

# The Grapevine

Bulletin of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association

June 2004 Volume 8, Issue 6

## Roses take center stage for garden walk, MG visit

It's taken seven years for Nancy and Alan Hales to make a home and a garden at 4730 Clunie, but now they're ready to show it off.

Not only will the couple host the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association Wednesday, June 23, they'll open their suburban Saginaw Township yard for the annual Saginaw Art Museum garden walk Wednesday, June 16, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The setting, behind the Saginaw Country Club and The Village, gives it a park-like atmosphere.

No matter when you come, Nancy Hales is sure there will be plenty of roses in bloom, in all colors, sizes and fragrances.

"There was nothing in this yard except two cedar trees and a crabapple tree," explains husband Alan, proudly surveying the changes the couple have made. "There was no deck, no pond, no flowers except for a clump of tulips."

"I always liked to garden," says Nancy, adding that her father liked working in his yard and her grandfather had a farm where Resurrection Lutheran Church on Brockway now stands.

"I used to ride with him while the horse pulled the plow over what's now The

Corral (off Gratiot)."

Before they moved from their house on North Carolina, Nancy had more than two dozen rose bushes and a vegetable garden. Today, their new yard is filled with roses, front and back, some 70 at last count.

"I wanted some flowers, but we had so much work to do on the house, that I didn't have time to move the roses from the old house," Nancy says. "I gathered up some daylilies, some forsythia and some rhubarb. It was so hard to leave all



Nancy Hales stands near a new garden, featuring different foliage and flowers.

the stuff we had collected over 20 years."

Once they completed the major work on the house, the Hales bought a rototiller and started plowing up grass for planting beds. It began with an old-fashioned fence garden so Nancy would have room for training the dogs she showed in obedience trials.

But she couldn't live without her roses, so she began adding them here and there – and even had to build a deck around one of the first groupings.

And any rose will do – hybrid teas, climbing, grandiflora, miniatures, or shrub.

"Once the first rose comes out and they start blooming, she's got a rose in

### Next meeting

- € 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. Wednesday, June 23, at the home of Nancy Hales, 4730 Clunie, off Center Road, Saginaw Township
- € 7 p.m.—7:30 p.m. Business meeting
- € 7:30 p.m.—8 p.m. Refreshments
- € 8 p.m. – 9 p.m. View gardens
- € Bring a lawn chair. Parking available on Clunie and adjacent side street.

every room of the house," says Alan, who works at Schaefer Hat Store in downtown Saginaw.

Nancy also takes them to work at Saginaw Valley Bone and Joint Center, off Gratiot.

Alan's garden duty is primarily pest control.

"With all this rain only 50 have aphids," he said, tongue-in-cheek. "With this rain I can't get out and spray. Last year it was a battle with all the cold weather."

That isn't going to stop all those buds from opening just about the time the first visitors are set to arrive, not with the regular feeding schedule Nancy has developed.

"I've got something in bloom, from snow drops in March right through the season," Nancy explains.

"My other flowers are usually purple, lavender or burgundy. Lately, I've had some fun with the colors of the leaves. That way, when I look out my window, it's pretty to look at, even if there are no flowers."

An herb bed now fills part of the former dog training area.

In the front yard, there's a circle of 39 roses edged with tarragon, along with two weeping larch trees, a smoke bush, and a shade garden filled with hostas, forget-me-nots and ferns. A holding area on the side of the house is filled with mums and hollyhocks.

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# Minutes of the May 2004 meeting

President Judy Henning welcomed 70 members to our plant exchange at the home of Grey and June Gitzen. She extended our sincere thanks for their hospitality.

Joe Leach moved that the minutes of the last meeting be approved as printed and Aileen Cowan seconded the motion.

Deb Keller read the following treasurer's report.

Balance at last report	\$4,903.32
Deposits 4/29 to 5/26	533.50
Expenses 4/28 to 5/26	1,336.53
Balance of 5/26/04	\$4,100.18

As of 5/26/04, we have 159 paid members.

The information on the Master Gardener Summer Conference has been mailed out. Gardeners are urged not to delay in responding. Five SVMGA

members will be instructors.

