

The Latest Dirt

La Porte County Master Gardener Newsletter



APRIL 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

April 7	Awards Dinner Red Mill County Park Damien Appel, "Succession Planting"
May 5	Business Meeting
June 2	Workshop
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

April 12 - 6:00 p.m.

"THE LATEST DIRT" is published monthly.
The next deadline is:
April 20, 2022



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



PURDUE EXTENSION
MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

5th Annual Spring Garden Show Update

By: Wendy Shafer, Co-Chair

Well, we did it! It wasn't an easy decision to go forward with the show. Everyone had mixed feelings about it. Would Covid-19 still be playing a big role in our lives? Would people have to wear masks? Would people be reluctant to be around others? In the end, we decided we needed to take the risk! The LPCMGA needed this show, and we were hoping that the public needed it too!

The risk paid off! We had over \$4,075 in ticket sales, which means that we had at least 400 people come through, and that doesn't include speakers, vendors, and sponsors. We had 8 sponsors support us, and more than 30 vendors selling their wares.

As in the past, Meijer's was a great supporter of our show and our organization. We are most grateful to their sponsorship and to Estelle Pawloski who is our liaison with them and is really instrumental in keeping our relationship with Meijer.



The Children's program went well; we had quite a few kids participate.

We haven't had a chance to go through the surveys yet and to do a final count of profits, but that information will be shared in the next newsletter. The Garden Show Committee will meet on April 11th and have a little celebration of our efforts and successes. We also plan on working to put together a detailed manual to help with the next show.

Finally, the success wouldn't have happened without all of the LPCMGA members' support and volunteerism! So, kudos to all of you!

More to follow!



ASSOCIATION NEWS



La Porte County Master Gardener's Annual Awards Banquet

Thursday, April 7th, 2022

5:30 pm Social Hour

6:00 pm Dinner

7:00 Speaker

Red Mill County Park - Smith Hall

0185 South Holmesville Road

La Porte, IN 46350

You and a guest are invited to come celebrate the growth we have achieved over the past year as Master Gardeners. We will celebrate our newest graduating class as well as other members that have advanced to a new level. We will also be celebrating our 25th year as an association.

We will be serving fried chicken or vegetarian lasagna. We ask that members with the last name A - M to please bring a side dish to share, members with last name N - Z to please bring a dessert.

Our speaker will be Damien Appel from Native Root Farm, he will be speaking about succession planting. His farm has produced some of the finest sustainable/organic vegetables in NW Indiana since 2013.

His farm is located in the rural community of Wanatah, IN.

Each year, the farm gets closer in transforming his land into a closed loop sustainable, fertile, nature balanced, happy organic farm.

Master Gardeners Promote Gardening with Seed Giveaway

By: Mary Davis

At the end of February, a group of Master Gardeners gathered at the extension office to finish the task we started in October when we semi-cleaned the seeds that were gathered last fall from various gardens.

In February, we bagged and labeled seed that was distributed at the Builders Home Show in March at the Blue Chip Casino. We also offered this seed along with seed packets donated by various companies to attendees at the Spring Garden Show held at the Michigan City High School on March 19.



We also distributed sunflower seeds and marigold seeds from various gardens, along with other seeds collected from the pioneer garden. We distributed seed catalogs collected from Master Gardeners, as well as some donated by several seed companies for the show. Most of the seeds were given out by the end of the show. The

remaining seeds will be offered for sale at the Pioneer Garden during the La Porte County Fair.

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.

2022 EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT	RANDA MAGILL
VICE PRESIDENT	LORRAINE WEDOW
CO-SECRETARIES	KARREN COPLEN
	JACKIE CARROLL
TREASURER	DEBBIE MOORE
ED. COMMITTEE/	EUNICE CONWAY
SPEAKERS BUREAU	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
 _____ shezamurphy@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
 _____ shezamurphy@yahoo.com
 Wendy Shafer _____ 219-878-3018
 _____ winterone50@gmail.com

Builders Association of La Porte County 2022 Home and Lifestyle Expo

By: Donna Pouzar

I'd like to thank the following Master Gardeners and Interns for their participation in answering gardening questions at this year's Builder's Home and Lifestyle Expo:

Rima Binder, Marcy Dailey, Linda Hough, Susie Kieffer, Ann Klosinski, Randa Magill, Carol Nolan, Randy Russell, Karen Sarver, Kathy Staninger and Lorraine Wedow.

We interacted with a total of 154 people about gardening and promoting our Garden Show. In addition, kudos to Marcy Dailey who reached thousands by promoting our show on the radio during her shift at the show.



Thanks so much everyone!

La Porte County Master Gardener Association Meeting

Via ZOOM - 30 members online
March 3rd, 2022

Call to order: by Randa Magill at 6:00 p.m.

Treasurer's Report: Debbie Moore Report given verbally, Reported income from Garden Show and membership renewals.

