \$200.

Registration is open now; contact Mary Jane Lysogorski, MG coordinator, at 758-2500, ext. 224.

MG Summer Conference open to all gardeners

Due to a lack interest by Master Gardeners in this year's Summer Conference, Mary McLellan has opened the conference to anyone who wants to attend.

Registration forms are available at www.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener.

Aquatic Gardens offers more pond programs

Aquatic Gardens, 824 Tittabawassee, in Zilwaukee, offers three pond programs in June.

At 11 a.m. Saturday, June 4, is "Vanishing Falls Construction," offering a waterfall and stream, without the maintenance of a pond.

From 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 18, is a Water Garden tour, looking at area ponds, waterfalls and streams.

Tour cost is \$5; proceeds benefit the Saginaw Children's Zoo Water Garden.

A barbecue follows at Aquatic Gardens.

At 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday, June 25, is Water Garden Construction and Maintenance, from digging and liner types to waterfalls and streams, to

lighting.

To register for any of the events, call 752-5459.

Huron County opens trip to Chicago Botanical Gardens

The Master Gardeners of Huron County are sponsoring a two-day tour of the Chicago Botanic Gardens in Glen-coe, Ill., on Friday and Saturday, June 3-4.

Participants do not have to drive to Bad Axe to catch the bus, said Carol Holtrop of MSU Extension, HuronCounty.

"One site that is currently being worked out is in the Frankenmuth/Birch Run area."

Garden highlights on this two-day bus tour are 26 specialty gardens and 3 native areas.

Those attending will be treated to a Grand Garden Tram tour of their many gardens, a Great Chef Demo, and North Shore Iris and Day Lily sale and display, to name a few.

Model railroad buffs will appreciate the 15 garden-scale working displays and the unique gardens they run through including some of America's favorite landmarks, Wrigley Field, Yellowstone, and a quaint Main Street.

The tour costs \$135 per person, for round-trip bus transportation, two days' admission to the gardens, one-night stay in the Hyatt-Deerfield, and two lunches.

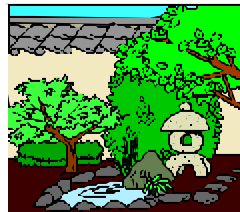
Reservations are on a first-come, first-serve basis.

A \$50 deposit is required to hold your reservation; full payment is due by Saturday, May 30.

For information, call Maxine Pettinger at (989) 269-6989, or the Master Gardener Program at (989) 269-9949.

Or you can go to Huron County's Master Gardener website at <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/Programs/2005/2005-06-Huron-Co-Chicago-Botanical.pdf>

To learn more about the Chicago Botanic Gardens, visit www.chicagobotanic.org.



Biologist wows visitors with his wildflowers

Frederick W. Case Jr. opened his renowned gardens this month to members of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association.

Case, who retired after a long teaching career at Saginaw's Arthur Hill High School, is an internationally known expert on wildflowers.

He has written four books, along with numerous papers, lectured worldwide and won top horticultural awards for his efforts.

His gardens were created from finds on his many travels and cover a portion of his 40 acres in Thomas Township.

There are dozens of varieties of trilliums, from the petite to the robust — and in many different hues.

His collection ranges from bog plants to tiny alpinists, representing different regions of the U.S. he has visited in his studies.



Frederick W. Case Jr., at far left, leads SVMGA members, friends and colleagues on a tour of his many gardens.

There also are dozens of pitcher plants, in his greenhouses and planted on the grounds.

In addition, he has collected — or been given — numerous unusual shrubs and trees, many of which defy their zonal classifications and thrive in his garden.

To keep his collection intact, he also has installed a tall fence so hungry deer can no longer feast on his plants.

While his health is a concern, Case remains active in his research and propagation.

Besides members of SVMGA, Case has invited members of other garden groups, like the Saginaw Valley Hosta Society, friends, colleagues to tour the grounds this month.

A magazine crew also was expected to photograph the garden for two days this month for an upcoming article.

Five communities host garden walks in June...

Continues from Page 3

All proceeds from this fund-raiser go to landscaping projects for Good Samaritan Rescue Mission and Habitat for Humanity of Bay County.

Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 the day of the walk. Buy tickets at The Bird's Nest in Saginaw; Herman Hiss Jewelers, downtown Bay City; and Smith's Flowers in Midland.

Next up is the **Historic Chesaning Garden Walk**, featuring six gardens, on Saturday, June 25. Tickets are \$7 in advance or \$8 the day of the walk. Call (989) 845-6110 or e-mail Sugenbel@aol.com.

