

The Grapevine

Informal gardens await members in June

Kathy Berger may have grown up near Detroit, but she says she could never go back.

When members of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardeners Association meet in June they will see why.

The shady, eight acres at the corner of Swan Creek Road and Brennan Road, south of Hemlock, her home for 24 years, features a variety of gar-



Kathy Berger sits outside the gazebo near the pond at her Hemlock area home.

Inside this issue:

<i>Minutes of the May meeting</i>	2
<i>Letter from the President</i>	3
<i>Meet the Gardener</i>	3
<i>Odds and Ends</i>	4,5
<i>Field trip update</i>	5
<i>Gardening for Gents group exposed</i>	6
<i>Volunteer opportunities</i>	7

dens, along with a pond and gazebo.

And, says Berger, a substitute teacher for Hemlock Public Schools, husband Rolland, a general contractor, is going to build her a greenhouse this year.

“He’s real handy – he built the gazebo by the pond...he’s just never finished the house,” she joked.

“One of my first memories of flowers is in the late 1940s-’50s. My mother was in the Grosse Pointe Garden Club, where she served as president for a while, and they had rescued native plants from destruction. That club is still going strong. They’re the ones who donated the lion sculpture in the MSU Children’s Garden.”

Berger taught math after graduating from Central Michigan University, then joined Consumers Energy, a six-month job that stretched into 21 years. Her husband is retired from General Motors Corp.

“I’m a country gardener,” she says, looking around at her yard, filled with perennials, bulbs, shrubs and more. “Although now I wish I had saved more of my plant labels.”

Her garden, she explains, is informal, a hodge-podge of what she likes and what will grow.

“I’ve got 10 different kinds of clematis, quite a few hostas and a weeping larch I got from one of our plant trips, plus a collection of hydrangeas. There are trillium and other wildflowers around the house.”

There also are apple and cherry trees, grapes and patches for strawberries and asparagus.

Next Meeting

7 p.m. – 9 p.m. Wednesday, June 25, at Kathy Berger’s home, 16964 Swan Creek Road

7 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Meeting

7:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. Refreshments

8 p.m. – View gardens & grounds

Directions: Take Hemlock Rd south to Swan Creek Rd; turn right. House is on NE corner of Swan Creek and Brennan. There is some parking on site or park on Brennan where there is less traffic. Bring a lawn chair.

And by the time members arrive for the monthly meeting, she’ll have planted the tomatoes she enjoys – Sweet Baby Girl, 4th of July and, of course, Burpees Burgers, a spin-off of her own name.

“My husband built me a seed starter stand like Judy’s and I raised quite a few seedlings. I even brought in some geraniums and impatiens and did a lot of cuttings.

“But it’s going to be a little interesting this year. My daughter had a baby, Lily, who was not expected to live, about the time I should have repotted my seeds, but things got all mixed up, even though I had them labeled, what with my going back and forth to the hospital all the time.

“Now, I don’t know what the plants are, except for the catnip that my cat tries to get at.”

Blackie, the cat, lounging nearby, simply rolled over and stretched, refusing to acknowledge her comment while Megan, the dog, settled down on the brick-paved patio, edged by perennials.

“Rol and I had six kids between

(Continues on Page 6)

Minutes of the May 28 meeting

President Judy Henning called the May meeting to order at 7 p.m. May 28. We met at the home of Aileen Cowan.

Marilyn Karpicke moved that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as published; Sheila Hemsted seconded it.

Deb Keller presented the following financial report:

Opening balance	\$8,137.07
Deposits	946.30
Expenses	1,369.60
Closing balance	7,713.77

As of 4/27/03 we have 156 paid members.

Judy Henning stated that MG Conference info has been sent out and any who had not received theirs should check with Angela Irwin.

Elaine Rappley called for volunteers to work the Saginaw Art Museum Garden

Walk from noon to 8 p.m. June 18. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 that day.

Judy Henning presented Pat Korkus with a pin honoring her for 250 volunteer hours.

As members we are permitted to send as many as 15 members to the Saginaw Valley Nurseryman Association meetings. However, we don't currently have the meeting dates.

Ben Pawlik needs two volunteers to help at the Rose Garden for a couple weeks as he recovers from a medical problem.

The Board has decided to give out \$2,000.

