



Broadcaster

“Helping Each Other Grow!”

Michiana Master Gardeners Association

April/May 2006

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Michiana Master Gardeners' Association “The What & Why”

There seems to be some confusion as to the relationship of the Purdue Master Gardener Program coordinated by the Purdue Extension Service in Elkhart County and the Michiana Master Gardeners' Association. To bring some clarity we need to review the makeup and purpose of each of these organizations. The purpose of the Purdue Master Gardener Program is the dissemination of information to, and education of the general public about horticultural issues.

The ultimate goal is to make our community a better place to live through the teaching of proper selection, planting, and care techniques for plants, trees, and shrubs. To accomplish this, the Purdue Master Gardener Program is offered each year to train volunteers that are willing to accept and help fulfill this goal. The first portion of the training consists of forty-five hours of class room work with the satisfactory completion of a test based on the materials covered. The second portion of the training by the Master Gardener Intern is forty-five volunteer hours of providing education to the public. A Purdue Master Gardener Certificate is awarded to those successfully completing these basic requirements. The training of the volunteers at this point is well under way and makes up a group of people through which the purpose of the Purdue Master Gardener Program can be accomplished.

The Purdue Master Gardener Program continually changes to grow and better serve its goals; therefore as Master Gardeners you need to realize that some of its policies will and have changed. As with most certificate programs, as of November 2004 continuing education is required to keep your Master Gardener certification current. **With the Purdue Master Gardener Program the requirement is an additional six (6) hours of education and an additional twelve (12) hours of volunteer service annually to keep abreast of the changes in the horticultural world.**

The Michiana Master Gardeners' Association was formed by a group of Master Gardeners as a vehicle to enable them to fulfill their obligation as Purdue Cooperative Extension Service certified Master Gardeners. Bylaws were written and adopted and are available for your reading on the web site at, www.MichianaMasterGardeners.com. For members without access to a computer, copies are available upon request. The Bylaws stated purposes for the organization are:

- (a) To promote public knowledge and understanding of the benefits of gardening, landscaping and environmental practices, and promote good relations among area gardeners.
- (b) To raise funds for benefit of other charitable organizations or groups selected by the Corporation from time to time.
- (c) To perform any purpose for which not-for-profit corporations are authorized under the Act.

The Master Gardener County Coordinator was requested to become a member of the Association in an advisory capacity. It is through this person that we are kept up to date on the latest developments in the horticultural world. The Coordinator also provides guidance in organizing educational activities; helps find research materials for vexing garden and landscape problems, and acts as liaison between the Purdue Master Gardener Program and the Michiana Master Gardener Association. Currently this is Dr. Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing.

The true connection between the two organizations is found in the Michiana Master Gardener Association Bylaws. Article III, Section 3.2 states, "To qualify for and be admitted to membership in this Corporation, a candidate must (i) be a certified Master Gardener or have completed the Master Gardener Exam and be actively working toward completion of the volunteer hours required for Master Gardener certification. (*Emphasis added for clarity*)

Therefore, it is important that you keep your Purdue Master Gardener certification current in order to be an active member of the Michiana Master Gardener Association. Members who are physically incapable and unable to attend regular meetings, volunteer, and/or comply with recertification could request to be transferred to an inactive Master Gardener status. Members who cannot afford membership dues for the Michiana Master Gardener Association can apply for a dues scholarship.

In keeping with the organizers original intent, the Michiana Master Gardeners Association continues to work diligently to provide many different opportunities to fulfill their obligation as Purdue Cooperative Extension Service certified Master Gardeners.

To aid in fulfilling educational requirements the Association provides many opportunities. The Association invites speakers to provide mini-seminars of approximately one hour in length at eight of our monthly member meetings. It holds spring seminars at various sites in the county during February, March, and April, and has seminars during the Elkhart County 4H Fair. It also invites a nationally known professional to speak at an afternoon seminar and the evening Annual Meeting, in March.

