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# Broadcaster

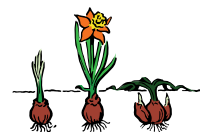
*“Helping Each Other Grow!”*

Michiana Master Gardeners Association      February-March 2006

## *Features This Issue!*

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**Purdue Yard & Garden News**  
**By B. Rosie Lerner**



### **Mild Weather Pushes Up Bulbs**

**It is not unusual for Indiana weather to have trouble deciding what season it is. Recent warm spells have had many gardeners wondering what to do about bulbs - and, perhaps, a few other plants that are poking their foliage through the soil.**

**As I write this article, temperatures started out in the 50's and we are expected to drop to the upper 20's by tonight. Just what should gardeners do about daffodils, dianthus and daylilies poking out of the ground?**

**The good news is that no action is really required. Although we're more used to seeing this happen later in the winter during a February warm spell, this certainly isn't the first time that it has happened in January. The plants will survive just fine, though they may look a little worse for wear.**

**The longer the mild weather stays around, the more potential there is for damage when the weather returns to normal winter.**

**Foliage that has popped up will be killed back, but the bulbs and storage root of other perennials should remain unchanged underground. As the plants completely push out in the spring, the damaged foliage will appear brown, giving plants a raggedy appearance. But the plants themselves should be just fine.**

**I wouldn't expect flower buds to be affected much at this early stage of development. But, of course, there is plenty more winter and opportunity for more fluctuating temperatures yet to come. There isn't much we can do about the weather, but sit back and wait to see what Mother Nature has in store for us!**





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

|    |      |  |          |
|----|------|--|----------|
| 20 | Mon  | MMGA Board Meeting – Extension Office                                    | Noon     |
| 25 | Sat  | Spring Seminar-Edible Flowers & Native Plants -<br>Palmer's Ace Hardware | 10:00 AM |
| 28 | Tues | MMGA Monthly Membership Meeting – Ag Hall                                | 7:00 PM  |

*March 2006*

|    |      |   |                       |
|----|------|---|-----------------------|
| 4  | Sat  | Spring Seminar-What Bugs You? - McIntosh<br>Greenhouse                                | 10:00 AM              |
| 11 | Sat  | Spring Seminar-Propagation: Getting More -<br>Middlebury Library                      | 10:00 AM              |
| 18 | Sat  | Spring Seminar-Landscaping Made Easy - Prairie<br>Trail Farms                         | 10:00 AM              |
| 18 | Sat  | MMGA Annual Dinner-Greencroft Community Ctr   | 6 PM-9 PM             |
| 20 | Mon  | MMGA Board Meeting-Extension Office   | Noon                  |
| 22 | Wed  | Master Gardener Phone Hotline Volunteer<br>Training-Extension Office, Conference Room | 9AM-2PM               |
| 25 | Sat  | Spring Seminar-Butterflies 101 - Elkhart Library                                      | <b><u>1:00 PM</u></b> |
| 28 | Tues | Urban Tree Care Workshop-Extension Office   | 8:30AM-<br>3:30 PM    |

**Items for Garden Tour 2006**

Master Gardeners:

***Just a quick reminder.*** When you're dividing your plants this spring, remember to pot some of your plants for the Garden Tour. This is a large part of our fundraiser. All we ask is that the plants are in clean pots, healthy and the plant is identified. If you want to put growing information on the tag, that is great.

Thanks again for all of your help and continuing support of Garden Tour. If you have questions, please give me a call or e-mail.

Gwen Ferland, Garden Tour Co-Chair  
574-264-4356, ferlandg@nibco.com



### Note from the Editor...

I cannot tell you how wonderful it is to be able to bring you such an information packed edition of the Broadcaster. I was worried I would have to leave some articles for next month, but I managed to fit them all inside.

