

"Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle ... a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light, a bud straining to unfurl. And the anticipation nurtures our dream."
Barbara Winkler

Garden Thyme

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

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LYNDSAY'S VINE

Lyndsay Ploehn is our Indiana Porter County Purdue Extension Educator

January is a month that represents "new." New Year, new Master Gardeners, and a new newsletter design! With new things comes change. Our newsletter, managed in the past three years by a wonderful group of writers, editors and designers, included Master Gardeners: Marcia Carson, Suzanna Tudor, Beverly Thevenin, Bonnie Girton, Shelli Henry, Kristine Sandrick and Nancy Rosene. In 2018, we are kicking off the year with a new look,

new writing and a new designer, Wilma Willard. Please consider writing an article for one of our newsletter issues this year. Article topics include (250 words or less):

Meet a Master Gardener: The writer of this article interviews a fellow Master Gardener to introduce them to the whole membership. (We have 25 new class members that would be perfect interviewees!)

Just Name It: This article is sort of like a mystery challenge. The writer chooses a plant, insect, or something garden related that may not be easily recognizable and gives hints and information for the reader to test their knowledge.

Opportunities: I compile this information, but if you know of a volunteer or education opportunity coming up, please share it with me. lploehn@purdue.edu

From My Garden: Just as the title sounds, we are looking for someone to write about a unique feature, plant, or gardening style they are knowledgeable about and/or use in their own garden.

Recibees: You may write about a recipe you make or interview another Master Gardener on a recipe they make. We usually include seasonal recipes that include at least something that came from the garden. To be included, you must make the recipe and take a photo to share with us.

Volunteer Plug: This article highlights a volunteer opportunity which you are involved in that others may not know much about it. We want you to share your experience - maybe plug it to encourage others to join you. This article can be an interview or a personal experience.

Tool Shed: Share information about a garden tool that you think is underutilized or is a must-have!

Garden Wanderer: If you travel and visit amazing gardens, we want to hear about your experience and see the photos that you took.



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MEET A MASTER GARDENER

John Tiedeman may have only been a Master Gardener since 2013, but he has been a Master Gardener in the making for many years. John's passion for gardening began when he was a junior at Rogers High School (now Michigan City High).

As a baseball player looking for an easy class, he chose "Horticulture 1." John soon realized that it was neither an easy subject nor an easy grade, but a wonderful teacher, Siegrud Petersen, ignited his love for gardening and horticulture. The school had a large greenhouse and courtyards that the horticulture students had landscaped, and John soon became part of that effort.

Now, many years later, John has returned to gardening in the Michigan City Schools. How? Read on...

John and his wife Becky have been married 42 years. They have four children and three grandchildren. In 2011, John retired with 36 years of service at UPS. His wife was working as a tutor and language arts enrichment instructor for the Michigan City Area Schools after-school program, Safe Harbor. As fate would have it, Safe Harbor was looking for someone to instruct the after-school students in gardening and environmental science. John was given the task of organizing and implementing an after-school horticulture program at five

Featuring...

John Tiedeman

By Marcia Carson

elementary and two middle schools.

John continues to volunteer and reached Bronze Level Master Gardener in November 2017. ❄️

Be sure to read "Volunteer Plug" on pages 2-3 to learn more about **Safe Harbor**, how it works and suggestions on starting a similar program yourself.



VOLUNTEER PLUG

A "Safe Harbor" for Kids

By John Tiedeman

In 2012, I was given the task of organizing and implementing an after-school horticulture program at five elementary and two middle schools in Michigan City Schools. The most important aspect of starting a gardening program in a school is getting the building principal on board. I approached each principal and assured them that we weren't going to just throw some seeds in

continued on page 3

On a rainy day, John and students build an arbor for the Asian Garden in the school hallway.



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continued from page 2 - A "Safe Harbor" for Kids

the ground in the spring to return in the fall to see if they grew. We committed to refurbish and maintain the courtyards and gardens with the help of the students and grant funding. Students needed to know they would be part of the garden's process and success. After a year of getting teachers, principals and the school grounds maintenance department engaged and noticing our hard work, we even gained the support and respect from our School Superintendent, Barbara Eason-Watkins.

