

**2018
Master Gardener
Guidebook**


**Quilt
Gardens**
...along the Heritage Trail



Quilt Gardens along the Heritage Trail

2018 Master Gardener's Guidebook

ABOUT THE PROJECT	PAGE 2
ABOUT THE PROJECT MANAGER	PAGE 2
ABOUT THE AUTHOR	PAGE 3
ABOUT THE GROWER	PAGE 4

THE 2018 GARDENS

CENTRAL PARK / "AROUND THE WORLD"	PAGE 5
CONCORD MALL / "PURPLE PASSION"	PAGE 6
COPPES COMMONS / "COPPES DOVETAIL"	PAGE 7
DAS DUTCHMAN ESSENHAUS / "MILL & STARS"	PAGE 8
DUTCH COUNTRY MARKET / "DUTCH TULIPS"	PAGE 9
ELKHART COUNTY 4-H FAIRGROUNDS / "GRAND CHAMPION RIBBON"	PAGE 10
ELKHART COUNTY COURTHOUSE / "BATS IN THE BELFRY"	PAGE 11
ELKHART COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM / "DOUBLE T"	PAGE 12
KRIDER WORLD'S FAIR GARDEN / "CENTER 4 PATCH LOG CABIN"	PAGE 13
LINTON'S ENCHANTED GARDENS / "SUZANNE'S GARDEN"	PAGE 14
MARTIN ACE HARDWARE / "HOLE IN THE BARN DOOR"	PAGE 15
NAPPANEE CENTER / "CONNIE'S BLOOMIN' STITCHES"	PAGE 16
OLD BAG FACTORY / "DIAMOND IN THE SQUARE"	PAGE 17
PREMIER ARTS - DOWNTOWN ELKHART / "LADY OF THE LAKE"	PAGE 18
RUTHMERE MUSEUM / "BOW TIE"	PAGE 19
THE BARN DOOR / "BRICKWORK"	PAGE 20
WAKARUSA / "INDIANA PUZZLE"	PAGE 21
WELLFIELD BOTANIC GARDENS / "STAR FLOWER POWER"	PAGE 22

Be sure to download the 2018 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.

Visit QuiltGardens.com to download today!



About the Quilt Gardens along the Heritage Trail

Quilt Gardens along the Heritage Trail is an innovative, creative, one-of-a-kind experience designed to interest a widerange 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. 2018 is the 11th anniversary for the season-long attraction that continues to grow and now features 18 Quilt Gardens and 21 artist-rendered Quilt Murals presented in six 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 10 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, quilters, 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 for seven years.



Share your pics and experiences with us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram using #QuiltGardens



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, IN 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 six 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 11 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: QuiltGardens.com
p: 800.262.8161
e: sonya@eccvb.org

About the Author

Loanne Harms Gold 1000 Level Master Gardener

My introduction to gardening was captured on video when I was about 3 years old. My brother, one year younger, and I were carefully pulling every one of my mother's iris flowers off their stalks. In my family, every time we watched this movie, my father would yell out, "Put those flowers back!", and he would run the film backwards while we watched the two of us dutifully place each bloom back onto its stem. Thus, it seems, I have been putting flowers back into the ground ever since.

With a small plot beside our home, my husband and I began exploring color, texture and design with flowers. We enjoyed the view and the admiration of our neighbors, as well as the visits by birds and butterflies. When we moved from our small, sandy spot to our almost acre plot of clay, we took our plants and experience with us. It was a steep learning curve as we worked at making the heavy clay receptive to our wishes for flowering plants. Truckloads of local manure and compost were a yearly necessity.

When my husband began a grounds keeping job at a local high school, he took the Master Gardener training class. I was intrigued, but still employed at the time. The summer after I retired, our garden was on the 2010 Master Gardener Garden Tour. I had worked hard that spring preparing our yard, and found the chance to share my work and love of flowers and gardening with close to 500 people invigorating. Soon after, I signed up for the Master Gardener class. With my husband, we have been an active part of the organization, helping plant the Quilt Gardens, teaching about flower growing in the community, and spreading the love of gardening whenever we can.



About the Grower

Corstange Greenhouse, Official Grower Dave, Ilene and Todd Corstange, Owners

In 1971, on property purchased from his grandfather, Dave Corstange built several small greenhouses in Portage, MI. Now in its 44th season, Corstange Greenhouses are operated by the family team of Dave, his wife, Ilene, and their son, Todd. The attributes which set this family of “growers” apart are their commitment to quality, service and customer satisfaction.

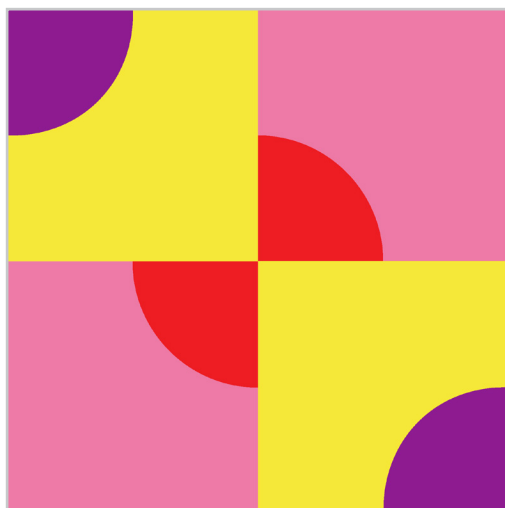
The Corstange Greenhouse provides the best quality product possible by allowing their plants to easily grow to their natural size and beauty. This goal is achieved by appropriate selection of containers and soil, careful timing of fertilizer and pesticide application and minimal use of plant growth regulators. This process produces a high quality plant with some residual nutrients and pest resistance, yet no residual growth retardant.


The Quilt Gardens along the Heritage Trail is an exciting project for this family-owned greenhouse and they look forward to seeing their superior plants add to the beauty of the project.

Corstange Greenhouses
1749 E. Centre Ave. | Portage, MI

P: 269.323.1094

W: CorstangeGreenHouses.com



-  *Million Gold Melampodium*
-  *Salvia Sizzler Red*
-  *Spring Plus Series Rose Begonia*
-  *Salvia Sizzler Purple*

B2 "Around the World" - Central Park

SIZE: 40'W X 40'H

Elkhart's Central Park is at the center of the Gateway Mile and a great spot for a Quilt Garden. With the RiverWalk at their back, local walkers enjoy stopping throughout the summer to watch the flowers and pattern develop. The Civic Plaza is just above and a handy place to meet up before heading out into the growing Arts & Entertainment district with its many eateries and pubs. The restored majestic Lerner Theatre is just up the block and offers musical and theatrical options to visitors and locals.

Art is all around Central Park. Along Elkhart's downtown RiverWalk, there's an impressive marching band sculpture and a jazz saxophonist, a nod to the musical instruments once produced here plus the annual Jazz Festival celebrates Elkhart's rich musical instrument history. Since 1988, jazz legends and fans have gathered each summer for a memorable weekend. Now in its 31st year, the Elkhart Jazz Festival, June 22-24, offers seven stages, and 100 performances of gathered jazz legends and draws an audience of 20,000 to their community celebration of America's classic art form – jazz. More info, tickets, and list of performers can be found online at ElkhartJazzFestival.com.

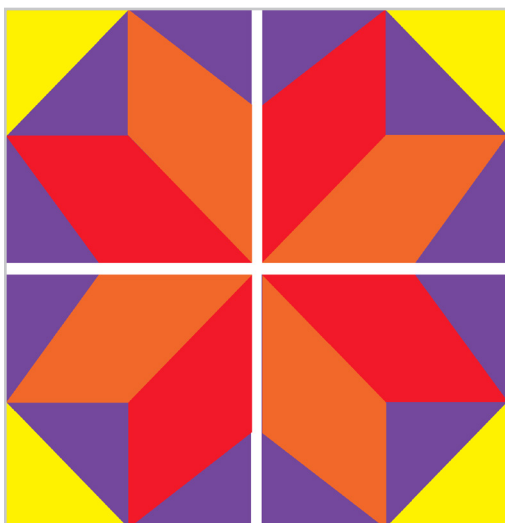
Central Park has chosen "Around the World" for its simplicity and the plants for their ease of care, all of which need little to no deadheading or pinching back. The bright spot in the garden is made up of melampodium, a plant sometimes known as African Zinnia, although not really a zinnia.

