

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

September/October 2006

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Autumn Garden Calendar

By B. Rosie Lerner

Indoor Plants & Activities

September

- Prepare storage areas for over-wintering tender flower bulbs and garden produce
- Thanksgiving (or Christmas) cactus can be forced into bloom in time for the holidays. Provide 15 hours of complete darkness each day, such as 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. for approximately eight weeks. Keep temperatures at about 60°F to 65°F. Temperatures of

- 55°F will cause flower buds to set without the dark treatment.
- Dig and repot herbs or take cuttings for growing indoors over the winter.
 - Store leftover garden seeds in a cool, dry place. A resealable jar with a layer of silica gel or powdered milk in the bottom works well.
 - Bring houseplants that were moved outside for the summer back indoors before night temperatures drop below 55°F. Gradually decrease the amount of light to acclimate the plants and help reduce leaf drop. Be sure to control insects and diseases before putting the plants near other houseplants.
 - Reflower last year's poinsettias for this year's holiday by providing complete darkness for 15 hours daily beginning about October 1 until about December 10.

October

- Pot up spring flowering bulbs with tips exposed, to force into bloom indoors. Moisten soil and refrigerate 10 to 13 weeks. Transfer to a cool, sunny location, and allow an additional three to four weeks for blooming.
- Water indoor plants less frequently, and discontinue fertilizer as plants slow down or stop growing for the winter season.

November

- Move plants closer to windows or to sunnier exposures, such as west and south facing windows, if plants are dropping many leaves. Artificial lights may be needed to supplement particularly dark rooms
- Continue dark treatment for poinsettias by keeping them in complete darkness from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. until early December or until red bracts begin to show.

Check this space next month for tips on Woody Ornamental Landscape Plants and Fruit Trees.



Day Minder . . . Watch Us Grow!
October 2006

16	Mon	MMGA Board Meeting – Extension Office	12:30 PM
31	Tues	MMGA Monthly Meeting—Ag Hall	7:00 PM

November 2006

20	Mon	MMGA Board Meeting – Extension Office	12:30 PM
28	Tues	MMGA Monthly Meeting - Ag Hall Thanks-for-giving (Potluck & Food Drive)	6:30 PM Notice time

*Gardens
Are Our Link
With The Divine*

-William Howard Adams

Get Well Wishes

We want to send out wishes for a speedy recovery to our friend Dwight Fish, who was diagnosed with West Nile virus. You can email Dwight at fish73@comcast.net or drop him a line at this address:

Dwight Fish
1627 Elizabeth Street
Elkhart IN 46516





It's Time to Volunteer

Here is a listing of all committees and their chairpersons. If you are interested in giving any amount of your time, please call the chairperson and they will find something for you to do.

Annual Dinner & Seminar

Pam Geers 574-264-4819

Clothing and Merchandise

Pati Goss 574-862-4270

Community Gardens

Suzanne Gray 574-293-7828

Garden Tour

Gwen Ferland 574-264-4356

Broadcaster Newsletter

Pam Geers 574-264-4819

Speaker's Bureau

Paul Miles 574-295-1475

Tree Sale

Heidi Zavatsky 574-295-5956

Website

Dara Revelli 574-875-9641

There is always a job to fit the time you have to offer.
The chairpersons will be waiting to hear from you.



Inside the Extension Office

Submitted by: Bonnie Morrison, July 2006

Now, don't anyone panic seeing Kate Rink's name replaced with mine! Her job is secure and she will be back with more "insider info" in the following pages of the Broadcaster. In baseball vernacular, (which I am hearing constantly in my house these days) I'm "pinch hitting" for Kate as she concentrates her time and efforts on yet another wedding - that of her daughter Tricia. As a "rookie" pinch-hitter I'd like to hit a home run in my first "at bat" but it will be great to just get on base. My report will probably be more statistical and definitely shorter than you're accustomed to seeing, as I don't work in the office and I can't compare this month's reports to last month or last July's. So, please bear with me and do be sure to tell or e-mail Kate and let her know how much you appreciate her faithful and informative columns.

