

PURDUE

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PURDUE UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

Elkhart County

Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds

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Broadcaster

“Helping Each Other Grow!”

Michiana Master Gardeners Association

May 2010

Features This Issue!

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FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK

Didn't spring seem to arrive early this year? The flowering Cherry, Crabapple, Dogwood, Redbud, Lilac and others in our backyard reached their peak bloom the last half of April and are fading fast; they all seemed to blossom at once. The blossoms are falling from our cherry tree and except for the pink cast it looks like snow on the ground. Speaking of snow, we had a bit of snow on April 27th; it was such a light snow fall that unless you were out in it you would not have known.

The Tree Sale Committee Co-chairs, Nancy Brown & Vickie Estep, other committee members and all those who helped with the annual tree sale should be congratulated for a job well done. I hope you all enjoyed the April meeting and our visit to South Africa with Marilyn Horvath. I for one was surprised at the rather harsh terrain that seemed to prevail throughout the region. It is always interesting to learn about new places that we have not seen. The area around the extension office is shaping up very nicely this spring. A couple of weeks ago I saw Mary Morgan & Judy Marquart hard at work weeding and pruning the area, good job.

Many of you have put out your cold weather crops as have the Community Garden workers; soon it will be time to start planting the more temperature sensitive flowers and vegetables. This month we will also be planting the Quilt Garden at the Fair Grounds and many helping hands will be needed.

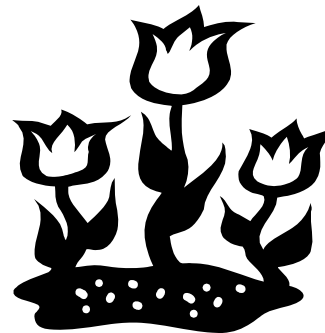
When working in your garden/flower beds this spring, please remember to pot up those extra plants to donate for the annual Garden Tour, held on July 10, 2010. In addition, your garden related crafts are needed for sale at the hospitality center.

Also, I would like extend an invitation to all gardeners, as you plant those flowers and vegetables, to think about what you may want to enter at the Elkhart County Fair this year. Entry applications are available in the extension office or on line at <http://www.4hfair.org/openclass.htm> Horticulture Rules and Entry.

The timely publication of the Broadcaster is truly appreciated, a special thanks to Sherrie Zou & Linda Kimpel for their efforts in putting the publication together. I thank all who submit input to these ladies for publication each month.

Happy planting,

Jerry Martin



Eastern Tent Caterpillar: Threat or Nuisance?

by Ericka Soumare, Purdue Extension Educator

As you waited to witness the beautiful blooms of your trees, perhaps you noticed thick webs that are usually formed in the crotches of branches. These webs are made by the Eastern Tent Caterpillar. You can identify it by its dark color and white stripe down its back. It can grow as long as 2 inches. Eastern Tent Caterpillars hatch and search for v-shaped joints in branches to build their webs. The webbing serves as a barrier to protect the caterpillars from predators such as birds. The caterpillars stay inside the web during most of the day and become active at night to feed on leaves of the tree. When day breaks, they climb back into the security of their web.

If the web of the Eastern Tent Caterpillar can be reached, you can take the caterpillars and drop them into a bucket of soapy water. There are also some insecticides that control the Eastern Tent Caterpillar while preserving beneficial insects such as bees. Burning nests is dangerous and can cause damage to the tree itself, so it is not recommended as a control method. Although the webbing in your tree may not be your ideal choice of decoration, the Eastern Tent Caterpillar rarely affects tree health. This makes it more of a nuisance than a threat. For more information about this caterpillar and its control, you can visit the web at <http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/publications/HN-68.pdf>. You can also contact your Elkhart County Extension office for more information.

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*Purdue University is an equal access/equal
opportunity institution.*

Landscaping at the Extension Office

We would like to thank everyone that helped spring clean the flower beds around the Extension Office. New flowers have been planted, bushes have been pruned, and the perennials have never looked better. We appreciate your hard work. Our customers comment on how nice everything looks.

THANKS!

The Extension Office Crew



CONGRATULATIONS to the Class of
2009 for completing the Spring
Seminars! Thank you for continuing
to fulfill the Master Gardener Motto –
“Helping Others Grow”



Day Minder . . . Watch Us Grow!