Every month I am receiving more contributions for the Broadcaster. I am hoping to hear from each of you in the upcoming months. You do not have to be a great writer to submit an article. Sharing something of interest with your fellow gardeners is as simple as jotting down a few paragraphs. Don't worry, my spell check works really well... So please, email me your submissions. If I can't get them in one edition, they will be at the top of the list for the next issue.

Next month, check this space for a word or two from our new president, Cindy Robbins. This will be her spot to fill for the rest of her tenure in office.

Thanks for all of the wonderful articles. See you at the February meeting.

Pam Geers '01  
Chairperson-Broadcaster

PS: Cindy Robbins, the lovely stained glass window you graciously donated for the door prize drawing at the January meeting looks absolutely wonderful hanging in my dining room. I have had so many positive comments on it. I can't wait to see what you bring to the February meeting....

## **TOPLESS TREES ARE INDECENT!**

***Rita McKenzie, Purdue Urban Forestry Specialist***

*Submitted by: Suzanne Gray*

Trees must be pruned sometimes to avoid interference with utility lines, buildings, or parts of the surrounding environment. Whenever pruning to reduce a tree's size is required, avoid the harmful practice of topping.

Topping involves removing all parts of a tree above a certain height with no consideration for its structure or health. This method is not a viable method of height reduction but only a temporary and ineffective solution that actually makes a tree more hazardous in the long run.

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) explains why topping is not an acceptable pruning technique. "Topping is probably the most damaging and detrimental thing a person can do to a tree," says Sharon Lilly, Director of Education for ISA. "Topped trees are ugly, and the harmful effects usually endure for the life of the tree."

The destructive effects of topping include: "Starved" trees - Topping often removes 50-100 percent of the leaf-bearing crown robbing the tree of food-creating leaves.

### ***Creation of weak shoots***

As a defense mechanism, a tree will quickly grow (up to 20 feet in one year) food-producing shoots that are weak and prone to breaking, resulting in a more hazardous tree.

### ***Added stress for the tree***

If a tree does not have enough stored energy it will not be able to produce the chemicals required to defend the multiple wounds from a disease or insect attack.

### ***"Sunburned" trees***

The leaves within a tree's crown absorb sunlight. Without this protection, branches and trunks are exposed to high levels of light and heat that can burn the tissues beneath the bark.

***Poor aesthetics***

Topping removes the ends of branches often leaving unsightly stubs, and destroying the natural form of the tree. A tree that has been topped can never fully regain its natural form.

***Higher maintenance costs***

Trees that have been topped will need pruning more often, or may die and need to be removed. Topped trees are potential liabilities and can reduce property value.

To help avoid these harmful side effects, ISA advises that trees should be pruned according to the American National Standards Institute's (ANSI) pruning standards. An ISA Certified Arborist should quote approved ANSI pruning methods to their customers. Beware of a tree service that offers to top your tree; they may not be up to date on the latest pruning methods.

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), headquartered in Champaign, Illinois, is a nonprofit organization supporting tree care research and education around the world. As part of ISA's dedication to the care and preservation of shade and ornamental trees, it offers the only internationally recognized certification program in the industry. For more information, and to find a local ISA Certified Arborist, visit [www.treesaregood.com](http://www.treesaregood.com).



**Professional arborists  
can determine what type  
of pruning is necessary  
to improve the health,  
appearance and safety  
of your trees.**

Weekly Column (013106)  
Purdue Extension - Elkhart County

**Title: Preparing for Spring and Tree Care**  
**Dr. Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing**

While our area recently experienced some mild, balmy weather, winter is still here. The short mild weather is not an indication to uncover garden plants. Mild spells during the winter can be a problem if some plants start to break dormancy. However, many plants like bulbs that have their growing points underground should withstand the cold weather. Keep mulch, old leaves or some type of cover on top of garden beds, as it will act as an insulator providing plants and bulbs protection from extreme cold, wide temperature fluctuations in the soil, and heaving. The objective of winter mulch is to keep plants dormant. Replace thin mulch around plants where soil is exposed. In general, 2 to 4 inches of organic mulch such as straw, pine needles, leaves or bark chips will provide sufficient protection.

