

PURDUE

U N I V E R S I T Y

PURDUE UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

Elkhart County

Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds

17746-E County Road 34

Goshen, IN 46528-6898

Cooperating with U.S. Department of Agriculture



Broadcaster

“Helping Each Other Grow!”

Michiana Master Gardeners Association

June/July 2006

Features This Issue!

Loretta’s Farewell Message	1-3
Day Minder/Items for Garden Tour	4
President’s Message	5
Adult Behavioral Expectations	6-7
Volunteer Opportunities	8
Inside the Extension Office	10-13
Column - Dr. Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing	14-15
Garden Tour Update	16
Garden Tour 10th Anniversary	17-18
Emerald Ash Borer Treatment	18
Foliage That Can Steal the Show	19-20
Fair Seminar Information	21-22

Farewell, But Not Goodbye

As my time in Goshen is almost over, I want to say farewell, not good-bye, as we never know what our future will bring. I feel the Master Gardeners are a wonderful group of people full of integrity and goodness; I know you would only wish what is best for my family and me.

I was touched and surprised by the gift certificate presented to me at the April meeting. I want to thank all of you for your generosity. At the April meeting I was not able to share my future plans with you, as I had not made them known to my superiors. I used part of my gift certificate to purchase a bush (Loretta's bush) for the Extension Office. Kathleen Cripe planted it on the west side of the green utility box in front of the building.

Many of you know that I have accepted a position with the University of Illinois in Macomb, Illinois. I will be the Extension Specialist for Crop Systems and will provide regional leadership for program development related to crop systems for the Extension Educators in the Western Region of Illinois. I will also have the opportunity to conduct some applied research to find solutions to local problems and issues. This is an unplanned, dream opportunity for me, which is a perfect fit for my background. The benefits, salary, responsibilities, etc. offered in the U of I position, are so good that I would be a fool to turn them down.

I moved my family to Elkhart County with every intention of developing a career as the ANR Educator. We purchased our dream home on 10 acres (my husband even bought his dream toy, a John Deer tractor). My daughter left friends to come to school here (however, Northwood has been a great opportunity for her). Moving again was not planned.

My job in Elkhart Co. was not to be a stepping stone; my family and I moved to Elkhart County with every intention of planting roots.

What prompted me to make the difficult decision to apply for the Illinois position was disharmony here in my work place. However, working with the Master Gardeners has been one pleasure in this position that I will treasure. I will miss your friendships.

Another treasure is Teresa, my right-hand woman. Teresa has been the greatest asset to me; she is a big asset to the Extension Office and to Master Gardeners. I will miss her friendship and dependable help. I wish I could take her with me, as her assistance, knowledge, and thoroughness are indispensable. It has been a pleasure to work with her.

Thanks for allowing me to get to know you better.

Sincerely,

Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing, Ph.D.
Extension Educator - Agriculture and Natural Resources

*Day Minder . . . Watch Us Grow!**June 2006**July 2006*

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

17	Mon	MMGA Board Meeting – Ag Hall	4:00 PM
17	Mon	MMGA Monthly Membership Meeting & Set Up/Pizza provided for all who attend! - Ag Hall	6:00 PM

Items for Garden Tour 2006

I hope everyone is enjoying these beautiful sunny days! While you're out in your gardens, don't forget to plant up some plants for the garden tour.

I'm in need of 1-2 small wading pools to place the water plants in on the day of the garden tour. If you have one I can borrow please let me know.

Thanks,

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I was working in my flowerbeds, when my husband came to me and said lets get started on building your garden shed. Well, you don't have to ask me twice. So, we got started on it right away. One thing I have found over 34 years of marriage, you should not put two strong-minded people on a project together. But we did it anyway. So the moral of this story is if you what something bad enough, you bite your tongue and get it done. I do not have to tell you how handy a garden shed is, so it is all worth it.

On a different note, we have a membership that is down. I wondered what that might be about. One of the reasons, I feel, is our lives change and there are different circumstances in each and every case. It may be taking care of a loved one, our health, or some other thing that has become more important. But one thing I really hope is that it is not is the program itself. And if that does happen to be the problem, I hope everyone feels they can come to me anytime and talk about it. The board really is trying to come up with a better and easier avenue for Michiana Master Gardener to get the word out to the public with what gardening is all about.

