

The Latest Dirt

La Porte County Master Gardener Newsletter



JUNE 2022

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2022 MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursdays at the Purdue Extension Office unless otherwise noted

June 2	Workshop Rainfield Farms New Carlisle
July 7	Business Meeting
August 4	Picnic – Red Mill Co. Park
September 1	Business Meeting
October 6	Workshop
November 3	Business Annual Meeting Elections
December	Holiday Dinner

NEXT BOARD MEETING
T.B.A.

“THE LATEST DIRT” is published monthly.
The next deadline is:
June 20, 2022



www.facebook.com/MasterGardenersOfLaPorteCountyIndiana
www.lpmastergardener.org



DIIDRIIE EYTENCTON

Good-bye and Thank You, Tina!

By: Donna Pouzar

Tina DeWitt, who was the ANR Administrative Assistant Purdue Extension – La Porte County for 9-1/2 years, and the backbone of support between the Extension Office and the Master Gardener Association is leaving for new career opportunities.

Tina went over and beyond the call of duty in assisting and ensuring our Association ran smoothly and adhered to Purdue’s sanctions. She never said ‘No’ to a request and always offered her help and support.

She knew what needed to be done, was a tremendous help with submitting interesting information and education opportunities for the “The Latest Dirt,” and was always there to help anyone who needed guidance. Plus, she was always pleasant and always had a smile on her face.

She definitely spoiled us with her knowledge and willingness to help and I think I can speak for everyone; she will surely be missed.

Tina, we wish you well in your new endeavors.



LPCMGA Holiday Party, 2021



ATTENTION

Revising Volunteer and/or Education Hours

By: Azad Chahal, ANR Educator

If you receive a message about revising volunteer and/or education entries that you made in MG Manager, please make sure you complete this revision process by the 10th of the month so those entries can be approved.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

June Field Trip

By: Randa Magill

We have some exciting news! We are planning a field trip for our June 2nd Association meeting! We will be meeting at Rainfield Farms and will be arriving at 6:00 p.m. with the tour to begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. (CDT).

Shane Hansen gave a wonderful Zoom presentation for the Association in April 2021.

Rainfield Farms is a certified naturally grown vegetable farm in New Carlisle. Born in 2012, Rainfield Farms practices small scale farming on thirteen acres of land, one of which is used for growing produce. The fields are strategically placed to minimally impact the natural landscape of pines and rolling hills. They're a certified naturally grown farm which prevents the use of pesticides and synthetic chemicals. They rely heavily on composting and soil conditioning through cover crops, green manure and crop rotations.



Their farm is a USDA conservation partner (EQIP) specifically their pollinator fields and they're a partner of the Indiana Grown initiative. They grow vegetables for restaurants, grocery stores, CSA and their Farm Stores. They also host farm stays in their tiny cabin rentals.

2022 EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT	RANDA MAGILL
VICE PRESIDENT	LORRAINE WEDOW
CO-SECRETARIES	KARREN COPLEN JACKIE CARROLL
TREASURER	DEBBIE MOORE
ED. COMMITTEE/ SPEAKERS BUREAU	EUNICE CONWAY DEBORAH SARVER MARY DAVIS
PAST PRESIDENT	ANN KLOSINSKI

2022 PROJECT COORDINATORS

Brown Bag Gardening Series	
Karren Coplen _____	219-390-4118 karrenc@comcast.net
Farmers' Market – La Porte	
Chris Svoboda _____	614-377-6409 svoboda.christina@att.net
Garden Hotline	
Extension Office _____	219-324-9407
Garden Walk	
Maureen Sherrick _____	610-737-3398 shezamura@yahoo.com
Habitat for Humanity	
Randa Magill _____	219-851-8618 rmagill4013@msn.com
Friendship Botanic Gardens	
Rima Binder _____	219-878-8128 rimabinder@comcast.net
Pioneer Land School Tours	
Linda Hough _____	219-324-0424 ljhough614@gmail.com
Pioneer Heritage Garden	
Connie Shei _____	219-362-4866 jshei@comcast.net
Seed Savers	
Mary Davis _____	219-877-5339 mdavis9757@gmail.com
Sunflower Fair	
Megan Countryman _____	574-532-8480 mcountry46552@gmail.com
Garden Show	
Maureen Sherrick _____	610-737-3398 shezamura@yahoo.com
Wendy Shafer _____	219-878-3018 winterone50@gmail.com