There are some other things that can be done now to prepare for spring. Seeds should be ordered now before it is too late. Be sure to look for disease resistant, certified seed. Transplants of cool-season vegetables such as broccoli, cabbage or cauliflower can be started, as these vegetables can be planted outdoors in the early spring. Transplants for cool season vegetables are typically started 5 to 7 weeks before the expected transplant date. Garden tools can be repaired and maintained. This time of the year is also great to catch up on learning more about gardening practices.

Since Rita McKenzie just wrote about the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), I thought I would mention that Master Gardeners interested in Arboriculture, Urban Forestry or getting their required Educational Training may be interested in attending the Urban Tree Care Workshop Tuesday, March 28, 2006. This program is being conducted by Russell Hodge, a member of the International Society of Arboriculture, Indiana Arborist Association, Indiana Urban Forestry Council, and the Society of Commercial

Arboriculture, just to name a few organizations. He has been involved in the Tree Care Industry for 26 years. He writes many columns and is featured on the Internet site, <http://www.1-800-Arborcare.com>.

This workshop will cover subjects such as proper pruning and trimming practices, do's and don'ts of pruning and trimming, reasons to prune, hazard tree identification and evaluation, why tree hazard inspections are needed, main areas to inspect, hazard remedies, documenting tree hazard information, and long term urban forestry planning. Benefits from taking this course include educational materials, plus getting 6 hours of Educational Training for Master Gardeners, and if it applies... pre-approved credit for ISA CEUs (5), training for field employees, learning to recognize hazardous trees and proper pruning practices, reducing resident complaints from bad pruning practices, reducing liability.

This workshop will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 28, and will be held in the Purdue CES Office - Conference Room. Registration for this workshop is \$100, and registration forms are available at the Elkhart Co. Purdue CES Office. Deadline for registration is March 21, 2006. If you have questions or want more detailed information about this program, please call the Extension Office at 574-533-0554.



### Highlights from our September 2005 meeting

Submitted by: Mary Davis '03

Diane Pippenger presented a lively program on container water gardening. She started by asking how many members had ponds. Several hands were raised. She then asked how many people had a friend, relative or neighbor with a pond. Every hand was raised. She indicated when she started water gardening eight years ago, ponds were virtually unheard of and it was very difficult to get plants for ponds and/or water gardens. Today, nearly every garden shop has such plants and they are widely available.

She pointed out that container water gardening is really just a pond in microcosm. Diane said the first thing she did to start container gardening was to go through her kitchen, garage and barn to look for appropriate containers. She encouraged us to be creative. She brought several of her finds including tin buckets, a chip and dip dish, various size vases and a hollowed out gourd. She also related that her boyfriend told her he had passed a commode being used to plant flowers in a yard—both the tank and the bowl were filled. Diane said her first thought was “water gardening!” followed quickly by the thought that if she in fact pursued the same, her fourteen year old daughter would refuse to board the school bus from their home! Her final thought was that a picture should be taken and sent to Felder Rushing.

Diane then proceeded to “plant” several of the containers. During this segment she also admitted that the boots she planted were stolen from her son’s closet! From my third row seat, I was unimpressed. Things looked pretty ugly, except for a really pretty water hyacinth, still in bloom. However, going up after the meeting showed that the results were really quite charming.

Diane said it is hard to overwinter water hyacinths, but since they divide rapidly and are readily available she simply started over. She also recommended the easiest way to get plants is to ask your friends as they multiply rapidly.

Diane runs a business of supplying and installing ponds and water gardens from her small farm, named PeeWee Acres. The presentation was very informative, showed excellent presentation and preparation and was inspiring—I might have to try those water hyacinths next summer!

