

The Grapevine

Bulletin of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association

June 2007 Volume 11, Issue 6

New koi pond energizes garden, Andrews

You may have seen one of Mary Andrews' gardens during the annual Garden Walk that the Saginaw Art Museum used to sponsor.

After all, both the garden she had at her Woodbridge home and her new home in Saginaw Township were featured.

But nothing stays static with this avid gardener.

Look for the new koi pond — and a whole host of new plantings when SVMGA meets this month at Andrews' garden at 760 Somerset, off Gratiot and Center Road.

"This yard was a vacant canvas when we moved in in the fall of 2002," says Andrews.

"My husband Terry and I had looked and looked at houses because we didn't want to make the kind of restoration issues the house on Woodbridge needed. We were seriously thinking of building before saw this house. It was the last



Mary Kathryn Andrews relaxes in her backyard paradise.

house we were going to look at. Terry peeked in the backyard and said it was crying out to me."

This from a woman whose love of gardens started at age 2 when she discovered stomping on her mother's peonies could make her white shoes turn red.

Or later, when Andrews (then Brady) found her neighbor's prize rose collection, picked all the flowers and brought them home two days before the rose competition.

The rosarian was forced to float the flowers in bowls for the show.

"When we moved in here, we were so busy with our kids, Jon and Katie and grandson Nick, that I promised my husband I wouldn't start anything major."

But that first hot September and October on the patio got Andrews thinking about what she could do.

"What else is there to do in the winter? I drew up plans, called a landscape crew, told them what I wanted, changed it several times and we were ready to start."

With 75 yards of topsoil, 20 tons of boulders, 25 yards of mulch and two huge river birch trees, the process began.

Then came the shrubs and perennials to fill in the hardscape.

More trees have been added, most often to remember special events — Mary and Terry's anniversary, her son's graduation, her daughter's engagement.

"We've just replaced the first water garden with a koi pond, using the same footprint," says Andrews.

"But all the soil had to go somewhere so that's when we expanded the beds in front of the house."

The koi pond brings a sense of energy to the garden, Andrews says.

"You put water on the garden to make it grow, you get energy from the stillness of the water and just the movement of

Next meeting

- 7 p.m. — 9 p.m. Wednesday, June 27, at Mary Kathryn Andrews' garden, 760 Somerset, off Gratiot.
- 7 p.m. — 7:30 p.m., business meeting
- 7:30 p.m.— 8 p.m., refreshments
- 8 p.m. — 9 p.m., view garden
- **Please wear your badge and bring a chair**
- **NO GUESTS!!**
- Directions: From Gratiot, take Crutchfield, right to Village and left to Somerset. Park on street.

the water gives me a sense of energy.

"There's nothing I like better than watching young birds bathing in the water."

The koi pond houses a collection of the Japanese fish, each a different size and coloration.

"I had to have some of my shade garden from Woodbridge so I dug up and split some of the hostas and the maiden-hair fern before we left."

Her new love is water lilies and the bulbs she bought at SVMGA's fall seminar.

Husband Terry is the iris, rose and wisteria fan.

She also has a full array of garden art, from copper trellises made with friend Barb Bradtke to brightly colored pots to fill the garden "rooms" husband and wife have created.

Her son likes to show the garden to friends when he's home. Daughter Katie has "one of the prettiest gardens" at her own home.

"Now my Mom and Dad have the gardening bug. I've helped them rework their yard so she could have sunny perennials and a vanishing falls."

Her gardening secret is over planting — "then you never have to weed!"

Story by Darlene B. Damp, editor

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Daylilies have much to offer as staple in the garden

EAST LANSING — Every gardener, sooner or later, runs into an advertisement for plants that sounds too good to be true.

But daylilies tend to live up to the good things said about them.

Daylilies (*Hemerocallis* spp.) are a staple in perennial gardens throughout the Midwest because they have so much to offer, observes Mary McLellan, state Master Gardener coordinator at Michigan State University.

