

PURDUE
EXTENSION

ELKHART COUNTY



October 2017 Broadcaster



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The Michiana

Broadcaster
“Helping Each Other Grow!”

Michiana Master Gardeners Association

OCTOBER 2017

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“DAN’S DIGGINGS”
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE by DAN CARLSON

Greetings fellow gardeners,

Yesterday, my wife, Carol, and I did a tour of all the Epic Art Statues and Quilt Gardens of Elkhart County. After ninety miles and seven hours, we had seen all fifty-seven statues and all sixteen quilt gardens. Our seven hours did include short breaks for lunch and later DQ. We also enjoyed a quick tour through the Midwest Museum of American Art.

The statues are well done, have so much detail, and are very life like.

The only exception I would note is the “Shaping Up” figure near McCarthy’s. I don’t ever remember seeing a real life jogger smiling!

The quilt gardens were beautiful even though a couple were starting to show end of summer fading. The quilt garden at Krider’s World Fair Garden had been decimated by Impatiens Downy Mildew, which we thought we had waited out. You can tell how much work the gardeners do in planting the quilt gardens. I know many of you had a hand in several of these gardens.

As we drove around the county, we noticed many beautiful gardens and fields full of crops. Soon it will be time to finish the harvest and prepare for the coming bad weather. As you enjoy your garden’s fruitfulness, take time to remember and pray for those who have lost their gardens, crops and homes in the recent hurricanes.

Remember that October’s Member Meeting is Tuesday, October 24th. This is a week early so you all can go Trick or Treating on Halloween.

Yours in gardening,

Dan Carlson



*****A Notice from the Board of Directors*****

If you want to post a Master Gardener Event on Facebook or other social media, you must clear the posting with Nancy Borkholder at the Extension Office to get the proper Purdue information to be included in the posting.



*Day Minder . . .
Watch Us Grow*



October

2	Mon.	Garden Tour Committee Meeting, Extension Office Conference Room	7 .m.
10	Tues.	Board Meeting, Extension Office Conference Room	6 p.m.
24	Tues.	Jason Becker, Fashion Farm Pumpkin Magic Through the Years	7 p.m.

November

1	Wed.	Deadline for submitting hours, volunteer agreement & MMGA membership forms	All Day
6	Mon.	Garden Tour Committee Meeting, Extension Office Conference Room	7 p.m.
14	Tues.	Board Meeting, Extension Office Conference Room	6 p.m.
21	Tues.	Garden Show Committee Meeting, Extension Office Conference Room	6:30 p.m.
28	Tues.	Monthly Member Meeting Thanks-for-Giving Carry-In Dinner	6:30 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.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

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

Tuesday, October 24 (NOTE DATE CHANGE) Jason Becker, Fashion Farm,
Pumpkin Magic Through the Years
Tuesday, November 28 Thanks-for-Giving Carry-In, 6:30 p.m.
No Meeting for December due to holidays

Tuesday, January 30, 2018 TBA
Tuesday, February 27, 2018 Martha Wilczynski, Lavender Hill Farm

Board Meetings, SECOND Tuesday of the month, Ext. Office Conference Room, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, October 10
Tuesday, November 14
Tuesday, December 12

Garden Tour Meetings, FIRST Monday of the month, Ext. Office Conference Room, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, October 2
Tuesday, November 6
No Meeting in December

Garden Show Meetings, Tuesdays, Ext. Office Conference Room, 6:30 p.m.

October TBD	Tuesday, January 23, 2018
Tuesday, November 21	Tuesday, February 20, 2018
No December meeting	Tuesday, March 20, 2018
	Tuesday, April 17, 2018
	Tuesday, May 22, 2018
	Tuesday, June 19, 2018
	No July Meeting (because of Fair and Garden Tour)
	Tuesday, August 21, 2018
	Tuesday, September 18, 2018
	Tuesday, October 23, 2018
	Tuesday, November 20, 2018
	No December Meeting



Watch for a new column ,which will be a “meet our members” column, written by Carol Swartzendruber. If Carol contacts you to feature you in a column, please consider it....we would love to know more about you, your family and your interests .

Attention MMGA Members
Articles for the November Broadcaster will be due on **OCTOBER 10TH.**
Please e-mail items to Tammy O'Rourke at tjotlo@gmail.com before this date. Thank you.

JEFF BURBRINK: LAWN TIPS FOR LATE SUMMER
AUGUST 29, 2017



If you were asked to pick one time of the year to improve your bluegrass lawn, most people would guess April or May. In truth, the best time to give your lawn a little extra TLC is late summer in our area.

