

PURDUE

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PURDUE UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

Elkhart County

Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds

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Goshen, IN 46528-6898

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Broadcaster

“Helping Each Other Grow!”

Michiana Master Gardeners' Association

September 2010

Features This Issue!

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From the President's Desk

This has been an unusually hot and dry August. Flowers and vegetables are stressed from lack of water and the 90 degree days and lawns that have not been watered look like straw fields from the August drought. Here in Wakarusa the average August rainfall for

the last four years has been 5.67 inches but only 91 hundredths of an inch has fallen this month.

The only reason for mowing the lawn recently has been to pick up the fallen leaves. The humming birds are attacking the feeder with a vengeance since so many of their favorite flowers are gone, and the cardinals are keeping the bird bath empty. Around our area many of the corn fields are being chopped for silage which is making seeing at corners easier for country driving. Other than the lack of rain, it has been a beautiful month for any outdoor activities, but I am looking forward to a couple of nice rainy days.

Last evening was our Garden Tour Appreciation Dinner with the tour home owners as our guests. Total attendance for the function was 69. We were all treated to an excellent catered dinner and slide show. A big thank you to those who helped make this a very enjoyable evening.

The majority of our special projects have now concluded for the year, and planning meetings have started or will be starting for the 2011 projects. Please plan on joining one of the many committees or volunteering your support as the opportunities present themselves.

The Quilt Garden cleanup will be held in early October and our last two educational meetings for the year will be in September and October. Our November meeting will be the Thanks-for-Giving Dinner with a food drive and our election of new Board Members.

Can you believe there are only a 115 days until Christmas!

Jerry Martin





Day Minder . . . Watch Us Grow!



13	Mon.	Garden Tour Committee Meeting— Sage Bakery & Café Goshen	7:00 PM
20	Mon.	Board Meeting—Extension Confer- ence Room (Optional Lunch at noon)	12:30 PM
20	Mon..	Spring Celebration Planning Meeting	6:30 PM
28	Tues.	Member Meeting—Ag Hall “Roses” by Ideko Widman	7:00 PM



11	Mon.	Garden Tour Committee Meeting— Sage Bakery & Café Goshen	7:00 PM
18	Mon.	Board Meeting—Extension Confer- ence Room (Optional Lunch at noon)	12:30 PM
26	Tues.	Member Meeting—Ag Hall “Hardscapes” by Mike Jansen	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.

November 8th - Garden Tour Committee Meeting

November 15th - Board Meeting

November 16th - Member Meeting- “Thanks-for-Giving Carry-In” and Board Member Elections 6:30 PM

December 6th - Board Meeting (Officer elections and Liaison Assignments)

No Member Meeting in December

January 10th - Garden Tour Committee Meeting

January 17th - Board Meeting

January 25th - Member Meeting

February 7th - Garden Tour Committee Meeting

February 21st - Board Meeting

February 22nd - Member Meeting

March 12th -SPRING CELEBRATION/ANNUAL DINER

March 14th - Garden Tour Committee Meeting

March 21st - Board Meeting

April 11th - Garden Tour Committee Meeting

April 18th - Board Meeting

April 26th - Member Meeting

May 9th - Garden Tour Committee Meeting

May 16th - Board Meeting

May 24th - Member Meeting



Garden and Lawn Activities This Time of Year

By Ericka Soumare

We are at the end of August and believe it or not, almost at the end of another year. The weather is changing slowly but there are still some things you can be doing in your yard this time of year. Before we know it, our yards will be dormant and snow covered. But for now, the lawn and garden are still thriving and can benefit from proper care and attention.

During the driest times of year, it is important to make sure the lawn, garden, and plants are well-watered. This is especially true for newly established plants. This is also a good time to seed new lawns or bare spots in the lawn. Also, if moisture is sufficient, lawns can be fertilized at this time of year. Vegetables such as lettuce, spinach, radishes, and green onions can be planted in late August and early September.

