

The Latest Dirt

La Porte County Master Gardener Newsletter



JUNE 2025

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2025 MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday at the La Porte Main Library Meeting Room B, unless otherwise noted

June 5	Social Meeting
Community Bldg., La Porte Co. Fairgrounds	
July 10	Business Meeting
August 7	Annual Picnic
September 4	Business Meeting
October 2	Social Meeting
November 6	Business Meeting
	Elections
December 4	Holiday Dinner Party

NEXT BOARD MEETING

June 9th - 6:00 p.m.
Room A at the Main La Porte Library

"THE LATEST DIRT" is published monthly.
The next deadline is June 20, 2025

www.lpmastergardener.org

<https://www.facebook.com/MasterGardenersLaPorteCounty>



PURDUE EXTENSION
MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

Celebrate Pollinator Week

pollinator.org

Pollinator Week 2025 will take place June 16-22, 2025.

Pollinator Week is an annual celebration in support of pollinator health that was initiated and is managed by Pollinator Partnership. It is a time to raise awareness for pollinators and spread the word about what we can do to protect them.

The great thing about Pollinator Week is that you can celebrate and get involved any way you like! Popular events include planting for pollinators, hosting garden tours, participating in online bee and butterfly ID workshops, and so much more. However you choose to celebrate this year, be sure to register your event on the map below, and share your story with us by tagging us on social media using the hashtag #PollinatorWeek.

Pollinator Week 2025 is a celebration of the vital role that pollinators play in our ecosystems, economies, and agriculture. Under the inspiring theme "Pollinators Weave Connections," this year's event urges us to appreciate the essential role pollinators play in creating and expressing human culture, in all of its forms. These essential creatures, including bees, butterflies, moths, bats, beetles, and hummingbirds, are the unsung heroes behind the food we enjoy and the beauty that surrounds us. As we reflect on the interconnectedness of our world, let's unite in a collective effort to protect and preserve these crucial pollinators. By understanding the impact of our actions on their habitats and embracing sustainable practices, we can pave the way for a flourishing future. Join us in celebrating Pollinator Week 2025, and let's cultivate a world where both nature and humanity thrive in harmony. Explore our resources, learn about pollinator-friendly initiatives, and be inspired to contribute to the vision of a greener and more sustainable tomorrow.

For more information on how you can help, click on the link below:

<https://www.pollinator.org/pollinator-week/logos>



KINDLY JOIN US AT OUR NEXT MEETING
FOR A TRIBUTE TO

KARREN COPLEN

JUNE 5, 2025 AT 6:00PM

LA PORTE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
COMMUNITY BUILDING

2851 IN-2

LAPORTE, IN 46350

FOLLOWING THE PLANTING OF A TREE
FOR KARREN, WE WILL BE GIVEN A
PRESENTATION ON BONSAI FROM

GEORGE SARVER

PLEASE BRING YOUR
NOMINATION FOR THE
GOLDEN TROWEL AWARD
TO THE MEETING OR MAIL
IT INTO THE EXTENSION
OFFICE BY JUNE 5.



ASSOCIATION NEWS

Letter from the President Vicki Znavor

Hello everyone! As I write this I'm wondering if it's May or November. If I were a betting person, I'd say November. I'm hoping that the next letter I write to you all will be one written in much warmer weather.

I was excited to attend the last Extension Master Gardener class in Wanatah with Carol Nolan. I was so proud to tell them about all that we're doing and how wonderful it is to work with you. The class is anxious to get going on their volunteer and education requirements. I've extended a warm welcome to them and hope they'll join our organization; I know they'd benefit by doing so.

We had a fun day planting plants with the kids at Head Start. Special thanks to Tom Boesen, Karen Sarver, Theresa Dzoga-Borg, Janet Davis, Kathleen Fox, and Kathleen Staninger for all your hard work. And thanks to Estelle Pawloski for donating plants.

Estelle asked the board to consider organizations where we can donate extra food that we've grown. The Head Start organization will take any extra crops and we encourage you to reach out to your local community organizations to see if they will accept such donations.

Please plan to attend our June 5th meeting at the La Porte County Fairgrounds Community Building. We are going to learn about Bonsai from George Sarver, and we are going to honor Karren Coplen with a magnolia tree. Please consider sharing your fond memories of Karren.

Thanks again to all of you for doing all that you do. You truly do make a difference. I hope to see you at the June meeting; I think it's going to be a special evening.

