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Broadcaster

"Helping Each Other Grow!"

Michiana Master Gardeners Association

January 2012

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Fellow Master Gardeners,

I want to welcome you to a New Year for the Michiana Master Gardener Association. As I look at the schedule of events for the year 2012, I believe it will be a very exciting year for all of us.

I would like to give a big THANK YOU to our President for 2011, Marilyn Horvath. She did an outstanding job of leading our organization. I look forward to being able to call on her this year for assistance and advice.

I would also like to thank Linda Sinon, whose term on the Board was up . Linda was a tremendous asset to our Board, as was Vickie Estep. Vickie resigned her Board position last year for personal reasons. Both of these members have served our organization well and continue to do so on various committees.

I would like to take a moment to introduce you to our 2012 Board Officers. They are: Vice President—Ruth Middleton (Class of 2007), Secretary—Linda Harkleroad (Class of 2006), Treasurer—Jim Bare (Class of 2007), and Assistant Treasurer—Linda Sinon (Class of 2004). I would like to welcome two new Members at Large to the Board: Jim Carpenter (Class of 2010) and Bert Evans (Class of 2011).

As you know we were asking for a member to step up and take the position of Chairman for the Quilt Garden Committee. I am happy to announce that we have a very energetic and qualified person who will chair this committee. The new Chairman for the Quilt Garden Committee is Ruth Middleton. I know she will serve this committee well and will welcome all those members interested in helping with this project. She will be getting more information out as time goes on.

I would like to welcome the new members of our organization from the class of 2011. I have met many of the members of this class, and I believe they are a very enthusiastic group. I do ask one thing of our long term members: that you wear your name badge to the meetings so that new members can get to know you. To the new members: please don't hesitate to ask questions regarding our organization and ways that you can help. That is one way to get those very important volunteer hours. We rely greatly on all of our volunteers, for you make our activities a success!

Lastly, as your President, I will do my best to serve your organization well this year, and with your help we will make 2012 a GREAT year for MMGA!

Sincerely,

Barbara Heeter





*Day Minder . . .
Watch Us Grow*



9	Mon.	Garden Tour Committee Meeting- Extension Office Conference Room	6:30 PM
14	Sat.	Real Colors Training, Ext Office Con- ference Room, Preregistered members.	9:00 AM
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



February 13th Garden Tour Committee Meeting
February 20th Board Meeting
February 20th Spring Celebration Meeting
February 28th Member Meeting, Topiaries, Betty Foltz

March 2nd Tree Sale Orders Due to SWCD
March 12th Garden Tour Committee Meeting
March 19th Board Meeting
March 10th SPRING CELEBRATION and ANNUAL DINNER
 TRACY DI-SABATO-AUST (Greencroft) 5 PM
March 27th Member Meeting, Cancelled due to Spring Celebration

Upcoming Meeting Dates 2012

Page 4

April 9th Garden Tour Committee Meeting

April 14th Tree Sale Pick Up

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 Board Meeting 4:00 PM in Ag Hall prior to set up for fair

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

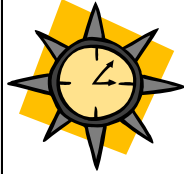
November 19th Board Meeting

November 27th Thanks-For-Giving Dinner (Carry in) Board Elections

6:30 PM

December 3th Board Meeting Officer Elections/ Liaison Assignments

NO Member Meeting in December



President Marilyn Horvath called the November 21st meeting to order at 12:30. Members present were Ruth Middleton, Marilyn Horvath, Betty Foltz, Barb Heeter, Jerry Martin, Kate Rink, Linda Sinon, Leah Lichtenberger, Linda Harkleroad, treasurer Jim Bare and educator Jeff Burbrink. Absent was Stan Palmer.

Linda Sinon, assistant treasurer, reported no expenses for the month and an income of \$82 (2012 dues) for a balance of \$31,728.35.

There was a discussion on the monthly arrival date of the Broadcaster. It would be helpful if the publication were received by the membership early in the month. Many times editor Sherrie Zou is delayed because she is waiting for articles to be submitted. However, the Board felt that timeliness is more important than number of articles, and late submissions should be delayed to the following month. Liaison Kate Rink will speak with Sherrie and ask that the publication be mailed by the 10th of each month.

