



PURDUE UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

Elkhart County

Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds

17746-E County Road 34

Goshen, IN 46528-6898



The Michiana

Broadcaster

"Helping Each Other Grow!"

Michiana Master Gardeners Association

April 2009

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CALENDAR



A Look Ahead

April 28	7pm	"The world of Bonsai" by Cheryl Owens
May 26	7pm	"Dahlias" by Dahlia society / Cami Waggoner
June 30	7pm	"Invasives" by Rita Henehan
July 11		Garden Tour 2009
July 13	6pm	Fair setup & pizza party (volunteer hours)
Aug 25	6:30pm	Garden Tour Appreciation Dinner, Reservations required. Email bakerds@comcast.net
Sept 10 -12		Indiana State Master Gardener Conference; First Baptist Church CR 17 Bristol IN
Sept 29	7pm	"An evening of Master Gardener fun"
Oct 27	7pm	"Garden/Nature Photography" TBA
Nov 17	6:30pm	"Thanks for giving carry-in & food drive" NOTE: NEW DATE
Dec		NO MEETING, MERRY CHRISTMAS!

A Note From The Presidents Desk



The day started beautifully this morning with sunshine, very little wind, and no frost. To a real gardener it is the kind of day that makes you eager to rush the season. Then you glance at the calendar and reality sets in, this is northern Indiana where in five minutes, at this time of year, it can go from late spring weather to a snow storm. Good news however, the Vernal Equinox occurs on the 20th of March. The Sun is headed our way and in just twenty one more days, we who stick to tradition, can plant early peas.

On behalf of the Board I wish to thank Kathleen Cripe and the members of the Annual Dinner / Public Spring Seminar Committee for a job well done. The speaker was great, very informative with a witty presentation that held your interest. The organization was well done and the food was plentiful and good. Thanks to each one of you committee members that made this a successful event.

Kathleen has completed her term as chairperson of this committee. Her co-chair, Mayrea Reusser, will become the chairperson on or about March 23rd. She is planning the first committee meeting soon there after. If you would like to be a part of the 2010 Annual Dinner / Public Spring Seminar Committee please contact Mayrea.

I would remind the secretaries and liaisons of all committees, a copy of the minutes of all committee meetings are to be sent to the board via the president. This should be done as soon as possible after each meeting so they can be distributed to the board members prior to their monthly meeting.

Thanks to all MMGA Members for your organizational support and suggestions. Remember to be prepared to voice your ideas when the floor is opened for that which is for the good and welfare of the organization at the monthly meetings. If you would rather you may write your suggestions on paper fold them and place them in a container that will be provided. For your comfort these may be either signed or unsigned.

PLM



April Meetings

April 4

9:00 Garden Clean-up at the Airport PAR garden

Chairperson - Sue Stuckman 674-6210

Call Sue for more information

April 6

2009 State Conference meeting

6:00 at Rhonda Loucks' home

63537 CR 7

Goshen, IN

862-4294

Chairpersons- Mary Davis - 206-8957

Judy Baker - 848-5235

Call Rhonda if attending

April 13

7:00 Garden Tour Meeting Extension office

Chairperson - Liz Hess 825-485

April 16,

17 & 18

Annual Tree Sale

The 16th and 17th are work days. The 18th is pick-up day

Call Heidi Zavatsky for more information. 295-5956

April 20

MG Board of Directors

12:30 at the Extension office meeting room

President - Paul Miles

295-1475

Call Paul if attending

April 28

7:00 Monthly MG Meeting AG Hall

The speaker will be Cheryl Owens on Bonsai

(Remember you get 2 hours of training time for attending this meeting.)

If you have questions about what the different committees do, please contact the chairperson. They will be happy to help.

Or give me a call at 264-4356

I will update as more information becomes available.

Gwen Ferland AMG 2000



2009 State Conference Bits and Pieces

- Only 5 more months until the conference!!!
- Thanks to those of you who volunteered to sew the tote bags. Those who took some to complete please remember to bring the finished product to the MMGA monthly meeting on April 28.
- Remember to register before June 30 to get your early bird discount. Registration forms are available online at www.michianamastergardener.com You must be an active Master Gardener to register.
- There will be a sign up sheet at the April 24 meeting for those who wish to volunteer to help at the conference. Like all other MMGA volunteer opportunities, you must be a current, dues-paid MMGA member and be a certified Purdue Master Gardener to participate.
- If any of you can obtain items for the Silent Auction or for Door Prizes, please contact Gwen Ferland at eferland.11@verizon.net
- If anyone knows a business who might advertise in our program please contact Heidi Zavatsky at Hkz1430@aol.com The ad rates are inexpensive.

