

2016 Master Gardener Guidebook



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

2016 *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. 2016 is the ninth 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 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>

Download the ‘Heritage Trail Adventures’ app from your app store for great restaurants, stellar attractions and events!



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 9 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 hope 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 3000 Level Master Gardener

My husband and I tilled our first garden soon after we were married. It was a failure, but we learned from our mistakes and have now been successfully gardening for almost 38 years. We raised our three children on homegrown fruits and veggies from our one acre garden that we all worked together. Eventually our children left the nest and my interests turned from the dinner table to my growing collection of perennials. I created deep sweeping flowerbeds around our country home. The beds seemed to get bigger with each passing year.

In 2006, my love of gardening catapulted to a whole new level. I enrolled in a Master Gardener training class. I made many like minded friends and found a rich opportunity to give back to my community. I found a new voice for my growing passion. A voice that ultimately led to a chance to write the Quilt Gardens Master Gardener Guidebook, a project near and dear to my heart. You could say I branched out when in 2009 I added tour guide to my resume.

You see I am the "English" great-granddaughter of Amish decent so guiding Amish Country tours allows me the chance to share stories of my roots - roots which are 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. This is just one more way we grow friendships across the country and around the world while propagating cultural connections along the way.

Be sure to download the 2016 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!



Homeland Gardens
59800 State Road 13 | Middlebury, IN

p: 574.825.7978

Homeland Gardens, Official Grower Paul & Barb Schwartz, Owners

Local growers, Paul and Barb Schwarz of Homeland Gardens near Middlebury started their own greenhouse in 2003. Their home-based business began with one 30 x 96 green house and has now expanded to three. This Old Order Amish couple has a love of nature, being outdoors, and working with plants and flowers, but it's their faith in God and belief in community that inspires them to grow flowers for four Quilt Gardens, three in Middlebury and one in Bristol.

Family is first and foremost in the Schwartz's life and they operate as a family business with their six children helping out whenever possible. To them, gardening is just another chore, but working together makes the job even more enjoyable.

The Schwartzes grow spring bedding plants beginning in early February which are for sale to the public. In addition, Barb does custom potted flower arrangements. Paul and Barb are new to the Quilt Gardens project and were thrilled when asked to be an official grower. For them, working and contributing to the community they live in makes the Quilt Gardens project even more rewarding.



Country Garden Greenhouse
68417 CR 15 | New Paris, IN

p: 574.831.4301 or 574.831.4320

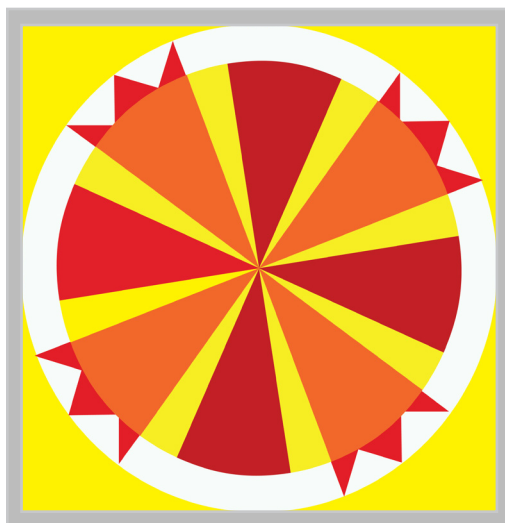
Country Garden Greenhouse, Official Grower Family Owned

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 off the beaten path in New Paris. 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 16 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 some of the gardens last summer. They are excited that their largest greenhouse now accommodates growing space for the Quilt Garden plants. It's 30' x 144' and is 3/4 full with Quilt Garden plants!



	<i>Vodka Bronze Leaf Red Begonia</i>
	<i>Snow Crystals Alyssum</i>
	<i>Safari Orange Marigold</i>
	<i>Safari Yellow Marigold</i>
	<i>Prism Yellow Petunia</i>
	<i>Stone Pavers</i>
	<i>Stone Pavers</i>

B3 “1920 Indian Paintbrush” - Concord Mall

SIZE: 30'W X 30'H

Indian Paintbrush is a wild flower native to the American Southwest, named for its clusters of spiky blooms that resemble an artist's brush dipped in brilliant scarlet, orange and yellow. This spectacular garden takes center stage right at the feet of the larger-than-life “Jazz it Up” mural. There are even footlights to assure this stunning garden gets attention day and night! Elkhart is renowned for their Jazz Festival and deservedly so. Annually, it attracts music aficionados from far and wide.

Each year the Elkhart County Dahlia Society provides design, gardening advice, planting volunteers and more to make sure this is a merit-worthy garden. This team is expert at all things flowers, turning out great Quilt Gardens year after year. The mall reciprocates by hosting the lavish Dahlia Society Show every September. With a flower breeders eye for color they've selected this beautiful quilt pattern for the way it ties the garden to their mural.

Being loosely interpreted on the prairie flower of the same name, this garden sizzles with color. Red is dominant in this pattern and it's supplied in abundance by Cocktail Vodka begonias. They are a favorite on the tour and there's no question why. Just look at how they perform here, holding up well under the rigors of heat and exposure. Marigold is another popular choice by garden enthusiasts. Here they've selected the Safari series to provide the bold orange and yellow in the pattern. It's a French marigold and as such it holds up better in summer rain showers. Although the flower head is slightly smaller than its African cousin, it does provide an abundance of blooms to make up for it. In the corners of this garden, sunshine yellow bursts from within thanks to the more than 1,000 Prism petunias “sewn” into the pattern. Every good garden needs a little sunshine, and this petunia brings it!

The Indian Paintbrush is an unpredictable wildflower that grows when planted in close proximity with other plants, primarily grasses and other native flora. This is because Indian paintbrush sends roots out to other plants, then penetrates the roots and “borrows” the nutrients it needs to survive. This symbiotic relationship is necessary for its survival. The same can be said for the small communities found along the Quilt Gardens along the Heritage Trail. A cooperative effort is critical for survival of such a massive volunteer effort in order to beautify and promote tourism to the area. The small towns of Elkhart County are unique in the way they partner to achieve this common goal.

BICENTENNIAL BUZZ



Indian Paintbrush (published 1920)

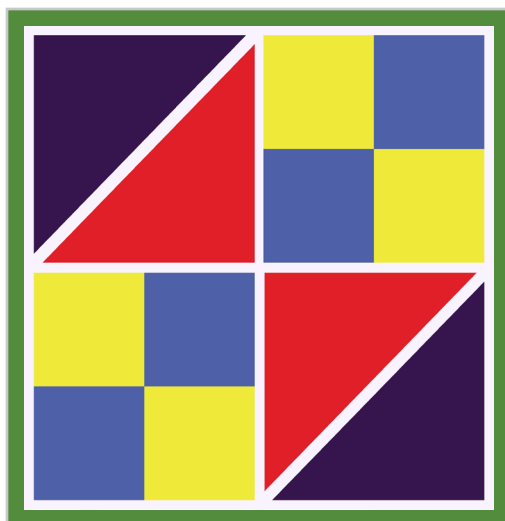
By 1920, Elkhart's population had grown to more than 56,000. The city's demand for power had grown as well. A new dam was built eight years earlier and business flourished. The Native Americans, primarily the Potawatomi tribe, who originally inhabited this area, were forced out of the region more than 80 years earlier. Naming a brilliant prairie flower and subsequently a quilt pattern might be considered a tribute to the area's original native sons.

Concord Mall

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

w: ShopConcordMall.com

p: 574.875.6502



A6 "1884 Railroad" - Coppes Commons

SIZE: 30'W X 30'H

Coppes Commons offers up another Quilt Garden with a story linked to its history. The former Coppes Zook & Mutschler Kitchen Cabinet Factory, known for its "Hoosier" cabinets, today enjoys new life through a retail renaissance complete with a unique mix of artisans and eateries. Speaking of eateries, while at Coppes, remember to save room for an out-of-this-world treat at Rocket Science, where ice cream is made to order and flash frozen right before your eyes. Now that's a science experiment even I can embrace!

Any well-appointed late 19th century kitchen would not be complete without a Hoosier cabinet. A busy housewife was only as efficient as her workplace, and the Hoosier cabinet promised to save her 1,500 steps a day. The idea behind the popular cabinet was to provide a place for all the tools a woman needed to speed meal delivery. They featured flour and sugar bins with built-in sifters, racks and compartments for every imaginable baking supply, tool and cookbook holders. Some included a collapsible ironing board and even an ant trap!

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. This was also a time period where the railroad was part of a manufacturer's formula for success. The Coppes Factory's proximity to the railroad allowed it to ship cabinets all across the growing country. The company built more than two million of the highly collectable Nappanee Dutch Kitchenettes shipping a train car load each day. A railroad spur came directly into the factory yard in the exact spot where the Quilt Garden sits today.

There is a feast for the eyes found in this rendition of the Railroad quilt pattern. This garden packs flower power with more than 4,000 annuals. Deeply saturated with rich aubergine, Dreams Midnight petunia is stout enough to hold its own here. It offers the perfect balance to the hot red of the Cocktail Vodka bronze leaf begonia. Each is dependable and vigorous enough to hold its own here. Alternately the delicate (looking) Hawaii Blue ageratum, with its soft tufts of lavender, composes the half-square stitched next to lime-yellow Wizard Coleus. This pairing provides interest in both color and texture. Be sure to meander upstairs for the best view of this garden. Just beyond the Nappanee Kitchen Cabinet Historical Museum, there is an observation deck.

