

ASSOCIATION NEWS

November Annual Meeting

The next association meeting will be our Annual Meeting held on November 3rd, 2022 at the La Porte Extension office. Social time starts at 6:00 p.m., with the meeting starting at 6:30 p.m. Please make sure to attend this meeting and cast your vote for new board members. We have 5 open positions this year. Nominees will give a little "Get to know them" speech before voting begins. If you would like to be added to the ballot, please let Linda Hough know ASAP.

A reminder to all Committee and Project Coordinators, according to by-laws, project completion reports are due at the November meeting. The project completion form is on the extension website. Debbie Moore was also making phone calls to all project coordinators to get your budgets for the upcoming year. If you have not reached out to her, please do so.

The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 9th at 6:00 p.m. at La Porte Library in meeting room A. Just a reminder, members can attend these meetings but will not be able to vote on any issue.

The La Porte, Indiana Sunflower Fair was a Great, Sunny Day!

By: Linda Hough



From left: Randa Magill, Steve Zolvinski and Kathy Staninger

The La Porte, Indiana Sunflower Fair was held Saturday September 17th. We had a beautiful day with about 8 - 10 members of our Master Gardener organization volunteering their time to staff our booth throughout the day. Many people stopped by to chat with our volunteers and ask gardening questions. We made contact with many people throughout the community with some expressing interest in becoming Master Gardeners.

The weather was lovely with hundreds of people attending the Fair. Master Gardeners were in charge of judging the sunflowers again this year. There were 16 total entrants. The categories were largest seed head, greatest number of blooms and tallest sunflower. Those submitting entries were young children to adults. Our own Mary Davis won second place in the multiple blooms category with 61 flowers on one sunflower plant. We gave out 1st and 2nd place ribbons in each category. Trophies will be awarded to each winner at a later date.

Everyone had a great time!



Far left: Linda Hough talking with visitors; Steve Zolvinski and Kathy Staninger

Association Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2022

By: Karren Coplen and Jackie Carroll

Call to order: 6:30 p.m. Chaired by Randy Russell with Jackie Carroll assisting

Upcoming elections-Linda Hough is chairing the nominating committee and has been making calls. She has found 4 people willing to serve on the board. We will still accept other nominations and volunteers. The election will be held at the next meeting in November.

Azad requested that all lists of people interested in attending a Master Gardener class that have been gathered at events throughout the year be turned in soon. Lists have been recorded from the Farmers’ Market, Sunflower Fair, Pioneer Garden, and the Builders’ Show but we need to ensure the office has a complete list. Builders’ Show: in box and returned to the office. Sunflower: Randa? Pioneer Garden: Connie brought to the office. Farmers’ market: Chris has 4. Soil & Conservation, who? Azad suggests that in the future we snap a picture of those lists and email it in just in case the list gets misplaced.

New Business:

Open discussion on plans for next year. Members were asked to come with suggestions of activities for next year. Suggestions were: **1.** Ann Klosinski-Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids, 2 ½ hour drive. charter a bus.

2. Kathleen Stanger-Morton Arboretum-Illinois-Christmastime displays; **3.** Connie Shei-Green Trail Farms; July would be a good time-beautiful flowers, close to home, a short drive and might be a good place to hold a meeting, <https://www.facebook.com/greentrailfarm/>; **4.** Joann Scheetz suggested Lydick Bog, an area near South Bend with unusual plantings. Part of the Shirley Heinz Land Trust, <https://heinzetrust.org/lydick-bog-nature-preserve/>. Suggestion to meet outdoors in the summertime, as we have done in the past.

The board will discuss and investigate options further. Web addresses added later for clarity.

2022 EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT	RANDA MAGILL
VICE PRESIDENT	OPEN
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

Habitat for Humanity _____ **OPEN**

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 _____ **OPEN**

Garden Show _____ **OPEN**

Discussion on how we can best get our name out into the community-Jackie-Comments were: Donna-we used to publish minutes from our meetings into newspaper for everyone to see. Talk of how small the newspaper is now and announcements must be paid for. Invite public to presentations; post announcement at courthouse and Horizon Bank for events; Chris Svoboda, People question her at Farmer's Market because they don't know we exist; Michigan City Zoo wants us to establish and maintain their garden; Connie Shei, People come to the Fair each year and see the progress of the garden; Marcy Dailey remembered that we used to go on the radio to promote our garden show and wondered if we could do a monthly garden advice event. Others said that the radio stations no longer welcome community input. Brinka Cross Garden and bring a guest. Table at MC market (may cost now). Maybe we could do videos on YouTube or podcasts. Reminder that all members should be able to access the Facebook page (make sure you "like" us).

