



PURDUE UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
Elkhart County
Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds
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The Michiana

Broadcaster
"Helping Each Other Grow!"

Michiana Master Gardeners Association JANUARY 2017

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"DAN'S DIGGINGS"
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by DAN CARLSON

Greetings fellow gardeners,

As we begin a new year, it is appropriate to spend a moment reflecting on the year past. It was a busy year with all the usual activities: Spring Celebration, Tree Sale, Answer Line, Community Garden, Speakers Bureau, Garden Walk, Fair Week, Thanks for Giving, monthly meetings, and the many activities in support. It was also a difficult year with

the loss of some dedicated members and family members. The weather was different this past year. It's the first time I can remember cutting my grass while picking up leaves on November 30th!

It's time to look forward to the start of a new year. A good starting point is a review of the MMGA Mission Statement.

"The Michiana Master Gardeners' Association is a not-for-profit educational organization dedicated to the improvement of our 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 the life in the community by providing information and technical assistance in the area of home horticulture through the use of trained and certified volunteers."

Everything we do as Master Gardeners should support this mission. The new board will be seeking input from the membership about improving our current activities, soliciting new ideas, involving more existing and especially new members in planning and carrying out activities, and helping new members become more familiar with the workings of the association.

I look forward to serving as your President and working with the board. We, however, will serve you best by receiving your constructive comments and ideas.

The board has discussed a couple of ideas I would like to share and get feedback. One would be organizing a bus trip to a garden show, botanical garden, or conservatory. We would also like feedback from members that go to the Porter County Garden Show on January 28th.

Yours in gardening,

Dan Carlson





*Day Minder . . .
Watch Us Grow*



January

2	Mon.	Garden Tour Committee Meeting, Extension Office Conference Room	7 p.m.
10	Tues.	Board Meeting, Extension Office Conference Room	6 p.m.
16	Mon.	Spring Celebration Committee Meeting, Extension Office Conference Room	7 p.m.
31	Tues.	Member Meeting, "Elkhart County Christmas Bird Count", Ronda DeCaire	7 p.m.

February

6	Mon.	Garden Tour Committee Meeting, AG HALL	7 p.m.
7	Tues.	Airport Community Garden Committee Meeting, Heidi Zavatsky's Home	9 a.m.
14	Tues.	Board Meeting, Extension Office Conference Room	6 p.m.
20	Mon.	Spring Celebration Committee Meeting, Extension Office Conference Room	7 p.m.
28	Tues.	Member Meeting, "Trash to Treasure", Penny Alles	7 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

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

Tuesday, January 31, "Elkhart County Christmas Bird Count," Ronda DeCaire
Tuesday, February 28, "Trash to Treasure," Penny Alles
Tuesday, March 28, MMGA Awards
Tuesday, April 25, TBA
Tuesday, May 30, TBA
Tuesday, June 27, TBA
Monday, July-TBA Fair Set-up and Pizza Party
Tuesday, August 29, Garden Tour Appreciation Dinner, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, September 26, TBA
Tuesday, October 31, TBA
Tuesday, November 28, Thanks-for-Giving Carry-In, 6:30 p.m.
No Meeting for December due to holidays

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

Tuesday, January 10
Tuesday, February 14
Tuesday, March 14
Tuesday, April 11
Tuesday, May 9
Tuesday, June 13
Tuesday, July 11
Tuesday, August 8
Tuesday, September 12
Tuesday, October 10
Tuesday, November 14
Tuesday, December 12

Spring Celebration Committee Meetings, THIRD Monday of the Month, Ext. Office Conference Room, 7 p.m. (unless noted)

Monday, January 16
Monday, February 20
Saturday, March 4 Spring Celebration 1:00-3:45 p.m., Greencroft Goshen

Garden Tour Committee Meetings, FIRST Monday of the Month, Ext. Office Conference Room, 7 p.m. (unless noted)

Monday, January 2
Monday, February 6 (meet in AG HALL)
Monday, March 6
Monday, April 3
Monday, May 1
Monday June 5
Monday, July 3 (if necessary)
Friday, July 7 Garden Tour Set-up
Saturday, July 8 Garden Tour

Attention MMGA Members

Articles for the February
Broadcaster will be due on
JANUARY 10TH.

