

PURDUE
EXTENSION | ELKHART COUNTY



September 2017 Broadcaster



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The Michiana

Broadcaster
“Helping Each Other Grow!”

Michiana Master Gardeners Association

SEPTEMBER 2017

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

Greetings fellow gardeners,

I would like to thank all the Master Gardeners that took part in the Fair: Ag Hall setup, answering gardening questions, doing presentations, helping at the Youth Tent, planting, decorating, and other things I may not know.

At the August Board meeting, Jeff told us that our Master Gardener program is recognized as one of the best in the state for retention of members. He asked us why we thought this was the case. We

responded that we have varied programs with different appeal, a willingness to support new ideas like the bus trip and the Youth Tent at the fair, participation in one of the best fairs in the nation, a great educator preparing and enabling us to reach out to our community, and a great group of people as Master Gardeners.

I'm looking forward to our Appreciation Dinner for our Garden Tour hosts. The Board will soon be presenting the budget for next year and a slate of candidates to replace the Board members completing their terms. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please contact any current Board member. We need good people to keep up the great things mentioned above.

Yours in gardening,

Dan Carlson



**To all of our fair winners and
volunteers.....**



*****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*



September

5	Tues.	Garden Tour Committee Meeting, Extension Office Conference Room	7 p.m.
12	Tues.	Board Meeting, Extension Office Conference Room	6 p.m.
26	Tues.	Monthly Member Meeting Fernwood Botanical Garden	7 p.m.

October

2	Mon.	Garden Tour Committee Meeting, Extension Office Conference Room	7 p.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.

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, September 26 Fernwood Botanical Garden
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, September 12
Tuesday, October 10
Tuesday, November 14
Tuesday, December 12

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

Monday, September 5 (NOTE DAY AND DATE CHANGE)
Tuesday, October 2
Tuesday, November 6
No Meeting in December

Answer Line is in operation April through September. Answering machine during evening hours



Hendricks County will host the 2018 Purdue Master Gardener State Conference June 7-9, 2018, at the Hendricks County Fairgrounds and Conference Center in Danville, Indiana. The information and registration website for the event is www.indianamastergardeners.com.

Attention MMGA Members

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

JEFF BURBRINK: GARDENERS AND FARMERS
AT RISK FOR SKIN CANCER
AUGUST 1, 2017



You can hardly go a day without hearing a warning about something that is going to kill you or make you sick. It gets to the point that you don't pay attention anymore, at least until it affects you personally. That's exactly what has happened in my case. Twenty years ago, a member of my family was told he had several precancerous spots on his skin. I am now much more careful about exposure to the sun.

My dad farmed for more than 40 years in southern Indiana. Like his father and brothers who farm, he got a lot of sun exposure over the years. When Dad showed me the spots all those years ago, I knew I had seen this condition on many farmers. It's called actinic keratosis, caused by exposure to the sun. Typically, there are small rough spots that may be pink or red. Most often, spots develop on the face, ears, hands and arms and other sun-exposed areas of the body. Most of the time, this condition does not lead to cancer, but it is a warning sign that the skin has been damaged and should be checked by a doctor regularly.

According to the American Cancer Society website, farmers, gardeners, construction workers and others who work outdoors are most at risk for skin cancers due to exposure to ultraviolet light. Men are more likely to develop the problem than women. The risk for skin cancer among people of European decent is 20 times higher than for people with darker skin.

I've seen this type of spot on the faces of many farmers. It would be easy to dismiss this as a risk of doing business, but it can be prevented. The most important way to lower the risk of skin cancer is to reduce exposure to UV light.

Protective clothing, including a shirt and a hat with a broad brim, are the minimum. Fabric with a tight weave provides the best protection; baseball caps provide little protection.

Sunscreens with an SPF factor of 15 or more should be used before exposure to the sun to be effective. It may need to be reapplied several times if it rubs or sweats off. Even on a cloudy day, 80 percent of the ultraviolet light can still reach your skin.

Do not ignore these skin conditions. If you discover a suspect bump or discoloration on your skin, see your doctor or a dermatologist. Waiting can only make things worse. As for Dad, he goes to the doctor every six months for a checkup. They apply liquid nitrogen to freeze the cells in most places. Unfortunately, I have known a few people who have had portions of their ears, nose or lips removed. In one case, a friend died when a cancer on his back went unchecked for just a few months. You can't be too careful dealing with skin cancer.

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 33 inquiries in July, three of which were at the Farmer's Market. That makes 138 inquiries handled so far this season. In addition, there were 73 inquiries handled in Ag Hall during the Fair. Master Gardeners have helped 211 people in the last four months!



As Jeff pointed out in his "Elkhart Truth" article, hydrangea questions outnumbered all the questions at the fair. That was also the case on the Answer Line. Turf issues were numerous on the Answer Line. This is the time of year the Answer Line starts receiving calls with vegetable garden questions. Inquiries about wilt, fungus, mildew and insect problems in the garden are common. Two issues caught my interest.