Community garden liaison Betty Foltz had information concerning the new pump that was budgeted for 2012. She, Ruth Middleton, and Sue Stuckman found 2 combination Honda engine/pump selections that they are considering. One weighs 13 pounds, pumps 37 gal/minute at a cost of \$449. The other one weighs 20 pounds, pumps 72 gal/minute, and costs \$529. The Board instructed the community garden committee to select whichever pump it preferred.

Garden Tour merchandise chair Loanne Harms has proposed the creation of an MMGA cookbook as a possible source of revenue both at the hospitality center and later in the year at other MMGA events. The Board decided that the proposal merited a presentation to the membership. This is necessary since the original outlay for the publication will be over \$500, and the Board is required to go to the membership for any expense over that.

Program chair and liaison Barb Heeter stated all is organized for the Thanks-for-Giving dinner with the canned goods being donated to Church Community Services. Barb also announced that a program schedule has been completed for 2012 and Laura Stevens would return as program chair.

The quilt garden is still in search of a chair for 2012. Jim Maddux had tested the soil at the garden and found the ph level to be high so he added sulphur.

Heidi Zavatsky had contacted the Board questioning the split with the SWCD for the tree sale. Barb Heeter confirmed it would remain at 60% (SWCD) 40% (MMGA) for 2012.

Jeff announced that attendance at the Real Colors seminar would count as education hours.

In new business, Marilyn asked if the Board wished to cover the cost of the meal for members at the annual dinner. On a motion by Jerry Martin, seconded by Betty Foltz, the Board voted unanimously to pay for the dinner for those members who have paid their 2012 dues by December 31st.

Jerry then presented a suggestion from member Jim Maddux. Jim proposed that in the future a guest/spouse be invited to attend the Thanks-for-Giving dinner for a small fee. A modest cost could cover the meat, drink and table service. Program chair Barb Heeter stated that RSVP's would be necessary, but she saw no difficulties. The Board voted unanimously to invite guests to the 2012 Thanks-for-Giving dinner.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:05.

Splinters from the Board -- December 5th, 2011

President Marilyn Horvath called the December 5th meeting to order at 12:30. Members present were Jim Carpenter, Betty Foltz, Linda Harkleroad, Barb Heeter, Marilyn Horvath, Ruth Middleton, Stan Palmer, Kate Rink, Linda Sinon, treasurer Jim Bare, and educator Jeff Burbrink. Absent were Leah Lichtenberger and Jerry Martin.

As outgoing president, Marilyn presented four issues that she felt the 2012 Board should address:

- a cancellation procedure for membership meetings
 - moving Board elections to October (requiring a change in by-laws)
 - permitting members to invite guests to the Garden Appreciation Dinner and making the Thanks-for-Giving meeting an MMGA reunion event
- making the secretary a non-voting position on the Board with no term limit (another change in the by-laws)

A change in the by-laws would require a vote by the membership.

Treasurer Jim Bare reported \$3,747 in checking. There were no expenses incurred since the November meeting, but to be deposited were monies from dues and Real Colors seminar reservations totaling \$200.

Educator Jeff Burbrink related that there have been no applications for the AG/4H position that has been advertised since October. The unique way that the job has been divided might be the issue.

Marilyn welcomed new Board member Jim Carpenter and thanked outgoing Board member Linda Sinon for her dedication and hard work over the last 2 years. Ruth Middleton agreed to be quilt garden chair for 2012.

According to program chair Barb Heeter, the January 31st program will be "The Parks of Chicago," presented by Barb's daughter Sarah Heeter. Barb also announced that order forms for the tree sale are available and reminded members that the early bird deadline is January 6th, 2012.