La Porte County Master Gardener Association Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2022

In Person Meeting at office with 18 present and 7 more people attending by Zoom

Call to order: 6:30 p.m. Chaired by Randa Magill**Treasurer's Report: Debbie Moore.** Distributed Treasurer's Report for Dec. 2021, January, February and March 2022.**Secretary's Report: Jackie Carroll.** Minutes were not taken at the April Awards meeting.**Pending Business:**

1. Fifth Grade Field Days at Luhr Park: Friday, May 13, 9am-1pm. 5 volunteers needed. Contact Linda Hough or Lorraine Wedow.
2. June's meeting: Rainfield Farms (New Carlisle). Meet at 6:00 p.m. All information is in the newsletter. We zoomed with them last April.
3. Pioneer Garden Tour (May 16-25)-Linda Hough. Volunteers needed for a 10-minute explanation of the Pioneer Garden; period dress. Tina has the text. When arriving, find Carl in the Artesian area and let him know you are there. Easy to do! Contact Linda. Also, reminder that the Pioneer Garden meets at 9 a.m. on Mondays. It's planting time!

New Business:

1. Conservation Booth during fair needs volunteers: Lorraine Wedow. We have not yet paid the \$100 fee. We are unable to staff it the entire time. Volunteers needed to spend time periodically checking on booth. Fair entry fee required even if volunteering for this assignment.
2. **Coordinator Updates:** Karen Sarver. Karen will get the coordinators together in early June. Volunteers needed: Hospitality needs 2 more members and Communication (Karren Coplen). Discussion of committee structure. On website, difficult to print.

Brown Bag Series-Karren Coplen-no report.**Farmer's Market**-Chris Svoboda. Chris sent in dates to new director but no return call; no sign up-sheets yet. It opens a week from Saturday. The location moved across the street and is smaller. Will they have room for us?**Garden Hotline**-Tina DeWitt. Phone line activity picking up, but many vacant spots. Video training is available and recommended for those who have never worked the hotline. It is not difficult. It is ok to say you don't have the answer right now and will look into it. There is documentation of past calls and recommendations in the office. It is helpful to read them while waiting for a call or email. Suggestion made to create a list of frequently-asked questions and responses. Some volunteers have worked from home. If you are not scheduled to work, you can also volunteer to be "on call" (if you are available), so we don't leave people without an answer. Please give it a try.**Friendship Botanical Gardens**-Rima Binder-no report.**Garden Walk**-Maureen Sherrick-Looking for help. The garden walk is limited to our personal gardens and not open to the public. Mid-July. A few people expressed interest previously. Looking for members to volunteer their gardens and for someone to help her organize it.**Habitat for Humanity**-Lorraine Wedow. The new Executive Director, Sophie Coleman, is phenomenal. A new house is scheduled to start this week and five next year. Has a few volunteers.

Seed Savers-Mary Davis- no report.

Pioneer Garden-Connie Shei-See Pending Business #3, above.

Sunflower Fair-Megan Countryman. No word yet.

Reminder-Jackie Carroll. With all the various activities going on, in addition to using the MG website, emails can be sent to all members on MG email. Prepare what you want to send, and email to Jackie at jackie8606@comcast.net.

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 by Randa

Next meeting will be June 2 at Rainfield Farms (New Carlisle), at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jackie Carroll

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

June 2022 HOTLINE		
Monday	Wednesday	Friday
	1 Julie Goetz - Home	3 Julie Goetz - Home
6	8 Steve Zolvinski – Office	10 Sue Cook - Home
13 Steve Zolvinski – Office	15 Sue Cook - Home	17
20 Sue Cook - Home	22	24 Steve Zolvinski - Office
27	29 Steve Zolvinski - Office	



VOLUNTEER HOT LINE DIRECTIVES

By: Tina DeWitt

Just wanted to send out a friendly reminder that if you sign up to work the MG Hotline through MG Manager, could you contact the Extension Office and let the gals know you signed up and whether you will be coming into the office or if you will be working from home. They will need that information so they know if they need to send you an email with the details of the call so you can take care of it at home.