July 2006 was the wettest on record for Michiana (according to the weatherman I watch on TV) and some areas in Goshen and Millersburg had unbelievable rain totals. After our really dry start, you hate to complain about the rain but it would be nice to even it out a bit. There were 38 contact sheets filled out, and the largest number of inquiries (10) were insect related. I am not at all surprised by that as I have experienced more insect problems this year as well as questions addressed to me as a Master Gardener by my neighbors than ever before. Six of the 10 were related to problems with beetles.

Japanese beetles topped the list and questions ranged from grub control to effective chemicals to use on sweet corn and ornamental fruit trees. In some cases, the Purdue publication, E-75-W "Japanese Beetles in the Urban Landscape," was e-mailed and always reminders were made to carefully consult label directions.

The publication E-75 also emphasizes determining if grubs are present and what developmental stage they are at before application of insecticide so that it will not be wasted, and also to apply controls only if a history of grub problems warrants an application or if sampling the soil indicates 5 or more grubs per square foot. It was also recommended to one client that he remove his beetle traps as he had observed beetles flying from his neighbor's yards into his traps. But, Japanese beetles were not the only beetle pests in question. One client brought in a chafer beetle which was defoliating coleus, mums, dahlias and salvias. (Our neighborhood was also a feeding ground for the chafer beetle).

Another client was seeking information about June beetles. June beetles are sometimes called May beetles (depending on when they appear) or June bugs and are similar to Japanese beetles. They lay their eggs in grass, are white grubs and damage grass roots. But Japanese beetles are "day-fliers" and June beetles are "night-fliers". Other insect questions were regarding nests and infestations of bees, hornets and wasps. In all three of these cases, a professional exterminator was recommended. Amazingly, after all this rain, only one question was about mosquito control. This client had a peach orchard that was full of them. Recommendations of light colored clothing, DEET spray and no standing water as well as the possibility of spraying the area was made.

The second largest category of questions pertained to trees and there were 7 of them. Five of the seven clients had trees that were dying or had already died. Each appeared to be a different variety and the problems relating to the tree's death were also varied. Sunscald, mower damage, fire blight and root damage due to rototilling too close to the root system were mentioned. One maple tree had a white streak down the trunk and spindle galls on the leaves. It was determined that this tree was damaged several years ago.



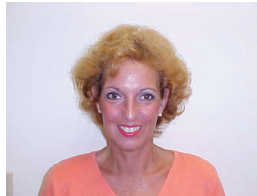
It is hard to accept the loss of a tree you have planted and nourished for years, and one client was reluctant to believe there was nothing that could be done to save his tree. The other two tree calls were about the fruits of ornamental trees and sap oozing from a maple tree that had no apparent wound. The owner of the oozing maple tree was given the name of a certified arborist in her area.

Diseases, mainly forms of fungus, were in the third category with five inquiries. Two different specimens from oak trees were brought in and diagnosed; one had oak anthracnose which is caused by a fungus manifested by cankers and twig die back, and the other with red fungal spots on the leaves. The recommendation to both clients included removing dead and afflicted twigs and leaves and destroying them. In both cases, new growth may be sprayed with fungicide or entire tree treated when leaf buds are opening next spring. Tomato plants were the focus of two other clients and bacterial speck was the cause of problems for a truck farmer with 1,000 tomato plants. The treatment suggested was a fungicide containing copper hydroxide.

The other tomato brought in by a client had been treated with Sevin with no results. The diagnosis was Verticillium Wilt caused by a fungus entering from the soil through the root system. It forms a gel-like substance that reduces the flow of water and nutrients to the leaves causing them to die. The client was informed that there is no chemical control available and infected plants should be destroyed immediately. I sure hope he didn't have 1,000 plants! It was also advised that next year he use plants resistant to wilt disease. The other disease case was potato scab caused by bacteria in the soil, often as a result of putting lime or ashes on garden soil.