The walk includes Joe and Shirley Dick, 12199 Ferden Road, who have immaculate gardens and offer a nature walk in their woods.

Jim and Ellie Vrable, 6225 Chesaning Road, are known for their large assortment of hostas and lilies. Visitors also may stroll through their woods.

Dick and Jeanne Rider, 3401 Mistequay Creek, Montrose, have a unique home situated on lots of woodland. Check out their garden pond and waterfall.

Dave and Diane Koviak, 16507 Gasper Road, have perennial gardens and a craft workshop with painted furniture for sale.

Jan and Mike Chaltraw, 945 Brady, will

re-enact their son's wedding scene in their charming yard.

Margie & Michael Jacobs, 8985 N. Reed Road, New Lothrop, will sell potted perennials and show their country gardens.

Refreshments will be served at each garden.

The **Frankenmuth Garden Walk**, with eight gardens, is from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, June 26.

Sponsored by the Frankenmuth Chapter of the American Association of University Women, the walk includes large and small gardens that contain a pool, a pond, a contemplative courtyard — all with special plantings.

"These really are the secret gardens of Frankenmuth," said Sharril McNally, AAUW president.

Tickets are \$12 in advance or \$15 the day of the walk at the historical museum, 613 S. Main. Proceeds go to AAUW community projects.

But don't take off those walking shoes yet — the **Apple Country Garden Walk** with five different gardens is from noon to 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 28.

The walk is offered every other year in the Freeland, Saginaw and Hemlock area.

The gardens include Joyce and Bill Galligan, 9720 Midland Road, whose

yard is a park-like, shaded setting with perennials, vines, vegetable garden and a hill that's been turned into a rock garden.

Peggy and Rolland Shaver open their acreage at 11385 Sarle Road, off M-47, so visitors can see the roses, unusual perennials and shrubs, pond and wooded area the couple have developed.

Jackie and Robert Sova, 7080 W. Freeland Road, near Hotchkiss, have a garden filled with perennial borders, arbors and several ponds. Although this garden was featured on a previous walk, it has returned because of the additions the Sovas have made since then.

Joy and Allan Walter, 1830 Wenonah Lane, off State and Seminole in Saginaw, have a suburban garden with a pond, perennial border and pathways but as little grass as possible, says Joy Walter.

The fifth garden is Fran and Rick Simpson's at 10905 Tittabawassee Road, near Graham Road.

Tickets are \$8 in advance and available during the month of June at Austin's Florals or The Bird House in Freeland; Warmbier Farms in Auburn; or the Hemlock Public Library. Or call Dick or Crissa Redifer (989) 695-4626.

Proceeds go to community beautification projects in Freeland and Hemlock.

No matter what, leave the plants outside!!!

Garden grass snakes (also known as Garter Snakes, *Thamnophis sirtalis*) can be dangerous. Here's why...

A couple in Sweetwater, Texas, had a lot of potted plants. During a recent cold spell, the wife was bringing a lot of them indoors to protect them from a possible freeze.

It turned out that a little green garden grass snake was hidden in one of the plants and when it had warmed up, the snake slithered out. When the wife saw it go under the sofa, she let out a very loud scream.



The husband (who was taking a shower) ran out into the living room naked to see what the problem was. She told him there was a snake under the sofa. He got down on the floor on his hands and knees to look for it.

About that time the family dog came and cold-nosed him on the butt. He thought the snake had bitten him, so he screamed and fell over on the floor. His wife thought he had a heart attack, so she covered him up, told him to lie still and called an ambulance.

The attendants rushed in, wouldn't listen to his protests and loaded him on the stretcher and started carrying him out. About that time the snake came out from under the sofa and an Emergency Medical Technician saw it and dropped his end of the stretcher. That's when the man broke his leg and why he is still in the hospital.

The wife still had the problem of the snake in the house, so she called a neighbor man.

He volunteered to capture the snake. He armed himself with a rolled-up newspaper and poked under the couch. Soon he decided it was gone and told the woman, who sat down on the sofa in relief.

But in relaxing, her hand dangled in between the cushions, where she felt the snake wriggling around.

She screamed and fainted, the snake rushed back under the sofa, and the neighbor man, seeing her lying there passed out, tried to use CPR to revive her.

