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*The Michiana***Broadcaster****“Helping Each Other Grow!”**

Michiana Master Gardeners Association

January 2010

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

January has provided plenty of opportunities for the CoCoRaHS weather observers to get out in the cold mornings and to measure the snow and to make our daily reports. However, as I write this first message of the year, the sun is shining and there was no new snow to measure this morning.

Jean Romke recently provided a summary of the 2009 Speakers Bureau activities. Approximately forty presentations were given by about fifteen of your fellow master gardeners. Jean and the MMGA speakers deserve a big thank you for their efforts.

I want to thank Paul Miles who has spent two of the last three years as the Association President. He has put in countless hours providing guidance to the association. 2010 will be his sixth year as an MMGA Board member. In addition, if there was an event in progress, you would most likely find him working along side other volunteers wrapping trees, hauling garden tour equipment, or helping with 4-H Fair set up. For those of you who have not heard, Paul finished 2009 recovering from bypass surgery performed Christmas week. His recovery is going well, and we hope he is back in full swing very soon.

As we start the New Year, I would like to express my appreciation to the outgoing board members for their dedication and service to the MMGA and to the people of our community. I trust they will continue their active support of the association and help us have another great year.

I extend my best wishes to our members for the New Year and am looking forward to working with you to accomplish another successful year.

~Jerry Martin, Class of 2006





*Day Minder . . .
Watch Us Grow!*



January 2010

26	Tues.	“Wildflower Woods Restoration of the Gene-Stratton Porter Memorial Park” presented by Martha Ferguson, AMA	7:00 PM
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Upcoming Meeting Dates

January 26th - Member Meeting - Martha Ferguson, speaker

February 15th - Board Meeting

February 16th - Tree Sale Meeting

February 23rd - Member Meeting

March 13th - Public Seminar & Annual Meeting with Joe Lamp’l

March 15th - Board Meeting

April 6th - Tree Sale Meeting

April 15-17th - Annual Tree Sale with SWCD

April 27th - Tree Sale Wrap-Up Meeting

July 10th - 14th Annual Garden Tour



Update from Ericka Soumare:

Hello Master Gardeners,

Below is information provided by Nancy Brown and the Elkhart County Chapter of Indiana Master Naturalists. It is an announcement about a workshop coming up in February. At this workshop, you can learn about creating your own backyard habit and even build a bird feeder! Read below for more information.

Creating Your Backyard Habitat Workshop

The Indiana Master Naturalist, Elkhart Chapter will be presenting a program "Creating Your Backyard Habitat" on Saturday, February 20, 2010, at the Schrock Pavilion, 411 W. Plymouth Street, Goshen for the general public. The program is presented in partnership with the Goshen Parks & Recreation Department.

This is a two-part workshop and the schedule is as follows:

Part I: 8:30-10:45	Open Public Forum (Please pre-register)
8:30 -9:00am	Registration and Educational Displays
9:00-9:45am	Indiana Wildlife Presentation
9:45-10:00am	Break
10:00-10:45am	Local IMN Panel Discussion

Part II 11:00-12:00 **Bird Feeder Workshop** (Must be pre-registered and paid.)

- Build your own hopper type bird feeder under the direction of Dwight Fish, Indiana Master Naturalist
- All materials and tools will be provided

As noted above, the first portion of the program is free to the public and will start at 9:00 a.m. It will be led by staff from the Indiana Wildlife Federation. Following the presentation there will be a panel of three local Indiana Master Naturalists to answer questions from the audience. Please bring your own mug, as hot and cold beverages will be provided.

The second part of the program will be a workshop for adults to make a bird feeder. The class fee is \$10.00 and is limited to twenty-four adults. Pre-registration is a requirement, and will be handled through the SWCD office. For more information, you can call the Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District at 574-533-3630 ext 3.

Source: Nancy Brown, Elkhart County SWCD and the Elkhart County Chapter of Indiana Master Naturalists.

Garden Tour 2010 Volunteer Opportunities

Submitted by Linda Siner

The Michiana Master Gardeners are making plans for Garden Tour 2010 which will be held in Goshen on Saturday July 10, 2010, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. You can be part of this exciting community event by volunteering. There are several ways to volunteer starting now through the day of the event.

Tour Volunteers

We will need several volunteers to be stationed at the garden sites. This can be an all day shift or a 4 hour shift. At the garden site you would mark off ticket books, keep track of the number of visitors and help the homeowner in answering questions from the public.

Also, volunteers are needed at the hospitality center from early morning through approximately 3:00 p.m. to help with plant sales, boutique merchandise, and clean up. In addition, there are opportunities available on Friday, July 8, setting up at the hospitality center which will be located at Goshen College in the old gymnasium. Flexibility will be appreciated.

