

The Grapevine

Bulletin of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association

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Bridgeport Historic Village hosts July meet

It's been lots of hard work the last eight years, but Susan Lawcock and Sandy Lundy have much to show for their labor of love at Bridgeport Historic Village.

The four-acre site at 6190 Dixie Highway, between State and Fort Road, houses buildings from Bridgeport Township's past.

It also offers an outdoor facility for weddings and concerts, plus indoor meeting space for community groups.

Members of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association began pitching in with their gardening expertise last year when the gardens there became an approved project.

Those who haven't seen the gardens have a chance at the SVMGA meeting this month.

"Now we have at least 10 volunteers taking care of different areas," says Lawcock, whose grandchildren spend at least one day a week there while she tends them and the garden.

"We just had Nick Berardino bring in mulch to keep the weeds down. He was so reasonable we had enough money to hire his backhoe to carry it to each site, rather than using wheelbarrows to get it from the parking lot to each garden."

In the village there's the Mihalik barn or the William W. Schomaker Museum, an 1896 town hall, 1867 school house, the Hannay House, a gazebo and another barn for storage.

Volunteer Jeffrey Metiva of Frankenthum built an outhouse, an arbor and a birdhouse for the grounds.

"When the schoolchildren visit the schoolhouse, they notice there isn't any plumbing or bathrooms, so the outhouse shows them what people did back then," Lawcock says.

There's now pavers for the raised planting beds, which help teach youngsters about gardening, including herbs, perennials, "fun and fuzzy" and bird and butterfly plants.

This month, the village hosts the MidMichigan Waste Authority to demonstrate how recycling and gardening go together.

The session, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Thursday, July 19, features a worm bin, using newspa-

pers in the garden and as planting pots.

Saturday, Aug. 18, is the annual flea market followed by the car show Sunday, Aug. 19.

"What we're doing now is mostly maintenance although we would like to rip out the shrubs in front of the Hannay House and turn that into a cottage garden," Lawcock says.

A volunteer has purchased butterfly bushes, Miss Kim lilacs and Kousa dogwoods for the area.

Lawcock also would like to add old-

Next meeting

- 7 p.m. — 9 p.m. Wednesday, July 25, at the Historical Society of Bridgeport gardens, 6190 Dixie Highway, next to Bridgeport Township fire hall.
- 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!!**
- Parking is available in the Historical Village lot. In case of rain, the village has a meeting hall.



Master Gardener Susan Lawcock and grandson Julian take a break from working in the Bridgeport Historic Village gardens.

time perennials, like hollyhocks, foxglove and phlox to give the garden more personality and historical reference.

"It's been a real job this summer trying to keep up with the watering, it's been so hot — we're not beyond water fights, either."

Volunteers have made a vegetable garden to show children where food, like pumpkins, beans and tomatoes come from. The weeds there are a constant battle.

"We have some watering cans set out so if kids drop by, they can help out too," Lawcock says.

Hoses are left out for watering. Those who want to help can stop by anytime and weed, Lawcock says.

And if you want to be responsible for one of the gardens, contact Lawcock at moose2frog@hotmail.com or call 777-4423, or Lundy at 777-5328 or geo3san@aol.com.

Story by Darlene B. Damp, editor

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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."

Minutes of the June 27, 2007 meeting

President Susan Scott welcomed 33 members to Mary Andrews' home in Saginaw Township. She thanked Andrews for her hospitality.

Pat Washburn moved approval of the May minutes; Mary Andrews seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Deborah Keller thanked volunteers for helping at the Playscape. She said more volunteers are needed for the week of July 29 and the weeks of Aug. 12 forward; a sign-up sheet was available.

Crystal Kauer read the treasurer's report.

Ruth Sny thanked members for the donations of pots and encouraged people to continue dropping pots off at 'Sny Park' for the perennial plant sale next year.

Sny reminded members to pot up their donated plants, labeling them with data to educate buyers.

Sny said the Perennial Plant Sale Part II will be at her home on Mackinaw June 28-30 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. For alternative sale hours, contact Sny at 928-7315.

Volunteers are needed to work at the sale; a sign-up sheet was made available. Scott will have Nancy Burd send out an e-mail to notify association members of the follow-up sale. Notices were placed in the Saginaw News' Final Word column.

Patty Decker thanked volunteers who have helped the Saginaw Children's Zoo. Decker needs volunteers July 28 for Birds, Bugs, Butterflies and Blooms Day; a sign-up sheet was available.

Visitors vote for the best gardens July 28. Volunteers are needed to weed gardens at the zoo, where pink flags are located. When done, place the flag in the zoo's horticultural shed.

Andrews read a memo regarding a overnight trip leaving Traverse City Aug. 9 to tour several public gardens in the Chicago area.

Scott asked for volunteers to evaluate and maintain the MSUE gardens. She also sought short notice volunteers for the Plant and Pest Hotline.

Shirley McNier had logo wear orders for members. Scott will have unclaimed logo wear at her home for pick-up.

Volunteers are needed to supply refreshments for upcoming meetings.

Members enjoyed refreshments and touring Andrews' gardens.

Submitted by Melva Bond, secretary

MSU makes new reference source for rare species available on-line

EAST LANSING — Until now, learning about Michigan's more than 600 rare plant and animal species, their habitat needs and management considerations has meant using multiple books, guides and other reference sources.

To give Michigan's residents, decision makers and resource managers a one-stop source for rare species information, the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) has produced a new online tool called the "Rare Species Explorer."

Available at <http://web4.msue.msu.edu/mnfi/>, the explorer allows users to customize searches for rare plants and animals by habitat type and the best time of year to find them.

The Web site also includes pages devoted to each species that provide more in-depth information.

"We've been looking for ways to get our information readily and conveniently to people, and this seemed like a very good alternative," says Patrick Brown, MNFI director.