Their recommendations are: \$500 each to Hartley Outdoor Education Center and Saginaw County Rail Trail; \$200 each to Green Point Environmental Center, Cushway House and Anderson Enrichment Center and for a member and the President or a Board Member to attend the annual Master Gardener Volunteer Summer Conference.

FYI bits:

I-75 Rest Stop Project is no longer a MSUE directed opportunity.

Sign-up sheet was available for the Roethke House project. Volunteers will work at the Zoo May 31 and June 4.

Zoo class for the butterfly garden will be June 12.

Riverby Gardens in Owosso, which carries ornamental grasses, is now open.

Ann Burkam has a sign-up sheet for refreshments for the June and July meetings.

Gail Caird detailed upcoming field trips.

When the business meeting ended members enjoyed refreshments and the plant exchange.

Next meeting is June 25 at the home of Kathy Berger in Hemlock.

Ellie Robertson, Secretary

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 Ste 100

Saginaw, MI 48607-1287

E-mail: saginaw@msue.msu.edu

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.



SVMGA members bring plants for the annual exchange at Aileen and Tom Cowan's home outside of St. Charles. There were enough plants so that everyone was able to take home a half dozen or so.

Nurseryman and Landscape Association has Summer Field Day Aug. 27

CARELTON, MI -- The 2003 Michigan Nurseryman and Landscape Association Summer Field Day is Aug. 27, at Meiring Greenhouse, one of the state's premiere greenhouse producers.

The day's activities include tours, equipment demonstrations, education sessions and exhibits of nursery stock, sod, stone, mulch, concrete products, pots and containers, chemicals and fertilizers, along with other industry products and services.

Meiring Greenhouse is located a short drive down I-275 from I-94. Visit the MNLA Web site for more information and registration cost.

SVMGA is a member of the Nurseryman and Landscape Association, but has a limited number of slots. If Master Gardeners want to attend, they should contact Angela Irwin at 758-2500, ext. 224, to ensure we don't exceed our allotment.

Letter from the President

Wow! What a great plant exchange we had at our May meeting.

We were somewhere in between 84 and 90 members participating in the exchange.

The number and variety of plants was astounding. It was truly hard to select a plant when my number was drawn.

If we had given out a prize for the most plants brought to the exchange, Judy and Bill Wegner would have won hands down. If my memory serves me right, they brought 105 plants to the exchange.

Unbelievable and very generous of them to do this.

Many thanks to Aileen and Tom

Cowan for hosting the meeting and plant exchange.

They have been working very hard on their landscaping and it is really taking shape.

I have been hearing horror stories about perennials lost due to our cold dry winter.

Lavender seems to have taken a big hit, along with Calamintha, Persicaria, Roses, and many other plants.

I look at a loss this way, it is an opportunity to try something new and I have eight opportunities.



We have many volunteer projects in operation at this time. Be sure to check your volunteer opportunity sheet to see which one is right for you.

Volunteers are always needed, especially for maintenance.

I am looking forward to attending the International Master Gardener Convention in Kentucky this month, as well as the State Master Gardener Conference.

I hope to see many of you at the State convention.

Our June meeting is at the garden of Kathy Berger in Hemlock. See you there.

Take care, Judy

Meet the Gardener — Carol Wagner of Saginaw

“Tasha Tudor is my mentor. I want to be just like her,” says this Master Gardener. “I’d even work barefoot in my garden!”

Carol Wagner, a relatively new M.G., is by no means new to gardening. She was born the eldest of four and was raised in Saginaw.

Her mother was a gardener who taught her children the biological names of plants and her father was an artist who painted, carved and drew. By trade he was a tool and die maker. He was commissioned by Nabisco to make the “Howdy Doody” cookie cutter.

Carol says of her siblings, “Everybody gardens;” her children, too.

When Carol was 17 years old, she decided to become an Arthur Murray dance instructor. The male instructors wore tuxedos and black patent leather shoes. When she set her eyes on Jack Wagner, she knew “That’s the man I’m going to marry.” And she did three years later even though “he

dated me last of all the girls in the class and did a dance demonstration with pig poop on his patent leather shoes!” Jack came from a farm and did a lot of farming on the side.

When Carol and Jack were first married, she says she watched him plant tulip bulbs, tomatoes, peppers, etc as she sat in a chair.