Donating Plants, Container Gardens & Crafts

The plant and craft sale is one of the most popular attractions at the hospitality center. Please put your crafty talents to work. We also need you to donated perennials, annual, baskets, containers or whatever your creativity and generosity allows. You can save the containers from your spring plantings to put these in. The plants **MUST** be tagged with plant identification. Your plants should be dropped off at the hospitality center on Friday, July 8th, in the AM.

Cookies, Cookies, Cookies

Cookies and punch are served at the hospitality center and should be delivered Friday July 8 in the AM. 2 dozen cookies per person are needed to have enough for the morning.

Plant Identification Committee

Volunteers visit the garden sites a few weeks before the tour to identify and label the plants. If you are good at identifying plants, flowers, shrubs, etc. or if you want an opportunity to sharpen your skills, this is committee for you.

The Garden Tour is a great opportunity to get **many** hours to help fulfill your Master Gardener requirements. Below is contact information for those that can answer you questions.

Garden Tour 2010 Chair: Gwen Ferland
264-4356, eferland11@verizon.net

Garden Tour Co-chair: Leah Lichtenberger
642-4118 glacial@bnin.net

Volunteer Chair: Linda Sinon
293-6172 lsinon@maplenet.net

Volunteer Co-chair: Rhonda Loucks
862-4294 rhonway@fourway.net

Plant ID Chair: Mayrea Reusser
849-3263 tmjrsjj@yahoo.com

Merchandise Chair: Judy Marquart
658-4494 jdmarqrtpetals@yahoo.com

January 2010 MMGA Membership Meeting

Our first membership meeting of 2010 will be held January 26th, at 7:00p.m. at the Fair Grounds in Ag Hall. Martha Ferguson, an Advanced Master Gardener, will be talking about the landscape of the Wild Flower Woods Restoration of the Gene Stratton-Porter Historic Site. Gene Stratton-Porter was an Indiana author who wrote many books on nature—the most famous being "Girl of the Limberlost". Refreshments will be provided by Tandy Stutsman and Ruth Middleton who are both from the class of 2007. Please remember to bring your own drink.

~Laura Stevens

Please email articles for next month's Broadcaster to Sherrie Zou at sherrie.zou@gmail.com by **January 31st** (or you may email them to Linda Kimpel at the extension of-fice as well lkimpel@purdue.edu)

~Thank you!

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome." ~Anne Bradstreet, British poet (1612-1672)



CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES
AROUND THE STATE

- January 26, 2010

Gardening With a Native Landscape Sponsored by Purdue Extension and University of Illinois Extension, The Beef House, Covington IN, 6:30 to 9:00 pm (EST) 6:00 pm Registration; 6:30 pm Beef House meal

- February 27, 2010

Advanced Master Gardener Training Sponsored by Madison County Master Gardeners, Madison County 4-H Fairgrounds, Alexandria IN, Registration Fee for Training, Continental Breakfast, and Lunch: \$35.00 (due by February 13, 2010) Seeds, bulbs and other items for sale!

- March 6, 2010

Spring Tonic Sponsored by Hoosier Hillside Master Gardeners, Orange County Community Center, 1075 Sandy Hook Road, Orange County Fairgrounds, Paoli IN, 8:30 am to 3:00 pm, Open to the public (Master Gardeners receive 5 hours of Education Credit), Registration Fee: \$35.00 if paid by Feb. 15, 2010, \$40.00 after. Fee includes continental breakfast and lunch.

- March 13, 2010

ELEVENTH ANNUAL PUBLIC SEMINAR with guest speaker Joe Lamp'L presented by our own Michiana Master Gardeners' Association, please see the Registration Form in the center of this month's Broadcaster.

Location: Greencroft Goshen.

- June 18-19, 2010

2010 Purdue Master Gardener State Conference, Purdue University - West Lafayette Campus, **Save the date!** For information: pur-duemg@purdue.edu

- July 1-14, 2010

Master Gardener Study Abroad—England, Mike Dana and Rosie Lerner have planned an advanced training/study abroad opportunity on the Gardens of England. For more information, contact Rosie at rosie@purdue.edu or download a flyer from the Purdue website at: <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/eaig/>

Recipes from our Master Gardeners

Tex-Mex Salad

Cook 1 1/2 lb. hamburger until crumbly, drain.
Add 1 package Taco Seasoning as directed, set aside.

Mix the following ingredients in a large bowl:

1 large head of lettuce, shredded
1 c. sliced radishes
1 c. diced celery
3/4 c. diced onion
1 to 2 c. diced tomatoes

Prepare:

2 c. cheese, cut into cubes (mozzarella, cheddar, and/or Swiss)
1 can kidney beans, rinsed and drained
1 bottle Kraft Catalina salad dressing

Just before serving, combine the meat, beans, cheese with:

1—10 oz. bag of **Corn Chips**, broken up.

