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# Broadcaster

*“Helping Each Other Grow!”*

Michiana Master Gardeners Association

February 2011

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### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK

Dear Master Gardener Friends,

As I think about what I might say to you today, my thoughts are slanted by the snow & cold, being at home a

couple days, and all the meetings and events to come. Though exciting, entertaining and informative, they will be somewhat stressful. It is as if I'm resting up for the activities pending.

My daughter works for an Indian nation in Tucson, Arizona. She occasionally sends me tribal words of wisdom she thinks I might enjoy. (Or maybe she thinks I need them!) Here is an 'Elder's Meditation of the Day'.

"Things would go well for us if we would think positively about everything," from Mary Hayes, CLAOQUOT. More of Mary's words:

"Our *thoughts* are like *individual seeds*. These thoughts will plant our garden. Whatever the thoughts, they grow in our gardens. Each day we process about 50,000 thoughts. *Positive thoughts* will produce *positive results*...Are you aware of what you are thinking during the day? ....If the positive thoughts were flowers, the negative thoughts were weeds ---how would your garden look at the end of the day?"

Looking ahead to spring seminars, community garden work, Spring Celebration, and Garden Tour, with all the meetings and gatherings they entail, let's keep the positive attitudes and helpful demeanors up front. It is easy to do when we are so enthusiastic about the benefits to our community and ourselves! Earning volunteer time helps, too!

I hope to see you involved and at our monthly membership meetings!

Sincerely,  
Marilyn Horvath





*Day Minder . . .  
Watch Us Grow!*



*February 2011*

7	Mon.	Garden Tour Committee Meeting	7:00 PM
21	Mon.	Board Meeting—Extension Conference Room (Optional Lunch 12 PM)	12:30 PM
22	Tues.	Member Meeting—ATTRACTING BIRDS TO YOUR BACKYARD presented by Mary Lerner (Class of 1999) & Millie Ferro, Concord Teacher (Ret.)	7:00 PM

*March 2011*

12	Sat.	Spring Celebration “ <b>Slow Gardening®</b> ” presented by <b>Felder Rushing</b> , Greencroft Senior Center, Goshen. Advance tickets \$10 or \$12 at the Door.	1:30-4 PM
12	Sat.	Annual Dinner, Greencroft Senior Center, Goshen. Social Time: 5 PM, Member Dinner Paid by Assn., Guest Dinner Tickets \$17	5:30 PM
12	Sat.	Order Deadline for MMGA SWCD Tree Seedling Sale order forms	All day
14	Mon.	Garden Tour Committee Meeting—location Fairgrounds History Room	7:00 PM
21	Mon.	Board Meeting—Extension Conference Room (Optional Lunch 12 PM)	12:30 PM

## *Upcoming Meeting Dates*

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

**April 11th** - Garden Tour Committee Meeting

**April 17th** - **Pick Up Tree Seedlings for MMGA SWCD Sale**

**April 18th** - Board Meeting—Location Fairgrounds History Room

**April 26th** - Member Meeting—THE STATE OF ALASKA AND ITS GARDENS AND FLOWERS by MMGA member Vallie Havens

**May 9th** - Garden Tour Committee Meeting

**May 16th** - Board Meeting

**May 31th** - Member Meeting—Angie Smith, Elkhart County Feral Cat Coalition

**June 13th** - Garden Tour Committee Meeting

**June 20th** - Board Meeting

**June 28th** - Member Meeting—TBA

**July 9th** - **2011 GARDEN TOUR, 10 AM to 5 PM.**

**Location: Northwestern Elkhart County:**

**Hospitality Center: Winding Waters Brethren Church**

**July 18th** - Board Meeting 4:00 Board Meeting Ag Hall

**July 18th** - Member Meeting **6:00 PM FAIR SETUP AND PIZZA PARTY** Ag Hall

**July 22nd to July 30th** - ELKHART COUNTY 4-H FAIR

**August 8th** - Garden Tour Committee Meeting

**August 15th** - Board Meeting

**August 30th** - Member Meeting—6:30 PM Garden Tour Appreciation Dinner

**September 12th** - Garden Tour Committee Meeting

**September 19th** - Board Meeting

**September 27th** - Member Meeting—7 PM, Aaron Kingsley, Forster for the City of Goshen

**October 10th** - Garden Tour Committee Meeting

**October 17th** - Board Meeting

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

Nearly 25% of the farmers in the US have some sort of pre-cancerous skin disorder, usually linked to years of exposure to the sun. While it's a simple thing to do, many people put off having checkups, which can complicate treatments later.

There are three basic types of skin cancer. Squamous and basal cell cancers have a 95% survival rate when detected early and treated properly. Melanoma, the most aggressive form of skin cancer, can be treated successfully if detected early. The key issue is to get to the doctor as soon as possible. Warning signs include changes on the skin, such as a growth, a sore that will not heal, a flat red spot that is rough or scaly, color changes in varied shades of tan, brown or black, or small lumps that are smooth, shiny or waxy looking.

Certain people are more prone to skin cancer simply because of their genetic background. However, anyone who is exposed to sunlight is at risk for skin cancer. Most at risk are people with fair complexions who burn or blister easily, blond or red haired individuals, people with a early childhood history of blistering sunburns, adults with 100 or more moles on their body, children with 50 or more moles, or a history of melanoma in the family.