I truly hope your spring has been as beautiful and flowery as mine. And I hope you enjoy every GREAT issue of the Broadcaster. Every issue gets better and better. Thanks to all of you who contribute and your time and energy to making this a success.

Cindy Robbins

**Annual - the first food planted in the spring to
tide the slugs and snails over until the
expensive seedlings start sprouting.**

- Anonymous

Adult Behavior Expectations for Master Gardener Volunteers

Dr. Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing
Extension Educator - AgNR
Purdue Extension - Elkhart County

Fellow Master Gardeners:

It has come to my attention that the speaker at our recent Master Gardener meeting was verbally treated in a disrespectful manner by one of our Master Gardener Volunteers. I trust this was an isolated incident, but...this is not an appropriate way to treat any human being, and it is certainly not behavior that is fitting for a Master Gardener. All Master Gardeners should exhibit respect and dignity for our quest speakers. Master Gardeners are not to use this organization as an opportunity to express or promote their own personal or political agendas.

I feel it is necessary to remind every Master Gardener that they are affiliated with and represent Purdue University first and foremost. They also represent the Michiana Master Gardeners Association second. As a representative of Purdue University, your words and actions reflect on this agency. You are expected to follow Adult Behavioral Expectations.

In your role as a Purdue University Master Gardener volunteer, you are expected to:

- Accept your responsibility to represent Purdue University and Master Gardener programs with dignity and pride by being a positive role model for the citizens of Indiana.
- Conduct yourself in a courteous, respectful manner, and do your best to cooperate with others.
- Respect, adhere to, and enforce the rules, policies, and guidelines established by the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service, including all laws related to child abuse and substance abuse.
- Understand that the “Indiana Master Gardener” title may only be used for approved volunteer activities within the Purdue University Master Gardener program, and not for commercial purposes.

- Provide non-biased information to the general public with no intended endorsement of specific products, companies, or services. You understand that you are to make recommendations only in the area of consumer horticulture. When it is necessary to make recommendations that include the use of pesticides, you will follow Purdue University policy regarding this issue.
- Understand that being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs while representing Purdue University as a Master Gardener volunteer may result in termination as a Purdue University Master Gardener volunteer.
- Operate machinery, vehicles, and other equipment in a safe and responsible manner.
- Recognize that verbal or physical abuse, failure to comply with equal opportunity and antidiscrimination laws, or committing criminal acts may be grounds for termination as a Purdue University Master Gardener volunteer.

Purdue University and I expect that Master Gardeners will follow this Adult Behavioral Expectations that give Master Gardener volunteers the opportunity to reaffirm their commitments and dedication to the well being of Indiana citizens.

Master Gardener volunteers who have not already signed a copy of the Adult Behavioral Expectations document will be asked again to do so, as it states that as individuals you are making a collective statement that youth and adult audiences are being treated with respect, dignity, and attention to individual needs. In 2002, a letter was sent to Master Gardeners Volunteers requesting that they sign a Purdue University Adult Behavior Expectations Form. Many of you have already signed this as part of your class. Others have not. If we do not have a copy of this signed form in your file, you will be receiving a letter and form in the mail.

If you receive this form, I will ask that you read the form; understand it, follow it, and sign and return it as soon as possible. The Master Gardener Organization is neither a time nor an opportunity for griping or complaining about what exists. It is an opportunity for you to be part of the solution and provide positive research-based educational information to provide change.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- ◆ Sharon Baker, volunteer coordinator of Mennonite Biblical Seminary (Benham & Hively Ave) in Elkhart, called the Extension Office to inquire about Master Gardeners who would like to volunteer. Mennonite Biblical Seminary has a landscape architect, Don Yoder, who volunteers his time for them on Wednesdays. He maintains the grounds and works on plots with flowers and grasses. He would like some volunteers to assist him on the grounds. Please contact Sharon Baker if you are interested. Her phone number is 296-6234.

- ◆ Ann Pedler, who works with Heart City Health Center, is in need of volunteers. She was directed to us from Mike Maloney. Heart City Health Center is a comprehensive medical clinic serving the medically underserved and underinsured of Elkhart County. They want to plant a memorial garden to honor 4 physicians that were instrumental in organizing the Center. This project will take place this fall, but they want volunteers to help layout and assist in ideas for the memorial garden. If this interests you, please contact Ann Pedler at work, 534-3402 ext. 15 or at home 262-1412.