Most of the plants in the species are native to tropical and sub-tropical regions from the Caribbean to South America, and in parts of Central America to the southwestern United States. Melampodium plants are not fussy and produce prolific blooms all season long. The plants attract butterflies and add interest and color to borders, containers, and perennial gardens. The plants are related to sunflowers and naturalize well in sunny garden beds. The bright green, oblong leaves and purplish stems add to the attractive nature of this plant. These plants are extremely tolerant of a range of conditions, but they prefer full sun and well-drained soil. Melampodium plants thrive in USDA zones 5 to 10 but are killed by freezing temperatures.

The compact and care-free MillionGold has bright green foliage and produces a wealth of golden flowers that stand up to rain, high heat and even light frost. A tried and true annual for hot weather, butter daisy, another common name, will produce a colorful show of small golden daisies through the worst heat of summer into fall. These stand up to winds and heavy rain, and deer tend to leave them alone, so it's great for gardens in which deer are a problem. Plant this tough, trouble-free annual in a wide variety of plantings from sunny borders to containers and in masses for best visual effect.

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

w: ElkhartIndiana.org
p: 574.295.7275



B3 "Purple Passion" - Concord Mall

SIZE: 30'W X 30'H

The Concord Mall has been a part of the community for over 45 years and 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, headed by Rusty and Anita Ritchie, is expert at all things flowering, turning out great Quilt Gardens year after year. The mall reciprocates by hosting the lavish Dahlia Society Show every September.

The Concord Mall garden has the challenge of a plot with sun on one end and shade on the other. Keeping a uniform look when plants don't all get their sun and shade preferences met can be a challenge. This year's plant selections were made with adaptability in mind.

The dark star in this design is Ruby Silver Coleus. Most of us grew up categorizing coleus as a shade plant. That's until a few years ago when suddenly the sun coleus was introduced. Most coleus prefer partial shade to shade, however; this coleus can handle high light/full sun and grows best in moist but well-drained soil. So now we have a coleus that can handle both, and it's the perfect plant option for this garden.

The Ruby Slipper Coleus produces a velvety red foliage that gives a rich, warm feel to the design. The Coleus has nice dense foliage with a mounding, upright habit. The foliage is a great accent to all shade gardens and landscape. It's easy to understand how the Coleus plant got the common names of Painted Nettle or Flame Nettle. The beautiful serrated leaves are uniquely colored, and features rich shades of red and burgundy with a lightly trimmed margin.

The distinct contrast in this garden comes from the creamy yellow faces of the Prism Gold Petunia. This early flowering All America Selections winner is stunning. The large, beautiful yellow blooms with darker veining flower profusely on healthy, bushy plants. This yellow Petunia does not fade or turn brown, rightly winning the Fleuroselect Gold Medal. Prism Gold really comes into its own from May until October, when it illuminates a garden, balcony or patio. This medal-winning Petunia bursts into glory here, bringing a ray of sunshine to the garden.

This site was the first to utilize white stone pathways to pick up the color of the wall behind it. Stone provides the added benefits of visual dimension and erosion control for these sloped gardens. Containment may be a challenge, so one may 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.

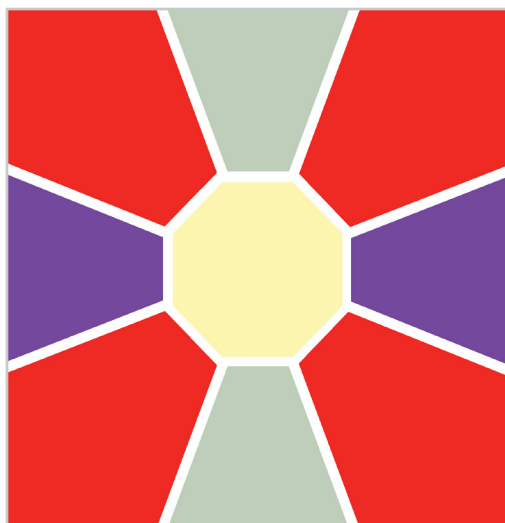







Concord Mall

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

w: ShopConcordMall.com

p: 574.875.6502



-  *Profusion Yellow Zinnias*
-  *Cirrus Dusty Miller*
-  *Cocktail Vodka Bronze Leaf Red Begonia*
-  *Hawaii Blue Ageratum*
-  *Mulch Paths*

A6 "Coppes Dovetail" - Coppes Commons

SIZE: 30'W X 30'H

Nappanee's colorful history comes alive at Coppes Commons. Here, you'll get a glimpse of the fascinating history of the Coppes Kitchens, once featured in department stores such as Gimbels and Macy's and installed in prestigious homes including those of Frank Sinatra and President John F. Kennedy. In part the growth of hometown Nappanee in its formative years was due to the success of Coppes cabinets. Their prestige in woodcraft is such that Herbert Hoover, when Secretary of Commerce, conducted a study that found that using a Coppes Hoosier cabinet saved the average American 75 percent of the time and energy spent in the kitchen.

The furniture and kitchen cabinets known as "Hoosiers" were built right here in Nappanee in what is now known as Coppes Commons. The renovated factory enjoys new life and now houses a variety of shops offering locally made handcrafted and freshly baked items. Coppes Commons presents the annual "National Hoosier Cabinet Days" October 12th & 13th, celebrating with factory tours and heritage displays recognizing the craftsmanship of the Hoosier cabinet and the workers of the Coppes factory.

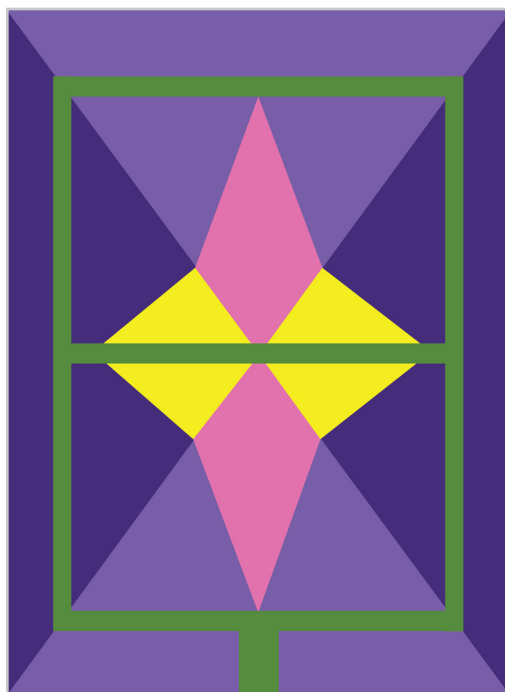
The Coppes factory's proximity to the railroad allowed it to ship cabinets across the growing country. The company built more than two million of the highly collectible Nappanee Dutch Kitchenettes, shipping a train carload each day. An observation deck on the second floor of this historic building offers the best view of the beautiful floral display and is also the best place to get an overhead photo.


"Coppes Dovetail" presents an artistic rendering of the craftsman's cabinetry. Using red begonias, yellow zinnias, blue ageratum, and the silver foliage of dusty miller, this is a garden of distinction and beauty. The plants were also chosen for their heat tolerance and ease of care. A little pinching here and there should take care of most of them.

When it comes to gardening, you don't get much easier than ageratum! When planting, include a granular slow release fertilizer to help keep the plant going through the season. It's also strongly recommended that one apply a complete balance liquid fertilizer every other week as well. Ageratum can tolerate some shade but prefers to make a full sun location its home. A disease to watch out for is root rot. This makes it important that it is planted in a place with well-draining soil. Cut back any blooms that begin to fade not only to help in keeping your plants looking tidy but also to encourage more blooms. Hawaii Blue Ageratum 5.0 is known for its uniform, compact habit and the longevity of its fuzzy, mid-blue flowers. It is heat tolerant and ideal for edging, borders and container gardening. Although easy to care for, ageratum does not tolerate frost at all.

Coppes Commons
401 E Market Street | Nappanee, IN

w: CoppesCommons.com
p: 574.773.0002



-  *Super Olympia Rose Begonia*
-  *Double Yellow Profusion Zinnia*
-  *Easy Wave Blue Petunia*
-  *Serenita Blue Sky Angelonia*
-  *Turf Grass*

F2 "Mill & Stars" - Das Dutchman Essenhaus

SIZE: 49'W X 57'H

Since 1971, Das Dutchman Essenhaus has been dedicated to providing each guest with warm hospitality, outstanding service and consistent quality. What began as a 120-seat family-style restaurant has grown to become Indiana's largest restaurant with over 1,100 seats. The campus also offers a charming Inn, shopping in boutique-style stores, a home-style bakery, live theatre at Heritage Hall and abundant outdoor recreational options.