Two volunteer opportunities were presented to the group — Southbound I-75 rest stop, planting of annuals on Saturday, May 29, an MSUE-directed project; and the Veterans Administration Medical Center, 1500 Weiss.

For the latter, one or two people are needed for maintenance, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call Kathy Tate at 791-2219.

This is an election year and two or three volunteers are needed for the nomination committee.

Nominations for the new officers will be given at the September meeting and the election will be at the October meeting.

The sign-up sheet for volunteers for our Autumn Affair for Gardeners is still available. A meeting for volunteers will be scheduled.

Pat Bourdow is still looking for volunteers for the Wednesday June 16 Gar-

den Walk, sponsored by the Saginaw Art Museum with SVMGA.

The Hosta Walk, which Saginaw is hosting July 11, needs eight volunteers for two homes.

Program Director Gail Caird reminded us of the upcoming trip to the Marshall area garden tour and garden market July 11.

New logo clothing will be available toward the end of the year. Input from members is requested as to the types of garment, logo, etc.

The next meeting will be June 23, 2004, at the home of Nancy Hales on Clunie. (See related story, Page 1.)

Following the business meeting, the plant exchange was held and refreshments were enjoyed.

We were blessed with beautiful weather and all went smoothly.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Ellie Robertson, secretary*

## Officers for 2004

### 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 Co-Editors

Beth Bedtelyon 799-0309

Darlene Damp 746-9113

### MSU Extension

One Tuscola Street, Suite 100  
Saginaw, MI 48607-1287

### Master Gardener Secretary

Delfina J. R. Stacy 758-2500  
ext. 231  
stacyd@msue.msu.edu

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## Leaf color, flowers spotlight in new garden...

*(Continues from Page 1)*

When the apple tree died in the front yard, Nancy turned it into a lavender bed, collecting different varieties. In the fall, she dries it and packages it up for family and friends.

"We put in a dry creek bed and I want to make a river of grape hyacinths for next spring," Nancy says. "I'm hoping to do that with blue petunias this summer."

"Alan said no new gardens, but I managed to get that one in alongside the driveway. It would be nice to say I sit and enjoy the gardens, but when I'm not weeding, I'm doing something else out here.

"I took a painting class and maybe I'll incorporate some of that out here, like around the shed. I work full-

time so I have to garden around that schedule."

The couple has two children, a son in Midland and a daughter in Arizona. There are also two grandchildren, ages 2 and 11 months.

"Becky Geidans and I have known each other since the '70s — which I guess really ages us — and I got her into gardening.

"But she was the one who took the Master Gardener class and told me I needed to. Once there was a night class out at Delta College, I signed up.

"You meet the nicest people in our association — that's why I like to go to summer conference, the camaraderie."



Hales in her shade garden.

*Story by Darlene B. Damp, co-editor*

## Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association mission statement

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

## Letter from the President

Another successful plant exchange was held at the home/garden of Grey and June Gitzen. Seventy members attended.

The choices and number of plants was truly remarkable. I hope everyone went home with a new plant or two. Thanks Grey and June for inviting us into your garden.

As you have heard me say, no doubt, at the last few meetings this is an election year. Please take some time and read the descriptions of the officer's duties.

After doing so, I hope you will consider running for an office. It is a rewarding experience, I can attest to that.

This year every position will be open for the elections.

I am still planting and will be doing so for another week or so. The rain has put me behind as it has many gardeners.

Have you noticed how wonderful the plants look this year? The Lupine is outstanding and the Hostas (wow!) they are magnificent.

Winter was surely good to us gardeners, giving us that blanket of snow needed for insulation and moisture.



Remember - check your Volunteer Opportunity Sheet and pick one or two projects you would like to be involved with and call the chairperson to sign up.

We now have all our speakers lined up for our October 2, 2004, seminar "An Autumn Affair for Garden Lovers."

There will be a meeting at my home at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 7. for all those who volunteered and for anyone still interested in volunteering.

I hope to see some of you at the Master Gardener Summer Conference.

Our next meeting is at the home of Nancy Hales. See you there.

Take care,  
*Judy*

## Meet Master Gardener Gaye Sass

Can it really be called "work" when you are in gardens all day?