One inquiry was about earwigs. I can usually find them somewhere on my property. The European earwig, *Forficula auricularia*, was introduced into the U.S. early in the 1900's and is now common throughout most of the country. It got its name from the mistaken belief that they entered people's ears during the night. Earwigs are about 5/8 inch long, with a flat, reddish brown body and very short wings. Their strong pinchers, cerci, on the tip of the abdomen make them easy to identify. The cerci are used for defense and holding prey. Earwigs are most active at night. They can be found in dark, damp, confined spaces. They are scavengers, feeding on damaged and decaying plant matter and small organisms. They may also feed on healthy plant material. Their damage can be confused with slug damage, but they do not leave a slim trail as do slugs. Keeping your yard and garden free of debris and moist areas will help keep them under control. Keep them out of the house with good caulking and repair. Permethrin or cyfluthrin applied per label instructions around the foundation can also help. Source: University of Minnesota, "European earwigs in homes and gardens"

One Wednesday when Bill Roberts and I arrived to work the Answer Line, we were handed a large, thick envelope that arrived in the mail. Inside we found several large pieces of what appeared to be a shelf fungus. After looking at dozens of fungus pictures, we decided it was *Laetiporus sulphureus*. It has several common names: the most intriguing, being Chicken of the Woods! Did this mean it is edible? Does it taste like chicken? David Arora names this as one of the "foolproof four" in his "Mushrooms Demystified". The fungus is brightly colored orange, reddish or yellowish on top, turning lighter toward the edges. It may appear solitary or in clusters. It grows in living or decaying trees. They cause a reddish brown heart-rot of the wood, destabilizing the tree. The entire fungus can be harvested once a year or cut off just the outer edges for two harvests. It can be used as a chicken substitute. However, there are species that prefer conifers that are linked to poisoning. They are *L. huroniensis*, *L. gilbertsonii*, and *L. conifericola*. So be careful. I'll stick to grocery store mushrooms! Source: Cornell University, Cornell Mushroom Blog, "Eating the Chicken of the Woods"

WHAT SHALL I SAY ABOUT MY (OUR) FRIEND, MARY?**BY VICKI ESTEP**

Perhaps you had the esteemed privilege of knowing my friend Mary Morgan. I treasure my memories of her, especially now as I reflect on her bright smile and caring spirit. We attended Master Gardener training together in the class of 2006. It was a special class that year as we were told that we would be the last class to flourish under the tutelage of Jeff Burbrink. Ha ha—Jeff the joke was on you! Well he did take some time off for a couple of years but fortunately for MMGA he was there to stay.

We had great times inside and outside of class. We were a tightly knit group. Mary was quick to display her willingness to help by bringing yummy snacks and sharing her quick wit to keep us all entertained. It was clear that Mary would be a key player in MMGA from the very start. Always keen to contribute and never shying away from new experiences or opportunities to learn. That's what I really liked about our friendship. We explored together.

We worked together on so many committees I can't begin to count. No matter what it was she gave it her best. She weeded and planted her way around the Extension Office and spruced up Ag hall too. I thought to myself, she's older than I am and she's on her hands and knees doing such a great job. That's just what she did. She was very active in the Middlebury Garden Club, and with her college sorority too. She worked with disabled youth for many years at ADEC both as a caretaker and later in an administrator position. There was just nothing this determined lady couldn't do.

At the time I was doing the annual Garden Tour video presentation and all the photography work that went along with it. I always advocated for bringing others into projects in order to spread the hours and experience among others in the club. The year I suggested that perhaps a photography committee might be just the ticket Mary agreed to take charge. Yeah!! Enthusiasm and organization were just two of her many talents. We continued under that system for several years then I wanted a break. Guess who volunteered to take over the video production with not a day's experience. That's right—it was our friend Mary, brave soul that she was!

Now I won't pretend that it was all smooth sailing, but then if it had been I would not have had the opportunity to spend endless hours together with her pouring over the many details all the while deepening my respect for this wonderful woman. We found we had many things in common beyond just gardening. She loved farm life and her precious goats just the same way I did. She gave me a tour of the barn where I met her goats (did I mention we used to keep goats and I missed them) so she invited me to come over anytime to get my fill. Each spring I took our grands, Pierce and Sydney with me to see all the kids and bottle feed the babies. Mary taught those children many things on our yearly visits. We missed it this spring because I let my schedule get too full. I will always regret not stopping in this year.

Strangely she'd been on my mind so much the week she left us I had it on my to-do list to give her a call rather than just our usual Facebook chats. I missed that opportunity too. I think the message Mary would want me to take away from all this is that we should embrace life and live it to the fullest until the day we're called home. That's what Mary did.

