

PURDUE

UNIVERSITY

PURDUE UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

Elkhart County

Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds

17746-E County Road 34

Goshen, IN 46528-6898

Cooperating with U.S. Department of Agriculture

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 42
GOSHEN, INDIANA
46526



Broadcaster

"Helping Each Other Grow!"

Michiana Master Gardeners Association

August 2011

<i>Features This Issue!</i>	<i>Page</i>
From the President's Desk—Marilyn Horvath	1-2
Day Minder - Meeting Dates	3-4
Drought of '10 Had Long Term Effect on Trees J. Burbrink	5-6
Elkhart County Fair 2011 Photos	7-8
Open Class Horticulture Master Gardener Winners	9-10
Ag Hall First Impression Winner	11
Member Meeting Minutes by Linda Harkleroad	11
Board Meeting Minutes by Linda Harkleroad	12
Book Review by Sue Stuckman and Karen Fairfield	13-16
Information for Members: Program Committee B. Heeter	17
Information for Members: GT Merchandise by Lo. Harms	18
Information for Members, GT DVD by Vickie Estep	19
Inside the Extension Office and Fair Thanks by Kate Rink	20-22
Member Spotlight by Mary Davis	23-24
Save the Date Italy Tour by Rosie Lerner	25
State Conference Review by Carol Novy	26
Natural Resources Enterprise Program by Jeff Burbrink	27
Cicada Killer Wasps by Jeff Burbrink	28
Rain Garden Display at the Fair by Leah Lichtenberger	29
Recipes from our MG's Peachy Shrimp Salad by S. Zou	30

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Master Gardener Friends, Have you noticed the difference in day-light? Lately, it is just getting light when our feet hit the floor most mornings. Can summer be really gearing down that much? There is so much to do yet this summer; I am not ready to go this direction! I haven't done all the summer

things yet, like spend quality time just sitting on the patio or cooking out or in contemplating changes in my weedy garden....Sounds like I better get with it or the time will be past! Do we really make the best use of time? Life rushes by so quickly. An old saying was something about days being short & years long in youth and the opposite in age - days long & years rushing by. But both seem to be speeding up for me.

It is August & two-thirds of 2011 is gone; my "vintage" says likely more than two-thirds of my life is gone. At this point my thoughts should be of taking advantage of every opportunity whether it is summer activities, doing meaningful things with & for significant others, or fulfilling goals & desires.

John & I spent a very leisurely Sunday afternoon recently, sitting on a park bench, feeling the cool breeze off Lake Michigan & just watching people & boats go by. We were comfortable and had nothing that had to be done. We also just happened to be in the right place at the right time; we were soon entertained with a summer Sunday afternoon band concert. It was a delightful few hours. We just need to do more of that, seize the moment, savor it, be aware of time passing us by and make the most of each opportunity. (Bob Hope said he was always in the right place at the right time because he steered himself there!)

We are now looking forward to the August supper event and presentation honoring our Garden Tour Homeowners. This fall ushers in a new Master Gardener class, planning for 2012 events like the Spring Celebration & 2012 Garden Tour, with budgets to be presented. We also look for new MG Board members via a nomination & election process. Think about being involved in your organization, maybe in a new or different way, remembering that spreading yourself too thin might not get a quality job done. Volunteer hours are easy & satisfying to earn. Remember we are a social group, too, and much enjoy times spent working & learning together. I continue to be impressed with how talented, cooperative & efficient you all are!

Here are some parting thoughts about time....Louisa May Alcott (Little Women): "Prove that you know the worth of time by employing it well." Benjamin Franklin, "Do not squander time."

Charles Buxton, "Understand that you will never "find" time for anything. If you want time you must make it."

Until the next time!

Marilyn Horvath





*Day Minder . . .
Watch Us Grow*



8	Mon.	Garden Tour Committee Meeting- Extension Office Conference Room	6:30 PM
15	Mon.	Board Meeting—Extension Office Con- ference Room Lunch at 12 PM	12:30 PM
15	Mon.	Spring Celebration Committee Meet- ing—Panera Bread (Dinner 6:00)	6:30 PM
18	Thurs.	Ornamental Grasses, Middlebury Li- brary	TBA
30	Tues.	Garden Tour Appreciation Dinner—Ag Hall (Reservations due to Linda Harkleroad by August 19th)	6:30 PM



12	Mon.	Garden Tour Committee Meeting- Extension Office Conference Room	6:30 PM
19	Mon..	Board Meeting—Extension Office Con- ference Room Lunch at 12 PM	12:30 PM
19	Mon.	Spring Celebration Committee Meet- ing—Panera Bread, Dunlap (dinner@6)	6:30 PM
27	Tues .	Member Meeting—Ag Hall: Aaron Kingsley, Forester for City of Goshen	7:00 PM

Upcoming Meeting Dates

April 1st to October 1st - Master Gardener Hotline call 533-0554

October 10th - Garden Tour Committee Meeting

October 17th - Board Meeting

October 17th - Spring Celebration Meeting

October 25th - Member Meeting—Sarah Heeter, Parks of Chicago

November 14th - Garden Tour Committee Meeting

November 14th - Board Meeting

November 21st - Spring Celebration Meeting

November 29th - Member Meeting—6:30 PM **Thanks-for-Giving**

Carry In and Board Member Elections

DECEMBER—HAPPY HOLIDAYS, NO MEETINGS

January 9th - Garden Tour Committee Meeting

January 16th - Board Meeting

January 16th - Spring Celebration Meeting

January 24th - Member Meeting—TBA

February 13th - Garden Tour Committee Meeting

February 20th - Board Meeting

February 20th - Spring Celebration Meeting

February 28th - Member Meeting—TBA

March 12th - Garden Tour Committee Meeting

March 19th - Board Meeting

March 27th - Member Meeting—TBA

April 9th - Garden Tour Committee Meeting

April 16th - Board Meeting

April 24th - Member Meeting—TBA

NEW:

May 14, 2012—Garden Tour Committee Meeting

June 11, 2012—Garden Tour Committee Meeting

July 9, 2012—Garden Tour Committee Meeting

July 14, 2012—***GARDEN TOUR 2012 10 am to 4 pm***

July 19, 2012—Garden Tour Wrap Meeting

Drought of 2010 Had Long Term Effect on Trees

Dry weather can have a long lasting impact on deciduous trees and shrubs such as maple, blueberries, and dogwood, as well as shallow rooted species such as evergreens, in particular pine and arborvitae. Many of these species, particularly the evergreens, are showing signs of long term drought injury due to last summer's drought. The current wave of dry weather is not helping the situation.

