

PURDUE

U N I V E R S I T Y

PURDUE UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

Elkhart County

Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds

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Goshen, IN 46528-6898

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Broadcaster

“Helping Each Other Grow!”

Michiana Master Gardeners Association

June 2011

Features This Issue!

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK

Dear Master Gardener Friends,

I had three uncles; one was a Master Sergeant in the US Army. He died in a car accident in 1944 at Camp Hood, TX. Another was a handsome, well-dressed, smooth-talking charmer who frequently moved back and forth cross-country, raising all kinds of suspicions in my Dad’s mind. He

was shot on Thanksgiving Day, 1980, in a theater he managed in Miami.

The third uncle, father of my dear cousin with whom I colored my way through our one-room country school, also died in 1980. This man was first a farmer and later a groundskeeper of our city stadium, both professions unsuited for a man afflicted with asthma. He also fought alcoholism during his life, which made him a reflective, analytical person. Uncle Walter gave me two pieces of advice that I remember to this day. The first was "Never try to figure out 'why' bad things happen to you; it will frustrate you and hold you in that place. Instead, dwell on the now, make the best of things, move on." Those words have helped me more than I can tell.

In some memorabilia my Mother had of her brother's things, among the clippings of his early 4-H Brown Swiss Dairyman awards & later life groundskeeper accolades was found the following poem:

Your Mental Garden

Resentment is an ugly thing; it crowds the roses out.
Keep your mental garden fair; put harmful things to rout.
Seed thoughts you cultivate within your fertile mind,
Bring forth varied blossoms, according to their kind.
Anger, malice, worry, fear are noxious mental seeds;
Quickly rid your mind of them before they choke as weeds.
Faith, gentleness, humility, truth, patience, unselfish love
are specimens of seedlings rare, approved of God above.
Your mental garden is a place in which you daily dwell;
Let nothing ugly flourish there; safeguard and tend it well.

The second piece of advice my Uncle Walter gave me I think of every time I step out of the shower! "Always dry between your toes!"

May our summer activities including the Garden Tour and the 4-H Fair be filled with fun, laughter and satisfaction, and may we keep all our gardens tended!

**In Friendship,
Marilyn Horvath**





*Day Minder . . .
Watch Us Grow*



June 2011

13	Mon.	Garden Tour Committee Meeting— location Ext. Office Conference Room	7:00 PM
20	Mon..	Board Meeting—Extension Office Con- ference Room Lunch at 12 PM	12:30 PM
28	Tues.	Member Meeting—Dennis Carrell, Parks Department	7:00 PM
1-30	All.	Garden Tour Ticket Books Available for Sale All Month	ALL DAY

July 2011

9	Sat.	2011 Garden Tour –Northwestern Elkhart County Start at Winding Waters Brethren Church	10:00 AM-5:00 PM
18	Mon.	Board Meeting—Ag Hall prior to member meeting/ set-up	4:00 PM
18	Mon.	Member Meeting—Fair Set-Up and Pizza Party	6:00 PM
22-30	Fri.- Sat.	ELKHART COUNTY 4-H FAIR—Goshen	ALL DAY

Upcoming Meeting Dates

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

August 8th - Garden Tour Committee Meeting

August 15th - Board Meeting

August 18th - Ornamental Grasses Middlebury Library

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,
Forester, City of Goshen

October 10th - Garden Tour Committee Meeting

October 17th - Board Meeting

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

November 7th - Garden Tour Committee Meeting

November 14th - Board Meeting

November 29th - Member Meeting—6:30 PM **Thanks-for-Giving**
Carry In and Board Member Elections

DECEMBER—HAPPY HOLIDAYS, NO MEETINGS



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

Time is Running Out for Ash Trees

Last week, as I was driving through a Goshen neighborhood, I spotted a young ash tree planted along the road that had many shoots coming for the trunk, and thinning in the top canopy of the tree. Knowing that these are symptoms of emerald ash borer (EAB) damage, I stopped to look. Sure enough, this tree also had D-shaped exit holes in the bark, a sign the beetles had emerged and are out there laying eggs right now.

This weekend in Fort Wayne, I was shocked by the damage being caused by EAB. Fort Wayne has many streets lined with ash trees. Most every ash tree is showing signs of EAB damage, even while driving past at 30 miles per hour! Since the emerald ash borer was discovered in Fort Wayne a year or so before Elkhart County, I am projecting we will begin routinely seeing damage here in a year or two.

Now is the time to make your decision about the ash trees in your lawn. The protection must be in place before the borers overwhelm a tree. Are you going to choose to protect it with an insecticide for multiple years, or will you chose to remove the tree in favor of another species that is not affected by EAB?

The answer may depend in part on how you value the ash tree. Treatments are expensive and must be applied in a timely fashion, and the treatments may need to be repeated for the life of the tree if no natural predators are found to combat EAB. If you do not treat the problem correctly,



you have thrown the money Page 6 away. In some cases, where an ash tree is sickly or disfigured, it may be best to remove the tree, and possibly replace it with another species.

If an ash tree is discovered to already have EAB in it and the tree is a valuable specimen tree, the rule of thumb is that treatment is probably worth the effort and money if 50% of the canopy is still intact.

Removing a tree can be an emotional issue for some people, and good decisions are rarely made when emotions are peaked. To remove the emotions from the decision, it helps to learn more about the problem. This is important, because when emotional issues such as this come forward, we often have unscrupulous people trying to scare you into spending your money on methods that will not work. Learn about the problem before you commit to a treatment.

You can learn more about EAB at Purdue's website: <http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/EAB/index.php>. There you will find pictures of EAB damage, suggestions on control, and much more information to help decide whether it is better to replace the ash tree or to treat with insecticides. If you do not have internet access, you can contact your Purdue Extension Office for more information 533-0554.

Purdue University, Indiana Counties and the US Department of Agricul-

EMERALD ASH BORER PHOTOS



Above: Photo showing a D-shaped exit hole created by the Emerald Ash Borer when it exits a tree



Left: Photo showing an ash tree under attack by the borers. The shoots emerging from the trunk are typically one of the first visible symptoms of the problem.



INSIDE THE EXTENSION OFFICE

by Kate Rink

They, (they, meaning our meteorologists) weren't kidding when they said spring is over and summer is here, even though officially, it isn't here until June 21st. The 90 degree days we've been having lately, make us feel like its July or August. It's been such an extreme year. Our winter was extreme, our spring brought us an extreme amount of rain and now we're having extreme heat. What's going to be our next extreme? I don't think I want to know.

