

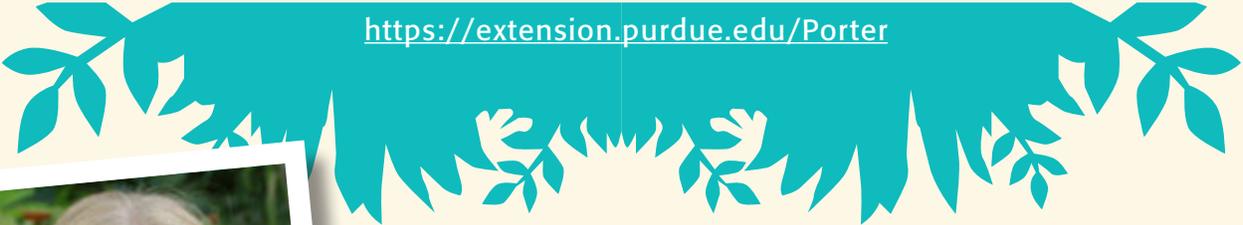


GARDEN THYME

June 1, 2015

<https://extension.purdue.edu/Porter>

Vol. 1, Issue 5



LYNDSAY'S VINE

*By Lyndsay Ploehn, Agriculture & Natural Resource
Extension Educator*

I'd like to extend congratulations to our Garden Thyme newsletter writers and designers: Marcia Carson, Shelli Henry, Nancy Rosene, Kristine Sandrick, Beverly Thevenin and Suzanna Tudor—who have all contributed to a National award-winning newsletter. I submitted our newsletter in the Individual Newsletter-Communications category for the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA) awards. And we won!

According to Jason Henderson, Purdue Extension Director, our “hard work to create a useful, compelling, and thoughtful newsletter took top honors in awards that represent the finest examples of communication efforts from agricultural agents nationwide.” Our newsletter earned kudos for its timely information, intuitive layout, engaging tone, and appealing design.

On Tuesday, July 14, I will attend the Communications Awards Luncheon at the NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference in Sioux Falls, S.D., to receive our award.

If you see any of these talented ladies out and about, please congratulate them on a job well done. Our newsletter has now gained much popularity and will be distributed throughout Indiana. If you have a volunteer story of impact to share, please use this platform to tell us how Purdue Extension and the Master Gardener Program has influenced your life and the lives of others in your community. 🌱

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MR. MC GREGOR'S GARDEN

Refresh Your Vegetable Garden for a Fall Crop

By Shelli Henry

In the dog days of summer the vegetable garden often takes a nose dive as heat, drought, disease, and insects take their toll on

plants. You may think about just letting it go, but this is actually a great time to replant for a great fall harvest. The secret to getting another crop from your garden is to select the appropriate plants that will thrive and mature in the cooler days ahead.

Some vegetables, like kale and turnips, will tolerate a fair amount of frost and keep growing even when temperatures are in the low 40s. Others, like bush beans and basil, are killed by even a light frost. It's important to know the average first frost date in your area in order to calculate when to plant your fall vegetable crop, so the plants will be mature before the cold eliminates them. (See chart, pg. 3)



Although basil is frost-tender, it grows quickly enough to be part of a fall garden if sown early and protected from cold weather.

Cool season vegetables including kale, cabbage, radish, spinach, and turnips may be the best

choice for mid-summer sowing because an earlier than expected frost will not kill them before they are ready to eat. In addition, these late season vegetables often develop

If your garden is looking a little ragged, it may be time for a fall crop make-over.



sweeter flavors in the cooler temperatures of autumn. But, a few frost sensitive plants like basil and arugula will grow so quickly in the heat of late summer that you can harvest some before the frost arrives.

Before replanting, clean up the garden area, removing all the roots of the previous plants and any other crop residue. Turn the soil and mix in compost or fertilizer. When seeding in late summer, place the seeds a little deeper than recommended to help get them into cooler and moister soil. You can help protect the newly planted seeds and seedlings by using other plants like tomatoes to shade them from the hot sun. Keep the soil moist by providing water if rainfall is not adequate and apply mulch.



