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Broadcaster

“Helping Each Other Grow!”

Michiana Master Gardeners Association

February 2010

Features This Issue!

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

February has begun, and the gray “permacloud” days of January are behind us. The sunshine we finally received this past weekend was certainly a welcome sight.

An interesting program was arranged by Laura Stevens, Program Chairperson, for our January meeting. A group of 54 master gardeners braved the cold weather to listen to Martha Ferguson, an Advanced Master Gardener, speak on Landscaping and Restoration of Gene Stratton Porter's Wildflower Woods”.

Anyone wishing additional information about the historical site may call (260) 854-3790 or e-mail genestratonportershs@dnr.IN.gov or go to <http://indianamuseum.org/sites/gene.html>. Remember you may count two educational hours for attending monthly membership meetings where we have a scheduled speaker.

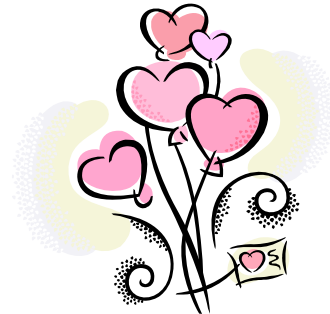
The class of 2009 has their Spring Seminars scheduled, the first is being held on February 20, 2010. If you do not have their seminar brochure you may want to pick one up, or you can find the schedule on the MMGA web site at: http://michianamastergardeners.com/ScheduleOfEvents/schedule_of_events.htm. Those attending the seminars may count educational credit hours.

Planning for our 2010 events has been underway for several months and our January meeting provided the opportunity to review the progress being made and start lining up the additional help that will be needed to have another successful year. There are many volunteer opportunities for those willing to help, and you may sign up at an upcoming meeting or contact a committee chairperson to volunteer for a specific committee.

Many members used the January meeting as an opportunity to make their reservations for the March 13th Spring Celebration Seminar and Annual Awards Dinner. If you have not yet done so, please make your reservations for the evening dinner & purchase your tickets for the afternoon seminar.

Remember your special someone on Valentine's Day, and I look forward to seeing you at the February 23rd membership meeting.

~Jerry Martin, Class of 2006





Attracting Hummingbirds this Spring

by Ericka Soumare, Purdue Extension Educator

When we think of hummingbirds and what we can provide for them, we often consider nectar – whether from a flower or from a feeder. However, the truth of the matter is that insects are actually the primary source of protein for adult and baby hummingbirds. They have even been known to steal insects from spider webs!

Creating a weedy patch in your yard made up of native forbs and grasses is one way to attract insects. As mentioned in my previous article, these areas can be mowed around to look nicer or bordered with flowers so that your patch is more pleasing to the eye. Planting native wildflower gardens and flowering trees and shrubs can also provide a variety of insects for hummingbirds.

Nectar must not be overlooked because it is still important to the diet of hummingbirds. Two sources provide this nectar- flowers and feeders. Many species of flowers are pollinated by hummingbirds instead of bees. Red is the color that hummingbirds are most fond of. Bees can't see red very well and, for this reason, many red flowers are pollinated by

the hummingbird. Hummingbirds also prefer flowers that offer no type of perching stems. These flowers often point downward and may have long tubes.

Feeders are also a great source of nectar for hummingbirds and can provide a consistent food source in early spring before flowers bloom. As with red flowers, red feeders are more successful at attracting hummingbirds. Even the wasp and hornet guards on feeders should be red and not yellow. Placing the feeder in a shaded area will help the nectar stay cool and delay spoiling. Making sure that there are trees or perching spots for hummingbirds to rest is also essential.

Anyone who has had the privilege of just sitting back and watching hummingbirds can appreciate how they effortlessly hover as they search for food. For more information on how to attract hummingbirds to your yard this spring, you can visit the web at <http://www.ces.purdue.edu/extmedia/FNR/FNR-249-W.pdf>. You can also contact your Elkhart County Extension office for more information.

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Purdue Extension

Knowledge to Go

1-888-EXT-INFO



Day Minder . . . Watch Us Grow!