Our calls into the extension office have picked up. It is definitely gardening season, lots of people asking lots of questions about lots of things. An interesting question came in requesting information about ginseng. Not knowing much about ginseng, a website provided some intriguing information. Ginseng is called the mystical healer. For years the Chinese have used ginseng as an energy tonic. Today, the western world is exploring its benefits in treating stress and levels of mental lucidity.

Russian research has found ginseng stimulates physical and mental activity in tired and weak individuals. It was also found to help with balance.

Asian research has found that ginseng helps mental improvement, eliminates anemia and helps prevent diabetes, neurosis, coughs, tuberculosis and asthma. It was also found to strengthen the gastrointestinal system and help with liver regeneration. It is even able to reduce the effects of alcohol and decrease hangovers. People taking regular ginseng were found to be able to handle higher levels of stress on both the emotional and physical level.

Because the plant is endangered in some areas you must get permission from the DNR before you may dig the root. Good stewardship for harvesting ginseng is a must, as policy states, "dig some, leave some". Harvesting only after the fruit is ripe (red) is a requirement in most States. Planting the red ripe berries as they are digging for

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roots explains why ginseng is still in the woods after three centuries of digging. Researchers have found that these good stewardship practices can produce as much as 8 times more seedlings.

With all the health benefits of this amazing medicinal plant, it sounds like we should be taking supplements daily, like a multi-vitamin. Our information to the caller, we hope, was beneficial and informative.

One of the worst weeds to pull which is nearly impossible to pull without gloves is Canada thistle. A client called in wanting to know how to kill the nasty stuff. Canada thistle is a creeping perennial that reproduces from vegetative buds in its root system and from seed. It is difficult to control because of the extensive root system in the plant that allows it to recover from control attempts. Combining control methods is the best form of Canada thistle management. Persistence is imperative so the weed is continually stressed, forcing it to exhaust root nutrient stores and eventually die.

So basically, you can't just spray Round-up on it one time and walk away and forget it. Repeat applications and thorough follow-up will avoid ever having to see it again. This is the advice our MG gave to our caller. We hope it helps her with her troubled area.

A question came in from a tree service asking if putting spruce mulch on a flower garden will harm it. A question I have always wondered about as to whether it will change the PH of the soil. The tree service was a commercial company selling wood chips and they wondered if there would be any adverse effects to the plants and shrubs that the mulch surrounded.

Acidity of the soil was not the big concern. A discussion of an application of N to break down the wood and fortify the growing things around it was the approach and advice given to the tree service. This is a wise business owner asking questions before havoc arises with unhappy clients losing plants. He's just covering his bases.

Have you ever had a euonymus bush? There are 160 to 170 different species of this plant. It has a pest that just loves to eat and destroy it. This pest is called a scale, best known as, euonymus scale. Continuous infestations of a number of years can cause die-back and eventual death.

Controlling scales is best achieved by targeting the crawler stage. Crawlers vary in color depending on species, pale red, yellow or light brown and usually are the size of a spider mite. It is recommended to use carbaryl, insecticidal soap or horticultural oil for treatment. Taking care to spray on undersides of leaves enhances future re-occurrence. Hopefully, our homeowner can use some of the methods recommended to save her lovely bush that she did not want to destroy.

“Where can I find free mulch?” This was the plea of one client calling our hotline. In case you didn’t know, the Environmental Center in Elkhart offers free mulch. Free mulch, free advice, happy customer.

As space allows, I can only offer just a few of the calls that have come in over the past month. Many more calls were researched and answered. What a nice service to the community the Extension Office has provided. How lucky for the Master Gardeners, that we have such a nice room and great resources to glean information from. Reporting back and offering what knowledge we learn from those resources, not only helps the caller but the MG as well. We’re ALWAYS learning!

Stay cool and enjoy your gardens and the summer. Can you believe next month is the Fair already? I can’t wait!

HOTLINE NUMBER IS 533-0554, and it is available
April 1st to September 30th. Weekdays from 9 to 12:30.

EXTENSION OFFICE
QUILT



Left: Jim Maddux pre-
pares the bed

Below: The group lays
out plants



Left: Planting
begins

GARDEN PLANTING DAY May 19th, 2011



Left and below: Almost planted

Plants:

- Bronze Leaf Red Cocktail Begonia
- Fields Blue Ageratum
- Green Leaf White Prelude Begonia
- Jazz Yellow Coleus
- Curley Leaf Parsley

Sashing:

- Natural Mulch Wood Chips

Borders:

- Turf Grass



Right: The parsley section is almost fully planted



EXTENSION OFFICE
QUILT



Left: working on another area

Right: Almost finished with another section



Below: Photo showing nine of our volunteers



GARDEN PLANTING DAY 2011 (Con't)

Right: Section showing the landscape blocks



Left and below: Jim Maddux shovels the mulch for the divider rows or “sashings”



VOLUNTEERS:

Mary Davis, Jerry Martin, Jim Maddux, Jim Bare, Heidi Zavatsky, Stan Palmer, Anne Overmyer, Mary Ann Leinhardt-Cross, Anita Bentley, Linda Harkleroad, and volunteers from Four Seasons Garden Club

Splinters from the Board -- May 16th, 2011

In the absence of President Marilyn Horvath, Vice-President Barb Heeter called the May 16th meeting to order. Board members present were Betty Foltz, Linda Harkleroad, Barb Heeter, Jerry Martin, Ruth Middleton, Stan Palmer, Kate Rink, Linda Sinon and educator Jeff Burbrink. Also present were MMGA members Jim Bare, Sue Stuckman and Karen Fairfield.

Treasurer pro-tem Jerry Martin presented the treasurer's report. Income for the month totaled \$300 with expenses totaling \$408.59, leaving a final balance of \$33,961.75. The treasurer's report was approved.

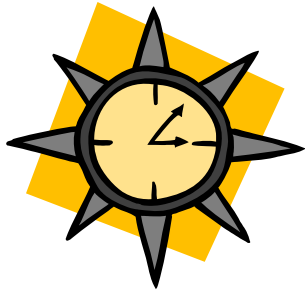
Jeff Burbrink's good news was that the state legislature had decided to make no cuts to the extension budget and even the county budget cuts were looking much less severe.

Penny Stroup requested MMGA sign a contract with Tracy DiSabato-Aust as the speaker at the 2012 Spring Celebration. The cost will be \$3,000 plus transportation. DiSabato-Aust has volunteered to stay in the home of a Master Gardener instead of a hotel. The request was approved.

An inventory of all items in the Master Gardener storage area has been completed. A sign up sheet will be posted near the supplies in an attempt to keep a better record of supplies as they are borrowed and depleted.