Lettuce grows well in the cooler temperatures of autumn, producing sweet, tender leaves.



Radishes can be mulched to protect the roots and soil for harvest after exposed ground freezes.

Consistent soil moisture is critical for successful fall crops. Seedlings will suffer or expire during the hot days of late summer if the soil is not kept evenly moist until they are well established. Mulching around root crops as the weather cools will help retain soil warmth allowing the plant to continue to grow until ready to harvest.

Try planting a few new vegetables in late summer and even when the frost nips your tomatoes, there will still be plenty of tasty food to harvest from your garden.

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MR. MC GREGOR'S GARDEN

(Continued from Page 2)

Vegetables for Fall Harvest

Vegetable	Days to Harvest	Vegetable	Days to Harvest
Killed by Frost		Survives High 20's	
Basil	30+	Broccoli	50 to 70
Beans	45 to 60	Cabbage	60 to 80
Survives Light Frost		Green Onion	60 to 70
Arugula	35 to 50	Mustard Greens	30 to 40
Asian Greens	20 to 45	Kohlrabi	45 to 60
Beets	45 to 60	Radish	30 to 60
Carrots	50 to 75	Spinach	35 to 45
Cauliflower	50 to 80	Turnips	30 to 60
Cilantro	60 to 70	Very Hardy to 20	
Dill	35 to 50	Collard Greens	40 to 60
Lettuce	40 to 60	Kale	40 to 65
Swiss Chard	40 to 60	Parsley	70 to 90

Risk of Frost for Valparaiso, Indiana*

Temp	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%
32°	Oct 2	Oct 7	Oct 11	Oct 14	Oct 17	Oct 19	Oct 23	Oct 28	Oct 31
28°	Oct 14	Oct 20	Oct 24	Oct 27	Oct 31	Nov 2	Nov 5	Nov 9	Nov 15
24°	Oct 27	Oct 31	Nov 4	Nov 7	Nov 10	Nov 13	Nov 16	Nov 19	Nov 24

- Each winter, on average, your risk of frost is from October 13 through May 4.
- Almost certainly, however, you will receive frost from October 29 through April 20.
- Your frost-free growing season is around 162 days. 🌱

*Source: Find the Freeze and Frost Dates for Your Area. (n.d.). Retrieved May 20, 2015, from <http://davesgarden.com/guides/freeze-frost-dates/index.php?q=46385&submit=Go>

JUST NAME IT

Can You Identify This Charmer?

By Marcia Carson

You've probably seen this tree or bush, but do you know what it is?

It has great visual interest in all seasons. In early spring, it is spectacular, with beautiful white flowers, which never become a mess on your lawn or require cutting off dead blooms.



By early summer you will find purple berries to use for jams or pies, if you can harvest them before the birds eat them!

In the fall, the leaves are a magnificent red-orange. I planted mine 15 years ago, and it's one of my favorites!

Click [here](#) for the answer! 🌿





VOLUNTEER SPOT

Porter County Master Gardeners Garden Walk

By Nancy Rosene

Did you ever have a dream about possessing super or magical powers? Perhaps in your dream you were Superman or Harry Potter.

After visiting with Liz Nobles, I believe that just like your lawn during a hot and parched summer, all gardeners have extraordinary dormant powers just waiting for the right conditions to be revealed.

Liz discovered hers after volunteering to co-chair the Porter County Master Gardeners Garden Walk. If you would like to realize yours, why don't you consider volunteering for the 2015 Porter County Master Gardeners Garden Walk?

This year's Walk, on June 27, culminates the second and final year that Liz and Beverly Thevenin will have co-chaired the Garden Walk. "The event is a beautiful showcase of a variety of gardens," Liz said. "I found each garden owner that participates to be very proud and honored to be part of the Porter County Walk."

