

The Latest Dirt

La Porte County Master Gardener Newsletter



APRIL 2009

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2009 Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held on Thursdays at
6:00 p.m. (unless noted otherwise) at
The Presbyterian Church
307 Kingsbury Ave, La Porte

April 2	Workshop
	Garden Tool Maintenance
May 7	General Meeting
June 4	Workshop
July 9	General Meeting
August 6	Workshop
September 3	General Meeting
October 1	Workshop
November 5	General Meeting
	Election of Officers

NEXT BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 20, 5:00 P.M.
PURDUE EXTENSION
OFFICE



APRIL CALENDAR

By: B. Rosie Lerner

Purdue Extension Consumer Horticulturist

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. The yellow pollen-bearing anthers inside the flower can be removed by pinching to prevent staining of the petals.

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)

- Plant a tree in celebration of National Arbor Day, April 24. Bare-root stock should be planted before new top growth begins. Balled and-burlapped and containerized stock can still be planted later in spring.
- Fertilize woody plants before new growth begins. Two pounds of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet should be sufficient.
- Complete pruning chores, removing dead and injured branches first.
- Apply a pre-bloom, multipurpose orchard spray to fruit trees.
- Remove winter coverings from roses, but keep mulch nearby for protection from late freezes. Prune and fertilize as needed.
- Apply pre-emergent herbicide to control crabgrass in lawns. Approximate dates of application are April 1 to April 20 in southern Indiana and April 21 to May 10 in northern Indiana.

GARDEN (Flowers, vegetables and small fruits)

- Plant seeds of cool-season crops directly in the garden, as soon as 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 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.

2008 EXECUTIVE BOARD

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	RUSS KLOSINSKI
VICE PRES.	BARBARA DEAN
SECRETARY	ANN KLOSINSKI
TREASURER	SHARON CHOLEWA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MARCY DAILEY
JAN KOSS
KATHY LEWIS
LAURELLE MISKOWICZ
ADI VEENENDAAL
PAST PRESIDENT

2009 PROJECT COORDINATORS

First Yard Class

Jan Koss _____ 785-4342

Habitat for Humanity

Barb Merten _____ 219-878-1337
barbmerten@cs.com

Luhr Park Field Days

Jayne Sandy _____ 362-9792
Jayne51@yahoo.com

Pioneer Heritage Garden

Garden Coordinator:

Sharon Cholewa: _____ 324-3637
stevshar@netnitco.net

Vegetable Beds:

_____ TBA

Herb Beds:

_____ TBA

Flower Beds:

_____ TBA

Volunteer Coordinator:

_____ TBA

2009 Symposium

Nora Akins _____ 219-873-1735
targ@comcast.net

Sunflower Fair

_____ 326-7377
 Laurelle Miskowicz _____ miskowicz@comcast.net

Purdue Extension Office _____ 324-9407

Gene Matzat _____ ematzat@purdue.edu

Marcia Wolff _____ mwoff@purdue.edu

April Calendar (continued)

- 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 repair support trellises as needed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



'April in Otis' Symposium Updates

Saturday, April 25, 2009

8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. CDT

St. Mary's Parish Hall, Otis, Indiana

Decoration and Set-up Committee Report

by Rosie Flitter

The following members have signed up for the decoration and set-up committee:

Kathleen Staninger, John Connors, Jae Haneline, Jerry Murphy, Donna Allen, Steve King, Carole Werner, Dennis Amm, Ann Klosinski, Nancy Daube, Laurelle Miskowicz, Sue Salach, Barb Coates.

We will have a lot of work with decorating and set-up on the evening of April 24. We will need all of you, if you can be there, and anyone else who wants to come and help. Tables need to be decorated, "goodie" bags need to be filled and labeled, vendors need to be helped, and other little things that need to be done. The timeframe has not yet been determined, but it will be late in the afternoon and into the evening. We will know more by the April meeting. If you have email, please email me at rosiesgarden@msn.com to let me know if you can help on Friday, April 24. I will put everyone who replies on an email list and contact you when I have more information. If you do not have email then you can call me at 219-575-0897.