Loanne Harms, garden tour merchandising chair, proposed that the membership create a Master Gardener cookbook to be sold to members, at the garden tour hospitality center and at other MMGA events. The cost of a cookbook, containing 200-250 recipes, would be \$6.05/copy for 100-199 copies. This would be paid to the publisher 30 days after the shipment of the books. Loanne proposed that books be pre-sold at a cost of \$8-\$10 to members with additional copies ordered for sale at the hospitality center. Members would submit the recipes online. Those who are uncomfortable doing so or have no Internet access could submit their recipes to Loanne, and she would see that they are put online. Her proposed timeline could be placed in the January Broadcaster outlining the procedure, with submission in January thru mid-March. Delivery would be in May. Some discussion followed concerning the amount of time such a project would take. Loanne recently worked on a church cookbook and felt that the proposed timeframe was not unreasonable. Mayrea Reusser moved, with a second by Craig Stiver, that Loanne be given authorization to compile an MMGA cookbook. The motion passed unanimously.

Since paying for the meals of the membership at the annual dinner would cost over \$500, Marilyn stated that the membership needed to vote on the Board's recommendation. On a motion by Barb Heeter, seconded by Carol Swartzendruber, the majority of the membership voted that the association pay for the dinners of those members in good standing as of December 31, 2011. Carol Swartzendruber suggested that an email be sent out to the membership informing them of the deadline for the dues.

Marilyn announced that a Real Colors workshop would be held for all members on January 14, 2012, at 8:30 AM in the Extension Office. The cost is \$10 and reservations are due by January 6, 2012, to Marilyn.

After a run off election was held, Jerry Martin announced the newly elected Board members: Jim Carpenter and Linda Harkleroad (3 year terms) and Marilyn Horvath (1 year term—completing the term of Vickie Estep). Marilyn announced that the Board would meet December 5th at 12:30 in the Extension Office conference room to reorganize.

The next membership meeting will be held January 31, 2012, at 7 PM in Ag Hall.

Marilyn Miles and Helen Martin presented door prizes to Doris Kehr and Sherrie McClure.

Jeff reminded the members that this was Marilyn's last meeting as President, and thanked her for a job very well done. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Harkleroad, Secretary

MMGA MEMBERSHIP MEETING—NOVEMBER 2011 Page 8

President Marilyn Horvath called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Braving the earlier rain, sleet, hail .and ongoing heavy snowfall, 34 hardy members joined by 6 fearless Class of 2011 interns were present.

Ballots for the Board election were distributed, and there were no nominations from the floor. Voting took place during dinner. After the Thanks-for-Giving blessing given by Paul Miles, a wonderful meal was a well-deserved reward for the effort expended to attend the meeting.

Marilyn called the business meeting to order at 7:25. She thanked Barb Heeter and her committee consisting of Carol Novy, Linda Sinon, and Ruth Middleton for the dinner and encouraged all present to submit their recipes to the Broadcaster. Marilyn also thanked those who had brought canned goods and money donations for CCS.

The 6 members from the Class of 2011 were welcomed.

Marilyn expressed appreciation to the membership for a year filled with projects staffed by hard working volunteers. Everyone working together made 2011 a successful year.

Several MMGA members, along with Marilyn, attended the Elkhart County Extension Board Annual Meeting recently where Kate Rink was elected as a member of the Board. Congratulations, Kate! Educator Jeff Burbrink reported that the Class of 2011 has only 2 class sessions remaining. They are currently working on three seminars that will be repeated three to four times in different locations. Jeff will also be offering a seminar for managers of small greenhouses this winter, and any MMGA member who has a greenhouse might be interested in attending.

On a motion by Paul Miles, the minutes of the October membership meeting as printed in the Broadcaster were approved.

Treasurer Jim Bare reported that he has been collecting 2012 dues at a good pace. Current balance in checking is \$3,267 and balance in savings is \$28,750, a with total balance of \$32,017. This is approximately \$7,000 less than 2010's year end balance, so those who are concerned about the large balance in the treasury can be assured that funds are being used as a need arises.

In committee reports, Linda Harkleroad reported that the Board recently voted to recommend to the membership that the cost of the members' dinners at the Spring Celebration be taken out of the treasury. This would be for members in good standing (dues paid by December 31, 2011). Reservations for the March 10th dinner, as well as tickets for Di Sabato-Aust's afternoon session, will be available at the January membership meeting as well as by mail or email. More information as well as reservation forms will be in the January Broadcaster.

Linda Sinon stated that volunteer forms for the Garden Tour would be available at the January membership meeting.

