

March 2018 Broadcaster





THE MICHIANA BROADCASTER

MICHIANA MASTER
GARDENERS ASSOCIATION
“HELPING OTHERS GROW”

Table of Contents March, 2018

President’s Message by Connie Garber	2
What’s Happening.....	3
Mark Your Calendars.....	4
Soil pH is Important to Soil, Gardens by Jeff Burbrink.....	5-6
The Birds and The Bees Spring Celebration	7
Soon Will Come the Spring by Jim Carpenter	8
Meet our Members by Carol Swartzendruber.....	9
2018 Board Members	10
Plant A Row by Tammy O’Rourke	11
Yes, Again! by Susie Klepinger	12
Class of 2017 Photos by Marilyn Horvath.....	14-15
Information for our Members.....	16-18



Attention MMGA Members

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

*****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.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by CONNIE GARBER

One of the many things I appreciate about Master Gardeners is that they are always thinking of ways to improve our outreach. At last night's board meeting we agreed to fund setting up a weekly booth at the Farmer's Market in Goshen. There will be a regular booth for us each week to answer questions from the public. Great PR! Talk to Jim Carpenter about volunteering. More info coming on other interesting new events.

Enjoy Spring Celebration coming up on March 10th at Greencroft. Ticket sales will be at the member meeting on the 27th.

We MGs should especially enjoy St. Patrick's Day on March 17th because it is such a Green Celebration!

Spring is Coming!
Connie Garber,
2018 President





What's Happening

MARCH EVENTS

Monday, March 5 7:00 p.m.	Garden Tour Committee Meeting Extension Office Conference Room
Saturday, March 10 12:00-4:00 p.m.	Spring Celebration Greencroft Goshen
Tuesday, March 13 6:00 p.m.	Board Meeting Extension Office Conference Room
Saturday, March 17 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Community Garden Spring Orientation Seminar Elkhart Environmental Center
Tuesday, March 20 6:30 p.m.	Garden Expo Committee Meeting Extension Office Conference Room
Tuesday, March 27 7:00 p.m.	Member Meeting, Ag Hall Master Gardener Awards

APRIL EVENTS

Monday, April 2 7:00 p.m.	Garden Tour Committee Meeting Extension Office Conference Room
Tuesday, April 10 6:00 p.m.	Board Meeting Extension Office Conference Room
Tuesday, April 17 6:30 p.m.	Garden Expo Committee Meeting Extension Office Conference Room
Saturday, April 21 9:00 a.m.	Community Garden Opening Day
Tuesday, April 24 7:00 p.m.	Member Meeting, Ag Hall Flora of Australia, Meg Mitzel



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

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

Tuesday, May 29, 2018	David and Michelle Muir, Fruit Hills Winery
Tuesday, June 26, 2018	Creating a Cutting Garden, Phoebe Brubaker, Flowers by Phoebe
Monday, July 16, 2018	Fair Set-up and Pizza Party
Tuesday, August 28, 2018	Garden Tour Appreciation Dinner
Tuesday, September 25, 2018	Food as Medicine, Anne Thiel, ND
Tuesday, October 30, 2018	TBA
Tuesday, November 27, 2018	Thanks-for-Giving Carry-in

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

Tuesday, May 8, 2018
Tuesday, June 12, 2018
Tuesday, July 10, 2018
Tuesday, August 14, 2018
Tuesday, September 11, 2018
Tuesday, October 9, 2018

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

Monday, May 7, 2018
Monday, June 4, 2018
Saturday, July 14, 2018 GARDEN TOUR
Wrap-up Meeting TBD
Monday, September 3, 2018
Monday, October 1, 2018

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

Tuesday, May 22, 2018
Tuesday, June 19, 2018
No July Meeting due to Garden Tour and Fair
Tuesday, August 21, 2018
Tuesday, September 18, 2018
Tuesday, October 23, 2018

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.

JEFF BURBRINK: SOIL pH IS IMPORTANT TO SOIL, GARDENS

February 9, 2018



An article I saw recently in a magazine aimed at Midwestern Corn Belt farmers touted the benefits of lime applications to fields. “Research Shows Increased Yield with Liming Treatments” was the headline.

This article, or at least the headline, bothered me. It implies that lime will solve a problem. It made an assumption that everyone’s fields are all in the same condition. In our area, I know that is not true.