Moving down into the smaller categories there were 2 lawn questions involving fungus which was completely covered by Loretta in the June/July Broadcaster on page 14; a couple of samples were brought in for plant identification; two requested specific information for weed and brush control; and remaining single questions on a whole host of subjects.

Wow! Working on the Master Gardener Hotline requires a fair amount of research and knowledge but rewards the Master Gardener with the satisfaction of helping people as well as honing their diagnostic skills and general plant knowledge. Hats off to you all! Sending our warmest wishes to Kate and her family and definitely looking forward to her August report!



Inside the Extension Office

Submitted by: Kate Rink, August 2006

The weather is changing as Autumn approaches! The cooler days, and the even cooler evenings, suggest our summer is dwindling. We've taken for granted the consistent warm days of summer. Slipping into flip-flops to go out and get the newspaper, will soon be traded for socks and shoes and a jacket for warmth. Deadheading the flowerbeds on your way to the mailbox will soon be traded for a shovel at your front door. It's somewhat pre-mature to be thinking about that but we all know it's a fact. So we will enjoy the precious warm days ahead that make us feel like we've just gotten away with something as we walk out the door unjacketed.

The calls that have come into the Extension office this month have been varied. Tree problems and weed identification seem to top the list. Questions concerning ants, beetles and worms also made their way to the phone lines as areas of concern to clients.

Anthracnose, a potentially devastating fungal disease, attacked a client's ash tree. A common sign of anthracnose shows lesions that vary. From small, circular spots to irregularly shaped blotches, that are usually tan on the leaves or a reddish canker on the bark. Foliar symptoms first develop on lower branches, and progress up the tree. Spores from these structures are washed onto new leaf tissue during periods of wet weather or sprinkler irrigation. If cool, wet weather persists, leaves may become severely affected.

Leaves killed by anthracnose will often cling to dead shoots through the fall and winter and serve as a source of fungal spores for infection the following spring. It's important to rake up and destroy old leaves and where it is practical, prune out dead twigs below the sunken reddish canker on the bark.

Prune to keep the canopy open, as well. Basic health care practices for the tree such as, timely watering during drought periods and fertilizing early in the growing season will help the tree to withstand infection from anthracnose better than a weakened tree growing in stress conditions.

Clients not being familiar with plant diseases may not notice the damage that has been done until it is too late. Following cultural and chemical practices at the onset of the problem, once it is diagnosed, may be successful. Trees with extensive twig dieback and or trunk cankers should be destroyed because effective control is not possible. We hope this client retrieved information soon enough to save his tree.

Carpenter ants were looking for a way to have a party in one lady's kitchen. Perfect conditions for an ant party, moisture and access to food sources! She had sprayed a perimeter spray around the house which did nothing. I'm sure she was feeling as we all would that it's just gross to have big black ants scurrying across your counters. You wonder where they have been and what have they been into as you slap 'em, smack 'em, squish 'em, and reach for the disinfectant.

Because all insecticides are potentially hazardous, it isn't wise to apply on or near food or on surfaces where food would come into direct contact.

The best recommendation to prevent ants from invading a house is to locate and destroy their nest. Looking for piles of sawdust to locate the entry site is the secret to control. Our homeowner may have not located the nest or followed label instructions properly for eradication. A publication was sent to her for further education.

Can you ID this plant? It grows from July to September. Blooms come in white and shades of pink, blue and red. Long-lived, this deciduous shrub grows 20 in. to 8 ft. high and across. It is brightly studded with large, globular, mushroom-headed, or broadly conical flowers depending on the variety. It is a gorgeous, romantic, addition to any shady garden setting. Here's the give-away – it goes by the name of "Annabelle", "Endless Summer", or "Limelight" to name a few. If you haven't guessed it by now, it's the Hydrangea.