The 1884 Railroad is a cleverly simple design with just two shapes to cut out. This garden would be fun to replicate in a home setting. With a few stakes and a ball of string one could quickly lay out this pattern and fill it with annuals or perhaps even a few well-placed culinary herbs. What a lovely kitchen garden it would make! I'm imagining it filled with Red Sails lettuce, Redbor kale, Bright Lights swiss chard and herbs of all description. The possibilities are endless.



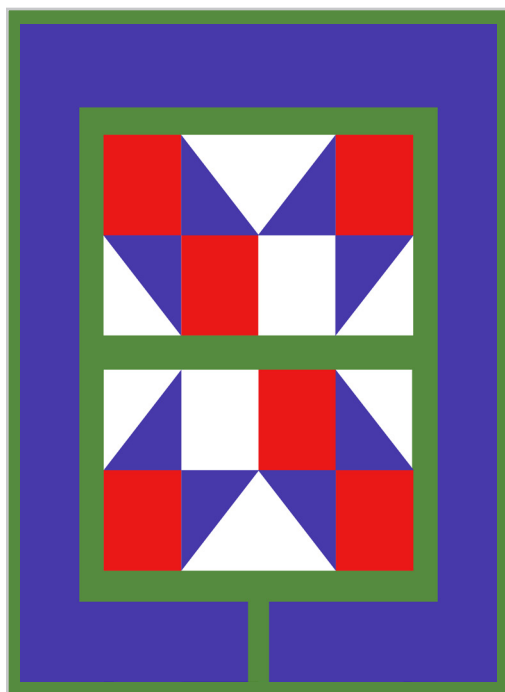
Coppes Commons
401 E Market Street | Nappanee, IN

w: CoppesCommons.com
p: 574.773.0002

BICENTENNIAL BUZZ



In 1874 the B&O Railroad was rapidly moving east and competition for access to it was keen. There was an air of expectancy in the bustling community of Locke. However, in December of 1874, a group of nearby landowners platted and surveyed their own village of Nappanee and began a campaign for the railroad. *The Goshen Times* printed the first of Nappanee's pitches: "NAPPANEE ... Is the name of a town laid out in Elkhart County, Ind. on the B.P. & C. Railroad ... Persons desiring to locate in business would do well to call there ... " So the railroad came to Nappanee, not Locke, beginning that city's storied history.



F2 "1937 Indian Star" - Das Dutchman Essenhaus

SIZE: 49'W X 57'H

Since 1971, Das Dutchman Essenhaus has made it a mission to provide guests with a warm welcome and outstanding service. What began as a 120-seat, family-style dining room has grown to become Indiana's largest restaurant (with over 1,100 seats!). In addition, the Essenhaus campus includes a charming Inn, boutique-style shops, an inviting home-style bakery and live theatre.

Creating a quilt of living flowers is as unique as the 'patchwork community' we call Indiana Amish Country. You'll find people from all walks of life volunteering to support this effort. From the Amish grower who sows seed early in spring to the many helping hands that plant, weed and feed all those lovely gardens, there is a kindred spirit you're not likely to find elsewhere.

The Middlebury hills (as the locals call them) are the perfect place to display this bold geometric design. Published in 1937, this pattern is indeed striking and should work well in flowers. Here we find thousands of "blue" Easy Wave petunias woven into the fabric of this fabulous quilt. Petunias are a standard in many home landscapes owing to their prolific floral performance. In addition to petunias, geraniums have been a gardener's favorite for well over a century. The old-fashioned standard for beds, borders, and containers, geranium is still one of the most popular plants today. Helping the blue petunias and red geraniums to "pop" in this garden is the hale-and-hearty Polka Dot vinca. The vinca begins blooming extra-early with big flowers of pure white, each dotted with a bright red eye. The blooms continue in full force for months, despite extreme heat, poor soil, and just about anything Nature throws its way!

The Essenhaus has been a part of this project since its inception demonstrating their commitment to this one-of-a-kind-experience that they say, "truly enhances the guest visit to their destination." Theirs was the first Quilt Garden "sewn" in the spring of 2007 as a test garden. The goal was to see if this new tourism concept was feasible, raising the question, "if we build it will they come?" That question was answered with a resounding yes as the event has been awarded a "Top 100 Event" designation by the American Bus Association for seven years.

Even with such great resources and accolades these gardens are not without their share of challenges. In 2015 many plants were affected by frost shortly after being planted. Quite a few plants in several gardens had to be replaced. That same spring and summer we experienced record setting rainfall, which eventually affected the plants. Most of the gardens have relied heavily on the advice and expertise of Jeff Burbrink of the Elkhart County Purdue Extension Service and Janna Beckerman at Purdue's Plant Laboratory. Fortunately for them, Elkhart County has an exemplary county extension program which provides needed services and a fine Master Gardener training program which has been instrumental to the success of the Quilt Gardens along the Heritage Trail.

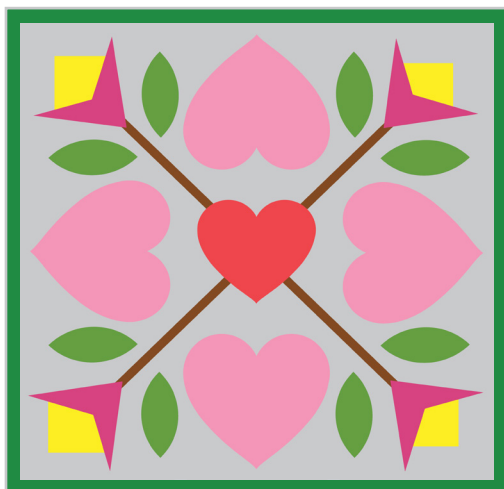
Das Dutchman Essenhaus
240 US 20 | Middlebury, IN

w: Essenhaus.com
p: 800.455.9471

BICENTENNIAL BUZZ

At the time this pattern was published, the population of Middlebury was less than 700. This town once bordered by a Native American trail had celebrated its centennial (1936). Folks came in from all over Elkhart County to enjoy the celebration that featured a parade boasting a 4,700-pound oxen team, band concerts and historical pageants. The town also had a successful bus line, operated then and now by the Shoup family. To the south, US 20 was being paved as part of the larger highway system through Indiana. Several decades later, Das Dutchman Essenhaus would open its restaurant doors to traffic traveling that highway.





-  Silver Falls Dichondra
-  Vista Bubblegum Supertunia
-  Curley Leaf Parsley
-  Red Supertunia
-  Boy Yellow Marigold
-  Gin Bronze Leaf Pink Begonia
-  Brown Mulch
-  Turf Grass

F2 "1841 Hearts & Flowers" - Dutch Country Market

SIZE: 45'W X 45'H

Norm & Katie Lehman began making homemade noodles in their store when their children were young. Like many Amish families, they liked the idea of a home-based business where they could work together. Business has grown by leaps and bounds for Dutch Country Market, but that's not the only thing that's been growing. A huge Quilt Garden beautifies the scenery just outside its doors. This glorious garden is especially pretty near the end of the day in the afternoon light.

With six children, it was once easier to find helpers to maintain the garden. But these days, the children are leaving the nest so there are fewer hands to lighten the load. This year, there will be four family members working to keep this garden in tip-top shape. Surely Norm's bees must be thrilled with such a wonderful floral feast set before them. He's also a beekeeper with 30 thriving hives to tend. The delicious results line the shelves of Dutch Country Market with wholesome honey and honey products.

The Quilt Gardens along the Heritage Trail provide benefits to the community in ways beyond visitor impact. With 19 supersized gardens, it also supplies nectar sources to a large swath of pollinators across the county. Whenever possible, the gardeners try to use natural fertilizers as is the case here.

To borrow from Shakespeare, "What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet." Well apparently it's all in the name for this gardening duo. Norm told us that they chose this pattern because they liked the name and thought the pattern might be a good challenge. I would agree that it is a complicated pattern with many curves, but I have the utmost confidence that they will do it well.

Norm & Katie have always been fans of begonias and petunias, but this year they've added Silver Falls dichondra and parsley to their list. I'm always pleased to see attractive foliage plants in the gardens as it adds a lot of texture and consistent color. New to the tour this year is supertunia Vista Bubblegum seen here in the four luscious pink hearts. A rich deep red supertunia was added to the center of the design to add more interest to that section of the garden. The original pattern called for only four hearts.

Proven Winners recommends this advice to keep your Supertunia in winning condition; around the 4th of July get some of the slow release fertilizer that you bought in spring and re-apply scratching in around plants. At the same time, trim back some of the longer branches just enough to bring the plant back in shape. Remove a maximum of 20% of the branches. Your plant will be out of flower for a few days, but will come back stronger than ever. With July's heat you should be watering at least every other day and begin to fertilize every other watering. I know it sounds like a lot, but if you want a plant to grow like an elephant and be the most it can be, you've got to feed it like an elephant!

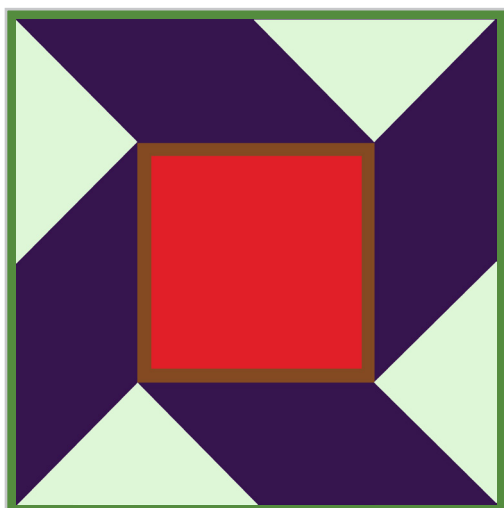
Dutch Country Market
11401 CR 16 | Middlebury, IN

w: amishcountry.org/things-to-do/shopping/dutch-country-market-1/
p: 574.825.3594

BICENTENNIAL BUZZ

The Amish arrived in Elkhart County around 1841. They traveled to the Middlebury area in four two-horse wagons and three one-horse wagons. (Middlebury township had been organized in 1834.) The route into Middlebury had been a well-traveled Native American byway and settlers began referring to the road (now State Road 13) as the Logansport-White Pigeon Road. Pioneer life was hard and quilts were not only a necessity but also an expression of colorful decoration. In those days, people in the settlement were paying dearly for calico, so every scrap was treasured and a happy pattern welcomed.