"The 2015 Walk will showcase six Porter County gardens. Organizing an event of this scale takes a lot of people," Liz told me. "Walk Committee members are responsible for evaluating nominated gardens, budgeting and finance, volunteer coordination, ticket sales, and door prizes." On Walk day, two to seven additional volunteers are needed at each garden—depending on garden size and how long the volunteers are willing to work. Usually a volunteer will

work a morning or afternoon shift during the 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Walk day. They will place directional signs, park cars, sell and stamp tickets, give guidance in terms of how to approach the garden, and answer questions for garden visitors. Calling upon the skills she acquired in sales at an international steamboat shipping company, Liz works closely with Beverly as they adroitly manage all these moving parts.

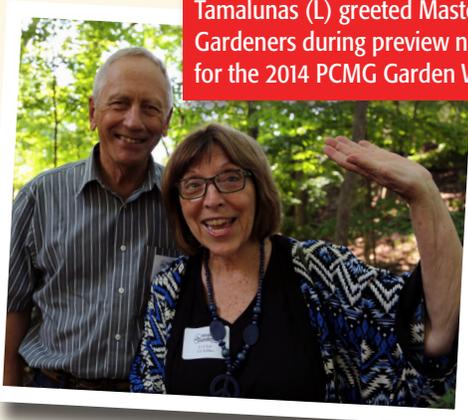
"The greatest reward of volunteering as a Master Gardener is meeting the people," Liz said. "By volunteering, you meet people with common, but varied interests within the gardening community. Volunteering strengthens our community and brings people together."

To volunteer for this year's Walk or to become a 2016 Walk co-chair or committee person, contact the Porter County Extension Office at 219-465-3555. 🌿



Co-chairs Liz (L) and Beverly Thevenin (R) breathed a sigh of relief at the Wolverton Garden as all their hard work came together during Garden Walk 2014!

Garden Walk Co-Chair Liz Nobles (R) and garden owner George Tamalunas (L) greeted Master Gardeners during preview night for the 2014 PCMG Garden Walk.



At Garden Walk 2014, visitors strolled through the beautiful Phillips' Garden designed and planted by Porter County Master Gardener Maureen Phillips.



FROM MY GARDEN

I hate looking at those dying perennials! What can I do?

By Marcia Carson

Early summer is here. The early bloomers, like daffodils and tulips, have displayed their glory and are now beginning to show their less attractive side, falling over and beginning to fade to brown. What can you do to spruce up the flower garden?



Daffodils in full bloom

Whatever you do, DON'T cut back the leaves! No, tying them up isn't the answer, either. Deadhead the flower stalks as the blooms fade, but you need to allow the leaves to remain for at least six weeks as they are busy storing energy for next year. So, what can you do? PLAN AHEAD! You have several options. You might plant annuals to hide the foliage, but not my choice. It might still be cold and wet, and I'm too busy getting the vegetables in to work on the flowers. I prefer to let perennials take their course.

A second possibility is to plant your early bloomers under deciduous bushes, which gives them room to bloom and then hides the unsightly foliage as the bushes leaf out. Some choices include weigela and

forsythia, among others. Plant some showy annuals in front of the bushes to take the focus away from



Daffodils under the weigela



Daffodils hidden in the Weigela and Stella de Oro

the dying leaves.

Another great option is to

intersperse your early bloomers with other perennials, such as a medium to tall hosta, ornamental grasses, ferns or day lilies. I hide most of mine in the Stella de Oro Lilies, as the foliage is so similar. As those perennials grow, they will hide the fading foliage.

Once the leaves of the early bloomers have turned brown, remove them by grasping the entire plant and twisting gently. If the leaves don't pull away, they aren't quite ready. 🌿



Stella de Oro lilies growing in front of the fading daffodils



ReciBEEs From Our Gardeners

Strawberry-Pineapple Freezer Jam

Article and Recipe by Nancy Rosene

The summers after 4th and 5th grades, I would peddle my bicycle 5 miles to the Kacafrek Berry Farm where I made 5 cents per quart picking strawberries. This may sound like a pittance considering the back-breaking labor under the blazing sun in excruciatingly hot and humid temperatures, but the added bonus of all the sweet, juicy Indiana strawberries you could eat made the meager returns well worth my time.