This Master Gardener fooled me when I met her. Gaye Sass works at Kluck's Tree Farm through the peak spring through fall planting season and sometimes during the Christmas season.

She says that Kluck's is a family-based business and the way she was talking, she sure seemed like part of the family.

In her golf cart, she'll tool you around the farm, pointing out each variety of trees or shrub of interest to the buyer.

When Gaye is not working she's busy developing her own gardens on Center Road, where she and husband Greg bought a home 28 years ago.

Gaye says 12 years of craft shows kept her too busy in the past to really work on her garden. She has made dried floral design for various art fairs such as "Art in the Park" held in Plymouth, just before the annual Ann Arbor Fair and a November show in Saline.

Gaye says the shows require a large volume of floral designs and after 12 years, her outlook is turning more toward home and garden.

Gaye was born in Saginaw and raised in St. Charles with two sisters and a brother.

She feels lucky to have "grown up in the country."

She says she always loved the gardens. Her great-grandmother had a city garden packed with all kinds of things and made her "pin money" from the sale of raspberries and strawberries. She even had elderberry trees, "huge berries."

Gaye's grandmother used to tell her that her sister would have a nice house, but Gaye would have a nice garden, and that she does!



When they bought their home on a double lot, there was a huge garden, which they downsized. Arborvitae surrounded the yard.

After cutting the cord on her trimmer (while on a ladder), Gaye decided to let the trees become a fence-like border. Adding on to the house changed the look of the yard, "no sun anymore."

She and Greg added a pond with water lilies and Japanese iris about five or six years ago, and since then, she has been re-developing her yard and rediscovering her love for gardening. She has been trying to use mostly perennials: lupine, hosta, tree peonies and a new one this year ...a beautiful fluted gaillardia.

For hobbies, Gaye says there is little

time to sew any more, but she loves to read.

In between art shows, her job at Kluck's and other tasks, she has raised a son and daughter.

Her desire to be able to answer questions about different plants, their care and pruning led her to the Master Gardening class of 2000.

Gaye says not only has she learned a great deal, but also she has made some wonderful friends, especially two.

Her volunteer hours have been with her church garden and the gardens at the M.S.U. office, the Saginaw Children's Zoo, the Rose Garden and currently with the Saginaw Commission on Aging.

Inspired by a trip two years ago to Europe when she "accidentally" went to Keukenhof Gardens (15 miles from Amsterdam), her future dreams include travel to famous gardens.

Keukenhof, with 6 million tulip bulbs, planted row after row, at a prime time for tulips, was one of her favorite sites ever.

Next stop, hopefully, will be Longwood Gardens and maybe, just maybe, a trip to the Chelsea Garden show in England one May.

I doubt she would have to look far for company to go with her.

*Story by Joan Martin*

## Odds and ends

### **'Autumn Affair' volunteers will meet July 7**

Members who want to volunteer to help on SVMGA's inaugural fall gardening conference, "An Autumn Affair," will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 7, at Judy Henning's home, 2016 Adams Blvd.

This will be the first session to put together assignments and finalize details for SVMGA's inaugural event.

There are numerous volunteer jobs available, from publicity to registration.

The session meets rain or shine, says Henning. Please bring your own chair.

### **A big thank-you**

Thanks to Janet Martineau, Nancy Cotcamp, Debbie Keller, Raeann Krauss, Ben Pawlik, and Dolores Hignite for their work on the May 13 project "Serving Those Who Serve US."

It brought high school students from 10 districts, Master Gardener volunteers, and the United Way (among others) together to "give back" to the families of servicemen in Iraq.

Teams worked at seven homes and at the VA medical center to do spring clean-up, pruning, weeding, and planting of shrubs and perennials to add color and cheer to the yards.

The rain held off, the kids were fantastic workers, and education, bonding and understanding took place. A good time was had by all!

Thanks again! Thank you also to the SVMGA for the project money of \$200.  
*Gail Caird*

### **Two more projects get \$\$\$**

Two more community projects have received funding from the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association.

The Saginaw County Commission on Aging will spend \$50 for a memory garden for seniors. Master Gardener Judy Porter sought the funds for plants, fertilizer and moisture crystals.