Watermelon is ready to be harvested when the underside is white or yellow and the tendril closest to the melon turns brown and shrivels. The watermelon should also be dull instead of shiny and should not produce a ringing sound when thumped. Sweet corn should be harvested when the kernels are plump and when you notice a milky juice if you puncture a kernel with your fingernail. The liquid from a kernel should not be watery or soft like dough. Watery fluid means you should wait a little longer to harvest the corn, and doughy kernels means that the corn has stayed too long on the stalk and should have already been harvested.

Listed above are just a few things to consider during this time of year. For more detailed information on late August and early September lawn and garden ideas, you can visit the web at <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/HO-92.pdf> or <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/HO-93.pdf>. You can also contact your Elkhart County Extension office for more information.

Purdue University is an equal access/equal opportunity institution.

Purdue Extension

Knowledge to Go

1-888-EXT-INFO

AREA OPPORTUNITES

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 articles, photos, and recipes coming in.

MMGA Webmaster Needed

After many years of dedicated service, our webmaster, Dara Revelli, has expressed an interest in passing the torch on to someone else. We would like to have someone trained and ready to take over this position by November. I have listed below the skills that a candidate would need to possess to succeed in this position.

Must own a computer and have working email access at all times.

Must own Microsoft Front Page software and possess a working knowledge of how to use it.

Should be proficient in MS Office – Word, Excel and Windows Explorer.

Own Adobe Acrobat software and have a working knowledge of Adobe PDF formatting.

Should be creative and willing to enhance the site to make it attractive and user friendly.

Quick learner with knowledge of current technologies.

Be willing to dedicate 3-5 hours per month to keep the site current. It would be expected that more hours would be required in the beginning to learn and make needed improvements.

Be willing to teach a replacement prior to stepping down from this position.

If you feel you have the qualifications and desire to fill this position please contact Vickie Estep – website liaison at spiritdncr@gmail.com.

Linton's 2010 Special Events

Linton's Birthday Party	September 11 & 12
Oktoberfest	October 2 & 3
Spooktacular	October 23 & 24
The Red Carpet	November 2 & 4
Christmas Open House	November 6 & 7

INDIANA DNR NEWS

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
402 W. Washington St. W255 B
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2748
Phone: (317) 232-4200

For immediate release: Aug. 31, 2010

Emergency rule aimed at stopping tree disease.

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources has issued an emergency rule banning the transportation of walnut products from nine western states and Tennessee to prevent the introduction of **Thousand Cankers Disease (TCD)** that afflicts black walnut trees and other walnut species, including butternut.

The emergency rule, issued by the DNR Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology, became effective yesterday and will help protect Indiana's black walnut trees from the disease.

The rule applies to walnut products from Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah, and Washington.

Banned products originating from or traveling through the affected states include walnut nursery stock, unprocessed walnut lumber, or any other walnut material, such as logs, stumps, roots, branches, mulch, wood chips, other products created from walnut trees, and hardwood firewood.

Products exempt from the rule include nuts, nut meats, hulls, kiln-dried lumber with squared sides and no bark, and finished products such as furniture, instruments, and gun stocks.

Indiana joins Kansas, Michigan, Missouri and Nebraska in banning the transport of walnut products from the infested states.

Although TCD has not been found in Indiana, it is a major threat to the state's black walnut resource. Black walnut is the most valuable tree in Indiana based on the dollar value of wood produced, mainly walnut veneer, as well as timber and nuts.

There are an estimated 31.5 million walnut trees in Indiana. Approximately 17.7 million board feet of black walnut is harvested annually with a value of \$21.4 million. If all forest walnuts in Indiana were lost because of TCD, it would represent a \$1.7 billion loss. State Forester John Seifert, director of the DNR Division of Forestry, said the estimates do not include the value of urban trees and investments landowners have made for black walnut plantations and tree improvement over the past 30 years.