Member Meeting Minutes Continued

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Michiana Master Gardeners' Association
"Helping Others Grow"
13th Annual Public Seminar

The Well Designed Mixed Garden

Presented by:

Tracy DiSabato-Aust

America's most entertaining and knowledgeable garden writer and professional speaker



**Saturday, March 10, 2012
2:00 - 4:30 PM**

Greencroft Community Center
Formerly Greencroft Senior Center
1820 Greencroft Boulevard
Goshen, Indiana

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

TICKET OUTLETS

Middlebury **Goshen** **Elkhart**
Varns & Hoover Greencroft Center Martin's Pet & Garden
McIntosh Garden Center
Elkhart County Extension Office

Mail Order: (Send payment – pickup reserved tickets at Seminar on March 10.
Tickets will NOT be mailed.)

MMGA, Purdue Extension – Elkhart County
17746 E CR 34
Goshen, IN 46526

Make checks payable to: **Michiana Master Gardeners' Association**

Michiana Master Gardeners' Association holds its annual seminar in cooperation with Purdue Extension-Elkhart County, a non-profit organization using its funds for scholarships, community gardens, community outreach and education.

Free Garden Goodie bag to first 120 attendees



Information For Members



Educational Hours Opportunity

The Indiana Nursery & Landscape Association is having its annual Green Expo January 11-13 at the Convention Center in Indy. The Thursday educational program is fantastic--Michael Dirr is speaking at 10 am on "In Praise of Trees" and again at 1 pm on "Viburnums and Hydrangeas". At 2 pm, Gene Bush, from Munchkin Nurseries is doing a program on "Colorful Combinations for Shade". At 3 pm, Sally Weeks from Purdue is doing "Shrubs of Indiana" and at 4 pm Gene Bush is doing a program on "45 Favorite Native Woodland Wildflowers for Your Garden". Many of us have enjoyed hearing Gene speak in Valpo. Anyone can attend. Your program registration also includes admittance to the trade show. The cost is \$110 for the entire day (as a nonmember)--if you happen to belong to the association it is \$80. If you are interested, Mary Davis and Betty Foltz are going and would be delighted to carpool--added bonus--Mary always brings homemade blueberry muffins!! Registration is due by December 31st. You can register at www.IndianaGreenExpo.com. If you want to carpool, let Mary or Betty know.

Mary Davis

Dear MMGA Members,

Due to an earlier publishing date for the Broadcaster each month, and due to the time it takes to format, print, prep, sort, and mail the Broadcaster, we will need to have an earlier deadline for articles. ALL articles, photos, or recipes will be due to Sherrie Zou or Linda Kimpel by the 28th of the prior month. Any articles received after the monthly deadline will be included in the following month's issue IF the information is still relevant and timely. Thank you for your cooperation on this.

Sherrie Zou

PROGRAM & REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE

What a nice time we had at the Thanks For Giving Dinner, in spite of the weather. We were able to donate a total of 150 pounds of food items to the Church Community Service and in addition gave them \$318.00 in monetary donations. A point of interest, they have the buying power to purchase \$9.00 worth of merchandise for every \$1.00 collected. GREAT JOB!

For the January MMGA ,meeting we have a very interesting program scheduled. Originally we were to have this one in October however with the purchase of the AED we had the in service on the unit at that meeting. We are now going to have the program on The Parks of Chicago. I think you will find this program very interesting ,especially if you are any kind of a history buff. The presenter will be Sarah Heeter. If the name sounds familiar, I am very proud to say she is my daughter. She is the Senior Landscape Architect for the Chicago Park District. Hope to see many of you there as well as many of the new members from the 2011 MG Class.

Barb Heeter, Program & Refreshment Committee Co-Chair

TREE SALE INFORMATION

We will have sign up sheets for volunteers to help with the Tree Sale at the January and February MMGA meetings. These will be for those who can help on the days prior to the sale to get the trees ready as well as those who can help the day of the sale. This is a great way to get some volunteer hours.

