

The Latest Dirt

La Porte County Master Gardener Newsletter



MARCH 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

March 5	General Meeting Sid Meyers, Gourds
April 2	Workshop
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, March 9, 5:00 p.m.
Purdue Extension-La Porte Co. Office,
2358 N. US Hwy 35, LaPorte



2008 Master Gardener Awards Ceremony

By: Gene Matzat



Due to snowy road conditions this year, the annual Awards Ceremony was held on Thursday, February 5, at The Presbyterian Church of La Porte instead of Red Mill Park. B. Rosie Lerner, Purdue Consumer Horticulture Specialist and Purdue Master Gardener Program State co-



(l to r) JoEllen Jongkind and Barb Merten



Rosie Lerner, left, talking with Vice President, Barbara Dean

coordinator, presented highlights of upcoming program changes and opportunities including a web-accessible database that Master Gardeners can use to record volunteer hours, progress on a new training manual, the 2009 state conference in Elkhart County, and a study tour of the gardens of France during the summer of 2009.

After the business portion of the meeting, Vice President, Barbara Dean announced the award recipients. Gene Matzat presented the certificates and awards while Marcy Dailey handed out gifts.

Twenty-two participants completed the thirteen-week Master Gardener class in December, 2008, and, now, as Master Gardener interns will

volunteer their time "to help others grow" as they assist with various gardening and horticulture projects and educational activities conducted by the La Porte County Master Gardener Association.

CERTIFIED MASTER GARDENERS



(l to r): John Connors, Barbara Dean, Michael Hollcraft, Kathleen Staninger, Chris Lucchini, Jamie Lucchini. (Not pictured is Laurelle Miskowicz.)

2008 AWARD RECIPIENTS!

2008 Master Gardener Interns

Donna Allen
 James Beversdorf
 Vicky Buzalski
 Octavia Flippin
 Maryanne Garon
 Jae Haneline
 Gloria Hardaway
 Nancy Jahnel-Barnes
 Roberta Janssen
 Alice Lindborg
 Johanna Miller
 Melinda Nagle
 Lynette Nowak
 Jeremy Strain
 Linda Strain
 Trish Taylor
 Gabe Underwood
 Polly Wainwright
 David Warkentien
 Sandra Williams
 Jessica Craig Wissig
 Susan Zolvinski

Certified Master Gardener

John Connors (2007)
 Barbara Dean (2007)
 Michael Hollcraft (2007)
 Chris Lucchini (2007)
 Jamie Lucchini (2007)
 Laurelle Miskowicz (2007)
 Kathleen Staninger (2007)

Advanced

Dennis Amm (2006)
 Dennis Brittain (2006)
 Suzanne Burns (1998)
 Barbara Coates (2006)
 John Connors (2007)
 Eunice Conway (2006)
 Gail Gonzalez (2006)
 Steve King (2006)
 Ann Klosinski (2006)
 Russ Klosinski (2006)
 Sharon Kubik (2006)
 Chris Lucchini (2007)
 Jamie Lucchini (2007)
 Mary Ellen Vaughan (2006)
 Sheryl Varnak (2006)

Bronze

Gerri Lamb (2004)
 Carolyn Gardner (2004)
 Sacha Burns (2000)
 Nancy Daube (2006)
 Dennis Brittain (2006)
 Mary J. Nichols (2000)
 Adi Veenendaal (2004)

Silver

Marcy Dailey (1996)
 Adi Veenendaal (2004)

ADVANCED MASTER GARDENERS



(l to r): Steven King, Barbara Coates, Dennis Amm, Sharon Kubik, Dennis Brittain, Jamie Lucchini, John Connors, Eunice Conway, Mary Ellen Vaughan, Sheryl Varnak, Chris Lucchini, and Gail Gonzalez. (Not pictured are Suzanne Burns, Ann Klosinski and Russ Klosinski.)

