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Broadcaster

"Helping Each Other Grow!"

Michiana Master Gardeners Association

MARCH 2016

Table of Contents	
President's Message by Kathleen Cripe—How are your gardens developing?	1-2
Day Minder and Member Meeting Dates	3-4
Extension Office Jeff Burbrink—New Email Groups	5
MMGA Committee Chairs, Co-Chairs, Liaisons	6
Answer Line (formerly Hotline) Activity by Dan Carlson	7
Gardener's Anthem submitted by Emma Wynn	8
Porter County Garden Show by Mary Davis	9-10
Good Grief! Submitted by Susie Klepinger	10
Where Did That Come From? Dandelion by Stan Palmer	11-12
Chips and Splinters: Sugar Maple by Stan Palmer	12-13
MMGA Member Meeting Minutes January by Heidi Zavatsky	14
MMGA Board Meeting Minutes January by Heidi Zavatsky	15-16
Information for our Members by Committee Chairs	17-18



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by KATHLEEN CRIPE

Greetings Master Gardeners,

How are your gardens developing? Are they on paper or inside or out in the cold? Winter gardening is not as labor intensive as it is in the spring. Winter gardening, for me, is looking out each window in my house as I pass by them. I look at my landscape that I prepped the last and previous seasons and am thinking about any changes that may be needed or that I want to make.

Of course, I will be waiting until the soil warms up enough to work in it. I see rocks, bowling balls, colored bottles, and metal, wood, and plastic containers or hardscapes not covered with snow or leaves.

There is an old weathered door that goes to where only you can imagine. Among the trees in the windbreak, I see white containers, an antique green enamel wash tub, and wooden planters just waiting for the coming season's new plants.

This winter in New Paris, we have not had much snowfall. When the flakes begin to fall, I try to take the time to watch them. Some of the snowflakes are lazy and at other times, they are racing past my window.

I recently read a short story about Wilson Bentley. He was captivated by the intricate designs of snowflakes, and he had an idea. In 1885, Wilson began working on his idea to photograph snowflakes under a microscope with his camera. After many trials and errors, he took his first picture of a snowflake. In his lifetime, Wilson captured 5,000 snowflake images, and each one had a unique design. He described them as "tiny miracles of beauty" and "ice flowers". No two snowflakes are the same, yet they all come from the same source. The next time it snows, think of all the "ice flowers" in your garden. They are beautiful, especially when the morning sun shines on/or through them.

May each of you find time to see the "ice flowers" in your garden this winter.

I hope to see each of you at the monthly meeting on the last Tuesday of each month.

Until next month,

Kathleen

HAPPINESS IS



...buying plants.



Day Minder . . . Watch Us Grow



5	Sat.	Spring Celebration, Greencroft Community Center, Social time 11:30, Lunch at 12 p.m. Reservations must be made in person at member meetings or via mail, and NO reservations accepted after February 23rd. Lunch is \$12.	11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
5	Sat.	Program with Janet Mancunovich, "Edible Landscapes Just Breaking Through" and "Herbs Breaking out into the Landscape." Price is \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door.	2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
15	Tues.	Community Garden Planning Meeting, Overmyers' Home	9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
15	Tues.	Board Meeting, Extension Office Conference Room	6:00 p.m.
19	Sat.	Garden Tour Merchandise Meeting, Harms' Home	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
29	Tues.	No March Member Meeting due to Spring Celebration	7:00 p.m.



2	Sat.	Garden Tour Merchandise Meeting, Harms' Home	1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
4	Mon.	Garden Tour Planning Meeting, Extension Office Conference Room	7:00 p.m.
16	Sat.	MMGA/SWCD Tree Sale, Sheep/Swine Arena	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
19	Tues.	Board Meeting, Extension Office Conference Room	6:00 p.m.
26	Tues.	Member Meeting, Ag Hall, "Invasive Plants", Jeff Burbrink	7:00 p.m.
30	Sat.	Garden Tour Merchandise Meeting, Harms' Home	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

MEETING CANCELLATION NOTICE:

If the president and/or vice-president feels it would be in the best interest of the membership to cancel an event, a blanket email will be sent out to all members no later than 5 p.m. on the day of the event. For those persons who do not have access to email, a phone call will be made notifying them of the cancellation.

UPCOMING DATES

Page 4

Member Meetings, LAST Tues. of the month, Ag Hall, 7 p.m. unless noted

- Tuesday, May 31, "Workshop, Craft Night," Loanne Harms
- Tuesday, June 28, "Beekeeping," Steve Pearson
- Monday, July TBA, Fair Set-up and Pizza Party
- Tuesday, August 30, Garden Tour Appreciation Dinner 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 27, "Forestry," Aaron Kingsley
- Tuesday, October 25, "Owls," Lake Milton Raptor Education Center
- Tuesday, November 29, Thanks-for-Giving Carry-In 6:30 p.m.
- No Meeting for December due to holidays
- Tuesday, January 31, "Elkhart County Christmas Bird Count," Rhonda DeCaire
- Tuesday, February 28, "Trash to Treasure," Penny Alles

Garden Tour Planning Meetings, 1st Monday, Extension Office Conference Room, 7 p.m.

