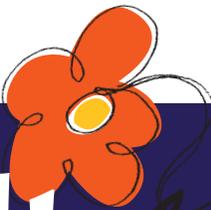


2014
Master Gardener
Guidebook



Quilt
Gardens

...along the Heritage Trail
BRISTOL ELKHART GOSHEN MIDDLEBURY NAPPANEE SHIPSHEWANA WAKARUSA

2014 *Quilt Gardens along the Heritage Trail* Master Gardener Guidebook

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About the Quilt Gardens along the Heritage Trail

Quilt Gardens along the Heritage Trail is an innovative, creative, one-of-its-kind experience designed to interest a wide-range of audiences and promote the area as a premier visitor destination. It offers a variety of opportunities for partnerships with local businesses and communities and creates widespread community involvement.

The project was initiated as a concept by the Elkhart County, IN Convention & Visitors Bureau (ECCVB) in early 2006 and tested in 2007 with 2 pilot locations. 2014 is the seventh year for the season-long attraction that continues to grow and now features 20 quilt gardens and 21 artist rendered quilt murals presented in seven communities along the Heritage Trail driving tour.

Recognizing the importance and value of high quality in both the gardens and murals displayed, each garden and mural is required to meet ten standards and related product/service specifications. Based on those standards, all official sites and patterns are juried into the program by a committee that includes landscapers, designers, horticulturists, growers and park professionals. Official garden partners are responsible for performing all of the work necessary to plant and maintain the gardens throughout the season.

The Quilt Gardens along the Heritage Trail has garnered national media attention and draws significant audience interest from three of the largest hobby groups in the nation – gardeners, quilters and photographers. It has also been very favorably received by the group motor coach audience, having been named an American Bus Association (ABA) Top 100 Event in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014.

“Like” us on Facebook to get weekly Quilt Garden photo updates: <https://www.facebook.com/QuiltGardensTour>

Follow us on Twitter to get up-to-the-second info on all things Quilt Gardens: @quiltgardens

Watch videos on Funky Finds ... along the Heritage Trail: <http://www.youtube.com/visitamishcountry/>



Sonya L. Nash, Project Manager, Elkhart County CVB

It is often times said that creating anything worthwhile takes time, money and a lot of effort. The Quilt Gardens along the Heritage Trail embodies that statement. This project would not have started, nor would it have continued with such success, without the great team at the Elkhart County Convention & Visitors Bureau (ECCVB) and our community partners.

The ECCVB leadership and staff work year-round to plan, prepare and promote this project. Countless man hours including graphic design, website updates, ad placements, journalist inquiries, group tour planning, and yes, even paying the bills and answering the phones all occur under the parameters of the ECCVB.

At the same time more than 200 volunteers in 7 cities and towns do the same for their sites and businesses. They work on soil content, site beautification, planting, weeding and maintaining gardens for four months, sometimes during difficult weather conditions, doing their part in welcoming visitors.

My role is to keep everyone working together on the same page while steering this project in a positive future direction. Over 8 years, we have learned through trial and error a multitude of things about transforming quilt designs into living gardens that flourish throughout the viewing season. Educational sessions, working with garden experts and experimenting with plant types are all part of the event too. While gardening can be a science, we have learned that sometimes Mother Nature overrules our efforts to excel, and sometimes we are amazed at how our plans come to fruition in a fantastic way.

Yes, the Quilt Gardens Project is a work of art. It's also A LOT of work involving A LOT of people. It has become an annual event in our destination that our residents love to share with visitors. Definitely it's time, money and effort well spent and enjoyed by all. We welcome your visit and look forward to your return time and again as we continue to learn and grow along with our gardens.

Elkhart County, IN Visitor Center
219 Caravan Drive | Elkhart, IN

w: AmishCountry.org
p: 800.262.8161
e: sonya@amishcountry.org



Vickie Estep, Master Gardener Guidebook Author Gold 2000 Level Master Gardener

Gardening is part of my makeup. My interests seem to grow right along with my gardens. I began helping in my grandmothers garden as a very young child. I had a very large collection of houseplants which gave over to veggies when my husband and I tilled our first garden in our first year of marriage. It was a miserable failure but we learned from our mistakes and have now been gardening for more than 35 years. We raised three children on homegrown fruits and veggies from the huge garden that we all worked together. As the children left the nest my interests turned away from the dinner table to my growing collection of perennials. I created deep sweeping flowerbeds around our country home.

In 2006 I took my love of gardening to a whole new level. I enrolled in the Purdue Master Gardener training class. I love learning and have always been intrigued by science. I made many new like minded friends and found a rich opportunity to give back to my community. I had found a new voice for my passion. A voice that ultimately led to an opportunity to write the Master Gardener Guidebook for the Quilt Gardens along the Heritage Trail. Now you could say I've branched out to include tour guide in my repertoire. As the "English" great-grandchild of an Amish family, guiding Amish Country tours allows me to share stories of my roots - roots that were firmly planted in the nurturing warmth of faith and family.

The mission of the Master Gardener program is to "Help Others Grow" and my partnership with the Quilt Gardens along the Heritage Trail has given me a unique platform to grow appreciation for gardening and its importance to our culture. It has many values - not the least of which is the unification of the seven communities providing measurable economic growth and beautification. Gardening has brought many visitors from around the world allowing us the chance to share in a rich cultural exchange. Just one more way to grow friendships across the country and around the globe.

Be sure to download the 2014 Quilter's Chronicles!



Every quilt garden has its own intricate pattern - many are original designs - and each has its own unique story. The Quilter's Chronicles gives you detailed information about each pattern.



Mary Davis, Quilter's Chronicles Author Gold 1000 Level Master Gardener & Indiana Master Naturalist

As a little girl, I had my own corner of the family garden and loved to sew with my mother. At the age of 12, with help from my mother, I appliquéd my first square. In 2003, I became a Master Gardener and in 2004 took a beginning quilting class through adult education. I retired at the end of 2010 after 36 years of practicing law, but combined quilts, gardening and talking by becoming a step on bus guide for Quilt Gardens along the Heritage Trail. I figure, it's the perfect retirement job - having been a lawyer, I love to talk and this way, I have a captive audience!



Country Comfort Greenhouse, Official Grower Sonya & Tom Miller, Owners

My husband Tom and I are the main forces behind Country Comfort Greenhouse, our home-based business since 1987, located just north of Middlebury. With family labor and part time Amish help, we produce 1,400 hanging baskets, 3,200 annuals and vegetable flats, 14,000 4" pots of geraniums and Proven Winners, and hundreds of perennials plus interesting combination pots in unique containers.

Country Comfort is a seasonal spring business and one of the official growers of almost 80,000 annuals each year for the Quilt Gardens along the Heritage Trail. I enjoy being so involved in the plant selection and providing advice for each official site to assist in determining pattern definition to enhance the quality visual experience of the Quilt Gardens along the Heritage Trail. Country Comfort also supplies downtown flower pots for Middlebury.

Besides gardening, in her spare time, I love to quilt and have completed 29 quilts, wall hangings, and comforters as well as embroidering retro "days of the week" dish towels for gifts.

Country Comfort Greenhouse
53855 State Road 13 | Middlebury, IN

p: 574.825.7638



Country Garden Greenhouse, Official Grower Family Owned

Family Photo: Back - Jason, Miriam, Orpha Marie, Mary Elizabeth, Ruth Ellen; Front - Naomi, Roland, Elizabeth Ann, Galen, Luke Rebecca

Country Garden Greenhouses is a full garden center located in New Paris off of the beaten path. We are open seasonal from March to June and have 11 houses full of annuals, perennials, herbs, vegetables and shrubbery.

Our parents Roland and Elizabeth Ann Martin purchased five greenhouses in 1998. We six sisters, Orpha Marie, Rebecca, Naomi (now married to Jason), Ruth Ellen, Miriam and Mary Elizabeth have been operating the business for the last 15 years.

We grow all of our own plants. We do custom planting for large combos, pots and baskets. Order early for best selection. This year we built a new store for our check-out area. We have bulk garden seed, fertilizers, and chemicals in the store. Our Garden Shed is full of gardening gadgets, tools, bulk fertilizers, planters and empty baskets.

Each year we try to have a special theme for our store and greenhouse. This makes for some unusual planters, like wash tubs, boats, "flower beds", bib overalls, etc. We girls enjoy creating mini gardens out of all kinds of unusual items making each one a unique gift item or conversation piece.

We are looking forward to growing for the Quilt Gardens. We are hoping to find time to visit each site where some of our plants are growing.

Country Garden Greenhouse
68417 CR 15 | New Paris, IN

p: 574.831.4301 or 574.831.4320



	<i>Cocktail Vodka Bronze Leaf Red Begonia</i>
	<i>White Rock</i>
	<i>Fresh Look Yellow Celosia</i>
	<i>Boy Orange Marigold</i>
	<i>Fresh Look Red Celosia</i>
	<i>Curley Leaf Parsley</i>
	<i>Stone Pavers</i>

B3 “Spanish Dancer” - Concord Mall

SIZE: 30’W X 30’H

The Spanish Dancer garden stands tall in luxury digs just outside Hobby Lobby. It’s no accident that quilt garden enthusiasts are drawn to this creative corner of the Concord Mall. Sparing no expense this spectacular garden takes center stage thanks to new spot lights that guarantee this pattern gets the attention it deserves. As the tours only garden with a night viewing option, this photo worthy spot also holds the possibility to snap a shot of both the garden and mural at once. Well done!