Master Gardener Association Business Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2025

La Porte Public Library - Room B

By: Theresa Dzoga-Borg, Corresponding Secretary

Attendance : All Board members and 9 members total 18.

Meeting called to order at 6:07 by Vicki Znavor. Members shared their favorite gardening tools, which included a hand-held chain saw, many different trowels and weeding tools, and a kicker (sod remover).

The March meeting minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report: Susie Kieffer gave the Treasurer's Report.

Updates:

Garden Show Feedback: attendance 535 adults, this does not include the children.

All speaker presentations received marks of at least 4.8 / 5.0.

Suggestions for further education came from a couple hundred forms including Brown Bag lunches, Companion Plantings, Dealing with Pests, and Container Gardening.

Vendors reported positive feedback, lots of room and not too crowded. Guests suggested that we have more landscaping vendors.

Community Grant Awards: 5 grants were awarded.

- Eastport Neighborhood Association's Walker Street Community Garden, Michigan City.
- Family Advocates, Butterfly Garden, La Porte.
- Westville United Methodist Church, Community Garden, Westville.
- Kingsford Heights' Elementary PTA, Taming School Grounds, Kingsford Heights.
- La Porte County Historical Society, Prairie Restoration, La Porte)

Trowel Award

Trowel award nomination forms were passed out at the business meeting. Nomination forms will be emailed and will also be available at the June 5th meeting. Voting for the awardee will happen at the July 10th General Business Meeting.

Memorial for Karren Coplen

A Magnolia tree planting and ceremony will happen on June 5 at the Fairground near the Pioneer Garden. A postcard will be mailed to all members.

Project Updates

- Head Start Project: Outdoor planting will occur on Monday May 12. 9 am Volunteers needed
- Hotline update: Carol (Monday) and Steve (Friday) All advice or answers should be according to Purdue University, Michigan State, Ohio State, or Penn State. Any responses via email should be **REPLY ALL** to verify that the email was answered and will not have multiple responses.
- Seed Saving: Big question, will we continue? Maria will reach out to Mary Davis. Also, must check with Indiana State Seed Selling Laws.
- Brown Bag lunches: Should we revive?
- Pioneer Gardens: School Tours began Thursday Mornings 8:30 -10:30 a.m.
- Webinar for the public – Idea
- Friendship Botanic Gardens: Events are happening and volunteers needed for May 3, 10, and 31. Check email from Donna Pouzar.
- Speakers' Bureau: Karen Sarver plans to have a workshop on how to give a presentation. A soil presentation will be given at the Terre Verde meeting on Tuesday May 13, 2025 at 6:30 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Creek Ridge Park is hosting an event with Health Link and would like LPCMGA to make a 25 minute presentation on Gardening 101 on June 16, 2025.

Crop donations: Carol is checking with Lisa Pierzakowski at Center Township regarding LPCMGA members donating crops from their personal gardens.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:28 p.m. by Vicki Znavor

Getting To Know Our Members

Vicki Sparks

Tell us something about yourself

My introduction to Harbor Country was in 1980 when my mother married Phil Sprague who lived in Long Beach. I visited frequently and loved the area. When my husband retired in 2016, we moved to Long Beach from Lincoln Park. Prior to that, my only gardening was in window boxes.

How long have you been a member of the LPCMGA?

I joined in 2020 to take the Master Gardner course on-line during Covid.

What inspired you to join?

As a beginner gardener, I needed to learn as much as possible.

When did you start gardening and what's a favorite garden memory or experience you can share?

I started gardening when we moved into our beautifully landscaped home in 2016. I do have many wonderful memories of helping my mother in her yard during my frequent visits.

What have you learned from gardening that can be applied in all areas of life?

Patience while embracing chaos. However, this year those few warm days we had motivated me to plant a few plants that later froze. So, this must be a case of do what I've been taught; not what I do.

Do you have a favorite local garden that you enjoy visiting?

I enjoy visiting the small garden in the center of the Long Beach Community Center. It is protected against the deer so plants flourish.

What advice would you have for a new gardener?