"We wanted to get it out in a way that would be very flexible so that people could get what they wanted out of it, and this site is designed for maximum flexibility."

Natural resource professionals, citizen scientists, teachers, students and private landowners can search by plant or animal group, time of year or habitat.

Though similar online tools exist in

other states and on the national level, the MNFI's "Rare Species Explorer" is the first of its kind for Michigan.

"We wanted to have something that was specific to Michigan and more flexible than other tools of this kind," says Ryan O'Connor, MNFI associate conservation scientist.

"It's very useful for researching species and looking at particular habitats.

"For example, if you wanted to see what is associated with a floodplain forest, you could select that habitat, obtain a list of those plants and animals, and navigate to more information on each of those species."

"DNR staff members will find information on habitat management recommendations especially useful," said Bill Moritz, Michigan Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division chief.

"This project represents a strong and important partnership between the MNFI, the DNR and other agencies."

The "Rare Species Explorer" was partially funded by the DNR's Landowner Incentive Program.

It helps private landowners manage their land for rare and declining species through a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Michigan Natural Features Inventory is a part of Michigan State University (MSU) Extension.

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Letter from the president

Well, I know it is only July, but lately it has been feeling like the dog days of summer.

I have thoroughly enjoyed all the hot weather we had last month, even if it was earlier in the summer than usual. Those 70-degree-plus temps actually felt cold to me by contrast.

Thank heavens for the rain so I am able to reduce my watering.

By the time you read this, we will have gone through another of those cooling off spells. My plants sure seem to relish the changes.

For those of you who did not attend the last meeting, Mary Kathryn Andrew's garden was a wonder to behold.

Along with the two coy ponds, there were gorgeous plants blooming everywhere.

It was interesting to see what could be

done with planning and a completely empty landscape to transform.

My own garden looks just a little sadder and perhaps a little less colorful by comparison.

But one of the things I like about visiting other Master Gardeners' homes is that I often will come back and re-evaluate what I have.

That is not to say that I become dissatisfied with what I have, but that now I have new ideas to add.

Isn't it interesting how something will just catch your eye and transform your garden. For me, it was first ornamental grasses.

While still a main interest, I discovered coral bells (heuchera, heucherellas



and tiarellas) last year, and like with grasses, I just keep adding to my garden.

This year, I have gotten interested in succulents. They have so many wonderful colors and shapes and can be put in low trays and pots and then brought inside for the winter.

How have your interests changed over the years?

Just as it is fun to notice what happens in your gardens with wildlife, keeping track of what is newly placed in the garden and how you accept or reject the new items, tells you interesting things about your gardening journey.

By the way, for those who ordered logo wear, but did not make the June meeting, I have it at my home. Please give me a call if you want to stop by and pick it up.

Tooooooohllles!!!!

Susan

Odds and ends

Volunteer for Speakers Bureau

The updated Speakers Bureau Presentation Booklet is about ready for printing and distribution.

We are still looking for MG volunteers to do 15-minute informal presentations or demonstrations on any gardening subject of your choice.

Often businesses, Farmer's Market or garden-type events are looking for brief spots to draw in gardeners.

To include your "Garden Brief" in the updated booklet, please contact Peggy Shaver by July 31 at (989) 695-5489 or peggysgarden@sbcglobal.net

MSU's Ag Expo needs help

EAST LANSING — Master Gardeners are needed to help staff a "Plant Doctor" booth during Ag Expo, MSU's annual agriculture show Tuesday to Thursday, July 17-19 at the campus show grounds at Mount Hope Road and Farm Lane.

Two volunteers work two-hour shifts to answer visitors' questions about the plants in their yards and gardens.

They also direct visitors in accessing MSU Diagnostic Services when needed. Handouts are provided.

The shifts available are: July 17 and 18: 9 to 11 a.m.; 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; 1 to 3 p.m.; 3 to 5 p.m.

July 19: 9 to 11 a.m.; 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and 1 to 3 p.m.

Contact Laura Probyn at probyn@msu.edu or Sara Long at longsj@msu.edu or call (517) 432-1555.

MSU has Garden Day

Get inspired with new ideas and practical tips for your garden at Garden Day – 2007.

It is Friday, Aug. 10, and features speakers, along with vendors selling garden necessities, such as roses, herbs, native plants, grasses and birdbaths.

Space is limited. For detailed information and registration visit <http://www.hrt.msu.edu/outreach/GardenDay2007.htm> Master Gardeners receive 5 education hours for participation.

Rose expert Nancy Lindley offers tips for success

EAST TAWAS — A free session with Nancy Lindley of Great Lakes Roses is set for Saturday, Aug. 4, at the

Tawas Bay Beach Resort.

The session, "Seven Steps to Success with Roses," is from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at 300 N. U.S. 23.

Master Gardeners receive two education hours.

For information, contact the Sunrise Side Master Gardener Association program coordinator at firstmate@utmi.net.

State sponsors Master Woodland Steward program

HIGGINS LAKE — MSU Extension and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Forestry division, offer a Master Woodland Steward Program Tuesday to Thursday, Sept. 14-16 at the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center.

It focuses on woodland stewardship on 5 to 1,000-acre parcels and provides an intensive training course for those who own or are interested in wooded lands and want to be better stewards of forest resources.

For information, visit <http://www.for.msu.edu/mws> or call Russell Kidd, (989) 275-4670 or Dean Solomon, (231) 582-6232. Or, e-mail kidd@msu.edu or solomon@msu.edu.

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 and Bay City on M-84 near I-75.

Next board meeting:
**5:30 p.m. Wednesday,
Aug. 1, at MSU Extension**

Newsletter deadline:
Monday, Aug. 6,
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://msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/saginaw/association/)**

SVMGA programs

- 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