Start by fertilizing with a good quality lawn fertilizer. For established lawns, apply fertilizers that contain 25 to 50 percent slow-release nitrogen. On the fertilizer bag, you will see the nitrogen fertilizer labeled water soluble or water insoluble. The water insoluble nitrogen is slow release. If the bag contains 30 percent nitrogen, and 10 percent is water insoluble, you have found a good fertilizer. Apply 1 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of lawn. If you have a 40-pound bag of a 30-0-5 lawn fertilizer, the bag contains 12 pounds of nitrogen (30 percent of 40 pounds). The bag will treat 12,000 square feet.

The instructions on nearly all commercial lawn fertilizers are set up at the 1- pound rate. If your lawn is a half-acre in size, (about 21,000 square feet), you will need to buy two bags. A second dose of fall fertilizer, sometimes called a winterizer, can be applied in early November. Again, this can be applied at the 1 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square-foot rate. You can save some money fertilizing in the fall by finding a cheaper product with less slow-release (water insoluble) nitrogen.

Do not forget to mow properly. That may seem like a basic concept, but most people mow too low. Set your mower to mow at 3 to 3½ inches. The thicker grass will be healthier and crowd out many of the weeds. Generally in the fall, you can get by with mowing once a week, but when the grass is growing quickly you might have to cut two times a week.

Water is important for lawns, too. In our area, rainfall usually is adequate in September and October to grow turfgrass. However, supplemental water may be needed if you shoot for something better than an average lawn. Automatic sprinklers are wonderful, but do not set them up to water every day. Instead, water deep and infrequently. Generally, it is best to apply one to 1½ inches of water in a single dose and then wait until the turf needs watering again. In the heat of summer, that means you might be watering every three days, but in September, you might be able to water every five to seven days, depending on temperature and rainfall.

A lot of people ask, "How long will it take me to apply an inch of water?" My answer is: that depends on how your irrigation system is set up. The best way is to measure the output of your system. I use straight sided coffee mugs. The output can vary by both the distance from the nozzle and by how your zones are set up.

By watering, fertilizing and mowing properly, you'll find you cut down on weed control products. Fall is the best time for control of dandelions and other broadleaved weeds in turf. In October, use a lawn weed control product that contains a three-way mix of 2,4-D, mecoprop (MCP) and dicamba. This is much more effective than spraying dandelions in the spring when they are blooming. Hard-to-control weeds such as wild violets and creeping Charlie may require an herbicide containing triclopyr or fluroxypyr. If those do not work, consider hiring a professional to control these difficult weeds, or learn to coexist with them.

EEOC STATEMENT It is the policy of the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service that all persons have equal opportunity and access to its educational programs, services, activities, and facilities without regard to race, religion, color, sex, age national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, disability, or status as a veteran. Purdue University is an Affirmative Action institution.

The Answer Line handled 34 inquires in August. That makes 172 inquiries handled so far this season. In addition, there were 73 inquiries handled in Ag Hall during the Fair. Answer Line volunteers followed up on many of the Fair questions. Master Gardeners have helped 245 people in the last five months!

Spruce decline is a continuing concern. There were inquiries about fruit and vegetable problems and care. Insect identification and control were topics of discussion.

One client had the fire department do a drill, burning down a house. He had a water curtain to protect a nearby 40-foot pine tree. Unfortunately, the water curtain went dry too soon and the tree was severely burned on one side. He wanted to know if it would come back.

I like to pick out one or two inquiries that catch my interest to do some additional research. This month I have picked inquiries about killers and mummies.

The killers are *Sphecius speciosus*, otherwise known as cicada killers. Cicada killers are large and ominous looking and somewhat aggressive. They nest in the ground in aggregations of solitary wasps. The males may dive bomb you as they patrol the nesting area. However, only the females will sting and only if you try to handle them. After digging her nest, the female searches for a cicada to sting. The sting does not kill, only immobilizes the cicada. The wasp carries the cicada back to the nest. This is quite a feat, as the cicada weighs as much or more than the wasp. The wasp seals the cicada with an egg in a cell in the nest. In 2-3 days the egg hatches and the larva burrows into the still living cicada. The larva consumes the cicada as it over winters in the sealed cell. The adult wasp will die in by mid-September; however, the overwintering larva will emerge as a new adult the next July. One female may lay up to sixteen eggs in her nest. This wasp is a gardener's friend. If they nest in an undesirable area, soak the area with water. They do not like wet soil and may relocate. Sources: Purdue, E254W, "Cicada Killers" and Univ. of Kentucky, "Cicada Killer Wasps".