Secretary's Report: Karren Coplen/Jackie Carroll-No minutes from last meeting since it was a lecture on MG history. Jackie Carroll is working on closing out membership renewals. 16 members have not renewed, and they will get a phone call to remind them.

Pending Business:

- Builders Association of La Porte - 2022 Home and Lifestyle Expo** at Blue Chip Casino-Report from Donna Pouzar. Volunteers are registered, booth will be set up the day before event. Focus on promoting Garden Show.

- Garden Show** - March 19th, 2022 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Michigan City High School. Geri Lamb is looking for people to put signs out in high traffic areas - contact her to make arrangements to pick up signs-some volunteers. Kathleen Fox still needs volunteers to run the show. Maureen Sherrick reminded us to like the news of the show on Facebook, so it stays on top of the feed. There's been a new announcement about schedule or speakers each 4 days, and schedule reposted recently. There will be a meeting on Friday to setup the space. Starting at 3:00 p.m. after students leave the school. They are having a meeting Monday, March 7th at 5:00 p.m. at Coolspring Library.
- Pioneer Land School Tours**-Linda Hough-Schools are scheduling their visits on May 16-20 and May 23-27. Linda will email Tina to post signup sheets on our website, so people can take a shift to take the tours in the garden.
- Luhr Park Field Days**-Lorraine Wedow-Friday May 13th, which is a Friday the 13th, we will host a station at Luhr Park for 5th graders. There are 7 stations at the park, and the students have 20 minutes of activity at each station. Lorraine has found the posters and notes from previous years, located the paper pot makers for the students to make paper pots to plant marigolds in. A sign-up sheet will go up on the website soon to volunteer for this fun, one day project.
- Awards Banquet**-Randa. The question is do we want people to bring side dishes and desserts as we have done in the past, or purchase all from a commercial source. Discussion on whether we can go back to in-person meetings and share food. The consensus seems to be we seem to be approved for in-person meetings again, so potluck is acceptable. We will discuss the approval of the speaker's fee. Damien Appel, April 7, at Red Mill County Park. The decision will be finalized at the board meeting next week.
- Karen Sarver, **Project Coordinators** reports.
- Mary Davis, **Seed Savers**-We had a meeting to clean and package seeds last week. Cleaned seeds for the fair and to hand out at the Builders Showcase Expo.
- Habitat for Humanity**-Randa Magill.- Three members, Lorraine Wedow, Connie Shei and Joan Kintzele, agreed to take over the Habitat project. Habitat for Humanity plans to build 6 houses in La Porte County this year.

Meeting adjourned at 6:37p.m. Proofed by Randa Magill
Next Association Meeting: April 7, 2022 - Awards Banquet .

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Hotline Training - Master Gardeners and Interns

By: Azad Chahal, ANR Extension Educator

HOTLINE TRAINING be held in-person on April 1, 2022.

The Hotline will start April 18th and run through September 29th, every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 9:00 am to noon.

Based on your convenience, there are two ways to do the Hotline:

1. You can come to the Purdue Extension office and provide a Hotline session.
2. You can also do the Hotline from your home.

Important note: Please inform ahead of time how you will do the Hotline, either from the Purdue Extension office or from home. This will ensure the phone calls will be handled effectively.

Scenario 1: If you plan to do Hotline calls from home, the calls/messages will be taken at the Purdue Extension office with the contact information of the caller then forwarded to the scheduled volunteer. If you are volunteering from home, you need to have internet access (to research what is needed) and email or phone to reply to the caller with the information that they have requested.

Scenario 2: If you are coming to the Purdue Extension office, you will have access to a computer and reference material to answer the calls/visits about requested gardening questions.

MG volunteers will need to complete the Hotline form. The instructions to complete these forms will be provide during Hotline training session.

Why should you volunteer in the MG hotline?

Interns: You can earn volunteer hours, interact with the community, and learn about gardening issues and simultaneously how to resolve them.

Certified Master Gardeners: You can earn your volunteer hours, catch up with old friends, and learning never ends.

April calendar is available on next page with openings for sign-ups. If you would like to sign-up just give a call or email. You can also sign-up on the **MG Manager** website. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Thank you for your service.

April 2022 HOTLINE		
Monday	Wednesday	Friday
4	6	8
11	13	15 Good Friday
18	20 Nancy Novak	22 Office Closed
25	27	29



If you would like to sign-up just let Tina know by phone 219-324-9407 or dewitt8@purdue.edu. You can also sign-up on the MG Manager website. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions. Thank you.

Friendship Botanic Gardens Volunteer Opportunities

By: Jackie Carroll

Once Upon a Time, there was “An Old Mill Garden” which was an attraction at the 1933 Chicago World’s Fair. It was created by 3 brothers (Stauffer) from Wakarusa, Indiana who owned a nursery in Hammond. During the fair, the garden’s name was changed to International Friendship Gardens to reflect the garden’s theme: “Peace and Friendship to All Nations.”