Betty Kacafrek was a strict taskmaster. If your berries were too small or not ripe enough, she took away one of your quarts to augment the others. Shoot! There went 5 cents. But on the flip side, in the shade of the towering oak trees near their farmhouse, she would treat us to the best peanut butter and strawberry-pineapple freezer jam sandwiches ever. Then it was time to peddle back home. Ahhh! That was the life.

Here is her recipe, minus the strawberry stains and sugary fingerprints. It is delicious. Please make it and give praise to Betty!

Ingredients

- 1 3/4 cups crushed fresh Indiana strawberries
- 1/2 cup fresh finally diced pineapple (any state's will do)
- 4 1/2 cups granulated sugar
- 1 pouch liquid Certo pectin
- 1/4 cup lemon juice (Betty used fresh lemons)

Directions

1. Hull and thoroughly crush strawberries, one layer at a time. Add fresh diced pineapple.
2. In a large bowl, stir together prepared fruit and sugar.
3. Let stand 4-5 hours, stirring occasionally until all sugar is dissolved. If sugar is not dissolved after 4-5 hours, wait. (Betty did not say for how long—I get impatient and microwave on high for two minutes if the sugar

doesn't dissolve. If microwaves would have been invented, I bet Betty would have too.) For jam that is not grainy, be sure that the sugar is completely dissolved.

4. Add Certo and lemon juice. Stir for 3 minutes. (Betty wrote on the recipe card, "Let the kids do this because they enjoy it, and you won't.")
5. Ladle into clean jars, filling to within 1/2-inch of the top. Cover and let stand at room temperature for 24 hours, then store in the freezer for up to a year or in the refrigerator for 3-4 weeks. 🍓

Master Gardener Nancy Rosene's family members are big fans of this jelly! Here Daelyn Kelley, Nancy's cousin, enjoys a delicious peanut butter and strawberry-pineapple freezer jam sandwich.





THE TOOL SHED

Dial Up Your Favorite Splash

By Kristine Sandrick

It's versatile. It's inexpensive and it's my favorite garden tool this time of year. It's my yellow, plastic, dial-a-spray nozzle.

You might say, "Well, THAT'S not special," because it's as basic as a pruners or a trowel, but where would we be without them? I love my yellow plastic nozzle because for just a couple of bucks—you can spend a lot more money but why?—I've got a nozzle that can go from shower to jet in nothing flat. (It sprays flat, too, for that matter.) There are eight other sprays including circle, mist and full. This nozzle makes watering and garden clean up more fun.

My no-name nozzle is light, easy to maneuver, doesn't collect sand and freeze up as did my husband's brass nozzle. In fact when his pooped out on him earlier this year, I had a second yellow plastic nozzle in my tool bag.

As I recall, I bought this one when I was living in New Mexico, which was a few years ago, and I used it almost all year long. It still sprays up a storm. As silly as it may seem, that plastic, versatile nozzle is my favorite tool right now. 🌿



SPECIAL EVENTS

Porter County Fair, July 23 – August 1

By Lyndsay Ploehn



Fair season is quickly approaching. Please consider entering something from your garden: a vegetable, flower, craft or baked good. We have Open Class Exhibit booklets and Open Class Horticulture booklets available in the Extension Office. If you would like to try your hand at judging, we can also find a place for you.

The fair is one of our most visible events for Purdue Extension and Purdue Master Gardeners, and is a wonderful opportunity to interact with the public and share your experiences.

The Ask a Master Gardener Booth will soon be open for volunteer sign-ups. If you are a Master Gardener Intern, please pair up with an experienced Master Gardener. This is your chance to learn and put your knowledge to good use. Be sure to wear your name badge and Master Gardener shirt when volunteering at the fair. We are taking clothing orders now in the Extension Office. Contact us at 219-465-3555 if you are interested. 🌿

Master Gardener Suzanna Tudor holds her Best of Show, Endless Summer Hydrangea.