The issue of a new treasurer was addressed. The Executive Board recommended that Jim Bare be appointed treasurer and Linda Sinon as assistant. The Board voted unanimously to appoint Jim and Linda respectively.

The Executive Committee also recommended to the Board that a laptop computer be purchased for the sole use of the treasurer and assistant. All MMGA financial business would be recorded on that device, not on the treasurer's home computer.



This would also make it easier for the assistant treasurer to have access and current information on the financial dealings of the organization. The Board voted to authorize Jim Bare to purchase the Quicken software for \$40 and a computer for no more than \$500.

The issue of purchasing an AED was again addressed. Kate Rink read a letter from the Fair Board stating we would be welcome to put the device in Ag Hall and leave it there at all times with the exception of MMGA events off site. The Fair Board would not have theft insurance to cover it, however. The Board felt this was not in the best interest of MMGA. The Board voted to approach the membership at the May meeting and suggest an AED be purchased for MMGA use only. The Good Samaritan Law will cover liability, and Jerry Martin will speak to our insurance carrier about theft insurance. The plan would be to keep the device in the MG room in the extension office and have a member of the set-up committee pick it up and then return it for monthly membership meetings. For off site events, the chair of each committee would appoint someone to specifically pick up and then return the AED.

MMGA members Sue Stuckman and Karen Fairfield were present to ask for financial support for the INPAWS sponsored Indiana Tour of author Doug Tallamy. The South Bend seminar will be held at IUSB on Sept. 15, and tickets are free of charge. Stan Palmer pointed out that since the purpose of MMGA is to “help others grow” and both MMGA members and the public would benefit from his presentation, supporting this cause is a natural fit for the organization. The Board voted to donate \$100 to help sponsor Tallamy’s program.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Harkleroad, Secretary

President Marilyn Horvath called the meeting to order at 7 PM with 48 members present.



Program chair Barb Heeter introduced Alice Poseley and Chris Bralik from the Elkhart County Feral Cat Coalition (ECFCC) who presented the program for the evening. The group was founded in 2007 with the mission of reducing the free roaming cat population. A free roaming cat colony consists of lost, abandoned, tame and untamed cats. The purpose of the ECFCC is to Trap, Neuter, and then Return free roaming cats to a managed colony where someone volunteers to feed, water and provide shelter for them. Theoretically, one un-neutered pair of cats can increase the cat population by 11 million in 9 years. The purpose of the ECFCC is to reduce the free roaming cat population in a humane manner.

After a break for refreshments provided by Anne Overmeyer, J Witmer and Heidi Zavatsky, Marilyn called the business meeting to order.

Jim Bare and Linda Sinon were introduced as the newly appointed treasurer and assistant treasurer respectively. However, until Jeff Burbrink and Penny Stroup audit the books, Jerry Martin continues as treasurer pro-tem. Jerry reported a balance of \$33,961.75 in the account.

Educator Jeff Burbrink held up the new version of the Master Gardener Handbook to be used in the classes beginning in 2011. It is a flash drive and costs \$12 compared to the paper version in two notebooks that costs over \$40. Application forms for the 2011 class have been posted online, and Jeff hopes to have all applications in by the end of June. The schedule of classes will be published in the Broadcaster, and any current Master Gardener who wishes to audit one or more of the sessions needs to contact Linda Kimpel in the extension office so that additional materials can be printed. Jeff also stated that the Hot Line has been busy answering questions about insects and diseases.

Jeff also had news concerning former educator Andrew Westfall. Sadly his mother recently passed away, but the exciting news is that Andrew is now engaged to be married.

Fair horticulture chair Kate Rink announced that 10 volunteers are still needed to help with the arrival of entries at Ag Hall before and during the judging. Also, for the first time Ag Hall as well as the other commercial and organizational buildings will be allowed to enter the First Impressions contest. The purpose of this award is to encourage attractive landscaping around the buildings for the fair. Kate has several ideas for Ag Hall and would like a few volunteers to help her plan and implement a design.

Kathleen Cripe reminded members that the sign up sheet to help staff Ag Hall during the fair still has openings.

The community garden harvested its first crop today: lettuce and green onions. Sue Stuckman reported all is going well.

Leah Lichtenberger, Garden Tour Chair, asked that all photos of craft items for merchandising be given to her. Rhonda Loucks will be contacting all volunteers via email to remind them of a general meeting to be held prior to the June membership meeting. Heidi Zavatsky announced that ticket books have been delivered to the vendors and brochures are available for anyone who wishes to distribute them. Leah also still needs volunteers to help with Green Earth Education Day at the fair.

Membership chair Helen Martin asked that she or Marilyn Miles be notified if cards need to be sent to a member for some reason.

Barb Heeter announced that the speaker for the June membership meeting would be the Coordinator for developing the old LaBour pump site. He will detail their plans for the new city park.

The quilt garden has been planted, and chair Heidi Zavatsky stated that the job of maintenance has started. She will send out reminders to those who have volunteered to help via email as the summer progresses.

Tree sale chair Barb Heeter stated the MG's 40% profit from the sale is \$1,112.50. The fair refused to refund a part of the deposit due to the excessively dirty floor. The committee will address this issue for 2012.

Penny Stroup, chair for the 2012 Spring Celebration, announced that a speaker and site have been secured. The first meeting will be June 20th at Panera Bread on US 33 near Dunlap at 6:30 PM.

In new business, new Treasurer Jim Bare announced he had purchased an Acer laptop for less than \$500 and Quicken software as directed by the Board. This laptop will be used exclusively for all MMGA financial affairs .

In old business, Barb Heeter presented the Board's proposal that an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) be purchased for the use at all MMGA meetings and functions. The cost will be \$1,095. After some discussion, Paul Miles moved that the AED be purchased with a second by Penny Stroup. By a show of hands, the motion passed with 2 dissenting votes. Barb will make the arrangement for the purchase and then schedule a demonstration of the device for a future meeting.

Len Harms, Penny Stroup, Pat Watson, Lucille Johnson, Ed Farmwald, Leah Lichtenberger, Heidi Zavatsky, Kathleen Cripe and Suzanne Pedler won door prizes.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Harkleroad, Secretary





INFORMATION FOR
OUR MMGA
MEMBERS

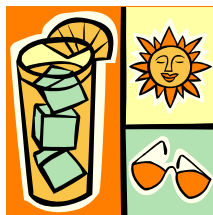
Program and Refreshment Committee

Hello All. I do hope you are staying cool. Mother Nature took her time getting summer to us and now she has really let us have it.