Typical symptoms of delayed drought injury include smaller than normal leaves, branches that leaf out in the spring, but die back later (usually at the first sign of hot temperatures), or severe thinning of portions of the tree, particularly the core upper branches. In the case of some evergreens, it seems they are fine one day, then die the next. Of course, these symptoms can be also caused by other factors, such as borers, or some diseases, or man-made problems such as root disruption or plastic ties left on the trunk for years, so a thorough "CSI" investigation can help to narrow down the actual cause of the problem.

Drought has many hidden, long-term effects on trees. A primary effect is the disruption to a tree's food supply. Food for a tree is sugar produced by the leaves. Drought causes stored food to be used just to maintain living tree parts rather than for growth. Drought limits trees from producing or storing extra quantities food for next year. Trees store most of their food in last annual growth ring. The thinner the growth layers from lack of food, the less area available to store food. In this situation trees are essentially "shrinking" to survive.

Food storage in a tree is similar to a person's savings account. You save money against bad times. In trees, food production, food storage and growth must occur every year to get the



tree through winter and restart it in spring. Trees must save a large amount of food to be alive next year.

Water storage is another issue. Trees lose a lot of water during the winter months, but when the ground is frozen, there is no opportunity to replenish the supply. It is important, especially during years of drought, to give valuable trees a good soaking in their root zone in the fall, before the ground is frozen. This practice helps the tree to be hydrated prior to winter.

Trees require several good growing seasons to recover from one bad year. Tree species like oak, hickory, elm, ash and pine will need three to four good years to make up for one year of severe drought. Trees like maple, dogwood, beech, magnolia, sweetgum, yellow poplar and sycamore will need two to three years to recover

Drought-weakened trees are the favorite prey for a host of pests. Many of these pests are only seen in abundance after a bad drought year. A weakened and declining tree is a great meal for tree pests like vascular diseases, woodborers, bark beetles, root rots and scale insects.

Care for drought damaged trees involves light fertilization and plenty of water. Good care also includes proper removal of dead wood to minimize falling branches and liability risks. Pruning of living branches on severely stressed trees should be delayed until next year. Keep a close watch on your trees for pest problems.

Extended dry weather can continue to haunt shade and street trees for several years to come. Continual tree care is your only road to maintaining tree quality.

*Purdue University is an Equal Opportunity/
Affirmative Action Institution*

Page 7 Elkhart County 4-H Fair 2011 PHOTOS



Winning Horticulture Master Gardeners: Far Left, Helen Martin—Champion Plants and Flowers; Far Right, Jim Maddux— Reserve Champion Vegetables



Paul Miles looks over the Open Class Vegetable Exhibits in Ag Hall

Right: Some of the Open Class Floral Exhibits in Ag Hall



Left: First Place Gourd Item: A Turtle made by Linda Kimpel. How Creative!!

Right: First Place Bonsai Item grown by Valerie Kurk.



OPEN CLASS HORTICULTURE RESULTS
BY OUR MASTER GARDENERS

Best of Show Winners:

Section 2 – Helen Martin; Sections 3-5 – Helen Martin; Section 11 – Linda Kimpel

Section Champions

Section 6 – Helen Martin; Section 7 – Helen Martin, Section 10 – Jim Maddux

Section Reserve Champions

Sections 3-5 – Helen Martin

Special Awards

Potato Trophy – Jim Maddux

Section 1 – Potted Plants (Flowering)

Single African violet – second, Leona Yoder

Geraniums – first, Helen Martin

Impatiens (double) - third, Helen Martin

New Guinea Impatiens – third, Helen Martin

Unclassified flowering – third, Helen Martin

Section 2 – Potted Plants (Foliage)

Bonsai – first, Valerie Kurk

Unclassified potted foliage – first, Helen Martin

Section 3 – Cactus & Sand or Cactus Dish Gardens

Succulents – second, Helen Martin

Hen & chicks – first, Helen Martin; second – Valerie Kurk

Section 4 – Planter or Dish Garden

Foliage-no blooms – first, Helen Martin

Flowering – third, Helen Martin

Section 6 – Arrangement of Cut Flowers

Arrangement of vegetables or fruit with flowers – first, Helen Martin

Arrangement of Zinnias – first, Helen Martin

Arrangement of Marigolds – first, Helen Martin

Arrangement in kitchen container – first, Helen Martin

Miniature arrangement- 4” high or less – third, Helen Martin

Arrangement of red, white and blue flowers – second, Helen Martin

Section 7 – Cut Flowers

Snapdragons – first, Helen Martin

Miniature Zinnias – first, Helen Martin

Regular Zinnias – first, Jim Maddux

Small Marigolds – first, Helen Martin

Gladiolus – second, Anita Bentley

Roses – second, Helen Martin



Daisy under 2” – first, Helen Martin
Sunflowers, small – second, Linda Kimpel
Dahlias, under 6” blooms – first, Helen Martin; second, Mayrea Reusser
Dahlias, 6” or greater – first, Mayrea Reusser
Unclassified, under 3” blooms – first, Helen Martin
Unclassified, 3-6” blooms – second, Helen Martin
Unclassified, 6” or greater – second, Anita Bentley



