

2015 Master Gardener Guidebook



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

2015 *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. 2015 is the eighth year for the season-long attraction that continues to grow and now features 19 quilt gardens and 21 artist rendered quilt murals presented in seven communities along the Heritage Trail driving tour, viewable annually May 30 to October 1.

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, 2014 and 2015.

“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 & #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 look forward to your visit and hop you 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 2015 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 from a quilters viewpoint.



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

Twenty eight years ago Tom and Sonya Miller purchased a five acre property north of Middlebury that contained a house, barn, shop, and, most importantly, a 130 foot greenhouse. They grew hydroponic Bibb lettuce for two years, then switched their crop. They now grow and retail annuals, vegetables, herbs, perennials, hanging baskets, geraniums, and many other fun things. They have added two more greenhouses and are open April through June.

In the twenty eight years at this property, they have raised and home-schooled five children, various farm animals and pets and hosted several exchange students. At this point, they are down to just a dog, cats, and chickens. Even though the children are gone, they still stay busy with Tom's appliance repair business (Mr. Appliance) and Sonya's greenhouse business (Country Comfort Greenhouse) with the help of several wonderful employees. They enjoy meeting their customers each year, as well as being involved in the Quilt Garden project by producing annuals for the gardens, serving on the Quilt Garden Review Committee, and traveling to the Quilt Garden sites each summer.

During non-greenhouse months, Sonya loves to piece and quilt and she has developed a passion for completing abandoned vintage quilt tops or blocks and keeping their history alive. She'll talk quilts or gardening with anyone who will listen!

Country Comfort Greenhouse
53855 State Road 13 | Middlebury, IN

p: 574.538.7295



Country Garden Greenhouse, Official Grower Family Owned

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

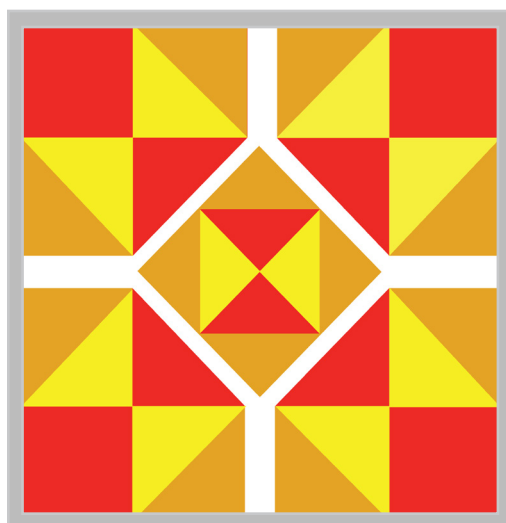
Country Garden Greenhouse is a full garden center located in New Paris off of the beaten path. Open seasonally from March to June featuring 12 houses full of annuals, perennials, herbs, vegetables and shrubbery.

Roland and Elizabeth Ann Martin purchased five greenhouses in 1998. 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. They grow all of their own plants and do custom planting for large combos, pots and baskets. They also have bulk garden seed, fertilizers, and chemicals in the store. While the Garden Shed is full of gardening gadgets, tools, bulk fertilizers, planters and empty baskets, each year they have a special theme for the store and greenhouse. This makes for some unusual planters, like wash tubs, boats, "flower beds", bib overalls, etc. The girls enjoy creating mini gardens out of all kinds of unusual items making each one a unique gift item or conversation piece.

The sisters enjoy growing for the Quilt Gardens. The enthusiasm of the volunteers is great and they went to visit most of the gardens last summer. They are excited to be putting up greenhouse No. 12 to accommodate growing space for the Quilt Garden plants and are having fun with this project.

Country Garden Greenhouse
68417 CR 15 | New Paris, IN

p: 574.831.4301 or 574.831.4320



B3 “Rock Run Manor” - Concord Mall

SIZE: 30'W X 30'H

It's no accident that gardening enthusiasts are drawn to the Concord Mall since it has hosted an annual dahlia show for many years. And the mall has placed its spectacular Rock Run Manor Quilt Garden center stage in front of the lively Jazz It Up mural. This is the only garden with a night viewing opportunity making it a day and evening photo worthy spot. Well done!

This year's design ideas were once again solicited from the Elkhart County Dahlia Society. They are so passionate about the dahlia it seems a shame they can't use it in their designs, but the dahlia generally doesn't begin to flower until mid-summer - too late to be used for this event. To make up for this fact, the society seems to select some version of the Amish Dahlia pattern each year. This year they've switched it up by adding a diamond center instead of the pointed star that we saw in 2014.

Since this is an original pattern the naming rights belong to the designers. In this case the pattern was inspired by two families that have been long time dahlia enthusiasts. Mac and Norma Boyer have grown dahlias in the fruit hills of Bristol for over 50 years. They've introduced several new varieties to the dahlia world, including Manor Sunset which inspired the first Quilt Garden here at the Concord Mall. Jerry and Ruth Ann Wittrig have also been raising and hybridizing new varieties for half a century in the Goshen area. Their property is bordered by Rock Run Creek thus giving rise to the name Rock Run while the “Manor” portion is made from an acronym for MAc and NORma's name.

They've selected begonias, marigolds and zinnias--no pansies when it comes to summer heat. Each will provide the bright and cheerful colors demanded by this pattern. These flowers thrive in the heat owing to their South American origins. Marigolds were sacred to Mexico and elsewhere and thought to have religious or magical properties. While it is true that these tough little flowers do repel certain insects the real magic is held in their value to draw pollinators to the garden. Many Amish housewives add a row of these rich gold flowers to their vegetable gardens to help increase yields.

Zinnias are a staple in my home gardens due in large part to their dependable nature, brilliant colors and the benefit they bring to wildlife. Butterflies adore their nectar rich blooms while our feathered friends wait for the seed heads to ripen for a fall feast beyond compare. Here they were “sewn” as if fabric for a fine quilt top in a sultry greenhouse. I like to directly seed them into my beds when the soil warms in the spring.

This site was the first to utilize white stone pathways to pick up the color of the wall behind it. What a nice touch! While many of the gardens utilize sod or mulch paths, others are experimenting with stone. Stone provides the added benefits of visual dimension and erosion control for these sloped gardens. Containment may be a challenge, so consider landscape fabric as an underlayment rather than plastic that will not allow air or water to penetrate the surface. Landscape timbers or rolled edging may also be helpful when trying to keep things neat and on the right track.

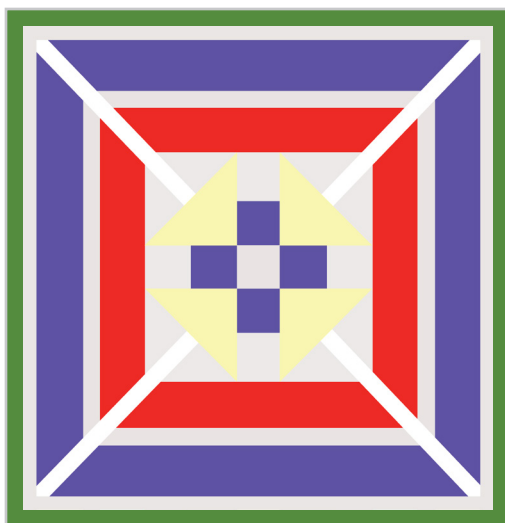
*Insider tip - Mac Boyer loves Dahlias and considers them “the most diverse flower in God's kingdom.” Each summer from late July through September you can witness that diversity in all its glory at the gorgeous American Dahlia Society Test Garden at Bonneyville Mill County Park in Bristol. Mac has managed the garden for the past 22 years; each year testing and showcasing about 140 new and different hybrids all grown from seed. Amazingly no two are alike. It's a lovely setting and worth the trip.

Concord Mall

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

w: ShopConcordMall.com

p: 574.875.6502



	<i>Silver Dust Dusty Miller</i>
	<i>Hawaii Blue Ageratum</i>
	<i>Profusion Yellow Zinnia</i>
	<i>Cocktail Vodka Bronze Leaf Red Begonia</i>
	<i>White Rock</i>
	<i>Turf Grass</i>

A6 “Dutch Double Wrench” - Coppes Commons

SIZE: 30'W X 30'H

Coppes Commons with its eclectic mix of shops offers up another tool themed Quilt Garden for 2015. In Elkhart County we are fortunate to have several historic manufacturing sites that have been given new life as shopping venues. In Nappanee the former Coppes Zook & Mutschler Kitchen Cabinet Factory has new life through a retail renaissance complete with a unique mix of eateries. Don't forget to save room for an out of this world treat at Rocket Science Ice Cream--made to order and flash frozen right before your very eyes!

Nappanee craftsmen started providing cabinets to the world in the late 1800s. They began with a saw mill, cutting railroad ties and providing fine woods to the burgeoning carpentry trade. 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 highly collectable Nappanee Dutch Kitchenettes. Since federal law prohibited the use of a city's name in a trademarked product, the brothers purposely misspelled Nappanee by dropping one of the two p's in the name of their cabinets. Coppes shipped the famous cabinets to early department stores such as Gimbles, and throughout the years some of their more prestigious clients included the likes of Frank Sinatra and even President John F. Kennedy.

With such a sizeable following and a reputation for quality this property has a record of success. Even today it boasts talented artisans and shop keepers willing to invest time and energy to create another prosperous run for this enormous brick beauty. Speaking of beauty, there is an observation window on the second floor that offers the best view of their beautiful Quilt Garden. It's the very best place to get an overhead photo of a Quilt Garden.