Please e-mail items to Tammy
O'Rourke at tjotlo@gmail.com
before this date. Thank you.

JEFF BURBRINK: GOOD STEWARDSHIP IS A DECISION
NOVEMBER 28, 2016



Stewardship is a powerful word. The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines stewardship as the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care.

For me, that definition should have a lot of meaning to farmers. Farmers are entrusted with the land they farm to produce food and fibers in a manner that is responsible. This responsibility is not only for themselves and their families, but for their neighbors, for the land, the life on that land, for the environment and for future generations.

Most farmers take that responsibility very seriously. They often state that it is not only a personal responsibility to them, it is also a matter of expressing their faith in their Creator, to care for the land that was given to them.

It saddens me when I hear of situations where a farmer may not act as a good steward to the land. Last spring's situation in the mid-South, where a handful of farmers in that region chose to use a non-labeled version of dicamba on dicamba resistant soybeans and caused widespread injury to non-target plants, is a perfect example of how a few bad apples can spoil the whole barrel.

Don't be fooled into thinking that sort of behavior does not happen right here at home. We have a couple of creeks in the community that have high levels of nutrients and fecal bacteria, and I am sure a few farmers in those neighborhoods know why it is there. Yet year after year, the problem gets ignored. Folks, we all have to work together. We cannot keep allowing our livestock waste to flow down the creek. We cannot keep hooking our septic tanks directly to field tile. We cannot spray herbicides when the wind is blowing 10 mph or towards a sensitive crop. This type of behavior is not only against the laws of man, it is against the very fabric of who we are as people of faith and how we should treat our fellow man.

The obligation to be a good steward of the land does not in any way make it impossible to make a comfortable living on the farm. In fact, I believe that being a poor steward of the land will eventually lead to issues that may reduce the productivity and value of the land, which in turn will affect the financial health of the farm family. And, while no one can afford to adopt all the best management practices in a short period of time, it is something we need to plan for to become the best we can possibly be.

I don't think anyone wants to be thought of as the bad apple in the barrel, but it is as good of an analogy as I can make. The good thing is, unlike a rotten apple, a human being can change for the better. Good stewardship is, after all, the result of good, conscious decision making.

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.

**Michiana Master Gardeners' Association
"Helping Others Grow"
18th Annual Public Seminar**



GOOD ? **G** GENETIC

MAYBE ? **M** MODIFIED

OFFENSIVE ? **O** ORGANISM

WHAT ARE GMO'S?

Presented by:

Andrew Robinson & Kenda Resler-Friend of Dow Agriculture
Peter Goldsbrough, Professor of Botany at Purdue University

Saturday, March 4, 2017

1:00 to 3:45 p.m.

Greencroft Senior Center

1721 Greencroft Blvd.

Goshen, IN

TICKETS: \$10 PRESALE / \$12 DAY OF SEMINAR

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

Purdue University is an affirmative action, equal access/equal opportunity institution

The Community Garden committee started their year by meeting at the Electric Brew on January 21, 2016. Natasha, from CCS reported information by phone. In 2016 she stated that black crates will be provided to gardeners to transport their produce. They will sanitize the crates after each use. She explained the garden structure of each garden participating in produce donation. There are 14 seed to feed gardens/3 volunteer production gardens. There are 2-3 sharing gardens, a new concept for CCS. We are called a partner garden. Other partner gardens are the Weldy Family garden, Rise-Up Farms garden, Wellfield gardens and Concord High School garden. We are the top producer in this category.

Nancy will send out information to new class members who may be interested in joining us at the garden. On January 30 2016, February 6th and March 12th the new class seminars will be taking place. All agreed that we should try to make the seminars too.

The Orientation seminar for the Community Garden is scheduled for Saturday, March 12 from 1-3 at the Environmental Center in Elkhart. Publicity will be sent out to all our usual outlets. Flyers will be printed and distributed also.

Meg Mitzel, Christie Egendoerfer and Dyanne Zimmerman will plan and design the Garden Tour Educational booth. Two or more volunteers will be needed to answer questions.

Ruth Middleton will look into the possibility of using one of the plots at the garden to be used as a pollinator garden. She will apply for a grant to be used at the airport garden.