A lady called in wanting to know what to use in order to change the color of the flowers of her hydrangea. Ensure pink blossoms by adding lime to the soil in spring. For ultra-marine-blue flowers, feed with aluminum sulphate. Careful application of lime is necessary, as excessive lime prevents chlorophyll from forming and causes leaves to yellow and die. As with any application, proper measuring and label directions are a must. Did she want pink or blue? I guess she can make that decision based on our delivery of information.

There's a lot of repetition of questions that come into the office from one month to another. Occasionally, something may be sent to Purdue for identification such as a Noctuid worm that was brought in. It is generally a harmless caterpillar that feeds on several kinds of plants and turns into a brown moth.

For the most part, questions this month were answered by our ever faithful volunteers who have the resources and willingness to learn and give back. We can appreciate what they do as they pass on their bounty to others. Their patience and diligence is an example to us all. Thank you for inspiring us all.



SPOTLIGHT ON



“GWEN FERLAND”

Gwen Ferland is Master Gardener's proof that good things come in small packages. A native Hoosier, she always wanted to learn more about her love of gardening - do something just for herself, she says, but never thought she could. Fortunately, her friend Pam Geers was her boss and told Gwen to apply and if she got accepted they would work something out. So, to participate in the class of 2000, she worked through her lunch hour every day and got the afternoon off to go to class. She loved every minute of the class. She says her class bonded the first week and had a wonderful time in training. In fact, she talked so much about it, Pam Geers applied the next year! Gwen likes being involved in the community through MMGA and said best of all, she has friends that she can talk to for hours about gardening and they don't get that glazed look in their eyes and walk away. Not that Gwen has time to talk to anyone for hours about anything - besides MMGA, she is active in the Red Hat Society, quilts, stamps, scrapbooks, weaves baskets (in fact, I first met Gwen at a basket weaving class and decided if Master Gardeners were like her I would like to get involved), paints, reads, does beading and is active in her church and Bible study group! She is a real dynamo in Master Gardeners too - she is on the Board (more time off from a co-operative boss), is Chairperson of the Garden Tour this year and was Chairperson of the annual dinner last year. She was responsible for all the adorable pot people and pot pets for both the dinner and the Garden Tour boutique and helped with lots of the other crafts for the tour. Oh, yes, she is also employed as a billing/cash application goddess at NIBCO (that must be some company to work at ☺). Last summer she worked (and loved it) at Lowe's through the Bayer fertilizer program, but found it was too much to continue, since it was every weekend during the summer. She and husband Ernie, are also the proud parents of a five year old golden retriever, named Hunter and 4 cats - Cinnamon, a tortoise shell, Abby, a calico, Domino, spotted black and white and Andy, a golden tiger, who has a lot of interesting nicknames, such as Spongebob No Pants. Gwen was excited this year as she appeared on TV to promote the Garden Tour and swears she looked tall. She is also looking forward to Stephanie Cohen coming for the annual meeting this year. Stephanie shares Gwen's stature and gave a talk at last year's state meeting titled "Short is Better." Gwen's particular area of gardening interest is perennials. She also is the only woman I ever knew who asks for

power tools from hubby for any gift giving occasion. She told me to feel free to make up anything for her bio that would make her sound more interesting, but given everything she does, I didn't find that necessary!

NOVEMBER THANKS-FOR-GIVING POTLUCK

Mark you calendars now for our November 28th meeting. It is our annual potluck dinner. Everybody brings a dish to share. The food is great. We also invite the new class to come and meet all of us "old timers". It is great to have a new group of gardeners to welcome in.

This is also the night of our annual food drive. Bring a couple of non-perishable items for those less fortunate in our community. This is our last chance to get together for the year, so hope to see all of you there.

Don't forget our October meeting on the 31st. I am not sure what Paul has planned for a speaker, but it is always informative and entertaining.

**See you all soon.
Pam**

Bits and Pieces...