The Dutch Double Wrench is a cleverly simple design with just a few shapes, and this garden would be a fun one to replicate in a home setting. With a few stakes and a ball string one could quickly lay this pattern out and fill it with annuals or perhaps even a few well-placed culinary herbs. What a lovely kitchen garden it could make! I'm even imagining it incorporated into a raised bed garden filled with salad greens of all description. The possibilities are endless.

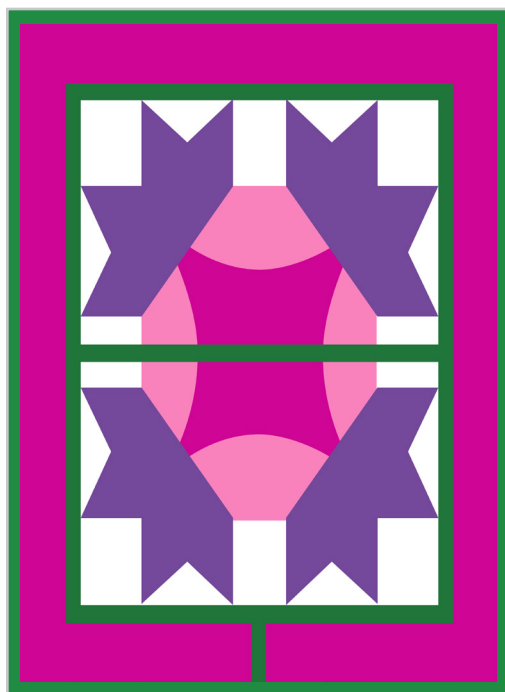
Included in this rendition are four sunny yellow Profusion zinnia triangles interpreted here as wrenches. This cheerful little flower has the power to bloom all season without being bothered by disease or pests. Unlike so many other zinnias Profusion is rarely bothered with mildew, the bane of gardeners everywhere. A few good gardening practices however can help to reduce the disease in more traditional varieties. Be sure to look for disease resistant seed, plant in full sun and provide good air circulation to help reduce powdery mildew. Whenever possible try to water at the base of your plants to avoid spread of fungal spores.

Silver Dust dusty miller and Hawaii Blue ageratum add softness to this hard-edged design. Silver Dust is a sturdy little plant that is drought tolerant, requiring very little care the whole season through. If planted in a sheltered spot it will even behave as a perennial for some lucky gardeners. Big bright bands of colorful borders have been “sewn” onto this quilt using eye popping Cocktail Vodka red begonia and cool blue ageratum to finish off this glorious garden. What a delightful tribute to the manufacturing heritage of one of Time magazine's “Best Small Towns.”

*Insider tip - Coppes Commons presents the annual “National Hoosier Cabinet Days” October 9th & 10th. Celebrate with factory tours and heritage displays recognizing the craftsmanship of the Hoosier Cabinet and the workers of the Coppes Factory.

Coppes Commons
401 E Market Street | Nappanee, IN

w: CoppesCommons.com
p: 574.773.0002



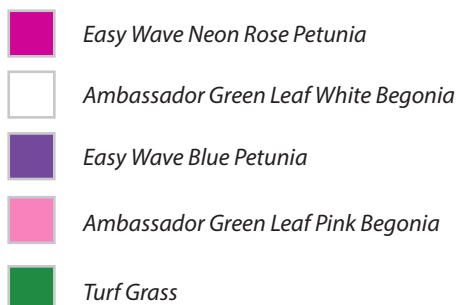
F2 “Hands All Around” - Das Dutchman Essenhaus

SIZE: 49'W X 57'H

Das Dutchman Essenhaus in Middlebury does things in a BIG way. They have the biggest Quilt Garden, the largest restaurant in the state and a huge inn and conference center to complete the package. Plus they host several popular events during the busy tourist season including a weekly Classic Car Cruise-In, and they recently opened the Heritage Hall Theater. That's a big list of entertainment!

Middlebury is a patchwork community of many faiths and traditions. One thing this town knows how to do is pitch in for a cause. Rarely a weekend passes by that doesn't include a local fundraiser or haystack dinner somewhere in the area. Pulling together is what people do here and the Hands All Around Quilt Garden is a symbol of that endearing quality. This quilt pattern is an old one and represents women working around a quilt frame to finish a quilt.

Co-owner, Sue Miller, chose this pattern because it partners so well with their company's mission to provide every guest with warm hospitality in a wholesome environment. They have an enormous team of helping hands in their employ so the theme is well suited to them. Sue also shared that the colors chosen for this year's garden are some of her personal favorites.



This garden has a couple of tried and true annuals that should be recognizable to most backyard gardeners. The canvas is matted and framed with an eye popping border of Neon Rose Easy Wave petunias. Easy Wave is an improved hybrid with a more polite mounded habit and a bit less leg. Although it is advertised as a “no clip variety” the footnote says that it could benefit from a shearing to rejuvenate and tighten it up. Another favorite color is represented with Easy Wave Blue. I perceive it as purple, but that's a whole other story.

Loyal to the end are the sturdy Ambassador begonias mass planted here in pink and white. A consistent choice for gardeners all across the country, they stand up to our hot and humid summers without much effort giving them a reputation for being low maintenance. They are touted as being drought tolerant and having no need for deadheading. This is just about the perfect bedding flower to use in a Quilt Garden design. Even the foliage adds sparkle thanks to the waxy coating on the leaves which collect water droplets like shiny little diamonds twinkling in the sunshine.

The first Quilt Garden at Das Dutchman Essenhaus was born in the spring of 2007 as one of two test gardens. The goal was to see if this new tourism concept was even feasible, begging the question - if you build it will they come? The question was answered with a resounding “Yes!”

*Insider tip - Don't miss the production of “Don't Kick the Turkey” which plays until July 14 at Essenhaus' Heritage Hall Theatre followed by the popular “Steel Magnolias” which takes the stage beginning July 17. Check their website, Essenhaus.com, for more details.

Das Dutchman Essenhaus
240 US 20 | Middlebury, IN

w: Essenhaus.com
p: 800.455.9471



-  *Danube Blue Ageratum*
-  *Picobella Red Petunia*
-  *Silver Dust Dusty Miller*
-  *Brown Mulch*
-  *Turf Grass*

F2 “New York Beauty” - Dutch Country Market

SIZE: 45'W X 45'H

Norm and Katie Lehman began making Katie's Homemade Noodles in their Dutch Country Market store when their children were young. Like many Amish families they wanted a home business where they could work together and have “dear old dad” close by to keep an eye on things. Business has grown by leaps and bounds for Dutch Country Market and 2015 marks its 10th anniversary.

This year the Lehman family chose the New York Beauty pattern for their Quilt Garden because it is an attractive pattern and also because New York City is on their bucket list of travel destinations. The pattern was borrowed from a neighbor's quilting book, but the pattern's history goes back to 1844. However, as is so often the case, the name was different. It turns out that the Stearns and Foster Company started putting pattern instructions in their Mountain Mist Cotton Batting in the 1920's to boost its sales. The New York Beauty was one of those early full size patterns offered rolled up in the batting. The pattern does bear a strong similarity to the Chrysler Building (New York) which was completed in 1930 and could have very possibly inspired the name change. Then perhaps we should look to Lady Liberty and her glorious crown for another source for the moniker.

This “Big Apple” inspired garden is huge. The Lehman's have more than doubled the size of the plot to 2025 square feet and tucked in 7776 bedding plants to create a New York Beauty of monumental proportions! The garden is tended entirely by the family which has fewer children at home these days. Number them five, hard working family members each dedicated to making it one of the best Quilt Gardens on the tour. The owner has been a beekeeper for 25 years and has 30 thriving bee hives that produce delicious honey. Surely his bees must be thrilled with such a wonderful floral feast set before them.

The garden gets right to the point - seven of them to be exact - all planted in Silver Dust dusty miller. Dusty miller originates from the Island of Capraia in Italy. Grown for the silvery-gray, fern-like foliage it is a terrific border and edging plant. Dusty miller is deer and fire resistant. These are qualities I appreciate since I live in an area where the deer love to assist my pruning efforts by eating many of my tender plants to the ground, but never this one.

Fiery red Picobella petunias are an outstanding partner with the silvery white dusty miller. Petunias are considered a long day plant meaning it is stimulated to flower when the long hours of summer burn on into the evening. In the greenhouse they supplement short spring days with additional hours of artificial light in order to bring them to market ready to flower, but when they get out into the real world they can be a bit slow putting on their best blooms. Many gardeners are tempted to force them with high phosphorous fertilizer, but this can add stress at a time when they are working hard to get acclimated to their new home. A little patience will be paid off later in the season with a non-stop show that lasts longer into the season.

Danube Blue ageratum brings another soft texture and a medium blue that is perfect for this design. This plant is another one of the best ageratum. It is prized for its uniformity, earliness and over-all performance in the garden. They stay a petite 6 - 8 inches tall and are virtually pest free which makes them even more valuable to home gardeners that wish to reduce the need for chemicals in their landscapes.