Mummies may haunt your fruit orchard! *Monilinia fruticola* is a fungus that causes brown rot in stone fruit. Fungus spores land on wet blossoms in the spring, causing the flower to wilt but not fall off. The infection can spread to the spurs, then twigs where cankers are formed. The infection can then spread to the fruit, especially if injured. Fruit infections first appear as soft brown spots. Within two days the fruit can become shriveled and wrinkled, looking like a mummy. The fungus will over winter in mummified fruit remaining on the tree or laying on the ground. The cycle will repeat the next spring. If not controlled, the entire tree could be lost. Good sanitation is the best way to keep the mummies out of your orchard. Remove all mummies and prune out any cankers during the dormant season. Some cultivars are resistant. If applied according to the directions, there are some effective fungicides. Source: Purdue, BP45W, "Brown Rot on Tree Fruit in the Home Orchard". There is another mummy that can haunt your blueberries. I'm running out of space so I'll refer you to Oregon State Extension, "Mummy berry could spook your blueberries".



A DIFFERENT VIEWPOINT
BY SUSIE KLEPINGER

Do you remember what it felt like when school let out for the summer? Aw, come on. You remember that feeling, don't you? No worries, no work, just play and recreation.

Well, that is how we feel when Susie starts grumbling about having to move us all to the porch in May. Every year she says, "No more", and every year we get a "summer vacation" with loads of fresh air and light...not the stale, dry furnace air speckled with shortened rays of winter's light. Let me tell you how this summer went for us after the transfer.

At first, the change was incredible with temps between 50 and 70 degrees every day. Boy, did we like that! Then it got hot. Was that 90 plus degrees I felt? Well, my friends and I (except the cacti) just shut down and waited for a break. Cedar Point's Roller Coaster has nothing on the ups and downs of an Indiana summer.

Next the humidity hit. I know Susie was watering carefully because we weren't transpiring enough to use what we had in storage. My succulent friends were really dismayed; dryness is their forte! Soon leaf spots appeared on the orchids and some foliage buddies. It was like the winter flu epidemic that hits humans in January. The orchids were brought into a room in the house to keep their leaves dry. Many had been "rescued" from sale racks and needed no more stress. Insects didn't bother us much. Natural predators kept them under control.

Well, here it is...summer's end, and I hear Susie grumbling again about the work that goes with finding a winter home for all of us. Deep down, I know she is missing us. We will all get a bath, a thorough physical exam, and a new spot on the window sill. What could be better?

Maybe I will find a new friend among her summer acquisitions!



The Old Man and the Harvest

He has worked the garden now,
for all these many months.
Early produce has been enjoyed,
now comes the final harvest.

Most crops did well, some did not,
but still the land gives back.
One part labor yielding five in return.
Bounty for both table and spirit.

The beans have been pulled, the potatoes dug.
Crops stored for the days ahead.
And then will come the final tending,
to prepare the garden for rest.

In the cool of the evening the old man sits,
reflecting upon his day.
Sun or rain, hot or cold,
he counts it all as good.

To have a life well lived,
requires not an absence of struggle.
But rather in finding the joy,
in the most common of everyday things.

Jim Carpenter

AND SO THE GARDEN GROWS**BY JIM CARPENTER**

This year's garden is pretty much in the books. Most of the produce has been harvested and either already eaten or put away for consumption at a later date. Those fresh onion, tomato and cucumber salads were ambrosia as we ate them nearly every day for a number of weeks.

But everything has its season and the outdoor garden is winding down as we inevitably make our way into autumn. With the exception of a few fall crops to tend to, garden duties here on out will be mostly in cleaning up and planting some cover crops. The fall vegetables I planted were carrots, kale and arugula.

I tend to have pretty good luck with most all of the root crops I plant. The onions, potatoes and garlic did very well once again. My carrots were pretty well decimated by a hungry ground hog early in the season so I have fall carrots growing for a late harvest. I love growing fall carrots as they seem to be sweeter when they finally get harvested in late November or even into December. Of course, some people mulch their carrot bed and are able to keep them going clear into winter.

Many of my veggies were winding down by the time September rolled around. But even by then we had enjoyed quite a few zucchini, cucumber, and green beans. A few tomatoes will keep producing until the first killing frost. Other than a little more than normal loss to predators, the garden once again fulfilled its expectations.