When you are working from home and have completed the hotline call, could you please send a copy of the completed hotline sheet or at least send an email with how you took care of the call to the lpmastergardener@gmail.com email so there is record of the call and answer and it can be recorded properly.

Again, thank you all for all you do with the Master Gardener program. If you have questions, please reach out to the Kathy and Kelly here at the office and they may be able to help but definitely reach out to the MG board members and to Azad for help.

EDUCATION

Botanical Gardens and Master Gardener Seminar Information			
Fernwood Botanical Gardens	www.fernwoodbotanical.org LPCMGA is a member of Fernwood Botanical Gardens. Membership card can be signed out at the Extension Office.		
Gabis Arboretum at Purdue NW	https://www.pnw.edu/gabis-arboretum		
Friendship Botanic Gardens	www.friendshipgardens.org		
Advanced Master Gardener Training			
Master Gardener Seminars			
Click on this link for more information on these events. https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/master-gardener/events/			
Date	Event/Time/Fee	Description	Location / Contact

The Conundrum of Common Names - June 9 @ 1:00 p.m. (CDT)

While common names are easy to remember and helpful in describing plants, they often lead to confusion. We've all heard the phrase "you say tomatoyto, I say tomahto," but some plants have completely different common names: you say marestail, your friend says coltstail, and I say horseweed! Common names can also be misleading when they include the word "weed" in them, since people's perceptions of weeds vary greatly. Latin names, on the other hand, are assigned to a single species and follow a naming convention. For gardeners and plant enthusiasts, understanding Latin names is a very useful skill. We'll explore the basics of Latin naming and discuss its importance. We'll use examples of plants with many common names, different plants that share common names, and plants named "weeds" to illustrate our message. Presenter: **Erin Garrett**

If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate, please contact Erin Garrett at: emedvecz@illinois.edu. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time to meet access needs.

Click to register - [The Conundrum of Common Names](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Free Plants and Some for Sale

Free plants as well as some beautiful shade and sun plants for sale at reasonable prices.

Free for the taking are: multi-petal daffodils, Bloodroot and dark purple, fragrant bearded irises.

If interested, please contact Donna Pouzar at: pouzdlp@icloud.com or at 219-363-2960.

Plants for sale include: Astilbe chinensis; Aconitum (Monkshood); Epimedium; Digitalis purpurea; bearded irises-yellow, lavender/white and burgundy; daylilies and more. Electronic photo file available if interested.

June Garden Calendar

By: Rosie Lerner

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.

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.

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.
- Continue planting carrots, beans, and sweet corn for successive harvests.
- For staked tomatoes, remove suckers (branches that form where the leaf joins the stem) while they are 1 to 1.5 inches long to allow easier training. No need to remove suckers on caged plants.
- Remove the spent blooms of peony, iris, delphiniums after they fade.
- Pinch the shoot tips of chrysanthemums, impatiens, petunias, and coleus to promote bushier growth.
- Remove the tops of spring-flowering bulbs only after they have yellowed and withered.
- Continue planting gladiolus for a succession of bloom.
- Pick strawberries from the garden or a U-pick operation (check with the farm for COVID-19 U-pick protocols.)
- Protect ripening strawberries from birds by covering with netting.
- Supplement natural rainfall (as needed) to supply a total of 1 to 1.5 inches of water per week to the garden.

STANDING COMMITTEE**COORDINATORS**

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

Purdue Extension Office __ 324-9407

Azad Chahal ___ aschahal@purdue.edu
 Tina DeWitt _____ dewitt8@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.

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, or 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 20th of the month to either:

pouzdlp@icloud.com

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