10	Mon.	Garden Tour Committee Meeting— Extension Conference Room	6:30 PM
17	Mon.	Work on Quilt Garden at the Extension Office	9:00 AM
17	Mon.	Board Meeting—Extension Conference Room (12PM if you bring your lunch)	12:30 PM
25	Tues.	Member Meeting—Ag Hall Speaker Dale Hess from Merry Lea	7:00 PM



14	Mon.	Garden Tour Committee Meeting— Extension Conference Room	6:30 PM
21	Mon.	Board Meeting—Extension Conference Room (12 PM if you bring your lunch)	12:30 PM
29	Tues.	Member Meeting—Ag Hall Topic: Hydroponics	7:00 PM

Upcoming Meeting Dates

- April 1 through October 1, 2010

Michiana Master Gardener Hotline advice available from 9 am to 1 pm daily. Call 574-533-0554. Extension Office—Goshen.

- **July 10, 2010**

2010 Michiana Master Gardener Garden Tour, Goshen and the surrounding area. For more information watch our website:

www.michianamastergardeners.com

July 19th - Board and Member Meeting (Board at 4:30, Fair Setup at 6:30)

- **July 23-31, 2010**

2010 Elkhart County 4-H Fair: Goshen Fairgrounds

August 9th - Garden Tour Committee Meeting

August 16th - Board Meeting

August 24th - Member Meeting

September 13th - Garden Tour Committee Meeting

September 20th - Board Meeting

September 28th - Member Meeting: “Roses” Presented by Ideko Widman

October 11th - Garden Tour Committee Meeting

October 18th - Board Meeting

October 26th - Member Meeting featuring Mike Jensen speaking on Hardscapes



**2010 Quilt Gardens...along the Heritage Trail Creates Hope
with Plenty of Heart**

2010 marks inspiring additions to the Quilt Gardens... along the Heritage Trail through a partnership with the Elkhart County CVB and the Vera Bradley Foundation for Breast Cancer to create *Hope...along the Heritage Trail*. The partnership brings: an original quilt wall hanging, a garden at Elkhart's Wellfield Botanic Gardens and a hand-painted quilt art mural. All reflect an original *Interlocking Hearts of Hope* design.

Acclaimed local fiber artist, Diana Bennett, created the *Interlocking Hearts of Hope* design exclusively for the Vera Bradley Foundation for Breast Cancer. She uses it for an original quilt wall hanging made with exclusive Vera Bradley fabrics to benefit the Foundation. The quilt will be displayed, and raffle tickets sold to win it, at six area Vera Bradley retailers April thru September. All proceeds benefit the Foundation.

Mural artist Jeff Stillson is using Diana's "Hope" design as inspiration for a 12 foot by 15 foot quilt mural he is painting. The mural will grace the side of a building on Warren Street in downtown Middlebury. This new mural brings the number of official murals to 17 for 2010. The *Interlocking Hearts of Hope* design will also be replicated in an official quilt garden, the 17th on the tour, located at the Wellfield Botanic Gardens in Elkhart. The Wellfield Botanic Gardens is a 36-acre site filled with ponds, pedestrian paths and stands of hickory and oak trees arrayed on and around the city's historic wellfield. The tranquil site for the new 900 square foot quilt garden overlooks

the ponds. 3,636 plants consisting of Jazz Yellow Coleus, Piccabella Mix Petunia, Silver Falls Dichondra, Hawaii Blue Ageratum, Royal Ageratum and Tiger Eye Gold Redbeckia, will saturate this glorious garden with color. This is the only 2010 quilt garden using Dichondra and Redbeckia in its pattern. This garden, planted and maintained by volunteers and dedicated to the Vera Bradley Foundation for Breast Cancer, is designed to be a thing of beauty, a place for contemplation and source of encouragement for all who view it. What a lovely addition to the Quilt Gardens!

Hope...along the Heritage Trail plants the seeds of inspiration, creates awareness and generates funding in the fight against breast cancer. And its' all done with plenty of heart.

~Sonya Nash, Master Gardener and Project Manager for the Quilt Gardens...along the Heritage Trail



Dear Fellow Gardeners,

Wow, I owe all our hard working master gardeners a great big thank you! Now that I'm rested I need to take a moment to let you know how your efforts paid off. Thanks to each of you who gave of your time so generously to insure the tree sale was a success. We had so much fun working side by side. The trees were packaged and sorted in record time. We had enough volunteers to work 5 tables this year (another new record). We had our best ever walk in sales totals on Saturday morning with overall sales nearing our best year (a real accomplishment in this economy).