**(See biography on Diane later in this issue)**

*“Where flowers bloom,  
so does hope”*

*Lady Bird Johnson*

**PLANTS conference, January 4-5, 2006**

Submitted by Mary Davis '02

I am wondering if the PLANTS meeting triggers rain . . . for the second year, I drove to Indianapolis in rain. At least, this year was not the torrential downpour of last year (yes, it did rain in January 2005, just not the rest of the year). Unfortunately, my traveling companion from last year (Connie Richmond) was unable to go due to illness in her family. I missed having someone to talk to. The speaker this year was Dr. Michael Dirr, who like last year's speaker (Allan Armitage) is a professor at the University of Georgia at Athens. His morning talk was on what's new/hot in woody ornamentals. He started his presentation with before and after pictures of his yard in Georgia (lots of red clay). What a magnificent garden!

He talked about the sadness in leaving gardens behind. He asked and answered why we need new plants, indicating new is better than old as new plants are bred for habit, foliage, flower, pest resistance, and ease of culture.

There is less dependency on chemicals, so less environmental concerns. Also, plants are being bred to be sterile, to ease the invasive plant issue. He added Berberis and Euonymus are facing the firing squad! He showed slides and discussed many new trees. He is especially fond of beech and hopes some of the trees that have been ignored in the past will be used as the emerald ash beetle continues to devastate ash forests.

In the afternoon, his topic was Hydrangeas for American Gardens. He discussed the breeding programs in which he is involved. It was obvious that this was his first love—indicating when he and his wife go on evening walks she has asked him to please quit talking shop! He indicated the primary goals are to develop superior foliage, compact habit, repeat flowering, increased cold hardiness, heat and drought tolerances and double flowers. He also indicated there are deer resistant plants. He said they are working on a pink Annabell. One of the difficulties in working with hydrangeas is that the fertile flowers used for hybridizing are tiny—the larger flowers we enjoy are actually not true flowers at all and are sterile, and the fertile flowers are usually underneath. He said, “Good is the enemy of Great.” From over 20,000 hydrangea seedlings, only eight selections will be named and protected.

Both of his talks were thoroughly enjoyable. Last year, Connie and I decided we should stay for the trade show, the day after Dr. Dirr’s talks. I love trade shows - I go to all I can and have thoroughly enjoyed them. This was unfortunately the least enjoyable trade show I have ever been to. Of course, it is geared for the landscape professional, but except for catalogues featuring wholesale price lists and huge mowers and related equipment, there wasn’t much there. There was a display of absolutely gorgeous benches, birdbaths, etc. from granite and other native stones.

The prices would make you drool (being wholesale), but unfortunately, a shipping charge of \$175 applies to any order, be it one piece or 100, so I guess I will have to wait on the granite bench.

The PLANTS conference is the first week in January. I definitely would recommend the conference, just not the trade show.



### Upclose and Personal

Monthly Member Biography

Mary Davis ('02)

Biography of Diane Pippenger

Diane started her business of PeeWee Acres to provide plants, equipment, and expertise for water gardens. She said she was self-taught on water gardening through books and talking with others. When people came to the shop, they often would ask questions about other plants growing in her yard and/or gardening questions. Diane felt her two years of high school horticulture were insufficient to answer all those questions, so she decided she should attend Master Gardeners and joined the class of 2002. She said she loved the classes and learned a great deal. She enjoyed all the outside educators Jeff brought in. There was only one small drawback—they didn't have a class on water gardening. . .guess who taught water gardening to the last class??

Diane has two children, a 14-year-old daughter, Carlie, and an 11-year-old son, Coty. She also has a “significant other,” Matt Mast.

She also has Casey, a Labrador and Lucy Lou, a Yorkshire terrier, cats, Callie and Baby KiKi, rabbits and over 100 fish (she didn't provide their names)! Whew!

In addition to water gardening, Diane is interested in perennials and gourds. She worked for three years on the Garden Tour, starting out as the liaison and ending up as chair of the education committee. She enjoys the continuing education and learning from Master Gardeners and loves the friends she has made.

