

PURDUE

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Broadcaster

"Helping Each Other Grow!"

Michiana Master Gardeners Association

AUGUST 2016

Broadcaster Table of Contents	1
President's Message by Kathleen Cripe	1-2
Day Minder and Member Meeting Dates	3-4
Dormant Grass is Not Dead Grass by Jeff Burbrink	5
Answer Line Action for June by Dan Carlson	6
Where Did that Come From? Zinnia by Stan Palmer	7-8
Chips and Splinters, by Stan Palmer	9-10
<i>Backyard Time</i> , Poem by Jim Carpenter	11
2016 Board of Directors Photo	11
First Saturdays at the Goshen Farmers' Market by Jim Carpenter	12
Garden Tour Photos by Debbie Mann & Mary Morgan	14-16
MMGA Board Meeting Minutes for June by Heidi Zavatsky	17
MMGA Member Meeting Minutes for June by Heidi Zavatsky	18
Information for our Members by Committee Chairs	19-20



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by KATHLEEN CRIPE

Evening Master Gardeners,

The Garden Tour day was beautiful! The temperature was perfect for being outside. Many people walked to the gardens. Several of our visitors to the gardens commented about what a great day they were having in the gardens and walking. "BIG THANKS" go to all the Master Gardeners who volunteered and contributed to the success of the day of the 2016 Garden Tour.

For those of you who have not had the opportunity to attend a State Master Gardener Conference the next State Conference will be held in Hendricks County, in Danville, Indiana, June 7-9, 2018. You have plenty of time to get it on your calendar. Save the date.

Usually there are educational tours pre-conference that you may choose from and sometimes even after the conference. This year I chose to attend the tour to The Hamstra Estate in Wheatfield, IN. The estate is a private home not open to the public. In 1962 Wilbert and Peggy Hamstra built their house on the site of an old farmstead surrounded by flat cornfields. Like most gardens it started small and has grown over the years. Today much of the garden is rolling hills with three ponds, two houses, a Japanese inspired garden, ruins gardens, fountains and more on over six acres. Four gardeners tend the garden plus other outer areas. Most of the garden is shady, with a few areas of sun. A greenhouse on the property shelters and produces most of the tender plants and annuals used in almost 300 containers that are in the landscapes, and a few annual beds. Joyce Thomason, the head gardener and Purdue grad in horticulture was our tour guide. After she gave us the general tour we were free to roam the gardens, take pictures and relax in the gardens. When Joyce was asked what the budget was for the maintenance and additions to the gardens she replied that there was no budget.

The owner, a construction contractor and designer, is now retired, so he is adding more designs, which they build themselves. The newest addition is a tree house. I spent some time up in the tree house. The view was great. While I was in the tree house there was a gentle wind. I noted the way the tree house was designed. It was in the tree but was not attached to the tree. The gentle sway of the tree house and the tree never touched. There were three levels to the tree house with the top level having lounge chairs, electricity and a state of the art flat screen TV for outside viewing. As we entered the gardens the first area was called the "ball field", which all kinds of ball games were played by his children and now his grandchildren. Around the edge was a wooden playset with 4 or 5 slides, several swings and at least two forts built in it. A trampoline that was level with the grass was next to the playset. What an idea! No need for a net around that trampoline. The rest of the tour was amazing. Sometime I will share some of the many pictures I took in those gardens. And that was all before the conference.

The 2016 State Master Gardener Conference was held this year in West Lafayette, IN. The theme was Cultivating our Legacy . The Boilermaker Special gave tours of the Purdue campus, and the World's Biggest Drum was there with three attendees for pictures. Many classes and vendors were present to entice and teach us many things. I will share more education that I learned at another time. It was a great learning time and a great time of visiting with new Master Gardener Friends as we shared classes and meals together. So yes, I would recommend planning to attend the next State conference in 2018 in Danville, IN. It will be time well spent. Take a Master Gardener friend along with you.
See you at the Elkhart County 4-H Fair.

Kathleen



*Day Minder . . .
Watch Us Grow*

August



13	Sat.	Garden Tour Committee Wrap-Up Meeting, Horvath Home	9 a.m.
16	Tues.	Board Meeting, Extension Office Conference Room	6 p.m.
30	Tues.	Member Meeting, Garden Tour Appreciation Dinner	6:30 p.m.

September

20	Tues.	Board Meeting, Extension Office Conference Room	6 p.m.
27	Tues	Member Meeting, "Forestry", Aaron Kingsley	7 p.m.

POST 4TH OF JULY HOLIDAY HUMOR



MEETING CANCELLATION NOTICE:

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

UPCOMING DATES

Page 4

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

Tuesday, September 27, "Forestry," Aaron Kingsley
Tuesday, October 25, "Owls," Lake Milton Raptor Education Center
Tuesday, November 29, Thanks-for-Giving Carry-In 6:30 p.m.
No Meeting for December due to holidays

Tuesday, January 31, "Elkhart County Christmas Bird Count,"
Ronda DeClaire
Tuesday, February 28, "Trash to Treasure," Penny Alles

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

Tuesday, September 20
Tuesday, October 18
Tuesday, November 15
Tuesday, December 20

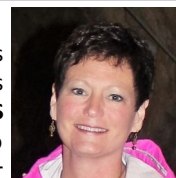
Answer Line in operation April through September. Answering machine during evening hours.