There are some fairly simple techniques to reduce skin cancer, most involve reducing exposure to the sun

over a long period of time. These include using Page 6 sun screens which block UVA and UVB rays (even in the winter and on cloudy days), wearing protective clothing, adjusting work hours to minimize sun exposure and wearing wide brimmed hats to protect the face. The traditional ball caps worn by most farmers do little to protect the face from the sun.

There are numerous sources of information about skin cancer, but most importantly, be sure to visit your physician if you find a suspect spot. The American Cancer Society website ([www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)) and the Ohio State Extension Service ([ohioline.osu.edu/aex-fact/0694.html](http://ohioline.osu.edu/aex-fact/0694.html)) are also good sources of information about skin cancers.

**Purdue University, Indiana Counties, and the US Department of Agriculture Cooperating.  
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***Purdue Extension***

***Knowledge to Go***

***1-888-EXT-INFO***

**Community Gardens Notice:**

The Elkhart County Master Gardener Community Garden Committee will hold a meeting February 23rd (Wednesday) at 6:30 pm at the Main Branch of the Elkhart Public Library, 330 South Second Street, Elkhart. Our March meeting will be held at the home of Marilyn Horvath on March 22nd. Any Master Gardener is welcome to attend either meeting.

Sue Stuckman [suestuckman@yahoo.com](mailto:suestuckman@yahoo.com)

**Norfolk Island Pine Needs TLC**  
**By B. Rosie Lerner January 2011**

Unlike most pines that are familiar to Midwesterners, the Norfolk Island pine is far too tender to plant outdoors in our climate and, in fact, is not a true pine at all. But the good news is that it makes an elegant houseplant when given proper care. It also makes a terrific living Christmas tree; its lush green twigs of soft needles provide a lovely backdrop for festive holiday ornaments.

Known botanically as *Araucaria heterophylla*, the plant is native to Norfolk Island in the South Pacific between Australia and New Zealand. The ideal indoor climate for this species is bright and cool, with daytime temperatures ranging from 60 to 70 degrees and slightly cooler at night. Although the Norfolk Island pine will adapt to bright indirect light, the plant will look its best with a couple of hours of direct sunlight daily. If the light source is coming from just one direction, you'll want to rotate the plant a quarter turn weekly to keep it from tilting toward one side.

When the plant is growing, feed with a fertilizer formulated for indoor foliage plants. It is not unusual for the plant to be in a period of rest during the winter months, at which time there is no need to fertilize.

Water the plant when the top inch or so of the soil in the pot feels dry. Use enough water to allow a little excess to escape through the bottom drainage holes. Discard remaining drained water after about 15 minutes.

What is most challenging for the typical home gardener is giving this plant the high relative humidity it needs. Norfolk Island pine thrives at 50 percent relative humidity, yet it is not unusual for the average house to drop to 15 percent during the winter heating season, unless steps are taken to increase moisture in the air. Running a humidifier will increase the comfort of people and plant and is the most effective way to adequately raise the humidity.

It is typical for a few needles on the lowest branches to turn brown and drop. If this happens slowly over time, it's likely just normal aging of the branches or possibly from lower light availability; however, if many needles are browning, or if the problem appears more widely distributed among the branches, look to problems of either too much or too little water, hot or cold drafts, or too little relative humidity.



Garden centers and mass merchandisers have an impressive selection ranging from compact desktop plants to large floor plants rivaling a traditional holiday tree. When given proper care, the Norfolk Island pine will outgrow most indoor spaces, not surprising when you consider that it can reach up to 200 feet tall in its native habitat!

***Membership Committee News***  
***by Helen Martin***

February greetings from your 2011 MMGA Membership Committee. Serving on this year's committee are Marilyn Miles, phone (574) 295-1475, e-mail address—[mamiles2@hotmail.com](mailto:mamiles2@hotmail.com) and Helen Martin, phone (574) 862-2019, e-mail address—[gardeningduo@maplenet.net](mailto:gardeningduo@maplenet.net).

We would ask that you continue to provide us with information on member's illness, deaths and other areas of concern so we can respond from the organization. You can contact us by phone or e-mail.

It was great to see fifty-five, Zone 5, winter hardy members at our January meeting, and we hope you enjoyed the "rain barrel" presentation by member Brad Lantzer.

We still have openings for monthly meeting greeters and contributors for "Plant of the Month" used for a door prize drawing. Check the signup sheets when you arrive at the meetings, and consider helping out in these endeavors. There will also be many volunteer signup sheets for our various activities as the year progresses, and we encourage both new and old members to get involved.

If you should need a ride to meetings during the dark, winter months, contact us, and we will try to help you locate one. Also, we would remind you that there is a suggestion box at the sign in table for you to express your ideas for bettering our organization

REMINDER: If there is anyone who has not paid their \$20.00 membership dues for this year and wishes to have their name included in the 2011 Membership Directory, these dues must be received no later than Feb. 28, 2011.