Something that I tried this year was growing potatoes in a vertical bed. I had tried variations of this before but never quite like this. I was inspired in part by what Craig Stiver has been doing with potatoes in the kid's garden he grows at the county fair. I used some wire fencing and made a cylinder about 2 feet in diameter. In this circle I layered dirt, straw and potatoes in succession until I had it about 2-3 feet high.

I researched this on line and found the only real concern was in keeping the potatoes supplied with plenty of water. As in the case of any type of raised bed the soil tends to dry out quickly. The potatoes are still growing so I don't know yet how they will produce. Since I put at least three pounds of spuds in this relatively small area I am hoping for a good harvest from this method.

As age and circumstance dictate, the success of this method might very well be useful as a space saver in downsizing the garden. Another

plus is that even if I don't harvest the potatoes until later in the fall, I will not lose track of where they are. Sometimes I don't dig my potatoes until the vines are dead and gone and I have a problem knowing just where they are.

Another thing that I am pretty happy with are the yellow beans I planted. I am sure I have planted wax beans before at some point in my 40 plus years of growing vegetables, but I really don't recall when. At any rate, these beans have out produced the plantings of green beans I had and are also still going strong. One more advantage of yellow beans is that they are easier to spot in the green foliage when you are picking them.

One last thing I would like to mention are the 'Fourth of July' tomatoes we planted this year. My wife picked up these plants from a local garden center this spring and they performed as advertised. By the second week of July we had ripe red tomatoes. This small hybrid tomato has great flavor and made many bacon, lettuce, tomato sandwiches for us while most varieties were still green on the vine. I was also able to share them with people while they waited for their own tomatoes to ripen.

I thought the weather this year was pretty decent for gardening; not too hot and a fair amount of moisture. The garden always seems to have a few surprises but generally there are good ones as well as some not so good. I suppose you could say in that regard, the garden imitates life.

That also reminds me of how we lost a few more gardeners recently. Some people just can't be replaced. But at the same time I am also reminded of how the actions in our life often have a rippling effect. I think you understand. Keep growing!



HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

- Keep poinsettia in complete darkness for 15 hours each day — for example, between 5 p.m. and 8 a.m. — for eight to 10 weeks until red bracts begin to show.
- Pot spring-flowering bulbs to force into bloom indoors. Moisten soil and refrigerate 10 to 13 weeks. Transfer to a cool, sunny location, and allow an additional three to four weeks for blooming.
- Houseplants, especially those grown outdoors during the summer, commonly drop some or many of their leaves in response to the lower natural light intensity in the autumn and reduced light intensity indoors.
- Water indoor plants less frequently, and discontinue fertilizer as plants slow down or stop growing for the winter season.

**YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)**

- Keep plants, especially newly planted stock, well watered until ground freezes.
- Have soil ready to mound roses for winter protection. Do not mound or cover roses until after leaves drop and soil is near freezing, usually late November or early December.
- Strawberry plants need protection from winter's extremes, but applying winter mulch too early may cause crowns to rot. Apply winter protection when plants are dormant but before temperatures drop below 20 F, usually late November or early December.
- Rake or shred large, fallen tree leaves such as maple, to prevent them from matting down and smothering grass. Raking smaller leaves, such as honey locust, is optional.
- September and October are good months to apply broadleaf weed killers. Be sure to follow all label directions, and choose a calm day to prevent spray drift.
- Continue mowing lawn as needed.

GARDEN (Flowers, vegetables and small fruits)

- Harvest root crops and store in a cold (32 F), humid location. Storing produce in perforated plastic bags is a convenient, easy way to increase humidity.
- Harvest Brussels sprouts as they develop in the axils of the leaves from the bottom of the stem. Brussels sprouts will continue to develop up the stem.
- Harvest pumpkins and winter squash before frost, but when rind is hard and fully colored. Store in a cool location until ready to use.
- Harvest gourds when stems begin to brown and dry. Cure at 70-80 F for two to four weeks.
- Harvest mature, green tomatoes before frost and ripen indoors in the dark. Warmer temperatures lead to faster ripening.
- Asparagus top growth should not be removed until foliage yellows. Let foliage stand over winter to collect snow for insulation and moisture.
- Remove plant debris from the garden to protect next year's plantings from insect and disease buildup. Compost plant refuse by alternating layers of soil, plant material, and manure or commercial fertilizer.
- Have garden soil tested for fertilizer needs every three to five years.
- Plowing and incorporating organic matter in fall avoids the rush of garden activities and waterlogged soil in spring. Soils prepared in the fall tend to warm faster and allow earlier planting in spring.
- Carve a Halloween jack-o'-lantern.
- Dig tender garden flower bulbs for winter storage. Gladiolus corms should be dug when leaves begin turning yellow. Caladiums, geraniums and tuberous begonias should be lifted before killing frost. Dig canna and dahlia roots after a heavy frost. Allow to air dry, then pack in dry peat moss or vermiculite, and store in a cool location.
- Complete planting of spring-flowering bulbs.