-  *Dreams Midnight Petunia*
-  *Silver Dust Dusty Miller*
-  *Dreams Red Petunia*
-  *Brown Mulch*
-  *Turf Grass*

A6 "1897 Box Car" - Dutch Village Market

SIZE: 30'W X 30'H

The owners of the Dutch Village Market are full of enthusiasm for their Quilt Garden and are happy to see so many new faces because of it. The market, a treasure hunter's treat, boasts 70,000 square feet of shopping satisfaction. They even have an Amish-owned restaurant, open for breakfast and lunch. It's a great place to meet for a cup of "Joe" and a cinnamon roll.

The Market's garden is situated next to a tall windmill and even though this pattern is called Box Car it resembles a windmill or pinwheel pattern. This design seemed a perfect fit to this garden team. (Be sure to check out the matching wall quilt displayed inside the market that will be raffled to raise funds for supplies and improvements to this garden.)

New this year is the Dreams petunia, seen here in abundance. This is a grandiflora type, meaning visitors should see some really large sky blue flowers floating above the windmill in this design. This is the only grandiflora on the Quilt Gardens Tour this year with most sites opting for milliflora types - the little sister of this variety. Dreams will produce large three to four inch flowers that certainly deliver huge compliments.

No matter what the literature says, petunias always benefit from a good pinching a couple of times a season to remove spent stems and stimulate repeat blooms. Many hybrids claim to be "self-cleaning" but a little pinch between friends is a sign of affection.

A favorite filler of mine is Silver Dust dusty miller. It is an outstanding choice to add foliar interest and a soft edging that even discourages deer from nibbling at your tender annuals. It has a beautiful texture and a refreshing pale gray-green hue. One of the cool things about dusty miller is that it has tiny hairs on its leaves that make it sparkle when the light hits just right. Many plants use these small hair-like structures to keep the frost away from the living surface cells. In windy locations, the hairs break up the flow of air across the plant surface, thus reducing evaporation. Dense coatings of hairs also reflect solar radiation, protecting the more delicate tissues underneath in hot, dry, open habitats. And in locations where much of the available moisture comes from cloud drip, the hairs appear to enhance uptake of the morning dew according to Wikipedia.com.

BICENTENNIAL BUZZ



Dutch Village Market
700 N Tomahawk Trail | Nappanee, IN

w: DVillageMarket.com
p: 574.773.2828

Box cars were common sites in Nappanee in 1897, just as they are today. They rolled down the tracks carrying goods to and from the mills and other enterprises in town. Two brothers, Frank and John Coppes, had purchased a variety of thriving businesses in Nappanee, and by the 1890s the Coppes Brothers Company consisted of a sawmill, a box factory, and the Nappanee Milling Company, which produced as much as 250 barrels of flour a day. Lumber from their sawmill also filled rail cars and was sent to industries across the country to be used in shipbuilding and home plus bridge construction.



B2 "1966 Morning Star" - Elkhart Central Park

SIZE: 40'W X 40'H

Elkhart's Central Park is right in the thick of things. It's flanked by the expanded Riverwalk and the recently renovated Lerner Theatre. This large downtown green space hosts many concerts, festivals, cultural events and even an RV Show. Since 1988, jazz legends and fans have gathered here in June for a memorable weekend at the annual Elkhart Jazz Festival. Combining warmth and small-town hospitality with the excitement of big city jazz, the Elkhart Jazz Festival has become a nationally-acclaimed event and is recognized as an Indiana Bicentennial Legacy Project. As in years past the Central Park Quilt Gardens team chose their pattern based on the simplicity of the design and the fact that they could add layers in the garden to give it a three dimensional effect. Complicated patterns are difficult to relate in plants - a lesson that these gardeners have learned from experience. Large solid areas of color are much easier to portray than the smaller figural characters that some patterns call for. Wave petunias planted en masse create a background of lovely sunset pink at the lowest growing height in this planting. Antigua marigold provides the mid-range in terms of verticality and a swath of sunny yellow. This marigold hybrid is of the African type which typically translates to larger blooms and taller plants, however this one is bred as a more compact plant making it more appropriate in the Quilt Garden.

The large beautiful star at the center of this pattern bursts with Wizard Velvet Red coleus. Coleus is often selected for its blend of colors and diversely patterned foliage but Velvet Red reads as one solid color. Coleus has been used in several other quilt gardens with varying levels of success over the years. Coleus is generally a shade loving plant, but there are a few types that have been developed to withstand more light. It will be interesting to see how this one adapts to a sunny location.

I recently asked site manager Craig Sears what their toughest gardening challenge was. His reply? "The biggest challenge for us is the fact that it is in the public eye every day." Even mother nature can occasionally challenge the gardeners as ducks and other birds try to set up housekeeping under the cover of flowers. The crew tries to keep the waterfowl out before they can lay eggs; however, they've have had more than one family of ducks born in this garden.

The Morning Star pattern is usually related to the Plains Indians who were introduced late in the 1800s to quilt making by missionaries. However, the Morning Star was a motif that Native Americans used on their animal hides for clothing and bedding even before the missionaries arrived to evangelize them. It represented the morning star of Venus which was part of their religious practices according to VintageKitQuilts.net.

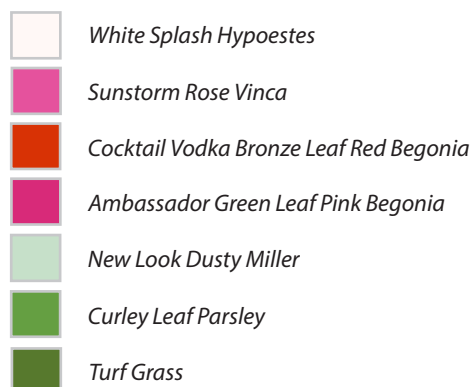
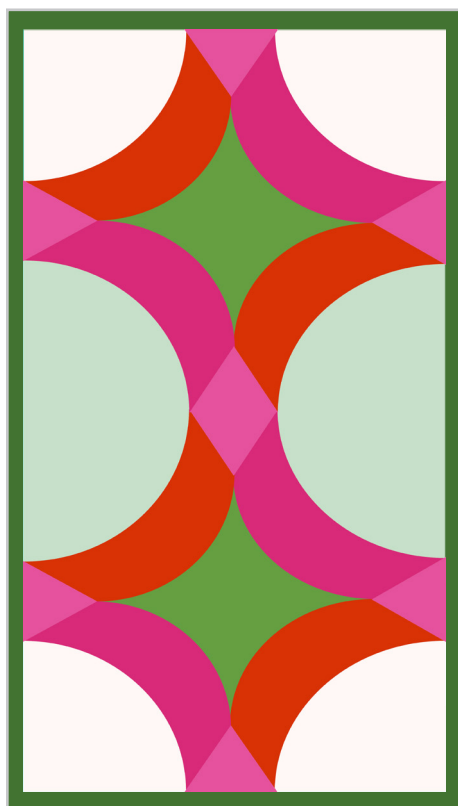


BICENTENNIAL BUZZ

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

w: ElkhartIndiana.org
p: 574.295.7275

In 1966 the famous (or infamous) "Arch of Elkhart" spanned Main Street at the corner of Main and Franklin Streets. Erected in 1963 and dismantled in 1968, its intent was to support a large municipal Christmas tree (topped with a star of course). Over the years it also supported a flag pole and, at one time, a small mobile home. That same year, enrollment in Elkhart High School, also located downtown, climbed to nearly 3,000 students stressing the need for another campus. By 1972 the school was split into Elkhart Memorial High School and Elkhart Central High School. There's been a fierce football battle for the Mangy Lion trophy ever since. Whichever trophy case it's displayed in, rest assured there will be a new battle for the beast in the fall. Until then, to the victor goes the spoils.



D4 “1933 Friendship Circle” - Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds

SIZE: 20'W X 40'H

Thousands of hours are contributed to Elkhart County by the four service organizations that sponsor this garden. Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service, the Michiana Master Gardeners Association, the Elkhart County Extension Homemakers and the Elkhart County 4-H Fair Board all partner in the success seen here. Each group brings with it a membership of knowledgeable and generous individuals committed to the mission of the Quilt Gardens project.

Curly leaf parsley, a signature plant since day one, will “always appear in our designs” says site manager Mary Ann Leinhart-Cross. This is just one of the foliage plants featured in their interpretation of the Friendship Circle. They usually pick designs with four components or parts to represent the four groups involved and always include the color green to represent “life and agriculture.” New Look dusty miller is used in generous proportions in this garden. While no plant can be considered really deer-proof, luckily this one doesn't seem to be a popular choice on their menu. Equally unpopular with Bambi and friends are the other plants selected for this garden. White Splash hypoestes, vinca Sunstorm Rose and Cocktail begonia fill out the list of plant materials here. These plants were not necessarily selected for their unappetizing flavor in this particular case, but if your yard seems to be the local midnight deli you might want to try some of them. Using deer resistant plants as a border for your more delectable plants may perhaps discourage them from dining on your favorite varieties.