Submitted by Helen Martin

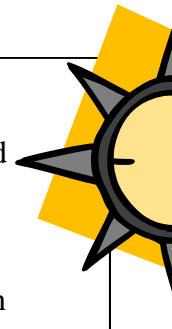
*Member Meeting Minutes --Jan. 23, 2010* Page 10

Marilyn Horvath, MMGA's 2011 president, called the meeting to order at 7 PM on January 25<sup>th</sup> with 55 members present.

Program co-chair Barb Heeter introduced fellow classmate Brad Lantzer ('09) who has personal experience with the construction and use of rain barrels. Lantzer pointed out that rain barrels are merely a 21<sup>st</sup> century version of cisterns, which many members might remember from their childhoods. Historically, cisterns have been used throughout the centuries as a means of collecting water. Three major areas of consideration in the use of rain barrels in the home are safety precautions for children, allowing the runoff from the barrel to be at least 10 feet from the home's foundation, and the barrel itself being made of a safe material. Lantzer used a sample barrel to illustrate the placement of spigots, overflow pipe and a drainage system to move the overflow water away from the foundation of the home. A list of materials needed to construct a rain barrel was presented along with some practical advice for economical means of acquiring the barrel and its components. Questions from the members included the safety of water that has run off a shingled roof (a higher pH?) as well as the sediment that the water picks up from the shingles. Lantzer has found neither of these to be a detriment to his plants. Winterization of the barrel was also addressed as well as the fact that soaker hoses used with rain barrels require larger holes because of the decreased water pressure.

Before the break for refreshments, Marilyn expressed thanks to outgoing Board members Jim Bare, Rhonda Loucks, Jim Maddux and Paul Miles, as well as past president Jerry Martin. She also introduced 2011 Board members Vickie Estep, Betty Foltz, Linda Harkleroad, Barb Heeter, Leah Lichtenberger, Jerry Martin, Ruth Middleton, Stan Palmer, Kate Rink, and Linda Sinon. MMGA members with questions or concerns should contact any of these members. Marilyn also thanked the set-up crew of Ed Farnwald, Craig Stiver, Brad Lantzer and Kent Yoder, and reminded members to stack their chairs in groups of 8 at the end of the meeting.

After a brief break for refreshments provided by Barb Heeter, Penny Stroup and Kerry Prugh, the business meeting was resumed. Barb Heeter announced that a few openings remain on the volunteer list to bring refreshments to the meetings in 2011. Anyone who wishes to help should contact her.



The new interns from the 2010 class in attendance stood and were welcomed to the organization.

Jeff Burbrink, filling in for Ericka Soumare during her pregnancy leave, then addressed the financial crisis that the extension office faces. Over the last 2 years the office has lost 20% of its budget and 2 employees. Jeff expects to lose another 10% and another employee in the near future. The state legislature has proposed a blanket 3% cut to all state universities in 2011 as well as a 15% cut to 3 line items that specifically affect programs offered by the extension office. Jeff distributed handouts detailing the services these 3 areas provide. He requested that members write or phone both their state representatives and senators to voice objection to the line item cuts. Names and addresses of the legislators were included in the handout, but members will need to check online if they are uncertain about which legislators represent them.

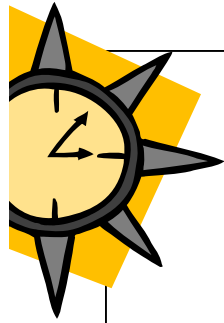
Treasurer Larry Drudge reported a January balance of \$36,387.53.

In committee reports, Leah Lichtenberger announced that tickets for both the annual seminar and Spring Celebration featuring Felder Rushing could be purchased after the meeting, by mail, or at the February meeting as well. Both will be held at Greencroft Senior Center on March 12<sup>th</sup>.

Jim Bare expressed thanks on behalf of Laura Stevens, program chair, whose husband passed away recently. Laura was overwhelmed with the cards and concern expressed by MMGA members.

Leah also reported that the garden tour plans are progressing with finding a location for the hospitality center the major concern at the present. Rhonda Loucks was in the process of circulating forms for volunteers to work the tour.

Community gardens chair Sue Stuckman stated that a planning meeting would be scheduled in late February or early March. The garden needs to be tended from April into October and volunteers are always wel-



## Member Meeting Minutes (cont.) Page 12

brought it to the meeting for anyone who would like to see it.

Program co-chair Barb Heeter reviewed the programs scheduled for the membership meetings in 2011 and asked that anyone with suggestions for 2012 contact her.

Speakers' bureau administrator Jean Rombke stated that she had a container garden workshop scheduled for May 7<sup>th</sup> at the Environmental Center that needed a presenter.

Barb Heeter, tree sale co-chair, reported that early bird sales had set a record, collecting over \$4300. Volunteers are needed for March 16, 17, 18 and 19 to unload the trees and prepare them for distribution. Sign up sheets will be available after the meeting or members can contact Barb if they wish to help.

Webmaster Craig Stiver reminded members that they need to email him information concerning upcoming events or meetings and he will see that they get placed on our website.

In business from the floor, Penny Stroup asked it would be possible for the extension office to send out postcards with our updated volunteer and education hours. Jeff stated that this was usually done in the fall, but obviously it had not been done in 2010. Jeff will look into the matter.

