

# The Grapevine

Bulletin of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association

November 2004 Volume 8, Issue 11

## SVMGA President pens final letter

I write my final letter as your President with mixed emotions. On one hand “excitement” at the thought of having tons of free time; on the other hand “sadness” because I will not have the personal contact with you that I had as President.

The last four years have seen the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association grow not only in membership but in the many ways we have reached out and touched our community with volunteer projects.

Our Association is known not only for being a “Master Gardener” group but for being an integral part of our community by the thousand of volunteer hours we give each



President Judy Henning  
(Photo by The Saginaw News)

year. We have set many goals and we have reached those goals. You, the members, have accomplished this by your hard work and your commitment to the Association.

In 1997, when I took office as secretary of the SVMGA, I had no idea that I would hold an office for eight years and that I would be writing this letter. Those eight years have sped by faster than I could have imagined.

A new slate of officers will take the helm in January, 2005. I have no doubt that they will do a tremendous job and that you will give them the same great support that you gave to the many Boards in place before them.

Aileen Cowan and I will continue to be part of the Board as non-voting Advisers (you can't get rid of us that easily).

It has been my pleasure and a privilege to serve as an officer for the SVMGA, especially my four years as President. The Executive Boards that I have worked with have done an outstanding job and I commend them for their hard work and dedication. They along with you made my job easier.

### Next meeting

7 p.m. – 9 p.m. Wednesday, **Nov. 17**, at Andersen Enrichment Center, 120 Ezra Rust Drive. Please note earlier date due to Thanksgiving holiday

7 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. business meeting

7:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. refreshments

8 p.m. – 9 p.m. Advanced Master Gardener Peggy Shaver shares her thoughts and slide show on “**English Gardens**” she visited

One hour education credit

I will miss my spot up front at the meetings but it will be quite nice (I think) just to sit back, absorb what is going on, and enjoy the meeting.

I hope to see all of you at our November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Peggy Shaver will give us a personal tour of some gardens in England via her beautiful slides and her commentary. (See story, Page 3.)

Thank you all for being who and what you are – great members, great volunteers, but most of all great friends.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours.

Take care,  
Judy



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# Minutes of the October 2004 meeting

President Judy Henning welcomed SVMGA members, new members and guest to the October 26 meeting at Anderson Enrichment Center.

Aileen Cowan moved approval of the minutes of the previous meeting; Elaine Rappley seconded the motion.

Deb Keller read the following treasurer's report:

Balance as of the last report	\$9,045.46
Deposits 9/23/04 to 10/27/04	4,055.75
Expenses 9/23/04 to 10/27/04	3,320.11
Balance as of 10/27/04	\$9,781.10

As of 10/27/04, we have 161 paid members. At the meeting, three more joined making the new total 164 members.

The November meeting will be moved up one week, to Nov. 17, due to Thanksgiving. Peggy Shaver will speak on "English Gardens."

The new slate of officers was introduced. They are:

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

Joe Leach moved the slate be approved; Rae Ann Krauss seconded the motion.

Due to an oversight, the \$275 reimbursement for attending the MG conference had not been paid. Names of those who attended were placed in a bag and Ellie Robertson drew the name of the lucky person. Pat Shek was the winner.

The Women's National Farm & Garden Association sponsors its 75th annual Greens Sale on Sunday and Monday, Nov. 21 and 22. There will be wreaths, greens, boutique, knitted/crocheted items and their "world-famous" peanut brittle. A luncheon begins at 1 p.m. Monday. Reservations are required.

SVMGA's inaugural "Autumn Affair for Gardeners" conference was an outstanding success. The reviews reflected how pleased the participants were. Many requested another as soon as next spring. Henning expressed thanks to all who volunteered.

The bulbs ordered at the conference were available for pick-up at the

meeting. Also the new logo T-shirts were available for ordering.

Mary Lysogorski is our new part-time Master Gardener Coordinator. Delfina Stacy will be leaving her job as secretary for the coordinator and her job is open. Anyone interested may call Mark Seamon at MSU Extension at 758-2500.

Ben Pawlik had a sign-up sheet for the 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 20, clean-up of the Andersen Rose Garden.

Patti Decker called for volunteers for the Zoo clean-up Saturday, Oct. 30 - rain or shine.