“They are perennial and they multiply themselves,” she points out. “They’re easy to plant and undemanding to grow, with no serious pest problems.

“They’ll thrive in a wide range of soil types and grow in full sun or shade, and they’re winter hardy.”

Though each six-petaled flower is open for only one day (*Hemerocallis* means ‘beauty for a day’), each plant produces dozens of flower buds.

Flowers come in a variety of colors and shapes, and plants range in height from 12 inches to 5 feet. In Michigan,

daylilies start blooming in early summer and continue through frost.

In the landscape, use daylilies as a flowering ground cover on steep, hard to mow slopes, as an accent or border plant around a pond or in a perennials bed or foundation planting.

As a single clump or in sweeping drifts of foliage and flowers, they add color and texture to the landscape or garden.

The one thing they demand of a planting site is good drainage. Though they perform best in a rich organic soil, full sun and plenty of moisture, they will grow and flower in less than ideal conditions.

The hardest part of growing daylilies may be choosing which ones to plant. Flowers may be single or double, deep or shallow, round or more triangle-shaped, and petals may be crinkly, ruffled, wide, narrow, overlapped or distinct.

Colors range from white through yellows, oranges, pinks and red to deep mahogany.

The best times to plant or divide established daylilies are late summer or spring, just as plants are starting to grow. Because plants spread readily, they tend to get over-

crowded and need dividing every 4 to 6 years.

Dividing yields new plants for planting or sharing and invigorates the old planting.

To divide, simply lift the old clumps from the ground with a spade or spading fork and cut the plants into sections so that each piece has at least one healthy-looking fan of leaves.

Replant as soon as possible so the roots don’t dry out. Make planting holes big enough to spread the roots out, cover and firm the soil, and water.

Though daylilies tolerate drought, they do even better with an occasional thorough watering during dry weather, especially right after planting, McLellan points out.

She recommends mulching to slow the loss of soil moisture and help discourage weeds while plants are getting established. The thick foliage of older plants usually shades out most weeds. Perennial grasses can be a problem; eliminating them before planting a new area is recommended.

Leslie Johnson, MSU News Service

Officers for 2007-08

President
Susan Scott 791-9270

Vice President
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Secretary
Melva Bond 777-4092

Treasurer
Crystal Kauer 792-6874

Program Director
Mary Andrews 797-3319

Newsletter Editor
Darlene Damp 746-9113
 shrew@att.net

MSU Extension
 1 Tuscola Street
 Saginaw, MI 48607-1287

Master Gardener Coordinator
Nancy L. Burd, 758-2504
 burd@msu.edu

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Garden tours abound across Michigan

A variety of garden tours are offered around the state for gardeners.

Here’s a sampling of some this month:

- Rochester Garden Tour, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, June 21, by the Rochester Hills Museum and Rochester Woman’s National Farm and Garden Association, starting at 1005 Van Hoosen. Cost is \$10 Vendors, lunch. Call (248) 656-4663.
- Serenity in the Garden Walk from 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Friday, June 22, by the Milford Garden Club, rain or shine, \$10. Vendors. Call (248) 684-1987.
- Grosse Pointe Summer Garden Tour, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, June 22-23, rain or shine, by Grosse

Point Garden Center, \$15. Call (313) 881-7511, ext. 206.

- Wayne Garden Walk, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, June 23, by Wayne Garden Club, Call (734) 722-9666.
- No-No’s Garden Walk, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 23, by Gardeners of Northville and Novi. Lectures, vendors, garden artisans, \$10. Call (248) 348-1946 or visit www.gardensnorthville-novi.org.
- Chelsea Garden Walk, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 23. \$7. Call (734) 475-3539.
- Summer Garden Tour by Genesee County Master Gardeners, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, June 24. Call (810) 244-8530.

