



The Extension Line

June Issue, 2009 News for the LaPorte County Extension Homemakers

Important Dates to Remember

June

June 10-12—Home &
Family Conference

July

July 19-25 LaPorte
County Fair

August

Indiana State Fair
August 7th—23rd

September

Tuesday, September 2nd
— Fall District Mtg.—
LaPorte County
(Details inside)

Saturday, September
19th—Sunflower Festival
Downtown LaPorte

October

Saturday, October 3rd or
10th—Fall Luncheon
Red Mill County Park

Tuesday, October 13—

Fall Retreat—Red Mill
County Park
(Details inside)

Purdue Extension

Knowledge to Go

1-888-EXT-INFO

Purdue University, Indiana
Counties and U. S. Department
of Agriculture Cooperating
An Affirmative Action/Equal
Opportunity Institution

FAMILY REUNION ON A BUDGET

10 Ways to Save Pennies and Dollars During a Sagging Economy

Don't cancel the family reunion just because the world is shouting "economic recession". After all, it's often during tough times that we learn that family and our personal relationships with others are our most valuable possessions. The most important things in life aren't things.

That said, many of us are being forced to tighten our purse strings. These 10 tips will help cut expenses for your next family reunion:

1. Send postcard invitations instead of flyers or letters. Postcards are the least expensive way to send mail.
2. Cheaper yet, send invitations via email and communicate electronically. Family reunion websites are a wonderful addition to your reunion and can serve as a communication hub before, during and after your family gathering. Many companies offer family reunion websites that allow you to track reservations and payments online. You can also create opinion polls and upload pictures.
3. Change the venue—reserve a campground or state park instead of a hotel or resort.
4. Shorten your stay—cut a multi-day reunion down to a single afternoon picnic. Focus on the main reunion elements: an initial ice breaker activity, some sort of food, a family meeting or program, and an interactive, fun group activity.
5. Go potluck instead of catered; casual instead of formal. Drink water instead of soda. Whatever your family is used to doing, back it down one level.
6. Do it yourself. Invitations, games, souvenirs, decorations—everything—will be less expensive if you or a family member does the work. Get a team together to finalize plans!
7. Be your own entertainment. Instead of hiring professionals or spending money on entry fees and tickets, plan a family talent show or perform group skits. Play cards, games . . . send the kids on a scavenger hunt. Make your own contests and awards.
8. Meet with purpose. Combine your family reunion with another family event such as wedding, funeral or graduation.

9. Skip the commemorative t-shirt. (Or at least make your own). A family reunion t-shirt acts as a uniform—a way of demonstrating who you are, where you come from and what you stand for. Plus, they make great reunion souvenirs. However, as fun as they are, shirts are an obvious way to cut costs.
10. Gather every other year instead of annually.

Remember, family reunions can build connections, establish identity and add meaning to everyday life. Don't let money get in the way of building lasting memories with the ones you love.



Congratulations to the 2009-2010 New County Officers!

President: Mary Nowatzke, Coolspring Project

Vice-President: Betty Thomas, Town and Country

Secretary: Sandra Provan, Town and Country

Treasurer: Kathy Ulman, Homespun Harmony

Publicity Chairman: Sandra Provan, Town and Country

Membership: Virginia Seitz, East Galena

Logo: Sharon Russ, East Galena



FAIR DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN!!!!!!

Fair Watchers Needed

It's hard to believe that Fair time is approaching again. The fair runs July 19th thru the 25th. Community Building Watchers are needed again, so please contact the Extension Office to reserve your time. All those who volunteer, will receive a free pass into the fair that day. If you have a family member or friend who would like to volunteer with you, they will also receive a free pass. There will be 2 1/2 hour shifts Monday thru Saturday. The shift times are 10:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m., 12:30 p.m.—3:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m.—5:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.—10:00 p.m. We need 1 to 2 persons per shift to watch the side doors. Thank you for volunteering!!!!



