

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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46526



Broadcaster

"Helping Each Other Grow!"

Michiana Master Gardeners Association

Nov./Dec. 2011

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Master Gardener Friends,

'Tis the season - for gratitude and giving. Which came first? It's like the chicken and the egg! Does being grateful prompt my giving? Do I give because it is the thing to do? I believe many gifts are given because they are expected. Am I a cheerful and willing giver, or are there motives for the giving? Certainly there are times of major needs like accidents, illnesses, & disasters when we want to be givers. We do it when it is expect-

ed and proper, like wedding and shower gifts or little kids' birthdays. Also there are times when a tax write off 'gift' to an organization gives one membership. Occasionally, a really from-the-heart gift comes about. I know how very much I enjoyed 'giving' this past summer. A year ago a very major birthday fell on a Sunday, a perfect day for something special to happen. When it didn't, I was disappointed. This year, an new idea suddenly came to me when I was thinking about my birthday falling on a MMGA Board meeting day. I decided to treat all to lunch without a word as to why. It did get out, but that was not the intent. It was a joyful most satisfying bit of 'giving'. The reward was my satisfaction; it made me a 'cheerful' giver!

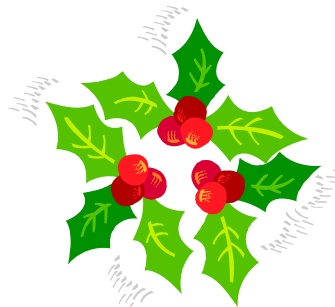
November is a traditional time set aside for giving thanks for our many blessings. It is time to show our appreciation not only to our Creator, but also to those around us for their caring, thoughtfulness, and just being there for us. Lots of words have been written about having an "attitude of gratitude" and how it affects us and those around us. I am hoping the season will bring with it a new awareness of relationships and all they mean. One 'ole' guy said, "If you can't be grateful for what you have, be grateful for what you have escaped!" There's some truth in that. It may be a way to begin the litany of thankfulness. We surely are blessed in manifold ways!

**Tomorrow is not promised us, so let us take today
And make the very most of it the once we pass this way.
Just speak aloud the kindly thought and do the kindly deed...
And try to see and understand some fellow creature's need.
Tomorrow is not promised us, nor any other day,
So let us make the most of it the once we pass this way.**

Louise Mae Hogan

So, 'tis the season - for gratitude and giving.
I hope it becomes very meaningful and happy
for you, without stress. Enjoy a bit of time
with family, and come back to MMGA in Jan-
uary full of enthusiasm!

Your 2011 President,
Marilyn Horvath, Class of 2004





*Day Minder . . .
Watch Us Grow*



14	Mon.	Garden Tour Committee Meeting- Extension Office Conference Room	6:30 PM
14	Mon.	Board Meeting—Extension Office Con- ference Room (Lunch at noon)	12:30 PM
21	Mon.	Spring Celebration Committee Meet- ing—Panera Bread (Dinner 6:00)	6:30 PM
29	Tues.	Member Meeting—THANKS-FOR- GIVING CARRY IN AND BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS	6:30 PM

DECEMBER—HAPPY HOLIDAYS, NO MEETINGS



9	Mon.	Garden Tour Committee Meeting- Extension Office Conference Room	6:30 PM
16	Mon..	Board Meeting—Extension Office Con- ference Room (Lunch at noon)	12:30 PM
16	Mon.	Spring Celebration Committee Meet- ing—Panera Bread (Dinner 6:00)	6:30 PM
31	Tues.	Member Meeting—Parks of Chicago, Sarah Heeter	7:00 PM