Toss with the bottle of Catalina.

Enjoy.

Good dish for a carry-in.



“M & M’s”

The “M & M” Membership Committee of MMGA (Marilyn Horvath and Marilyn Miles) extends a hearty “Hey” and “Welcome” to new members from the Class of 2009! It appears this class is nearing 100% in joining our Association. What a great percentage! Your expertise, enthusiasm & energy will boost us all!

To old & new alike, please consider volunteering to be a greeter at the table or door, a hostess bringing refreshments, or a contributor providing a “Plant of the Month” for a door prize drawing. Check the sign up sheets and others at the attendance table when you arrive at the monthly MMGA meeting. Note that there is a suggestion box on this table. Remember that education hours are earned for attendance, and some volunteer time can be split with education for helping out, so “*ya’all come!*”

The MMGA is an organization that has ‘social’ as a secondary goal. It is good to show respect and concern to our membership via communication. We will do this gladly if you will provide information to us on illness, death or other concerns of our membership. Please call or email one of us. This will not preclude any of your personal expressions and will only be a supplement to them.

The “M & M’s” welcome your suggestions. You can help by your regular attendance, input, and participation. New members can meet us all by being greeters!

Marilyn Horvath, Chair
Marilyn Miles, Co-Chair



Winter Gardens to Visit

Based on Rosie Lerner's 12/15/05 Article

While a thick blanket of winter snow might keep even die-hard gardeners out of yard work for now, a visit to one of the many Midwestern glasshouse gardens may help you get your plant fix. In addition to seasonal plant displays, many of these gardens offer classes, art exhibits and other ways to beat the winter doldrums.

INDIANAPOLIS:

White River Gardens, (317) 630-3252

Visit the Tropical Adventure exhibit from January 16th to March 14th, price included with your Indianapolis Zoo admission. www.whiterivergardens.com

Indianapolis Museum of Art, (317) 920-2660

Winter at the Oldfields-Lilly House & Gardens features a beautiful winter landscape outdoors and seasonal decorations indoors. www.imamuseum.org/explore/oldfieldsgardens

Garfield Park Conservatory, (317) 327-7184

January programs include the Reptile Round-up! and Terrific Terrariums www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org

FORT WAYNE:

Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory,

(260) 427-6440. An oasis in the heart of downtown Ft.

Wayne now showcasing "Downtown Landmarks-Winter Exhibit" from January 9-April 4, 2010.

www.botanicalconservatory.org

CHICAGO AREA:

Garfield Park Conservatory (Chicago)

(312) 746-5100, Sweet Saturdays Feb. 6 and Feb. 13 is a veritable plant-based candy show. The Spring Flower Show runs from Jan. 30th to May 9th.
www.garfield-conservatory.org

Lincoln Park Conservatory (Chicago)

(312) 742-7736, In the dead of a Chicago winter, this is a tropical oasis. The Spring Flower Show will be held January 23rd. www.chicagoparkdistrict.com

Kilbourn Park & Organic Greenhouse (Chicago)

(773) 685-3351, Workshops include Seed Starting Basics—Feb. 13th, Early Spring Greens—Feb. 24th, Rain Barrels & Rain Gardening—Mar. 13th, and Landscaping with Native Plants—Mar. 27th.
www.chicagoparkdistrict.com

Chicago Botanic Garden (Glencoe)

(847) 835-5440, The greenhouse gardens range from a tropical rain forest to desert cacti gardens.
www.chicago-botanic.org

Morton Arboretum (Lisle)

(630) 968-0074, Husky Heroes (Jan. 30&31), candy gardens and chocolate exhibits in February, snowshoeing, cool kids nature hikes, and a Gnome Hunt through Feb. 28th. www.mortonarb.org

CINCINNATI:

Krohn Conservatory , (513) 352-4080

www.cincinnatiiparks.com/krohn-conservatory/

Civic Garden Center , (513) 221-0981

www.civicgardencenter.org

SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

Submitted by Jerry Martin

Each year the Michiana Master Gardener Association provides scholarship funds to Purdue University that are designated for award to an Elkhart County student enrolled in a Horticulture program at Purdue. The following is a copy of the thank you letter received from this year's MMGA scholarship recipient.



December 17, 2009

Dear Michiana Master Gardener Association,

I am writing to thank you for the generous Michiana Master Gardener Association scholarship of \$2,500 for the 2009-2010 academic school year. I was thrilled to learn that I had been chosen for this particular scholarship because it represents where I have grown up.

