



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***

*March 2009*

Index	1
Calendar / A Look Ahead	2
From the Presidents Desk	3-4
Green Thumbs up! Submitted by Mike Maloney	5-6
Bits & Pieces 2009 State Conference	7-8
MG PAR Garden Mtg. Minutes - submitted by Sue Stuckman	9-12
MG Bio's; Heidi Zavatsky, Kathleen Cripe, Vickie Estep	13-18
2009 Spring Annual Meeting	19-20
Volunteer Opportunities! 2009 State Conference	21
Fair Building Supervision	22
Indiana Flower & Patio Show	23
MG Recipe Box	24-25
From the Editors Desk	26

## CALENDAR



### *A Look Ahead*

March 14		Saturday, Public Seminar & Annual Meeting
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" <b>NOTE: NEW DATE</b>
Dec		NO MEETING, MERRY CHRISTMAS!

*A Note From The Presidents Desk*



As I sat down to write the March edition of the note to the membership, on this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, the sun was shining and the temperature was a mite wee bit warmer than it has been. I have to admit it encouraged me to start assessing the work that I must accomplish before the growing season fully arrives. The fruit trees and grape vines need pruning, the strawberry bed needs some cleaning, but the biggest job will be the readying of the raised vegetable beds. I tried raised beds for the first time last summer. It truly was an educational experience. I like the concept and the results were satisfying, but I think if I relocate the beds to take better advantage of the sun it will improve the harvest. I also need to improve the nutrients in the soil which is an ongoing process. I'm ready to start. It will be a lot more fun than moving the snow we've had. I am anxious to smell the scent that rises when the sun shines on newly turned dirt aren't you?

I want to once again remind you of a once in a lifetime opportunity. The State Master Gardeners Conference will be right here in Elkhart, Indiana. This means you will not have to drive many miles or pay for a motel stay in a far away city worrying about where to eat. This will make it more affordable for people in the Michiana area and if you register prior to June 30, 2009 you will receive the Early Bird Special.

As a member of the Michiana Master Gardeners Association you may reduce the cost even further by volunteering to help the Committee finish preparations and to assist in many ways during the Conference.

There is a per hour reduction for each hour volunteered. For more information about the Early Bird Special and/or the details concerning reducing your registration fee by volunteering contact Mary Davis, Judy Baker, or Gwen Ferland. Marilyn reminded me just a few days ago that it was time for us to get our registration forms filled out and our money turned in. I'll get our registration forms at the next membership meeting or at, [www.MichianaMasterGardeners.com](http://www.MichianaMasterGardeners.com). Many professional speakers will be presenting educational seminars and many vendors will be showing their products. It will also be an opportunity to socialize with many Master Gardeners from throughout the State at lunches and dinner. I have always found meeting people from other areas, sharing gardening problems and successes to be very educational and rewarding. I do hope you will be able to take advantage of this great opportunity.

PLM



## *Green Thumbs Up!*

Michiana Master Gardeners are recognized for their performance of community service. Using their knowledge and skills they have contributed greatly to the quality of life for residents of our community..

Lately, due to the economic recession, the quality of life for many of our citizens has suffered a stunning blow. Factory closings, business bankruptcies, layoffs, and home foreclosures have brought about more stress than many of our friends and neighbors have ever experienced.

How bad is it? So bad that the unemployment level of our formerly prosperous county at this time is approaching 20% and has attracted the attention of national news media. So bad that the President of the United States chose to visit our county to personally hear of our problems and talk of his plan to put people back to work and to revitalize the economy. So bad that some families cannot put food on the table without the assistance of agencies such as Church Community Services, St. Vincent DePaul Society, Salvation Army and others who are now running low on supplies.

Yes, times are tough here in Michiana.

But along with tough times come the opportunity to reach out to those in need. Many of us have not been shy about donating money and food to agencies who are helping needy people. Michiana Master-Gardeners have done a fine job of growing food in the

PAR garden at the Elkhart Airport and donating the food to those who hunger.

Michiana Master Gardeners have the resources to provide additional aid to the great numbers of unemployed.

Recalling the successful Victory Gardens of World War 2 days, it may be time to revive that program and encourage the displaced workers to plant vegetable gardens.