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

If it looks like summer, feels like summer, it must be summer! I hope you all are enjoying these gorgeous days. With all the previous rain, my gardens look wonderful.

This time of year is so colorful! My garden is in its pink and blue phase with a touch of orange. Visually, it couldn't be better. I have lots of Valerian along with other fragrant plants, so my sense of smell also is titillated when I am outside.

Sitting on my front porch, reading the newspaper Sunday, I had a wonderful array of mother birds — blackbirds, doves, sparrows — bringing their babies to feed in my yard. They are soooooo funny! It's amazing to see how quiet and motionless the babies stay until they spot mom with food. They start yelling and chasing mom around the yard until she feeds them. Sound familiar to any of you?

While finishing my planting, I discovered a baby robin perched on the pergola between my house and the garage. I was

close enough to reach out and touch it. It barely moved and I walked by it many times. It must have sat there for half an hour. Occasionally, it would stand, stretch, and call for mom! What a time for a camera with no film!



Raccoons are on the prowl in my neighborhood, too. While driving on Center near the railroad tracks, I saw a mother raccoon and four babies sitting on the sidewalk watching the cars.

Mom's head was moving back and forth, just like we taught our kids to look both ways before crossing the road. I fully expected to see them decimated when I came home, but nary a body to be seen on my return trip. Thank goodness!

With these stories, I am saying we sometimes forget to simply sit and observe nature, to smell the flowers and

watch young squirrels being silly. We get so tied up in activities these small, enjoyable things get left by the wayside.

Consider recording these small things to bring back moments of joy and wonder. Perhaps a garden journal would be a place to put these notes. Then you can share them with your children or grandchildren.

SVMGA will continue to take journal orders until the end of September to allow everyone a chance to order some for yourselves as well as gifts.

Since I seem to have gotten so caught up in my garden, I am planning on spending all my time from June 21 to 24 at the Riverside Saginaw Film Festival. That's 28 film in six locations over 4 days. There is something for everyone's interest.

Check it out on the Riverside Saginaw Film Festival web site, www.RiversideSaginawFilmFestival.com

Toodles
Susan

Plan a barnyard garden for the Children's Zoo

The arrival of a cow for the barnyard at the Children's Zoo at Celebration Square has brought one project from the back burner to the front, says Patty Decker, zoo horticulture chairman.

"We want to put in a children's farm

garden with square and rectangular raised planting beds so the children can see the vegetables growing," she explains.

"It's all part of the zoo movement to involve youngsters not only in the animals, but the plants around the animals."

The barnyard provides an opportunity to show where food comes from, like vegetables, fruit trees and the animals.

"Eventually we hope to have an artificial milking cow so children can see how that's done," Decker says.

She could use Master Gardeners to design, select plants, plant and maintain the new area — along with educating visitors in the role all of these things play in the food chain.

"There should be plenty of opportunities for demonstrations, even food tasting," Decker says.

The zoo also is looking for plants.

"We used to get 100 flats from the Freeland prison, but with the cutbacks, they haven't been able to provide us with as many," says Decker.

"This year we're also going to be replacing some of our shade trees that were cut down due to damage or the expansion project."

She is planning a clean-up for 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, June 16, in anticipation of the MOO at the Zoo fund-raiser Thursday, June 21.

"We also have instituted a pink flag system, where flags are placed in areas that need immediate attention," Decker explains.

"When you clean up that area, just take the flag and put it in the bucket in the horticulture shed.

"Hopefully, it will alleviate some of the calls about what needs to be done."

And, she's always looking for people to help with the annual Birds, Bug, Butterflies and Blooms event Saturday, July 28.

"We'll have little stations throughout the zoo, looking at different aspects of gardening plus taking ballots for the Adopt-A-Garden contest and distributing a questionnaire."

