



Broadcaster

“Helping Each Other Grow!”

Michiana Master Gardeners Association

April 2007

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A NOTE FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT’S DESK

This has been quite an exciting month to be a Master Gardener!

The 2006 class of interns started their spring seminars on February 17 with “Planting the Perfect Pot.” This seminar was held at McIntosh’s Garden Center in Goshen. I was able to attend this seminar and it was awesome! There was quite a large attendance and everyone I talked to really enjoyed themselves. There was a lot of interaction with the audience during the talk. The new Master Gardeners should be very proud of their first seminar. It was one of the best I’ve ever been to.

On March 10 we had our Annual Dinner and seminar. The afternoon seminar for the public was very well attended. I saw a lot of familiar faces and some old friends. Our speaker was Stephanie Cohen.

She's known as the "Vertically Challenged Gardener." (I could really identify with her.) The seminar topic was "Small Space Gardens." Stephanie was very funny and informative at the same time. I have several pages of notes, and I have a lot of ideas for some new plants and gardens. I always need more, don't you?

The evening started with an awesome prime rib dinner and Master Gardener awards. Stephanie's evening program was "An Evening with Gertrude Jekyll." It was fascinating. Her slides were beautiful and it was like taking a walk back in history. I hope everyone enjoyed it as much as I did.

We (MG's) gave Jeff and Jess a gift certificate for an overnight stay at Union House. Jeff seemed to like it very much. Union House is very beautiful. They deserve a weekend away for everything they do for us. We also got a gift certificate for Cindy Robbins our outgoing president for Erica's in South Bend. She is a quilter and will love all of the fabrics there. Our own Teresa Evans got a gift certificate for rubber stamping supplies. I heard from her yesterday and she just loves it. Cindy and Teresa were not able to attend the Annual dinner, but they were on our minds the whole time. We missed them.

The new class had a seminar at Prairie Trail Farms on Thursday March 8. This seminar was titled "Nature's Medicine Cabinet." I did not get to attend this seminar, but I have heard great things about it. On March 24 at 10:00 at the Garden Shop in Elkhart, the 2006 class had a seminar called "Shady Characters," about growing plants in shady areas. This seminar looks like it was as great as the previous ones. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Michiana Master Gardeners for a great year in 2006 and an even better one in 2007. Thank you for your support of the 2006 class and their seminars. We are extremely proud of each and every one of you and I'm very excited to be part of such a great group of people.

Gwen Ferland
Class of 2000



*Day Minder . . . Watch Us Grow!
April 2007*

6	Fri.	Good Friday - Purdue Extension County Office Closed for Holiday	All Day
16	Mon.	MMGA Board Meeting - Extension Conference Room	12:30 PM
16	Mon.	MMGA Garden Tour Meeting - Extension Conference Room	7:00 PM
17	Tues.	MMGA/SWCD Tree Sale Meeting - Extension Office Kitchen	5:00 PM
24	Tues.	MMGA Monthly Meeting - Ag Hall	7:00 PM

May 2007

8	Tues.	Election Day - VOTE - Purdue Extension County Office Closed for Holiday	All Day
15	Tues.	MMGA/SWCD Tree Sale Meeting - SWCD Conference Room	5:00 PM
21	Mon.	MMGA Board Meeting - Extension Office	12:30 PM
21	Mon.	MMGA Garden Tour Meeting - Extension Conference Room	7 PM
28	Mon.	Memorial Day - Purdue Extension County Office Closed for Holiday	All Day
29	Tues.	MMGA Monthly Meeting - Ag Hall	7:00 PM

Friends are the "blossoms" in the garden of life - Anonymous



Hello, this is Andrew Westfall, the new Elkhart County Agriculture/Natural Resources Extension Educator. I would just like to say how excited I am to be here, and I am very much looking forward to working with all of you more in the near future.

I would also like to take this time to discuss a few points of business. First of all, Jeff Burbrink conducted training for the Master Gardener hotline on Friday, March 30 from 9am to 12:30 PM. Those in attendance learned how to answer common questions that may come up while they are working at the hotline.