15	Mon.	Board Meeting –Extension Conference Room (12pm if you bring your lunch)	12:30 PM
15	Mon.	2010 Celebration Committee—Panera Bread (6pm if you want to eat)	6:30 PM
16	Tues.	Tree Sale Committee Meeting	Call Vickie
23	Tues.	Member Meeting in Ag Hall, “Backyard Conservation” by Nancy Brown	7 PM



8	Mon.	Garden Tour Committee Meeting – Extension Conference Room	6:30 PM
15	Sat..	2010 Celebration with Joe Lamp’l Public Seminar & Annual Meeting	1:30-4:00 PM
15	Mon.	Board Meeting –Extension Conference Room (12pm if you bring your lunch)	12:30 PM
23	Tues.	No Member Meeting due to Celebration	—

Upcoming Meeting Dates

April 6th - Tree Sale Meeting

April 12th - Garden Tour Committee Meeting

April 15-17th - Annual Tree Sale with SWCD

April 19th - Board Meeting

April 26th - Member Meeting

April 27th - Tree Sale Wrap-Up Meeting

July 10th - 14th Annual Garden Tour

- April 1 through October 1, 2010

Michiana Master Gardener Hotline advice available from 9 am to 1 pm daily. Call 574-533-0554. Extension Office—Goshen.

- July 10, 2010

2010 Michiana Master Gardener Garden Tour, Goshen and the surrounding area. For more information watch our website: www.michianamastergardeners.com

- July 23-31, 2010

If you ever need to borrow Master Gardener equipment or the Master Gardener laptop, we now have Agreement Forms that you need to fill out in the Extension Office. Thanks to the MMGA board and Vickie Estep the forms are available for you to fill out. Please call the office or stop by to let the Extension Office staff know when and what you will borrow. Thank You!



HAPPENINGS OF INTEREST...

Two of Indiana's premier home and garden shows are coming in late February and early March. The first is the 37th Annual Home and Garden Show coming to the Allen County Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne, Indiana from February 25 to 28, 2010. For complete information about the show, including seminars being offered on the Master Gardener Stage, go to <http://www.home-gardenshow.com/index.html>.

This show is followed by the 52nd Annual Indiana Flower & Patio Show as they proudly salute springtime and 52 years of garden excellence. The dates are Saturday, March 13 through Sunday, March 21, 2010, at the Indiana State Fairgrounds' West Pavilion Hall. For complete information about the show and seminar schedules go to <http://www.indianaflowerandpatioshow.com/home.html>.

~submitted by Jerry Martin

There will be an Energy Technology Green Day on the last Friday of the fair, July 30th. Businesses will come out to display their innovations in green technology. There will also be space available for Master Gardeners who would like to display information on organic gardening, composting, or any other green gardening ideas. Designated places in the park for displays would be about 10ft by 10ft. For more information and to sign up, you can contact Jan Robinson by Monday at 875-6775 or wayne.jan.robinson@verizon.net.



**Note: Please submit articles for the
Broadcaster to Sherrie Zou at
sherrie.zou@gmail.com
by the 20th of each month.
Thank you!**

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES...

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There will be a plant exchange taking place on Saturday May 8th at the Elkhart Environmental Center (ECC). There is a request for two or three Master Gardeners to come at 2:00 pm to help with questions on plant id and care. This is a chance to get volunteer hours for the educational information you will provide. If you are interested, please contact Sue Stuckman at suestuckman@yahoo.com.

The Garden Tour committee still needs a Merchandise Co-Chair and a Maps and Signs Co-Chair. The Merchandise Co-chair will work with Judy Marquart creating, organizing and pricing donated items for the boutique at the hospitality center. The Maps and Signs Co-chair will work with Sonya Nash designing the map for the ticket book and putting up and removing signs at the tour sights. If you have any questions, please give me a call or drop me an email. We would love to have you join us! Questions, call Gwen.
574-264-4356 home
574-226-1103 cell

MESSAGES FROM THE M & M'S:

1. 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 us all get to know each other better. Thanks to the following 2009 greeters: Carol Novy, Lucille Johnson, Jean Rombke, Ruth Middleton, Gwen Ferland, Dyanne Zimmerman, & Rachael Thomas. (Apologies if we missed you!)
3. Volunteer to bring a "Plant of the Month" for a door prize at the monthly meeting. Thanks to the following who donated April to November, 2009: the M & M's, Betty Foltz, Lucille Johnson, Jean Rombke, & Phyllis Schortgen.
4. WEAR YOUR NAME BADGE.