GARDEN WANDERER

Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, Boothbay, Maine

*By Lyndsay Ploehn,
Agriculture & Natural Resource Extension Educator*



I recently had the pleasure of visiting the [Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens](#) in Boothbay, Maine. I was in Maine with a few other Educators for an Extension Conference and did not want to miss the opportunity to visit a friend of mine, Rodney Eason, who is the Director of Horticulture at the Botanical Gardens.

A small group of us enjoyed an early spring tour through the manicured gardens, and a hike along the forested shorefront. The day we visited was the first warm day (75 degrees) that Mainers have felt since last October. Magnolias, forsythia and hellebores were a few of the plants we saw in bloom. The majority of the garden was just waking up, and the tulips and rhododendrons were almost ready to burst into bloom. The first area of the garden we experienced was the Lerner Garden of the Five Senses. It made us cognizant of our senses, which

raised our sensory interests for the remainder of the tour. Around every corner we saw new plants, wanted to touch the soft mossy ground covers, listened to the pleasing sounds of nature (birds, waves, wind rustling through the birch trees), we tasted fresh ‘Jersey Knight’ asparagus right out of the ground, and smelled the fresh Maine air all around us, as well as the rich aroma of compost and the sweet fragrance of witch hazels.

Although we did not see this garden during peak bloom or bustling with visitors, we were able to experience the serenity and feel the soul of the garden. I personally enjoy seeing gardens in all seasons and through bloom transitions because it brings to light the design and natural wonders of the landscape. My personal life has been full of hustle and bustle and plenty of vibrancy that have distracted my senses, and this garden was just what I needed. I was able to connect with nature, take a deep breath of fresh air, and fully enjoy my visit. I felt like a kid

again exploring a new place.



The beginnings of this garden are quite fascinating. A group of life-long Mainers that share a love of gardening decided to acquire a piece of land to “explore the crazy idea” of a botanical garden. The group of founders consists of a variety of backgrounds including, a

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GARDEN WANDERER

(Continued from Page 8)

world-wide garden traveler, a self-taught gardener and small business owner, two former Garden club presidents who saw the potential for education, two local nurserymen, including a rhododendron hybridizer, and a knowledgeable gardener of meadows and wildflowers. In 1992 their crazy idea became a reality when they acquired 128 acres of shorefront land. Since the garden opened in 1996, they have received another generous donation that allowed for expansion in 2007 with the sensory garden, a children’s garden, and a LEED-certified education center. Today the garden is flourishing and continuing to grow. By 2025 the garden plans to double in size, so I encourage you to visit and see this garden through its many stages of development. And as Michael Dirr, renowned horticultural author, speaker and researcher, states, “It is not a cookie-cutter garden but one that speaks to Maine by virtue of the design, hardscape, and plants. I have visited many gardens; this one has a soul.” 🌿



MEET A MASTER GARDENER

(Actually, Meet 27 New Master Gardener Interns)

By Kristine Sandrick

Congratulations to our new Master Gardeners! They completed the 14-week program mid-May—fulfilling the initial, 35-hour education requirement. Now they need only earn 35 volunteer hours to become full-fledged Master Gardeners.

Like so many before them, these folks have a great interest in learning more about gardening and sharing that interest with others. Perfect! The Master Gardeners’ program is all about “Helping Others Grow.”

Here’s a quick rundown of our new gardeners and why they chose to invest time in this program:

Kathleen Arney, Hobart – “Intense curiosity about the biological aspects of plants, soil.” Would like to help through public speaking, working with the elderly or school/youth groups.



Cassandra Black, Crown Point – Fourth year college student in environmental studies; interested in sustainable farming.



Lourdes Chavez, Portage – Educator who wants to take gardening to the classroom. “I believe young children exposed to gardening will grow up loving to garden ...”