BRONZE MASTER GARDENERS



(l to r): Gerri Lamb, Carolyn Gardner, Sacha Burns, Nancy Daube, Dennis Brittain, Mary J. Nichols and Adi Veenendaal

SILVER MASTER GARDENERS



(l to r): Marcy Dailey and Adi Veenendaal



(l to r) Kathy Staninger (foreground), Rosie Flitter and Loretta Pressel



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 _____ 219-879-4017
 _____ gardenotes@comcast.net

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 _____ mwolff@purdue.edu

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Speakers' Bureau Update

Rosie Flitter, Coordinator

- Oakwood Manor's request for a seasonal speaker on houseplants - Mary Anne Garron contacted Rosie Flitter about possibly doing this.
- Michigan City University Women requested a speaker for March 9 on Container Gardening at The Barker Center - Chris and Jamie Lucchini are presenting.
- Psi Iota Xi requested a speaker for their March 12 meeting at the library - Marcy Dailey is presenting.
- Katie Gielow of PEO (an organization that raises funds for women's education) has requested a speaker for Thursday, April 23 at about 7:45 p.m. (she said if this was too late, it could be scheduled earlier) at the Presbyterian Church in Michigan City. They would like a speaker on Container Gardening.
- St. Paul's Church in Michigan City requested a speaker for their May 8th Mother/Daughter Banquet - Sharon Kubik is presenting.
- Four Seasons Garden Club asked for a speaker on raised-bed, square-foot gardening at their June meeting - Rosie Flitter is presenting.

If anyone receives a request for a speaker, please contact Rosie at 575-0897 or email: rosiesgarden@msn.com

Plant ID Resource for MGs

By: B. Rosie Lerner

Just want to make you aware of an online photo resource for plant ID at <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/senior/senior.htm>

We originally developed this resource to help youth prepare for 4-H/FFA plant ID contests, but it is equally useful for Master Gardeners. Master Gardeners might especially enjoy the "Quiz" feature and can earn "Advanced" Training Hours by submitting their score pages.

Guidelines and additional info can be found at

<http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/senior/suggest.htm>

Let Purdue Extension - LaPorte County know if you have additional questions.

MARCH GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, March 5

The Presbyterian Church
307 Kingsbury Ave, La Porte

6:00 p.m. Refreshments

6:30 p.m. Meeting

Guest Speaker:

Sid Meyers

Vice President

Indiana Gourd Society

*"The Joy and Satisfaction
of Growing Gourds"*

Happy Birthday!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS!

- 12 Adi Veenendaal
17 Dennis Brittain
22 Steve King
23 Mary Ellen Vaughan
25 Roberta Janssen
26 Sue Salach



51st Indiana Flower and Patio Show

March 14-22, 2009

Get ready to step out of winter and into spring at the 51st annual Indiana Flower & Patio Show, as they proudly salute springtime and 51 years of garden excellence, Saturday, March 14 through Sunday, March 22, 2009 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds' West Pavilion Hall.

Complete information about the show is available at <http://indianaflowerandpatioshow.com/>



Seasonal Horticulture Worker Position at Taltree Arboretum

Job Title: Seasonal Horticulture Worker

Wage: \$9+/hr

Summary of position: Perform a variety of horticultural duties involved in the maintenance of gardens at Taltree. This position will work with and receive direction from the horticulturist. Work would be Tuesday through Saturday from March through October.

Reports To: Horticulture/Grounds Manager

Supervises: Volunteers

Contacts: Public, Staff, Volunteers, and Members

Essential Responsibilities:

1. Maintenance of established gardens and landscaping in the arboretum
2. Assist with various projects on the grounds.

For more information contact:

Patricia Stimmel, Horticulturist

Taltree Arboretum & Gardens

Phone: (219) 462-0025 E-Mail: pstimmel@taltree.org

Standing Committee Coordinators

History Book Articles and Photos	Barb Werner
Hospitality Refreshments	Eunice Conway
Librarian	Kim Wright
Newsletter	Lois Thomas
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:
MARCH 20, 2009

VOLUNTEER

Herbal Gardening Articles

Are you interested in getting volunteer hours? Writing articles for the Herbal Gardening column will do just that!

Volunteer hours include research in the library, from books that you have on hand, and writing the article. You can include fun information about herbs, recipes and even folklore, but do not include any medical advice. As Master Gardeners we cannot offer medical information. Also, please make sure you include any reference sources at the conclusion of the article.