So when you're challenged by too many obligations take time to call a friend or better yet just drop in to pet the goats...



OUR FRIEND, JIM MADDUX

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BY JEFF BURBINK

We have lost some good people the past few months. Phyllis Hartley, Cathy Fortin, Jerry Martin, Bert Evans, and Mary Morgan to name a few. All these people loved gardening and being a Master Gardener. Then, Sunday afternoon on August 6, 2017, I learned that Jim Maddux had passed away. I was devastated again.

It was in August of 1999 that Jim and I first met. My first impressions of this fellow were 1) he talks funny and not just because he is from Tennessee, 2) he is really excited and is going to go far in Master Gardeners, and 3) he LOVES his vegetables!

Yes, Jim had a way of saying things that was both fun and to the point. You know that something precious was going to flow from his mouth when you heard the words, "That's what I call _____," in his southern style of talking. For instance, he called the shifts we work in Ag Hall at the fair "babysitting the building." Or his treasured step-grandson was his "Bonus Grand Baby." I will forever call it babysitting the building, because, Jim made it so. One of my favorite things in the world is to call Jim's cell phone, and hear him say, "This is Jim Maddux. M-A-D-D-U-X." Always makes me smile.

If you worked with Jim, you quickly learned he had a sense of order beyond that of most people. Jim always had to come into the fairgrounds to layout the shelving for Ag Hall the day before set up. I would sometimes - make that always - remind him not to set up ALL the shelves on Sunday, because we had many Master Gardeners coming Monday to help. His response was predictable, "You know me. I'm always five steps ahead..."

You can take that aspect of his personality, and fit it in to everything he did, whether it was laying out the quilt gardens, drawing up the maps for the Garden Tour, or planting is beloved garden at home. That sense of order, along with his amazing intelligence, helped Jim to obtain three patents for Miles/Bayer and made him the go-to-guy at home, at work and with Master Gardeners.

When people are that smart, they sometimes become unapproachable. Not Jim. He was a friend to everyone who tried. He was honest, and demanded honesty in return. He was a hard worker, and had expectations that everyone chip in. His efforts helped him to be a very good president for MMGA, and well respected everywhere.

Jim had a deep sense that it was important to give back to the community. If there was a set up to do, he was there with truck and trailer, even when he didn't feel good. In some ways, he was the face of the Garden Tour, because he was the greeter at the Hospitality Center, with his clicker in hand so he could get an accurate count of our attendance. Jim personally designed and built the desk and shelves in the Master Gardener room at the office. Jim traveled to Indianapolis and Valparaiso with me several times to attend Purdue CARET meetings, a group of lay people who talk to our legislators about funding for Purdue Extension.

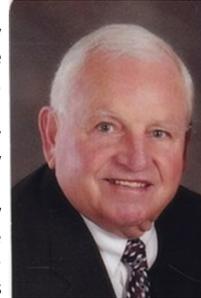
Jim gave back to me in my time of need. In the fall of 2000, I was having awful back troubles, and had surgery. I was not to lift anything for eight weeks. Our yard has many, many trees, and I was not sure how we were going to get the leaves picked up, with Jessica being pregnant. I heard a noise and there was Jim, with his tractor and trailer, helping me through this crisis. He came back three times that fall. It was just the kind of person he was.

And then of course, there is his vegetable garden. It was big by almost any standard. He worked hard to keep it looking good and productive. We often spoke about his sweetcorn, tomatoes and cucurbits, but it was the potatoes that seemed to draw most of Jim's attention. This year, the potatoes were small, "not hardly worth digging" he claimed. Okra was another specialty. It you grew up in the South, and live in Michiana now, you probably ran across some of Jim's okra. Like zucchini, it was everywhere.

Jim loved to learn and troubleshoot. He called once to say his zucchini wilted overnight. I stopped out that afternoon. We got down on hands and knees, and I whittled away at some insect frass at the base of the plant. Suddenly, that little squash vine borer stuck his head out. We both jumped and I took a swing with my knife but missed. We both had a good laugh, and then dissected the plant to find the whole thing hallowed out.

I also learned from Jim. When discussing animal disposal in class, he said he would put the live trap in a barrel full of water, which would not only drown the offending varmint, but would also clean the feces that inevitably build up when you catch something. He was right!

More than anything, I appreciate Jim for the gentleman and friend he was to me and so many of you. I'll miss talking about Jake, his old dog, and the afternoon naps and everything else, but I can still smile, for I know I was his friend, and he was mine.



MARCIA'S MAGIC POTION
BY MARCIA CHAMBERS

I watch a lot of crime TV. Being both analytical and an entomologist, I have come up with a trap enhancement for Japanese Beetles. In crime TV, the detectives are always looking for habits of the criminals and exploiting or catching them when they repeat those habits.