It is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Next board meeting:

**5:30 p.m. Wednesday,
June 27, at MSU Extension**

Newsletter deadline:

**Monday, July 9,
Send submissions to
Darlene Damp, editor,
shrew@att.net**

View the newsletter at:

**[web1.msue.msu.edu/
mastergardener/saginaw/](http://web1.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/saginaw/)**

View the SVMGA web page at:

**[web1.msue.msu.edu/
mastergardener/saginaw/
association/](http://web1.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/saginaw/association/)**

Odds and ends...

Notebook sale continues

You can still order a new SVMGA garden notebook until the September meeting.

Use the 60-page notebooks to track year-to-year planting successes and failures. They also make great gifts.

See the order form on Page 7 of the newsletter. Orders must be pre-paid.



Members select their notebook color and cover preferences at time of order.

Covers will be individually printed with their names. The pages have the three-hole Mylar reinforced edges.

The board wants to have at least 50 orders before proceeding with printing. Notebooks will be available at the October meeting, in time for Christmas.

Proceeds support SVMGA programs.

Four receive certification

Four trainees have received basic Master Gardener certification.

They are Barbara Jo Holden, Kathleen Ann Maidlow, Sheila Slezak and Christopher Thompson.

Hosta show and sale July 7

EAST LANSING — Can't make the Saginaw Valley Hosta Society sale June 15 at the Saginaw Farmers Market?

The Michigan Hosta Society sponsors its annual Leaf Show and Sale Saturday, July 7.

It is from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Michigan State University's Plant and Soil Sciences building.

A large selection of hostas will be for sale, from classics to the newest introductions.

Plants are priced below industry averages and include cultivars not available here.

For information, e-mail Ann Hancock at hancocka@msu.edu or call (517) 355-5191, extension 1348.

Thanks for your help

A HUGE thank you to the following gardeners who braved the cold and rain

to participate in the May 17 Students Spring into Service project at Garber Tennis Courts and Crayola Park.

Your efforts transformed the park and surrounding areas, and you shared your knowledge of gardening with a whole new generation.

Thanks to: Janet Martineau, Mary Ann Malek, Mary Weaver, Anne Draper, Raeann Krauss, Nancy Cotcamp, Sheila Hempstead, Anne Birkam and Catherine MacArthur. Thanks for sharing your passion in a way that benefits the whole community!

Gail Caird

New rule on volunteer hours

Nancy Burd, Master Gardener Coordinator, has ruled that volunteers will receive full credit for hours they work.

In the past, Master Gardeners received half credit for the time they worked on projects not approved by the coordinator.

Sny needs help in garden

Ruth Sny wants to hire someone to help her weed and maintain her garden this season.

Work begins immediately. Call her at 928-7315.

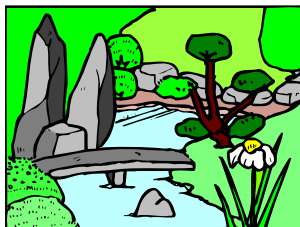
Get well wishes to Wil Hufton

Wil Hufton, long-time hotline volunteer, is recovering from a heart attack he suffered earlier this month.

Hufton told Master Gardener Coordinator Nancy Burd he plans to return to work as soon as possible.

Pond tour in Ogemaw

WEST BRANCH — Northern Michigan Aquatics sponsors a pond tour Saturday, June 30.



Visitors get to see eight landscaped water gardens, followed by a picnic/mixer at the store, 3930 Perry Holt

Road.

It is from noon to 7 p.m., rain or shine, with proceeds going to the Ogemaw County Humane Society.

Tickets are available at Corner Treasurers, West Branch Greenhouse and Northern Michigan Aquatics in West Branch.

Master Gardeners receive three education hours.

SVMGA plant sale update

Ruth Sny is accepting plant donations at her home through Monday, June 18.

Donations should be labeled with all pertinent information about the plant — name, size, light requirements, color as well as whether it is an aggressive grower.

Sny also needs help potting up the donations, additional pots, one gallon or larger, and volunteers to transport the plants to the Farmer's Market by 7 a.m. Friday, June 22.

