

# The Grapevine



Bulletin of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association

September 2008 Volume 12, Issue 9

## Shiawassee River Basin Water Quality Is Important- Environmentally and Economically

Heidi M. Frei is a familiar name to Saginaw Valley Master Gardeners. Before the Oscoda native took over as program coordinator for the Nature Conservancy's Shiawassee River Project in Owosso almost two years ago, she was working on an urban forestry project in the Heritage Square District of Saginaw.

Today her work centers on improving the habitat along the Shiawassee River, a major tributary which eventually empties into the Saginaw Bay.



Heidi Frei

who will discuss "Water Quality in the Shiawassee River Basin" at the March 26 meeting.

Her work with volunteers is taking a two-prong approach: instituting conservation measures with agriculture producers to limit the amount of soil, chemicals and other harmful materials that enter the river and working with volunteers to remove harmful effluence through local clean-ups, such as the two sponsored in Owosso and Corunna.

"What we're hoping to do is increase the forestry cover and the vegetation along the river so that animals, birds and other creatures will return to those habitats," Frei explains.

"It's important not only environmentally, but economically," says Frei,

who will discuss

"Water Quality in the Shiawassee River Basin" at the March 26 meeting.

"The Shiawassee River is a migrating path for birds, but when you remove vegetation along the river, due to farming or land development, there's no place for birds to perch and their migratory corridor becomes fragmented."

She hopes to extend the river project, with the help of volunteers, to Saginaw, Genesee, Livingston, Oakland and other parts of Shiawassee counties.

"We also want to protect the river quality. We do that much like people are doing with rain gardens -- by having bushes, tall grasses and other

See September, page 6

### Next meeting

• 7 p.m.--9 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 24th  
Andersen Enrichment Center,  
Ezra Rust and Fordney

- 7 p.m. — 7:30 p.m. SVMGA meeting
- 7:30 p.m.— 8 p.m. Refreshments
- 8 p.m. — 9 p.m. Education/  
Guest Speaker  
(see story, this page)

Please wear your badge

## SVMGA's

### "An Autumn Affair for Gardeners" October 4th!

Chairpersons Judy Henning and Aileen Cowan are excited about SVMGA's 5th annual Master Gardener conference, An Autumn Affair.

Scheduled for October 4th at SVSU's Curtiss Hall, they promise that this year's conference will "deliver the goods".

Included in the day's program, speakers are:

**Dr. Bert Cregg**, Michigan State University associate professor of horticulture and forestry, discusses conifers for specific sites to add year-round interest, along with pruning and dealing with conifer pests.

**Bill Wegner**, Advanced Master Gardener, makes composting fun. Learn the benefits, plus how to get the most compost for the least amount of work, build a simple enclosure and what makes the pile 'cook.' He'll even introduce you to his worm family, from Big Ed to Little Alphonzo!

**Sue Grubba**, Michigan School of Gardening senior instructor, focuses on soil preparations, annual bed clean-up, plant divisions, storing summer bulbs and planting spring

flower bulbs to cut your spring chores in half.

**Grey Gitzen**, Advanced Master Gardener and hosta devotee, offers a presentation on shade tolerant Zone 5 perennials, including his favorite hostas and hellebores.

A delicious lunch will keep you fortified for this great day, and vendors' tempting displays of garden wares will round out your fall conference experience.

Don't miss this chance to enjoy a great fall day at beautiful SVSU, earn some valuable Master Gardener education credits, and possibly take home that one prized plant, book or garden accessory that you've been longing for!

Registration form can be found on page 7 of this month's newsletter.

### Inside this issue:

Minutes of August meeting	2
President's Letter	3
Volunteer Opportunities	4
Education opportunities	5
Autumn Affair Registration Form	7
2008 schedule of events	8

View the newsletter at:  
[web1.msue.msu.edu/  
mastergardener/saginaw/](http://web1.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/saginaw/)

## Minutes of August 27, 2008 meeting

Susan Scott welcomed 110 members and guests to the Saginaw Children's Zoo. Scott inquired as to whether or not they enjoyed touring the Japanese Cultural Gardens; a resounding yes was the response. Scott thanked everyone for the wonderful foods that were brought to the meeting.