A few soil chemistry basics first: Soil pH is a measure of the acidity or alkalinity of the soil. It is measured on a scale from 0 to 14. From 0 to 7 is acidic. From 7 to 14 is alkaline. Some people use the term sour to describe acidic (think lemons). Sweet is another common term to describe alkaline (or basic) soil pH. A pH of 7, half way between 0 and 14, is neutral.

The corn and soybean crops we grow in Elkhart County, as well as most of our vegetables, prefer a soil pH that is slightly acidic, say 6.2 to 7.0. In that range, the major nutrients needed by these plants are available to the plants root systems. At pH outside of that optimal range, some nutrients are tied up by the chemistry in the soil, and the plant cannot extract them.

A good example of this is pin oak trees. Plant a pin oak in a soil with a pH higher than 7.3, and you will watch the tree leaves slowly turn yellow from lack of iron, or manganese or both. The tree will live, but it will not thrive. Generally speaking, if you plant a pin oak on the sandy soils in Elkhart County, you will probably see this happen in your own yard, because the pH is too high on most of those soils for a pin oak.

Lime is used to correct a pH on an acid soil. The calcium in the ground up limestone neutralizes acid. By adding lime to a soil with a pH of 5.5 or 6, you would expect to see the pH rise.

But what if the pH is above 7, say a 7.5 or a 7.8? Judging by all the soil tests that go across my desk each year, having a high pH is more the norm in our community than the exception. Putting lime on might only intensify problems if the pH is out of the range your plants require. In fact, every year I see lawns that people have treated with lime because “something was wrong” and it only made the problem worse.

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.

JEFF BURBRINK: SOIL pH IS IMPORTANT TO SOIL, GARDENS, CONTINUED

February 9, 2018

To correct a high soil pH issue, the solution is to apply some sulfur. The amount of sulfur to apply depends on several factors: the starting pH, the type of soil (sandy, loamy, clay) and the target pH you are trying to reach.

You cannot guess how much sulfur to apply to your field, or garden or your lawn. Nor can you guess how much lime to apply. That is why you'll see Extension Educators and Specialists repeating over and over that it is important to soil test fields and gardens every 3 to 5 years. A basic soil test measures pH, as well as a few key nutrients like phosphorus and potassium.

Yes, there are fields in our area that need lime to correct low pH issues. There are many fields and gardens that are alkaline and would benefit from some sulfur to lower the pH. testing, not guessing, can answer many questions.