Indiana State Fair, August 1-17, 2016



Hello Master Gardeners,

As Sherrie wrote to you in June, I have taken over the Co-Editor duties for our *Broadcaster*. Our new deadline for articles and information is now the **10th of every month. SEPTEMBER BROADCASTER ARTICLES ARE DUE ON AUGUST 10TH.** With this change we hope to be able to get your newsletter in your hands either at the monthly member meeting or before. Please email me at tjotlo@gmail.com with your submissions, questions, or suggestions for **your** newsletter. We have had the same format for many years, so I am open to changing it up. Please give me input as to what you would like to see. I hope to continue to serve you as well as Sherrie did as your Editor, and I am sure that I will enjoy the challenge. It is like riding a bike...you never forget how to use the software...you just have to brush up on your skills a bit. Thanks to all of those who have already offered their support and good wishes. It is greatly appreciated!



Thank you!
Tammy O'Rourke, Editor

JEFF BURBRINK: DORMANT GRASS IS NOT DEAD GRASS
JUNE 21, 2016



No doubt you have noticed that lawns in the area have turned brown, the result of turfgrass shifting into dormancy to protect itself from the drought. The last notable precipitation in the Elkhart County was on June 4 and 5, and before that, we had several weeks of near drought conditions.

When heat or dry weather stress your lawn, the grass responds by shutting down non-essential processes. Photosynthesis, the process that creates the green color of grass, and sugar (carbohydrates) within the leaves, is a non-essential process in grass, at least when it is dry. The plant shuts down the leaves to keep its roots alive. Once grass enters dormancy, the roots can survive more or less intact for four weeks. If drought continues more than six weeks, some plants will begin to die. As we learned in the droughts of 1988 and 2012, grass tends to thin out as it dies. It does not die out in large patches for the most part.

To help a lawn that is dormant, it is good to give turf about a half inch to one inch of water once every three weeks as long as the drought continues. This will keep the roots hydrated enough that the plant can bounce back when the rains begin to fall again.

Another handy tip: Don't worry about weeds appearing in your dormant grass. Weeds in a dormant lawn stick out like a sore thumb, making it tempting to spray the weeds. However, attempts to control the weeds can injure the grass, which is already in a stressed out. Let the lawn recover from drought before you tackle that fescue or dandelion weed problem.

It is good to keep traffic off of drought-stressed lawns. Lawn mowers and even foot traffic can leave tracks that might not go away for a while. If you must mow, mow high to preserve as much leaf tissue as you can. That leaf tissue, even when it's dormant, is shading the soil and reducing water loss. Mow when it is cooler, such as early in the day, to reduce stress on the grass too.

Lawns that are dormant are not growing, so the need for fertilizer is reduced. If you fertilized this spring, and your grass is now dormant, your lawn will not benefit from added fertilizer. When the drought breaks, it will benefit from an application of a good quality fertilizer with a 3:2 or 1:1 ratio between nitrogen and potassium. The better quality fertilizers will have about 30 to 50 percent slow release nitrogen (often listed as water insoluble nitrogen).



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.

Answer Line Action – June 2016

The Answer Line has completed its third month of service for 2016. There were 27 inquiries in June. That brings the total for the year to 109 Elkhart County residents served by your Answer Line team.

We answered inquiries about plant identification, poison hemlock, bamboo, carpet beetles vs. bed bugs, spray drift, suckers on apple trees, deficient lilac blooms, pruning larch trees, carpenter bees, and anthracnose. One client even brought in a bucket of pond water to have the algae identified so it could be controlled. I did find two items new to me that deserved further research.

The first was a client reporting white blemishes on the branches of one of their maple trees. The Master Gardener was able to identify Cottony Cushion Scale (*Icerya purchasi*). The adult female is actually orangish brown but her eggs are carried in an elongated, fluted white cottony egg sack. The egg sack can contain 600 to 800 eggs and may become 2-3 times the length of her body. The body and egg sack can be up to ½ inch in length. Red crawlers will hatch in a few days. They produce a white cottony secretion. They molt to grow, leaving behind a white, cottony, molting skin. There is a third stage nymph, which also produces the white, cottony secretion. They can produce 2-3 generations in one year. The male is rarely seen and the females don't need a mate to reproduce. Like other scales, they suck phloem sap from the plant, reducing overall vitality. Feeding can result in defoliation and die back of twigs and small branches. Natural enemies are the vedalia beetle (*Rodolia cardinalis*) and a parasitic fly (*Cryptochaetum iceryae*). Ants, however, will protect the scale as they covet the scale's honeydew. Using sticky bands around tree trunks will keep the ants out of the tree. Horticultural oil can be used during the dormant season. Organophosphates can be used during the crawler stages, but they will also harm the natural enemies. Source: Pest Notes #7410, University of California.