Jerry Martin reminded members that attending a meeting when a speaker presents a program counts as 2 education hours.

Marilyn Miles, membership co-chair, presented the door prize to lucky Christie Egendoerfer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda Harkelroad

## Lucky Bamboo by *Connie Richmond*

I recently purchased a “Lucky Bamboo” plant. It may or may not be aptly named...I haven’t noticed any extreme change in my luck, but it does brighten my windowsill and greet me with greenery every morning, and for that, I like it—lucky or not.

This easy care houseplant needs little care, only asking for about an inch of water and a little indirect sunlight to keep it growing. Even though it has been known as “Lucky Bamboo” for years, it is not in the bamboo family at all. It is botanically known as a *Dracaena*, a tropical member of the lily family that hails from the dark, tropical rainforests of Africa and southeast Asia.

You can keep this plant growing by changing the



water every week, and always keep the water level an inch from the base of the canes. It will benefit from a small addition of African Violet fertilizer on occasion. Growth is controlled by feeding, so small amounts will keep

your plant green, but at a manageable size.

Lucky Bamboo has little problem with insects but can have a tendency toward yellowing leaves. This usually indicates either too much bright light or sunshine, or softened water. Filtered water will produce the best results.

This plant is not only easy to grow, but is also associated with Feng Shui, the bringing of natural elements of water, fire, earth, wood, and metal into balance within the environment. You may see it displayed in stores with a red ribbon tied around the vase. The addition of red is believed to “fire” the positive flow of energy or “chi” in the room.

If you shop for a Lucky Bamboo plant, you will notice that there are different number of stems offered. The number of stems has meaning. Three stalks mean happiness; five stalks for wealth, and six stalks for health. Hmmm...maybe I'll go in search for a three stalk plant for the new year!

~Connie

新年快樂

Editor's note: The Chinese celebrated New Year (according to the lunar calendar) on February 3rd this year. According to Chinese tradition, the coming year is the Year of the Rabbit. The above characters spell out Happy New Year!

# Tree Seedling Sale Price Worksheet

Orders Due by March 11, 2011

(Find the complete Order Form on the MMGA or SWCD Website)

<b>Species</b>	<b>Pack of 5</b>	<b>Pack of 10</b>	<b>Pack of 25</b>	<b>Ht.</b>
Allegheny Serviceberry *	_____ X \$6.00	_____ X \$11.00	_____ X \$24.00	18-24"
American Arbor Vitae *	_____ X \$7.00	_____ X \$13.00	_____ X \$28.00	10-18"
American Bittersweet *	_____ X \$6.00	_____ X \$11.00	_____ X \$24.00	18-24"
Blue Spruce	_____ X \$10.00	_____ X \$18.00	_____ X \$40.00	10-20"
Butterfly Bush	_____ X \$6.00	_____ X \$11.00	_____ X \$24.00	18-24"
Eastern White Pine *	_____ X \$9.00	_____ X \$15.00	_____ X \$33.00	12-20"
Forsythia	_____ X \$12.00	_____ X \$22.00	_____ X \$48.00	18-24"
Fraser Fir	_____ X \$11.00	_____ X \$20.00	_____ X \$43.00	12-18"
Hackberry *	_____ X \$6.00	_____ X \$11.00	_____ X \$24.00	18-24"
Hazelnut *	_____ X \$5.00	_____ X \$9.00	_____ X \$20.00	12-18"
Kousa Dogwood	_____ X \$6.00	_____ X \$11.00	_____ X \$24.00	18-24"
Red Maple *	_____ X \$6.00	_____ X \$11.00	_____ X \$24.00	18-24"
Sugar Maple *	_____ X \$7.00	_____ X \$13.00	_____ X \$28.00	18-24"
Tulip Poplar *	_____ X \$6.00	_____ X \$11.00	_____ X \$24.00	18-24"
White Oak *	_____ X \$6.00	_____ X \$11.00	_____ X \$24.00	12-20"



Just a reminder of the program for the upcoming February 22nd MMGA membership meeting. I am very happy to announce that we have two ladies who know all about birds. They are Mary Lerner, who is a Master Gardener, and Millie Ferro. They are going to tell us how to attract birds to our backyards. I have heard these ladies speak, and there is not much that they don't know about birds including feeders, seed, water, and houses. They are a great source of information so bring your questions. Hope to see you there.

I would also like to thank everyone for signing up for refreshments for the meetings. There are still a couple spaces to fill, and if you want to get an early start on planning what you want to bring, there are spaces to sign up for January and February of 2012. Nothing like getting an early start on planning!  
Barb Heeter,  
Program/Refreshment Committee Co-Chair

Note from Laura Stevens, Class of 2007:

I never had any idea how kind and caring a group you are and how lucky I am to have you. Many of you do not know me and yet have sent so many beautiful cards.