We have much to lose from the spread of TCD," said Phil Marshall, state entomologist and director of the DNR Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology. "It is crucial that we avoid its introduction into Indiana. This rule essentially protects our state, allowing us to prevent potentially infected material from entering Indiana."

Forest landowners do not need to harvest or cut their black walnut trees as a result of the disease or the emergency rule. If you notice a suspicious decline in black walnut trees or otherwise suspect an infestation of TCD, call 1-866-663-9684 (1-866-NO EXOTIC). If approached by individuals offering to cut a black walnut because of the disease, contact the DNR or a consulting forester to have the tree checked for disease.

Originally found in Arizona, TCD affects many types of walnut trees to varying degrees but is lethal to black walnuts, which often are grown in plantations in Indiana but also are common in the state's urban and rural forests.

TCD is spread by walnut twig beetles carrying a newly identified fungus. Smaller than a pinhead, the beetles bore into walnut branches, feeding on the tree's tissues and depositing the fungus that creates a canker, or dead area, under the bark. Multiple feedings cause the formation of thousands of cankers under the bark and destroys the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients. Gradually, branches die, and then the entire tree.

Walnut trees affected by the disease typically die within two to three years after symptoms are noticed.

"It is amazing that this much destruction could come from such a tiny beetle," Marshall said. "The walnut twig beetle is just the latest invasive pest to threaten Indiana's forests and our \$8 billion timber industry. Indiana already has issues with the gypsy moth and emerald ash borer. It's fairly simple. To preserve our forests, people must not bring destructive insects and diseases into Indiana, and we need to do our best to inform the public and take management steps to protect our forests."

More information on TCD can be found at www.dnr.in.gov/ or at www.ppd.purdue.edu/PPDL/hot10/8-23.html.

The timber industry businesses needing assistance with this rule need to contact the Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology at (317) 232-4120.

Media contact: Phil Marshall, DNR Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology, (317) 232-4189

Page 9 Elkhart County 4-H Fair Open Class
Horticulture Results

*Pictured: Mayrea
Reusser holds her
Best of Show ribbon
and plate of 12
Cherry Tomatoes
during the 2010
Elkhart County 4-H
Fair. Congrats
Mayrea!!*



M & M's Membership Message

All of a sudden our days seem much shorter with daylight arriving later and disappearing earlier each day. That brings us to the concern we have for those folks who don't or can't drive in the dark. Please call your neighbor or one of us to arrange for transportation to our Membership meetings. If you want to attend, we want you to be able to attend!

It looks like the M & M's may continue in the new year. Helen Martin has volunteered to chair this committee for 2011. Martin & Miles! Looks like M & M's to me! As always, we are open to your suggestions and we certainly welcome your assistance as Greeters and Contributors to the "Plant-of-the Month". Again, inform us of anyone who might need special attention with a caring card. Thanks for all your help!

The Marilyns (574) 522-6889 or email mrlnifly@aol.com.

Michiana Master Gardener Scholarship
Very Much Appreciated

August 24, 2010

Michiana Master Gardner Association
C/o Purdue Extension- Elkhart
17746 E CR 34
Goshen, IN 46528-6898

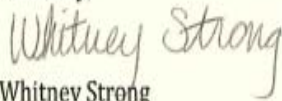
Dear Michiana Master Gardner Association,

My name is Whitney Strong and I am writing to thank you for the very generous \$2,000 Michiana Master Gardner Association scholarship for my senior year at Purdue University. I was thrilled and grateful when I had learned that I had been selected to receive this particular award.

As a senior at Purdue University, I am on track to complete my degree in Landscape Horticulture and Design in the spring. Upon completion of my undergraduate degree, I plan on attending graduate school in hopes of earning my Master's in Landscape Architecture and then return to the Michiana area to begin my career. With the help of this award, I am getting closer to this goal.

Thank you very much for the generous scholarship for this school year, making my senior year slightly less stressful. I promise to work very hard and represent Michiana in a positive light, both here at Purdue University and wherever my graduate school degree takes me. Thank you again.