Barb Heeter

Tree Sale Committee - Co chair

Garden Tour Merchandise Work Days for January

Come help assemble kits and create craft aw we add a few volunteer hours and build up our merchandise for Garden Tour 2012. Come on Friday, January 20th from 2 pm to 8 pm to Len and Lorraine Harms' home. We will be indoors so it will be warm, and, as always, there will be beverages and snacks available. There will be plenty to do and options available for all skill levels. Do come and have fun with fellow members.

MESSAGE FROM MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

As 2012 begins, Marilyn Miles and I, (Helen Martin) thank you for the support you have given the Membership Committee this past year. We will continue to chair this committee in 2012 and ask that you continue to keep us informed of illness, death, or other concerns of our membership so that we can send caring cards from our organization.

Once again, we are asking for volunteers to be greeters at our monthly meetings. This is a great way for both new and previous members to get acquainted with fellow members. Also, we need volunteers to donate a "Plant of the Month" or other garden related item for a door prize at our monthly meetings. The sign-up sheet for both of these volunteer opportunities is at the attendance table where you check in at our meetings.

Thank you to the following for donating door prizes at the Oct.-Nov. 2011 meetings: Kathleen Cripe, Earl Bailey, Jerry Martin, Larry Ringle, Valerie Kurk, Cathy Fortin, Mayrea Reusser, Helen Martin and Mary Davis.

We look forward to the first membership meeting of 2012 on January 31st - we hope to see all of you there.

Submitted by Helen Martin
email: gardeningduo @ maplenet.net



Our Best Recipes from Michiana Master Gardeners Coming in Print This Summer!

A collection of recipes from our association is being assembled. Starting in January, recipes can be entered online at www.cookbookpublishers.com. You may enter up to a total of four recipes in the following categories: Appetizers/Beverages, Soups/Salads, Vegetables, Main Dishes, Breads/Rolls, Desserts, and Miscellaneous. If using the computer isn't comfortable for you, bring legible copies of your recipes to the membership meeting, and we'll have someone type them in for you.

Here's how it works to enter your recipes online:

Go to www.cookbookpublishers.com.

Once at the cookbook publisher's website, click on "UTypelt ONLINE" at the top of the page.

On the next screen click on "Login". You will be asked to fill in the user name and password.

For this cookbook our user name is "MMGA" and the password is

"PurdueExt", and you can login and follow the directions below:

1. Click on the "ADD RECIPE" icon.
2. Input the "Title of Recipe" and "Author Name".
3. Use the drop-down menu to select the **Category** where your recipe should appear. Try to fit your recipe into one of the listed categories above to avoid extra cost to MMGA.
4. Enter the "Number of Sections" in your recipe. Enter "1" if it is a basic one-part recipe (e.g. cookies). Enter "2" if the recipe requires two separate sections (such as a cake and frosting).
5. Press "SUBMIT".
6. Fill in the recipe "Ingredients" one at a time, clicking "ADD" after each ingredient. To standardize the measurement units in our cookbook, use the drop-down menu with common abbreviations. For non-standard units, use the custom field to the right of the drop-down menu (see above).
7. When all ingredients have been added, click "DONE" to begin typing Instructions.
8. Proofread your recipe carefully, then click "SUBMIT".

You may modify or delete any of your entries simply by following the appropriate links. Recipe contributors may view their recipes at any time and may edit them as long as they have not been "Verified". If a recipe has been "Verified", or if you wish to move a recipe to a different Category, you must contact Loanne Harms.

We hope to collect about 200 to 250 recipes and to sell the books for \$10 each. We will begin taking orders for the books at the January membership meeting. Books should arrive in May. We will plan to sell them at the Garden Tour Hospitality Center in July, but to guarantee copies for members, it is important that you place an order before we go to print.

The deadline for orders and submitting recipes is March 2, 2012. Anyone with questions should contact Loanne Harms at lharms2@frontier.com.

Starting Seeds Indoors

By Jim Carpenter

One facet of vegetable gardening I had always been interested in was starting seeds indoors to jumpstart the season and also to save some money on buying transplants. Not having adequate south-facing windows, I was never able to have any success in my few meager attempts to do this. But this last spring I took the plunge.