Oak wilt was found on a red oak tree. A fungus, *Ceratocystis fagacearum*, causes oak wilt. This fungus is deadly to all oak trees, red oaks being the most susceptible. It is predominantly found in the Midwest. The main period of infection is in the spring when new vessel wood is being formed. The leaves turn dull green or bronze, appear water soaked, wilt, and then turn yellow or brown. Damage starts at the tip and works back toward the stem. Heavy defoliation will start in the crown, progressing through the tree. The tree can die within a month or two. Some trees can last up to a year. The fungus can spread through overlapping root systems or by sap feeding and oak bark beetles (*Pseudopityophthorus minutissimus*). Infected trees cannot be saved. The entire tree needs to be burned, chipped, or covered with plastic for 60 days. Source: US Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Forest Insect & Disease Leaflet 29.

Thanks to all the Master Gardeners that man the Answer Line. It is a place to help others while increasing your knowledge. There is still need for more help. Call Nancy at the Extension Office to sign up.

Until next time,
Dan Carlson

Zinnia (Genus: Zinnia, species: various)

Zinnias are annuals, shrubs, and sub-shrubs native primarily to North America (Mexico), with a few species in South America. Most species have upright stems but some have a lax habit with spreading stems that mound over the surface of the ground. They typically range in height from 4 in. to 40 in. tall. The leaves are opposite and usually stalkless (sessile), with a shape ranging from linear to ovate, and a color ranging from pale to medium green. The flowers have a range of appearances, from a single row of petals to a dome shape. Zinnias may be white, chartreuse, yellow, orange, red, purple, or lilac.

A number of species of zinnia are popular flowering plants, and interspecific hybrids are becoming more common. Their varied habits allow for uses in several parts of a garden, and their tendency to attract butterflies and hummingbirds is seen as desirable. Commercially available seeds and plants are derived from open pollinated or F1 crosses.

Zinnia elegans, also known as *Zinnia violacea*, is the most familiar species, originally from the warm regions of Mexico it is a warm/hot climate plant. Its leaves are lance-shaped and sandpapery in texture and height ranges from 6 in. to 3 ft. As an annual flowering plant it is one of the best known zinnias. It is native to Mexico but grown as an ornamental in many places and naturalized in several places including scattered locations in South and Central America, the West Indies, the United States, Australia, and Italy. The uncultivated plant grows to about 30 in. in height. It has solitary flower heads about 2 inches across. The purple ray florets surround black and yellow discs. The lanceolate leaves are opposite the flower heads.

The garden zinnia was bred via hybridization from the wild form. Zinnias are popular garden plants with hundreds of cultivars in many flower colors, sizes and forms. There are giant forms with flower heads up to 6 in. in diameter. Flower colors range from white and cream to pinks, reds, and purples, to green, yellow, apricot, orange, salmon, and bronze. Some are striped, speckled or bi-colored. There are "pom-pom" forms that resemble dahlias. Sizes range from dwarf varieties of less than 6 in. in height to 3 feet tall. The powdery mildew common to zinnias in humid climates is less common recently developed varieties, which are resistant.

Zinnias grow easily and prefer well-drained, loamy soil and full sun. They grow best in dry, warm, frost-free regions, and many kinds are drought-tolerant. Some may be grown indoors.

Following are some of the accepted species of Zinnia and where they are endemic:

Zinnia (Genus: *Zinnia*, species: various)

Zinnia acerosa - Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Coahuila, Durango, Nuevo León, San Luis Potosí, Michoacán, Zacatecas, Sonora

Zinnia americana - Guerrero, Jalisco, Michoacán, México State, Nayarit, Veracruz, Oaxaca, Chiapas, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua

Zinnia angustifolia - Jalisco, Durango, Chihuahua, Sinaloa, San Luis Potosí

Zinnia anomala - Texas, Coahuila, Nuevo León

Zinnia bicolor - Chihuahua, Durango, Jalisco, Guanajuato, Nayarit, Sinaloa

Zinnia citrea - Chihuahua, Coahuila, San Luis Potosí

Zinnia elegans from Jalisco to Paraguay; naturalized in parts of United States

Zinnia flavicoma - Michoacán, Oaxaca, Guerrero, Jalisco

Zinnia grandiflora - Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, Tamaulipas, Nuevo León, Coahuila, Chihuahua, Sonora

Zinnia haageana - Guanajuato, Jalisco, Michoacán, México State, Oaxaca

Zinnia juniperifolia - Tamaulipas, Nuevo León, Coahuila

Zinnia maritima - Guerrero, Colima, Jalisco, Nayarit, Sinaloa

Zinnia microglossa - Guanajuato, Jalisco

Zinnia oligantha - Coahuila

Zinnia palmeri - Colima, Jalisco

Zinnia pauciflora Phil.

Zinnia peruviana - widespread from Chihuahua to Paraguay including Galápagos and West Indies; naturalized in parts of China, South Africa, United States

Zinnia pumila A.Gray

Zinnia purpusii - Chiapas, Guerrero, Colima, Jalisco, Puebla

Zinnia tenuis - Chihuahua

Zinnia venusta - Guerrero

Zinnia violacea - Mexico, Central America, Colombia, Venezuela

Zinnia zinniioides (Kunth) Olorode & Torres

Much of this material came from Wikipedia.

Be safe and keep that garden growing!