Volunteer requirements can also be fulfilled by: helping staff the Extension Office's Master Gardener Hot Line; joining one of the seminar teams and/or signing up with the Speaker's Bureau to fill requests by different organizations for a garden topic speaker;

assisting with the annual tree sale; working on the annual Garden Tour; helping at Ag Hall during the Fair; writing articles for local newspapers and/or The Broadcaster, and assisting from time to time at the Extension Office with various diverse activities.

All Master Gardeners (MG) must remember that volunteer and educational hours must be documented. Forms for this purpose are available on the MG website or from the Extension office. In order to remain a member in good standing, members who live out of the area must also document volunteer and educational hours completed in their home towns. This documentation must also be turned in to the Elkhart County Extension office.

The hope of this article is to create an understanding of the Michiana Master Gardeners' Association and its purpose, it is your organization, take an active part in it and enjoy, "Helping Others Grow"

Submitted by: The Michiana Master Gardener Board & its Advisor

April Calendar
By B. Rosie Lerner
Purdue Extension Service



HOME (Indoor activities)

Start seeds of warm-season plants, including tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, marigolds, zinnias and petunias, indoors for transplanting later to the garden. Harden off transplants started earlier in spring before planting outdoors gradually expose the young plants to outdoor conditions of wind, brighter sunlight and lower moisture. Apply fertilizer to houseplants according to label directions as days grow brighter and longer and new growth begins. Foliage plants require relatively high nitrogen fertilizer, while blooming plants thrive on formulations that are higher in phosphorus. Keep Easter lily in a bright, cool location, out of direct sunlight. Water as soil begins to dry. The yellow pollen-bearing anthers inside the flower can be removed by pinching to prevent staining of the petals.

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)

Plant a tree in celebration of National Arbor Day, April 28. Bare-root stock should be planted before new top growth begins. Balled-and-burlapped and containerized stock can still be planted later in spring. Fertilize woody plants before new growth begins. Two pounds of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet should be sufficient. Complete pruning chores, removing dead and injured branches first. Apply a prebloom, multipurpose orchard spray to fruit trees. Remove winter coverings from roses, but keep mulch nearby for protection from late freezes. Prune and fertilize as needed. Apply pre-emergent herbicide to control crabgrass in lawns. Approximate dates of application are April 1 to April 20 in southern Indiana and April 21 to May 10 in northern Indiana.



GARDEN (Flowers, vegetables and small fruits)

Plant seeds of cool-season crops directly in the garden as soon as soil dries enough to be worked. When squeezed, soil should crumble instead of forming a ball. Cool-season crops that can be direct-seeded include peas, lettuce, spinach, carrots, beets, turnips, parsnips and Swiss chard. Plant transplants of cool-season crops, such as broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, kohlrabi and onions. Plant or transplant asparagus and rhubarb crowns. For best plant establishment, do not harvest until the third year after planting. Plant sections of certified, disease-free potato seed tubers. Allow foliage of spring-flowering bulbs to remain in place after blooms fade. Leaves manufacture the food reserves, which are then stored in the bulb for a repeat showing next year. Plant hardy perennials, such as daylilies and delphiniums. Start tuberous begonias and caladiums indoors for transplanting to garden later. Remove winter mulch from strawberries, but keep mulch handy in case late frosts are predicted and to help keep weeds under control. Plant or transplant strawberries, raspberries and other small fruit. Prune grape vines to remove dead or weakened limbs, and repair support trellises as needed.