As the site of one of the first test gardens in 2006, the Essenhaus continues to offer their best to the Quilt Gardens. The pattern they have selected is a favorite amongst the team and was originally displayed in 2013. It takes advantage of garden favorites, petunias, begonias and zinnias, as well as a newcomer, angelonia, for an explosion of color.

Serenita Blue Sky Angelonia (*Angelonia angustifolia*), commonly known as Summer Snapdragon, is an elegant yet tough plant in the landscape, garden border or container, bringing long-lasting color with very little maintenance. These heat-tolerant plants require less water, and as a bonus are deer and rabbit resistant. Serenitas need no pinching to create a nicely branched plant habit that is chock full of flower spikes.

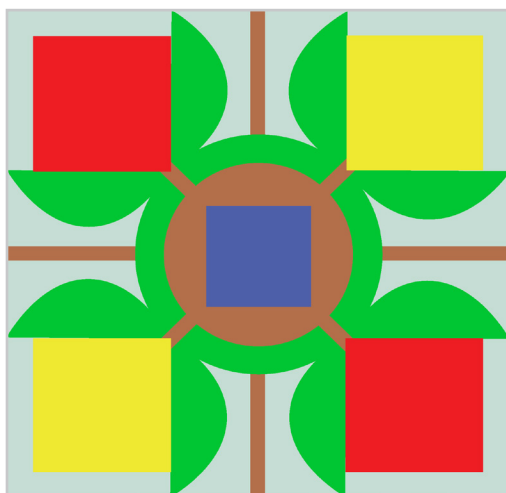
Blue is a color that is rather difficult to come by in a garden, but the Easy Wave Blue Petunia holds its own among the reds and yellows, and, although technically the same color as the angelonia, it adds more visual weight. Wave petunias (*Petunia x hybrida*) are a strain of petunias that spread and trail while staying low to the ground. These vigorous plants were brought into commerce in the United States by Ball Seed in 1995.

Easy Wave Petunias are fast-growing plants that bloom freely all season and tolerate both heat and cooler conditions very well. These flower-filled plants grow a little more mounded than original Wave, with a more controlled spread. Petunia Wave is known for its ability to bloom through the worst summer heat and humidity, but Easy Wave adds another strength to the family, an affinity for blooming even in cool summer conditions!

Wave petunias thrive in full sun; they need at least six hours of direct sun a day. Waves grow best in a light, well-draining potting mix, which is one reason they make excellent plants for a hanging basket or cascading over the side of a container. If you plant them in the ground, you need to amend the soil with plenty of compost to provide good drainage. Keep the soil consistently moist, but not wet, watering twice a day in hot, dry conditions. Fertilize with every other watering, using a 10-10-10 or 20-20-20 fertilizer mixed with water at half-strength.

Das Dutchman Essenhaus
240 US 20 | Middlebury, IN

w: Essenhaus.com
p: 800.455.9471



-  *Fields Blue Ageratum*
-  *New Look Parsley*
-  *New Look Yellow Celosia*
-  *New Look Red Celosia*
-  *Silver Lace Dusty Miller*
-  *Mulch*

F2 "Dutch Tulips" - Dutch Country Market

SIZE: 45'W X 45'H

In 2005, Norman and Katie Lehman used Katie's Homemade Noodles to launch Dutch Country Market. As the business has grown, so has the selection of noodles, four widths, two thicknesses, white and whole wheat and an average of 400 pounds a day. Weekday mornings one can watch them rolling out the noodles. They also have a large selection of other products - jellies, pickles, and preserves, salty snacks, and another local favorite, Amish peanut butter. Outside, local produce of amazingly high quality can be found in season, as well as locally made lawn furniture.

And there's honey, another of their specialties. Norman has tended bees for over 20 years and produces 36,000 pounds of honey products a year! The store carries jars of honey in many sizes and varieties, comb honey, honey sticks, bee pollen, beeswax candles and soap, and nine flavors of whipped honey. They also have a working honeybee hive in the store where you can view the bees at work.

But follow the bees outside and you'll find many of them heading straight for the huge "Dutch Tulip" Quilt Garden. In fact, the bees seem to appreciate the Quilt Garden just as much as the visitors. Norm and Katie are careful to avoid harmful pesticides at their garden and to use natural fertilizers so the bees stay healthy and productive.

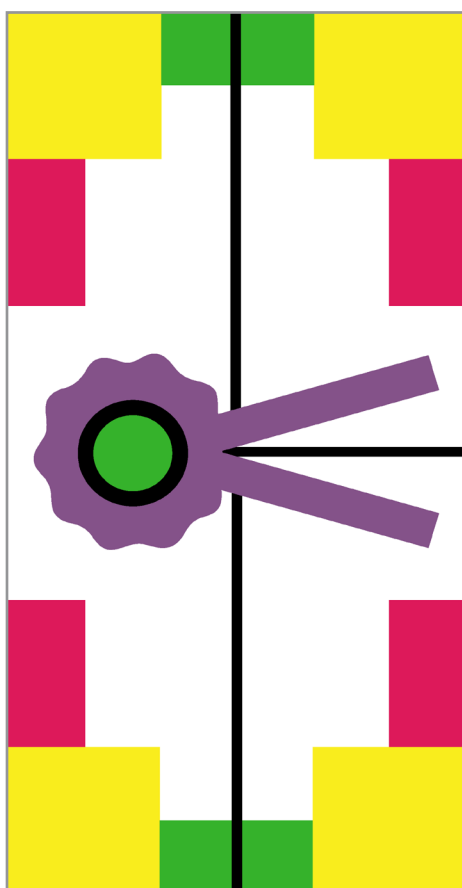
The Dutch Tulip design offers strong color and a chance to see celosia at work. This is the only garden this year that has chosen to use celosia, and here we get to see two colors of *celosia argentea* 'New Look'. Plumosa group plants (commonly called feather celosia, plumed celosia or feathered amaranth) are old garden favorites that feature narrow pyramidal, plume-like flower heads composed of tiny, densely packed, vividly colored flowers.

What a striking plume cockscomb! The rich red pyramidal plumes of New Look cockscomb make a beautiful addition to annual borders and containers. This 1988 AAS winner is a dwarf bushy annual. It grows quickly from seed and has large, purple-red leaves that contrast beautifully with its cheerful blooms. The long-lasting flowers are dense, plume-like and comprised of many small bracted flowers of red. New Look thrives in a full-sun location and the plumes will retain their intense color longer than other types of celosia.

Plant celosia in sites with full sun and average soil with good drainage, and enjoy it in any hot, sunny spot that needs strong summer color. Seed-eating birds are drawn to the small, shiny black seeds that rain down from the mature, dry seed heads, so it is good to let a few mature in fall. Plants will tolerate heat and drought and should be deadheaded to prolong bloom.

Dutch Country Market
11401 CR 16 | Middlebury, IN

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



- Triple Curled Parsley*
- Pacifica Lilac Vinca*
- Super Green Leaf White Begonia*
- Super Olympia Green Leaf Rose Begonia*
- Taishan Yellow Marigold*
- Black Mulch*

D4 “Grand Champion Ribbon” - Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds

SIZE: 20'W X 40'H

The Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds is a busy place year-round with RV and motorcycle rallies, weddings and receptions, and corporate and community events. But, the fairgrounds are never busier than during the Elkhart County 4-H Fair, which takes place July 20-28, 2018 and is one of the largest in the nation. The Fair Board's goal is not only to provide a large event but to be one of the best. The Fair takes pride in preserving quality family entertainment, free grandstand shows, positive competitions and award-winning Food Row.

This garden is a cooperative partnership between four organizations: Purdue University Co-Operative Extension Service, Michiana Master Gardeners Association, Elkhart County Extension Homemakers, and the Elkhart County 4-H Fair Board. While planting and maintenance are primarily done by the Master Gardeners, the Extension Homemakers help and have contributed the design. Each group brings with it a membership of knowledgeable and generous individuals committed to the mission of the Quilt Gardens project.

