



PURDUE UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

Elkhart County

Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds

17746-E County Road 34

Goshen, IN 46528-6898



The Michiana

Broadcaster

"Helping Each Other Grow!"

Michiana Master Gardeners Association

January 2009

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CALENDAR

January

A Look Ahead

Jan 27	7pm	"Getting yourself ready for spring gardening" by Tami Taylor
Feb 24	7pm	"The Netherlands: Land of Water, Windmills & Wonder" by Marilyn Horvath NOTE: Meeting will be held at the Home & Family Arts Bldg.
March 14		Saturday, Public Seminar & Annual Meeting
April 28	7pm	"The world of Bonsai" by Cheryl Owens
May 26	7pm	"Dahlias" by Dahlia society / Cami Waggoner
June 30	7pm	"Invasives" by Rita Henehan
July 13	6pm	Fair setup & pizza party (volunteer hours)
Aug 25	6:30pm	Garden Tour Appreciation Dinner, Reservations required. Email bakerds@comcast.net
Sept 10 -12		Indiana State Master Gardener Conference; First Baptist Church CR 17 Bristol IN
Sept 29	7pm	"An evening of Master Gardener fun"
Oct 27	7pm	"Garden/Nature Photography" TBA
Nov 17	6:30pm	"Thanks for giving carry-in & food drive" NOTE: NEW DATE
Dec		NO MEETING, MERRY CHRISTMAS!

A Note From The Presidents Desk



As I sit at the desk gazing out the window on this beautiful sunny winter morning, with only the golden remains of an ornamental grass waving above the snow in the slight breeze, I am filled with awe at the beauty of the Creation I am privileged to live in. Then I think relax and enjoy it to the fullest for in a relatively short period of time it will be time to cut the remains of all the ornamental off or burn them so the growing process can continue. Boy, am I ever ready for that to take place.

From the middle of November to the end of December the work of the Michiana Master Gardeners Association grinds almost to a halt and we can kind of lose track of one another with the hustle and bustle of the holidays. Hopefully all of our members and their families enjoyed a wonderful and joyous holiday season with family and friends. I will give you a heads up, from today you have exactly twenty-one days left to select the perfect Valentine for those special some ones in your life.

I don't want you to misunderstand, while work does subside during November and December it never comes to a halt. Linda Kimpel has been busy receiving 2009 membership forms and dues, recording this information in preparation for publishing the 2009 Membership Directory. She has approximately twenty one days left before the Directories have to be completed and printed.

To have your name and information included in the Directory you have to have your form turned in to the office and dues paid prior to the time of printing. Because of Linda's many responsibilities, the publication of our Directory has to be done when she can find time between these other obligations and therefore we cannot give you an absolute cut off date. If you have not done so, we encourage you to fill out the membership form and turn it in with your dues as soon as possible.

The Annual Dinner/Spring Public Seminar Committee has been doing the follow up work and checking the arrangements to make sure everything is in order for this event.

The Class of 2008 has been busy preparing for their Public Spring Seminars. Their brochures have been designed and printed, the distribution of which is underway. The research of the material to be presented has been taking place as well the presentation rehearsals. You surely will not want to miss the opportunity to hear these fine presentations and the education hours you may accrue.

The Master Gardener's State Convention Committee has been very busy preparing for this event and will need your volunteer assistance as it gets closer to the date of the event. I am sure Mary Davis and Judy Baker, the Co-Chairs of this committee, will be keeping you informed of the progress of the preparations of this event.

The Garden Tour Committee has held their first meeting of 2009 on the Twelfth of January. It is reported that they are on schedule in completing the tasks with the gardens and Hospitality Center selected, and the subcommittees working hard at completing their responsibilities.

The Quilt Garden Committee has a new design ready; the plants selected, and are in the process of putting the bed preparation and planting schedule together.

The Program Committee has been busy checking on the last minute details for our upcoming January Membership Meeting.

You can see that the work of the Michiana Master Gardeners Association is never totally suspended. It is a GREAT organization and I am proud to be granted the privilege to be a part of it. I hope you are also.

