

The Grapevine

Bulletin of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association

September 2004 Volume 8, Issue 9

Native plants bring beauty, wildlife to ponds

Working as a water quality agent for MSU Extension in Oakland County combines the best of Matthew Dykstra's educational background.

"I never started out wanting to be an extension agent, but I always enjoyed environmental science," he explains.

"I didn't like research, but I like to teach. This job gives me the opportunity to work as an advocate for the environment while teaching and developing programs, brochures and working with the media."

He'll have another opportunity to teach when he discusses "Native Landscaping Around Ponds" at the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association's Sept. 22 meeting at Andersen Enrichment Center.

Dykstra has served in the post three years. He is responsible for the Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program in



Matthew Dykstra, water quality agent for Oakland MSUE, is this month's speaker.

Southeast Michigan. He, along with his technicians and AmeriCorps workers, help farmers and residents alike to reduce the pesticides they use.

He's also involved in local water quality issues, from storm water regulations to lake and pond management.

"Oakland County has a lot of ponds and lakes, and from what I understand, more than any other county in the state."

While small backyard ponds have become popular, Dykstra finds himself dealing with owners of larger ponds, like those an acre or more in size.

"People manage their ponds, they don't necessarily have control," he says. "And that's where native plants can help – with issues affecting natural or man-made ponds."

"Of course, you have to know first how you're going to use the pond before you can do anything. Is it an aesthetic, something you like to look at, or do you want it to bring in wildlife?"

"Either way, native landscaping can enhance the diversity of wildlife or the beauty of the pond."

But first, pond owners have to consider erosion control. Otherwise, no matter how good their landscape looks, it can create long-term problems for the health and maintenance of the pond.

"Once you know how you're going to use the pond, you can design and landscape around that," Dykstra said.

For example, if you're going to use the pond as a beach, "it takes a lot of work to keep the weeds and algae down so maybe you want to use only one area for that."

And you have to consider water quality issues that can affect your health or that of the animals who wander into your pond. Some families have lost pets due to contamination of their ponds.

"Your pond could have bacterial contamination or have the septic system or animal manure emptying into it, making

Next meeting

7 p.m. – 9 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 22, at Andersen Enrichment Center, Ezra Rust Drive
7 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. business meeting
7:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. refreshments
8 p.m. – 9 p.m. Matthew Dykstra, Oakland County MSU Extension water quality agent, discusses "Native Landscaping Around Ponds."
1 hour education credit earned

it unsafe for swimming. Some algae also produce toxins, which is why how you manage your pond is so important."

Those who use their pond for swimming may want to consider testing the water, especially if young children are using it.

"If I get a chance, I like to garden, especially with native plants," Dykstra said, planning to expand on that topic later this month at the SVMGA meeting.

"But right now I have a 10-month-old daughter and a 100-year-old house so you can see I have my work cut out for me."

"I do have a vegetable garden, but no chance to weed so right now it's kind of a mess."

For those who want more information on improving water quality of their ponds, he suggests two county Extension bulletins,

The first is E11554, "Michigan Ponds for Sport Fishing" which shows how a pond works, while the second, WQ57, "Lakescaping for Water Quality," is more closely related to his upcoming talk.

"The more natural your pond is, the more natural acting it is," said Dykstra. "Both of these are good resources."

He has a bachelor's degree from Trinity Christian College in Chicago and a master's degree in natural resources from the University of Illinois.

Story by Darlene B. Damp, co-editor

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Minutes of the August 2004 meeting

Vice President Aileen Cowan called the meeting to order at the Saginaw Township home of Ruth Sny at 7 p.m. Aug. 25, 2004. She thanked Sny for graciously hosting our meeting.

Gail Caird moved that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as published and Nancy Kleekamp seconded the motion.

Deb Keller read the following treasurer's report:

Balance on hand	\$3,278.15
Deposits 7/28 - 8/25/04	1,266.50
Expenses 7/28 - 8/25/04	8.37
Balance as of 8/25/04	\$4,536.28
As of 8/25/04, we have 159 paid members.	

