

PURDUE

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PURDUE UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

Elkhart County

Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds

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The Michiana

Broadcaster

"Helping Each Other Grow!"

Michiana Master Gardeners Association

October 2009

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CALENDAR

A Look Ahead

Oct. 27	7:00 pm	"Garden/Nature Photography"
Nov. 17	6:30 pm	"Thanks-for-Giving Carry-In & Food Drive" NOTE: NEW DATE
Dec.		NO MEETING, MERRY CHRISTMAS!

A Note From The President's Desk

The vegetable growing season is fast coming to a close. It seems like only last week I was anxiously awaiting conditions to improve enough to be able to work the ground and plant the cool weather crops. Now it is time to start cleaning up the garden area, the garden tools, and get ready to rake the leaves. I know I would rather be looking forward to spring than winter, but just as the ground requires a resting period, I am sure we all can stand a little rest. Bring on the fall and winter, and let's plan to enjoy it.

I am so proud of our Michiana Master Gardeners Association Members and their accomplishments this year. Starting with the February Graduation of the Class of 2007's well planned celebration and their receipt of Master Gardener Certificates, Annual Public Seminar and Annual Dinner Meeting with Dr. Tom Turpin, Class of 2008's Public Seminars, Annual Tree Sale, planning, planting, and maintenance of the Quilt Garden, planning, planting and maintenance of the Community Gardens, Garden Tour, Ag Hall set up and monitoring for the Fair, Garden Tour Garden Owner's Appreciation Dinner, planning and hosting of the Purdue State Master Gardeners Annual Conference, many activities of the Speakers Bureau, behind the scenes work of the Program Committee, Membership Committee, Master Gardener Merchandiser, Archivist, Broadcaster Publisher, Web Administer, Set-up Committee, Master Gardeners Hot line participants, and the Board of Directors, you have done extremely well, and you have made it a banner year.

I salute you all!

In November the election of Board Members will be held. Any member in good standing can be nominated for his election. The Job Description for the Board of Directors will be available for all those interested. Also the Job Description for Board Liaison will be available since each Board Member may be assigned as Liaison to a Standing Committee. Each Board Member is expected to be familiar with the By-Laws. If you are interested, contact Heidi Zavatsky or a member of the Nominating Committee.



Committees are being formed and have started to work on the coming year's events. All the positions on these committees have not been filled and are in need of people interested in making 2010 an even better year than 2009. It is an opportunity to work with wonderful people, make new friends, and enjoy the feeling of accomplishment. Why not volunteer by contacting one of the Committee Chairpersons today?

Paul Miles



AUTUMN

In the garden, Autumn is, indeed, the crowning glory of the year, bringing us the fruition of months of thought and care and toil. And at no season, save perhaps in Daffodil time, do we get such superb colour effects as from August to November.

Rose G. Kingsley, from The Autumn Garden

AROUND THE EXTENSION OFFICE . . . by Linda Kimpel

On September 4, eleven Michiana Master Gardeners helped assemble the booklets containing the speakers' handouts for the State Master Gardener's Conference at the Extension Office. Thanks to everyone who helped make the job fast and enjoyable.

(Not all helpers are shown in photo)





Fall Gardening Checklist

Ericka Soumare, Extension Educator

Fall is finally here and the change in temperature is a reminder that winter will surely follow. But in the meantime, there are many gardening activities that can be done this fall. Keeping up with these chores can help in the transition from season to season and facilitate organization for gardening projects.

September is a great time to get storage areas prepared for flower bulbs and harvested vegetables. Also, houseplants that have been set outside for the warmer weather need to be brought back inside before nightly temperatures drop below 55 degrees. Apples should not be left on the tree until they soften, and can be taken off when sweet. Pears will also soften too much if left on the tree and should be taken off when brown spots appear so they can ripen to yellow off of the tree. Green tomatoes that have fully matured should be taken inside to ripen and vegetables such as peppers and sweet potatoes can also be harvested.

October is a time to water indoor plants less frequently and stop fertilizing because they will need to have a resting period to slow growth or stop growth altogether in the winter.

