



# Broadcaster

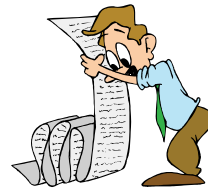
*“Helping Each Other Grow!”*

Michiana Master Gardeners Association

August 2006

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### **Busy Times in the Extension Office**

If you read the article in this space last issue, you know that Loretta has moved on to Illinois, to an opportunity she could not pass on. Therefore, we have had Jeff back in charge until a new AgNR Educator can be chosen. Word on the street has it that there are a couple of prospective persons, already in the Purdue Extension family in other counties, who are prime candidates.

We are looking forward to meeting and greeting a new AgNR Educator who might be a better fit for our programs, and who is more familiar with the Master Gardener program and what it can accomplish. That being said, Jeff has been very busy in July with our Garden Tour (an overwhelming success this year) and the 4-H County Fair (one of the largest in the country). He still has found time to attend the Board Meeting, oversee the set-up and tear down of Ag Hall, assist with the Help Line and just generally be in the know about what is happening in our little corner of the world. For that and all of the things that Jeff does to keep our association rolling, I would like to extend a huge thank you from all Master Gardeners.

This year we have seen more than our share of challenges. Without a class to draw on for volunteers, we have struggled to meet the needs of our various functions. Mariann Hollopeter has done an heroic job of keeping the Speakers Bureau running, but she is now down from surgery and Paul Miles has been assisting. We have added the Tree Sale to our list of activities that need volunteer staffing. The altered speakers' schedule at the fair also presented problems. Many of our members who presented for the spring seminars on Saturday mornings were not available to speak on the same topics at the fair during the week in the middle of the day when the talks were scheduled. This challenge was met and conquered as well. The last of the changes for this year are the additional volunteer and educational hours required by Purdue to maintain active Master Gardener status on a yearly basis. The reasoning behind these changes are sound. If our members are not staying current what is happening in the industry, and they are not meeting the requirements of "Helping Others Grow", then they do not qualify to be members of an organization that promotes these values.

Membership is down this year, but the Board is hoping this is strictly due to oversight on the part of the members and not due to loss of interest in the program. Here's to seeing everybody at the August meeting and enjoying the pictures of the wonderful gardens from this year's Garden tour. May all your days be spent in the garden.

***Pam Geers, Class of 2001***  
***Editor***



*Day Minder . . . Watch Us Grow!  
August 2006*

21	Mon	MMGA Board Meeting – Extension Office	12:30 PM
29	Tues	MMGA Garden Tour Recognition Dinner - Elkhart Co. Fairgrounds, Fidler Room	<b>6:00 PM</b> Notice time!

*September 2006*

18	Mon	MMGA Board Meeting – Extension Office	12:30 PM
26	Tues	MMGA Monthly Membership Meeting - Ag Hall	7:00 PM

A HUGE, heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make the Garden Boutique so successful at the Garden Tour this year! We couldn't have done it without your generous donations of plants, flowers, books, magazines, old chairs, windows, ribbon, bird nests, grapevine, craft nick knacks, pots, etc., and most of all your kind words of support.

Now that you know what we can do with your donations, keep us in mind as you clean out garages and basements. Yes, it's not too early to give us a call or email and begin donating for next year. We never know what we're going to make until the donations come in. We'll be glad to pick up the items. THANKS AGAIN!!!!

***Linda Bowser and Linda Sinon  
Merchandise Chairperson  
2006 Garden Tour***

**Gardening Calendar for August**  
**General Hort Publication HO-92-W**  
**By B. Rosie Lerner**

- Keep the garden well-watered during dry weather and free of weeds, insects and disease.
- Complete fall vegetable garden planting by direct seeding carrots, beets, kohlrabi, kale and snap beans early this month. Lettuce, spinach, radishes, and green onions can be planted later in August and in early September.
- Harvest onions after the tops yellow and fall, then cure them in a warm, dry, well-ventilated area. The necks should be free of moisture when fully cured, in about a week's time.
- Harvest potatoes after the tops yellow and die. Potatoes need to be cured before storage.
- Pick beans, tomatoes, peppers, and squash often to encourage further production.
- Harvest watermelon when several factors indicate ripeness; the underside ground spot turns from whitish to creamy yellow; the tendril closest to the melon turns brown and shrivels; the rind loses its gloss and appears dull; and the melon yields a dull thud sound rather than a ringing sound when thumped.
- Harvest sweet corn when kernels are plump and ooze a milky juice when punctured with your fingernail. If the liquid is watery, you're too early; if the kernels are doughy, you're too late.
- Keep faded flowers pinched off of bedding plants to promote further flowering and to improve plant appearance.
- Spade or till soil for fall bulb planting and add a moderate amount of fertilizer.