INSIDE THE EXTENSION OFFICE

Submitted by: Kate Rink

April 2006

Happy Spring to all of you! The Master Gardener Hotline is up and running. We began in March with a training session and brush-up course for all the “seasoned” MG’s and a few new comers. Welcome! It’s great to have you aboard.

Loretta guided us with a power point of information. Actually, a mini-course, cram session of various aspects of our Master Gardener classes. It included telephone answering directions and etiquette, dealing with walk-in traffic, techniques used in pulling information from the caller to help the MG answer the question. We have a brand new contact sheet that was developed. It is more detailed and allows for more information to be documented. We had some brief diagnostic training as well as some microscope documentation on our newest microscope purchased for the MG room. (Bugs look really BIG!) We are hoping to take pictures for files and future reference. Some new books have been purchased with great pictures and information that will be very helpful.

This year, we have extended our “helping time.” There will be a MG available in the office, every day from 9:00 to 1:00. Not only does it help the Extension Office Staff alleviate phone call stress, but the MG accumulates more volunteer hours.

April calls have slowly trickled in as the growing season begins to blossom. We’ve had a rather dry start in Northern Indiana. So far, Southern Indiana has hoarded all the rain this year, as they have had flooding in some areas. A good rain, in our area, would be quite beneficial at this time.

Our calls, thus far, have been varied. A few house plant questions. An obvious degradation of leaves and overall healthy appearance of the plant points to the presence of spider mites and mealy bugs. Advice was given to take the plant outside and shower with a strong spray rather than apply an insecticide specific for household plants. Humid air will also help to prevent infestation. A caller wanted to know if he could use grass clipping to mulch around his Robin Hood Hedge roses and honeysuckle, as well as, in flower and vegetable gardens. He was advised to be careful not to mulch with clippings that have had weed and feed fertilizer on them. The fertilizer bag must be checked to be certain it contains no weed killer. It can then be used safely for mulch.

When moving out of state, it's tempting to transport your favorite bulbs, plants, etc. A client was moving to Mississippi and wanted to dig up her iris and lily plants to take with her. Most states require a permit and an inspection for disease before transporting. She was advised to contact the Mississippi State Extension Office to see if the plants were hardy to that area and what restrictions might be placed on importing these plants.

Two calls came in from people wanting to know how to improve the soil in their yards. Both callers received recommendations to have soil tests done to see what amendments could be made. One was willing and anxious to take steps to learn and improve and the other wasn't.

A lady called in wanting to know any information we might have on a Royal Empress tree. She had found it in a catalog but wanted to know more about it. The MG researched and found that it is easy to grow. The first year it grows to 10 ft. and in 3 years it will grow to 25 feet. Wow! It has lavender blooms that look like cascading orchids and a fresh jasmine-like aroma. It is drought and insect resistant and grows in almost any soil in zones 5-11. It has roots that go deep in the ground and the tree can live 80 to 100 years. Sounds like a tree we all should have!

Do you know what to do with cottonseed meal? A homeowner found a box in her garage and didn't know what to do with it. Cottonseed meal is used as a slow-release acidifier. It is the best source of organic nitrogen second to blood meal. Blueberries, rhododendrons, azaleas, hydrangeas would love it. She had an azalea bush and was glad to know that she could use the 6-1-1 product on it.

DNR publications, as well as Purdue publications, were sent out on aquatic control for a pond that was being over-run with cattails. Poison Ivy solutions, mulching methods, and fly control were among the few.

April started out slow in the office but as the weather warms up and things begin to come alive and our soil temperature reaches the planting stage, a steady flow of calls will come in. Experience shows the phones will keep ringing! Our MG's will be happy to serve the public with the answers to the questions they are presented, learning along the way as they share their knowledge.

The spontaneous energies of the earth are a gift of nature, but they require the labors of man to direct their operation.