To volunteer, call 928-4315.



Welcome new members!!!

Four new people have joined the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association.

They are:

Sylvia Robins, Advanced Master Gardener, of 410 N. Hampton, Bay City 48708, 892-4029;

Kim J. Kaufman, Master Gardener Trainee, of 4181 Curve Road, Freeland 48623, 781-2414;

Candy Hession, Master Gardener Trainee, 13399 Ring Road, St. Charles 48655, 865-8772;

And Connie LaClair, Master Gardener Trainee, of 4125 Smith Crossing, Freeland, 48623, 695-5454.

That brings the membership total to 168.

More project funds awarded

Barb Boggess received additional funds for her project at Hemlock's Ling Elementary School.

She is supervising Girl Scouts planting ornamental trees and perennials. The funds became available when unspent project money was returned to the board.

Other projects awaiting funds include a

Continues on Page 6

Education opportunities at Dow Gardens, Green Point

MIDLAND — Dow Gardens is offering a variety of classes for gardeners this summer.

First on tap is Butterfly Gardening, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 24.

Entomologist Elly Maxwell looks at common species of butterflies in Michigan that can be attracted by plants in a backyard butterfly garden.

Learn how to attract, retain and encourage butterflies to visit your garden. Participants have both indoor time and an outdoor walk, so dress appropriately.

Please register by Monday, July 16. Cost is \$5. Master Gardeners receive two education hours.

The next class is "Pruning Trees Properly," from 9:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 11.

Dan Veresh, who has taken care of Dow Gardens' trees for 25 years provides the instruction.

Please dress for the weather. Most of

the class time is spent out in the gardens learning how to prune through discussion and observation.

Please register by Friday, Aug. 10. Cost is \$10. Master Gardeners receive two education hours.

"Gardening with Native Plants for Pollinators and Other Beneficials" is the topic of Dr. Rufus Isaacs of Michigan State University on Tuesday, Aug. 14.

His talk is from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

He will look at how insects are a diverse group, with many more species of beneficials than pests.

By enhancing the suitability of urban and suburban landscapes for natural enemies and pollinators, it can pay off for landowners through improved pollination of fruits and vegetables and lower pest populations.

He will focus on pollinating insects and what can be done by gardeners to help support these insects that are essential for the food supply.

Isaacs and his colleagues are exploring the relative attractiveness of native Michigan flowering perennials for beneficial insects.

Please register by Friday, August 3. Cost is \$12. Master Gardeners receive two education hours.

For information, contact Elizabeth Lumbert at (989) 631-2677 ext. 310, or e-mail lumbert@dowgardens.org.

Shepardson at Green Point

SVMGA's own Sally Shepardson, an Advanced Master Gardener, looks at "Environmentally Sound Gardening" Wednesday, July 11.

She offers tips on how to effectively meet the challenges of gardening without harming the world's ecosystem.

The talk is part of Green Point Nature Center's monthly "Nurturing Nature" series at the center, 3010 Maple. It begins at 7 p.m.

Admission is \$2 at the door.

Earn more volunteer hours with these projects

Plant and Pest Hotline...

Phyllis Shlien is seeking three to four people who could come in as needed.

"We have volunteers scheduled for nearly every day in June, but it would be great to have some volunteers we could fall back on as substitutes or to help out if it gets busier than normal," said Nancy Burd, Master Gardener Coordinator.

"If the phones aren't busy, we always have other projects they can help with."

To volunteer, call Phyllis Shlien at 642-6656.

Master Gardener class...

Grey Gitzen is seeking volunteers to help with the upcoming Master Gardener class, beginning Aug. 20.

Sessions meet from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to help with administrative work during the class.

Cartwright Care Center...

Becky Tillman from the James E. Cartwright Care Center is seeking Master

Gardeners to design gardens that hospice patients and their families can enjoy.