Ag hall worked out wonderfully allowing us to work more comfortably and efficiently. We had many positive comments from our customers on the change of venue also. Our new plan for distribution of unsold trees worked like a charm with no trees going to waste. Every single seedling was utilized in the surrounding communities. Remember that as master gardeners you are part of a non-profit organization and you may apply for a grant for unsold trees to use in your presentations and projects in 2011. One of our members did apply this year and those trees will be distributed during Arbor Day.

On behalf of the members of the Tree Sale committee, KUDOS to all who helped! We hope we can count on you next year...

Gratefully,

Vickie Estep
Tree Sale, Co-Chair





Early morning,
trees ready to
be picked for
orders



Getting
instructions



More
instructions



Above: Ed and Karen work on Variety Packs



Right: Heidi and Linda



Left: Variety Packs



Above: Mayrea and others working on orders



Left: Mary and Kathleen



Above: Panorama of Ag Hall

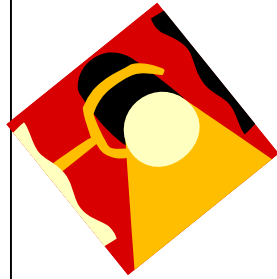
Four tables working



Ruth and Sue working

Preorders are Ready!!





Member Spotlight

By Mary Davis



Mary Hesser

If you have worked at the tree sale, you have met Mary Hesser (class of '04). Every year, she has loaned her horse trailer to haul trees to the fairgrounds and helps unload them and then works to getting ready for the sale and working at the sale. She warned us this year the wet peat used to help maintain tree roots will ruin your gloves and says that every year she waits until after the sale to get a new pair. She insists that is all she needs to be happy and doesn't understand why her husband says she is high maintenance. Go figure.

She is married to Randy, an Elkhart attorney. They have three children—Anna who graduated from IU (go Hoosiers!) and who is presently working in Germany, Fritz who is just finishing up his junior year at IU and Jack who is a student at Northridge High School. Mary grew up in the Cincinnati area. She indicated her family moved over the border into Indiana at the start of her high school years and said it was like moving to a foreign country. She met her husband-to-be in high school and they dated, but she broke up before going to college (Xavier back in Cincinnati).

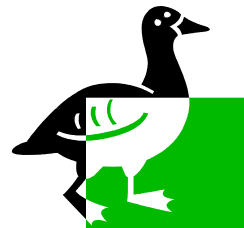


Member Spotlight (con't.)

Missing the old days of hanging out, she called Randy's home and talked to his mother. Although their original parting was not a happy one, they did reconnect and "the rest is history."

They moved to Elkhart when Randy was hired by a local law firm. They have a small farm property where they raise horses (Mary's lifelong passion). Mary showed the horses for several years and still enjoys them—she describes her primary employment as chief horse manure hauler. (And yes, she would love to share the wealth with any Master Gardener, but no, she doesn't age and compost it for you, that is your job J). She also substitute teaches part time.

She said when they bought the farm Randy told her she could have any animals, except chickens. All went well until daughter Anna started 4-H and wanted to raise chickens (go ask your father. . .). Now, the Hessers have chickens—after Anna and Fritz left home, Mary said she was spoiled by having fresh eggs always available, so they still have 11 hens. She donates extra eggs to the mission and they have chickens dressed by a local company. They also raise ducks (apparently Randy enjoys eating duck, so they are acceptable) and meat rabbits.



Mary Hesser—Class of 2004

Mary said Randy loves to start conversations with “While Mary and I were butchering rabbits. . .). They also have dog Ed, 2 barn cats and a pond full of fish. In addition to being interested in composting (of necessity), Mary enjoys raising vegetables. With the veggies, poultry, eggs and rabbits, Mary indicates they don’t have to buy very much food.

In addition to the tree sale, she has worked on the garden tour and on horticulture at the fair. Mary said she always enjoyed gardening and the more she learned, the more she realized how much she didn’t know and hence came to training, which she loved. She said she was disappointed when it ended and couldn’t figure out what to do with her Wednesday afternoons! She loves the camaraderie with fellow MGs!!