Sincerely,


Whitney Strong

Congrats Whitney!!



Member Spotlight

This month we lost a long-time Master Gardener. Her memorial tribute follows:

Judy Dempsey, Class of 1998

Gardner, grandma, good friend, gracious, all words that describe Judy Anne (Sliter) Dempsey who passed away on August 23, 2010, from ovarian cancer.

Judy was born on August 26, 1937 to Colonel Elmer Holt and Hazel A (Osborne) Sliter of Grosse Pointe Woods, MI. As a gardener, Judy's love of gardens and gardening began with her mother's own gardens. As she traveled much of the country with her parents, during her father's vibrant military career, Judy enjoyed creating many new gardens at each new home with her mother. Several of her mother's hostas are in her own garden today. Her father's career blessed Judy with the ability to see much of the United States, and Judy enjoyed traveling with her own family. Judy graduated from Grosse Pointe High School in 1955. Judy received an associates degree from Colorado Women's College in 1957. After college, Judy met an Hal while attending the United States Air Force Bomb Navigation School at Lowry Air Force Base, Colorado, who just happened to catch her eye. Judy married her sweetheart, Harold Boyd Dempsey, in January 28, 1961, and soon their own family began to grow. Robin Lynn was born in Seattle, Washington, July 18, 1963, and Scott Boyd was born in Florence, South Carolina, April 23, 1968. Their travels with Hal's work took them many places in the U.S. and Canada and created fond memories for the both of them of people and places. Their favorite vacation spot was Myrtle Beach, South Carolina where they would gather with extended family to enjoy time together, cultivating memories by the ocean.

As a certified master gardener thru Purdue University, neither Judy, nor Hal, "ever met a stranger." Judy shared the class with many; however, with Teresa Lechlitner, a unique relationship bloomed into a special bond, for not only these 2 women but their husbands as well, Hal and Don respectively. The love these women have for their gardens and each other has special rhythm and balance to it, just like their gardens and perhaps has blessed Judy with the sweetness of sisterhood that she lacked being an only child. Judy's gardens are extensive and a site to behold. They are the most beautiful places to look at, study, smell, and relax. Some of Judy's gardens are landscaped, and some are unstructured, flowing naturally from one element to the next. Judy tended her friendships which were rich, fertile and thriving to the observer; she attended to those friendships like she tended to her flowers, observant, taking special care to give them the attention they needed. As a mother, Judy infused a sense of humor, responding to the needs of others, and a love for the out-

doors into both Robin and Scott. As a grandmother, Judy noticed the little things about Holt (Robin's son), Abby and Michael (Scott's children) and would talk to each grandchild about those details in their lives. She was ever observant of their personalities, concerned about their well-being, and loved watching the times when all three grandchildren ran chasing each other in Hal and Judy's backyard. As a wife, Judy's relationship with Hal is every bit as beautiful as her gardens, well tended, colorful, full of life.

Judy was a breast cancer survivor for 11 years and an ovarian cancer fighter for the past 20 months. She and Hal developed an amazing relationship with all her care providers at the office of Dr. William Kamanda and Elkhart General Hospital Oncology unit from all the years they touched each others' lives. Judy has been an inspiration to all who have met her. Even when she felt her worse in the hospital her gracious nature nurtured those around her, and she regularly encouraged them as they tended to Judy's physical needs. Nurses that have taken care of her over the years came from all over the hospital to see Judy at the end of their shifts to get their "Judy fix" whenever Judy was a patient on in the hospital. Judy's oncology nurses perhaps describe their marriage best by their observations over those 11 years, a strong marriage, full of love and humor, something all of them strive to have in their own lives.