ATTENTION BAKERS!!!!

The 4-H Booster and Alumni Association is having their annual silent pie auction (they'll also take cakes!) on Friday, July 24th outside the Show Arena (during the livestock auction). Help make this another successful event by baking and donating pies & cakes! Please call the Extension Office at (219) 324-9407 by July 6th and let us know what you will be bringing. Proceeds go towards promoting 4-H activities in LaPorte County.



ENTRY INFORMATION FOR LAPORTE COUNTY FAIR & INDIANA STATE FAIR

OPEN CLASS RULES FOR COUNTY ENTRIES

There is an \$18.00 Entry fee for any number of entries submitted to the LaPorte County Fair. Your entry fee also includes a pass to the Fair. Open Class registration may be made at the Fair Office beginning Monday, June 29, 2009. Needlework & Handicrafts entered must be brought to the Home & Family Arts Department in the Community Building on Sunday, July 19, 2009 between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. with judging starting at noon. Depending on category, Flowers will be judged on Monday and Thursday. Foods, Food Preservation and Candy will be judged on Tuesday, July 21st. Pies will be judged on Wednesday, July 22nd and Cakes will be judged on Friday, July 24th. For further information please review the LaPorte County Fair Premium Book or for more information call the Fair Office at (219) 362-2647.

OPEN CLASS FOR STATE FAIR

Anyone wishing to make an entry in Open Class at the Indiana State Fair needs to have their entry form in to the State Fair Office by July 1st. Entry forms are available online at: www.indianastatefair.com. Click on "enter online" to see the forms and the open class book. There is an entry fee of \$30.00 for each department (not class) entered. There is an additional late fee of \$25.00 for entries received between July 2nd and July 17th. **NO ENTRIES WILL BE ALLOWED AFTER JULY 17th.** Follow the rules exactly so your exhibit will not be disqualified. Each exhibitor will receive 6 one-day passes to the fair. You do NOT need to win at the County Fair to make an entry. If you do not have access to a computer, we can print the forms in the office for you. You can enter online at www.indianastatefair.com.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STYLE SHOW & CULTURAL ARTS WINNERS!

On a beautiful April afternoon many ladies attended the wonderful Style and Cultural Arts show which was held at Red Mill County Park. A wonderful time was had by everyone. We enjoyed an “afternoon tea” with tea, coffee, and a wonderful assortment of tea breads. The winners of the event were as follows:

CULTURAL ARTS WINNERS

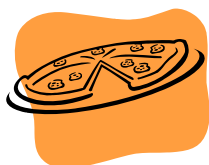
Fiber Art— Evelyn Lind, Coolspring Project—Tatting
Heritage Skills—Sandy Miller, New Durham—Quilt
Painting (Pastels) - Dorothy Konieczny, New Durham—Painting

STYLE SHOW WINNERS

1st Place Winner—Terri Logan, Extension Office (Model Buckles)
2nd Place—Bonnie Stoner, Rolling Stones
3rd Place—Lynnette Stoner, Rolling Prairie

CONSUMER CLOTHING

Carol Benkie, Evening Bells



PIZZA HUT FUNDRAISER

Pizza Hut is sponsoring a “Fun” draiser on Tuesday, June 9th, Monday, July 13th, Tuesday, August 11th and Wednesday, September 23rd from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. to support the LaPorte County Extension Homemakers programming needs. Extension Homemakers will receive 20% of all purchases made between the times listed above at the LaPorte Pizza Hut located at 75 Pine Lake Avenue, LaPorte. Their phone number is (219) 362-3000. This is a great way to support the clubs. Please share these dates with your friends and neighbors. Coupon forms are available at the Extension Office. We have enclosed one with your newsletter also.