I was lucky enough to be invited as a member of the Michiana Master Gardeners Association to work with the Quilt Garden committee in its plant selection meeting. It was a good meeting with many intriguing suggestions passed around the table. This gave me better insight into the workings of the process. Site manager Mary Ann has a strong belief that their garden should “be a quilt” rather than representing a quilt block. To keep with that tradition, the original Friendship Circle block was doubled and stretched to fit their rectangular plot. Being from a more traditional quilting background she lobbied for a formal border. But this year, to better interpret this historical pattern, they have left it out. I really like the way it worked out and see no problem with its omission.

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 from all over the nation and many foreign countries. Gardening can do that - it's amazing!

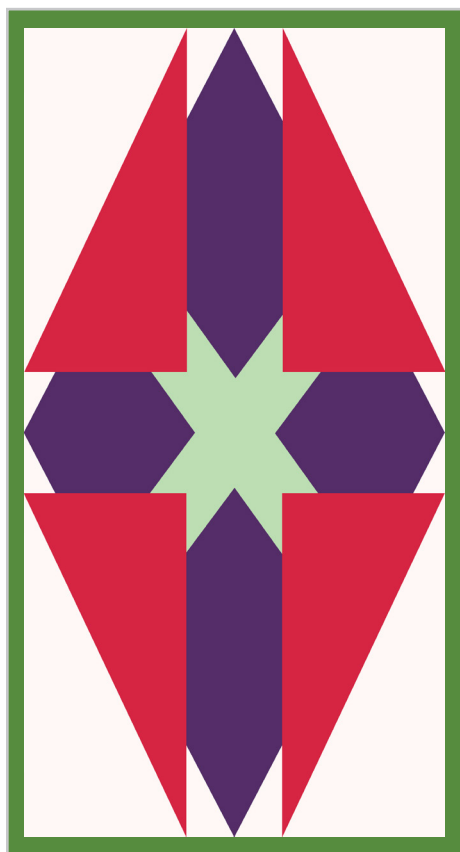
**Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds &
Purdue Co-Operative Extension Service**
17746 County Road 34 | Goshen, IN

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

BICENTENNIAL BUZZ



Goshen struggled through the Great Depression, yet friendship helped people persevere. President Franklin Roosevelt was inaugurated in 1933 and Congress pushed through major legislation to get citizens back to work. Goshen officials used federal programs for projects to benefit the city's unemployed including building new sewer lines, modernizing the waterworks and even installing new street lights along Main Street. In fact, Goshen did so well it was picked as a national model city for the constructive use of federal funds for civic improvements.



Cirrus Dusty Miller



Cocktail Brandy Bronze Leaf Rose Begonia



Merlin Blue Morn Petunia



Life Lime Coleus



Turf Grass

D4 "1906 Goshen" - Elkhart County Courthouse

SIZE: 20'W X 40'H

This Quilt Garden is on the lawn of the County Courthouse which dates back to 1868. Historic Goshen is now the county seat, but this was not always so. Originally it was located in nearby Dunlap, but was later moved to Goshen for its central location. The County Commissioners of the day agreed to build a courthouse "appropriate to the progress and standing of the county" and budgeted \$100,000 for its construction. That was a sizable expenditure in those days since a courthouse at the time typically cost under \$30,000. The Magnificent 92, a book about county courthouses across Indiana notes, "... in the 1860s, a \$100,000 courthouse was worth a buggy ride to town." Of course it was and still is today. Elkhart is one of the state's few counties where many of the residents might still enjoy a trip to town with a horse and buggy!

Selected for its name, the Goshen quilt pattern was originally published in 1906. The pattern has been stretched a bit to fit the rectangular dimensions of the site and is filled with sturdy annuals that are well suited to a downtown setting. Gardening in the center of town brings with it a few unique challenges. Masonry buildings, paved streets and asphalt rooftops absorb heat quickly during warm days then release it back into the atmosphere creating a liability during the summer when temperatures soar.

When you have a dependable group of plants that you know will perform well you tend to stick with them year after year. The winning combination for this garden appears to be petunia, begonia and dusty miller. This year petunia Merlin Blue Morn is a blue ribbon winner! It has received both the All-American Selection Award and Europe's Fleuroselect Quality Mark. A multiflora petunia, it bears medium to large flowers and is very heat tolerant. The same is true for Cocktail begonia used here annually since this site joined the Quilt Gardens along the Heritage Trail in 2011. Wax begonias have fleshy stems and thick leaves that have evolved to store water for dry periods. They have developed a (cutin) coating on their leaves that helps guard them against contaminants and excessive moisture loss - both important factors for an inner city garden.

Care for this garden is managed by the Goshen Historical Society aided by downtown merchants, the Goshen Chamber of Commerce, Woldruff's Shoe Store volunteers and the property groundskeepers. The Historical Society maintains the Goshen Historical Museum in the 117-year-old Adams Store building on Main Street. The building was constructed as part of a block of retail shops by Charles A. Harper in 1888. In 1901, he leased the store to Mr. C. G. Adams & Sons, a business that sold jewelry, shoes and other accessories. The store remained in the family until 1997 when the property was purchased by the Historical Society to house an important collection of artifacts, photos and other items of local importance that is open to the public free of charge.

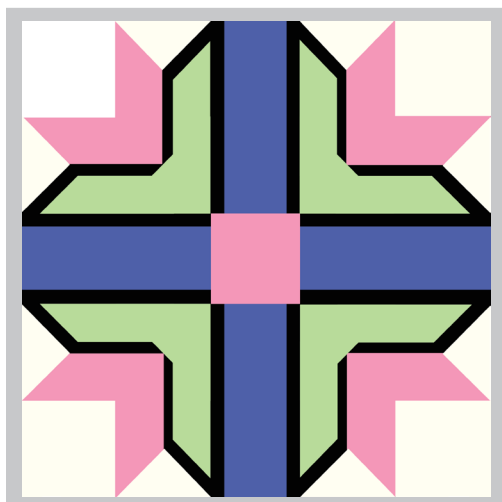
Elkhart County Courthouse
in partnership with the Goshen Chamber
of Commerce and the downtown
Economic Improvement District of Goshen
101 North Main Street | Goshen, IN

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

BICENTENNIAL BUZZ

Major building projects were happening in Goshen around 1906. Remodeling of the county courthouse (which opened in 1870) was taking place to lengthen the original structure on the north and south ends. Goshen College had recently opened its doors and that year Kulp Hall, a dormitory for women, was completed. A new library had been dedicated a few years earlier. The new Jefferson Theatre on south Main Street began welcoming patrons only to have fire completely destroy it on December 18, 1906. Ironically, the previous summer the city council agreed to establish a central fire station.





D1 “1914 Duck Paddle” - Elkhart County Historical Museum

SIZE: 30'W X 30'H

The Elkhart County Historical Museum was founded in 1968 as a partnership between the Elkhart County Historical Society and the Elkhart County Parks Department. It's the perfect stop for travelers along the Heritage Trail. I promise you their collection is worth more than the price of admission. Oh, did I mention it's FREE? Their exhibits and public programs provide a broad understanding of the long history of Elkhart County. A wonderful collection of antique quilts from their extensive collection will be on display to coordinate with the 2016 Quilt Garden season. Tucked inside is a treasure trove of local artifacts - over 20,000 - that continues to grow!

Thanks to the efforts of countless individuals, the museum has become one of the foremost institutions in Northern Indiana dedicated to preserving and educating the public about local history. The Stitches of Devotion program offers large groups the opportunity to experience a private showing of several exceptional quilts from the museum's collection of over 60 bedcovers. This year, the museum will offer a special public presentation of this popular program that will show some of the many quilts, coverlets, and comforters rarely seen by the public. Each holds a story and bears witness to the time period in which it was made. The curators will also share expert tips on the care of 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 with the Michiana Master Gardeners Association to plant and manage the day-to-day maintenance of this Quilt Garden. I have been told that these gardeners donated 200+ hours to this particular garden.

Those master gardeners have packed always dependable Hawaii ageratum into a non-stop blue wonder adding such a beautiful focal point to this design. Hawaii is considered one of the best overall for uniformity, earliness and general performance in the garden. It's tightly compact and reaches only 6-8 inches, a perfect border height. Ambassador begonia, another tough little bloomer, joins this garden party adding a nice contrast in the corners of this quilt block. The gardening nation has spoken, and begonias are back in fashion.

Even more fashionable is supertunia. Picasso in Pink shares large, rose-pink flowers with a delicate chartreuse edging and once mature have an exceptional self-cleaning habit. All Supertunias are low maintenance, fast growing and frost and weather tolerant making them a favorite in many landscapes. Another trendsetting annual this year is coleus. There are four Quilt Gardens utilizing this popular plant. This one pairs exceptionally well with the petunia they've chosen. Score another victory for the design team!