Once again, this year’s design ideas were solicited from the Elkhart County Dahlia Society. The idea was inspired by the Weston Spanish Dancer dahlia which originated in 2000 in the UK and is a lovely cactus-flower dahlia, with spiky, quilled petals. This cultivar produces elegant bi-colored flowers that have yellow petals with bright red tips. Looking at the dahlia it was clear the pattern had to be “spiky” to resemble the cactus shape, and the “spikiest” quilt design that came to mind was a traditional Lone Star quilt pattern. Using the colors of the Weston Spanish Dancer, the color scheme was laid out to perfection.

Loosely interpreted from the dahlia of the same name, this garden is sizzling with color. The rich bronze, almost coppery foliage of the Cocktail Vodka’ red begonia is just as showy as the scarlet blossoms, making it a top-shelf choice for the center of this design. A celebrity of sorts - the ‘Fresh Look’ celosia series has taken gardens by storm in past years. With the yellow version taking an AAS award, and red taking the rarely-awarded Gold Medal, this wheat type celosia is a true performer. A dynamic duo, these award winning plants rub shoulders with the slightly more diminutive ‘Boy Orange’ marigold. This double crested dwarf French marigold is free flowering and petite at just 8 - 10 inches tall. It blooms early and often produces all the way through September in many areas. For a final touch of authenticity parsley fills each corner to form soft ruffled leaves.

Interestingly, white stone has been added to complement the color pallet as well as form the very necessary maintenance pathways. While many of the gardens utilize sod or mulch paths others are experimenting with stone. It provides the added benefits of visual dimension, erosion control and air circulation for the tightly packed beds. Containment can be a challenge when adding stone paths to your garden plans. Consider landscape fabric as an underlayment rather than plastic which will not allow air or water to penetrate the surface. Timbers or rolled edging are also helpful when trying to keep things neat and on the right track!

It is worthy to note that the local Dahlia Society also participates in the American Dahlia Society’s Trial Gardens (one of twelve across the country) at the Bonneyville Mill Park in Bristol. With hundreds of hybrids to behold it’s said to be one of the best! It’s hard to believe that from a genus of just 30 species, over 57,000 cultivated forms of dahlia have been created worldwide - SO FAR.

Concord Mall

3701 S Main Street (US 33) | Elkhart, IN

w: ShopConcordMall.com

p: 574.875.6502



- Safari Red Marigold*
- Safari Gold Marigold*
- Silver Dust Dusty Miller*
- Black Dragon Coleus*
- Turf Grass*

A6 "Tools of the Trade" - Coppes Commons

SIZE: 30'W X 30'H

Coppes Commons is celebrating its second year on the Quilt Gardens along the Heritage Trail and brings us "Tools of the Trade." An observation window on the second floor of this historic building offers the best view of the beautiful floral display, and it's the best place on the tour to get an overhead photo of any garden.

'Safari Red' and 'Safari Gold' marigolds have just the right tones for this garden - wearing the perfect brick red with just a hint of gold highlight. Both noted for earliness, the large flowers exhibit uniformity and superior performance required by the passionate Coppes Commons' gardeners. 'Silver Dust' dusty miller is an excellent choice for the saw blade in this design. This sturdy little plant is drought tolerant - requiring very little care the whole season. When thinking of tools the color black comes to mind. 'Black Dragon' coleus has been used numerous times in Nappanee's quilt gardens. Here it's used to finish the border of this blooming tribute to the woodworking heritage of one of *Time Magazine's* "Best Small Towns."

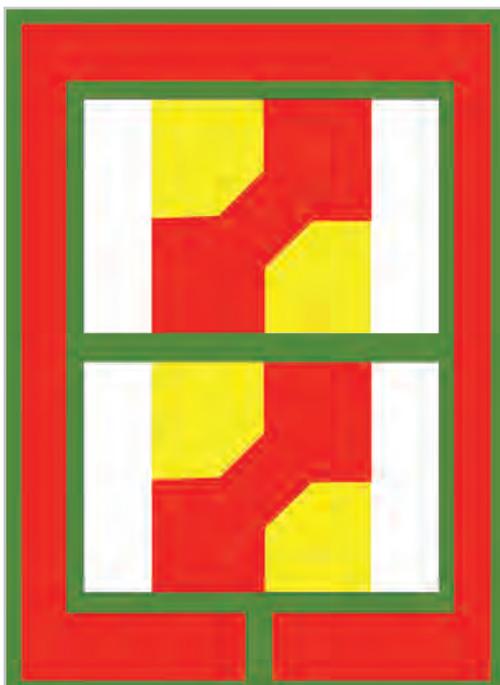
Little did young David Burpee know when he took over his father's small seed company 100 years ago that the little yellow flower he saw promise in would be featured on the nationally known Quilt Gardens along the Heritage Trail. When he took an interest in the humble marigold, the more popular asters and sweet peas were beginning to decline due to disease problems. He was convinced he saw research and marketing gold. Since then hundreds of new varieties have been developed right here in the United States making American breeders and seed companies important in the life of this popular flower.

A modified Saw Tooth pattern for the Quilt Garden was suggested by local quilt pattern author Connie Kauffman to highlight the tools used by local craftsmen. After all, what could be more valuable to a carpenter than a saw and triangle? Each is an important symbol of Coppes Commons' history, as they showcase the basic tools used for nearly 130 years on this site of a former kitchen cabinet factory.

Nappanee craftsmen started providing cabinets to the world in the late 1800's. The Coppes brothers were regarded as one of the premier kitchen cabinet makers in the country. The company built more than two million of the "Nappanee Dutch Kitchenets", commonly known as "Hoosier" cabinets, and at one time the company was shipping over 30 train car loads of kitchenets per month. (Since federal law prohibited the use of a city's name in a trademarked product, the brothers purposely misspelled Nappanee to include it in the name of their cabinets.) Coppes kitchen cabinets were featured in department stores such as Gimbles and Macy's, and Coppes built kitchens were installed in prestigious homes including the homes of Frank Sinatra and President John F. Kennedy.

Coppes Commons
401 E Market Street | Nappanee, IN

w: CoppesCommons.com
p: 574.773.0002



- Eureka Bronze Leaf Red Begonia*
- Boy Yellow Marigold*
- Eureka Green Leaf White Begonia*
- Turf Grass*

E2 "Bowtie" - Das Dutchman Essenhaus

SIZE: 52.5'W X 61'H

Boasting the largest garden on the tour, Das Dutchman Essenhaus is one of the most visited destinations along the Heritage Trail as well. Why not, when one can enjoy a relaxing weekend or just an afternoon in the center of beautiful Northern Indiana Amish County? With an 1100 seat restaurant and a particularly fine bakery within walking distance of the Inn you can easily keep up your strength for all the extras they have to offer.

Many of the Quilt Gardens are rendered each year on a permanent template of mulch or other materials to anchor the soil and allow access for maintenance. The Essenhaus site was one of the first to use sod to create grassed walkways and in so doing converted a maintenance path into an invitation for guests to become part of the art. Young and old have posed for the obligatory "group photo" in this garden. They scramble up the hillside to capture a snapshot in time - a picture that tells the date not by the digital time stamp, but by the pattern and height of the flowers.

This garden brings us a couple of tried and true annuals that should be recognizable to most backyard gardeners. Its canvas is matted and framed with an eye popping border of red 'Eureka' begonias; seen here in the bowtie. These plants are widely used throughout the Quilt Gardens favored not only for their flower form and color but also for their sturdy constitution and drought resistance. Accenting the blocks are more begonias this time in white. Begonias are a consistent choice for gardeners all across the country. They stand up to hot and humid summers without much effort giving them the reputation of being low maintenance.

Bright as the noon day sun, 'Boy Yellow' marigolds create the perfect background to anchor those sophisticated bowties! The Burpee website shares a story of the company's dedication to develop the marigold into the premier garden flower it is today. "As part of its longtime search for a true white marigold, Burpee launched a national contest in 1954. The \$10,000 prize for the seed of a truly white marigold was finally awarded to an Iowa gardener in 1975. David Burpee, son of the company founder, W. Atlee Burpee, launched an energetic campaign to have the marigold designated as the national flower. In the end, rose enthusiasts carried the day."

Das Dutchman Essenhaus
240 US 20 | Middlebury, IN

w: Essenhaus.com
p: 800.455.9471



-  *Boy Yellow Marigold*
-  *Fresh Look Gold Celosia*
-  *Fresh Look Red Celosia*
-  *Fresh Look Yellow Celosia*
-  *Snow Crystal White Alysum*
-  *Natural Mulch Wood Chips*
-  *Turf Grass*

F2 "Wagon Wheel" - Dutch Country Market

SIZE: 45'W X 45'H

Mom and Pop make eight in this equation where three sons and three daughters help run this thriving family business. When they were asked who would be caring for the garden their reply was "eight family members - all volunteers" (I might add all with the last name of Lehman.) Amish families are close knit and live in close proximity in order to foster a community of believers - one of their tenants of faith. Faith in God, faith in family and faith in a community that cares for one another are important parts of their culture.