APRIL WORKSHOP

Thursday, April 2

The Presbyterian Church
307 Kingsbury Ave, La Porte

5:30 p.m. Refreshments

6:00 p.m. Meeting

Guest Speaker:Dennis Williams
Kabelin Ace Hardware*"Care and Maintenance"*
of Garden Tools

All members are invited to bring in their favorite garden tool for "Show and Tell"

Refreshments provided by:Sue Zolvinski
John Connors
Pat Bogue**Happy Birthday!****APRIL BIRTHDAYS!**

6	Barb Merten
18	Jerry Murphy
21	Marian Massengill
26	Jessica Craig
27	Don Stavitzke
29	Sharon Cholewa

**Symposium Door Prizes Report**

by Rosie Flitter

The following members have signed up to donate door prizes: Melinda Nagle, Steve King, Loretta Pressel, Sharon Kubik, Jessica Craig Wissig, Mary Ellen Vaughn, Carolyn Gardner, Don Stavitzke, Lois Thomas, Marcia Wolff and myself.

We still need more! If anyone has something they can donate - or you know someone that you can ask for a donation - please sign up at the April meeting or contact me. My email is rosiesgarden@msn.com and my phone number is 219-575-0897.

Registration Table Report

by Rosie Flitter

The following members have signed up to work at the registration table on April 25:

Loretta Pressel, Lynette Nowak, Sue Salach and myself. More information will be available at the April meeting.

If we get enough donations, we are considering having a raffle of some of our donated items and I will need 1 or 2 more volunteers to sell the raffle tickets - if you are interested in helping then email me at rosiesgarden@msn.com or call me at 219-575-0897.

Friends of Indiana Dunes**13th Annual Plant Sale**

Saturday, April 4 - 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. CDT

Indiana Dunes State Park Pavilion

Rt. 49 at Lake Michigan - Chesterton, IN

120 Northwest Indiana Native Species Available

Large Shrubs and Trees

New Prairie plant vendor

Books/Literature/Vendors

Garden Experts available

More information call:

Chuck at 219-926-2709 or Lu at 219-762-7748

Standing Committee Coordinators

History Book Articles and Photos	Barb Werner
Hospitality Refreshments	Eunice Conway
Librarian	Carolyn Gardner
Newsletter	Donna Pouzar
Speakers Bureau	Rosie Flitter
Sunshine Bereavement/ Get well wishes	Sue Salach

"The Latest Dirt" Contributing Editors

<i>Herbal Column</i>	Marina Studt
<i>Gardening Articles</i>	Nancy Daube
<i>Extension News</i>	Gene Matzat
Phone:	219-324-9407
E-mail:	ematzat@purdue.edu

IF YOU HAVE AN ARTICLE YOU WOULD
LIKE TO SUBMIT TO THE NEWSLETTER,
PLEASE EMAIL TO:

DONNAPOUZAR@COMCAST.NET
EMATZAT@PURDUE.EDU

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE E-MAIL,
PLEASE MAIL ARTICLES TO:

LA PORTE COUNTY
EXTENSION OFFICE
MG NEWSLETTER
2358 N. U.S. 35
LA PORTE, IN 46350

"THE LATEST DIRT"
IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY.
THE NEXT DEADLINE IS:
APRIL 20, 2009

What's Blooming at White River Gardens

A regular feature by Mary Welch-Keesey, Purdue Consumer Horticulturalist based at the Gardens describes, in detail, plants at the Gardens. The 2009 growing season has begun and you can find the newest article at

<http://www.indianapoliszoo.com/content.aspx?CID=1001>

Sign up for your Master Gardener Garments!

By: Kathy Lewis

There will be an order form at the April and May Master Gardener meetings to sign up for shirts with the Master Gardener Logo. At this time there are no details on prices, styles or colors. As soon as details become available I will have the information available to all members.

Master Gardener "Holding Garden"

By: Donna Pouzar

Now that spring is definitely upon us I know we're all going to be anxious to get out in our yards to see how our gardens fared over the winter.