- ⇒ The Volunteer Hotline still needs volunteers for the month of October. Try your hand at it this year so you are ready for next year. Anytime you have available to help would be appreciated.
- ⇒ The Indiana State Master Gardeners conference will be held in Noblesville next year from September 27th to 29th at the new convention center. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend. It is a great way to get your educational hours.
- ⇒ The first notice for 2007 dues is included in this issue of the Broadcaster. It will also be enclosed in the next several issues. Why not take a moment now to fill out the form and write a check? It will be one less thing to worry about at year end. Thanks.

Indiana Organic Gardeners Association Seminar

By Mari Briggs

The Indiana Organic Gardeners Association will host its fourth annual seminar on Saturday, October 21, from 9am to 4pm at the Gene B.Glick Building, 7435 N. Keystone Ave., Indianapolis. Registration will begin at 8am. Eight speakers will share their expertise on gardening naturally. Three speakers: Jo Ellen Sharp, Constance Ferry, and Marc Lame will be offering their current gardening editions for sale.

The seminar will include a silent auction and a fabulous organic lunch catered by MBP Distinctive Catering. Registration of \$45 must be post-marked October 14. A five dollar charge will be added after the due date. Send registrations to IOGA, 7549 S. Retriever Lane, Zionsville, In. 46077. For more information call (317) 733-9311.

Merchandising Committee Ready to Roll for Next Years Garden Tour

By Linda Sinon, Class 2004

Summer is winding down and the merchandising committee has already started planning for next year's Garden Tour. We have many new ideas but would appreciate your thoughts. Would you please e-mail me what you thought worked well in the past years. Is there something you would like to suggest?

The committee would like to take this time to thank everyone for their donations of what you thought was "junk" that helped make the Garden Boutique a huge success.

Again next year we will again be centering on homemade crafts. I know you have talked about this all summer or maybe it was a NEW YEAR'S resolution to clean that GARAGE and BASEMENT. Well, times a wasting so get at it...the Garden Tour Merchandise committee needs your stuff! What you think is junk could very well be our treasure. I have the latest and greatest up dated wish list. See what you can do to help us.

- * **Door knobs**
- * **Cabinet knobs**
- * **Wood picture frames**
- * **Silk flowers**
- * **Dried flowers**
- * **Field stone or medium size rocks**
- * **Childs jeans - size 4-8**
- * **Childs sweat shirts - size 4-8**
- * **Childs flannel shirts - size 4-8**
- * **Leather work boots or high top tennis shoes**
- * **Chairs - wood or metal folding card table**
- * **Wooden stools**
- * **3 ft. step ladder - wooden**
- * **Metal watering cans**
- * **Metal buckets**
- * **Small garden tools**
- * **Clear glass vases**
- * **Dried gourds**
- * **Stepping stone moulds**
- * **Clay pots and saucers**
- * **Wood scraps for signs**



If you have some things not on this list and you think it might be a treasure give me a call or e-mail. I'll be happy to pick them up.

Thanks for your help!

Linda Sinon, llsinon@maplenet.net, phone (574) 293-6172

Updates to the Membership Directory:

- ♦ Suzanne Jabs is once again known as Suzanne Pedler.
All other information in the directory remains the same.

Recipes from our Meetings

These delicious Pumpkin Bars were shared at our September meeting and enjoyed by all in attendance!

Pumpkin Bars

Blend the following with an electric mixer:

- 1 cup oil
- 1 (16oz) can pumpkin

Mix the following dry ingredients:

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1 2/3 cups sugar

**Pour into a greased 17 x 12 inch sheet cake pan.
Bake at 350° for 25-30 minutes. Cool completely.**

Frosting

- 1/2 cup margarine
- 1 (3oz) pkg. cream cheese, softened
- 2 cups powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

**Cream together margarine and softened cream cheese.
Add powdered sugar and vanilla. Beat until smooth and
creamy. Frost Bars.**

Makes about 24 bars.