Day Minder . . . Watch Us Grow!
April 2006

17	Mon	MMGA Board Meeting – Extension Office	Noon
22	Sat	Spring Seminar - Worm Composting presented by Sue Stevens at The Garden Shop	1:00 PM
25	Tues	MMGA Monthly Membership Meeting – Ag Hall	7:00 PM

May 2006

15	Mon	MMGA Board Meeting - Extension Office	Noon
30	Tues	MMGA Monthly Membership Meeting – Ag Hall	7:00 PM

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I just got home from the second meeting this year. WOW! We have the best association, everyone is so supportive and you cannot ask for a better group of speakers and volunteers. We have had two great speakers this year. Loretta in January and Eddie and Paul Troyer this month. We have had great topics and (even if I do say so) great give-aways. I will try and keep making new and interesting surprises to give away. I hope the people who win them enjoy them for years to come.

I know I sound like a broken record but we have a lot of opportunities to volunteer. And, I hope everyone understands it is what makes this association run, and run smoothly. So please keep that in mind when you see a sign up sheet or an e-mail go out for volunteers. As it says "Helping Others Grow."

When they ask me to write for the Broadcaster, my first reaction was you could not find a person any worse for the job. I can talk the talk, but I sure can't walk the walk. So I hope now and in the future you teachers out there will please forgive me for I know not what I do. We will be leaving for vacation and I will not be at the annual dinner. I know Gwen, Pam, and the committee has a great program planned for you. And I will miss out on a great speaker I'm sure. So I hope you all enjoyed it, because I just realized you'd be getting this after the dinner. Please come to the April meeting. We will have more speakers and more surprises.

Cindy Robbins



The 2006 Master Gardener Awards were presented at the Annual Dinner on Saturday, March 17th. Those who were recognized this year for their outstanding accomplishments are as follows:

Advanced Master Gardeners, Class of 2004
70 Cumulative Volunteer hours and 55 Cumulative Educational Hours

Linda Bowser, Kathleen Cripe, Pati Goss, Marilyn Horvath, Brenda Perron, Carla Pontius, and Linda Sinon.

Other Master Gardeners reaching Advanced Status (Same Hours as above)

Dwight Fish (99) and Marlene Pratt (03).

Bronze Level Master Gardeners
250 Cumulative Volunteer hours and 65 Cumulative Education hours

Pam Geers(01) and Paul Miles(03)

Gold Master Gardeners
1000 Cumulative Volunteer hours and 100 Cumulative Education hours

Steve Kruse (96)

These individuals have contributed of their time and knowledge in a continuing effort to “Help Others Grow”. Remember to turn your hours in to Teresa every year so your efforts can also be recognized.

{Remember, each monthly membership meeting applies towards your educational hours.}



GARDEN CENTER:

A sort of gambling house. They take your money and you take your chances.

--Anonymous

Items for Garden Tour 2006

It's hard to believe but the 2006 Garden Tour is only a little over 3 months away. The Merchandising Elves have been busy painting and creating garden goodies for the Garden Boutique. If you plan on donating any furniture or items that need to be painted or fine-tuned now is the time to contact me so we can arrange drop off or pick up. So clean out your garage, basement, and attic and find some treasures for the Garden Boutique. It's amazing what those elves can do with "junk".

Hope to hear from you soon,

Linda Bowser
stevebowser@msn.com
574-522-4101
Merchandise Chairperson
2006 Garden Tour



Grounds for Gardening

By: B. Rosie Lerner
Extension Consumer Horticulturist
Purdue University



Do Johnny jump ups jive with Java? How about a little coffee on your cucumbers? With so many trendy coffee houses these days, there is a lot of interest in recycling used coffee grounds to divert them from the landfill. And being a plant product, a frequent question is whether coffee grounds are useful for gardening.

There have been a few companies studying the use of coffee grounds as a soil or compost amendment, and there are even a few companies marketing it as such. So here's my cup of counsel. Coffee grounds are a low-level source of nitrogen, having a fertilizer value of around 2.0-0.3-0.2, as well as a minor source of calcium and magnesium. Post-brewed coffee grounds are reported to be slightly to highly acidic, depending on the source, but no more so than peat moss. So, one could apply them to the soil for acid-loving plants, such as rhododendrons, azaleas and blueberries, etc. They might even help keep your bigleaf hydrangeas blue. Or, you could spread them out over a larger garden area to minimize the pH effect. It's difficult to make a specific recommendation for an application rate, but it's always better to err on the lighter side, since the pH can be variable. A rate of 10 pounds (dry weight) per 1000 square feet would be conservative.