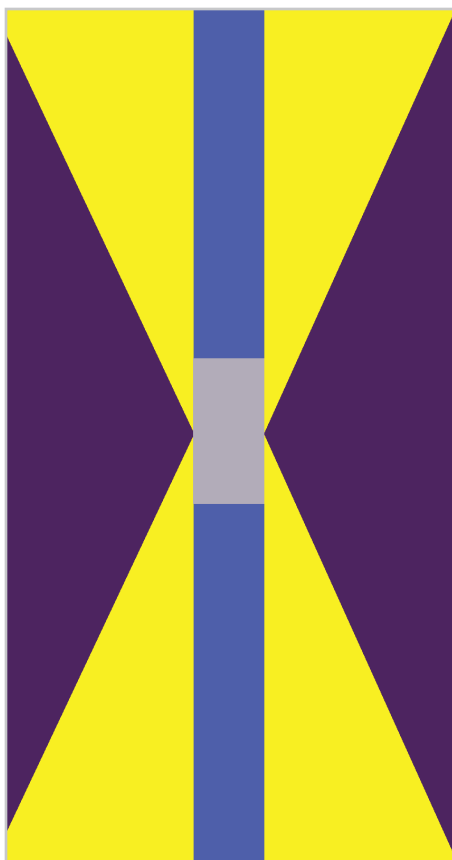
The Quilt Gardens at the fairgrounds have varied greatly over the years, but one constant has been their selection of designs with four components that reflect not only what 4-H stands for but also the four groups involved. Further, they always include green to represent life and agriculture. This year's design is a repeat from 2008 and is what many consider a blue-ribbon winner.

This Quilt Garden location is another that struggles with shade. Although sunny at times, it never receives the minimum six hours of sun that would register it as “sunny.” The choice of begonias, which thrive in this mix of some sun but mostly shade location, has been a good one. A long-time standard in both commercial landscapes and home gardens, begonias, called “wax” because of the shiny surface of their leaves and “fibrous” for a characteristic of their root systems, bloom all summer as long as they are watered properly and fed about every three weeks. Begonias do well in sun or shade, with more blooms and higher water needs the brighter the light. Varieties have either green leaves (Super Olympia series) or bronze (Senator/Harmony series) and both will take full sun but may need protection from direct noonday sun. The leaves of dark-flowered green-leaf varieties may bronze somewhat in full sun and stay brighter green in shade. This is another garden where wet conditions may be a problem for plants. Begonias like to be moist, but will rot if too soggy.

And then there's parsley. Parsley is not only a sumptuous deep green herb with great texture and easy care, but it's also high in vitamin C. It allows one to see, feel and taste, promoting health as part of the health, head, heart and hands pledge of the 4-H program.

**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

*Hawaii Blue Ageratum**Taishan Yellow Marigold**Burgundy Bloom Snapdragons**Dark Opal Basil*

D4 “Bats in the Belfry” - Elkhart County Courthouse

SIZE: 20'W X 40'H

The Goshen Historical Society, which plants and maintains the Quilt Garden at the Elkhart County Courthouse, also operates a museum downtown where they exhibit artifacts, documents and images from Goshen's past. Their goal is to preserve the past for future generations. The museum volunteers open the Police Booth, built during the mob days of the 1930s, on the corner of the courthouse lawn for tours during the city's First Friday events every month and for tours by arrangement.

Because of its central location, the courthouse is a good place to park and explore downtown. It is within easy walking distance of a great many unique and locally owned shops and eateries, and the Goshen Historical Museum. The courthouse architecture, over 100 years old, in the Renaissance Revival style, is stately and the magnificent Neptune Fountain adds to the ambiance.

“Bats in the Belfry” is this year's quilt pattern selection taking advantage of the rectangular shape of the bed to highlight the strong colors of snapdragons, ageratum, marigolds and basil. Although the marigolds and basil will beg to be deadheaded regularly, the remainder of the plants will flower nicely and not ask for much attention other than a bit of fertilizer and regular watering.

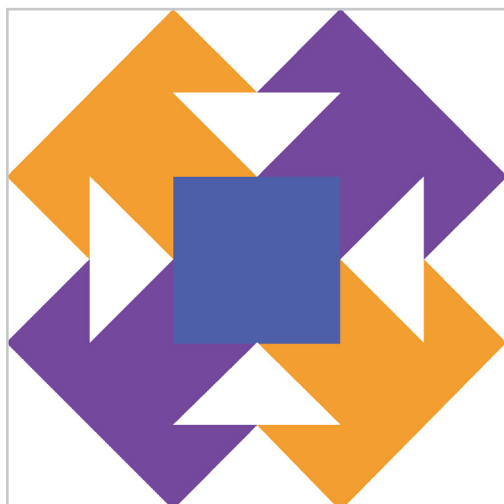
Dark Opal Basil offers great foliage color and as it is situated along the edges of the design (and in a public space) it will offer a sensory experience for the nose as well as the eye. It grows best in the summer heat. Pinch out growing tips to encourage bushiness and delay flowering. One can use it in companion plantings to repel aphids, mites and tomato horn worms.

The University of Connecticut originally bred Dark Opal basil, a type of sweet basil (*Ocimum basilicum*), in the 1950s. This annual ornamental herb sports aromatic dark purple-black leaves, which lend themselves to pasta, vegetable and soup dishes. Opal basil leaves are egg-shaped with sparsely toothed edges and a variable purple to burgundy color. The color intensifies with maturity, although variegated leaves are considered normal in Opal basil.

This hybrid basil variety has a slightly stronger anise flavor than the common green sweet basil and is considered savory when compared to the standard sweet basil. In particular, opal basil leaves make excellent aromatic infused vinegars and oils. The dark color leaches into the infusing vinegar, leaving it a beautiful shade of burgundy. It is also used to make a purple pesto or you can use the leaves as a garnish for desserts, salads, pizza and pastas. Opal basil can replace green varieties in caprese salads and most other recipes calling for standard sweet basil and can be used fresh or dry. It can also be frozen for future use. Opal basil can lend flavor and color to many culinary pairings, including Thai, Vietnamese, and Italian.

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



-  *Hawaii Blue Ageratum*
-  *Snow Crystals White Alyssum*
-  *Obsession Orange Verbena*
-  *Obsession Purple Verbena*

D1 “Double T” - Elkhart County Historical Museum

SIZE: 30'W X 30'H

Visiting the Elkhart County Historical Museum Quilt Garden site gives one a chance to experience history inside and out. The museum itself was founded in 1968 as a partnership between the Elkhart County Historical Society and the Elkhart County Parks Department, using a building once used as Bristol High School from 1928 to 1966. The Elkhart County Historical Museum is dedicated to preserving and fostering appreciation of the history of Elkhart County and the surrounding region. The museum offers exhibits for all ages. Today it houses 10 permanent exhibits, two additional rooms for special showings, and over 20,000 artifacts of local historical interest. Explore the past where the beautiful and the useful were never far apart. The museum is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and is free, although donations are always appreciated. The museum has a collection of more than 60 historic quilts and offer many quilting-related programming opportunities.

The museum staff has teamed up with a group of Master Gardeners to prepare (and care for) the “Double T” Quilt Garden. The museum staff has enjoyed working with the Michiana Master Gardeners and has appreciated their knowledge and energy on this project. Knowledge is important where flowers are expected to perform at their best in a Quilt Garden year after year. Testing the pH and supplementing/adjusting the soil to create an optimum growing culture requires time and energy but yields great reward.

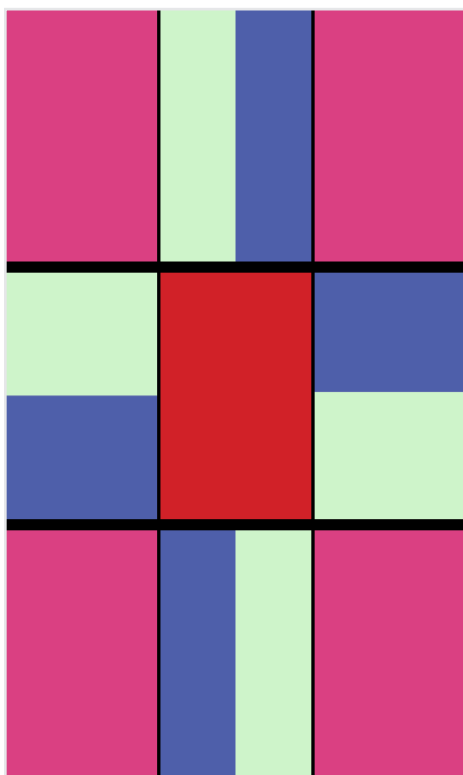
The “Double T” design was chosen for its challenging design. Warm colors help create a soft palette hearkening back to old memories and the use of old stand-bys like alyssum and ageratum help further the historical perspective, but the more than 1,700 verbenas are the stars here.