I am so very grateful to have all of you comforting me in this difficult time in my life. I have learned a lot about love from all of you. Jim got sick in November and passed away in December, and I didn't even know you all knew about that. Thank you so very much. Laura

**Submitted by Mary Davis**

Despite temperatures in the single digits, between record snowfalls this winter, at least four carloads of Michiana Master Gardeners were thinking spring on January 22, 2011, and headed for the annual Porter County Garden symposium held in Valparaiso, Indiana. The modest entry fee of \$10 gets you almost all your educational hours for the year for Master Gardeners and several coupons for free bulbs and seeds. The keynote speaker this year was Vincent Simeone who gave two excellent presentations on woody plants--the first one on plants for multi-season interest--beautiful blooming shrubs and trees filled his slide show. The second presentation was for those of us with challenging shade. He also had his four books available for purchase and autographing. Other talks included one on exercise in the garden, vegetable growing in tiny spaces, plant propagation and the gardens of France (from the Purdue trip--heads up--they are going to England this year and, Linda Harkleroad says start saving your pennies--Italy in 2012).

In between seminars, there are all those tempting vendors--85 this year, offering plants and a variety of tool and garden accessories. It was nice to see Esther Benedict there with her booth--she also offered a demonstration on fairy gardens and had a beautiful new one with her. Jay Whitmer took top honors this year--bringing home a 9' brass trellis, tied to the top of Heidi

She was worried about hearing it squeak as we drove back on the toll road--Heidi told her the time to worry was if you didn't hear it squeak. Lots of bird feeders, orchids and African violets also found their ways into cars. Many of the vendors this year were giving away free samples, in addition to the bulbs and seed exchange and there are dozens and dozens of door prizes. Jay and I kept dragging people over to a table to register for a website that was giving away beautiful hellebores (every time we got two people to register, they would give us a free entry). Neither of us won one, but one of our "dragged" members was lucky enough to get a beautiful new hellebore for her garden.

I think as much money as we leave in Porter county, we could probably get donations to help pay for our entries. If you have never gone, you might want to mark your calendar for the last Saturday in January next year and start looking for a ride or let others know your going--your car will rapidly fill! (Two hints--be sure to bring an extra sweater or jacket--you can hang your coat up inside, but the vendors' area and especially the lunch area are chilly and don't forget a tote to hold all your hand-outs, give-aways and little purchases.) (Lunch of sandwiches, salads and chips are available or you can bring your own).

~Mary Davis

## **Perennial Plant of the Year Named**

“The Perennial Plant Association membership has selected *Amsonia hubrichtii* as the 2011 Perennial Plant of the Year,” said a University of Illinois Extension horticulture educator. “Pronounced am-SO-nee-ah hew-BRIK-tee-eye, it has several common names,” Martha Smith said. “Gardeners may be more familiar with *Arkansas blue star*, Arkansas amsonia, thread-leaf blue star, narrow-leaf blue star, and Hubricht’s blue star.”

“This all-season perennial has blue, star-shaped flowers in spring and light green foliage all summer. In fall the foliage turns an outstanding shade of golden-yellow.” *Amsonia* is a North American native. Leslie Hubricht found the species in Arkansas in 1942. The foliage is thin and strap-like, often reaching three inches in length. From late spring to early summer, two-to three-inch wide clusters of small, light blue, star shaped flowers appear above the ferny foliage. This *Amsonia* forms a three-foot-by-three-foot mound. “Arkansas blue star offers so much to our landscapes,” she said. “The bright green, fine-textured foliage in spring and summer contrasts well with medium to large perennials or shrubs. It grows into a dense mass, very much like a small shrub. The soft, cool-blue flowers blend with just about any adjacent flower color. Although the light blue flowers are the inspiration for the common name, the autumn color is a major reason gardeners add this plant to their perennial borders. *Amsonia hubrichtii* grows best in full sun to partial shade and in well-drained soil.

“If grown in too much shade you can expect the plant to flop open,” Smith said. “Once established, this plant can tolerate neglect. As a native it is very soil-adaptive and insect damage and diseases are rare. “Another noteworthy aspect of this plant is that the stems contain a milky sap which deer seem to stay away from. Arkansas blue star is hardy in USDA zones four to nine so it will do well throughout Illinois and Indiana.



*Arkansas blue star* can be used in sunny borders, cottage plantings, native gardens, and in large container plantings. “Contrast against purple foliage for a great summer look and an outstanding fall combination,” Smith said. “This perennial workhorse provides three splendid seasons ornamental features.”

This information provided by Martha Smith, University of Illinois Extension horticulture educator. It appeared in The Farmer’s Exchange of Dec.3, 2010. <http://www.perennialplant.org/documents/poy2011.pdf>

### **‘Praying Hands’ named 2011 Hosta of the Year**

An unusual Hosta called ‘Praying Hands’ has been named the 2011 Hosta of the Year by the American Hosta Growers Association (AHGA). What makes this hosta unique are its narrow, upright green, slightly curled leaves edged with a creamy-white band.



Introduced in 1996, this shade-loving plant gets about 18 inches tall and wide and has lavender flowers. Plant hosta in well-drained, organically rich soil. It blends nicely with ferns, astilbe, bleeding hearts and other lacy-leafed shade-tolerant perennials.

Or, use this variety as a container plant for the summer and transplant to the ground in the fall. This hosta should be available at area garden centers in the spring.

