

# The Grapevine

Bulletin of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association

October 2006 Volume 10, Issue 10

## Propagation expert has tips on starting shrubs

Bob Kuszmaul has a vegetable garden and a modest collection of plants in his own yard.

But annually, he and his wife have more than a million “starts” of flowering and evergreen shrubs.

Kuszmaul, with his wife, also “started” D & B Plants in northern Macomb County after years of working for wholesalers here and in Pennsylvania.

He’ll provide some background on propagating shrubs at the October meeting of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association.

He’ll also provide nearly two dozen starter plants — which he promises are unusual — for an auction afterwards.

Proceeds will go to SVMGA.

Propagation is a far cry from his degree in forestry from Michigan Technological University in Houghton.

But when he took a job at a wholesale

grower on Michigan’s west side, he found himself “fascinated with the merging of science and plants.”

“In forestry, I was in the growing aspect, but even today, reforestation is still not going anywhere.”

Instead, Kuszmaul turned his attention to woody ornamentals, like hydrangea and rhododendrons, and evergreens, ranging from cedars and junipers to yews.

“I’m at the beginning of the process, starting the plants,” Kuszmaul explains.

“From there the plants go to growers and then on to retailers.

“We’re really not set up for individual gardeners.

“The average gardener may

be curious how propagation is done, but as an endeavor, it’s probably not a good idea.

“Economically, you don’t really save any money and there is some frustration.”

Some plants, he says, are difficult to propagate; others are as easy as falling out of bed.



Bob Kuszmaul and his wife own a propagation business in northern Macomb County.

### Next meeting

- 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 25, at the Andersen Enrichment Center, Ezra Rust Drive
- 7 p.m. — 8 p.m.. Bob Kuszmaul of D and B Plants, discusses “The Propagation of Shrubs.”
- 8 p.m. refreshments
- 8:30 p.m. business meeting, including election of officers
- **NO GUESTS!!!**
- **Please wear your badge.**

“What’s worse is taking it through the steps of rooting, first winter, transplanting and then wintering again and running into a problem along the way,” he explains.

“I think there are those who are just curious about how it’s done.

“And propagation does have an appeal on a certain level, say for those with a heritage plant they’re trying to save, or those who are trying to salvage an architectural plant

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## Members to elect new officers Oct. 25

Long-time and new members of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association are nominated to serve as officers for 2007-2008.

The membership will vote for new officers at the October meeting. Current president Grey Gitzen also will take nominations from the floor before the vote.

The two-year terms begin in January.

For president, the nominating committee selected Susan Hunter Scott of Saginaw Township.

The vice president nominee is Karen Tilden; secretary, Melva Bond; treasurer,

Sherry Burkhart; and program chairman, Mary Andrews.

Presidential candidate, Scott, an Advanced Master Gardener, was first certified in 1998.

She has given talks on ornamental grasses for SVMGA and other groups in Saginaw County.

Since then, she’s accumulated more than 273 volunteer hours.

Recent volunteer projects include the Shiawassee National Refuge, where she cares for a planting bed at the Stroebel Road entrance.

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# County coordinator expands plant, pest hotline

Master Gardener Coordinator Nancy Burd wants to refocus local gardening efforts with more emphasis on community education.

Beginning with the winter/spring class, new trainees will be required to complete 10 hours each, answering phones and questions from walk-ins at the MSU Extension office in downtown Saginaw.

She also wants to recruit a volunteer "middle manager" to develop and staff the Saginaw County Plant and Pest Hotline daily during the growing season.

"Everything we do should be geared toward education," Burd told the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association board during its regular meeting.

It's not enough to dig in the dirt, plant pretty flowers, maintain them and have children watch, she said.

"Instead, teach those children to be gardeners! Projects from now on will be planned to engage children, youth, senior citizens and the general public. We want

to teach them about plants and how to be gardeners."

This shift comes after visiting the Genesee County Master Gardener office, which serves as a model across the state of Michigan.

"Terry McLean, the Genesee County Master Gardener Coordinator and Horticulture Educator, will teach the Diagnostics and Plant Health session for the winter/spring class so the next class of volunteers develop the tools to answer the phones and do the research," Burd said.