I have lived in Elkhart my whole life and am currently a junior in the Landscape Horticulture and Design program here at Purdue University. I grew up being active outdoors and surrounded by my mother's love for gardening. This truly influenced my love and choice for my career. I enjoy being very active with the Horticultural Society here at Purdue, holding the Treasurer position this year. I am also active in the Alpha Zeta fraternity as well as National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

Upon graduation, I plan to return to Elkhart County, even if just for a short time, to work and help make Elkhart even more beautiful. I have enjoyed working in the county over the past summer and will definitely continue next summer working with Jansen Landscaping, Inc., to beautify Michiana. Upon working within the landscaping field, I hope to eventually start my own company.

I will continue to work as hard as possible in my studies and represent Elkhart County in a very positive manner. Thank you again for the opportunity to be the recipient of such a generous scholarship.

Sincerely,
Whitney K. Strong

Member Spotlight

Submitted by Mary Davis



Edmund (“Ed”) Farmwald, class of 2007, is a native Hoosier. He moved to Red Bluff, California while in the Marines and then came back to Elkhart, took a course at the Elkhart business college, moved to Wisconsin and missed Indiana, so he came back again. After our recent weather, California may start looking pretty good. Ed worked in the RV industry after his return to Indiana, but is now retired. He is married to Linda who works part-time in the office at Greencroft—he says it’s so she can grease the wheels, so he can get in. (Kind of like my husband who tells everyone I play the harp as it is the only thing that will get me through the pearly gates).

When Ed retired, he decided he needed to learn about lawn management and hence, came to MMGA. That turned him into a gardener—he is now interested in flower gardens and raised beds for vegetables and has become the organizer and champion of the outdoor classroom for Prairie View elementary.

He indicated this program is using rain gardens, native plants and wildlife habitat to create learning for children outdoors. An intern from Ball State who is studying architectural design has helped with the layout. Ed also recently completed training as a Master Naturalist (where he and I became acquainted), and he is Vice-President of their group.

Ed and his wife share their home with two white cats—Kit and Kat, who are littermates they acquired as kittens three years ago. They also recently adopted two Westies from the animal shelter—Thelma and Louise, who are “guessed” to be about two years old. Ed said they are escape artists and manage to open the gate to the fenced in yard, challenging him to make their home more secure (you will be pleased to know he was able to outsmart the dogs—not always an easy task, I know from experience!)

Ed and Linda raised six children—Doug, who resides in South Bend, Guy and Karmel, from Syracuse, Marjorie, Lafayette (married to a Purdue professor—boo, hiss), Chip from Mesa, Arizona and Frances (Frank), who lives in Kansas City, Missouri.

(Continued on the next page.)

Member Spotlight (Con't.)

Apparently they enjoyed growing up in a large family, as they have produced 20 grandchildren! The grandchildren range in age from 5 to 22—Ed notes he is getting into “great-grandpa” territory. Ed said they all try to get together for the 4th of July and when they do, it is a houseful. Ed and Linda also recently joined the “now” generation and acquired a Wii, which he said is lots of fun and keeps them in shape (when he can get Linda away from it).

Ed has worked for the Garden Tour and the tree sale. He realizes it was necessary, but wasn't crazy about all the time in the classroom, as he would prefer to be outdoors—one of the benefits of Master Naturalist training. He enjoys the camaraderie and networking in MMGA, but hopes more community projects can be developed.



Ed with his son, Guy

Learning Opportunities in Elkhart County

Upcoming Free Gardening Seminars

February 20, 2010—Green Gardening
*One Room School House at Bonneville Park, 533732
CR 131—Bristol*

A smart and simple plan for your successful lawn. Come and learn how to put together your no-fail 2010 Lawn Care Plan. Topics include general lawn care, tools, these pesky moles, making rain barrels, and easy composting.

February 27, 2010—Children's Gardening
*Middlebury Public Library, 101 E. Winslow Street—
Middlebury*

Do plants need air? Learn about plant parts, see beans grow and grow on your own Easter eggs! Come learn and enjoy this "hands on" workshop suitable for children ages K through 6. Parents welcome too!

March 27, 2010—Herbs
Willowdale Park Pavilion, 1320 Olive Street—Elkhart

A smart and simple plan for your successful lawn. Come and learn how to put together your no-fail 2010 Lawn Care Plan. Topics include general lawn care, tools, these pesky moles, making rain barrels, and easy composting.

More to come! Watch for additional spring seminars in upcoming issues. For more info, call the Extension Office at 533-0554.



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.

*Adopt the pace of nature—
her secret is patience.
~Ralph Waldo Emerson*

PURDUE
UNIVERSITY

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