Composting is also an excellent method to recycle the grounds, which have a carbon-to-nitrogen ratio of around 20:1. Use the grounds as you would green, leafy material, mixing with some dry, brown plant materials in the compost. The Environmental Protection Agency suggests adding no more than 25 percent volume coffee grounds. Worm composters report that coffee grounds are an excellent food source for the little critters. Again, be sure to mix the grounds with dry brown materials, even in the worm bin.

Some companies indicate that a shallow layer of coffee grounds can be used as mulch around landscape plants; however, I am hesitant to recommend this. Because of the fine grind that is typically used for brewing, the grounds are likely to pack down tightly, decreasing aeration as well as posing the risk of fungal growth.

Likewise, I would avoid using coffee grounds with potted houseplants, not only because of the potential for fungal growth but also potential buildup of soluble salts. Washington State Master Gardeners found that fruit flies were attracted to coffee grounds, especially in situations such as enclosed compost bins, where moisture content was high. This is yet another reason to avoid using the grounds with houseplants. In more open aerated systems, where the grounds are able to dry down, fruit flies and other pests are less likely to be a nuisance.

(Note from editor: Last year I was able to obtain two large bags of coffee grounds at no cost from the Starbucks at Martin's on E. Jackson. Check with your local coffee house and see if they are willing to save their grounds for you. The grounds from Starbucks are rinsed and dried.)



Insects and Spiders Not Immune to Urban Myths

Writer: Tom Turpin
turpin@purdue.edu
Extension Specialist, Purdue University

The Internet has made it easy to communicate worldwide via e-mail with friends, relatives and business associates. Too easy, some might say. Especially as we daily encounter all kinds of unwanted stuff lurking in our e-mail in box. With such a system, it is easy to perpetuate what have become known as urban myths.

Urban myths are the modern equivalent to folklore tales. In both instances, there are elements of truth in the story. Which, of course, makes them easier to believe. These are not wild, unbelievable tales. But, generally, the conclusion is tenuous at best. Both urban myths and items of folklore are passed on without any real thought as to the accuracy of the message.

Insects and spiders sometimes star in folklore and urban myths. Currently, the No. 1 urban myth, according to snopes.com, deals with Formosan termites. A widely circulated e-mail suggests that buying mulch from major home improvement stores will spread the Formosan termite. Not all so-called urban myths are untrue. Is this warning about termites fact or fiction?

At first glance, the basis for the myth is plausible. Many wood structures and trees were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in and around New Orleans. As a result, wood was being hauled away from the hurricane-ravaged area. It is a fact that termites can be transported in solid hunks of wood. Sounds like it could happen.

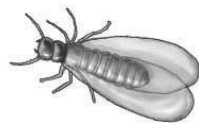
The most common termites in the United States are termed subterranean species, since they nest in the soil. Only sterile workers of this type of termite are found in wood, so even if some termites were transported they would be unable to establish a colony in a new area. Mark up a point for myth!

But this is an area where the Formosan termite is common, and queens of this species do live in wood. In fact, the Formosan termite was introduced into the United States in the wood structure of ships. As a matter of policy, scientists warned that wood should not be transported from New Orleans for fear of moving Formosan termites to new areas. So it could be true. But we are talking mulch here, not solid wood. To be sure, mulch in piles or even spread on the ground can be infested with

termites. But in order to establish a new colony of termites, you would need a queen and workers to care for her. This is very unlikely to happen in mulch in a plastic bag. Besides, wood from New Orleans wasn't being made into mulch. In this termite thing, the preponderance of the evidence comes down on the side of myth.