Crystal Kauer moved that the minutes of the July 2008 meeting be approved as published; Wil Hufton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Crystal Kauer read the treasurer's report. There was no motion moved to accept the report.

Susan Scott reminded members our annual Fall Plant Exchange meeting is being held at her home, September 17 starting at 7 p.m. Scott stressed that members should provide proper informational labeling and potting of plants brought to the exchange.

Holly Furlo discussed the then upcoming Japanese Festival, taking place Sunday, September 14, and work classes to learn theme and techniques for Japanese gardening being hosted September 22, 23 and 24. A sign-up sheet was

provided on one the back picnic tables.

Judy Henning gave a brief overview of what will take place at the Saturday, October 4, Fall Seminar for which 5 educational credits can be earned. Henning indicated this possibly could be our last seminar as no volunteers stepped forward to 'shadow' her and Aileen Cowan as they coordinated the event for this year.

Karen Tilden reminded project leaders to submit before and after photos of their gardening projects.

Anne Birkham indicated she has flyers for the Fall Seminar for anyone wishing to take some for passing out to people who may be interested in attending the affair.

Ann Puszykowski from the Saginaw Children's Zoo thanked association members for hosting our meeting at their site, for all the volunteering at the Zoo some of us do. Puszykowski stated she is honored and appreciates the amount of involvements Master Gardeners' put into helping to make the Zoo look inviting to the public. Puszykowski discussed past and future projects for the Zoo.

Scott in turn thanked Ann Puszykowski for allowing Master Gardeners to come into the Zoo and earn volunteer hours. Members and their guests were invited to tour the many flowerbeds being maintained at the Zoo.

*Respectfully submitted  
by Melva Bond, secretary*

## Book Review: The Water Gardener's Bible

THE WATER GARDENER'S BIBLE by BEN HELM, RODALE PUB., 2008, 192p  
8 1/2 X 11 FLOPPY, COLOR PHOTOS,  
\$21.95

WANT TO CHANGE YOUR LUCK ( GARDEN) ? ADD A WATER FEATURE TO YOUR GARDEN. SIGHT AND SOUND. THEY ADD A NEW DIMENSION TO THE GARDEN. WATER CAN COMPLIMENT ANY GARDEN SETTING, SATISFY YOUR NEED FOR SOMETHING MISSING. IT'LL BRING IN THE BIRDS'..... SQUIRRELS, ETC.

ON THE TECHNICAL SIDE, GREAT ADVANCES HAVE BEEN MADE WITH MOTORS, PUMPS, TUBING, ELECTRONICS, POOL LININGS. THIS ALLOWS A FOCUSING OF TIME AND ENERGY ON THE CREATIVE PROCESS.

THE AUTHOR BEGINS WITH HIS TOP TEN TIPS, AND THEN DIVES INTO PLANNING, CONSTRUCTION, AND INSTALLATION. EVERY PAGE HAS HELPFUL PICTURES, CUT-AWAY DRAWINGS, WITH STEP BY STEP, HOW TO DO IT. VARIOUS OPTIONS ARE DEFINED. ADVANTAGES AND DIS. HOW DOES THE FILTER WORK? ITS ALL HERE..

LASTLY, THERE ARE SOME THOUGHTS ON POND CHEMISTRY, WATERQUALITY AND REQUIRED MAINTAINANCE.

THE BACK HALF OF THE BOOK IS A DIRECTORY OF PLANTS AND FISH. YOU CAN DEVELOP YOUR OWN ECOSYSTEM. BIRDS, BEES, BUTTERFLIES, DRAGONFLIES WILL LOVE YOU FOR IT.

THE SIGHT AND SOUND OF WATER HELPS US RELAX, AND MAYBE EVEN LOWERS THE B.P.

MY NEIGHBOR PUT ONE IN LAST YEAR. I NOW SPEND MORE TIME IN THE BACK YARD.

Reviewed and Submitted by  
JED FULKERSON  
SVMGA Volunteer

### Next Board Meeting:

**5:30 p.m. Wednesday,  
October 1st  
at MSU Extension**

**Newsletter Deadline:  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2008  
5:00 PM**

Send submissions to  
**Sue Stemler, editor**  
[suestemler@chartermi.net](mailto:suestemler@chartermi.net)

View the newsletter at:  
[web1.msue.msu.edu/  
mastergardener/saginaw/](http://web1.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/saginaw/)

# Letter from the president

Hello !