Congratulations were extended to Nell Beebe and Marilyn Gubbins for placing second in the garden contest at the Saginaw Children's Zoo.

The next session of Master Gardener

classes will begin Thursday, Aug. 26. They will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the MSU Extension Office.

The fall plant exchange will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, September 8, at the home of Gail Caird, 5355 Nottingham North.

Regarding the fall seminar, "Autumn Affair for Gardeners," everything is moving along. Committees are in place.

We need members to send in their registrations. Grey Gitzen, one of the four speakers, said that there would be bulbs available for sale to go along with his talk.

Since there were no nominations from the floor, Marilyn Karpicke moved that

the new slate of officers for 2005 and 2006 be approved. Rae Ann Krauss seconded the motion.

The approved slate includes:

- President — Grey Gitzen
- Vice President — Nancy Hales
- Secretary — Anne Birkam
- Treasurer — Jan O'Dell
- Program Director — Amy Fitkin

Following the business meeting, we enjoyed Ruth's lovely yard — all under umbrellas as it was raining.

This was our last outdoor meeting for this year. The next meeting will be Sept. 22 at the Anderson Enrichment Center.

*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

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Help students clean up Oct. 21

Master Gardeners are needed to help work with students from 10 different high schools at a fall clean-up at area senior citizens' homes Thursday, Oct. 21.

It coincides with Make a Difference Day, a national day of doing good.

The day recognizes young people who serve their community and develop community building skills.

The project is a part of Saginaw County's Promise Giving Back Task Force supported by the Saginaw Community Foundation, Youth F.O.R.C.E., United Way of Saginaw County, Michigan State University Extension Master Gardeners, the Saginaw Intermediate School District, and other organizations.

Teams of students, representing the schools involved, along with staff and a Master Gardener will spruce up yards, plant shrubs and do fall clean-up of the outside of the homes of 10 senior citizens located throughout Saginaw County.

The elderly homeowners have taken pride in their homes in years past.

However, they now find their age and health no longer allow them to accom-

plish the necessary yard work, window washing and gardening chores that need doing.

The day runs from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. with hours on-site from 9 a.m. to noon.

Master Gardener volunteers serve as consultants, but may pitch in and help as much as they want.

To sign up, call Gail Caird at 793-1942.

Student schedule

7:50-8:15 a.m.— Arrive at Andersen Enrichment Center (located on Ezra Rust Street between the YMCA and Ojibway Island)

8:15-8:45 a.m. — Introductions and team building

8:45-9 a.m. — Load buses and depart to work sites

9:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. — On-site work at the homes of senior citizens

12:30-1 p.m.— Bus pick-up and return to Andersen Enrichment Center

1:15-1:45 p.m. — Box Lunch and Reflection

1:45p.m. — Depart for home school

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

Our outdoor meetings are over. We return to the Anderson Enrichment Center for our Sept. 22, 2004, meeting.

Thanks to Ruth Sny for hosting the August meeting (I heard the weather didn't cooperate). Thank you to V. P. Aileen for filling in for me.

From what I gather she did a great job, never one to do things quietly, she had thunder and lightning accompanying her.

Fall arrives on Sept. 22. As the days get shorter we notice subtle changes in our landscapes.

Our annuals are looking a little rough (cut them back and you might get another bloom), some of perennials are dying back (time to divide and/or move them), the leaves on the trees are changing color (some of this might be due to the type of spring we had), ornamental grasses are blooming (some have already taken on

their fall colors), and garden mums are showing their colors.

Have you started your fall cleanup yet?

How good of a job you do now will pay off in the spring.

We have a great slate of officers to vote on at our October meeting: President – Grey Gitzen; Vice President – Nancy Hales; Secretary – Anne Birkam; Treasurer – Jan O'Dell; and Program Director – Amy Fitkin.

