



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***

*May 2009*

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## CALENDAR



### *A Look Ahead*

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***



**With the nice warm weather we have experienced the last few days, I spent some time re-orienting one of my raised beds and planted, with Marilyn's help, some peas, radishes, kohlrabi, lettuce, spinach, and onions. Just like every kid that ever planted a garden, I run out every morning to see if anything is happening, I just can't wait. I hope you share my enthusiasm for this miracle that takes place each spring when you place a little seed in the ground and watch it grow into a plant bearing a great tasting vegetable or a beautiful blossom for you flower lovers.**

**The Class of 2007 had their Graduation Exercises and dinner March 24 in the Conference Room at the Extension Office. It was a great evening with good food, good company, and good fellowship.**

**And just like all of us that have been through the experience, they were ask individually to relate a personal memorable moment during their course of study in the classroom. It is very interesting to hear what others find memorable especially when you do not have to be concerned about being called on to tell yours. Each one had a unique moment to relate that will remain with them forever reminding them of the learning experience and the new friendships that were formed.**

**The members of the Michiana Master Gardeners Association want to extend our congratulations to each of you, the Class of 2007, and welcome you as a member of the Purdue Master Gardener Program Alumni. We invite you to become an active member in the Michiana Master Gardeners Association.**

**The Class of 2008 is engaged in doing their spring gardening seminars. I have had the privilege of attending two of them, "Seed saving & Starting" and "Rain Gardens." They were well prepared and the presentations were very good, holding this old guy's interest and teaching him some things he was unaware of. If you missed them you should see if your time would allow you to see them at the Elkhart County Fair. The program dates will soon be available at the Extension Office.**

**I am writing this on the day after the MMGA Annual Tree Sale. On behalf of the Board and Membership, we want thank Heidi Zavatsky, Nancy Brown, the Tree Sale Committee, and the many members who volunteered to work to make this sale a success. Through this sale many people were introduced to the idea of planting their own trees and shrubs to enhance their landscape at an affordable cost.**

**This is one of the services we want to continue to provide to the Michiana community.**

**I believe it was about 2005 when Heidi & Nancy went to St. Joseph County Master Gardeners' Spring Tree Sale to learn the business of running a tree sale. They came back enthused with the idea that the Michiana Master Gardeners Association in conjunction with the Elkhart County Soil & Water Conservation Dept. could provide this service in our community. Their enthusiasm and figures convinced the Board to allow them to try it to see if it would be profitable. Heidi and Nancy split the duties of administering a tree sale between the two organizations. They have developed the procedures and guidelines we now use. The records they kept of what works and what doesn't are invaluable. We owe them our sincerest THANKS for what they have accomplished. Thank you Ladies.**

**When the final tally for this year's tree sale is completed, Heidi will be turning her responsibilities as Co-Chairperson to Vickie Estep. Please give Vickie your support in her new position. Anyone interested in being a member of the Annual Tree Sale committee, you may contact Vickie by e-mail at [atspiritdncr@gmail.com](mailto:atspiritdncr@gmail.com).**

**July brings the Annual Garden Tour and the County Fair which are wonderful opportunities to get volunteer hours and help MMGA to serve the Michiana community. Please get involved.**

**PLM**



## MASTER GARDENER BIO

### SUZANNE PEDLER

Suzanne Pedler probably knows more about the Italian restaurants' menus than anyone in Elkhart.

She was the restaurant expert two years ago for the annual meeting. She said she got so hungry doing her research from all the aromas, she had dinner at 3:00 in the afternoon!

Suzanne signed up for Master Gardeners in the class of 2001. She thought Jeff was probably going to teach her garden design for flower gardens. She was surprised when he started talking about plant diseases and insects, but enjoyed the class and the challenge presented.