It is best to write about your own experience with Herbal Gardening but it is not always necessary. I like to choose a species that corresponds with the current season or holiday.

We're always looking for new, fresh information so if you have something you'd like to publish, please send your articles to me, Marina Studt at: renie3198@yahoo.com.

I will review and submit it for final editing to the Newsletter Editor.

Thanks in advance for your help. Hope to hear from some of you!

Marina D. Studt, Herbal Gardening Columnist.

Newsletter Volunteer Opportunities

By: Donna Pouzar

Lois Thomas, due to personal reasons, had to retract her offer of taking over as Editor of *The Latest Dirt*. In the meantime, I will continue to publish the newsletter. In addition to the Editor position, we are also looking for volunteers to help gather information. If you are interested in working on the newsletter or becoming the Editor, please e-mail or call either Gene or me. Thanks, and remember....

This is a great way to get your volunteer hours!

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 (updated info on many area and statewide events)			
Do It Right Series					
Tues., Mar. 3	<i>New Flowers & Vegetables for 2009</i>	11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	Rosie Lerner, Purdue Consumer Hort. Spec.	La Porte Co. Extension Office meeting room	Register by calling 219-324-9407
Tues., April 7	<i>Fungicides for Home Garden and Landscape</i>	11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	Tom Creswell, Purdue P&PDL Director	La Porte Co. Extension Office meeting room	Register by calling 219-324-9407
Tues., May 5	<i>What's Bugging the Vegetable Garden</i>	11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	Ricky Foster, Purdue Ext. Entomologist	La Porte Co. Extension Office meeting room	Register by calling 219-324-9407
Fernwood Botanical Gardens Spring Symposium					
Mar. 14	<i>Plant Symposium</i>	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 Arboretum & Gardens Classes					
Date	Event/Time	Description/Fee	Location	Contact	
Sat., Mar. 7	<i>Birding Class</i> 9:00 a.m. – Noon	Learn about a variety of aspects of birding, from effective bird watching and identification to attracting by feeding for year-round life in the garden. Instructor: <i>Dr. Laurie Eberhardt, Professor at Valparaiso University</i>	TALTREE CLASSROOM (located 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	
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.					
Sat., Mar. 7	<i>HGS7 – Ornamental Pruning</i> 1:00-4:00 p.m.	Plants are healthier, live longer, and look better when properly pruned. This class will provide the fundamentals for pruning both deciduous and evergreen shrubs and trees and will also include a brief introduction to Japanese pruning techniques. Instructor: <i>Chris Aylesworth, Taltree Estate Horticulturist</i>	See Above	See Above	
Sat., Mar. 14	<i>HGS 8-Vegetables and Small Fruits</i> 1:00-4:00 p.m.	Learn how to maximize and preserve small fruits and vegetables. Learn about vegetable varieties, selection, planting, maintenance, preservation and samples. Instructors: <i>Jerry & Wendy Harnung, Lifelong gardeners who have created a vegetable and small fruit bonanza.</i>	See Above	See Above	
Sat., Mar. 21	<i>HGS 9 – Large Fruits and Fruit Trees</i> 1:00-4:00 p.m.	Learn techniques, culture, tree choices, planting, and maintenance techniques. Instructor: <i>John Fischer, Master Gardener since 2003 and accomplished home orchardist</i>	See Above	See Above	
Sat., Mar. 28	<i>HGS 10 – Disease and Insect ID & Control</i> 1:00-4:00 p.m.	Learn to recognize, prevent, and control common insect pests and diseases in the landscape. Instructor: <i>Stan Sims, Lake County Extension Director and former Master Gardener educator.</i>	See Above	See Above	

Fernwood's Annual Spring Gardening Symposium
"The Exceptional Garden"

March 14, 2009

Fernwood Botanical Garden in Niles, Michigan will present three notable speakers and subjects for their annual spring gardening symposium. The programs promise to inspire all gardeners and lovers of fine gardens.

The Role of Hardscape Elements in the Landscape

Douglas Hoerr, a partner in Hoerr-Schaudt Landscape Designs of Chicago, will discuss how to effectively select and place containers, arbors, parterres, and more to create interest in your garden.