<http://www.americanhostasociety.org/hostaoftheyear.html>

## Flowers With a Sunshine

### Smile

by Connie Richmond



Simply stated, I love Sunflowers. Even though they are a late summer flower, I always look for them in my early spring seed catalogs or in my online forages for seeds. Some folks may view them as common. I agree that they may not be elegant, they may not symbolize love, or have any fancy connotation assigned to them, but straight up—I love them just the same.

They are happy, bright and colorful, and can be equally as lovely in the garden or as a bouquet in your home. Their virtues are many...ask any sunflower seed devouring bird, and he'll agree.

Sunflowers have somewhat extraordinary patterns when grown in a garden. When they are in bud stage, they exhibit heliotropism, which means that they turn to face the sun. As the sun rises, the face of the sunflower turns toward the east. During the day, they will follow the sun from east to west., while at night, they return to an eastern orientation.

## Flowers With a Sunshine Smile (con't.)

They drink a lot of water so a large container with a little weight to it will work best. Place them so only a few inches of stem show above the vase.

Sunflowers are becoming increasingly popular and are widely available in as many as 70 different varieties. Their colors range from creamy white to yellow, orange, and red with yellow to brown centers.

So, share my love of these beautiful flowers and add a few “Sunshine Smile” to your own home and garden.

---

*Winter is the time of promise because there is so little to do— or because you can now and then permit yourself the luxury of thinking so! ~Stanley Crawford*

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**ALERT:** *There is a new MAGAZINE available for Hoosier Gardeners premiering in January 2011 called INDIANA GARDENING, and it is published 6 times a year, with the introductory rate of \$17.95 (\$2 off the regular subscription price). Check out the website at: <http://statebystategardening.com/in/> or order by phone at 1-888-265-3600.*



- February 10, 2011

**Passion and Pursuit: The Search for the Ideal Perennial!** Sponsored by Perennial Plant Association and the Indianapolis Museum of Art, 7:30 AM–5:00 PM, Registration fee of \$119 includes morning refreshments, a buffet lunch, and afternoon refreshments. To register, visit the IMA website, [www.imamuseum.org](http://www.imamuseum.org), or call 877-IMA-TIXS. Registration onsite the day of the symposium will be available.

- February 10, 2011

**Pesticides & Fertilizers & What Was Hot in 2010: Gardening Away the Winter Blues—Taking Care of Your Yard—Series of 4 sessions Feb. 3.10. 17. 24, 2011**, Sponsored by the Kosciusko County Master Gardeners, Warsaw IN, 6:30-9:00 PM, Cost is \$30 per person for all sessions (or \$10 for single sessions), Contact Kelly Heckaman: [kheckaman@purdue.edu](mailto:kheckaman@purdue.edu).

- February 17, 2011

**Perennials: Gardening Away the Winter Blues—Taking Care of Your Yard—Series of 4 sessions Feb. 3.10. 17. 24, 2011**, Sponsored by the Kosciusko County Master Gardeners, Warsaw IN, 6:30-9:00 PM, Cost is \$30 per person for all sessions (or \$10 for single sessions), Contact Kelly Heckaman: [kheckaman@purdue.edu](mailto:kheckaman@purdue.edu).

- February 19, 2011

**Once Upon a Garden Advanced Master Gardener Training**, presented by Gibson County Master Gardeners, Princeton Community High School (Corner Old Hwy 41 and Old Patoka Road, 7:30-8:30 AM (Central Time) Registration, 8:30 AM-2:30 PM (Central Time) Seminar, Cost is \$40 (or \$45 after February 10th), Contact Hanz Schmitz at 812-385-3491 or 812-385-3492.

- February 24, 2011

**Trees and Shrubs: Gardening Away the Winter Blues—Taking Care of Your Yard—Series of 4 sessions Feb. 3.10. 17. 24, 2011**, Sponsored by the Kosciusko County Master Gardeners, Warsaw IN, 6:30-9:00 PM, Cost is \$30 per person for all sessions (or \$10 for single sessions), Contact Kelly Heckaman: [kheckaman@purdue.edu](mailto:kheckaman@purdue.edu).

- March 5, 2011

**Advanced Master Gardener Training**, sponsored by Madison County Extension, 8:45 AM to 3:30 PM, Madison County 4-H Fairgrounds, Alexandria IN, Registration is due by Feb. 25th, 2011, Cost is \$35, Contact John Orick, Extension Educator, Ag/Natural Resources, at 765-641-9514.

- March 5, 2011

**Gateway to Gardening Symposium**, sponsored by Kosciusko County Master Gardener Association & Purdue Extension, featuring Paul James, “The Gardener Guy” star of the former HGTV hit show “Gardening By the Yard”, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, Contact Kelly Heckaman: [kheckaman@purdue.edu](mailto:kheckaman@purdue.edu)

- March 5, 2011

**Spring Tonic**, sponsored by Hoosier Hillside Master Gardeners, representing Crawford, Lawrence and Orange Counties, 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM EST, Fee \$35 by Feb 15th, \$40 after Feb 15th. Continental Breakfast and Lunch Included. Contact Sharron Cousineau at 812-278-6784.