Section 9 – Above Ground Vegetables

Green bush beans – second, Mayrea Reusser
Pole beans – second, Jerry Martin; third, Jim Maddux
Broccoli – second, Jim Maddux
Cabbage round head – first, Jim Maddux
Cabbage flat head – first, Jim Maddux
Cabbage red – second, Jim Maddux
Corn, sweet – third, Jim Maddux
Dill – first, Cathy Fortin; third, Leona Yoder
Okra – first, Jim Maddux
Peppers, green sweet – first, Jim Maddux
Rhubarb – third, Jerry Martin
Squash, summer – second, Jim Maddux; third, Mayrea Reusser
Zucchini –second, Mayrea Reusser
Squash, unclassified – third, Jim Maddux
Tomatoes, cherry type – second, Marilyn Miles
Tomatoes, red, other than cherry type – first, Jerry Martin
Tomatoes, Italian – first, Mayrea Reusser; second, Paul Miles
Eggplant – first, Jim Maddux
Unclassified – second, Jim Maddux

Section 10 – Below Ground Vegetables

Beets – third, Leona Yoder
Carrots – first, Stan Palmer
Onions, green – second, Mayrea Reusser; third, Linda Kimpel
Onions, yellow globe – second, Jim Carpenter; third, Mayrea Reusser
Potatoes, Irish Cobbler – first, Jim Maddux
Potatoes, red – first, Jim Carpenter; second – Mayrea Reusser
Potatoes, Kennebec – first, Jim Maddux
Potatoes, Russet – second, Jim Maddux
Potatoes, Yukon Gold – first, Stan Palmer
Unclassified – second, Jim Maddux

Miscellaneous

Garden figures – first, Linda Kimpel
Birdhouse, made from dried gourd – first, Linda Kimpel
Horticulture Photography colored – second, Valerie Kurk
Largest head of cabbage – second, Jim Maddux
Best display of 5 or more kinds of vegetables in container – first, Jerry Martin
Odd or distorted vegetable – second, Jim Maddux

This photo featuring the front (west) lawn of Ag Hall shows the 2011 Winner of the First Impressions fair-contest for



1st

Civic Groups. Congratulations to Kate Rink for this creative theme idea, and a BIG thank you to Kate Rink and Jim Maddux for all their work in setting up the award winning display. (Photo submitted by Jerry Martin). Note: The hanging baskets were beautiful, as always.

MMGA MEMBERSHIP MEETING-July 18th, 2011 (Fair Set-up)

President Marilyn Horvath called the brief business meeting to order on July 18th at 6 PM with 33 members present.

Marilyn thanked chair Leah Lichtenberger, the Garden Tour committee, and the membership for their help in the successful 2011 Garden Tour.

Marilyn announced that Linda Harkleroad would start taking dinner reservations for the August Garden Tour Appreciation Dinner to be held August 30th at 6:30 PM in Ag Hall. Members need to contact Linda at [lindaharkleroad @ gmail.com](mailto:lindaharkleroad@gmail.com) to reserve a meal for that evening. The program will be a presentation of the gardens on the 2011 tour and guests for the evening will be the homeowners who allowed us to show their gardens.

Kathleen Cripe stated that there were still a few openings for those who wished to work at Ag Hall during the fair.

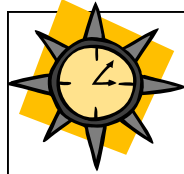
Barb Heeter announced that she is currently working on finding speakers for 2012. Please let her know if you have any suggestions.

The 2011 MG training class will begin in August, and there are still openings for more students according to Jeff Burbrink.

The meeting was then turned over to Kate Rink who organized the set-up of Ag Hall for the fair. Pizza and soft drinks were served to those helping.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Harkleroad, secretary





Splinters from the Board -- July 18th, 2011

President Marilyn Horvath called the July 18th meeting to order with members Jim Bare, Betty Foltz, Linda Harkleroad, Barb Heeter, Jerry Martin, Ruth Middleton, Stan Palmer, Kate Rink, Linda Sinon and educator Jeff Burbrink present.

Treasurer Jim Bare presented the monthly Treasurer's Report with expenses in the amount of \$1,047.74 (mostly Garden Tour related with a deposit to Greencroft for the 2012 Spring Celebration) and an income of \$4,047.40 (Tree Sale and Garden Tour). This creates a balance of \$35,532.72. Jim then handed out a preliminary Garden Tour financial report. As of the date of this meeting, expenses totaled \$610.74 and income was \$5,673.40.

Educator Jeff Burbrink reported that 15 people had signed up for the 2011 Master Gardener class. The hotline has slowed down a bit with the hot weather, but the summer has presented them with some unique questions.

Annual meeting liaison Linda Sinon reported that a speaker has been secured and a location selected. Committees are being formed.

The community garden workers are harvesting produce and the potato bugs are being eradicated.

Garden Tour liaison Linda Harkleroad stated that Dana J's will cater the August Garden Tour Appreciation Dinner, and Linda will begin to take reservations at the July membership meeting.

A change in the availability of the MMGA merchandise for sale was made. Doris Kehr will bring seasonal merchandise to the January, April and October meetings only. All other months she will bring the catalogs.

For the September meeting, program chair Barb Heeter has scheduled the Goshen City Forester, Aaron Kingsley.

There are four members on the set-up crew. However, at the end of the June meeting, only two or three people remained behind to take down the tables. Help with the both the chairs and the tables is needed after membership meetings.

In old business, Marilyn asked Barb about the status of the AED order. Barb stated that she had called and placed the order on June 23rd and was told a confirmation would occur in the next few days. She has heard nothing more. Barb will contact the representative to see what is going on.

In new business, Jerry stated that his committee's budget for the 4-H Fair had been reduced to \$500 in 2011 per his request. However, expenses have totaled more than anticipated. The Board unanimously approved an additional expense of \$300 for the fair committee.

Marilyn read a letter from Nancy Brown inviting all Master Gardeners to attend the Doug Tallamy presentation to be held at IUSB on September 15th. Tickets are free, but only a limited number are available. Nancy has tickets.