Thomas Jefferson



Inside the Extension Office

By Kate Rink, May 2006

April 2006 was recorded as the warmest on record. The contiguous United States experienced its warmest April on records dating back to 1895. This broke the previous record for the month set in 1981. May isn't going to win a popularity contest for it's three days in a row of frost on the 20, 21, and 22. The average frost free date of May 15, got blown away this year. If the annuals weren't covered, they got nipped. On the brighter side, we did get the much needed rain we were complaining about not getting last month.

The calls coming into the Extension Office have more than doubled since last month. It seems like tree questions brought in the most calls. Trees are of great concern to homeowners for the multi benefits that they provide in the total landscape picture. Spring storms, accompanied by lightning, can be very damaging. Three calls came in concerning that very fact. What does one do when this happens? The extent of the damage determines the longevity of the tree. A homeowner had a maple split right down the middle. A sad truth when it has been cared for from infancy. Consulting an arborist to assess the damage was recommended. If it is too far gone, trying to hope that it would survive, only prolongs the inevitable. Cut it down and replant.

A client planted a tree that the seller indicated he could plant with the burlap casing around the root ball. He did what he was advised to do and unlucky for him, the advice was not correct. Consequently, the stress associated with the non-removal of the burlap was a definite decline in the health of the tree. "Planting and Transplanting Landscape Trees and Shrubs" and "Transplant Shock of Trees" were two of the Purdue publications sent to the homeowner. Hopefully, the information will be helpful for the next time he plants a tree. It may have been too late for the previous tree. There is a lesson to be learned from this.

A homeowner wanted suggestions for acceptable groundcovers for under a maple tree. Plants suitable for this type of situation included; hosta, stonecrop, sedum, wild ginger, ajuga, heuchera and foam flower.

Tent Caterpillars or Web Worms brought in a few calls. It seems early in the season already for those. Nevertheless, it was advised to prune out the branch that was infested and burn it. An insecticide labeled specifically for Tent Caterpillars, was recommended to spray around the area of infestation.

Groundhogs are ever present digging tunnels and creating havoc in fields and under one lady's deck. It was annoying her dog and she was afraid it might turn on the dog and harm it. She wanted to know what to do. The proven effective methods of control are: trapping, using smoke bombs in the burrow or shooting. If that isn't possible, contacting a company specializing in wild life control would be another alternative. There are two companies in our area, Critter Control in Middlebury and Pied Piper Animal Control in Bristol.

People are asking when is the proper time to kill grubs. If you have roses or a Potentilla bush, you know how Japanese Beetles love them. Killing the grubs in their early stages before they become beetles is the least inexpensive and effective means. White grubs begin feeding on roots immediately after hatching. Larvae burrow below the freeze line to over-winter and return to the root zone to resume feeding each spring. Depending on the species involved, grubs may feed for a single year or several years. Symptoms of white grub damage begin with a wilting of the grass plants and end with dead or brown patches of turf. Damage is primarily noticed in the fall, but may also be seen in the spring. Once damage is obvious, it is often too late to treat with a pesticide.

Many more calls came into the office, too numerous to write about. Some calls, very repetitious of previous years, are easily answered with Purdue publications. A handy resource!

The forecast for the Memorial weekend looks great! Warm and sunny! We'll take that! Many of you have plans and activities, as well as, getting the rest of those plants in the ground. (I hope we are safe now!) Enjoy what you do. Never is work without reward or reward without work.

Weekly Column

June 2006

Title: Lawn Diseases and Care

Dr. Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing

Current weather conditions may favor the development of several turf diseases. The cooler 60-75 degree weather and moist humid conditions we have recently experienced could be ideal for the development of turf diseases called red thread and pink patch. These related diseases are caused by similar fungi that produce irregular, bleached patches in perennial ryegrass, fine fescue and Kentucky bluegrass lawns. From a distance the patch may appear reddish to pinkish in color. As these diseases develop, a close examination of the affected leaves may reveal red thread-like fungal growth for red thread or pink fluffy fungal growth for pink patch.

Dollar spot is another fungal disease that may start to appear as the weather warms and dew in the lawns persists. Disease symptoms first appear as small 'dollar-size' patches of thin turf. The blades of the grass will appear bleached or straw-colored over-all, but a closer examination of individual grass leaves may reveal light tan, hourglass shaped lesions that have reddish brown borders. In the early morning after long periods of dew, you may observe white, fluffy fungal growth within the diseased patches.