The Board had an organizational meeting January 19, 2009. At this meeting an Election of Officers was held with the following results:

President	Paul Miles
Vice President	Jerry Martin
Secretary	Jim Bare
Treasure	Larry Drudge

The Board Members at Large, Standing Committee Chair and Co-Chairpersons, and Committee/Board Liaison Officers will be emailed to the members today and there will be several hard copies at the January Membership Meeting for those where email is unavailable.

Our Goal as the Michiana Master Gardeners Association for 2009 is to provide as many gardening educational opportunities as possible to the public in the Michiana Area. All suggestions for helping us accomplish this goal will be appreciated.

GET THOSE SEED CATALOGS OUT AND THINK GREEN!!

Paul Miles

2009 MMGA BOARD MEMBERS



FRONT ROW: JERRY MARTIN, ERICKA SMARI, PAUL MILES, JIM BARE.

2ND ROW: ANN LOSASSO, KATHLEEN CRIPE, RHONDA LOUCKS, VICKIE ESTEP, MARY DAVIS, GWEN FERLAND, LARRY DRUDGE, JIM MADDUX, HEIDI ZAVATSKY.



**A good gardener always plants 3 seeds -
one for the bugs, one for the weather and one for
himself.**

MMGA Membership Meeting

27 January, 2009

Ag Hall

The meeting was called to order by President Paul Miles at 7:00 PM. He noted that in about 108 days we can plant seeds!

56 members were present.

Jeff Burbink introduced Ericka Soumare, new Extension Educator.

Carol Swartzendruber introduced the speaker for the evening, Tamra Taylor, Physical Therapist. Her talk, entitled "Tending to Your Body's Garden" had many suggestions on how to keep fit and injury free while gardening. This included Plan and Prepare (stretching exercises), Plant (motivation, strengthening, endurance, pacing), Nurture (paying attention to your body, adequate water, nutrition and rest) and Enjoying the Fruits of Your Labor.

Reports from Committee Chairs were heard. Volunteers needed include:

- Someone to co-chair the Hospitality Center during the Garden Tour.
- Help during the Garden Tour.
- Help during the 2 days prior to the tree sale.

Help prior to and during the State Convention in September.

Anne Losasso, class of 2008, had brochures advertizing the Spring Seminars.

Questions and Comments on “Ways to Improve Our Club”:

- We have a lot of cash on hand. Where does it go? Answer – income and expenses are usually about even each year. We do give \$2000 scholarship to a Purdue student annually.
- We give scholarships for Purdue students – do we ever get feedback from recipients? Answer – yes, but not recently.
- Mary Morgan takes care of the plants around the Extension office. She wondered whether we could remove a bush that hides a sign. ACTION – Ed Farmwald will dig it up and transplant it in the new outdoor plant room at Prairie View Elementary School in Goshen.
- Thank you to Paul Miles for being President again.

Will we have this opportunity for questions each month? Answer – yes!

Meeting adjourned 9:00 PM.

Next Meeting - February 24, 2009

Location - Home and Family Arts Building



2009 State Conference Bits and Pieces

- Only 8 more months until the conference!!!

The website is up and running www.michianamastergardeners.com and you can go there for all the information on the conference as well as the registration form.

Be sure to keep track of your volunteer hours and designate them "State Conference" on the sheets you turn in to the Extension Office. In case you didn't know or have forgotten, every MMGA member will receive 1% discount off of the price they pay for registration up to a maximum of 40% off.

For example: you do the 3 day registration for \$110 (early bird) that would be

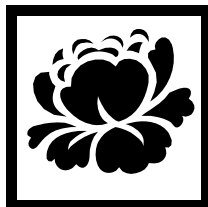
$\$110 \times 40\% = \44 so $\$110 - \$44 = \$66$ due for early bird 3 day registration fee.