Note: Please submit articles for the Broadcaster to Sherrie Zou at sherrie.zou@gmail.com, by the end of each month so we can get the publication mailed to you before our monthly Membership meetings the following month. Thanks to everyone for keeping the membership informed.

LOCAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES...

In Elkhart County
Vegetable Gardening and Natural Lawn Care Program

Purdue Extension is offering a basic vegetable gardening and natural lawn care program at the following dates and locations:

May 25

10 a.m. -12 p.m. Elkhart County Extension Office
17746-E CR 34, Goshen

May 26

10 a.m. -12 p.m. Middlebury Public Library
101 E Winslow St, Middlebury

May 27

10 a.m. -12 p.m. Nappanee Public Library
157 N Main St, Nappanee

May 28

10 a.m. -12 p.m. Wakarusa Public Library
124 N Elkhart St, Wakarusa

The seminar is free and open to the public.

Please call the Extension office to reserve your spot, seating is limited.

Purdue is and equal access/ equal opportunity institution.

Volunteer Opportunity: Just as the 4-H Fairgrounds quilt garden requires volunteers, another garden I that needs our help is at Ruthmere in Elkhart. Members would need to contact Pam McIntire or Ron Wolfschlager at the Ruthmere Museum. Call the Ext office for more info. ~Vickie Estep

2010 Garden Tour- Merchandise and Plants

May is here and June is just around the corner. I trust everyone is working hard on some very clever talented crafty items for the merchandise sale. Remember to keep the crafty items in the theme of gardening.

And, if you don't have enough to do between weeding and planting, I hope you can find a few plants to pot from your garden that need a new home.

Lets make it a very successful plant and merchandise sale. We all need everyone's help for a very fantastic Garden Tour!!

Judy Marquart

574-658-4494 Jmarquart2009@hotmail.com

Mini Message from the M & M's

If you....

Will inform us of our members in need.....

Then we will

Send caring cards.

If you...

Need a ride to meetings & call.....

Then we will

Arrange a ride for you.

If you...

Attend our monthly meetings...

Then YOU will

Gain the benefits of....

INFORMATION FRIENDS FELLOWSHIP
FUN

The M & M's, your Membership Marilyns

Call 522-6889 or email mrlnify@aol.com

Recipe from our Master Gardeners

Strawberry Rhubarb Pie

1 1/2 c. sugar
1/4 c. flour
1/4 t. salt
1/4 t. nutmeg (I use cinnamon instead)

3 c. 1/2-inch pieces rhubarb
1 c. sliced strawberries
1 double pie crust
1 T. butter

Combine sugar, flour, salt, and nutmeg (or cinnamon). Add fruit, mix well, let stand 20 minutes. Spoon into 9" pie plate. Dot with butter, moisten edge. Adjust top crust and flute edges. Bake in 400 degree oven for 40-45 minutes. Serve slightly warm.

~Laura Stevens



CONTINUING EDUCATION SEMINARS
AROUND THE STATE

- May 15, 2010
“Saturday Gardening Series” by Madison County Master Gardeners,
Anderson Public Library, 3rd Floor, Anderson, IN, 10:30 am—12:00pm, #3
in the 9 week series is “Learning from Gardens Visited by Milt Otto” For
Information call the Purdue Extension Office at 765-641-9514 or online:
www.madisoncountymastergardener.org/upcoming_events.htm
- June 9, July 14, and August 18, 2010
Advanced Master Gardener Training Sponsored by Lake County Master Gardener Program. Location: Taltree Arboretum and Gardens near Valparaiso. Contact: Taltree Arboretum: 219-462-0025
- June 17-19, 2010
2010 Purdue Master Gardener State Conference, Purdue University — West Lafayette.
- June 10, 2010
“Saturday Gardening Series” by Madison County Master Gardeners,
Anderson Public Library, 3rd Floor, Anderson, IN, 10:30 am—12:00pm, #3
in the 9 week series is “Mission Berry Farm Field Trip by Farmer Dave” For
Information call the Purdue Extension Office at 765-641-9514 or online:
www.madisoncountymastergardener.org/upcoming_events.htm .
- June 1-14, 2010
England and Its Gardens, International Study
Abroad for Purdue Master Gardeners



INSIDE THE EXTENSION OFFICE

Submitted By: Kate Rink

Happy Spring!! Hasn't it been a great start so far? I can't remember the last time we've had such a nice warm start in March that has continued through April. We've had some cold mornings but the afternoons have warmed up so nicely that Spring work is definitely ahead of schedule this year. It's nice to have the flower beds cleaned up and ready for May planting.