- Monday, May 2
- Monday, June 6
- July, TBA

Board Meetings, THIRD Tues. of the month, Ext. Office Conference Room, 6 p.m.

- Tuesday, May 17
- Tuesday, June 21
- Tuesday, July 19
- Tuesday, August 16
- Tuesday, September 20
- Tuesday, October 18
- Tuesday, November 15
- Tuesday, December 20

Garden Tour Merchandising Workshops, Len and Loanne Harms' home

- Tuesday, May 31, MMGA Member Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Friday, June 24, 1-4 p.m.
- Saturday, June 25, 1-3 p.m.

Tree Sale Committee, Sheep/Swine Arena, Fairgrounds

- Tuesday, March 8, Tree Pre-Order Deadline
- Wednesday, April 13, Separate Trees
- Thursday, April 14, Package Pre-Orders
- Friday, April 15, Package Pre-Orders
- Saturday, April 16, Pickup of Pre-Orders and Public Sale

July 9 - Garden Tour, 10-4, Downtown Elkhart

June 16-18 - State Master Gardener Conference, W. Lafayette

July 22-30 - Elkhart County 4-H Fair, Goshen



Attention MMGA Members

Articles for the APRIL *Broadcaster* will be due on MARCH 15th. Please email items to Sherrie Zou before this date. Thank you.

EMAIL GROUP CHANGES BEING MADE SOON by Jeff Burbrink



Towards the end of March, I will be activating three new email groups that will affect our Master Gardeners. Eventually, we will phase out the elkallmg@purdue.edu, probably by mid-April. What I am essentially doing is splitting the elkallmg@purdue.edu list into three groups...

- MMGA members
- Non MMGA members (but still active)
- No Longer Active Master Gardeners

The first new group is named MMGA@lists.purdue.edu. The people on this email list will be people who are dues-paying members of the Michiana Master Gardeners Association and meet the criteria of an active Purdue Master Gardener. If you are receiving this newsletter and have given me an email address, you will be on that list.

The second email group will be named elkmgactive@lists.purdue.edu. The people on this list are Master Gardeners in good standing with the Purdue Master Gardener program, but chose not to be dues paying members of MMGA. They will not receive notices of MMGA activities (monthly meetings, committee meetings, etc.) or be able to send email to the MMGA members. If asked and willing, they can volunteer at MMGA activities such as the Garden Tour or Tree Sale, because they will have completed the needed background checks to maintain their Master Gardener status. Since they are not dues paying members of MMGA, they cannot attend the monthly meetings or receive a directory.

The third email group will be named elk.hort@lists.purdue.edu. The people on this list will be anyone interested in horticulture in Elkhart County. That will include members of the general public. This will include people who went through our Master Gardener program but have not kept their status active with Purdue.

These email groups will be mutually exclusive of each other. If you are not a member of a list, you cannot send emails to it. This keeps you from getting (junk) mail from people or companies outside the list you are subscribed too.

In addition, I will continue to create and maintain separate email groups for the two most recent Master Gardener classes—currently our 2014 and 2015 classes. This allows those classes to facilitate communication among their members for their seminars and graduation. Once a class graduates, I typically phase out their class email because they are well assimilated into county program by then, and they do not typically use the list anymore.

The purpose of creating these new email groups is to allow for more specialized communication, and it should result in less confusion between MMGA members and non-members. Please do not begin using these email groups yet! They are not fully populated. I will send out an announcement when you can begin.

If you have any questions about the upcoming changes, please let me know.

Jeff

MMGA COMMITTEE CHAIRS, CO-CHAIRS, AND BOARD LIAISONS

Page 6

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Co-Chair</u>	<u>Liaison</u>
Answer Line	Dan Carlson		Dan Carlson
Archivist	Helen Martin		Ron Troyer
Association Merchandise	Sandy Acton	Ruth Middleton	Carol Novy
		Kathy Radican	
Broadcaster	Sherrie Zou	Nancy Borkholder	Loanne Harms
	Writer	Publisher	
Class of 2014 Rep	Jenny Schrock		
Class of 2015 Rep	Marsha Schrock		
Community Gardens	Sue Stuckman	Heidi Zavatsky	Heidi Zavatsky
Extension Educator	Jeff Burbrink		
Extension Landscape	Mary Morgan		Bill Albaugh
Extension Secretary	Nancy Borkholder		
Fair Board Rep	Kate Rink		Jenny Schrock
Fair Set-Up Volunteers	Kathleen Cripe	Kate Rink	Bill Albaugh
Garden Tour	Marilyn Horvath	Carol	Cathy Fortin
		Swartzendruber	
Membership Committee	Helen Martin	Len Harms	Ron Troyer
Nomination	Loanne Harms		Loanne Harms
Program	Laura Stevens	Judith Forbes	Dan Carlson
Property Trustee	Dan Carlson		Dan Carlson
Quilt Gardens-Bristol	Mary Morgan		Jenny Schrock
Quilt Gardens-Goshen	Jim Bare		Marsha Schrock
Set-Up Committee	Brad Lantzer	Craig Stiver	Bill Albaugh
Speaker's Bureau	Marilyn Horvath		Carol Novy
Spring Celebration/Ann. Dinner	Judith Forbes	Poorna Bhagat	Bill Roberts
Tree Sale	Nancy Brown	Barb Heeter	Bill Roberts
Web Administrator	Craig Stiver	Poorna Bhagat	Cathy Fortin