It's also a time when once again we're finding that some of our beloved plants got carried away and need to be reined in.

If that's the case in your yard, this is just a reminder that we now have a 'Master Gardener Holding Garden' thanks to Carolyn Gardner. If you have any plants that you reluctantly have to remove....please consider donating them to our new garden. The plants will be used for Habitat For Humanity projects and basically any project we are involved with that will require the need for plants.

Please bear in mind, that Carolyn will not be responsible for putting the plants in the ground. She will explain where the garden is, and it will be up to you to plant them. Several of us did this last year after the Sunflower Festival. Carolyn will make sure the garden is watered but she will need volunteers to help weed throughout the season. Up to eight volunteer hours will be credited. If you have plants that you wish to donate, please contact Carolyn or me.

VOLUNTEER

Porter County Plant Sale

Expo Center, April 4 - 7:30-11:00 a.m.

Below is a list of the trees and shrubs and other things that will be for sale at the Porter County Expo Center on Saturday, April 4, 2009 from 7:30 - 11 am CDT. See Page 6 for Volunteer information.

\$3.00 each

River Birch 14-28" Red twig Dogwood - 12-20"
 American Cranberry 16-20" Redbud - 14-20"
 Tulip Poplar 14-20" Bur and Pin oak - 16-20"

\$4.00 each

Austrian Pine - 16-28" White Pine 12-26"
 Canadian Hemlock 14-28" Red Pine - 16-28"
 Norway Spruce - 18-28" Blue Spruce 10-18"
 Scotch Pine 16-20" Arborvitae 20-36"
 No variety mentioned

No Prices

Rose of Sharon 18-24" Butterfly Bush
 Many different varieties
 Forsythia Old Fashioned Lilac 10-22"
 No variety mentioned

Other Varieties Available - No Prices

Hostas Fruit trees
 Winterberry Wildflower packets
 Small fruit Asiatic lilies
 Mock Orange

The above information was received from Porter County Master Gardeners who received this information from an ad in Panorama Magazine



Garden Hot Line Training



Garden Hot Line Training has been scheduled at the Purdue Extension-La Porte County office in preparation for the growing season. There will be two sessions available - the first is on Tuesday, April 7 from 12:30-1:30 p.m. CDT (right after the *Do It Right* IP Video session on "Fungicides"). A second session will be on Tuesday, April 15 from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. CDT.

All Master Gardener Interns are asked to attend one of these sessions to help in preparation for answering Garden Hot Line questions. The Hot Line runs from April 13 through September 25 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 9 a.m. until noon. Master Gardener Mentors - please contact your Mentee and try and schedule a day together.

Interns were instructed during orientation at the last Master Gardener class in December to volunteer for at least two Hot Line dates. The Garden Hot Line provides excellent opportunities to research and formulate answers to garden questions from homeowners. Each Hot Line time slot will be staffed by at least two Master Gardeners so no one will be "on their own." Hot Line sign-up sheets will be available at the next La Porte County Master Gardener Association workshop on April 2. Master Gardeners can also reserve Hot Line dates by contacting the Extension Office.

All other Master Gardeners are invited to attend a training session to brush up on your Hot Line skills. Please register for the training by contacting the Extension Office (219-324-9407).

Annual Tree Sale needs Volunteers

Purdue Extension-Porter County needs volunteers to work on Friday, April 3, at Pinney Purdue Ag Center from 9:30 – 12:30 or 12:30 – 4 p.m. to help with tree sorting and bagging.

Volunteers are also needed on Saturday, April 4, from 6:45 a.m. until 11:15 a.m. to work at their Annual Tree Sale. The sale will be held in the 4-H Building at the Porter County Expo Center. It's easy and a lot of fun.

Master Gardener volunteer hours will be given. If you are interested, please e-mail Tracy Nolan at gardeningsecrets@comcast.net Or call 219-477-5200.

International Friendship Gardens Plant Sale

The Gardens will be opening with a celebration of Mother's Day on May 9th and 10th, followed by our annual plant sale.