-Stan Palmer-



YOUTH AND AGE
(ZINNIA BELZANS)

CHIPS AND SPLINTERS BY STAN PALMER**Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)**

Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*) is a species of flowering plant in the family Cornaceae native to eastern North America and northern Mexico. Two subspecies are generally recognized:

Cornus florida subsp. *florida* - eastern + south-central United States.

Cornus florida subsp. *urbiniana* (Rose) Rickett - northeastern Mexico (Nuevo León, Veracruz).



An endemic population once spanned from southernmost coastal Maine south to northern Florida and west to the Mississippi River. The tree is commonly planted as an ornamental in residential and public areas because of its showy bracts and interesting bark structure.

Flowering dogwood is a small deciduous tree growing to 33 ft. high, often wider than it is tall when mature, with a trunk diameter of up to 1 ft. A 10-year-old tree will stand about 16 ft. tall. The leaves are opposite, simple, ovate, 2.4–5.1 in. long and 1.6–2.4 in. broad, with an apparently entire margin (actually very finely toothed, under a lens); they turn a rich red-brown in fall. The flowers are individually small and inconspicuous, with four greenish-yellow bracts 0.16 in. long. Around 20 flowers are produced in a dense, rounded, umbel-shaped inflorescence, or flower-head, 0.39–0.79 in. in diameter. The flower-head is surrounded by four conspicuous large white, pink or red "petals" (actually bracts), each bract 1.2 in. long and 0.98 in. broad, rounded, and often with a distinct notch at the apex. The flowers are bisexual. When in the wild they can typically be found at the forest edge and frequently on dry ridges. While most of the wild trees have white bracts, some selected cultivars of this tree also have pink bracts, some even almost a true red. They typically flower in early April in the southern part of their range, to late April or early May in northern and high altitude areas. The fruit is a cluster of two to ten separate drupes each 0.39–0.59 in. long and about 0.31 in. wide, which ripen in the late summer and the early fall to a bright red, or occasionally yellow with a rosy blush. They are an important food source for dozens of species of birds, which then distribute the seeds.

Flowering dogwood does best horticulturally in moist, acidic soil in a site with some afternoon shade, but good morning sun. It does not do well when exposed to intense heat sources such as adjacent parking lots or air conditioning compressors. It also has a low salinity tolerance. The hardiness zone is 5–9 and the preferred pH is between 6.0–7.0. In urban and suburban settings, care should be taken not to inflict mower damage on the trunk or roots, as this increases the tree's susceptibility to disease and pest pressure.

In regions where dogwood anthracnose is a problem, homeowners and public land managers are encouraged to know the symptoms and inspect trees frequently. The selection of healthy, disease-free planting stock is essential and transplanting trees from the forest should be avoided. Sites should be selected for reasonably well-drained, fertile soils; full sun is recommended in high-hazard areas (such as stream or pond banks). New plantings should be mulched to a depth of 2 to 4 in., avoiding the stem. Dead wood and leaves should be pruned and completely removed and destroyed yearly. Plants should be watered weekly during droughts, with watering done in the morning, avoiding wetting the foliage. Registered fungicides can be applied when necessary, according to manufacturer's instructions and advice of local Extension Service.

Selected cultivars

- 'Amerika Touch-O-Pink' – large bracts, tinged pink; large leaves; good disease resistance.
- 'Appalachian Spring' – large white bracts; red fall foliage; resistant to dogwood anthracnose.
- 'Autumn Gold' - white bracts; yellow fall color.
- 'Barton' - large white bracts; blooms at early age; resistant to stem canker and powdery mildew.
- 'Bay Beauty' - double white bracts; resists heat and drought; good for Deep South.
- 'Cherokee Daybreak' - white bract; vigorous grower with variegated leaves.
- 'Cherokee Chief' - red bracts; red new growth.^[5]
- 'Cherokee Brave' - Even redder than 'Cherokee Chief', smaller bracts but dark red color; consistently resistant to powdery mildew.
- 'Cherokee Princess' - vigorous white bracts, industry standard for white flowers.
- 'Cherokee Sunset' - purplish-red bracts; variegated foliage.
- 'Gulf Coast Pink' - best pink flowering dogwood in Florida – northern part only.
- 'Hohman's Gold' - white bracts; variegated foliage.
- 'Jean's Appalachian Snow' – large, overlapping white bracts w/ green flowers; very resistant to powdery mildew.
- 'Karen's Appalachian Blush' – delicate white bracts edged in pink; some powdery mildew resistance.
- 'Kay's Appalachian Mist' – stiff, creamy white bracts; red fall foliage; good resistance to powdery mildew.
- 'Plena' - double white bracts; spot anthracnose-resistant.
- 'Purple Glory' - red bracts; purple foliage; spot anthracnose-resistant but susceptible to stem canker.
- 'Weaver White' - large white blooms; large leaves; candelabra shape; good in north-central Florida.

Other old names now rarely used include American Dogwood, Florida Dogwood, Indian Arrowwood, Cornelian Tree, White Cornel, White Dogwood, False Box, and False Boxwood. This species has in the past been used in the production of inks, scarlet dyes, and as a quinine substitute. The hard, dense wood has been used for products such as golf club heads, mallets, wooden rake teeth, tool handles, jeweler's boxes and butcher's blocks. It was used to treat dogs with mange, which may be how it got its name. The red berries are edible, but do not taste good. *Cornus florida* is the state tree and flower of Virginia. It is also the state tree of Missouri and state flower of North Carolina.