The neighbor's wife, who had just returned from shopping at the grocery store, saw her husband's mouth on the woman's mouth and slammed her husband in the back of the head with a bag of canned goods, knocking him out and cutting his scalp to a point where it needed stitches.

The noise woke the woman from her dead faint and she saw her neighbor lying on the floor with his wife bending over him, so she assumed he had been bitten by the snake.

She went to the kitchen and got a small bottle of whiskey, and began pouring it down the man's throat. By now the police had arrived. They saw the unconscious man, smelled the whiskey, and assumed that a drunken fight had occurred.

They were about to arrest them all, when the woman tried to explain how it all happened over a little green snake. The police called an ambulance, which took away the neighbor and his sobbing wife.



Just then the little snake crawled out from under the sofa. One of the policemen drew his gun and fired at it. He missed the snake and hit the leg of the end table that was on one side of the sofa. The table fell over and the lamp on it shattered and as the bulb broke, it started a fire in the drapes.

The other policeman tried to beat out the flames, and fell through the window into the yard on top of the family dog who, startled, jumped out and raced into the street, where an oncoming car swerved to avoid it and smashed into the parked police car.

Meanwhile, neighbors saw the burning drapes and called the fire department, and the arriving fire truck had started raising its ladder when they were halfway down the street.

The rising ladder tore out the overhead wires and put out the electricity and disconnected the telephones in a 10-square city block area but they did get the house fire out.

Time passed. Both men were discharged from the hospital, the house was repaired, the dog came home, the police acquired a new car, and all was right with their world.

A while later the couple was watching TV and the weatherman announced a cold snap for that night. The husband asked his wife if she thought they should bring in their plants for the night.

That's when she shot him.

Joke courtesy of Patti Decker

Apple Country Garden Club extends membership invitation

The Apple Country Garden Club meets at 7 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at the Freeland Memorial Park building.

The group welcomes any county residents with an interest in gardening to join them in learning gardening tips and techniques from guest speakers and to "cultivate" new friendships.

For more information about the club, or tickets to its upcoming garden walk

Tuesday, June 28, call Dick or Crissa Redifer at (989) 695-4626.

The meetings and events for the remainder of the year include:

June 9: Field trip to Phil Lisik's hosta gardens.

Noon to 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 28: Garden Walk. (See story, Page 3.)

July 14: Make and take garden easels at Criss and Dick Redifer's home.

Aug. 11: Annual progressive dinner

Sept. 8: Plant exchange and Freeland Memorial Park garden clean-up

Oct. 13: Make and take stone birdhouses at Freeland Memorial Park building.

Nov. 10: Vicki Lundstrom teaches members how to make swags and wreaths for your home at Memorial Park building.

No meeting in December due to the holiday rush.

Boehler's previews perennials

Nearly 40 new perennials will be featured this spring at Boehler's Greenhouse, 5080 Swan Creek Road.

Members, wives and significant others (Judy Henning!) of Gardening for Gents got a preview during the April meeting.

In alphabetical order they include:

Astible simplicifolia, "Black Barlow, with its heart-shaped leaf and full double purple flower with white center; "Key Largo," a late-flowering, shorter Sprite version with twice as many pink flowers; and "Key West," a Sprite variety with deep rose flowers that reblooms.

Brunnera macrophylla, "Looking Glass," which can take sun to shade.

Buddleia "Bicolor," 6 feet tall, 5 feet wide, featuring fragrant, rich butterscotch yellow and frosty raspberry lavender flowers, 5 to 6 inches long, on the same

stalk for full sun gardens.

Centaurea montana, "Gold Bullion," 15 inches tall, with lime green leaves all summer and blue flowers. Don't worry about this variety spreading or self-seeding.

Echinacea, "Sunrise," a 30- to 36-inch variety with lemon yellow flowers; and "Double Decker," bright pink blooms with smaller, second flower on top.

Euphorbia griffithii, "Dixter," 16 inches tall, with burnt orange flowers on red stems in spring.

Geranium "New Dimension," frilly edged dark foliage, with a blue flower.

Helenium X "Mardi Gras," 36 to 40 inches with yellow-orange flowers.

Heliopsis helianthoides "Summer Nights," 3- to 4-foot tall, with gold petals and mahogany centers, full sun.

Helleborus hyb "Blackthorn Strain," chartreuse flowers above the foliage, from winter to spring.

Hemerocallis, "Bama Bound," 2 feet tall, dark red flower with green throat; "Purple D'Oro," dwarf daylily with pink flowers; "Royal Occasion," 18 inches tall with burgundy-purple flower; and "Rosy Returns," the first pink ever-blooming daylily with 4 1/2-inch blooms and 9 to 12 buds on a stem in late spring.