If you have any questions or concerns about the conference, please email either Judy Baker bakerds@comcast.net or Mary Davis davis.davispc@verizon.net and we will get back to you right away with an answer.

See you next issue!

Judy Baker



There is an opportunity for Master Gardeners to work with second grade children at the Tolson Garden in Elkhart.

“This year we are again sponsoring an event with the Tolson Garden. Second grade students at Roosevelt Elementary will be planting pumpkin seeds in their classrooms after Spring Break. The students will then be taking a field trip to the Tolson Garden in May to transplant their seedlings and participate in other garden related activities/education. We are seeking adult volunteers who can assist us that day.

The dates are May 12, 13, 14 and 15. Time is from 12-3 pm (approximate). Any and all help is much appreciated!

Would you be able to get the word out to the Master Gardeners about this volunteer opportunity?

They can contact me if they are interested.”

Stacy L. Bowers
Health Promotion Specialist
Community Outreach
Elkhart General Healthcare System
2020 Industrial Parkway
Elkhart, IN 46516
(574) 524-7506
sbowers@egh.org

Flowers & Plants for Bees, Butterflies, and Birds

By Dwight Fish-3/10/09

Just last week (3/7/09) my wife, Oxana and myself were walking our dogs at the Elkhart Environmental Center here in Elkhart. There was a lot of wildlife activity even though the food sources have been depleted and so much of the landscape has been beaten down because of the harsh winter. There were two Red Tail Hawks, dozens of Mourning Doves, a variety of songbirds and even a River Otter scoping us out near the iron bridge on the Riverwalk. The one event that made me turn my head and listen was the solo song of the Red winged Blackbird. I began to think that at this very moment thousands of birds are starting their yearly migration northward and many of them will stop right here in Michiana. As Master Gardeners there is a lot we can do to make our yards and gardens more attractive and beneficial for the little critters that will make it a place of refuge.

Following is a list of flowers, shrubs and trees that will attract and feed many of our natural visitors all season long.

Flowers rich in Nectar: Bee Balm, Cardinal flower, Chrysanthemums, columbine, Delphinium, Penstemon, Pincushion flower (scabiosa), Salvia, Verbena, and Dianthus.

Shrubs rich in Nectar: Lavender, Lilac, Rosemary, Bluebeard, Fuchsia, Viburnum, Cotoneaster, Heavenly bamboo (Zone 6), and Butterfly bush.

Seed packed annual flowers: Cosmos, Marigolds, Sunflowers, Cleome, Zinnia.

Seed packed perennial flowers: Asters, Coreopsis, Echinacea, Globe thistle, Goldenrod, Sedums, Milkweed, and many native grasses.

Fruit bearing trees: Hawthorns, Crabapple, Service berry, Cherry, Hackberry, Red Cedar, Junipers, Red Mulberry, Mountain Ash

Nut trees: Oaks, Pines, Spruces, Ash, Tulip

Don't forget to keep a fresh water source available for your visitors as they will be attracted to the sound of bubbling water. Many of the trees and shrubs will provide both food and shelter and even a breeding spot for some species.

The whole idea is to develop your yard and garden into a habitat that attracts the birds, bees and butterflies for a season of motion, sound and color. And don't forget to invite your friends, family and neighbors over to let them enjoy what you have designed.

DF



IMPROVING ELKHART COUNTY'S QUILT GARDENS WITH BIOSOLIDS

Sonya Nash, '08

Participants in the 2009 Quilt Gardens Tour (QGT) are digging in to improve the quality of their soil with the help of the City of Elkhart. The city is offering a range of nutrient-rich Class A biosolids products free of charge and QGT participants are eager to move some dirt!

They packed the room at the Elkhart County Visitors Center to hear Pat Humphries, Operations Supervisor for the City of Elkhart's Department of Public Works, talk in detail about a range of organic products the city producing at its wastewater treatment facility, ideal for landscaping applications like the quilt gardens. She assured everyone of the safety of these products and detailed biosolids' many benefits to both the city and the end user.

Biosolids compost improves soil structure; it reduces soil compaction and crusting; and the compost's organic matter retains essential nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium above the root zone. And better yet, 100% of the city's biosolids are beneficially reused. No waste is being dumped in the landfill.