Much of this info was taken from: *Wikipedia* .

Stan Palmer



BACKYARD TIME

I sit out here in my backyard,
where the grass and trees grow tall.
A bench to sit and a fire pit,
a place to get away from it all.

Now comes a soft whispery hush,
as the wind blows gently through the trees.
A sound of timeless melody,
from the dancing of the leaves.

The milkweed here is quite abound
the monarchs should be around.
I try to provide for this butterfly,
to help their numbers bound.

The crickets are doing their thing,
with competition from the birds.
There is so much going on out here,
it can scarce be put into words.

Toward dusk the blue sky fades,
for the day has run its course.
As I sit here and realize,
I have found another blessing source.

Jim Carpenter
June-2016



2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pictured left to right:
Front: Loanne Harms, Cindy Watson, Jenny Schrock, Anne Regier
Back: Jeff Burbrink, Dan Carlson, Carol Novy, Heidi Zavatsky, Bill Roberts, Kathleen Cripe,
Bill Albaugh, Ron Troyer Not Pictured: Jim Bare

BY: JIM CARPENTER

There is an activity that the Master Gardeners are involved in that some members may not know much about. On the first Saturday of every month, from April through October, the Master Gardeners have a table at the Goshen Farmer's Market. We are there to answer any lawn and garden questions the people frequenting the market might have. This is a service we provide to help educate the public and also to give more presence to the public and perhaps even recruit new members. It essentially is a part of the Lawn and Garden Answer Line at the extension office.

This is the third year we have been having a table at the market. We set up with a computer and whatever hand-outs seem best suited for that time of the growing season. It is always interesting in the type and variety of questions different people have for us. Many times we simply ask people walking by if they might have a gardening question and that will get the ball rolling. We are also advertising the answer line and talking about any events the Master Gardeners may have coming up.

The market manager really likes having the Master Gardeners there and we sometimes get questions from some of the commercial growers selling their produce. Often we will advise the growers to get in touch with Jeff as their problems might extend beyond the simple gardening questions most backyard gardeners have.

Sometimes the problems presented to us at the market require more research than we are able to give at the time. In these situations we take all the information we need and then pass it along to the answer line at the extension office where more research material is available. On occasion the more difficult problems will end up on Jeff's desk.

It is always an enjoyable time sitting with a few other Master Gardeners and interacting with the public in such comfortable surroundings. Many times someone we know will stop by for a little conversation that might inevitably turn to gardening questions. Of course there is also the proximity of fresh made bakery items available for a snack.

While there are limited opportunities for Master Gardeners to help out with this market place activity, if you would like to volunteer please let me know. I will fit you in if at all possible. If more people wanted to help we could always expand the program to several times a month. Jeff has agreed that you do not need to be a current answer line volunteer to help out at the market. You would always be paired with one or more people experienced in the ways of the answer line.

Working a table at the Goshen Farmer's Market is rewarding in many ways. It also helps us to promote our group and spread awareness of upcoming Master Gardener activities. Even if you are not inclined to become involved with this activity, stop by the market on the first Saturday of the month and say hello.

GARDEN TOUR PLANT ID

JUNE 27 & 29, 2016

Photo by Debbie Mann



**PLANT ID VOLUNTEERS
MONDAY, JUNE 27**

L-R: Earl Baily, Suzanne Kistler, Jay Whitmer, Lora Mann, Ginger Thorne, Meg Mitzel, Pat Frank, Christie Egendoerfer, Pat Weigold, Marilyn Horvath, Mary Morgan, Amy McLaughlin, Carol Swartzendruber, Gaye Yoder, Debbie Mann

GARDEN TOUR SET-UP

JULY 8, 2016

Photos by Mary Morgan



GARDEN TOUR SET-UP

JULY 8, 2016

Photos by Mary Morgan



Mayrea Reusser



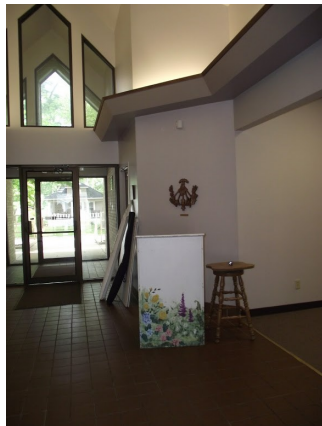
Kathleen Cripe, Bonnie Morrison,
Amy McLaughlin, Pat Watson



Ginger Thorne



Gaye Yoder, Craig Stiver



Love those smiles!
Carol Swartzendruber, Judy Cook, Linda Harkleroad

GARDEN TOUR by Debbie Mann

JULY 9, 2016

Garden #10
Betty & Jack Foltz



Garden #8
Marilyn & John Horvath



Garden #4
Jay Whitmer & John Frizzo



Garden #5
Brian & Mary Thomas



GARDEN TOUR by Debbie Mann
JULY 9, 2016



Garden #9
Sanit & Robert Walter

Garden #1
Karen & Stan Lewallen



Garden #10
Betty & Jack Foltz

Garden #3
Julie & Mike Wilcox



MMGA BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR JUNE**BY HEIDI ZAVATSKY**

June 21, 2016

6:00 p.m. Extension Office Conference Room

Present: Kathleen Cripe, Bill Albaugh, Loanne Harms, Carol Novy, Anne Regier, Jenny Schrock, Cindy Watson, Ron Troyer, Heidi Zavatsky Absent: Jeff Burbrink, Dan Carlson, Bill Roberts
Kathleen Cripe called the meeting to order. Last month's minutes were approved as emailed by Loanne Harms.