Upcoming Meeting Dates 2012

Page 4

February 13th Garden Tour Committee Meeting
February 20th Board Meeting
February 20th Spring Celebration Meeting
February 28th Member Meeting, Topiaries, Betty Foltz
March 12th Garden Tour Committee Meeting
March 19th Board Meeting
March 10th SPRING CELEBRATION and ANNUAL DINNER
March 27th Member Meeting, Cancelled due to Spring Celebration
April 9th Garden Tour Committee Meeting
April 16th Board Meeting
April 24th Member Meeting, 4-H Fair Horticulture Committee, Kate Rink
May 14th Garden Tour Committee Meeting
May 21st Board Meeting
May 29th Member Meeting, Our Weather, Cindi Clawson, Meteorologist
June 11, 2012 Garden Tour Committee Meeting
June 18th Board Meeting
June 26th Member Meeting, The Chimney Swifts, Rhonda De Cario
July 9th Garden Tour Committee Meeting
July 14th GARDEN TOUR 2012 (10 am to 4 pm)
July 16th (Monday) Fair Set Up, Pizza/drinks provided by MMGA, 6 pm
July 19th Garden Tour Wrap Meeting
July 20th to July 28th Elkhart County 4-H Fair, Theme TBA
August 20th Board Meeting
August 28th GARDEN TOUR APPRECIATION DINNER
provided by MMGA, 6:30 PM
September 17th Board meeting
September 25th Member Meeting, Wellfield Botanical Garden, Eric Amt
October 15th Board Meeting
October 30th Member Meeting, Butterflies, Ruth Reese
November 19th Board Meeting
November 27th Thanks-For-Giving Dinner (Carry in) Board Elections
No Meetings in December
January 31, 2013 Member Meeting TBA
February 28th, 2013 Member Meeting TBA
March 10th, 2013 SPRING CELEBRATION and ANNUAL DINNER

2012 Tree Sale

Elkhart County SWCD
&
Michiana Master Gardeners

(A 10% discount will be given on the total dollar amount of an order received in the Elkhart County SWCD office on or before January 6, 2012. Payment must accompany all orders.)

Early Bird Order Deadline: January 6, 2012

Order Deadline: March 2, 2012

Tree Pick Up & Sale is April 14, 2012

It is the desire of the Elkhart County Soil & Water Conservation District and the Michiana Master Gardeners to provide quality tree seedlings to those in the Elkhart County area who would like to plant small quantities of quality hardwood and conifer seedlings. Look inside to see what we have to offer.

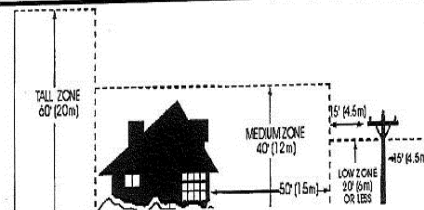
TREE SALE PAGE 2

Species Information

Species	Mature Height	Growth Rate	Soil Drainage	Plant Products	Light	Salt Tolerant	Benefits
EVERGREENS							
American Arborvitae (<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>)	30-60'	SL-MD	Most Soils	C, SD	PS-FS	No	B, EC, WB, WL
Blue Spruce (<i>Picea pungens</i> 'Glauca')	80-100'	SL-MD	M, D	C, SD	PS-FS	Yes	EC, WB, WL
Douglas-Fir (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>)	40-200'	MD	Most Soils	C, SD	FS	Low	C, T, WB, WL
Eastern White Pine (<i>Pinus strobus</i>)	75-100'	F	M, D	C, SD	PS-FS	No	B, EC, T, WB, WL
DECIDUOUS TREES							
Allegheny Serviceberry (<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>)	30-35'	MD	M, D	FR, SD	PS-FS	Limited	EC, O, WB, WL
American Plum (<i>Prunus Americana</i>)	15-20'	MD	M, D	FL, FR	FS	Low	EC, WB, WL
Black Walnut (<i>Juglans nigra</i>)	70-90'	F	M	FL, SD	FS	No	FL, WL
Bur Oak (<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>)	25-100'	SL	M, D	SD	FS	Low	S, T, WL
Eastern Redbud (<i>Cercis canadensis</i>)	25-35'	MD-F	D	FL, FR, SD	PS-FS	No	S, WL
Flowering Dogwood (<i>Cornus florida</i>)	20-30'	SL	M	S, FL	FS	No	O, WL
Ohio Buckeye (<i>Aesculus glabra</i>)	25-65'	F	M	FL	FS	No	O, S
River Birch (<i>Betula nigra</i>)	40-70'	MD-F	M, W	SD	PS-FS	Intermediate	
Tulip Poplar (<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>)	70-100'	F	M, D	FL, SD	PS-FS	Intermediate	EC, S, T, WL
SHRUBS							
Ninebark (<i>Physocarpus sylvatica</i>)	6-10'	MD-F	D	FL, FR, SD	FS, PS	Intermediate	S, WL