*Michiana Master Gardener Membership Moguls, the Marilyns,
(Miles & Horvath) email: mrlnify@aol.com

Saving Seeds from the Garden

by B. Rosie Lerner
Extension Consumer Horticulture Specialist
Updated 27 March 2006

Collecting seeds from garden plants to plant next year may seem like a good way to save money, but you may be in for a surprise. Some seeds can be saved from year to year with good results, particularly the old-fashioned cultivars. But modern hybrid cultivars rarely breed true from collected seed.

To get that disease-resistant tomato or that frilly double petunia, two or more plants that have desirable characteristics were crossbred. The seed from these hybrid plants will produce variable results due to recombination of different genes. Thus, the resulting plants may not be as productive, attractive, disease-resistant or flavorful. Each seedling could be quite different from the parent and from each other.

As long as you're prepared to accept this variability, it can be fun to experiment. You never know when you might actually stumble across an improvement!

Some gardeners are tempted to propagate fruit trees from seed--either from fruits grown in the backyard or from purchased fruit. If you're interested in serious fruit production, resist the temptation. Most fruit trees are grafted by splicing a piece of the desired fruiting cultivar onto a seedling rootstock.

It is usually the rootstock that makes the plant disease-resistant, hardy, vigorous and perhaps dwarf. Plants grown from seeds of grafted plants may not only produce inferior fruit, but also huge, unmanageable trees for the home landscape that can take 10 years or more to be mature enough to fruit.

In recent years, there has been renewed interest in old-fashioned varieties, including those that are "open-pollinated." Because these plants have a non-controlled, more diverse genetic makeup, they tend to breed true to type. Although many of the advantages of hybridization, such as disease resistance, heat or cold tolerance, and uniformity, are lost, some gardeners find open-pollinated types to be better flavored in the case of vegetables or perhaps more fragrant in the case of flowers.

Many seed companies specialize in open-pollinated garden vegetables and flowers, and many of the larger seed companies carry both hybrid and open-pollinated seed. For those interested in learning more about open-pollinated seeds and preserving old-fashioned varieties, there is a well-established organization known as Seed-Savers Exchange that includes seed trading programs as well as excellent publications. For those interested in collecting seed from their own garden, refer to the publication "Seed to Seed: Seed-Saving Techniques for the Vegetable Gardener" available from Seed-Savers Exchange, 3076 N. Winn Road, Decorah, IA 52101.
<http://www.seedsavers.org/>

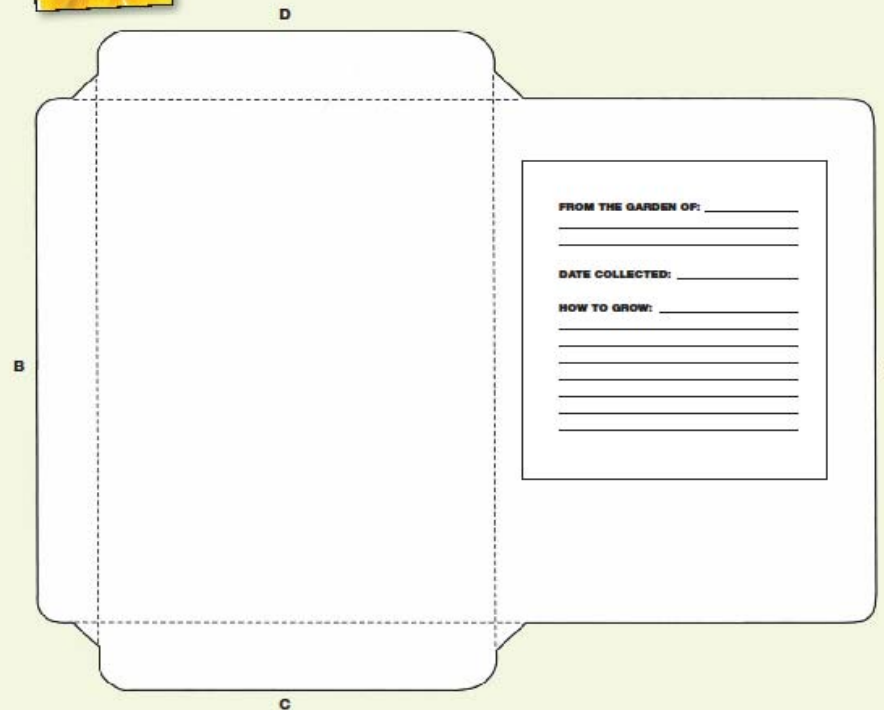


(save and share your favorites with this easy-to-follow template)



Directions for making seed packets

Use the template below as a starting point for designing your personalized seed packets. Get as creative as you want with artwork and embellishment, or cut plant photos out of catalogs for reference. Use the filled packets as package tags during the holidays or as a companion to other garden gifts, like pickles and jams. Three or four seed packets tied together with raffia or a pretty ribbon make a special gift in their own right.