Tammy O'Rourke has black plastic to be used for covering 2 plots that have burcucumber weed. We may need to cover for several seasons to get rid of this noxious, invasive weed.

Dave Pixey has been approved by Mayor Neece as airport manager. We would like to arrange a meeting with Dave and Herb Ulery, the maintenance man at the airport. Last year's gardeners will be contacted to see if they wish to garden again and give them the date of the orientation meeting. All of our gardens have been leased for the 2016 season Christie E. handled the contracts. Plots leased for \$8.00 for the 1st plot and \$6.00 for each additional plot. We scheduled a day to stake and string the garden into 20 plots and set our opening day for April 23, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. Most of the gardeners showed up to help spread cardboard and wood chips along the paths separating the plots. We are fortunate to have Stephan Pearson, a beekeeper from the Michiana Beekeepers Assoc. who will be placing bees in the woods next to our garden. Stephan later reported that too much shade, disease, invasion of small-hive beetles, yellow jackets and chemical overspray contributed to unsuccessful hives. Stephan will place the farmer on the drift watch list for next year and place the hives in the sun. The farmer must notify him of his spray schedule so the bees can be moved.

2016 totals are less than the previous year. This year we had a total of 881.50 pounds of produce. We had a poor yield of cabbage, broccoli, eggplant, beets, radishes, cucumbers and tomatoes. We again had the Colorado beetle. The beets and radishes were healthy but not prolific. We had a great crop of green beans and radishes in the Lasagna garden that Judith planted. Next year we will try to correct our mistakes. Laurette will make up the plan for the 2017 garden using crop rotation and companion planting. We had a good yield of green beans, onions, leeks, carrots, collards, and zucchini. We made a raised bed and planted Asparagus this year and water was installed at the garden. We no longer need the pumps. We will continue to add Monty's liquid carbon to the 2017 garden and add butternut squash and turnips to the produce list. It was also suggested to plant the marigolds around the perimeter of the garden so we can free up more rows to plant vegetables.

We concluded our gardening with a wrap meeting on October 25, 2016. It has been a very successful year of gardening with new faces at the garden. Because we had a larger crew, we accomplished more in less time. We had some good laughs tackling "mother nature" issues, tall grass, snakes, mice, burcucumber and snacks at the garden. I'm sure next year will be another good year at the garden. Why don't you join us at the airport...all are welcome!

Winter Sunset

The sinking sun casts quite a sight,
as it sets beyond the trees.
So many different shades of color,
an incredible sight to see.

It's winter time in Indiana,
and the weather can get severe.
But even on a cold frozen day,
a sunny sky might bring you cheer.

So I stand here in the midst of the snow
looking over the field to the west.
The trees there now are oh so bare,
but this is when the sunset is best.

So I try to record this awesome sight,
perhaps to remember on a cloudy day.
It seems so many encounters in nature,
leave you with something to take away.

I am happy now for this moment,
but happiness is a fleeting thing.
But the memory of this sunset,
continued joy will surely bring.

-Jim Carpenter



Slippery Elm (*Ulmus rubra*)

Ulmus rubra, the slippery elm, is a species of elm native to eastern North America, ranging from southeast North Dakota, east to Maine and southern Quebec, south to northernmost Florida, and west to eastern Texas, where it thrives in moist uplands, although it will also grow in dry, intermediate soils.

Other common names, for the slippery elm, include red elm, gray elm, soft elm, moose elm, and Indian elm. The specific epithet *rubra* (red) alludes to the tree's reddish wood, while the common name "slippery elm" alludes to the mucilaginous inner bark. The tree was first named as part of *Ulmus americana* in 1753, but identified as a separate species, *Ulmus rubra*, in 1793 by Pennsylvania botanist Gotthilf Muhlenberg.

Slippery elm is a medium-sized deciduous tree with a spreading head of branches, commonly growing to 39–62 ft., very occasionally greater than 98 ft. in height. Its heartwood is reddish-brown, giving the tree its alternative common name 'red elm'. The species is chiefly distinguished from American elm by its downy twigs, red hairy buds, and slimy red inner bark.

The tree has very little value as an ornamental even though it is reputedly less susceptible to Dutch elm disease than other species of American elms (but is severely damaged by the elm leaf beetle [*Xanthogaleruca luteola*]).