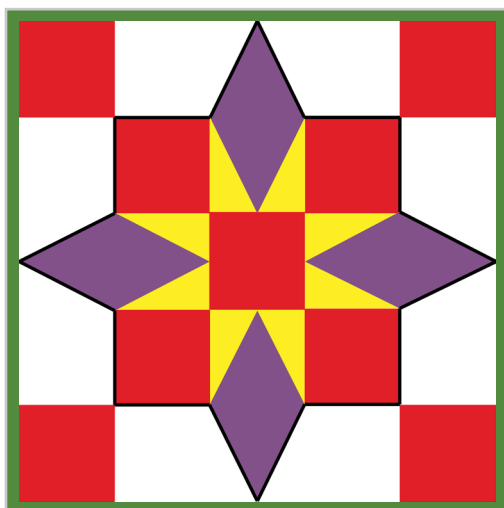
Elkhart County Historical Museum
304 West Vistula Street | Bristol, IN




w: ElkhartCountyParks.org
p: 574.848.4322

BICENTENNIAL BUZZ

The name of this pattern seems appropriate for this Quilt Garden site since the town of Bristol was established along the St. Joseph River and flocks of ducks frequent its banks. In 1914 Bristol served as an education hub for Elkhart County. The building that now houses the Elkhart County Historical Museum was opened in 1904 as the first consolidated school in Elkhart County. A high school was commissioned in 1907, and the first class graduated with a total of six students. In time the school increased its enrollment and by 1918 boasted 80 students.





-  *Bada Boom Bronze Leaf Scarlet Begonia*
-  *Bada Bing Green Leaf White Begonia*
-  *Indigo Charm Blue Supertunia*
-  *Durango Yellow Marigold*
-  *Black Mulch*
-  *Turf Grass*

G3 "1930 Nine Patch Star" - Glory Gardens

SIZE: 32'W X 32'H

Glory Gardens is an Amish owned and operated greenhouse and fruit farm offering beautiful flowering plants and homegrown tree-ripened fruits and berries. Their Quilt Garden greets visitors as soon as they turn into the drive of this little patch of heaven. Owners Glen and Nora Yoder began marketing flowers from this 13-acre farm in 2008. Peaches, apples, pears, grapes and other fruits were soon to follow. Glen shared how much they enjoyed the Quilt Gardens in the area, so they dug right in with their own unofficial garden three years ago. It turned out so well they went "official" last year. They're back at it in 2016 and have added a new feature, a fresh floral department offering cut flowers and arrangements.

Naturally, the Yoder's are growing the annuals for their Quilt Garden and early this spring they were busy planting seeds in one of their many greenhouses. Glen told us that the Quilt Gardens have brought more business his way so they are making sure to grow the heartiest and most vibrant varieties to please his new customers. Of course, with six children, they have many 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.

With the promise of all those visitors, this Nine Patch Star will shine bright with Amish hospitality in Topeka's rich soil. This soil was deposited by the last of the glaciers and is what drew the Amish here in the first place. They even named it Eden Township because it was so fruitful. It's quite a distinction having a Quilt Garden in a garden in Eden (I just couldn't resist.) New in this garden and to the tour is Bada Bing begonia and growers are touting it as the most sun-tolerant begonia available. It's described as a heavy bloomer from spring to first fall frost. Proven Winners Indigo Charm supertunia and Durango Yellow marigold make lovely companions in terms of color and form providing interesting height variation in this attractive garden.

Remember, when planning your visit to this garden, the Amish strictly observe Sunday as the Sabbath, with all their quaint shops and businesses closed for the day. You are welcome to visit this Quilt Garden on Sunday, but the Yoder's greenhouses are closed.

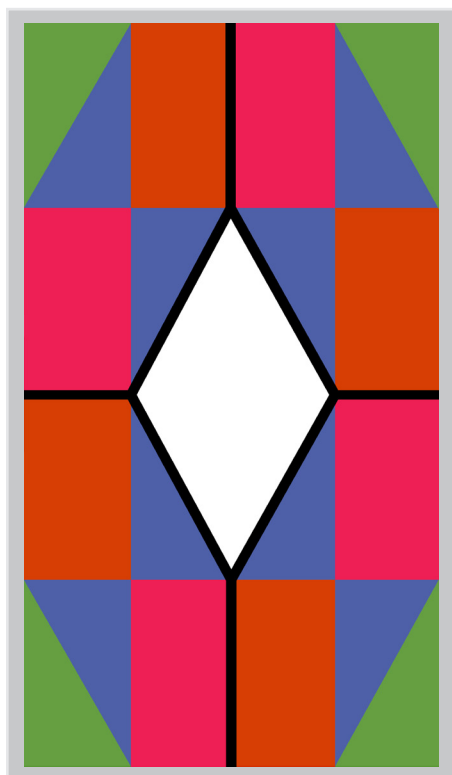
BICENTENNIAL BUZZ



Glory Gardens
2190 S 900 W | Topeka, IN

w: AmishCountry.org
p: 260.768.7800

Quilts are equated with the Amish who began settling in the Midwest in the mid-19th century. Looking at the lush land surrounding this farmstead, it's easy to see why the Amish chose this location. By the 1930s the modern world began creeping into Amish life. Although Old Order Amish communities forbid telephones in the home, the use of public phones was permitted and some Amish leaders allowed the use of community telephone shanties for emergencies. Also, new technology in equipment was allowed in fields if pulled by horses or mules. The rising popularity of automobiles was a concern as the Amish viewed it a threat to their community, and ownership of cars was banned. That ban would mark the identity of the Amish with the use of horse-drawn vehicles.



E2 "1932 Cross Roads" - Krider Garden

SIZE: 20'W X 40'H

Take a stroll through the historic Krider World's Fair Garden and I promise you won't be disappointed. Once known as Krider Nurseries, it was then Middlebury's largest industry and said to be the best equipped nursery from Cleveland to Chicago. These days, it's more of a secret garden unfolding as you walk its paths. The air there is always cool and sweet as if whispered by the trees. It's a magical place and an important part of Middlebury.

Did you know you can ride your bike to Krider Gardens? This is the only Quilt Garden on the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail. While you're there, check out the new kiosk that's been stationed across from the Quilt Garden. A free map is available to guide visitors through Krider with information on the historical pieces on display.

This Quilt Garden is very well looked after, being checked daily by park staff and doting community members. Since its installation, there has been a dramatic increase in visitors to the park as well as downtown Middlebury. The garden has become quite the source of public pride for residents and rightly so. It's wonderful to see public gardens play such an important role in communities once again.

Picture the Cross Roads pattern as two highways intersecting in a one-stoplight town. We're at the intersection of happiness and hospitality. All that potential is packed into this garden. Here, Premium Accent impatiens by the thousands share the road with Hawaii Blue ageratum. Impatiens are making a comeback and this New Guinea hybrid is bred to resist downy mildew which has been a problem for gardeners in recent years. And yes Virginia, that is parsley you see in the corners. Parsley is a popular herb and a useful landscape plant that is under utilized in my opinion. After all, it's the host plant for swallowtail butterfly larvae and a healthy treat for humans too!

This garden has a beautiful beech tree above it and its roots have posed a bit of a challenge. Those roots are ravenous feeders, competing with other plants for water and nutrients. Shade was another issue caused by trees surrounding this garden. In an effort to improve light conditions, several of them have been limbed up and a few that were considered invasive were removed from the park entirely. It was also necessary to rake soil from the bottom of the garden back to the top due in large part to the slope of this garden. It was necessary to add compost to increase the humus needed to absorb moisture and keep it readily available for the plants. Even that didn't correct the problem, so last fall they installed drip irrigation to the upper sections to increase moisture availability even more. Gardening is not without its challenges, but here at Krider's Quilt Garden the payoff is in the pics!

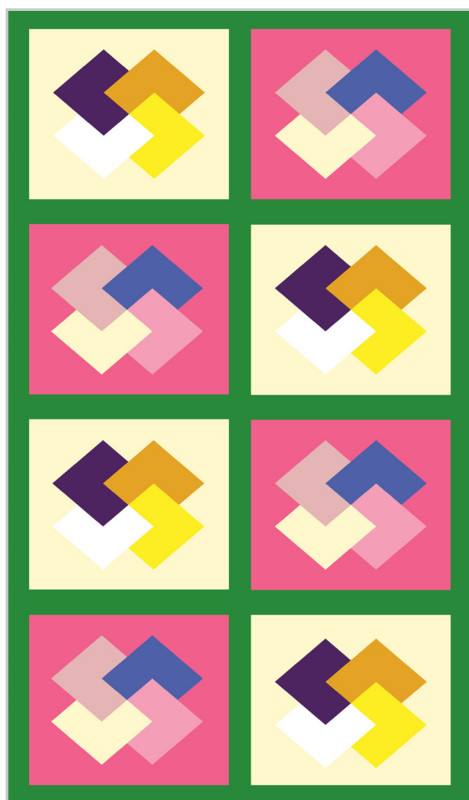
Krider Garden
302 West Bristol Avenue (County Road 8)
Middlebury, IN

w: MiddleburyIN.com
p: 574.825.1499

BICENTENNIAL BUZZ



Middlebury borders two major east/west cross-roads that have impacted its growth, US 20 to the south and Interstate 80/90 to the north. Although the interstate system wasn't in existence back in 1931, Middlebury was bustling. Vernon Krider was readying his Diversified Garden exhibit for the Century of Progress International Exposition in Chicago the following year. At that time, Krider Nursery was the largest employer in Middlebury and shipping their patented thornless rose and other garden offerings all over the nation. After the exposition, the garden returned to Middlebury and its creative features are now showcased in Krider Gardens.



-  *Celebrity Deep Rose Petunia*
-  *Hawaii Blue Ageratum*
-  *Celebrity Salmon Petunia*
-  *Obsession Pink Verbena*
-  *MAR_AF Vanilla Marigold*
-  *Antiqua Gold Marigold*
-  *Victoria Blue Salvia*
-  *Celebrity White Petunia*
-  *Janie Pale Yellow Marigold*
-  *Turf Grass*

C2 "1975 Card Trick" - Linton's Enchanted Gardens

SIZE: 66'W X 32'H

Linton's Enchanted Gardens began in 1982 as a small landscape design company. Today, the firm has evolved into a local attraction and features an award-winning garden center with nine acres of beautiful display gardens. Inside, guests will find seasonal decor to beautify the interior of their home. Linton's was voted as the area's "Best Home & Garden Center" by locals and is a highly rated local attraction according to Trip Advisor.