Key
B-Border
C-Cone
D-Dry
EC-Erosion Control
F-Fast
FL-Flower
FR-Fruit
FS-Full Sun
M-Moist
MD-Medium
O-Ornamental
PS-Partial Sun
S-Shade
SD-Seed
SL-Slow
T-Timber
W-Wet
WB-Windbreak
WL-Wildlife

Call Before You Dig



Call the Indiana Underground Plant Protection Service (IUPPS) before you dig. Please call at least 2 days before you begin your project and follow these steps:

- (1) Outline your project with white paint
- (2) Call IUPPS at 1-800-382-5544
- (4) Know your county and township where you are digging
- (5) Provide the name and phone number of the person digging (if not you)
- (6) Give the utility companies time to respond
- (7) No with care!

TREE SALE PAGE 3

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

() - _____

Telephone _____

Terms and Conditions

1. Payment must accompany the order.
2. Orders of 500 - 999 trees per species receive a 20% discount. Orders of 1000 trees per species receive a 30% discount. (Call for pricing information.)
3. Orders received on or before **January 6, 2012**, will receive a 10% discount.
4. Orders must be postmarked no later than: **March 2, 2012**.
5. Trees are available to anyone and may be planted without restriction. We reserve the right to make alterations if necessary.
6. We **DO NOT** furnish replacements.
7. Sizes may vary due to weather conditions beyond our control.

Where did you get this form?

ENTER QUANTITY OF PACKS AND TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT DUE BELOW

****All Prices Include Sales Tax****

Species	Seedling Height	Pack of 5	Pack of 10	Pack of 25	Total \$\$
Allegheny Serviceberry *	18-24"	___ X \$6.00	___ X \$11.00	___ X \$24.00	
American Arborvitae *	10-18"	___ X \$8.00	___ X \$14.00	___ X \$30.00	
American Plum *	18-24"	___ X \$7.00	___ X \$13.00	___ X \$28.00	
Black Walnut *	18-24"	___ X \$6.00	___ X \$11.00	___ X \$24.00	
Blue Spruce	16-24"	___ X \$11.00	___ X \$20.00	___ X \$43.00	
Bur Oak *	18-24"	___ X \$7.00	___ X \$13.00	___ X \$28.00	
Douglas Fir	14-20"	___ X \$8.00	___ X \$14.00	___ X \$30.00	
Eastern Redbud *	18-24"	___ X \$7.00	___ X \$13.00	___ X \$28.00	
Eastern White Pine *	12-20"	___ X \$9.00	___ X \$16.00	___ X \$35.00	
Ninebark	18-24"	___ X \$6.00	___ X \$11.00	___ X \$24.00	
Ohio Buckeye *	12-18"	___ X \$11.00	___ X \$20.00	___ X \$43.00	
River Birch *	12-24"	___ X \$6.00	___ X \$11.00	___ X \$24.00	
Tulip Poplar *	18-24"	___ X \$6.00	___ X \$11.00	___ X \$24.00	
White Flowering Dogwood *	18-24"	___ X \$6.00	___ X \$11.00	___ X \$24.00	
Variety Pack: (Two of each): Alleghany Serviceberry, Flowering Dogwood, Ninebark				Qty of Packs ___ X \$8.00	
				Total Before Discount	\$.
				Early Bird 10% Discount ***For Orders Received On or Before January 6, 2012***	- \$.
*Native to Indiana				Total Due	\$.

Make all checks payable to:
 Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District
 17746-B County Road 34, Goshen, IN 46528 Phone: 574-533-3630 ext. 3

TREE SALE PAGE 4

Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District Mission Statement:

To promote and implement the protection, conservation and wise use of natural resources in Elkhart County through partnerships.

Michiana Master Gardener Association Mission Statement:

The Michiana Master Gardener 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.