The timber is not of much importance commercially, and is not found anywhere in great quantity. The Canadian naturalist John Macoun considered it more durable than that of the other elms and better suited for railway ties, fence-posts, and rails, while the American forester Gifford Pinchot recommended planting it in the Mississippi valley, as it grows fast in youth, and could be utilized for fence-posts when quite young, since the sapwood, if thoroughly dried, is quite as durable as the heartwood. The wood is also used for the hubs of wagon wheels, as it is very shock resistant owing to the interlocking grain. The wood, as 'red elm', is sometimes used to make bows for archery. The yoke of the Liberty Bell, a symbol of the independence of the United States, was made from slippery elm.

The tree's fibrous inner bark produces a strong and durable fiber that can be spun into thread, twine, or rope useful for bow strings, ropes, jewelry, clothing, snowshoe bindings, woven mats, and even some musical instruments. Once cured, the wood is also excellent for starting fires with the bow-drill method, as it grinds into a very fine flammable powder under friction.

Much of this info was taken from: *Wikipedia*, https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ulmus_rubra&oldid=752478415



Recently, a friend of mine passed away. A big man with a strong personality and a big heart to match. I am, of course, writing about Jerry Martin.

I met Jerry in 1996, when his spouse, Helen, took the Master Gardener course, the very first class I ever offered. As you can imagine, with very few people having completed the Master Gardener program those first few years, the Master Gardeners often “volunteered” their spouses to help with set up or tear down at events. Jerry was one of those great spouses of a Master Gardener, who made time to help at our events. I can remember suggesting several times that he should complete an application for the MG class. Eventually he did, in 2006.

Jerry was quickly active in many of MMGA activities, from Garden Tour, Spring Celebration, Tree Sale, the fair and the Horticulture Contest at the fair. He also took on the role of CoCoRahs regional coordinator (Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network), where he recruited volunteers and taught people to measure precipitation and report the information to NOAA. By 2010, Jerry was president of the Michiana Master Gardeners Association.

I was struck by 2 things when I thumbed through the MMGA archives from 2010. Jerry always gave us a summation of the monthly precipitation in his article in the Broadcaster (did you know we had 6 months when it snowed in 2010, including a 5 inch storm in April?). Jerry also managed to thank key volunteers for their service and remind us of upcoming opportunities each month.

I am sure that a few people, myself included, felt a little intimidated around Jerry, both by his size and/or by his tone of authority. But I also knew him as a person that strived to be fair and equitable to all, and a hard working leader who thought of all the angles.

I fondly recall his appreciation of sweet potatoes. Candied sweet potatoes to be more specific. He spoke to me several times about his favorite food, and he even told me his goal was to store enough sweet potatoes until Easter, so Helen and Jerry could have their traditional Easter meal.

As for Jerry’s legacy with the Michiana Master Gardeners, I will remember him as a solid, passionate man, with strong leadership, who leaves us with some big shoes to fill. He will be missed.

-Jeff

*“Anyone who thinks gardening begins
in the Spring and ends in the Fall
is missing the best part
of the whole year;
for gardening begins in January
with the dream.”*

-Josephine Nuese



WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?
LENTEN ROSE BY STAN PALMER

Lenten rose (*Helleborus orientalis*)

Hellebores are widely grown in USDA Zone 5a to 8b gardens for decorative purposes. They are particularly valued by gardeners for their winter and early spring flowering period; the plants are surprisingly frost-resistant and many are evergreen. Also of value is their shade tolerance.

Commonly known as hellebores, the genus *Helleborus* comprises approximately 20 species of herbaceous or evergreen perennial flowering plants in the family Ranunculaceae, within which it gave its' name to the tribe of Helleboreae. The scientific name *Helleborus* derives from the Greek name for *H. orientalis*, which means "to injure" and "food". Many species are poisonous. Despite names such as "winter rose", "Christmas rose" and "Lenten rose", hellebores are not closely related to the rose family (Rosaceae).

Various species of this genus originated in Europe and Asia. The greatest concentration of species occurs in the Balkans (a region that takes its name from the Balkan Mountains that stretch from the Serbia-Bulgaria border to the Black Sea). One atypical species (*H. thibetanus*) comes from western China; another atypical species (*H. vesicarius*) inhabits a small area on the border between Turkey and Syria.