Marilyn read a thank you note from a Garden Tour homeowner thanking Master Gardeners for their organization in planning the event and making it "fun" for them.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Harkleroad, Secretary

A book review by Karen Fairfield and Suzan Stuckman

The American Gardener magazine says, "Dr Tallamy's book, Bringing Nature Home is an essential guide for anyone who is interested in biodiversity in our gardens and landscapes." One endorsement of his book suggests that Dr. Tallamy offers a compelling argument for the use of native plants as a means to provide biodiversity in our gardens.

Douglas W. Tallamy is Professor and Chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, he has written numerous articles and has taught insect taxonomy, behavior ecology and other courses for three decades. He is also a guest lecturer and will be a speaker at Indiana University at South Bend in September. This event is being sponsored by INPAWS.

The book has 14 chapters and several appendixes along with numerous reference sources and graphs. Appendix one lists native plants and their value to wildlife that are desirable for landscaping; it is broken down into regions of the country.

Appendix two lists host plants valuable to butterflies and showy moths. The third appendix offers graphs showing experimental evidence to back up his position. There are many color photos throughout the book of insects, trees and shrubs that are useful for promoting biodiversity. In fact, for many he may have too many photos of insects. I know for me he provided more pictures of bugs than I needed to see in a lifetime. I did however appreciate the high quality of the photos in the book, which have been printed using a high gloss print paper. At times the book is somewhat technical, but will appeal to anyone who wants to promote biodiversity and ways to encourage wildlife in their gardens and general landscaping.

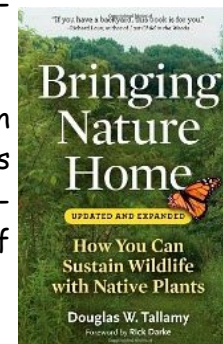
An important topic is the give and take of plant/insect relationships.

Insects have adapted ways to use plants for food, protection from predators, and hiding places for predation, for example. These are specialized in many cases, meaning the insect can use only a few or maybe only one species. Take away the needed plant you lose the insect and the food source for another species. It is surprising to learn how delicate this web can be.

One of the main messages of the book states that by favoring native plants over alien species in our gardens and landscapes gardeners can do much to sustain biodiversity. Dr Tallamy believes that native plants support and produce more insects than alien plants and therefore more numbers of insects and other animals. The thought of creating functioning ecosystems may cause a bit of discomfort to a few gardeners who prize well manicured and photo winning gardens and lawns. However, the price is high and as the book suggests we need to consider the alternative.

Dr. Tallamy suggests that in a balanced community usually no member of the food web dominates another, and if one starts to do so it is quickly brought into equilibrium by the other community members. That is why all the leaves in a native forest are not eaten by insects. If you go into a native forest you will find that many of the leaves in the forest have a small portion of the leaves that have been eaten away, but the majority of the foliage is intact and healthy. My husband and I spend our summers in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan in a native woods and I tested out this theory. Many of the leaves in our woods had portions that had been eaten away by the insects, but the vast majority of the leaves were healthy and beautiful.

"Insects are worth billions!" says Dr. Tallamy, in Chapter 9 Gardening for insect diversity. Insects are not our enemies; Dr. Tom Turpin (Purdue entomologist) also states that a very small percentage of insects are harmful to our human lives.



Dr. Tallamy says 1%. Dr. Tallamy's picture catalogue of insects in this book is titled, "What does bird food look like?" There you will find fascinating insect facts and a discussion of the many insect families and differences explained. Grow native plants to attract the insects of your choice: grow milkweeds for monarch butterflies and 11 other species of *Lepidoptera*, along with red milkweed bugs *Oncopeltus fasciatus*. A picture of the red milkweed bugs on a milkweed leaf illustrates how these bugs break the main midrib of a milkweed leaf so the latex flows out of the leaf and they can enjoy a meal.

Historically, we have not designed our gardens and landscapes for the ecological role they may have; Dr Tallamy believes that we must do so in the future. He wants us to think of our yards and landscapes as a wildlife preserve, which will offer hope and perhaps the last chance we have for sustaining plants and wildlife.

"Native gardens need not be messy gardens." Dr. Tallamy says. He mentions formal plantings using native plants at Mount Cuba Center in Greenville DE. Also add native trees or shrubs to your property. Native plants can be used to landscape your area. It is good to plant them more densely, in large groupings. Make your plantings "multi-dimensional" to provide adequate cover. If you have a neighborhood civic organization, use that organization to "adopt" a declining species and have everyone plant native plants that will support that species. The monarch butterfly needs milkweed to propagate. Dr. Tallamy mentions 5 different kinds of milkweed that will provide bloom throughout the season. (Other examples of species not mentioned in the book that are declining are fireflies - also frogs and amphibians. As Master Gardeners we have resources to discover how to attract and keep these species.)

In Chapter 11 Making it happen, Dr. Tallamy says "Start small." Replace declining alien plants with something similar that is a native plant.

Research and find something in the same family, or with the same height, color and similar bloom time. "Redesign small patches or island gardens." Use native plants. Mayapple, bloodroot and eastern foamflower are native shade groundcovers. Replace lawn with trees. Trees sequester carbon dioxide. The perfect mulch is leaf litter. Leave this on the forest floor to help retain rainfall and to shelter tiny predatory arthropods. Use compost from community source such as the Elkhart Environmental Center. These are only a few of the suggestions in this book. You will find many more useful ideas for gardening with native plants as well as ample reason to do so.

Alien plants from other countries can be, "Typhoid Mary's" to our forest. The tragic story of the Chestnut Blight shows all too well the effects that alien plants can do to harm our native plants and trees. As Dr Tallamy points out, often times the plants we place in our gardens do not remain there, but escape and may overtake our native habitats. Dr Tallamy believes that, "as gardeners and stewards of our land, we have never been so empowered, and the ecological stakes have never been so high".