CLIPPER CHOCOLATE CHIPPERS CORRECTION

Per Mary Davis, we have a very important correction to the recipe for the Clipper Chocolate Chippers. The recipe as printed shows 4 Tablespoons salt. That should read **4 teaspoons salt**. Please forgive any problems this may have caused.



Environmentally Sound Fall Cleanup Practices!

Suzanne Gray, Class of 1999

Master Gardeners from the Plant-A-Row for the Hungry Community Gardens at Elkhart's Municipal Airport are introducing their first fall gardening seminar. Join them and other community gardeners at the Environmental Center in Elkhart on Sunday, October 22nd, from 1-3 pm. There will be five 20-minute presentations on cleaning and storing garden tools; putting your soil to bed the right way; removing plant debris to reduce over-wintering diseases, pests and weeds; planning for next year's garden and bringing your garden indoors. Don't skip this vital process toward maintaining and contributing to a healthier (and easier) garden next spring! Refreshments will be served.

Last month we brought you a story about the first annual Tree Sale from the volunteers perspective.

Now we give you:

The Tree Sale From The Chairperson's Perspective

Heidi Zavatsky, Class 2000

As I sit here in August 2006 and look through the notes from the first tree sale project, I can't believe that the committee has already met, trees are ordered and we are currently distributing the order forms throughout Elkhart County for Tree Sale 2007.

When Jeff Burbrink first suggested the project in 2004 as a joint fundraising endeavor between MMGA and the Soil and Water Conservation District, it sounded like a "win-win" situation. Soil and Water was a department of three people and couldn't handle a sale like this alone and MMGA had the manpower, but needed their expertise. As they had assisted with the St. Joe County tree sale for many years, the SWCD knew the process. Also this would fill a special niche in the County, giving people the opportunity to order trees in smaller quantities than the State sale.

On December 6, 2004, Nancy Brown and I met with St. Joe County SWCD people to discuss their tree sale procedures and gain any information that they were willing to share with us. With that in hand, we started meeting monthly with a committee comprised of Mayrea Reusser, Mary Hesser, Earl Bailey, Anne Overmyer, Jim Maddux, Judy Baker, Nancy Brown & Jenny Brosius. Our first meeting was March 22, 2005. Trees were selected from nurseries that were within driving distance of Goshen. We started out small with 14 species and 9,300 trees ordered. We decided that we would pick up our order to avoid a delivery charge. I sent a check off to the State for \$50.00 to cover the cost of a nursery license. All the necessary supplies were ordered to set up our work stations, a building was rented from the Fairgrounds for three days, and we decided to do as much advertising as possible to get this project off the ground.

Each committee member volunteered to distribute the order forms throughout Elkhart County covering the libraries, hardware stores, farm implement stores, feed & grain facilities and all garden shops that stayed open in the winter. At the January 2006 MMGA meeting I passed around a sign up sheet for volunteer workers to help with the tree sale and the response was terrific. I told Nancy Brown that we had the manpower and our Master Gardeners really came through in helping with the sale. In February of 2006 I started placing newspaper ads, and in March, Mike Maloney's Green Thumbs Up program started and he was be a big help in getting the word out regarding the sale.

Two days before the sale, the trees were picked up and volunteers showed up to help unload, sort, and repackage the trees to fill customer orders. Everyone worked well together and we had lots of fun as we completed the orders. Our customers arrived to pick up their orders on Saturday morning, April 22, 2006. The pick-up went smoothly and what few trees we had left over, we donated them to the fairgrounds to plant at their discretion.

When all figures were final, we totaled \$11,905.00 in income and \$7,653.61 in expenses. Our profit, less sales tax, was \$4,095. Of this profit, 60% goes to MMGA and 40% to SWCD per our original agreement.

I feel that the Tree Sale was a huge success and was well received by the people of Elkhart County. I expect this sale to just get bigger and better each year and hopefully it will be a long and profitable experience with MMGA & SWCD.



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.

The foolish man seeks happiness
in the distance,
The wise man grows it
under his feet.
-James Oppenheimer

PURDUE
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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2006