- March 12, 2011

**MMGA 12th ANNUAL PUBLIC SEMINAR, “Slow Gardening®” with guest speaker Felder Rushing, 1:30-4:00PM.**

- March 12, 2011

**It’s My First Yard—What Do I Do???**—**Yard and Gardening for Beginners**, , sponsored by LaPorte County Master Gardeners and Extension, 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM Central Standard Time, St. Paul Lutheran Church Gym, 818 Franklin Square, Michigan City IN, Registration is \$10 to be paid by March 4th, Form located: [www.ag.purdue.edu/counties/LaPorte](http://www.ag.purdue.edu/counties/LaPorte)

- March 12, 2011

**Spring Seminar**, sponsored by the Wabash Valley Master Gardener Association, St-Mary-of-the-Woods College West, Terre Haute IN, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Cost \$30 program fee includes breaks and lunch/ \$35 after March 1st. Program topics include 5 presentations. For more info contact Terri Boland at [tboland@smwc.edu](mailto:tboland@smwc.edu) or Purdue Ext Vigo County 812-462-3371.

- March 12-20, 2011

**Indiana Flower and Patio Show**, Indianapolis, Indiana State Fairgrounds, West Pavilion, 1202 E. 38th St., Mon-Fri: 10 AM-9PM, Saturdays: 10AM-9PM, Sundays: 10AM-5PM, General Admission is \$12 for adults, Children 12 and under are free, see the website [indianaflowerandpatioshow.com](http://indianaflowerandpatioshow.com),

- March 19, 2011

**A Gardening Sundry**, sponsored by Grant County Master Gardeners, Advanced Master Gardener Training, Grant Co. 4-H Fairgrounds, 1403 East State Road 18, Marion IN, Open to all MG’s and Interns, \$20 fee due with registration by March 11th. To Register: [www.hort.purdue.edu/mg/adv\\_trng311.pdf](http://www.hort.purdue.edu/mg/adv_trng311.pdf)



*The Gardens of the Delaware Valley*  
*June 4 - 12, 2011*

Charter bus departing from and returning to Fernwood, \$1950 based on double occupancy (single supplement \$300), \$500 deposit required by February 15th to hold your place, Reservations accepted after that date as space allows. Tour of the Brandywine River Valley and Philadelphia.

Tour Highlights: 18 Stops

Phipps Conservatory & botanical Gardens, Winterthur Museum and Country Estate, Hagley Museum & Library, Gibraltar, Baldwin's Book Barn, Nemours Mansion & Gardens, Brandywine River Museum, N.C. Wyeth House and Studio, Chanticleer, Morris Arboretum, Terrain at Styers, Mt. Cuba Center, Longwood Gardens, Scott Arboretum, Bartram's Garden, Independence National Historic Park, Reading Terminal Market, Fallingwater. Tour Includes Round trip charter bus, admission to all gardens and museums, all guided tours, lodging for eight nights, most breakfasts, shopping opportunities, and time to explore on your own. Tour fulfills five hours of Master Gardener Continuing Education Credit.

Fernwood is also offering a bus trip to the **2011 Chicago Flower and Garden Show** on Wed., March 9th. Fee is \$80 (or \$65 for Fernwood member) and are due by March 4th. Call 269-695-6491 for more information.

**Recipe from our Master Gardeners**  
**Evergreen Sandwich Cookies**

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Yield: 2 dozen

**COOKIE:**

1 c. butter (no substitutes), softened  
2 c. all-purpose flour  
1/3 c. milk  
1/4 t. salt

**FILLING:**

1/4 c. shortening  
1/4 c. butter, softened  
2 c. confectioners' sugar  
4 1/2 t. milk  
1/2 t. vanilla extract

**GLAZE:**

1 1/3 c. confectioners' sugar  
4 t. milk  
Green paste food coloring/ green colored sugar



**DIRECTIONS:**

In a mixing bowl, combine the butter, flour, milk and salt; mix well. Cover and refrigerate for 1 1/2 hours or until easy to handle.

Divide dough into thirds. On a floured surface, roll out each portion into 1/8" thickness. Cut with a 3 3/4" tree cookie cutter. Place on ungreased baking sheets. Pierce each with a fork several times. Bake at 375 degrees for 8-11 minutes or until set. Remove to wire racks.

For filling, in a mixing bowl, cream shortening, butter and confectioners' sugar. Add milk and vanilla. Tint with coloring. Spread a tablespoon each over half of cookies; top with remaining cookies.

For glaze, combine confectioners' sugar and milk until smooth. Stir food coloring into glaze; spread a thin layer over cooled cookies. If desired, sprinkle tops of half off the cookies with colored sugar. Let stand until set.

***Note: Recipe from the 2004 Taste of Home Annual Recipes cookbook. I make these evergreen trees for the holidays, but we modify the recipe for Valentine's Day using heart cutters, red food coloring & heart sprinkles. People love these cookies because the cookie itself is not too sweet, and the frosting gives the sweetness. ~~ Sherrie Zou***

February:

2/19 Fairy Gardens and Dwarf Miniature Plants

2/26 Spring Lawn Clinic: Have the best lawn in your neighborhood

March:

3/5 Spring Pond Opening: been pondering what to do?

3/12 Pruning 101 for Dummies

3/19 Growing Fruits and Berries: Edible Landscaping

3/26 Introduction to Water Gardening: careful it's wet!