Also, plants and trees should be watered well until the ground freezes. This will ensure that they have enough water during the dry winter. Protecting the lawn by removing all large leaves can also help.

November is a good time to make sure that indoor plants are moved to areas that provide the best sun exposure if they start to have leaf drop. This is usually in the south or west facing windows.

Tilling the soil in the fall can be helpful in areas that are not susceptible to erosion by helping the soil structure stay intact for possible early spring planting. Also, strawberries can be protected with winter mulch, which should be applied when the plants are dormant and before the temperature drops below 20°F.

For more gardening tips for the fall, you can visit the web at:

<http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/HO-93.pdf>

For publications that list tips for other seasons, you can visit Purdue University's Garden Publication website at:

http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/garden_pubs.html

You can also contact your Extension office at 574-533-0554.

Source: Learner, Rosie. Autumn Garden Calendar. Purdue University, Department of Horticulture.

TREE SALE COMMITTEE . . . By Vickie Estep

Summer is now history and the State Conference is too. So now I'm pressed to remind you that it's time for our first Tree Sale meeting. It will be next Tuesday Sept. 29th at 5:00 PM in the Extension Office Conference Room. This will be a short meeting to fold our order forms and ready them for distribution.

We need a committee of a few dedicated people to help organize the event. If you have helped on the committee in years past please consider supporting this event again this year. If are looking for a place to invest your volunteer hours please consider giving our committee a try. There will of course be many areas for volunteers to contribute in the days proceeding the sale so if committee work is not for you, have no fear we will need many hands when sale time comes.

Please let me know if you plan to attend via email or by phone.. Please note that my phone number is incorrectly listed in the directory. It should read (269) 641-7167.

LOOKING BACK AT THE STATE CONFERENCE

Now that a week or more has passed since the conference ended I have had time to reflect on its entirety. I believe that those that attended had a great time and learned much. It was also a time to renew old acquaintances and make new ones. Everyone there had something in common: dedication to "helping others grow".

The keynote speakers were great! Janet Macunovich's enthusiasm was contagious and her knowledge was understandable without a Latin/English dictionary. Rita Randolph was both entertaining and informative. Steven Nikkiala shared his love and knowledge of photography with us all. Of course, the speakers for the breakout sessions were wonderful as well. No matter how much we know as an individual, there is always something new to be learned from listening to others.

When I recapped the evaluation forms (which about 60% of the attendees filled out) the overall impression of things was in the "excellent" range. The facility, First Baptist Church, got almost all "5" out of a possible "5" rating.

Most thought that the conference was a good value for their money and that their time was well spent. That is a great compliment to the efforts of each of you that had some small (or large) part in the event. The friendliness and helpfulness of our MMGA members was noted by those attending.



The State Conference Committee worked hard for two years to make this event happen. We met monthly (thank you, Rhonda), and the sub-committees met as necessary. Job well done, all of you!

The many volunteers deserve a special "THANK YOU" for their efforts! Those who were registered for the conference, be sure to turn in your hours by October 2nd to be eligible for your 1% per hour refund. We need to do this ASAP so we can wrap up the financial end of things. If you don't turn in your hours, you will NOT receive the refund.

Now that many of you have experienced what a State Conference is like, maybe you will plan to attend in June when it is on campus at Purdue University! Every conference is different from the previous ones. Start saving now!

Judy Baker, Conference Co-Chair

THANKS AGAIN TO THE STATE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE:

CO-CHAIRS	Mary Davis / Judy Baker
ADVERTISING	Heidi Zavatsky
CATERING COMMITTEE	Ruth Yeomans / Judy Baker
EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS	Earl Bailey / Marilyn Miles
MERCHANDISE	Doris Kehr
PROGRAM COMMITTEE	Kathleen Cripe / Penny Stroup
SILENT AUCTION/DOOR PRIZES	Gwen Ferland / Suzanne Gray
VENDOR COMMITTEE	Sue Stuckman / Penny Stroup

STATE CONFERENCE ARTICLE
Voice of the People in the ELKHART TRUTH

Judy Baker and I served as co-chairs of the committee that hosted the Indiana State Master Gardener Conference held in Elkhart on September 10-12, 2009. This was a great experience for those attending, but would not have been possible without the contributions of many in our community and we would like to thank them.