Michiana Master
Gardeners'
Association

"Helping Others Grow"

The programs and services of the Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Michiana Master Gardeners are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, age or disability.



President Marilyn Horvath called the October 17th meeting to order at 12:30. In attendance were Board members Betty Foltz, Linda Harkleroad, Barb Heeter, Marilyn Horvath, Leah Lichtenberger, Jerry Martin, Ruth Middleton, Stan Palmer, Kate Rink, Linda Sinon, and educator Jeff Burbrink. Absent were Vickie Estep and treasurer Jim Bare.

Assistant treasurer Linda Sinon presented the treasurer's report. Expenditures for the month of September totaled \$643.87 (Wellfield paver, Tallamy donation, Spring Celebration) and there was no income. This leaves a balance of \$31,646.35.

Educator Jeff Burbrink stated that the former position of NR/AG educator has been revamped to include 4-H responsibilities, and the job has been advertised.

The community garden has been cleared, raked, and planted with rye.

Marilyn Horvath then read a letter of resignation from Board member Vickie Estep. Due to family responsibilities and health issues, Vickie has found it impossible to continue her position on the Board. Members expressed their appreciation to Vickie for her years of service and wished her well. Nominating committee chair Jerry Martin stated that there are 5 nominees for the 3 positions on the Board. Elections will be held at the Thanks-for-Giving membership meeting in November.

There is still a need for a 2012 chair for the quilt garden.

The proposed expenditures for 2012 were given a final reading. There was discussion on the amount budgeted for the community garden and whether additional monies should be allotted for a new pump.

After some discussion, it was decided to add \$550.00 to the budget to allow for such a purchase.

On a motion by Barb Heeter, seconded by Leah Lichtenberger, the 2012 expenditures in the amount of \$22,795.00 were approved.

Marilyn addressed the proposal to sponsor a Real Colors workshop for MMGA Board members and some of the membership. This is an interactive program whose purpose is the better understanding of human behavior and improvement of communication skills. Activities allow the participants to better know themselves and act more effectively in group situations. The cost is \$10 per person for materials, and the seminar lasts 2+ hours with 15-25 participants as an optimum number. Issues such as who should be included in the workshop and how the \$10 fee should be handled were discussed. A committee was formed to work on details.

In new business Craig Stiver suggested that the MMGA consider sponsoring a garden on the fairgrounds, much like the St. Joseph County (Michigan) Master Gardeners do. Hurdles include Fair Board approval, water accessibility, land availability, and continual maintenance. However, many good aspects of the proposal do exist, one of which is that it is a great PR opportunity, visible to not only the fair goers, but to the thousands of other visitors who frequent the grounds throughout the year. The garden could start small and grow as available volunteers allow. The Board took his suggestion under advisement.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Harkleroad, Secretary

President Marilyn Horvath called the October 25th meeting to order at 7 pm with 49 members present.

Program chair Barb Heeter introduced Troy Pflugner, the AED area specialist from Cardiac Science. The AED is for use in a situation involving a cardiac arrest as opposed to a heart attack, but the person using the machine does not need to know which of the two emergencies is occurring; the machine knows and will administer a shock only if it cardiac arrest is the case. Pflugner demonstrated that the only thing one needs to do is open the machine and follow the instructions. CPR instructions and the cadence required are even supplied by the machine at the appropriate time. The device will be in Ag Hall for all membership meetings as well as all MG events off-site.

After a break for refreshments provided by Earl Bailey, Leah Lichtenberger, and Cindy Thornton, and a thank you to the set-up committee, Marilyn called the business meeting to order.

The minutes from the September membership meeting were approved as submitted in the Broadcaster. Marilyn also took the opportunity to thank those members who had submitted articles in the recent issue.

Assistant treasurer Linda Sinon reported a balance of \$31,646.35.

In committee reports, Penny Stroup reminded the membership to save March 10th, 2012, for the Spring Celebration and Awards Dinner.



Linda Sinon announced that she would have Garden Tour 2012 volunteer forms available at the membership meeting in November. Heidi Zavatsky asked if a final financial report was available for the 2011 tour. Linda stated that she did not have that information with her, but she would get it.