Discussion on in person or zoom meetings-Jackie-Hoping to increase attendance at meetings, the discussion reflected comments about why people didn't attend meetings. Some don't want to drive at night. Zoom meetings are difficult because so many don't show their face during the meeting. If we do use zoom for meetings, there must be a way to show faces so we can communicate. Using a buddy system suggested to help members attend a meeting in person. Azad will run a survey of members to find out best times to hold a meeting.

Coordinator Updates:

Brown Bag Series-Karren Coplen-The first Brown Bag session of the year is Hydroponics, presented by Karren Coplen. The date has been changed from previously announced. It will be held October 26 at 6:30 p.m., at Michigan City Public Library, 100 E 4th St, Michigan City, IN 46360. The second Brown Bag is on November 22, at 6:30 pm, Winter Sowing, by Dolly Foster at The Exchange, 807 Indiana Ave, La Porte, IN 46350.

Garden Show- Mary Davis-Discussion as to whether to hold a garden show in 2023. The chairs for last year will not continue, but are working on a procedures book to guide future plans. Discussion on how late in the year it is to plan a show for Spring 2023. Speakers, vendors and promotion should have already been underway. Motion made by Donna Pouzar that, "We do not do a 2023 show because of lack of time. Postpone until 2024." Motion carried. Carol Nolan volunteered to chair the next show. When the new procedure books are finished, they will go to Carol to help plan for show in 2024. Others suggested that we hold a plant sale at Farmer's Market in May, and all members can contribute plants for sale.

Farmers' Market-the last market will be this coming Saturday.

Hot Line-Jackie-thanked the volunteers for staffing the hotline. Julie Goetz gave an example of an experience with one of her clients.

Friendship Botanical Gardens-Jackie- thanked the volunteers who did a great job providing help this summer.

Habitat for Humanity - no report

Pioneer Garden-Connie Shei-The garden has been put to bed for winter, with cardboard covering the soil and leaves to keep the weeds down for next year. There was lots of great help this year. Thanks for all the help.

Sunflower Fair-Linda Hough-There were 16 sunflower contest entrants and Mary Davis won second place for the most flower heads at 61. Linda made ribbons to hand out to winners.

Azad requests that we all catch up on logging in our hours so he can get them approved and recorded. Discussion as to whether hours were educational or volunteer. Business or discussion meetings are volunteer. Lectures or learning are educational. This meeting was volunteer.

Marcy announced that there is a Veg Fest coming up in South Bend at the Century Center. Website <https://michianavegfest.org/>

There are zoom events coming up soon that were communicated by emails from Azad on 3 Virtual EMG Advanced Training: Oct 12, 26 and Nov 9. Jackie will resend Azad's email. A virtual MG Roundtable is Wed. 11/2, 6:30-8:00 p.m. EDT. Contact: **Smith535@purdue.edu**. Phone: 765-653-8411.

Motion to adjourn by Jackie, seconded by Kathleen Staninger, passed. Adjourn at 7:58

Next meeting will be November 3, at the office and elections will be held.

Minutes recorded by Karren Coplen, proofed by: Randy Russell and Jackie Carroll

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Spring Master Gardener Class

By: Jackie Carroll

Great News! Azad is finalizing plans for a spring Master Gardener program. The speakers are lined up and the dates/times determined, final approval from John Orick. The program will be on Thursdays, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. beginning February 2nd and continue through April 27. A minimum of 15 is needed to hold the program.

The office has a running list of interested individuals however; they may not have the interest lists from our (Farmers' Market, Sunflower Fair, etc.). If you have the sheets, please call or email Kathy at the Extension Office so their names may be added. Hard to get new members without a class, and that's on us!

Thank you, Azad, for making the arrangements.

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
Nov. 2	MG Roundtable 6:30-8:00 (EST)		Webinar. Register for this session at: https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8IeCTHHnmHG16ey
Nov. 9	1:00-2:00 p.m. (EST)	Landscape Design. Sean Rotar, Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture, Purdue University	Webinar. Register for this session at: https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8IeCTHHnmHG16ey

Winter Sowing Is the Brown Bag Topic for November

By: Karren Coplen

Winter sowing is a method of starting seeds outdoors in the winter in containers, usually a plastic milk/ water jug. Start your spring seeds and other perennials outdoors in January or February.