All three of these diseases have one thing in common. They are common when your lawn is experiencing low fertility or low levels of nitrogen (N). If your lawn appears to have one of these diseases and you have not applied any fertilizer in the last few months, apply 0.75-1.0 lb N/1000 sq. ft. using primarily slow release forms of N. If your soil is sandy, do not apply more than 0.75 lb N/1000 sq. ft. Applying too much N to your lawn can tip the balance towards the development of other diseases that favor excessive nitrogen, so using proper amounts of fertilizer is important.

Other cultural practices to help manage these diseases involve avoiding watering practices that extend the dew periods and promote excessive moisture and humidity within the grass canopy. The best time to water is early morning. Avoid watering in the late afternoon and early evening.

These three diseases also tend to be more common in perennial ryegrass lawns, so when seeding a new turf area it is best to avoid more than 10% perennial ryegrass in a seed mix. Fungicides easily control all these diseases, however, proper fertility is best and chemical applications normally are not necessary and generally not recommended on home lawns. Purdue University Publications BP-104-W and BP-105-W provide more information on Red thread and Dollar Spot. More information can be found on Lawn Care and Managing Lawn Diseases online at <http://www.agry.purdue.edu/turf/publicat.htm>.

Updates to the Membership Directory:

Zou, Sherrie

Class 2004

58750 OxBow Drive

Elkhart IN 46516

Home: 875-5349

Self Employed Homemaker

Email: szou@maplenet.net

Spouse: Aaron, Intl Sales Manager

Interests: Vegetables, perennials, wildlife

Jabs, Richard

(NEW ADDRESS)

609 Prospect St

Elkhart IN 46514

Home: 322-1575

Canen, Karol

(NEW EMAIL)

Email: kcanen@peoplepc.com

Burkholder, Anne

(NEW EMAIL)

Email: eabey@verizon.net

Garden Tour Update
By Brenda Smith
Chairperson: Garden Tour 2006



Well, it is just around the corner, July 8th that is. Wanted to let you all know what a fine committee garden tour has. They have ALL been working so very hard at each of their jobs. Paul and Jim have been on their knees so much to this group of women that Jim needed a bilateral knee replacement!!!

Truly we are having fun and laughing a lot! We have many fine beautiful gardens and families that are going to share their homes. The merchandise committee is right on target. The ticket books are scheduled to be out before the holiday and at the garden centers.

Now for what we do need!

- Plants, plants that are labeled, names clearly and also label them for sun, shade or partial that would help those that are putting them on tables to know which table to put them on. Please don't transplant these into pots the night before they need to be started (restarted if you will) now.
 - * Does anyone have a large dry erase board we could use?
 - ♦ Craft items. any and all kinds.
 - Garden art
 - * We need each and everyone of you to volunteer!
(Call Cindy Thorton or Lin Miller)
- ⇒ Let Linda Bowser or Linda Sinon know what you will be bringing. They have been working very hard for all of you! They have hidden talents that you will soon see!

Thank you in advance!

Brenda K. Smith
23064 Sheri Lane
Elkhart, IN 46514
574-264-5885 or 574-215-5886

10th ANNIVERSARY OF GARDEN TOUR

Goshen, Indiana - The Michiana Master Gardeners' Association announces the 10th anniversary of its annual Garden Tour through a combination of private gardens in the Elkhart city area. This year's tour features 10 stops with outstanding gardens you will not want to miss. Homeowners will open their gardens to the public on Saturday, July 8, 2006 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The "Hospitality Center" for the 2006 Garden Tour will be located at the North Side Gymnasium, 300 Lawrence Street, Elkhart, IN. It will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Refreshments will be awaiting guests as they visit the educational displays and demonstrations. Master Gardeners are being joined this year by the Michiana Beekeepers Association.

Master Gardeners have potted up and established hundreds of their own healthy plants to offer for sale at very affordable prices. Plant selections include perennials for sun and shade, annuals, grasses, herbs, wildflowers, water plants and houseplants.

The "Garden Boutique" located at the Hospitality Center, will be offering handcrafted garden art, such as birdhouses, gift baskets, garden chairs, painted windows, gourd art, flower boxes, and decorative clay pots. There will be an opportunity to discuss garden interests and to learn more about the Master Gardener Program.