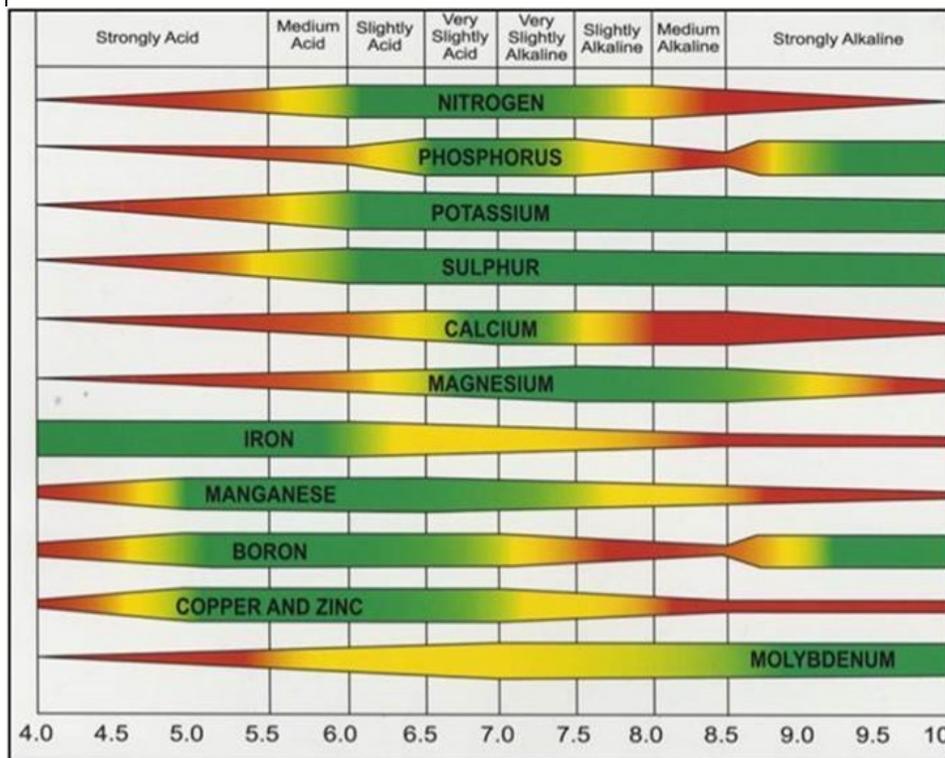


Chart provided by Purdue University
 This chart illustrates the availability of some plant nutrients in the soil at various pH levels.

PURDUE
EXTENSION

LOCAL FACES
COUNTLESS CONNECTIONS



“THE BIRDS & THE BEES”

Learn how to attract birds and bees to your garden...

Saturday, March 10, 2018

12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Greencroft

1820 Greencroft Blvd.
Goshen

Sponsored by:

Michiana Master Gardeners' Association in
cooperation with Purdue Extension - Elkhart County

Pre-Sale Ticket Outlet Locations:

Elkhart:

Sixspan Ace Hardware Center, 21826 State Road 120
Central Hardware & Plumbing Supply, 28459 Old US 33

Goshen:

Better World Books, 215 S. Main Street
Goshen Farmers Market, 212 W. Washington
Purdue Extension, 17746 County Road 34 - Ste. E

Tickets will also be available at the door on the day of the event for \$12.00

Soon Will Come the Spring
By Jim Carpenter

It's 10 degrees, my nose is cold.
Snow lies deep upon the ground.
Yet the calendar holds the promise,
spring will soon come around.

It won't be tomorrow or even next week,
but I know its time will come.
When all the snow and all the cold,
gives way to the heat of the sun.

The earth will arise from its slumber,
shaking off its blanket of white.
And then from the soil springs forth,
all manner of new born life.

Seasons come and seasons go,
and each has much to give.
So find the beauty that lies about,
that you more abundantly live.

-Jim Carpenter



MEET OUR MEMBERS
BY CAROL SWARTZENDRUBER



Connie Garber, Class of 2014

Our 2018 President, Connie Garber, grew up in Michigan, graduated from Harbor Springs and married, Don, her high school sweetheart. They have been married 48 years and have two children and five grandchildren. Their daughter and her four children, age 20 to 19 months live close by but son, Jeremy, is in Denver, with their granddaughter.

After getting married, Don and Connie went to St. Louis, Missouri, in Voluntary Service. There they were involved in a very depressed part of town and were involved with a unit with a preschool and a library extension among other activities. They came back to Goshen where they both then graduated from Goshen College. Connie's degree was in Home Economics with emphasis on dietetics, which eventually brought her to Greencroft Retirement Community. She traveled through several departments and retired as VP of assisted living.

Miniature creamers that are 1-2" are collectibles to Connie. She has around 150. Pie birds are another collecting item and she has about 30. A very special occasion for Connie is when she and her childhood friend travel. The two of them decided to take a special trip together every five years after their children were grown. They have been to the Caribbean, Italy and a special trip out West. Since Connie's husband is not a traveler, this opportunity has special meaning for her. That sounds like a great idea to borrow for yourself and some friends.

Pam Cecchi, Class of 2016

Pam Checkie (her pronunciation) has lived in the South Bend area all her life. She and her domestic partner, Tim, have been together 22 years. Through Tim, she has a stepson and stepdaughter who have given them four wonderful granddaughters who all live in the area.



Pam has her B.A. in clinical psychology with minors in art history and music. But, she mostly has used her abilities to work in sales in the insurance industry, especially with seniors. Although retired, Pam still often helps out in this very confusing area of health insurance. Her music involved voice, French horn, piano and flute. Knitting, pastel painting and gardening are some of her interests. In 2003, she and Tim had a villa built for smaller living space and she did all the initial landscaping. Now, she has taken on the re-landscaping of the wooded and shaded space once again. She also helps a friend with cat rescue and has four fluffy cats of her own.