It is wise to do some homework before going to the garden center. Otherwise, you will be tempted to do like I do which is to buy the plants that catch my eye. (I do check the plants sticks but am too often tempted to choose beauties that are not on my list.) Have patience and try, try again.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Pioneer Garden

By: Connie Shei

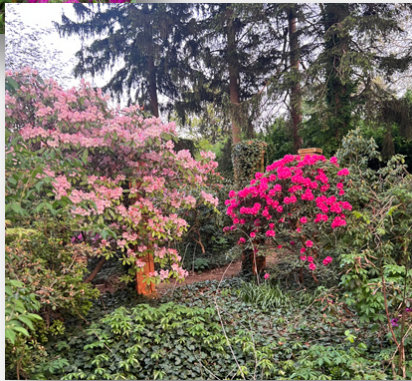
We are eager to have new help in Pioneer Garden! You can find us at the Fair Grounds playing in the soil each Thursday morning at 8:30. This is an award winning Heirloom Garden that has some special plants from the 1850's, but we also plant all of the usual tomatoes, beans, peas, and lettuce etc.

Please join us for an hour or two of fun and learning.

GARDEN PHOTOS FROM OUR MEMBERS



Some beautiful
rhododendron
photos from
the garden of
Maria Maule



Beautiful tree
peony and
rhododendron in
Donna Pouzar's
garden



If you have photos of your beautiful plants, shrubs, trees or vegetables, please send them in. We'd love to take a walk through your garden.

2025 EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT	VICKI ZNAVOR
VICE PRESIDENT	TOM BOESEN
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	MARIA MAULE
RECORDING SECRETARY	THERESA DZOGA-BORG*
TREASURER	SUSAN KIEFFER*
EDUCATION COMMITTEE/ SPEAKERS BUREAU	JANET DAVIS* JOAN KINTZELE KAREN SARVER

PAST PRESIDENT CAROL NOLAN

*INDICATES MEMBER IS FILLING ANOTHER PERSON'S TERM,
OR EXTENDED THEIR TERM WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE
BOARD

2025 PROJECT COORDINATORS

Friendship Botanic Gardens

Rima Binder _____ 219-878-8128
_____ rimabinder@comcast.net

Garden Hotline

Extension Office _____ 219-324-9407

Garden Show

Theresa Dzoba-Borg _____ 773-960-5848
_____ dzozo@yahoo.com

Ann Klosinski _____ 219-872-8367

_____ annak47@comcast.net

Carol Nolan _____ 331-903-0091

_____ cnolan41@yahoo.com

Karen Sarver _____ 219-921-9704

_____ ksarver@csinet.net

La Porte Builders Assn. Home Expo

Donna Pouzar _____ 219-363-2960

_____ pouzdlp@icloud.com

Pioneer Land School Tours

Linda Hough _____ 219-324-0424

_____ ljhough614@gmail.com

Pioneer Heritage Garden

Connie Shei _____ 219-362-4866

_____ jshei@comcast.net

Sunflower Fair

Linda Hough _____ 219-324-0424

_____ ljhough614@gmail.com

Head Start Project

The LPCMGA embarked on a project with Paladin Head Start in Michigan City. The goal of the project is to introduce gardening to over 100 students, aged 3-5. The amazing educators at the school assisted extension master gardeners with planting and watering seeds and shared information about the benefits of growing plants. On May 12th, extension master gardeners planted tomatoes, peas, herbs and a variety of flowers. Special thanks to Tom Boesen, Janet Davis, Joan Kintzele, Theresa Dzoga-Borg, Estelle Palowski, Kitty Knoll, Karen Sarver, Kathy Staninger and Vicki Znavor.



Tom Boesen and Janet Davis preparing one of the beds.



Ten beds planted with students



Melinda Bush, leader of the Head Start project with the plants the students planted in the classroom.

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

The Wabash Valley Master Gardeners will be hosting an event on June 18th called Twilight in the Garden. This event is meant to showcase their Giving Garden and provide education on working with community partners, assessing the needs of your community, and how to plant a garden for pollinators. All are welcome to attend. Tickets are \$10. Here is the link for tickets.

<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/wabashvalleymastergardenersassociation/>

TWILIGHT IN THE GARDEN

In celebration of National Pollinator Week!



Tickets \$10

Ticket includes swag bag, refreshments, raffle entry, and all activities

Join us in celebrating the pollinators that made it possible to donate over 130,000 pounds of fresh produce.

The Giving Garden was established in 2010. Approximately 10,000 pounds of fresh produce is donated every year to local soup kitchens, food pantries, and free educational programs. This garden also serves as a demonstration garden and provides a learning experience for the many groups, camps, and community members who visit the garden.

Interested in Sponsoring?

\$300-Half -Page Brochure Ad (includes logo on Giving Garden Banner June-October)
 \$100-Quarter-Page Ad (logo in brochure)
 \$50-Garden Friends (name listed in brochure)

Contact Angie Decker

📞 812-243-0810

✉️ colorgirl1989@gmail.com

this is a rain or shine event!