Income:	\$5,727.40
Expenses:	\$1,134.47
Profit:	\$4,592.93 (LH)

Program chair Barb Heeter reminded members to sign up to Page 12 bring a dish to share for the November dinner meeting. Members also need to bring non-perishable items or money if they prefer. This year the donations will go to Church Community Services. Barb also reminded members to sign up for 2012 refreshments. She stated that the order forms for the April 14, 2012, tree sale are now available.

Marilyn announced that a chair for the 2012 quilt garden was still needed.

Educator Jeff Burbrink reported that the 2012 class is currently working on their seminar topics; stink bugs which eat crops, flowers, and vegetables are out in force. He advised that the ANR position has been advertised and will now include working with the 4-H livestock program. Jeff will continue to work with Horticulture (MMGA).

In old business, Marilyn reported that the paver at the Wellfield has not yet been installed, and Leah Lichtenberger stated that a small but hardy group enjoyed a tour of the DeFries Gardens recently.

In new business, Marilyn reminded members concerning several details. Photo updates for the 2012 Membership Directory must be submitted to Linda Kimpel ASAP. Member dues of \$20 for 2012 will be collected at the November meeting. Also, the election of three Board positions for 2012 will take place at the November meeting.

Sue Stuckman had attended the International Master Gardener Conference in West Virginia recently and reported that the Noble County Master Gardeners won the International Search for Excellence Award. The Indianapolis Master Gardeners received a 2nd place award. Indiana's Master Gardener program excels on an international level!

Jim Carpenter, Judy Marquart, Ruth Yeomans, Sue Stuckman, Craig Stiver, Marlene Pratt, Kate Rink, Doris Kehr, Pat Frank, and Marilyn Horvath won door prizes for the evening.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Harkleroad, Secretary

To Mulch or Not to Mulch
(Should not Be the Question)

Submitted by Jim Carpenter

Certainly all gardeners are familiar with mulching and most, if not all, use it to some extent. But the variety of mulching materials and the way they can be used gives us another whole area to experiment with in our quest to find out just what works best for us in our gardening endeavors. To me, one of the joys of gardening is trying different methods that either make gardening a little easier or make it more productive. In the 30 or so years that I have used mulch in my garden, I am still experimenting and finding different ways of using it to produce a more productive and easier to care for garden.

Several weeks ago, I overheard someone say how terrible it was to use plastic as a mulch/weed barrier in a garden. Something to the effect that it was a sure way to kill off your earthworms. While this can be true, I have used plastic to some extent almost every year with no ill effects. The key to this lies in both the quantity you use and in the manner you use it. A 3 foot strip of black plastic with fairly large openings for the plant you're growing will not have an appreciable effect on soil organisms and will still allow plenty of water and air to reach your growing medium.

My mulch of choice has always been wheat straw. While this is becoming very expensive to buy, I have always been able to procure used straw from a variety of sources. One way was to note various pump houses or older farmhouses in my neighborhood that would use straw as a protection against freezing temperatures. By March, most of these people are happy to have the straw hauled away. Several years ago, I ran into a situation where I was able to obtain about 100 bales of straw from a modular housing development. Many of these bales were very heavy, but I always told the people I would take what I could handle. It worked out very well for me. I stored many of the drier bales in one of my outbuildings, and I still have quite a few left. Obviously, by using grass type mulch, you have the added advantage of organic matter being added to your soil.

Over the years I have used many materials as mulch. As you might guess, most of these materials will not be used again. Here is a partial list: old swimming pool cover, boards, carpeting, hay, woodchips, metal roofing and so on. (I suppose I do not need to mention that my garden lies in the back of my property and not alongside the road.)

This year, for the first time, I used newspaper as mulch in my garden. I was quite pleased with the results. I also tried cardboard with mixed results. Both of these paper applications are used more in specific situations, and I will continue to utilize them. Along with black garden fabric and straw, I am pretty much done experimenting with anything else. I will continue to use black plastic to a limited extent.