Right: Dyanne Zimmerman (left) and Heidi Zavatsky (right) sort, weigh and log the day's harvest on a sunny Tuesday morning at the garden



A local bee keeper places a hive at the garden each year to help provide pollinators for the garden, and in turn he harvests the honey at the end of the season. The bees cannot resist the sunflowers!



RECIPES FROM OUR MEMBERS

When I think of fall food, I think of soups and casseroles. Warm, cozy comfort food. These are a few recipes out of our MMGA Cookbook which you might enjoy on these crisp fall evenings.

CORN CHOWDER BY CRAIG STIVER

1 lb. port sausage	1/8 tsp. pepper
1 c. coarsely chopped onion	1 can 1 oz. creamed corn
4 c. cubed peeled potatoes	1 can 17 oz. whole corn, drained
2 c. water	1 can 12 oz. evaporated milk
1 tsp. salt	
½ tsp dried crushed marjoram	

In a Dutch oven or kettle, cook sausage and onion until sausage is brown and onion is tender, drain on paper towel. Return to Dutch oven and add potatoes, salt, marjoram, pepper and water. Bring to boil, reduce heat and simmer until potatoes are tender about 15 minutes. Add cream corn, whole corn and evaporated milk, and heat through. Makes about 6 servings.

TACO SOUP BY CAROL SWARTZENDRUBER

1 lb. ground beef, browned	1 can chopped green chilies
1 c. kidney beans	1 envelope taco seasoning
1 c. whole kernel corn	1 package Ranch dressing mix
1 can pinto beans	
1 can (28 oz.) diced tomatoes	

Simmer all ingredients together for 30 minutes or more.

TOSCANA SOUP BY LOANNE HARMS

2 ½ c. chicken broth	½ lb. spicy Italian sausage
¼ c. heavy cream	¼ tsp. salt
1 russet potato, thinly sliced	¼ tsp. crushed red pepper flakes
2 c. fresh kale, chopped	

Combine broth and cream, and heat. Add potatoes and kale. Sauté sausage, slice if links, and add to broth mixture. Add salt and pepper to taste and simmer two hours.

ITALIAN VEGETABLE SOUP BY SHERRIE MCCLURE

1 28 oz. can plum tomatoes, diced 3 medium zucchini, sliced ¼" thick
6 c. reduced-fat beef broth 8 c. cooked orzo or other small Italian pasta
1 tbsp. olive oil 1 8 oz. can garbanzo beans, drained
1 onion, chopped ½ tsp. salt
5 garlic cloves, minced ¼ tsp. pepper
2-3 fresh basil sprigs or 1 tsp. dried 3 tbsp. flat leaf Italian parsley, chopped for garnish
1 tsp. fresh oregano or ½ tsp. dried
1 medium green pepper, seeded and chopped

In a heavy stockpot, combine tomatoes, beef broth, olive oil, onion and garlic. Heat just to boiling, but do not allow to boil. Reduce heat; simmer 30 minutes. Add basil, oregano, green pepper and zucchini. Simmer covered 5-7 minutes, or until zucchini is just tender. Stir in orzo and garbanzo beans. Heat to serving temperature; season with salt and pepper. Garnish with Parsley. Makes 6 quarts.