Suzanne has been a life-long resident of the area and is now retired. For over twenty years she owned Employment Recruiters and was a professional "head hunter" placing engineers in jobs. She has two children, Brad and Rod Snyder, who both live in Florida and four grandchildren, who are mostly grown and spread around the country. However, she still has siblings and her mother (ninety-six and a half!) in town and enjoys family dinners and getting together with them. She also enjoys euchre and social gatherings. She said she feeds feral cats—she has two or three—one hasn't shown up for a few weeks. She hasn't named them, but did talk about the polka dot cat. She said a possum and raccoons come to clean up after the cats, which doesn't contribute to her popularity with her neighbors. She said she would be glad to have someone adopt the cats, but you can never catch one.

In addition to the annual dinner, Suzanne has worked on garden tour, done plant ID and the community garden.

When I talked to her she had just come from there and was still chilled from our zany spring weather. She gardens at home as well, both vegetables and flowers.

She does enjoy garden design, even though that wasn't the focus of training and perennials. Her favorite part of MGA is the wonderful friends she has made. She said she was amazed at how easy it is to get volunteers to show up and work together.



***Don't forget to record your volunteer and Training hours on the "Volunteer Hours & Training Report Form" and turn it in at the Extension Office to receive credit for your hours!***

**To All Master Gardeners, Your Families and Friends – an invitation to enter horticulture exhibits at the 4-H Fair**

Winter has begrudgingly given way to spring; we have purchased most of the seeds and plants for our vegetable and flower gardens. Early spring seeds and plants are in the ground and our hotbeds or greenhouses are full of less cold tolerant plants awaiting the last frost of the season. The Class of 2008 has completed their seminar series and the annual Tree Sale is history for this year. Our attention is now focused on preparing for the next three events; the Quilt Garden, Garden Tour and 4-H Fair. Even though many of us will be working on these events we also need to start planning, planting & caring for our vegetable and flower plants to have them in prime condition for **exhibiting at the Fair in the Open Class Horticulture Exhibit**. Entering is simple. Every one is invited to come and exhibit, step up to the challenge and enjoy the rewards of the competition. Information regarding the Entry Fees, Horticulture Exhibition Rules, Categories of Entries, Tips on Presentation, etc. may be obtained on the website: <http://www.4hfair.org/openclass.htm>, at the bottom left click on "Horticulture", this should open the "**2009 Elkhart County 4-H and Agricultural Exposition, Inc. HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT Rules and Entry Form**".

It is fun and interesting to see how well your exhibit compares with others and you may be pleasantly surprised when you win a ribbon and cash prize for your efforts.

Remember, the more experienced exhibitor does not always walk away with the top award. Even I have managed to obtain a couple of first place ribbons in the last couple of years.

This is an opportunity to demonstrate your many talents by exhibiting examples of those items you have grown; maybe a potted plant, cut flowers, flower arrangement, vegetables, grains & hay or even some craft items as described in the Horticulture Department Rules.

I'm looking forward to seeing your exhibits on display at the 2009 Elkhart County 4-H Fair.

Jerry Martin '06

Horticulture Committee Member



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

- Only a little over 4 months until the conference!!!

**Remember to register** before June 30 to get your early bird discount. Registration forms should be included in this issue of ***The Broadcaster*** as well as online at [www.michianamastergardener.com](http://www.michianamastergardener.com) We will also have them at MMGA monthly meetings in April, May and June. You must be an active (dues paid and annual hours turned in) Master Gardener to register.

- We want everyone to get a chance to **VOLUNTEER** and earn hours toward their discounted registration fee. We need help 8:00 am to 5:30 pm on Thursday 9/10, 8:00 am to 5:30 pm on Friday 9/11 and 8:00 am until we have completed teardown and cleanup on Saturday 9/12.. There will be signup sheets at the monthly MMGA meetings beginning in April.

Following is a list of the committees and their chairs for you to contact and volunteer your time:

Vendor Committee: Sue Stuckman and  
Teresa Evans

Educational Exhibits: Earl Bailey and  
Marilyn Miles

Program Committee: Kathleen Cripe and  
Penny Stroup

Catering Committee: Ruth Yeomans and  
Judy Baker

Silent Auction and Door Prizes: Gwen Fer-  
land and Suzanne Gray

Advertising: Heidi Zavatsky

If any of you have items for the Silent Auction or for Door Prizes, please contact Gwen Ferland at [eferland.11@verizon.net](mailto:eferland.11@verizon.net)

- Gwen is also making the centerpieces for the tables. If you are interested in helping her, please let her know.

