

The Latest Dirt

La Porte County Master Gardener Newsletter



OCTOBER 2024

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2024 MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings will be held at 6:00 p.m. (DST) on
Thursday at La Porte Main Library
Meeting Room B

October 3	Grant Recipients
November 7	Business Meeting Elections
December 5	Holiday Party

NEXT BOARD MEETING

October 8th - 6:30 p.m.
Classroom at the Library Exchange

"THE LATEST DIRT" is published monthly.
The next deadline is October 20, 2024

www.lpmastergardener.org



PURDUE EXTENSION
MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

Horizon Bank Employees and Master Gardeners Dig in the Dirt at Friendship Botanic Gardens

On September 12th, about 20 employees from local area Horizon Bank offices volunteered their time working with Master Gardeners Jackie Carroll, Vicki Lynn Znavor and Donna Pouzar at Friendship Botanic Gardens through their company's Horizon Care Days.

The group was divided up and worked in two different areas of the gardens. One group worked with Jackie Carroll in "the Maze," an area consisting of shrubs planted to create a

maze for visitors to thread their way through. The group did a fantastic job weeding out invasive weeds and pruned dead branches from the shrubs through the direction of Jackie Carroll and Vicki Znavor.



them what weeds and plants needed to be removed and what was to remain. They did an amazing job and cleaned up more than what was expected. If one can call weeding fun, this was truly 3-hours of fun working with these wonderful people.



The other group worked with Donna Pouzar in the parking lot gardens which were in dire need of weeding. Donna worked with the volunteers showing

We thank everyone from Horizon who participated. They really made a difference!

Sunflower Fest Update

By: Theresa Dzoga-Borg

Saturday, September 21st was a great day to have the Sunflower fest, as well as a fun experience. We had many visitors to our booth and talked to many people about Master Gardeners.

The big excitement was the Sunflower contest. Contestants came from Oak Forest, IL - their 5th year returning and from La Porte, Michigan City, Hamlet, Logansport, and Wanatah. One contestant, a young girl named Mckinle, brought a native sawtooth sunflower that had 103 blooms! That, to me, was so exciting.

I was the main person in charge of the judging, but had fabulous help from the other volunteer Master Gardeners. To ensure we were correct in our judging, we measured twice. Below are the first and/or second place winners for the three categories - Most Blooms, Tallest and Largest Flowerhead:



Most Blooms First Place
Lynn Schmidt - 170 blooms!



Largest Flower Head Second Place
Sheri Hahn - 13'5"



Tallest Second Place
The Planta family

Some fun facts about some of the contestants:

- Amaleia Morales grows sunflowers to collect the seeds to feed her chickens.
- Sherrie Hahn is a first time sunflower grower.
- Lynn Schmidt grew her sunflower in memory of her friend Aisya Walker.
- Jerry Summer's sunflower that he brought in for tallest, showed considerable "squirrel attack" activity on that plant's flower head.
- Mckinley Eapman received sunflower seeds from her teacher at Critchfield Elementary to plant as a way to "keep growing during the summer."
- Also, Mckinley's native sunflower was a volunteer! How wonderful that she (and her parents) recognized it as a sunflower and didn't mow it.

After the awards were given out, many of the festival goers came to get sunflower seeds. All in all, it was a fabulous day!

ASSOCIATION NEWS

October General Meeting

By: Carol Nolan, President

The next general business meeting will be on October 3rd and will be held in Room B at the La Porte County Library. As always, we start with a social time at 6:00 p.m. followed by the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Our three award recipients, Michigan City Salvation Army, Joy Elementary School, and Family Advocates will give presentations of the projects they requested funding for. This should be a very interesting evening for all.

Don't forget, but immediately after the meeting we will be voting on the bylaw changes.