Heuchera "Caramel," 15 inches tall with leaves of the same color and white flowers; "Golden Ignorant," variegated yellow and green foliage; "Gypsy Dancer," for sun or shade with light pink flowers; "Lime Rickey," ruffled chartreuse leaves with white blooms; and "Marmalade," washed out yellow leaves, 10 inches tall.

Heucherella "Stoplight," larger golden leaves with dark red marks that fan along the veins, white flowers on 6-inch spikes in spring for part shade gardens.

Hibiscus, "Moy Grande," 60 inches tall, with rose flowers with orange centers from summer to fall, full sun.

Hosta, "Alligator Shoes," puckered seersucker, frosty blue-green leaves; and "Dream Queen," from "Great Expectations" 26 inches with tri-color leaves.

Lavandula augustifolia, "Coconut



Floyd Kloc, Gardening for Gents member, takes a closer look after the new perennial preview.

Ice, 20 inches tall, with pinkish white flowers for full sun.

Leucanthemum, "Sonnenschein," 24 to 30 inches tall with two-toned lemon yellow flowers 3 inches in size, reblooms summer to fall, drought-, humidity- and cold-tolerant.

Ligularia "Little Rocket," same as "The Rocket" only 20 inches tall, green leaf with burgundy tinged stem.

Liriope muscari, "Pee Dee Ignorant," ultra-hardy, vivid chartreuse leaf topped with lavender spikes in spring, thrives in hot, humid summers in part shade.

Polemonium repens, "Stairway to Heaven," this Jacob's Ladder has variegated lime green leaves with pink edges, reblooms, part shade.

Scabiosa columbara, "Pink Lemonade," 8 to 12 inches tall, pale green leaves with pink flowers; and "Blue Diamonds," dwarf at 6 inches tall, blooms all summer if deadheaded, full sun.

Sedum sieboldii, "Medioveriegata," 8 inches tall, hardy variegated leaves, bronze red flowers in flat top clusters.

Verbascum "Plum Smokey," deep purple flowers on 6-inch stem, sun to part shade.

Veronica "Waterperry Blue," this groundcover has tiny purple-blue flowers with reddish copper foliage in cooler months.

Viola cornuta, "Mars," 7 inches tall with heart shaped green leaves with burgundy centers, lilac pink flowers in mid- to late spring.

Gardens of kindness

Volunteers plant seeds of kindness, creating gardens of joy and light.

The flowers and fruits that bud and grow provide for many and shine so bright

The gardens never fade or wither for their goodness endures in countless ways...

in the lives they touch, the hope they share,

the smiles they spread and spirits they raise.

Thanks, volunteers, for your generous gift —

planting seeds with your special flair.

The world is a kinder, brighter place

because of your commitment and care!

This poem was on the program at the Healthsource Volunteer Recognition Day. I don't know who it is attributed to, but thought it is especially fitting for the Master Gardener volunteers. *Jane Chard*

Correction

Boehler's Greenhouses, 5080 Swan Creek Road, has 17,000 hanging baskets for sale this season. An incorrect number was reported in the April newsletter.

Minutes of the April 2005 meeting

Vice President Nancy Hales welcomed all to the Andersen Enrichment Center.

Elaine Rappley moved that the minutes of the March 2005 meeting be approved as published; Karen Tilden seconded the motion.

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

Balance as of last report	\$4,609.47
Deposits 3/24/05 to 4/26/05	\$494.54
Expenses 3/24/05 to 4/26/05	\$342.98
Balance as of 4/26/05	\$4,761.03

As of 4/26/05 we have 162 paid members.

Sheila Hempsted moved the treasurer's report be accepted; Judy Henning seconded the motion.

Invitations to the summer conference were sent out. Anyone who did not get one should contact a board member. MSU is looking for volunteers to help with the conference.

Nancy Cotcamp had copies of the 2005 roster available. Look for updates in the Grapevine.

Ben Pawlik thanked members who helped with clean-up and pruning at the Andersen Enrichment Center. He needs someone to help maintain the roses throughout the summer.

Members who signed up for the May 1 or 8 field trip and needs to cancel should contact Elaine Rappley. Fred Case's address is 7275 Thorne Apple Lane, off River Road near Geddes.

Patti Decker had a sign-up sheet to email volunteers about regular work dates

at the zoo.