Regular price $\$135 \times 40\% = \54 so $\$135 - \$54 = \$81$ for 3 day regular fee

If you do 2 day registration for \$100 (early bird) that would be

$\$100 \times 40\% = \40 so $\$100 - \$40 = \$60$ due for early bird 2 day registration

Regular price $\$115 \times 40\% = \46 so $\$115 - \$46 = \$69$ for 2 day regular fee



- There will be lots of opportunities to gain volunteer hours. If you chooses to register early, deduct the hours you know you have ***already turned in*** as your % of discount. Linda Kimpel will verify the hours for Rhonda Loucks (Registration Chairperson). If you complete more volunteer hours after you register, you will receive a refund for the additional hours. That will happen in September after the conference.
- Marion County Master Gardeners sold a 2009 calendar statewide and they promised \$1.25 for each calendar they sold to the group hosting the conference (MMGA in this case). We have received an email that they sold 590 calendars and we will receive a check for \$737.50 plus an additional \$28.75 for calendars purchased by our members for a total of \$766.25! "The check is in the mail."
- Thanks to everyone who purchased a tee shirt! We actually made \$109.25 profit from the sale. Next opportunity will be when you register for the conference (no additional discounts).

If any of you can obtain items for the Silent Auction or for Door Prizes, please contact Gwen Ferland at her new email eferland.1@netzero.net

If anyone knows a business who might advertise in our program please contact Heidi Zavatsky at Hkz1430@aol.com

Judy Baker

Our new Ag/Natural Resources Educator has arrived!

Ericka Soumare officially joined Purdue Extension on Monday, January 12 as Extension Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources for Elkhart County. Ericka has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Florida A & M University and a Master of Science in Agribusiness Management from Alabama A & M University. She has most recently worked as a Graduate Assistant in the Small Farms Research Center at Alabama A & M. Welcome Ericka to Purdue Extension.

I think you will find Ericka to be a very easy person to get to know. I am sure you will be seeing her soon at the monthly Master Gardener Association meetings, the next of which is in Ag Hall on January 27 at 7 p.m.

Please join us all in welcoming Ericka and her family to our family of Master Gardeners!



Garden Tour 2009 Items needed!!

Tracie Belcher is the Merchandise chair for Garden Tour 2009, and is asking for your help in looking for the following items:

Gourds

Old Rakes

Shovels

Watering Cans

Window Panes

Shutters

Old Chairs

Terracotta Pots

Old Cupboards

Tools

We are again asking that each member try to donate two items for the hospitality center. Please contact Tracie with any questions.

PH. 269-699-5018



MASTER GARDENER BIO CAROL SWARTZENDRUBER



Carol Swartzendruber (02) grew up in Ohio, but became a Hoosier when she attended Goshen College. She is now retired from nursing and is married to Ray, who is also retired. Carol and Ray have 3 children, Gina who lives in Syracuse and Tonya and Eric who live in Texas. Eric has 2 children, 4 ½ and 10 months. When I talked to Carol she was excited about a trip to visit those granddaughters. At home they still have a child, of the 4 legged variety, Sophie a Lab/Border Collie mix who is 4 years old. Carol said living in Syracuse limits her involvement with Master Gardeners, but she has helped with the tree sale, the annual meeting and Garden Tour. She said she has always been interested in flowers and plants and enjoys being in the garden (we all wish now, huh?) She thought the training was wonderful and the people in Master Gardeners are great. She especially enjoys the exchange of information. She and her husband own a 1976 GMC motor home and are involved with a group who also own older motor homes. She loves to travel and also enjoys reading and knitting.



Fellow Master Gardeners:

When I put out the email for volunteers to help stuff the 525+ State Conference envelopes I had no idea who could fit it in their schedule. What an AWESOME turn out we had! Thank you everyone for all your help.

Also, a special thanks goes out to Gwen Ferland for her special Peony stamp that she put on all of the envelopes!

Linda Kimpel



Local Residents Complete Master Gardener Coursework

Recent snows have not cooled the excitement of local gardeners who have completed the first phase of the Elkhart County Master Gardener program.