Students from the Career Opportunity Center will work on the garden as part of their training and project development. The garden also will serve as a recall tool for elderly residents.

Master Gardener Jane Chard received \$100 for gardens at HealthSource Saginaw, 1340 Hospital Road.

Funds will go toward plants for residents' gardens.

SVMGA has \$900 remaining for 2004 for similar projects, with a \$200 limit per project.

For information or a form, contact Vice President Aileen Cowan.

All project leaders must file a verification report by July 1, 2004, showing how funds were spent, including all receipts.

### **Gardening experts speak June 19**

Learn how to make a hypertufa trough for a miniature garden – or how to integrate conifers into your garden.

Experts on these topics will be the guest speakers Saturday, June 19, for a day-long Garden "Roundevous" presented by the Sunrise Side Master Gardener Association and Iosco County MSU Extension.

From 9:40 to 10:45 a.m., Charlene Harris, co-founder of the American Conifer Society / Central Region, will give a slide presentation on how to combine conifers (cone-bearing trees) with shrubs and perennials in a garden for year-round color and interest.

From 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Gary Whittenbaugh, president of the American Conifer Society, will demonstrate how to construct and plant a Trough Garden.

Whittenbaugh will make a miniature garden in a trough come to life during the demonstration, along with explanation of how to build a "hypertufa trough" out of concrete, peat, sand and water; what kind of soil and plants to use; and how to overwinter it.

Lunch, on your own, follows the lectures, then tours of three area private gardens, ranging from roses to conifers to vegetables, from 1:30 to 4 p.m. Guides will be available at the gardens, and cameras are welcome.

Registration is at 9:30 a.m. at United Methodist Church, 20 M-55 in Tawas City, on a space-available basis. The lectures are at the church. Registration for the day is \$25 for the public, \$10 for Sunrise Side Master Gardener Association members. Maps for the garden tours are

available at registration. Master Gardeners receive educational credit.

Registration forms are available at MSU Extension, 420 West Lake St., Tawas City, or mail a \$25 check to MSU Extension, P.O. Box 599, Tawas City, MI 48764-0599.

No phone registrations, but information is available at (989) 362-3449

### **MG secretary says 'hello'**

I thought it about time to say hello... and give a brief introduction.

I know that shortly before Angela Irwin moved out she sent out a brief note to say goodbye, and also to mention that I would be filling in for her on a temporary basis.

I would just like to personally reiterate that point. If there is anything that you need, questions, or requests... feel free to contact me and let me know. I am new at all of this... but more than willing to learn and assist, and I will give it all my best effort.

I'm excited to be of any help that I can, so please don't hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,  
*Delfina J.R. Stacy,*  
*Michigan State University Extension - Saginaw County Master Gardener Secretary*

### **Please help...**

Veterans Administration Medical Center, 1500 Weiss, has two garden areas it would like one to two volunteers to help maintain, says Kathy Tate.

This includes watering, weeding, pruning, fertilizing (if necessary), general upkeep and maintenance. If we have more volunteers interested they will expand the areas.

One area is a small nature area with annuals, perennials and bushes. The other area is a small rose garden and mum garden.

Tate says she can work with the volunteers' schedule. Preferable time is 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday. If the volunteers need to work in the evening she will make arrange-

# Nominees wanted for SVMGA board positions

The following job descriptions are intended as a guide to outline the various officer responsibilities and the approximate number of hours required to meet those responsibilities.

Please review these carefully and decide which position you would be willing to submit your name for nomination.

## SVMGA President

### 20-25 hours per month:

- ##### Presides at the monthly meetings and Board meetings; preparing agenda for both.
- ##### Writes the "Letter from the President" for monthly newsletter.
- ##### Is the official representative of SVMGA.
- ##### Shall be the liaison between SVMGA & MSUE.
- ##### Collaborates with Board to develop long- and short-term goals and Association policies.
- ##### Gives SVMGA orientation presentation to Master Gardener class.
- ##### Coordinates activities of SVMGA.
- ##### Enforces by-laws and policies of SVMGA.
- ##### Appoints committee members or solicit volunteers, oversees committees and provides direction.