Dutch Country Market
11401 CR 16 | Middlebury, IN

w: [amishcountry.org/things-to-do/
shopping/dutch-country-market-1/](http://amishcountry.org/things-to-do/shopping/dutch-country-market-1/)
p: 574.825.3594



	<i>Silver Dust Dusty Miller</i>
	<i>Lime Delight Coleus</i>
	<i>Cocktail Vodka Bronze Leaf Red Begonia</i>
	<i>Ambassador Green Leaf Rose Begonia</i>
	<i>Boy Yellow Marigold</i>
	<i>Dream Sky Blue Petunia</i>
	<i>Ambassador Green Leaf White Begonia</i>
	<i>Wood Chips</i>

A6 “Dutch Windmill” - Dutch Village Market

SIZE: 30'W X 30'H

The new owners of the Dutch Village Market are full of enthusiasm for their Quilt Garden and tell us that the garden has been a real asset, adding beauty to the overall appearance of their property. This is their second year for hosting a Quilt Garden, and they have certainly invested substantial time and resources to ensure their garden will be a spot to enjoy.

The garden is situated next to a windmill for a picturesque presentation. The pattern for the 2015 Quilt Garden replicates that windmill as does the matching wall hanging inside the market. Each year they have a custom quilted wall hanging created which is raffled off in order to raise funds for improvements to their garden. Not wanting to be like all the other gardens they've put in stone retaining walls adding a more natural element to their site. They've also invested in a drip irrigation system, something that most sites add after a couple of seasons of experience. It lessens the labor of moving hoses and insures adequate moisture on a more even schedule.

This year they've chosen petunias as part of their design which no matter what the literature says always benefits from a good pinching a couple of times a season to remove spent stems and stimulate repeat blooms. Their coleus will also require a good set of shears to remove the flower spikes that form later in the season stealing precious energy that would otherwise be directed to all that flashy foliage for which coleus is famous.

New this year is the Dream Sky Blue petunia seen here in abundance. This is a grandiflora type meaning we should see some really large sky blue flowers floating above that windmill in this design. This is the only grandiflora in the Quilt Gardens this year with most sites opting for milliflora types--the little sister of this variety. Milliflora petunias have smaller blooms, but what they lack in size they make up for in quantity. Dreams will produce large, 3 to 4 inch flowers on very free-flowering plants that certainly deliver huge compliments.

The roof on this windmill seems to radiate sunshine thanks to the many marigolds planted there. This variety is Boy Yellow and has been used successfully many times in Quilt Gardens across the county. Silver Dust dusty miller fills in the sails of the windmill with just the right hint of sheen as one imagines them whirling in the bright afternoon light. That's one of the cool things about dusty miller; it tends to sparkle when the light hits it at the right angle. The same can be true of begonia leaves, especially the bronze variety.

There are three varieties of begonia that make up a large part of this planting, Cocktail Vodka a bright red with very shiny bronze leaves, and two Ambassador versions seen here in light pink and white. They have also included a nice coleus named Lime Delight from Ball Seed. This cultivar can get rather tall at 20 - 32 inches so they will likely need to prune it to keep it in proportion to the rest of the design.

Dutch Village Market
700 N Tomahawk Trail | Nappanee, IN

w: DVillageMarket.com
p: 574.773.2828



-  *Pacifica XP White Vinca*
-  *Pacifica XP Really Red Vinca*
-  *Pacifica Deep Orchid Vinca*
-  *Magellan Yellow Zinnia*
-  *High Tide Fi Blue Ageratum*
-  *Turf Grass*

B2 “Elkhart Pride” - Elkhart Central Park

SIZE: 40'W X 40'H

Elkhart's Central Park is a great spot to show off Elkhart Pride! The folks at the Elkhart Buildings and Grounds Department once again bring us an original quilt design. Although they say they have no formal experience designing quilts they do seem to be creative landscape artists able to adapt their vision into a Quilt Garden. This is a very intricate and lively pattern to see in living color. The theme honors the local musical instrument industry, its people and companies that have been, and still are a source of art and employment for the city.

Music was at the root of Elkhart's early history. The city has a proud heritage of accomplished musicians, inventors and entrepreneurs that date back long before the RV industry took to the road in 1936. Elkhart birthed many successful businesses including the music empire of C. G. Conn. In 1874 Conn introduced a new innovation—a rubber rimmed mouthpiece for his beloved cornet. You see he suffered a painful split lip in a rowdy bout of fisticuffs in his youth. Conn was determined to continue his musical career, so while employed in a local horse collar factory he invented a process to adhere rubber to his metal mouthpiece. This invention would catapult him to fame and fortune.

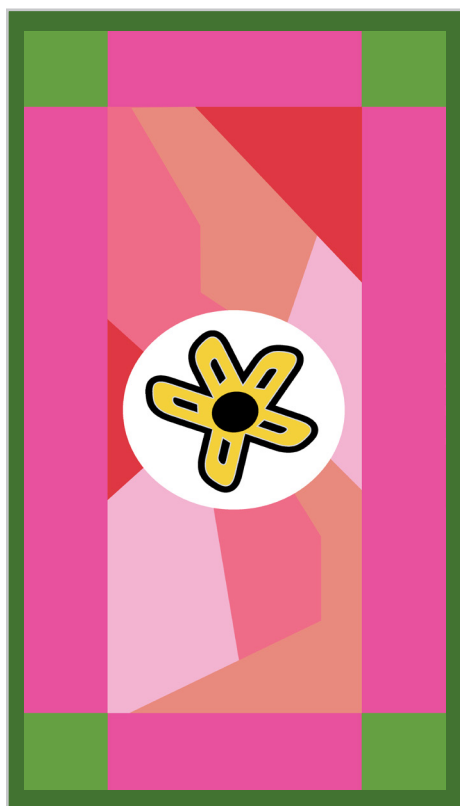
The standout in this garden is a brass trumpet worthy of old Colonel Conn himself. Planted in sunshine yellow Magellan zinnias this horn is as bright as brass polished to perfection. It marks time on a banner of patriotic red, white and blue stripes, the colors of parades and marching bands. Pacifica vinca a.k.a. Madagascar periwinkle holds the majority share in this patriotic tribute. There are three types of vinca; creeping, dwarf and the taller border type - all alluding to their height. Pacifica is in the last classification boasting 2 inch flowers and finishing out at 10-12 inches tall. An interesting design “note” is that by using the taller High Tide ageratum for the lower blue stripe the lively notes appear recessed adding dimensional interest. This garden is situated to be a stunning centerpiece for the Elkhart Jazz Festival held annually in June. Let the music begin!

Look to the present for musical tributes all over Elkhart. Next to the Premier Arts Quilt Garden you'll find a mural painted by local high school art students featuring a marching band. Along Elkhart's downtown RiverWalk there's an impressive marching band sculpture and a jazz saxophonist. And you'll want to check out the not to be missed “Jazz it Up” mural next to the Quilt Garden at the Concord Mall.

*Insiders tip - The 2015 Bloom & Zoom bike ride takes place on Saturday, July 25. The ride, from 10 to 100 miles, tours many of the Quilt Gardens along the route.

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

w: ElkhartIndiana.org
p: 574.295.7275



-  *Sunstorm Rose Vinca*
-  *Ambassador Green Leaf Pink Begonia*
-  *Cocktail Vodka Bronze Leaf Red Begonia*
-  *Cocktail Vodka Bronze Leaf Rose Begonia*
-  *Ambassador Green Leaf Salmon Begonia*
-  *Ambassador Green Leaf White Begonia*
-  *LoGro Yellow Rudbeckia*
-  *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 “Purdue Extension Connecting in our Community” - Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds

SIZE: 20'W X 40'H

I've been wondering when a Quilt Garden site would try a Crazy Quilt design and should have realized it would be the Cooperative Extension/Master Gardener folks. They've long been innovators and creative only begins to describe their talents.

This garden is a cooperative partnership between four organizations: Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service, the Michiana Master Gardeners Association, the Elkhart County Extension Homemakers, and the Elkhart County 4-H Fair Board.

This is an original design by Extension educator Robert Kelly. He tells us that each side of the patchwork represents the four organizations. The continuous border symbolizes the strength of extension service programs and the value of teamwork in the community.

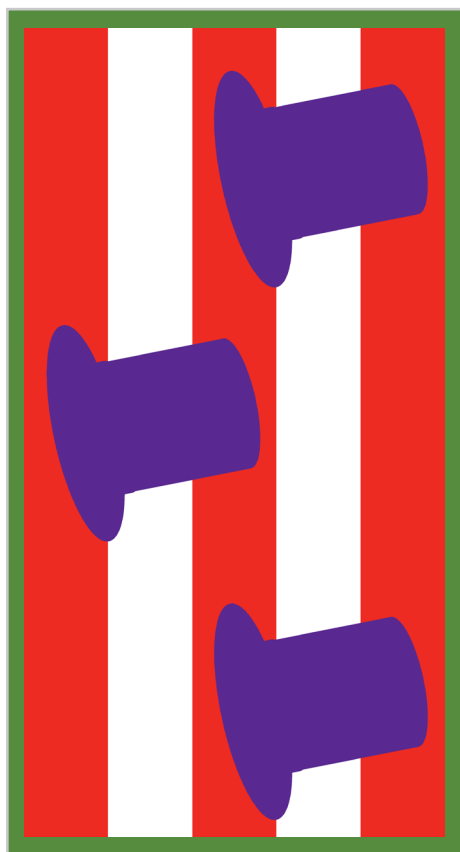
Green curly leaf parsley always appears in their designs - a signature plant since day one. Parsley is not only a deep green herb with great texture and easy care it's also high in vitamin C. Did you know that parsley will overwinter in your garden? Or if you'd rather, the thick white carrot like root may be harvested and prepared like many cold-hardy root vegetables. The taste is described as a mix between celery and carrots with a little parsley leaf and turnip. It is a strong antioxidant with a substantial amount of flavonoids, so it makes a healthy addition to soups and stews. There's even a YouTube video featuring crispy parsley root fries. I wonder - could this be the next fair food?