Despite the fact our association has no religious affiliation, First Baptist Church made their facility available to us for a nominal fee, giving us use of the entire facility and requested that we do nothing but empty the trash! Their staff and the parishioners were invariably cheerful and helpful. Those attending the conference were awed by the beautiful facility.

From our first thought of entertaining the conference, the Elkhart County Convention and Visitors Bureau (gold sponsor) helped with tips on finding a host hotel, helping us produce our advertising power point, accompanying us to Indianapolis to display at last year's conference and sharing many of the costs beyond our budget. Their staff person also presented two of our seminars on the quilt gardens.

Despite the struggling economy in Elkhart, we were heartened by the many businesses who were silver (Martin's Pet & Garden) and bronze sponsors (Dogwood Hills Tree Farm, Linton's Enchanted Gardens, McKinley Terrace Garden Center, Keybank, Ball Horticultural Company, Betty Foltz, R & R Regulators, and Kruse Farm Supply.)

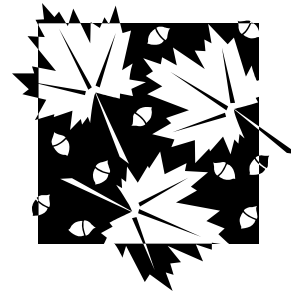
Mayor Moore not only declared September 11 as Master Gardener Day in Elkhart, he came to our conference to present the proclamation and to welcome the attendees to Elkhart. The Wellfield Botanic Gardens and Boot Lake Nature Preserve (via the Elkhart Environmental Center) hosted tours, providing dozens of volunteers to assist and "wow" the attendees with their facilities. The Truth graciously covered the event with both a story and photographs (September 11 and 14) of the visit to the Wellfield. Dozens of local merchants donated items to our silent auction and took out ads in our conference program.

Last, but not least, was the staff at the Extension office, who went above and beyond the call of duty in helping us with clerical help and presenting one of the seminars; and of course, the dozens of Master Gardeners, both those attending (and those who did not attend but came and helped) the conference who took care of all the details of putting together the entire conference. As a result over 225 people contributed to the local economy and went home with pleasant memories and many planning return trips.

Thank you all!

Mary Davis / Judy Baker

Conference Co-Chairs





MASTER GARDENER BIO SONYA NASH '08

Despite growing up as a lifelong Hoosier on a farm south of Nappanee, Sonya Nash (Class of '08) admits she doesn't really care for animals. When asked recently at a Quilt Garden what cultivar a particular plant was, she admittedly sheepishly, she did not know what a cultivar was! Hmmm. . .

Nonetheless, if you have met Sonya, you know what a vivacious and incredibly energetic person she is. (Someone recently said she makes Gwen seem shy!)! Sonya is employed by the Elkhart County Visitors and Convention Bureau as the Project Manager for the Quilt Garden Tour. She decided she needed to learn fast about plants and soils. In addition, she has become interested in planting perennials at her home. These two interests led her to Master Gardeners. Sonya says she was amazed at the depth of the class work, but found that it exactly met her needs. She also has formed friendships with many Master Gardeners and has worked with many of them in connection with the Quilt Garden Tour. In her job capacity with the bureau, she was involved early on in helping the State Conference Committee—helping us find and reach an agreement with a conference hotel, preparing our Power Point to present in Indy, accompanying our committee to the Indy conference, manning a booth for promoting our conference, and helping us reach an agreement that the Convention Bureau would help cover the cost of some of our postage and printing expenses. If you attended the conference, you undoubtedly enjoyed her very entertaining and informative presentation on Thursday night about the Quilt Gardens, and you may have attended her Friday break-out session on planting your own Quilt Garden. Sonya was also very involved in Garden Tour '09, working on maps and signage, and she even found time to "babysit" Ag Hall during the fair.