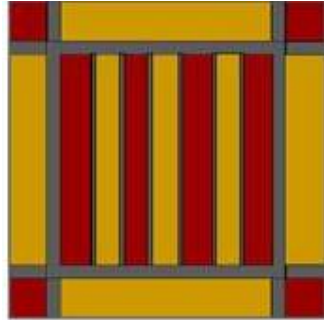
I should mention my use of black plastic in growing potatoes. Many years, I will get my soil tilled early. In late March or early April, I will lay down my black plastic and plant potatoes through holes in the plastic. The black plastic collects heat from the sun and warms the soil. By the time it gets much warmer, the potatoes have enough foliage that keeps the roots from being fried by the sun. This accelerates the growth of the potato so I can start eating them in June. One year I tried doing this in May, and nearly every single potato got fried by the heat. Ah yes, live and learn.

Depending on your type of garden, the availability of materials, and the look you are striving for, mulching can mean many things to many people. To me, conservation of moisture and suppression of weeds are very important. But as with most endeavors in life, the journey you take to get somewhere should be half the fun. Gardening should be the same way, so whatever you use, however you use it, or even if you use it, have some fun in your journey!

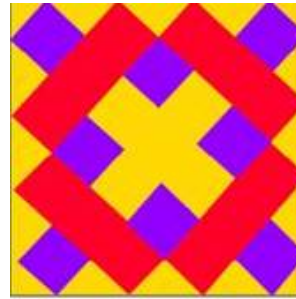
Jim



Quilt Gardens Designs for the 2012 Quilt Garden Tour



Bars
Amish Acres in Nappanee



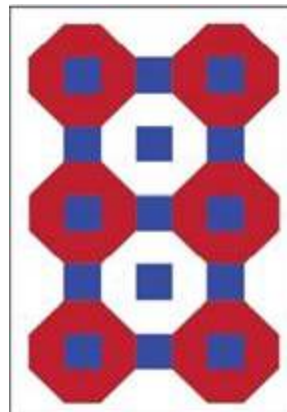
Brickwork
Downtown Wakarusa



Cactus Dahlia
Concord Mall Elkhart



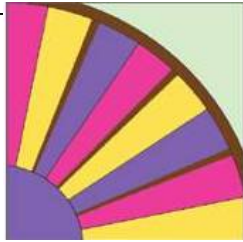
Double Nine Patch
Shipshewana



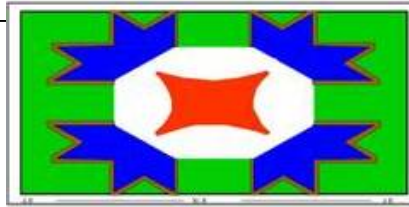
Going Home
Greencroft Middlebury



Grand Champion Sunflower
Purdue Extension Goshen



Grandmother's Fan
Elkhart Co. Historical Museum



Hands All Around
Downtown Wakarusa



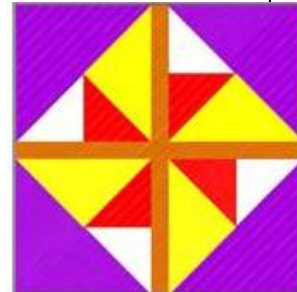
Brickwork
Central Park Elkhart



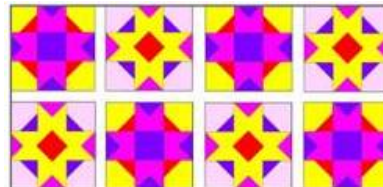
Liberty
Elkhart County Courthouse
Goshen



Miles Variation
Old Bag Factory Goshen



Peace & Plenty
Menno-Hof Shpshewana



Stellar Days
Linton's Enchanted
Gardens Elkhart

CONTINUED...