La Porte County Master Gardener Association Meeting Minutes September 5, 2024 - La Porte County Library, Meeting Room B

Meeting called to order by Carol Nolan at 6:30 p.m.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- The August social meeting auction raised \$253.00

OLD BUSINESS

- Tee Shirts are available for those who emailed their size to Carol Nolan. Those who have not yet given their sizes, a sign-up sheet was available at the meeting. Tee shirts will be available at the October meeting. For all members, the first tee shirt is free. If anyone would like additional tee shirts, they will be sold for \$10.00.
- Sunflower Fest is occurring on September 21, 2024. Linda Hough will verify details and confirm with Brad. LPCMGA members are needed to volunteer. There are a few spots left. Contact Linda or Carol to sign up to volunteer. Volunteers will talk to people about Master Gardeners, judge the Sunflower competition, set up, clean up. Brett will order trophies.
- Grant Recipients Presentations - The grant recipients will make their presentations during the October meeting at the La Porte Library -Main Branch- Meeting room B.
- By-laws Vote - The vote to pass the By-laws will be held at the October meeting. A hard copy was available at the September meeting AND a copy was emailed out to all members last month. Any comments or questions should be emailed to the original email from Ann and REPLY ALL so everyone can read the comments.

NEW BUSINESS

- Christmas Dinner will be at Monroe's Crossing at Hudson Lake. An email with the menu and an invite will be coming shortly. PLEASE RSVP on time. Reminder: Hudson Lake is on Eastern Standard Time (EST).
- Elections - A nominating committee was chosen: Steve Zolvinski, Lisa Johnson and Kathleen Staninger. Four board members' positions are up for vote: Carol Nolan, Ann Klosinski; Joan Kintzele, and Kathleen Fox.
- Master Gardener presentation - Theresa Dzoga-Borg introduced a chair yoga session with poses and stretches that could be beneficial for gardeners.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m. by Carol Nolan

Minutes prepared by Theresa Dzoga-Borg, Secretary

EDUCATION

Emerald Ash Borer University
October 10th, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., Eastern time

The first session of the Emerald Ash Borer University is taking place October 10th, 2024, at 10am EST. We will be hosting Leigh Greenwood, the Forest Pest and Pathogen program director with The Nature Conservancy. CEUs and CCHs may be available for this session; please make sure to inquire with Bob Bruner by emailing rbruner@purdue.edu. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out, and I hope to see everyone there!

Join us for her webinar on October 10th at 10:00 a.m., Eastern time by registering at www.emeraldashborer.info/EABU

"Firewood Movement Regulation, Outreach, and Impact"

Leigh Greenwood, Forest Pest and Pathogen Program Director
The Nature Conservancy

Leigh works to bring stakeholders together to achieve common goals in support of forest health from the forest pest and pathogen perspective. Her projects include managing the Don't Move Firewood campaign, convening the Continental Dialogue on Non-native Forest Insects and Diseases, working to improve the international biosecurity measures in place for solid wood packaging and leading partnership efforts to accelerate the development of pest- and pathogen-resistant native trees.

If you can't attend the live webinar, watch the recorded webinar later on the [EAB Network - EAB University \(emeraldashborer.info\)](http://www.emeraldashborer.info) page.

While you're on the website, check out other recorded webinars, and browse other pages for more information about EAB and other invasive pests and diseases affecting woodlands and forests.

Bob Bruner, Exotic Forest Pest Educator, Dept. of Entomology, Purdue University
Phone: (765) 494-0822 / Email: rbruner@purdue.edu
Check us out at [ReportINvasive!](https://www.reportinvasive.org)



The Indiana Native Plant Society (INPS) presents its 31st annual conference, "Going Wild: Nourishing the Web of Life," on Saturday, October 26, 8:40 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (EDT), at the Forum Events Center in Fishers, Indiana.

Registration Now Open!

<https://fs27.formsite.com/JinkhW/yhku1csiwe/index>

This day-long conference is one of Indiana's premiere nature events. Learn from engaging speakers on a wide variety of important topics related to biodiversity and conservation in Indiana.

Keynote speaker **Dr. Desiree Narango**, a conservation scientist who worked with Dr. Doug Tallamy on the effects of nonnative plants in residential landscapes on insects and breeding birds, whose presentation **"Landscaping for Pollinators and Birds at Home"** will delve into why insects matter to birds and small steps you can take to improve and restore habitat for wildlife in your yard.