If you haven't signed up to volunteer at the Gardens for this season....remember, we need workers for the plant sale, cabin greeters, and, of course, gardeners. If you can work for a few hours weekly or just once in a while, we welcome your volunteer time. Please call the office & let us know what you'd like to do.

International Friendship Gardens
2055 U. S. Highway 12
Michigan City IN 46361
219-878-9885
www.friendshipgardens.org

Volunteer Opportunities at Washington Park

By: Rosie Flitter

Jan Orlich, Superintendent of Parks for Michigan City, is requesting a Master Gardener to work with her designing the planting beds in Washington Park and on Lake Shore Drive.

The plan is to create perennial beds supplemented by annuals. She is also looking for donations of perennials for this project.

There is also a request for Master Gardeners to help work with volunteers on the maintenance of these planting beds.

The park is entered in the "America in Bloom" contest and they need to begin work on this project soon.

A New Project questionnaire has been submitted to Gene for approval and it will be brought before the membership at the April meeting.

Perennial Plant Swap

By: Rosie Flitter



The Michigan City Park Department is having its 1st Annual Perennial Plant Swap on Saturday, May 2, 2009 at the Dodgem Building (1st shelter on the right when you enter the park - it's a wooden structure).

The hours are 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. (CDT). The parking fee will be waived for anyone attending the plant swap. They have asked us to set-up a Master Gardener booth for this event. There will be a sign-up sheet at the April meeting if you are interested in working at the booth.

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Botanical Gardens and Master Gardener Conference Information					
Fernwood Botanical Gardens		LPCMGA is a member of Fernwood Botanical Gardens. Membership card can be signed out at the Extension Office.			
Class Schedule		www.fernwoodbotanical.org/webdata/Calendar/Calendar.htm#jan			
		www.fernwoodbotanical.org/webdata/education/EducatPrograms.html			
Master Gardener Seminars		www.hort.purdue.edu/mg/events.html			
Do It Right Series					
Tues. Apr. 7	Fungicides For Home Garden & Landscape	11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	Tom Creswell, Director of Purdue Plant & Pest Diagnostic Lab	La Porte County Extension Office meeting room	219-324-9407
Tues. May 5	What's Bugging The Vegetable Garden	11:00 a.m.- 12:00 noon	Rick Foster, Instructor (via Video)	Same as Above	Same as Above
Fernwood Botanical Gardens Spring Symposium					
Mar. 14	Plant Symposium Featuring Daniel J. Hinkley	Daniel J. Hinkley, Plantsman, will be the keynote speaker for the Spring 2009 Garden Symposium. Hinkley was a co-founder of Heronswood Nursery, of which he was the Director of Collections.			See Page 7 for more details or go to Fernwood's website.
Taltree's Home Garden Series					
Classes are \$10 each for non-members and \$8 each for Taltree members. Non-members who register for six classes at \$60 will receive their seventh class free. Taltree members who register for six classes at a cost of \$48 can take a seventh class free.					
Date	Event/Time	Description/Fee	Location	Contact	
Sat. Apr. 4	HGS11 - Maintenance by Season 1-4:00 p.m. (CDT)	Simple tips on separating the necessary garden chores from the cosmetic ones. Focus on garden spruce-up from late winter through the growing season, and learn the basics of composting . <i>Instructor: Vickie Jostes, Lake County Master Gardener and Taltree Member</i>	Taltree Arboretum & Gardens' Classroom (behind office & greenhouse) 71 North 500 West Valparaiso, IN	(219) 462-0025 e-mail info@taltree.org or visit the Taltree Web site: http://www.taltree.org .	
Sat. Apr. 11	HGS12 – Lively Lawns 1-4:00 p.m. (CDT)	Tired of the confusing array of weed and feeds, herbicides, disease and insect control products? This class will dispel the confusion about lawn care and offer a lawn program that is sound and economical. <i>Instructor: Jim Hitz, Executive Director of Taltree Arboretum and Gardens, M. Ag.-Horticulture, Purdue University.</i>	Same as Above	Same as Above	
Sat. April 18	HGS13 – Color in the Garden Spring through Fall 12:00-1:30 p.m.	Learn considerations for plant combinations that offer tons of color and interest from spring through fall. <i>Instructor: Jean Starr, Columnist for The Times of Northwest Indiana and Chicagoland Gardening Magazine</i>	Same as Above	Same as Above	
Sat. Apr. 18	HGS14 - Non-Point Pollution: Rerouting Lawn Run-off 2-4:00 p.m. (CDT)	Contamination from rainwater, snowmelt or irrigation runoff including excess fertilizers, herbicides and insecticides pollute our water sources. Suggestions to reduce this type of pollution will be offered. <i>Instructor: Joe Exl, Coastal Nonpoint coordinator, Indiana DNR</i>	Same as Above	Same as Above	