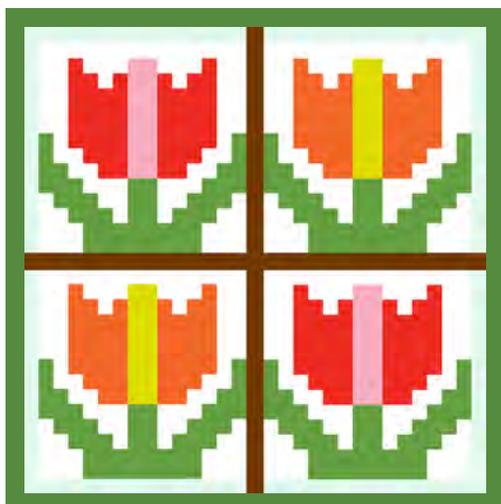
There has been exciting happenings going on here. Their business has grown, thanks in no small part to the Quilt Gardens along the Heritage Trail. Even their garden has grown. It has more than doubled in size in 2014 to 2,025 square feet! This year the Lehman family chose the Wagon Wheel design for their Quilt Garden and a most appropriate choice. One can only imagine how many wheels roll by this busy market on any given day. Wagon wheels, buggy wheels, bicycle wheels, car and bus wheels share this route between Middlebury and Shipshewana.

Dutch Country Market has taken first prize for the most plants used in a quilt garden this year. A whopping 8,448 plants were lovingly put into this floral display. Divided by eight "volunteers" that means there's no time for idle hands in this undertaking! With just over 5,000 'Fresh Look' celosia this is an excellent display of intense color that should last through heat, rain, humidity and drought. This variety is bred to add new leaves to cover the aging plumes so plants keep their "fresh look." The delicate border is none other than 'Snow Crystal' white alyssum - a sweet fragrant finish to edge this design.

The Quilt Gardens along the Heritage Trail has brought incoming visitors from all over the globe to this small country store. They come for Katie's noodles and delicious peanut butter spread, not to mention the home grown honey - Norm tells us he keeps 30 honey hives. They make it a point to visit the "noodle shop" as local tour guides call it. From a Master Gardener's point of view it further reinforces the importance of gardening in an economic sense. This garden has brought more traffic to this spot on the "Amish turnpike" which is important to the market's bottom line. Elkhart County has seen an impressive economic impact directly attributable to these lovely gardens.

Dutch Country Market
11401 CR 16 | Middlebury, IN

w: AmishCountry.org/leisure/dutch-country-market
p: 574.825.3594



A6 "Dutch Tulip" - Dutch Village Market

SIZE: 30'W X 30'H

Nappanee is announcing the birth of a new quilt garden. This corner of the county is very fertile adding gardens at Coppes Commons last year and Dutch Village Market in 2014. Full of enthusiasm, the new owners of Dutch Village Market have invested substantial time and resources to ensure their Quilt Garden is top notch and located the garden next to their windmill for a picturesque presentation.

Not wanting to be like all the other gardens, the Dutch Village team chose to use stone rather than concrete block to build their retaining walls adding more natural elements to their site. They've also added drip irrigation lessening the water demands and assuring adequate moisture on a more even schedule.

Easy is not exactly the word I'd use when setting up any new garden, and a Quilt Garden is of course a whole different animal all together. Once the retaining walls are filled with soil and amendments are added, tilling becomes difficult. Yearly soil tests are encouraged; however, many sites have found that once the initial fertilizers have been applied the nutrient levels remain relatively stable needing only a top dressing of compost and perhaps a bit of nitrogen. While it's always tempting to add extra fertilizer - because we all know more is better (NOT) - the practice actually produces too much leafy green material while discouraging flower production. This is especially true for begonias which are in abundance in this "Dutch Tulip" Quilt Garden.

The Quilt Gardens along the Heritage Trail uses two official growers to supply all the pretty posies that go into the gardens. Each site selects the plants to be featured in their garden but, of course the growers have their personal favorites too. It appears that Nappanee's grower is partial to the Ambassador begonia. It is the first year for this variety on the tour so only time will tell how well the variety performs under the intense demands of a Quilt Garden. While half of the "tulips" in the pattern are worked in begonias, the others feature the bold colors found in the marigold family. Safari Orange and Boy Yellow marigolds are another favorite used in many of the gardens year after year.

This garden is not the only new thing happening at this end of the county. After last year's retirement of one of the official growers there has been a changing of the guard in growers for the 2014 season. Fade in Orpha Marie and her five sisters at County Garden Greenhouse of New Paris. Their parents Roland & Elizabeth Martin purchased five greenhouses in 1998 retiring soon after. Now they number 11 greenhouses filled with plants of every description. They've signed up to supply eight Quilt Gardens this year. I'd say that's pretty ambitious wouldn't you?

-  Cocktail Vodka Bronze Leaf Red Begonia
-  Ambassador Green Leaf Light Pink Begonia
-  Safari Orange Marigold
-  Boy Yellow Marigold
-  Curley Leaf Parsley
-  Ambassador Green Leaf White Begonia
-  Silver Dust Dusty Miller
-  Natural Mulch Wood Chips
-  Turf Grass

Dutch Village Market

700 N Tomahawk Trail | Nappanee, IN

w: DVillageMarket.com

p: 574.773.2828



-  *New Look Dusty Miller*
-  *Hawaii Blue Ageratum*
-  *Durango Red Marigold*
-  *Durango Yellow Marigold*
-  *Turf Grass*

B2 "Cross Town Rivals" - Elkhart Central Park

SIZE: 40'W X 40'H

Elkhart's Central Park is a great spot for a Quilt Garden. It holds the RiverWalk at its back and the Civic Plaza just above making the garden a favorite touch point for local walkers. They love to watch the pattern develop from week to week. With the recent up surge in downtown development, Elkhart now boasts a growing Arts & Entertainment district with new eateries and pubs. A stroll along the RiverWalk Culture Trail to the garden is the perfect finish to lunch or dinner while downtown.

This year's garden is a living testimony to a longstanding rivalry between two local high schools - the Elkhart Central Blue Blazers and the Elkhart Memorial Crimson Chargers. Each year the two schools face off during football season to battle for the "Mangy Lion" and bragging rights for the year. The design team at the parks department selected each school's colors and then found a pattern that could balance the "Cross Town Rivals."

Durango marigolds are made to order for the crimson and gold of Charger fame. Durango is a French anemone type marigold meaning it is a dwarf (less than 12" tall) with softer ruffling than other types. By sheer numbers the marigolds would win this rivalry with almost 5,000 of them in attendance. To keep these players in top condition deadheading keeps the blooms coming all season long. Gardeners tend to rely heavily on fertilizers when pushing for more blossoms. The marigold can be easily overfed at the expense of the flowers. The Farmer's Almanac maintains that marigolds bloom better and more profusely in poor soil.

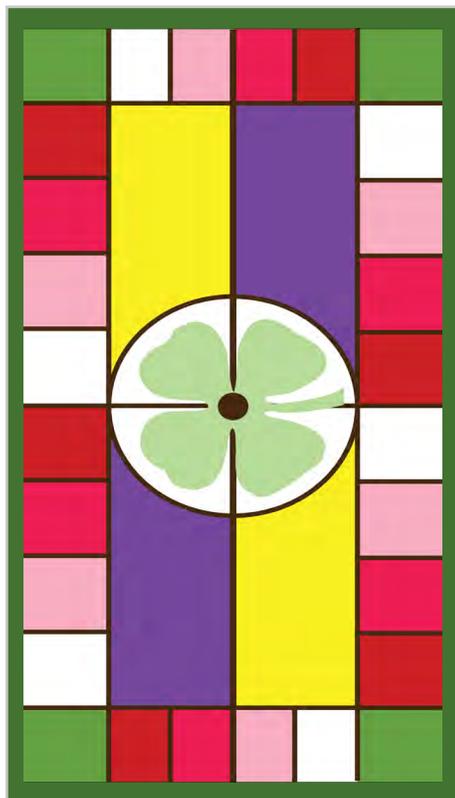
While the red and gold may have it by the numbers, the beloved Blazer blue and white is still the center of attention here in the Quilt Garden. Hawaii Blue ageratum and New Look dusty miller serve as your starting line-up. New Look is an oak leaf cousin to the one that we are so familiar with. It's a well thought out substitution for most typical white bedding annuals which tend to fade to unpleasant brown tones with age and overhead watering. The oak shape leaf also gives more color density than some of the lace leaf varieties and picks up the fuzzy texture of the lush blue ageratum.

Mark your calendar for September 27 thru October 18, 2014, when North America's only Fall Flower Carpets put on dazzling show in the downtowns of Elkhart and Nappanee. Each glorious display crafted with over 7,000 large and in charge mums, the diva of fall flowers, shares a "Celebrate the Arts" theme.

One of these Fall Flower Carpets will be located right next to this Quilt Garden in Central Park. A repeat visit should be on your calendar to see this glorious color and fall flowers!