Also, a fall 2007 Master Gardener class schedule is currently being finalized. Classes are slated to begin on Wednesday, August 15, and are set to be completed on Wednesday December 12. The class will meet every Wednesday from 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm in the extension office conference room. A finalized schedule will be completed and sent out soon.

Note from Editor: Look for Andrew's biography later in this edition. psg

Upcoming MMGA Meeting Topics

April 24th - Arlene Berkey will speak at our monthly meeting on “Healthy Hostas.”

May 29th - Nancy Browns’ seminar group (Nancy Brown, Judy Marquart, Randy & Janis Martin) will present “Planting the Perfect Pot” (container gardening).

June 26th - Dwight Fish will regale us with pictures and stories of his visit to Italy as he presents “Gardens, Orchards and Farms of Italy.”

July 16th - Fair set-up at Ag Hall – Pizza provided, counts as volunteer hours.

August 28th - Garden Tour Dinner & Slides.

***MMGA Garden Tour -
Saturday, July 14, 2007
10am - 5pm***



\$\$\$\$ MEMBERSHIP \$\$\$\$

We are very happy to report that as of our February monthly meeting, we had a total of approximately 125 paid members. This included, per Larry Drudge, 5 past presidents (a first for us). Thank you to everybody for paying on time!

Membership Update

The 2007 Membership Directory is now available. If you did not receive your copy at the Annual Dinner, you can pick it up at the April Meeting or arrange with Teresa to have it sent to you. Updates to the directory are as follows:

Allender, Warren

30009 CR 16
Elkhart IN 46516
Home: 293-3283
Work: 523-2170
Email: wallender@elkhartcountyhealth.org

Class of 2000

Health Planner

Spouse: Susi, Nurse
Interests: Vegetables.

Lutz, Faye (Past President)

127 Crauns Beach Drive
Quincy MI 49082
Home: 517-639-4421
Cell: 517-617-0456
Email: fayelutz@hotmail.com

Class of 1997

Retired

Spouse: John Robert, Retired
Interests: Vegetables, organics, perennials, plant diseases.

Foltz, Betty

401 E. Beardsley Avenue
Elkhart IN 46514
Home: 264-1711
Work: 264-7581 or 264-1711
Email: bjfoltz@aol.com

Class of 2003

Realtor

Spouse: Jack, Tool & Die Maker
Interests: Containers, topiaries, roses, & perennials.

Geers, Pam

Email: plantinpam@aol.com
No work phone.



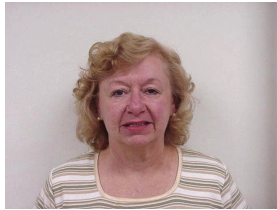
Our intrepid biographer, Mary Davis, has been very busy interviewing and gathering information about our members so that we may know each other better. We are fortunate to have three biographies this month. Mary is going to try to have four per month beginning in April so that she can get through our entire membership. Here are two of this months biographies:



Jim Maddux came to Elkhart in 1950 "seeking adventure." He had grown up on a farm in southeast Tennessee and was looking for a job. His first job here, which he said was his first paying job, was for a brass foundry. He met, fell in love and married a native Hoosier, Doris. He is now retired from Bayer Corporation where he was a pharmaceutical project engineer. Jim and Doris have two children, Denise and Dave. Denise has a daughter who is almost 12 named Mickie and a stepson who is joining the Armed Forces named Adam. Dave still lives with mom and dad. Also occupying the Maddux home are Jim's buddy, Jake, a Brittany spaniel and Mickie's cat, Lollipop. Jim said at any given time they also have six to twelve barn cats and kitties, depending on Mother Nature.

Jim was at one time a prodigious gardener and gave 12,000 pounds of vegetables to the Salvation Army a year! He said he had a good deal with them - he grew it and they picked it up. Unfortunately, the price of gas and bothersome knees has curtailed Jim. Last year, in addition to having double knee replacements, he said he "only" gave the Army 1200 pounds of vegetables. Jim also enjoys zinnias, marigolds and sunflowers. Jim went through Master Gardner training in the Fall class of 1999. He said he wanted to get his skills certified. He loved the training and has been an avid and active MMGA member ever since. He has been President of the Association, is serving his second go round on the Board and has been active in the fair.