Here is a suggestion — “Recovery Gardens”

A series of 3 seminars dedicated to the purpose of teaching out of work people how to plan a vegetable garden, how to plant it and how to maintain, harvest and preserve the vegetables, could be organized by Michiana Master Gardeners. The MICHIANA MASTER GARDENER RECOVERY GARDEN program could be a fine way for unemployed people with time on their hands to produce their own food...and it could be an excellent opportunity for Master Gardeners to fulfill their required hours of community service by “Helping Others Grow”

All Master Gardeners know how important planning and timing is to gardening. If the idea of initiating the Michiana Master Gardeners’ RECOVERY GARDEN program appeals to you now is the time to take action. The spring gardening season is rapidly approaching and time is of the essence.

Keep your green thumbs up!

Mike Maloney

### ***2009 State Conference Bits and Pieces***

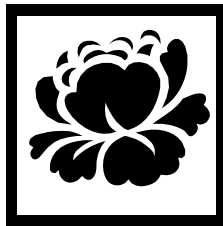
- Only 6 more months until the conference!!!
- SEWERS WANTED: Linda Sinon can use some additional sewers to help construct the “Welcome Bags” that will be handed out to attendees at the Conference.. Please email her if you can help [lsinon@maplenet.net](mailto:lsinon@maplenet.net). It is pretty straightforward sewing so even beginners can help. Time you spend sewing will count as volunteer hours.
- We have had some requests from vendors and educators asking how they can hear one (or more) of the sessions. Mary and I have decided that each session they want to attend would be \$15.00. The reason I am mentioning this is that some of you may not be registering for the conference for a variety of reasons yet might like to hear one of the topics. We will extend this opportunity to MMGA members also. However, we really encourage all MMGA members to be an active participant and attend the entire conference. It is a wonderful experience – just ask anyone who has attended one! Some of the many benefits are speakers and topics of excellent quality, the 3 meals (plus breakfast goodies each day & a take-with snack bag on Saturday), a “welcome” bag, being able to bid on silent auction items, door prizes, packet of handouts for all the speakers, etc. Meal tickets (for those not registered) may also be purchased at a cost of \$18.00 for each dinner and \$8.00 for Friday’s lunch. The deadline for purchasing these additional tickets will be July 31<sup>st</sup>.
- The website is up and running [www.michianamastergardeners.com](http://www.michianamastergardeners.com) and you can go there for all the information on the conference as well as the registration form.
- If any of you can obtain items for the Silent Auction or for Door Prizes, please contact Gwen Ferland at [eferland.11@verizon.net](mailto:eferland.11@verizon.net) (*Please note Gwen’s new email address.*)

- If anyone knows a business who might advertise in our program please contact Heidi Zavatsky at [Hkz1430@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:bakerds@comcast.net) or Mary Davis [davis.davispc@verizon.net](mailto:davis.davispc@verizon.net) and we will get back to you right away with an answer.

*See you next issue!*

*Judy Baker*



MINUTES FOR THE Master Gardener PAR

Community Garden

Feb. 3, 2009

Attending: Angie Banet, Marilyn Horvath, Megan Kolaczyk, Annette Kozak, Rita Lyzen, Pam McIntire, Anne Overmyer, Suzanne Pedler, Kerry Prough, Sue Stuckman, Heidi Zavatsky, Dyanne Zimmerman

Angie Banet and Megan Kolaczyk attended from the city Environmental Department. Pam McIntire joined us to discuss students starting some of our plants at the Career Center Horticultural dept.

Prices for the airport garden plots will be going up for a second plot to \$6 (from \$4). The first remains at \$8. The Master Gardener plots are still at no cost due to our contribution to maintenance and water availability.

A question was raised about possibly growing fruit or perennial vegetable crops at the garden. It may or may not be possible, this would have to be authorized by airport managers. A better idea might be to use raised beds that are available outside the Elkhart Environmental cabin (demonstration gardens).

We discussed potatoes, decided Kennebec performed the best for us and will probably choose to put in 5 rows of Kennebec this year. Candy or other onion sets will have to be ordered early. Suzanne will contact Deb Smith to see about that.

We will use swiss chard bright lights that has multi-colored petioles, butter-crunch lettuce. Also beets, carrots, radishes can be direct seeded early. We would like to plant zinnias at the garden again this year as people enjoy seeing flowers when we donate to the pantries.

April 4 is the day set for making paths with wood chips, Megan and Angie hope to have the plots tilled a day or two before the paths are to be done.

March 26 is the call out for both community gardens, Thursday 6:30 p.m., at the Elkhart Environment cabin. All gardeners are welcome.

Heidi will not be able to do the barrel filling this year. Heidi thanks to you for all you did last year. You kept the water there for us during some really dry weather and did much more also by helping weed and harvest and plant.