Verbena is one of those plants better known by its botanical name, verbenas. The Obsession series of verbenas are trailing, vigorous, tender perennials that also make excellent annuals in colder regions. They are heavily branched plants with dainty, lobed leaves. From late spring through fall, they bear rounded clusters of flowers in shades of pink, purple, red, blue or white, often with contrasting white eyes. Obsession Series is a spreading, early blooming compact series, and more continuously flowering than other verbenas. Obsession Series verbenas prefer sun and well-drained, moist, moderately fertile soil, but will tolerate dry conditions and are heat tolerant. They are great for planters, hanging baskets, edging, and borders.

Common pests include thielaviopsis, pythium and powdery mildew, which are especially prevalent when both humidity and temperature are high. Keep conditions as cool and dry as possible to avoid infection and use preventative fungicides, if warranted. Aphids and thrips are common pests that are easily handled on verbenas.

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

w: ElkhartCountyParks.org
p: 574.848.4322



E2 "Center 4 Patch Log Cabin" - Krider World's Fair Garden

SIZE: 20'W X 40'H

Krider World's Fair Garden serves as a historic and botanical icon to the Krider Family and Nursery and is one of the true stars of Middlebury. It was formed by Vernon Krider in the late 1800s. The gardens were originally designed for display in the 1933-1934 Chicago World's Fair.

Vernon Krider's grandson, Rex Krider, has been active restoring the garden's history with replicas of original garden structures. In 1944, Krider Nurseries patented the first thornless rose called the Festival rose. The Festival roses are planted, along with ten other varieties, in the new Krider Rose garden.

The concrete toadstools are a great photo spot, as are the windmill, water features and gazebo. Did you know you can ride your bike to Krider Gardens? This is the only Quilt Garden on the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail.

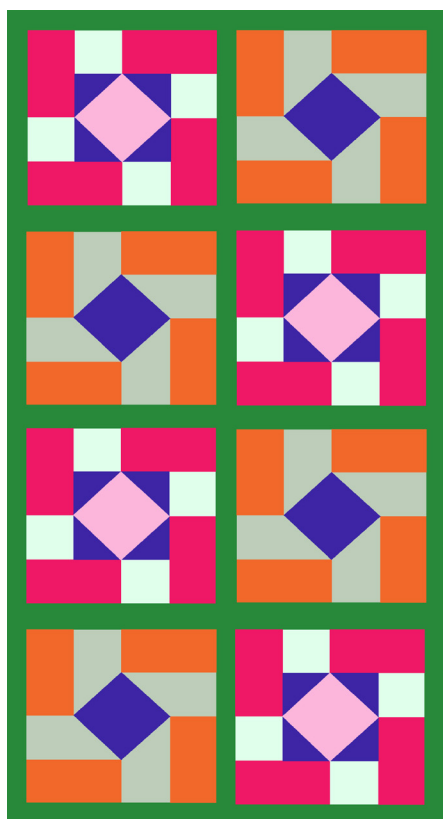
The Quilt Garden continues the tradition of using patterns that relate to the Middlebury community. The contemporary log cabin pattern, "Center 4-Patch Log Cabin," pays tribute to the early settlement of the Middlebury community when the town buildings were first log cabins. Traditionally in log cabin patterns, the red center represents the fireplace, or the hearth, as in the "heart of the home." Just as in our modern homes the kitchen replaced the fireplace and became the "heart of the home," Krider Garden has changed to fulfill an important role in the economic development of Middlebury.

The Quilt Garden is situated in the shade and so this garden is brought to life with shade-loving begonias, shade-tolerant ageratum and dusty miller. Semperflorens begonias are also known as wax begonias. They are compact, tender, ever-blooming herbaceous perennials normally used as disposable annual bedding plants in temperate and tropical regions. Their roots are fibrous and dense, giving rise to another common name - fibrous begonia. The wax begonias are known for their uniformity and large, bright flowers. Although some will survive in full sun, most prefer a more shaded location that gets a little sunlight each day. Begonias prefer a rich, slightly moist soil. Enriching the soil with humus is beneficial in beds with begonias.

Watering correctly is important in the care of begonias. Soil should remain moist, but not too wet and should not be watered in the heat of the day to avoid burning the plants. Water wax begonias at the base to avoid leaf spot and the possibility of fungal diseases. To keep begonias in top form, feed every 10 days during the summer with a diluted solution of liquid fertilizer. The most compact and healthy wax begonias result from deadheading and pinching back regularly. Annual begonia plants are also deer resistant, so keep them in mind for trouble spots in the landscape.

Krider World's Fair Garden
302 West Bristol Avenue (County Road 8)
Middlebury, IN

w: MiddleburyIN.com
p: 574.825.1499



-  *Victory Light Pink Vinca*
-  *Victory Bright Eye Vinca*
-  *Hurra Rose Petunia*
-  *Damask Blue Petunia*
-  *Jamie Dep Orange Marigold*
-  *Cirrus Dusty Miller*
-  *Turf Grass*

C2 "Suzanne's Garden" - Linton's Enchanted Gardens

SIZE: 66'W X 32'H

Linton's Enchanted Gardens, which began in 1982, is Indiana's largest home and garden facility, boasting over 50,000 square feet of indoor shopping filled with creative displays and over nine acres of outdoor displays that are sure to spark your imagination. The Garden Cafe at Linton's features fresh and healthy meals for breakfast, lunch and dinner as well as decadent desserts and handcrafted hot and cold drinks.

Linton's has introduced parakeets to the menagerie of colorful birds at the Enchanted Gardens. A trip around on the Enchanted Gardens Railroad goes past the Quilt Garden, Lake Linton, the petting zoo, and through the tunnel to see it all. A special stop at the Parakeet Encounter House allows the riders to enter and interact with the vibrant and musical birds. Linton's prides itself in being a family-friendly destination. Their Quilt 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 for snapping the perfect picture.

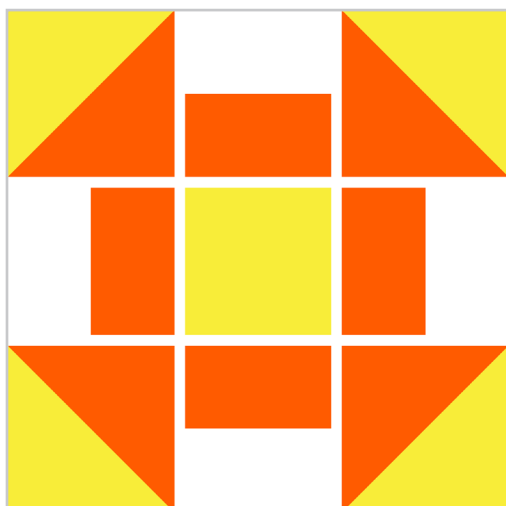
Linton's has a unique opportunity with their Quilt Garden to partner with the Vera Bradley Breast Cancer Foundation. Each year offers a new and exciting challenge to incorporate the organization's current Breast Cancer Awareness pattern into their theme. Using the colorful "Modern Medley" pattern from Vera Bradley's latest collection, they have chosen the "Suzanne's Garden" quilt block which echoes the graphic design and colors represented in the fabric. Linton's goal is to bring awareness to those past and present who have endured breast cancer's life-altering grip.

Linton's showcases what they do best with their Quilt Garden - grow plants. Vinca is one of the many plants in the garden. It isn't new, in fact, it has been bred since the 1920s. Cultivars in commercial production up to the early 1990s had many problems, including very weak stems, poor tolerance of wet weather and susceptibility to many diseases. These older hybrid lines of vinca were bred for flower color, not vigor, and tended to be weak-rooted and much more demanding in their environmental requirements, especially when young. New vinca cultivars on the market are more vigorous, and many of the new series are more specialized to regional growing conditions. Each new series has brought forth new colors to add to the usefulness of this bedding plant.

For example: Catharanthus roseus 'Victory' (used here) is a uniform vinca series with perfectly formed round flowers with overlapping petals and a color range of 13 separate colors. This series produces an abundance of large flowers early in the season on compact plants. Victory has extremely vigorous, finely branched roots which support outstanding pot and landscape performance as well as provide good disease resistance.

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

w: Lintons.com
p: 888.779.9333



F2 "Hole in the Barn Door" - Martin Ace Hardware

SIZE: 30'W X 30'H

Many are curious about the barn-themed structure of the hardware building. The design was something owner, Larry Martin, sketched on a napkin during a cross-country flight. The structure offers a variety of shops, services, and products in its 23,000 square feet. Inside you'll find hardware, lumber and toys for each shopper when they stop to enjoy the beauty of the garden. The barn theme carries into Quilt Garden with this design and almost 4,000 plants.