Elkhart Building & Grounds Department
Waterfall Drive & Franklin Street
Elkhart, IN

w: ElkhartIndiana.org
p: 574.295.7275



-  *Green Perennials*
-  *Ambassador Green Leaf White Begonia*
-  *Picobella Blue Petunia*
-  *Prism Gold Sunshine Petunia*
-  *Cocktail Vodka Bronze Leaf Red Begonia*
-  *Ambassador Green Leaf Rose Begonia*
-  *Ambassador Green Leaf Light Pink Begonia*
-  *Curley Leaf Parsley*
-  *Black Mulch*
-  *Turf Grass*

Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds & Purdue Co-Operative Extension Service
17746 County Road 34 | Goshen, IN

w: 4HFair.org | Extension.Purdue.edu
p: 574.533.FAIR | 574.533.0554

D4 "4 Cornerstones of 4-H" - Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds

SIZE: 20'W X 40'H

The multi-faceted team at the Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds brings to you another original quilt design in the 4 Cornerstones of 4-H garden. Symbolism is an important part of the creative process for this group. The official 4-H emblem is a green four-leaf clover with a white H on each leaf standing for Head, Heart, Hands, and Health. The 4-H name and emblem came under United States federal protection in 1939. These protections place the 4-H emblem in a unique category of protected emblems, along with the U.S. Presidential Seal, Red Cross, Smokey the Bear and the Olympic rings.

This garden is a cooperative partnership between four organizations: Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service, Michiana Master Gardeners Association, Elkhart County Extension Homemakers, and the Elkhart County 4-H Fair Board. Representing the Extension Homemaker team is garden designer Margaret Weybright. Margaret, a 4-H member in her youth, has been a 4-H leader for over 40 years and also an avid quilter for all of those years. This time she's brought her eye for color and piecing to a cheery bed laid out in blossoms.

Gardening with petunias is perhaps nothing new, but the popularity of this plant still drives breeders to bring out new varieties on a regular basis. The National Garden Bureau has proclaimed 2014 the Year of the Petunia. From the traditional tried and true, to bicolor and tricolors, to the wildly inconsistent, breeders are coming out with improved qualities and unique colors. The petunia is no stranger here at the fairgrounds where it appears in mass in this Quilt Garden and in the countless number of containers and baskets scattered throughout the grounds during fair week. Here the petite Picobella Blue petunia has a fanciful partner in AAS winner Prism Sunshine, making for a regal combination of color. The green, lucky four-leaf clover has no place to hide with such high contrast colors all around. The pieced block border of begonias lends the finishing touch to this memorable garden.

Green curly leaf parsley always appears in the corners of their designs - a signature plant since day one. Parsley is not only a sumptuous deep green herb with great texture and easy care it's also high in Vitamin C. Or if you'd rather, the thick white carrot like root can be harvested and prepared like many cold hardy root vegetables.

This garden has flipped! I mean that in the nicest way. The recently extended 25-mile long Pumpkinvine Nature Trail that attracts hundreds of bike enthusiasts now passes through the previous garden location, forcing the bed up the hill and a switch to landscape orientation. The new nature trail access will bring bicyclists right past this and a sister garden at Krider World's Fair Garden in Middlebury. In many ways the Quilt Gardens along the Heritage Trail has tied together this county in many unimaginable ways. Through volunteerism and common effort new relationships have been formed. An exchange of ideas and values takes place between locals and the visitors they meet. Gardening can do that - it's amazing!



- Prism Sunshine Petunia
- Picobella Blue Petunia
- Cocktail Vodka Bronze Leaf Red Begonia
- Ambassador Green Leaf White Begonia
- Black Mulch
- Turf Grass

Elkhart County Courthouse
in partnership with the Goshen Chamber of Commerce, Purdue Co-Operative Extension Service and the downtown Economic Improvement District of Goshen
 101 North Main Street | Goshen, IN

w: ElkhartCountyIndiana.com
 w: Goshen.org
 p: 574.533.2102

D4 “Courthouse Scales of Justice” - Elkhart County Courthouse

SIZE: 20’W X 40’H

It seems only fitting that the stately garden located on the historic grounds of the Elkhart County Courthouse features civil justice as its theme. Built in 1869 when the county seat was relocated from Elkhart to Goshen, this courthouse has long been the symbol of justice in the county.

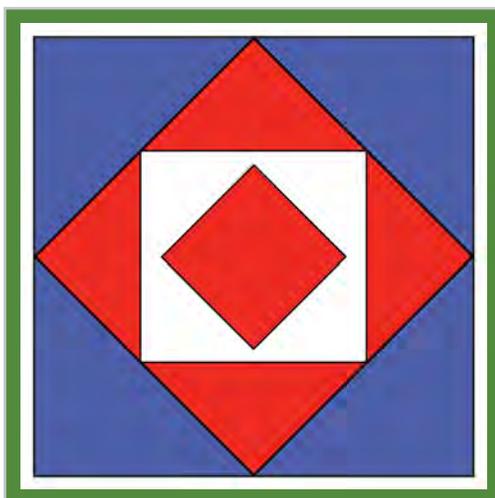
The inspiration for the 2014 Quilt Garden came from Superior Court Judge Terry Shewmaker. Yes, even a judge gets involved with this community project. He was assisting with the 2013 garden when he and pattern designer Mike Cross struck up a conversation that inspired development of this new design.

And speaking of community involvement, members of Girl Scout Troop #10103 are doing a good turn by turning a lot of soil for this Quilt Garden. These young women who are currently working on their Gold Award (the highest award level for a Girl Scout) are demonstrating their commitment to becoming active, engaged members of the community by prepping, planting and maintaining this site for the entire 2014 season. Certainly these high school students are on the path to success!

Gardening in the center of town brings a few unique growing conditions. For urban areas the upside is that they tend to suffer less extreme low temperatures than their countryside counterparts. Masonry buildings, paved streets and asphalt rooftops absorb heat quickly during the day then release it back into the atmosphere at night. This is an asset when hoping to avoid the last spring frost, but it can be a liability during the summer when temperatures soar. Urban microclimates can trap summer heat, creating scorching environments that can severely damage plants. Here on the courthouse lawn radiant heat makes drought tolerant plant choices an absolute must.

Making that cut and supplying the requisite red, white and blue for this patriotic pleaser are Picobella Blue and Prism Sunshine petunias, with white Ambassador and red Vodka Cocktail begonias. Once established each of these should hold up to the growing conditions of this demanding site. Petunias can be quite drought tolerant when ground planted (unlike those grown in containers.) Wax begonias have fat fleshy stems that have evolved to store water over dry periods or drought. They also have a waxy coating on their leaves (cutin) that protects the plant from excessive moisture loss. This is why wax begonias are able to tolerate drought better than other begonia types.

Though generally treated as annuals by most gardeners, technically petunias are tender perennials and members of the potato family. Following the end of World War II, a transformation in the quality of petunias came with the development of the F1 hybrids. This made it possible to regulate their growth from the open, floppy forms to a bushier type with better weather resistance, an increasing range of colors and a far superior ability to weather the rigors of summer. And just when you’ve thought you’ve seen it all, hybridizers introduced exciting leaf colors into the mix. Glamouflage Grape petunias sport wide margins and marbling while the Surfina Variegated Baby Purple petunias gives us trailing green and yellow leaves. Both plants are awash in bright purple blossoms making them just that much more interesting.



- Eureka Green Leaf Red Begonia*
- Eureka Green Leaf White Begonia*
- Danube Blue Ageratum*
- Natural Mulch Wood Chips*
- Turf Grass*

D1 “Sawtooth Diamond” - Elkhart County Historical Museum

SIZE: 30.5’W X 30.5’H

Inside this unassuming school building is a treasure trove of local artifacts - 20,000 of them to be exact! The museum sponsors many local quilt related events as part of its commitment to the preservation of, and appreciation for antique quilts, and newly developed exhibits and programs are tied to the museum’s antique quilt collection. “Stitches of Devotion”, one of several newly developed programs, gives groups a behind-the-scenes look at the museum’s extensive bedcover collection. Museum staff shows some of the many quilts, coverlets, and comforters rarely seen by the public for this special program. They even give tips on how to care for heirloom bedcovers.

While staff may be experts on coverlet care, gardening is another matter. The museum is under the direction of the Elkhart County Parks Department that works in tandem with the Michiana Master Gardeners Association to manage the day to day maintenance of the Quilt Garden. As you might imagine, routine watering is just a drop in the bucket once you tuck in over 3,000 annuals for the summer. Most sites are making good use of weed preventers and mulch to reduce weeding chores. Compost is the #1 soil amendment with many sites reporting mushroom or duck varieties as their favorite.

The Sawtooth Diamond garden is packed with always dependable Danube Blue ageratum. This non-stop blue-violet workhorse is such a beautiful background in this design, and the plant is one of the best for uniformity, earliness and general performance in the garden. It’s tightly compact reaching only 6-8” tall. Known as Floss Flower in some parts of the country, it’s a frost-tender annual of the aster family. The fluffy flowers are basically asters with ray flowers absent.

Eureka begonia, another tough little bloomer, joins this party providing just the right sparkle to these diamonds. Here they’ve chosen red and white giving this Quilt Garden a patriotic feel. The gardening nation has spoken and begonias are back in fashion. They are incredibly adaptable to changing weather - putting up with heavy rain as well as scorching sun - and continue blooming no matter what our Midwest summer has to offer.