In recent years, other urban myths have included the blush spider, which was found under toilet seats in specific restaurants, and had a very poisonous bite. Based on the hiding place of the spider, it is easy to guess where victims were bitten. No such spider, no such restaurants, no such bites! But the rumor spread rapidly. Another widely circulated myth was one about licking envelopes and getting cockroach eggs into a cut in your mouth. The eggs would then hatch and the young cockroaches would develop in the wound. A similar version held that you could get cockroach eggs into your system by eating tacos. Yuk! But don't believe it because cockroaches don't develop in human flesh.

Other myths hold that maggots might be able to infest the human brain. While it is true that maggots of some flies have been known to attack human flesh, brain-eating maggots have yet to be found -- even if some rock music lyrics proclaim such! One insect actually has a name based on a bit of ancient folklore. Legend has it that this insect would sometimes crawl into your ears and, given the chance, would dine upon your brain. This insect is called an earwig and, to my knowledge, doesn't look for the opportunity to live up to its name. It is just folklore, an ancient urban myth. I'll take my chances with mulch from New Orleans, thank you very much!



Weekly Column
April 2006
Purdue Extension - Elkhart County



**Title: Using Cultural Practices Improves Garden Plant Health
Dr. Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing**

As the weather warms up, our thoughts naturally turn to outdoor activities including those in our yard and garden. There are many cultural practices that can be implemented to encourage the growth of healthy plants in your yard and garden in an effort to minimize pest problems. Planting site selection, plant selection, soil preparation, and plant spacing are four cultural practices that can be addressed prior to planting.

Before planting, plan and select an area that provides optimum space and sun or shade requirements for the desired plants. Determine the mature size of the plant, not only its height, but also its breadth. Look up and around to make sure the mature plants height and breadth will not be restricted by power lines, a building, foundation, eaves, or sidewalks. Choose locations with adequate drainage. Plants do not thrive with wet feet. Areas that remain wet for extended periods are not a good choice, as excessive moisture predisposes plant roots to infection by numerous soilborne pathogens.

Plant health begins with the selection of good quality plants and seed. Choose plants that are native to this area and are hardy in Zone 5. You can obtain a brochure called 'Landscaping with Plants Native to Indiana' from the Purdue Extension or SWCD Offices. This publication lists recommended native plants and sources of plant material. The hardiness zone reveals a plant's ability to survive winter temperatures. Plants that are not hardy or native in our area may be more stressed and predisposed to insects and disease. Select and purchase plants that appear healthy and vigorous. Before purchasing seeds or plant cultivars determine which have resistance to diseases. Purdue Extension Bulletin HO-101 provides names of recommended vegetable varieties for Indiana.

Be careful when preparing soil for your garden site. Do not till or work the soil when it is too wet because this will cause the soil to form hard clods. Seeds grow best when sown in soil that has a fine consistency that easily breaks when handled. Seeds (depending on the plant species) germinate best when soil temperatures are consistently above 50 degrees, they have adequate moisture, and when there is good contact between the soil and seed. So take care in preparing your seed bed. Follow planting date guidelines on the plants and seed packages, as planting too early when it is cold will stress and slow growth predisposing the plant to infection.

Remember plants have different soil and air temperature requirements necessary for optimum growth. Soil temperature optimums affect the rate and amount of seed germination and seedling growth. The air temperature optimums affect plant growth, flowering, seed or fruit set, and plant maturity. Purdue Extension Publication HO-186-W lists dates and ranges for planting vegetables in Indiana.

When planting, be sure to follow guidelines for plant spacing. Make sure to give plants room to grow so they do not compete with each other for water, nutrients, or sunlight. Proper plant spacing encourages air circulation between plants and avoids humid conditions which favor disease development.