In the Japanese Beetle world, the flight patterns are identical. They fly in, fly around and then run head first into the first thing they like. Usually, it is the pheromone trap, then they fall toward the ground, sometimes hitting the ground. They quickly catch themselves and take off again. Taking advantage of this habit, under the trap I have installed a 30-gallon garbage can filled one-third full of rain water and Wesson oil (any vegetable oil will work). The smell won't scare them away and surface tension is broken, so when they hit the top of this concoction, they are destined to drown. Some of them end up in the bag furnished by the pheromone people, but many are drowned in Marcia's Magic Potion.

The beetles were so bad this year that I put out one pheromone lure and put nine bags full of beetles in the garbage. Sitting in my office, I could hear a rat-a-tat-tat on the side of the house. When I went out to investigate I was amazed. I had the trap about 8 feet from the side of my two-story white house. The prevailing wind had taken the pheromone odor up alongside the house, and they were hitting the siding, falling toward the ground and taking off again. Eventually, many made it to the trap or the garbage can. Even harvesting the bag full of beetles, I had so many in my garbage can that there was a floating layer of dead, dying and still crawling beetles, some of which took off again. They never made it down to the rainwater and oil.

I had to dip out the dead ones, to make room for the new arrivals. I drained my water/oil mixture off and bagged the beetles. Talk about disgusting!!

So much for a mild winter.

Marcia Chambers Class of 2015.



Ode to a Firefly

Firefly, firefly, fly away from here,
this campfire is no place for you.
Flee into the approaching darkness,
soon to perform the thing that you do.

The one small spark that you provide,
adds beauty to this world.
Multiplied by many others,
a twinkling scene unfurled.

I respect all things in nature,
from far below to high above.
But in all of God's creation,
There are some I truly love.

The firefly is one of those,
friendly, modest and bright.
Bringing such a glow to my backyard,
Adding beauty to the night.

Jim Carpenter





2017 Elkhart County 4H Fair Horticulture Winners
L-R: Donna Henderson (Champion Flowers & 3rd Place Vegetables);
Dennis Kimple (Reserve Champion Vegetables);
Vicki Hoover (Reserve Champion Flowers);
Stan Palmer MG (Champion Vegetables);
Martha Weirich (3rd Place Flowers)



Always smiling, Kate Rink tends to the display outside of Ag Hall



Jim Carpenter in the Senior Talent Show
Placed Third with a poetry reading (photo by Debbie Mann)

Now, in August, the Airport Community Garden is full of produce that Master Gardeners are harvesting for the local Church Community Services food distribution center on Oakland Avenue. Three plastic grocery bags of lake green beans were harvested August 1. Summer pests are there too. Larva of the Mexican bean beetle are growing into the adult stage, chewing holes in the leaves and beans.

Swiss chard and collards are harvested on Tuesday now. These two crops will last through the summer and provide fresh greens for people. Some leaves are partially devoured by grasshoppers. The weather is a challenge. Summer weeds grow taller and stronger. Sometimes the shading even helps more delicate crops to persist in the hotter sun. But Mother Nature is not providing rain as often, so there is more watering for us to do. Still, the crops come through the challenges.

Cucumbers and zucchini boost our poundage totals. Our most plentiful crop so far has been zucchini at 89 total pounds. Collards come in second at 72.5 pounds. It's taken many 1 ½ pound (average) bags to arrive at that total. A week or so and the sun will redden our tomatoes too. Two pounds of ripe tomatoes were contributed on August 2. The garden loses some tomatoes to damage by animals and insects.

Cole crops have several worms that prefer them for food and shelter. The cabbage looper is the caterpillar of a night flying moth. A second is the imported cabbage worm that produces the white cabbage butterfly. A third cole pest, the cross-striped cabbageworm, prefers collards. Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) was sprayed on the collards August 1 to reduce the caterpillar population. Bt is a natural-occurring soil bacteria that has been developed in several forms to target specific types of insects. Treating cole crops with this spray to kill cabbage worms is an approved organic method. Showing up on that same day was a flock of bright yellow goldfinches, perching on a row of annual sunflowers in the pollinator plot. The Bt is not harmful to them, humans or insect pollinators such as dragonflies, bees, and predatory wasps that forage the garden.

Studies are being done concerning Bt corn pollen that might come in contact with milkweed in fields and its effect on monarch caterpillars. One study by Cornell's Dr. John Losey concluded "larvae of the monarch butterfly on milkweed leaves dusted with transgenic Bt-corn pollen ate less, grew more slowly, and suffered higher mortality than those fed leaves dusted with untransformed corn pollen or leaves without pollen." The study created a scenario though where the Bt corn pollen concentration was probably higher than would occur naturally and those weaker caterpillars did not have the choice to move on to unaffected leaves. Studies are continuing. Read more at the website of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency CFIA.