A good soil analysis is perhaps the best tool in a gardener’s arsenal. Over fertilization and nutrient build up has become a huge problem these days. A high phosphorous level in the soil is usually the culprit of over-fertilizing or adding too much manure. Not only does excessive phosphorous harm plants, it can be of concern in lakes and streams. Some of the symptoms of excessive phosphorus in soil are increased weed growth and stunted plant growth. It also harms beneficial root fungi, which help the plant absorb water and nutrients and decreases the plant’s ability to uptake zinc and iron.

Elkhart County Historical Museum
304 West Vistula Street | Bristol, IN

w: ElkhartCountyParks.org
p: 574.848.4322



- Indigo Charm Supertunia*
- Citrus Supertunia*
- Surefire Rose Begonia*
- Surefire Red Begonia*
- Cocoa Bean Shells*
- Turf Grass*

G2 "Goldie's Basket" - Farmstead Inn

SIZE: 40'W X 40'H

Now this is a basket full of posies if ever you've seen one! Goldie's Basket, a.k.a. Block #22 from the Shipshewana Blessings Quilt, is the official welcome mat for the Farmstead Inn. Block #22 is simply called Basket. The Farmstead changed it to Goldie's Basket to honor Goldie Lambright, the owner's mother who has lived in Shipshewana her whole life. The Lambright family has many business interests in Shipshewana. Perhaps the highest profile is hidden in plain sight just across the street. It's the largest flea market in the Midwest and the Lambright's have been active in its management since very early on. Hundreds of thousands of visitors pass by this garden over the course of the summer. That's a lot of pressure to look good, but I think this garden has it covered.

Proven Winners make its official Quilt Gardens debut here at the Farmstead. New for 2014 is Surefire, an exciting introduction in the begonia family. Part Angel Wing, part Fibrous Begonia, this new series is simply unique. It's the quickest-blooming, largest, most vigorous begonia according to several sources. Adapted to full sun or full shade this amazing variety boasts 2 1/2" blooms! Begonias have been a mainstay in American gardens for a very long time and for good reason. They are dependable. Disappointed impatiens loyalists now faced with the search for a good substitute in light of the rampant fungus epidemic devastating the crop would be wise to consider begonias and Surefire just might be what the doctor ordered.

Petunias have experienced a revival thanks to the breeders at Proven Winners. Their Supertunia line is "a truly self-cleaning variety that never has to be deadheaded." They are terrific spreaders, filling in the landscape with luscious color. Yellow has traditionally been a weak color for petunias but not so with Citrus Supertunia. This one is the color of lemon meringue pie punctuated with a pop of sunshine. One of my favorite color combinations is purple and yellow. Indigo Charm is a velvety deep purple variety that is the perfect complement to the hot colors seen in this garden.

Each year the Farmstead Inn features a block from the Shipshewana Blessing Quilt. This quilt was created for the town of Shipshewana as a "visual prayer" for those who have been there before, those there now and for the people of the future that will care take and create a life there. It is displayed in the Town Hall on Morton Street.

Farmstead Inn

307 S. Van Buren Street | Shipshewana, IN

w: FarmsteadInn.com

p: 260.768.4595



-  *Hawaii Blue Ageratum*
-  *New Guinea Divine Mix Impatiens*
-  *Eureka Bronze Leaf Red Begonia*
-  *Eureka Green Leaf White Begonia*
-  *Natural Mulch Wood Chips*
-  *Stone Pavers*

E2 "Water Wheel" - Krider Garden

SIZE: 20'W X 40'H

The Middlebury Parks Department's historic Krider "World's Fair" Garden is rooted in the rich heritage of Krider Nurseries. Back in the 1931 Krider's was said to be "the largest and best equipped nursery from Cleveland to Chicago." With an investment of \$10,000, Mr. Vernon Krider developed his Diversified Garden for display at the 1934 Chicago "A Century of Progress" World's Fair to promote his burgeoning mail order business.

History is important to the Middlebury Park's team that annually selects patterns that represent the community or specifically Krider Garden for its Quilt Garden. The Water Wheel pattern was a logical choice. Water wheels in the form of saw mills, cider mills and grist mills played an important role in Middlebury's early development. And the rustic water wheel house located in the park was actually part of Mr. Krider's exhibition at the World's Fair. To add to the realism of the Water Wheel pattern, the team added a wooden hub to the center of the wheel to simulate the hub of an actual water wheel and used wooden beams to represent the sides of the paddles that drive the water to produce power.

This garden has gone through some growing pains thanks to the beautiful nearby beech trees and the roots that anchor them. These roots run directly under the garden taking precious water and nutrients from it. Compost has been added to the top of the bed to increase the humus needed to absorb moisture and keep it readily available for the plants. Shade is another issue caused by the trees. In an effort to improve light conditions for the garden, several trees have been limbed up and a few considered invasive were removed from the park.

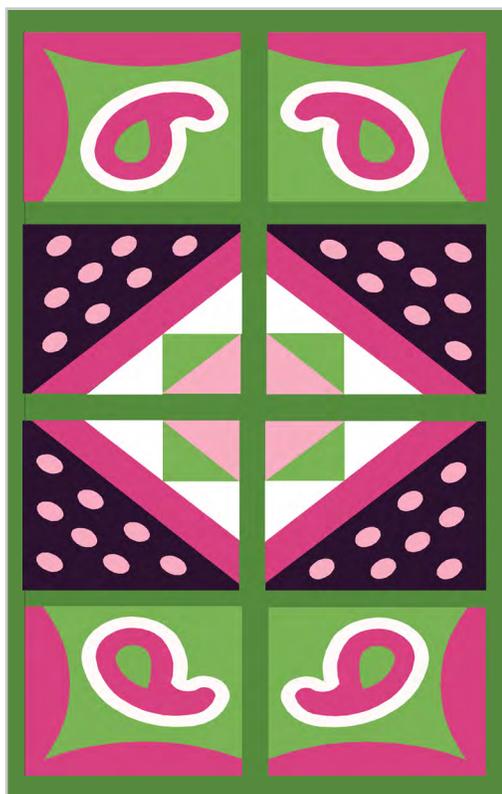
An added challenge was the recent downy mildew infection that decimated impatiens all over the country. In 2013 Krider Garden seemed to have more than its fair share of the fungus resulting in a switch to New Guinea Divine Mix impatiens. Sun impatiens are reported to be more resistant to the mildew (we'll see soon enough); however, many gardeners are giving up on the plant all together and favoring begonias as a replacement. Both red and white Eureka begonias play an important role in this and many other Quilt Gardens. The remainder of the pattern features Hawaii Blue ageratum which is considered almost pest free.

Krider's Quilt Garden is a popular stop for bicyclists. It's one of two Quilt Gardens that can be viewed along the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail which attracts bike enthusiasts from throughout the Midwest. The other one is located in Goshen at the Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds.

Krider Garden

302 West Bristol Avenue (County Road 8)
Middlebury, IN

w: MiddleburyIN.com
p: 574.825.1499



C2 “Pink Elephants of Hope” - Linton’s Enchanted Gardens

SIZE: 66’W X 32’H

With its themed displays, Linton’s Enchanted Gardens looks as though it’s right out of a fairy tale. Indiana’s award-winning home and garden center also boasts over 50,000 square feet of indoor shopping. This year they celebrate the grand opening of The Garden Cafe. Also new for 2014 is the “Enchanted Gardens Railroad” that takes guests on a guided tour around the perimeter of the beautiful nine acre facility, past the display gardens, Quilt Garden, “Lake Linton,” the petting zoo, and through the train tunnel before dropping back off at the Train Depot.

The official “Hope along the Heritage Trail” Quilt Garden makes its way to its new digs at Linton’s. The Hope campaign pairs Quilt Gardens along the Heritage Trail partners with the Vera Bradley Foundation to raise funds for breast cancer research. Each year a local quilt artist uses exclusive Vera Bradley colors to create a one-of-a-kind wall hanging. The quilt wall hanging travels to, and is displayed at, each of the local Vera Bradley retailers throughout the garden season and raffled to raise funds for the Foundation. Linton’s is proud to be one of those retailers.

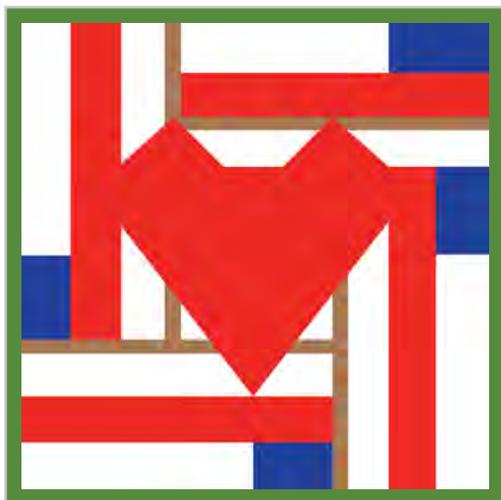
The “Pink Elephants of Hope” Quilt Garden is inspired by the campaigns exclusive quilt and dedicated to those touched by breast cancer. It features a pachyderm with a purpose - well four of them to be exact. Many of the Quilt Gardens have begun to design in 3-D adding all sorts of objects to convey height and whimsy. What could be more whimsical than four pink elephants on parade in a paisley garden full of posies?