Schedule:

- ✓ 5:30pm- Jennifer Tames, Catholic Charities Terre Haute -Food Insecurity in our community
- ✓ 6pm & 7:15pm Giving Garden Tours
- ✓ 6:30 Karen Mitchell, Purdue Consumer Horticulture Specialist- Pollination in the Garden

Event Details:



June 18th, 2025



5:30-8:30pm



The Giving Garden
 Located at the West entrance
 of the Vigo County Fairgrounds
 3901 S US Hwy 41
 Terre Haute, 47802

EXTENSION OFFICE – JESI'S CORNER

Congratulations to our newest Master Gardeners who have just completed their Basic Training! A total of 21 individuals finished the 14-week training series, and 4 of them are now officially La Porte County Master Gardener Interns. Please welcome them with open arms if they decide to attend your upcoming association meetings.

With a few new faces in our group, I'd like to take this opportunity to review the requirements for counting volunteer hours and how to obtain approval for these hours to ensure they count towards your yearly requirement of 12 volunteer hours.

- Volunteer hours MUST:
 - Be completed through an approved project. All projects should be approved by the ANR Educator by filling out a New Project Form. All forms must be submitted to the Extension Office 2 weeks prior to the event and 4 weeks prior if the activity involves minors. If you wish for your project to be supported by the LaPorte County Master Gardener Association, then board approval must also be granted prior to submitting to the office. For a list of preapproved projects, please reach out to the Extension Office.
 - Provide education to those attending or involved. While maintenance of a garden is very important, it's also important to remember that hours will only be counted if you can explain how, you provided education to someone while doing said maintenance.
 - Benefit Indiana resident, more specifically La Porte County. A majority of your hours should be claimed within your primary county, hours completed outside the county may be counted if prior approval has been granted by the ANR educator.
 - Represent Purdue Master Gardener Program. This can be accomplished by wearing your name badge or apparel if you have any.

I would also like to remind you that you can claim 1 hour of volunteer time for each monthly meeting. If a speaker presents an educational topic at the meeting, you may claim 1 hour of education for that session instead. Please note that travel time cannot be claimed for any of the monthly meetings but can be claimed for other volunteer activities.

If you have any questions regarding your volunteer hours, please feel free to reach out to the office for clarification. I look forward to seeing all that you accomplish this growing season!

PURDUE EXTENSION



PURDUE EXTENSION
MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

PURDUE EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER

Basic Training

St. Joseph, Marshall, LaPorte Counties

Are you interested in assisting Purdue Extension with home horticulture education in your local community? Become a Purdue Extension Master Gardener and receive training in horticulture to equip you to fulfill this educational role through volunteering in a variety of projects!

Class Schedule*

Thursday, August 21- November 20, 2025 from
1:30-4:30 PM EST (12:30-3:30 PM CST)
North Liberty Community Center
300S Main St. North Liberty, IN
46554

August 21	Purdue EMG Orientation
August 28	Plant Science
Sept. 4	Soils and Plant Nutrition
Sept. 11	Herbaceous Ornamentals
Sept. 18	Woody Ornamentals
Sept. 25	Plant Disease Diagnosis
October 2	Insect ID and Control
October 9	Weed ID and Control
October 16	Pesticide Safety and Alternatives
October 23	Fruit Gardening
October 30	Animal Pests
November 6	Lawn Care
November 13	Vegetables / Invasive Species
November 20	Final Exam

*Schedule subject to change



Step 1: Application (Due August 8th)

Reach out to St. Joseph, Marshall, or LaPorte County Extension Office to get an application

Step 2: Registration and Fees

- \$200 per person
- \$300 per couple

Contacts:

Emily Evers: 574-235-9 605, everse@purdue.edu
Brieanna Slonaker: 574-935-8545, brieanna@purdue.edu
Jesi Davenport: 219 -324-9 407, jfurness@purdue.edu

Purdue University is an equal opportunity/equal access/affirmative action university.