At the community garden, we are not using Bt on crops that will produce pollen. The Tuesday following the Bt application, the collard leaves looked better for harvesting. We will do another application next week to keep the leaves clean.

Gardening in July is difficult not just because of the heat, but also because of Garden Tour and the Elkhart County Fair that keep us away from any extra time at the community garden plots, though we do still try to show up for a couple hours on Tuesday mornings. By the end of July, it seems the weeds are winning.

Foxtail grass (*Setaria faberi*) can cause allergic reactions in humans and mammals when there is contact with the abrasive blades and small seeds that stick to skin. It's best to recognize and pull it while it is still small before it begins to bolt and produce long blades and seed head plumes. Quickweed (*Galinsoga ciliata* or *parviflora*) starts small and looks dainty but quickly spreads and grows up to cover ground and crowd out air space. The weed is used as a forage food, cooked or raw, in Central America where it originated. It has become common in field plantings here in the U.S. Purslane (*Portulaca oleracea*) grows among the crops. We don't harvest it, but I did see it offered for sale at the Goshen Farmer's Market Saturday morning as a wild salad edible. Other common weeds are redroot pigweed (*Amaranthus retroflexus*), lambsquarters (*Chenopodium album*), quackgrass and miscellaneous field grasses. Quackgrass (*Elymus repens*) is a perennial weed grass with spreading underground rhizomes that persist in the garden beds. Tilling causes root pieces to resprout, spreading the plant. This is also true of Jerusalem artichoke or sunchoke (*Helianthus tuberosus*) which is abundant here. Anyone is welcome to help us weed. If you cannot come on Tuesday mornings, call or email me and I will make an appointment to meet you at the garden.

There is a lot of harvesting ahead. On June 27 this year our donation to CCS was 6 pounds of radishes. CCS volunteers told us this was the first donation of the season. Our planting did not take place until the second week in May this year. 391 pounds have been harvested for the hungry as of August 8. Still growing and ripening are tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and butternut squash. The weather has been favorable for a good harvest.

The number of master gardeners receiving emails about the garden schedule and plans for each week has grown to 15 this year. If you think you might like to receive news of garden happenings give us your email address and you can be added to our list. It is not necessary to participate every week. All extra help is appreciated.

This year 14 airport community gardeners are growing in leased plots. Some are experienced gardeners growing for a family or extended family and some are new gardeners building their skills. It's interesting to exchange ideas and stories with them.

The new garden coordinator for Church Community Services Seed to Feed program is Morgan Short. She will work part-time and continue her studies at Goshen College. Four plots at the airport are dedicated to the Seed to Feed program to offer fresh food to those who would be without.

MASTER GARDENER WINNERS
HORTICULTURE CATEGORIES

Kay Bontrager-Singer

Best of Show/First-Dish Garden Combined Best of Show
Best of Show/First-Arrangement of Cut Flowers w/vegetables
First-Arrangement of Cut Flowers Miniature
First-Hot Peppers, group of 5
Second-Rhubarb, 5 stalks
Second-Cut Flowers Dahlias
Second-Arrangement of Cut Flowers Holiday
Second-Arrangement of Cut Flowers Kitchen container
Second-Potted Plants Ferns
Third-Potted Plants Ivy

Tracy Byler

First-Arrangement of Cut Flowers-Cut Foliage
First-Dill 1 stem
Second-Onions, Flat Type
Third-Planter or Dish Garden-Foliage
Third-Cut Flowers Dahlias

Dan Carlson

First-Edible Pea Pods, Group of 12
Second-Beets
Second-Misc. Fruit group of 5
Third-Unclassified vegetable above ground group of 5 or 1 large

Marcia Chambers

First-Cut Flowers Daylilies
Second-Cut Flowers Small Marigolds
Second-Miscellaneous Tallest Sunflower
Third-Cut Flowers Lilies
Third-Cut Flowers Large Marigolds
Third-Zucchini group of 3

Kathleen Cripe

Second-Potted Plants Impatiens
Second-Cut Flowers Unclassified Garden
Second-Squash, Summer group of 3

Barb Heeter

First-Potted Plants Begonias
First-Arrangement of Cut Flowers Kitchen Container
Third-Potted Plants Philodendron or Pothos

Mary Hesser

First-Onions Red Globe
First-Onions Flat Type
Second-Potted Plants Bonsai
Third-Green Bush Beans group of 12

Ross Kistler

First-Potted Plants Ivy
First-Arrangement of Cut Flowers-Unclassified
Second-Cut Flowers-Unclassified

Jim Maddux

First-Broccoli 3 heads
First-Eggplant
First-Largest head of cabbage by circumference
Second-Potatoes, Kennebec
Second-Okra Group of 5