Thank you all for stepping forward to fill the positions. Ballots will not be sent out due to a lack of opposition for any office.

Thank you to Nancy Kleekamp, Janet Martineau, and Judy Porter for a job well



done as the Nominating Committee.

I hope to see all of you at our first seminar, "An Autumn Affair For Gardeners" on Saturday Oct. 2, 2004. If you have not registered yet, please do so. We need your support to make the seminar a success.

Your recertification hours for the complete year are now compiled through Dec. 31, 2004.

They must be sent in by Jan. 14, 2005. More information is in the newsletter. (See below)

Our speaker for the September meeting is Matthew Dykstra, on "Native Landscaping Around Ponds."

Looking forward to seeing you at this meeting.

Take care,

Judy

Hours for recertification due in January

It's not too soon to start compiling your hours for recertification as Master Gardeners for 2005.

Due to the change in the calendar year this year, Master Gardeners have until Jan. 14, 2005, to submit their required 15 volunteer hours and 5 education hours — along with any additional hours they have completed.

The amount of hours required for volunteer work and education also changed this year.

Program Director Gail Caird says that it is extremely important hours be turned in by the January deadline because approving and recording the data is a huge task and several year-end reports are held up until all the data is in.

Recording the data is done by Master Gardener volunteers, not MSUE staff, so please do not add to their workload by putting off turning in your hours.

Forms for turning in hours were mailed with your recertification cards this year and are available at the MSUE office.

Recertification is required for membership in SVMGA.

Please write or print clearly. It is NOT necessary to write down each individual

day if you are involved in an ongoing project. Simply write the start date, what you did, and the TOTAL number of hours spent on the project.

For example, you might write, "5/5/04 Adopt-a-Garden at Children's Zoo, planting, weeding, watering, answering questions, total hours: 50."

Here is the list of education hours from the SVMGA meetings this year:

10/22/03 – "Doubling Up Perennials," Pam Palechek, 1 hour.

11/19/03 – "Winter Preparation: Putting the Garden to Bed," Chuck Martin, 1 hour.

1/28/04 – "Irisess," Peggy Shaver, 1 hour.

2/25/04 – "Plant Biotechnology," Wayne Loescher, 1 hour.

3/24/04 – "Rock Gardens," Tony Reznicek, 1 hour.

4/28/04 – "Longwood Gardens," Lynn Wiese, 1 hour.

5/22/04 – University of Michigan Herbarium and Tony Reznicek's garden, 2 hours.

9/22/04 – "Native Landscaping Around Ponds," Matthew Dykstra, 1 hour.

10/2/04 – "An Autumn Affair for Gar-

deners" seminar; Frederick Case, Grey Gitzen, Peggy Shaver and Jerry Somalski; 4 hours

10/27/04 – "Pruning," Jerry Somalski, 1 hour.

11/17/04 – "English Gardens," Peggy Shaver, 1 hour.

Also, if you went to the MSU Summer Conference June 21-23, it counts as 25 education hours.

Hours may be mailed in or dropped off at the MSUE office downtown.

Divide daylilies before frost

GLADWIN – Spring and fall – four weeks before heavy frost – are the best times to divide daylilies.

However they can be moved anytime during the summer, say experts at Stone Cottage Gardens.

If you want the strength of the plant to go into the roots and crown rather than the bloom, cut the foliage to about four inches above the crown before replanting.

Soon you will see new growth sprouting in the center of the plant.

It may take small transplants two years to develop into fully blooming plants.

Odds and Ends

Fall seminar features unusual bulbs

Participants attending "An Autumn Affair for Gardeners" on Saturday, Oct. 2, will have an unusual variety of bulbs to choose from at a sale sponsored by Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association.

The bulb sale will tie in with the talk by Grey Gitzen, Advanced Master Gardener and SVGMA president-elect.

The selections include:

Amaryllis Basuto, Carnival, Cocktail, Gold Medal, Snow White, Alfresco, Joker and Top Choice.