Pat Bourdow needs volunteers for the Saginaw Art Museum Garden Walk June 15. A sign-up sheet was available.

Gail Caird asked members who will help at the May 12 Spring into Service Day to see her at the break. She has 80 shrubs for the project. Students will work at eight area schools.

Wil Hufton needs volunteers at the office to answer homeowner questions. Mary Lysogorski needs help filing materials.

Jane Chard needs volunteers help with the garden at Health Source.

Aileen Cowan had a sign-up sheet for market days May 27 and 28 at the Farmer's Market and for a work day at the rail trail. They will plant in the eye park near Benkert Road off Swan Creek May 11.

Cowan also had flyers about the hold-up of the Rail Trail completion.

Becky Geidans asked for volunteers for refreshments at the upcoming meetings.

Shirley McNier asked members who ordered logo wear at the last meeting to pick up their orders. She took orders for more logo wear and asked for ideas for fall logowear when she will again take orders.

An article appeared in the Saginaw News about the fall conference and Judy Henning and Aileen Cowan are receiving calls about it.

The brochure is at the printers and will

be available to hand out at the upcoming area garden walks. The menu is in place and the vendors will be in place by fall. Darlene Damp provided a sign-up sheet to hand out brochures at the area garden walks. Information will be put in all of the packets handed out to participants at the Summer Conference.

Kathy Lewis had tickets for sale for the Choral Society fund-raiser.

Amy Fitkin announced a field trip at 1 p.m. May 15 to Celtic Conifers. Meet at Horizons Conference Center at 12:45 p.m.

Mary Lysogorski distributed the 2005 volunteer opportunities list and flyers for area plant sales and exchanges.

Forms need to be filled out by members who signed up for the "Food Security through Family Nutrition Education Project." Lysogorski also let members know that the soil conservation district still has trees available at ½ price. The phone number is 781-4077.

Lysogorski passed out the pins to members who have volunteered 250, 500, 1,000, 2,000 and 4,000 hours.

Grey Gitzen gave a delightful presentation on container gardening.

Thanks go to Boehler's for donating the container plants for this month's drawings. It raised \$179.

Winners were Shelley Whitehead, Bill Wegner, Elaine Rappley and Judy Porter.

Submitted by Anne Birkham, secretary

Cleveland hosts flower show, speakers, specialty gardens

CLEVELAND — The Cleveland Botanical Garden hosts Flower Show 2005 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday to Monday, May 27-30, at 11030 East Blvd.

Modeled after the Royal Horticultural Society's famed Chelsea Flower show in London, Flower Show 2005 features expert lectures, demonstrations and a world class horticulture and flower arranging competition.

The centerpiece is 10 award-winning acres of more than 30 spectacular gardens, both new gardens created especially for the show and the Garden's

many significant collection gardens.

World renowned floral designer Hitomi Gilliam is the keynote speaker Friday, May 27, (\$65/member; \$80/nonmember). East meets West as Gilliam, introduces the newest trends in international design and explores the creative potentials of contemporary floral artistry.

She has won international awards and is the author of definitive books on flower arranging.

In addition, the American Horticultural Society Lecture Series, running May 28-30, features free talks by some of the country's foremost horticulturists,

nurserymen and garden designers, including Katy Moss Warner, president of The American Horticultural Society (AHS).

Advance, discounted tickets are now on sale, \$12 for members and \$16 for non-members.

The show welcomes groups of 20 or more with specially priced admission, complimentary motor coach parking, box lunches and more.

For information, call (216) 721-1600 or (888) 853-7091 or visit cbgarden.org for more details on Flower Show 2005.

Register now for Oct. 1 gardening seminar

The Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association invites you to see what the fall season holds for great growing and year-round enjoyment. The second annual conference is from 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 1, at Saginaw Valley State University Regional Education Center, Ott Auditorium.

The university is located off M-84 (Bay Road), near Pierce Road, between Saginaw and Bay City.

You do NOT have to be a Master Gardener to attend. The seminar, including four classes, box lunch and snacks, costs \$50. No refunds; substitutes are acceptable. **Registration deadline is Sept. 16.** Master Gardeners receive 4 education hours.