Sonya and her husband, Richard, enjoy traveling and attending Granger Community Church where she volunteers in the coffee shop. She loves to bake and cook, read recipes and cookbooks, do counted cross-stitch and read novels as time allows. Although she does not have children, she spends time with her parents and brothers and enjoys nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great nephews. Sonya says she enjoys the people in Master Gardeners and their support to her in connection with the Quilt Gardens. Oh, yes, Sonya also showed great intelligence as she attended and graduated from IU Bloomington. Go Hoosiers!

Submitted by Mary Davis

PROGRAM COMMITTEE UPDATE . . . by Judy Baker

The program for October will be on photography. Bring any questions you might have with you to the meeting on Tuesday, October 27th at 7:00 p.m. in the AgHall.

Please note the change in date for the November meeting. It will be Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 6:30 p.m. in AgHall.

The November meeting will be the traditional Thanks-for-Giving Carry-In where we each bring a dish to share (salad, vegetable dish, dessert). MMGA provides the meat, plates, silverware and coffee or tea. We ask that you bring canned/boxed food which will be taken to Church Community Services. Last year my wagon was stuffed full! Thanks in advance for your generosity. If you know you cannot make the November meeting, you can bring the items to the October meeting or give a cash donation that will be used to purchase items that we add to the mix. There was over **1,000 pounds** of food collected last year.



News from the PAR Garden Committee Elkhart Airport

Our small committee of "Tuesday club" workers (Sue Stuckman, Ann Overmyer, Heidi Zavasky, Marilyn Horvath, Suzanne Pedler, Dyanne Zimmerman, and Rita Lyzen) along with Kerry Prugh, who pumped hundreds of gallons of water every week, managed to harvest **1,128 pounds** of produce this season. Other help came from Pam McIntire, Gwen Ferland, and Suzanne Gray. We donated to Church Community Services and the Faith Mission, both of whom really appreciated our vegetables.

We dealt with the same problems as usual— late freeze resulted in replanting, there was too little rain at times, squash bugs, etc., plus 4-legged critters that liked carrots, beets, and Swiss chard, and 2-legged critters that liked to steal.

All in all, it was a very successful season. ~Rita Lyzen ('00)



Ann, Heidi, and Marilyn planting in June



Suzanne and Dyanne tending the potatoes in June

September 15 at the Elkhart Airport Garden-----



Dyanne and Ann weighing and recording September 15



Suzanne among the marigolds lost? September 15



Sue and Rita with the last load to the Mission, September 15

FALL ROSE CARE - WINTERIZE YOUR ROSES !

By Bob Anderson, Master Gardener & Consulting Rosarian Intern, ARS

Don't forget to prepare your roses for the cold, windy winter months ahead. Make sure your rose beds have been well watered in the fall months. This will keep your plants well fortified during the winter months. Fall is a great time to spray to eliminate bugs, mites, nests, all diseases, etc. before you cover your plants for winter. A good systemic insect control, such as Orthene, can be applied now. Be sure to read and follow any and all label instructions. This last spray for the season should be done in October, before you cover your roses for the winter in November. Mulching the beds during the fall months is another practice that helps your plants to retain moisture and deters weed growth.

Late in the Fall, after we have had several frosts and killer freezes, the rose plant becomes inactive, (dormant). This is the time to prepare your rose plants for their winter protection. The object is not to keep your roses warm, but to protect as much of the plant as possible and insulate against the freeze/thaw cycle and from the drying effects of the winter winds. Wind is a real big enemy for roses. Cold winter wind dry out the canes, causing the exposed parts to die. The freeze/thaw cycle can damage all exposed parts of the plant. Imagine a sunny, warm winter day heating up the cells within the plant, then night falls, the temperature plummets— instant freeze. This will burst the cell walls and cause necrosis to the exposed parts of the plant. Shrubs and Old Garden roses that grow on their own root can tolerate some cold wind. Others, like some floribundas and especially the hybrid teas, can be severely damaged by these winter conditions.

Needless to say, all fertilizer applications should cease for a month to six-weeks before plants start to go into dormancy, around the middle to end of October. Some gardeners like to stop deadheading or stop cutting at all, to allow hips to form and store nutrients in the canes and roots. This sends a signal to the plant that it's time to go dormant and stimulates the plants own anti-freeze, that protects the cells, which you can recognize by a purpling of the canes. An application of a dormant spray is another good practice to help the rose through the winter months. Many rose diseases can over winter. A good dormant spray will help kill insects and diseases.