Several Master Gardeners also are attending a class this fall to prepare them for working the hotline.

The middle manager, she explained, will volunteer in the MG office, recruiting and scheduling volunteers for the hotline.

"We hope to have one or two answering calls Monday to Friday during the busiest months of the growing season," Burd said.

"I'm looking for one or two volunteers, who are fully engaged, and willing to commit to this project.

"We would like to increase the number of people served through the Plant and Pest Hotline.

"It's vital to the community so we want everyone to be aware of it."

In the meantime, there are plans to develop a data base to make it easier for volunteers to access information and research questions the hotline receives.

"Someone has already volunteered to design a data base system for us, and we will need several volunteers to help with data entry," Burd said.

"Organization in the office is progressing so volunteers have better access to the resources, and we plan to have that complete soon."

Master Gardeners who are interested in any aspect of the Plant and Pest Hotline should contact Nancy Burd at 758-2504 or e-mail [burd@msu.edu](mailto:burd@msu.edu).

Burd also has named Grey Gitzen a volunteer middle manager.

He will be responsible for organizing Master Gardener classes, arranging the schedules and speakers for each session.

## Officers for 2005-06

### President

Grey Gitzen 792-0615

### Vice President

Nancy Hales 799-2118

### Secretary

Anne Birkam 754-7090

### Treasurer

Jan O'Dell 793-4357

### Program Director

Amy Fitkin 781-1670

### Newsletter Editor

Darlene Damp 746-9113

### MSU Extension

One Tuscola Street  
Saginaw, MI 48607-1287

### Master Gardener Coordinator

Nancy L. Burd, 758-2504  
e-mail, [burd@msu.edu](mailto:burd@msu.edu)

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## MSU experts answer questions

EAST LANSING — Michigan State University experts answer your gardening questions:

**Q.** Can I save my green tomatoes?

**A.** You can pick green tomatoes and ripen them indoors to extend the fresh tomato season for 4 to 6 weeks. Pick mature green tomatoes carefully and place gently into shallow containers. Any with minor blemishes or injuries should go into the "eat right away" pile — they won't keep. Any with major problems should go straight into the compost pile. Wrap them in newspaper or waxed paper or place them in a single layer on open shelves in a dark area with temperatures ranging from 55 to 75 degrees F. Temperatures below 50 degrees will damage them, and they'll break down and rot rather than ripen. If your storage area maintains temperatures in the

50s, regularly move a few into a warmer area to speed ripening.

**Q.** Why is fall the best time to control dandelions in the lawn?

**A.** Seeds from last spring's crop are just germinating, and herbicides are very effective against these actively growing plants.

**Q.** Should I plow my vegetable garden in the fall?

**A.** Unless sloping ground or exposure to wind poses an erosion hazard, fall plowing is a good idea because it helps control pests that would otherwise overwinter in garden debris or weedy borders. It also helps control weeds.

It's a good opportunity to incorporate organic material, and it can give you a head start on soil preparation for next year's planting.

## 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

It certainly has been an interesting fall for gardeners.

As I write this we still have not had a killing frost in our neighborhood, so I've been procrastinating about putting our garden to bed for the winter.

The Tricyrtis, Anemones, Colchicum, Chrysanthemums and Clematis "Sweet Autumn" are still in full bloom.

There are, however, many plants like Hostas that are turning brown and need cutting.

So, another gardening season comes to an end in Zone 5.

On behalf of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association I would like to acknowledge the great job done by Aileen Cowan, Judy Hen-

ning, and Cora Schaeff for chairing our fall seminar, "An Autumn Affair for Gardeners." Well done ladies.

The speakers were interesting and informative, the facility was excellent, the food was very good, and the selection of vendors diverse. It was an outstanding day. Thanks for all your hard work.

Nancy Burd, the Saginaw County Master Gardener coordinator is instituting several interesting changes for the Master Gardener program and can use volunteers to assist her. (Please see Page 2.)

If you have some free time or still need hours for re-certification give



her a call at 758-2504.

Our first perennial sale at the Saginaw Farmer's Market went well, and we have Ruth Sny to thank for overseeing the project.