Inspired Design from Public Gardens

Scott Mehaffey, Landscape Coordinator and Assistant to the Mayor of Chicago, will show images of public gardens throughout the world and explain how he has utilized these settings to inspire his designs over the course of his career in ornamental horticulture.

Connoisseur's Table: Exceptional Plants

Daniel J. Hinkley of Indianola, Washington, founder of Heronswood Nursery and nationally known horticulture consultant, plant explorer, author, and lecturer, will round out the day with his program on exceptional plants for our hardiness zone. You may have seen Hinkley recently on The Martha Stewart Show.

The Exceptional Plants of Fernwood

Steven Bornell, manager of grounds and collections at Fernwood, and his staff will lead garden walks to explore some of the exceptional plants in Fernwood's collection.

The registration fee is \$100 for Fernwood members and \$120 for non-members. Lunch is included. Master Gardener continuing education credits are available. Registration deadline is March 8.

Meet Daniel J. Hinkley at a reception in Fernwood's Gallery on Friday, March 13, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Donations will support summer garden staff.

A limited quantity of Hinkley's book, *The Explorer's Garden: Rare and Unusual Perennials*, will be available for purchase during the reception and the symposium. Call Fernwood for more details and to register at 269-695-6491 or check out our Web site www.fernwoodbotanical.org

GARDENING ARTICLES

HERBAL GARDENING

Tarragon

Artemisia dracunculus

By: Pat Bogue

The name tarragon is derived from the French esdragon meaning “little dragon” in that the dragon-like roots may strangle the plant if it is not divided often. Pliny, the Roman scholar said that it could prevent fatigue and many pilgrims of the Middle Ages put sprigs of it in their shoes during long foot journeys.

The herb tarragon grows to 1-2 feet and is not a particularly attractive plant but is often a staple of herb gardens because of its pleasant flavor and many culinary uses. If growing tarragon from seed, be aware they are apt to be of the far less superior in taste Russian tarragon than the French tarragon (*Artemisia dracunculus* var. *sativa*). Unfortunately, my first attempt at growing tarragon was, to my disappointment, from the seed of the Russian variety. The French tarragon is the one used most often in gardens and in cooking. Propagation is by divisions or cuttings, as it is seed sterile. Divisions should be taken in early spring and cuttings in autumn, or in the spring in the far North. The plants should be divided every two or three years to maintain vigor and flavor. It needs sandy, well-drained loam in a sunny spot to thrive and will be larger in the second year. It is hardy up to zone 4 and should be sheared to the ground after frost has killed the top growth and

mulched well with straw. French tarragon requires winter dormancy and therefore is difficult to grow where winters are mild. Flower stems should be removed to keep the plant active during the growing season. Plants can be susceptible to root rot and mildew so they should be checked on a regular basis. When harvesting, handle the leaves gently as they easily bruise. It is best preserved frozen or in vinegar, but can also be dried and stored in an airtight container.

Tarragon is mainly a culinary herb, but also has been used to stimulate the appetite, relieve gastric distress, cure rheumatism, relieve toothache, was once used to treat dog and snake bites, and is considered an antioxidant and has antifungal properties, although there may not be a scientific basis to these claims. It is used in cosmetics, perfumes, soaps, condiments and liqueurs.

The anise-like flavor of tarragon can be used fresh in salads, as garnishes, and sauces such as tartar and béarnaise. It can also be used in flavored vinegars, herbed mayonnaise, cream sauces, herbed butters, and soups, with cheeses, eggs, sour cream and yogurt. Use sparingly so as not to overwhelm a dish. It is best with fish, shellfish, pork, beef, lamb, game, poultry, pates, leeks, potatoes, tomatoes, carrots, onions, artichokes, asparagus, mushrooms, cauliflower, broccoli, beets, peas, oranges, rice and barley. I recently did a pairing of asparagus and sweet potatoes with tarragon, garlic and butter and found it quite tasty. It blends well with parsley, chervil, garlic, and chives.