Other presentations include:

- **"Spring Ephemerals / No Forest Needed"** by Myrene Brown.
- **"An Armchair Tour of Indiana's Ferns"** by Roger Hedge.
- **"What Can Trees Tell Us About the Past Climate in Indiana"** by Justin Maxwell.
- **"Indiana's Endangered and Threatened Species: What Makes Our Rare Plants Rare"** by Scott Namestnik.
- **"Pollinators, Plants and Ponds: Exploring the unintended consequences of modern corn and soybean insect pest management"** by Christian Krupke.

The conference also features a native seed swap. Select up to 60 species of donated native seeds to take home and plant; a book sale; exhibitors; and an array of pre-conference workshops, hikes, and tours.

Links to detailed information about speakers, topics, and preconference activities are posted at <https://indiananativeplants.org/inps-sponsored-events/annual-conference/>. Click on 2024 Preview for information on speakers and their presentations.

Registration for the conference closes October 12.
Registration for pre-conference activities closes October 20.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers Needed for the National FFA Convention

Wednesday,

**October 23,
2024**

07:30 AM – 04:30 PM



Indiana State Fairgrounds
1202 E 38th St
Indianapolis IN 46205

The National FFA Floriculture Career Development Event aims to promote the study and interest in flower, plant, and foliage production and retailing through agricultural education. Each state can send one team of 4 students to compete at the national level.

Judges Orientation:

Judges' Orientation will take place virtually prior to the event. Once judging categories have been assigned, each event will hold its own orientation in October before we arrive in Indy.

Cost:

There is ZERO cost to serve as a judge; this is a volunteer event. However, travel will be on your own to and from the event.

Lodging:

There are sparse hotel rooms that are reserved for judges coming from out of state, if you need a room, please notify Melissa at mriley@gaaged.org

We Need Help Judging

- Team Activity
- Body Flower
- Growing Procedures
- Mixed Planter
- Floral Arrangement



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THE TRADING SHED

FOR SALE SUMMER SNOWFLAKE BULBS

Leucojum aestivum

These were popular at the Master Gardener picnic auction in August!



To 24" - Perennial
White bell-shaped flowers.
Mid-spring bloom.
Tolerant of heavy shade, clay & wet soils.
\$4.⁹⁹ Bag
(Minimum of a dozen in each bag.)

*** I'm also willing to donate these bulbs to anyone working on a Master Gardener project! ***
Call Marcy Dailey at 219-778-2809 or email at fawnrunfarm@gmail.com

FOR SALE

HOSTAS



Guacamole



Sagae



Royal Standard

DAYLILIES



Condilla



Dewey Roquemore.



Ruffled Lavender

Call Donna Pouzar – 219-363-2960 or email at: pouzdlp@icloud.com if interested.

2024 EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT	CAROL NOLAN
VICE PRESIDENT	KATHLEEN FOX
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	ANN KLOSINSKI
RECORDING SECRETARY	THERESA DEZOBO-BORG
TREASURER	SUSAN KIEFFER
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	GEORGETTE BEHENNA
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2024 PROJECT COORDINATORS

Farmers' Market-Michigan City

Kitty Knoll _____ 219-575-1731
_____ rknollandson@comcast.net

Friendship Botanic Gardens

Rima Binder _____ 219-878-8128
_____ rimabinder@comcast.net

Garden Hotline

Extension Office _____ 219-324-9407

Garden Show

Ann Klosinski _____ 219-872-8367
_____ annak47@comcast.net

La Porte Builders Assn. Home Expo

Donna Pouzar _____ 219-363-2960
_____ pouzdlp@icloud.com

Pax Center

Carol Nolan _____ 331-903-0091
_____ cnolan41@yahoo.com
Karren Coplen _____ 219-390-4118
_____ karenc@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

Sunflower Fair

Linda Hough _____ 219-324-0424
_____ ljhough614@gmail.com



Lemony Squash Muffins

2 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
1/3 cup sugar
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon baking soda
¼ teaspoon salt
2 cups coarsely shredded yellow squash
(about ¾ pound)
1 tablespoon grated lemon rind
1 tablespoon vegetable oil
1 egg, lightly beaten
1 egg white, lightly beaten
1 (8-ounce) carton plain low-fat yogurt
Vegetable cooking spray
2 tablespoons sugar
3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
2 tablespoons water

Combine flour and next 4 ingredients in a large bowl; make a well in center of mixture.

Combine squash and next 5 ingredients; add to dry ingredients, stirring just until moistened.