The begonia is no stranger to the fairgrounds where it appears in mass in their Quilt Garden and also in containers, flower beds and scattered throughout the grounds during fair week. This year they have five different colors of begonia pieced together to bring the crazy to this quilt! Equally impressive is their use of vinca in the border. Vinca can have a tendency to read green if there isn't a good percentage of flower cover, but here in the border the effect is still pleasing no matter which color it presents.

In the center of the design is a circle of white begonias upon which a shiny yellow pinwheel reminds us of the fun young and old alike have at the county fair. Tucked into that whirly gig is sun-loving LoGro yellow rudbeckia surrounded by dark black mulch. Black and gold are used to honor the colors of Purdue University the land grant college for Indiana and the governing body for the extension program.

The Quilt Gardens have tied together this county in many unimaginable ways. Through volunteerism and common effort new relationships have been forged. An exchange of ideas and values takes place between locals and the visitors they meet. Gardening can do that--it's amazing!

* Insiders tip - The 4-H Fairgrounds garden is one of two Quilt Gardens (the other is at Krider Garden in Middlebury) located on the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, which attracts hundreds of bike enthusiasts. And speaking of drawing crowds, the Elkhart County 4-H Fair that takes place July 24 - August 1 is one of the largest in the nation.



- Cocktail Vodka Bronze Leaf Begonia*
- Picobella Blue Petunia*
- Ambassador Green Leaf White Begonia*
- Turf Grass*

D4 "Lincoln Patriotic" - Elkhart County Courthouse

SIZE: 20'W X 40'H

This lively Lincoln themed garden is located on the historic grounds of the Elkhart County Courthouse. The inspiration for the Quilt Garden came from historic Goshen itself and the once famous 1913 route of Indiana's Lincoln Highway. In its time, the Lincoln Highway was the nation's premier highway, the first of its kind. According to the Federal Highway Administration, a group of automobile enthusiasts and industry officials established the Lincoln Highway Association "to procure the establishment of a continuous improved highway from the Atlantic to the Pacific." This "Coast-to-Coast Rock Highway" from New York City to San Francisco was to be free of tolls. The project was the dream of Carl G. Fisher who later helped name the project for his hero, Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln was famous for his high top hat a fact not lost on the Girl Scouts who designed this Quilt Garden.

Members of Brownie Troop #00058 and Daisy Troop #10329 are doing a good deed in the community by tending this garden. These girls, all 7-9 years of age, hail from Middlebury Schools and say they are continuing the work begun last year by a sister troop. A Girl Scout in their council graduated with the Girl Scout Gold (the highest award level for a Girl Scout) for the project and the girls wanted to keep the project alive. This group will be earning their gardening badges. One wonders if these could be future Master Gardeners in training. At any rate these girls are demonstrating their commitment to becoming active, engaged members of the community by prepping, planting and maintaining this site for the entire 2015 season.

Since these girls are carrying forth a tradition and traditional wisdom says "if it ain't broke don't fix it," they are sticking with begonias and petunias. Picobella blue petunias fill the pattern's top hats that represent ones worn by the wealthy elite of President Lincoln's day. These tough bedding plants have held up well in previous gardens over the years. Once established they should hold up to the growing conditions of this demanding downtown site. Petunias can be quite drought tolerant when ground planted (unlike those grown in containers). Though generally treated as annuals by most gardeners, technically petunias are tender perennials and are members of the potato family.

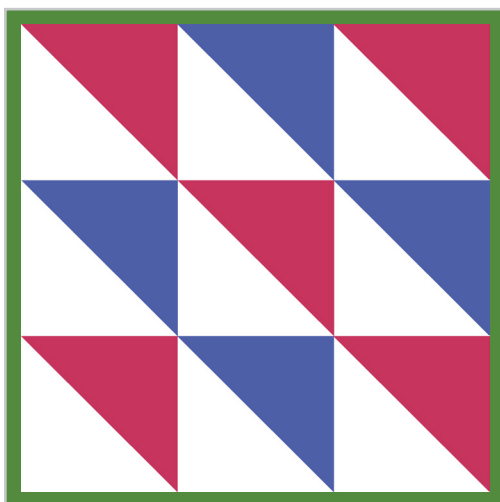
If this were a quilt those top hats would be appliquéd on a pieced block of red and white strips of fabric. Instead they've used Ambassador White begonia with its bright yellow eye next to Cocktail Vodka red, another showy bronze leaf variety. Wax begonias have fat fleshy stems that have evolved to store water over dry periods or drought. They also have a waxy coating on their leaves (cutin) that protects them from excessive moisture loss. This is why wax begonias are able to tolerate drought better than other begonia types.

Gardening in the center of town brings with it a few unique growing conditions. Masonry buildings, paved streets and asphalt rooftops absorb heat quickly during the day then release it back into the atmosphere creating a liability during the summer when temperatures soar. Here on the courthouse lawn radiant heat makes drought tolerant plant choices an absolute must.

* Insider tip - Plan to be in Goshen for the monthly First Fridays when all the downtown merchants put out the welcome mat with specials and food fare you are sure to enjoy. Join the fun on Friday, July 3, for their "Cuisin' Reunion" family oriented blast from the past. Hundreds of classic cars cruise Main Street while live music and a food fest line the sidewalks.

Elkhart County Courthouse
in partnership with the Goshen Chamber of Commerce and the downtown Economic Improvement District of Goshen
 101 North Main Street | Goshen, IN

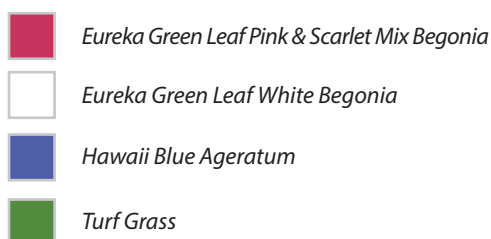
w: ElkhartCountyIndiana.com
 w: Goshen.org
 p: 574.533.2102



D1 “Flying Swallows” - Elkhart County Historical Museum

SIZE: 30'W X 30'H

This unassuming brick building originally served as the first consolidated school in Elkhart County. Hidden inside is a treasure trove of local artifacts - 20,000 of them to be exact! Newly developed exhibits and programs are tied to the museum's antique quilt collection. Stitches of Devotion is one of several newly developed programs geared to the craft of quilting 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. Each holds a story of its own and bears witness to the time period in which they were made. The curators also share expert tips on how to care for heirloom bedcovers.



While they may be experts on coverlet care, gardening is another matter says the museum staff. The museum is under the direction of the Elkhart County Parks Department who work in tandem with the Michiana Master Gardeners Association to plant and manage the day to day maintenance of their quilt garden. As you might imagine routine watering is just a drop in the bucket once you tuck well over 3,000 annuals in for the summer. Most sites are making good use of weed preventatives and mulch to reduce weeding chores. Compost is the number one soil amendment with many sites reporting mushroom or duck varieties as their favorites.

This garden is packed with always dependable Hawaii ageratum. This non-stop blue wonder adds such a beautiful background in this design. Hawaii is considered one of the best for uniformity, earliness and general performance in the garden. It's tightly compact and reaches only 6-8" tall. Also 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 the ray flowers absent.

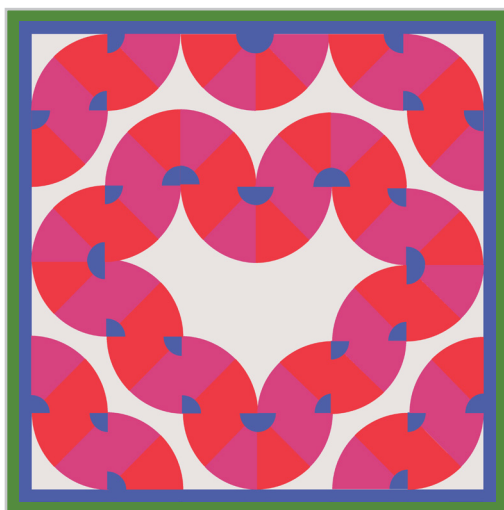
Eureka begonia, another tough little bloomer joins this garden party providing just the right spark to this design. Here they've chosen to use red and white giving this quilt a patriotic feel. The gardening nation has spoken and begonias are back in fashion. They are incredibly adaptable to changing weather putting up with heavy rain as well as scorching sun and continue blooming no matter what our Midwest summer has to offer. This adaptable plant has also taken the place of impatiens in many home gardens owing to the rise of fungal issues many growers have experienced in recent years.

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. High phosphorous levels in the soil are usually the culprit of over-fertilizing or adding too much manure. Not only will excessive phosphorous harm plants, it can be of concern in lakes and streams as well. One of the symptoms of excessive phosphorus in soil is 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 iron and zinc.

* Insider tip - As part of the museums commitment to the preservation of and appreciation for antique quilts, they host many local quilt related events. One such event is the Annual Quilt Registry Day - an event where county residents are encouraged to visit the museum to enter their quilts into its registry of locally owned quilts. Since the program's inception in 2009, the registry has grown to more than 150 quilts owned by more than 60 different families.