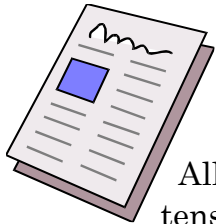
FALL DISTRICT MEETING

“We Salute Our American Workforce” is the theme chosen for this year’s Fall District meeting which is being held on Wednesday, September 2, 2009. The event will be held at the Rolling Prairie United Methodist Church, 3376 East US Hwy. 20, Rolling Prairie. The program will begin with registration at 9:00 a.m. (CST). The meal will be served at noon and will include 2 meats, vegetables, potatoes, salad, rolls, dessert (homemade pies) and beverages. The cost of the meal will be \$12.50 per person and the registration deadline is Friday, August 21, 2009. A flyer will be sent to each County President along with a registration form. If you have any questions, you can call the Extension Office at (219) 324-9407.

EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS FALL DINNER

KEEP THE DATE OPEN

The members of Hit or Misses, His & Hers Extension and Kitchen Kin are busily planning the Fall Dinner which will be held at Red Mill County Park. The event will be held on either Saturday, October 3rd or Saturday, October 10th. They are planning on hosting a wine tasting event and showcase foods that go with a variety of wines. More information will be sent to the Club Presidents when available.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

All articles for the Extension Homemakers Newsletter should be submitted to the Extension Office by the next Council meeting which is September 8, 2009.

Thank You.

MASTER GARDENER CLASS OFFERED THIS FALL

The Master Gardener Class will be offered from September 3rd to December 3rd, 2009 & will meet every Thursday from 1-4 p.m (except Thanksgiving). The cost of the class will be \$125.00. The class is open to LaPorte county residents who wish to become Master Gardener volunteers. Just to name a few, class topics will include soil/plant science, culture of vegetables, flowers & landscape plants. The Purdue Master Gardener program trains volunteers with researched horticulture knowledge. You will enjoy what you learn in the class & getting to know your classmates. Later, you will get to know other Master Gardeners through volunteer & education activities. For more information or to receive an application, please contact the LaPorte County/Purdue Extension Office at (219) 324-9407. Class size is limited so please make your reservation early!



MASTER GARDENER HOTLINE

The Master Gardener Hotline is available on Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to noon until the end of September. Master Gardeners are available to answer questions you may have regarding flowers, landscape plants, trees, fruit trees, bugs, etc. To talk to a Master Gardener, please call the Extension Office (219) 324-9407.

UPCOMING LESSONS

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Red Mill County Park—0185 South Holmesville Rd., LaPorte

3:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m with Carry-in Dinner

“Organic Foods—Buy or ByPass”: You are in a bit of a dilemma standing in front of the produce section of your local supermarket. In one hand, you are holding a conventionally grown Granny Smith apple. In your other hand, you have one that’s been organically grown. Both apples are firm, shiny and green. Both provide vitamins and fiber and both are free of fat, sodium and cholesterol. The conventionally grown apple costs less and is a proven family favorite. But the organic apple has a label that says “USDA Organic”. Does that mean it’s better? Safer? More nutritious? Several differences between organic and non-organic foods exist. Become a better informed consumer for your next trip to the supermarket.

“Hunger in Indiana”: In 2005, more than 10% of Indiana households were unable to provide enough food for themselves & their families. Each month the Salvation Army in LaPorte County feeds 750 hungry families & during the 2008 Christmas season, food baskets were needed for 2000 families. This problem is expected to increase with the current economic situation. Extension Homemakers have had a compassion for and commitment to this cause over the years. Now more than ever your talents in leadership & community involvement are needed to assist our Indiana communities in feeding the hungry. This workshop will provide:

- An overview of the current state of hunger in Indiana
- Explore how Extension Homemakers can continue to lead & partner with others concerned about hunger
- Document member’s efforts for volunteer community service
- Share our stories of involvement in the community with others

“Going Green Could Mean More Money in Your Pocket”: Sometimes it’s the little things that count. In this program, we will look at how little changes can add up to saving the environment and your wallet. Environmental improvements come from little efforts like making your own cleaning products, recycling recyclables, and using old things in new ways.