The cheerful yellow is from a long stand-by that has had an update, Garden Snapdragon, (*Antirrhinum majus* Solstice Yellow). The distinctly lipped flowers snap open and shut when squeezed, hence the name. One may grow the extremely fast-growing and early flowering 'Solstice Yellow' in full sun and moist, well-drained, average soil that has organic matter. Regarded for their good branching and mockery of frost, Solstice Series plants will flower from very late winter to fall, if spent flower spikes are removed atop the green foliage. Since these snapdragons will cease blooming and go to seed if the weather is hot and dry; re-blooming again in the colder temperatures. Occasional deadheading will promote more flowering. Blossoms attract bees and occasional hummingbirds.

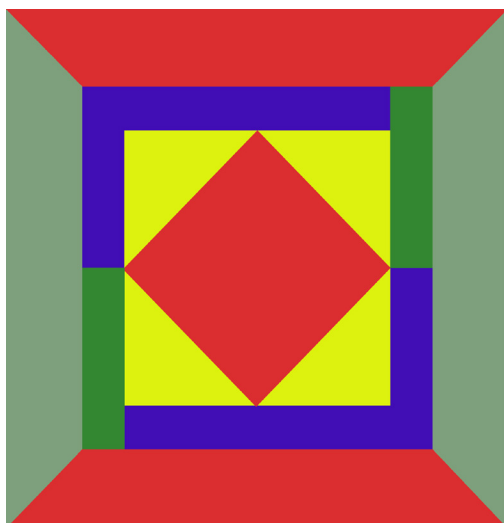
Powdery mildew and molds can be a problem on tightly spaced plants, especially in hot humid conditions with overhead watering. Snapdragons are particularly susceptible. Good air movement and careful watering are the best preventative measure. The use of a horticultural oil, insecticidal soap or another spray may be helpful once infected, but as with all fungus diseases, it is essential to begin application at the early onset of the disease.

The workhorse of this design is Pacifica Vinca (*Catharanthus roseus* Pacifica XP) sometimes known as Madagascar periwinkle in white and orange. Pacifica XP is the earliest, largest flowered and most vigorous vinca on the market. Breeding efforts over the past 10-20 years have resulted in major improvements in this genus by providing larger flowers with overlapping petals in a wider range of colors. Outstanding in hot, dry and sunny conditions and tolerant of cool, wet growing condition, Pacifica Vinca flower early and are a strong garden performer.

As a tribute to their lumber business, the Martins purchased a 6-foot cross section of a 513-year-old, African Bubinga tree to display inside their store. The tree, which was a seedling around the year 1491, is one of only five or six sections in the United States. Bubinga's rich reddish tones are laced with darker annual ring lines. Each ring on this slice is marked with a historical event. The center of the tree is marked with Columbus' voyage to the New World, and the last event marked is 9/11. Bubinga in nature is a large tree reaching over 100 feet in height and with a trunk diameter of 36 feet.

Martin Ace Hardware
103 Crystal Heights Blvd | Middlebury, IN

p: 574.825.7011



- Cocktail Vodka Bronze Leaf Red Begonia*
- Wasabi Lime Coleus*
- Tritunia Blue Petunias*
- Triple Curled Parsley*
- Silver Falls Dichondra*

A6 "Connie's Bloomin' Stitches" - Nappanee Center

SIZE: 30'W X 30'H

Nappanee sits at the crossroads of U.S. 6 and S.R. 19, two major highways in the northern sector of Indiana. From the construction of the Downtown Pavilion completed through a community effort that resembled an old-fashioned barn raising, to city employees who strive to provide the best possible services to its residents and guests, the city lives "community." You'll find apple sculptures, each with its own vibrant artistic design, throughout town, a nod to the 43rd annual Nappanee Apple Festival.

The area where the Quilt Garden resides is on the Heritage Trail and 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 to 1897. "Our site is about as authentic as you can get," says marketing manager Sue Conrad. The Heritage Museum has an impressive collection started by former librarian, Evelyn Culp and over has expanded to include historic Hoosier cabinets and many other items.

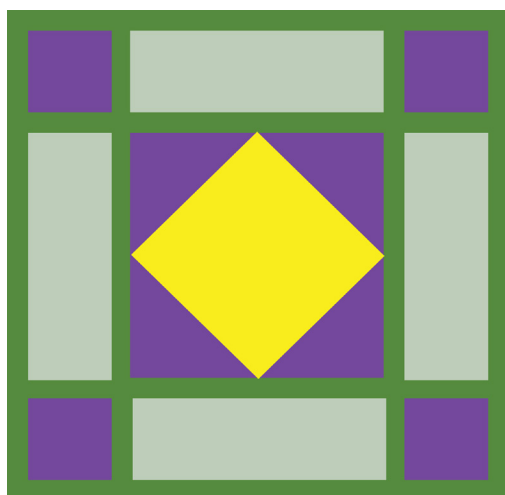
The 2018 garden, "Connie's Bloomin' Stitches," is dedicated to Connie Kauffman for the work she has done in creating the ten 4-by-4 panels of all of the garden designs the Nappanee Center has planted in the past now on display in the Heritage Museum. Connie also has authored several quilt pattern books and been a designer for Hope Quilts. The addition of the 6-foot wooden needle and huge cable of thread are non-flower additions that emphasize the threads of creativity that run through the community.

This garden combines a wide variety of plants to create a simple yet distinct design with high contrast of colors, textures and mass. Foliage and flowers combine to offer sheen and style. The deep rich green of the parsley contrasts with the bright green of the lime coleus, and the bronze leaf begonia reflects the light. The choice of parsley was a conscious choice in hopes of attracting Swallowtail butterflies which prefer parsley for food and host. The Silver Falls Dichondra adds fantastic silver foliage. It performs well as a seasonal groundcover or to cascade over rockery in well-drained soils.

Tritunia Blue is new in the petunia series. It is the best of the best of three long-standing popular single flower grandiflora series! The breeders have combined the best-performing varieties of Ultra, Storm and Bravo into one high-performance Tritunia Petunia series. The Tritunia Blue produces a velvety green foliage and adorns itself with an abundance of beautiful deep blue grandiflora blooms. The compact, mounding growth habit and multitudes of colorful, huge blooms makes this a great choice for landscape, baskets and containers. Its blooms are scattered among the foliage and bloom through early spring, summer, and fall. Tritunia Petunias prefer sun but can tolerate some shade. The Tritunia Petunia grows best in moist, well-drained soil.

Nappanee Center
302 West Market Street | Nappanee, IN

w: NappaneeChamber.com
p: 574.773.7812



C4 "Diamond in the Square" - Old Bag Factory

SIZE: 29'w x 32'h

In 1896, J.J. Burns opened the Cosmo Buttermilk Soap Co. in Goshen. In 1910, the plant was renovated and purchased by The Chicago-Detroit Bag Co. A 1924 merger put the building under the control of the Chase Bag Factory. Production here included the paper used in Hershey's Kiss wrappers. The term "bagology" which is painted across the building was coined during this period, meaning "to elevate the production of bags to the level of science."

In 1984, the Old Bag Factory was restored, and now, instead of transporting goods by train, the Old Bag Factory's artists and merchants can send their crafts away in - what else? - shopping bags.

This Quilt Garden utilizes the colorful blooms of both marigolds and petunias, and the bright silver foliage of dusty miller. Much like the Old Bag Factory, many of these plants have a fascinating history.

Marigolds are native to the New World and were the sacred flowers of the Aztecs. The Herbal of 1552 records the use of marigolds for treatment of hiccups. Today the marigold is one of the most popular annuals grown in North American gardens.

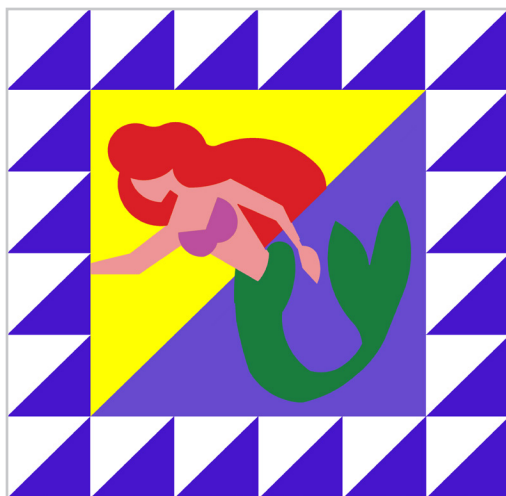
Dusty miller is a small plant in the family Asteraceae and originates from the island of Capraia in Italy, where it is called *fiordaliso delle scogliere*. It is a good example of why common names for plants sometimes cause confusion for gardeners. At least eight plants share the common name "dusty miller." If you're looking for a tough, attractive bedding plant, look no further than dusty miller (*Senecio cineraria*). Dusty miller is valued for its grayish-green leaves. The leaves are covered with tiny white or gray hairs, which give the plant a soft, wooly look. The foliage has a lacey texture with lance-like leaves. When grown as an annual, it rarely grows taller than 12 to 15 inches.