Well, as you know, October 4<sup>th</sup> is our annual and probably last day long seminar for the near future.

I want to give MAJOR **KUDO'S** to Judy Henning and Aileen Cowan for the wonderful job they have done for the last 5 years. You know, everyone always seems to bad mouth Saginaw. In reality this community is often a leader in new ideas. One instance was the Art Museum Garden Walk in which Master Gardeners participated so strongly. When that was begun, it was a new idea and now everywhere you look groups are using the garden walks as a fundraiser.

The same is true for our Fall Seminar. When we began, no one in any of the local communities, with the possible exception of Dow Gardens, had a seminar. And now they are everywhere! With the Fall Seminar, under the guid-



ance of Judy and Aileen our organization was a leader! Let's celebrate that fact!

Let's also go out in a round of glory with a fantastic level of participation from the members by attending the seminar. I hope to see all of you there!

Also, those of you getting ready to start closing your gardens and plant bulbs to get ready for great spring color, check out the list of

bulbs that can be purchased at the Fall seminar. Grey Gitzen and cohorts have as usual created a bevy of unusual and interesting bulbs with which you can astound your neighbors.

As for me, I am pruning things out of my garden and deciding where to move others to create a new look. One thing I notice as gardeners is that we are looking always looking forward to the next season. Now as fall is upon us, we can look forward to moving things to see what a new

combination brings next spring as well as planning over the winter for what new to add to the garden.

WE are also entrusted with responsibility of being stewards of our environment. I feel that there is always a lot to learn.

Having Heidi Friel here to discuss the Shiawassee river basin water quality to inform us of the ways in which we can choose better plants to reduce fertilizer, and have plants to act as natural filters, should be of interest to all. The Shiawassee is of great benefit to the community and anything we can do both as volunteers and being extra aware in our own gardens is just plain smart.

And we are a very smart group. I find that out every time I talk with one of you.

Toodles.

Susan

## Master Gardener Program to See Changes

Changes in the administration of the Michigan Master Gardener Volunteer are underway. Michigan State University Extension is taking over state-wide coordination of the Master Gardener program. Starting September 1, 2008 the first step in the transfer took place. The record keeping system was transferred to MSU Extension. This transfer in no way affects the way Master Gardener Volunteers report volunteer or education hours.

This is a logical move as the Master Gardener program is administered in each of Michigan's 83 counties by the county Extension services

After 17 years as the state coordinator Mary McLellan will be leaving, and a new MG coordinator will named. All of these changes will be place by years end.

Additional changes will be published in *The Grapevine* as they are announced by MSU Extension.

### Officers for 2007-08

<i>President</i>	Susan Scott	791-9270
<i>Vice President</i>	Karen Tilden	777-6673
<i>Secretary</i>	Melva Bond	777-4092
<i>Treasurer</i>	Crystal Kauer	792-6874
<i>Program Director</i>	Mary Andrews	797-3319
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Sue Stemler	781-4656
<a href="mailto:suestemler@chartermi.net">suestemler@chartermi.net</a>		
MSU Extension	1 Tuscola Street Saginaw, MI 48607-1287	
<i>Master Gardener Coordinator</i>		
Nancy L. Burd,	758-2504 <a href="mailto:burd@msu.edu">burd@msu.edu</a>	

Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, disability, age, religion, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status or family status.  
MSU is an affirmative-action, equal opportunity institution.

**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."

## Educational Opportunities

### 2008 MSU EXTENSION FALL GARDEN STUDY TRIP

Sponsored by: **Kent and Oakland counties  
Tour Ohio and Pennsylvania,  
September 21-25, 2008**

#### Your Horticulture Educator guides:

Mary Wilson, MSUE Oakland County  
Rebecca Finneran, MSUE Kent County

Our journey begins with a pick up in Grand Rapids in the late afternoon on September 21 with a second pick up at Tollgate in Oakland County. After enjoying a box dinner, we will journey into the evening to Mansfield, Ohio for overnight lodging.