The Enchanted Gardens Café opened in 2015 with a diverse menu perfect for that midday luncheon with a friend. It seems that Linton's is a bit of an amusement park too with the addition of a trackless train, games and activities. "Gem" stone mining, swan paddle boats, water orbs and peddle cars are offered throughout the property. While you're there, be sure to say hello to Bloomer, the blue and gold Macaw. He's the official greeter and is as colorful as his name implies. Look for him in the conservatory surrounded by tropical flowers.

Linton's selected Card Trick because it's representative of the resources and product lines they carry. There are four cards in this Card Trick and there are four areas of marketing in their ever-increasing array of goods and services at this must see stop in Elkhart: a design and build garden center, a floral and gift shop, a home decor and interior design department and the recently added Garden Cafe.

Once again Linton's has packed more plants into their garden than any other Quilt Garden on the tour! There are 6,600+ plants in this living floral arrangement. All I can say is it's a very good thing they have a hearty landscape team at the ready. Their garden is located on the north end of the gift shop and has the advantage of an observation bridge to give guests a better vantage point. New entries on the tour must plant on a large slope to ensure viewability for visitors, but Linton's and several of the others were established before this was an official rule in the Quilt Garden standards.

Card Trick is also an interpretation of the Vera Bradley Breast Cancer Foundation's pattern for 2016 - Katalina Pink Diamonds. This Quilt Garden is evocative of both the bold geometric pattern and the color scheme of the Vera Bradley fabric. From the bridge we are better able to appreciate the many annuals and the outstanding color each of them provides. Salvia, ageratum, verbena and marigold all play a hand in this game and it's not by chance. Each adds a special little something when paired with the delicately ruffled petunias found in abundance here. AAS winner Celebrity petunia provide outstanding flower size, disease tolerance and the garden performance needed for a high demand display such as this. One of the most desirable characteristics of this plant is its resistance to adverse weather, from rain and humidity to warm summer nights - all parts of an average Indiana growing season.

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

w: Lintons.com
p: 888.779.9333

BICENTENNIAL BUZZ



Miles Laboratories was a major employer in Elkhart in 1975 with nearly 2,500 local workers making popular products including Alka-Seltzer, One-A-Day Vitamins, Flintstones Vitamins and Bactine. But, while the pharmaceutical industry was flourishing, Elkhart County's RV industry was facing challenges created by the international oil crisis, gas shortage and credit crunch of the mid-to-late '70s. It brought the industry together and the Recreational Vehicle Industry of America was born. While uniting this group wasn't a "Card Trick" it was a move that required skill and maybe a bit of magic to keep it running.



F2

"1981 Indian Sunburst"**- Tulip Tree at Martin ACE Hardware**

SIZE: 30'W X 30'H

Proprietors Larry and Gloria Martin purchased a property on a busy corner south of Middlebury and began plans to relocate their thriving business to the site. Since 1989 they've provided their own brand of hospitality-driven service in every aspect of the business. The Martin's actively participate in daily operations and are often the folks offering the "service with a smile" they are known for. The Tulip Tree Gift and Floral Shoppe is a surprise tucked inside a general store. Yes, they carry hardware and other building essentials, but to label this stop exclusively a hardware store is a misnomer. I would say it's more of a boutique with a side of hardware to keep the men busy so we ladies have the time we need to shop for treasures and sparkles.

I recently spoke with the Martin's and asked them if they had any favorite stories to share about visitors to their garden. They mentioned that visitors they've met are very intense people with a passion for gardening and photography. They also have many questions about the area and the Amish that live here. Many are curious about the building. The design was actually something Larry sketched on a napkin during a cross country flight. The barn-themed structure fits nicely in its surroundings here in Amish Country.

A bright spot in Amish Country is the Indian Sunburst which promises to be a stunning entry in the Quilt Gardens along the Heritage Trail. I could, of course, be just a bit biased as this garden is cared for by my good friend and fellow Master Gardener Gwen Ferland. She's a bundle of energy which will play to her favor as this garden contains almost 4,000 Janie Yellow and Deep Orange marigolds - all of which will require deadheading. Gwen will be pinching and plucking her little heart out to keep up with those and nearly 1,000 Dreams Red petunias in this outstanding display.

A beautiful slice of history is on display just inside the store. As a tribute to their lumber business, the Martin's purchased a 6-foot cross section of a 513-year-old Bubinga tree (A.K.A. African Rosewood) 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 a historical event and the center of the tree is marked with Columbus' voyage to the New World." The last event marked is 9/11. Bubinga trees can reach mature heights of 170 feet and up to 8 feet in diameter and live in wet regions of Africa.

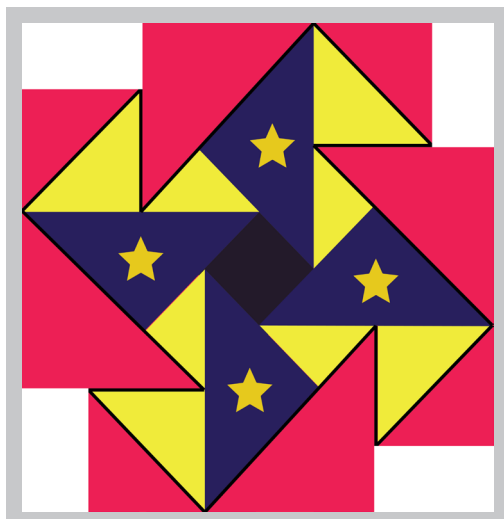
-  *Dreams Red Petunia*
-  *Janie Deep Orange Marigold*
-  *Janie Bright Yellow Marigold*
-  *Treated Lumber*
-  *Turf Grass*

BICENTENNIAL BUZZ

Tulip Tree at Martin ACE Hardware
103 Crystal Heights Blvd | Middlebury, IN

p: 574.825.7011

Rail operations were abandoned in Middlebury in 1975, much to the dismay of town folks. So a group of investors and railroad buffs purchased the Pumpkinvine line and opened it for excursions between Middlebury and Shipshewana in 1980. Visitors thronged to ride in antique railroad cars pulled by a refurbished steam locomotive - the soon-to-be-governor even rode the train. Unfortunately, the railroad's day in the sun was short-lived and the sun set on the Pumpkinvine Railroad on October 15, 1981. Middlebury leadership knew the town had much more to offer visitors besides train rides and established the Crystal Valley Tourist Association that same year.



-  *Ambassador Green Leaf White Begonia*
-  *Magellan Yellow Zinnias*
-  *Easy Wave Blue Petunia*
-  *Easy Wave Neon Rose Petunia*
-  *Dark Opal Basil*
-  *Stone Pavers*

A6 "1932 Whirligig" - Nappanee Center

SIZE: 30'W X 30'H

Nappanee is an embraceable little town that values its history and heritage. This pristine community in the Southwest corner of Elkhart County is surrounded by rich farmland and a vibrant Old Order Amish community. Sometimes, it really is all in the name, or at least the spelling of it. Nappanee boasts the distinction of having each letter in its name twice.

The quarter block area where the Quilt Garden resides sits in the backyard of the Nappanee Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber shares space with the Nappanee Center/Heritage Museum and the John Hartman Home, a structure that dates back to 1897. Hartman was one of three brothers who settled in Nappanee shortly after it was founded. The brothers gradually branched out, building a charcoal plant, a sawmill and a grain elevator. In 1881, they built a large, three-front department store that spanned a full block. It was the biggest in Elkhart County during that time and soon became popular throughout the area.

While the Whirligig pattern was not their first choice, the Quilt Garden committee embraced the challenge and once again employed their "think outside the box" skills to turn out a unique and creative interpretation of this pattern. Taking elements from the Indiana State Flag, gold stars were added and illuminated from underneath. They've even added a torch to the center of the design.

This enormous pinwheel is filled to capacity with Easy Wave petunias in neon rose and blue. This "filler and spiller" is a popular container plant that does double duty when ground planted. Ambassador begonia, Magellan zinnia and Dark Opal basil are favorites of this team and round out the floral pallet for this impressive Quilt Garden. There is never any shortage of sunshine available to this garden thanks to its southern exposure. Last year, most of the garden sites reported issues with record breaking rainfall so this year they are hoping for a bit less of a good thing.

With the help of their "Friends of the Quilt Garden" group and a diverse team of supporters, there is no shortage of talent behind this exemplary garden. Partnering in its success are the Nappanee Chamber of Commerce, the City of Nappanee, Kiwanis, Psi Iota Xi and the Nappanee Garden Club. These organizations provide yearly donations to defray expenses and supply volunteers on planting day. The City also supports the garden with materials and labor. It's heartwarming to see how much a garden can do to further the future of a small town.

Nappanee has invested serious energy into the development of its Quilt Garden and the Heritage Center as a multifaceted attraction. A wall quilt has been created to replicate each of the Center's nine Quilt Gardens to date and will be on display during the 2016 season. Quilt designer and author Connie Kauffman has overseen the fabric selection and stitching of each of these pieces.