As a member of the 2010 Master Gardening class, I chose seed starting to research and present as a topic in one of our seminars. After I gave my presentation in February, I decided this was another area of gardening I wanted to try out for myself. Now I was going to get serious. I purchased a four foot fluorescent fixture with one warm and one cool bulb. I also bought a small heating mat along with numerous jiffy pots and other assorted peat pots. I knew I was heading in the right direction when I won a door prize at a Master Gardener meeting and got to select several small bags of seed starting mix.

From my research, I knew two of the most important things in growing plants from seeds were the proper light availability and the timing of the new plants to get them into the garden after the last frost. With my bulbs properly spaced above my trays in front of my one good south window, I was set for the light requirements. From my presentation, I had developed a chart for my various vegetables which included the germination time and the maturity I desired them to be prior to the last frost date to transplant into my garden.

Most soil mixtures have a large percentage of shredded sphagnum peat moss and vermiculite, along with some limestone and powdered superphosphate. All ingredients should be sterile. I simply used the prepackaged mix for all my seed starts. At one point I had over 100 small pots started with a large variety of plants. I had everything in one type of plastic tray or another. Some of these containers were from salads that came from a fast food restaurant. These were great because they had a cover which provided a greenhouse effect for the young seedlings. The seedlings and plants need to have water put into the tray so they draw it up from the bottom. This will prevent damping off. Light misting can also be used.

Peppers and tomatoes were the first seeds I started. I also started cabbage and broccoli very early as these could go into the garden sooner. My squash and cucumber seeds came along later. Along the way, I grew

some flower seeds. I also started dill, parsley and basil. Still having a bit of room, I even tried sunflower seeds and also some catgrass. This year, my indoor seed starting will begin even earlier as I am determined to try starting onion plants from seed. I will plant these seeds in a tray rather than in individual pots.

I had hooked my light fixture to chains mounted from the ceiling that enabled me to adjust the height as the plants got taller. I kept my light about 4-6 inches above my plants. After turning my lights on and off each day for a while I got smart and purchased a timer which worked really well to keep them all on a 14 hour per day light "fix". I gave all my plants a light dose of liquid fertilizer once a week. I did need to rotate them some because of the light from the window.

When it is time to transplant these plants to your garden, a certain degree of hardening off is necessary. Leaving them outside during the day is the best way to accomplish this. Of course, be careful with the exposure to the wind and too much cold. Several days of this should be all that is needed for the move into a permanent place in your garden. My indoor growing area was very cool, so I actually skipped the hardening off process.

I usually try to cheat a little on the last frost date when I put my tender veggies into the garden. I will carefully check out the extended forecast for temperature, and if it looks mild enough, I will plant up to a week ahead of what is considered the average last frost. So far this has worked well for me.

The 24 or so heirloom tomatoes I planted the first week of May last year averaged about 18" tall, and I think I only lost one that I accidentally broke off. However, my two pepper varieties were very short and took forever to grow. I may start them a little earlier this year. Everything else did well, and I am pleased with the results I got. I spent a fair amount of money in getting started with this, but I won't need to spend as much in the years to come.

While we garden for results, there is also a great deal of enjoyment to be had in the process. With starting seeds indoors, that process can be started while the last of the winter winds might still be blowing! Grow for it!

Submitted by Jim Carpenter



INDIANA FLOWER GROWERS ASSN
SPRING BEDDING PLANT CONFERENCE

Registration is now open for the 2012 Indiana Flower Growers Association (IFGA) Spring Bedding Plant Conference on Thursday, February 23, 2011 at Crossroads Greenhouse in Indianapolis, IN. We will be offering Pesticide Applicator Recertification (PARP) credit for attending the educational sessions (See the attached brochure for more details). Please note that Crossroads is graciously offering a tour of their facility at 9:00 AM. If you plan on going on the tour, please arrive by 8:30 AM and go to the visitor office.