Monday morning's highlight will be a stop at one of Ohio's hidden jewels-  
**KINGWOOD CENTER.**

This 47 acre public garden was the estate of Charles Kelley-King and dates back to the early 1900s. Exquisitely laid out grounds includes a carriage house and greenhouse where the family grew and enjoyed fresh produce throughout the year. It boasts more than a dozen elegant garden areas. The tradition of gardening continues at Kingwood where new installations in recent years have thoroughly enriched the property. You will enjoy magnificent annual color here.

Pittsburgh is home to much more than just coal and steel. Located adjacent to the Carnegie-Mellon University is the site of **PHIPPS CONSERVATORY.**

This historic landmark is the legacy of one of Pittsburgh's wealthiest patriarchs. The crown jewel for the era of Victorian glasshouse has delighted plant and flower enthusiasts for over 100 years. A smaller replica of British glass houses such as Kew, Phipps Conservatory holds 14 rooms of exotic plants and flowers, surrounded by lush gardens, sparkling fountains and shimmering pools.

Overnight in Lancaster Pennsylvania, the group will view the simplicity of Amish Living before the sun sets for evening.

Tuesday's excursion will be devoted entirely to **LONGWOOD GARDENS.** This 1,050 acre site was developed by Pierre S. DuPont as a display garden more than 100 years ago. Today, with over 40 indoor and outdoor gardens, Longwood is known as America's premier public garden. Guests find beauty at every turn with majestic trees, manicured conservatories, an open air theater and Italian water garden. The DuPont House, children's garden and ever-changing floral displays are just a few of Longwood Gardens' assets. Even their vegetable gardens are a work of art!

Our journey will be enriched by spending a bit of time in the historic **Brandywine Valley** where we will dine and visit for the evening.

Wednesday morning we will journey northward to **CHANTICLEER** which is known as a "pleasure garden," and was labeled by the Washington Post as "one of the most interesting and edgy public gardens in America.

" This 35 acre historic garden has undergone a magical transformation in the last 10 years. Lush tropical plants embellish formal courtyards. Vast formal expanses make up a variety of displays while newly installed gardens showcase an eclectic blend of new-age design with a rolling countryside estate. This is the only known location where a "Ruin Garden" tells a story without even opening a book!

The final day of our journey will allow participants to tour **KLYN NURSERY**, one of Lake County Ohio's finest wholesale nurseries. With over 2000 different species, industry professionals know this nursery is just about guaranteed to have any sought-after plant.

Our host, Bill Hendricks, will provide us with a fascinating behind-the-scenes look at nursery production. Next, Bill will take us on a special tour of a nearby plant collector's **PRIVATE GARDEN** that is truly inspirational. Cost of \$695.00 per person (based on double occupancy) includes:

Transportation on deluxe motorcoach, four nights' lodging, entrance fees to five gardens, educational supplies, seven meals and snacks. Evening dinners will be on your own with a variety of choices including budget options.

Questions, please call:

Rebecca Finneran  
(616) 336- 3282

Mary A. Wilson  
(248) 858-1008

Please make your check payable to:  
**MSU EXTENSION**

Please mail registration and check to:  
Oakland County MSU Extension  
Building 26, Dept 416  
1200 N. Telegraph Rd.  
Pontiac, MI 48341-0416

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE is AUGUST 22, 2008** and space will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. Register early to guarantee your seat! (Please, no phone reservations.)

Please notify us of special dietary requirements to help us accommodate your needs. If you have special dietary needs, space will be made on the bus for a small personal cooler. Vegetarian options will be made available when possible upon your request.

**Registration fee \$695**  
(based on double occupancy)  
Single room supplement \$240.00

\*This trip qualifies for 22 Master Gardener volunteer educational hours.

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.

## Educational Opportunities

### Saturday Morning Gardener

Horticulture Gardens—MSU

#### Poisonous Plants:

Sept. 27 9 am-11 am

Dr. Frank Telewski, curator of the Beal Botanical Garden, will discuss common poisonous plants found in Michigan. Our class will meet in Beal garden and take an informal walk around the display beds, with ample time to ask questions and learn about the plants. This is a great chance to learn from one of our area's foremost authorities on toxic plants.

