

# The Grapevine



Bulletin of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association      October 2008    Volume 12, Issue 10

## Pond Clarification and Closing..... A Timely Subject

Mary Katherine Andrews wears many hats. As a pharmaceutical representative, Mary Katherine logs many hours and miles in fulfilling her job. Her Mom hat keeps her busy, as daughter Kate's wedding approaches.

And the hats she wears for SVMGA! First, of course, there is her member hat. Then she has the SVMGA Program Director hat. And now, for our October meeting, she will don her "guest speaker" hat.

Mary Katherine says, "No matter what kind of day I've had, how busy I've been, when I finally get home, I change into comfy clothes, and go out to my pond and communicate with the koi."

Mary Katherine will share with our members some techniques she uses for **Water Gardening, Pond Clarification Techniques** and the very timely subject of **Pond Closing**.

Plan to attend October's meeting and learn from "one of our own". Mary Katherine is sure to make this presentation informative and fun for all !

Sue Stemler, SVMGA Newsletter Editor

### Next meeting

- 7 p.m.--9 p.m. **Wednesday, Oct. 22nd**  
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

## Volunteer Opportunities

### 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.



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

### PLEASE NOTE:

Nancy Burd's new phone/extension:  
989-758-2500, extension 231.

## Minutes of September 24, 2008 meeting

Susan Scott welcomed 89 members to the Andersen Enrichment Center.

Following our meeting, the keynote speaker for the evening was Heidi Frei, program coordinator for the Nature Conservancy's Shiawassee River Project in Owosso; Frei gave an informative presentation about improving the habitat along the Shiawassee River.

Crystal Kauer moved that the minutes of the August 2008 meeting be approved as published; Judy Henning seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Crystal Kauer read the treasurer's report. Kauer informed members thus far there are 99 people registered to attend the Fall Seminar; Kauer was still accepting registrations and fees this evening. Judy Henning clarified the date for registering at the reduced cost as Friday, September 28.

Karen Tilden reminded funded project leaders to submit photos of their projects; Tilden indicated she realizes timing for the request of before pictures was after the initial beginning work on some projects; but after photos still need to be submitted. Tilden stated these photos will be filed with the individual project report form and stored in the archives Susan Scott suggested members working on non-funded projects may want to submit photos of their projects to our Historian, Ann Birkham or Scott as future reference for ideas and documentation. Judy Wegner suggested having the project photos mounted on a display board at a future meeting. Scott indicated this would take place at the November meeting.

Susan Scott indicated volunteers are needed November 22 to assist in closing Ben Pawlik and Bob Schust with closing of the Rose Garden. A sign-up sheet was placed in the back room for interested members. Volunteers are asked to bring their tools and be prepared to work through the morning and part of the afternoon. A reminder will be placed in the newsletter.

Susan Scott then discussed the Township Play-

scape project headed by Amy Fitkin; mid-October is the timeframe tentatively scheduled to close these beds for the fall. Volunteers are needed to help with the clean up; also being sought is a new chairperson or co-chairs to lead the project. A sign-up sheet is available in the back room.

Judy Henning indicated everything is on schedule for the Fall Seminar. Henning informed members an individual has volunteered to possibly chair next year's seminar, contingent on a co-chair stepping up to help with the planning responsibilities.

Patty Decker is looking for volunteers to help with fall clean up of the flowerbeds at the Children's Zoo; dates for this effort are Saturday, October 18, 9 a.m. to noon; and Saturday, November 8, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. A sign-up sheet was available in the back room.

Bill Wegner indicated candidates for Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer have been found; still needed are candidates for President and Program Chair. Current President, Susan Scott and Program Chair, Mary Andrews briefly discussed the amount of time commitment, basic duties and enjoyment they have each had in holding their positions during this Board's tenure.

Bonnie Dutcher has new member notebooks available for anyone needing one.

Susan Lawcock discussed the plant exchange, taking place Thursday, October 2, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Bridgeport Historical Society.

Grey Gitzen briefly discussed the article in the newsletter covering the State Level changes taking place in the Master Gardening Program.

Shelly Whitehead indicated volunteers are wel-

come to assist with the fall closing of the flowerbeds at the Saginaw Art Museum, Saturday, October 18, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Becky Gedians briefly discussed the upcoming Bay City Historic Home Tour, taking place Sunday, October 12, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. A sign-up sheet for the Museum work detail and information on the Home Tours were placed in the back room.

Judy Henning briefly discussed the purchase of corn gluten meal, a natural lawn care herbicide. Henning and Elenore Robertson will be purchasing a 50# bag and are looking for members willing to split the cost.

Ruth Sny is looking for volunteers to work on the Christmas Party committee. The first meeting will take place at her home, Tuesday, October 7 at 7 p.m. A sign-up sheet was available in the back room. The party is scheduled for Tuesday, December 9, hosted at First Presbyterian Church.

Thanks to Tom Leinberger for donating the three Pagoda Dogwoods, Deborah Keller the Giganteum Allium, Gloria Schuler the metal angel yard stake, Ricardo Romero the kitchen towels and Wil Hufton the tart warmer.

Congratulations to the following respective winners: Ruth Sny, Pat Washburn and Laura Keaven the dogwoods, Karen Tilden the allium, Bonnie Dutcher the angel and kitchen towels, Dave Quinan the tart warmer.

*Respectfully submitted by Melva Bond, secretary*

## Volunteer Opportunities

### I-75 REST AREA SEASON END CLEANUP

Saturday, October 18, beginning at 8:30 am, we will be pulling out all the remaining annuals and cutting back the perennials for the season. Bring a shovel or hand trowel, pruners, and maybe a rake.