CHEDDAR CHOWDER BY GAYE YODER

2 c. water ¼ c. butter
2 c. potatoes, diced ¼ c. flour
½ c. carrots, diced 2 c. milk
½ c. celery, diced 2 c. cheddar cheese, grated
1 tsp. salt 1 c. ham, cubed
¼ tsp. pepper

Combine water, potatoes, carrots, celery, onion, salt and pepper in large kettle. Boil 10-12 minutes. Meanwhile, in small saucepan, make white sauce by melting the butter. Add flour and stir until smooth (about 1 minute). Slowly add milk; cook until thickened. Add grated cheese to white sauce; stir until melted. Add white sauce and cubed ham to vegetables that have NOT been drained. Heat through. Yield 6 servings

INSTANT HOT CHOCOLATE MIX BY JOYCE MILLER

1 lb. Nestle's instant cocoa mix 8 oz. box powdered milk
8 oz. instant cream 3 c. powdered sugar
 ½ tsp. salt

Combine all ingredients in a large bowl. Mix thoroughly and pass through a sieve. Store in container until ready for use. Add 1/3 to 1/2 cup to mug and fill with boiling water. May also use 1 tablespoon as flavored coffee creamer.

RECIPES FROM OUR MEMBERS**CHICKEN DELIGHT BY BONNIE MORRISON**

1 ½ c. cooked chicken, diced	1 c. sour cream
2 c. cooked noodles	1 tbsp. parsley, minced
¼ c. green peppers, chopped	¼ c. milk
¼ c. onion, chopped	1 4-oz. can mushrooms, drained (optional)
2 tbsp. butter	½ tsp. salt
1 can cream of chicken soup	dash of pepper

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Sauté green pepper and onion in butter until tender. Add soup and rest of ingredients except noodles. Blend. Gently stir in noodles. Turn into buttered 1 ½ or 2 quart casserole dish. Sprinkle with parsley and bake for 35 minutes. Optional: the last 10-25 minutes, cover top with buttered crumbs.

INFORMATION FOR OUR MEMBERS**2019 GARDEN SHOW**

Hello Folks! Here is a bit of news to catch you up on planning for the 2019 Garden Show.

We have designated meeting dates for the rest of this year and 2018. At the September Garden Show meeting, we will discuss a change in the October date, since October 24 conflicts with the regular MMGA member meeting. At the present time we have 17 committee members. Our 2018 budget has been submitted for review.

Both of the openings for finding speakers and vendors have been filled. Mayrea Reusser has taken on responsibility for finding speakers, and Len and Loanne Harms will be working with vendors. I am so pleased to have them on board. We have had discussions about a catchy theme for our show as well as what topics we will offer. Hopefully we will have answers to those questions soon.

As guests arrive at the show, our ticket and registration committee will gather names, emails and address information from each person attending to make it easier to notify them of future shows. We are planning on at least 50 vendors, door prizes, great speakers, and wonderful food vendors. We are utilizing the 4H building and Ag Hall for our vendors, speakers, food, and other activities.

Each of our committee members is working hard on their individual assignments. Of this I am very grateful. Please stay tuned for more information.

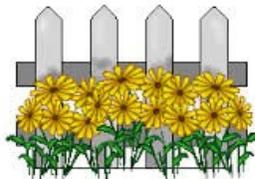
Until next month,
Carol Novy, 2019 Garden Show Chair

INFORMATION FOR OUR MEMBERS

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2017 GARDEN TOUR

The 20th Annual Garden Tour on July 8, 2017, set in Middlebury, was a great success. All was due to a great deal of team effort on the part of all the committee members and to all the many volunteers at the event. A special thanks is due to the homeowners for their preparation and for allowing so many people a peek into their treasured gardens. We can give God thanks for a great growing season and nice weather for the day of the Tour.



338 tickets were sold and 104 complimentary tickets were given to participants. We took in \$1,263.00 from merchandise and \$900.00 from plant sales. Thank you to all who contributed. Our profit is approximately \$4,483.00. Good job everyone.

I had wonderful committee members who did their assigned tasks well and with enthusiasm. I would encourage any MMGA member to get involved in this committee. There are great mentors and detailed reports for each person involved. While working together we all enjoying getting to know our fellow MMGA members better. The next meeting of the Garden Tour committee is Monday, October 2nd at 7 p.m. in the Extension Office committee room. Anne Overmyer is the chair for the 2018 Garden Tour. Everyone is welcome.

Carol Swartzendruber, 2017 Garden Tour Chair

2018 GARDEN TOUR APPRECIATION DINNER

Everyone seemed to enjoy our dinner which looked very festive with the beautiful flowers and table settings. There were 105 in attendance and we all had plenty of food to eat. Flowers were provided and arranged by our own Tracy Byler, the mostaccioli and garlic bread were catered by Dana J. in Goshen and the pies came from Dan's Pies in North Webster. The CD presentation, which was made and presented by Deb Mann, was very much appreciated and a copy was given to each of the homeowners with photobooks given to the two Amish couples. It was a good evening.