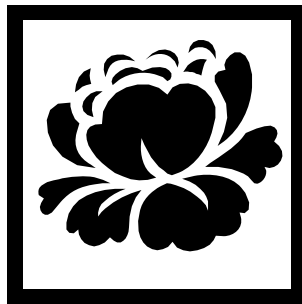
If anyone knows a business who might advertise in our program please contact Heidi Zavatsky at [Hkz1430@aol.com](mailto:Hkz1430@aol.com) The ad rates are \$35 for ¼ page, \$60 for ½ page and \$125 for full page.

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) .

- It's not too late for someone to become a sponsor. There are 3 levels of sponsorship: bronze (\$250), silver (\$500) and gold (\$750). Contact Mary Davis or Kathleen Cripe for more information.

***See you next issue!***

***Judy Baker '00***



## **2009 Quilt Gardens Tour Introduces “Pilot Agri-Quilt” Garden**

Sonya Nash, Class of '08 and Quilt Gardens Tour Project Manager

This year the Quilt Gardens Tour introduces its first official “agri-quilt” garden. The site of this pilot garden, Meadow Brook Farm, is a Civil War era farmstead located just outside the city limits of Goshen. Owner Kori Cripe recently opened her home and farm for public tours.

Planted in a “Grandmother’s Fan” pattern with soybeans, sunflowers, alfalfa, buckwheat, corn and red geraniums, this quilt garden introduces an exciting new element to this year’s tour that perfectly complements the rural heritage of Amish Country. It also marries well with its location, since the farmstead was once the site of Farm Betterment Club Fairs, huge community-wide celebrations that drew the Indiana governor, congressmen and judges to speak at the event.

It seems only natural to feature an “agri-quilt” garden on the tour: it also presents certain challenges that are not experienced in quilt gardens that use ornamental annuals and flowers. This mixed crop quilt garden contains plants that will grow in varying heights. There may be an issue with pattern consistency and view ability, and with shade created by the larger crops such as corn next to smaller plants in the garden. Crops also attract

different insects than annuals and must be guarded against worms, grubs and bores. So do you use pesticide? If so what kind? And it must be factored in that crops' needs are different than those of annuals-- watering, feeding-- especially during growing season.

Each of the plants in the "agri-quilt" garden will be in different stages of development during the Quilt Gardens Tour viewing season. Even though the garden relies heavily on texture to convey the pattern, color plays a big role. As crops mature their color can change dramatically. So it will be interesting to observe the "look" of the garden throughout the season.

All the Quilt Gardens Tour partners are eagerly looking forward to the introduction of an agricultural quilt garden to the mix, most of all Kori. She wants the garden to be a "home-grown" experience that's fun and educational. And it will be an education – for all of us involved. We're all up for the fun and challenges, and we're just waiting to see "what crops up"!

We'd welcome your comments and suggestions for this "pilot agri-quilt" garden. Simply post them on [QuiltGardensTour.com/blog](http://QuiltGardensTour.com/blog).

### Master Gardeners at First Friday

Many stores and most restaurants in downtown Goshen are open on the First Friday evening of every month. The First Friday event is organized around a theme, different every month, which is designed to draw people downtown. It's a party!

The April 3, 2009 theme was Green Day, Environmental Expo. This seemed like a great opportunity to promote gardening in general and the Michiana Master Gardeners Association in particular. Because of current economic conditions in the county, it was thought that there might be a lot of interest in vegetable gardening, even for some who had never had a vegetable garden before. So MMGA had a table in The Farmers Market, along with many other vendors and exhibitors. We had reprints on vegetable gardening, composting, container gardening, vermiculture, (next to us was a vermiculture exhibit) and other pertinent subjects. We promoted the 2009 Master Gardener Class and the 2009 Garden Tour. We had 2 or 3 people available to answer questions from 5 PM to 9 PM. We spoke to and handed out reprints to at least 41 persons, probably more. All the while we were entertained by two music groups, *Double Barrel Darrel* and *The Wooden Pegs*.