Fertilizer: A substance that encourages weeds to grow to an incredible size while "burning" the roots off of desirable plants.

-Anonymous





### *Inside the Extension Office*

By Kate Rink, June 2006

The Extension Office Hotline has steadily picked up speed, as our volunteers answer calls daily. The hot, dry weather we've been experiencing has created various problems for plants and trees. In our Master Gardener room, the pages of the Ortho Problem Solver are hot to the touch as our helpers delve into it, in search of answers to puzzling questions. Inquiring minds want to know!

We had 20 calls about trees this month.

Anthracnose was consistently a problem. It showed up on maple trees as well as oak. One of the most common and unsightly shade tree diseases to greet Indiana homeowners in spring is Anthracnose. A fungus-caused plant disease, Anthracnose becomes severe when cool, wet spring weather persists as leaves are first emerging. Remember that whole week of rain that we had? Anthracnose is most noticeable in the lower branches. Often the very top portions of the tree escape infection and appear quite healthy in comparison to the lower sections of the tree. The leaves of a maple will curl and turn black. Severe infection can result in extensive defoliation in the lower branch canopy.

Anthracnose results from infection by any of several different fungi. During winter these fungi reside in diseased leaf and/or stem tissue. In early spring, infectious spores are produced and then carried by rain and wind to newly emerging leaves.

Our client's reported curling leaves with brown spots, which is typical of Anthracnose. Luckily, it generally does not result in tree death. Most trees are able to withstand infection and push out a new crop of leaves by mid-June. Healthy vigorous trees will recover quickly with little if any permanent injury. Therefore, the primary control for Anthracnose is to maintain good tree health. Water during drought and fertilize in a timely manner. Clean up of fallen leaves is a good sanitation practice.

Confusing as it may be, another customer called in stating his maple had curling tips of leaves with grayish, brownish spots. Okay, is it Anthracnose or could it be something else because the symptoms aren't exactly alike? Given the information provided, the diagnosis pointed to leafhopper damage. Adults are about 1/8 inch long, a lovely bright green and sort-of wedge shaped. They feed by sucking plant juices. Toxins in the leafhopper's saliva cause plants to stunt and leaves to yellow and turn brown, a condition called "hopperburn." Leafhoppers should be controlled before hopperburn symptoms appear. Leafhoppers can increase to extremely large numbers in a short time, but generally are very susceptible to insecticides.

Another homeowner reported an unusual growth on a purple ash tree. She asked to have it identified. The problem seemed to occur shortly after an unexpected freeze. Analysis proved this bizarre looking ash inflorescence was in fact called twisted ash flowers caused by an eriophyid mite. The broccoli-like growths gracing their ash tree were actually created by this pest. The galls consist of a profusion of clubby, distorted flower parts. They are sometimes described as looking like small witch's brooms growing just beneath this season's leaves.



How many times have you been pulling weeds when all of a sudden that stinging, burning sensation of nettles bites you? Much too often it has happened and angry would be a good word for your feelings toward its contact to your hand. It causes welts and inflammation to your skin, which usually heals in about a day or so. It likes damp, rich soil and is found in waste places, edges of woods, along creek beds and unplanted areas. It reproduces by seeds and underground creeping rhizomes. Our homeowner was advised to spray with Round Up consistently. Also a preemergent herbicide containing trifluralin (Preen) is helpful to prevent germination.

Recipes were requested this month. Not for any mouth watering dishes from the kitchen, but for the solution used to invite hummingbirds to a feeder. The other recipe needed was how to sterilize soil. Recipe as follows:

- ◆ Spread soil not more than 4" deep in a pan. Cover tightly with foil. Insert a meat thermometer or candy thermometer through soil in the center. Set oven 180 degrees-200 degrees F. and keep at that temperature for 30 minutes. Do not allow to go above 200 degrees F. High temperatures produce plant toxins. After heating, cool and remove from oven. Leave foil on container until ready to use.