MASTER GARDENER WINNERS CONTINUED
HORTICULTURE CATEGORIES

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Debbie Mann

First-Miscellaneous Horticulture Photography B&W
Third Miscellaneous Horticulture Photography Color

Stan Palmer

Best of Show/First-Garlic
First-Miscellaneous Birdhouse
First-Miscellaneous largest potato by weight
First-Miscellaneous largest onion by weight
First-miscellaneous fruit
First-Kohlrabi group of 5
First-Okra group of 5
First-Carrots
First-Onions, green
First-Onions, white globe
First-Potatoes, Yukon Gold
First-Radishes, red or white
First-Unclassified below ground group of 5 or 1 large
First-Onions, yellow globe
Second-Herbs best of 5
Third-Onions, flat type

Marlene Pratt

First-Cactus Dish Garden-Cacti
Second-Cut Flowers unclassified

Fancheon Resler

First-Hot Peppers Hungarian type group of 5
First-Potatoes, red
Second-Onions, white globe
Second-Onions, red globe
Third-Tomatoes, cherry type

Mayrea Reusser

Best of Show/First-Potted Plants, New Guinea Impatiens
First-Potted Plants, Unclassified Foliage
First-Cactus and Sand-Succulents
First-Cut Flowers Dahlias 3
First-Cut Flowers Dahlias 1
First-Green bush beans, 12 per group
First-Squash, summer group of 3
First-Tomatoes, Italian type
Second-Potatoes, red
Second-Tomatoes cherry type
Second-Cut Flowers Lilies

Kate Rink

Third-Dill 1 stem

Linda Sinon

Third-Cactus and Sand-Succulents

Sue Stuckman

First-Above Ground Vegetables-
unclassified group of 5 or 1 large
Third-Herbs, best collection of 5



List Provided by the Purdue Extension Office

HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

- Prepare storage areas for overwintering tender flower bulbs and garden produce.
- Thanksgiving (or Christmas) cactus can be forced into bloom for the Thanksgiving holidays. Provide 15 hours of complete darkness each day, for instance, from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m., for approximately eight weeks. Keep temperature at about 60-65 degrees F. Temperatures of 55F will cause flower buds to set without dark treatment.
- Dig and repot herbs, or take cuttings, for growing indoors over winter.
- Store leftover garden seed in a cool, dry place. A sealable jar with a layer of silica gel or powdered milk in the bottom works well.
- Bring houseplants moved outside for summer indoors before night temperatures fall below 55F. Gradually decrease light to acclimate the plants and help reduce leaf drop. Check and control insects and diseases before putting these plants near other houseplants.
- Poinsettias saved from last year can be reflowered for this year's holiday by providing complete darkness for 15 hours daily from about Oct. 1 until about Dec. 10.

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)

- Fall is a good time to plant many container-grown or balled-and-burlapped nursery stock. Prepare a good-sized hole, plant at the same depth it grew in the nursery and water thoroughly. Mulching will help protect against large fluctuations in soil temperature and moisture. Be sure to stake or guy-wire tall plants to protect them from strong winds. Wrap tree trunks to protect against frost cracks or animal damage.
- Do not be alarmed if your evergreens, particularly white pine and arborvitae, drop some older needles. All evergreens shed needles at some time, but not all at once as deciduous plants do.
- Harvest apples, pears, grapes, and everbearing strawberries and raspberries. For most fruits, flavor is the best indicator of ripeness, although color change also can be a good indicator. However, pears are best ripened off the tree, and grapes change color long before they are fully flavored, so sample the fruit to be sure.
- Remove raspberry canes after they bear fruit.
- Clean up fallen fruits, twigs and leaves around apple (including crabapple) and other fruit trees to reduce disease and insect carryover.
- To promote the lawn's recovery from summer stress, apply high-nitrogen fertilizer at the rate of 0.5 to 1 pound actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet.
- Reseed bare spots or new lawns using a good-quality seed mixture. Seeding in late summer allows the turf to maximize its establishment and rooting prior to the next summer's heat and drought. 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.

GARDEN (Flowers, vegetables and small fruits)