Thanks to Len Harms, Jean Rombke, Phyllis Schortgen, Judy Marquardt, and Kate Rink for helping out. It was a nice party, and who knows, we may have got someone started growing their own vegetables, or encouraged someone to sign up for the Master Gardener class this year.

**Jim Bare '07**



### Messages from the M & M's

1. Please let us know of any concerns like health problems, family illness, deaths, etc; of our MMGA membership so that we can respond appropriately.
2. New or almost new members: Please volunteer to be greeters at the monthly MMGA meetings. It will help all of us get to know each other better. Thanks to newcomers Nancy Ringle & Tammy O'Rourke who greeted you at the April Meeting!
3. Volunteer to bring a " Plant of the Month" for a door prize at the monthly meeting.

Submitted by: Michiana Master Gardener Mo-  
guls; the Marilyns; (Miles & Horvath)

Email: [mrlnifly@aol.com](mailto:mrlnifly@aol.com)



## INSIDE THE EXTENSION OFFICE

Submitted By: Kate Rink '03

Well it's that time again when the Master Gardener Room is busy with calls from the public. Two training sessions offered to eager Master Gardeners, were held in March. These were taught by Jeff and our new Ag and Natural Resources Educator, Erika Soumare. A power point presentation gave Master Gardeners a short brush-up, refresher course on some of the things we learned when we took our classes.

We took a tour of the Master Gardener room paying special attention to the various aspects that would be helpful in researching answers for clients. We learned how to use the microscope, what web sites were especially good, and how to send clients information from those web sites ( which creates a cost savings to the Extension Office.) Proper telephone etiquette was discussed as well as walk-in traffic procedures.

We also did diagnostic training. That was hard! Using our notes and handouts helped, but some of those problems were tricky. Pictures are good but experience is better. It's not always easy to identify specific problems especially if you've never seen it before. You just have to take what you have learned, use the Ortho book or some other resource and ask a hundred million questions! The more information you can gather the easier it is to come to a conclusion. It's like CSI, clues, clues and more clues until the mystery is solved.

A green house had a problem with an eggplant that had yellowing leaves which eventually fell off from the bottom.

The fallen leaves looked chlorotic with gray splotches. Using The Ortho book we determined the symptoms pointed to Verticillium Wilt. This infection begins in the soil with fungal strands penetrating the roots of a susceptible plant. It spreads up into the water conducting stem and leaves and breaks down some of the plant cells producing a gel or gummy substance. This goo creates a clogging situation that reduces the water flow up into the leaves. This results in the wilting of the leaf and a stem discoloration and eventual death of the plant.

Eggplant does not have a disease resistant variety. The only recourse is disposal. In a greenhouse, when your income is dependent on healthy plants, that's \$\$\$\$\$\$ and spells disaster.

It's too late to save the plants. Prevention is the best doctor. Practices recommended to prevent this from happening include: soaking the seed in Clorox before planting; cleaning pots and trays with a 10-1 Clorox solution; using a soil-less, sterile mixture when potting; applying a fungicide drench prior to the problem; let plants dry out between waterings; and pray you did all the right things to keep it healthy. : )

Thirteen Purdue publications were sent to a client that wanted to start a new garden. That should make for some interesting reading material! Putting it all into practice is another thing. I remember when I put out my first garden. My dear, sweet mother-in law came out to help me. Being a city-girl and not having the first clue how to plant a garden, I bought all the things I THOUGHT I would need. I had all my seed packages, my hoe, and of course, my yard stick and ruler.