Volunteers would have the opportunity of teaching gardening skills to hospice volunteers, who will be the weeders and tenders of the gardens.

Please call Becky Tillman at 583-3065.

Bridgeport Historical Village gardens...

Susan Lawcock and Sandy Lundy need help cleaning up the gardens at the Bridgeport Historical Village, off Dixie Highway.

Feel free to stop in any time to weed or deadhead. Call Lawcock at 777-4423 or Lundy at 777-5328.

The village secretary is at the museum from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday if you need to use the buildings.

The village hosts the July SVMGA meeting, plus concerts and weddings.

Rainbow's End...

Harold Ellsworth is seeking Master

Gardeners to design, plant and maintain 10 beds at the entrance to Crossroads Park and Rainbow's End.

They range in size from 100 to 150 square feet and have water facilities nearby. Ellsworth is checking to see if Kochville Township will provide watering.

The park is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and is located off Fashion Square Boulevard, across from the street from Walmart.

For information, call Ellsworth at 790-7679.

Demonstration garden...

Sara Clark is looking for help in watering and weeding the demonstration garden at the MSUE office, 1 Tuscola.

For information, call Clark at 964-7141.

Peggy Shaver is no longer in charge of the demonstration garden. She was incorrectly listed as project chairman in a previous edition of The Grapevine.

Minutes of the May 23, 2007 meeting

President Susan Scott welcomed 60 members to Pat Bourdow's home in Kochville Township. She thanked Pat for her hospitality.

Judy Henning moved approval of the April 2007 minutes; Shirley McNier seconded the motion.

Scott informed association members, orders for the Garden Journal would be accepted through the end of the month.

Scott also discussed a first native plant sale being held by the Saginaw Conservation District. The speaker and plants are supplied by Designs by Nature.

Crystal Kauer read the treasurer's report.

Shirley McNier had logo wear for those members who ordered it.

McNier is still accepting orders for delivery next month.

Grey Gitzen informed members the fall Master Gardener classes begin Monday, Aug. 20.

Gitzen also asked for volunteers to staff the Master Gardener booth at the Saginaw Downtown Farmer's Market on Fridays through the month of August.

The market opens Friday, Memorial Day weekend. Hours of operation are as follows: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday and Friday; 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday; and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, starting July 15.

Anne Birkam placed brochures for the Oct. 6 conference, An Autumn Affair for Gardeners, on the table for distribution.

Nancy Whalen informed members of the Bay City garden walk, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, June 21. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 day of the event.

Sara Clark asked members if they knew the where about of plants missing from the MSUE gardens.

Clark is leading the effort to maintain these planted beds.

Harold Ellsworth from the Kochville Township Parks & Recreation depart-

ment, asked for volunteers to help plant the Rainbow's End bed at the Playscape Park by the Walmart on Bay Road. A sign-up sheet was made available.

Kathy Lewis requested members donate funds to the Children's Zoo and designated the funds for the bed in front of the zoo store.

Lewis' son is working toward achieving his final project for Eagle Scout ranking; he has made a list of the plants needed for this project.

Ruth Sny reminded members she is accepting donated plants through Monday, June 18, for the Spring Plant Sale.

Sny still needs pots, which can be dropped off at her home. She also informed members of the plants ordered for the plant sale and their selling prices.

The plant sale is Friday, June 22, at the Downtown Saginaw Farmer's Market.

Members then enjoyed refreshments and the annual plant exchange.

Submitted by Melva Bond, secretary

More odds and ends...

Continues from Page 4

\$200 request by Amy Fitkin for the arborium at Freeland High School; \$200 by Jane Chard for the HealthSource garden; and \$200 by Barb Sawyer for the Roethke House garden

Those who received project funds should turn in their receipts as soon as their project is complete. That way if funds are leftover, they can be given to another project awaiting a grant.

Garden walk in Ogemaw

WEST BRANCH — Ogemaw Area Master Gardeners has its annual Garden Walk from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday, July 15.