There were many more calls to write about this month, too numerous for space allowances. The trend was fungus and pests, basically. It's such a learning experience to diagnose some of these problems as each month presents new problems.

Have a good July 4<sup>th</sup>, as we celebrate the freedoms we so enjoy!

***Updates to the Membership Directory:***

New Members:

**Linda Carris** Class 2003  
543000 Glenmore St., Elkhart, IN 46514  
264-1468

Spouse: Ray, Production General Manager  
Interests: Perennials-shade & sun, landscape shrubs & container gardening.

**Vicki Hanes** Class 1999  
1026 Maple Row, Elkhart, IN 46514  
295-3244

**Lin Miller** Class 1980 Winnebago Co./Illinois  
50571 Elk Trail, Granger, IN 46530  
Home: 277-1313  
Email: Lin@linsews.com

Spouse: Brent, Photographer  
Interests: Perennials, grasses & hostas.

**Goss, Pati** New Email  
Email: plantinpati@yahoo.com

**Blyer, Tracy** New Email  
Email: tracybyler@aol.com

**Phyllis Schortgen** New Phone Number  
574-825-4802

*Congratulations go out to our own Ted Ellis and his lovely wife Marjorie, who celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on May 31<sup>st</sup>.*

*SOME NEW RECIPES TO SHARE:*

**Tomato Salad**

**Tomatoes**

**Peppers**

**Onions (your choice)**

**Cut vegetables into nice sized pieces, add Italian dressing.**

**(As submitted by Cindy Robbins)**

**CLIPPER CHOCOLATE CHIPPERS**

2 C. (1 lb.) butter (not margarine)  
1 C. granulated sugar  
1 C. packed brown sugar (light, dark or mixed)  
1 ½ T. baking soda  
¼ C. Frangelico liqueur (or hazelnut flavor)  
¼ C. Tia Maria (or Kahlua or coffee flavor liqueur)  
1 T. salt  
3 eggs (another version of this recipe uses 4 eggs, if you want a little softer)  
6 C. pastry flour (not cake flour) (they have at it Martin's)  
1 ½ lbs. chocolate chips  
4 oz. chopped pecans  
4 oz. chopped walnuts  
Cream together sugars, butter, soda, liqueurs and salt until light and creamy. With mixer running, add eggs one at a time until well blended. Add flour, chocolate chips and nuts, mix until well blended. Bake on greased cookie sheets at 350 degrees until golden brown. Recipe makes 4 dozen large cookies.

**(As submitted by Mary Davis)**



**Plant a Row Community Garden group at a spring seminar held at the Environmental Center on March 25, 2006.**

### *Community Gardens Serve the Public*

*Gwen Ferland, Advanced Master Gardener  
Class of 2000*

As a Master Gardener, I have had the privilege of working with many different organizations and groups. However, working with Enviro-Corps and the Master Gardener committee on the Plant a Row for the Hungry program has been one of the best experiences ever.

Plant a Row for the Hungry was started in the 1990's in Alaska. It hinges on a people helping people approach. The concept is simple. There are over 70 million gardeners in the US, and many plant vegetables and harvest more than they can use. If every gardener would plant an extra row of vegetables and donate the surplus to local food banks and soup kitchens, their donations would have a significant impact on reducing hunger. Food agencies would have access to fresh produce, and funds earmarked for produce could be used for other needed items and the hungry of America would have more and better food.

The Michiana Master Gardeners became involved about 6 years ago after a seminar by Elkhart's Enviro-Corp group at one of our meetings. Several of our Master Gardeners have been involved from that first year.

Our garden plots are at the community garden plots at the Elkhart Airport. It is a beautiful location with plenty of sun. Two years ago the Michiana Master Gardener Association purchased a pump and hoses to water the gardens every week if there isn't enough rain. That has been such a blessing!

The Master Gardeners have 5 plots at the airport garden. From those 5 plots we average about 1,000 pounds or more of fresh produce that is delivered to several local food banks including the Salvation Army, Church Community Services, Faith Mission and Grace Ministries.

We have a team of 17 committee members that plant, weed and nurture our gardens. It is such a rewarding experience and we added the 5<sup>th</sup> plot this year so we could have more produce to donate. By working in teams of 2 or 3 and having work sessions for the entire group, the time spent is not only rewarding but fun also.

It is also great to see others from the community working in their gardens and answering their questions. That is what Master Gardeners do: Help others grow.