~Karen and Sue

Douglas W. Tallamy, Professor and Chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology, University of Delaware, and author of *Bringing Nature Home*, will be speaking at Indiana University at South Bend's Northside Recital Hall on September 15th at 7:30 p.m. This free event is being sponsored by INPAWS and local organizations, including our Michiana Master Gardener Association. Because of limited seating, tickets are required. Tickets may be reserved for the lecture by calling the Northside box office at (574) 520-4203 after August 15th, or emailing dmarr@iusb.edu before August 15th.



Information For Members

Program and Refreshment Committee

First the Program / Refreshment Committee would like to give a big CONGRATULATIONS to Kate Rink and Jim Maddux for winning FIRST PLACE in the First Impressions. They did a great job on the display in front of Ag Hall for the Fair. It really told alot about what Master Gardeners do. We would also like to CONGRATULATE Mayrea Reusser for winning FIRST PLACE in the longest apple peel contest. Maybe we should have her present a program on her technique sometime. Last but not least we want to CONGRATULATE those Master Gardeners who submitted vegetables, herbs, flowers, plants and gourds for the Horticulture judging. We really have some VERY GOOD gardeners.

Now for the program information. The August meeting will be the Garden Tour Appreciation dinner. It will be in Ag Hall on August 30 at 6:30 pm. The home owners, who so graciously allowed us to use their gardens for the tour, will be invited as well as the MMGA membership. If you are a MMGA member and will be attending we do ask the you PLEASE get your reservation to Linda Harkleroad ASAP. The dinner will be provided by MMGA.

The September 27 MMGA meeting will be one that you will not want to miss. We are having Aaron Kingsley, the Forester for the City of Goshen speak. I am certain he will have some very good information to pass on to the membership. We hope to see you at the August 30 Garden Tour Appreciation dinner.

~Barb Heeter
Program/Refreshment Committee Co chair

Please email articles for next month's Broadcaster to Sherrie Zou by September 8th. You may also mail them to Linda Kimple in the extension office or to Sherrie at the address in the directory. Thank you!

Garden Tour Merchandise Committee

Hypertufa Hosta Bowls: The hostas have their big green leaves, so let's get started on a Garden Tour project while they're ready. Come join the project at Loanne Harms' house (811 N Main, Goshen) on **Wednesday, September 21st** to help create Hosta bowls and stepping stones. Two time slots will be offered, **2 to 4 and 6:30 to 8:30**. Materials will be on hand, and all projects can be left and stored at the site. Call or e-mail ([lharms2 @ frontier.com](mailto:lharms2@frontier.com)) just to be sure there's plenty of supplies on hand. This is a rain-or-shine project that will happen regardless...well, regardless of most obstacles, and if at the last minute you find you can come, do.

Garden Tour Merchandise Wish List: There's a few things you might have that we can use for Garden Tour projects. If you have any of these items just bring them next month to the monthly meeting. Thanks in advance for your support and help.

Flatware (also known as silverware, but need not be 'silver') especially forks, larger spoons and pie servers. These will be used for wind chimes so don't need to be good for eating!

Dried lavender buds (for sachets)

Dried Lemon Balm or Verbena (for hot pads)

Acorns- small, clean, about 3 dozen

(for pocket inspirational pieces)

Old, 6 to 8 oz. clear glass, narrow-mouthed bottles

(for hummingbird feeders)

~Loanne Harms, GT Merchandise Committee Chair

Garden Tour Volunteers Needed:

One Chairperson and Several Co-Chairpersons are still needed for the 2012 Garden Tour Committee. Needed are the General Chair (co-Chair), Media/Publicity (co-Chair), Garden Selection (co-Chair), and Advertising (co-Chair). Also needed are the Chair and Co-Chair for Ticket Sales/Distribution. If you are interested in serving in any of these capacities, please contact Garden Tour Chairperson Tammy O'Rourke. If you need job descriptions for the volunteer positions, please contact Tammy. The tour is scheduled for July 14th, 2012.

Information For Members (continued)**Garden Tour DVD**

I will be taking orders for the 2011 Garden Tour slide show at our August homeowner appreciation dinner. However knowing that some of you may not be able to attend that meeting, I would like to make the offer available to everyone. If you'd like to own a copy of the slide show for your personal collection, you may order it directly from me. All you need to do is contact me either by email, phone, or snail mail. The price is just \$5.00 each and the CD will be available for pick up at the September membership meeting (unless other pick up arrangements are made.) Payment is due at time of delivery or you may send a check for payment to the address below. All proceeds will benefit MMGA.

Contact Vickie Estep via email or by phone or send your order via snail mail at the address listed in the Membership Directory. Call the Extension Office with questions.

Thanks and happy gardening to all.

Vickie Estep '06

NEW BUSINESS OPENED:

One of our Master Gardeners, Alys Kidder, Class of 2001, has opened a new business with her husband, Tuff. They have opened a fresh produce stand in Elkhart, located in the former Hart City RV building on State Road 19. Please look for Alys's Facebook page known as Kidders Fresh Produce at the following link: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Kidders-Fresh-Produce/194824690570668>.





INSIDE THE EXTENSION OFFICE

by Kate Rink

It always seems like once our Fair is over we are nearing the end of our summer. I guess that's because it's not long after Fair that school begins for our kids and that is the end of their summer. I will not concede to the idea that summer is over. In looking at the calendar, I still see a good six to seven weeks of growing weather yet. As I look out the window at the flower beds out back and enjoy the bright colors of red, blue, yellow and orange, I plan to do everything possible to keep those flowers blooming and hanging on to the rest of summer we have left.

We had twenty five calls come into the Hotline since our last Broadcaster article. It was interesting to note that the week of the Fair when it was so beastly hot, very few calls came in. They must have thought it was just too hot to work in the garden. So maybe they just came to the Fair instead!