The jug acts as a tiny greenhouse and your seeds should sprout by April. The advantage of this method is that the seeds are cold stratified and then sprout when they are ready. They harden off naturally without all the fuss. You can transplant the seedlings when they are 4-6" tall. Start annuals in the beginning or middle of March. Vegetable seeds can also be started like this from March through April.

The secret to Winter Sowing is watering the jugs when the sun is out during the winter and the day is warming up a little. These tiny greenhouses can and do heat up quite a bit on a sunny day above 30 degrees. Don't miss this fun event. It's a whole new way of starting all those seedlings, and you can even get your hands in soil in November!

Master Gardener Dolly Foster is our presenter. She describes herself as Horticulturist and Monarch enthusiast, and uses this method to start her many plants each winter.

Important! Bring along a clean, empty milk jug and a pair of scissors or garden shears, and you can take home your own mini greenhouse planted with native seeds.

No admission charge for this event and it will count as one education hour for Master Gardeners.

**This event will be held 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. on November 22 at
The Exchange, 807 Indiana Avenue, La Porte, IN 46350**



GARDEN CALENDAR

November Garden Calendar

By: Rosie Lerner

HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

- As houseplant growth slows, apply less fertilizer and water.
- If plants are dropping many leaves, move them closer to sunny exposures, such as west- and south-facing windows. Artificial lights may be needed to supplement particularly dark rooms.
- Pot spring-flowering bulbs with tips exposed to force into bloom indoors. Moisten soil and refrigerate 10 to 13 weeks. Transfer to a cool, sunny location, and allow an additional three to four weeks for blooming.
- Continue dark treatment for poinsettias by keeping them in complete darkness from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. daily until early December or until red bracts begin to show.

GARDEN (Flowers, vegetables, and small fruits)

- If frost hasn't taken your garden yet, continue harvesting.
- Harvest mature green tomatoes before frost, and ripen indoors in the dark. Store at 55-70 degrees F. The warmer the temperature, the faster they ripen.
- Harvest root crops and store in a cold (32 degrees F), humid location. Use perforated plastic bags as an easy way to increase humidity.
- Remove crop and weed plant debris from the garden and add to the compost pile. This will help reduce the carryover of diseases, insects and weeds to next year's garden.
- Fall tilling, except in erosion-prone areas, helps improve soil structure and usually leads to soils warming and drying faster in the spring. This allows crops to be planted earlier.
- Apply mulch to strawberries to prevent winter injury or death to their crowns. Wait until temperatures have hit 20 degrees F to be sure plants are dormant. If mulch is applied too soon the plant's crown can rot.
- Dig and store tender flowering bulbs, and keep in a protected location.
- Complete planting of spring-flowering bulbs.

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals, and fruits)

- Keep plants, especially newly planted stock, well-watered until Prevent rabbit and rodent feeding damage by erecting physical barriers, such as metal mesh (one-fourth inch) hardware cloth. Pull mulch a few inches away from the trunk, as the mulch provides a warm winter home for rodents. Chemical repellents also are available, but their effectiveness is temporary and not foolproof.
- Prevent frost cracking (or sunscald) by wrapping trunks with commercial tree wrap or painting the south- and southwest-facing sides of the trunk with white latex outdoor paint. Young, thin-barked trees such as maples and many fruit trees are especially susceptible. Be sure to remove the tree wrap by early spring to prevent overheating of the bark.

- Remove dead, diseased or damaged branches.
- Protect the graft union on rose bushes by mounding soil around the plants and adding mulch on top. Wait until several killing frosts have occurred so plants will be dormant when covered. Plants covered too early may be smothered.
- If you are planning to order a "live" Christmas tree, prepare its planting hole before the soil freezes. Mulch the area heavily to prevent freezing, or dig the hole and put fill in a protected, nonfreezing area such as a garage or basement.
- Clean up and discard fallen leaves and fruits around fruit plants to reduce disease carryover.
- Continue mowing lawn as needed. As tree leaves fall, run them through your mower (remove bagger), allowing the shredded leaves to remain on the lawn. Be sure to mow only when grass and leaves are dry.
- A November application of fertilizer can help keep lawns green into winter and boost early spring recovery. Apply one-half to 1-pound actual nitrogen, per 1,000 square feet of lawn. See "Turfgrass Management: Fertilizing Established Cool-Season Lawns" for more information on lawn fertilization.



STANDING COMMITTEE

COORDINATORS

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

Purdue Extension Office __ 324-9407

Azad Chahal ___ aschahal@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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