Treasurers' report: Anne Regier reported Checking- \$2,733.81, Money market - \$18,740.51, Savings - \$137.17, Cash - \$200.00, For a total of \$21,811.49. The treasurers' report was approved as read.

Jeff Burbrink – no report, absent

Answer Line, Property Manager and WebMaster – Dan Carlson absent; but it was reported that more help is needed for Answer Line

Archivist – Ron Troyer reported that Helen needs information from groups – Garden Tour, Community Garden and Spring Celebration. Cards have been purchased. Ron will check to see about a Memorial to Cathy Fortin.

Broadcaster – Loanne Harms reported that a smooth transition is taking place as Sherri Z will be leaving and Tammy O will be taking over duties of Broadcaster

Class of 2015 update – Cindy Watson reported that the Landscape group will not be presenting at the Fair. All other groups are on board.

Community Garden – Heidi Zavatsky reports that all is good at the garden. Plenty of volunteers so work gets done in a timely manner.

Extension Landscape, Tree Sale and Fair Set-up – Bill Albaugh, no report. It was stated that we have not received any money yet from tree sale.

Fair Board – Jenny Schrock, no report.

Garden Tour – Loanne Harms reported that no other craft sessions would be held before the tour. The 2017 tour will be held in the Middlebury area. There is a volunteer meeting on the 28th at 6:00 p.m. before the MMGA meeting.

Kathleen reported that there will be no **July board meeting or MMGA meeting**. Members will be meeting at 6:00 p.m. at Ag Hall to set up for Fair. Pizza to follow.

Merchandise & Speaker's Bureau – Carol Novy had no report. It was stated that Laura Stevens needs to call Beekeeper to confirm program

Quilt Gardens – Bristol garden has replaced or filled in with more plants. Looks good. Cindy Watson reported that Fairground garden looks good and all is on track.

Spring Celebration –Loanne reported that Penny Stroup needs a budget. She will check her records to see if she can help with some figures to use.

Kathleen Cripe suggested that Anne Overmyer and Heidi Zavatsky be Greeters at the **August celebration** dinner since they know the homeowners that participated in the Tour. We should have the new bench by Fair time.

New Business – Loanne Harms suggested that a rental unit be secured to store leftover merchandise from tour. Estimates need to be obtained and presented to board. The Garden Tour appreciation dinner is being chaired by Linda Harkleroad, Carol Swartzendruber, Barb Heeter and Mayrea Reusser. Kathleen wants a set-up committee for this event.

Kathleen stated that 17 questionnaires were returned at craft night meeting. Some good ideas were suggested. It was thought that the evening was too busy to give much thought to the questions. Perhaps it would be better to have just a few questions presented several times a year for membership to comment.

With no other business on agenda, meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heidi Zavatsky, Secretary

MMGA MEMBER MEETING MINUTES FOR JUNE

Page 18

BY HEIDI ZAVATSKY

June 28, 2016

7:00 p.m. Ag Hall

President, Kathleen Cripe called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in Ag Hall. There were 70 members in attendance. She made announcements to check the sign-up sheet at front table to volunteer at Fair. Also, Board members have a green extension on bottom of name tag. If anyone should have questions regarding MMGA, ask a Board member. Refreshments are being provided by Laura Stevens and Gail Weybright.

The **program** for this evening was presented by member Kent Yoder on Bees and beekeeping. He stated that bees were thought to be discovered in pictures carved on cave walls 8,000 years ago. A hive consists of a Queen, workers and drones. If there is a loss of pollinators, we'll see a drop of fruits, vegetables and oil seeds. Threats to bees are disease, mites, beetles, raccoons and mice. A natural defense is a strong hive. He stated that Spring flowers assist in early pollination and nectar. Kent currently has one hive. Following his presentation many questions came from the membership. The business meeting followed. The secretary, Heidi Zavatsky, read the May 31, 2016 minutes. There were no additions/corrections. Paul Miles moved to accept the minutes as read. All in favor. The new deadline for Broadcaster articles is the 10th of the month. Treasurer, Anne Regier, stated that Checking - \$4,086.93, Money Market - \$18,740.51, Savings - \$137.17, Cash - \$200.00, A total of \$23,164.61. \$1,515 was received from Soil and Water for 40% of Tree Sale profit. A motion by Paul Miles to accept the report as read. All in favor. Jeff Burbrink gave the **Educator's report** stating that the Fair schedule for MG's is wrong. He may need to ask for volunteers to give talks at the Fair. He urged everyone to get involved in the Fair activities. It might be horticulture contest or Q & A in Ag Hall. He stated that 10 -11 people have signed up for the new MG classes

Community Garden – Sue Stuckman reported that all looks good at the garden and we've started to harvest some crops – collards, beets, radishes and onions. 24# to date.