Celebrity Pink Morn petunia has us seeing polka dots under the feet of each fanciful elephant. Curly leaf parsley is surrounded by more Celebrity petunias, this time in Rose to form the perfect paisley print edged in New Look dusty miller. AAS winner Celebrity petunia provides the flower size, disease tolerance and garden performance needed for a high demand annual display. One of the most desirable characteristics of this plant is its great resistance to adverse weather, from rain and humidity to warm summer nights. Another favorite is the Picobella series of petunias - creating a “blanket of color” anchoring the outer corners of the center blocks.

This garden has an abundance of parsley providing butterfly habitat aplenty. Parsley is one of the host plants for the Black Swallowtail caterpillar; a fact that I’m sure was not lost on the design team. Hopefully a few will stick around long enough to morph into adulthood. Amazingly butterflies “smell” with ultra-sensitive receptors at the ends of their antennae and on the bottoms of their feet, giving them the ability to find favorite flowers from miles away.

Linton’s Enchanted Gardens
315 County Road 17 | Elkhart, IN

w: Lintons.com
p: 888.779.9333



- Eureka Green Leaf Red Begonia*
- Eureka Green Leaf White Begonia*
- Picobella Blue Petunia*
- Natural Lumber*
- Turf Grass*

B2

"Land We Love" - Martin's ACE Hardware

SIZE: 30'W X 30'H

Larry and Gloria Martin are very active in their business and are often the ones offering up the "service with a smile" that ACE Hardware is known for. Of course they carry hardware, but their business is so much more than that. With flavored popcorn, candies, dips, gourmet syrups and teas plus their Tulip Tree Gift and Floral Shoppe, it's like walking through a boutique tucked away in a general store!

A slice of history is also on display inside the store - a 6-foot cross section of a 513-year-old Bubinga tree from Africa - one of only five or six sections in the United States. Each ring is marked with an historical event and the center of the tree is marked with Columbus' voyage to the New World. The last event marked on the slice is 9/11.

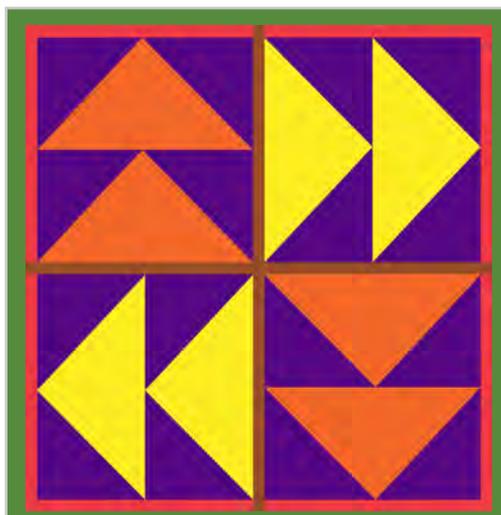
Standing loud and proud outside the store is the "Land We Love" Quilt Garden. This family wants you to know how important patriotism is to them and how much they value the freedoms Americans enjoy. Flag inspired Quilt Gardens seem to be a trend for them as are the nation's colors. This garden features an enormous heart atop a basic red, white, and blue background of quilted "flag like" stripes.

Nearly 4,000 begonias are packed into this garden. They were started in the greenhouse way back in February and they'll bloom their little "hearts" out until the end of September. The same can be said of the petunias, but they take a bit longer to come up to speed. Eureka was used here and is the variety used most often on the Quilt Gardens along the Heritage Trail, although this year it's a bit of a battle of the begonias. For the first time there are four different varieties represented: Eureka, Cocktail, Ambassador, and another first is Proven Winners Surefire. It will be an interesting challenge. Stay tuned ...

I had the opportunity to visit Sonya Miller of Country Comfort Greenhouse (the grower for this site) in February while snow and freezing temperatures still held our region hostage. Inside the greenhouse it was sunny and warm and just right for planting. I watched as the seeds went from packet to tray then onto a nursery bed all snug and warm. I asked her what her favorite garden tool was; the reply was "scissors - I carry them everywhere." Her advice was to prune plants aggressively to keep them full and encourage repeat blooming. She also said whenever possible sow a fall cover crop and till it in the spring. This adds nutrients and organic materials that will naturally improve soil over time.

Martin's ACE Hardware
103 Crystal Heights Blvd | Middlebury, IN

p: 574.825.7011



-  *Boy Yellow Marigold*
-  *Boy Orange Marigold*
-  *Picobella Blue Petunia*
-  *Eureka Bronze Leaf Scarlet Begonia*
-  *Natural Mulch Wood Chips*
-  *Turf Grass*

G2 "Dutchman's Puzzle" - Menno-Hof

SIZE: 34'W X 34'H

Menno-Hof, an Anabaptist information center, welcomes visitors from all walks of life and countries around the world. The name is referenced to the founder of the Anabaptist faith, Menno Simmons, and the Old English word "hof" which means house or sanctuary. Menno Simmons followers were called Mennonites. Menno-Hof is a non-profit organization operated by a board of Amish, Beachy Amish, Conservative Mennonite and Mennonite Church USA members that presents the history and values of the Anabaptist people.

In 1986 with the help of many volunteer workers, there was a massive barn-raising to build the structure housing Menno-Hof. The new facility opened in May of 1988. Volunteers from the Marion Mennonite church are caring for the garden this season in keeping with the spirit of the original project.

Many hands make light work and so does the approach to keep it simple. Menno-Hof selected the Dutchman's Puzzle specifically because it's an easy pattern with simple pieces comprised entirely of triangles. This translates to trouble-free preparation for planting and clean lines to manage during the growing season. The puzzle pieces were worked in Boy yellow and orange marigolds that nearly sizzle with vibrant color. This garden should photograph quite nicely against the deep red barn. A clothes line hung with Amish clothing and a brightly pieced quilt gives added composition to the well framed shot.

They chose Eureka Scarlet begonias for just the right pop of red for the border that defines this Quilt Garden. The background of each block contains nearly 500 Picobella Blue petunias. Although they have a slightly smaller bloom than their grandiflora cousin, Picobella more than makes up for it in sheer numbers. In the garden the low-mounded, controlled habit of this petunia can be used for intricate design work, large beds or sweet borders. Because it tends to form flower buds when only a few leaves are present, it is best to pinch back the early buds to allow the plant to bulk up prior to flower set. If the plants are allowed to bloom too early, they may not size up to expectation.

A fair number of plants succumb to fungal disease last year and had to be replaced mid-season. This is not as easy as one might think because these gardens are intensely planted with little room to tip-toe through. Once the offending area is reached the gardener must be mindful to not trample the surrounding healthy plants. The replacements are reluctant to root in as quickly as if planted in the spring requiring more frequent watering until established. A tip to speed up this process is to water well at planting then in a day or so water in a good root stimulator which contains rooting hormones that aid in healthy root development and a quick start.

Menno-Hof

510 South Van Buren Street (SR 5)
Shipshewana, IN

w: MennoHof.com
p: 260.768.4117



- Cocktail Vodka Bronze Leaf Red Begonia*
- Silver Dust Dusty Miller*
- Safari Yellow Marigold*
- Black Dragon Coleus*
- Danube Blue Ageratum*
- Curley Leaf Parsley*
- Zahara Mix Zinnia*
- Cocktail Whiskey Bronze Leaf White Begonia*
- Black Mulch*
- Stone Pavers*

A6 "One Room School" - Nappanee Center

SIZE: 30'W X 30'H

Nappanee with its motto "Embrace the Pace" values history and heritage. In recent years major restoration and renovations have taken place at the Nappanee Center/Heritage Museum and the John Hartman Historical House (where the Quilt Garden is located) - a testament of the hometown pride of Nappanee residents. When the back yard of the Nappanee Center was turned over to the volunteer Quilt Garden Committee, amazing things were accomplished within months, and it was evident that it would be a good "marriage" of the Quilt Garden, the Heritage Museum and the Chamber of Commerce. The union has been fruitful now occupying a quarter block of West Market Street.

Designing a garden in a community with carpentry in its heritage has its perks. Few gardens can boast having a real wooden door, shutters, window frames, a brick chimney, and a genuine school bell for design details! These create a three dimensional "wow" and a great deal of authenticity in this garden. These designers are really beginning to think outside the box when it comes to bringing vertical interest to their gardens. Black Dragon coleus is used here to interpret the markings on the Safari Yellow marigold ruler that frames this impressive garden. Coleus is most often found in the shade, but Black Dragon can be adapted to grow in bright morning sun as well. A clear Danube Blue sky of ageratum soars above the gray roof of the school house.