La Porte County Master Gardener Association Meeting

March 5, 2009

The Presbyterian Church of La Porte

6:00 P.M. Sign in and Refreshments

6:30 P.M. Call to Order

Program: "*The Joy and Satisfaction of Growing Gourds*"

Sid Meyers, Vice President of the Indiana Gourd Society, was the Guest Speaker. His enthusiasm was apparent as he shared with the members interesting facts about planting, raising and harvesting gourds.

He outlined the best growing conditions: type of soil, water requirements and climate. When the plants flower, he pollinates by hand to control the quality of the gourds produced. Gourds are named for their shape. After the vines die off, the gourds are harvested and dried. The drying process is lengthy since they are 95% water-a 60 pound gourd will weigh two pounds when it is dried. Finally the gourds are cleaned and are ready to use. Originally they were used as food utensils and for musical instruments-Sid and his wife are "crafters", decorating and selling them at shows is a full time job for them.

BUSINESS MEETING

Secretary's Report: Ann Klosinski

The Minutes of the January 8, 2009 meeting stand with no additions or corrections as published in the February 2009 "The Latest Dirt"

Treasurers Report: Sharon Cholewa

There are 69 Paid members. The Association's tax exempt number is available from Sharon and non-profit organizations can get our tax ID number from her. Applications for Grants are encouraged.

Officers Report:

Russ Klosinski - nothing to report

Barbara Dean - nothing to report

Extension Office Update: Gene Matzat

The 2009 Fernwood Membership Card is available for use to visit the Gardens or participate in events.

Coming events include:

- Gateway to Gardening in Warsaw on Saturday 3-7.
- First Yard class is Saturday, April 18th.
- State Master Gardener Conference, Sept 10-12 will be in Bristol
- Do-It Right Series, Tuesday April 7th at 11:00 a.m. - topic is "Fungicides in the Home Garden and Landscape" and the May 3rd topic is "What's Bugging Vegetable Gardens".
- La Porte SWCD Tree Sale and Education Program, Saturday April 21st
- Extension Board Annual Meeting, Monday March 16th at Red Mill Park. The theme is "Hidden Treasures of La Porte County"
- Advanced Master Gardener Training at Taltree will be June 3rd, July 1st and August 5th
- Hot Line Training will be held on April 7th and 14th at 12:30 and 5:30 PM
- CoCoRaHS classes will be held March 24th and April 7th
- Residential Wind Energy will be on March 31st, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Gene thanked Sharon, Adi and Marcia Wolff for their work in putting together the Membership Directory.

Mary Ellen Vaughan was also thanked for the great job she did with recruiting and training volunteers for AG Days. The word is out about the Speakers Bureau and the new laptop and material from the Do-It Right series are available for use. Volunteer and education hour sheets should be turned in quarterly-not sure yet when reporting will be accessible on the website.

Committee Reports:

Speakers Bureau-Rosie Flitter has filled all requests to provide speakers. Honorariums can be accepted on behalf of the Association.

Symposium-Nora Akins asked for a volunteer to host Jim Long the night of Friday April 24th. Adi Veenendaal graciously accepted. Fliers were distributed to be posted for advertising to the public. Tickets and brochures are now available.

First Yard Class-Jan Koss said the fliers are done. One volunteer hour can be earned at the class but no education hours.