**Cost: \$25.00 per class**

For online information on enrollment status of a class, registration forms and maps, go to: [www.hrt.msu.edu/outreach/SMG120.htm](http://www.hrt.msu.edu/outreach/SMG120.htm)

For further information or accommodations for persons with disabilities, call Ann Hancock at (517) 355-5191, ext. 1348.

### Saginaw's Tea House Hosts Japanese Festival and Rare Learning Session with Japanese Gardeners/Landscapers

There will be a Japanese Festival at the Saginaw Tea House Sunday, September 14, 2-6 p.m.

Also, a rare learning opportunity. Gardeners/landscapers from Tokushima, Japan will be here Monday, September 22 thru Wednesday, September 24. We will be working in the Saginaw-Tokushima friendship garden together and learning their techniques.

If any one is interested in working with us please contact Holly Furlo by e-mail at [hfurlo@svsu.edu](mailto:hfurlo@svsu.edu)



### Daffodil Planting and Care for Spring Beauty

Brent and Becky Heath know daffodils. They grow fields of them at their bulb farm, Brent and Becky's Bulbs, in Gloucester, Virginia.

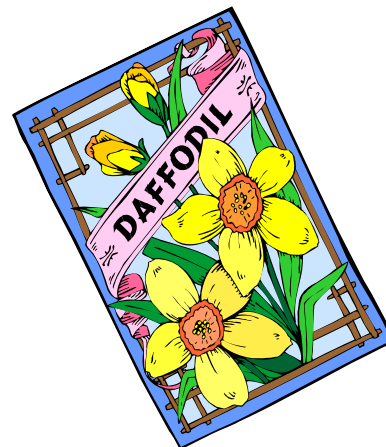
*Note: Many of the bulbs available at our fall seminar, An Autumn Affair for Gardeners, are from Brent and Becky's Bulbs.*

"If you want to create a natural, graceful planting," suggests Brent, "try to lay out the bulbs in large, fluid sweeps of just a few kinds of daffodils. The initial investment for several hundreds or even thousands of daffodil bulbs may seem high, but it will be one of your least expensive landscape improvements because of their longevity and minimal maintainance."

Most daffodils will perennialize better when planted at a depth that equals at least three times their height. That's 6 to 8 inches for large bulbs, 3 to 6 inches for medium size bulbs, and 2 to 3 inches for bulbs that are 1 inch in diameter or smaller. The reason for this, Brent explains, is that the soil pressure actually helps keep the bulb from splitting up too readily. Plant too shallowly, he says, "and bulbs tend to split up too quickly. You end up with bigger clumps, but smaller bulbs and fewer, smaller flowers."

An important requirement to keep your daffodils happy and producing large, showy blooms is to fertilize your bulbs every fall with a time-release organic or encapsulated procut, broadcasting it over the bulb beds according to instructions on the bag. "The ideal fertilizer for daffodils would have an N-P-K balance of 10-10-20," Brent says. "We recommend feeding in the fall when roots begin to form, but it's actually never too late to make a difference, unless you wait until after they bloom. In early spring, you can't count on the nutrients leaching down to the roots quickly enough, so if you wait until then, use a fast, water-soluble fertilizer."

When it's time to feed your daffodils in the fall, there won't be any foliage showing to help you remember where you planted them. Brent cleverly suggests outlining the drifts of daffodils with smaller bulbs, such as grape hyacinth (*Muscari* sp.) or star flower (*Ipheon* sp.)



whose leaves do come up in the fall. Or, he says, "Golf tees work well. Set them at the edges of the planting in late spring before the foliage dies down. They don't get pulled up accidentally because they're too low to the ground for a mower, and they're colorful enough to find later on."

Brent and Becky's Tips for 20 East Daffodils:

#### Early

'Rijnvelds Early Sensation'  
'Barrett Browning'  
'February Gold'  
*Narcissus odorus* (a.k.a. 'Campernelle')  
'Tête-à-Tête'  
'Saint Keverne'

#### Midseason

'Carlton'  
'Ceylon'  
'Erlcheer'  
'Ice Follies'  
'Trevitian'  
'Accent'  
'Avalanche'  
'Flower Record'  
*N. Jonquilla* (a.k.a. 'Simplex')  
'Quail'  
'Sweetness'  
'Geranium'

#### Late

'Hawera'  
'Thalia'

Liz Druitt  
Southern Living—March 2001

# Volunteer Opportunities

September continued

## Help Design and Create a Garden(s)



A mid-Michigan non-profit arts organization is seeking a contingent of master gardeners to create a variety of garden zones in and around its building.