You know the rule, according to the back of the seed package and for the seed size, you plant seeds so many inches apart and the rows about 12 inches apart. I was ready to measure it all, seed depth, seed space, row space, you name it!!!! Very kindly, after realizing my intention, my mother-in-law just said, "Here, let me show you what I do." Bless her heart, she didn't make fun of me at all. I'd still be measuring to this day if we had done it that way! How nice to have a patient and kind person to help teach to do something you have never done before.

I suspect there will be a lot of questions this year from amateur gardeners. The economy, being what it is at this time, people now have a desire to grow and preserve their own produce. Our job, as master gardeners, is to help them the best way we know how with an attitude of kindness and helpfulness and not superiority. Just like my mother-in-law, who had gardened for years, could have squelched my desire to learn in an instant. But instead, she gave experienced guidance and led by example. What greater gift can we give back to the public?

I encourage anyone who would like to help on the Hotline to sign up. I noticed the calendar was not very full when I worked the other day. It's really not hard and offers a lot of fun and so much interesting "stuff"!

If this weather ever warms up and we get some consistently warm days, maybe we could get something planted soon. Ahhhh, Indiana weather, its great isn't it? Happy planting!

## MG RECIPE BOX

### ASIAN SALAD

Can prepare day ahead and toss when serving

#### Salad Ingredients:

- 1 - Head of nappa cabbage, sliced or torn into bite size pieces
- 1- Bunch green onions, sliced green and white

Tear or slice cleaned nappa cabbage. Slice green onions, white and green and add to nappa. Cover tightly and refrigerate.

#### Topping

- 1- Package ramen noodles
- ½ Cup sliced almonds
- 1 Tablespoon sesame seeds

Toast almonds and sesame seeds in oven til slightly brown (350 degrees-5min)

Break up ramen noodles in package and sauté in butter in a skillet. When cooled, combine noodles, almonds and sesame seeds. Cover tightly, in zip lock bag or container to add when serving. Do not need to refrigerate.

#### Dressing Ingredients:

- 1 Cup granulated white sugar
- ½ Cup rice wine vinegar
- ½ Cup salad oil
- 1 Tablespoon soy sauce

Combine dressing in a separate container with a lid. Shake well to combine a few times, sugar may separate, just shake again and refrigerate. Can make this a day ahead and keep in separate container. Dressing will be a little thick.

#### When Serving:

Add topping to salad, shake dressing well, pour dressing over salad and toss. Do not toss in advance only when ready to serve.

Enjoy

Tandy Stutsman '07

## **MG RECIPE BOX**

### **Ribbon Gelatin**

7 small pkgs. gelatin, assorted flavors

2 ½ cups sour cream

To each package of gelatin, add 1 cup boiling water. Take ½ cup mixture out and add 1/3 cup sour cream. To the remaining ½ cup gelatin, add 3 tblsp. cold water. Layer in 9 x 13 inch pan, repeating as soon as a layer gets firm. Start with sour cream layer and end up with clear gelatin layer.

The Master Gardening class of 2007 had their graduation last Tuesday evening. We celebrated with a pot luck dinner! It was great getting together with friends from our class.

Tandy reported that her husband, Charlie, who attended the graduation ceremony thought it was quite humorous that several people requested a copy of her recipes; as she is known to family and friends as a "non-cook"!

Tandy Stutsman '07

## **MG RECIPE BOX**

### Whipped Shortbread

3 cups butter softened (no substitutes)

4 1/2 cups all-purpose flour

1 1/2 cups confectioners' sugar, sifted

1 1/2 cups cornstarch

Nonpareils and/or halved candied cherries can be added later on top or in. Your choice

In a mixing bowl, cream butter on medium speed until light and fluffy. Combine dry ingredients, gradually add to creamed butter until well blended. Dust hands lightly with additional cornstarch. Press lightly with a floured fork. To decorate with cherries, place balls on baking sheets and press lightly with fork. Top each with a cherry half. Bake at 300 degrees for 20 - 22 minutes or until cookie is set but not browned. Yields 16-18 doz.

Phyllis Schortgen '01

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.