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← MEET A MASTER GARDENER

(Continued from Page 9)



Kathy Cunningham, Portage – Wants to expand her knowledge and share it with others.



Robert Jackowski, Valparaiso – Would like to design, organize and tend a small cloister-style garden.



John Desmaretz, Crown Point – Has been helping with their church garden and wants to know how to make it more attractive and functional.



Barbara Kunshek, Valparaiso – Retired, “with time to follow this passion ... there is sooo much to learn.”



Timburley Ecklund, Crown Point – “It has been my dream to complete the Porter County Master Gardener Program.” She is 2014-15 president of the Lake of the Four Seasons House and Garden Club.



Rudy Kunshek, Valparaiso – Botany is his avocation. Has a minor in botany from Western Illinois University.



Anne Floy, Valparaiso – Helped establish a successful community garden. Moved from Minnesota and wants to learn about gardening in this area.



Linda Kurtos, Beverly Shores – A gardener for years, Linda has called on Master Gardeners for help. “I would love to be able to give back.”



John Grisolano, Valparaiso – Especially interested in vegetable gardening and helping others grow their own food.



Sarah Lively, Westville – Would love to be an even better gardener. Loves helping and learning.



Alexis Hoy, Hebron – “I want to open doors for my dream career in horticulture, botany or conservation.”



Breanon Maldonado, Crown Point – “I have a passion for organic vegetable gardening, perennials and being outdoors.”

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← MEET A MASTER GARDENER

(Continued from Page 10)



Jeffrey Marlowe, Valparaiso – “I feel I am a good teacher in life. It would be fulfilling to share the knowledge learned with others.”



Diane O'Connell, Hobart – Feels learning more about the subject and sharing that knowledge with others “is a natural fit for me.”



Tawnee Paliga, Chesterton – Loves gardening at home. In addition to learning, Tawnee would like to share and spend time with others with the same interest.



Patricia Pietraszak, Crown Point – Responsible for her church garden.



Danielle Popovich, Valparaiso – Wants to be more involved in the community and doing something she loves to do.



Mark Popovich, Valparaiso – Interested in fruits and vegetables and landscaping with edibles Also, interested in the interaction of animals, insects and plants.



Susan Sherwood, Wheatfield – Grows weary of Google “every time I want to know something.” Also, is recently retired and would like to volunteer a talent.



Donna Smith, Valparaiso – Recently had their home landscaped and wants to learn more about caring for plants.



Gwenlyn Smith, Chesterton – “Always had a green thumb,” and is interested in this community-based program.



Jeff Snellgrove, Portage – “I always wanted to learn to become a better gardener and would love to trade community service to gain and share the necessary knowledge.”



Bob Stoner, Valparaiso – Bob is seeking more knowledge to share with the community, especially during his missions to Sierra Leone.



Mitchell Watson, Valparaiso – Wants to become knowledgeable, and is open to volunteering. 🌱

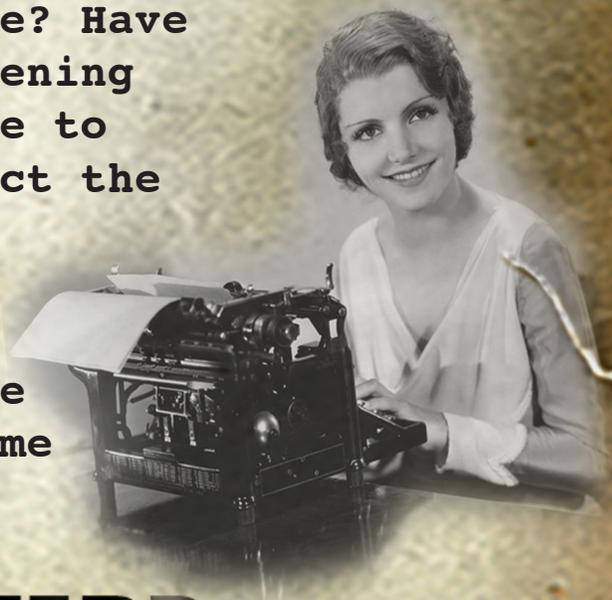


WANTED

Master Gardener Guest Columnists

Do you like to write? Have an interesting gardening topic you would like to share? Please contact the Extension Office, 219-465-3555.