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

w: ElkhartCountyParks.org
p: 574.848.4322



	<i>Silver Dust Dusty Miller</i>
	<i>Hawaii Blue Ageratum</i>
	<i>Bada Boom Bronze Leaf Rose Begonia</i>
	<i>Bada Boom Bronze Leaf Scarlet Begonia</i>
	<i>Turf Grass</i>

G3 "Grandma's Fan" - Glory Gardens

SIZE: 32'W X 32'H

Glory Gardens is an Amish family operated greenhouse and fruit farm featuring beautiful flowering plants and homegrown, tree-ripened fruits and berries. Now it also features a brand new Quilt Garden. Glen and Nora Yoder began marketing flowers on their 13-acre Topeka farm in 2008 with peaches, apples, pears, grapes and other small fruits soon to follow. Glen commented on how much they enjoyed going around looking at the Quilt Gardens in the area, so they tested their hands at planting an unofficial garden last year. It turned out so well they applied for and were accepted as an official participant in 2015. Welcome to the club!

Naturally they are growing all their own plants for the garden, and early this spring they were busy at work planting seeds in one of their many greenhouses. Glen noted that since the Quilt Gardens happen during their busiest season, they are making sure to plant flowers that are hearty and vibrant varieties. Of course with six children ages 8 to 17, they have a team of helping hands to keep their garden looking great. "We're looking forward to people visiting, and we plan on working hard to make sure they want to come back," says Glen.

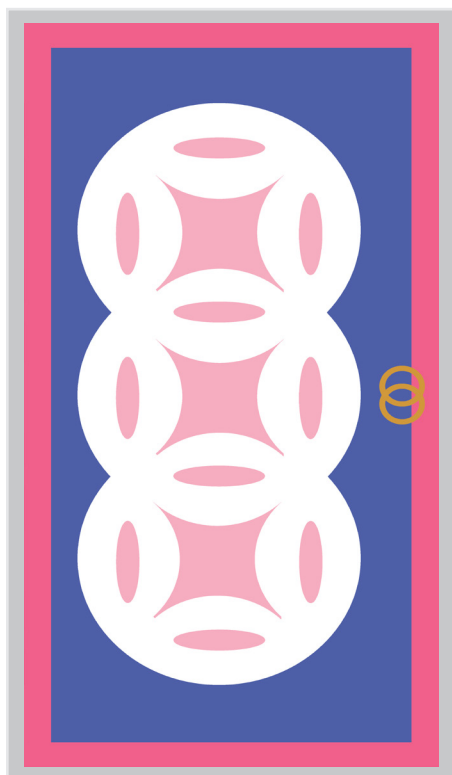
The newest Quilt Garden in a striking "Grandma's Fan" pattern doesn't take all the glory, but certainly is worthy of praise. The 1,024 square foot garden packed with scarlet and rose begonias and Hawaii Blue ageratum pays dazzling tribute to the family's beloved and recently passed grandmother. Although this is their initial attempt at a Quilt Garden, looking at the surrounding landscape filled with rows of flourishing fruit trees, plus beds of strawberries and raspberries it's evident growing and nurturing plant life comes naturally.

"Grandma's Fan" is an old quilt pattern, dating back at least to the Victorian era, when it was frequently made from elegant silks, satins, velvets, ribbons and lace and embellished with embroidery and beading. The pattern was revived during the depression era since it could be made from small mismatched pieces of fabric. There is nothing mismatched about their flower selections. The Hawaii Blue border is soft and inviting, drawing us close enough to touch. The mounded form makes a tidy binding for this luxurious quilt. Victorian ladies would welcome the luscious silvery velvet dusty miller, which fills the lace embellishment quite nicely. Bada Boom Scarlet begonia with its metallic bronze leaves and delicate pendulous flowers surely imparts the same sparkle as Victorian beadwork. This is a very well planned and executed design; one well worth the trip.

* Insider tip - When planning your drive remember the Amish strictly observe Sunday as the Sabbath, with all their quaint shops closed for the day. Also due to religious values, the Amish also do not wish to be photographed. Pictures from far distances are generally acceptable, but please respect their privacy and property.

Glory Gardens
2190 S 900 W | Topeka, IN

w: AmishCountry.org
p: 260.768.7800



-  *Eureka Bronze Leaf Rose Begonia*
-  *Hawaii Blue Ageratum*
-  *Eureka Green Leaf White Begonia*
-  *Eureka Bronze Leaf Pink Begonia*
-  *Gold Painted Metal Rings*
-  *Stone Pavers*

E2 "Double Wedding Ring" - Krider Garden

SIZE: 20'W X 40'H

The Middlebury Parks Department welcomes you to take a stroll through the historic Krider World's Fair Garden. Rooted in the rich heritage of Krider Nurseries, once Middlebury's largest industry and said to be "at the time (1931) 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.

The Double Wedding Ring is an important pattern to Krider Gardens. The park is a popular wedding spot. Hundreds of couples have "tied the knot" here over the many years it has been in existence. Many couples choose to use the Quilt Garden as a backdrop for their ceremony.

Both red and white Eureka begonias play an important role in this and many of the other Quilt Gardens since they are very easy keepers. The remainder of this pattern features Hawaii Blue ageratum that is considered draught tolerant and virtually pest free. Interestingly ageratum (*A. conyzoides*) is widely utilized in traditional medicine by various cultures worldwide. In Central Africa it is used to treat pneumonia, but the most common use is to cure wounds and burns. This species is also extensively used in Brazil. Aqueous extracts of leaves or whole plants have been used to treat colic, colds and fevers, diarrhea, rheumatism. Brazilian scientists testing the effects of the extract on arthritic conditions in human trials showed 66% of patients tested showed significant pain reduction and increased mobility within one week of treatment.

This garden has gone through some growing pains due in no small part to the beautiful nearby beech trees and the roots that anchor them. These roots run directly under the Quilt Garden robbing it of precious water and nutrients. 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 was another issue caused by the trees. In an effort to improve light conditions several trees have been limbed up and a few considered invasive to the area were removed from the park.

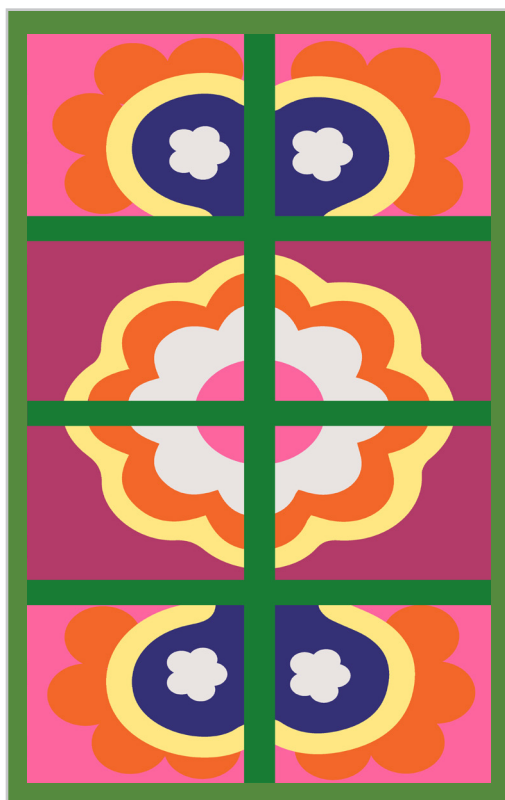
An added challenge was the recent downy mildew infection which decimated impatiens all over the country. In the past two years Krider Gardens seemed to have more than its fair share of fungus problems resulting in a switch to Eureka begonia. Many gardeners are giving up on impatiens altogether, instead seeking out other shade tolerant replacements. Once powdery mildew gets a foothold in a garden it can take several years to rid it of the fungal spores which can overwinter even in our harsh climate. I've seen stubborn cases where the soil had to be completely removed and replaced with fresh clean soil. It's a tough problem.

* Insider's tip - The Krider Quilt Garden is one of two on the popular Pumpkinvine Nature Trail which attracts hundreds of bicycle riders in June for the annual Pumpkinvine Ride.

Krider Garden

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

w: MiddleburyIN.com
p: 574.825.1499



C2

"Pink Swirls of Hope"

- Linton's Enchanted Gardens

SIZE: 66'W X 32'H

Voted best landscape contractor in the area, Linton's Enchanted Gardens looks as though it's right out of a fairy tale. A decorator's dream--Indiana's award winning home and garden center boasts over 50,000 square feet of indoor shopping. They have a treasure trove of fashion accessories, home decor, rare and exotic plants and more. Be sure to say hello to Bloomer, a blue and gold Macaw. He is the official greeter in the conservatory and is as colorful as his name implies.

This year Linton's is the exclusive location for a very special wall hanging designed by famed quilter Connie Kauffman to raise funds for breast cancer research benefitting the Vera Bradley Foundation for Breast Cancer and the local Hello Gorgeous breast cancer organization. They are also offering an exclusive Vera Bradley Pink Swirls tote bag filled with delectable goodies and offered as another way to support both breast cancer research and Soup of Success a local charitable organization. In June, Linton's will feature a Big Pink Weekend with all proceeds donated to breast cancer research. After the disease claimed their beloved sister Leslie in 2013, the Linton family has made it a personal mission to raise funds for this important cause.