Luhr Park-The sign up sheet is available

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

An Internet publication "What's New La Porte" has asked if the Association has an interest in submitting articles on a regular basis. Marcy Daley feels it is a good opportunity and is interested.

Miscellaneous: Dennis Brittain - International Friendship Garden's "Maple Sugar Time" will be Sunday, March 8th and 15th. Dennis and Sharon Kubik will organize the Master Gardener "Question and Answer Table" at the Michigan City Farmer's Market again this year.

The next Board meeting is Monday, March 9th.

The Workshop Meeting is Thursday, April 2nd.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Klosinski, Secretary

 Directory Additions/Corrections

Jan Koss

Home phone number

219-785-4342

Roberta Janssen

New e-mail address

rjanssen@csinet.net

"It's My First Yard - What Do I Do?"
TIES FOR 2ND PLACE IN THE 2009 SEARCH FOR
EXCELLENCE AWARD, WORKSHOP CATEGORY

By Gene Matzat

Awards were announced on March 23 during the activities of the International Master Gardener Conference in Las Vegas, NV. This is a first time entry for the Association and to tie for second place is quite an accomplishment! Below is the congratulatory letter received from Monica David, University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener Coordinator, IMGC Vice-Chair:

Enclosed is your certificate for placing second in the 2009 Search for Excellence Awards competition. The judging committee thought highly of your program and wanted to acknowledge your accomplishments with this certificate. Congratulations to your Master Gardener group for a "job well done" and best wishes for continued success with your projects.

Regards,

I, too, am proud of the work that you are doing through the Purdue Master Gardener Program and the LPCMGA! Keep up the good work!

GARDENING

Gardenfest 2009- April 4, 2009

Free to the Public

ARE YOU READY FOR SPRING??!! The Boone County Master Gardeners are busy making preparations for another fabulous Gardenfest! Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 4, 2009 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm at the Boone County 4-H Fairgrounds in Lebanon, IN just east of I-65, at Exit 138.

- Free tree seedlings will be given to guests as long as they last.
- Free seminars are scheduled each hour.
- Many outstanding vendor booths.

For more information about the event, please check our web site at: www.bccn.boone.in.us/mg.

Garden Expo 2009

April 25, 2009

Presented by Tippecanoe County Master Gardener Association & Purdue Extension-- Tippecanoe County, Garden Expo 2009 will take place on Saturday, April 25, 2009, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. EDT at the Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds located at 1010 Teal Road in Lafayette, IN.

The 2009 Expo will feature plants, lectures, garden answers, booths & info, garden café, and a popular kid's booth. Lecture topics are Organic Vegetable Gardening 101 with Kevin Cooley, Cooley Farms; Gardening with a Purpose by Judy Burris and Wayne Richards of Ohio; Enjoying Roses by John Hefner from Indianapolis Indiana Rose Society. Check the publicity flyer for lecture times. Download flyer at www.hort.purdue.edu/mg/info/expo2009flyer.pdf or obtain more information by calling 765-474-0793.

Gardening for ALL Ages -

April 4, 2009

Sponsored by Hendricks County Master Gardeners, Gardening for ALL Ages (for kids through seniors) will be their 21st annual free garden show scheduled for Saturday, April 4, 2009, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. EDT at the Expo Hall on the Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds in Danville, IN.

Free trees will be awarded to the first 100 families; also free seeds, garden catalogs & magazines; even the coffee is free! Door prizes and instant winners are featured. Garden advice provided by Master Gardeners.

Programs include bonsai, 2009 best plant selection, cooking with herbs, best tools for the garden, and growing orchids. There will be a special children's activity area. Shop at the garden vendors. Gardening for ALL Ages purpose is to educate the community about the latest in gardening.

For more information contact:

Colletta Kosiba (765-852-5973; kcolletta@sbcglobal.net)

Rosie Lenihan (765-839-0188, lenihrose1161@sbcglobal.net).

Information and a show flyer at: www.hendricksgardeners.com.

2009 Master Gardener State Conference

September 10-12, 2009

It's not too early to be making plans to attend the 2009 Master Gardener State Conference to be held in Elkhart County on Thursday through Saturday, September 10-12, 2009.