Someone mistakenly took one of the purple Ball jar flower containers along with the flowers. If you would bring or send it to the next meeting and give it to one of the greeters, it will be returned to the owner.

Thank you, Carol Swartzendruber

A MESSAGE FROM JEFF AND NANCY

October is a busy time for all Master Gardeners. Please remember to submit your hours for proper credit, renew your annual volunteer agreement at <https://www.purdue.edu/mg-volunteer/login.php> or contact Nancy if you need to do this in paper form. If you plan to renew your membership with the MMGA, please complete the enclosed directory form and pay your dues. Please make sure you these items are turned in **no later than November 1, 2017**. Thank you for all you do for our community!

INFORMATION FOR OUR MEMBERS

MMGA Board Meeting
August 8, 2017
6:00 p.m. Extension Office

Present: Jeff Burbrink, Dan Carlson, Kathleen Cripe, Connie Garber, Loanne Harms, Dianna Jackson, Carol Novy, Anne Regier, Bill Roberts, Jenny Schrock, Craig Stiver, Ron Troyer, Cindy Watson. Absent: Amy McLaughlin

Dan welcomed the group and called the meeting to order. **Secretary's report**-Jenny noted a correction needed in the Secretary's report. As corrected, Jenny moved that the July secretary's report be approved and Kathleen seconded; motion passed. Anne presented the **Treasurer's report**. The checking account balance is \$11,912.77; money market balance is \$18,761.90; savings balance is \$137.32; and cash on hand is \$200.00, for a total of \$31,011.99. Noted losses were in line items for Community Garden (straw and other expenses) and the Bus Trip. Jenny asked if budget forms would be available prior to the budget discussions coming up at the September meeting. Following discussion about how to note income/expenses on the budget sheet, Jenny made the motion to approve the treasurer's report and Ron seconded; motion passed.

Educator's Report-Jeff shared his appreciation for all that Master Gardeners did at the fair-the contest, watching the building, the good talks given for the public, etc. Jeff also shared that the new 2017 Master Gardeners class starts Thursday, August 10. There are 16 class members thus far. Jeff invited Dan to help with registration Thursday and to say a few words to the new class. On Thursday, Jeff will be talking with John Orick and he wants Jeff to share his sense of why our retention rate is so high for our Michiana Master Gardeners Association. In asking for input from the board, these are some of the positives shared about our association: swell people, activities like the bus trip, various programs and speakers, answer line, not focused on just one thing, Jeff and how well he teaches the classes, our 4-H Fair and the fairgrounds. Jeff also told the group of the passing of Jim Maddux on Sunday morning. An email about arrangements for Jim's visitation and funeral was sent out. He plans to make an announcement about hours (40) to be granted to those Master Gardeners who have hosted the garden tour at their home, retroactive for those who have hosted in the past. **Committee Reports** (Those not listed had no report.): **Answer Line**-Dan shared that it's going well and they've fielded about 200 calls. **Archivist** - Kathleen talked with Marilyn Horvath about serving in this capacity and said Marilyn is thinking about this and will get back to her. She would be replacing Kathy Radican for the rest of that term. **Broadcaster**-Tammy would like the "Meet our Member" column to again become a part of the Broadcaster. **2016 Class Update**-Excited to be finished with all of the presentations, with the most recent ones given at the fair. Dianne suggested lessening the time between at least the Monday sessions from 1.5 hour to just 1 hour. **Community Gardens**-50+ pounds of produce was harvested this morning, primarily cabbage, carrots and green beans. **Fair Board**-They're pleased with the number of people coming to the fair this year-some 240,000 to 250,000 people. There was better accuracy with the new ticket scanners. **Fair Set Up**-Kathleen reported that three (two on Sunday) people per shift was fine and things went well. **Garden Tour**-Ron provided a verbal and written report from the Garden Tour wrap-up meeting. 338 tickets were sold for \$3620.00, \$1249.91 from merchandise sales, \$900.00 from the plant sale, \$2660.00 from program ads for a total income of \$8,200.00. Average attendance per garden was 278. An invitation has been sent by Linda Harkleroad for the upcoming appreciation dinner for our garden tour hosts. There is no cost for MMGA members but \$6.00 is the fee for a member's guest. RSVP your attendance to Linda Harkleroad by August 19. There was board member discussion about a need for a central spot for garden tour storage. Items are spread all over-on the fairgrounds as well as at homes. Jeff suggested the garden tour committee consider coming up with a plan, drawings and/or dimensions and work with Kate Rink. Just don't tell the fair board where to place a building. **Merchandise**-Carol reported income of \$249.87, \$128.40 in expenses and \$35.00 in cash. Shirts left include some of the tie-dye, the older grayish-green, and a good selection of the newer brightly colored ones. Ruth will be ordering some of the bright pink shirts soon. **Nominating Committee**-Dan will announce that the chairperson position for the Nominating Committee is still open. **Programs**-August 29 is the Garden Tour thank you dinner and the September 26 meeting's speaker will be from Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve. **Quilt Gardens**-The list of flowers was not available. Pattern selection needs to be done by the end of August. Because there still isn't a chairperson for the Goshen fairgrounds garden, Cindy will contact Maryann Lienhart-Cross about selecting the pattern. **Set up**-Things are going fine. It was