Jeff Burbrink, Extension Educator with the Purdue Extension Service in Elkhart County and coordinator of the local Master Gardener program, explained that Master Gardeners is a volunteer training program, not just a series of gardening classes. Participants have been attending training for the past four months and have passed an exam. The participants will now be giving volunteer time back to the community in exchange for the knowledge they have gained. The focus of the volunteer time is education, with the intent of making the area a better place to live.

The Master Gardener class of 2008 is planning to offer several classes this winter and spring on gardening related subjects. Brochures for the Master Gardener seminars are available at local garden centers in Elkhart County. In addition, Master Gardeners are available to speak to groups in the community, including schools, service clubs and church groups.

This is the 13th Master Gardener class that has been held in Elkhart County since the program was started in 1996. Burbrink said that this class of Master Gardeners, like the previous groups he has taught, is full of enthusiasm. "Throughout the 18 classes that make up the training, they were always attentive and asked lots of questions. It's hard to imagine a better group of people to work with."

The next training for Master Gardeners will be offered in the fall of 2009. Burbrink suggested that interested people call Purdue Extension Office in Goshen at 533-0554 to be placed on a mailing list for an application.



Members of the 2008 Elkhart County Master Gardener class are Ron Bailey, Elkhart; Autumn Gray, Goshen; Len Harms, Goshen; Linda Kimpel, Goshen; Barbara Leeth, Cassopolis; Anne Losasso, Bristol; Dave Miller, Middlebury, and Sonya Nash, Elkhart.

Also, Carol Novy, Elkhart; Jeff Olsen, Goshen; Tammy O'Rourke, Elkhart; Keith Peters, Garrett; Jeannette Renner, Elkhart; Maggie Strock, Elkhart; Ruth Stump, New Paris; Rachael Thomas, Topeka, and Linda Westphal, Elkhart.

Hakonechloa Grass Named 2009 Perennial Plant of the Year

The Perennial Plant Association (PPA) has announced that *Hakonechloa macra* 'Aureola' its 2009 Perennial Plant of the Year. Also known as Japanese Forest Grass, this graceful, well-behaved grass provides color and texture nearly year round.

Unlike most other ornamental grasses, *Hakonechloa* gives its best performance in partial shade, forming a dense, cascading clump about 1-2 feet tall and up to 3 feet in spread. Its compact, weeping habit is perfect for softening the edge of the garden path, rock garden or container planting. *Hakonechloa* is generally hardy to zone 5 in well-drained soil, but will struggle in heavy, poorly drained conditions.

The 'Aureola' selection features bright yellow to chartreuse leaves contrasted by narrow, darker green stripes, though the color and contrasting becomes more subtle with increasing exposure to sunlight. The striking color contrast provides an excellent focal point for the shade garden.

Hakonechloa is a slow grower, requiring little maintenance other than removal of the dead tops before new growth begins each spring. Dividing is rarely needed but can be done easily in either spring or fall, if additional plants are desired.

The PPA selects a different perennial plant each year to promote throughout the nursery and gardening industry. Members of the PPA are invited to nominate plants based on several criteria, including low maintenance requirements, adaptability to a wide range of climates, pest and disease resistance, wide availability, multiple seasons of interest in the garden and ease of propagation. A PPA committee then narrows the field to 3-4 choices from which the members cast their vote.

Previous Perennial of the Year winners include the following.

- * 2008 Geranium 'Rozanne'
- * 2007 Nepeta 'Walker's Low'
- * 2006 Dianthus gratianopolitanus 'Feuerhexe'
- * 2005 Helleborus xhybridus
- * 2004 Athyrium niponicum 'Pictum'
- * 2003 Leucanthemum 'Becky'
- * 2002 Phlox 'David'
- * 2001 Calamagrostis x acutiflora 'Karl Foerster'
- * 2000 Scabiosa columbaria 'Butterfly Blue'
- * 1999 Rudbeckia fulgida var. sullivantii 'Goldsturm'
- * 1998 Echinacea purpurea 'Magnus'
- * 1997 Salvia 'Mainacht' (May Night)
- * 1996 Penstemon digitalis 'Husker Red'
- * 1995 Perovskia atriplicifolia
- * 1994 Astilbe 'Sprite'
- * 1993 Veronica 'Sunny Border Blue'
- * 1992 Coreopsis verticillata 'Moonbeam'
- * 1991 Heuchera micrantha 'Palace Purple'
- * 1990 Phlox stolonifera



MG RECIPE BOX "FOR THE BIRDS"

This months MG Recipe box is strictly "for the birds" I know many of us feed and enjoy watching many different varieties of birds in the winter. Here are a few recipes to try for them!