The most popular hellebores for garden use are undoubtedly *H. orientalis* and its colorful hybrids (*H. × hybridus*). In the northern hemisphere, they flower in early spring, around the period of Lent, and are often known as Lenten hellebores or Lenten roses. They are excellent for bringing early color to shady herbaceous borders and areas between deciduous shrubs and under trees.

(The so-called Christmas rose [*H. niger*], a traditional cottage garden favorite, bears its pure white flowers [which often age to pink] in the depths of winter; large-flowered cultivars are available, as are pink-flowered and double-flowered selections.)

Hybridizing (deliberate and accidental) between *H. orientalis* and several other closely related species and subspecies has vastly improved the color-range of the flowers, which now extends from slate grey, near-black, deep purple and plum, through rich red and pinks to yellow, white and green. The outer surface of the sepals is often green-tinged, and as the flower ages it usually becomes greener inside and out; individual flowers often remain on the plant for a month or more. The inner surface of each sepal may be marked with veins, or dotted or blotched with pink, red or purple. "Picotee" flowers, whose pale-colored sepals have narrow margins of a darker color, are much sought-after, as are those with dark nectaries which contrast with the outer sepals.

Recent breeding programs have also created double-flowered and anemone-centered plants. Double hellebores provide a very interesting variation to the standard hellebore. They are generally easy to maintain and share the same planting conditions as the standard hellebore.

Semi-double flowers have one or two extra rows of petals; doubles have more. Their inner petals are generally very like the outer ones in color and patterning. They

WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?
LENTEN ROSE BY STAN PALMER
(continued)

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are often of a similar length and shape, though they may be slightly shorter and narrower, and some are attractively waved or ruffled. By contrast, anemone-centered flowers have, cupped within the five normal outer petals, a ring of much shorter, more curved extra petals (sometimes trumpet-shaped, intermediate in appearance between petals and nectaries), which may be a different color from the outer petals. These short, extra petals (sometimes known as "petaloids") drop off after the flower has been pollinated, leaving an apparently single flower, whereas doubles and semi-doubles tend to retain their extra petals after pollination.

Several legends surround the hellebore;

- 1.) In witchcraft it is believed to have ties to summoning demons.
- 2.) *Helleborus niger* is commonly called the Christmas rose, due to an old legend that it sprouted in the snow from the tears of a young girl who had no gift to give the Christ child in Bethlehem.
- 3.) In Greek mythology, Melampus of Pylos used hellebore to save the daughters of the king of Argos from a madness, induced by Dionysus, that caused them to run naked through the city, crying, weeping, and screaming.
- 4.) During the Siege of Kirrha in 585 BC, hellebore was reportedly used by the Greek besiegers to poison the city's water supply. The defenders were subsequently so weakened by diarrhea that they were unable to defend the city from assault.

On that note: Be safe and dream of that garden growing!

-Stan Palmer-

The majority of this material was extracted from: Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Hellebore&oldid=748070596>