Conference speakers and their topics:

- Keynote speaker Brent Heath, of Brent and Becky’s Bulbs, hybridizers of daffodils and third generation of bulb growers in Virginia, introduces you to **“Bulbs as Companion Plants,”** with exquisite slides. He returns to the podium for growing **“Lovely Long-lasting Lilies and Awesome Alliums.”**
- Jerry Somalski of Bay Landscaping in Essexville, examines how to create the perfect backdrop for your plantings in **“Bones of the Garden.”**
- **“Native Woody Ornamentals”** with Chuck Martin, Dow Gardens horticulturalist, examines how they provide scale, structure, foliage, floral and seasonal interest.
- A variety of vendors will be available. SVMGA will sell bulbs for fall planting.

Conference schedule

8:15 a.m. Registration/refreshments	
8:45 a.m. Welcome	1 p.m. “Native Woody Ornamentals,” Chuck Martin
9 a.m. “Bulbs as Companion Plants,” Brent Heath	2 p.m. Break/Snack (cookies, coffee)/ Vendors
10:30 a.m. Break/vendors	2:15 p.m. “Lovely Long Lasting Lilies and Awesome Alliums,” Brent Heath
10:45 a.m. “Bones of the Garden,” Jerry Somalski	3:45 p.m. Conference Wrap-up/Questions and Answers
Noon Box lunch/vendors	4 p.m. Vendors

Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____ Are you a Master Gardener? _____

Select **one** box lunch entrée (includes chips, cookie, drink):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shaved roast beef/ham with Cheddar | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Pasta Salad |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Caesar wrap | <input type="checkbox"/> Stuffed Greek Salad Pita |

Make check, \$50 for each person attending, payable to Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association. Mail to SVMGA Treasurer Jan O’Dell at 5122 Hickory Court, Saginaw, MI 48603. For information, call Judy Henning at (989) 799-4136, e-mail judrich@sbcglobal.net, or Aileen Cowan at (989) 865-8784, e-mail scratchcreations@worldnet.att.net.

Brochure/registration form available at www.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/saginaw.

Bay City offers 'Spice of Life' gardening seminar

BAY CITY — A one-day gardening conference meets from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 21, at the Masonic Temple, 700 N. Madison Ave.

"Enhancing Your Bay City Garden" costs \$5 at the door and includes lunch.

Please pre-register by emailing contactus@bayartscouncil.org

This event, underwritten by Bay Landscaping, will concentrate on heritage gardens.

11 a.m.: Landscape historian Scott Kunst -- "Antique Gardens: American Home Landscapes, 1800-

1940."

In 1993 he launched Old House Gardens, the country's only mail-order source devoted to antique flower bulbs.

His unique and amazing heirlooms have been featured in *Horticulture*, *Country Living*, *The New York Times* and on ABC's *Martha Stewart Living*.

1 p.m.: Jerry Somalski -- "Enhancing Your Garden with Walks, Patios, and Walls."

Somalski is the second generation to run Bay Landscaping.

2 p.m.: Jewel Richardson -- "Pond

and Wetland Plants for your Garden."

After a career in early childhood education, Richardson began Wetlands Nursery in Zilwaukee, in 1989, giving her an opportunity to combine growing plants, watching the critters that live in and around water, and meeting people.

Wetland Nursery in Zilwaukee grows Michigan native wetland plants, with an emphasis on aquatics.

Master Gardeners receive education credit for attending.

Leaman's has gardening classes

Gardening classes will meet at Leaman's Green Apple barn in Freeland.

Classes are taught by an Michigan State University horticulture graduate and former North Carolina Extension Agent.

All classes meet from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Cost is \$10 each.

Beautiful perennials also will be on sale, along with the gift shop, fresh baked goods, and cider slush.

To sign up, call (989) 695-2465

The classes include:

Saturday, May 14: "Growing Tree Fruit."

Saturday, May 21: "Make the Most of Your Small Garden."

Saturday, June 4: "Organic Gardening and Composting."

Saturday, June 11: "Growing Flowers."

Saturday, June 18: "Growing and Using Herbs"

Saturday, June 25: "Gardening for Wildlife."

Upcoming 2005 programs

5/25 — Plant exchange and tour of Amy Fitkin's garden

6/22 — Tour of Crystal Kauer's garden

7/27 — Tour of Sara Clark's garden

8/24 — Tour of Carmen Lerash's garden

9/21 Fall plant exchange at Anne Birkam's garden

9/28 — Joe LaForest, Dow Gardens pest manager, "Identifying Insects"

10/19 — Susan Hunter Scott, AMG. "Ornamental Grasses"

11/16 — Patricia Pennell of Grand Rapids "Rain Gardens"

12/14 — Annual Christmas Potluck