

# The Latest Dirt

La Porte County Master Gardener Newsletter



JANUARY 2023

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

MEET OUR NEW PRESIDENT	2
JANUARY MEETING	3
NOVEMBER BROWN BAG	4
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM	5
EXTENSION NEWS/MG CLASS	6
JANUARY GARDEN CALENDAR	7

## 2023 MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursdays. Location to be determined.

January 5	Business Meeting Bethany Lutheran Church
February 2	Workshop
March 2	Business Meeting
April 6	Workshop
May 4	Business Meeting
June 1	Workshop
July 6	Business Meeting
August 3	Workshop
September 7	Business Meeting
October 5	Workshop
November 2	Business Meeting Elections

## NEXT BOARD MEETING

January 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.  
La Porte Library, Meeting Room A  
Members are welcome to attend

"THE LATEST DIRT" is published monthly.  
The next deadline is January 20, 2023



[www.facebook.com/MasterGardenersOfLaPorteCountyIndiana](http://www.facebook.com/MasterGardenersOfLaPorteCountyIndiana)  
[www.lpmastergardener.org](http://www.lpmastergardener.org)



PURDUE EXTENSION  
MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

## 2022 Holiday Dinner

By: Karren Coplen

Each year we fulfill our annual happy tradition of celebrating the holidays by substituting our December meeting with dinner and sharing a gift exchange fun event. It's such a treat to have time just to visit with our marvelous fellow Master Gardeners. Tina DeWitt was able to join us, and it was a treat to see her.



Nineteen Master Gardeners gathered in the back room of the Round the Clock Restaurant. Those who wanted to participate in the gift exchange brought along a wrapped gift. President Randa Magill passed out numbers and the person with number one got to choose the first gift and opened it so we could all see the treasure.



The person with number two could steal the gift already opened or pick another mystery gift. If number two stole number one's gift, that person could choose a different one to open, and on down the line. It's always fun to see the gifts and the temptation to steal or open a new gift as each person has a turn. Many of the gifts were garden related and will be used in warmer weather to come. Those gifts included grow lights, bird feeders, plant narrative meter, plant food and lots of garden gloves. Other wonderful gifts were handmade fruit breads, canned sauces and jams, a cherrywood cross and more.





Some people were extra generous. Estelle Pawloski gave each member there a gift and even had gifts for the wait staff, who were amazed and very grateful.

Mike Altman, while shopping at the Rural King a while back, found hugely discounted garden gloves for sale and bought them all. He gave each of us a new pair of gloves.

There were so many wonderful gifts to take home and save for gardening work next year that you might say we all left “handier” than ever.

Our annual party is a great way to start the Happy Holidays with this special group of people we’re all so fond of. Merry Christmas to you and your families.



## ASSOCIATION NEWS

### Meet Our new President - Carol Nolan

Born in La Porte, I spent a lot of time with Dad working in his garden. Watching him and Mom planting and harvesting and the whole family enjoying the fruits (and vegetables) of our labor instilled a love of digging in the soil at a very young age.

I moved to the Chicago area several years ago where I met a wonderful man, and we were married for just shy of 33 years before he passed in 2020. That and the onset of Covid just put my world into a tailspin and I decided to move back to La Porte to be with family and friends.

While in Du Page County, I did become a Master Gardener, but working fulltime made it difficult to remain effective. Once I moved back to La Porte, the next logical step was to do it all over again, and I did. I was in the class of 2021/2022 and have been working hard to get my hours in.

Joining the board as the in-coming president is a daunting task, but I will do my best. I hope to grow our association’s presence in the community and to help grow our ranks as well. Perhaps a new project could come from this experience.

### Meet Our new 2023 Board Members

#### Joan Kintzele



I am originally from South Bend. I moved outside of Memphis in 1988 to marry my husband, Dave, and to continue my career at FedEx. I retired from FedEx after 28 years. I became a Memphis Area Master Gardener in 2016 and most of my hours were completed at the Collierville Victory Garden.

We decided to move back to the area 3 1/2 years ago, since most of our family remains in this area. One month after we moved here, I signed up for the La Porte Master Gardener class. Most of my hours have been at the Pioneer Garden, which I have enjoyed immensely. For the past fifteen years or so, I have been immersed in the world of daylilies, but I have also been slowly diversifying into some vegetable crops. I am looking forward to being on the Board.