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ANSWER LINE ACTIVITY

By Dan Carlson

The ANSWER LINE is the new name for the Hotline which has been in existence since 2004. Our committee felt that Answer Line better describes what we are trying to do—provide gardening answers for our community. We've developed new forms to be used in the Answer Line Office, at the Fair, and when we work at the Farmer's Market once a month. We are planning to release a monthly story in the newspaper about the kinds of questions coming. We'll have new business cards that will be available to hand out at all events. We are also working on a "Tip Sheet" that can help Answer Line volunteers ask questions and supply information on various gardening subjects. There will be a training session for Answer Line volunteers from on Wednesday, March 30th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This is advance training for Answer Line volunteers only. This training will focus on two subjects: 1. Early season questions we typically get (spring-time diagnostics and spring-time questions and 2. Answer Line procedures for 2016. Other training will be offered in June (flowers and early summer questions) and August (vegetables and late season), and those will be in the field. This will be an awesome training!

The Answer Line will be opening for business starting Monday, April 4th. We're planning the hours of operation to be Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (We plan to set up a voicemail system to record people's questions when no one is staffing the room.) This is a great opportunity for you to expand your knowledge of all the interesting things that happen to the flora in our area during the growing season. You get to put to use all that knowledge you received in Jeff's Master Gardener classes and all that you have gained over the years of gardening. The best thing is that you will be helping others in our community improve their gardens and yards. If you have never worked the Answer Line before and would like to, we'll try to have an experienced Answer Line Master Gardener there to show you the ropes the first couple of times. If you get a call and you are unsure of the correct response, you can always tell the caller that they will get a call back after some additional research. You can leave the information for another Master Gardener and/or pass it on to Jeff. Call or email Nancy Borkholder at the Extension Office to sign up for training or to volunteer. I personally have learned a great deal working the Answer Line and have made some new friends. It's also a great way to get some volunteer hours!

Looking forward to seeing you there,

Dan

CLASS OF 2015 SPRING SEMINARS (Saturdays at Reith Interpretive Center)

March 12, 10 a.m.—12 p.m., LANDSCAPING

March 26, 10 a.m.—12 p.m., VEGETABLES

April 2, 10 a.m.—12 p.m., PERENNIALS

Gardener's Anthem

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all
Verse 1:
But what we never mention, though gardeners know it's true,
That when he made the goodies, He made the baddies too.
Chorus:
All things spray and swattable....., disasters great and small
All things paraquatable, the Lord God made them all.
Verse 2:
The greenfly on the roses, the maggots in the peas
Manure that fill our noses, He also gave us these.
Verse 3:
The fungi on the goose-gogs, the club root on the greens
The slugs that eat the lettuce and chew the aubergines.
Verse 4:
The drought that kills the fuchsias, the frost that nips the buds
The rain that drowns the seedlings, the blight that hits the spuds.
Verse 5:
The midges and mosquitoes, the nettles and the weeds
The pigeons in the green stuff, the sparrows on the seeds.
Verse 6:
The fly that gets the carrots, the wasp that eats the plums
How black the gardeners outlook, though green may be his thumb.
Verse 7:
But still we gardeners labour, midst vegetables and flowers
And pray what hits our neighbours will somehow by-pass ours.

"Gardener's Anthem" submitted by Emma Wynn (given to her by her mother)

PORTER COUNTY GARDEN SHOWBy Mary Davis

I was really looking forward to the Porter County Annual Gardening Show this year. Last year, we were in Florida, and the year before that we were completely snowed in (a huge contributing factor for being in Florida last year). So early Saturday, with Heidi Zavatsky at the wheel, Jay Whitmer, Anne Overmyer, Marilyn Horvath, Bonnie Morrison, and I headed west. This year's great weather contributed to the usual big crowd, including lots of our members.