You can contact Pat Humphries at 574.293.2572 or e-mail pat.humphries@coei.org.

By the way, the city is running a contest to name their biosolid products. Feeling creative with compost?



2008 Master Gardener Class Report

The 2008 Master Gardener class divided into four groups to present different seminars. "Seed Saving & Starting" seminars were taught at McIntosh Greenhouse, Goshen, and Sautter's Greenhouse, Elkhart, in February and March. We were privileged to be joined by several of our fellow Master Gardeners, as well as several community people interested in learning about saving and starting seeds. Demonstrations were given by Linda Kimpel, Keith Peters, Ruth Stump, and Rachael Thomas. Your support was very much appreciated!

The three groups with upcoming seminars are: Composting (3/21/09 1:00 pm at American Countryside Farmers Market, 4/4/09 10:00 am at Sautter's Greenhouse), Growing Vegetables in Small Spaces (3/21/09 10:00 am Sautter's Greenhouse, 4/11/09 10:00 am Ron Martin Seeds), and Rain Gardens (3/28/09 10:00 am Sautter's Greenhouse, 4/4/09 1:00 pm at Dave's Lawnscape & Farmview Landscape Center, Middlebury.) This is a good way to get your educational hours. Hope to see you there! Call the Extension Office If you have questions, 574-533-0554.

**Address correction: Dave's Lawnscape & Farmview Landscape Center, 4/4/09, 11930 W 250 N, Middlebury 574-825-8873.

Submitted by Linda Kimpel

MASTER GARDENER BIO

HELEN MARTIN

Jerry and Helen Martin are another Master Gardener couple. Helen was the first—in fact, she was in the very first class of 1996. She was retired from the corporate office of Skyline and Jerry was reading the paper and suggested this was probably something she would enjoy. She has in fact enjoyed being in MMGA especially all the people you meet. She was a little nervous in class—indicating some of her classmates were Steve Kruse, Mike Maloney and Terry Cekelski and they had the essay test hanging over them. A native Hoosier, Helen and Jerry were high school sweethearts (at Wakarusa) and will celebrate their 47th anniversary this year. Helen has interesting stories about the early days—a meeting with only two people present, running a garden tour with no background, etc. She said they had fifteen gardens the first year. She made the signs for the gardens that are still in use and has continued to work at almost every tour. She promised to write an article for the Broadcaster sometime about those early years. Recently she compiled archives of Board actions, scouring the minutes for years. She also works at the fair and used to check people in even before MGers “babysat” Ag Hall. She also helped maintain the quilt garden. She likes all flowers, annuals and perennials, a love she inherited from her gardening mother and grows heirloom sweet potatoes, which she indicated she would be starting soon. She is an avid collector—Hummel figurines, Coalport cottages, thimbles and Rinconda carved animals. Some of her collections number in the hundreds. She also has some plates and cups and saucers. Many of these were purchased during their travels, which is another love. She indicated they used to have a dog, Lancelot, who was supposed to be a miniature Daschund, but looked like a regular one. She said she sometimes thinks of getting another dog—usually when she sees neighbors out walking theirs, but says Jerry always tells her to call one of the neighbors and borrow their dog until the idea passes ☺.

MASTER GARDENER BIO

JERRY MARTIN

If you attended monthly meetings before the 2008 Garden Tour, you remember Jerry Martin—he was the “two for the show” dude. (He also made a darling yard bird from a rake and a shovel for the tour, which I had to arm wrestle Jay Whitmer for--I won ☺). Obviously, he was a member of the 2008 Garden tour committee, but has also worked fair set up, the extension office hot line, assisted with tree sales, helped with preparing, maintaining and clean-up of the quilt garden and is on the Board of Directors—all this and he only became an MG with the class of 2006! Not surprisingly he has already earned silver status, and this doesn't even count all the time he helped Helen before going through class. He also obviously is busy at home—their house was on the 2004 Garden Tour. Jerry is retired from Honeywell Aerospace as a contract administrator. He is almost a native Hoosier—he was born in Durand, Michigan but moved to his grandfather's Elkhart county farm with his family when he was four years old. Jerry is a veteran from the Army and has an MBA degree from IUSB. He became interested in Master Gardeners when Helen was in class, but couldn't attend due to working until he retired. He is interested in lawn care, landscaping and vegetable gardening. He is also the county coordinator and educator for Co-CoRaHS (Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network) and is on the Wakarusa Tree Board and the committee head for the County Fair Horticulture Department. In his “spare” time, he is interested in travel and antiques and collectibles. Jerry said even though he has been involved in horticulture the majority of his adult life, the training he received provided additional knowledge and current research information some of which he has incorporated into his lawn care and gardening practices. He enjoys interacting with people of similar interests through the MMGA and providing gardening education to members of the community.