It's April. The Master Gardener room is open for business. It's time to let the fun begin! Our Ag and Natural Resources Educator, Erika Soumare, held a training session for new and experienced helpers. Refreshing our memories from things we learned in our Master Gardener classes was very helpful. A power point presentation brought us up to snuff and taught us some things we had forgotten. Refreshing our memories is a good thing!

Diagnostic training is such a great way to learn with a hand-on approach. Using notes, handouts and pictures, trainees were guided through a series of diseases and plant problems to decipher. Some things are very hard to diagnose. The process of elimination often comes into play.

The Master Gardener Room is full of wonderful resources to help you to find answers. We were given a tour of the room and what it has to offer. Popular web sites were shown, operation of the microscope was demonstrated and proper telephone etiquette was discussed.

We only had one client contact sheet in the file for this month so far.

A lady called in wanting to know how to get rid of this dark green grass-like “stuff” that is multiplying heavily in her yard and flowerbeds. She said it comes from small bulbs and has an onion or garlic smell to it and it was not blooming.

Our MG identified her oniony grass as the Star of Bethlehem. It is a winter bulb that comes from the lily family. The flowers open in the morning and close at night. For its pretty name and its white star shaped flowers, it certainly can become a nuisance in beds and lawns when it is allowed to run wild.

Unfortunately, the Star of Bethlehem is difficult to control. Herbicides have little effect. Some homeowners have had a measure of success pulling the plants being sure to remove the bulbs as well. For most of us, it is likely better to increase our mowing frequency to keep the weedy leaves down at the same height as the surrounding turf leaves and enjoy the white flowers for a couple of weeks in the early spring. The good thing about it is the foliage dies off before it is time to plant spring flowers.

I’m sure many more questions will come into the office as the weather warms up even more. People will get out into their yards to investigate what survived the winter and what didn’t and what to do about this and that. We’ll be ready. That’s our goal. Helping others grow!

Erika will be doing another training session on April 29th. Maybe you would consider helping out. It’s really not hard and the people that call are generally very nice and so appreciative of your efforts. I encourage anyone to try it. It’s quite worth your time!

Splinters from the Board, April, 2010:

By Jim Bare

Actions taken at the April 19 MMGA Board meeting included the following:

*We requested that MMGA members have input into the design and plant selection of the Quilt garden that we maintain here at the Fair Grounds.

*The Cooperative Fundraiser Agreement between MMGA and SWCD was modified to eliminate the phrase requiring us to set aside funds from the tree sale to fund start up costs for the sale the following year.

*Ladder – a 6 foot step ladder came up missing last year. We still have one, but two are needed occasionally, especially when setting up for the Fair. The Board approved spending up to \$175 to get a safe ladder.

MMGA Membership Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2010, 7:00 p.m. Ag Hall

President Jerry Martin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed the 48 members present. Jerry reported that Phyllis Shortgen is recovering from knee surgery, and Jean Rombke is recovering from pneumonia.

PROGRAM

Marilyn Horvath, presented a very interesting program, with pictures, maps, and two tables of souvenirs, on South Africa's places, people, fauna, and flora. She toured South Africa in September, 2009 (Spring in SA) with a tour group organized by Fernwood. We learned some new words, for example, *fynbos* and *bosch*. We look forward to her next trip and report!

Thank you Tammy Mentor and Laura Stevens for the delicious refreshments, including rhubarb!

Erica Soumare reminded members that help is needed moving tables and chairs for the Fruitgrower's Seminar this Thursday. Hotline training is tomorrow, April 28.

Larry Drudge , Treasurer, reported that we have a bit over \$30,000 in the bank today.

President Jerry noted that the Board of Directors has discussed the possibility of holding daytime member's meetings but has determined that it is not feasible. Anyone who cannot attend because they cannot drive at night is encouraged to phone Marilyn Miles or Marilyn Horvath and a ride will be arranged. He also noted that he will try to keep meetings from getting too long.