Once the idea is approved, we'll give you a month lead time to complete it.



REWARD VOLUNTEER HOURS



OPPORTUNITIES Volunteer / Educational

To publish volunteer or education opportunities in our newsletter, please contact nrosene@icloud.com.

PCMG COMMUNITY GARDEN PLOT

Foundation Meadows Park
3210 N Campbell St., Valparaiso

Volunteers will:

- Water
- Weed
- Pick/harvest

Weeks needed:

- July 5 - July 11
- July 12 - July 18
- July 26 - Aug. 1
- Aug. 2 - Aug. 8
- Aug. 9 - Aug. 15
- Sept. 13 to Sept. 19
- Sept. 20 - Sept. 26
- Sept. 27 - Oct. 3
- Oct. 4 - Oct. 10
- Oct. 11 Cleanup

Contact: Porter County Extension Office at 219-465-3555



VENDOR SHOPPERS NEEDED

Please support our 13th Annual Gardening Show, Jan. 23, 2016, by helping to identify potential garden-related vendors. A list of some June events follows. Why not plan to go, and if you spot a vendor whose products would be of interest to our Gardening Show patrons, get their business card/contact information to pass along to the Porter County Extension Office, 219-465-3555.

LOCAL SUMMER FESTIVALS AND CRAFT SHOWS

Town of Dyer Summer Fest, June 4, 2015

Location: Dyer, IN, Pheasant Hills Park north shelter
Description: Mark your calendars as the Town of Dyer Summer Fest will be held at Pheasant Hills Park from June 4-7, 2015.... [View more detail](#) »

Shipshewana Antique Market, June 6, 2015

Location: Shipshewana, IN, Trading Place Antique Gallery
Description: Antique Market will be held on June, 2015. More than 100 vendors located in the grassy areas, under the Trading... [View more detail](#) »

2015 Corn Roast, June 12, 2015

Location: Crown Point, IN, Downtown Crown Point
Description: You will find the tastiest corn and best family, friendly, fun in Northwest Indiana! Hours: 4 to 11 p.m.... [View more detail](#) »

Wakarusa Bluegrass Festival, June 12, 2015

Location: Wakarusa, IN, Wakarusa Festival Grounds
Description: Wakarusa Bluegrass Festival will be held June 12-14, 2015. Past festivals have featured Larry Sparks, Audie Blaylock and Redline, the... [View more detail](#) »

South Haven Harborfest, June 18, 2015

Location: South Haven, IN, South Haven area
Description: A celebration of Southwestern Michigan's unique maritime history! Shop with area crafters while enjoying a leisurely stroll along the beautiful Black... [View more detail](#) »

South Bend Leeper Park Art Fair, June 20, 2015

Location: South Bend, IN, Leeper Park
Description: Great artists exhibiting and wonderful patrons buying art combine to make it one of the best shows in Indiana. Hours: Saturday,... [View more detail](#) »

Northern Indiana Lakes Festival, June 20, 2015

Location: Warsaw, IN, Municipal Park
Description: Northern Indiana Lakes Festival will be held on June 20, 2015.... [View more detail](#) »

For a complete listing of Indiana Festivals, Craft Shows, Art Fairs and Events go to: FairsandFestivals.net »



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GARDEN WALK 2015

Saturday
June 27, 2015
9 A.M. to 4 P.M. CDT

ADMISSION
\$6.00 in Advance
\$8.00 Day of Walk
Children Under 12 Free

THE PORTER COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Marcia Carson, Shelli Henry, Lyndsay Ploehn, Nancy Rosene, Kristine Sandrick, Beverly Thevenin, Suzanna Tudor