We will also be thinning out the Ostrich Ferns and Petasides (Japanese Butterbur) if anyone wants a clump. Just bring a pot or plastic bag to give these prolific spreaders (not to be confused with INVASIVE) a new home.

RSVP to [globobarama@yahoo.com](mailto:globobarama@yahoo.com) or call Gloria at 989-797-0100.

### Volunteers Needed to Cover Roses

Saturday, Nov 22 at 9:30 AM at the Andersen Enrichment Center 120 Ezra Rust is the time set to winterize the rose bushes.

Volunteers are needed to mound compost around bushes and cover bushes with leaves Please bring shovel, rake and gloves.

Several tarps and wheelbarrows are also needed. This task usually takes about 3 and 1/2 hours.

Thank You Very "Mulch"

Bob Schust---

Ben Pawlik



#### Next Board Meeting:

**5:30 p.m. Wednesday,  
November 5, 2008  
at MSU Extension**

**Newsletter Deadline:  
SUNDAY, NOV 10, 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, October is upon us and the trees are finally showing some color. Unfortunately while the trees are starting to change, my plants seem to be still going great guns. I have mixed feelings about that as on the one hand, I want to get everything put away for the winter and on the other hand I still like seeing everything green and/or blooming.

I saw lots of you at the Fall Seminar and I hope you enjoyed all the speakers. Due to other commitments, I was only able to attend the afternoon session. The one piece of information I received from Sue Grubba's presentation was worth the whole conference! She was talking about bindweed and a way to help control it. Bindweed is the weed that looks like a vine and if you let it go will have small white flowers. It also has roots that seem to go on forever. Sue said that if you put a piece of flagstone down near the weed, the

heat it generates will cause the roots to stay nearer the surface and thus easier to pull out. I am going to try that next summer.

For all of you (and there were lots) who did not come to the fall plant exchange, you missed some great stuff. While I usually make the spring exchange, I rarely make the fall one. What I noticed was that there were plants at the fall exchange I have never seen at the spring exchange. Cool stuff guys! So put the fall exchange on your list for next year.

In August, we had the meeting/picnic at the Japanese Gardens and the Children's Zoo. For those of you who went through the garden at the Japanese Tea House, go take another look. In September three landscape designers from Japan arrived and looked over the gardens and made some suggestions and some Master Gardeners and others helped with planting, trimming and building a new bamboo gate. We also

had a very nice presentation about Japanese Gardens. So when you are in the area, check out the area by the tea house as well as the gazebo!

**WE STILL NEED SOMEONE TO BE PRESIDENT OF THE SAGINAW VALLEY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION. NO PRESIDENT – NO ORGANIZATION!**

**SOMEONE OUT THERE MUST HAVE SOME TIME AND IDEAS TO SHARE AND TO LEAD THE ORGANIZATION!**

Toodles

Susan



## Educational Opportunities

### Dow Gardens "Know & Grow" Seminar Announced

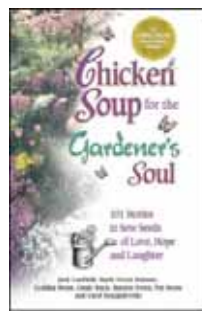
**Dow Gardens—Midland  
Saturday, February 21, 2009**

An all day seminar is planned by the Dow Gardens. This workshop, coordinated by the Midland Master Gardeners, will feature three guest speakers and The Garden Marketplace, with unique gifts for gardeners!

Speakers include Barbara Damrosch, author of the Washington Post Weekly Column "A Cook's Garden and books A Garden Primer and Theme Gardens;



Pat Stone, co-author of Chicken Soup for the Gardeners Soul and editor of *Greenprints Magazine* and *Greenprints Real Gardeners True Confessions*; and



Elly Maxwell, Dow Gardens entomologist, speaking about Penology—Understanding Nature Better

*Cost is \$50—\$60 after February 1st  
Lunch is included*

For more information: 1-800-362-4874 or [www.dowgardens.org](http://www.dowgardens.org)

## 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 suestemler@chartermi.net
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<i>Master Gardener Coordinator</i>	
Nancy L. Burd,	989-758-2500, extension 231. burd@msu.edu

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## Get Creative With Fall's Bounty—Pumpkins, Gourds and Mums

With the arrival of crisp days and frosty nights, bring in the bounty from the pumpkin patch—yours or the farmers market—and liven up your homescape.

Greet visitors with a bold row of pumpkins, filled with colorful garden mums.



And finally, fashion a rustic dinner menu: bring out your hearty soup and stew recipes, serve with crusty bread and a hot, spiced beverage to take the chill out of the air.



Give new life to your summer pots by pulling out annuals that are feeling the effects of the frosty nights. Fill in blank spots with mums, gourds and leaves.

Window boxes can shine all the way through the fall with leaves, grasses and mini pumpkins and gourds. For a little night sparkle, wind in a strand of Christmas lights.



You'll be glad you did!

Sue Stemler, SVMGA Editor

### 2008 SVMGA PROGRAMS

- |        |                                                                                                                                                   |         |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 10/22  | Pond Closing, Water Gardening and<br>Pond Clarification Techniques<br>Mary Katherine Andrews, SVMGA Member<br>Andersen Enrichment Center, Saginaw | 7:00 pm |
| *11/19 | To be determined<br>Andersen Enrichment Center, Saginaw                                                                                           | 7:00 pm |
| 12/09  | Annual Christmas party<br>First Presbyterian Church, Saginaw                                                                                      |         |
| *NOTE: | Because of holiday, November meeting will be held on THIRD Wednesday.                                                                             |         |



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

#### 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."