1. Scan, copy, or trace the pattern above. You can use different types of paper as long as they're thin enough to fold.
2. Cut along the solid black line.
3. Fold along the dotted lines.
4. Fold over the large flap (A) first. Glue flap B down with rubber cement, then flap C.
5. After the rubber cement has dried, you can decorate your packet. Remember to leave room for plant information: variety, where it was grown, date the seed was collected, days to maturity, and any helpful hints you can pass along with your seeds.
6. Fill the packet with your seeds. Fold the last flap (D) down, and glue.

FIND THE TEMPLATE AT

www.finegardening.com/extras

This is a very interesting article with templates for packets for sunflowers, tomatoes and peas. The article suggests some seeds are easier to save than others. Great ideas for gifts that "think spring".

Recipe from our Master Gardeners

Cherry Almond Krispie Squares

(After the meeting last month, I was asked to send this recipe to the Broadcaster-Ruth Middleton)

- 1 pkg. (10oz) large marshmallows
- 3 T. butter
- 1 t. almond extract
- 6 c. Rice Krispies cereal
- 3 c. salted roasted almonds, divided
(I used slivered almonds)
- 1 1/2 c. dried cherries, divided
(I chopped mine)

In a dutch oven or heavy pan, combine marshmallows and butter. Cook and stir over medium/low heat until melted. Remove from heat; stir in extract. Stir in Krispies, 1 cup of almonds and 1 cup of cherries. Press into a greased 13x9 inch pan. Sprinkle with remaining almonds and cherries; gently press onto cereal mixture. Cool. Cut into squares. Makes about 24.



SECRETARY'S NOTES FROM MEMBER MEETING



President Jerry Martin called the meeting to order at 7 PM January 26th with 54 members present. Tandy Stutsman introduced Martha Ferguson, a Master Naturalist and Advanced Master Gardener who is head gardener at the Gene Stratton Porter State Historic Site on Sylvan Lake near Rome City.

Porter's goal was to preserve every wildflower native to northern Indiana, and she collected and transplanted over 15,000 plants in her Wildflower Woods on the property—90% of them herself. In 1986, an attempt was made to renovate the gardens; however, Ferguson's goal has been to restore them to Porter's original design. In that attempt she has faced many challenges: invasives, extinct or rare plants, and references to plants using a common name which over the last 100 years has changed. The drive to Rome City is a short one, and Ferguson's description of the plantings as well as the special events sponsored at the site offered a fascinating new gardening destination.

After a break for refreshments (provided by Ruth Middleton and Tandy Stutsman) and social time, Jerry Martin called the business meeting to order at 8 PM. Jerry had a variety of items to review with members. A sheet was being passed to sign up for refreshments for 2010 meetings. Paul Miles had undergone heart surgery in December and is recovering nicely. A thank you to the retiring board members and welcome to the new ones. A reminder that monthly meetings count as 2 education hours.

A confirmation that Paul Miles has the empty hanging baskets for Ag Hall during the fair. Ericka Soumare, educator, announced that she had the brochures for the 2009 class' seminars as well as their fair seminar schedules.

Treasurer Larry Drudge reported that the current account balance is \$37,770.94 with 106 members having paid dues. A reminder was given that in order to receive a complimentary dinner at the annual Spring Celebration, dues must be paid by January 31, 2010.

On a recommendation from the Board at their January meeting, Jerry presented the proposal that MMGA send the Tippecanoe County Master Gardeners \$1,000.00 seed money for the 2010 State Convention.

On a motion by Judy Baker, seconded by Steve Arnold, the motion passed unanimously.

Spring Celebration committee members reminded everyone that Joe Lamp'I will speak at the March 13th seminar and that tickets are available at the member meetings as well as garden centers throughout the county and the extension office. The cost is \$10 presale and \$12 at the door.

Merchandise chair Doris Kehr reported that they are in the process of trying to make many of the clothing items available on the MMGA website. This would reduce the number of items available at meetings, but increase the number of choices.

Sue Stuckman announced that the first meeting for the community garden participants will be March 26th at the Elkhart Environmental Center. April 10th has been set as the day to do the tilling. Anyone who wants to help should see Sue. The Environmental Center will also have a plant exchange in May 8th, and help is needed for that as well.