Kerry volunteered to help with watering, and possibly bring her husband. Dyanne offered to accompany with her husband and help also. Thank you also.

We discussed with Pam what her students might be able to start from seed for our garden. Tomatoes, peppers, squash, okra, eggplant were mentioned. Cabbage, leeks, Brussels sprouts, marigolds, too. Pam will keep track of costs and let us know. She will ask for student volunteers for the garden preparation on April 4.

We discussed whether Faith Mission had garden space and might start their own kitchen garden on site. It seemed like something that might benefit them. Dyanne mentioned possibility of a garden at the new jail site as there is room there also. We would need a lot more volunteers to attempt to help either of those projects so that was not discussed.

We will for the most part keep to the work/maintenance schedules we had last season Tues. mornings 9-11 or 12, Thursday evenings 6-8 or so. Bluebird houses need to be cleaned and repaired. Suzanne will contact Dwight Fish who installed them.

Any Master Gardener who wants to help with the PAR community garden is very welcome to join us for any activity. We hope to be able to plant some of our spring crops on April 4th after the paths are laid out. Come out and help us get started! Mid to late May will be our warm season crop plantings. We'll be planting the students' starts. We can always use help with weeding, watering and harvesting our vegetables throughout the growing season.

We also discussed having a barrel/spigot system at the garden, and Jerry Martin offered to help with that, but after investigation we decided it would be impractical because of need to store the barrels over the winter, and metal spigots that would be a magnet for theft. We will keep the old bins.

Suzanne P was instructed about two products - caulking or a foam - that might improve on the duct tape repairs.

P. S. We set a meeting for March 3, and Suzanne later questioned whether we needed another meeting so soon. Does anyone have something that needs to be brought before the group? We could just meet as a group at the Environmental Center call out on March 26. What do you want to do? Let me know.

Minutes submitted by Sue Stuckman



## MASTER GARDENER BIO

### HEIDI ZAVATSKY



Heidi Zavatsky was known to her neighbors as the crazy lady who was still making mud pies past age 50. She was also observed late at night digging holes in her yard. Thus, in 2000 she enrolled in Master Gardeners. Now, she just smiles and dreamily tells people she is a Master Gardener. She announced with pride that she is pregnant, for the 15th time and is expecting octuplets. She was a little concerned with the bad press the recent mother is receiving, but is hoping her age will be in her favor. Most of her 14 previous children are not around—either living in penal institutions or have moved far away. One son who is still in contact is worried about the children—indicating Heidi's senior moments abound, as they find milk in the cupboards, cereal in the refrigerator, neatly folded laundry in the garage and rakes in the clothes closet. She absentmindedly put a cat in the pantry and forgot him for several days. Fortunately, she had also absentmindedly put a food dish in the pantry. Her son said he doesn't think she can keep track of one child, let alone 8. Speaking of the cats, Heidi is becoming one of those women with a houseful of animals.

She says she has three cats, but we don't if she counted when the one was shut up. She also has several birds, some of whom are very talkative parrots. They used to join in her telephone conversations, but now she is frequently seen conversing just with them and has started quoting them as experts in various areas. Always a little squirrely, Heidi is the Chairperson of the tree sale. She also serves on the Board and is head of the nominations committee. She is joining the quilt garden committee as she says, with a wicked smile, she loves deadheading. She enjoys perennials, vegetables, cottage gardening, mud pies and digging holes. (Note: Heidi refused to give me an information sheet. I reminded her of my threat to make things up and she encouraged me to do so—please provide information sheets to me, if you have not been bioed—or this could happen to you!)



I will have the MG Bio Form in the next issue of the Broadcaster for you to send in to Mary Davis...unless you wish to experience the same fate that Heidi has I would encourage you to send yours in asap! Really, I didn't know that Mary was so multi-talented! She is quite a writer! Thanks to both Heidi for being such a good sport, (I don't think she had much of a choice) and to Mary for her monthly contribution to the Broadcaster.

## MASTER GARDENER BIO

### KATHLEEN CRIPE



Although Kathleen Cripe is only from the class of 2004, she is already headed for gold status—hopefully by the state meeting this year. She joined Master Gardeners due to her love of gardening and plants and the joy she felt when gardening. Kathleen lives in New Paris and is a native Michiana Hoosier. She loved the class and said time always flew by very fast. She now enjoys teaching others about gardening—which certainly shows, as she is on the speaker's bureau, is the Chairperson on the Garden Tour and the annual dinner and is on the Board of Directors. She is also a committee chair for the state meeting and active in the fair. Kathleen got hooked on state meetings when she attended her first in Evansville—she had a wonderful time in the silent auction room and proved herself to be a fierce competitor for the items she wanted. Kathleen is interested in hostas, landscaping, perennials and water gardening.