### Steve Zolvinski

I'm a Silver-Level Master Gardener and joined the program with the Class of 2012. I live in Michigan City and my interest in gardening harkens back to my 4-H days in Coolspring Township. I have been active in the Hotline, as well as in the Q&A booths at the La Porte Farmers' Market and Sunflower Fair. I have also participated in the Pioneer Garden project.

Beyond the MG association, I participate in a community garden in Gary sponsored by the Christ United Methodist Church. I'm an Adjunct Professor of cultural anthropology at Indiana University Northwest with a specialty in Southeast Asian peoples and cultures. I hold a doctorate from Ohio State University and worked to improve rice production of poor upland farmers in Southeast Asia. I continued my interest in household food production and gardening when I returned to La Porte County to care for my mother in her later years.



### Ann Klosinski

Hello Master Gardeners, I'm Ann Klosinski, your newly elected co-secretary along with Steve Zolvinski. As a graduate of the class of 2006 and a gold level MG, I bring with me the experience of having been on the Board in several positions including President, Past President and Secretary.

The same year I became President, I also co-chaired the first Spring Garden Show and continued to chair the show for another four years. The health of our Association was not left untouched by the limitations Covid imposed on us. With the help of the other Board members and all the members of the Association I hope to revive the interest and enthusiasm in our group through outreach and an interesting and fun agenda.

My husband and I have been retired for over a decade and have plans to travel to Italy and Croatia in 2023. Together we have 6 children and 13 grandchildren, all but one living in La Porte County. Born and raised here, this has always been home!

---

### JANUARY MEETING – January 5, 2023

By: Carol Nolan

---

The January meeting will be held at Bethany Lutheran Church. The incoming board members will provide refreshments at 6:00 p.m. during social hour. The meeting will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. and is anticipated to last no longer than sixty minutes.

It is requested that all board members and committee chairs be present at this meeting to provide updates of current projects. It is important that we all participate to the fullest at our monthly meetings.

Please note the general business meetings will be held the first Thursday of each month. For the months of January through March, we will meet at the Bethany Lutheran Church. Details to be provided at the January 5, 2023 meeting.

**November Brown Bag  
Winter Sowing**  
By: Karren Coplen



Dolly Foster, Master Gardener from Lake County, was our speaker at the Exchange on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Dolly is a fun speaker, adding humor and lots of homely details to all the rich plant knowledge she imparts.

Winter Sowing is an unusual way of starting seeds in the cold months to plant in the garden in the spring. She taught us to use a clean milk jug, cut it at the right height to make a hinged lid, add drainage holes, potting soil and vermiculite, then add



seeds, name tags to know what's in there, and set it out in the snow to rest, and grow until spring when they're ready to plant out in the garden.

This method takes very little work, just occasional watering, automatically hardens off to the weather, as each of the jugs makes its own little greenhouse. Dolly uses this process to start hundreds of jugs each year to grow the plants she sells each spring.

20 people attended the event, held at The Exchange, a marvelous new learning center that's part of the La Porte Library. We'd like to express our gratitude to The Exchange for being able to use their large classroom facility. And thanks too, to Linda Hough and Kitty Knoll for volunteering to help with running the program.



We would like to offer more Brown Bag events next year, but they won't be until at least March of 2023. If you have a topic you'd like to see addressed, or even better, want to speak, please contact Karren Coplen to share your ideas.

**2023 EXECUTIVE BOARD**

PRESIDENT	CAROL NOLAN
VICE PRESIDENT	KATHLEEN FOX
CO-SECRETARIES	ANN KLOSINSKI
	STEVE ZOLVINSKI
TREASURER	SUSAN KIEFFER
ED. COMMITTEE/ SPEAKERS BUREAU	EUNICE CONWAY
	JOAN KINTZELE
	DEB SARVER
PAST PRESIDENT	RANDA MAGILL

**2023 PROJECT COORDINATORS**

**Brown Bag Gardening Series**  
Karren Coplen \_\_\_\_\_ 219-390-4118  
\_\_\_\_\_ [karrenc@comcast.net](mailto:karrenc@comcast.net)