Allium: Schubertii, Sphaerocephalon, Azureum and Flavum.

Tulips: Lilac Wonder, Lady Jane, Chrysantha, Marjolette and Little Beauty.

Daffodils: Lemon Glow, Money Maker and Camelot.

Crocus: Ruby Giant, Yellow Mammoth and Lady Killer.

Muscari: Valerie Finnis, Latifolium and Dark Eyes

Attention members!

We are starting a new season of speakers, and so it seems appropriate to address an ongoing problem.

There have been complaints over the past year about people carrying on conversations during the presentations and/or the ringing of cell phones.

It is extremely frustrating to have an interesting and informative speaker, and not be able to hear what they are saying. It is also distracting to the speakers.

Whispering does **NOT** solve the problem; it is not as quiet as you think.

The speakers we engage often travel a considerable distance, and certainly spend many hours creating a quality program.

In the interest of courtesy both to them and to the other members of the Association, I am asking that conversation be limited to the social part of the evening, or to before and after the meeting.

Conversations that cannot wait should be conducted **OUTSIDE** the meeting room.

I also ask that you turn your cell phone off or to pulsate. In case of an emergency, have them call **759-1362**, someone will answer.

Thank you, *Judy*

Don't miss 'Zoosical'

The Saginaw Bay Orchestra and the Saginaw Children's Zoo presents "Zoosical," a free family and children's pops concert, at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 12, at the zoo, 1730 S. Washington.

Attendance is limited. The zoo opens at 11:30 a.m. Sept. 12.

Welcome new member!

Carmen Turk Lerash of Bridgeport is the newest member of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association.

There are now 160 paid members.

I-75 rest stop earns praise

Dear MSU Feedback:

I stopped at the I-75 southbound rest stop and please pass on to your Master Gardener program how beautiful the flowerbeds at the rest stop are.

I was very impressed with the variety and condition of the plants. Good job!

Frank Vaydik, by e-mail

Garden design class Oct. 2

LAPEER – Lynn LaPointe Wiese, an award-winning landscape architect, will teach Introduction to Garden Design from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 2, at the Lapeer County MSU Extension office, 287 W. Nepessing.

It is the first of two classes to teach gardeners how to design gardens, integrate trees, shrubs, perennials, grasses and annuals.

The intense daylong session uses lectures, visual aids and hands-on exercises.

It covers site evaluation and selection, elements of design, principles of composition, organization of space, creating a plant palette, making a planting plan and planting from a design.

Wiese is a principal in Designs for Outdoor Living in Mount Pleasant and served as a designer for the nationally acclaimed Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania.

She has a bachelor's degree in recreation parks management, master's degree in landscape architecture and Master of Science degree in general administration.

Cost is \$75, including lunch. A price break will be given to those attending who take Wiese's other classes.

Lapeer County MSU Extension will offer her second class, Advanced Garden Design I, on Saturday, Feb. 19. The introduction class is a pre-requisite for the second class. Advanced Design Workshop will be offered in spring 2005.

Registration is due Monday, Sept. 20. For information, call (810) 667-0344.

Project funding still available

Money is still available for members who need funds for their projects.

To request project funding, simply

Applications still available for MG coordinator job

The deadline for submitting applications for the new position of Master Gardener Coordinator/Horticulture Program Assistant is extended until 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 1.

The part-time, on-call position, will coordinate the activities of the MSU Master Gardener Program in Saginaw County, including planning and implementing the MG class, overseeing the certification of students and recertification of members, coordinating local MG activities, coordinating MG volunteer opportunities and being an active member of the statewide program.

The position pays \$9.05 for six to eight hours a week and begins immediately upon hiring.

Applicants must have a high school diploma or GED, valid driver's license and access to a reliable, insured vehicle.

Demonstrated leadership, responsibility and self-directed work ethic, along with experience working in multi-cultural settings with volunteers or adults are a must. An interest in gardening is desirable.