Garden Tour chair Gwen Ferland announced that the hospitality center will be located at the old (Union) gym at Goshen College. Merchandise chair Judy Marquart reminded members that the merchandise available at the hospitality center is not her sole responsibility. Judy reviewed a list of possible crafts and then passed around a sign up sheet so members could select a specific item.

Marilyn Horvath, membership chair, referred to her article in the Broadcaster and asked for volunteers to greet members as they arrive to the monthly meeting. It was also noted that with many of the new class attending the meetings, wearing our name badges is especially important.

Speakers' Bureau chair Jean Rombke passed around the current list of those willing to speak to groups and asked that those already on the list check to make certain their contact information is correct. She also encouraged anyone in the new class or long time members to add their names.

(Member meeting minutes cont.)

There were several important issues addressed by members from the floor. Mary Davis is the contact person for several things. Her member information sheets for the Broadcaster biographies are getting low, and she will soon resort to fiction. Also, on Saturday, April 17, from 10-1 the Y will sponsor a Healthy Kids Day. Two or three Master Gardeners are needed to help supervise the kids as they plant seeds. Finally, there will be a bus trip to the Chicago Flower Show at Navy Pier on March 11th costing \$79. Some seats are still available.

Dwight Fish and Steve Arnold announced a seminar on February 20th from 9-12 on creating a backyard habitat sponsored by the Indiana Master Naturalists. He also encouraged members to consider joining ACRES Land Trust which protects a variety of locations in NE Indiana.

Leah Lichtenberger requested the correct procedure in getting the Master Gardeners involved in a community event. Paul Miles stated that the organizers of the event need to contact the extension office and they will forward the request to us.

Webmaster Dara Revelli reminded members that if they wish items posted on the MMGA website, they need to electronically forward the information to her and she will take care of it.

There being no further business, on a motion by Dwight Fish, seconded by all those present, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Harkleroad, secretary pro-tempore, for Jim Bare.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Don't forget to report all of your address changes to the office lkimpel@purdue.edu. This includes your email addresses, phone numbers, cell phone numbers, if you move across town, etc.- any changes the MMGA group should have. THANKS!

VOLUNTEERISM

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*The act or practice of doing
volunteer
work in community service.*



The seeds of this article were planted over the holidays as I was talking with family members about my Master Gardener activities over the past year. I found they were amazed to learn I had accumulated 1,239 volunteer hours and 217 training hours. That got me thinking about how generous MMGA members are with their time and their talent, so I decided to do some checking on the subject.

I contacted Linda Kimpel to see which MMGA member had the most hours. I found that number was an amazing **3,355.5 hours!** (*Note: no names attached due to privacy policy*). The most training hours a member has is **341.5**. Kudos to those folks – you know who you are! Sure makes my 1,239 volunteer and 217 training hours look mediocre. Linda also provided even more eye-opening news regarding total MMGA hours. Collectively, as of December 31st, MMGA members had **69,496.5 volunteer hours and 27,743 training hours!** Wow!

Another purpose of my writing this article is to remind us all that EACH HOUR we spend volunteering is very important to the success of MMGA. None of the many activities MMGA does would succeed (or even happen in the first place) were it not for the generous sharing of volunteer time by ALL of us. This is the time of year when our committee chairs are asking for your help for annual dinner, tree sale, garden tour, manning Ag Hall for the Fair, and so forth.

Everyone is encouraged to help even if you only have a few hours to spare. Not everyone wants to be on a committee that meets monthly all year long, but they might want to give 4 or 5 hours on the day of the event. To my knowledge, no offer to help has ever been turned down. Remember to just say “YES” when someone passes around those sign-up sheets or sends out an email request for “help”.

VOLUNTEERISM cannot exist without each of us doing our fair share! Let's each do our part and keep those total volunteer hours climbing.

Submitted by Judy Baker

MMGA
2010 Public Seminar

Featured Speaker — Joe Lamp’l



To gardeners, “going green” is nothing new, but recently, however, “going green” has become a buzz word, a term tied to stewardship of the land and assurances that the food we eat is safe and healthy.

Joe Lamp’l, syndicated columnist and TV host, has long been a part of this movement. He will share this knowledge at the eleventh annual public seminar hosted by the Michiana Master Gardeners. His presentation titled “Greening your Garden while Protecting the Planet” will be held at the Greencroft Senior Center on Saturday, March 13, from 1:30-4:00 PM.