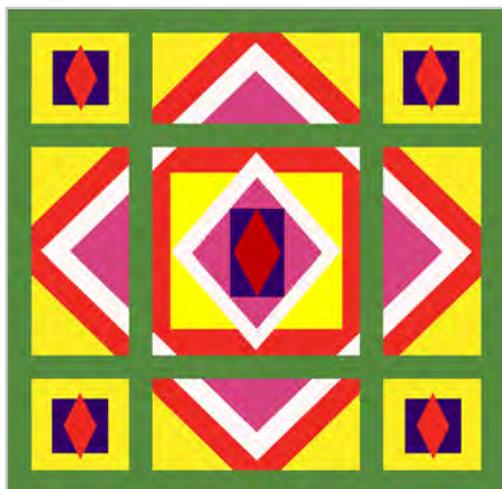
This little red school is lavishly painted with Cocktail Vodka begonias. Every detail is accounted for in this premier representation of the many one room schools found around Nappanee. It even has a real stone step with a lovely Zahara zinnia mix border. Park Seed Company says this is the "bedding zinnia of our dreams!" The series was introduced in 2009 and immediately became famous for its resistance to mildew and leaf spot, nonstop blooms, and its larger flower size. This is the annual you'll want along that baking-hot driveway or sidewalk, crowding against the house (whose walls reflect heat), and beautifying the patio (which never gets watered often enough). It can be planted a bit more closely than other bedding zinnias, again thanks to the mildew resistance. One of its colors, the lovely Starlight Rose, won a 2010 AAS award.

Nappanee is investing serious energy into the development of its Quilt Garden into a multifaceted attraction. With the help of the "Friends of the Quilt Garden" group and the diverse team of supporters there is no shortage of talent behind this outstanding garden. It's heartwarming to see how much a garden can do to further the future of a small town.

Once you've rested from your summer of fun come back to this spot to witness the curtain rise on the not-to-be-missed Fall Flower Carpet. Mark your calendar for September 27th thru October 18, 2014, when North America's only floral displays of their kind debut in the downtowns of Nappanee and Elkhart. Each Flower Carpet will share a "Celebrate the Arts" theme and be crafted with over 7,000 pots of large and in charge mums, the diva of fall flowers.

Nappanee Center
302 West Market Street | Nappanee, IN

w: NappaneeChamber.com
p: 574.773.7812



- Cocktail Vodka Bronze Leaf Red Begonia*
- Picobella Blue Petunia*
- Cocktail Brandy Bronze Leaf Pink Begonia*
- Silver Dust Dusty Miller*
- Boy Yellow Marigold*
- Turf Grass*

C4 "Facets" - Old Bag Factory

SIZE: 29'w x 32.5'h

The Old Bag Factory houses a collection of artists, specialty shops and cafes these days but that was not always the case. Built in 1896 to house a manufacturing facility, the Chase Bag Factory was on the cutting edge of technology for its day. One of the first businesses in Goshen to be fitted with electric, it housed its own hydroelectric power plant and had its own railroad spur right through the center of the operation. Now the track leads you to the most intriguing artisans. Take time to peruse the shops and find a warm welcome around every corner.

Quilt Designs has been in business since 1981 and relocated to the Old Bag Factory in 1987. The shop showcases up to 100 quilts and wall-hangings and sells from inventory in stock, but also specializes in custom orders. Selecting fabrics and colors in the upstairs studio is often a highlight of the process. Fiber-artists and quilt designers Shirley and Kris Shenk also enjoy seeing their original design quilts come to life in another form - flowers. Having grown up in central Illinois in a farming family, Shirley sees herself as a farmer at heart with her current crop being very colorful!

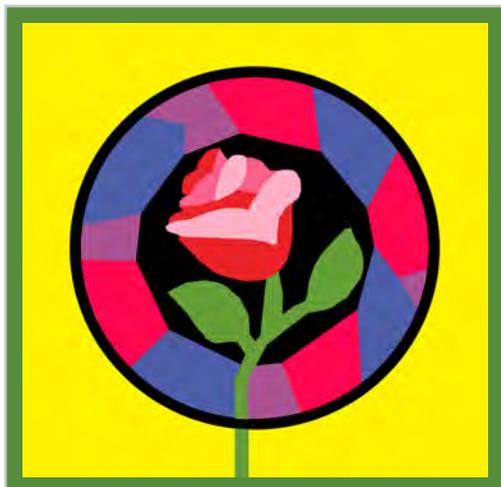
This team carries their fiber-artist touch to their Quilt Garden. If you look past the rich color palette to the diverse textures you can virtually feel their artistry with your eyes. Deep emerald green with lacy and fernlike leaves, the marigold mirrors that of the beautiful Silverdust dusty miller. It has lacy, deeply lobed, delicately cut, velveteen rabbit gray leaves. The contrast is punctuated by the metallic bronze of Cocktail begonias. The cupped shaped leaves sparkle with water droplets in the morning dew later sharing their waxy brilliance in the afternoon sunshine. The little cups directly water the root system by this efficient plant ensuring survival during a hot dry summer.

The Shenks chose the Facets design because of its strong geometrics. Facets is based on an original quilt design by Kris Shenk, featuring whole diamond shapes and triangles made to look like the facets of a cut diamond. The garden version of the design showcases the diamond element of the quilt along with several framing borders. The strong geometric lines seemed to call for strong colors of red and blue juxtaposed with softer shades of silver and pink to contrast the design and make the design pop.

The brilliant colors of the Facet garden are outstanding against the darkly stained log cabin that houses the Quilt Designs showroom. The 1837 two-story log cabin originally stood southwest of Goshen and was the homestead for a pioneering family of thirteen. In 1986 the cabin was dismantled and each log lovingly labeled. It was then reconstructed at its current site on the grounds of Goshen's Old Bag Factory.

Old Bag Factory
1100 North Chicago Avenue
Goshen, IN

w: OldBagFactory.com
p: 574.534.2502



- Cocktail Vodka Bronze Leaf Red Begonia
- Cocktail Gin Bronze Leaf Rose Begonia
- Cocktail Brandy Bronze Leaf Pink Begonia
- Curley Leaf Parsley
- Picobella Blue Petunias
- Picobella Rose Petunias
- Picobella Mixed Blue & Rose Petunias
- Safari Yellow Marigolds
- Black Mulch
- Turf Grass

B2 "Beauty and the Beast Rose" - Premier Arts, Downtown Elkhart

SIZE: 30'W X 30'H

Premier Arts, the resident theater group for the historic Lerner Theater, has a new production - partnering with the Quilt Gardens along the Heritage Trail. Based in Elkhart, they are recognized as regional leaders - providing professional performing arts education and outstanding entertainment and instilling civic pride, confidence and character building for everyone engaged in its success.

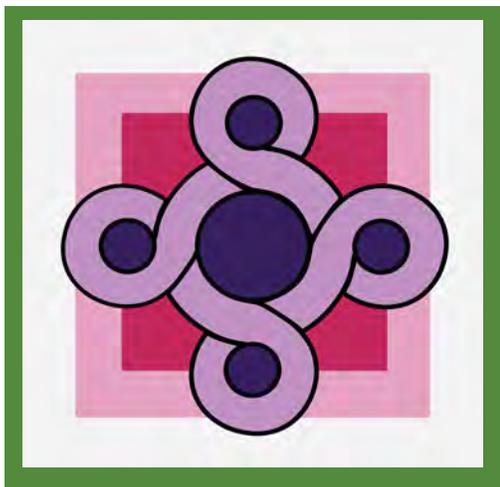
From vacant lot to glamorous garden, this downtown green-space is coming up roses, well perhaps begonias and petunias might be more precise. After carefully looking over their planting diagrams and design plans I am enthusiastic about this Quilt Garden's debut. The plant list looks right. The rose is detailed but not overdone. Cocktail begonias in the essential "flavors" were the choice for the petals in shades of red and pink best known by their given names, Vodka, Brandy and Gin. Perhaps the garden "party" humor is apropos for a garden that's put down roots in an Arts & Entertainment District. Rounding out the show is a supporting cast of curly leaf parsley as the leaves, Picobella petunia as the dancing border, and Safari marigold complete the cast of thousands here in our star studded garden production.

In the story of *Beauty and the Beast*, a young prince is changed into a hideous beast for offending an enchantress disguised as a beggar. Doomed, the beast is plunged into a dark, forbidding place, so that he will learn not to judge by appearances. Cursed, he must learn to love and receive love before the last petal of the magical rose withers and falls. Just as the last petal fades he finally finds love and is magically transformed back into the handsome prince (with a much better attitude I might add).

Just like the rose in the story, Elkhart's newest Quilt Garden prominently displayed in downtown Elkhart's A&E district magically transforms a once empty corner space into a thing of beauty. It's a blooming tribute to the vision and positive efforts of SoMa, a community centered downtown development initiative. SoMa's leaders chose three words to describe its mission for downtown - "live. work. play." With downtown Elkhart's newest Quilt Garden being part of the "next act" in improving the community's quality of life, perhaps that motto should now include "grow. inspire."

Premier Arts
410 South Main Street | Elkhart, IN

w: PremierArts.org
p: 574.293.4469



B2 “The Seasons of Change”
- Ruthmere House Museum

SIZE: 30’W X 30’H

Ruthmere House, once an opulent private residence of the prominent Beardsley family, is now a historical museum in Elkhart and an absolute must see. It’s filled with lavish one-of-a-kind furnishings, and stunning works of art. The magnificently restored 1910 Beaux Arts-style mansion was featured on A&E’s America’s Castles and gives a look back in time to America’s Gilded Age. Its fine art collection includes sculptures by Auguste Rodin, Antoine-Louis Barye, and William Ordway Partridge and artworks by renowned artists such as George Peter Alexander Healy, William Morris Hunt, and Albert E. Sterner.