Their Quilt Garden features a floral motif inspired by the one-of-a-kind custom wall hanging. They have pulled a fanciful marigold out of the pattern then mixed in other accent elements to frame it. It's a bold and pleasing design with a powerful punch of color and texture. Of course they do have professional landscape designers to insure they have a winning design with just the right mix of plant materials to create a stunning garden.

Linton's has packed more plants into their garden than any other Quilt Garden on the tour! They've tucked in 8,448 plants into just over 2,100 square feet. All I can say is it's a very good thing they have a team of gardeners at the ready because they have a tall order keeping that many plants in prime condition all season long.

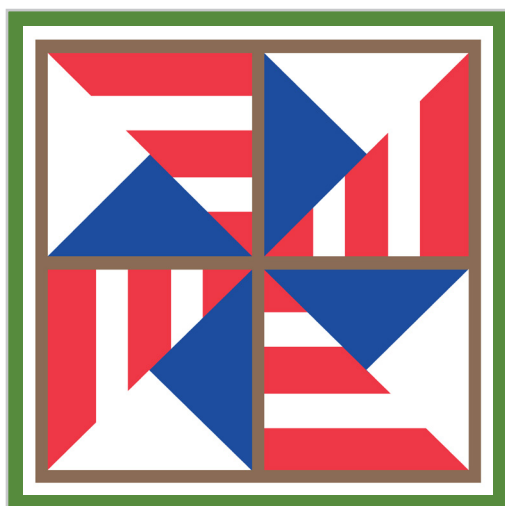
New to the Quilt Gardens tour is Titan Punch vinca, and we see it here in mass. Titan promises big bold blooms up to two weeks earlier than other varieties. The beautiful coral pink of this vinca is a rich accent to the nearby deep orange marigolds. With nearly 2,000 Janie Deep Orange marigolds in this gorgeous garden it is sure to attract plenty of butterflies which add even more visual interest. The softer tones of AAS winner Madness Pink and Sunshine Prism petunia provide the flower size, disease tolerance and garden performance needed for a high demand annual display such as this. One of the most desirable characteristics of these plants is their resistance to adverse weather, from rain and humidity to warm summer nights.

Often overlooked and under-appreciated, foliage plants are grown not for their flowers but for the showy color and texture of their leaves. In this Pink Swirls garden, we have two great examples of the MVP role they can play in garden design. Dark Opal basil is beautiful to behold and edible, imparting a nice mild basil flavor and a splash of color to your beautiful summer salads. Texture is the name of the game for our next contender. Velvety New Look dusty miller with its deeply cut lacy leaves is so pleasing to the eye. With all their bases covered, I think Linton's has a winning combination of eye appeal and a garden with a cause. Well done!

-  *Titan Punch Vinca*
-  *Sunshine Prism Petunia*
-  *Janie Deep Orange Marigold*
-  *New Look Dusty Miller*
-  *Madness Pink Petunia*
-  *Dark Opal Basil*
-  *Turf Grass*

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

w: Lintons.com
p: 888.779.9333



Eureka Green Leaf Scarlet Begonia



Eureka Green Leaf White Begonia



Picobella Blue Petunia



Wood Planks



Turf Grass

f2

"Child's Joy of Our Country"

- Martin's ACE Hardware

SIZE: 30'W X 30'H

Larry and Gloria Martin had a long and patient vision for their successful business. In 1989, the couple opened a lumber and hardware store in an empty warehouse just north of town. Several years ago they outgrew their space and purchased property on a busy corner south of Middlebury and began plans to build and relocate their now thriving business.

The Martin's actively participate in the daily operation of the business and are often the folk offering up the "service with a smile" Ace Hardware is known for. Of course they carry hardware and other building essentials, but their business is so much more than that. Walking into their Tulip Tree Gift and Floral Shoppe is like finding a boutique tucked inside a general store.

A beautiful slice of history is on display just inside the front door. As a tribute to their lumber business, the Martin's purchased a 6-foot cross section of a 513-year-old Bubinga tree from Africa to display. The tree, which was a seedling around the year 1491, is one of only five or six sections in the United States. *The Goshen News* explained that "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. Bubinga trees can reach mature heights of 170 feet and up to 8 feet in diameter.

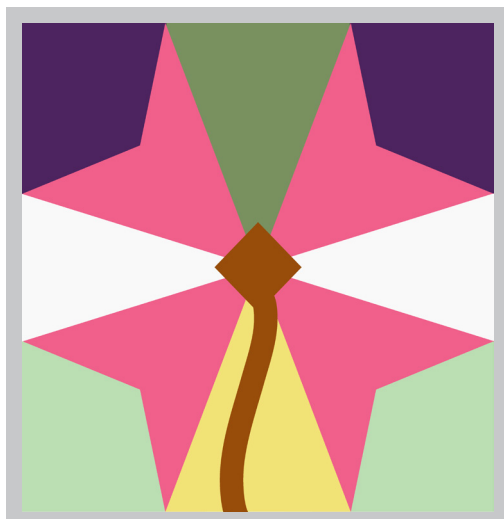
Patriotism is important to the Martin family and they value the freedom America enjoys. They hold fast to traditional values and respect for the country they love, sharing both with their children and grandchildren (of which they now have eleven). The original quilt pattern selected for their garden perfectly reflects their passion. A giant red white and blue pinwheel suggests both patriotism and playfulness in the heart of this design.

Over 3,300 begonias are packed into this garden. They were started in the greenhouse in snowy February and they'll bloom their little "hearts" out until the first hard frost arrives. Eureka begonia is used here, and it is the variety used most often in Quilt Gardens. Eureka is sturdy, dependable and a prolific bloomer. The same can be said of the Picobella Blue petunias that the Martin's have used every year since their first Quilt Garden went in three years ago.

I once had the opportunity to visit Sonya Miller of Country Comfort Greenhouse - the grower for this garden and official grower of many of the flowers used in the Quilt Gardens. In February, while freezing temperatures still held our region hostage, Sonya was busy at work. 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 was her favorite garden tool and she replied, "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



-  *Ablazin Purple Salvia*
-  *Surefire Rose Begonia*
-  *Various Garden Produce*
-  *Vista Silverberry Supetunia*
-  *Life Lime Coleus*
-  *Limencello Supertunia*
-  *Brown Mulch*
-  *Stone Pavers*

A6 "Oma's Blumen Garten" - Nappanee Center

SIZE: 30'W X 30'H

Nappanee -the embraceable little town that values history and heritage. Home to approximately 7,000 residents this pristine community in the southwest corner of Elkhart County is surrounded by thriving farmlands and a vibrant Old Order Amish culture. Many local Amish have hung out shingle shop signs to invite visitors both Amish and English to shop for goods and services not only for their way of life but also products that are shipped far and wide.

Oma's Blumen Garten is German for grandmother's flower garden. The Amish are hard working people and their gardens are usually tended by mother and children. The gardens are full of produce that is preserved for the long winter ahead and also shared generously with family and friends. Most Amish women border their gardens with beautiful flowers to encourage beneficial pollinating insects that increase the overall yield and to surround it with God's natural beauty. They decorate their homes very simply but use their gardens as an expression of color and ornamentation.

This garden is an interpretation of this concept. The section at the center top of this mosaic pattern is reserved to incorporate the vision of those Amish vegetable gardens. In it we find Strawberry popcorn (a dwarf variety), eggplant, Rainbow Swiss chard, Oriental flowering cabbage and kale. Any mature produce will be donated to a local food bank also reinforcing the Amish tradition of sharing their harvest with those in need. This section is bordered by white picket fencing much like those used by the Amish to keep out predators.

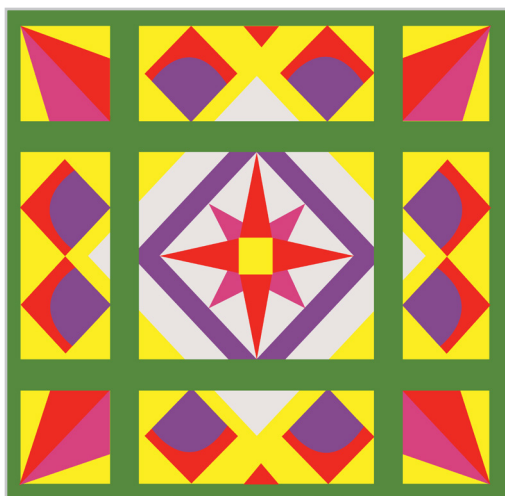
The remaining sections are filled with color and lots of it! Our eyes walk along a garden path fitted with handmade stepping stones leading us to a real pitcher pump and bucket to care for the garden. A lawn of Life Lime coleus is anchored by boulders and a bench to rest from gardening chores. The remainder of the quilt is pieced with Proven Winners Rose Surefire begonia, Ablazin' Purple salvia, Limencello and Vista Silverberry Supertunia.

When the city turned over the back yard of the Nappanee Center to the volunteer Quilt Garden Committee amazing things happened. Now the best kept secret in this quiet little corner is becoming well known. The impressive Heritage Collection was started by former librarian Evelyn Culp in the Nappanee Public Library, but was later moved to this site. Over the years this impressive collection has expanded to include a cache of historic "Hoosier" Cabinets made in Nappanee, a tribute to the city's six nationally-known cartoonists, an Air Force One display and so much more. They also have hand-quilted wall hangings featuring each of the previous Quilt Garden designs. This is one of my favorite stops on the Heritage Trail and certainly worth the drive.