Lamp’l has gardened both personally and professionally for more than 30 years. Joe’s infatuation for gardening began in Miami, Florida when he stuck a broken branch from his parent’s favorite plant into the ground. A few weeks later, it had taken root and Joe was not only relieved, he was hooked for life. His vocation in gardening and horticulture also began at a young age, working in nurseries and running his own lawn care and landscaping business. After college, Joe established ScapeWise™, a design and horticultural consulting firm which is still active today.

Joe’s seasoned experience includes hosting “Fresh from the Garden” on the DIY Network for three years, where he maintained a picture-perfect garden with the premise of taking vegetables from seed to harvest in a single episode.

His current role is host of GardenSMART on PBS television where he features spectacular gardens around the country and profiles the dedicated gardeners who nurture them.

In addition, he is a frequent guest expert on shows such as The Today Show, Good Morning America and The Victory Garden. Joe also pens a weekly nationally syndicated newspaper column, articles for websites and blogs, and a variety of magazines.

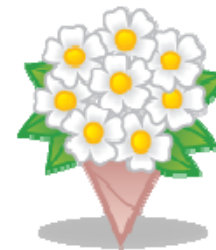
His latest book, The Green Gardener's Guide; simple, significant actions to protect and preserve the planet, is an important resource for anyone searching for practical yet impactful ways to live a more eco-friendly life.

Tickets are available at Martin's Pet & Garden, Linton's Enchanted Gardens, Kruse Farm Supply, and Ron Martin Seed in Elkhart; Ginger Valley in Granger; Varns & Hoover in Middlebury; and McIntosh Greenhouse and the Elkhart County Extension Office in Goshen.

Tickets for the event are \$10 presale or \$12 at the door. Door prizes and gift bags will also be available.

2010 Spring Celebration to follow.

That is the MMGA Annual Dinner and Meeting located at the Greencroft Senior Center in Goshen. Social time starts at 5:00 pm, and dinner starts at 5:30 pm. All reservations must be made before February 26th. The cost is covered for MMGA members, and guest meal tickets are \$16, advance only.



CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES...

- February 27, 2010

Advanced Master Gardener Training Sponsored by Madison County Master Gardeners, Madison County 4-H Fairgrounds, Alexandria IN, Registration Fee for Training, Continental Breakfast, and Lunch: \$35.00 (due by February 13, 2010) Seeds, bulbs and other items for sale!

- March 6, 2010

“Gateway to Gardening” by Kosciusko County Master Gardeners, Kosciusko County Purdue Extension Office Building, 202 W. Main St., Warsaw IN, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, 7th Master Gardener Symposium, Open to the public. Registration Fee: \$30.00, includes lunch and handout materials. Send Reservation by Feb 26th. Call 574-372-2340 for info.

- March 6, 2010

Spring Tonic Sponsored by Hoosier Hillsides Master Gardeners, Orange County Community Center, 1075 Sandy Hook Road, Orange County Fairgrounds, Paoli IN, 8:30 am to 3:00 pm, Open to the public (Master Gardeners receive 5 hours of Education Credit), Registration Fee: \$35.00 if paid by Feb. 15, 2010, \$40.00 after. Fee includes continental breakfast and lunch.

- March 13, 2010

The 2010 Gardeners’ Gathering by Wabash Valley Master Gardeners, Operating Engineers Hall, 6801 S. US 41, Terre Haute, IN, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm, EST. Doors open at 7:30 am for registration, breakfast snacks, and vendor shopping. the public (Master Gardeners receive 5 hours of Education Credit), Registration Fee: \$30.00 if paid by March. 1, 2010, \$35.00 after. Fee includes lunch. Counts as 4.5 hours continuing education credit. Speakers include Chad Franer, Dallas Foster, and our own Sonya Nash.

- March 19-20, 2010

“GardenFest” by Morgan County Master Gardeners, Martinsville National Guard Armory, 1900 Hospital Dr., Martinsville, IN, March 19th, 3-8 pm, and March 20th, 9-5pm. Featuring the annual Pansy Sale, 6” pots are \$3.50 each. Admission is Free! Topics include tomatoes, water conservation, daffodils, hardscaping, and the garden “bucket list”. Each visitor will receive a free tree seedling while supplies last.