Forty years later he marveled at Carol’s gardening skills as he sat in a chair watching her. After filling in a swimming pool, she decided to have a pond, which she constructed herself. It’s a lovely, peaceful area now, with beautiful water plants, fish and frogs. She is currently developing a special water feature commemorating her husband, Jack and daughters Carrie and Holly.

Carol’s gardens were featured during Garden Walk 2002 with over 200 perennials, vegetables, strawberries and herbs. Unique ornaments fill in at just the right spots. Of the garden walk, she says, “I wanted to change everything as soon as it was done!”

Instead of change she has expanded and enhanced.

Carol’s desire to stay at home with her three children after losing her first two, prompted her to find interests she could work at home. She became a seamstress, “Sewing all hours of the night” and also enjoyed beading, knitting, crocheting and tatting. Weaving may be next! If she follows Tasha Tudor, as she’d like, she may even raise her own sheep! In the meantime she is playing duplicate bridge, desiring to earn gold points toward her Masters.

Since taking the M.G. class, Carol is looking forward to the camaraderie of fellow gardeners to share tips and gardening trips.

Once, “painfully shy,” but no more, says Carol. Gardening, as well as other accomplishments, changed that years ago. It’s hard to be shy when one’s garden smiles at so many people, who ask lots of questions of this gardener.

Story by Joan Martin

Odds and ends

I-75 rest stop changes status

Notice: As of May 14, 2003, the Southbound I75 Rest Stop project is no longer an MSU-directed opportunity.

Any volunteer hours accumulated prior to that date will be counted as MSU-directed.

Volunteer hours accumulated after May 13, are considered personal choice hours.

Wanted: lawn chair owner

Treasurer Aileen Cowan is seeking the owner of a lawn chair left at her home following the May meeting and plant exchange.

You may call her at 865-8784 or e-mail her at scratchcreations@worldnet.att.net.

Attention Summer Conference attendees

Members who will attend the annual MSU Master Gardener Volunteer Summer Conference are asked to notify President Judy Henning.

Last month, the association authorized a \$200 annual reimbursement for the president and a \$200 scholarship for a member in good standing to attend the MSU program.

You may reach Henning at 799-41336 or e-mail her at judrich@juno.com.

Reminder to members

Only members of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association are allowed to attend the monthly meetings.

Find us on The Web

The Grapevine is posted on the Michigan Master Gardener homepage, shortly after the newsletter deadline. Angela Irwin will send a message via list serve when it is posted.

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

You need a current copy of Adobe Reader to open and read it.

Please contact Beth Bedtelyon, editor, at 781-6834, or daysend-farm@chartermi.net if you have problems. The next newsletter deadline is July 7.

Need a neck cooler?

President Judy Henning says bring cash or your checkbook – but please buy one of the 56 neck coolers remaining.

The neck coolers are an annual fundraiser for the association, Henning adds. She will have them available for sale at the June 25 meeting. Each costs \$3.

Association aids local projects

Ten local projects and/or presentations have received funding from the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association for 2003.

Those receiving \$200 checks included Tom Brubaker for his Hearth Home project in Saginaw; Judy Henning for the Saginaw Children's Zoo; Debbie Doud for the Saginaw Township Playscape; Carol Rosser for Arrowwood School in Saginaw Township; Ruth Sny for the Roethke House in Saginaw; Gail Caird for "Making It Safe to Play" at city playgrounds; Tammy Kalishek for a children's garden at a daycare center; and \$200 to Aileen Cowan for the Rail Trail project.

In addition, member Peggy Shaver received \$324.36 to produce her "Gardens of England" slide show/presentation while Jo Henige was given the remaining \$75 for gardens at the CAER Center in Chesaning.

Project/presentation funds are given annually, based on requests received by the board.

Chesaning Garden Walk set

The fourth annual Chesaning Garden Walk is from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 21.

Tickets are available at Ace Hardware and Heu-Rich Jewelers in Chesaning, or by calling 845-6110.

Wegner asked to speak

Advanced Master Gardener Bill Wegner was asked to speak on "Ornamental Grasses: Four Seasons of Beauty" at the 72nd annual convention of the Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan.

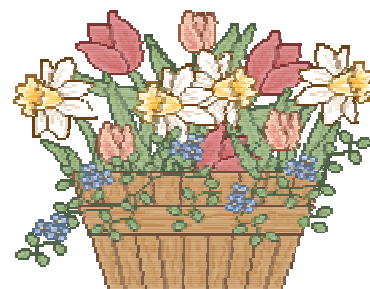
Some 175 people viewed his slide show and heard his presentation at the Ashman Court Hotel in downtown Midland.