Nappanee has invested serious energy into the development of its Quilt Garden and Heritage Center as a multifaceted visitor attraction. With the help of the "Friends of the Quilt Garden" group and a diverse team of supporters there is no shortage of talent behind this outstanding garden. Partnering in the success of this garden are the Nappanee Chamber of Commerce, City of Nappanee, Kiwanis, Psi Iota Xi, and the Nappanee Garden Club. The city supports the garden with needed materials and labor while these organizations provide yearly donations to defray expenses, as well as offering volunteers to help on planting day. It's heartwarming to see how much a garden can do to further the future of a city.

Nappanee Center
302 West Market Street | Nappanee, IN

w: NappaneeChamber.com
p: 574.773.7812



C4 "Legacy" - Old Bag Factory

SIZE: 29'w x 32'h

You might find yourself spending a leisurely morning or an afternoon in the galleries, specialty shops, and artisan studios in this renovated 1890's bag factory turned artisan complex. It celebrates the creativity of some of Indiana's most talented artisans with hand stitched quilts in contemporary designs, handcrafted furniture and high-fired pottery.

Built in 1896 as a manufacturing facility, the Chase Bag Factory was one of the first businesses in Goshen to be fitted with electricity. It housed its own hydroelectric power plant and had its own railroad spurs right through the center of the property. Now the track leads you to the most intriguing artisans and delectable treats. And 2015 brings both the Legacy Quilt Garden and the Miles II Variation mural to this historic site.



Of the many artists who call the Old Bag Factory home are fiber-artists and quilt designers Shirley and daughter-in-law Kris Shenk. Their shop showcases up to 100 quilts and wall hangings and sells from inventory in stock and also specializes in custom orders. They also enjoy seeing their original quilt designs come to life in another form - flowers.

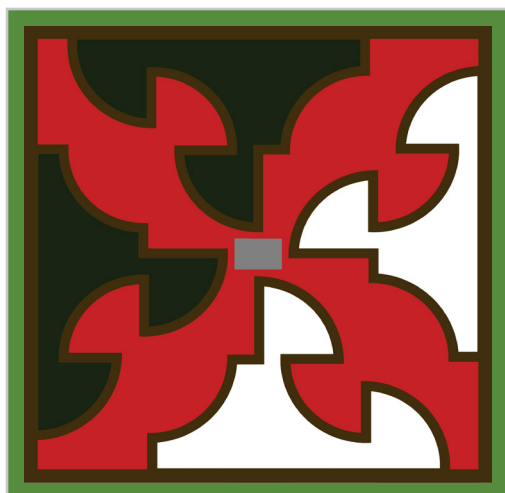
This team definitely carries their artistic touch to designing their Quilt Gardens. If you look past the rich color palette to the diverse textures you can virtually feel their artistry with your eyes. They chose the Legacy design because of its strong geometrics which translate so well to a Quilt Garden. Legacy is based on an original quilt design by Kris Shenk. The color pallet for the design features strong primary tones of red and yellow balanced with the softer secondary shades of pink and lavender. Each lends itself well to the shading effect of this well executed design.

The list of plants contained in this brilliant garden is used successfully again and again on the Quilt Garden Tour. Cocktail begonia, Boy Yellow marigold, beautiful Silver Dust dusty miller and Picobella petunia are used by the thousands in these gardens. Silver Dust dusty miller has deeply cut velveteen rabbit gray leaves that add a wonderful tactile dimension to it. Many sensory gardens include this plant because visually impaired visitors can appreciate the softness and shape of the slightly fleshy leaves. In contrast the metallic bronze leaves of the Cocktail begonia bring reflected light into the scene. The cupped shaped leaves sparkle as water droplets from the morning dew are suspended by the tiny little hairs on the surface of the leaves. The cup shape of the leaf directs water to the root system by this efficient plant ensuring survival during a hot dry summer.

The brilliant colors of the Legacy garden are outstanding against the dark 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. 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*
- Black Ray Petunia*
- Dreams White Petunia*
- Brown Mulch*
- Matriarch by Tuck Langland*
- Turf Grass*

B2 "Drunkard's Path"

- Premier Arts, Downtown Elkhart

SIZE: 30'W X 30'H

Premier Arts, the resident theatre group for The Lerner, recently debuted their first original musical "Harriet: The Musical," a celebration of the life and heroism of Harriet Tubman. Written by artistic director Craig Gibson, the work tells the story of Tubman's selfless bravery and the Underground Railroad. This Quilt Garden is a tribute to that production and a reminder of all those who struggled against slavery and their journey to freedom.

In May during planting time, the bronze Matriarch statue by noted sculptor Tuck Langland was placed in the center of the Premier Arts Quilt Garden. I'm excited to see gardens with sculptural elements. The marriage of the arts with the gardens is a logical step to add a fresh twist on the already popular Quilt Gardens Tour. Whether it is folk or fine art such as this bronze, the addition of another dimension raises a gardens' visual appeal tremendously.

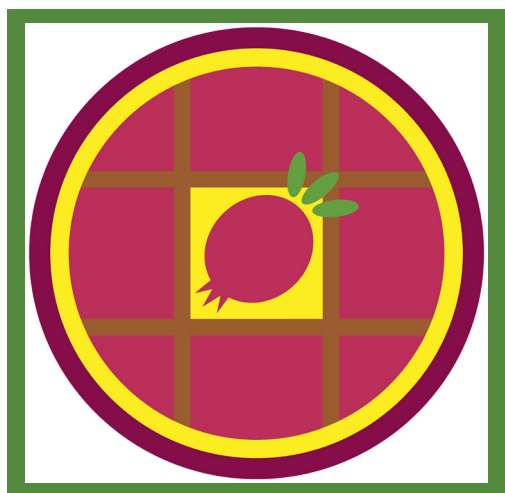
Elkhart's Arts & Entertainment District comes alive with the haunting beauty of this Drunkard's Path Quilt Garden that tells a moving story of strength and courage written in the lives of determined freedom seekers. It's stunning garden. The pattern itself is a showstopper with a geometrical mix of curves done in striking color pallet. A new player on the Quilt Garden stage is Black Ray petunia. Black is a hard flower color to develop and Danzinger breeders of New Jersey has produced a winner. The rich black blooms look dramatic juxtaposed with Cocktail Vodka Red begonia, a bronze leaf variety that provides foliar interest as well as lively bright red flowers. Completing the dance is Dreams White petunia, a well mounded free-flowering variety.

Within the bounds of this garden stands the stately *Matriarch*. The artist crafted her to show the strength and beauty of the matriarch of the family. The strong look on her face shows she will not accept anything but the best for her family, nor will she accept less than their best efforts from her family members. Placed in the center of the Drunkard's Path she takes on even greater importance. She stands amidst a quilt pattern designed as a warning to slaves on their journey to freedom via the Underground Railroad, so named because the runaway slaves who traveled it seemed to vanish as if traveling underground.

The pattern warned slaves to move in a staggering fashion and perhaps even double back to confuse pursuers and avoid capture. Quilts were hung out to "air" passing the message to slaves who understood the complex messages of the patterns, colors, and fabrics used in each quilt. The illegal act of helping an escaped slave was so dangerous that a code was developed to aid communication. One hopes that a new kind of code will one day communicate equality and freedom of all people on a healthy planet called Earth.

Premier Arts
410 South Main Street | Elkhart, IN

w: PremierArts.org
p: 574.293.4469



Janie Yellow Marigold



Eureka Bronze Leaf Deep Rose Begonia



Extra Curled Parsley



Sizzler Burgundy Salvia



Eureka Green Leaf White Begonia



Brown Mulch



Turf Grass

B2

"Pomegranate Window"

- Ruthmere House Museum

SIZE: 30'W X 30'H

Ruthmere, once an opulent private residence of Albert and Elizabeth Beardsley, is now a historical museum and an absolute must see along Elkhart's Gateway Mile. It's filled with lavish, one-of-a-kind furnishings and stunning works of art that include a sculpture by Rodin, Tiffany lamps and some of the finest examples of the Beaux Arts-style residential architecture in the nation.

Ruthmere selects an image or architectural element found in or around the home to reinterpret into its Quilt Garden each year. Inspiration is endless in such a noteworthy residence. Pomegranate Window is an impressive design that incorporates two themes from their collection. The home is filled with decorative pomegranates as architectural features. In all, there are 289 pomegranates that appear on Ruthmere inside and out! Symbolically, the pomegranate has a rich 4,000 year history of use by many diverse cultures signifying everything from fertility and prosperity to suffering and resurrection.

This Quilt Garden has over 2,300 begonias in all. Deep Rose Eureka begonia and a nice clear white version of the same series do the heavy lifting in this impressive pattern. The outer border is worked with Sizzler Burgundy salvia that is bred for early bloom with bright clear color. Its flower spikes are held well above the foliage protecting them from splashing and rain damage. Beautiful Janie Yellow marigold lines the interior border and also supplies the perfect contrast to the larger than life pomegranate. For dramatic effect every night during the 2015 Quilt Garden season one of the third floor ocular windows will be illuminated in brilliant garnet red and deemed the "Pomegranate Window."