Just a reminder we have a very good program scheduled for the MMGA membership meeting on June 28. Dennis Carroll is the Brownfield Coordinator for the Elkhart Park Department. As you have heard, the City of Elkhart bought the land that had been occupied by the LaBour Pump Company. The building was torn down, and it is my understanding that a portion of the soil was taken away due to contamination. The site is now ready to develop a park site. and Dennis will be giving us information regarding this project. I believe there are several Master Gardeners who are helping with the project. I am anxious to here what has been planned so far and the progress that has been made. I will pass on to you that some of the trees that were left after the Tree Sale were donated to this project.

I hope to see many of you at the June 28 MMGA membership meeting and STAY COOL.

Barb Heeter
Program/Refreshment Committee Co-Chair



MEETINGS FOR GARDEN TOUR VOLUNTEERS

By Rhonda Loucks

Tuesday June 28th at 6:00 p.m. in Ag Hall prior to the regular MMGA monthly meeting

At this meeting you will get your garden assignments, information packs which include your complimentary ticket book. We'll discuss briefly what you can expect at the gardens and hospitality center on tour day and answer your questions.

*If you are unable to attend this meeting, contact Rhonda Loucks at **rhonway @ fourway.net** so she can make arrangements to get your information to you.*

On Friday July 8 –Set-Up at the Hospitality Center, Winding Waters Brethren Church, 420 C.R. 4, Elkhart

*A reminder that this year, the set-up begins at 6:00 p.m. Also, we need anyone that can help load tables and supplies at the Fairgrounds Extension Office at 2:00 p.m. If you have **plants, cookies or craft items** to drop off, you can do so starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Hospitality Center. If you are donating plants, please make sure the plants are in clean containers and are labeled with the name of the plant.*



Calling all **Shutterbugs!** The garden tour photography committee would like to invite you to submit your best photographs of the gardens, the visitors and of course fellow MG's helping during the tour. We will incorporate them into the power point that is shown at the appreciation dinner in August. I would prefer that the photos would be unedited. Digital photos loose pixels with each edit thus compromising the end product. Please submit digital photos via email to Vickie Estep at **spiritdncr @ gmail.com** or you can put them on a photo disc and give them to me. If they are not digital you may still mail a copy to me and I will scan them for you. It is helpful if you identify which garden number or place they were taken in along with the names of those in the photo along and your name. We had some great submissions last year - thank you! I can hardly wait to see what you bring to the show this time :) ***Vickie Estep '06***

2011 STATE CONFERENCE**by Mary Davis**

"Sustaining the Circle of Growth" was the 2011 state conference theme. The conference was held at IPFW on June 9-11th. Marilyn Horvath, Sue Stuckman, Carol Swartzendruber and I represented Elkhart County. In addition to attending the conference, I delivered and sat up the ECCVB Quilt Gardens display in the educational exhibits. We had a lot of interest in the quilt gardens, and lots of people had visited, with many intending to come again this year.

I started the conference with a tree identification walk around the campus. The extension office is located at the edge of campus, and the educator has been responsible for planting several different varieties of trees during his 16 years on the job. He went through the basics of identifying pines vs. firs, looking at leaves, bark, structure, etc. We had to dodge the raindrops as we walked around the campus. Lots of interesting trees and one very sick ash which was scheduled for removal (emerald ash borer). The Allen County Master Gardener program is very different from ours--they do not have an organization. When the present educator came to Ft. Wayne, he indicated they had fewer than thirty MGs, and the group was controlling, vindictive and drove everyone off. After he convinced his supervisor (who tried to make peace for three months), they simply ignored the association and started their own group which basically supplanted the old group, so it has continued as simply an extension of the extension office. Interestingly, they appear to have basically one program, which is planning, planting and maintaining 17 display gardens at the extension office. They have no budget, and their fundraising goes to the benefit of the extension office. They now have over 300 MGs.

Friday's activities started with a general session featuring Ben Hess who discussed using native plants. I followed this up with "Joseph Decuis: The Whole System Approach for Gourmet Food" which is a farm/restaurant/gourmet shop/inn in Roanoke, Indiana. They raise Wagyu beef (the ones that produce Japan's famous Kobe beef) and raise most of their food on their farm or buy it from like minded farmers--using sustainable and humane conditions. They have won a ton of awards and have basically revitalized the entire town of Roanoke (we are planning a visit--yum!) Then I went to "Invasive Plants and Preserving

Native Communities" with Natalie Haley from the Allen County Parks system. She is on the Council for Indiana Master Naturalists, as am I, and we have participated in several loooong telephone conferences but never met. I introduced myself, and she gave me a big hug. Then I went to Rosie's Organic Vegetable growing presentation. The evening program was to feature "Coach" Mark Smallwood from the Rodale Institute, but he was apparently lost in space with Delta airlines, so the extension educator gave a very good presentation on Sustainable Gardening.

Saturday was a little iffy on weather (it basically rained off and on the entire conference), but a continental breakfast at the extension office kicked off events. We toured the display gardens and visited vendors (they aren't allowed on the campus itself, so were confined to Saturday morning, which greatly limited the number participating and their displays. They also had a MG who discussed and demonstrated how to make a rain barrel. By now, the Coach had landed and I attended his morning session which was captioned "Don't Treat Your Soil Like Dirt" but was basically a guide to Organic Gardening and discussion of using raised beds for veggie gardening. He then gave his evening presentation at noon on the Rodale Institute. He was entertaining and fun--would be a great speaker for the 2013 spring fling.

The conference was very enjoyable--concluding with Proven Winners donated plants. The MG announcer said they had some Invincible Spirits--wrong! (though she nearly caused a stampede of women who HAD to have one--one lady said she had been waiting for one for years and years (since they were first available last year, I kind of doubt her math)). Unfortunately, only 148 people attended this years conference, although I don't think it was really advertised or promoted (still lots of people who remembered me and our conference fondly).

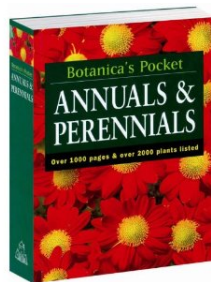
Next year the conference is going back to October and will be back in Hamilton County--warning--attending this conference in Hamilton County the last time it was held there was the initial spark that gave Judy Baker and me our wild idea of hosting the conference, but remember, Judy has moved and I am retired :)

Congratulations!! To Heidi Zavatsky who won a \$2500 landscaping gift given to a blood donor (EGH has a blood donation program, and they usually have a drawing for something--a side note--they are always looking for volunteers--it only takes a half hour, is virtually painless and you get cookies!)