Bay City has garden walk

BAY CITY – Six gardens, including

the historic Trombley House, are part of the annual Bay City Garden Club Garden Walk Tuesday, June 17.

It is from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tickets are \$8 in advance or \$10 the day of the walk. Call Shelly Patterson at 892-2024.



Potter Street Flower Project seeks help from MGs

The Northeast Saginaw Neighborhood Association is seeking volunteers to donate plants, flower seeds, dirt and time to assist in "Making a Difference" in the city of Saginaw.

Contact Mary Washington at 754-2920 if you are interested.

Not too late to order books

Book orders from the American Nurseryman Publishing Co. are due at the June meeting, says Aileen Cowan, treasurer.

She postponed the deadline a month to allow for the plant exchange at the May meeting. Catalogs were distributed at the April meeting.

The publishing company will give Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association members a 5 to 10 percent discount on a group book order. However, the total book order must amount to at least \$1,000.

For information, contact Cowan at scratchcreations@worldnet.att.net or call 865-8784.

Children's Zoo Adopt-A-Garden

I want to thank the following Master Gardeners for doing a great job in planting our Adopt-A-Garden at the Children's Zoo:

Anne Birkam, Charlotte Huebner, Brian Ott, Judy Porter, Ellie Robertson, Susan Scott, and Ruth Sny.

(Continued on page 5)

Summer bus trip planned for July

Last call to sign up for this summer's bus trip! The bus will leave at 7:30 a.m. Saturday, July 26, from the Meijer's parking lot on Tittabawasee.

Our first stop is the Toledo Botanical Garden in Toledo, Ohio. We will arrive around 10 a.m., which leaves lots of time for touring the gardens and eating lunch in their outdoor cafe.

Toledo Botanical Garden consists of 60 acres of gardens; those expected to be at their peak during our visit include the perennial garden, the herb garden, the pioneer, rose, All-American vegetable, and annual gardens, the daylily collection, and the aquatic garden.

After lunch, we will head back north, stopping at the Heavenly Scent Herb Farm in Fenton, and The Weed Lady in Grand Blanc.

We have allotted one hour, more or

less, at each of these stops. Heavenly Scent features herbs, and has many display beds, and the Weed Lady specializes in unusual annuals and flowering bushes, and unique containers. We should be back no later than 6 pm.

Cost of the trip is \$25 for the bus fare. You will also need money for lunch and for any purchases you might choose to make.

We need a minimum of 40 people to go. The \$25 is non-refundable (we will go rain or shine) unless the trip is cancelled, and the last date to sign up is June 25, our next meeting date.

You may sign up at the meeting, or by mailing a check made out to SVMGA to Gail Caird, 5355 N. Nottingham Drive, Saginaw 48603.

The trip is open to any Master Gardeners, spouses, and friends.

Gail Caird, Program Director

Here's who to contact

Here's who to contact within the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association:

Gail Caird, program director, 793-1942

Wil Hufton, MSU Extension Office orientation, 792-9323

Jan O'Dell, mentor coordinator, 793-4357

Janet Martineau, historian, 790-7341
Anne Birkam, refreshment chairperson, 754-7090

Bonnie Stewart, newsletter mailing committee, 793-1442

Debbi King, newsletter mailing label maker, 791-4001

Dorothy Bodeis, SVMGA clothing, 799-6086

Peggy Shaver, speakers bureau team and MSUE Demonstration Garden planner, 695-5489

More odds and ends

(Continued from page 4)

Stop over at the zoo and check the SVMGA'S garden as well as the other beautiful gardens. If I have forgotten someone, let me know.

Judy A. Henning

Rail Trail planting thank you

Well, the soil (and I use that term very lightly!!!) was beyond crummy and the areas we planted we're sure were former landfills for bricks, concrete and assorted railroad debris (maybe old rail cars gone rusty???).

But our trusty diehard crew pressed on and planted 47 HUGE trees and shrubs at two sites along the Rail Trail Thursday, June 5.

I am here to testify, people, that the sites look magnificent and all the powers that be are truly thrilled with the results.