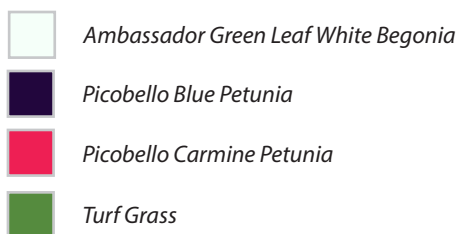
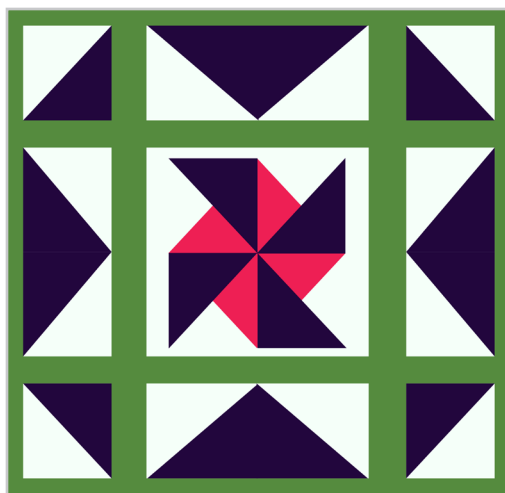
Nappanee Center
302 West Market Street | Nappanee, IN

w: NappaneeChamber.com
p: 574.773.7812

BICENTENNIAL BUZZ

In 1932 US 6, which passes downtown Nappanee at Market Street (and once part of the Grand Army of the Republic Highway), was officially designated a US Highway. Meanwhile, Ralph Metzler and his brother-in-law Ora Smucker were supplying shoes for a majority of Nappanee's families having opened their shoe store in downtown nearly a decade earlier. And the Dutch Kitchenette was still being produced by Coppes Brothers and had become a staple in kitchens throughout the nation.





C4 "1930 Old Windmill" - Old Bag Factory

SIZE: 29'w x 32'h

The Old Bag Factory is a great place to spend a leisurely afternoon. This renovated 1890s bag factory turned artistic shopping experience features gallery spaces, specialty shops, artisan studios and even a European chocolatier. It celebrates the creativity of some of Indiana's most talented artisans with hand-stitched quilts in contemporary designs, Amish-crafted furniture and one-of-a-kind 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 spur. Now that track leads you to the most intriguing artisans and delectable treats in Goshen.

Of the many creatives who call the Old Bag Factory home are fiber-artists and quilt designers Shirley Shenk and her daughter-in-law Kris. Their shop showcases up to 100 quilts, wall hangings and quilt-themed gifts. There is a very special couple sitting at the quilt frame just inside the front door of the shop. Grandma and grandpa have been working that quilt for as long as I can remember and yet it never seems to get finished. Of course it's slow work for the two life-sized fiber art dolls that keep watch over Shirley's priceless quilts.

For the first time, their quilt pattern is not one of Shirley's original designs. As part of Indiana's Bicentennial celebration, a list of patterns was supplied to all Quilt Garden sites to choose from. A change in the leadership for this garden has also come to pass with the eventual retirement of the Shenks and Quilt Designs later this year.

White Ambassador begonia has replaced dusty miller in the first rendering of this garden design. I like the change in this instance because the begonia will transition more smoothly in terms of height once placed next to large masses of petunias. I do so enjoy how its cupped leaves sparkle as droplets from the morning dew are suspended above the surface of the leaves. The shape of the leaf directs water to the root system ensuring its survival during an arid summer.

The Old Windmill garden shares the hillside with the historic log cabin that houses Quilt Designs. The 1837 two-story structure originally stood southwest of Goshen and was the homestead for a pioneering family of thirteen. The cabin was dismantled and each log lovingly labeled. Sadly, the original fireplace was in dire condition and could not be saved. The cabin was reconstructed on the grounds of Goshen's Old Bag Factory. As luck would have it, a fieldstone hearth was discovered nearby that was available for salvage. Thankfully this masonry masterpiece measured within 1/2" of the cabin's original fireplace fitting in the open space perfectly.

Old Bag Factory
1100 North Chicago Avenue
Goshen, IN

w: OldBagFactory.com
p: 574.534.2502

BICENTENNIAL BUZZ



Originally the Cosmo Buttermilk Soap Company, the building that currently houses the Old Bag Factory was purchased by The Chicago-Detroit Bag Company in 1910. A 1924 merger put the building under the control of the Chase Bag Factory, and that factory became part of a colossal enterprise. By 1930, the Goshen plant was one of the company's largest and most important. Its product line ranged from waterproof burlap sacks to the sheer paper used in Hershey's Kisses wrappers. Although windmills were a power source on area farms, they never powered this factory. It got its energy from the power plant located on site. That same boiler house now serves as a working studio for a metal sculptor.



B2 “Back Home Again in Indiana - Inspired by 1920 Dogwood” - Premier Arts, Downtown Elkhart

SIZE: 30’W X 30’H

Premier Arts, the resident theater company for the historic Lerner Theater, is dipping its toes in a new art form by partnering with the Quilt Gardens along the Heritage Trail. Based in Elkhart, Premier Arts instills civic pride, confidence and character building for everyone engaged in its programs.

In 1923, Harry E. Lerner, an Elkhart businessman, announced plans to construct a modern “theatrical palace” on the corner of Franklin and Main Streets. The Lerner Theatre became a reality with the grand opening on November 24, 1924.

The City of Elkhart purchased the theatre in 1990 in an attempt to save it from deterioration caused by vacancy. A group of Elkhart County citizens negotiated with the City to operate the facility as a performing arts center. In 2006, the Lerner was restored to its theatrical palace status, after significant fund-raising and repairs, re-opening to great fanfare in 2011. Premier Arts is the resident theatre company houses inside The Lerner.

Ever the creative force, Premier Arts took a 1920s-era quilt pattern, the Dogwood, and adapted it to their purpose by using colors and stars from Indiana’s state flag and adding a “burning” sculpted torch. This torch will be gifted as a permanent installation to commemorate Indiana’s bicentennial in October. The space went from an empty lot to a glamorous garden turning this downtown greenspace into a nice gathering spot. Here, everything is coming up roses, well perhaps begonias and petunias might be more precise. Cocktail Vodka begonia is an essential “spirit” in this garden year after year. Perhaps the garden “party” humor is not lost on a garden that’s put down roots in an ever-growing arts and entertainment district. Making its debut on the Quilt Garden stage is Blue Ray petunia. Blue is a challenging color to develop in the world of flowers, and Danzinger Breeders of New Jersey has produced a winner. Bringing the bling, Safari marigolds form the stars and take their proud place above a field of more than 600 blue petunias. Simply gorgeous!

For those who are unfamiliar with the Indiana state flag, the Indiana Historical Society offers the following information: “The Indiana General Assembly adopted the Indiana state flag in 1917. The flag has a blue background with yellow symbols. The torch in the middle of the flag represents liberty and enlightenment. The rays of the torch illustrate their far-reaching influence. There are a total of 19 stars on the state flag, with the outer circle representing the 13 original colonies. The stars in the semi-circle stand for the states admitted to the Union prior to Indiana. The star directly above the torch symbolizes Indiana, the 19th state.”

Premier Arts
410 South Main Street | Elkhart, IN

w: PremierArts.org
p: 574.293.4469

BICENTENNIAL BUZZ



Elkhart was a happening place in the “Roaring 20s.” Downtown streets clamored with the sounds of Model T’s, trolleys rumbling down Main Street and New York Central Railroad locomotives steaming into town. In 1923, Harry E. Lerner, an Elkhart businessman, announced plans to construct a modern “theatrical palace” on the corner of Franklin and Main Streets. On November 24, 1924, the marquee lit up as the Lerner Theatre celebrated its grand opening. It had 2,000 seats and was host to a variety of vaudeville, big band and theatrical reviews as well as the exciting new film “talkies.” Nearby, the city’s stately homes along the St. Joseph River were complemented by blooming dogwood trees each spring.



B2 "1895 Crossed Canoes" - Ruthmere Museum

SIZE: 30'W X 30'H

Ruthmere, once the opulent private residence of Albert and Elizabeth Beardsley, is an absolute must-see when visiting Elkhart's Gateway Mile. It's filled with lavish, one-of-a-kind furnishings, stunning works of art by Rodin, Tiffany lamps and some of the finest examples of Beaux Arts-style residential architecture in the nation. Ruthmere traditionally selects an image or architectural element found in or around this stately home to reinterpret in their Quilt Garden. This year, a different historical theme inspired them - Indiana's Bicentennial Celebration.

It was Havilah Beardsley (Albert's uncle) who first recognized the beauty and power of the area. His original home - just one block west of Ruthmere - still stands and is open for tours. Beardsley recognized the importance of river passage and the shipping opportunities they presented. He built several mills along the banks of local waterways. The first was situated on Christiana Creek very near the present day Wellfield Botanic Gardens. Others, along the banks of the Elkhart and St. Joseph Rivers, followed. Picture large riverboats pressing along busy waterways loaded with goods headed for Chicago and Buffalo, NY.

Several Quilt Garden sites requested the Crossed Canoes pattern and the competition became rather intense. This year, for the first time, a list of historic quilt patterns was presented to the Quilt Garden partners to select from. Fortunately for Ruthmere, they called dibs early and the pattern was awarded to them on a first-come, first-served basis. They felt the pattern was especially appropriate because of the proximity of the rivers and the many Indian canoes that floated by before the Westward Migration brought white settlers to the lush St. Joseph River Valley. Crossed Canoes resonates with their history and Ruthmere has plans to incorporate it into special programs throughout the season.

There are so many ways to tell a story and in this case the telling is in a pattern of two colorful canoes - one yellow and the other brilliant red. Each intensely planted with annuals that could have been found in the many gardens the Beardsley's had planted around the mansion. Of course, these specific varieties are hybrids that would not have been available in their day, but marigolds and begonias were early favorites of the gardening public. In this case Antigua Yellow marigold and Cocktail Vodka begonia have been selected for their prolific blooms and stalwart constitution. The "canoes" float in the calm waters of Danube Blue ageratum and "shoot the rapids" of white capped Super Elfin impatiens, chosen for their dependable performance in low light conditions. Blue salvia was added to the center to honor Elizabeth's love for the flower and to add lift to the design.