Faith In Action – Planting Seeds, Harvesting Hope
Submitted by Suzanne Gray

“Once Upon A Time” ... three Elkhart businessmen, with a vision to reach out to those on the streets of the city, established Faith Mission (1956).

“Once Upon A Time” ... a small group of Master Gardeners joined forces with Plant A Row for the Hungry and EnviroCorps and started planting seeds at a community garden to harvest for the city’s hungry (2001).

On Wednesday, March 18th, a small group of Master Gardeners joined forces with Faith Mission. At the request of Mike Perez, Development Director, we spent time touring the new facilities on Benham Avenue ... and we stood (see photo) smack in the middle of the plot of land designated for their new garden!

Mike asked us, “Where do we start?” Fortunately, the Mission has a plethora of supporters, both corporate and agricultural, so implementing recommendations we made that day will be easily handled ... especially with the 150 able-bodied persons receiving services. We recommended:

1. Gather a soil test (thank you Suzan Stuckman for reminding us of that vital step)!
2. Plow, disc deep, as soon as the ground thaws (lots of farmer volunteers)!
3. Spread compost and-or manure (more farmer volunteers)!
4. Plow, disc again, level.
5. Plan irrigation – we recommended water barrels, watering cans and hands vs overhead sprinkling!
6. Lay paths – free wood chips from the Environmental Center!

7. Make a “Wish List” (“We have no idea where to get plants and seeds” said Mike, matter-of-factly ... that’s the easy part – Count on Master Gardeners!

8. Let us know when they’re ready to plan the layout – this is where Suzanne Pedler’s expertise comes in!

9. Plant cole crops in April!

We also volunteered to give a series of gardening seminars beginning with soil basics, preparing, planning and planting (April); weed ID and control, watering and mulching (June); pest control (July) and ending with harvesting and preparing for next season!

Stay tuned for subsequent articles in *The Broadcaster* and point your browser to www.thefaithmission.org to keep informed on current events, stories, stats and current needs.

And all the women, children, men and families will ... “Live Happily Ever After” ... after experiencing the benefits of growing one’s own!



Back row: Mike Perez, Carol Novy, Rita Lyzen, Annette Kozak
Front row: Sue Stuckman, Dyanne Zimmerman, Gwen Ferland,
Marilyn Horvath, Suzanne Gray

Splinters from the Board

March 16, 2009

“Splinters from the Board” is a summary of the MMGA Board’s highlights and actions taken each month. It is the Board’s intention to email a copy to each member during the month following the meeting.

Committee reports were heard. Highlights:

- Annual Dinner – 74 persons heard Tom Turpin in the afternoon, and 101 persons attended the dinner and talk in the evening.
- Garden Tour – no one has stepped forward to head up the advertising committee for the Garden Tour, so the Garden Tour committee is working on it. Since this is one of two fundraisers for the MMGA each year, this is a very important function for our organization. Eleven gardens have been lined up for the tour.
- Tree Sale – Volunteers needed April 16, 17 and 18.

ACTIONS

- The Board Member Resolutions Index will be continually updated by the Secretary.
- A copy of each of Tom Turpin’s 2 books will be purchased for the MMGA library at the Extension office.
- Position/Committee Duties were approved for:
- Tree Sale Procedure

- Property Trustee Position
- The Presidents Position Description and Vice President's Position Description were approved as "Guidelines", not job descriptions.

Again, no action was taken on an Emeritus policy proposal, or on the Tenure award proposal.

Annual Dinner included in Membership Fee? This has been discussed at both the January and February Board meetings and again in March, with still no consensus. After a discussion of what has worked best in the past regarding location and speakers, Jim Bare made a motion to raise annual dues to \$30 per year and include the annual dinner in the dues. The motion died for lack of a second.

There was a long discussion of what to do about delinquent dues payments and Jeff Burbrink was consulted. This year some membership checks were returned by the Extension Office because the persons had not completed their 6 education hours and their 12 volunteer hours as required. Note – the MMGA By-Laws require members to be Certified Master Gardeners, and the 6 and 12 hours are required by Purdue to maintain certification. Re-certification is up to the Extension Office. If a person has been gone for less than a year, it may only require getting the hours in the next year; if longer it may require re-taking the test, or it may require retaking part or all of the Master Gardener course then taking the test.