I know she has several ideas she would like to implement to make the sale bigger and better if the membership decides to continue future sales.

It is obvious from the plants she collected that we all have an abundance of plants that we can pass along to others. This also is a painless fundraiser for the association.

Thanks to all of you who contributed to this project.

*Grey*

## Meet the Gardener...Jane Chard of Saginaw

Born in a small coal town in Lilly, Pa., the youngest of four, this Master Gardener lived with her paternal grandmother after her mother left to work in the Cadillac plant in Detroit.

Her father died of respiratory problems at the young age of 36.

Jane Chard says "in those days" extended families stayed together, but when her grandmother died, Jane left Pennsylvania and joined her mom in Detroit.

The "all business high school" she graduated from in Detroit no longer exists, but the training she received enabled her to continue working in the insurance company that hired her as a student.

After visiting a friend in Pennsylvania, Jane met her husband and the father of their seven children on a Greyhound bus. She was returning to Detroit and he to Bay City from his naval base in Norfolk, Va.

Gardening was much a part of her life growing up. She says, "my mother always amazed me."

She could speak and read Polish, name

every plant and weed and always find the edible mushrooms in the woods. She liked houseplants and would grow whatever and wherever she could.

Jane planted vegetables, strawberries and flower gardens while raising her children. "That helped feed those seven kids!"

As soon as she could, Jane went back to school. She received an associate degree from Delta College in social work as a technician. Not feeling that was fulfilling her desire to be a social worker, she went

on to Saginaw Valley State University and received a bachelor's degree in social work.

Her first job was activities director at the Saginaw County Commission on Aging, but it was still not what she wanted.

When her youngest son graduated from high school, Jane moved to Detroit and worked in a nursing home and with the Girl Scouts until she landed a job with the State of Michigan as an eligibility worker (ADC, food stamps, etc.)

Still not exactly what she wanted, but



Jane Chard

she had her foot in the door and when a social work position became available, she grabbed it.

She worked in Hamtramck with Children's Service — Protective Care, but that lasted less than a year.

During her 10 1/2 years with the state, Jane worked in four counties and 5 to 6 different offices with three different jobs.

Her last two years were her favorite, "best job ever" as she supervised private agency cases. She loved working for the state, "best people and friends." She stays in touch with her last supervisor, who visits Jane and rose gardens in the area.

Jane retired in 2001, but already had her retirement home in Saginaw. The challenges were six HUGE maple trees, tons of gravel and "Bin weeds that root to the center of the earth."

She hauled gravel out bucket by bucket and had the trees and bushes cut down.

In their place she has planted white dogwood, Japanese maple and ash trees. She has created flower beds on the side

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## Odds and ends

### Christmas potluck sign-up sheet at next two meetings

It may be October — but not too soon to be thinking about the annual Christmas potluck.

Ruth Sny and her committee have the date for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13, at the Andersen Enrichment Center, Ezra Rust Drive.

The evening includes the potluck, with each member bringing a dish to pass — main dish, vegetable, salad, dessert, bread or volunteering to help with the punch — plus there is entertainment and drawings for door prizes.

Members simply sign-up at the October and November meetings, detailing what dish they will bring.

Because the Hall of Fame room only seats 75 people, Sny is asking that anyone who signs up, but discovers he or she can't attend, let her know.

"With 168 members, we want to make sure every seat is filled," Sny said..

Those who aren't able to attend a meeting to sign up, or want to donate a door prize, may call Sny at 928-7315.

Only paid members may attend — sorry no spouses or guests.

SVMGA also will collect canned food items for donation to Hidden Harvest.

Dress is Christmas casual.

### SVMGA celebrates 10th year

This is the 10th year of operation of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association.



Participants at the annual "Autumn Affair for Gardeners," sponsored by Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association on Oct. 7, shop during a break in the daylong conference. Vendors lined the hall. The day's speakers included Bill Cullina of the New England Wildflower Society, Chuck Martin, Dow Gardens horticulturist, and Sally Shepardson, Advanced Master Gardener and SVMGA member.

And to celebrate, the association will honor 21 of the 34 people who chartered the organization at the annual Christmas potluck.