EA/EDU

ANNOUNCEMENTS

'Blooms Along the Beach' Garden Walk



Presented by The Beach Garden Club

Our shuttle buses will take you through seven miles of Lake Michigan beach communities from Long Beach, IN to Michiana, MI to view seven beautiful gardens

SATURDAY JUNE 21, 2025

GARDENS OPEN 10AM – 3PM CDT

Beginning at Notre Dame Church
1000 Moore Road, Michigan City, IN
Or Long Beach Community Center
2501 Oriole Trail, Long Beach, IN

TICKETS PRESALE \$20.00

OR \$25.00 DAY OF EVENT

Children under 12 FREE

**Rain or Shine Event
NO refunds**



PURCHASE ADVANCE TICKETS at:

www.beachgardenclub.org

OR SCAN THE QR CODE

All proceeds will support the mission of the Beach Garden Club

STANDING COMMITTEE COORDINATORS

History Book _____ Donna Pouzar
 Hospitality _____ Eunice Conway
 Librarian _____ Linda Hough
 Newsletter _____ Donna Pouzar
 Speakers Bureau See Executive Board

Purdue Extension Office __ 324-9407

Jesi Davenport _ jfurness@purdue.edu
 Sue Salisbury _ salisbk@purdue.edu

The Latest Dirt is published monthly. The deadline for submission is the 20th of each month. Our mission is to publish articles and events of interest to other Master Gardeners and the community. Articles about personal experiences, suggestions on gardening books, catalogs, helpful websites, tips and tricks, book reviews, seminars you've attended are welcomed.

Submission requirements: Articles should be no longer than a page and can include photos. References must be included. Latin names of plants should be italicized. We do not accept articles pertaining to medicinal information. Master Gardeners will get volunteer hours for time spent working on an article.

Buy, Sell, Trade at the Trading Shed

Place your free ad in "The Latest Dirt"

Tools, tillers, mowers, plants - anything garden related. Keep ads brief. Provide your phone number and/or e-mail address. Ads will be limited to space available.

Information must be submitted by the 20th of the month to:

pouzdlp@icloud.com

PURDUE UNIVERSITY IS AN EQUAL
 OPPORTUNITY/EQUAL ACCESS/AFFIRMATIVE
 ACTION INSTITUTION

JUNE GARDEN CALENDAR

HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

- Indoor plants will require more frequent watering and fertilizing as they increase their summer growth.
- You can move houseplants outdoors to a shady location, but pay close attention to their watering needs.
- Cut garden flowers for indoor beauty. Recut the stems again just before placing in water. Add a floral preservative, and change the solution frequently.
- Root cuttings of houseplants and garden plants to increase your collection or share with a friend.

GARDEN (Flowers, vegetables and small fruits)

- Discontinue harvesting asparagus and rhubarb around mid-June to allow foliage to develop and store carbohydrate reserves for next year's harvest. Fertilize after last harvest and water as needed to promote healthy growth.
- Mulch to control weeds and conserve soil moisture after soil has warmed. You can use many materials, including straw, chopped corncobs, bark chips, shredded paper, and grass clippings.
- Blanch (exclude light from) cauliflower when heads are just 2 inches in diameter. Tie leaves up and over the developing head.
- Control weeds. They're easier to pull when they are still young.
- Start seeds of cabbage, Brussels sprouts, broccoli, and cauliflower for fall garden transplants.
- Plan now for your Halloween pumpkin. Determine the days to harvest for the particular cultivar you want to plant (usually on the seed packet) and count backward to determine the proper planting date.
- Harvest spring plantings of broccoli, cabbage, and peas.
- Remove cool-season plants, such as radish, spinach, and lettuce, because they will bolt (that is, form seed stalks) and become bitter during hot summer weather.

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals, and fruits)

- Prune spring-flowering shrubs after blooms fade.
- Apply fungicide to prevent and control black spot on roses.
- Water newly planted trees and shrubs. Water deeply every seven to 10 days when rain is lacking.
- Remove faded flowers and seed pods on lilac and other spring-flowering shrubs.
- Many fruit trees experienced freeze damage to flower buds, but a few trees may still have some fruit set. In a normal year if there is a heavy crop, don't be alarmed by a June drop of some fruit. It is a natural thinning process for most trees to prevent excessive loads, although there might not be as much to thin this year. If your trees did manage to set a heavy crop, thin the remaining fruit or prop up heavy branches to avoid breakage. Most fruit should be spaced 6 to 8 inches apart on a branch.
- Mow grass regularly but mow high. Unless excessive, leave lawn clippings on the lawn.
- To keep the lawn green and growing, water as needed to supply a total of 1 to 1.5 inches of water per week. If left unwatered, lawns will turn brown and become dormant during extended hot, dry spells, but will green up again when conditions are more favorable.