Submitted by Jim Bare, Board Secretary, 17 March, 2009

2009 State Conference, Vendors Committee

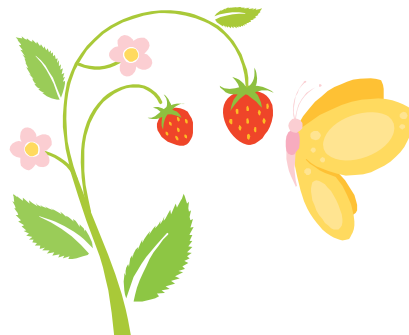
We will need volunteers for the vendors committee (all three days of the conference 9/10-12).

Thursday morning we will need a lot of help. We'll be marking out vendors booth space and setting up tables (covering and skirting). Vendors arriving on Thurs. will be assisted to assigned booths.

Friday we need a few volunteers to be "floaters," making sure all is going well, checking for possible vendor needs.

Saturday we will need help tearing down vendor areas and assisting vendors out. Conference closes at 12, vendors out by 2.

Please let us know if you can help. Email: sues-tuckman@yahoo.com or 674-6210 or sign up at the April Master Gardener monthly meeting.



"M & M's"

The "M & M" Membership Committee of MMGA (Marilyn Horvath & Marilyn Miles) met to express ideas & make plans incorporating the goals & guidelines set forth.

We like & will use the ideas of a welcoming table set up at each meeting for attendance keeping, a suggestion container, sign ups for greeters & door prizes & perhaps others. It was decided to renew an old idea of having a "Plant of the Month" for a door prize & as a fun award for attendance. We will encourage & recruit newer members to be greeters thus acquainting them with the ongoing membership.

Marilyn Miles will keep attendance on the computer using Paul's Excel spread sheet. Then contacts will be made with persons absent from two or more meetings from that record. Also it will be possible for hours turned in to be checked from that record.

As an organization with a secondary social goal it is good to show concern and respect to our membership via communication. We will gladly do this with the help of the membership who we ask to provide information on illness, deaths, and other areas of concern. Please email me with this information at mrlnify@aol.com & we will make the appropriate express from our organization. This will not preclude any of your personal expressions & will be a supplement to them.

The M & M's are excited and happy to serve as your Membership Committee. Please help by your regular attendance, participation, suggestions and by being a greeter!

Marilyn Horvath, Chair
Marilyn Miles, Co-Chair

BROCCOLI WITH CRANBERRIES SALAD (Serve with crisp bread sticks)

SUBMITTED BY SUZANNE GRAY

SALAD:

5 cups broccoli florets, cut into 1/2 " pieces

1/2 red onion, thinly sliced

1 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese

1 cup crumbled cooked bacon

1 cup sweetened dried cranberries

1 cup shelled sunflower seeds

DRESSING:

1 cup mayonnaise

3 T granulated sugar

2 T red wine vinegar

1/2 tsp salt

1/4 tsp fresh ground black pepper

Mix all salad ingredients in a large salad bowl. In small bowl, beat all dressing ingredients with a wire Whisk until blended; spoon over salad, toss to mix well. Refrigerate 1 hour before serving. Makes 6 servings from *The Joy of Cranberries* by Theresa Milang

FROM THE EDITORS DESK

Thank you the following people for submitting their information and articles to this issue of the Broadcaster:

Paul Miles

Gwen Ferland

Judy Baker

Dwight Fish

Sonya Nash

Linda Kimpel

Mary Davis

Jim Bare

Sue Stuckman

Suzanne Gray

Marilyn Horvath

Marilyn Miles

We can't do it without you!

Please send your articles, recipes, meeting times, minutes to: alyskidder@gmail.com or drop in the mail to:

20117 CR 2

Bristol IN 46507

Thank you!

Alys Kidder

Michiana Master Gardeners Association
Elkhart County



Mission Statement

The Michiana Master Gardeners Association is a not-for-profit educational organization dedicated to the improvement of the community. Members of the Association have completed the requirements of the Master Gardener Volunteer Training Program, working in affiliation with the Purdue Extension Service of Elkhart County. Its specific aim is to improve the quality of life in the community by providing information and technical assistance in the area of home horticulture through the use of trained and certified volunteers.