Pam and Tim have a Harley motorcycle and have really enjoyed traveling cross country, usually with a few other couples. They have traveled to Gatlinburg and down the Natchez Trace through Tennessee and Mississippi and hope to do a trip from South Dakota to Northern Mexico this year. Her most interesting experience was swimming with stingrays while on a cruise in the Caribbean. Pam is a people person and is already well involved in the garden tour and the plant sale. She will be bugging you to divide your plants and contributing to the plant sale in July.

**MICHIANA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION
2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Jeff Burbrink	Educator	jburbrink@purdue.edu
Connie Garber	President	connie.garber@gmail.com
Kathleen Cripe	Vice President	klcripe@bnin.net
Cindy Watson	Secretary	cawatson@gmail.com
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Craig Stiver		stiv49@hotmail.com
Carol Swartzendruber		crdruber@gmail.com



An Irish Blessing

*May the road rise to meet you,
 May the wind always be at your back.
 May the sun shine warm upon your face,
 The rain fall soft upon your fields.
 And until we meet again,
 May God hold you
 In the palm of his hand.*

PLANT A ROW FOR THE HUNGRY
BY TAMMY O'ROURKE

At our most recent Community Garden meeting, we were discussing Plant a Row for the Hungry, and it was suggested that our membership might like to know a little bit about this organization. I agreed to write an article, and after doing some research, I am once again reminded that the United States, one of the richest countries in the world, has such a great need for a basic life-sustaining necessity.

STATISTICS: According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1 in 8 households in the United States experiences hunger or the risk of hunger. Many frequently skip meals or eat too little, sometimes going without food for an entire day. In 2016, 41.2 million people, including 17 million children, were considered food insecure; they have substandard diets or must resort to seeking emergency food because they cannot always afford the food they need. The demand for food assistance has increased by over 60% in recent years, and because of that increased need and lack of agency resources, many of those food insecure people are turned away from food banks and other assistance programs.

The state of Indiana, at 15.3%, ranks above the U.S. average for food insecure households. In Elkhart County, 12.7% of the population is food insecure. In Elkhart County public schools, 52.7% of students qualify for the National School Lunch Program. 43% of those students receive free lunch and 9.7% receive reduced lunch.

PAR: Plant a Row for the Hungry was founded in 1995, and is a public service program of the Garden Writer's Association (GWA) and the Garden Writer's Association Foundation. Garden writers encourage their readers/listeners to plant extra produce and donate the surplus to local food banks and soup kitchens. Since 1995, over 20 million pounds of produce has been donated by American Gardeners. In 2002, GWA established a supporting 501(c)(3) charity, GWA Foundation, to administer and expand the *Plant A Row (PAR)* program. *Plant A Row* provides direction and support to volunteer committees that promote community gardening at the local level. They provide training for outreach into the community as well as coordinating local food collection systems and monitoring the volume of donations being collected.

HOW WE HELP: At the Airport Community Garden, Master Gardeners maintain four of the 20' x 20' plots which are planted with crops that are harvested for donation to the Church Community Foundation Food Bank in Elkhart. The Community Garden started in 2000, and every year produces on average 1,000# of food. The types of crops planted and the yield varies from year to year, depending upon growing conditions and what the needs of the food bank are.

HOW CAN YOU HELP? You can Plant A Row and donate the harvest to your local food bank, soup kitchen, homeless shelter, etc. Church Community Services (574-295-3673) provides food donations to some of the smaller food banks around the county, and that is where the Community Garden donates produce. Another large facility in Elkhart that accepts donations is Faith Mission Shelter (574-293-3406). To find a list of food banks and soup kitchens in Elkhart County, visit <http://www.feedindiana.org/food-pantries>. To get more information, <https://gardenwriters.org/PAR> is the website for *PAR*.

YES, AGAIN!
BY SUSIE KLEPINGER

I don't mean to lecture, but now is the time to give a "thank you" to those splashes of green that have kept us sane as the snow fell, and fell, and fell. Of course, I am talking about my favorites: houseplants. These are our year-round friends who suffer through weeks of little sun, shortened days, and desert-dry conditions, yet still give us a spiritual lift.

At this time, they are feeling the winter blahs, too, and need the spring tune-up that we give our homes and early outdoor gardens. This includes leaf cleaning, soil loosening or repotting, removal of dead or dying debris, and an insect check and treatment, if necessary.

They have been our rocks this winter. Some have even bloomed, (orchids, kalanchoes, Christmas cactus, poinsettia, and some succulents) so take the time now to repay their steadfast loyalty.