I want to personally name and thank all the volunteers that are now, I'm sure, resting comfortably with their tubes of aching muscle rub close at hand. They

are: Deb Keller, Carol Leuenberger, Darlene Damp, Janice Wazny, Judy Ross, Bonnie Duclos, Gail Caird, Tom Rosser, Susan Scott, Sheila Hempsted, Connie Rehmann and Elaine Rappley.

These people accomplished an incredible amount of work planting both sites in one day. I also want to give added thanks to Elaine, Janice and Gail for getting the eye park site planted by themselves and my husband Tom (if you happen to see him – although I doubt you will as he tells me he's done letting me talk him into being a volunteer for quite some time, maybe years -- tell him thanks for a job well done too).

Anyway thanks again for a terrific job. If I've missed anyone please accept my apologies.

The Rail Trail will be an ongoing project so there will be plenty for everyone to participate in for volunteer hours in the



Tom Cowan, Deb Keller, Susan Scott and Aileen Cowan rest their weary bones after back-breaking digging at the entrance to the Saginaw County Rail Trail in St. Charles.

future. I'll see you all around.

Aileen Cowan

(Editor's note: Cowan reported the day after the planting vandals ripped out several shrubs at the sites. The Cowans recovered most of them nearby and hopefully will be able to replant them.)

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,
July 2nd**

(Continued from Page 1)

us and they all loved to swim,” she says of the pond across the driveway from the house.

“It’s pretty quiet now that they’re gone. They used to do quite a bit of weeding for me when they were here.”

However, her family will be back in August when the Bergers host an outdoor wedding reception for their newlywed children.

“That open area in the backyard is where the kids used to play ball. I’ve been inspired by other master gardeners, like Elaine Rappley, and I want to plant around the woods, starting some



Berger, cat Blackie and dog Megan pose at the patio.

ferns and pulmonaria. It’s going to take some work. We travel so I’m not obsessive about weeds. I couldn’t live here if I was.”

When she’s not tending her own gardens, she’s busy with the perennial garden she installed at the Hemlock Post Office. Berger also has helped with the Extension garden and the Saginaw Children’s Zoo garden.

“With my grandbaby being sick, it’s taken a lot of time away from home and the gardens, but someday, I’d like to build paths and more structures for the gardens. I’m looking forward to the wedding reception here – the daylilies, rudbeckias and echinaceas will be in full bloom.”

Story and photographs by Darlene Damp, co-editor

Their secret is out — Gardening for Gents ‘exposed’

There’s a mysterious group of male gardeners who have worked hard at keeping their organization low-key.

But as their desire to work on community projects grew, they had to shed their secrecy.

“A couple of years ago, if you had asked me about Gardening for Gents, I would have kept my mouth closed,” says Grey Gitzen, one of the original 10 members and an Advanced Master Gardener.

“Now, you’re exposing us to the world.”

The men first began meeting in March 1994, after florist Tom Whitney met with a Michigan State University Extension Office representative, but decided that affiliation was too organized.

Instead, they met privately nine months of the year, sharing plants and camaraderie.

“I think we were in existence for years before anyone except our wives knew,” Gitzen explains. “We just didn’t seek publicity.”

New members are invited to join as the 43-member Gardening for Gents seeks to remain small, with a limit of 50 members.

Membership is “eclectic,” ranging from attorneys and doctors to retirees. Floyd Kloc is president while Randy Schantz has served as treasurer since the start.

“We’re always on the lookout,” says Gitzen, secretary.

“We’ve probably had 100 members altogether, but people come and go, get busy.”

In recent years, they’ve taken on projects, like an Adopt-A-Garden at the Saginaw Children’s Zoo, in the back, near the railroad tracks, where you will find some of the best-tasting rhubarb ever, according to Gitzen.

They’re also in the process of fin-

ishing up the historically accurate garden at the Castle Museum of Saginaw County.

They’re currently working on developing a historically correct apple orchard for the Cushway House, the oldest home in Saginaw, located near Andersen Water Park.

Every year they meet at Boehler’s Nursery to hear what’s new this year and in May they head over to the Saginaw Public Schools’ Career Opportunity Center for their annual perennial exchange.

In July it’s the annual meeting and potluck dinner at Gitzen’s Saginaw Township home with their wives as special guests.

“We have various speakers – just about all of the ones from the Master Gardeners’ Speakers Bureau have spoken to our group – and others.

“One year we made 2-foot troughs and we’re going to try that again this year,” Gitzen says.