**Farmers' Market – La Porte**  
Chris Svoboda \_\_\_\_\_ 614-377-6409  
\_\_\_\_\_ [svoboda.christina@att.net](mailto:svoboda.christina@att.net)

**Garden Hotline**  
Extension Office \_\_\_\_\_ 219-324-9407

**Habitat for Humanity**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **OPEN**

**Friendship Botanic Gardens**  
Rima Binder \_\_\_\_\_ 219-878-8128  
\_\_\_\_\_ [rimabinder@comcast.net](mailto:rimabinder@comcast.net)

**Pioneer Land School Tours**  
Linda Hough \_\_\_\_\_ 219-324-0424  
\_\_\_\_\_ [ljhough614@gmail.com](mailto:ljhough614@gmail.com)

**Pioneer Heritage Garden**  
Connie Shei \_\_\_\_\_ 219-362-4866  
\_\_\_\_\_ [jshei@comcast.net](mailto:jshei@comcast.net)

**Seed Savers**  
Mary Davis \_\_\_\_\_ 219-877-5339  
\_\_\_\_\_ [mdavis9757@gmail.com](mailto:mdavis9757@gmail.com)

**Sunflower Fair**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **OPEN**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Garden Show**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **OPEN**  
\_\_\_\_\_



# LPCMGA 2023 Membership Application

**A. Contact Information** - will be used as your contact information in the membership directory - **Please print**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Text: Yes No  
Optional Optional

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_  
A monthly web link will be sent to the above e-mail address when the newsletter is posted on the website.

I do not have e-mail.  E-mail is not a good way to contact me. Do not include in the directory.

**B. Additional Information** - One purpose of the LPCMGA is to disseminate gardening knowledge  
MG projects I have been involved in \_\_\_\_\_

**Projects in which I would enjoy involvement this year**  Brown Bag Gardening Series  Farmers' Market  
 Friendship Botanic Gardens  Garden Show  Habitat for Humanity  Pioneer Garden School Tours  Pioneer Heritage  
 Sunflower Fair  Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Committees in which I would like to be involved in this year:**  Communication  Planning/Development  
 Education  Events  Hospitality  Projects

**Topics I am interested in learning more about, check all that apply:**

Perennials  Pest Control  Optimizing growing conditions  
 Annuals  Color in the garden  Garden design  
 Woody plants  Pruning/propagation  Shade/sun loving plants  
 Herbs  Container gardening  Vegetable gardening  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Topics I am knowledgeable about and would be able to speak on:**

Annuals/Perennials  Good Bugs-Bad Bugs  Native Plants  Lead a garden walk/provide information  
 Children's Programs  Attracting Pollinators  Garden design  Lawn Maintenance/Care  
 Woody plants  Pruning/propagation  Shade/sun loving plants  Tree Care  
 Herbs  Container gardening  Vegetable gardening  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Suggestions for LPCMGA member development & direction** -  Field Trips  Lecturers/Speakers

Locations \_\_\_\_\_

Names & Contact Info \_\_\_\_\_

Book Reviews  New Plant Strains  Demonstrations  New Horticultural Trends

Suggestions \_\_\_\_\_

**Strong skills I can bring to the LPCMGA include**

Computer skills  Graphic Arts/Posters  Photography  Advertising/PR  Writing  Public speaking

Anything else you'd like to share \_\_\_\_\_

*Annual fee of \$20, completed application form and Purdue Master Gardener Agreement form (online and required every year) is due by January 31, in order to be included in the Membership Directory.*

**Please bring form and payment to the January meeting or mail it by January 31 to:**

La Porte County Master Gardener Association  
Purdue Extension – La Porte County  
2857 W. State Road 2, Suite A  
La Porte, Indiana 46350

The La Porte County Master Gardener Association awards a Purdue student \$1,000 each year based on Purdue's eligibility guidelines. If you would like to make a donation for that scholarship please fill in the information below and include the scholarship amount with your annual dues check. This way we can keep track of the donations for this scholarship and properly thank those who are generously funding it. This may be a tax deductible donation to LPCMGA, a 501(c)(3) organization.