Volunteers for refreshments for the January, and February meeting are needed.

Waunita Pettiford asked for mentor volunteers. The new Master Gardener class is eager for the help..

Kathy Leach will host a meeting to plan the Christmas potluck Nov. 2.

Gail Caird expressed thanks to all who helped with the recent "Make a Difference Day." Jail inmates donated plants for the 10 senior citizens' homes.

After refreshments, Jerry Somalski from Bay Landscaping gave a talk on pruning.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Ellie Robertson, secretary*

## Officers for 2004

<i>President</i>	
Judy Henning	799-4136
<i>Vice President</i>	
Aileen Cowan	865-8784
<i>Secretary</i>	
Ellie Robertson	792-4356
<i>Treasurer</i>	
Deb Keller	781-1228
<i>Program Director</i>	
Gail Caird	793-1942
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	
Darlene Damp	746-9113

**MSU Extension**  
One Tuscola Street, Suite 100  
Saginaw, MI 48607-1287

**Master Gardener Coordinator**  
Mary Lysogorski 758-2500  
ext. 224

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## Make your Christmas party reservations now

Plans are under way for the annual Christmas Party potluck, set for Wednesday, Dec. 1, at the Andersen Enrichment Center, 120 Ezra Rust.

Members will meet from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., socializing from 6 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The potluck dinner is from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Dinner is followed by entertainment and drawings for door prizes, plus plenty of time to socialize before the evening ends.

A sign-up sheet for the potluck will be at the Wednesday, Nov. 17, meeting.

If you are unable to attend the Nov. 17 meeting, but wish to attend the party, contact Kathy Leach before Monday, Nov. 22, at 781-3959 or email leachk@diamondcs.net.

Hidden Harvest will again accept non-perishable food items or checks made out to Hidden Harvest for those who want to make a donation.

Hidden Harvest is a non-profit organization that also reclaims unsold food from area restaurants and donates it to area shelters and needy residents.

## 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."

# English gardens more than hollyhocks

Advanced Master Gardener Peggy Shaver wasn't prepared for the gardens she toured during her first trip to England.

"When we think of English gardens, I think our tendency is to focus on cottage gardens, but I was pleasantly surprised to find out that they are so much more than that," says the Freeland resident.

Her discoveries during three trips there are part of a slide show she will present to members of the Saginaw Valley Master Garden Association at the Wednesday, **Nov. 17**, meeting – held one week earlier due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

"It would be pretty boring to look at just hollyhocks and roses if that's all there was," Shaver said.

She made her first trip to England in the early 1990s when she spotted a garden tour including the annual Chelsea Flower Show, a premiere weeklong event including innovative display gardens, vendors and plant sales.

"It's an incredible event. All the stuff is moved in in a week. And although many of the display gardens are done by professionals, you have to be invited and submit a design and be approved for participation.

"What I discovered and what you will see in my slide show is that there are so many different gardens, you can't say any are really typical," Shaver explained.

"It's very difficult for us here to appreciate the fact that these gardens have been in existence for so long. We worry about weeds, but these gardens have been in the same family for centuries.

"They have enriched the soil; they have worked at making these works of art. It's an entirely different approach to gardening than what we do here."

She will spend little time talking about specific plants. Instead, Shaver has culled slides from her three trips to demonstrate the variety of gardens.

There's the Chelsea Physic Garden, including herbs and plants for medical treatment; the Wisley Garden, the Royal Horticultural Society's endeavor to broaden and enrich gardeners across the world, and the private Barnsly House Garden of late renowned landscape designer Rosemary Very, whose clientele

included England's Prince Charles and singer Elton John.

"I came back very inspired," Shaver said. "Their gardens are so different than ours, in part because of what they have to work with, like the centuries-old homes and stone walls.



This is a view of Sissinghurst Castle Garden in Kent. It is one of the many gardens Advanced Master Gardener Peggy Shaver visited during her three tours of English gardens.

"I went back again and again because it was so enjoyable and there was so much to do and see.

"In the U.S., we have many public gardens that are older, but not like these, and not in such close proximity. They may not have the natural phenomenon like we do with the Grand Canyon, but these gardens were planned and planted with the knowledge that it was going to be in the family for centuries.