Mail in registration will be accepted until February 10th, after this date registration we will only be accepted on site and you will not receive a lunch. Please see the attached brochure for more program information and directions. Registrations forms can also be downloaded at: <https://sharepoint.agriculture.purdue.edu/agriculture/flowers/events.aspx>

Program - Thursday, February 23, 2012

8:30 to 9:30 AM	Tour of Crossroads Greenhouse
9:00 to 10:00 AM	Registration
10:00 to 11:30 AM	Temperature and Light Management, Erik Runkle, MSU
11:30 to 11:45 AM	What Bedding Plants Can you Grow with No-Heat, Roberto Lopez, Purdue
11:45 to 12:00 PM	Assessing the Difference between Field & High Tunnel Specialty Cut Flower Production in the Midwest, Michael Ortiz, Purdue
12:00 to 12:30 PM	Lunch Provided When is Light Most Important for Bedding Plants?, Chris Currey and Veronica Hutchinson, Purdue University
12:30 to 1:00 PM	Plant Growth Regulators, Using PGRs Effectively on Bedding Plants, Erik Runkle, Michigan State University
1:00 to 2:00 PM	Insect Management—Pest Control Strategies for Bedding Plants: Effectively Managing Thrips, Aphids, Spider Mites, and Fungus Gnats, Luis Canas, Ohio State Univ
2:00 to 3:00 PM	Marketing and Economics, Local Solutions and Competitive Advantages to Sell More Plants in 2012, Frank Zaunscherb, Zaunscherb Roberts Blair Inc.
3:00 to 4:00 PM	Innovative Solution to Differentiate your Plants from the Rest, Lloyd Traven, Peace Tree Farms

DECEMBER NEWS FLASH



Saturday, January 21, 2012

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. CST

(Chicago Time)

Admission: \$10

Children under 12 free

Free Parking

Free Door Prizes

Porter County Exposition Center

IN-49 at Division Road

Valparaiso, IN

SPEAKER SCHEDULE

9:30 a.m. Keynote Address

"The New Small Garden"

Peter Loewer, Writer and Botanical Artist, aka The Wild Gardener

10:30 a.m.

"Open Raised Bed Gardening: Growing More Food in Less Space"

Noel Valdes, Long-time Hobby Gardener, aka Mr. Cobra Head

"Emerald Ash Borer in Your Backyard: Are You Ready?"

Annemarie Nagle, Exotic Forest Pest Educator, Purdue University

11:30 a.m.

"Heritage Peonies for Today and Tomorrow"

Dr. David C. Michener and Carmen Leskoviansky,

Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum

12:30 p.m.

"The Good, The Bad and the Ugly"

Professor Tom Turpin, Department of Entomology, Purdue

1:30 p.m.

"Continuous Color: Which Perennials Work for You?"

Pam Duthie, Author, Landscaper/ Owner of The Gifted Gardener

"Unusual Plants from Seed"

Peter Loewer

2:30 p.m.

"The Absolutely Best Plants for Upper Midwest Gardens"

Richard Hawke, Plant Evaluation Mgr, Chicago Botanic Garden

"This Grass IS Greener: Secrets to a Better Lawn"

Janet Magnuson, Advanced Master Gardener

Rain Gardens Go with the Flow

Rain gardens are areas of the landscape designed to catch rainwater long enough to allow it to percolate slowly back into the groundwater rather than run off the soil. Rain gardens help recharge groundwater, improve the water quality of streams and rivers, reduce flooding, and provide cover for wildlife and butterflies.

Rain gardens can be just shallow depressions of a few inches or elaborately constructed sites, depending on available space and needs of the site. The garden's topography should be designed to encourage water flow into the garden. The site must drain well enough to allow slow and steady percolation into the groundwater. Soil drainage can be greatly enhanced by additions of finished compost in preparing the area.

Ideally, the rain garden should be located away from (10-foot minimum) and a bit below the grade of structures, such as the house, tool shed and garage. Rain barrels can be used to collect runoff water from house drainpipes and redirect to the rain garden. Reasonably level land will be much easier to work with.

Avoid placing the rain garden over a septic drain field or tank; a buffer of at least 50 feet is recommended. Be aware of shallow utilities in the area, and always call to locate and mark these utilities before you dig. Also avoid the edges of steep slopes where erosion is a risk.

As you consider the overall landscape design and appearance, like other gardens, you'll need to consider the mature size, growth habit, flowering, fruiting and other characteristics of your plant selections. Most rain gardens feature moisture-tolerant perennial flowers, native wetland or wet prairie wildflowers, and grasses, but shrubs and trees can be used in larger gardens. Keep in mind that plants will also need to be tolerant of periodic dry spells as well as heavy rains.