The show's theme was "Celebrating Our Roots, Growing Our Future." The show was an official endorsed legacy project for Indiana's Bicentennial (as are the quilt gardens for Elkhart). After picking up free seeds and bulbs and a quick tour of the many, many vendors, I headed to hear the keynote speaker, Roy Diblik delivering "Coming To Know Plant Relationships in the Garden." He emphasized developing a relationship with plants and pointed out that they will do what they've been doing for centuries, so approach things from that perspective. Thus, he was very much opposed to using mulch and recommended using leaf litter and dead plant material. He also recommended using a Dutch hoe, which has a long handle and doesn't require bending to use—he indicated our garden tools are really designed for agriculture.

He suggested some enterprising gardener should start making these from our dying ash, so they would be more affordable than the imports. Basically this is dragged through a garden early on, and he then plants very close together so weeds don't have a chance to get started. He indicated he only uses twenty-five plants to cover all the gardens he designs. Unfortunately, he did not provide a list and he used only their Latin names.

His pictures were wide-angled, so it was difficult to tell much from them (he plants gardens without a focal point--Bonnie Morrison said she had to close her eyes rather than look at the chaotic pictures). He indicates he only uses plants that stay where they are supposed to—no self-seeders. He also did a later talk entitled "Thoughtful Perennial Planting: Designing with the Know Maintenance Approach", which was basically a repeat of the first talk. He has also written a book, "The Know Maintenance Perennial Garden" which was available for purchase.

In between his two talks, the appropriately named John Woodmansee presented "Indiana Native Trees—Identification and Lore". John is the Extension Educator for Whitley and Noble counties. He briefly described his favorite twenty-five trees and how to identify them and recommended several books to consult, including "Native Trees of the Midwest", "101 Trees of Indiana", and "Fifty Trees of Indiana". I enjoyed his presentation.

Next came one of my favorite speakers, Jean Starr, speaking about our state flower, the peony (which the person introducing her pointed out is not a native plant). Jean covered the history of peonies and their migration from the Orient. Of course, her pictures dazzled me, convincing me I needed to find more room in the yard, although I think I can resist the new cultivar she paid \$130 for (yes, a single plant). She also gave information on great peony gardens to visit, one of her favorites being the Nichols Arboretum in Ann Arbor. She also said the peony replaced the zinnia as the state flower in the 50's which had replaced the carnation in the 20's (I think). Great presentation.

After a lunch break, I attended "Growing 'Old': Community Gardens and Heirlooms," by LaManda Joy. I have to confess that I wasn't looking forward to the presentation, but the alternative on edible perennials didn't sound much better.

Boy was I surprised! She was delightful. An amazing transformation in one year of her empty lot (with a house attached) led her to start the Peterson Garden Project, a community garden project in Chicago which has expanded into five locations and hundreds of gardens emphasizing organic and heirlooms, teaching people the joy of gardening. She has written two books, one on starting community gardens and another is a growing guide for beginners.

A final run through the vendors—Jay was definitely our star customer, netting 5 orchids, a bag of geodes, a ceramic toad, and some plants from Benedict's, who was one of the vendors.

As usual, this was a great day—five hours of great education (there were many other options to choose from) and fun shopping and books to preview. Save the date for next year—January 28, 2017. The theme will be "Spring Is Just Around the Corner". I hope that it is true for this year, too!

Mary

GOOD GRIEF!! by Susie Klepinger

Cracks. Corners. Crevices. Creases.

Those are hidden plant places I ignore in my everyday rush. Suddenly a stink bug who is napping on his philodendron bed catches my attention. The stealth used to accomplish his demise forces me to focus my "blind eyes" on the insect parties that have been going on for months.

How did it happen? I am the Master Gardener who lectures on the subject of careful observation and swift action in an insect outbreak. When did I quit looking at my plants critically? Too busy? Too many? Collecting more self-reliant succulents than their need foliage cousins?

Mealie bugs. Spider Mites. Scales. The telltale signs are all there. Cottony masses, speckled leaves, and honey dew. As Charlie Brown would say, "Aaugh!"

Well, I'm off to find the horticulture oil, the strong sink spray, and rubbing alcohol. I might even have to invest in insecticidal soap for the herds on my orchids—in the newly formed buds, no less.

What's to be learned? Vigilance at all times. Look and act before the insects take over and thumb their proboscises at you as they head for their next sup of phloem.

Happy Sleuthing,
Susie



DANDELION (*Taraxacum officinale*)

I know, I know, what's with an article on a weed(!)? Well spring IS coming, and what is one of the earliest harbingers of spring? The dandelion!! Honest though, the dandelion is an amazing plant, and as you have probably guessed, it is an import. Though the dandelion has been carried from place to place since before written history, it can at least be said that the plant is native to Europe and Asia. The earliest recordings can be found in Roman times, and use has been noted by the Anglo Saxon tribes of Britain and the Normans of France. In the tenth and eleventh centuries, there is mention of dandelions used for medicinal purposes in the works of Arabian physicians. Dandelions have been established in the Americas, Australia, and New Zealand, amongst many other temperate regions such as Austria, Italy, Poland, and Turkey. They have spread throughout the northern hemisphere for so long that it is difficult to determine their nonnative status. It has been noted however, that the Puritans found dandelions to be so useful that they brought them to settle in the new country. Throughout history, dandelions have been purposely carried across oceans and continents by human beings. European settlers brought these plants intentionally to America.