I recommend you resist any temptation to prune at this time. The vitality of the rose plant is still in the canes and foliage. After a freeze or two, the vitality will have gone down into the root system, where it will winter over. There are only a couple reasons to do any fall pruning of roses. Prune to reduce long canes, thus preventing winter wind damage and to remove dead or diseased canes. When pruning canes larger than a drinking straw, seal the ends with a suitable sealer, (finger nail polish will also work), to protect from insect or disease damage. I personally don't believe in cutting roses back to 6 to 8 inches in the fall. Save most of your pruning until spring. Make sure you clean up all dead stems and debris from around your rose beds. Use good sanitary practices.

Mound soil or clean compost up around your rose plants, several inches, to protect the bud union or graft knob, where the canes and the roots meet. Don't use the soil from around your rose plants that may expose or damage the fine roots lying just under the top soil surfaces. It is best to add this from your stored soil or compost pile. You will use less soil if you use some method of containing the soil around you plant, such as a collar. A collar can be made from small chicken wire, commercial made collars or something a little less expensive such as newspapers. Fill the collar with soil and/or composted material, leaving the top open. In the spring you can either remove the soil or use it to top-dress your rose plants. A word of caution, in the spring when removing rose collars, use utmost care so as not to damage or injure any new growth.

I would like to briefly mention "fall planting". Most rose plants you find in our area at this time of year are potted roses. You can plant a potted rose at any time during the growing season in our area. You must winterize them as any other rose. However, you may find bare root rose plants in the fall. Some mail order companies will ship in the fall. Plants arrive dormant, are planted dormant, are protected dormant and stay dormant until spring. Bare root roses are planted in the fall exactly as they are planted in the spring, except you apply winter protection at planting time. Be sure to cut back the canes substantially and cover every part of the rose plant with soil to protect it from winter conditions.



FALL ROSE CARE - (Continued)

There are many publications available for the general care and protection of roses. Ortho's "All About Roses" is just one of many excellent publications and is endorsed by the American Rose Society. Purdue University, Cooperative Extension Service has a publication from their Department of Horticulture, "Roses" HO-128, and this can be obtained by contacting the Cooperative Extension Service, Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds, 17746E, Goshen, Indiana, Phone (574) 533-0554.

Submitted by Dara Revelli



*“If you are planning for a year, sow rice;
if you are planning for a decade, plant trees;
if you are planning for a lifetime, educate people.”
~Chinese Proverb*

MG RECIPE BOX

I made this for the Garden Tour wrap-up meeting, and several asked to have it put in Broadcaster so here it is:

Blueberry Lemon Squares

For the crust:

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 cups flour

For the filling:

- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 3 tablespoons flour
- Juice and zest of 1 lemon
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 3 eggs
- 4 cups fresh or frozen unsweetened blueberries

With an electric mixer on low beat together the butter, powdered sugar and vanilla until fluffy. Add flour and blend with a fork or pastry blender until mixture forms small crumbs.

Press about 2/3 of crumb mixture in bottom of 9x13 baking dish lightly coated with cooking spray. Bake 12 to 15 minutes at 400 F or until lightly browned. Reduce the oven to 350 F.

Combine sugar, flour, salt and lemon zest. Add the eggs and lemon juice, then whisk until smooth.

Spread the blueberries evenly over the crust. Top with filling mixture. Sprinkle the reserved crumb mixture evenly over the top. Bake 30 to 40 minutes, or until the crumb topping is golden and the filling is puffed.

Cool completely before cutting. Serve with whipped cream or drizzle the top with a small amount of sour cream frosting.

Enjoy! Linda Sinon

INSIDE THE EXTENSION OFFICE

Submitted by: Kate Rink



Our calls coming into the extension office this month are fewer as our growing season is winding down. I actually heard the weather man use that "S" word on the news this morning. Thankfully, though, it wasn't for our area. It was out in the Rockies. We're still enjoying summer-like weather. And yes, we will take THAT as long as we can! Especially, knowing that before long, it will be sweatshirt and jacket weather.