Postscript: This winter, I have had the pleasure of helping Morgan Short a few times in the huge Church Community Services greenhouse behind their complex. She is the Seed to Feed Coordinator and has been raising leafy greens and root crop vegetables to share with the Food Pantry. Since vegetables are not my forte, it has been interesting to watch her use of overgrown grass for insulation, newspapers for weed control, and gallon milk jugs filled with water and painted black for heat. This is another worthwhile Master Gardener volunteer area. It also scratched my gardening itch as the snow flew. If you would like to help, contact Morgan at 574-295-3673, Ext. 122 or at her E-Mail address: mshort@churchcommunityservices.org.



CLASS OF 2017 SEMINARS



Top Photo l-r: Jean Deary, Sandy Amt, Eric Amt, Kathy Mow, Annette Webb

Pictured Right: Robert Slaski

Pictured Bottom Left: Kathy Mow

Pictured Bottom Right: Annette Webb

Photos taken by Marilyn Horvath



CLASS OF 2017 SEMINARS



Top Left Photo l-r:
Doug Fetters, Angie Millie

Top Right Photo: Sandy Amt

Pictured Left: Cathy Hughes

Bottom Photo l-r: Robert Slaski,
Kelly Bancroft, Cathy Hughes, Annette Webb

Photos taken by Marilyn Horvath



INFORMATION FOR OUR MEMBERS

2018 GARDEN EXPO

To my Master Gardener Friends,

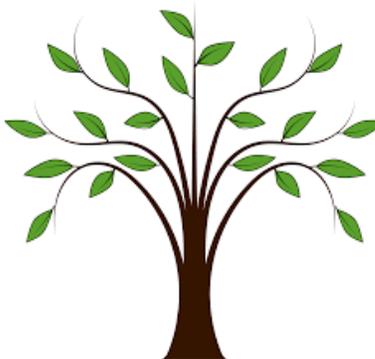
Since we had no meeting in December, I did not write any update on the status of our committee. We had our first meeting of the year on January 23rd. We have confirmed our speakers, Barbara Pleasant and Mike McGroarty, but we are putting on hold the topic of which they will speak. We all took another look at the venue we are using for the Garden Expo, discussing some possibilities for our activities.

We have grown in number with four new people in the position of advertising and sponsorship. They are Dean Linsenmeyer, Meg Mitzel, Tammy O'Rourke and Carol Swartzendruber. And since then, we have decided to combine this committee with the vendor committee, so that will add two to three more people. We have done this to keep our business approach to a minimum and consistent. Looking forward to the next few months in finalizing some issues we have been working on.

Carol Novy
Garden Expo Chair

2018 TREE SALE

As you may have heard, we are having a Tree Sale on April 14, 2018. I still have spaces for you to sign up to help on Thursday, April 12, & Friday, April 13. You can work from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m., or, if you want, you can work from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. I also still have spaces for you to sign up to help on Saturday, April 14, the day of the sale. This would be from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. for the sale, and then, we will need help until 3:00 p.m. to clean up.



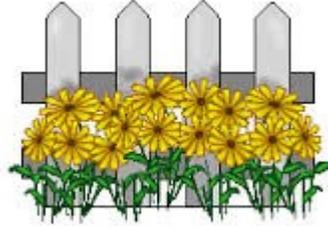
This is a great way to get to know the members for those of you that are new to the organization. If you plan to help, remember to wear old clothes on Thursday and Friday as it is dirty, and wear warm clothes as it is rather cool and wet. Please bring gloves as it is wet and the trees can be hard on your hands. If you help on Saturday, the day of the sale, you can wear normal clothes. Also, if you ordered trees, remember they must be picked up on Saturday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. If for some reason you cannot pick up your trees, please arrange for someone to do it for you on Saturday.

Barbara Heeter
Tree Sale Co-Chair

INFORMATION FOR OUR MEMBERS

2018 GARDEN TOUR

Merchandise



Happy Winter to my Master Gardener friends. It's finally stopped snowing and the temperature is not in the single digits!

I am chair of the merchandise committee for Garden Tour 2018. I've been making things to sell at the boutique, and we would love to have some of your creations, too. I've seen some of the beautiful garden-related things some of you have made. So, while you're hibernating for the rest of the winter like I am, please make some things for Garden Tour.