(continued on Page 9)

Tarragon and Lemon Carrots

Serves 4

2 ½ cups carrots, finely sliced

1 tbsp lemon juice

½ cup water

2 sprigs fresh tarragon

Chopped tarragon, to garnish

Grated Lemon rind, to garnish

1. Put carrots in a casserole dish with the lemon juice, water, and tarragon springs. Cover and cook in the microwave on high for 10-12 minutes or till fork tender.
2. Drain the carrots and discard the tarragon sprigs. Place the carrots in a serving dish and garnish with the chopped tarragon and lemon rind.

Sources:

Rodale's Illustrated Encyclopedia of Herbs. (1987)

Editors: Claire Kowalchick & William H. Nyilton

Taylor's Guide to Vegetables & Herbs. Based on 1961 edition by Norman Taylor

A Herbal Book of Days. (1999) By Gillian Haslam

Field bindweed

Convolvulus arvensis

Don't let this morning glory look-alike fool you! It will take over your garden if you let it.



IDENTIFICATION:

Native to Europe and Asia, field bindweed is a perennial with arrowhead-shaped dark-green leaves along a vine 1 to 4 ft. long. White, pink or pink and white, 1-in. trumpet-shaped flowers bloom in spring in the South and by midsummer in Northern gardens.

Twining up through other plants or along the ground, field bindweed creates large islands as more stems sprout along the fibrous, horizontal root system. In addition, roots can reach 10 to 20 ft. below the surface. As if the deep roots weren't enough, bindweed reproduces by seed, too.

FAVORITE CONDITIONS – Field bindweed grows throughout most of the United States and Canada, except for the southernmost parts of the Southeast, southern Texas, New Mexico, and southern Arizona. This weed isn't picky about soil and grows in anything from loam to heavy clay. You'll see it in gardens, ditches, along roadsides or any open area in full sun.

CONTROL – The key to beating this pest is to deprive the roots of nourishment as much as possible. It's not easy, but persistence pays off. Apply a glyphosate herbicide, such as Roundup®, to mature plants before they set seed. Unfortunately, repeat applications are usually necessary. Be careful using this systemic herbicide around the garden plants you want to keep – it'll kill them, too.

You can also try digging the roots out. Dig down at least 6 in. and 3 or 4 in. out from the main rhizome. Use a digging fork rather than a spade to avoid breaking up the roots. Dispose of the plants in the garbage. Then cover the area with landscape fabric or a 3- to 4-in.-thick layer of mulch to discourage resprouting. No matter what method you choose, keep the flowers clipped to prevent seeds from forming. One plant may produce up to 550 seeds, which can remain viable in the soil for 50 years. A couple of good sites for identifying plants and getting information about them are:

www.missouriplants.com/ and www.weedid.wisc.edu

**Show Hours**

Mon. - Sat.: 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
 Sunday: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Chicago Flower and Garden Show returns to Navy Pier March 7-15, 2009

Spring is **Blooming**

Get *Inspired!* Get *Motivated!* Get *Educated!*

Admission

Adults	Children (ages 4-12)
Weekdays...\$12	Weekdays...\$5
Weekends...\$14	Weekends...\$5

More info at: www.chicagoflower.com

MORGAN COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS' GARDENFEST AND PANSY SALE

Friday, March 20 - 3:00 - 8:00 p.m. (EDT)
 Saturday, March 21 - 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (EDT)

Location: Indiana National Guard Armory
 1900 Hospital Dr.
 Martinsville, IN

GardenFest features speakers, vendors, and more. Attendees will receive free trees; soil samples will be tested; gardening questions answered and, of course, pansies of every color will be sold.

The event is free and open to the public.

Anyone wishing a vendor registration form may contact bickley@cican.net.

Only garden related vendors are accepted.

Cincinnati Flower Show for Groups April 18-25, 2009

Dear Master Gardeners and MG Coordinators: (From: B. Rosie Lerner, Purdue Consumer Hort Specialist)
 I am passing along the following info about group visits to the Cincinnati Flower Show (April 18 -25), in case your group might like to organize a trip this year. I have been a judge of their Grand Marquee gardens for about 15 years and it is a really fun show, originally modeled after the Chelsea Flower Show. This year's theme is "Prepare to be Astonished." This is the **20th anniversary of the show** and has moved to a new site for this year - Symmes Township Park, Northeast of Cincinnati, just 5 minutes from the I-275 Indian Hill/Loveland exit.