In mild regions, the plant is a subshrub perennial and grows to over 2 feet high. In northern regions, dusty miller is treated as an annual. Planted in the spring after the last frost, it offers interest and color throughout the season and even survives the first frosts in the fall.

Dusty miller grows best in full sun and might become spindly in shade. It prefers rich, slightly moist soil, but it tolerates poor soils and drought, as well. One of the main reasons that dusty miller has stuck around for so long is because it is extremely easy to grow. This plant seems to thrive in almost any situation and is great both in the ground and in a container. With few insect and disease problems, they have the added benefit of not being attractive to deer or other wildlife.

Old Bag Factory
1100 North Chicago Avenue
Goshen, IN

w: OldBagFactory.com
p: 574.534.2502



B2

"Lady of the Lake"**- Premier Arts, Downtown Elkhart**

SIZE: 30'W X 30'H

Premier Arts, the resident theater company for the Lerner Theatre, instills civic pride, confidence and character-building for everyone engaged in its programs and are a recognized leader in providing diverse, professional performing arts education and entertainment. The organization is committed to being engaged in downtown and the Quilt Garden has allowed them to create living art that reflects their program and dedication to the community.

This year's pattern, "Lady of the Lake," ties in with their performance of the classic animated film, *Disney's The Little Mermaid*, a beautiful love story for the ages. On stage July 13-15, 2018; tickets are available at TheLerner.com.

The garden goes to the seas and uses seashells to create the lovely human features of the mermaid, surrounding her with waves of colorful blooms from petunias, begonias and marigolds. This full sun garden allows ample room for growing and the stories of these plants takes us to the high seas of old.

In the early 16th century, Spanish explorers in South America discovered a low-growing, white-flowered scented *Axillaris*, which in the Tupi-Guarani language was called Petun. This roughly translated from their language to the "worthless tobacco plant." But, because of its perceived ugliness, the explorers did not think it was worth sending samples back. Ironically, anyone in Britain during the 1500s believed that the petunia harbored anger and resentment.

Fast forward to 1823. The French king sent explores back to Argentina. This time, they sent samples back to Spain, where botanists confirmed the Indian name for it and placed it in the tobacco family. As part of the *Solanaceae* family, it is closely related to the tobacco, cape gooseberry, tomato, potato, chili pepper and deadly nightshade.

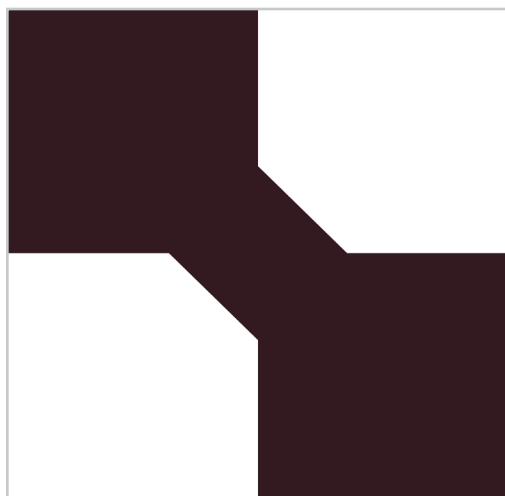
The species of *Petunia* and *Calibrachoa* were generally considered to be part of the same genus until 1985, when on further examination it was found that there are major differences in chromosomes. Like a tiny petunia on steroids, calibrachoa (also called Million Bells) grows and flowers at an amazing rate. These extremely vigorous plants make for colorful, cascading accents. They will do well in the ground only with good drainage.

Since it's such a fast grower, the plant requires a decent amount of food and will let you know if it needs to eat. Calibrachoa also does a pretty good job of "burying their dead;" meaning they grow so fast, they quickly cover over any old blossoms.

-  Orchid Deep Vinca
-  Durango Yellow Marigold
-  Cocktail Vodka Bronze Leaf Red Begonia
-  Carpet White Petunia
-  Frost Blue Petunia
-  Carpet Sky Blue Petunia
-  Fescues Grass
-  Crushed Shells

Premier Arts
410 South Main Street | Elkhart, IN

w: PremierArts.org
p: 574.293.4469

*Black Dragon Coleus**Olympia Super White Begonia*

B2 "Bow Tie" - Ruthmere Museum

SIZE: 30'W X 30'H

The Ruthmere campus is made up of three historic properties that engage visitors with a unique experience of history, art and architecture. Ruthmere Museum overlooks the confluence of the St. Joseph and Elkhart rivers, and is a nationally recognized site on the National Register of Historic Places.

Albert Beardsley, nephew of one of the founding fathers of Elkhart, Dr. Havilah Beardsley, had Ruthmere Mansion built in 1910. The magnificently restored Beaux Arts-style mansion boasts a fine art collection which includes sculptures by Auguste Rodin, Antoine-Louis Barye and William Ordway Partridge and artworks by renowned artists such as George Peter Alexander Healy, William Morris Hunt and Albert E. Sterner. Art comes in many forms at Ruthmere.

Curators of Ruthmere chose the "Bow Tie" pattern for this year's garden for its simple elegance. Using just two plant types, coleus and begonias, you'll find high contrast and clean lines dominate. The histories of these plants are in keeping with the time of Ruthmere's prime.

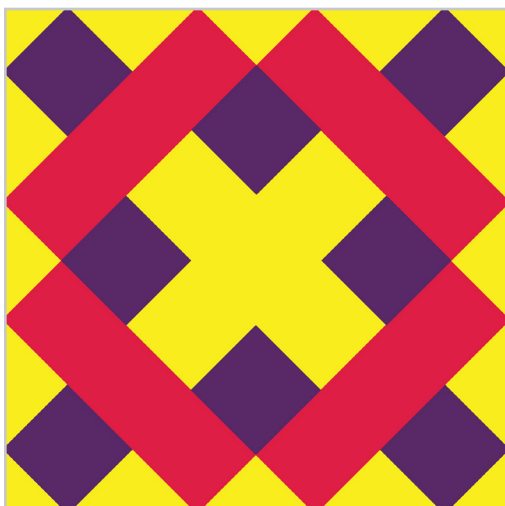
Coleus are native to tropical areas of Southeast Asia, India, Africa and Australia, with the largest population being in Indonesia and Sri Lanka. Coleus are members of the mint family and have the characteristic square stems. Coleus found their way into Europe and later, America, by way of traders and botanists. Coleus were introduced to Europe in the 19th century and plant aficionados seized upon coleus as the new "it" plant. Coleus were a perfect choice for a Victorian garden technique called carpet gardening consisting of flower beds laid out in patterns that were meant to be seen from a high window or balcony - a living Persian carpet or tapestry of sort.

As fads always do, the popularity of coleus subsided somewhat and the coleus-collecting hobby eventually trickled down to the common citizen. Today, coleus is once again a desirable and fashionable garden plant. New, cutting-propagated coleus were developed for sunny locations. Many of the new cultivars are slow to bloom, freeing up their caretakers from the tedium of pinching blossoms. This is a relatively low maintenance plant. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Solenostemon scutellarioides "Black Dragon" has attractive deeply cut lobed leaves that remain rose in color with distinctive deep purple edges throughout the year. This plant does best in partial shade to shade. It requires an evenly moist well-drained soil for optimal growth but will die in standing water. It is not particular as to soil pH but grows best in rich soils. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments.

Ruthmere Museum
302 East Beardsley Avenue | Elkhart, IN

w: Ruthmere.org
p: 574.264.0330



Durango Yellow Marigold



Madness Blue Petunia



Red Hot Sally Salvia

G3 "Brickwork" - The Barn Door

SIZE: 32'W X 32'H

The Barn Door offers antiques and vintage, repurposed and new furniture as well as decorating tidbits. Janet Martin and Laura Kauffman, owners, worked hard at transforming the space into a rustic, boutique setting with metal awnings and salvaged barn wood. Their love of antiques is evident in the selection and quality you'll find on display. The name, The Barn Door, came from the experience they had on a road trip to pick up two very large, heavy wood barn doors. The scene - two women, a truck and trailer, a large farmer, a muddy hill - it's a story they'll be glad to share when you visit.