"I think we should say thank you to the people who helped establish the association with that first meeting Aug. 4, 1996 at Holy Spirit Catholic Church," said Grey Gitzen, president.

The 21, who are still SVMGA members, are Lois A. Bienlien, Patricia Blakeley, Gail Caird, Nancy Cotcamp, Marjorie Engelhart, Gitzen, Kathleen Haucke, Judy Henning, Dolores Hignite, Debbi King, Raeann Krauss, Tom Leinberger, Cecilia Lichon, Shirley McNier, Elaine Rappley, Judy Ross, Peggy Shaver, Bonnie Stewart, Karen Tilden and Patricia Washburn.

### Eight more recertify for 2006

Eight more people have entered their hours for certification in 2006.

Janell L. Beach is newly certified as a Master Gardener

Jane F. Chard, Amy G. Fitkin, Sharla S. Hammer, Kathleen A. Leach, Waunita Pettiford, David T. Quinnan and Karen L. Tilden have recertified.

### Summer conference moves

EAST LANSING — The Michigan State Master Gardener program will host a one-day spring conference in 2007.

It is scheduled for Saturday, March 17, at the Eli Broad complex at Michigan State University.

The spring conference will replace the annual three-day summer conference.

In 2008, the state will host a two-day

program from noon Friday, April 11, through the morning of Saturday, April 12.

### Hosta Society hosts dinner

Saginaw Valley Hosta Society will hold its annual Anniversary Dinner Wednesday, Nov. 8, at the Rustic Inn in St. Charles.

It begins with an open bar and social hour at 5:30 p.m. followed by a buffet dinner.

Mike Shadrack of Buffalo, N.Y., is the guest speaker.

His topic is "Hosta — the Flowering Foliage Plant."

Shadrack is from England originally and worked with Prince Charles on his gardens. He is well known in the British Garden Circuit. He also has written several books.

You must be a member to attend this meeting because it is usually a sellout.

If interested in membership, contact Jan Meyer at 792-2707, or Rappley at 781-0570 or e-mail rapplejunk@aol.com.

### Welcome new member!!!

There are now 168 members of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association.

The latest person to join is Gail Bender, MG trainee, 4688 Crutchfield, Saginaw, 48638; e-mail: dgbender@sbcglobal.net; 791-3467.

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

Newsletter deadline:  
**Monday, Nov. 6**

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

View the newsletter at:  
**web1.msue.msu.edu/**  
**mastergardener/saginaw/**

# Volunteer opportunities!!!

## Saginaw Township Playscape

Fall clean-up begins at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 12, unless it is raining hard, says Deb Keller.

The playscape is located on Lawndale Road, south of State Street, behind the WalMart shopping plaza.

## Saginaw Art Museum...

Volunteers will meet from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 14, for fall clean-up at the Saginaw Art Museum, 1226 N. Michigan.

Please contact Shelley Whitehead at 892-0719.

## I-75 southbound rest area...

The fall planting of bulbs at the southbound I-75 rest area is Saturday, Oct. 21.

Please contact project chairman Gloria Schuler at 892-7679 or e-mail [globobarama@excite.com](mailto:globobarama@excite.com).

## Saginaw Children's Zoo...

Work days at the Children's Zoo are 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 21, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4 for fall clean-up.

Patti Decker says volunteers will put the gardens to bed Nov. 4 and prepare the pond for winter. If time allows, volunteers may start decorating for the Holidays in the City (Friday, Nov. 17).

Rain dates may be on Sunday (Check with Decker).

If the scheduled work days don't fit your schedule, call Decker at 792-6633 or e-mail [rizzobfrank@aol.com](mailto:rizzobfrank@aol.com).

Small blue flags have been put in areas that need special attention such as weeds pulled. Please sign in and out at the admission booth.

## Make a Difference Day...

Join teams of high school students and help spruce up yards, plant flowers

and other outdoor fix-ups at the home of senior veterans Thursday, Oct. 26.

Master Gardeners supervise teens during the annual three-hour clean-up.