Congratulations! 

~MARY

BOOK REVIEW
by Stephen Arnold, Class of 2006



The National Garden Association's latest figures from 2008 indicate 100 million homes in the United States have a yard or garden, and out of that the Association estimates 38 million are flower gardeners. Then think of all the stories of the famed gardens of Europe, South America and Asia. With those kind of numbers, you would think new garden books would be coming out in droves each year. The truth is not so, mainly because the publishing industry both here and in the U.K., faced with a down economy and increased costs, have curtailed their general horticulture offerings in the last ten years. High quality garden books require quality photography and paper, and the return on investment is just not there unless the editors find a subject which just screams to be published.

But not so with re-issues. This review pertains to a high quality re-issue with an original 1999 copyright date on the text and photos by Random House, Australia, and then reprinted in 2004. In 2006, the book was either sold or traded to a German company who had it printed in China. The **Botanica's Pocket Annuals and Perennials, (Tandem Verlag GmbH, 2006)**, is an excellent reference book for those with either a passing interest in flowers or someone who is in for the long haul and wants more.

Don't be fooled by the word "pocket" in the title as this book would require a sizable pocket with strong stitching and lots of room. Including the index, the book numbers 1008 pages divided into main four sections: Introduction; an alphabetical A through Z description of flowers (over 2000 plants); a reference table; and an Index to Common Names and Synonyms. This is a big book and one that I could not put down for several weeks after purchase as I roamed through stuff that I know and a lot of strange names I did not know. Nor will this book be put on the shelf and forgotten because the creative gardener will want to keep this one handy and ready to use, particularly each year at the garden planning stage.

After a very short tutorial on planting techniques, three pages of world wide hardiness maps confront the reader, and I must admit, I spent several hours tracing our Indiana zone through Europe and Asia and then

looking up flowers I did not know which fit into our zone. Wow! This is great fun because every flower in the book's main section has its equivalent hardiness zone in the text, and then again the in rear reference section. The secondary challenge will be finding off-shore seeds or plants with the stringent U.S. Agriculture Department regulations, but I submit it can be done with a little creative work.

For example, I found *Anthemis*, which I had not heard of, and discovered that it is part of the daisy family, grows in our zone, and in suitable conditions the 100 or so species of this genus of both annual and perennial ranges from the Mediterranean regions to western Asia. The flower head has a daisy shape and is generally white, cream, or yellow. When not in flower most species have a somewhat aromatic scent. There are five excellent color plates of this flower, a short description of cultivation techniques and cutting procedures, suggestions on how to shape the plant, and a statement that the annual species can be grown from seed. Of course, the question will be, "How do I obtain *Anthemis cretica*, which is a mound-forming perennial that ranges from southern Europe to Turkey and blooms in the spring and summer."

How about a *Platycodon*, otherwise known as Balloon Flower or Chinese Bellflower. This sole species in this genus is a perennial with a flower stem up to 30 inches tall. It can survive in our zone but it is native to China, Japan, Korea and eastern Siberia. The pictures are wonderful, a deep violet with serrated edges, but it can be a bell-shaped white, pink, blue, or purple flower up to two inches wide. Stands erect to 30 inches in some cases. My, what a beautiful flower. But how do we get it here? I'll leave the answer to that to others with the more creative minds.

More to home, how about the *Iris*. Get ready for a weeks worth of reading and study. There are 42 color plates featuring the Iris from North America and around the world. Most of the hybrids, such as "Clarke Cosgrove," are included which are easily found in the U.S., but there are several which are not here that would be a great addition to the bed if obtained.

(Continued on next page)



Book Review (Continued)

This is how the Botanica Pocket proceeds from A to Z flowers, 2000 of them! I think you will have a difficult time putting this book down because it is a flower gardener's dream book. The reference section charts each plant in alphabetical order, its type (Annual or Perennial), zone, color, planting time and flowering season. It serves as a great way to plan a garden for color rotation throughout the growing season. It also serves as a foolproof reminder of each plant's attributes so "full bloom" mistakes do not occur. The documentation is excellent. The last section, again in alpha order lists the plant's common and Latin name, and the page listed in the Botanica Pocket, a good search tool for those of us that know one name but not the other.

This is my kind of book! It is not very often that I look for a "how-to" book because of our excellent Master Gardener background and training. But I do require assistance in garden planning. The Botanics's Pocket Annuals and Perennials will certainly assist in plant selection of common and unusual plants along with prospective color combinations; and if you have a strong desire to change the look from one year to the next, or you wish to dabble in the unusual or flowers for a special purpose, this book is an invaluable tool. There are several printings available with the most recent being 2008. It is available from national book stores and Amazon.

~ Stephen Arnold

State by State Gardening's Indiana Gardening eNewsletter

By Sherrie Zou

- I recently signed up for our Indiana version of Indiana Gardening eNewsletter.
- This month's version contains some very interesting and relevant articles. Titles of articles include:
 - Preserve and Use Your Herbs Today
 - The Magical Effect of Combining Roses and Clematis
 - Growing Mushrooms at Home
 - American Wisteria
 - Fruit Tree Friends
- Featured Books including Container Gardening for the Midwest and The Best Plants for Midwest Gardens
- The eNewsletter has very nice photos, and articles are briefly started in your email message, then continued online as the complete article. There is no charge to sign up for their mailing list. The link to subscribe to the eNewsletter is:
 - <http://www.statebystategardening.com/in/> Please note that this page allows you to subscribe to the magazine for \$19.95 per month, but in the lower right hand corner of the page, there is a box to sign up for the FREE eNewsletter for Indiana.

Five More Gardens from the Quilt Gardens Tour by Vickie Estep

Downtown Nappanee – As American as Apple Pie

A symbol of Nappanee's rebirth is their Quilt Garden. Only four short years ago, this quiet little town was nearly destroyed by a late season (October 2007) tornado. The following spring they installed their first Quilt Garden at the McCormick Creek Golf Course. Of course they had many other more pressing issues at hand, but they needed something to believe in and it took the shape of an original quilt and garden named Recovery. Now three years later they've moved the garden to the Nappanee Center to give it a place of prominence in their historic downtown.

Location and accessibility is the name of the game for these gardens. Now this garden can be viewed at a distance from the parking lot, which allows those with disabilities easy access. The previous garden suffered numerous site related challenges. Now with those problems addressed this garden should be much less demanding to maintain. Their committee (exclusively volunteer) is excited about another shot at planting a garden that will truly shine. Even with the problems that beleaguered them last season, there is renewed enthusiasm for the project. We know of course that a newly installed garden brings with it some inherent challenges, however they have so much community support that they are energized and ready to go.