The biggest concern during that time was trees. Mostly Maple trees but a few other varieties as well. We had five calls about Maple trees. That's pretty unusual to have that many calls for one specific variety. One tree showed signs of a blight, another had aphids. Still another was suffering from the drought we've been experiencing the past couple of years. A tulip tree had bark peeling and was showing signs of girdling. The suspect at hand was a collar borer insect. Concerns were handled by MG's suggesting various insecticides and timely watering practices.

Another client called in describing telltale signs of Emerald Ash Borer on her ash tree. Suspicious, the MG suggested applying the soil drench product containing the insecticide, Imidacloprid.

A caller wanted to know when to apply grub control. NOW is the time! Get 'em before they are too big! He also wanted to know when he should apply his next application of lawn fertilizer. The MG advised to wait until we have a break in our extreme heat wave before his next application. A nice rain and drop in the temperature would be ideal and create less stress on the grass. The forecast is predicting just that! So it

INSIDE THE EXTENSION OFFICE (CON'T.)

would be a good move to wait a few days and then apply the fertilizer.

A client needed to know why his broccoli wasn't producing a head. Maybe he wasn't watering it enough. Also, being a cold weather plant, it may not be tolerating the heat we've been having. He wondered if it could possibly be another plant altogether. It appeared he was a new gardener because he wondered if kohlrabi was an above or below ground vegetable.

Red Aphids had infested a homeowner's rudbeckia. It was suggested to use insecticidal soap or Neem around the infestation. The same advice was given for control of squash bugs on zucchini.

The Horticulture building at the Fair would not be complete without a display of hydrangeas. We had a best of show this year in that category and that often happens with this flower. What's not to love about these huge, showy plants? A sure cause of dismay occurs when you can't even get these beauties to bloom. This exact scenario was happening to a homeowner.

There are three possibilities for lack of flowering among the hydrangea species. The first two – too much shade and improper pruning – apply to all hydrangeas, while the other – weather-related damage to flower buds applies primarily to the bigleaf hydrangea.

While most Hydrangea species benefit from some shade, too much shade can reduce flowering. This is particularly true of panicle hydrangea, which is one hydrangea species that grows well in full sun. If you have a hydrangea that used to bloom well but now flowers only sparsely, evaluate whether the growth of nearby trees has reduced the amount of light that reaches the hydrangea. If so, you may want to consider moving the hydrangea to a sunnier location.

Improper pruning can also reduce flowering in hydrangea. Since bigleaf and oakleaf hydrangeas flower on previous year's growth, potential flower buds would be removed if the plants were pruned in fall, winter or spring. Panicle and smooth hydrangea flower on this year's growth, so pruning them in early summer would reduce or eliminate flowering for that year.

INSIDE THE EXTENSION OFFICE (CON'T).

The most common reason for lack of flowering in the hydrangea is unfavorable weather. Most bigleaf cultivars flower primarily on previous year's growth. Weather conditions that damage above ground parts of the plant can reduce flowering. Damaging weather conditions include early fall freezes that occur before the plant is completely dormant, extremely low winter temperatures, and late spring freezes that occur after the plant has broken dormancy. Late spring freezes are the most common reason for damaging tender new growth.

Knowing the variety of hydrangea you have when pruning, taking action to cover buds at the threat of a freeze and paying attention to the sun requirements and your particular plant location, may ensure you the gorgeous blooms that wow the judges at the Fair.

Many more calls were handled in the office than I can report on in two pages. It's a joy to read over these problems and solutions and see the difference having a county extension office makes in giving service to the community. Good job to all of you who are helping to make that difference.



THANK YOU!!!!!! The Fair was a great success this year. Ag Hall had a few more entries than last year despite the absence of two of our biggest entrants. We missed Larry Drudge and all his prize vegetable entries and Beth White who has always contributed greatly to our flower sections. Apparently we had an increase via other entrants who submitted more entries this year as well as a few newcomers.

Thank you to all of you who helped in Ag Hall before, during and after the Fair. Whether you greeted our entrants, moved plants, cleaned shelves, answered questions, monitored the building or whatever, please know that you are appreciated. The success of the organization is met by all of you who share your time, hospitality, helpfulness and muscle. We could not begin to do all that we do without each of you. So on behalf of the Horticulture Committee; Jerry & Helen Martin, Paul & Marilyn Miles, Jim Maddux, Mary Hesser, and Mary Riggs for Ag Hall, we'd like to say thanks to all of you that made our 2011 Fair an awesome year! Kate Rink, Horticulture Director.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Linda Harkleroad

By Mary Davis

Linda retired from teaching in 2006, the same year her son graduated from high school. Two of her friends gave her a registration for Master Gardeners as a retirement gift.

Although she lives in Kosciusko County, she enrolled in the Elkhart program because she had heard how great the program was here. She has been married to Larry for 36 years. He is employed in cabinet sales. Their son, Ryan, went on to Ball State and now lives in Indianapolis working in an on-line college. Linda says she has no grandchildren yet, but Ryan is getting married in October. (She added she wasn't sure she was ready for grandchildren yet!). A thirteen year old German Shepherd, Pacer, rounds out the family.

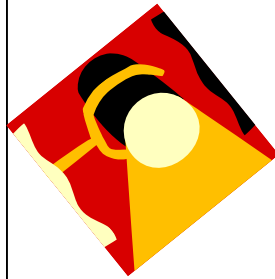
Linda came to Michiana in 1971 for a teaching job after her first job in Springfield, Ohio. She taught high school English but says she is thoroughly enjoying her retirement. She had one grandmother who was a gardener, and she became more and more interested in gardening, but couldn't do training until she retired. She loves perennials.

She has been active in quilt gardens, Spring Celebration, Tree Sale, and Garden Tour. She said her favorite activity of all is the Spring Celebration. She has already earned her silver MG status, so obviously she has been very busy. She said she enjoyed training (in one of Jeff's classes in between educators). Her favorite part of Master Gardeners is meeting new people--since she is from Kosciusko County she didn't know anyone here, except Judy Marquart who is in her garden club--they were surprised to see each other at the first training session.