Why, might you ask? Small birds feed off of the dandelion seeds. Pigs, goats, and rabbits will eat the plant. The flower provides nectar for honey bees. The dandelion has countless health benefits and palatable applications. Europeans used the plant to treat fevers, boils, eye problems, diarrhea, fluid retention, liver congestion, heartburn, and skin ailments. Dandelion was used in China, India, and Russia to treat breast problems, liver diseases, appendicitis, and digestive problems. Dandelion is seen as aiding digestion due to its bitter principles thought to stimulate salivary and gastric juices. The root can improve bile flow, which would help alleviate liver congestion, bile duct inflammation, hepatitis, gallstones, and jaundice. Dandelion leaves create diuretic activity which can cause considerable weight loss. Studies have shown that the plant can produce antibodies to cancer and can buffer blood glucose levels for diabetics. All parts of the plant can be eaten and are often found in salads, roasted, fried, mixed in pancakes, or made into wine, tea, or a coffee-like drink. Dandelions have a taste similar to chicory or endive with a bitter tinge.

The dandelion has a low ecological impact and provides no real damage to the ecosystem. The major negative aspect of the dandelion is the difficulty in exterminating it in yards or places where people do not want the plant to grow. Dandelions are often considered an annoying weed and are found most commonly in highly disturbed ecosystems such as lawns. It is undeniable that the dandelion has a negative impact on most homeowners and that is why it is so much in the forefront of minds when spring comes, and we start getting the inquiry of, "What can I do about those *bleepti-bleep* dandelions?"

DANDELION (*Taraxacum officinale*)

A good place to start is with Purdue Publication AY-9-W, Control of Broadleaf Weeds in Home Lawns. The basic advice there is to use a general-purpose spray mixture comprised of two or three of the following individual herbicides or active ingredients: 2,4-D; MCPP (mecoprop); and dicamba (Banvel). Multiple active ingredients will control a wider spectrum of broadleaf weeds (including dandelions) than a single active ingredient. Either consider hiring a professional to control your dandelions or learn to coexist with them and not spend time and money trying to control them.

Much of this material came from: 1. Introduced Species Summary Project: Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) by Dara Hourdajian, and 2.) Purdue Publication AY-9-W, Control of Broadleaf Weeds in Home Lawns.

Be safe and keep that garden growing!

-Stan Palmer-

CHIPS AND SPLINTERS: SUGAR MAPLE (*Acer saccharum*) by Stan Palmer

I've been writing the 'Where Did That Come From' column for nearly two years now concentrating on vegetable and herbaceous landscape plants. I have decided to try a similar approach concentrating on woody plants, and highlighting a wider range of uses since many of our trees have value in our economy beyond landscape and table use. I hope that you enjoy reading this material as much as I enjoy putting it together.

Sugar Maple or Rock Maple (*Acer saccharum* Marsh.) is a species of maple native to the hardwood forests of eastern Canada, from Nova Scotia west through Quebec and southern Ontario to southeastern Manitoba and eastern United States, from Minnesota to Missouri to Georgia. The sugar maple is a deciduous tree normally reaching heights of 82–115 feet tall and exceptionally up to 148 feet. A 10-year-old tree is typically about 16 feet tall. When healthy, the sugar maple can live for over 400 years.

The leaves are deciduous, up to 7.9 in long and equally wide, with five palmate lobes. The basal lobes are relatively small, while the upper lobes are larger and deeply notched. The notches tend to be rounded at their interior. The fall color is often spectacular, ranging from bright yellow through orange to fluorescent red-orange. Sugar maples also have a tendency to color unevenly in fall. In some trees, all colors above can be seen at the same time. They have a tendency for certain parts of a mature tree to change color weeks ahead of or behind the remainder of the tree. The leaf buds are pointy and brown-colored. The recent year's growth twigs are green, and turn dark brown. The flowers are in panicles of five to 10 together, yellow-green and without petals. Flowering occurs in early spring.

(see next page)

Sugar maple tends to favor cooler climates. It attains its greatest size and growth potential in southern Canada and the New England states where the growing season is 4–5 months and summers are mild. In this region, the tree is abundant and found in large stands with beech and birches, but in Zones 6–7, it gives way to oak-hickory forests and occurs only in isolated, scattered patches. The economic value of the sugar maple is not to be overlooked. The sap, the wood, the landscape value, and the ecological value are considerable.

The sugar maple tree is the principal source of maple sugar. The trees are tapped early in the spring for the first flow of sap, which usually has the highest sugar content. The sap is collected and boiled or evaporated to a syrup. Further concentration by evaporation produces the maple sugar.