If you were lucky enough to attend the State Conference and listen to the speakers and see their power point presentations, the idea of winter made you want to say, "no, not yet, not yet, not yet". Rita Randolph's talk, made you want to pot up a container using some of the new varieties she recommended. Renee Troyer-Campbell's talk, made you want to plant an herb garden for all the fragrant, culinary and medicinal benefits. Steve Nikkila made you want to start a new hobby of photography. Janet Macunovich helped us learn how to keep 8 months of color in our gardens.

All the speakers did such a good job! These were just a few that I listened to. I heard positive comments about the others as well. We will have to store up all this information for next spring when we can get back out and plant. Luckily, we have a thick notebook of information for reference! Thanks to all the organizers and committee people who made it such a wonderful event. It was great!

OK, back to the Extension Office news. A walk-in gentleman brought in a bag of insects for identification. He wanted to know if they were harmful to children. Our MG identified the insects as Bald-faced Hornets. They are easy to recognize because of their color pattern. The head, thorax, abdomen, and antennae are black and white. Wings are smoky. They can be very harmful to children or anyone, if threatened as they will sting repeatedly if disturbed.

Great care should be taken before trying to remove a nest especially, because they like to build nests around people. Commonly they are found under house eaves and gutters or power and telephone poles.

They are very protective of their nest which is easily identifiable. They are best known for their large football-shaped paper nest, which they build in the spring for raising their young. They can reach 3 feet tall!!! This paper like nest is created when workers chew up wood that mixes with a starch in their saliva. One nest may hold up to 700 hornets.

The nest is generally abandoned by winter and will most likely not be reused by old queens. The old nests are good winter shelter for other insects and spiders. When spring arrives the young queens emerge from an old tree stump they have burrowed in for the winter and a new cycle begins.

Our client had good reason to be concerned if the nest was close to an area where curious children were playing.

Another client had potato scab. He wanted to know what causes it and how to prevent or treat the problem. First, knowing the factors that affect disease development will help prevent the problem. The soil environment is important in determining the extent of scab infection. Dry soil favors scab infection.

Six strategies to control common scab are based upon maintenance of a soil environment that doesn't favor disease development. Using these practices, control can be achieved.

- Avoid planting seed pieces with scab symptoms
- Maintain high moisture levels during tuber set and enlargement. This is a critical period when plants begin to flower, lasting 6 to 9 weeks. Two inches of water a week for sandy soils and only 1 to 1-1/2 inches for heavier soils.

- Avoid excessive liming, manure or wood ashes. These tend to increase the soil pH.
- Purchase resistant varieties although, no commercially available varieties are completely resistant. Refer to your catalogs for reference.
- Rotate out of potatoes for 3 to 4 years.

Treat seed pieces with mancozeb.

Following these guidelines will help our client produce healthy, scab-free potatoes for years to come. Anyone for creamy, potato soup?

Another caller wanted to know where brussel sprout seeds form or come from. All the vegetables in the cabbage family like brussel sprouts, cauliflower, broccoli, cabbage and kohlrabi are biennials as are root vegetables like carrots.

They all "bulk-up" in their first year and then produce seeds in their second year. Most gardeners around here, because of our climate in northern Indiana, grow them as annuals. We never see them in their seed production. We just buy them at the garden center each year or start our own from seed packages. All these years I've grown these vegetables. I've never really thought about their seed production. Nor did I know that they were biennials. Oh, the things you learn in this job!! I'm continually amazed and awed by the bits and pieces of information that have come with being a Master Gardener.

There's so much more to talk about but my space is limited. So I'll close for this month and save some more for next month. By then, we will all be enjoying the beautiful fall colors. It is surely something to look forward to each year.



From the Editors Desk

First of all, thank you to the following for submitting articles to this months Broadcaster:

Paul Miles

Linda Sinon

Mary Davis

Kate Rink

Judy Baker

Rita Lyzen

Ericka Soumare

Dara Revelli

Please send your articles to shzou@maplenet.net by the 20th of each month for the following month's Broadcaster.

Thank you,

Sherrie Zou



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.