Teams assemble at 7:50 a.m. at Andersen Enrichment Center then bus to each of the 10 work sites. Lunch is served after projects are complete. Contact Joe Madison at 790-6417 or Gail Caird at 793-1942.

## Andersen Rose Center

Please come and help cover the rose beds, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 18, at the Andersen Enrichment Center, Ezra Rust Dr.

Roses will be mounded with compost and covered with leaves. Please bring a rake and shovel. Several wheelbarrows and tarps also are needed.

This usually takes 3 hours. Sign up at the October meeting or contact Ben Pawlik at 793-4238 or [Bennzita@aol.com](mailto:Bennzita@aol.com).

## Enter hours now for re-certification; due Dec. 31

If you haven't entered your hours on-line for re-certification, it's time to begin.

Master Gardeners need a minimum of 15 volunteer hours and five education hours recorded by Saturday, Dec. 31, to re-certify.

Volunteer hours are earned by working on projects approved by the Master Gardener coordinator this calendar year.

And don't simply record the minimum hours you volunteered — please record all your volunteer hours.

Master Gardeners earn service pins for the volunteer hours they work, beginning at 250 hours and upward.

Simply go to the Master Gardener Web site at [web1.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/](http://web1.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/) click on the volunteer reporting box and begin entering.

Master Gardeners must have their log-ons and passwords to use the system.

Individual log-ons and passwords are available from Grey Gitzen, for those with last names starting with the letters A to G; from Darlene Damp for last names from H to M; and Judy Henning for last

names from N to Z.

Contact Gitzen at 792-0615 or e-mail [jgreygzn@aol.com](mailto:jgreygzn@aol.com); Damp at 746-9113 or e-mail [shrew@att.net](mailto:shrew@att.net); and Henning at 799-4136 or e-mail [judrich@sbcglobal.net](mailto:judrich@sbcglobal.net).

Gitzen, Damp and Henning are available to answer questions about the process. However, the computer form was streamlined for ease of use.

Like years before, it is NOT necessary to detail each individual day you were involved in an ongoing volunteer project.

Simply type in the start date, select the type of work performed and the total number of hours spent on the project.

Those entering hours on-line are checked, just like those who submit a written form — which is the reason for the mandatory Dec. 31 deadline.

Those who do not have computers or access to a computer may use the written form which was mailed with your recertification card. Or they are available at the MSUE office, 1 Tuscola.

Please print clearly and include the date, the title, the speaker and the education

credit hour amount for each education session attended.

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

1/26/06: Water Garden Design, Kip Northrup, one hour.

2/22/06: "Tree Pruning," Chris Reisinger, one hour.

3/22/06: "Emerald Ash Borer," Dan Keane, one hour.

4/26/06: "Diagnostics and the Master Gardener Hotline," Terry McLean, one hour.

5/7/06: Fred Case Garden tour, one hours.

5/14/06: Fred Case garden tour, one hour.

9/27/06: "Ground Covers," Mike Harvey, one hour.

10/7/06: "An Autumn Affair for Gardeners, Bill Cullina, Charles Martin and Sally Shepardson, four hours.

10/25/06: "Propagation of Shrubs," Bob Kuszmaul, one hour.

11/15/06: "Winter Hardy Roses," Nancy Lindley, one hour.

## Minutes of the September 27, 2006 meeting

Grey Gitzen welcomed 88 members to the Andersen Enrichment Center.

Elaine Rappley moved that the minutes of the August 2006 meeting be approved as published; Waunita Pettiford seconded the motion.

Jan O'Dell read the following treasurer's report:

Balance of last report	\$7,194.26
Deposits 8/22/06 to 9/27/06	\$5,851.14
Expenses 8/22/06 to 9/27/06	\$106.39
Balance as of 9/27/06	\$12,939.01
Designated for fall seminar	\$9,709.01

As of 9/27/06 we have 167 paid members.

Nancy Hales thanked project chairs for getting their receipts in. She only has 1 outstanding receipt.

Some 150 people have signed up for the fall conference, with several more registrations taken at the meeting.

Judy Henning continues to receive calls about it. The room has a capacity of 300.

The books SVMGA will be selling at the conference are in and the bulbs are expected to be in Sept. 28. Pat Washburn brought a picture display of the bulbs for members to see.