This year's pattern, "Brickwork," features many tried and true standards. Marigolds, petunias and salvia are almost always good bed-fellows. Bright sunshine gives these heavy bloomers plenty of energy to perform their best. The bright yellow Durango Marigolds (*Tagetes patula*) have scented foliage, attract bees, are heat and frost tolerant and are low maintenance, perfect for this space. This vigorous series sets the highest standard for anemone-type marigolds - excellent branching, strong stems, uniform shape, abundant blooms. French Durango Marigolds require full sun (at least 6 hours each day) and prefer average well-drained soil. They only need medium watering, so you should water them a few times a week and avoid watering late in the day. Remove spent flowers to promote new blooms and prolong blooming. This fast-growing annual brings sunshine to a garden and look fabulous in a yard, in window boxes or containers.

Stately spires of firecracker Red Hotline Salvia (*SALVIA splendens*) make a striking combination with the sunshine yellow, and their sizzling hot hues complement the overall pattern. As with all salvia, spent flower spikes may be cut off so that side buds grow and produce more flowers. The flowers are held slightly above the green leaves, creating a dense plant with stout and bright accents of red petals. Bees, butterflies and hummingbirds will flock to this plant.

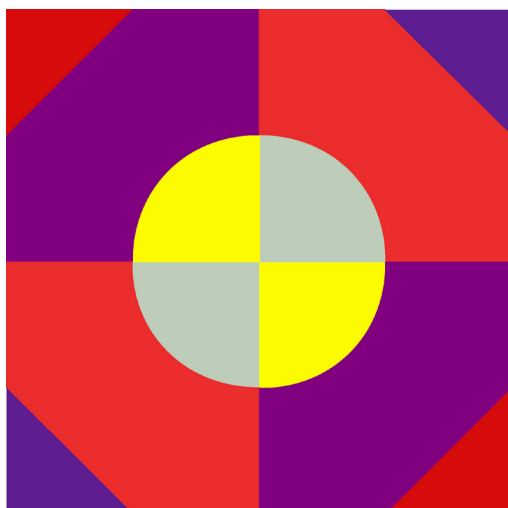
The Madness Blue Petunias (*Petunia* x hybrid) make up the final bricks of this unforgettable Quilt Garden. The Madness series is one of many floribunda petunias, simply meaning that it is loaded with thousands of blooms. Each compact, well-branched plant is loaded with an abundance of big, 3-inch blooms. Developed by Ball Seeds, Madness Petunias have been around for 25 years. Considered a low-maintenance plant, it will still benefit from deadheading and a balanced fertilizer applied weekly. Petunias tend to have shallow root systems, so water deeply during times of drought.

You'll find Madness Petunias in a broad array of colors that go from white to bright! With a palette of 25 varieties including solids, patterns and mixes, you're sure to find just the right variety for every installation.

The Barn Door

52886 State Road 13 | Middlebury, IN

w: BarnDoorLLC.com
p: 574.358.0074



-  *Janie Yellow Marigold*
-  *Silver Dust Dusty Miller*
-  *Madness Blue Petunia*
-  *Madness Red Petunia*
-  *Hotline Blue Salvia*
-  *Hotline Red Salvia*

A5 "Indiana Puzzle" - Downtown Wakarusa

SIZE: 30'W X 30'H

Wakarusa is one of those towns where the rush of the big city is left behind. Here you can find historic buildings featuring tin ceilings, a hardware store open since 1904 with a wall of 1,000 drawers ready to serve you, and the Wakarusa Dime Store - home to the Giant Jumbo Jelly Bean, big enough to share! Each spring the town hosts the Maple Syrup Festival honoring the local sweet and the labor-intensive process.

This year's Quilt Garden continues Wakarusa's tradition of bold design, which pairs well with the Dancing Leaves mural nearby. In fact, this is a good spot for some great photos, capturing not one, but two display quilts. "Indiana Puzzle" with its 3,600 plants is reason enough to pull out the camera.

Creativity abounds with the use of multiple color and flower types in this garden. Marigolds, petunias, dusty miller, and two kinds of salvia make bold statements; all old standards with refined hybrid habits. *Salvia splendens* "Hotline" raises its head above the rest begging to tell its story.

Sages (*Salvia*) have been grown for a thousand years to make medicine and for use as culinary spice. The ancient Romans believed sage sharpened the mind and imparted wisdom. In the Mediterranean, North Africa and later in Europe, it was thought to be a symbol of skill, long life, and good health.

The many types of salvias are colorful, reliable flowering plants at home in most parts of the country. Members of this clan, which includes the culinary herb, sage, have square stems, flowers whorled around upright spikes, and bright colored blooms in common. Plant taxonomy classifies red salvia plants as *Salvia splendens*. Despite an official common name of "scarlet sage," many people refer to the plants simply as "red salvia."

One of the upsides of globalization is that we now have access to a dizzying array of simply stunning salvias. The genus of salvia is the largest in the *Lamiaceae* (or mint) family. Salvias are often later season bloomers that can carry color until first frost. Extremely frost sensitive, they cannot tolerate temperatures below 32°F.

Deadheading isn't essential but tidies up the look of salvia, encourages branching and keeps some of the seed from sowing. I have found that salvia will self-sow, giving a chance to enlarge a sea of red in your own yard or share plants with friends. Plants are heat and drought tolerant and have minimal disease and insect problems. Flowers are tubular with a split lower petal. They are a pollinator magnet, drawing bees, hummingbirds, and butterflies. It's fun to watch bees tip the lower petal of the flowers down to take a sip. They are also a low allergen plant, which makes them suitable for sensitive gardeners.

Wakarusa Chamber of Commerce
100 West Waterford Street
Wakarusa, IN

w: WakarusaChamber.com
p: 574.862.4344



03 “Star Flower Power” - Wellfield Botanic Gardens

SIZE: 30'W X 30'H

Founded by the Elkhart Rotary in 2005, Wellfield's purpose and mission are integral to both the quality of life and authenticity of place. Created by the community, Wellfield's mission serves to give back to its community. Wellfield's diverse and interesting 36-acre garden hosts a variety of special events. As a botanic garden, every day is different throughout the seasons.

Wellfield's Quilt Garden is located just outside its gates, where it is showcased in a new stone-lined bed. For a small admission fee, step inside and get in touch with nature as Wellfield leads visitors along winding stone paths dotted with charming pump houses and whimsical sculptures. Vantage points from walkways and bridges offer panoramic views while shaded benches invite quiet reflection.

The quilt pattern this garden is replicating is intended to “knock your socks off!” and chose “Star Flower Power” for its challenging complexity, as well as the opportunity it provides to showcase a creative use of plants to achieve both unique colors and textures.

Finding pepper plants in a Quilt Garden might surprise you, but look closely for the two varieties, *Capsicum annuum* “Black Pearl” and “Islander.” Black Pearl is most noted for its glossy black foliage and its black-maturing-to-red fruit. Its leaves emerge green but quickly turn shiny black. Flowers are followed by small, black fruit (3/4-inch diameter) that matures to cherry red. Fruits are technically edible but extremely hot (between 4 and 12 times spicier than a jalapeño on the Scoville Scale). Black Pearl peppers were chosen as a 2006 All-America Selection winner. Although grown in vegetable gardens for many years, peppers are becoming increasingly popular as ornamentals. Best black foliage color occurs in full sun. Plants have good tolerance for high heat and humidity. Easily grown in moist, organically rich, fertile, well-drained soils in full sun. Pinch young plants to promote bushiness.

Capsicum annuum Islander is considered by some to be a must-have in your vegetable garden as well as your “edible landscaping” beds and Islander is one of the few that begins its growth as a purple/lavender-colored pepper. Sweet, delicious, a treat for your eyes and taste buds!

Another surprise is the *Isolepis Cernua*, commonly referred to as Live Wire or Fiber-optic Grass. This ornamental is widely used in containers and in landscaping mixed with colorful bedding plants. Its foliage may start to yellow when temperatures dip to 45° F. The slender grassy tendrils grow in a thick clump and curl over to make a unique spray of color resembling a fountain. Delicate silvery flowers appear atop its tiny stems, making it appear as a tuft of tiny fiber-optic threads.

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