*Peacefully Amish
Nappanee Heritage Center
Nappanee*



*Pineapple Swirl
Das Dutchmen Essenhaus
Middlebury*



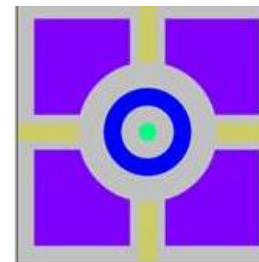
*Star of Hope
Wellfield Botanic Gardens
Elkhart*



*Sunshine & Shadows
Weaver Furniture
Shipshewana*



*Trip Around the World
Dutch Country Market
Middlebury*

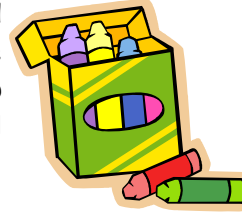


*Wedding Garden
Ruthmere Museum
Elkhart*

You will soon have an opportunity to assess and upgrade your leadership skills! Coming up on January 14, 2012, MMGA will provide a workshop in-service opportunity. Mary Ann Leinhart-Cross, Elkhart County Health and Human Sciences Educator, has agreed to lead us in a workshop titled, "Real Colors". She has past experience and expertise in the area.

The purpose of the program is to better understand human behavior and to improve communication skills. Activities allow participants to better know themselves based on positive characteristics and to act more effectively in group situations. Again, what this will do for you and me is to assess our positive leadership skills and show us how we can better utilize them while working with each other in MMGA. An added bonus is the fun and camaraderie of socializing with each other. (And we'll have refreshments too!)

Your 2011 Board discussed this offering early in the year and decided it would be a great carryover from the 2011 Board to the newly organized 2012 Board. Since all members are leaders in one way or another, your Board encourages member participation. We know there are many folks with past and future leadership potential who will benefit. We especially urge all Board members and Committee Chair and Co-Chairs to attend.



"Real Colors"

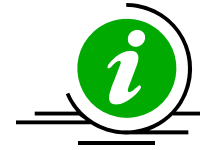
Date: January 14, 2012 ~-Registration: 8:30am
Training 9:00am – 12:00pm

Place: Purdue Elkhart County Extension Office Conference Room
Refreshments provided

Material Cost: \$10 Pay during Registration at the door or
To the MMGA Treasurer prior to the workshop

RSVP to: mrlnify@aol.com or 522-6889 before January 6, 2012

Information For Members



Membership Committee Message

Our November meeting is our “Thanks-for-Giving” carry-in dinner. Not only will we all be enjoying a great meal, with everyone bringing a food dish to share, but it is also the meeting when we bring non-perishable food items or make a monetary donation to help those who are in need. It is always a good feeling to be able to help others. Our president has chosen that our charitable donations this year will be given to Church Community Services in Elkhart.

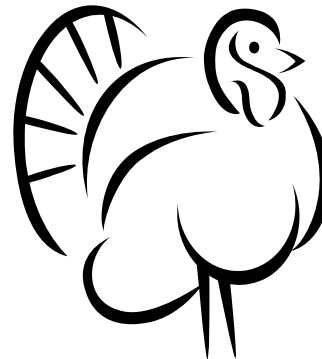
The members from the new 2011 class have been invited to join us for this meeting. We remind all to wear your name tags to help us in remembering names as we become acquainted. We welcome this group and look forward to them joining our organization.

We also want to remind you that our annual dues of \$20.00 are payable by Dec. 31, 2011. You might want to take care of making this payment to our treasurer this evening since it is our last monthly meeting of the year. The 2012 Membership Form can be found on our Master Gardener website.

Another important item on the agenda of this meeting will be the election of board members. We will be electing members to fill those terms that are expiring at the end of this year. We urge you to attend and vote for your choice of candidates.

Hope to see you on Tuesday, Nov. 29th – come hungry!

Helen Martin, Membership Committee
gardeningduo@maplenet.net



PROGRAM & REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE

I was very happy to see so many of you at the October MMGA meeting. Troy Pflugner did an outstanding presentation on our new AED. I heard a lot of very positive comments after the meeting. I do want to pass on information that if anyone would like a closer hands on in-service, or if any one has questions about the AED, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will be happy to do whatever it takes so that you feel comfortable with the unit. Remember that after the first of the year, it will be kept in the Master Gardener Room at the Extension Office. It will be in the third file cabinet from the door, top drawer. The drawer will be labeled Automated External Defibrillator AED.