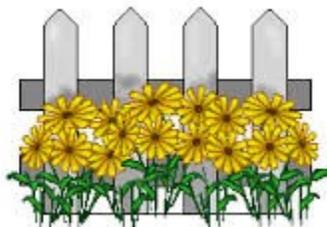
- Dig onions and garlic after tops fall over naturally and necks begin to dry.
- Plant radishes, green onion sets, lettuce and spinach for fall harvest.
- Thin fall crops such as lettuce and carrots that were planted earlier.
- Harvest crops such as tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, melons and sweet potatoes before frost, or cover plants with blankets, newspaper, etc., (but not plastic) to protect them from light frost.
- Mature green tomatoes can be ripened indoors. Individually wrap fruits in newspaper, or leave them on the vine, pulling the entire plant out of the garden. Store in a cool location – about 55-60F.
- Harvest winter squash when mature (skin is tough) with deep, solid color, but before hard frost. Some cultivars will show an orange blush when mature.
- Plant, transplant or divide peonies, daylilies, iris and phlox.
- Save plants such as coleus, wax begonias, impatiens or fuchsia for indoor growing over winter. Dig plants and cut them back about halfway, or take cuttings of shoot tips, and root them in moist vermiculite, soil mix or perlite.
- Watch for garden chrysanthemums to bloom as days grow shorter. Some may have bloomed earlier this summer, which will decrease the number of fall blooms.
- Plant spring-flowering bulbs beginning in late September. Planting too early can cause bulbs to sprout top growth before winter. However, allow at least four to six weeks before the ground freezes for good root formation.
- Dig tender bulbs, such as cannas, caladiums, tuberous begonias and gladiolus, before frost. Allow to air dry, and store in dry peat moss or vermiculite.
- Cut flowers, such as strawflower, statice, baby's breath and celosia, for drying and hang upside down in a dry, well-ventilated area.



2017 GARDEN TOUR

**If you are interested in a CD from 2017 Garden Tour, they are available from
Debbie Mann for a donation of \$5.00**

As of this date, August 3, 2017, I can declare the 2017 Garden Tour a great success and that was due to a great deal of team effort on the part of all of the committee members and all of the many volunteers at the event. A great big thank you to each and every one of you is appropriate. Also, thanksgiving is due to God for providing a wonderful growing season and spectacular weather the day of the tour. Of course, our homeowners were wonderful for all of their preparation and for allowing so many people a peek into their treasured gardens.



As of now, we sold 338 tickets for a total of \$3,620.00. We had 109 walk-ins the day of the tour, 104 complimentary tickets and around 96 extra tickets out of the 575 we printed.

We took in \$1,249.91 from merchandise with a further sale planned at the Appreciation Dinner on August 29. Plants brought in \$900.00! Thank you everyone. Ads in the ticket book added \$2,660.00 to our income, which totals around \$8,200.00 at this point. Our expenses are not complete yet, we haven't gotten all of our bills yet, but a complete accounting will be given later.

I had wonderful committee members who did their assigned tasks well and with enthusiasm. I would like to encourage any MMGA member to get involved in this committee. There are great mentors and detailed reports for each person involved and while working together, we all enjoyed getting to know our fellow members. I understand that 8 or 9 gardens for next year have already been selected. What a great start for next year's chairperson, Anne Overmyer, and for the 2018 tour.

-Carol Swartzendruber, 2017 Garden Tour Chair

2018 GARDEN TOUR

Plans for Garden Tour 2018 are underway! The tour will be held on Saturday, July 14, 2018. The garden selection committee has pinpointed several outstanding gardens in the southwest and northeast area of Goshen. The committee will present information and photos of these gardens to the general committee for its approval soon. Although many members have already volunteered to serve on this project, some co-chair positions are available. If anyone wishes to help with Garden Tour 2018, the largest fundraiser of the year, please consider attending the first meeting on Tuesday, September 5 at 7:00 p.m. in the Extension Office conference room. Thereafter, all meetings will be held on the first Monday of each month except December (no meeting) and January (which will be the 2nd Monday due to the holiday). Please join us. We welcome all volunteers!

-Anne Overmyer, 2018 Garden Tour Chair

-Jenny Schrock, 2018 Garden Tour Co-Chair

INFORMATION FOR OUR MEMBERS

MMGA Board Meeting
July 11, 2017
6:00 p.m. Extension Office

Present: Dan Carlson, Kathleen Cripe, Connie Garber, Loanne Harms, Dianna Jackson, Carol Novy, Anne Regier, Jenny Schrock, Craig Stiver, Ron Troyer, Cindy Watson.