## SVMGA Vice President

### 15 hours per month:

- ##### Attends monthly Board meetings.
- ##### Assumes duties of President if that officer is absent.
- ##### Assists the President with enforcement of by-laws, policies, and membership responsibilities.
- ##### Oversees and coordinates SVMGA projects, assists project leaders, reports to President and Board on regular basis, ensures final project summaries are completed and filed in MG office.
- ##### Assists the President in overseeing committees.
- ##### Assists with volunteer selection or solicitation.

## SVMGA Secretary

### 6 to 8 hours per month:

- ##### Attends monthly Board meetings.
- ##### Keeps minutes of all business meetings. Provides copy to editor to be published in monthly newsletter. Places copy in notebook in MG office.
- ##### Keeps minutes of Board meetings and provides copies to Board members. Places copy in notebook in MG office.
- ##### Keeps attendance record of Board meetings.
- ##### Secretary may be asked to complete any correspondence required by the Association.



## SVMGA Treasurer

### 8 to 10 hours per month:

- ##### Attends monthly Board meetings.
- ##### Collects dues, issues receipts and deposits monies.
- ##### Pays bills incurred by SVMGA.
- ##### Keeps account balance.
- ##### Gives financial report at monthly meetings and Board meetings.
- ##### Maintains list of paid members. Forwards membership information to Board members and Roster Chairperson.
- ##### Collects and deposits earnings from projects.
- ##### Prepares copy of check register for audit committee review and submits end of year report.
- ##### Provides categorized yearly Financial Statement of Income and Expenses.

## SVMGA Program Chairperson

### 6 to 8 hours per month:

- ##### Attends monthly Board meetings.

- ##### Arranges for speakers as determined by Board decision.
- ##### Provides President with agreed upon fees and schedule of speakers.
- ##### Sends confirmation letter to speaker prior to scheduled meeting.
- ##### Arranges for any special set-up or equipment needed for speaker.
- ##### Obtains information to properly introduce speaker or provide President with such information.
- ##### Obtains check from treasurer and pays speaker on night of meeting.
- ##### Send thank-you letter to speaker after event.
- ##### Arranges for field trips as determined by Board decision.
- ##### Submits information to newsletter editor regarding field trips, etc.
- ##### Arranges Christmas Potluck site and assists Potluck Committee as required.

Next board meeting:  
**6 p.m. Wednesday, July 7, at Judy Henning's home**

Newsletter deadline:  
**Monday, July 12**

Send submissions to  
**Darlene Damp, Co-Editor**  
**shrew@att.net**  
and  
**Beth Bedtelyon, Co-Editor**  
**sisinc@charter.net**

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

**Please wear your name tags at the meeting — and introduce yourself to someone you don't know.**

## More odds and ends

(Continues from Page 4)

ments. However, Saturday and Sunday are not available. The job would continue from now through fall.

If you are interested please call Tate at 791-2219.

The volunteers will have to have an orientation but it is very painless, says Tate.

### Field trip rates hours

Members who went on the field trip know can claim two hours of education credit for the May 22 trip, says Gail Caird, program director.

That includes one hour for the herbarium, and one hour for the time spent with Tony Reznicek at his garden.

### Bless you volunteers!

God bless everyone who showed up for planting at the Saginaw Township Playscape: Sherry Burkhart, Darlene Damp, Debbie Keller, Judy Wineman, Mary Zimmerman and Floyd Callison.

If all of you hadn't showed up, I'd still be there getting drenched.

The maintenance calendar has filled in nicely. We still have a few weeks available.

If you would like to cover one of the open weeks — July 19-25; Sept. 13-19; Sept. 20-26; Sept. 27-Oct. 3; Oct. 4-10; and Oct. 11-17 — call me at 284-6031 or e-mail at dadoud@charter.net.

Thanks,  
Debbie Doud

### Lansing Rose Show set for June 26

EAST LANSING — The Greater Lansing Rose Society hosts its annual show from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, June 26-27, at the Michigan State University Plant and Soil Sciences Building.

Rosarians will be available to answer questions and vendors will have roses for sale.

Admission and parking is free. For information, call 355-5191, ext. 331.