A bright red apple of Cocktail begonias (bordered by Prelude white begonias) is the focal point of this garden. It is paired with deep green curly parsley, which forms its leaves and the happy little worm peaking out to see who has come for dinner. Parsley can be used as an edible ornamental border or companion plant. Parsley attracts beneficial wasps (non-stinging) to the garden, which are especially useful against the dread tomato hornworm. The border is pieced with Pink Puff and Hawaii Blue ageratum. The wide use of ageratum in the Quilt Gardens gives testimony to this dependable and carefree ornamental. In each corner, they have added Boy orange marigolds to complete the design.

By moving the garden to the new location it is now much closer to the four Quilt Murals (on the side of John's Butcher Shop) displayed in the downtown area. This makes possible a "walking" tour of the garden, murals and the downtown district. They tell us "participation in the tour provides an opportunity to be a part of a beautification project that is bringing many visitors to the Elkhart County area." As technology moves us ever forward, it is reassuring to know that something as simple as a garden can help revive and renew our hope for small towns all across our county.

As American As Apple Pie – An Original Design

This original design pays homage to the Nappanee Apple Festival. As a quilt, it would probably have the borders and corners pieced and the apple would be appliquéd on the center panel. Nappanee has hosted an Apple Festival every autumn since 1975. Held the third weekend of September, the event's signature seven-foot apple pie, weighs in at a hefty 600 pounds.

The Farmstead Inn – Ohio Star

This year the Ohio Star welcomes guests at the entrance to the Farmstead Inn. Each year they choose a different block from The Shishewana Blessings Quilt to provide the design inspiration for their Quilt Garden. The town manager commissioned the original quilt “to embrace all the people who have come here over the course of time.” It features both their Amish heritage and that of the Potawatomie Indians who prized this territory for generations prior to settlement by European immigrants.

Another outstanding eight-pointed star pattern comes to life in vibrant flowers at the Farmstead Inn. By using a simple plant palette, they have actually given a more fluid and uniform look to the overall design. More than 5,000 Fields Blue and crisp Hawaii white ageratum make up the largest portion of this garden. I especially like the way they flow one into another creating a soft cozy feel for this garden. Dimension is established in the center of the star by utilizing Profusion Yellow zinnias and Eureka red bronze leaf begonias each adding additional color. It seems that this must be a winning mix of plants for Farmstead since they utilized the exact same combination last year. As is the case with many gardeners, once you find what works you stick to it.

Originally, from Mexico zinnias are a warm climate plant especially favored by countless butterflies. Many gardeners add zinnias specifically to attract these “flying flowers.” Zinnias do best in well-drained soil with infrequent watering. They are quite drought tolerant. Collecting zinnia seed is fun and easy to do. Remember, however, if your plant was a hybrid it may revert to its parent characteristics. Profusion Sunshine Yellow zinnias have been included to provide the shine in the Ohio Star quilt. Tried and true, the begonia cannot be beat for dependability. Eureka provides the focal point here, with its rounded and profuse flowering habit. Bronze foliage replicates the fiery red of the blooms allowing the design to communicate the color theme with or without flowers.

The Shishewana Blessings Quilt is actually the daughter design of The Blessing Quilt that is on display in the Shishewana Town Hall. This quilt, created for the town of Shishewana by regional women is a handmade “*visual prayer*” for those who have been here before us, those here now and for the people of the future that will create life here.

Ohio Star – Quilt Pattern History

The Ohio Star is Block #9 from the Shishewana Blessings Quilt. Their 2010 quilt was Blazing Star and due to its success, they decided a simple bold pattern was a good idea. Ohio Star is a staple for generations of quilters and is the official quilt block of the State of Ohio. (Whoever knew states had official quilt blocks!) It is a nine-patch block (3 rows of three squares). Four of the squares consist of four-quarter-triangles. This quilt would likely be a pieced work. It is historically popular with Scottish and Irish immigrants of the Midwest as well as in many traditional Amish quilts. The Farmstead comments that the beauty and endless variety of the pattern comes from the placement and contrasts of color within a simple structure.

Weaver Furniture – Amish Shadow

New to the Quilt Gardens this year is Weaver Furniture Sales - a family owned and operated business since 1989. They offer locally sourced hand-crafted Amish furniture that just might become your treasured family heirloom. The Weavers say “it gives them great satisfaction that in today's global marketplace they are able to offer such high quality Amish built furniture and at the same time help their community, especially their Amish community.” Sew together a few strips of brightly colored cloth, cut them into triangles, attach them to a dark triangle of equal size to form a square and you have an Amish Shadow. The same process should make quick work of this garden. Here petunias have been used liberally throughout the garden. The border is packed with Misty Lilac Wave petunias while the blocks are lined with Supertunias with names like Citrus, Royal Velvet and Pink Apple Blossom Mini. Hawaii Blue ageratum and Janie Yellow marigolds separate the rows for added texture and height. Wave Petunias have several varieties with different growth characteristics. The "Original Wave (used in the border) is a low-growing and spreading variety that makes excellent ground cover. Most of the Supertunias are only 6 to 10 inches high, but can trail up to 2 to 3 feet long. Due to their vigorous growth, both types need to be given plenty of water and a liquid fertilizer once a week. The Weavers along with their eight children started their furniture business after many years of work on their crop and dairy farm. The barn that used in the farm operation was renovated and converted into a large showroom. Since the start, the entire family, all eight children and their growing families, have committed to make this furniture business a success story. Both LeRoy and Ida grew up in Amish homes in Northern Indiana's Amish Country. Ida grew up in Honeyville where father Amos, ran a farm and sawmill. Later in life, he ran the Honeyville General Store. LeRoy also grew up on an Amish farm where he helped with chores. Still members of the Old Order Amish Church, LeRoy and Ida make their livelihood helping clients fulfill their dreams with custom Amish furniture.

Amish Shadow – Quilt Pattern History

This group of gardeners opted for a traditional quilt pattern. The history is unknown however according to the Nebraska State Historical Society, “the design is popular in many Amish quilting circles because it lends itself to solid colors and geometric designs.” The Society has a quilt that originally belonged to Mrs. Anna Holliet Knapp who had received the heirloom from her mother (presumably as a wedding gift.) Anna was born in 1876 and was married to Robert Knapp around 1893. This quilt was said to be one of Anna's most prized possessions. Their gardener chose this pattern because it features bright colors and is a simple geometric design. A quilter of thirty plus years, she saw the quilt at a recent show and decided the Amish Shadow was a perfect fit for a flower garden in the heart of Amish Country. There are many variations of quilts featuring “shadows” created by using appropriate light and dark fabrics.