**See the article about Diane's Water Garden seminar presented at our September 2005 meeting in this issue.**



### **DOWNRIGHT CRAFTY!**

Submitted by Suzanne Gray (F99)

The last Friday of every month - and we started January 27th! Master Gardeners who volunteered to help Linda Bowser work her plan for the Garden Boutique Gifts met at Nancy Walter's house. There were 7 of us and 4 workstations. I helped Linda begin painting on the terra cotta pots being transformed into toad abodes.

After trying my hand at tracing ivy and a snail on one, and giving my best shot at painting the ivy and the snail's body, I moved on to another workstation and left Linda to work on her butterflies and the face of my snail!

I tried what I felt was a much simpler task for me - helping Mary Davis 'string' sun catchers out of fishing line and a generous variety and color of glass stones, glass pieces and mirror pieces. We had about 30 strings done by the end of the session (I finished two). Gwen Ferland and Nancy Walter, painters extraordinaire as we all know, painted garden motifs and embellished some of the many jean shirts, jackets and vests that Linda picked up at Goodwill! Deb Smith and Linda Sinon spent the evening painting and adorning wooden spoons as plant IDs for short crops such as radishes, lettuce and onions.

As Linda put it, next session we'll all be "slapping primer on wood - how hard can it be!" So be there, at Nancy's house, on Friday, February 24, at 7pm to slap paint and feel good about donating your time toward this year's Garden Tour boutique crafts! It's a very relaxing, cordial and fun time! Come when you can, leave when you have to. Contact Linda Bowser with any questions.

Following is a narrowing list of donations we're still in need of to finish more products in the upcoming months:

- ◆ Small garden tools
- ◆ Hold rakes, hoes and such
- ◆ Wire (for hanging garden plaques)
- ◆ Metal mailboxes and watering cans
- ◆ Corn husks
- ◆ Exterior primer paint
- ◆ Old picture frames - any size
- ◆ Old windows and chairs



Upclose and Personal  
Monthly Member Biography  
Mary Davis '02  
Biography of Paul & Marilyn Miles



Which came first the chicken or the egg? In the case of Paul and Marilyn Miles, it was Marilyn, who was in the class of 2001. Always a resident of the Michiana area and a long-time Miles (no relation) employee, Marilyn said when she retired she wanted flower gardens that she could enjoy working in and also enjoy from inside the home. That meant removing some of the grass in front of the house to make a flower garden and building raised beds in the back they could see from the deck. Once the beds were in place she started planting and then rearranging and rearranging and rearranging. She wanted to do things right, so she said it was off to Master Gardener classes. She says she learned a lot and found out she didn't have to have all the answers, but she found out where to find those answers. She also found out it was absolutely okay to rearrange plants.

Although she says she wasn't a writer, she learned a lot writing and researching for the old essay exam (This writer takes issue with that statement - Marilyn wrote one of the best biography forms I've seen). Marilyn also participated in her class seminars, works at the fair, has worked on Garden Tour and at Rhapsody in Green. In her spare time, she is a hospital volunteer and likes to read. She said they have no pets, as she didn't want to be tied down by a pet in retirement. I asked her if she was busy just taking care of Paul - she smiled and readily agreed.

Marilyn said she loves being outdoors, enjoying the flowers, trees, birds, butterflies and bees—basically just enjoying God’s wonderful world of nature, although her “favorite” part of gardening are the flowers. She and Paul have been married 54 years on February 9, 2006! As for her favorite part of Master Gardeners, she said it’s hard to pick—access to knowledge, fellowship with other Master Gardeners, spring seminars or working at the fair—it’s all great. I think that applies to Marilyn too!