Thank you, Linda, for all your efforts given to our Association.

Member Spotlight

By Mary Davis



Mary is asking that members submit the following form so we may feature you in future Broadcasters. Please let current and new MMGA members get to know you.:)

INFORMATION FORM

Your Name: _____ Class _____ Year: _____

Spouse's name and occupation: _____

Your occupation: _____

Have you always lived in Michiana area? _____ If not, when did you come here & why? _____

Particular areas of Master Gardener/gardening interests _____

Areas you have participated in in MMGA _____

Children? (name, gender, location) _____

Grandchildren? _____

Pets? (kind, name, breed, etc.) _____

Hobbies besides gardening _____

Telephone no. (Home or work) and best time to call _____

Think about: (I will call you and discuss these with you):

Why you became a Master Gardener

What you thought about MG training

What you like best about being in MMGA

Please email form to Mary Davis at davis.davispc@verizon.net.

Save The Date!
Renaissance Gardens of ITALY
Purdue Master Gardener Study Abroad
June 7-18, 2012

Mike Dana and Rosie Lerner are planning a Purdue Master Gardener advanced training/study abroad opportunity on the Renaissance Gardens of Italy, June 7 - 18, 2012. Our adventure will focus primarily on gardens of historical significance from the Renaissance and Baroque periods in the regions of Lazio (Rome) and Tuscany (Florence), and will include lectures, study booklet, pre-test/post-test and course evaluation. Participants will be expected to share what they learn with others in their community upon their return.

Led by: Purdue Horticulturist and Landscape Architect Dr. Michael Dana and Purdue Master Gardener State Coordinator/Extension Consumer Horticulture Specialist Rosie Lerner.

Objective: Expand Master Gardeners' knowledge in fruit, vegetable, ornamental horticulture, landscape and garden design history.

This exciting course will include site visits to such notable gardens as :

- Villa Medici at Castello
- Villa Medici at Fiesole
- Villa Gamberaia at Settignano
- Boboli Garden at the Pitti Palace
- Villa Garzoni
- Sacro Bosco of the Villa Orsini
- Villa Lante
- Villa D'Este
- Villa Gregoriana
- Ninfa Garden
- Vatican Garden
- Fattoria Lavacchio (organic farm and restaurant)



We are still working out hotel and restaurant details and thus costs, but we hope to have that info and registration materials available by sometime in September. We will post additional details as they become available.

If you have questions about the program, please contact us directly.
Rosie Lerner, Purdue Master Gardener State Coordinator and Extension Consumer Horticulture Specialist, rosie@purdue.edu, 765-494-1311

Mike Dana, Professor, Horticulture and Landscape Architecture
dana@purdue.edu, 765-494-5923

The 2011 Master Gardeners' State Convention: Page 26
What I Heard and Learned By Carol Novy

- The theme of the state convention was sustainability, specifically sustaining the circle of growth
- The extension office on the IPFW campus has 18 show gardens around their office that range from a shade garden, vegetable garden, butterfly garden to a rain garden with plants mostly identified and it is open 24/7. A great place to take a quiet break when shopping in Fort Wayne.
- Native plants are ones that were here in northern Indiana prior to European settlement. They have an extensive root system and are drought tolerant.
- Queen Anne's Lace, which attracts ladybugs, is not native, but originated in Greece
- Instead of fountain grass, it was suggested that prairie dropseed or little bluestem grass be planted and instead of miscanthus, plant switch grass. They are native and less invasive.
- Geese won't walk through tall grass – plant a prairie buffer around a pond.
- If your pond has no outlet, instead of chemicals to keep it clear, stock it with a few grass carp. Three in a ¾ acre pond at \$10. a piece, keep the pond clean and saves spending money for chemicals.
- Lepidoptera means scaled wings. Butterflies have six legs but the two front legs are undeveloped and are used as taste sensors.
- A butterfly has clubbed antennae and a moth has feather antennae.
- If a butterfly has a broken "wing", carefully tape it so it can fly.
- A Monarch butterfly's eggs hatch in four days, the caterpillar eats for two weeks and the chrysalis hatches in 10 days. In one season there are four generations and the last one that hatches in September is the one who returns to the same 50 acres in Mexico for the winter.
- Plant swamp milkweed for Monarchs and the Black Swallowtail lays their eggs on carrot, parsley or dill plants.
- Organic gardening according to Rosie is gardening to promote a healthy environment without using synthetic chemicals. Right plant in the right place so you don't fight nature. Build the soil. Pay attention to your garden and stop problems before they get big
- A master gardener's job is to educate, not to tell people what to do.
- The best strategy for preventing weeds is to not let any go to seed.
- In reference to organic gardening and sustainability the object is to meet society's present needs without compromising the ability of future generations. Use efficient, environmentally and energy friendly inputs to meet ethical and responsible outputs.
- If you don't have good soil you can't grow good plants.
- The only setting that should be used on an irrigation system is Manual!
- The Japanese beetles are moving on! Hurrah!!
- Homeowners use ten times more herbicides/acre than farmers.
- "Coach" Smallwood, the Executive Director of Rodale Institute wears something green every day to remind himself to thank the plants and animals that came before us.
- The organic manifesto according to Maria Rodale is "growing things the way nature intended".
- Healthy soil, Healthy people, Healthy World, Healthy Planet.
- IPFW has a hospitality major – they served wonderful food and wonderful snacks – no one came away from the conference hungry.
- The 2012 state MG conference will be the first weekend in October in Hamilton County.

NATURAL RESOURCE ENTERPRISE PROGRAM**Snider's Maple Syrup and Piney Acres Farm**

Two workshops will be conducted at Indiana farms to teach landowners how to diversify their farms by using natural resources. The Sept. 7th workshop at Snider's Maple Syrup, 69784 County Road 23, New Paris, will focus on woodland management and specialty agriculture products. The Sept. 8th workshop, on agri-tourism, takes place at Piney Acres Farm, 1115 E. County Road 1000 N., Fortville. Both workshops are scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and will feature morning speakers on revenue potential from natural resources enterprise, business planning, and legal and liability concerns. Following the educational sessions participants will see the innovative ways the farms are using natural resources.