These are just a few cultural practices that will help your plants be healthy and that will minimize pest problems. Cultural practices are part of utilizing an integrated approach to pest management in your yard and garden.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:



There was an excellent article in the January 2006 issue of Michigan Country Lines about our own Connie Richmond and her Orchids. Our own Rita Henehan wrote the article. I do not have permission to reprint the article in the Broadcaster, however, if you email Rita, (rhenehan@voyager.net) maybe she can be persuaded to submit the article to us for publication or she may share it with you directly. It was a wonderful article with great pictures of Connie and her orchids. A real pick-me-up in the middle of January!



CATCH A COMBO FOR WILDLIFE

DNR Leader Explains How Citizens Can Earn Federal Conservation Funds

Dear Fellow Indiana Wildlife Conservationists:

Indiana can earn millions more federal dollars for Wildlife conservation.

Here's how. Federal wildlife management funding is based on state sport license sales. So, if more Hoosier wildlife conservationists, even those who do not consider themselves hunters or anglers, purchase Indiana hunting and fishing licenses, then the state earns more federal wildlife conservation funds.

For example, your \$25 Resident Combination Fishing and Hunting License contribution to wildlife earns the state another \$20 from Uncle Sam. If just 30 caring people from each Indiana county bought a combo license every year for the next ten years, they would earn wildlife more than an extra million dollars. Hoosiers who spend their time afield with binoculars, cameras, and hiking boots instead of shotgun shells and fly rods should recognize how many of our wildlife habitat purchases are funded.

Annual sport license funds help buy critical wildlife habitat, like the new 8,000-acre Goose Pond Fish and Wildlife Area in Greene County. Also, with each gun, bow or fishing pole bought, a portion of the purchase price goes to the federal government as an excise tax. Indiana then gets a share of those taxes back, based on the number of fishing and hunting licenses sold. This federal money is committed to wildland acquisition and habitat management.

Your purchase of an Indiana Resident Combination Hunting and Fishing License provides instant leverage of your original dollars, even if you choose not to hunt or fish. A \$25 contribution becomes a \$45 contribution. The DNR can then take that pool of funds and leverage it even further with private dollars to buy and manage land. That is exactly how Goose Pond became a reality.

Leveraging your dollars and spending money that comes from outside Indiana on Hoosier projects seems like a pretty good idea to me. Another great way for conservationists around the state to support the environment is by purchasing the Environmental License Plate for their vehicles. The money this generates (\$1.5 million in 2005) goes directly into the Indiana Heritage Trust. Last year that fund allowed for the purchase or protection of 38 properties in 25 counties around the state.

The Heritage Trust also leverages funds with matches from private individuals, not-for-profit organizations, and other governmental entities. This leverage lets every Indiana Heritage Trust dollar buy \$5 worth of habitat.

You will continue to hear and see more about our effort to get Hoosiers to Catch a Combo and to put blue ELP plates on their vehicles.

Urge all of your wildlife-watching friends to Catch a Combo to support wildlife conservation. It's as easy as visiting www.dnr.IN.gov. Click on 'hunting and fishing licenses' to purchase a license and start protecting Indiana's wildlife today.

See you on the trail,

Kyle J. Hupfer,
Director, Indiana Department of Natural Resources

If you were unable to attend the Annual Dinner, we missed you! You also missed the opportunity to pick up your 2006 Membership Directory. It seemed a bit thin this year. If you have not paid your dues for 2006, please do so immediately. You can turn it in to Larry Drudge at the April Meeting. If you have paid and just need your copy of the directory, you can also pick that up at the April meeting. If you have not paid your dues, this may be the last edition of the Broadcaster that you receive.

◆ **Our members whose dues were received after the directory was printed include the following:**

Garberick, Judith Class 2003

6126 Old English Court, South Bend, IN 46614

Home: 291-2454

Email: tkgjag@hotmail.com

Spouse: Thayne, Engineer

Interests: Perennials & container gardens.

Hesser, Mary Class 2004

56277 CR 31, Goshen, IN 46528

Home: 825-7607

Email: rgmdhesser@aol.com

Substitute Teacher

Spouse: Randy, Attorney

Interests: Vegetable gardening, composting & organic gardening.