The wood is one of the hardest and densest of the maples and is prized for furniture and flooring. Bowling lanes and bowling pins are both commonly manufactured from sugar maple. Trees with wavy wood grain, which can occur in curly, quilted, and "Birdseye maple" forms, are especially valued. Maple is also the wood used for basketball courts and it is a popular wood for baseball bats, along with white ash. It is also widely used in the manufacture of musical instruments, such as the members of the violin family (sides and back), guitars (neck), and drum shells. It is also quite flexible and makes excellent archery bows.

The sugar maple was a favorite street and park tree during the 19th century because it was easy to propagate and transplant, is fairly fast-growing, and has beautiful fall color. Many cultivars are available for use. It has met with mixed reviews of late and many of the older trees are now being replaced with a more varied collection of species. The sugar maple is an extremely important species to the ecology of many forests in the United States and Canada. Pure stands are common, and it is a major component of the northern and Midwestern U.S. hardwood forests. These trees are valuable to wildlife. Birds and small mammals eat the seeds, while whitetail deer feed on young twigs, buds, and leaves. Gray squirrels and porcupines eat small branch tips and components of the bark. Needless to say, this common maple is a very important part of our Midwestern lives and culture.

Much of this info was taken from: *Wikipedia* and *The Complete Trees Of North America* by Thomas S. Elias.

-Stan Palmer-

Photo, right: Natural range of *Acer saccharum*



Kathleen Cripe called the January 26th Member Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. There were 70 members and 1 guest present. She introduced the 2016 Board to all present. Ann Regier gave the Treasurer's report as follows: Checking—\$5,966.36, Savings—\$137.13, Money Market — \$18,726.47, Petty Cash—\$200.00, Total—\$25,029.96. Paul Miles motioned and seconded by Jay Whitmer that the Treasurer's Report be accepted/passed. Because of lack of equipment, the film on Trees of Indiana could not be shown. Elkhart County Extension Educator, Jeff Burbrink, gave the program on composting. The Topic was entitled "The Rotten Truth about Composting". Compost is nothing but broken down organic matter. It might also be called "organized rot". Something that nature does naturally. It's easy to do. Three parts brown, two parts green, and a little soil.

Jan Robinson, who is in charge of plastic recycling for the park benches, gave a rundown on what's acceptable and what's not. Basically, look for lids that are numbered 2, 4, and 5. Medicine bottles are accepted. Please remove any cardboard from lids. Sour cream, cottage cheese, yogurt, milk jug lids and rings. Colors of benches available are green (\$225), blue and red (\$275) plus 400 pounds of caps. Jan will take lids to Greentree Plastics in Evansville for manufacturing. We should plan on 4 -6 weeks to get the finished bench.

Jeff introduced a new e-mail address system that he will implement after the Spring Celebration and will consist of: 1. active Master Gardeners who belong to the association, 2. Inactive list of general public and prior Master Gardeners, and 3. Horticulture professionals, as well as two most recent Master Gardener classes. This should make it easier to mail information to the appropriate people.

Committee Reports followed:

Community Garden. Judith Forbes and Heidi Zavatsky spoke on upcoming orientation and seminars being held March 12 from 1-3 p.m. at the Elkhart Environmental Center. We would like to invite anyone to join our group of gardeners at the airport.

Garden Tour: Marilyn Horvath is seeking co-chairs for Media, Volunteers, and Boutique. The next committee meeting will be February 1st.

Speakers Bureau: Marilyn Horvath stated that the goal is to help educate the public. Volunteers to fill speaking engagements are always welcome.

Spring Celebration: Judith Forbes stated the date is March 5th, and tickets are on sale now at locations around the area. Janet Macunovich is the keynote speaker. Lunch is \$12.00 and the program is \$10.00. Snacks are needed. There is a sign-up sheet available.

Tree Sale: Barb Heeter reported that sale is scheduled for April 16th on a Saturday. Sign-up sheets available for workers on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday for cash sales. This will be held in the Sheep/Swine building.

Programs/Refreshments: Three more people are needed for snacks in February. Refreshments provided this month by Pat Watson, Sue Stuckman, Sue Jones, Kathy Radican, and Marilyn Horvath. The drawing winners this month are Marilyn Horvath, Christine Goldsborough, Amy McLaughlin, Dean Linsenmeyer, Jenny Schrock, Poorna Bhagat, Bill Albaugh, Carol Novy, Susan Woolly, Kent Yoder, Gail Weybright, and Lori Huynh-Porter.