To apply, please submit application, resume and references in person at Michigan State University Extension Saginaw County, 1 Tuscola, Saginaw. For information, please call Delfina J.R. Stacy at 758-2500, ext. 220.

Meet the slate of officers for 2005, 2006

Members of SVMGA accepted the nomination of five members to serve as the new president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and program director at the August meeting.

Because only one person was nominated for each position, members will vote at the October meeting instead of submitting a written ballot to the MSUE office as previously reported.

The five candidates are:

Grey Gitzen for President; Nancy Hales for Vice President; Anne Birkam for Secretary; Jan O'Dell for Treasurer; and Amy Fitkin for Program Director.

Gitzen is a charter member of SVMGA who serves as secretary of the Saginaw Children's Zoo Horticultural Committee. He became a Master Gardener in 1995 and an Advanced Master Gardener in 1996.

In addition, he is a reviewer for the MSU on-line Container Gardening program and has spent 100 hours reviewing 300 plans since March.

He has been active in the Speakers Bureau and done the orientation for the Master Gardener class since 1997. Gitzen, a Michigan State University gardens volunteer, also is a member of the Saginaw Valley Hosta Society, Michigan Hosta Society, American Horticultural Society and Gardening for Gents in Saginaw.

"I like the direction our organization is going in," explained Gitzen about accepting the nomination.

"I want to keep it going that way. I like it that SVMGA is a mixed bag, with both men and women, and I like what it does for the community."

Members also may have visited the Saginaw Township retiree's garden for the annual spring plant exchange, the Saginaw Art Museum's Garden Walk or the state-wide Hosta Walk this year.

Hales, who hosted SVMGA members at her Saginaw Township garden in June, became a Master Gardener and Advanced Master Gardener in 2000.

"When you belong to an organization, I think you have to take your turn doing your part. I've done that with other groups I have been a member of."

She's hoping to use her time on the board not just for policy and decision-making, but to get more recognition for what members

do for the community.

"I heard people talking about all the work the Lions Club has put into the gardens downtown," Hales says.

"All I know is that when I volunteered at the Lions park, there were a lot of dirty Master Gardeners. We need to get more recognition so our organization can grow."

Besides working full-time at the Saginaw Valley Bone and Joint Center, Hales has volunteered at the Andersen Center Rose Garden, Saginaw Children's Zoo Horticultural Committee, Saginaw Art Museum garden, Saginaw Township Playscape, DNR Park on Center Road, and the fairs in Bay and Midland counties.

SVMGA "has kept me busy and out of trouble," she joked.

Birkam recently was named cataloger for Saginaw Public Libraries after 24 years in the reference section.

She serves as SVMGA refreshments chairman and worked on publicity for the upcoming "An Autumn Affair for Gardeners."

She became a Master Gardener in 2000 and an Advanced Master Gardener in 2001.

"Maybe this will give me an excuse to get a computer at home," she chuckled.

Birkam's volunteer work has included the SVMGA garden at the Saginaw Children's Zoo, Saginaw Art Museum garden and garden walk, and helping open and close the roses at Andersen Enrichment Center.

O'Dell, who has kept SVMGA's volunteer opportunities up-to-date the last four years, became a Master Gardener and an Advanced Master Gardener in 1999. She recently stepped down as mentor coordinator after four years.

Cabin fever drove the retired intermediate school district teacher's aide for hearing impaired and handicapper preschoolers to the Master Gardener class. She had just moved here from Shiawassee County.

"I wanted to get out and broaden my horizons and meet new people," says the Saginaw Township resident.

"I'm still fumbling along in my garden, learning along the way, never con-

tent with what's there. I'm always stretching and moving my garden. My husband says everything I plant should have wheels."

O'Dell has served as treasurer before for another group she was a member of.

"I work when people need a hand. That's what I like about this group."

Fitkin, a Thomas Township resident who enjoys all aspects of gardening, says she is looking forward to finding experts to speak on a variety of topics next year as SVMGA program director.