-  *Evolution Farinacea Deep Purple Salvia*
-  *Hawaii Blue Ageratum*
-  *Eureka Bronze Leaf Deep Rose Begonia*
-  *Eureka Bronze Leaf Pink Begonia*
-  *Eureka Green Leaf White Begonia*
-  *Natural Mulch Wood Chips*
-  *Turf Grass*

The Seasons of Change garden is an impressive design and exact copy of a pattern found in the grand foyer of Ruthmere. As you walk through the front door of the mansion, a large circular wafer of elegant Italian marble forms the center medallion while four smaller circles are wrapped in intricate ceramic tile work. The museum selects an image or architectural element found in or around the home to incorporate into its Quilt Garden each year, and the inspiration from which to draw seems endless.

Looking at this design there seems to be an almost ethereal energy to it. It resembles a Native American symbol that is associated with infinity. Staff said the reason they selected this image to portray is because “the cycles of the seasons march across the expanse of our planet with the eternal energy of the Creator. Somehow our destinies are caught up in the swirl of time and change.” Gardens like art are open to interpretation allowing the viewer to glean their own messages from them.

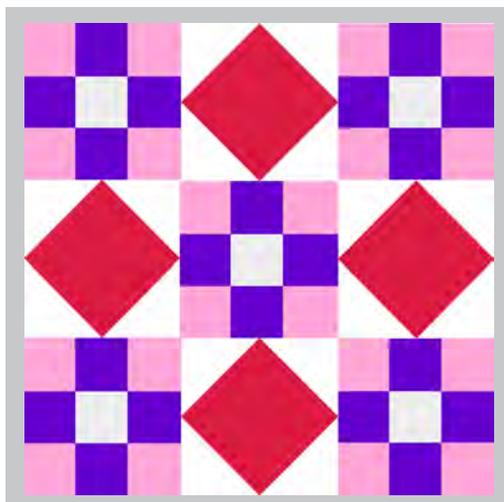
While the patterns change from year to year, their color palette seems to stay in the feminine range with soft tones and delicate textures. Salvia does have an airy feel to it. Evolution makes a striking impression planted in masses and certainly makes a statement in this garden. It is the tallest plant in this garden reaching a height of almost 20” and in most situations adds verticality and focal interest. Wrapped around each circle is an infinite band of Hawaii Blue ageratum. Eureka begonias fill in the remainder of the block in shades of pink and white.

Purple is a favorite color in the Ruthmere gardens. The richly saturated color has long been associated with royalty. In ancient times purple dye was difficult to produce. So much so that only the very wealthy could afford the costly hue. “Tyrian Purple,” the purple dye of the ancients, was made from marine mollusks. It took some 12,000 shellfish to extract 1.5 grams of the pure dye.

The Beardsley’s were fond of gardening in the early 1900’s as evidenced by the elaborate conservatory on the historic property. Mrs. Beardsley enjoyed her gardening so much that an underground tunnel was constructed so she could walk to her greenhouse without the inconvenience of inclement weather. That interest continues today with the Ruthmere Foundation’s participation in the Quilt Gardens program. A crack team of gardeners look after this site and the surrounding grounds. The historic gardens utilize many of the same plants documented in Mrs. Beardsley’s historic journals.

Ruthmere House Museum
302 East Beardsley Avenue | Elkhart, IN

w: Ruthmere.org
p: 574.264.0330



-  Silver Dust Dusty Miller
-  Picobella Blue Petunia
-  Picobella Rose Morn Petunia
-  Picobella White Petunia
-  Hotline Red Salvia
-  Stone Pavers

A5 "Goose Creek" - Downtown Wakarusa

SIZE: 30'W X 30'H

The Quilt Garden in Wakarusa screams photo op! The large Quilt Gardens Tour logo just behind the garden and the Maple Leaf mural prominently displayed to the left offers clever photographers the chance to shoot all three at once.

Wakarusa favors bold, geometric patterns for its garden and Goose Creek is no exception. The garden features many standards in the world of annuals for this region of the country. Dusty Miller, petunias and salvia do quite nicely here. This garden is quite sunny giving these heavy hitters plenty of energy to perform their best. Standing at the ready is the firecracker red Hotline salvia, one of the gardener's favorites. Hotline makes a striking three dimensional statement here. Blue, White and lovely Rose Morn Picobella petunias make up the balance of this unforgettable Quilt Garden. Marigolds were excluded from their design this year in order to discourage a reoccurrence of mildew seen in this garden last year.

The Picobella series is one of many miliflora petunias, simply meaning that it is loaded with thousands of petite blooms. Although seed companies tell you this one needs no pruning, all petunias benefit from pinching back to avoid leggy stems which tend to stretch as the season progresses. This also stimulates repeat blooming, better branching and sturdier stems - a real plus when strong winds threaten. Petunias are heavy feeders due to the generosity with which they bloom. Fertilize them weekly with a balanced liquid fertilizer. They tend to have shallow root systems so water deeply during times of drought.

After securing the obligatory snapshot at the Quilt Garden, take time to pop into locally owned businesses in this picture perfect little downtown. A stop at the Wakarusa Dime Store - the home of the Giant Jumbo Jelly Bean - satisfies any sweet tooth! Sample jellybeans the size of a thumb in every imaginable flavor. Around the corner, the Wakarusa Hardware has been selling goods from its "wall of 1,000 drawers" since 1904, and treasures from the past are packed to the tin ceilings of the antique store.

It's interesting to note that each spring Wakarusa has a long-standing tradition of making maple syrup. At the annual Wakarusa Maple Syrup Festival locals gobble up piles of pancakes dripping in the sweet amber delight. What does it take to make a gallon of maple syrup? Four mature sugar maple trees (at least 40 years old) can yield enough sap in six weeks to produce one gallon of syrup. The 40 gallons of raw sap are boiled down in a wood fired evaporator to produce that one precious gallon of syrup. The sugar-maker's entire family works to fire and operate the evaporator and then sterilize, filter, grade and pack each gallon. In short, it takes a whole lot of hard work! But once you've tasted Wakarusa's pure maple syrup, you know it's worth it.

Wakarusa Chamber of Commerce
 100 West Waterford Street
 Wakarusa, IN

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 p: 574.862.4344



G3 “Dahlia Quilt” - Weaver Furniture Sales

SIZE: 32’W X 32’H

Weaver Furniture Sales in Shipshewana is an Amish, family-owned furniture business that offers a full line of solid wood, handcrafted furniture at affordable prices. LeRoy and Ida have twenty one years and counting in this business, beginning with a 1,500 square foot showroom and expanding to over 15,000 square feet. They started their furniture business after many years of work on their crop and dairy farm. The barn used in the farm operation was renovated and converted to the large showroom seen today. Since the start, the entire family, including eight children and their growing families, have committed to make this furniture business a success story.

The “Dahlia” pattern of their Quilt Garden is treasured by Amish and English quilters alike. Gardener, Carolyn Miller, enjoyed helping her mother with numerous quilts as a child. She saw the “Dahlia” quilt design often, and it quickly became one of her favorites. It turns out that it was the very first quilt that Carolyn worked on as a young bride. Although it is a Quilt Garden design she previously used at another site, Carolyn wanted to tackle it again in 2014 with some color and design enhancements.

Profusions of pink petunias pleasure even the pickiest viewers. This charming garden holds allure for groups of dedicated followers that put it on their must see lists year after year. There must be something in the water because this garden never ceases to amaze. The Weavers choose challenging patterns with intricate designs that most other sites would shy from. This gardening gang has over 100 years of cultivating experience between them, so I think this glorious “Dahlia” is in just the right spot!

Supertunia is the name of the game in this garden delight. There are five different colors blended seamlessly throughout this pattern. They are Vista Fuchsia, Cotton Candy, Mini Silver, Royal Velvet and my favorite Mini Apple Blossom. Proven Winners Supertunias are a newer breed of petunias that are available in a wide range of colors in both single and double blooms. They are developed from cuttings, not seed. Since they do not come from seed that also means that they do not produce seed. All their energy is put into flower production rather than seed. They stand 6- 10 inches tall and can spread up to four times as wide. GardenCrossings.com gives these words of advice, “For best flower performance that lasts well in to the fall, we recommend that in the heat of the summer when you are watering often that you also feed with a water soluble fertilizer weekly. You may find that your plants need a little ‘haircut’ to keep them looking their best all summer.”

The Weavers say that it gives them great satisfaction that they are able to operate their business offering high quality Amish built furniture and at the same time give pleasure to visitors with a beautiful Quilt Garden.

-  *Royal Velvet Supertunia*
-  *Mini Silver Supertunia*
-  *Cotton Candy Supertunia*
-  *Vista Fuschia Supertunia*
-  *Pink Mix Allysum*
-  *Mini Apple Blossom Supertunia*
-  *Black Mulch*
-  *Natural Mulch Wood Chips*

Weaver Furniture Sales
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p: 260.768.7730