Eight new gardens are featured, with diversity in plants and designs.

Tickets are \$8 in advance; \$10 the day of the walk.

Tickets are available, beginning June 20 at the Ogemaw County MSU Extension office and both West Branch and Rose City greenhouses.

New MG class begins Aug. 20

The next Master Gardener class begins Monday, Aug. 20, at MSU Extension, 1 Tuscola.

Sessions are from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. for 13 weeks and cost \$225.

Grey Gitzen, who coordinates the classes, says the session is longer because a new section has been added on water quality.

He tested the new section out during the last class.

Lapeer plans Tea Thyme

LAPEER — The Lapeer County Master Gardener Association sponsors Tea Thyme in the Garden Sunday, July 11.

There are three sittings between 11 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the garden pavilion, located behind the Lapeer Medical Care Facility.

The formal tea features finger food and

a tour of the association's new garden.

Tickets are \$15 and proceeds help maintain and expand the garden. For reservations, call Joyce at (810) 658-3629.

Garden Walk set for July 18

MIDLAND — The annual Reece Garden Walk, featuring five unique private gardens is from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 18.

This is the fourth annual event to aid the Reece Community Living Endeavor, which finds housing for adults with developmental disabilities and mental illness.

Besides the five private gardens, visitors can see Dow Gardens with their tickets.

Dow Gardens will have staff on hand to answer gardening questions, as well as a special coupon for shopping in the gift shop.

For information, call the Reece Community Living Endeavor at 835-9700.

Tickets are \$10 in advance; \$15 the day of walk. They are for sale at the Dow Gardens Visitor Center.



Garden Journal Order Form



Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Blue

Orange

Chartreuse

Color: Quantity: Total : Name to be printed:

Periwinkle blue _____ @ \$15 each = _____

Chartreuse _____ @ \$15 each = _____

Orange _____ @ \$15 each = _____

Make checks payable to Crystal Kauer, 5775 Mackinaw Road, Saginaw, MI 48604

An Autumn Affair for Gardeners

**8:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, October 6,
Saginaw Valley State University, Curtiss Hall, University Center, MI**

The Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association invites you to learn more about your favorite past-time at its fourth annual fall seminar. Here's what the day includes:

- Monica Mila, Ann Arbor's Garden Faerie, is an Advanced Master Gardener and a Master Composter, who provides a jump on spring. Learn how to start seeds outdoors in the winter — without a greenhouse!
- David S. McKenzie, owner of the wholesale ground cover nursery, Hortech Inc., in Spring Lake, shares his alternatives to grass with "Unconventional Lawns."
- Have tools but don't know what to do with them? Master Gardeners Ruth Blumenstein and Susan Scott give the basics on gardening tools, their uses and maintenance, plus tips on proper body mechanics.
- Sue Grubba, a Michigan School of Gardening senior instructor, helps you deal with seasonal water bans and high water bills, with "Drought Tolerant Plants."

Early registration is \$50, including box lunch/snacks, by Friday, Sept. 14; \$55 after Sept. 14. Vendors, checks/cash. Master Gardeners earn 5 education hours. Call Judy Henning, (989) 799-4136 or Aileen Cowan, (989) 865-8784 or e-mail judrich@sbcglobal.net or scratchcreations@att.net. For conference brochure and schedule: <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/saginaw/>

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Phone; _____ E-mail (conference purposes only) _____

- Please check if you are a Master Gardener
Please choose a lunch entrée (chips, fruit cup, cookie, drink included):
 Turkey/roast beef on croissant, or Vegetable pita

Mail check, payable to SVMGA, to Treasurer Crystal Kauer, 5775 Mackinaw Road, Saginaw, MI 48604. No refunds; substitutes accepted. SVSU is located between Saginaw/Bay City on M-84 near I-75.

Watch tomato plants for hornworm, beetles

EAST LANSING — One day your tomato plants look fine.