So, if you have a chance, come out to the Elkhart Airport gardens (To get there, take CR 5 north off of Bristol Street. Turn right at the Elkhart Airport sign. The gardens are on the left just past the woods.) to see what is happening. Pull a weed or just enjoy beautiful gardens and know that they're being grown for a very worthy cause.





## **The Tree Sale From a Volunteer's Perspective**

**Mary Davis, Class 2002**

The tree sale committee worked hard. I know, because they met right before the Garden Tour committee and they were always there. Heidi Zavatsky, Chairperson, was sweating bullets about "breaking even." Larry Drudge was bemoaning all the money they spent every time he gave the Treasurer's report.

Saturday, April 22, was the "big day." I arrived at the fair grounds at 7:50 a.m. (to start at 8). Much to my amazement, I was the only one there! It was a beautiful day for a tree sale - bright and sunny, although a bit cool. However, someone from the Soil Conservation group, MMGA's "partner" in this endeavor, was unloading her car almost as quickly as I got out of mine. When I went into the building I could see the volunteers had been hard at work. Bundle after bundle of trees, shrubs, etc. lay neatly tied and numbered on the floor. The floor had been marked with chalk for each row clearly showing the numbers located in that row. I started cross-marking bundles. If we knew in advance someone was picking up more than one order I stapled a card on each noting the other was to be picked up as well. Other volunteers started arriving shortly. Although we weren't officially open until 9:00, all was ready at 8:30, so the doors were opened. It was a good thing - lots of early birds there to get their worms, er. . .bushes.

Nancy Brown had a big book with all of the orders arranged alphabetically. She had a list of all the orders numerically with an indication of how many bundles were involved. For those who followed the rules and brought their order blanks, Nancy would just check the list and mark them off. She would call out the number and the number of bundles and a “runner” would promptly fetch the appropriate order. For those who came with only part of their order or nothing at all, she could check them in the book to determine the number. (We threatened a few with retina scans or noseprints, but usually settled for a driver’s license ID). For the larger orders, wheelbarrows or Heidi’s garden cart were available to help. I heard a lot of non-Biblical coveting of Heidi’s garden cart - it was really great.

Across the barn were the “leftovers” - all the extra trees from multiple orders, which had been separated into bundles of five and marked with big signs on the folded up bleachers. The trees were beautiful stock - some of our orders had been upgraded to larger specimens due to the quantity ordered. Heidi had inventory tags and as we finished giving people their orders, we would encourage them to go over and look at the extras. The tags quickly started coming down as one after another species sold out. (Some of these people already had over a hundred plants to plant, boy were they ambitious). Over \$1,500 in extras were sold that morning. Heidi had a big smile on her face, as she had long ago passed “break even.” Heidi also brought a delicious lunch for all the volunteers. In typical Master Gardener fashion, volunteers soon had smiles on their faces too, as they ate sloppy joes, baked beans, vegetables, potato chips and Texas sheet cake.

Mary Hesser told me what had happened on Thursday and Friday. First the trees were unloaded from trucks - she laughed at the pictures showing the gals with huge piles of trees and the guys carrying one small bundle. First the trees had to be untangled - she said some of the roots were quite a maze - especially the spruces and arborvitaes. They came in batches of 100. These had to be broken down and bundled in batches of five. Once all the batches were divided, a volunteer would take an order and then go to each station and pick up the appropriate items. They were then double checked, wrapped in heavy duty paper, tied and marked with the order number and taken to the appropriate spot on the floor.



By early afternoon, things were wrapping up. When I left, there were still several volunteers - it looked like as many volunteers as remaining bundles.

I think MMGA is off to a great start for a new fundraiser - Heidi and Nancy did a wonderful job of organizing and I am sure word-of-mouth and publicity will help this event grow. I can guarantee if you help next year, you'll have a good time.