	<i>Super Elfin White Impatiens</i>
	<i>Cocktail Vodka Bronze Leaf Red Begonia</i>
	<i>Danube Blue Ageratum</i>
	<i>Antigua Yellow Marigold</i>
	<i>Evolution Blue Salvia</i>
	<i>Brown Mulch</i>
	<i>Turf Grass</i>

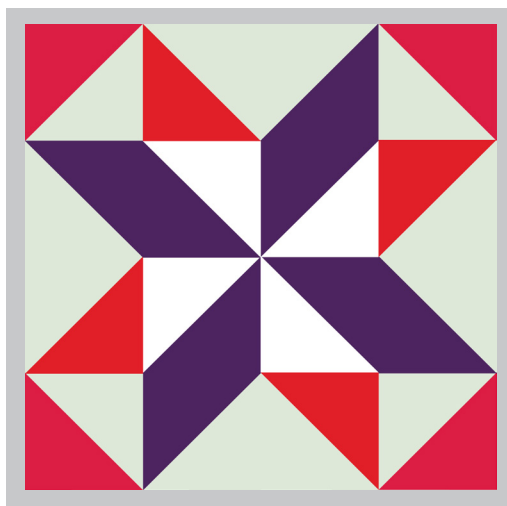
BICENTENNIAL BUZZ



Ruthmere Museum
302 East Beardsley Avenue | Elkhart, IN

w: Ruthmere.org
p: 574.264.0330

The Crossed Canoes pattern is fitting for a site overlooking the confluence of the St. Joseph and Elkhart Rivers. The rivers were a major transportation route for the Potawatomi tribe and many canoes traveled these waters. Dr. Havilah Beardsley purchased the land around this conflux from Potawatomi Chief Pierre Moran and started building the settlement of Elkhart in 1832. Around the time this pattern was published in 1895, Elkhart was thriving. Colonel Conn's manufacturing company was making saxophones, trumpets and other band instruments. Dr. Miles Medical Company was producing Miles Nervine, and A. R. Beardsley (nephew of Havilah) had become one of Elkhart's most prominent businessmen. (He'll join Miles Medical Company a few years later.)



Hotline Red Salvia



Madness White Petunia



Madness Blue Petunia



Madness Red Petunia



New Look Dusty Miller



Stone Pavers

A5 "1895 Star Puzzle" - Downtown Wakarusa

SIZE: 30'W X 30'H

Wakarusa is the quintessential small town rich with tradition where historic treasures are found around every corner. It's tiny, but don't let that fool you. Stroll just one block from the town's core and you'll discover a 1,000 drawer hardware store that has been in business since 1904. There's even an old fashioned candy emporium - the Wakarusa Dime Store - that sells sweet treats from your childhood and maybe even a few you might have missed.

The Star Puzzle design fits Wakarusa's tradition of using bold, geometric patterns for its Quilt Garden. It has a certain eye-catching appeal and simplicity that translates well in the medium of flowers. The pattern is filled with many standards in the world of annuals. All are heavy bloomers with good heat tolerance and a spring-to-first-frost longevity. Petunia, dusty miller and salvia grow well here, and so they are used again and again. Gardener Susie Kulp's favorite, Red Hotline salvia rears its feathery blooms in Wakarusa's Quilt Garden every summer.

Each year, the National Garden Bureau selects plants that are easy to grow and genetically diverse with many new varieties to choose from. Two years ago, they chose the petunia with its traditional tried and true varieties, from bicolor and tricolors, to the wildly inconsistent, breeders are coming out with improved qualities and unique colors at a dizzying rate. Though generally treated as annuals, technically they are tender perennials in the potato family. Today's hybrids are the descendants of two lanky, tiny-flowered South American species. First discovered in the late 1700's, these wild varieties quickly captured the imaginations of European breeders who began crossing them in search of the perfect petunia - a plant with large beautiful flowers in a variety of colors.

Madness petunia, a Ball Seed Company exclusive, touts fragrant 3" blossoms held above tightly mounded foliage. This variety brags the highest Ball (Seed Company) Vigor Index rating in its class. It recovers quickly from rain or overhead watering which can be a bane to the petunia's delicate blooms. Older varieties tend to tatter or droop in the soil becoming muddy in appearance. Not so with Madness, which will bounce back in as little as an hour.

This garden is working it for the perfect photo opp. The large Quilt Gardens billboard and the Maple Leaf mural are perfectly placed to offer clever photographers the chance to shoot all three at once. If you are really good you can even fit in an entire bus load of tourists at the same time! After securing the obligatory snapshot you absolutely must go around the corner to the Wakarusa Dime Store, home of the Giant Jumbo Jelly Bean. It's been a legend in these parts since the late 1960s when it was introduced at the local Maple Syrup Festival. One hundred pounds were sold that year. Today, over 75 tons are sold annually.

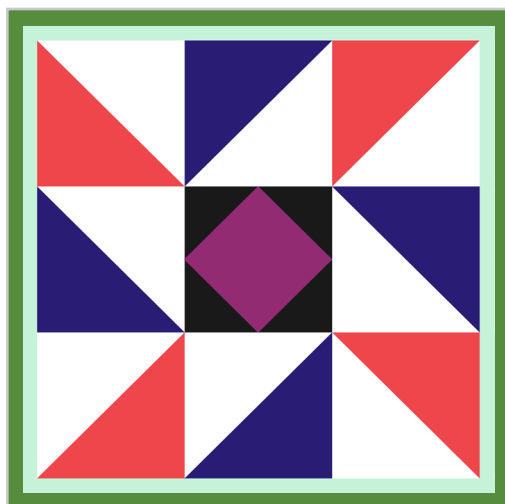
Wakarusa Chamber of Commerce
100 West Waterford Street
Wakarusa, IN








w: WakarusaChamber.com
p: 574.862.4344

BICENTENNIAL BUZZ



In preparation for rail passenger service, Wakarusa built a depot facility in 1892 readying the town for the arrival of the Wabash Railroad the following year. The depot remains a tangible emblem of Wakarusa's storied past and it can be visited at the Wakarusa Historical Museum. It survived a massive blaze that destroyed the entire southeast side of South Elkhart Street in 1899. What little was saved was due to a bucket brigade. In the aftermath, a volunteer fire department was instituted. The lost businesses were rebuilt and Wakarusa residents looked forward to a prosperous new century.



-  *Easy Wave Red Velour Petunia*
-  *Easy Wave White Petunia*
-  *Easy Wave Blue Petunia*
-  *Easy Wave Flag Mix*
-  *Snow Crystals White Alyssum & Stream White Lobuloria*
-  *Black Mulch*
-  *Turf Grass*

G3 "1930 Indiana Puzzle" - 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. For over 25 years, they have welcomed visitors from all over the United States to their large furniture showroom - a converted barn. The Weavers, along with their eight children, started their furniture business after many years working their dairy farm. It gives them great satisfaction to know that in today's global economy, they are able to market high quality Amish-built furniture and at the same time help the local Amish community.

The Weavers say their Quilt Garden brings opportunities to meet people from many areas of the United States and beyond and extends their "welcome to our homestead" message. Their Quilt Garden is managed by Carolyn Miller, a local Amish gardener with a very green thumb! Ida pitches in, so this gardening team has over 100 years of cultivating experience between them. It's no wonder they turn out winning designs year after year.

Favoring petunias in past gardens, this year Easy Wave petunia is again solidly represented. The only other flowers in this garden are two varieties of Sweet alyssum. Snow Crystals and White Stream have that signature sweet honey fragrance the plant was named for. The aroma is most notable in the calm evening hours just after dusk. 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. When grown in full sunlight, they are so covered by flowers that you hardly see the foliage.

Farmers know the value of crop rotation and petunias are no exception. Breeders suggest never planting Wave petunias in the same spot year after year. Instead, plant them in another area and always use new potting soil in containers says Heidi Medina of SFgate.com. An interesting experiment was published in *Grower Talks* magazine by Uttara Samarakoon, an assistant professor at Ohio State University. Last year they conducted a series of experiments comparing the use of calcium to fungicide to treat boytritis (a common fungus). The calcium application appeared to stimulate increased cell wall strength and better resistance to shipping stress which was linked to increased infection rates. The study concluded better disease resistance in the plants treated with the calcium (chloride) vs. traditional application of chemical fungicides and it also addressed the challenges posed by fungicide resistance.

Soil does not need to be terribly rich to grow good petunias, but it must drain properly. Petunias can be prone to mildew if planted in heavy soils. 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 soak the soil to a depth of six to eight inches each time you water to encourage deeper root growth.

Weaver Furniture Sales
7870 W 075 N | Shipshewana, IN

w: WeaverFurnitureSales.com
p: 260.768.7730

BICENTENNIAL BUZZ



Shipshewana was a lively town even back in the early 1900s and by 1930 its population had swelled to 262 people. The town had two railroads, and for a period of time the LS and MS lines ran four passenger trains and two freight trains each day to town. (That changed with the popularity of the automobile.) The farmland surrounding Shipshewana is populated by a large number of Amish who came to the area in pursuit of affordable, fertile land. The county roads connecting these farms mostly follow a grid identified by the distance (in miles) from the baseline. Yet some county roads run diagonally and twist and turn around small Amish farmsteads. This may be perplexing to travelers making some of these roads a bit of an "Indiana Puzzle."