Divide batter evenly among 12 muffin pans coated with cooking spray; bake at 375° for 22 minutes.

Combine 2 tablespoons sugar, lemon juice and water in a small saucepan. Bring to a boil; cook 1 minute.

Remove from heat. Pierce top of each muffin with a fork, brush with the lemon juice mix.

Remove muffins from the pan and let stand on a wire rack 15 minutes.

Calories: 1 muffin is 145 calories with only 2 grams of saturated fat.

Submitted by Marcy Dailey: "I ran across this recipe in an August 17, 1992 issue of the La Porte Herald Argus. La Porte County Master Gardener, Lois Hunter Thomas, was a regular contributor with her "Cooking" segment. I thought it was a perfect recipe for this time of year and a wonderful way to honor one of our own members. Lois passed in 2018, but her memory and recipes live on!" ♥

OCTOBER GARDEN

HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

- Keep poinsettia in complete darkness for 15 hours each day — for example, between 5 p.m. and 8 a.m. — for eight to 10 weeks until red bracts begin to show.
- Pot spring-flowering bulbs to force into bloom indoors. Moisten soil and refrigerate 10 to 13 weeks. Transfer to a cool, sunny location, and allow an additional three to four weeks for blooming.
- Houseplants, especially those grown outdoors during the summer, commonly drop some or many of their leaves in response to the lower natural light intensity in the autumn and reduced light intensity indoors.
- Water indoor plants less frequently, and discontinue fertilizer as plants slow down or stop growing for the winter season.

GARDEN (Flowers, vegetables, and small fruits)

- Harvest root crops and store in a cold (32 F), humid location. Storing produce in perforated plastic bags is a convenient, easy way to increase humidity.
- Harvest brussels sprouts as they develop in the axils of the leaves from the bottom of the stem. Brussels sprouts will continue to develop up the stem.
- Harvest pumpkins and winter squash before frost, but when rind is hard and fully colored. Store in a cool location until ready to use.
- Harvest gourds when stems begin to brown and dry. Cure at 70-80 F for two to four weeks.
- Harvest mature, green tomatoes before frost and ripen indoors in the dark. Warmer temperatures lead to faster ripening.
- Asparagus top growth should not be removed until foliage yellows. Let foliage stand over winter to collect snow for insulation and moisture.
- Remove plant debris from the garden to protect next year's plantings from insect and disease buildup. Compost plant refuse by alternating layers of soil, plant material, and manure or commercial fertilizer.
- Have garden soil tested for fertilizer needs every three to five years.
- Incorporate organic matter in fall to avoid the rush of garden activities and waterlogged soil in spring. Soils prepared in the fall tend to warm faster and allow earlier planting in spring.

STANDING COMMITTEE

COORDINATORS

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

Purdue Extension Office __ 324-9407

Jesi Davenport jfurness@purdue.edu

Sue Salisbury __ salisbk@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.

Buy, Sell, Trade at the Trading Shed

Place your free ad in "The Latest Dirt"

Tools, tillers, mowers, plants - anything garden related. Keep ads brief. Provide your phone number and/or e-mail address.

Ads will be limited to space available.

Information must be submitted by the 20th of the month to:

pouzdlp@icloud.com

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- Dig tender garden flower bulbs for winter storage. Gladiolus corms should be dug when leaves begin turning yellow. Caladiums, geraniums and tuberous begonias should be lifted before killing frost. Dig canna and dahlia roots after a heavy frost. Allow to air dry, then pack in dry peat moss or vermiculite, and store in a cool location.
- Complete planting of spring-flowering bulbs.

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals, and fruits)

- Keep plants, especially newly planted stock, well-watered until ground freezes.
- Have soil ready to mound roses for winter protection. Do not mound or cover roses until after leaves drop and soil is near freezing, usually late November or early December.
- Strawberry plants need protection from winter's extremes, but applying winter mulch too early may cause crowns to rot. Apply winter protection when plants are dormant but before temperatures drop below 20F, usually late November or early December.
- Rake or shred large, fallen tree leaves, such as maple, to prevent them from matting down and smothering grass. Raking smaller leaves, such as honey locust, is optional.
- Continue mowing lawn as needed.