“We promote gardening and having fun,” he adds.

“We’re just a very compatible group of guys. If women want to come, they have to bring cookies – we admit to being sexist.”

Story by Darlene Damp, co-editor

Welcome new members

Maria Sutorik, Frankenmuth, Master Gardener trainee.

Holly Furlo, Saginaw, Master Gardener trainee.

Tom Rosser, Saginaw, Master Gardener trainee.

Carol Wagner, Saginaw, Master Gardener trainee.

Grace Dunkle, Saginaw, Certified Master Gardener.

Volunteer opportunities

The following are current volunteer opportunities, which will aid the community and help fulfill your requirements for certification or recertification.

Master Gardener Coordinator **Angela Irwin** is seeking volunteers to **answer homeowner questions**. Call Irwin or Wil Hufton at 758-2500, ext. 224.

Interested in helping establish **urban gardening** in the Saginaw area? The project is still in the planning stages and offers great learning potential. Call Irwin at 758-2500, ext 224.

Earn MSU-sponsored hours when you man a table at the **Saginaw Farmers Market**. Volunteers provide information on the Master Gardener program and serve as a community resource.

The table will be set up from noon until 2 p.m. Wednesdays. Call Irwin at 758-2500, ext. 224.

The **MSU Ag Expo** is in need of Master Gardener volunteers, working in four-hour shifts, to demonstrate phases of container gardening and seed starting.

Seeds and containers will be donated; help is needed in getting them planted. Contact Joyce Dankenbring at cdrmom@acd.net or call (517) 543-1588.

The **Saginaw Downtown Lions Garden project** and the **Rail Trail project** are now MSU-directed hours!

Elaine Rappley is looking for at least 20 volunteers to work two-hour shifts during the **Saginaw Art Museum Garden Walk** from noon to 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 18. Master Gardeners answer questions from visitors and may volunteer at more than one home. For information, e-mail rap-

pleyjunk@aol.com.

The **Bridgeport Historical Society** needs volunteers in their new historical village for the following projects: a Children's Garden coordinator; a garden planner/designer; a gardening volunteer; and a landscaper.

Please call Susan Lawcock at 777-4423.

Clean and replant gardens at the **CAER Center** in Chesaning; call Josephine Henige, 845-5533.

The **Lutheran Home** in Frankenthum is seeking a Garden Club Coordinator; call Deb Mikolanz at 652-9951.

Like to **mentor** new Master Gardener trainees? Call Jan O'Dell at 793-4357.

Bonnie Stewart is looking for a newsletter **mailing assistant**; call 793-1422.

Help Peggy Shaver as a **program presenter**; call 695-5489.

Barb Gwizdala wants a **design assistant** for the Andersen Enrichment Center; call 759-1362.

A variety of projects await at the **Saginaw Art Museum**; call Pat Bourdow at 755-8879.

Needed: hard-working, energetic Master Gardeners to help spiff up the **Downtown Lion's Park gardens**.

Bill Wegner has scheduled another workday for the Downtown Lion's Park from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, June 21.

If you are able to give even one hour of your time to this project, it will be very much appreciated.

Call Wegner at 793-4218 or 793-

1777 to volunteer.

Marsha Cooley from United Way Volunteer Services is seeking a volunteer to plant a courtyard garden at **Hoyt Nursing Home Rehab**, 1202 Weiss. The area is tilled, the plants purchased, but they need a layout and planting done. Call Cooley at 755-0433.

Dear Master Gardener Volunteers:

If you think ornamental grasses are just fancy weeds, you don't need to read any further.

However, if you find ornamental grasses exciting, dynamic and as far from a weed as possible, then you may be interested in this cool volunteer opportunity at MSU.

Dr. Art Cameron, MSU's own ornamental grasses guru is looking for a few fanatic Master Gardener Volunteers to assist him with the ornamental grasses garden that is located at the **Hancock Turf Center**.

You would help with planting, maintenance (which may involve pulling a few weeds, which I know is technically against the rules, but it will help further the knowledge of others in the long run) and maybe even evaluation of the plants in that garden.

You would have to be available during the day, during the work week and on an as-needed basis.

This would not involve a ton of hours, but they would be fun hours!

If you need more information or know you are interested, please contact Art directly at: cameron@msu.edu.

Mary McLellan
State Master Gardener Coordinator
Michigan State University