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MMGA Member Meeting
August 29, 2017
7:00 p.m. Ag Hall

Dan Carlson welcomed everyone and introduced the garden tour hosts. Anne Overmyer was introduced by Carol Swartzendruber as the 2018 Garden Tour committee chairperson. Carol also extended the invitation for others to join the garden tour committee. Loanne led the group in prayer and we were dismissed for the meal.

Anne Regier shared the treasurer’s report. The checking account balance is \$11,522.48; money market is \$18,762.50; savings is \$137.32 and cash on hand is \$200.00 for a total of \$30,622.30. Anne read a thank you letter for MMGA participation in the Horticulture Open Class. Ginger Thorne made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report and Carol Swartzendruber seconded; motion passed.

Carol Novy talked about the symposium coming up on 9/16 in Merrville. See Carol this evening if you want to participate.

A nominations committee has been formed; openings for a couple of Board positions.

Dan asked if any other chairpersons had their budgets for him this evening. They are needed by Tuesday, September 5.

The video of the garden tour was played and the following gardens were shown:

- Garden 1 – Bonita and Mel Miller, CR 8
- Garden 2 – Barb and Al Spice, Krider Drive
- Garden 3 – Deb and Jody Nihart, W. Berry Street
- Garden 4 – Brenda Powers and Keith Thomas, W. Lawrence Street
- Garden 5 – Char and Ed Swoveland, W. Lawrence Street
- Garden 6 – Katie and Norman Lehman, CR 16
- Garden 7 – Arlene and Allen Bontreger, CR 43
- Garden 8 – Ginger Thorne, Spring Valley Drive
- Garden 9 – Gaye and Kent Yoder, Rosewood Lane

After a show of thanks for our garden tour hosts, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is Tuesday, September 26, 7:00 p.m. in Ag Hall.

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Watson, Secretary



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pointed out that volunteers will be needed to set up the round tables for the August 29 appreciation dinner. Ron will contact the garden tour committee about set up. Tear down per normal process. **Speakers Bureau-**Ron reported that Marilyn said things are going well and she will continue posting in the Broadcaster. **Spring Celebration-**Kathleen is working on gathering a committee and preparing a budget for what they will need. **Webmaster-**No problems. **Old Business: Fair tent-**Had a great turnout with a total of 150 children participating. The tent is again available to our association for the kid’s projects-same times as this year. Craig can chair this but won’t be in the tent the whole time. There will not be any cost to our association. Will **need** to have topics and dates chosen by April 1. Craig felt the kids really enjoyed it. He also reported that Sarah shared they are looking to move to “G.” If space is available, MMGA could do a garden in the current area-fenced in and controlled. Something to keep in mind for down the road. **Garden Show-**Next meeting is August 22. The group will be planning to meet the third Tuesday of each month in the Extension Office conference room. Still working on a couple of positions. Carol is hopeful the show will be profitable. In talking with the Porter County show chairperson, Carol learned that their show was profitable each year except one, and that one year they broke even. The plan is for us to have 50 vendors/exhibitors in the 4-H building and that should pretty much fill the building so we will be working on layout for speakers, etc. The show date is 2/23/19. **Budgets for 2018** will be discussed next month. **The bus trip** final figures are not yet done. Is that an activity we want to do annually? Carol made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Kathleen seconded; motion passed. Dan adjourned the August meeting at 7:15 p.m. The next Board meeting will be held September 12, 2017, at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Watson, MMGA Board Secretary

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
OCTOBER 2017

**Every leaf speaks bliss to me,
fluttering from the Autumn tree.**
Emily Bronte