Menno-hof – Anabaptist Cross

Mennonite groups in Northern Indiana wanted to share the story of their faith. In 1986, with the help of many volunteer workers they organized a massive barn raising to build the beautiful structure housing the Amish-Mennonite story, Menno-Hof. The new facility opened in May of 1988. Menno-Hof is a non-profit organization operated by a board of Amish, Beachy Amish, Conservative Mennonite and Mennonite Church USA members. It presents the history and values of the Anabaptist people who left Europe to flee from persecution and seek religious freedom. In everything, there is a message, which is especially true at Menno-Hof. Inside you follow the path of people looking desperately for the peace that only freedom of religion can bring. Peace is an important tenant of the Amish-Mennonite faith. They promote the theology of peace not only in relationship to God but also as it relates to social justice and community.

Eureka red and white begonias dominate the Anabaptist Cross - 550 of each to be exact. These begonias do well in full sun, and full sun they will get in this garden. Many triangles are used in this design. The compact habit of this plant produces tight margins to keep the lines of the pattern straight and true. You'll find a block of dwarf yellow cosmos in the center of the cross. The golden border holds one of the easiest annuals you have never heard of. This is Lemon Delight melampodium and one of its best attributes is that rabbits and deer leave it alone. Tucked into the corners are Serena purple angelonia, a heat-loving plant that will grow and bloom best when the heat is on. Red, white, gold and purple flowers are "sewn" into this quilt; however, the colors selected are not just ones that happen to match the original quilt. There is strong imagery seen throughout Menno-Hof and the faith they share. This is also true of the Quilt Gardens they create. In the *Colors of Salvation*, these colors represent the blood of Christ that washes us white as snow to walk the streets of gold in heaven with the King of King and Lord of Lords. When looked at through the lens of faith even nature sings the song of the King.

Anabaptist Cross – An Original Design

This quilt design was commissioned by Menno-Hof to be used as artwork on the newly constructed barn that would become the Interpretive Center. If you look up from the garden, you should recognize the pattern you see there. They have taken half of the quilt block and tipped it on edge to form their logo. The garden represents the whole block. They have named the design the Anabaptist Cross, which communicates the story they share with visitors. Amish and Mennonites are Anabaptist churches. The term Anabaptist dates back to the origins of these religions. At that time, their church believed that adults should be baptized, rather than infants or children and therefore they re-baptized believers. "Anabaptist" means, "re-baptized." This belief was one that led to great persecution and martyrdom among early believers.

Town of Wakarusa — Golden Gate Page 30

From day one, this picturesque little village (named for an Indian princess) set a standard for the Quilt Gardens along the Heritage Trail. They built their garden at a steep angle adding retaining walls so visitors could properly view it. The Maple Leaf mural hangs just to the left of the garden on the side of the Yoder Brothers Mercantile building offering one vantage point for both attractions. While in town be sure to sample the Wakarusa Dime Store's world famous Jumbo Jellybeans.

The Golden Gate Garden features many tried and true standards in the world of annuals. Marigolds, petunias and salvia do quite nicely here. This garden is quite sunny giving these heavy bloomers plenty of energy to perform their best. Boy Gold marigold adds a bright burst of color to the corners of this pattern. Standing in the center of this design is firecracker red Hotline salvia. These make a striking partner to the marigolds in both height and terms of color. Sizzling hot, these hues complement the overall pattern balancing the cool tone of the petunias. Picobella petunias in blue and white form the bars, which together make up the final four blocks in this quilt. The Picobella series is one of many miliflora petunias, simply meaning that it is loaded with thousands of petite blooms.

Although seed companies tell you Picobella needs no pruning, I disagree. All petunias benefit from pinching back to avoid getting leggy as the season progresses. This also stimulates good branching and sturdier stems helping them cope with the wind and rains of summer. Petunias are also heavy feeders due to the generosity with which they bloom. Fertilize them weekly with a balanced liquid product. They also tend to have shallow root systems so care must be taken to avoid drying out.

Adding to its charm is the symbolism linked with the petunia, "Your presence soothes me." Surely, a friendly face would have soothed the brave pioneers who made the long journey, forging new lives so far from home and family. "The Immigrant's Guide to California" by Joseph Ware estimated the cost of passage by ship around the Horn to be \$600.00 per person – equal to the price of moving a family of four overland by covered wagon. "Guidebooks recommended taking two to three quilts per traveler, which was sufficient bedding to last the trip and several years after arrival."

Golden Gate – Quilt Pattern History

This pattern comes from the well-known queen of Quilt in a Day, Eleanor Burns. It is a block in her Pioneer Sampler quilt. She said, "The Golden Gate is the strait linking San Francisco Bay with the Pacific Ocean. Eleanor describes the Pioneer Sampler quilt as a tribute to those pioneers going west and the Golden Gate block to those who chose the trip around the Horn as their route thus entering through the Golden Gate. Eleanor's pieced quilts have a different emphasis than most pieced quilts. Rather than painstaking measuring and cutting of pieces "just so," Eleanor sews pieces together and then cuts them to the appropriate size for quick assembly.

www.amishcountry.org/pdf/2011_MasterGardenerGuidebook.pdf

For more information: www.agry.purdue.edu/turf/

Mowing Suggestions

Rule of Thumb: Remove no more than 1/3 of the leaf surface at any one mowing. Mow frequently versus on a set schedule. Let the clippings fall back to surface if possible. Mow different directions to avoid ruts in the soil.

Watering Suggestions

Give established turf at least 1 to 1.5 inches a week if not supplied by rainfall. It is best to apply this amount in a single, thorough soaking, rather than in multiple doses. If extremely hot, dry weather persists, the lawn may need to be watered 2 times weekly. Daily watering with automatic sprinklers is not recommended because it encourages shallow roots. Watering is best done in the early morning to reduce potential disease problems.

Note from Jeff Burbrink:

One of the more difficult tasks in horticulture is to identify various species of grasses. Purdue's turf program has an excellent website that can help. You'll need a sample of the grass in front of you, then select features of the grass from pictures. It works!