Ruth Snyder had a sign-up sheet for clean-up at the Dow Events Center, date to be determined. She also had a sign-up sheet for the Christmas potluck on Wednesday, Dec. 13.

The Christmas potluck committee will meet at Snyder's house at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday,

Oct. 10.

Snyder thanked members who brought almost 500 plants to her house for the plant sale that took place at the Farmer's Market Sept. 15.

SVMGA made \$397 from the plant sale.

Becky Geidans asked for members to sign-up for refreshments for October and November.

Shirley McNier will be getting catalogs to look for logo wear. She will probably get T-shirts. Other suggestions for logo wear include baseball caps and visors.

She still has some logo wear members have not picked up yet. The lanyards are in and available for \$2.

Anyone who had a misspelled lanyard can return it and get a correctly spelled one.

Bill Wegner, Judy Porter and Marilyn Karpicke formed the nominating committee for officers for next year.

The slate of candidates for 2007-2008 is:

President: Susan Scott

Vice President: Karen Tilden

Secretary: Melva Bond

Treasurer: Sherry Burkhart

Program Chair: Mary Andrews

The election will take place at the October meeting. Gitzen also will take nominations from the floor.

Susan Lawcock announced that the

Bridgeport Historical Society will have a fall plant exchange from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 5, at the museum.

You do not need to be a member to participate. Just label any plants you have to exchange and bring them.

Gitzen had some poppy seeds available for anyone who wanted them.

Barb Boggess brought a display of the work done at Ling Elementary School in Hemlock.

She thanked the association for the project funds to support the renovation of the garden there.

Gail Caird asked members who were interested in working on the Make-a-Difference Day project Thursday, Oct. 26, to see her.

There will be 10 homes of senior citizen veterans the students will be working at. They need one Master Gardener per site.

The drawing was held after refreshments. Thanks to Jane Chard for donating the gardening plaque, Karen Tilden for the pot and Grey Gitzen, the watering can.

Congratulations to Marie Kreinbrink for winning the watering can, Barb Boggess, the plaque, and Julie Trinklein, the pot.

After the drawing, members listened to Mike Harvey of Telly's Greenhouse discuss popular and unusual ground covers to use in the garden.

*Submitted by Anne Birkam, secretary*

## Macomb farm numbers more than 1,000 'starts'...

*(Continues from Page 1)*  
feature."

For the Kuszmauls, it's a full-time business, with 30 people on the payroll during peak season and 20 full-time during the year.

With 15 acres at their disposal, the Kuszmauls and staff work indoors and outdoors.

"One of the issues today is the branding in horticulture, what with Star Roses, and Proven Winners, to mention a few.

"From a propagator's standpoint it makes it easier, although I'm not sure it's the best thing for the business.

"Horticulture in general is dictating

what people will buy, but with branding, you're now dictating what's working through marketing and advertising. So if there's a problem with a particular variety regionally, like high humidity or strong winds, you don't get the same results.

"I had some customers on the East Coast who got good results from a particular variety, but it was just a dud here.

"It takes three or four years for a grower to say 'hey, this just isn't working.' In the meantime, how many have we turned off to gardening with another failure?"

"I'm not saying it's all bad. Branding

does provide information. Those of us in the business are still debating this issue.

"Just like Master Gardeners encourage members to share plant material and information, it's the same with propagators, to make it worthwhile, like saving heirloom plants."

While individual gardeners can't visit D and B Plants, Kuszmaul has a web site they can visit, [www.info@dandbplants.com](http://www.info@dandbplants.com).

And like other gardeners, he's always on the lookout, maybe not for the latest and greatest, but in swapping stories with colleagues, what works the best.

*Story by Darlene B. Damp, editor*

# Meet the candidates for board offices...

(Continues from Page 1)

She also maintains a flower bed at the Children's Zoo with fellow member Janet Martineau and a garden bed at the YMCA of Saginaw.