Paul Miles followed along two years later, in the class of 2003. He too is retired, from American Electric Power (now I & M). He too is a Michiana native. Marilyn brought home stories from MG training and he said it piqued his interest. Further, it seemed like he would end up assisting with activities, so he decided to enjoy the benefits of becoming a Master Gardener and to officially support the program in service to the community. Paul said the training was excellent and the opportunity for continuing education unmatched.

Paul has participated in the seminars (in fact, he personally attended almost every one of the seminars from the 2003 class - I know, because I was in that class too). He and Kent Holloper constructed the sandwich board we use to advertise seminars. He also has worked on Garden Tour - he always tells us at monthly meetings he and Paul Maddux are moving (on transportation), but slowly - because they are old! We should all age as gracefully as Paul and Marilyn! He is also on the Board and is our newly elected Vice-President. He has also worked at the fair, at Rhapsody in Green and the Hot Line (he is hoping some other people join him and Pati Goss this summer and at training on March 22). Paul also likes to read, also does some woodworking and fishing and likes to travel. For their 50th wedding anniversary and 70th birthdays, they spent three weeks in Hawaii. Paul and Marilyn’s lovely yard was one featured in 2003 for the Garden Tour. Paul says his favorite part of MMGA is all of it!



## Meet your 2006 Master Gardener Board -



Left to right: Back Row: Jim Maddux, Larry Drudge (Treasurer), Mary Davis, Cindy Robbins (President), Pati Goss, Pam Geers, Gwen Ferland, and Heidi Zavatsky (Secretary). Front Row: Judy Baker, Rhonda Loucks and Paul Miles (Vice-President). Not pictured Alys Kidder.



### Upcoming Events

Visit the Fort Wayne Home and Garden Show, March 1-5 at the Memorial Coliseum. For more information, call 800-695-5288 or visit the website at:

<http://www.home-gardenshow.com>

If you haven't filled out a biography form yet, please fill out the following - you can send it to me (Mary Davis, 400 W. High St., Elkhart, IN 46516) or fax it (574-522-3983), give it to me at a meeting or just e-mail your answers (davis.davispc@verizon.net). You don't have to answer the last three questions - I'll call and discuss those with you.

REMEMBER - IF I DON'T GET A FORM FROM YOU, I'LL MAKE UP YOUR BIOGRAPHY. I HAVE A VERY ACTIVE IMAGINATION!!

Mary D

.....

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's name and occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Your occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you always lived in Michiana area? If not, when did you come here & why?

Particular areas of Master Gardener/gardening interests:

Areas you have participated in with MMGA:

Children? (name, gender, location)

\_\_\_\_\_

Grandchildren? \_\_\_\_\_

Pets? (kind, name, breed, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Hobbies besides gardening? \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone no. (Home or work) & best time to call: \_\_\_\_\_

**Think about:**

Why you became a Master Gardener?

What you thought about MG training?

What you like best about being in MMGA?

From the earth we are formed,  
to the earth we return,  
and in between we garden  
- Nelson Eddy



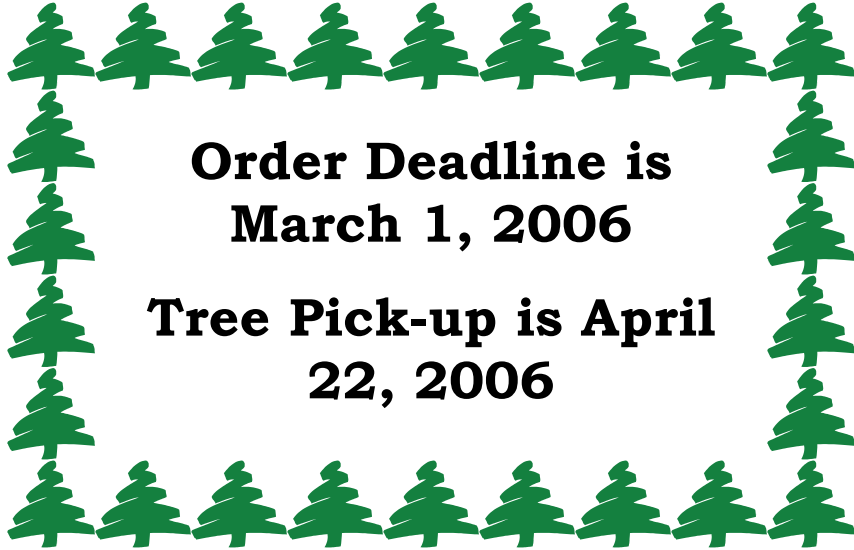
***VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED FOR THE MG HOTLINE!***