She became a Master Gardener in 1998 and an Advanced Master Gardener in 2000. As the mother of three — Glenn, 9, Graham, 7, and Jane, 3 — she wanted a new outlet that she and her children, who may accompany her, could enjoy.

Fitkin has worked on the Saginaw Township Playscape since the inception of the garden there.

"It was a new park near where I used to live and it needed flowers, a garden, to inspire the children who play there — and their parents and caregivers," said the homemaker.

Story by Darlene B. Damp, co-editor

**Next board meeting:
9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 6,
at MSU Extension office**

**Newsletter deadline:
Monday, Oct. 11**

**Send submissions to
Darlene Damp, Co-Editor
shrew@att.net
or
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)

complete a SVMGA Presentation/Project Material Funding Request form and give it to any board member.

The board reviews all requests and Vice President Aileen Cowan notifies members of their request acceptance or rejection.

Up to \$200 per project is available per year. Funds are dispersed on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Anyone who receives project funding MUST submit a final report, with receipts, on how the money was spent.

For information, please contact Judy Henning at 799-4136 or judrich@juno.com or Cowan at 865-8784 or scratchcreations@worldnet.att.com.

The most recent project to receive funding is Immanuel Lutheran Church in Reese, for bulbs and perennials member Cora Schaeff plans to plant this fall.

Help with Christmas party

Volunteers are needed to help plan and put on the annual Christmas party and potluck set for Wednesday, Dec. 1, at Andersen Enrichment Center.

Co-chairmen Angela Irwin and Kathy Leach will have a sign-up sheet at the September meeting for those interested in helping. Or call Irwin at 777-7947 or Leach at 583-6755.

'Smart Garden' new MSUE on-line class

LAPEER – Lapeer County MSU Extension offers 'Smart Garden,' an on-line program to promote a natural, holistic form of gardening.

Jenny Burrows, owner of Jenny B's Garden Spot and TV-12 garden expert, will begin the program with using native plants in your garden. From there, participants will proceed to a computer lab, for the course introduction and work projects.

The session is offered in conjunction with the Horticulture Institute and Mott Community College.

A one-time \$70 fee provides access to the online program for 12 weeks, access to other gardeners and experts through the American Horticultural Institutes discussion boards, one-year membership in the American Horticultural Society and one-year membership to the American Gar-

dener magazine and bi-monthly electronic newsletter.

The textbook, "Smart Garden, Northeast edition," costs \$22, if ordered with your registration.

For information, call (810) 667-0344.

Volunteer opportunity at Manors

The Manors is seeking Master Gardeners who could plant and maintain beds at the facilities off Wieneke and Shattuck.

Colleen Koski is seeking help for the courtyard at Meadowview Manor, the gazebo area at McBrite Manor and three garden beds at Meadowview this fall and next spring.

She also would like to offer a class to residents there who love to garden and work on the patio gardens.

For information, please call Koski at (989) 497-7800.

Kauer garden on tap next June

Crystal Kauer will open her garden to MGs in June 2005.

May and August dates are still open. Contact any board member if you want members to tour your garden next year.

Upcoming gardening events across Michigan

Cactus and succulent annual sale – noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 12, by the Michigan Cactus and Succulent Society at Family Medical Center, Main Street, just north of 14 Mile Road in Clawson. Free admission, wide variety of rare and exotic plants; winter hardy cactus and succulents, houseplants. Call (248) 524-0227 or (248) 681-4791.

Fall tree and spring flowering bulb sale – order deadline Friday, Sept. 17, by Oakland Conservation District. Pick-up dates Friday and Saturday, Oct. 8-9. For catalog and order form, contact (248) 673-4496 or bob.mrozek@macd.org.

Fall Fair – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 18, at MSU Tollgate Gardens, 12 Mile and Meadowbrook Road, Novi. Flower pressing, kite-making, hayrides, pumpkin painting, animal displays; for all ages. Call (248) 347-3860.