Susan Hunter Scott

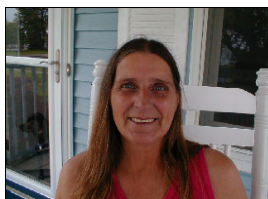
Scott has planted and maintained plantings at the Saginaw County Rail Trail, while still getting a bike ride in, and lent a helping hand during the fruit tree sale by the Soil Conservation District.

"With Master Gardeners, the community gets an unpaid group who gets things done, whether it's at the zoo, for senior citizens or kids — and it also looks pretty," she says.

"For members, the association is providing education through the meetings and volunteer opportunities. What I get is a social outlet and the chance to work on projects I would have never had the chance to even look at."

Tilden, an Advanced Master Gardener from Bridgeport Township, was first certified in 1998. The McDonald Nursery retiree has earned more than 140 volunteer hours.

Besides helping answer reader questions in The Saginaw News' weekly "Ask the Gardener column," she's also working with Master



Karen Tilden

Gardeners Joy Gajewski, Marie Kreinbrink and Maureen Rehmann on a garden at St. Christopher Catholic Church. It features plants mentioned in the Bible.

Once complete, youngsters will use the garden to learn more about the Bible — and plants — while helping with its maintenance.

"Gardening gives hope, a freshness of being alive — it makes everything better."

SVMGA, she says, has helped improve the Saginaw community not only

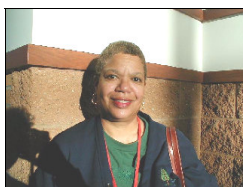
through bringing a new focus to landscaping, but on education.

"I like that we work with children and especially the older people, providing a kind of therapy, because the more seniors move around, the better off they are," said Tilden, who has two children and takes care of her two grandchildren.

"I also like that we work with the disabled so they can be involved in gardening too."

Members visited secretary candidate Bond's Bridgeport Township garden when she hosted the June meeting.

Certified just last year, the retired Dow Chemical worker has already compiled more than 40 volunteer hours.



Melva Bond

She has worked on the rain gardens at the Children's Zoo, the Saginaw Art Museum, the MSU Extension office, the Department of Natural Resources and the Soil Conservation District.

"I think as Master Gardeners our role is to help out wherever we can," says Bond.

"I do a lot more volunteer work than just Master Gardeners. I help senior citizens keep their yards up, I tutor young people and I mentor young people."

Although retired, Bond, who enjoys sewing, also works part-time at JoAnn Etc.

Burkhart, the nominee for treasurer, is an Advanced Master Gardener who first certified in 2003 and has earned more than 138 volunteer hours since.

She's helped plant and maintain the Saginaw County Rail Trail and the Saginaw Township Playscape, as well as answering questions during the annual Frankenmuth Garden Walk the last two summers.

The retired social worker is married and has a son.

"I view our role as not only one of service, but as a role model for children and others to become involved in their community," said Burkhart.

"It could be something like vegetable gardening, where youth are involved in

planting and maintaining vegetable gardens in their neighborhoods.

"I would like to see us get more involved in the community. I know people appreciate what we do from the conversations I've had with folks while working at the Rail Trail. They also want gardening information."

Besides gardening, Burkhart is an avid photographer and traveler. She also helps care for her 80-year-old mother.

Andrews, the program chairman candidate, was certified this year — as both a Master Gardener and an Advanced Master Gardener.

She has devoted her volunteer time to the Children's Zoo, earning more than 166 hours. Andrews has served as the lead for the new wetlands area there, learning as much about ponds and appropriate plants as possible.

She also learned as much as she could about the emerald ash borer so she could educate people in her Saginaw Township subdivision.

"From what I've seen in the five or six months I've had with Master Gardeners, it's an opportunity to see a lot of fun things. The group is really a blend of ages and backgrounds."

"I'm not a numbers cruncher, but I like to get involved," says the pharmaceutical sales representative.

"We have the potential to educate the public, many of whom still think you can go to the local nursery, get a plant, put it in the ground and never do anything again."

Andrews believes in giving back to Mother Nature when something is eliminated from the landscape and "I would like to help other people learn that, too."