At the fair, two visitors from Indiana approached the Stauffer brothers and convinced them to create the same garden, on property which would be donated, in Pottawattamie Park. And they did! In 1936, the International Friendship Gardens (now Friendship Botanic Gardens) opened with 14 ethnic gardens and two outdoor theatres on 105 acres.

Once Upon a Time, the Gardens experienced difficulty maintaining its former beauty. In the 1990’s a community-based group began a restoration, and in 1995 it became a public non-profit organization, using grants and equipment donations for funding. Still a lot of work was needed. Through the efforts of the current President, John Leinweber, the Gardens have, and continue to be, rejuvenated through grants, public support, memberships, individual donations, and corporate and local government donations.

Today, it has over 35 specialty gardens/points of interest/sculptures within a forested area of 105 acres. Musical and non-musical events, weddings, and galas are held at the two new outdoor theatres; there are also walking trails and fishing in Trail Creek. The ArcelorMittal Children’s Garden is wonderful; community events (i.e., Bunny Hop, Bees/Bugs/Butterflies, Family ECO-Day, Haunted Trails/Family Fall Fest, Turkey Walk, Holiday Light Show) are FREE!

Volunteers are the cornerstone to maintain the grounds, gardens, and events. With over 25 gardens to maintain, garden volunteers are critical to our success. Those who work 30 or more hours in the gardens over six months during the season are given a free membership for the following year. There are also opportunities to earn Master Gardener Volunteer credits. If you are interested and would like more information on the types of volunteer opportunities or would like to receive a Volunteer Sign-up Sheet, please contact Jackie Carroll at jackie8606@comcast.net or Rima Binder at rimabinder@comcast.net.

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

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/			
Spring 2022 Virtual EMG Advanced Training Series!			
Date	Event/Time/Fee	Description	Location / Contact
April 21	9:00-10:00 a.m. CDT	“Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants in the Home Landscape” Lisa Meek, Purdue EMG, Hamilton County	Register for this session at: https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1TYUtu9zcvQms2a

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](#)

April Garden Calendar

By: Rosie Lerner

HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

- Start seeds of warm-season plants (including tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, marigolds, zinnias, and petunias) indoors for transplanting later to the garden.
- Harden off transplants started earlier in spring before planting outdoors. Gradually expose the young plants to outdoor conditions of wind, brighter sunlight, and lower moisture.
- Apply fertilizer to houseplants according to label directions as days grow brighter and longer and new growth begins. Foliage plants require relatively high-nitrogen fertilizer, while blooming plants thrive on formulations that are higher in phosphorus.
- Keep Easter lily in a bright, cool location, out of direct sunlight. Water as soil begins to dry. You can remove the yellow, pollen-bearing anthers inside the flower by pinching to prevent staining the petals.

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals, and fruits)

- Plant a tree in celebration of Arbor Day, April 24. You should plant bare-root stock before new top growth begins. You can plant balled and burlapped and containerized stock later in spring.
- Complete pruning chores. Remove dead and injured branches first.
- Apply a prebloom, multipurpose orchard spray to fruit trees.
- Remove winter coverings from roses, but keep mulch nearby to protect them from late freezes. Prune and fertilize as needed.
- Apply pre-emergent herbicide to control crabgrass in lawns. Approximate application dates are late March to mid-April in southern Indiana and mid-April to early May in northern Indiana. Exact timing varies each year with weather conditions. For more precise application timing based on Growing Degree Days (GDD), visit Michigan State University's GDD Tracker. Enter your ZIP code and select "Crabgrass Pre." The target GDD window for crabgrass prevention is 250-500.

GARDEN (Flowers, vegetables, and small fruits)

- Plant seeds of cool-season crops directly in the garden as soon as the soil dries enough to be worked. When squeezed, soil should crumble instead of forming a ball. Cool-season crops that can be direct-seeded include peas, lettuce, spinach, carrots, beets, turnips, parsnips and Swiss chard.
- Plant transplants of cool-season crops, such as broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, kohlrabi and onions.
- Plant or transplant asparagus and rhubarb crowns. For best plant establishment, do not harvest until the third year after planting.
- Plant sections of certified, disease-free potato "seed" tubers.
- Allow the foliage of spring-flowering bulbs to remain in place after blooms fade. Leaves manufacture the food reserves, which are then stored in the bulb for a repeat showing next year.
- Plant hardy perennials, such as daylilies and delphiniums.
- Start tuberous begonias and caladiums indoors for transplanting to garden later.
- Remove winter mulch from strawberries, but keep mulch handy in case late frosts are predicted and to help keep weeds under control.
- Plant or transplant strawberries, raspberries, and other small fruit.
- Prune grape vines to remove dead or weakened limbs and to thin as needed.
- Repair support trellises as needed.

MOMENTS FROM THE SPRING GARDEN SHOW



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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