

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

MIKE TURNER

Class of 2008

1. What is your favorite master gardener volunteer opportunity? The Marigold Mile is my favorite volunteer opportunity which I sanctioned in 2009. I can't wait for it to start every year and always wonder if I will have enough volunteers to help, so I do my volunteer campaigning early in the spring. I also watch the weather reports throughout the growing season to ensure the Mile gets adequate rain or else I will be spending a weekend watering it all with my seasonal 94 year old volunteer, John Law. I really enjoyed volunteering at Gardens of the Fox Cities from 2008 until it closed in 2013, but year after year my time is spent with the volunteers of the Marigold Mile.

2. What is your favorite gardening activity? As strange as this seems, I like weeding and transplanting perennials. It feels good to get my hands in the soil and a garden looks so good after weeding.

3. What do you like to do in your free time - besides gardening? Walking or biking forest covered trails, cross-country skiing through the woods, windsurfing or if I lived near Lake Michigan, I'd be walking the beach every day. The shoreline is different every time you walk it.

4. Name one thing not many people know about you. I am into family genealogy. There is so much written history in our family from the Revolutionary War to the Civil War and WW1, from farmers to doctors in our past, I wondered how I ended up here. In the old days, people used to write letters every day and we have many that were saved.

5. What is something you would like to learn more about? Before I became a master gardener, my landscaping was average at best. After I became a master gardener I have more unusual plants in my yard but my landscaping skills have not changed. I'd like to have the perfect yard a showplace for the garden walk, but I'd have to start all over and I am not willing to do that, so I am stuck with my average yard with unusual plants.

6. What is/are your favorite movies? For my love of family history, I like *Cold Mountain*. I like *To Kill a Mockingbird* because it reminds me of my neighborhood as a youngster. We were always running through the back yards over the fences and by the house that no one would go near. I also like *The Quiet Man* for my love of Irish music and life.

7. What is/are your favorite author(s) I was never much of a reader, but got into the Harry Potter series when my son was growing up. I have always been a fan of Tolkien because my mother would read to us from the *Hobbit* when we were very young.

8. Why do you like living in this area? When I got out of college I went back to Indiana to live near my relatives on the farm and at the beach. They are in two different worlds. Indiana seemed to me to like the land was brown with all the farm fields and not pleasing to me in the winter. As the years went by, I moved back here because to me the land was green all year around. There seems to me to be more wildlife, places to go, and things to do in this area for every season.

9. If you could have one wish granted, what would it be? That my father was still alive and in good health. The knowledge that he had! You could ask him anything and he had a story to go along with most of it.

10. If money were no object, where would you vacation to and why? I'd go to Ireland and of course back in time to see it as it was in the 1950's when *The Quiet Man* was made.

11. What do you consider to be your greatest achievement? Being married to my wife, Sue, for 33 years and seeing my son, Andrew, happily married and living in his own home, starting his own life in his 20's.