- ◆ REMINDER: Once an individual has completed the necessary requirements and is certified as a Master Gardener, this does not mean he/she is a Master Gardener for life. Master Gardeners must recertify each year to remain on the 'active' list and maintain the Master Gardener title. One great way to get in your minimum of 12 hours of volunteer service each year is to volunteer for the hotline.
- ◆ I would appreciate the help of MG volunteers to operate the hotline in the Extension Office from April 1 until November 3, 2006. The hours of operation would be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. I have heard great things about the MG volunteers and their hotline help. I will truly appreciate your volunteering to help the community and me.
- ◆ If you are interested in volunteering for the hotline this year, please mark your calendar for a mandatory Hotline Volunteer Training meeting which will take place Wednesday, March 22, 2006 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. If this date does not work for everyone, we will schedule a second training. Let me know what you need to volunteer. At this training we will discuss all procedures, new references, the new microscope and how to record images, plus lots of other pertinent information.

- ◆ Master Gardener Recertification is achieved by fulfilling the following requirements:
  1. Donating a minimum of twelve (12) hours of volunteer service each year, and
  2. Completing a minimum of six (6) hours Educational Training through any of the following options:
    - Participation in State, Regional, National, or International Master Gardener Conferences.
    - Participation in county-sponsored training sessions.
    - Participation in any other programs approved by the local Program Coordinator (ie. The Urban Tree Care Workshop).



**Visit our website at:**  
**[www.michianamastergardeners.com](http://www.michianamastergardeners.com)**

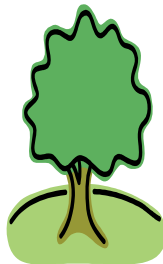


**Order Deadline is  
March 1, 2006**

**Tree Pick-up is April  
22, 2006**

VOLUNTEERS FOR TREE SALES  
From: Jim Maddux & Heidi Zavatsky

Members - This is a request (PLEA) for volunteers to help with the prep work and distribution of the "Tree Sales" orders. The duties consists of set-up, unloading, de-bundling, containerizing (putting species in buckets), sorting, picking and packing orders, staging orders, customer pick-up, teardown, and cleanup.



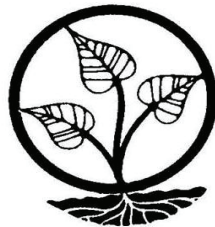
Twelve (12) volunteers (minimum) are needed on the following days:

- \* Thursday, April 20 - 10am-2pm
  - \* Friday, April 21 - 10am-2pm
  - \* Saturday, April 22 - 10am-until finished
- ◇ Dress Code: "Grubbies," long sleeves, gloves, comfortable shoes and dress according to the weather conditions.

If you are available, please contact Heidi Zavatsky,  
574-295-5056 or email Heidi, [hkz1430@aol.com](mailto:hkz1430@aol.com).

ELKHART COUNTY  
soil and water conservation  
D I S T R I C T

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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.

*Each flower is a soul*  
*Opening out to nature*  
-Gerald deNerval

**PURDUE**  
UNIVERSITY

ELKHART COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE  
LORETTA ORTIZ-RIBBING  
EXTENSION EDUCATOR, AG/NR  
17746-E CR 34, GOSHEN IN 46528  
**(574) 533-0554**