Fair Set-up of Ag Hall will be on July 18, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.. Pizza to follow.

MG Green Day will be held in Heritage Park from 10 – 5:00 p.m. Earl Bailey is in charge

Garden Tour – Marilyn Horvath stated that volunteers are still needed and plant ID is ongoing.

GT Boutique – Loanne Harms wanted to thank everyone who helped make boutique items. If members are still working on projects, try to have them delivered to the church on Friday, July 8th for set up.

The **August member meeting** will be a dinner and slide show of the gardens. Our invited guests will be the homeowners who participated in the Tour. Linda Harkleroad had announcements regarding the Tour dinner. This is a catered dinner and no charge to member; but if you bring a guest, there will be a charge (to be announced). She needs a set up committee to be on hand at 5:00 p.m. on August 30th, the day of the dinner. Flowers will be needed for the tables if anyone can help with these details. Look for an e-mail invitation. RSVP required.

Caps – Mary Davis reported on cap collection. There will be two trips to Evansville before the Fair. We made the deadline and we will have a bench located at Ag Hall before the Fair. Joyce Miller has volunteered to store caps in her barn for a future bench so we will be continuing to save. Mary Davis will assist and Gail Weybright will be chairing the Caps project for another bench.

Penny Stroup requested to see the people who volunteered for **Spring Celebration** for a few minutes at end of meeting.

Speakers Bureau – Marilyn Horvath, no report.

Fair – Suzanne Kistler is looking for volunteers to help during Children's Activities day at the Fair. She will be having a meeting at her home 7/11/16 at 2:00 p.m.

New Business: Discussion followed regarding 16 hanging planters that we donate to Ag Hall for the Fair. Some thought that a drawing for volunteers who worked the Fair and others wanted to them donated to nursing homes. A vote was taken and planters will be donated to two nursing homes. Connie Graber will see that the planters go to good homes.

Prizes went to Gaye Yoder & Mary Davis.

No other business on agenda. Meeting adjourned 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Heidi Zavatsky, Secretary

INFORMATION FOR OUR MEMBERS



SPOTLIGHT ON SPEAKERS BUREAU

Typically late winter & springtime are the times when requests are made from Michiana Master Gardeners' Speaker's Bureau, with only a few into the growing season. Our own MG interns present their specialties at the Elkhart County Fair. Also 'speaking' is done informally at the Plant Doctor table in Ag Hall during the fair.

July 16 at 10:00 a.m. found **Jim Carpenter** at the Goshen Farmers' Market speaking mostly on "Heirloom Tomatoes".

Here are excerpts from a report by **Dan Carlson** we thought you might like to read about concerning Bashor Home Summer Camp which was June 6 & 7. Note pictures were printed in an earlier Broadcaster.

"Pat Watson & I were there, along with **Carol Novy**. We each had 4 groups each day, with 8-15 kids in each, with Carol helping the largest group. The first day was straw bale gardening. Each group had their own bale in which we planted one each tomato, pepper, basil, kale, lettuce, chard, with several onions. Pat & I did the planting, quizzing & explaining what the plants needed to grow. The second day the kids got to do the planting....Each plant was marked with their name so they could check on them later during the summer. Also Carol helped some kids plant beans in the hollow of a cement block & others planted squash in bags of dirt. I think it went very well & I believe the Bashor staff was quite pleased."

THANK YOU **Jim Carpenter, Dan Carlson, Pat Watson and Carol Novy** for representing MMGA so well!

Remember to let us know of any 'gigs' you might be requested to do.

Submitted by Marilyn Horvath, MMGA Speaker's Bureau Coordinator

BOTTLE CAP COLLECTION DRIVE FOR BENCH FOR FAIR

We have met our goal of 400# of caps, and surpassed it by at least 7 lbs.! A HUGE thank you to all who saved, sorted, stored and cleaned caps. Our caps will be delivered to the Evansville facility by Wayne & Jan Robinson before the end of July. Our bench will be placed outside of Ag Hall when completed.

THINGS TO DO IN AUGUST BY ROSIE LERNER

Visit the horticultural exhibits at the Indiana State Fair, Aug. 1-17. Bring your gardening questions to the Purdue Master Gardener booth in the Purdue Extension Ag/Hort Building.

HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

-Take cuttings from plants such as impatiens, coleus, geraniums and wax begonias to overwinter indoors. Root the cuttings in media such as moist vermiculite, perlite, peat moss or potting soil, rather than water.

-Order spring-flowering bulbs for fall planting.

-Cut flowers from the garden to bring a little color indoors or dry for everlasting arrangements.

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)

-Check trees and shrubs that have been planted in recent years for girdling damage by girdling wires, burlap or ropes.

-Don't fertilize woody plants now. It stimulates late growth that will not have time to harden off properly before winter.

-Hand-prune and destroy bagworms, fall webworms and tent caterpillars.

-Pears are best ripened off the tree, so do not wait for the fruit to turn yellowish on the tree. Harvest pears when color of fruit changes - usually from a dark green to a lighter green - and when the fruit is easily twisted and removed from the spur.