Home and Garden Tour – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 18, by North Rosedale Park Civic Association. Contact www.NRPhometour.info or call (313) 835-1103.

Fall Rose Show – Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 18-19, by Detroit Rose Society, at English Gardens on Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak. Features hybrid teas, floribundas, old garden, miniature and more. Call (248) 635-7291.

Friday Plant Sale – 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 24, at Leila Arboretum Society, 103 Limit, Battle Creek. Features annuals, perennials, hanging baskets, more. Call (269) 969-0270 or www.lasgarden.org.

Cold Hardiness and Microclimates Seminar – 6:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 1, with David Francko, author of "Palms Won't Grow Here and Other Myths," at Goldner Walsh Nursery, 559 Orchard Lake Road, Pontiac.

Fall Foliage Festival—10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 2, at Hidden Lake Gardens, Tipton. \$3 admission. Call (517) 431-2060.

African Violet Display and Sale – 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 2, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 3, by Michigan State African Violet Society at Matthei Botanical Gardens, 1800 Dixboro Rd., Ann Arbor. Free admission, featuring African violets and Gesneriads. Call (248) 698-3628.

Standard Flower Show – 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 2, and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 3, by Livonia Garden Club and Livonia Historical Commission, at Greenmead Historical Village, 20501 Newburgh Road, Livonia. Free. Call (734) 9553-3318 or (248) 486-9676.

Gardening seminar Oct. 2 in Saginaw

Don't give up on gardening when the leaves turn color!

The Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association invites you to its inaugural fall seminar, "An Autumn Affair for Gardeners," from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 2, 2004, at Saginaw Valley State University, Regional Education Center, Ott Auditorium.

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

You do not have to be a Master Gardener to attend. The seminar, including four classes, box lunch and snacks, costs \$50. **Registration deadline is Sept. 22.** Master Gardeners receive four education hours.

Conference topics and speakers are:

- #### Keynote speaker Frederick W. Case Jr., internationally known plant expert, will open the day-long conference, discussing **"Wildflowers."** Case has lectured worldwide, won top national horticultural honors, and authored four books and numerous papers.
- € **"Forcing Bulbs and Bulbs for Fall Planting"** features Grey Gitzen, Advanced Master Gardener, detailing how to force bulbs into bloom indoors and what to do this fall for a beautiful outdoor floral display next spring.
- € **"Turf Management"** with Jerry Somalski, owner of Bay Landscaping, Essexville, provides his special expertise on improving your lawn, from seed selection to maintenance.
- € **"The Garden in the Fall"** with Advanced Master Gardener Peggy Shaver covers all the tasks necessary in fall to prepare for winter and be ready for spring.

Conference schedule

- 8:30 a.m. — Registration/refreshments (pastries, coffee, juice)
- 9 a.m. — Welcome
- 9:15 a.m. — "Wildflowers" with Frederick W. Case Jr.
- 10:30 a.m. — Break
- 11 a.m. — "Forcing Bulbs and Bulbs for Fall Planting" with Grey Gitzen
- Noon — Box lunch
- 1:30 p.m. — "Turf Management" with Jerry Somalski
- 2:30 p.m. — Break/Snack (cookies, apples, drink)
- 2:45 p.m. — "The Garden in the Fall" with Peggy Shaver
- 3:45 p.m. — Conference wrap-up

Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

E-mail (conference purposes only) _____

Select one entree for box lunch, which includes chips, cookies, drink:

Roast beef/provolone cheese sandwich _____

Turkey/Swiss cheese wrap _____

Vegetarian _____

Make check, \$50 for each person attending, payable to Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association. Mail to SVMGA Treasurer Deb Keller, 1604 N. Thomas Road, Saginaw, MI 48609. You will receive written confirmation. There are no refunds; substitutes are acceptable. For information, please call Gail Caird, (989) 793-1942; Judy Henning, (989) 799-4136; or email sgcaird@hotmail.com or judrich@juno.com.