He also has been active on maps and directions for Garden Tour, but this year he has retired to a general go-for. (In fact, it was rumored that his knee replacement surgery was due to his being on his knees for the Garden Tour ladies!) Jim said he enjoys the affiliation with other gardeners and learning their trade secrets. In addition to gardening, Jim enjoys woodworking, creating Rube Goldberg's and military aviation (having served four years in the Air Force). He said he is quiet and really didn't think we needed to feature him in the Broadcaster, but I think his tireless years of doing for others need to be recognized! (He also sends very funny e-mails from time to time.)



Judy Baker took Master Gardener training in 2000 and promptly left town - residing both in Houghton Lake, Michigan and Paris, Tennessee before returning to Elkhart in 2005. While moving about, she picked up additional Master Gardener certifications at the University of Tennessee and Michigan State. She is retired and married to Darwin, who likes to move a lot. Judy said wherever they go; he always looks at the realty guides. Thus, when she returned to Elkhart, she promptly ran for and got elected to the Board and informed Darwin they had to stay put for three years. I asked her if he knew she could be re-elected and she said she hadn't broken that news to him yet! Judy has two children Denise and Dennis who live in Michigan and five step-children, Darwin, Jr., Paul, Mary, Ann and Carol. They live all over the United States. Judy also has seventeen grandchildren!

She too has a Brittany spaniel, Cindy. Cindy loves her mom and even came to help pick Judy up after Judy and this writer attended the state Master Gardener meeting together last year. Judy was a pleasant traveling companion (helped keep me awake driving down to Noblesville in the rain) and got excited about possibly hosting the 2009 meeting. She is serving as a Co-Chair of that committee along with me and Gwen Ferland. She also has done seminars and speaking engagements, including the Classroom Gardening program. Like everyone else I have interviewed, Judy loved MG training - she said it confirmed a lot of what she thought she knew, along with learning many new things. She hadn't lived in Elkhart very long, (another move!) when she saw the article in the paper about Master Gardener training and decided it was a good time to get involved in a new activity and meet new people.

She enjoys having friends that share these interests and also said Master Gardening gives you instant friends whenever you move to a new location that you otherwise might never meet. Judy's gardening interests include perennials, herbs and flowering shrubs. In addition to Master Gardeners, Judy is active in Red Hats, and enjoys reading and traveling.

Seminars Still to Come for 2007



Saturday, April 14, 10:00 AM

GO WILD!

Landscaping/Habitat to Attract Wildlife

Kruse Farm Supply

19904 CR 6 Bristol 848-4151

Saturday, April 21, 10:00 AM

COLOR OUR WORLD

Perennials for All-Season Color

Ron Martin Seed & Supply

61329 CR 9 Elkhart 875-5273

Saturday, April 28, 10:00 AM

SPLISH SPLASH!

Focus on Eco-Friendly Water Features

Palmer's Ace Hardware

1635 Cassopolis Street Elkhart 264-6744



Annual Dinner 2007

By: Pam Geers
Class of '01

This year's annual seminar and dinner was wonderful. Our speaker was Ms. Stephanie Cohen, who was just a delightful lady full of wonderful stories and insights. Having come to gardening late in life, she has wasted no time in perfecting her craft. Both her daytime and evening presentations were full of useful tips and great ideas. I have included her planting tips for small gardens in this issue of the Broadcaster for those who did not get to attend the seminar.

Our daytime program was Gardening in Small Spaces. After a delay due to confusion about the equipment (resolved by our own resourceful Mary Davis - thanks again Mary), Stephanie presented a one hour program of do's and don'ts for small garden spaces, including how to make them look larger. Many of the slides were from her home garden. I think many of us felt a field trip would be in order. Daytime attendance was around 75 gardeners.

The evening program featured the ideas and concepts of 1800's gardener Gertrude Jekyll. By assuming the persona of Ms. Jekyll, Stephanie led us on a trip through her life and her gardens. Ms. Jekyll was considered very much ahead of her time in many of her gardening concepts. We had approximately 104 members and guests for the evening session.