Preceding Judy in death are her parents, Elmer and Hazel and their beloved daughter, Robin. She leaves behind Hal, her loving husband of 49 years, her son Scott and his wife Kathy, and her grandchildren, Holt Brackman Katker (son of Robin), Abby Lee, and Michael Dempsey (children of Scott). Judy, the master gardener, wife, mother, cousin, aunt, grandmother, and friend, will be missed by all she has "tended," but she has left us with a few life lessons to be remembered. Friendships, like flowers, left untended do not thrive. Relationships, like gardens, become weedy and overgrown if no investment of time is given. Beauty in life, like a single bud, can be overlooked if not searched out. May we honor what she taught us by living those truths out in our own lives. The master gardener has put away her gardening tools, left us to watch over that which she has so lovingly tended in both people and plant and now takes her place in the Master's Garden.

Funeral services were at 10 am Friday, August 27th, at First Presbyterian Church, Elkhart. Reverend Stephen Braden officiated. Burial was at Violett Cemetery, Goshen.



Judy Dempsey, Class of 1998

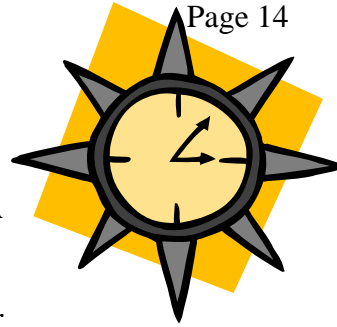
Michiana Master Gardener Donation
Very Much Appreciated



Thank you for supporting
My 2010 Grand Champion
Gardening Exhibit at the
Indiana State Fair
Sale of Champions.

*I plan to use the money towards my education,
Sincerely,
Sammy Mollen*

Splinters From the Board: **August 2010**



Actions taken at the August 16 MMGA Board meeting included the following:

A document entitled *MMGA Garden Tour Policies and Procedures*, revised November 2007, was reviewed and approved as written, with the understanding that it may be amended later.

A timeline for garden tour activities was reviewed. Consideration of the 2011 Garden Tour budget was postponed until next month's meeting. Cobus Creek County Park was approved as a "point of interest" on next year's Garden Tour.

It was clarified that the Program Committee is in charge of the "Thanks for Giving" dinner, which will be November 16, 2010.

A "sterling report" was received from the Convention and Visitors Bureau about our quilt garden. The report said "This garden is a WOW this year". No Master Gardener submitted a design proposal for 2011.

Paul Miles, Helen Martin and Rhonda Loucks have agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee and are looking for one more person from the membership. Those whose Board of Director terms end this year are Rhonda Loucks, Paul Miles, Jim Maddux, Jerry Martin, and Jim Bare. Rhonda, Paul and Jim Maddux are completing 6 years on the Board and cannot run again. Jim Bare stated that he would not run for another term on the Board.

A list of Web Master qualifications was published in *The Broadcaster*. If interested, contact Jerry Martin.

Submitted by Jim Bare, Secretary
August 3, 2010

Arugula, Fennel & Orange Salad*Courtesy of Linton's Newsletter*

- 1 T. honey
- 1 T. lemon juice
- 1/2 t. salt
- 1/2 t. ground black pepper
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 bunch arugula
- 2 oranges, peeled and segmented
- 1 bulb fennel, thinly sliced
- 2 T. sliced black olives



Whisk together the honey, lemon juice, salt and pepper; slowly add the olive oil while continuing to whisk. Place the arugula into the bottom of a serving bowl; scatter the fennel slices, orange segments, and olives over the arugula; drizzle the dressing over the salad to serve. Serves 6.

Honey-Chicken Salad

- 4 c. chopped cooked chicken
- 3 celery ribs, diced (about 1 1/2 c.)
- 1 c. sweetened dried cranberries
- 1/2 c. chopped pecans, toasted
- 1 1/2 c. mayonnaise
- 1/3 c. honey
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper

Combine first four ingredients. Whisk together mayonnaise and next three ingredients. Add to chicken mixture, stirring gently until combined. Garnish with toasted pecans.