"We're not even sure if we're going to be in the same house in 10 years, but when you know this house and garden is going to pass down in the family, you can afford to spend more."

While she went to some of the same gardens during her second visit, the weather played a part in changing the view.

Her first trip was cooler in the spring and many plants hadn't bloomed. However, when she returned a couple of years later, a warmer spring brought out the roses and other tender spring-flowering plants.

Her last trip to England was devoted to touring the Cornish coast, a subtropical

area.

"For example, we went to St. Michael's Mound, where you walk across a tidal flat, that is totally covered when the tide comes in. And the gardeners have to don mountain

climbing gear to do the simple tasks we do – weeding, deadheading in the rock outcroppings. It's just a whole new perspective on gardening."

Shaver also visited the Lost Gardens of Heligas, a private estate garden that was lovingly cared for up until World War II.

"When the war broke out and the men went off to fight, many gardeners were lost in the battle," Shaver said. "So after the war, the garden fell into ruin and became very overgrown, hidden from civilization, until some people began hearing about it and went exploring."

The brambles were so thick – as large as a man's thigh – that chainsaws were required to cut them back. But the group persevered and found the original paths because of the materials that were used. With the help of volunteers, metal detectors, old photographs, memories by longtime residents and through public and private funds, the gardens have been restored.

"It was sort of like 'This Old House,' where a group would come in

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Odds and Ends

### Last-minute reminder

Here's a reminder to those who signed up to help cover the rose bushes at the Andersen Enrichment Center, 120 Ezra Rust Drive.

We will meet at 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 20, to mound the roses with compost and cover with leaves. Please bring a rake and a shovel. Several wheelbarrows and tarps also are needed.

Thanks. If you have questions, please call 793-4238.

*Ben Pawlik*

### Grand Rapids hosts Great Lakes Exposition

GRAND RAPIDS – The Great Lakes Trade Exposition sponsors its annual show Monday through Wednesday, Jan. 10-12, at DeVos Place.

Speakers include Dr. Allan Armitage discussing "Perennials," Tracy DiSabato-Aust on "Garden Design," Janet Lennox Moyer on "Lighting," and Matt Horn, "Water Gardening."

Premier education offerings will feature topics for retail; growers; landscape, design and build; landscape management and turf; tree care management; invasive plants and irrigation.

There also is a green industry trade show, featuring 444 booths.

For information or registration, please contact the Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association, 2149 Commons Parkway, Okemos, MI 48864 or e-mail [www.mnla.org](http://www.mnla.org).

### Thanks members!

Many thanks to the SVMGA members who worked on the Make A Difference Day project Oct. 21, assisting high school students as they worked to improve the yards of area senior citizens!

Barb Weadock, Mary Ann Malek, Delores Hignite, Deborah Keller, Janet Martineau, Ben Pawlik, Nancy Cotcamp, and Sherry Burkhart worked for 3.5 hours in challenging garden situations to clean up, revive, and bring color to the lawns of 10 seniors.

This project was the result of cooperation and sharing of resources between: Saginaw Community Foundation, Saginaw County's Promise, Saginaw Community Foundation Youth

Force, United Way Volunteer Center, MSUE-4H, Master Gardeners, Home Depot, Saginaw Intermediate School District, Citizens Bank, Dow Chemical, and Shay Water. Lisik's donated 60-plus hosta!

Thanks also to our organization, which donated \$200 to purchase bulbs and other supplies. The Master Gardeners shared plants from their gardens.

In addition, we received a wonderful donation of plants from the prison in Freeland. We requested and received: 1 rose bush, 5 burning bushes, 9 euonymous, 6 daisy, 6 coreopsis, Easter lilies, 2 lilacs, 6 coneflowers, plus a ton of other plants which they just "threw in". The plants were good size and filled the back of a large pickup truck!

The prison has a great horticultural program. They grow all of their plants from seeds or cuttings, and donate them to the community.

It's definitely a win-win situation. Graduates of the program have a good hire rate in local nurseries once they serve their time, and the program generates good quality plants that enrich the community, and allow the inmates to feel they are making a difference.

Unfortunately, budget cuts left them with a \$750 budget for 2004 when the minimum it takes to run the program is \$4,000. Let us hope that their budget is restored for 2005!!