April:

4/2 Right Plant-Right Place: some like it hot, some like it cool

4/9 Hydrangea Care: getting the most blooms for your buck

4/16 Rose Care and "No Maintenance Roses"

4/23 Unique Container Gardening with Annuals, Tropicals, and Perennials

May:

5/14 Grow Your Vegetable Garden: you will reap what you sow

5/21 Les Tour Des Plants: see our latest and greatest new plant introductions

November:

11/19 Winter Greens & Containers: deck your halls with boughs of holly

Seating is limited. Call 293-9699 to register. All seminars run from 10-11 AM. There is no charge for any of the seminars.

**COOKES\*\*\*COOKIES\*\*\*COOKIES\*\*\*COOKIES**

**If anyone is willing to donate 2 or 3 dozen cookies for the *Spring Celebration* Saturday March 12th, please let Ruth Yeomans know at the next meeting.**

**COOKES\*\*\*COOKIES\*\*\*COOKIES\*\*\*COOKIES**

Michiana Master Gardeners' Association  
"Helping Others Grow"  
12<sup>th</sup> Annual Public Seminar

## Slow Gardening®

"A No-Stress Philosophy for All Senses and Seasons"

Presented by



### FELDER RUSHING

Author, columnist, humorist,  
and co-host of NPR's  
Gestalt Gardener

**Saturday, March 12, 2011**

**1:30 – 4:00 PM**

**Greencroft Senior Center**  
1820 Greencroft Boulevard  
Goshen, Indiana

**TICKETS: \$10 Presale / \$12 Day of Seminar**

#### TICKET OUTLETS

##### **Middlebury**

Varns & Hoover

##### **Goshen**

Greencroft Sr. Center  
McIntosh Garden Center  
Elkhart County Extension Office

##### **Elkhart**

Martin's Pet & Garden

**Mail Order :** (Send payment—pick up reserved tickets at Seminar March 12. Tickets will NOT be mailed.) Make checks payable to **MMGA**.

MMGA, Purdue Extension—Elkhart County  
17746 E. CR 34  
Goshen, In 46528

Seminar held in cooperation with Purdue Extension Elkhart County.

*Learning Opportunities in Elkhart County*

*2011 Spring Seminars*

*Presented by the MMGA Class of 2010*

Feb. 5, 2011—Essential Basics of Vegetable Gardening

Time: 10:00 AM Elkhart Public Library, 300 South 2nd Street, Elkhart. *This seminar is designed to be informative for anyone from the beginning gardener to the grower who is always on the lookout for tips and advice on successful gardening. We will primarily cover seed starting, herb gardening, soil management, and disease and insect problems.*

February 12, 2011—Vegetable Gardening, Part II

Time: 10:00 AM Elkhart Public Library, 300 South 2nd Street, Elkhart. *What sounds better than delicious veggies grown easily and naturally? Come learn the basics of natural pest control, composting, cover crops, raised beds and straw bale gardening. These ideas work for more than just veggies.*

February 19, 2011—Specialty Gardens

Time: 10:00 AM Elkhart Environmental Center, 1717 E. Lusher Avenue, Elkhart. *Whether a stand-alone feature or an addition to an existing garden area, specialty gardens offer interest and a new perspective to the landscape. Come learn the steps in creating rain gardens, water gardens, and bird/butterfly gardens along with ideas for incorporating one or all of these specialty gardens into your existing landscape.*

February 26, 2011—Lawn Care Seminar

Time: 10:00 AM Ron Martin Seed and Supply, 61329 CR 9, Elkhart. *If your goal is the perfect lawn, don't come to this seminar! However, if you would like tips on a healthier, better looking lawn, then this is for you. Lawn care management on fertilization and pesticide use as well as organic solutions to lawn problems will be some of the topics covered.*

March 19, 2011—Landscape Design

Time: 10:00 AM Kruse Farm Supply, 19904 CR 6, Bristol. *Come join us for a morning of design ideas for a four-season garden with minimal maintenance and enjoy our unique ideas to create beauty in your yard for years to come.*

March 26, 2011—Children's Gardening Workshop

Time: 10:00 AM Sautter's Floral and Greenhouse, 1725 Toledo Road, Elkhart. *Come, learn and enjoy this "hands on" workshop for making your own personal garden projects and taking a greenhouse tour. Recommended for 5-10 year olds with adult supervision. Please register by March 13th at Sautter's or call 296-5584.*

**All Seminars are held from 10 AM to Noon. To sign up for any of the spring seminars, or for more information, call the Extension Office at (574) 533-0554. There is no fee for any of the seminars.**

**Please email articles for next month's Broadcaster to Sherrie Zou by March 4th. You may also mail them to Linda Kimple in the extension office or to me at my home (address in the directory)~Thank you!**

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 color of springtime is in  
the flowers; the color of winter  
is in the imagination.  
~Terri Guillemets*

**PURDUE**  
UNIVERSITY

ELKHART COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE  
ERICKA SOUMARE  
EXTENSION EDUCATOR  
AGRICULTURE/NATURAL RESOURCES  
17746-E CR 34, GOSHEN IN 46528  
(574) 533-0554  
**FEBRUARY 2011**