Also, when you're working on that resolution to clear some clutter, save some of those garden things for our second hand sale. They may be someone else treasure. Thanks my friends. See all of you soon.

Gwen Ferland, Merchandise Chair

Plant Sale

Spring will be here soon! I'm already planning my garden additions and what to contribute to the Plant Sale. Don't forget to save your pots!

Pam Cecchi, Plant Sale Chair

AIRPORT COMMUNITY GARDEN

The first committee meeting of 2018 was held on Thursday, February 8, and plans were made for spring activities. The committee will be presenting the Spring Seminar and Orientation on Saturday, March 17, 10 a.m.-12 noon at the Elkhart Environmental Center. Short presentations will be given on Community Garden rules, guidelines and various organic gardening topics. There are 20 garden plots available to rent at \$10 for the first plot, and \$8 for each additional plot. In April, the garden will be staked and strung on Tuesday, April 17, at 9 a.m., and opening day is Saturday, April 21, at 9 a.m.



The next committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 21, at 9 a.m. at Meg Mitzel's home, 51697 Winding Waters Lane, Elkhart. All are welcome to join us!

Tammy O'Rourke
Committee Member

INFORMATION FOR OUR MEMBERS

MMGA Board Meeting
January 9, 2018
6:00 p.m. Extension Office

Present: Sandy Amt, Jeff Burbrink, Kathleen Cripe, Connie Garber, Loanne Harms, Dianna Jackson, Carol Swartzendruber, Cindy Watson Absent: Dan Carlson, Gwen Ferland, Carol Novy, Kate Rink, Craig Stiver

Connie welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new year. **Secretary's report**-Dianna made a motion to accept the secretary's report, Carol Swartzendruber seconded; motion passed. **Treasurer's report**- Dan met with Anne and his email was referenced. Loanne made a motion to move \$4,000.00 to the money market account, Kathleen seconded; motion passed. Account balances: checking \$9,374.50; Money Market \$18,770.40; savings \$137.37; Total bank accounts \$28,282.27. **Educator's report**-Jeff reported that the 2017 class and exams have been completed. The class did well on exams producing the highest average score. They are working on their seminars and the first seminar will be held this Saturday, January 13. **Committee reports:** **Answer line**-No report; Loanne talked with Marilyn who is the new **archivist**. Things are going well with the **Broadcaster**. **Class updates:** 2016 class will have their graduation gathering on April 26, 2018. 2017-class is working on their seminars/presentations. **Community Gardens**-no report; **Extension Landscape**-no report; **Fair Board**-no report; **Fair set up**-Kathleen shared that there's nothing at this time. **Garden tour**-Carol Swartzendruber shared that things are moving along ahead of schedule. Ten gardens have been selected and descriptions have been written for each. Letters were being sent out today. The Hospitality Center will be at the First Baptist church in Goshen at SR 119 and Indiana. Carol asked for suggestions on where to sell tickets, particularly in Goshen. Several suggestions were made—Flowers by Phoebe, Better World Books, Wooden Wagon, Wellfield, Linton's. **Membership**-Loanne reported that Len does not have a current membership list. It was suggested that he contact Nancy for an updated list. **Merchandise**-Carol is still looking for someone to take over MG merchandise. **Nominating Committee**-no report; **Programs**-no report; **Property Trustee**-Kathleen will ask for volunteers at the January 30 meeting; **Quilt Gardens**-Bristol – no report, Goshen-Kate will be the liaison. Connie will contact Dean and Debbie. **Set up**-no report; **Speaker's Bureau**-no report; **Spring Celebration**-Thursday, January 10 is the next meeting. Tickets will be printed and available at the January membership meeting. **Tree Sale**-Carol S. will contact Barb and Bill to check the status. **Web Master**-no report. Old Business-**Garden show**-Cindy shared a brief update in Carol's absence. **Bus trip**-Carol S. suggested Diana Thornton as a good organizer. Carol would be interested in being the liaison. Marilyn, Dean and Heidi were all on last year's bus trip committee. Sandy Amt learned from Wellfield that all of their compost is leaf compost from the City of Elkhart's collections that has been taken to Soil Solutions. It is called Aged Natural. Sandy also visited the Public Works office and learned there was no public compost. It had been done years ago and was quite expensive. Leaves from black walnut trees were in the mix and there had been no adverse effect at Wellfield. New Business-Connie asked that we each say our names before sharing at the MMGA membership meetings to allow new members to know who folks are. Connie will introduce the board at the membership meeting and will ask the 2017 class to stand as well. Carol S. will introduce newer members that she has met and interviewed. Loanne will provide new tags to identify Board members. Connie has suggested looking at the MMGA mission statement and will provide a draft for Board review. The February Board meeting will be held on February 13, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Watson, MMGA Secretary