Hanging Heaven

3 parts suet
1 part cornmeal
1 part peanut butter
1 part brown sugar
1 part raisins, dried cherries, etc.
1 part mixed seed or broken nuts
Sprinkling of sand
1 or more coconuts, split in half

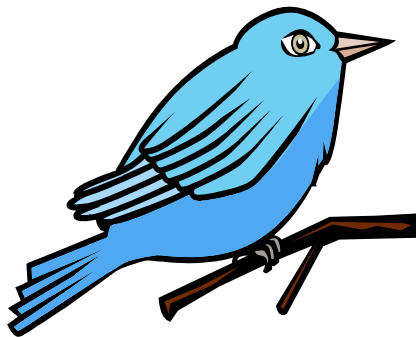
Melt suet, allow to cool, then re-melt. Stir in other ingredients. Cook until the mixture is the consistency of porridge. If too thick, add small amounts of water or milk; if too thin, add flour. Pour into coconut halves. Hang coconut halves from tree limbs or eaves.

MG RECIPE BOX "FOR THE BIRDS"

Fat & Sassy

2 parts suet, lard, bacon drippings or saved kitchen fat
1 to 2 parts yellow cornmeal
Dash of salt and sand
1 part fine cracked corn, mullet or hulled sunflower

Melt suet over low heat. Allow to cool and harden, then heat again. Stir in peanut butter and other ingredients, reserving some of the corn or seeds. Allow to cool somewhat and pour into molds or form into balls. Roll balls into loose corn or seed.

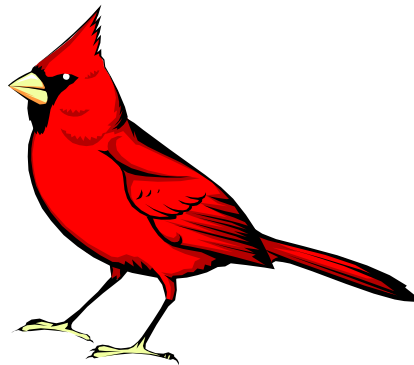


MG RECIPE BOX "FOR THE BIRDS"

RAISIN OAT CAKE

- 1 cup raisins
- 1 cup cornmeal
- 1 cup uncooked oatmeal
- 1/2 cup lard (unsalted)
- 1 cup skim milk
- 1 cup wheat germ
- 1 cup flour
-

Mix ingredients together and blend well to form a thick batter. Add raisins dredged with flour. Grease a pie pan and flour lightly for baking. Pour mixture into pie pan and bake at 350 degrees for approximately an hour. Cool and break into large pieces. Place in mesh bags and hang in shrubs.



FROM THE EDITORS DESK

The days are finally getting longer!

The seed catalogs are rolling in!

The sun is shining today! (although it's a chilly -5 this morning!)

I hope you all had a great holiday season, and I'm sure we are all looking forward to spring and planning our gardens. I personally can't wait to feel the sun on my back as I'm digging in the earth planting seeds in anticipation of the lush plants and veggies that will soon need so much weeding!

As I am putting together this months Broadcaster, I am once again amazed at all of the good things that Master Gardeners do, and how enthusiastic you are all in doing your part! Remember, you can also add to those volunteer hours by submitting an article to the Broadcaster. Just give me a call or drop me an email at 574-848-5153 or alyskidder@gmail.com. Also, remember to send me those recipes!

The official deadline to send in your articles is the 20th of each month, and I'll carry over anything I have for the next months.

Thanks for all of your help! Alys Kidder

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.