In her “spare” time, Kathleen is a registered nurse and a Mary Kay consultant.

Husband Larry is an account executive. Kathleen has two children, Derek, who is married to Heather and the father of granddaughter Choloe (21 months) and Neil who is married to Crista and the father of grandson Cameron (8 months).

Since both children live nearby, Kathleen gets lots of grandma time too.

She also enjoys reading.

Although Kathleen said they do not formally have a pet Mr. Wiggles, an Austrian shepherd adopted them four years ago—they named him, feed him and watch after him, so that sounds like a pet!



## MASTER GARDENER BIO VICKIE ESTEP



A lifelong learner, Vickie Estep, was attracted to Master Gardeners for the learning opportunities and was encouraged by MGs Carla Pontius and Sue Stevens to enroll. She was in the class of 2006 and said it was excellent. Jeff thought it was his last class and according to Vickie really poured himself into it. She enjoys the friendships she has made and serving the community in a way she enjoys. She too is a lifetime resident and is a retired dental assistant. Husband, Mark, is purchasing manager for Excel Industries. She has three children, Joshua of Columbus, Ohio married to Brandlyn, Jessica of Mishawaka, married to Derrick and Melissa who lives in Jacksonville, Florida. She has two grandchildren, Pierce, age 6 and Sydney age 1. Three cats, Dolly, Opie and Jeepers round out the family.

Vickie was her class representative and is thus on the Board.

She is also active in garden tour and the annual dinner and saved the day last year for the annual dinner from #%\*)@, when our original location cancelled on us, as her church graciously stepped in and is serving as the location again this year.

Vickie is especially interested in perennials and propagation of plants.



### ***Spring annual meeting 2009***

The spring annual meeting will be on Saturday, March 14, at Winding Waters Brethren Church, 420 C.R. 4 west, Elkhart, 1:30-4:00pm.

You will want to get your tickets before the day of the seminar for \$10.00 because the price on the day of the seminar will be \$12.00.

The tickets may be purchased at the Extension Office in Goshen (or you may send payment to the Extension Office and pick up your tickets the day of the seminar at the door), at the regular meeting in February or at any of the sites in the county. The sites where tickets are available are: Fred's Flowers, Varns & Hoover, Ginger Valley, Sautter's Greenhouses, Ron Martin Seed, Martin's Pet & Garden, Kruse Farm Supply, McIntosh Garden Center and Linton's Enchanted Gardens.

The Speaker for the day is Dr. Tom Turpin, professor of Entomology at Purdue. He discovered how to combine his interests in biology and agriculture by working with insects. Named Professor of the year in 1995, Turpin is co-founder of the Bug Bowl, a very popular part of Purdue's Spring Fest, drawing 30,000 spectators to events such as cricket spitting contests and cock-roach racing at Roachill Downs.

His appearance in class dressed as a beekeeper or his serving Caterpillar Crunch and Chocolate Chirpy Chip Cookies illustrated the fact that only 5% of insects can be categorized as pests. Come find out who those "bad bugs" are.

Deadline for registrations is March 2. If you have any questions contact Kathleen Cripe at [klcripe@bnin.net](mailto:klcripe@bnin.net) or call 574-831-4442.

The Schedule for the day is:

12:00-1:30 vendors open

1:30-2:30 session on Good bugs, Bad bugs

2:30-3:00 break, vendors open

3:00- 4:00 session continues on Good bugs, Bad bugs

4:00-5:30 vendors open

5:30-6:00 social time

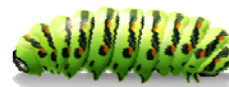
6:00-7:00 dinner

7:00-7:30 awards

7:30-8:30 Dr Turpin with an entertaining talk on The New Good Old Days ( a different subject than in the afternoon session.)

Do not miss your awards dinner and social time! Registration forms are available on the website.

Kathleen Cripe



Here is an opportunity for you to receive volunteer hours, and a discount on your 2009 State conference cost.

During the 2009 State conference, which will be held in Elkhart this year, we will be needing several master gardeners to assist the different speakers who will be presenting at the conference. This is a position in that you will be representing the MMGA to the speaker.