The food was also awesome. If you missed this dinner, you missed prime rib, baked potato, salad, vegetables and dessert. The catering was provided by Nancy Welch-Clouse, and she did a wonderful job. The facilities this year were also excellent.

Maple City Chapel in Goshen is perfect for this type of program and we should definitely consider using it again next year. Pictures from the dinner will be posted on the website for all to view. Also, there are books left that I will bring to the April meeting. The hardback is \$30.00 and the paperback is \$20.00.

The committee has already met for next year's program. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please contact Mary Davis, Chairperson, 294-3527.

HOT NEWS FLASH!!!!!!

Your annual meeting committee is already hard at work for 2008! The meeting will be held on **March 8, 2008** (while there was some talk of changing it back to a later date, in 2008, Palm Sunday is March 15 and Easter is March 23 - really early). We have our speaker confirmed. It will be Jo Ellen Meyers Sharp, who describes herself as a self-taught, trial-and-error, seat-of-the-pants gardener for more than 20 years.

She is the garden columnist for *The Indianapolis Star* and co-author of *Indiana Gardener's Guide Revised Edition* and a contributor to several other magazines and periodicals, and frequently participates in garden-related radio and television programs. (She also happens to be an advanced Master Gardener.) She is an excellent and entertaining speaker and as a native Hoosier, she won't be talking about things we can't do!

Your committee is hard at work with other surprises and what we think will be a superb time for all, so mark your calendars **NOW!**

*Highlights from Stephanie Cohen's
Small Space Gardening Seminar:*

**HERE ARE SOME BASIC IDEAS FOR
GARDENING IN SMALL SPACES**

To Quote from Thomas Jefferson, "Admire large gardens, but plant small ones." Fortunately for us, he didn't always take his own advise. If we plant large gardens and can not maintain them, we are admitting defeat. Plant gardens that you or your helpers can really maintain.

- Work in layers as does nature. Start with small trees for proper scale and proportion. The next layer are all the beautiful flowering shrubs. Maximize their use by trying to select those with fall colors as well as spring bloom. Then add the herbaceous layer.
- The herbaceous layer is very important. Choose plants with good foliage from spring to fall. Empty spaces look worse in a small garden. Try to choose lots of plants with fine foliage as it makes the space look bigger. Remember, you still need some bold foliage for contrast.
- Pick combinations that look good in flower and in foliage. You cannot plant in drifts of one because it makes the garden look disorganized and too busy.
- Divide and conquer. By breaking the garden into rooms or spaces, it visually fools the eye. It can be plant material, such as hedges or hard-scape such as fences, pergolas, arbors, or art. That includes unique pots filled with interesting plants. Remember, planting just around the edges may give your yard the feeling of a bowling alley.

- In designing a focal point, consider benches and furniture as well as art. Bird houses, gazing balls, or whatever floats your boat draws attention to the part of the garden that you are highlighting.
- Remember hard-scaping can be formal or informal. Grass, crushed stone, and mulch are informal. Brick and stone (flagstone) are formal. The style of your hard-scaping should match the style of your house.
- Small properties lend themselves to island beds. They can be on the sides of the house. These are easy to maintain because you can weed from every side.
- If you are unable to get tall plants into the mix, remember that trellises, tripods, walls, frames, shrubs and trees can serve as support. My favorite is an ugly evergreen or a dead tree.
- Decks, patios, and porches with movable containers can add to your color scheme. Striking combos can be the finishing touch for a small space, including an apartment balcony.
- Remember planting a small space is not a handicap, but an opportunity to make a delightful, dramatic space that you and sit and enjoy. You chose the style, plants, and structures that suit your needs.

My book, “The Perennial Gardener’s Design Primer” was picked as the best book for 2005 by Garden Writers of America. My new book, “Fallscaping” is coming out in late summer 2007.

-Stephanie Cohen





To all my friends of MMGA:

I will be having surgery on April 4. I am scheduled to be out of the office till May 2. Please continue to send me your volunteer and education hours. You may also email them to me if that is convenient for you as well. Please keep me in your prayers! Thank you for the gift certificate for Stampin' Up accessories! I have been participating in a monthly stamping club and the items will come in very handy. I was so excited when I received the certificate and can't wait to get my stamping items. I enjoy working *with* and *for* each of you!