Absent: Jeff Burbrink, Amy McLaughlin and Bill Roberts

NO JULY MEMBER MEETING DUE TO AG HALL SETUP FOR FAIR

Dan welcomed the group and called the meeting to order. Welcome to Loanne who is filling the remainder of Kathy Radican's position. **Secretary's report** -Jenny moved that the June Secretary's report be approved, Connie seconded; motion passed. Anne presented the **Treasurer's report**. The checking account balance is \$12,565.24; money market balance is \$18,760.90; savings balance is \$137.31; and cash on hand is \$200.00, for a total of \$31,663.45. All the funds are in for the bus trip with a shortfall of \$215.00. An earlier vote by the board had approved the board covering a shortfall. Kathleen made the motion to approve the June treasurer's report, Carol seconded; motion passed. Jeff was absent so there was **no Educator's report**. **Committee Reports** (Those not listed had no report.): **Answer Line**—It's going well. **Broadcaster**—Things are going well and are planning to have them available at Ag Hall for folks to pick up during the Fair; mailing out those not picked up. **2016 Class Updates**—Will be doing presentations during fair week. **Community Gardens**—72 pounds of produce was harvested this morning. **Fair Board**—Millmark Industries is donating matching signs. Construction of two new buildings is planned for after the fair and will house shooting sports. **Fair Set Up**—Next Monday, 7/15, is set-up in Ag Hall. Pizza and beverages will be provided for those helping with set-up. **Garden Tour**—Average attendance was 300 per garden with 330 tickets sold. Other funds received were \$900 from the plant sale and \$1400 from the craft sale. **Membership**—Loanne will be the new board liaison. **Merchandise**—There were several sales at the last membership meeting. **Programs**—August is the Garden Tour thank you dinner; September is Fernwood. **Property Trustee**—Will be looking at area following the fair. **Quilt Gardens**—Bristol-selecting quilt pattern for 2018. Goshen-still need a chair for the quilt garden at the fairgrounds. **Set up**—Things are going fine. **Speakers Bureau**—Lots in the works. **Spring Celebration**—Scheduled for March 10, 2018, at Greencroft. **WebMaster**—No problems. Dan noted there is no log-out and Craig confirmed one was not intended. **Old Business: Fair tent**—supplies have been purchased. Need to have a volunteer for the 3 p.m. straw bale gardening on Friday. **Garden Show**—Next meeting is August 22. New people have expressed interest. Have had good speakers for Spring Celebration but want a new person for the Garden Show. **Bylaws**—it was moved that a Board standing committee be formed to review and suggest necessary changes to the bylaws. The motion was made by Craig, seconded by Jenny; motion passed. The committee will consist of Jenny Schrock, Craig Stiver and Connie Garber. **New Business: Ag Hall set-up** for fair week is scheduled for Monday, July 15, at 6 p.m. **Budgets for 2018**. Dan will send an email after fair. He will get together with Anne to review what is needed for committee chairs for the budget. September 16, 8:30-3 is **the Lake County Master Gardener Association show**. **Fancheon Resler** has requested emeritus status. This is granted by the Board. Craig moved that emeritus status be granted to Fancheon. Loanne seconded; motion passed. In December the **old and new board** of directors will meet together. **Cardno Native Plant Nursery** in Walkerton is having a free open house on July 21, 9-4. Information will be sent out. Tammy O'Rourke will make a presentation about the **bus trip** at the August Board meeting. **The next Board meeting** will be held August 8, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. Dan adjourned the July meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Watson, MMGA Board Secretary

2016 MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

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Class Time 1:00-4:30 p.m.

Extension Office Conference Room

Active Master Gardeners are welcome to sit in on any class as a refresher and receive education hours for that class. If you would like to attend, please contact Nancy or Jeff a few days in advance of the class so that handouts can be printed and available for you.

<u>DATES OF TRAINING</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>TEACHER</u>
Thursday, Aug. 10, 2017	Overview of our Master Gardener Program	Jeff Burbrink, Purdue Extension Educator
Thursday, Aug. 17, 2017	Plant Science	Jeff Burbrink
Thursday, Aug. 24, 2017	About Our Soils/Plant Nutrition	Amanda Kautz, Elkhart County NRCS/Jeff Burbrink
Thursday, Aug. 31, 2017	Plant Disease/Pathology	Jeff Burbrink
Thursday, Sept. 7, 2017	Pesticide Use and Safety	Jeff Burbrink
Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017	Insect Control	Jeff Burbrink
Thursday, Sept. 21, 2017	Teaching Techniques	Jeff Burbrink
Thursday, Sept. 28, 2017	Animal Control	Jeff Burbrink
Thursday, Oct. 5, 2017	Vegetables	Jeff Burbrink
Thursday, Oct. 12, 2017	Indoor Plants	Susie Klepinger, Master Gardener
Thursday, Oct. 19, 2017	Woody Ornamentals	Jeff Burbrink
Thursday, Oct. 26, 2017	Tree Fruit Production	Jeff Burbrink
Thursday, Nov. 2, 2017	Flowers	Loanne Harms, Master Gardener
Thursday, Nov. 9, 2017	Weeds & Composting/ Worms	Jeff Burbrink
Thursday, Nov. 16, 2017	Water Gardening	Diane Mast, Master Gardener
Thursday, Nov. 23, 2017	No Class-Thanksgiving	
Thursday, Nov. 30, 2017	Lawn Care	Jeff Burbrink
Thursday, Dec. 7, 2017	Basic Landscaping	Barb Heeter, Master Gardener
Thursday, Dec. 14, 2017	Final Exam and Wrap Up- Very Important to Attend!	

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
SEPTEMBER 2017

"By all these lovely tokens
September days are here,
With summer's best of weather
And autumn's best of cheer."

- Helen Hunt Jackson, *September*, 1830-1885