Some of the responsibilities include, assisting the speaker to the right room and on time, assisting with any books or equipment that he or she may need for their session. (this does not mean that you personally need to move the equipment ,just be responsible that it is in the right place at the right time.) You will also be the timer for the session that your speaker gives.

There will be an information session before the conference so all host/hostesses are on the same page and know their duties.

If you have any questions contact :Kathleen Cripe @ [klcripe@bnin.net](mailto:klcripe@bnin.net) or call 574-831-4442.

*Thanks for helping MMGA to make this a great conference.*

### *Fair building supervision*

It is not too early to be thinking about when you might want to be attending the Elkhart County Fair. The dates are July 16-25.

We will be needing people to supervise the Ag Hall during the fair in shifts. The schedule will be coming out in April ,so be looking for it if you would like to get some volunteer hours. The responsibilities include answering questions or being able to locate someone who can find the answer, keeping the building looking neat and moving around in the building during your shift to observe the activity going on in it.

Kathleen Cripe



### **The Indiana Flower & Patio Show**

Get ready to step out of winter and into spring at **the 51<sup>st</sup> annual Indiana Flower & Patio Show**, as they proudly salute springtime and 51 years of garden excellence, Saturday, March 14 through Sunday, March 22, 2009 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds' West Pavilion Hall. The show hours are Monday - Saturday: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Sunday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. General admission is \$12, children 12 and under get in free. Go to <http://www.indianaflowerandpatioshow.com> for More information on discount tickets, price off coupons, senior day, plus schedules and much more.

#### **About the Show**

The 51st annual Indiana Flower & Patio Show has been redesigned! We've listened to show goers suggestions and have pruned our show to ensure only the ideal exhibitors are here to help fulfill your every finer outdoor living need. Getting back to what has made our show great for over 50 years – Gardens. Landscapes. Experts. Ideas.

The show features over 30 extravagant gardens/landscapes crafted by many of Indiana's premiere landscapers, hundreds of finer outdoor living experts, and thousands of ideas to take home! You can learn more about the show navigating through our site.

#### **The Crumplex Theater**

The ever-popular Crumplex Theater, presented by Greendell Mulch & Mix, featuring daily presentations by Dick "Dr. Dirt" Crum, "Mr. Fit-It" Pat Sullivan, floral designers, and other garden and outdoor living experts. Theater schedule was not yet available at the time this was written, check the web page shown above.

## MG RECIPE BOX

### The Best Cheese Spread

Mix all ingredients in a mixer until blended:

- 1 jar Kraft Old English Cheddar Cheese
- 1 8oz pkg Kraft cream cheese (I use 1/3 fat free)
- 1/4 cup softened butter
- 1/2 T Worcestershire sauce
- 1t garlic powder
- 1t ground pepper (I used seasoned pepper)
- 1T (or more) horseradish (I probably use 2T)
- 1/4cup cut up/diced green olives
- few drops of Tabasco
- 1T chives

This recipe is very easy to vary according to your likes and dislikes. I have had it with bacon bits, but I am not fond of bacon.

Ruth Yeomans

## MG RECIPE BOX

### KILLER DUGEL

Ingredients:

1 tsp. vanilla

8 oz. 1" wide goulash noodles

4 eggs

8 oz. cream cheese, softened

2 cups scalded milk

1 stick butter

corn flakes for topping

½ cup sugar

raisins (optional, I prefer without!)

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Boil noodles, drain, cool. Cream together butter, cream cheese and sugar until smooth. Add eggs one at a time, beating constantly. Add vanilla, then gradually add scalded milk, stirring constantly until smooth. Spread noodles into an 8 x 8 inch, greased and floured baking dish. Pour batter over noodles, sprinkle with raisins (optional), crush corn flakes and sprinkle evenly to cover. Bake at 375 degrees about 1 hour or until starting to brown.

B. Rosie Lerner, Purdue University  
Extension Consumer Horticulture Specialist  
& Master Gardener State Coordinator

***FROM THE EDITORS DESK***

I hope that some of us get together and make Mike Maloney's idea of educating the public on "Recovery Gardening" come to life. What a great idea, and for such a worthy cause! Please keep me posted on this series of seminars, and let me know who has decided to take charge, and where and when they will take place.

I also want to take a minute to thank the following people for submitting their articles for this issue of the Broadcaster:

Mike Maloney

Paul Miles

Sue Stuckman

Kathleen Cripe

Ruth Yeomans

Rosie Lerner

We can't do it without you!

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

20117 CR 2

Bristol IN 46507

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.