Kathleen announced that the next meeting is scheduled for February 23rd at 7:00 p.m. With no other business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heidi Zavatsky, Secretary

President Kathleen Cripe called the January 19th MMGA Board Meeting to order at 6 p.m. in the Extension Office Conference room. Members present were: Extension Educator, Jeff Burbrink, Dan Carlson, Kathleen Cripe, Cathy Fortin, Loanne Harms, Carol Novy, Anne Regier, Jenny Schrock, Ron Troyer, and Heidi Zavatsky. Members absent were: Bill Albaugh, Bill Roberts, and Marsha Schrock. Kathleen asked everyone to share what they liked to view outside their windows this winter. Winter wildlife including all kinds of birds and critters seemed to be in abundance.

Treasurer, Ann Regier reported Checking – \$6,066.36, Money Market - \$18,726.47, Savings - \$137.13, Cash - \$200.00 with a Total of \$25,129.96. Ann stated that Penny Stroup will audit the books on February 1st. Loanne Harms moved and Jenny Schrock seconded the motion that the Treasurer's Report be approved as read.

Jeff Burbrink reported that he would like to present some changes in the MG mailing lists by separating the list into appropriate groups – active Master Gardeners, members of the assoc., active Master Gardeners, non members of the association horticulture enthusiasts, no longer active Master Gardeners, and professionals. He also talked about making some changes in the Hotline involving form changes and perhaps hours regarding training/participating in the hotline committee. He will make these suggestions at the MMGA meeting.

Committee reports followed:

Archivist - Ron Troyer , no report

Broadcaster - Loanne Harms reported that Sherrie Zou had lots of articles for the February edition, but was looking for list of final assignments and meeting dates to be published.

2015 class update - In Marsha Schrock's absence, Jeff reported that the class is working on their seminar presentations. There are three seminars scheduled, repeated at three different locations at different times, for a total of nine classes altogether.

Community Garden - Heidi Zavatsky reported that the first meeting is planned for January 21st.

Extension Landscape - Mary Morgan, cold and snowy, no report.

Fair Board - Jenny Schrock reported that 600 tickets to Fair prom have been sold. Event is to be held at Oakwood in Syracuse. Proceeds from event will go toward the road/bridge for the new entrance to fairgrounds. She also reported that the dairy feeder barn has been demolished and a new barn is in progress

Garden Tour - Cathy Fortin reported that three more co-chair are needed to complete committees on tour, Media, Merchandise and Volunteers. Tickets are \$10 before tour and \$12 at the door. Tour is Saturday July 9, 2016

Answer Line - Dan Carlson reported that Answer Line will start on April 4, 2016. An article in February Broadcaster calling for a meeting to revise forms and new ideas for the Answer Line regarding training and diagnostics.

Membership - Ron Troyer reported that e-mail changes will be forthcoming. He also stated that he will contact Nancy for membership information.

Merchandise - Carol Novy reported that Ruth Middleton, Sandy Acton and Kathy Radican have taken over merchandise.

Nominating Committee - Loanne Harms had no report.

Programs - Dan Carlson stated that Laura Stevens and Judith Forbes are chairing this committee and all programs for 2016 have been scheduled. Dan will call to make sure Laura will be attending MMGA meeting in January to make program introduction.

Property Trustee - Dan Carlson and Kathleen Cripe will do inventory.

Quilt Gardens - Jenny Schrock and Marsha Schrock. No report for either garden at this time.

Meeting set-up - No report, but it was stated that help is always welcome for set-up.

Speakers Bureau - Carol Novy stated that Marilyn Horvath will always send emails to her when speakers are scheduled. Three speakers have been scheduled to date. Mary Morgan, Meg Mitzel, and Kathleen Cripe.

Spring Celebration - In Bill Robert's absence, Jenny Schrock reported that all is on track. Janet Macunovich is scheduled speaker and event is Saturday, March 5th, at the Greencroft Community Center. Tickets will be available at the meetings and at locations around the area. Flyers have been distributed.

Tree Sale - No report but flyers have been distributed.

Webmaster - Cathy Fortin had no report. The password will be put in the membership book and published in the Broadcaster.

Old Business - Loanne reported that she and Mary Morgan will be reorganizing the Hotline room. Jeff will be compiling a list of good reference books that he would like MMGA to purchase for our library. The plastic cap collection will be explained to us the next MMGA meeting by Jan Robinson who is chairing the effort for the 4-H group.

New Business - Discussion followed on how we can meet and engage the "new" members and get them involved on committees. There will now be "Greeters" at the meetings. Loanne Harms and Cathy Fortin will be the first greeters of the year. We will also be arranging the tables at different angles so people will be sitting across from each other to encourage visiting. When programs start, chairs will have to be turned toward the front.