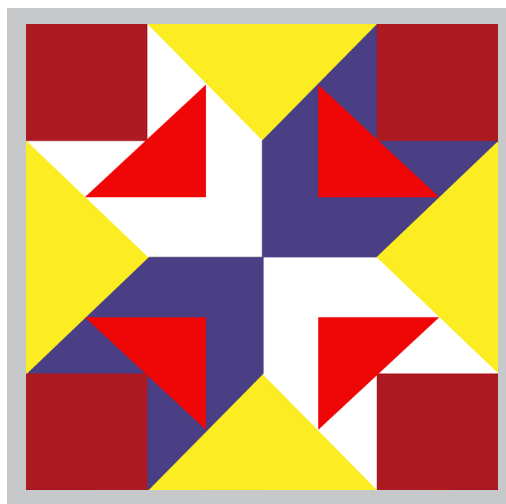
The iconic greenhouse and Ruthmere's gardens provide the perfect bridge for visitors to appreciate both the Ruthmere property and the annual Quilt Garden found just outside of Ruthmere's perimeter wall. Obviously, Elizabeth Beardsley was fond of gardening as evidenced by the elaborate conservatory on the east lawn. She enjoyed her gardening so much that her husband Albert had an underground tunnel constructed so she could walk to her greenhouse without the inconvenience of inclement weather. Today a team of dedicated gardeners look after this site and the surrounding grounds. The historic gardens utilize many of the same plants documented in Mrs. Beardsley's original journals and sketches.

Quilt Garden visitors are offered a special opportunity to purchase a family membership (\$75 value) for the price of an individual membership (\$50 cost); they merely need to ask staff for this privilege. This entitles free admission to all Ruthmere tour attractions for the family members and three additional guests for an unlimited number of visits throughout the year, hard copy of The Ruthmere Record, Off the Record their e-newsletter, discounts to all special events and entry into all membership promotional contests.

Insider's tip: Don't miss Coffee on the Piazza, sponsored by Key Bank. You are invited to relax overlooking Ruthmere's grounds, savor a complimentary cup of Starbucks coffee, and enjoy live Acoustic music by local talent every Saturday from June through August. Music starts at 10:00 am and continues until Noon.

Ruthmere House Museum
302 East Beardsley Avenue | Elkhart, IN

w: Ruthmere.org
p: 574.264.0330



A5 "Wild Geese" - Downtown Wakarusa

SIZE: 30'W X 30'H

This garden screams photo op! The large Quilt Gardens billboard just beyond the garden is perfectly placed to capture the Maple Leaf mural on the brick wall to your left offering clever photographers the chance to shoot all three at once. If you are really good you can even get a whole bus load of tourists at the same time! Something I had some practice with lately.

Don't think Wakarusa is just a one stoplight town. Small town traditions are still important here, and historic treasures are around every corner. It's the kind of place where the volunteer firemen decorate the Christmas tree in the middle of the town square, and the community hosts many free to the public events such as the annual Wakarusa Maple Syrup Festival, an Easter Egg Hunt, car and tractor show, and Fall Harvest party complete with a giant Pumpkin Tree in the center of town. Character oozes from historic buildings which feature original tin ceilings and a wall of 1,000 drawers in the local hardware store that has been in business since 1904. There's also a town historical museum--open by chance or appointment for a closer look see.

With history on its mind the Wakarusa team chose the Wild Geese pattern also known as Flying Geese for its Quilt Garden. Although a number of quilt historians doubt the validity of the textile as road map to runaway slaves, it still holds for us a fascinating story; this pattern told slaves to follow migrating geese north towards Canada and to freedom. The pattern not only held directions but also signaled the best season for slaves to escape. Geese fly north in the spring and summer, a good travel time. Geese would also have to stop at waterways along their journey in order to rest and eat. Slaves were to take their cues on direction, timing and behavior from the migrating geese.

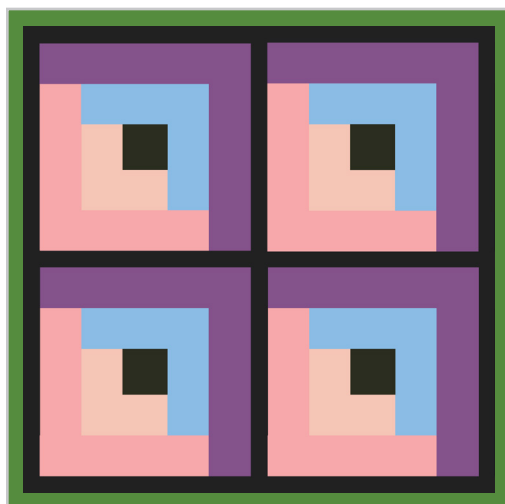
Wakarusa favors bold, geometric patterns for its Quilt Gardens and Wild Geese is no exception. The garden features many standards in the world of annuals for this region of the country. Petunia, marigold and salvia do quite nicely here. Three shades of Picobella petunia fly through the garden in tight formation - red, blue and a lavender mix and a snowy white version with a dusting of yellow in its deep trumpet shaped throat. Little Hero Yellow marigold provides the floral sunshine even though this setting is quite bright giving these heavy hitters plenty of energy to perform their best. Last but not least is gardener Susie Kulp's favorite Red Hotline salvia that is seen here every year.






After securing the obligatory snapshot at the Quilt Garden you absolutely must make a stop at the Wakarusa Dime Store--the home of the Giant Jumbo Jelly Bean. Mose Wolfberg, a German immigrant, traveled much of Elkhart County and beyond with a pack on his back, selling wares from farm to farm. He eventually chose a permanent location for his budding business, and in 1907 Mose opened Wolfberg's Department Store in this small northern Indiana town. A variety store was soon added, which is today the Wakarusa Dime Store. The big as a thumb jelly beans have been a legend in these parts since the late 1960's when the Jumbo Jelly Beans were introduced at the Maple Syrup Festival. 100 pounds were sold that year; today over 75 tons are sold annually.

Insider tip: Locals love to celebrate spring with pure maple syrup. What does it take to make a gallon of the amber nectar? Four mature sugar maple trees, 40 gallons of raw sap, a wood fired evaporator and a dedicated sugar-maker. (Hopefully, one with a large family to share the work of sterilizing jars, filtering and grading and packing each gallon.) Buy pure Wakarusa maple syrup at the Wakarusa Dime Store.

Wakarusa Chamber of Commerce
100 West Waterford Street
Wakarusa, IN

w: WakarusaChamber.com
p: 574.862.4344



-  *Ray Black Petunia*
-  *Ray Peach Petunia*
-  *Dream Dky Blue Petunia*
-  *Sun & Shade Dark Salmon Impatient*
-  *Royal Velvet Supertunia*
-  *Black Mulch*
-  *Turf Grass*

G3 "Log Cabin" - Weaver Furniture Sales

SIZE: 32'W X 32'H

Weaver Furniture Sales is located on the farmstead of LeRoy and Ida Weaver just a few miles south of Shipshewana in the countryside along the Heritage Trail. For more than 25 years, they have welcomed visitors from all over the United States to their large furniture showroom—a converted dairy barn. The Weavers, along with their eight children, started their furniture business after many years of work on their dairy farm. They say that it gives them great satisfaction to know that in today's global marketplace they are able to market high quality Amish built furniture and at the same time help the local Amish community.

The Weavers tell me their Quilt Garden brings opportunities to meet people from a many areas of the United States and beyond and extend their "welcome to our homestead" message. Their Quilt Garden is managed by Carolyn Miller, a local Amish gardener with a very green thumb! There must be something in their water because this garden never ceases to amaze. This gardening team has over 100 years of cultivating experience between them so it's no wonder they turn out winning designs year after year.

Favoring petunias in past years, this year petunias are again solidly represented. The outer log of the design is built with Royal Velvet Supertunia, a prolific bloomer with a neat habit (for a petunia.) Next you'll find Dreams Sky Blue and then in the center are the black beauties of the petunia world - Ray Black. The Log Cabin pattern is a local favorite treasured by Amish. They are typically worked with bright colors on one side and dark on the other to represent sunshine and shadows on the side of the cabin. Illuminating the sunny side of this cabin are Sun & Shade Dark Salmon and Ray Peach impatiens bringing a beautiful sunset to mind.

It's no wonder petunias continue to rank among the most popular flowering annuals. They're bright and lively, blooming from spring until frost. Best of all they are amazingly easy to grow. Supertunia are a ground cover variety that spread so quickly they cover a large area during a growing season, provided they're watered and fertilized frequently. This makes them ideal for scrambling down a hillside garden such as we have here in this Quilt Garden. When grown in full sunlight, they are so covered by flowers that you hardly see the foliage.

Soil does not need to be terribly rich to grow good petunias, but it must drain properly. Petunias can be prone to mildew and rot if planted in heavy soils. It's always desirable to amend the soil with organic matter such as well-rotted leaf compost. This helps open up heavy clay soil, which improves drainage, and it can also increase the ability of light, sandy soil to hold moisture and nutrients. Petunias tend to be heavy feeders, so a weekly application of well balanced fertilizer will keep your plants in top shape. When it comes to watering, overhead is a no-no. Water at ground level preferably with a drip system or soaker hose, and be sure to leave them on long enough to soak the soil a depth of six to eight inches every time you water to encourage deeper root growth.

Insider tip: While in Shipshewana check out E & S Bulk Food Store. Think of it as an Amish "Trader Jo's." The Amish know a great deal when they see one, and this store is where they find it. Just look at all the buggies hitched alongside the building!

Weaver Furniture Sales
7870 W 075 N | Shipshewana, IN

w: WeaverFurnitureSales.com
p: 260.768.7730