Topics covered at Snider's include maple syrup production, woodland management, and wildlife habitat management. At Piney, topics include Christmas tree production and operation, corn mazes and hayrides, food handling and sales, and agri-tourism and outdoor recreation. The cost is \$35, and pre-registration is due by Aug. 31. For more information, visit <http://www.ag.purdue.edu/fnr/Pages/nre.aspx>
CONTACT: Brian MacGowan, 765-647-3538, macgowan@purdue.edu or you may contact Jeff Burbrink at our Local Elkhart County Extension Office. (Master Gardeners qualify for six educational hours, and this program may also be of interest to our MG's who are also Master Naturalists.

Imprelis Links recommended by Jeff Burbrink:

<http://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/outreach/2011/110722PattonImprelis.html>

http://www.isco.purdue.edu/pesticide/pest_pdf/imprelis_public_statement_07_22_11.pdf

http://www.imprelis-facts.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/Imprelis_Facts_v1.1.pdf

Cicada Killers

By Jeff Burbrink

I have had a number of questions at the Elkhart County Fair, via phone, and via email about large wasps digging holes in lawns.

These are Cicada Killer Wasps. They can be intimidating due to their large

size and their habit of dive bombing visitors to their nesting area. They are not known to sting people. They are considered beneficial due to their feeding habits on cicadas, but some people will want to control them (Carbaryl or Sevin powder) due to the damage they create in the lawn. Here is a bit more information from Purdue:

Purdue Plant Pest Diagnostic Lab Photo of Week 8/25/2008:

<http://www.ppd.l.purdue.edu/PPDL/weeklypics/8-25-08.html>

Purdue Entomology Publication on Cicada Killers:

<http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/publications/E-254.pdf>

Purdue Entomology Publication on Solitary Bees and Wasps:

<http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/publications/E-63.pdf>

Purdue Entomology Publication on Periodical Cicadas:

<http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/publications/E-47.pdf>

Right: Photo of burrow made by Cicada Killer female in which she will lay her eggs. She will sting the cicada, paralyzing it, drag the insect to a cell in the burrow, lay an egg, and seal the cell with the insect inside. The egg hatches and feeds from the still-living but paralyzed cicada.

The female is able to fly carrying the cicada which weighs almost as much as she does.





RAIN GARDEN DISPLAY AT THE ELKHART COUNTY 4-H FAIR

Master Gardeners Barbara Heeter and Leah Lichtenberger braved the rain, humidity and heat at the Elkhart County 4-H Fair on Friday, July 29th, to provide an informational booth on Rain Gardens for the Green Day celebration.

The display included an information board on the benefits and how to's of installing a rain garden, informational books and handouts and a beautiful, surrounding display of native plants used to create a sustainable garden. Leah led a walking tour to visit the fairground's rain garden.

Both Barb and Leah spent the day discussing the concept and uses of rain gardens, answered a few "hotline" type questions and enjoyed engaging conversations from passers-by.

Sincere thanks to Christie Egendoerfer, Sautter's Greenhouse, and Craig Stiver and his daughter Cassie Bollinger of Green Side Up, for supplying the beautiful, native plants utilized in the display.

Sincere thanks goes to: Jan Robinson, organizer of the Green Day endeavor for her support and hard work to create a successful day; the MMGA Board for supporting us in this endeavor and the Michiana Master Gardeners' Association for sponsoring our first ever recycled can and bottle station for Ag Hall.

As we think about choosing a topic for next year's theme, it would behoove the MMGA to include information about ourselves. Those members interested in participating for next year should contact Leah Lichtenberger.



Recipes from our Master Gardeners

Peachy Shrimp Salad

For the Shrimp:

1/4 c. olive oil
 3 garlic cloves, minced
 1 T. fresh rosemary, minced
 1/2 t. red pepper flakes, optional
 20 large shrimp, shelled and de-veined



For the Salad:

4 strips bacon
 6 cups mesclun lettuce mix or baby spinach
 1 large cucumber, seeded and sliced lengthwise into spears
 4 small peaches, halved and pitted
 Herbed croutons, optional



For the Dressing:

3 T. orange juice
 3 T. olive oil
 1 1/2 T. white wine vinegar
 1 1/2 T. shallots, minced
 Salt and pepper to taste

In a shallow dish, stir together the olive oil, garlic, rosemary, and red pepper flakes, if using. Add the shrimp and toss to coat. Cover the dish with plastic wrap and refrigerate one hour.

While the shrimp marinates, cook the bacon. Heat the oven to 350 degrees F. Place the bacon on a foil-lined broiler pan and bake it until it's evenly browned, about 20 minutes. Transfer it to a paper towel-lined plate to drain and blot if necessary.

While the bacon cooks, whisk together all the ingredients for the dressing in a small bowl.

Place the mesclun or spinach and cucumber in a large bowl. Crumble the bacon and add it to the bowl, along with 2 to 3 tablespoons of the dressing. Toss the ingredients until the greens are well coated.

Prepare a charcoal fire or heat a gas grill to medium. Skewer the shrimp and place them on the grates. Lay the peach halves, cut side down, beside them. Cook the shrimp until just done, about 2 to 3 minutes per side. Cook the peaches until well charred, about 4 to 6 minutes. Slide the shrimp off the skewers and let them cool on a plate with the peaches.

Fill each bowl with the salad mixture, then top with the shrimp, peaches, and croutons, if using. Serve the remaining dressing on the side. Serves 4. (Family Fun Mag, Aug, 11)

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.

*“Kindness is the language which
the deaf can hear and the blind
can see.” ~ Mark Twain*

(574) 533-0554
AUGUST 2011