Serves 4-6

Orange-Balsamic Vinaigrette



1/3 cup olive oil vegetable oil
1/4 cup white balsamic vinegar, white wine vinegar or cider vinegar
1 teaspoon finely shredded orange peel
1/4 cup orange juice
1 tablespoon snipped flat-leaf parsley
1/8 teaspoon salt
Combine in a screw-top jar. Cover and shake well to mix. Serve immediately or cover and store in refrigerator for up to one week. Makes 1/4 cup.

Creamy Cranberry Dressing



2/3 cup fresh or frozen cranberries
1/4 cup sugar
1/4 cup white wine vinegar
1/4 cup orange juice
2 teaspoons Dijon-style mustard
1/4 cup canola or olive oil
2 teaspoons finely snipped fresh sage
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt or salt
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

In a saucepan combine fresh or frozen cranberries, sugar and vinegar. Cook over medium heat, stirring often, for 5 minutes or until cranberries soften and begin to pop. Remove from heat; cool.
Transfer cranberry mixture to blender. Blend on high until nearly smooth. Add juice and mustard; process to blend. With blender running, slowly pour in oil until slightly thickened and creamy. Transfer to bowl. Whisk in sage, salt and pepper.
1/4 cup of dressing serves 8

Thanks to Jean Rhombke for the recipe at left and those above.

Twilight Vegetable Growers Meeting
August 23, 2010



Above: Charlie Mohler shows the pheromone-baited trap used to control corn earworm moths while Rick Foster, Purdue Entomologist explains.



Above: Liz Maynard, Purdue Extension Specialist stands in a 30-acre field with cover crop of Sudan Grass.



Left: Dan Egel, Purdue Plant Pathologist, explains crop diseases and control options.

Above: Liz Maynard demonstrates using the Brix Meter to test sweetness of fruits such as melons.



Thanks to Chuck and Tami Mohler for opening their farm for the group, to Tami for some delicious snacks, and to Ericka S. for presenting the meeting for Continuing Education hours.

Miami Co. Master Gardener Association*cordially invites you to***“AUTUMN INSPIRATION SEMINAR”****Date:** Saturday, November 6, 2010**Time:** 8:30-9 am: Registration
9 am-3 pm: Program**Place:** Miami Co. Fairgrounds
1029 W. 200 N, Peru IN 46970**Cost:** \$25 (includes lunch)**MG Educational Hours: 5 hours**Speakers Include:

Connie Slagle is a current member of the American Herb Society in Miami Co. and Fort Wayne Herb Growers. She is, also, a Advanced Master Gardener, and past member of the National Board of International Herb Association. Her experience in operating her own herb shop for 17 years has proven invaluable for educating and training local groups as well as at the American Herb Society National Conference in Indianapolis.

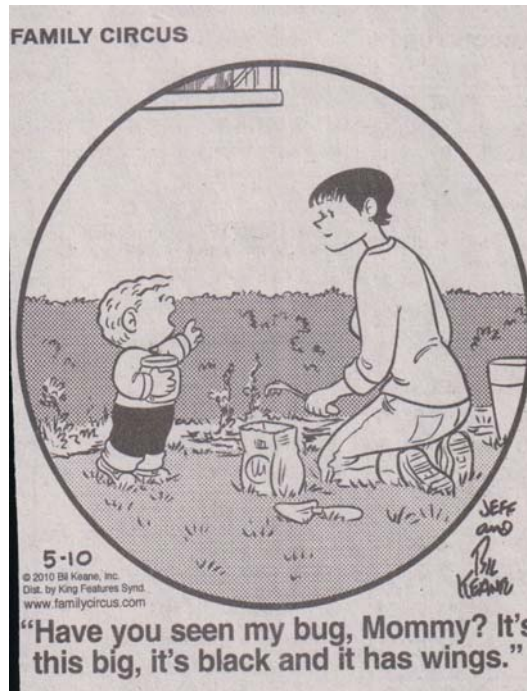
Dr. Pawan Srivastava oversees all research and development and participates in new product initiatives and quality control for *steady GROW-pro*, an inert, sterile product that optimizes soilless plant growth (manufactured and produced by Kokomo-based Syndicate Sales Inc.) Dr. “P” formulated and developed soilless media products, in addition to a number of post-harvest care products.