INFORMATION FOR OUR MEMBERS

MMGA Member Meeting
January 30, 2018
7:00 p.m. Ag Hall

Connie welcomed everyone and had the Board members that were present introduce themselves. She also asked the class of 2017 to stand. Len Harms described his duties as membership chair. (The co-chair position is open.) Loanne Harms introduced Brad Clayton from Clayton Garden Center, who shared with our group, "Moving on Up – Pollinators in Urban Environments." Clayton Garden Center is located north of North Webster and has been in business since 1956. Brad informed the group that not much new is coming to the garden world in 2018. He shared much information on pollinators. Following the presentation and brief Q&A time with Brad Clayton, there were additional announcements made. Barb Heeter shared that the Tree Sale sign up sheets were available and she would like 4-5 volunteers on Wednesday, April 11. Many more volunteers were needed on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Bud announced that tickets for Spring Celebration were available and were \$10 at our meeting. Sue Stuckman shared that there is an opening at the Wellfield in their learning Garden. Contact Annie at Wellfield if you are interested. Refreshments provided by Fancheon Resler, Loanne Harms, Pat Watson, Gail Weybright, and Marilyn Horvath. Business meeting: **Secretary's report**-Loanne Harms made the motion to accept the Secretary's report, Ginger Thorne seconded; motion passed. **Treasurer's report**-Carol Swartzendruber made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, Paul Miles seconded; motion passed. **Educator's report**-Jeff shared that the county has a leaf-burning committee which is discussing how best to respond to issues and concerns. There will not be an ordinance to eliminate leaf burning but a variety of options were discussed at their meeting. The cost to do leaf pick up throughout the county would be between \$700,000 and \$800,000. They may allow burning on certain days. They may do pilot work in some neighborhoods. Jeff may put together a committee to help do education. The 2017 class has a talk already put together. Perhaps after fair week Jeff will have a sign-up to train the trainers. The Fair is six months away. The 2017 class has chosen their dates for their talks during fair week. There may be some open times for a program, possibly on Tuesday, July 24 and Wednesday, July 25. Other announcements: Spring Celebration's topic will be Birds and the Bees. It will be held March 10 from 12-4 at Greencroft. Sandy Amt, class of 2017, shared that her class doesn't have membership directories and will find it helpful to have one. Anne Overmyer shared that larger styrofoam containers are needed to make hypertufas for sale at the hospitality center for the garden tour. Volunteers will be needed and sign-up sheets will be available at the February MMGA meeting. Paul Miles talked about needing volunteers to work on the Answer Line. It provides continuing education for those working due to the research often needed to answer questions. Marilyn Horvath, Speaker's Bureau, shared that she has received six requests for speakers. Marilyn has also agreed to be the MMGA Archivist. She is looking for 2016 Broadcasters and encouraged all of us to look for clippings and articles from local newspapers and publications. Carol Novy shared that the Elkhart County Garden Expo will be held February 23, 2019, and lots of help will be needed the day of the event. Connie Garber offered that at the Porter County show, some 200 volunteers are present for the 2,500 people who come to that show. Carol Swartzendruber interviewed Dianna Jackson and Cindy Watson and an article about each of them is in the January Broadcaster. Len Harms shared that there were 57 in attendance at this evening's meeting, out of 117 members. The drawing winners were: Leanne Coon, Mayrea Reusser, Pam Cecchi, Gaye Yoder, Kent Yoder, Cathy Hughes, Marilyn Horvath, Tom Havens, Kathleen Cripe. Our next MMGA meeting will be held February 27, at 7:00 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by Cindy Watson, MMGA 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.

MOTTO

"Helping Others Grow"

Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service
Elkhart County
Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds
17746 County Road 34, Suite E
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