Hollopeter, Mariann (Speaker's Bureau) Class 2001

9661 E 1350 N, Syracuse, IN 46567

Home/Work: 260-856-4498

Email: 5673@ligtel.com

Spouse: Kent, Mechanic

Interests: All-Vegetables, water gardening, landscaping, lawn care and fruit.

Kovacevich, Linda Class 2004

30380 CR 22 West, Elkhart, IN 46517

Home: 679-4452

Email: lindakjimtown@aol.com

Spouse: Chris

Interests: Perennials

Revelli, Dara (Past President)
21448 CR 20, Goshen IN 46528
Home: 875-9641
Email: smrdnw@maplenet.net
Programmer/Trainer
Spouse: Steve, Builder
Interests: Plant propagation and native plants.

Class 2001

Rombke, Norma (Jean)
27599 CR 36, Goshen IN 46526
Home: 862-4169
Email: rombke@juno.com
Retired
Spouse: Harry, retired
Interests: Indoor plants, hanging plants & plants for clay soil.

(fall) Class 1999

Tyson, Mary
61855 CR 15, Goshen IN 46526
Home: 875-4619
Work: 773-3164
Folder Operator/Press Co.
Spouse: Roy, Maintenance
Interests: Flowers and vegetables.

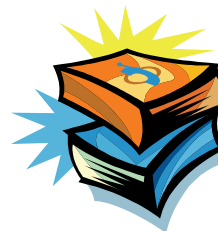
Class 2000



Corrections to listings in the 2006 directory:

Richmond, Connie (Past President)
Spouse: John

Fortin, Cathy
Home: 825-3623



Bartlett, Joleen
Email: Joleenjane@gmail.com



Field Trip

The Kosciusko County Master Gardeners are sponsoring a tour of the Frederick Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids, Michigan on Tuesday, May 23, 2006. The tour includes a guided private tour of the indoor and outdoor gardens (train tour) as well as the greenhouses. There will be time afterwards for lunch in the Taste of the Gardens Café and extra time to revisit the gardens or shop in the gift shop. Also included in the trip is a tour of Rain Gardens home offices in Grand Rapids. A rain garden is a special kind of storm water garden designed to collect and absorb runoff from a roof or parking lot. By planting a rain garden, you can help solve some of our storm water pollution problems. You will also see an excellent example of a "Green Roof".

There will also be a stop at Cherry Valley Greenhouses in Middleville, MI for an opportunity for some shopping. A light snack will be included on the coach in the morning. Lunch at Meijer Gardens as well as a fast food stop on the way home is not included in the trip costs. Trip Cost is \$75.00 per person. Registration is due by May 5, 2006. For additional information, contact Michael Ann Jamison at Carlson Travel. You may email at: mjamison@ctsvacation.com

Volunteer Opportunity:

I have a request for assistance from Pam Kish with the Habitat Restore in Mishawaka, IN as an opportunity for Master Gardeners. She can use volunteers to help provide information on gardening and planting at their Arbor Day sale on April 28 and April 29. You can volunteer to help sell plants but the master gardener volunteer hours are for providing gardening expertise and educational information on gardening to the patrons buying the plants and trees. Proceeds from the sale go to Habitat for Humanity. The sale will be from 9 am-6 PM on April 28 and April 29 at the Habitat Restore at 932 E McKinley in Mishawaka. This is across from the Big C Lumber going towards Town and Country Shopping Center. If you are interested or want more information, please call Pam Kish at 574-674-9665.