Esther Benedict’s topic is “Alpine Plants & Fairy Gardens”. She has been gardening over 20 years. She particularly enjoys propagating and seed sowing, which lead to the development of Benedict’s Nursery, specializing in alpiners and other unusual plants. With the help of her husband, Robert, and their children, they maintain numerous display gardens, large vegetable gardens, fruit trees and berry planting.

Del Sease will speak on “Heirloom Plants”. He graduated from Purdue University with a degree in Agriculture. In the 1970’s, he opened a garden shop in Peru IN. After serving in the military, he worked in New Jersey at Parker Wholesale Florists. In 1999, he returned to Miami County to open a nursery and garden shop, now known as Garden Gate Greenhouse.

Lynn Hausner is a special education teacher in the Maconaquah School Corporation. For more than 14 years, her family operated the Rosewood Mansion, a Bed and Breakfast, in Peru IN. Her specialty is creative food design. She also participates in the autumn chore of tapping and making maple syrup. She will speak on the topic, “Incredible Edibles”.





INSIDE THE EXTENSION OFFICE



by Kate Rink

September brings us our warm days, pretty blue skies, cool evenings, and really great sunsets. After the incredibly hot summer we had this year, it's so nice to enjoy the milder temperatures. The last really good rain we had, up until last week, was during the Fair. I can attest to that because I was sitting on the track watching Lonestar and getting drenched. It was a warm rain so I didn't really care that I was soaked. I just know I would have really appreciated some rainfall in between that night and the inch we got last week. It just revived everything! All too soon our growing season will be done. Before you know it, we'll be thinking about Thanksgiving and Christmas!

We haven't had an avalanche of calls coming into the Extension Office this month which is also an indication of the pending end of our growing season. A clear sign of the month long drought that we had came from a farmer whose woods is full of basswood trees. These trees were 60 to 70 feet tall. He was sure that the lack of rain had caused all the leaves to turn brown and drop. Every time he drove by the woods, it looked worse each time. Finally, he decided to investigate after his neighbors noticed it and asked him what was going on with his trees. After getting closer, he discovered tiny little black bugs, everywhere. He brought in a sample, and the MG researched to find a match. The little pest was a leafminer that loves to feed on Basswood. The leaves look skeletonized. Spraying would be out of the question given the height of the 50 or so trees.

The MG referred him to a garden center to look for a systemic insect killer. Even that seems like it will be very expensive, but he will have to decide that for himself.

Another homeowner brought in leaves from a pepper plant, a peach tree and an apple tree. All the leaves had a problem! The peach tree had bacterial leaf spot which requires spraying with basic copper sulfate in the spring. The apple tree leaves had a fungus which also would have to have been treated in the spring with timely applications for prevention. The pepper plant leaves had a fungus also. Early spraying with a fungicide may have prevented its decline. They were advised to pick off and destroy the infected leaves as well.

A lady called in concerned about her houseplant, Schefflera. It's generally an easy to grow and common plant that you often see in professional offices or in the mall. Her leaves were turning black. The MG asked what her watering practices had been. She didn't really know and didn't have a specific plan. The MG offered some advice. She recommended giving the plant a good soaking and then allow it to dry fully before watering thoroughly again.

The rest of the calls this month were repeats from previous months. We'll see what the rest of this month holds as far as new and interesting inquiries. This may be the end of our Inside the Extension Office reports. We'll keep you posted!

~Kate Rink



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 goldenrod is yellow
The corn is turning brown
The trees in apple orchards
With fruit are bending down.”*
~Children’s song

PURDUE
UNIVERSITY

ELKHART COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
ERICKA SOUMARE
EXTENSION EDUCATOR
AGRICULTURE/NATURAL RESOURCES
17746-E CR 34, GOSHEN IN 46528
(574) 533-0554

SEPTEMBER 2010