With no other business on the agenda, meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m. The next meeting February 16th at 6:00 p.m. in the Extension Office Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heidi Zavatsky, Secretary

**GARDEN TOUR PLANT SALE**

Plant Sale? No, not yet. But this is a reminder that it is time to begin to plan for a few plants that you can bring to the plant sale associated with the annual garden tour. In the spring I look forward to the blooming of Siberian bugloss (*Brunnera macrophylla 'Jack Frost'*) and in the late fall I watch for hardy ageratum (*Eupatorium coelestinum*). These are two of the plants that I have received through the Master Gardener plant sale . Last year we were blessed to have a great selection of healthy plants, donated by our own master gardeners, that we could offer to the public and to each other. Please consider what you may be able to offer next summer. As you begin to start seeds indoors in the next few weeks, growing a few that you can share when July rolls around would enhance the sale. Also, for those impatient gardeners who will begin to divide the perennials in their gardens soon be sure to pot up a selection to share. Knowing the light and water conditions that your donated plants need, their common name, and even their scientific name help to make the sale professional. For any Master Gardener new to the organization who wants to know more about the sale, give Len Harms (Plant Sale Committee Chair) a call at 238-5918.

COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE

Join the Michiana Master Gardener Community Garden Committee members for an informational seminar on Saturday, March 12th, from 1-3 p.m. at the Elkhart Environmental Center, 1717 South Lusher in Elkhart. Organic vegetable gardening and community gardening at the airport gardens will be discussed. Light refreshments will be served. From Goshen, CR 45, to Hively, to Sterling Ave to Lusher, go south and Lusher ends at the EEC. If you think you would like to volunteer at the gardens this year, plan to stay for a short meeting after the seminar topics have been presented. Plans by Ruth Middleton, Suzanne Gray, and Christie Egendoerfer are underway for a pollinator garden with more information to come for the new pollinator garden. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call. *Submitted by Sue Stuckman, Community Garden Committee Chair*

SPRING GARDEN SHOWS CURE WINTER BLUES

March 12-20, Indiana Flower and Patio Show, Indiana State Fairgrounds, Indianapolis
March 12-20, Chicago Flower and Garden Show, Navy Pier, Chicago
March 18-20, Louisville Home and Garden Show, Expo Center, Louisville
April 13-17, Cincinnati Flower Show, Yeatman's Cove, Cincinnati
April 15-16, Indiana Daffodil Show, Holliday Park Nature Center, Indianapolis
April 16-17, Indiana Orchid Show, Garfield Park Conservatory, Indianapolis
May 6-7, Indiana Gourd Show, Boone County Fairgrounds, Lebanon, Indiana



Photos: Left: Indiana Flower and Patio Show; Middle: Cincinnati Flower Show; Right: Indiana Orchid Show; Photo Credits: Rosie Lerner

INFORMATION FOR OUR MEMBERS

Page 18

MAKE FRIENDS, MAKE MERCHANDISE, MAKE GARDEN TOUR FUN

March 19th, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Pine cone zinnias, plate wheels, jelly feeders, sun catchers, and more.

April 2nd, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., painted windows, wreaths, lanterns, markers, and more.

April 30th, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Mosaic birdbaths, puddlers, concrete hands, fire bowls, and more. The weather may be cold, so stay tuned on these projects.

May 31st, MMGA Member Meeting, 7 p.m., Bottle gardens, plant ties, birdhouses, memory games, and more.

June 24th, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Soaps, terrariums, and finishing up.

June 25th, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Pricing items and packing up for tour.

Submitted by Loanne Harms, Garden Tour Merchandise Chair

TREE SALE COMMITTEE

The Annual Tree Sale date is fast approaching. The sale will be held on April 16th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Sheep Swine Arena at the fairgrounds. As I have mentioned in the past, we need a lot of help to get ready for the sale. If you have not signed up to help on the Wednesday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday, day of sale, and want to do so please let me know. I will have the sign-up sheets with me at the Spring Celebration if you want to sign up on that day. You can also let me know by email or phone. If you have signed up but do not remember what day, please feel free to contact me. REMEMBER, THIS COUNTS FOR VOLUNTEER HOURS.

Remember on Thursday and Friday, wear warm, old clothes and shoes with rubber soles. Most importantly, wear gloves. We will have snacks and coffee. If you are signed up to help on Wednesday, you do not need to be there until 12:00 p.m. That day will be helping unload the trees and setting up the tables for Thursday and Friday. The rest of the days, please be there at 8:00 a.m., including the day of the sale. On the day of the sale, remember we will need help after the sale to help clean up and get things put away so if you can stay over or if you are only able to come to help clean up, you need to be there around 1:00 p.m.

Remember, this is a joint event between MMGA and SWCD. We all work together to make it a big success, and we all share in the work as well as in the profits and most of all we all have a GREAT time. (The Tree Sale preorder deadline is March 8th.

Submitted by Barbara Heeter, Tree Sale Committee Chair

The Soil and Water Conservation District is offering Rain Barrel Workshops on March 9th, April 6th, and May 3rd. These are independent sessions held in locations in Goshen and Elkhart. If you are interested in more information, check their website or call 574-533-4383 Ext 3.



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
MARCH 2016

“Springtime is the land awakening. The
March winds are the morning yawn.”
Lewis Grizzard