Now for our November MMGA meeting. It is the time of year when we start to think of Thanksgiving and all the trimmings. Remember, our November 29th meeting is the THANKS-FOR-GIVING DINNER. It will be in AG Hall at **6:30 pm**. The meat, drinks, rolls, and table service will be provided by the MMGA. All we ask is that you bring a dish to share. The members of the current class have been invited as our guests and are not asked to bring dishes to share.

This is a time when we give thanks for all that we have and remember those who are less fortunate. We as Master Gardeners are always in the spirit of giving to others, whether it is our time, our knowledge, our food that we harvest from our gardens, or sharing our plants and flowers. In this spirit, we ask that you please bring non perishable food items and/or monetary gifts to be shared with those in need. As Marilyn announced, the donations will be given to Church Community Services in Elkhart. If you are planning to give a check please make it out to this organization.

We look forward to seeing you and sharing a meal and good fellowship with friends. I might add if you have a good recipe to bring and you would like to share, please put it in the Broadcaster. We not only have great gardeners but also wonderful cooks in our organization.

See you November 29th in AG Hall at 6:30 pm!
Barb Heeter, Program & Refreshment Committee Co-Chair

As the holiday season starts, I am grateful for the many ways our Master Gardeners have joined in making crafts for next year's Garden Tour. My garage and basement are already groaning as a testimony to how much has been accomplished already. I'm also grateful to the many of you who have let me know of crafts that you will be donating next summer. It all makes a difference; the word and the production. We will start up again in January with work sessions each month. I am heartened to know we are off to such a good start and look forward to the continued journey together.

Gratefully, Loanne Harms
Garden Tour Merchandise Chair

RECIPES FROM OUR MASTER GARDENERS

Blueberry French Toast

submitted by Kathleen Cripe
Prep time: 20 minutes
Cook time: 1 hour, 15 minutes
Makes: 12 servings



12 eggs, beaten
12 slices of day old bread, cut into 1" cubes
16 ounces cream cheese
1 cup blueberries, fresh or frozen
2 cups milk
1/3 cup maple syrup

1. Cut bread into cubes. Place half of the cubes into a buttered 13x9x2" glass baking dish.
2. Cut cream cheese into 1" cubes, and layer on top of bread. Top with blueberries and remaining bread cubes.
3. In large bowl, mix together eggs, milk, & syrup. Pour over bread mixture. Use a spatula to press ingredients down into the liquid.
4. Cover the pan with foil, and refrigerate 8 hours or overnight. Remove 30 minutes prior to baking. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
5. Bake, covered for 45 minutes. Uncover and bake until top is golden brown and mixture in the center is set, about 25-30 minutes.
6. Serve with the Blueberry sauce recipe listed following.

Blueberry Sauce

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 20 minutes
Makes : 1 1/2 cups

1/2 cup sugar
1 Tablespoon cornstarch
1/2 cup water
1/2 cup blueberries, fresh or frozen
1 teas. nutmeg

This is the recipe I used for the 2011 4-H Fair Blueberry contest. It has a wonderful flavor, and my family loves it. Enjoy. Kathleen

1. Combine sugar and cornstarch. Add water and boil for 3 minutes.
2. Add berries, and simmer until they burst, about 8-10 minutes. Stir in nutmeg.
3. Serve warm over French Toast.

Peanut Butter Chocolate Chip Cookies

Submitted by Terry Wiley

1 cup white sugar
1 cup brown sugar
1 cup butter
1 cup peanut butter
2 eggs
1 tsp vanilla
2 1/4 cups flour
1 tsp baking soda
1 tsp salt
12 oz. chocolate chips

Mix together, and bake at 350 degrees F for 8 minutes.

Leaves

How silently they tumble down
And come to rest upon the ground
To lay a carpet, rich and rare,
Beneath the trees without a care,
Content to sleep, their work well done,
Colors gleaming in the sun.



At other times, they wildly fly
Until they nearly reach the sky.
Twisting, turning through the air
Till all the trees stand stark and bare.
Exhausted, drop to earth below
To wait, like children, for the snow.”

Elsie N. Brady

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.

*“Give thanks for unknown blessings
already on their way.”
~Native American Saying*

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