A Silver membership certificate (500 volunteer hours) was given to Suzanne Pedler and a Bronze membership certificate (250 volunteer hours) was given to Sharon Cooper-Kolski.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Gardens – It was reported by Suzan Stuckman that the cold weather crops have been planted. She thanked those responsible for the irrigation pump. Someone donated more swiss chard seeds than is needed and Sue is giving them away. (Gwen said people should work for the seeds “DIG A WEED, GET A SEED” would be the slogan!)

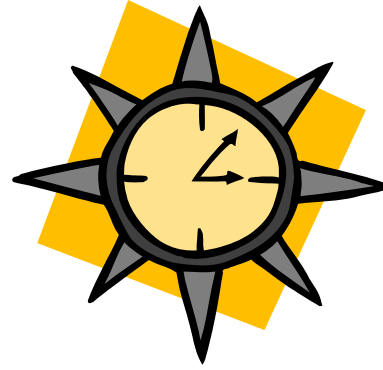
Sue also promoted a local branch of the Indiana Native Plant and Wildlife Society.

Elkhart County Fair – Volunteer sign-ups will begin next month.

Garden Tour – Gwen reported that merchandise for selling is needed. There will be lots of opportunities for volunteers.

Membership Committee – No report.

Merchandise - Doris Kehr displayed examples of merchandise that will be available for viewing and purchase on-line. She also had some sale items on hand.



Member Meeting Notes (con't.)

Michiana Broadcaster – Jerry reminded members to keep sending articles for the Broadcaster.

New Class Seminars for the Spring have been completed. They will be repeated during the Fair.

Program Committee – The May speaker will be Dale Hess, of Merry Lea Environmental Center. Laura Stevens also promoted this Saturday's Garden Party, in Elkhart. All proceeds go to Wellfield Botanical Gardens.

Quilt Garden – Heidi Zavatsky reported that May 17 is garden Preparation day, and May 25 will be planting day (16,000 plants!). She also reported that MMGA members can make suggestions for the design of the 2011 Quilt Garden. Suggestions must be submitted to Heidi by July 1, 2010.

Speakers Bureau – Linda Harkleroad read a thank you from Jean to all who have answered speaking requests.

Tree Sale – Vickie Estep stated that the tree sale was a resounding success. She asked everyone present who helped with any part of the tree sale to stand, and it appeared that at least 2/3 of those present stood. Thanks to everyone. Although total sales (\$10,522.19) were down, we had more walk-in sales than any year previously.

Judy Marquart, Sue Pedler and Jim Bare won the door prize plants.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jim Bare
April 28, 2010



*Michiana Master Gardeners' Association presents
Elkhart County's 14th Annual*

2010 GARDEN TOUR

*Saturday, July 10th
10 am to 5 pm*

The 2010 Garden Tour which will be held in Goshen is less than two months away. Volunteers are needed to help with set up at the hospitality center at Goshen College on Friday morning, July 9th, and tear down Saturday, July 10th. Another way you can help is by donating 2-3 dozen cookies for our Saturday morning refreshments.

Remember plants for the "big plant sale". We need your donated perennials, annuals, baskets, container gardens or whatever your creativity and generosity allows. Make sure the plants are in clean containers and are labeled with the name of the plant. Your plants and or cookies should be dropped off at the Hospitality Center on Friday July 9th in the AM so they can be organized before the tour.

Another way you can volunteer would be working with the Plant Identification Committee. This committee visits the garden sites a few weeks before the tour to identify and label the plants, flowers, shrubs, etc. That is always a fun time and you also get a sneak preview of the gardens. Help will be needed at several of the garden sites with parking and traffic.

Please contact me if you would like to help in any of these areas.

Linda Sinon 574-293-6172 or llsinon@maplenet.net

MICHIANA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION
ELKHART COUNTY
Mission Statement



The Michiana Master Gardeners Association is a not-for-profit educational organization dedicated to the improvement of the community. Members of the Association have completed the requirements of the Master Gardener Volunteer Training Program, working in affiliation with the Purdue Extension Service of Elkhart County. Its specific aim is to improve the quality of life in the community by providing information and technical assistance in the area of home horticulture through the use of trained and certified volunteers.

*“The world’s favorite season is the
spring. All things seem possible in
May.” ~Edwin Way Teale*

PURDUE
UNIVERSITY

ELKHART COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
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EXTENSION EDUCATOR
AGRICULTURE/NATURAL RESOURCES
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(574) 533-0554
MAY 2010