*(Editor was unable to reach Sherry Burkhart by press time for a picture.)*



Mary Kathryn Andrews

## Upcoming 2006-2007 programs

10/25 — Bob Kuszmaul, of D and B Plants, "Propagation of Shrubs"

11/15 — Nancy Lindley of Great Lakes Roses, "Winter Hardy Roses"

12/13 — Annual Christmas potluck

1/24 — Ted Waters and Matt Boudry of Abele Greenhouse and Garden Centers, "What's New for 2007?"

Meetings from January to April and September to December are at the Andersen Enrichment Center, 120 Ezra Rust Drive. Meetings in May through August are at members' homes or other garden sites. In addition, field trips are offered to members.

### Jane Chard a fixture at Health-Source gardens...

*(Continues from Page 3)*

yards and neighbors boast of her 7 to 8 clumps of peony bushes planted outside her fence.

After completing the Master Gardener class in 2001 and volunteering at Andersen Rose Garden, MSU Garden and Midland Soil Conservation District, Jane has become a weekly fixture at the Healthsource gardens.

Jane is grateful for the SVMGA grants that buy the plants, but says "volunteers are what we need more than ever to maintain the three large gardens."

Jane has nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

All her kids live in Michigan, except for a daughter in Colorado who is a coal miner! She started as an EMT at the mine.

"We were always told women in the coal mines meant bad luck, but times have changed.

"She doesn't go down with a lamp and pick like my dad did."

Jane loves to read, take day trips and she's involved with the life-long learning groups at SVSU.

Jane says social work taught her that "10 percent of people give you trouble, but those are the ones we learn from. The other 90 percent are good people."

Maybe that applies to gardening too? Ten percent trouble - 90 percent pleasure.

*Story by Joan Martin*

## Gardening Q & A....

EAST LANSING — The growing season may be winding down, but gardening questions are plentiful.

Michigan State University Extension specialists field queries on lawn weeds, vegetable and flower gardening, and landscape ornamentals.

**Q.** I'd like to move some old, old peonies from my grandparents' farm. What do I need to do?

**A.** Start by picking a sunny planting site away from shrubs or trees, which will compete with the peonies for sunlight and moisture. Soil should be well-drained but able to hold moisture (not sandy, in other words).

Prepare the planting site by mixing in compost or some other organic matter. Dig each clump carefully in late summer or early fall, and replant the entire clump or portions of it, making sure to place the uppermost buds, or eyes, at the same depth they were growing before. (Planting too deeply is the main reason that transplanted peonies fail to bloom.)

It may take two or three years for transplanted peonies to flower normally.

**Q.** Fall is supposed to be a good time to plant trees. Is that all trees, or are some better planted in the spring?

**A.** Generally speaking, evergreens should usually be planted in the spring because they are slow to root and get established.

Some deciduous trees -- including birches, beeches and magnolias -- are better planted in the spring, but many do equally well planted in autumn.

Fruit trees are usually planted in the

spring because of the potential for damage during the winter by rodents and deer feeding on them.

**Q.** Is it a good idea to plow my vegetable garden in the fall?

**A.** Unless sloping ground or exposure to wind poses an erosion hazard, fall plowing is a good idea because it helps control pests that would otherwise overwinter in garden debris or weedy borders. It also helps control weeds by knocking back those that germinate in the fall and preventing others from going to seed. It's also a good opportunity to incorporate organic material, and it can give you a head start on soil preparation for next year's planting.

**Q.** I'm thinking of getting a potted evergreen for a Christmas tree and then planting it outdoors. How do I do this so that the tree survives?

**A.** Keep the root ball moist and the tree cool until you're ready to bring it indoors. Do that at the last minute, and take it out again as soon as possible so the warmth doesn't cause it to break out of its dormant state. While it's inside, keep it in a cool area and out of warm drafts from hot air registers or heat-producing appliances and fireplaces.

After the holiday, you can either store the tree until spring, in an area where the temperature rarely goes below freezing but never goes above 48 degrees, or plant it outdoors.

If you choose to plant the tree right away, be sure to prepare the planting site ahead of time and mulch it with 6 to 10 inches of peat, wood chips, leaves or straw to keep the soil from freezing.

Mulch the tree after planting and protect it against drying sun and wind by erecting a shade of canvas or burlap around it.