The following are a few species to consider for your rain garden planting, but it's by no means an exhaustive list.

Grasses

Big Bluestem
Indiangrass
Little Bluestem
Various Sedges

Flowers

Aster
Black-Eyed Susan
False Indigo
Flag Iris
Goldenrod
Great Blue Lobelia
Ironweed
Joe Pye Weed
Liatris
Penstemon
Swamp Milkweed

Shrubs

American Beautyberry
Arrowwood Viburnum
Bottlebrush Buckeye
Buttonbush
Oakleaf Hydrangea
Summersweet Clethra
Sweetspire

Trees

Bald Cypress
Fringetree
Ginkgo
Red Maple
River Birch
Sycamore

Additional information on rain gardens can be found online at:
Purdue University
www.ces.purdue.edu/extmedia/FNR/FNR-256.pdf

By B. Rosie Lerner, Purdue Extension Consumer Horticulturist
November 17, 2011

RAIN BARRELS

Submitted by Tammy Mentor

I participated in the Rain Barrel Program that was sponsored by Elkhart County this last summer, and “Oh What Fun”!! It was so much fun that I wanted to share with all of you. I live on a busy highway, and my house is very close to the road with the St. Joe River flowing behind me. As a result, I don’t have a very big front or back yard, and the conditions are best for growing in my front yard. Another situation that I face is the fact that I have a well for my water and a smaller pump, so in the past, summer watering was rather hard on my pump not to mention the electricity that I used and “paid” for to run it.

As crazy as it sounds, I put two rain barrels in my front yard to accommodate my flowers and vegetables. I purchased the kind that allow for a plant to be placed in the top and I used old tires on rims to elevate them. What a flattering display they ended up being, and I am recycling tires as well as rain water. I used the water from the barrels faithfully for my outside plants as well as my indoor plants. The happiness of the plants was revealed in the production and beauty of each and every one! I did not even attach a hose to my outside spigot until mid August, and at that point I had dry barrels for only about three weeks. I feel that there are many benefits to being resourceful and using what nature provides for us.

‘The program that the county is sponsoring is a five year commitment and a lifetime commitment for me.

I Love My Rain Barrels!!!’ ~Tammy

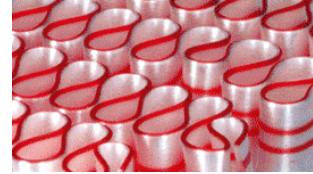
<http://www.stormwaterelkco.org/>
Greater Elkhart County Stormwater
Partnership



Recipes From Our Master Gardeners

Peppermint Ribbon Pie

1 Keebler chocolate crust (9 inch)
2 pints peppermint ice cream, slightly softened
1 cup fudge
4 egg whites
1/2 teaspoon cream of tartar
1/2 cup sugar
Chocolate sauce



Spread out one pint of the peppermint ice cream in the chocolate pie crust. Pour the fudge over the ice cream and spread with a spatula. Spread the second pint over the fudge. The fudge should be a “ribbon” between the two layers of ice cream. Freeze for a couple of hours until the ice cream is hard again.

Preheat the oven to 350° F.

Whip the egg whites with the cream of tartar until soft peaks are formed. Add the sugar and continue to whip until the whites are stiff. Scoop and spread the meringue over the top of the pie with a spatula, forming peaks in the meringue as you finish. Bake for 15 minutes or until the meringue sets and is starting to brown. Remove and place back in freezer. Let the pie set for 2 more hours.

Slice and serve with chocolate sauce and a peppermint stick for garnish.

Serves 6

Submitted by Sherrie Zou

(We had the pleasure of visiting the 100 year old Win Schuler's Restaurant during December, and the restaurant shared this recipe. I am glad to pass it on to my MMGA friends.)

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.

*“Then sing, young hearts that are full of cheer,
With never a thought of sorrow;
The old goes out, but the glad young year
Comes merrily tin tomorrow.”*

~Emily Miller

(574) 533-0554
JANUARY 2012