Tickets sell for \$10 per person and can be purchased beginning Friday, May 26 through noon Friday, July 7 at locations throughout the county. Tickets can be purchased in Elkhart at The Garden Shop, Linton's, Martin's Pet & Garden, Sautter's, Ron Martin Seed & Supply, and Thornton Gardens. In Goshen, purchase tickets at the Greencroft Activity Center, McIntosh Garden Center, Mill Race Farmer's Market and Prairie Trail Farm. Tickets are available at locations in surrounding areas including Kruse Farm Supply in Bristol; Varns & Hoover Hardware and Martin's Ace Hardware in Middlebury; Fred's Flowers & Greenhouses in Nappanee; Thompson's Landscaping in Wakarusa; and Ginger Valley Farms in Granger.

Tickets can be purchased from any member of the Elkhart County Michiana Master Gardeners' Association. Tickets may also be purchased by mailing a check or money order made payable to Michiana Master Gardeners' Association, c/o Purdue CES Elkhart County, 17746-E County Road 34, Goshen, IN 46528.

Ticket books are limited, so get yours early. You will not want to miss this year's exciting tour. If ticket books are still available the day of the Garden Tour, they can be purchased at the "Hospitality Center." Michiana Master Gardeners Association holds this event in cooperation with the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service. Proceeds from ticket sales will go toward educational opportunities in Elkhart County communities.

Contact: Brenda Smith
Elkhart County Master Gardener
Michiana Master Gardeners Association
Phone: 574-264-5885 or 574-264-5886
Email: bsmith9076@comcast.net
Fax: 574-533-0254

Hello all,

Please visit <http://www.entm.purdue.edu/EAB/eabPdf/bayer.pdf> to view a help sheet on treating ash trees with Bayer's imidacloprid soil drench to prevent emerald ash borer.

I worked on this document with Dr. Bruce Steward of Bayer Advanced Consumer Products and have just been given permission to post it. If you wish, you can link this to your websites as well.

As always, feel free to contact me with any questions.

Best,

Jodie A. Ellis
Exotic Insects Education Coordinator
Department of Entomology
Purdue University
Smith Hall
901 W. State Street
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2089

telephone: (765) 494-0822
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e-mail: ellisj@purdue.edu



Foliage That Can Steal The Show

Want to add a little drama to your garden? Need to perk up a shady bed? Big, bold foliage can make a long-season statement! Foliage often provides the bones of the garden, but it can also take center stage with dramatic size, color variegation, texture and shape. Many of the following plants have beautiful flowers, in addition to big, bold foliage.

Acanthus spinosus (spiny bears-breeches) features spiny foliage accented by purple or white blooms. Performs best in part shade and well-drained soil.

Rheum palmatum is an ornamental form of rhubarb that does best in part shade, moist, well-drained soil. There are some purplish-colored forms.

Bergenia cordifolia (heartleaf bergenia, a.k.a. pig squeak) has shiny, evergreen, elongated heart-shaped leaves that reach up to 12 inches long. Although it has pink flowers in spring, the foliage is the main attraction. Can adapt to full sun or part shade, but prefers moist, well-drained soil.

Many *Hosta* cultivars have big, bold foliage, including Blue Angel, Blue Mammoth, Blue Umbrellas, Elatior (glossy green), Frances Williams (blue green with yellow-green edge), Jade Cascade, Liberty (green with a wide yellow to white edge), Sum and Substance (golden green), Sum Of All (wide yellow-green margin), Sum Total (crinkly leaves) and Vim and Vigor (shiny).

Rodgersia boasts huge leaves contrasted by delicate flowers. There are several species each with unique foliage. *R. pinnata* (featherleaf *Rodgersia*) has pinnately compound leaves up to 18 inches wide made up of 5-7 leaflets, each up to 8 inches long. *R. aesculifolia* (fingerleaf *Rodgersia*) has palmately compound leaves, resembling a horsechestnut. *R. tabularis* (shieldleaf *Rodgersia*) has shield-like leaves up to 3 feet wide on 2-3 foot stalks. Best planted in rich, reliably moist soil with partial shade.