Work on the project will receive certification from both the Saginaw and Midland master gardener groups and is an ongoing project that will take at least a year to fully develop.

The site is the Creative Spirit Center, 1517 Bayliss in Midland, where Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association member Janet Martineau serves as the board president.

Will you please join her in creating five or six garden spaces, starting with their design this fall, the plantings next spring and then maintaining. We can either do all of this as a group, with some of the Midland master gardeners, or people can "adopt" the assorted spaces and take them on separately.

Email Janet at [jmartineau@thesaginawnews.com](mailto:jmartineau@thesaginawnews.com) or call her at 751-3868.

## "Make a Difference Day" to work on parks

Small parks and community garden spaces in Saginaw are the focus of this year's annual "Make a Difference Day," teaming high school students with master gardeners and a variety of other community volunteers from the Saginaw Community Foundation, United Way and 4H.

The date is Thursday, Oct. 23, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Among the five sites are Liberty Park in Bridgeport and the flower beds at Trinity St. John, Cherry at Ninth in Saginaw.

A grant from Home Depot will pay for the plants; what we need is master gardeners to visit the sites, help design and refine their layouts and then oversee the student teams on planting day.

Email Janet Martineau at [jmartineau@thesaginawnews.com](mailto:jmartineau@thesaginawnews.com) to volunteer, or call her at 751-3868. The hours count for certification.

vegetation there to act as natural filters for fertilizer, oil and other sediments that can be harmful to the river.

"Here in Shiawassee County we've had volunteers plant seedlings," Frei says.

In Saginaw County, she's hoping to attract Master Gardeners not just to reforest large tracts, but to work with owners of small riverside lots on rain garden-type projects that would be more appropriate for residential properties.

"I know Master Gardeners are always looking for volunteer hours," she adds.

"Here in Michigan we don't realize how much water we have and how important water quality is. Why 20 percent of all the fresh water is here, that's one-fifth in the whole world! We have the largest area of public lands east of the Mississippi, but we spend less on managing those resources than any other state.

"And when you consider we drink that water, that 80 percent of the people here depend on that water to drink, you see why we need to be better stewards of the land and the rivers."

Frei graduated from a forestry program at Michigan State University and went on to get a master's degree, focused on the forests of Latin America.

Frei also serves as director of the Friends of the Shiawassee River, a volunteer group of about 200 to 300 active volunteers and a mailing list of more than 1,200 past and present members.

Submitted by Darlene Damp  
SVMGA Member

## Conductors Needed At the Zoo!

The Saginaw Children's Zoo is in need of some volunteers to run the train and carousel mainly on the weekends between now and the end of September. 4 hour shifts. Saturday 9 to 1 and 1 to 5 and Sunday 10 to 2 and 2 to 6.

You don't need to be available for absolutely every opening but you should be available more than not available.

Call Gus Schulwitz 793-8989 or email [guss@chartermi.net](mailto:guss@chartermi.net) for further details and explanations.

<h3>New Master Gardener Certifications</h3> <p>The following Master Gardeners received certification for the 2008 year:</p> <p><b>Basic Master Gardener</b> Bonnie Lee Dutcher Jennifer Brunette Quinn</p> <p><b>Advanced Master Gardener</b> Christopher Thompson</p> <p>A little side note about Chris Thompson—He recertified for the 2008 year on June 3rd of this year, and now on August 12 has achieved his Advanced Master Gardener status!</p> <p>Kudos to all of our MGs!</p>	<h3>Membership List Changes</h3> <p>Peggy Shaver 1725 Palomino Dr. Saginaw, Mi. 48609 989-401-2076 <a href="mailto:peggysgarden@charter.net">peggysgarden@charter.net</a></p>
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# AN AUTUMN AFFAIR FOR GARDENERS



The Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association presents its fifth annual seminar, "An Autumn Affair for Gardeners" from 8:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, October 4, 2008, at Saginaw Valley State University, Curtiss Hall, University Center, MI.