INFORMATION FOR OUR MEMBERS

MMGA Member Meeting
October 25, 2016
7:00 p.m. Ag Hall

Vice President, Dan Carlson called the meeting to order in Kathleen's absence, at 7:00 p.m. in Ag Hall. There were 54 members present. The first item on the agenda was the election of the 2017 Board. The members who are leaving the Board include Bill Roberts, Loanne Harms, Bill Albaugh and Heidi Zavatsky. The new slate includes Connie Garber, Amy McLaughlin, Kathy Radican, Craig Stiver and Bill Roberts who will be filling a one year term of Kathy Fortin who passed away in 2016.. There were no nominations from the floor. The members voted unanimously in favor of the slate of candidates. Dan introduced the **speakers** for the evening from **Lake Milton Raptor Education Center** located in Union, MI. This organization rescues all raptors that have been injured. Most have been found along the roadside. Some may be rehabbed and released into the wild, some go to zoos; but most are cared for at the facility for the duration of their life. We learned that the Migratory Bird Act of 1919 protects all species of birds. The women brought a number of raptors to share with the group. They included night time hunters of owls. The Screech Owl, a long eared Barn Owl, The Barred Owl, They also brought a Sparrow Hawk – also called American Kestrel. We were told that the Coopers Hawk is increasing in numbers. A Peregrine Falcon that can fly up to 248 mph. A Red Tailed Hawk and a much maligned Turkey Vulture. A very interesting program that was enjoyed by all. Kathleen Cripe resumed meeting. There are sign-up sheets for Thanks-For-Giving dinner. Cost will be \$7.00 for guest. A pot-luck dinner is planned for 11/29 at 6:30 p.m. Food or monetary donations will be accepted that evening to be given to a pantry. Loanne Harms will be setting up a photo booth for anyone who wants to have an updated picture in the membership book. Anne Regier gave the **Treasurer's report**: Checking - \$7,719.95, Money Market - \$8,746.82, Savings - \$137.23, Cash - \$200.00, Total \$26,803.99. Jenny Schrock motioned to accept Treas. Report, Gail Weybright seconded. Motioned passed. The **Secretary's report** was motioned by Loanne Harms and seconded by Barb Heeter to be accepted as written in Broadcaster. Motion passed. Refreshments tonight were furnished by Kate Rink, Marlene Pratt, Bud Mosier and Christine Goldsborough. Many thanks for beautiful decorations and delicious food. Kathleen called for committee reports: **Jeff Burbrink**: Explained the mentor program. It will be starting in November and he will match up student with MGr. He has membership forms and will accept money for 2017 membership. **Gail Weybright** has scheduled a workday for the caps project on 11/1/16. Only 2,4,5 are acceptable numbers to collect. Be sure to read the Broadcaster as there is lots of information regarding the different projects the Master Gardeners are involved with. **Community Garden** is finished for season. **Quilt Gardens** are finished for season. **Spring Celebration**: Speakers are secured and the date is March 4, 2017, at Greencroft. The **Annual Awards Program** will be on the March regular meeting date of March 28, 2017. **Tree Sale**: Barb Heeter reported that the trees have been ordered and order blanks are now available. She will start the volunteer sign-up sheets in February of 2017. Because of Helen & Jerry Martin's health issues they have agreed to let the MGr's bring in meals on Mondays and Thursdays. Go to Mealtrain.com to sign up. There is also a transportation list. Contact Len Harms to sign up. **Next meeting date** will be the Thanks for Giving dinner on 11/29/2016 at 6:30 p.m. Len Harms announced the drawings for the evening: Anne Overmyer, Sherrie McClure, Jim Carpenter, Jay Whitmer, and Craig Stiver. With no other business on the agenda, meeting adjourned 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heidi Zavatsky, Secretary

"OWLS"
By the Staff at
Lake Milton Raptor Education Center
www.raptorcenter.org
apico@raptorcenter.org
269-535-7963

Photos by Debbie Mann



Present: Bill Albaugh, Jeff Burbrink, Dan Carlson, Kathleen Cripe, Loanne Harms, Carol Novy, Anne Regier, Bill Roberts, Jenny Schrock, Cindy Watson, Ron Troyer, Heidi Zavatsky

Kathleen Cripe called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The September minutes were approved as e-mailed with no additions/corrections.