The Group rate is \$14 per person for groups of 20 people or more, complimentary entry for the group leader and motor coach driver. Your group can order box lunches through the Show, or you can turn folks loose to eat on their own, your choice. If you want to make it an overnight trip, they have a list of suggested hotels.

For more info about group bookings, contact Karen Eichert of the Cincinnati Horticulture Society at chsmarkets@fuse.net.

The Cincinnati Garden Show is internationally recognized as one of the world's premier flower and garden exhibitions. The Show site, Symmes Township Park, is described as a horticultural treasure complete with glorious gardens and displays, Artists' Studio, floral designs and top quality plants and gardening products from around the country. About 55,000 visitors attend the show annually. Opportunities to "earn" flower show tickets through volunteering are available. For more info about the show go to: www.cincyflowershow.com or call 513-872-9555.

Kosciusko County Master Gardener Association
and Purdue Extension are sponsoring:

Gateway to Gardening

Saturday, March 7, 2009

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST

Warsaw Community Church, Warsaw, IN

Featured speakers:

- Sonya Nash, “2009 Quilt Gardens Tour of Northern Indiana Amish County”
- Dwight Fish, “Vegetable Gardening”
- Karl Bapst, “Handicapped Gardening”
-

Register by calling the Kosciusko Co. Extension Office at 574-372-2340. Registration is \$40 per person. More info and a registration brochure can be viewed at www.extension.purdue.edu/kosciusko; click on “Master Gardener Program.”

Hoosier Hillside Master Gardeners of Orange,
Lawrence, and Crawford Counties Present:

Spring Tonic

March 7, 2009, 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. EST

Orange County Community Center (Fairgrounds)

1075 Sandy Hook Road, Paoli, Indiana

Featured Speakers:

- Bill Abel “Underused Beauties”
- Barry Fisher “Gardening in Small Spaces”
- Tonie Kedzierski “Gourds and More”
- Tim Day “Tree Care”
- Tim Morrison “Bonsai”

Registration fee is \$40.00. More information and a registration brochure is available at www.hort.purdue.edu/mg/info/HHillsidesSpringTonic.pdf

The Gardens of France

Purdue Master Gardener Study Tour

June 30 – July 11, 2009

Dr. Mike Dana, Purdue Horticulturist and Landscape Architect, Rosie Lerner, Purdue Master Gardener State Coordinator/Extension Consumer Horticulture Specialist, and Bilingual Guide and Purdue International Extension Programming Specialist, Kira Everhart-Valentin, have planned a 12-day advanced training/study abroad opportunity on the Gardens of France for July, 2009.

This adventure will include site visits to such notable gardens as: Vaux Le Vicomte, Versailles Palace, Potager du Roi, Chartres, International Garden Festival at Chaumont-sur-Loire, Chenonceau, Villandry, Plou et Fils Winery, Le Vasterival, Bois des Moutiers, Shamrock Hydrangea Collections, Monet's Gardens at Giverny, and the gardens of Bagatelle.

Participants will be given an orientation to French history and the evolution of landscape and gardens as well as study readings for each site. The trip will also include lectures, study booklet, pre-test/post-test and course evaluation. Participants will be expected to share what they learn with others in their community upon their return.

Enrollment is limited to 25 total participants, available on a first come basis with a \$500 deposit required to hold your spot in the class. Advanced training hours will be credited to those Purdue Master Gardeners who complete the required reading and quizzes. Master Gardener participants will also earn volunteer service hours upon their return by sharing what they've learned with others.

You can download a brochure and/or view a preview of the course online at: www.hort.purdue.edu/France.

If you wish to enroll, call toll free to 888-398-4636 and ask for Tammy Goodale in the Hort Department or call direct (charges apply) 765-494-1296.

If you have questions about the program, please contact Rosie (rosie@purdue.edu or 765-494-1311) or Mike (dana@purdue.edu or 765-494-5923).