Then, overnight, the foliage is gone, stripped from the stems. The first clue to what happened: dark, uniformly shaped droppings on and around the plants.

A close look turns up the perpetrator itself: a plump caterpillar exactly the same shade of green as the now denuded tomato stems, clinging to the underside of a stem, a tomato hornworm, larva of a brown moth.

“With this perfect camouflage coloration, tomato hornworms may go unnoticed until they reach nearly their full size, 3 to 4 inches,” says Walter Pett, Michigan State University entomologist.

Tomatoes have other insect pests — flea beetles early in the season, which eat small, round holes in leaves; Colorado potato beetles; aphids — but none is as dramatically destructive as the tomato hornworm.

Hand picking small larvae can be effective if you can find them, Pett says.

A nonchemical alternative is to spray plants with *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki*, a bacterial disease of caterpillars

formulated as an insecticide.

Applied thoroughly to all foliage and reapplied after rain and overhead irrigation starting when the first signs of leaf feeding are noticed (usually mid- to late July), will protect plants.

It works best against small larvae, Pett notes, so don't wait to apply it until you see extensive damage.

Another caterpillar, the tomato fruitworm, feeds on the tomato fruits. Often they move from one fruit to another, damaging each but not eating the equivalent of a single fruit.

The tomato fruitworm moths arrive in Michigan from the south around mid-August and lay their eggs on the undersides of tomato leaves.

“These are the same insect that we call corn earworm when it's in sweet corn and cotton bollworm in cotton,” Pett points out.

“They're rarely a significant problem in tomatoes in Michigan, but because they damage the part of the plant that we want to eat, gardeners are particularly unhappy to find where they've been at work.”

There's not much gardeners who don't

want to use pesticides can do about them, he adds, because as soon as the egg hatches, the caterpillar finds a fruit and bores in unless it comes into contact with an insecticide while it's moving.

Colorado potato beetles will feed on tomato foliage as soon as transplants are set out.

Hand picking the first adults and removing the bright orange egg clusters as soon as you see them is a good alternative to pesticide sprays, especially in that pesticide resistance is common among potato beetles, Pett notes.

Planting a trap crop a short distance away -- potatoes or eggplant -- may keep the beetles out of your tomatoes, he adds.

Aphids are small, soft-bodied insects that suck plant sap.

Warm weather speeds up their reproduction and numbers build quickly. Tomatoes tolerate high numbers of aphids, but severe infestation can stunt plants. Pett recommends using nonchemical controls such as a forceful spray of water from a garden hose or insecticidal soap to control aphids without pesticides.

Upcoming SVMGA programs

- 6/27 — Tour of Mary Andrew's Saginaw Township garden**
 - 7/25 — Tour of Bridgeport Historical Village gardens with Susan Lawcock and Sandy Lundy**
 - 8/22 — Tour of I-75 Southbound Rest Stop at the Saginaw-Bay county line, with hot dog roast; members may each bring 1 guest**
 - 9/26 — Chris Lentner, Kluck's Nursery, "Landscape Trees"**
 - 10/6 — An Autumn Affair for Gardeners at Saginaw Valley State University, Curtiss Hall, featuring four speakers, vendors**
 - 10/24 — Joel Miller, Goldner Walsh Nursery, "Freaks, Witches Brooms and Chimeras in Michigan's Landscape"**
 - 11/28 — Ned Bromley, Riverby Gardens, "Glorious Ferns"**
 - 12/4 — Annual Christmas potluck, First Presbyterian Church fellowship hall**
- Meetings from January to April and September to December are at the Andersen Enrichment Center. Meetings in May through August are at members' gardens or other garden sites.**

Spring and fall plant exchanges are offered annually, along with a variety of field trips, depending on members' interests. The fall seminar, An Autumn Affair for Gardeners, Oct. 6, helps educate all gardeners on current horticulture practices.