...AROUND THE STATE

- March 19-20, 2010

“GardenFest” by Morgan County Master Gardeners,

Martinsville National Guard Armory, 1900 Hospital Dr., Martinsville, IN, March 19th, 3-8 pm, and March 20th, 9-5pm. Featuring the annual Pansy Sale, 6” pots are \$3.50 each. Admission is Free! Topics include tomatoes, water conservation, daffodils, hardscaping, and the garden “bucket list”. Each visitor will receive a free tree seedling while supplies last.

- April 10, 2010

“Gardening for ALL Ages” by Hendricks County Master Gardeners,

Hendricks County Fairgrounds, 1900 East Main Street, Danville, IN, 9:00 am-4 pm, Free admission to all ages, and it includes free trees and seeds, door prizes, speakers, gardening tips, children’s activity area, and vendors. Call 317-839-7375 for information.

- May 1, 2010

“Gardening Green” by LaPorte County Master Gardeners,

Best Western Hotel & Conference Center, 444 Pine Lake Ave., LaPorte, IN, 8:30 am-3 pm CENTRAL time, Admission \$28 in advance and \$33 at the door, including lunch. Topics are “Good Planets are Hard to Find”, “Heirloom Vegetables”, and “Container Gardening-mixing Veggies with Bloomers.” Call 219-324-9407 for information.

- May 1, 2010

“Grow Wild” at the 10th Annual Native Plant Sale, 9:00 am—2:00

pm, Gibson Woods Nature Center, 6201 Parrish Ave, Hammond IN, Over 100 species of flowers, grasses, and shrubs, including prairie, wetland, shade, and woodland. Call 219-844-3188 or 219-865-2679 for more information or see www.lakecountyparks.com.

- June 18-19, 2010

2010 Purdue Master Gardener State Conference, Purdue University—West Lafayette.

- July 1-14, 2010

Master Gardener Study Abroad—England, Mike Dana and Rosie Lerner have planned an advanced training/study abroad opportunity on the Gardens of England. Contact Rosie at rosie@purdue.edu.

Learning Opportunities in Elkhart County

*SPRING 2010 Seminars
Brought to you by the Class of 2010*

February 20, 2010@ 10 a.m.—GREEN GARDENING

One Room School House at Bonneville Park
53373 CR 131—Bristol

A smart and simple plan for your successful lawn. Come and learn how to put together your no-fail 2010 Lawn Care Plan. Topics include general lawn care, tools, these pesky moles, making rain barrels, and easy composting.

February 27, 2010@ 10 A.M.—CHILDREN'S GARDENING

Middlebury Public Library
101 E. Winslow Street—Middlebury

Learn about plant parts, see beans grow! Do plants need air? Come grow your own Easter eggs! Come learn and enjoy "hands on" workshop suitable for children ages grade K through 6. Parents welcome too!

March 27, 2010@ 10 a.m.—HERBS

Willowdale Park Pavilion
1320 Olive Street—Elkhart

Topics for this seminar include cooking, crafts, drying, medicinal uses, and tea—a great educational opportunity!

Note: All seminars will last about 1 1/2 to 2 hours.



Upcoming Free Gardening Seminars

April 10, 2010@ 10 a.m.—BASIC LANDSCAPING FOR THE HOMEOWNER

Sautter's Floral and Greenhouses
1725 Toledo Road—Elkhart

Whether you are a beginner or want to revitalize your present landscape design—this seminar is for you! Learn how to design areas, select plants and shrubs, and properly care for and feed your plants. Be the “focal point” of the neighborhood when you are done!

April 24, 2010@ 10 a.m.—RAIN GARDENS

Prairie Trail Herb Farm
16203 CR 40—Goshen

What you need to know to construct it, plant it, and enjoy it while protecting the environment.

2009 CLASS MEMBERS

Paula Bancer
Laura Barbettini
Anita Bentley
James Cameron
Jill Cohen
Jason Emerson
Vallie Havens
Barbara Heeter
Shirley Hively
Brad Lantzer
Leah Lichtenberger
Beth Magyar
Beth Pocza

Zulma Prieto
Jennifer Robertson
Doris Rody
Lawrence Scholl
Susan Swathwood
Tracy Thorne
Carole Wolfe
Gaye Yoder
Kent Yoder



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.

*Away in a meadow all covered with snow
The little old groundhog looks for his shadow.
The clouds in the sky determine our fate
If winter will leave us all early or late.*

Don Halley

PURDUE
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