*You're Invited  
Mark the Date!*

*Tuesday, August 29, 2006 - 6:00 p.m.  
Fidler Room  
Elkhart County Fairgrounds*

*Please join Master Gardeners & Four Guests for an evening  
of Italian dining and slide show review of  
Garden Tour 2006.*

*From the Hospitality Center and Educators to viewing the  
beautiful gardens, an enjoyable evening is planned.*

*Master Gardeners & Four homeowners -  
no charge.*

*Master Gardeners' spouse/guest -  
\$5.00 payable at door.*

*Please RSVP your attendance by August 20th to:  
Heidi Zavatsky at 574-295-5956 or  
hkz1430@aol.com*

*Publicity*

*Education*

*Garden Art*

*Photography*

*Ticket Book*

*Plant Sale*

*Volunteers*

*Boutique*

*Plant I.D.*

*Advertising*

*Homeowners*

*Community Gardens*

*Perennials*

*Crafts*

*WJRC*

*Hospitality Center*

*Maps*

*Garden Selection*



## **Jeff's Gems - August 2006**

Despite the fact that we do not have an Ag Educator on staff right now, there is a lot going on with Master Gardeners. Hopefully, the Extension Board will be interviewing potential candidates for the Ag position in September. We have had several people express interest in the job!

Thanks to all of you who helped out at the Fair this month, as well as at the Garden Tour and the Community Garden!

### **The 2006 Master Gardener Class**

Applications were due on August 7<sup>th</sup> for this fall's Master Gardener class. We had 32 people apply and they will be receiving their acceptance letter soon! The classes are lined up and the teachers are excited to teach!

Several people have asked how the Master Gardener classes will work when we hire a new Ag Educator. I plan to sit down with the new Ag Educator and work out the transition. Hopefully, by the time the last class has taken place, the new Educator will be fully immersed in the classes. I have fully committed to be the coordinator of this class, and will hand off whatever the new person wants to take on. We will make it work!

The class schedule appears on the next page. As we have in the past, I will allow graduate Master Gardeners to audit classes they missed or need to be refreshed on. However, we can handle only 3 or 4 extra people per class as space is tight. Please call me or Teresa about a week in advance so we can guarantee your space, and have the printed materials available for you.

**Keeping up to date**

In 2005, the State Master Gardener program adopted a new policy to keep Master Gardeners up to date. To stay on the "active list", Master Gardener are required to meet the following requirements:

1. Donating a minimum of twelve (12) hours of volunteer service each year.
2. Completing a minimum of six (6) hours Educational Training (examples: participation in regional Master Gardener Conferences, county-sponsored advanced training sessions or other programs approved by the local Program Coordinator).

What this means to you, as established Master Gardeners, is that it is really important to turn your hours in to the office. Too many of you are not taking credit for all the good volunteer work you do! This policy should give you an incentive to turn in those hours. As far as the 6 training hours are concerned, attending the monthly Master Gardener Association meetings will earn you most if not all the training you will need. Also, attending seminars offered by the MMGA or the new class will give you a chance to earn training hours!

I have a habit of interpreting these types of policies rather loosely, as life's got a way of throwing curve balls that might make a firm policy be rather harsh. Please call me if you have circumstances that make compliance difficult.

Thanks for all you do! Elkhart County Master Gardeners are the best!

Sincerely,  
Jeff Burbrink  
County Extension Director

**FALL 2006 ELKHART COUNTY  
MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM**

Class time: 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Extension Office - Conference Room

**Dates of training: Topic:**

Wed., Sept. 20, 2006	Overview of our Master Gardener Program
Wed., Sept. 27, 2006	Plant Science
Wed., Oct. 4, 2006	Plant Disease/Pathology
Wed., Oct. 11, 2006	About Our Soils and Plant Nutrition
Wed., Oct. 18, 2006	Lawn Care
Wed., Oct. 25, 2006	Pesticide Use and Safety
Wed., Nov. 1, 2006	Teaching Techniques
Wed., Nov. 8, 2006	Weeds and Composting & Composting with Worms
Wed., Nov. 15, 2006	Indoor Plant Care
TUESDAY, Nov. 21, 2006	Insect Control
Wed., Nov. 29, 2006	Tree Fruit Production
Wed., Dec. 6, 2006	Vegetables
Wed., Dec. 13, 2006	Water Gardening
Wed., Dec. 20, 2006	Animal Control
Wed., Jan. 10, 2007	Flowers
Wed., Jan. 17, 2007	Woody Ornamentals
Wed., Jan. 24, 2007	Basic Landscaping
Wed., Jan. 31, 2007	Final Exam and Wrap Up

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.

If you want to be happy for  
A short time, get drunk;  
if you want to be happy for a long time,  
Fall in love; if you want to be happy  
Forever, take up gardening!

-Arthur Smith

**PURDUE**  
UNIVERSITY

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AUGUST 2006