## Garden walks abound in state

Communities across Michigan are sponsoring garden walks this month.

Here's a brief listing:

##Franklin Garden Walk, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Wednesday, June 16, by the Franklin Garden Club. Cost is \$12. Call (248) 851-2668.

##Saginaw Art Museum, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 16, featuring seven gardens and museum grounds. Cost is \$10. Call 754-2491.

##Bay City Flower Show and Garden Walk on Thursday, June 17. Flower show is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Delta College Planetarium; walk is from noon to 6 p.m. Cost is \$10. Call 893-8027.

##Historic Chesaning Garden Walk, Saturday, June 19, featuring seven gardens. Cost is \$7 in advance; \$8 day of walk. Call 845-3055 or 845-6110.

##Farmington Town and County Tour, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 19. Cost is \$7. Call (248) 471-2675.

##Alden Dow Landscape Tour, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, June 21, at the Alden B. Dow Home and Studio, Midland. Call 839-2744 for reservations or visit [www.abdow.org](http://www.abdow.org). Part of the Landscape Principles of Alden B. Dow exhibition at Dow Gardens and the Alden B. Dow Centennial Exhibition — Merging of Nature with Architecture at Midland Center for the Arts.

##Plymouth Garden Walk, from noon to 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 22, featuring five private gardens, rain or shine. Cost is \$8. Call (734) 454-4625.

##Milford Garden Walk, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, June 25, featuring seven gardens and market at Johnson Elementary School. Cost is \$10. Call (248) 685-7186.

€ Sylvan Lake Home and Garden Tour, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 26, featuring 10 gardens and homes, from Victorian to modern. Call (248) 681-8624.

##Canton Garden Walk, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 26, featuring six gardens. Cost is \$7. Call (734) 455-8383.

##Goodrich Garden Walk, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 26. Call (810) 636-4011.

##Grosse Pointe Garden Tour, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, June 26-27, featuring 12 private and two public gardens. Cost is \$15. Call (313) 881-4594.

##Beverly Hills Garden Tour, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, June 27, featuring five gardens. Cost is \$12. Call (248) 645-1684.

€ Battle Creek Garden Tour, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, June 26-27, featuring six private gardens. Call (269) 969-0270 or visit [www.lasgarden.org](http://www.lasgarden.org).

## Upcoming programs for 2004

- 6/23 **Garden tour** at Nancy Hales' Saginaw Township home
- 7/28 **Garden tour** at the Saginaw Children's Zoo; meeting begins earlier.
- 8/25 **Garden tour** at Ruth Sny's Saginaw Township home
- 9/22 **"Native Landscaping Around Ponds,"** Matthew Dykstraw, MSU Extension
- 10/27 **"Pruning,"** Jerry Somalski of Bay Landscaping, Essexville
- 11/17 **"English Gardens"** Peggy Shaver, AMG
- 12/8 **Annual Christmas Potluck**

# 10 flower varieties new All-America honorees

EAST LANSING — Ten new All-America Selections award-winning varieties will be available to grace Michigan flower gardens this year, including an AAS gold medal winner, 'Purple Majesty' ornamental millet

These plants performed well under a variety of growing conditions in test gardens in the United States and Canada,

## Nursery news

Haven't had time to shop for plants – or you just discovered a wonderful plant, tree or shrub – and want to tell your fellow MGs? This is the place.

Member Gail Caird shares these tidbits:

**Touch of Nature**, 10630 Gera Road, Birch Run, (989) 624-9509. Good selection of trees and shrubs a little out of the ordinary, perennials, lots of bird baths and other garden art.

**Phil Lisik's**, 1445 N. Iva Rd., Hemlock, 642-5772. Great selection and great prices, especially on hosta and daylilies. Lots of unusual plants. Call first to be sure they're home!

I'd also recommend **Gee Farms**, 14928 Bunkerhill Road, Stockbridge, for amazing varieties of trees and shrubs (you can even check their Web site for a list of plants offered each year), and **Saguaro**, 470 W. 5 Mile Road, Whitmore Lake, was excellent for alpenes, and **Van Atta's**, 9008 Old M-78, Haslett, has a great selection of perennials – I never turn down a trip to any of those 3!