DONATIONS TO THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Donated \_\_\_\_\_

## EDUCATION

### Master Gardener Basic Class

Click on link below to find upcoming trainings.

If you click on the training, you will see more details about that session.

<https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/master-gardener/events/categories/2023-purdue-mg-basic-training/>

#### Trainings in our area

Spring 2023 EMG Basic Training - Porter County - 02/7/2023 - 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. Central  
Spring 2023 EMG Basic Training - St. Joseph County - 02/15/23 - 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. Eastern  
Statewide Virtual Purdue EMG Basic Training - 2023 - 02/07/23 - 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Eastern

## EXTENSION NEWS

Until a new ANR is hired for La Porte, Nikky Witkowski, Extension Educator, ANR - Porter County and Mary Komenas, Extension Educator, CD, La Porte County will be helping us out approving hours and answering MG questions.

Nikky's contact information is:

**nikky@purdue.edu** - 219-465-3555

Mary's contact information is:

**mfoell@purdue.edu** - 219-324-9407

### Master Gardener Manager

By: Nikky Witkowski, Extension Educator, Porter County

Many of you may know that the Purdue Extension Master Gardener Manager, the website that you enter hours into, allows you to designate a primary county. This is the county that you primarily work with and report to. Some of you know there was an option of declaring a secondary county. At first rollout, there were problems with the technology that made some educators discourage the usage of that function.

Now, many of those features have been fixed. In a time of encouraging togetherness, I will be opening up the ability of declaring a secondary county, especially those that may want it with Porter County. They too will be opened up to make La Porte a secondary county. This opportunity will allow for increased communication and volunteer opportunities going forward. It will also give an opportunity to increase membership numbers amongst both groups.

If you are someone that would appreciate this opportunity, feel free to let me know and we can assist with changing your status to allow this to happen. You can contact me at: **nikky@purdue.edu** or 219-465-3555.

# JANUARY GARDEN

## HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

- Keep holiday poinsettias and other plants near a bright window. Water as top of soil becomes dry.
- Increase humidity around houseplants by grouping plants together, placing them on a pebble-water tray or running a humidifier.
- Check stored produce and tender flower bulbs and roots for rot, shriveling or excess moisture. Remove and discard damaged material.
- Repot houseplants as they outgrow current pots.

## GARDEN (Flowers, vegetables, and small fruits)

- Send for seed catalogs for the garden.
- Sketch your garden plans on paper, including what to grow, spacing, arrangement and number of plants needed.
- Order seeds and plants as early as possible for best selection.
- Wood ashes from the fireplace can be spread in the garden, but don't overdo it. Wood ashes increase soil pH, and excess application can make some nutrients unavailable for plant uptake. Have soil tested to be certain of the pH before adding wood ash.

## YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals, and fruits)

- Check young trees for rodent injury on lower trunks. Prevent injury with hardware cloth or protective collars.
- Keep road and sidewalk salt away from plants. Construct a screen of burlap, if necessary, to keep salt spray off plants.
- "Leaf" through nursery catalogs or visit websites and make plans for landscape and home orchard additions. Order plants early for best selection.
- Early spring-flowering trees and shrubs such as forsythia, crabapple, flowering quince, and flowering dogwood can be forced for early indoor blooms by placing cut branches in water in a warm location.



### STANDING COMMITTEE

#### COORDINATORS

History Book \_\_\_\_\_ Donna Pouzar  
 Hospitality \_\_\_\_\_ Eunice Conway  
 Librarian \_\_\_\_\_ Linda Hough  
 Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_ Donna Pouzar  
 Speakers Bureau \_ See Executive Board  
 Sunshine \_\_\_\_\_ Julie Goetz

**Purdue Extension Office** \_\_ 324-9407

Interim ANR-Porter County  
 Nikky Witkowski \_\_\_\_\_ 219-465-3555  
**nikky@purdue.edu**

Interim ANR-La Porte County  
 Mary Komenas \_\_\_\_\_ 219-3224-9407  
**mfoell@purdue.edu**

*The Latest Dirt* is published monthly. The deadline for submission is the 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Have a garden item for sale or trade?  
 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 and provide your phone number and/or e-mail address. Ads will be limited to space available.

Send ads, photos, events or articles by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month to:

**pouzdlp@icloud.com**

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