Some tender plants, which must be dug and stored for winter, can also provide an exotic, tropical ambiance: Caladium come in a wide range of colorful selections, with leaves varying from 6 to 18 inches long on 1-2 foot-tall leaf stalks. Most cultivars have some green accented by white, red and/or pink. Does best in partial shade in moist, well-drained soil. Dig the tubers before frost and store them dry over winter.

Canna leaves reach up to 2 feet long and 6 inches wide, with some selections variegated with purple or yellow. Flowers of pink, yellow or scarlet add a tropical show in mid to late summer, but the foliage, especially those selections with purple or yellow variegation, are quite showy even when not in bloom. Dig rhizomes after a frost, and store in peat moss over winter.

Elephant Ears refer to a group of several species of tropical foliage plants, including Xanthosoma, Alocasia and Colcasia. All have large, arrowhead-shaped leaf, some variegated with purple, white or yellowish-green that lend an exotic look to the garden. Those with white veins are particularly striking. Dig bulbs before frost and store over winter.

Ornamental bananas are large, tree-like tropical plants that come in a variety of leaf, flower and fruit colors. The large leaves are easily damaged by high winds, so provide a sheltered location. These plants can take full sun outdoors and should be cut back before storing indoors for winter. Sinking the plant pot and all into the ground or keeping as a potted plant on the patio will help facilitate moving the plant. Many gardeners choose to discard them and buy new plants each summer. But some of the most striking selections are rather pricey.

Writer: B. Rosie Lerner

rosie@purdue.edu

Purdue Extension, Consumer Horticulturist

Editor: Olivia Maddox

maddoxol@purdue.edu



Dear Master Gardeners,

As you all know, Mariann Hollopeter has been charged with the responsibility of chairing the Speakers Bureau. As the Chair for the Speaker's Bureau, it is her responsibilities to coordinate volunteer speaking opportunities which are available to aid all Master Gardeners fulfill their requirements as a Purdue Master Gardener.

Remember the primary focus and purpose of being a Master Garden is Education. If you look at what counts for your required volunteer hours you will notice that the top three items that count involve education clientele through verbal communication. This includes: 1) Giving presentations; 2) Answering questions; and 3) Teaching gardening classes.

The Chair for the Speaker's Bureau does not have the primary responsibility to substitute for all the speaking engagements that the Master Gardeners volunteer fail to cover. As a group we need MG volunteers to step up to the plate to fulfill their obligation to provide educational opportunities and represent Purdue University and The Michiana Master Gardeners Association.

This fall a new MG class will be started which will help alleviate some of the volunteer demands, but this does not mean that other active members should stop doing their part to volunteer for speaking engagements.

Right now the pressing speaking needs involve the Fair. I appreciate everyone that has already volunteered for speaking engagements. However, Mariann and I have been asking for speakers to cover topics since March. We are now down to the wire.

We need two speakers to talk about Lawn Care and Garden Pests at the Fair. The 'What Bugs You?' and the 'Lawn Care' seminars are on Tuesday July 25, and Wednesday July 26, respectively. Please contact Mariann Hollopeter ASAP to volunteer for either of these seminars.

The Fair seminars are listed below. Only one seminar has been scheduled for each day. No seminar is scheduled Sunday, July 23 due to the parade. All seminars start at 1:15 pm. and will be in an air conditioned building.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
7-21 Friday	Landscaping	Kathleen Cripe
7-22 Saturday	Butterflies	Sherry Guyberson
7-23 Sunday	No Seminar, Day of the Parade	
7-24 Monday	Year round Gardening	Pati Goss
7-25 Tuesday	What Bugs You	Open
7-26 Wednesday	Lawn Care	Open
7-27 Thursday	Edible Flowers and Native Plants	Mariann Hollopeter
7-28 Friday	Worm Composting	Sue Stevens
7-29 Saturday	Plant Propagation	Dara Revelli

I appreciate all your help and support,

Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing, Ph.D.

Extension Educator - Agriculture and Natural Resources

Updates to the Membership Directory:

Stevens, Sue

Class 2000

29928 CR 4 West
Elkhart IN 46514

Home: 262-3898

Nurse

Email: paws172@netscape.com

Spouse: William, Estimator

Interests: Vermicomposting & perennials.

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.

A garden is a grand teacher.
It teaches us patience and careful
watchfulness.
It teaches industry and thrift.
Above all, it teaches entire trust..

-Gertrude Jekyll

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