-Prune out and destroy the raspberry and blackberry canes that bore fruits this year. They will not produce fruit again next year, but they may harbor insect and disease organisms.

-If weather turns dry, keep newly established plants well watered. New plants should receive 1 to 1.5 inches of water every week to 10 days.

-Begin seeding new lawns or bare spots in established lawns in mid-August through mid-September.

GARDEN (Flowers, vegetables and small fruits)

-Keep the garden well watered during dry weather and free of weeds, insects and disease.

-Complete fall garden planting by direct-seeding carrots, beets, kohlrabi, kale and snap beans early this month. Lettuce, spinach, radishes and green onions can be planted later in August and early September. Don't forget to thin seedlings to appropriate spacing as needed.

-Harvest onions after the tops yellow and fall, then cure them in a warm, dry, well-ventilated area. The necks should be free of moisture when fully cured in about a week's time.

-Harvest potatoes after the tops yellow and die. Potatoes also need to be cured before storage.

-Pick beans, tomatoes, peppers and squash often to encourage further production.

-Harvest watermelon when several factors indicate ripeness - the underside ground spot turns from whitish to creamy yellow; the tendril closest to the melon turns brown and shrivels; the rind loses its gloss and appears dull; and the melon produces a dull thud, rather than a ringing sound when thumped.

-Harvest sweet corn when kernels are plump and ooze a milky juice when punctured with your fingernail. If the liquid is watery, you're too early; if the kernels are doughy, you're too late.

-Keep faded flowers pinched off bedding plants to promote further flowering and improve plant appearance.

-Spade or till soil for fall bulb planting, and add a moderate amount of fertilizer.

Writer: B. Rosie Lerner

PURDUE APPS FOR MASTER GARDENERS

Jeff advises that Purdue has 4 Plant doctor apps you can get from Google Play or The Apple App Store for 99 cents each.

He says “they are pretty decent apps, usually covering most of the problems you’ll run into with trees, tomatoes and flowers.

I shared them with the Answer Line helpers yesterday at their training, and they suggested I show them to you”.

More info at:

<https://www.purdueplantdoctor.com/>

Don't Get Caught with your Plants Down!



Purdue Annual Doctor
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COURTESY CONNECTIONS

Purdue Tomato Doctor
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Purdue Tree Doctor
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Perennial Doctor
★★★★★ by *g. wilford* - Oct 4, 2013
This app is written by two leading experts in plant pathology and entomology. It provides quick, up-to-date information in a customer format that is really easy to use. You get excellent advice and helpful general information and control suggestions. In many cases, disease symptoms look the same regardless of what you do not have every fresh disease photo included in my book. It's great. The book has been quite helpful to me several times already.

Purdue Perennial Doctor
★★★★★ by *Rose Gardens* - Jun 8, 2013
Everything from the past, strange diseases, identification, weather good or bad, and then worked. It's all in the app. I don't have to keep on looking for all sorts of my name. Everything I was looking for to help me with garden problems. Pictures are complete of the disease or pest. I was off to the point, and will purchase this other apps.

1. Nice App...
★★★★★ by *Fried Smith* - Jun 26, 2014
Purdue got it right. My phone is always with me, now so is the Purdue Perennial Doctor. App works great and highly useful phone app. I've used the Purdue Doctor many times to identify pests and problems. Can't wait for more gardening apps from Purdue. If you're serious about your gardening, especially about the diseases, this is the app you've been waiting for. Thanks, Purdue!

2. A must have
★★★★★ by *Fir de Pags* - Jun 22, 2014
A very comprehensive review of the diseases that can affect tomatoes. Lots of high quality photos that really guide you to the "root" of the problem. Works both with iPhone and iPad. A must have for tomato growers!

Love this!
★★★★★ by *CHSChange* - Nov 28, 2013
The only reason my garden is surviving is because of this and the Purdue Annual Doctor app. My Black-eyed Susan is looking much better since I identified that it had enemy weevils. More advice, worth the \$9.99!

Tree care specialist
★★★★★ by *Red Tucker* - Aug 28, 2013
This app is a handy tool for diagnosing many of the problems I encounter day to day. Good clear photos. Well done!

Very helpful app!
★★★★★ by *Wendy1820* - Aug 1, 2013
I had a problem with both my roses and cypripedium. Following the guide, I contacted the app photos to my plants. Very quickly I determined the problem and how to address it. Thank you very much for the \$9.99 app!

Scan here to download!



All Purdue Plant Doctor apps are now available for both Apple and Android OS!!!

ANDROID APP ON Google play

Available on the App Store

NOTE FROM JEFF AND NANCY

Now that the Garden Tour and Fair is over it is time to report those hours that you have volunteered.

To report your hours online please go to:

<https://www.four-h.purdue.edu/mg/>

Enter your first and last name, followed by email address. If you do not remember your password, please contact Nancy. You may email her at nborkhol@purdue.edu or call her at 574-533-0554 with any questions.

Thanks for all you do for our community!!



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
AUGUST 2016

Essential advice for the gardener: grow peas of
mind, lettuce be thankful, squash selfishness,
turnip to help thy neighbor, and always make
thyme for loved ones. -Author Unknown