It brings **beginning and experienced gardeners** together with experts in the field and vendors to provide the latest information and products for your landscape. Our speakers this year are:

**Dr. Bert Cregg**, Michigan State University associate professor of horticulture and forestry, discusses conifers for specific sites to add year-round interest, along with pruning and dealing with conifer pests.

**Bill Wegner**, Advanced Master Gardener, makes composting fun. Learn the benefits, plus how to get the most compost for the least amount of work, build a simple enclosure and what makes the pile 'cook.' He'll even introduce you to his worm family, from Big Ed to Little Alphonzo!

**Sue Grubba**, Michigan School of Gardening senior instructor, focuses on soil preparations, annual bed clean-up, plant divisions, storing summer bulbs and planting spring flower bulbs to cut your spring chores in half.

**Grey Gitzen**, Advanced Master Gardener and hosta devotee, offers a presentation on shade tolerant Zone 5 perennials, including his favorite hostas and hellebores.

Early registration is \$45, including box lunch/snacks, by Friday, Sept. 22; \$50 after Sept. 22. Vendors take cash/checks. Master Gardeners earn 5 education hours. Call Judy Henning at (989) 799-4136 or Aileen Cowan at (989) 865-8784 or e-mail [scratchcreations@att.net](mailto:scratchcreations@att.net). Conference brochure/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 from one of three lunch entrées (chips, fruit cup, cookie, drink included):

Chef salad, or Turkey/roast beef croissant, or Vegetarian option, cook's choice

Mail check, payable to **SVMGA**, to SVMGA 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.



# September Gardening Chores

- Two weeks before planting, amend, rototill and fertilize beds you plan to use for cool-season vegetables
- It's time to start thinking about spring flowering bulbs. Crocus, hyacinth, and tulip bulbs. For best flowering, store them in a paper bag in the crisper section of your refrigerator (away from apples) for at least six weeks before planting
- Other spring flowering bulbs: set out daffodils, Dutch iris, freesia, anemone, oxalis, ranunculus, watsonia, and hyacinth, to name only a few

See related article on Page 5.

- Rejuvenate cool season lawns by plugging, reseeding and fertilizing
- As the weather cools, plant fox-glove, campanula, delphinium, primrose, dianthus, penstemon, phlox, salvia, yarrow, candytuft, geum, coreopsis, gallardia, poppies
- Annuals that like cool weather are: pansy, viola, snapdragon, stock, calendula, Iceland poppies, California poppies
- Control spider mites with insecticidal soap or spray a light horticultural oil on infested plants in early morning or early evening
- Vegetables that like cool weather: beets, cauliflower, brussels sprouts, cabbage, broccali, kale, kohlrabi, chives, collards, celery, onions, parsley, parsnips, peas, radish, spinach, lettuce, turnips, and Swiss chard
- Dig, divide and replant over-crowded perennials that have finished flowering like agapanthus, daylily, penstemon and coreopsis, to name a few,
- Pick up fallen, decomposing fruit that could harbor insects and diseases. If fruits looks infested, toss them in the garbage—You don't want to add diseases or pests to your compost pile.
- If you r tuberous begonias are beginning to mildew, stop watering and let them dry off, then dig them up and allow them to dry out. Store them for the winter in a cool, dark place.

Remember to Savor the Crisp Fall Weather!!

### 2008 SVMGA PROGRAMS

9/24	"Water Quality in the Shiawassee Basin" Heidi M. Frei-Nature Conservancy Shiawassee Project Andersen Enrichment Center, Saginaw	7:00 pm	10/22	To be determined Andersen Enrichment Center, Saginaw	7:00 pm
10/04	An Autumn Affair—SVMGA Conference (See below) Saginaw Valley State University		11/19	To be determined Andersen Enrichment Center, Saginaw	7:00 pm
			12/09	Annual Christmas party First Presbyterian Church, Saginaw	

On October 4, 2008 at Saginaw Valley State University, Saginaw Valley Master Gardeners Association will sponsor an education seminar, *An Autumn Affair for Gardeners*. It is open to all gardeners and features experts sharing the latest in gardening information. For info: Judy Henning-799-4136 or judrich@sbcglobal.net or Aileen Cowan-989-865-8784 or scratchcreations@worldnet.att.net