Hosted by the Michiana Master Gardeners Association, this year's conference theme is Symphony for the Senses and features renowned keynote speakers and fantastic breakout sessions. **Early bird registration (by June 30) is as low as \$100; registration deadline is July 31.** The conference will be hosted at First Baptist Church in Bristol, IN.

For more complete information and a registration brochure visit www.MichianaMasterGardeners.com.

THE LATEST DIRT ON . .**Russ Klosinski****Master Gardener Status:**

Advanced Master Gardener

**When did you take the MG Class?** 2006**Where do you live?** La Porte In (18 years)**Are you originally from La Porte? If not, where did you live before you moved here?**

Actually I think this question should say La Porte County, not La Porte. We are a county - wide organization not just one city. I have lived in La Porte County all but 3 years of my life.

What's your family background? Husband? Kids? Pets?

I am married to Ann, the present secretary of LPCMGA. We have 6 kids and 9 (soon to be 11) grandkids. Yes, Christmas is expensive at our house. We also have 3 cats.

Do you work and, if so, what do you do?

I have worked at The La Porte Savings Bank for 24 years and I am the Executive Vice President.

How long have you been gardening?

Off and on for 32 years.

Do you have a favorite flower? Vegetable?

My favorite flower is the orange butterfly weed.

What type of gardening do you enjoy the most? Flower. (mostly perennials)**Other than gardening, what other interests/hobbies do you have?**

I enjoy woodworking, and bowling. I am a USBC certified bowling coach. I am on the Board of Directors and a past President of the La Porte Lions Club. I am past President of the La Porte Bowling Assn. and a current Board member. I am a Board member of GLEDC (Greater La Porte Economic Development Corporation.) I also serve on several Chamber of Commerce committees.

Jessica Renee Craig-Wissig**Master Gardener Status:**

MG Intern

When did you take the MG Class?

I took the MG class in the fall of 2008.

Where do you live?

I live in La Porte, out of city limits (just about 3 miles from Perennials Galore!)

Are you originally from La Porte?

I grew up in La Porte, then lived in Lafayette for about 7 years for college. We moved back at the end of 2004 and bought the house I grew up in. We will only be here about another year, then we will be moving about 40 minutes south.

What's your family background? Husband? Kids? Pets?

I'm the oldest of 3 kids and my parents are still married. I am married for 7 1/2 years. We have 2 little girls – Macy - 4 and Olivia, 10 months old. My husband has not been bitten by the gardening bug just yet, but there's still hope! Both of our daughters love to be outside. Macy is going to have her own little sunflower garden this year, and even Olivia likes to stick her hands in the dirt already - she's well on her way!

Do you work and, if so, what do you do?

I am a photographer, but I'm only working 2-3 days a month right now so I can be home with my girls.

How long have you been gardening?

I guess I can blame this little obsession on my Grandpa. When I was about 2 years old he would take me out to his garden with him. He had an 80 acre back yard, so for him to have a full 2 acres of vegetable gardens was pretty regular (my grandparents had 13 kids so the large garden started out as a necessity). When I got to be about 4 years old - he started paying me to pick the hornworms off his tomatoes. I think the going rate back then was 10 cents each, but I stretched my paycheck by breaking them in half! He knew, of course, that I had done that but thought it was amusing so he let me get away with it. There are many other little stories but I don't want to take up your entire newsletter! Long story short, I've been gardening essentially my entire life.

Do you have a favorite flower?

My favorite flower to grow is definitely the tea rose. They are just beautiful to look at and smell, and my favorite vegetable to grow is the tomato-such a huge return for your work and money!

What type of gardening do you enjoy the most? Anything that leads to produce, including cut flowers. Seeing what you've made makes every bit of hard work worth it, and being able to bring a piece of that into the house makes it even better.

Other than gardening, what other interests/hobbies do you have? I love photography and take advantage of every bit of time I can to do that. I do some oil painting, stained glass work, make yard stones, and like to read. I also like to travel.