<http://www.agry.purdue.edu/turf/tool/index.html>



PURDUE LAWN CARE SCHEDULE FOR NORTHERN IN Page 32

April 1 - April 15	Crabgrass	Germination inhibitors must be applied early
Mid to Late May	Fertilize	1 lb of Nitrogen per 1000 sq ft
Mid to Late July	Fertilize	0.75 lb of Nitrogen per 1000 sq ft only if you irrigate! Slow release products preferred
July 1	Grubs - Preventative	If an area of the lawn has grubs consistently each year (such as near your fruit trees), consider using some of the preventative type grub control products in that area only. These products are expensive. Do not use if grubs have not been a problem in the past.
Mid – August to Sept.	Grubs - Control	Dig some holes. If more than 5 or 6 grubs can be found per sq. ft., use a traditional grub control product. Helpful hints: 1. Water turf (about 1 inch) 24 hours before spreading insecticide. Grubs will move to the surface. 2. Spread a granular insecticide 24 hours after watering 3. Water again lightly (1/8 to 1/4 inch) to activate insecticide. 4. Check turf later to evaluate kill.
Early September	Fertilize	1 lb. Nitrogen per 1000 sq ft. Slow release products preferred
Early - Mid October	Broadleaf Weeds	Products containing mixtures of 24D, dicamba, and MCPP works on most broadleaves
Early November	Fertilize	1 to 1.5 lb. Nitrogen/1000 sq. ft. Fast release (less expensive) forms of fertilizer suggested.

LETTER FROM OUR 2011 GARDEN TOUR CHAIR

By Leah Lichtenberger

Summer Greetings to All Garden Lovers,

As so truly the earth cycles and brings us summer once again, I challenge you to experience the beauty, peace, and hope of these beautiful private gardens being opened to us. The MMGA proudly celebrates our 15th annual Garden Tour, showcasing hand chosen gardens in northwestern Elkhart County. I encourage you to start with our Hospitality Center which provides local educational exhibits, beautiful plants, exquisite garden boutique items for sale, light complimentary refreshments, and restroom facilities. It will be open from 9 am to 1 pm on the day of the tour.

The gardens will be open from 10 am to 5 pm. At each garden, you will find Master Gardener volunteers ready to answer your questions and share your excitement. Plants are labeled for easy identification. As you enjoy, please respect the grounds and generosity of the homeowners.

I thank all who carry the commitment of gardening close to their hearts—from the individual homeowners (for the daily labor they put forth and for opening their private gardens to the public) to the MMGA for their year-round living motto of "Helping Others Grow." Without these commitments, we would not be physically fed, visually astounded, or challenged to participate in beauty and enhance through nature our own surroundings. Please take your time—learn, take pictures and ideas, investigate, and ask questions.

May the gardens rise up to meet you and encourage you to create your own special place.

Leah

**Michiana Master Gardeners' Association presents
Elkhart County's 15th Annual**

2011 GARDEN TOUR

**Saturday, July 9th
10 am to 5 pm**

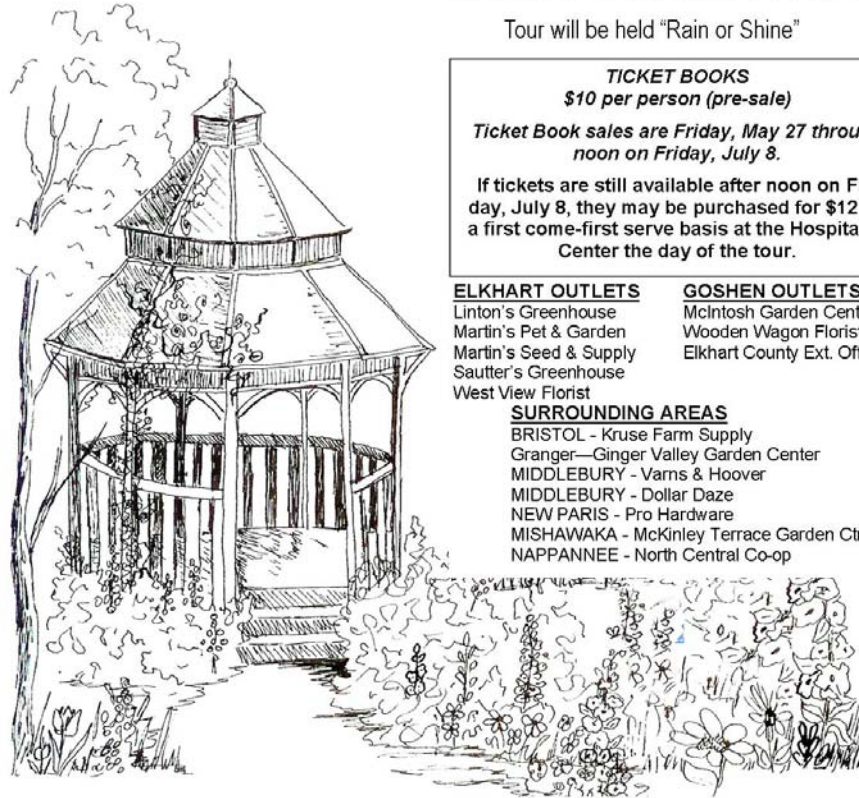
Tour includes 8 beautiful gardens in the Elkhart area along with unique gifts and other garden related items available at the Hospitality Center located at Winding Waters Brethren Church 420 County Rd 4 West, Elkhart, IN. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Tour will be held "Rain or Shine"

**TICKET BOOKS
\$10 per person (pre-sale)**

Ticket Book sales are Friday, May 27 through noon on Friday, July 8.

If tickets are still available after noon on Friday, July 8, they may be purchased for \$12 on a first come-first serve basis at the Hospitality Center the day of the tour.



ELKHART OUTLETS

Linton's Greenhouse
Martin's Pet & Garden
Martin's Seed & Supply
Sautter's Greenhouse
West View Florist

GOSHEN OUTLETS

McIntosh Garden Center
Wooden Wagon Florist
Elkhart County Ext. Office

SURROUNDING AREAS

BRISTOL - Kruse Farm Supply
Granger—Ginger Valley Garden Center
MIDDLEBURY - Varns & Hoover
MIDDLEBURY - Dollar Daze
NEW PARIS - Pro Hardware
MISHAWAKA - McKinley Terrace Garden Ctr
NAPPANEE - North Central Co-op

Garden Tour ticket booklets are available for purchase at the above locations. MMGA members may request a quantity of ticket books to sell at their workplace, church, school, or neighborhood. See Heidi Z. at our member meeting or email her at [Hkz1430 @ aol.com](mailto:Hkz1430@aol.com).

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.

(574) 533-0554
JUNE 2011

*“On this June day the buds in my garden are almost as
enchanting as the open flowers. Things in bud bring, in
the heat of a June noontide, the recollection of the
loveliest days of the year—those days of May when all is
suggested, nothing yet fulfilled”*

~Francis King