### Tell The Grapevine so we can tell other members

Found a nursery you think others would enjoy?

Send the names, addresses and specialties that make it worth the trip and we'll publish them in the next newsletter.

Send to [sisinc@charter.net](mailto:sisinc@charter.net) or [shrew@att.net](mailto:shrew@att.net) for publication next month.

including one at Michigan State University.

**Purple Majesty** is a purple-leaved ornamental millet. Plants reach 2 feet in width and 3 to 5 feet in height, and grow in almost any soil as long as seeds are planted after the soil has warmed and danger of frost is past.

Plants form 10- to 12-inch seed spikes that are yellow with pollen, then purple as seeds mature.

Immature spikes can be cut for arrangements or allowed to mature and left in the garden for birds or harvested to be fed later.

Space plants 2 feet apart and use them wherever a tall, dramatic element is needed in the garden or a large container.

If you want a fragrant red carnation, **Dianthus caryophyllus 'Can Can Scarlet'** is for you. The 2-inch, fully double scarlet blooms have a spicy aroma and are exceptional as cut flowers. Plants continue to produce blooms throughout the growing season. Plants are about 12 inches wide and 14 to 16 inches tall, with blue-gray foliage.

Agastache is more commonly known as anise hyssop. **Agastache foeniculum 'Golden Jubilee'** commemorates the 50-year reign of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II. Its chartreuse foliage contrasts nicely with its dense, 3-inch, lavender-blue flower spikes. Overall plant height is 15 to 20 inches; plant width is 10 to 15 inches.

Plants are easy to grow and relatively pest free, perform well in full sun or partial shade, and do not require pinching or pruning. Crushed leaves have a strong mint aroma. Space 10 to 12 inches apart.

**Eustoma grandiflorum 'Forever White'** is an AAS bedding plant award winner with great heat and drought tolerance. It produces 2½-inch, ivory-white flowers throughout the summer.

Use it in a sunny location and enjoy it in cut flower arrangements. Plants grow to 8 inches wide and 12 inches tall. Space 6 to 8 inches apart in the garden.

Another bedding plant award winner is **Dianthus chinensis 'Corona Cherry Magic'**, a full-sun, low-maintenance plant that produces flowers in cherry red, lavender and various combinations of these two colors all summer.

Plants tolerate a wide range of temperatures, from cool to hot. Flowering is continuous in moderately fertile soil. Plants are small, - 8 to 10 inches wide and 7 to 9 inches high, but flowers are 2 to 3 inches in diameter. Space them 6 to 10 inches apart in the garden or use them in patio containers or window boxes.

**Catharanthus roseus 'Jai Dark Red'** is a vinca with burgundy-red 2-inch flowers with contrasting white centers.

A bedding plant award winner, it tolerates extreme heat, humidity and drought, and once plants are established, they need little care other than watering during dry periods. Plants will grow to 12 to 15 inches in height and spread to 15 to 20 inches. Plant them 12 to 15 inches apart after temperatures are consistently warm.

**Gaillardia pulchella 'Sundance Bicolor'** has taken a page from the marigold book -- its fully double flowers are mahogany-red and yellow. The heat- and drought-tolerant plants have a spreading, mounded growth habit, reaching 12 inches wide and 12 to 14 inches tall.

They perform well in a sunny garden, where they will bloom persistently with no more care than water during dry spells.

White flowers changing to dark blue on the edge make **'Merlin Blue Morn'** one-of-a-kind among petunias. It will flower profusely throughout the growing season.

Plants reach 14 to 16 inches in width and 20 to 24 inches in height. Proper garden spacing is 10 to 12 inches. It does well in patio containers or hanging baskets where plants can cascade over the sides.

**Rudbeckia hirta 'Prairie Sun'** is a new black-eyed Susan.

The 4- to 5-inch, daisy-like blossoms have golden petals with yellow tips and lime-green central cones.

They bloom from midsummer until fall frost. Plants are tall -- 36 inches -- and grow to 20 inches wide.

They perform best in full sun, either in the garden or a large container. Blossoms can be used as fresh cut flowers. Garden spacing is 15 to 20 inches.

*From Michigan State University*