- Teresa, MG Class '97



Elkhart Co. Minimum Requirements

Award	Cumulative Volunteer Hours	Cumulative Educational Training Hours
Master Gardener	45	45 (time in class)
Advanced Master Gardener	70	55
Bronze Master Gardener	250	65
Silver Master Gardener	500	85
Gold Master Gardener	1000	100

Effective August, 2003

What counts for credit in the Indiana Master Gardener Program?

At times, Master Gardeners get confused about whether they can claim an hour as a VOLUNTEER (Community Service) hour or as a TRAINING hour. If you find yourself wondering, ask the question, "Who was the primary beneficiary of the activity?"

If the public was benefiting from your role in the educational activity, it probably qualifies as a VOLUNTEER hour. On the other hand, if YOU were the primary benefactor of the activity, it probably qualifies as TRAINING for you.

As promised earlier in this edition, here is the biography of our new Ag Educator, Andrew Westfall:

Andrew Westfall joined the extension office on February 19, 2006, as the Agricultural and Natural Resources Extension Educator - this means he is in charge of Master Gardeners! In keeping with his new duties, one of the first things he did on his very first day of work was to attend the Master Gardeners' board meeting.

Andrew is a native of Reynolds, Indiana, which is 25 miles north of Lafayette. He grew up on a farm. He holds two degrees from Purdue - a B.A. in Animal Agribusiness, which is a combination of animal science and Ag-Economics and a Master's in Youth Development and Agricultural Education, which focuses on natural resources and environmental issues. By the time he started his Master's degree program, he had pretty much decided he wanted to work in an extension office as an educator. (Here in Elkhart we call those who have received two degrees from Notre Dame "Double Domers." I asked Andrew if with two degrees from Purdue, he was a "Double Boiler." I do not think he thought this was as amusing as I did.)

I asked Andrew what from his education he thought qualified him to train Master Gardeners. He indicated for five summers he worked at the Purdue Agronomy farm in the Diagnostic Training Center, educating Ag educators about current issues. He also said his mother and grandfather are both Master Gardeners in White County! Andrew also had experience with 4-H growing up, indicating he showed pigs for seven years. This is his first real job, although he indicated in addition to the experience cited above, he used to tag along after the White County extension agent, so was familiar with what his job would entail.

Andrew indicated his first week has been exciting and that Jeff is doing a great job indoctrinating him in the duties of his job.

He has moved to the Goshen area. He is presently single and has no pets, since his apartment complex does not allow the same. If you have a chance, introduce yourself to Andrew and help him as he helps us and we help others grow.

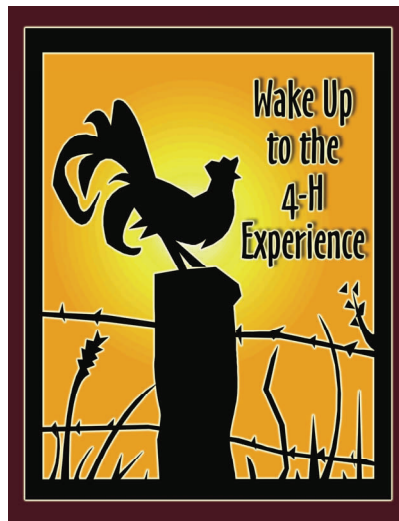
-Mary Davis

SOME FINAL DATES FOR YOUR CALENDARS.....

TREE SALE COMMITTEE MEETS ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 5:00 PM AT THE EXTENSION OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM AND TUESDAY, MAY 15, 5:00 PM IN SWCD CONFERENCE ROOM.

- HEIDI ZAVATSKY



Elkhart County 4-H Fair

July 20-28, 2007

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.

What is a Weed?
A plant whose virtues have not
been discovered.

Ralph Waldo Emerson-1878

PURDUE
UNIVERSITY

ELKHART COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

ANDREW WESTFALL

EXTENSION EDUCATOR

AGRICULTURE/NATURAL RESOURCES

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(574) 533-0554

MARCH 2007