Treasurer's Report: Anne Regier reported \$7,172.65 in checking, \$18,746.81 in Money Market, \$137.23 in Savings and Cash on hand \$200.00. It was moved and seconded by Loanne H. and Ron T. Treasurer's reported approved. **Educator's report:** Jeff Burbrink reported that the class approximately 1/3 way through and going well. John Orick from Purdue said that a new system of reporting hours will be effective the 1st of the year. The mentoring program will be starting by November. Fifteen members volunteered to mentor twelve students. Jeff will match up the people. Committee Reports followed. **Answer Line:** Dan Carlson reported the answer line is shut down for the year. It was a successful growing season "helping others grow" through Answer Line, 1st Fridays and the Fair. **Archivist:** Ron Troyer No report from Helen Martin. Helen will be stepping down as Archivist effective 1/1/17 Ron said that several guys went to their home and cleaned up outside. All is well until leaves begin to drop. Discussion followed regarding Helen and Jerry's health issues and what MGr's. can do to help. Kathleen Cripe will call Helen and find out what we can do as members to help. More info to follow. **Broadcaster:** Loanne Harms reported that everything is going great and there will be some updates after the 1st of the year. **2015 class update:** Cindy Watson hasn't heard anything from her classmates. They are busy with their own Fall clean-up. **Community Garden:** Heidi Zavatsky reported that garden was cleaned off, city will dump leaves from Fall pick-up. We harvested 881.5 pounds of produce. Our wrap meeting is set for Tuesday, 10/25 at 9:00 a.m. **Extension Landscape:** Bill Albaugh had NR **Fair Board:** Jenny Schrock had NR **Fair Set-up:** Bill Albaugh, NR **Garden Tour:** Loanne Harms reported that 9 gardens and a Hospitality Center have been selected. All seems to be on track. **Membership:** Ron Troyer NR **Merchandise:** Carol Novy had NR **Nominating Committee:** Loanne Harms proposed a slate of candidates for the October vote. Nominations will be taken from the floor also. Candidates are: Amy McLaughlin, Kathy Radican, Craig Stiver, Connie Garber and Bill Roberts. **Programs:** Dan Carlson will make sure everything is on track for the owl program. Ongoing discussion followed regarding all committee chairs for next year. **Property Trustee:** Dan Carlson NR **Quilt Gardens:** Bristol was taken down last week. Goshen Fairground garden today. Cindy had NR on the Bag Factory garden. **Set-Up:** Bill Albaugh NR. **Speakers Bureau:** Carol Novy NR **Tree Sale:** Bill Roberts said trees have been chosen and order forms will go out after 1st of year. **Spring Celebration:** Dan Carlson reported that group is working on flyers and lining up vendors. **Webmaster:** Dan Carlson NR.

The Annual awards will be held at our March meeting. The Board agreed to give the committee \$100 for decorations and \$100 for snacks. Loanne Harms volunteered to do a photo booth for anyone wanting to update their directory picture. The Board went through the Budget and made some adjustments. Kathleen will email the revised budget for the Board to approve. She was to get some clarifications from Nancy.

The Board meeting date In November has been changed to Monday November 14, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. The Board meeting date in December will be either the 6th or 13th. Kathleen will let us know which date is available. With the time getting late, meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heidi Zavatsky, Secretary

Present: Jeff Burbrink, Dan Carlson, Kathleen Cripe, Carol Novy, Bill Roberts. Jenny Schrock, Cindy Watson, Heidi Zavatsky

Absent: Bill Albaugh, Loanne Harms, Anne Regier, Ron Troyer

Kathleen Cripe called the meeting to order by asking everyone what they were thankful for this Thanksgiving season. Responses included family and friends, good health, and accomplishments made during the year. She also reported that Helen and Jerry are getting along. She has the list of members to call for assistance with driving and Meal Train is filling up with meal preparations. There was no **Treasurer's report** – Anne absent. Following a correction to the October's minutes. The guest charge for the Thanks – for- Giving dinner is \$2.50. The **Secretary's report** was motioned by Jenny Schrock and 2nd by Dan Carlson and approved as corrected. **Educator's report:** Jeff Burbrink reported that the new class is getting close to completion in December. Mentors have been assigned and we hope to meet everyone at the Thanks – for – Giving dinner. He also reported that Nancy Borkholder will be out until December 5th due to surgery. Jeff had a scare recently with his blood sugar spiking; but all has been corrected and he's feeling fine. **Answer Line:** Dan Carlson, no report.