Loretta



Community Gardens Update Notes from Suzanne Pedler Jabs

Really lucked out with the weather today. Misty but no wind. Lots accomplished. Bob Reiman, Heidi Zavatsky, Dyanne Zimmerman, Eldon Nifong, Dick and Suzanne Jabs worked from 9-12, today Friday, April 7, 2006. We completed the mulch paths. For some reason, EnviroCorp thought we wanted no division between Dick's and PAR beds. Heidi brought a wonderful garden cart that made it much easier to cart. Eldon and Dick put up 3 more bluebird houses that Dwight had made. At noon when we left, there was a new tenant for one of the houses. Thank you very much Dwight! Dyanne and Suzanne Jabs measured the five plots and staked the rows and areas. Eldon followed around with PAR plastic markers labeling rows and areas. Dick trimmed cherry branches overhanging raspberry patch along woods providing them with sunlight.

(Dick has planted wildflowers and humming bird wildflowers around perimeter of garden where Val Golden had rototilled and mulched with pine needles). Bob and Dick planted 6 rows of Yukon Gold potatoes (10 lbs) donated by the Garden Shop on Johnson Street. Eldon planted 2 rows of cabbage and the brussel sprouts. Dyanne mixed radish and carrot seeds and planted. There is some question as to how hard it may be to thin these out later. We are hoping it will be easier, since the radish come on early. Suzanne planted two row of peas. Dick will pick up the welded support for the peas next week. Heidi planted two rows cauliflower. Bob fertilized peas, cabbage, cauliflower, brussel sprouts with Ted Ellis recipe.



- Found: 1 steel rake
- Lost: 2 sharpies

Changes to plan: Added brussel sprouts to new extra bed. Two extra rows available next to path gave us a spot to plant Dick's cauliflower. Not sure will be able to redraw plan for tomorrow. April 8, Saturday Plan. Work 9-12 until done. Garden shop donated more seeds. Green beans, red beets, okra, morning glories, basil, sage, parsley. Think that's all.

Big question? I asked Jeff if he had something I could put his logo on and put out in the garden some where, since he is donating so much. He gave me a card and a big clay pot, I was going to ask LINDA BOWSER, to decorate and fill for us. Is this legal under MMGA rules? I know they accept money for the garden tour from advertisers. It would look pretty sitting on an angle by the arch. Let me know opinions and any ideas for presenting this to Loretta.

That's all folks. Looking forward to tomorrow AM. And getting a good start on the garden....

Four of us worked Saturday: Mayrea, Heidi, Gwen, and Suzanne J. Little windier and cooler. Planted seeds: kohlrabi, beets, parsley, sage, basil, okra, Swiss chard. That white pipe is a lifesaver making the rows straight. When you write it down, it doesn't sound like much but the garden is really taking shape. We really need the water hooked up JENNY!

Next week whoever is up can plant leek, green beans, corn. The diagram is in the mailbox with the seeds. Need to buy leek, forgot.

Will need to bring water from home unless JENNY gets things hooked up for the pump. Someone suggested we spread a light sprinkle of pine needles on the rows to hold the seed and moisture in place. Be sure to mark the par signs with the date of any plantings. That is the only way we will know the row has been planted. Gwen donated fish emulsion, (Suze Gray has it). This could be applied to our seed rows I think also.

The diagram is incorrect a bit. First two rows north or right of the path has cauliflower, and Brussel sprouts are in the extra bed, second row from the North or right end. We also set up the wood arbor Jeff Kiser gave us last year. First we positioned it across the center. Then discovered no one could get through in the opposite direction, so repositioned it after a laugh. Thanks Gwen!

Another laugh I had was on myself and Suzanne Gray. Won the sock Bird feeder at the seminar. Suzanne Gray suggested I anchor it with Sand. My sink filled up with sand. Guess this is an example of acting before thinking. A blue bird was sitting on one of our garden stakes when I arrived. As Gwen and I left two were moving in one of the latest houses. Thanks to Dwight, Dick and Eldon.



Michiana Master
Gardeners'
Association

"Helping Others Grow"

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.

*Let us be grateful to the
People who make us happy;
They are the charming gardeners who
Make our souls blossom*
- Marcel Proust

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