*Gail Caird*

### Welcome new members!

The following people joined the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association at the last meeting, bringing paid memberships to 167, says Treasurer Deb Keller.

Please welcome them when you see them.

They include:

**Nicola Danks** of Birch Run, MG trainee.

**Jo-Linda Manus** of Vassar, MG

**Dick Tanner** of Frankenmuth, MG

**Jan Tanner** of Frankenmuth, MG

**Helen Tober** of Birch Run, MG trainee.

**Judith Ziegler** of Frankenmuth, MG.

### Delfina bids good-bye

I wanted to send a short note to announce the long awaited hiring of our new Master Gardener Coordinator. Mary Lysogorski has officially been announced for the position, and is anxious to get things rolling.

I am very confident Mary will be a great asset to the Master Gardener Program and its participants.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact her at (989) 758-2500 ext. 224.

She is in the office on a part-time basis and will adjust her schedule accordingly once she is more oriented.

It was a pleasure to work with many of you for the short time I filled in after Angela Irwin's departure.

I will be moving into another position here at MSU Extension, so I will still be around in the event you have any questions for me.

Thanks for all your help and patience!! Take care, and happy gardening!

*Delfina J. R. Stacy*

### Saturday Gardener classes meet at Michigan State University

EAST LANSING – Saturday AM Gardener offers five classes from November through March at the Plant and Soil Sciences Building, Michigan State University.

Classes meet from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., unless otherwise noted.

They include: "Herbal Soap" on Nov. 20, cost \$40; "Holiday Centerpiece" on Dec. 4, cost \$40; and "Make a Hypertufa Trough" on Jan. 22, cost \$40.

"Special Design Series by Dr. Bob Schutski" will meet from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Feb. 1, 8 and 22, and cost \$90, while "Pruning Wisteria" meets from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. March 20 with a second session from 10:45 a.m. to noon the same day. It costs \$25.

For information, please contact Ann Hancock at (517) 355-5191, ext. 348 or go to [www.hrt.msu.edu/outreach/sm6120.htm](http://www.hrt.msu.edu/outreach/sm6120.htm).



## International MG conference set for July 24-27 in Canada

SASKATOON, Canada – Plans are under way for the 2005 International Master Gardener Conference here July 24-27.

The program features internationally recognized speakers, education sessions, hands-on gardening workshops, gardening trade and art show and sale, tours of local and community gardens and a guided tour of the Canadian Light Source Synchrotron.

There's also a pre-conference tour of the Northern Boreal Forest and Prince Albert National Park, post-conference tour of the Canadian Rockies via Calgary, Banff, Jasper and Edmonton, an opening reception at the Western Development Museum and a Taste of Saskatchewan banquet.

For more information, visit <http://mastergardener2005.usask.ca/program.html>.

The site even offers a video to view of

## 'English Gardens' surprise....

(Continued from page 3)

for a weekend and work on an area, which was televised, and helped raise funds for the next project. That support continues today," Shaver said.

"It's a different mindset when you know the garden is going to be in the family for centuries," she added. "I try to show how the gardens vary. One I went to is full of ancient sarcophagi. These gardens are owned by wealthy people, diplomats and others who traveled and brought these things back with them."

She recommends those who are contemplating taking a foreign garden tour do some research first.

"Every trip sounds fabulous," Shaver said. "But I always go to the library and look things up myself and see what else is available. I've never traveled in England on my own, but the only way you would see some of the gardens I saw is on a tour because they are private homes. I would love to go back – but there are so many other places to see."

Story by Darlene B. Damp, co-editor

# Don't forget to turn in recertification hours

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

Due to the change in the state MG calendar year, Master Gardeners have until Dec. 31, 2004, to submit their required 15 volunteer hours and 5 education hours — along with any additional hours they have compiled.

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

Program Director Gail Caird says that it is extremely important hours be turned in by the December 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.

If you did not receive one, forms are available at the MSUE office, 1 Tuscola.

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.

Please include the date, the title, the speaker and the education credit hour for each session attended.

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 Gardeners" 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.

Next board meeting:  
**7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8, at  
Judy Henning's home**

Newsletter deadline:  
**Monday, Jan. 10**  
Send submissions to  
**Darlene Damp, Editor**  
**shrew@att.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.**