Archivist: Ron Troyer, no report. **Broadcaster:** Loanne Harms reported to Kathleen that all is going well. **Class update:** Class is working on graduation celebration which is to be 2/7/17 at Essenhaus. Members are working on Wellfield projects and GT 2016. **Community Garden:** Heidi Zavatsky reported the first meeting of 2017 is scheduled in February. **Fair Board:** Jenny Schrock reported that the annual Prom is scheduled for March 18, 2017, to be held at Oakwood in Syracuse. A table of eight can be reserved for \$500.00. 12 Rallys have already been booked for 2017. The 4H Fair Apprentice program is now 30yrs old. Kate and 4Hrs pulled out most of the summer annuals planted around the grounds. The history room is being expanded to include a glass enclosed porch for more area to display horse racing info. Electrical and sewage updates are being made to campground to bring all in compliance. **Fair Set-up:** Bill Albaugh, absent, no report. **Garden Tour:** Heidi reported that all is on track. A well oiled machine. **Membership:** Ron Troyer, absent. No report. **Nominating Committee:** Loanne Harms, no report. Voting took place in October. **Programs:** Dan Carlson reported that only 48 have signed up for the dinner. Another e-mail will be going out. Loanne Harms has agreed to be Program Chair for 2017. **Merchandise:** Carol Novy reported that Sandy Acton has resigned from merchandise committee. **Property Trustee:** Dan Carlson, no report. **Quilt Gardens:** Jenny Schrock stated that Annette Wolf will be donating worm castings to the Bristol garden. Goshen garden – Cindy Watson, no report. Jeff B. said that all gardens will be pulling soil samples next year to see what needs to be amended. **Set up:** Bill Albaugh, absent. No report. **Speakers Bureau:** Carol Novy, no report. **Spring Celebration:** Bill Roberts, no report. **Tree Sale:** Bill Roberts reported that order forms are out in the area and the sale is scheduled for 4/22/17. **Web Master:** Dan Carlson, no report.

Under **Old Business**, Kathleen will write an article for the January Broadcaster covering all the topics on the questionnaire handed out at a membership meeting. **New Business:** The Board reviewed the 2017 budget. Jenny Schrock motioned to approve, Carol Novy 2nd. Board approved the 2017 budget. The next Board meeting will be Tuesday, December 13, 2016 at 6:00 p.m., Extension office. Greeters for the November MMGA dinner are: Kathleen Cripe, Jenny Schrock, Dan Carlson and Bill Roberts. With no other business on the agenda, meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heidi Zavatsky, Secretary

MEMBER DISCUSSION QUESTIONS UPDATE
BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Question	Answer
Ideas for MMGA members' involvement in the county.	Areas that MMGA members are involved with in the county; Teaching landscaping at Habitat for Humanity; in Goshen on a First Friday event had a table for questions and answers and information about MMGA; an information table for questions and answers was manned at the Goshen Farmers' Market on a regular time frame during the summer; our community gardens at the Elkhart Airport.
How can the Association involve new members and get to know them better?	Jeff Burbrink has started a mentors' program with the 2016 class members; at different new members class times the MMGA President and the different chairs of the various MMGA committees had opportunities to give information and explanations about their specific committee and how it functions; the President has encouraged members frequently to wear their nametags to help all of us learn names of our Association members.
What improvements would you like to see in our Master Gardeners' Association?	Ask a friend to join the new class; would like to see more involvement of Association members on the various committees.
How should we make sure our procedures are followed?	In the coming year, 2017, MMGA will be reviewing expectations of the members and the Association's committees and procedures and member meetings; articles in the <i>Broadcaster</i> to remind us all what we are and what we can do through the Association.
How can we better transition from one group of leaders of a committee and include others?	Mentor program for new members with experienced members; ongoing invites to Association members to join a committee and remind them it is not a lifetime commitment; will have information discussions about how the different committees are set up and how they function.

MEMBER DISCUSSION QUESTIONS UPDATE
BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Continued

Question	Answer
Would we as an Association like to investigate and create a county-wide Garden Show in our county?	The MMGA Board is investigating the idea of having a Garden Show similar to Porter County; also working on a plan to have a bus tour...look for the questionnaire.
How would you like to help?	Association members need to have more information; the Board is willing to keep the Association informed of needs and events by being open at member meetings and articles in the <i>Broadcaster</i> .
Programs suggested for monthly meetings:	Cut flower gardens; garden designs; rain gardens; Culver Horse Troop trip to DC; new plants program; landscaping; current problems and possible solutions.

CLASS OF 2016



Front row l-r: Dianna Jackson, Elkhart; Holly McCloud, New Paris; Pam Ceccchi, Granger; LeAnn Coon, Elkhart; and Rita Graf, Osceola.
 Back row l-r: Karen LaChance, Elkhart; Karin Frey, Elkhart; Margaret Moor, South Bend; Kate Wolford, Goshen; and Ross Kistler, Elkhart.
 Not pictured: Tom Havens of Elkhart, and Gary Coy of Syracuse.

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
JANUARY 2017

What good is the warmth of summer,
without the cold of winter to give it
sweetness.
-John Steinbeck