For the last four years we have used the Junior Master Gardener/JMG curriculum, which is an innovative 4-H youth gardening project. Level one is designed for grades 3-6. Modeled after the Master Gardener program, it offers horticultural and environmental science education, leadership and life skills development through fun and creative activities. This program is committed to helping young people become good gardeners and good citizens, so they can make a positive contribution to their community, school and family. Students can become certified by completing group and individual activities for each teaching concept in the 8th chapter of the JMG Handbook. The Safe Harbor JMG program has certified 127 students over

the last three years and should certify about 40 more this year.

The seven gardens at the five schools each have a different theme. We established an Enchanted Fairy

Garden, Rose Garden, Native Garden, and a Container Garden, including Asian, European and Mexican Gardens. We have received several awards from our mayor's office "Michigan City In-Bloom" contest and have been recognized by the Friends of Shirley Heinze "Bringing Nature Home" award.

Suggestions as you start your own gardening program:

1. Set goals for your program that you can meet.
2. Have a plan and stick to it.
3. Get the students involved.
4. Find funding from several sources.
Just because you receive a grant or donation from a group one year doesn't mean that funding will be there next year.
5. Make sure you have access to the garden over the summer months to water and weed.
6. Incorporate a learning curriculum for the students to follow.

Be sure to read "Meet a Master Gardener" on page 2 to learn more about the man behind the volunteerism.



Thankfully, I have some great volunteers from Porter County and LaPorte County Master Gardeners Associations. They volunteer time teaching classes and making presentations. But most importantly, they are committed to helping young people become good gardeners and good citizens, so they can make a positive contribution to their community, school and family. ❄️

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Stop the Spread

By Suzanna Tudor

Since Garden Thyme has already covered several invasive plant species in our "Just Name It" column, I was wondering which plant to feature next. There's a long list.

I decided to consult Larry Bledsoe, Indiana Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey Coordinator (CAPS) / Pest Management, Purdue University Dept. of Entomology. His name should be familiar, as many new Master Gardeners have heard his presentations, most recently on insects during the fall 2017 Master Gardener class. Larry gave me a list of five. The number one on his invasive list was Oriental Bittersweet which was covered in Garden Thyme February 2015. Number two is what we will feature for this issue.

War is waging in other states on this invasive and was the focus of national convention conversation in Tulsa, Bledsoe shared. However, it is not on the CAPS list yet, which is why we must get the word out.

This ornamental fruit tree was introduced by the USDA in the 1960s and assumed to be sterile. Not true, as it has

mingled with other fruit trees and caused a thorny "ecological nightmare," according to Durant Ashmore, nursery-landscape owner and columnist. It may reach 30-50 feet and has white feathery blossoms in the spring, which makes it a popular landscape choice.

Click the link provided by the Indiana State Plant Regulatory Office to discover this tree's identity:

[https://
www.como.gov/
ParksandRec/
Parks and Facilities/
stopthespread.php](https://www.como.gov/ParksandRec/Parks%20and%20Facilities/stopthespread.php)

The following video was also provided by the same office. It has a humorous, cartoon beginning, but the informative video will follow:

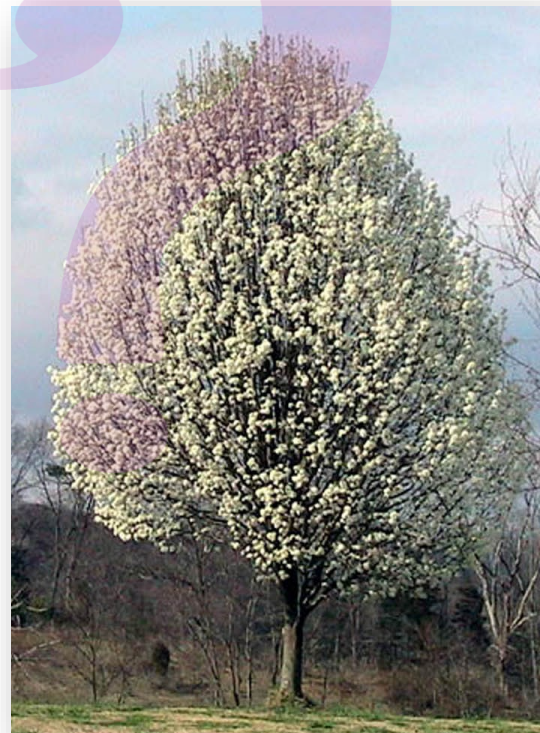
[http://gocolumbiainmo.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?
clip_id=295](http://gocolumbiainmo.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?clip_id=295)

It's a
MYSTERY
CHALLENGE!

Can you guess
the plant?

Be sure to go to
page 7
to use the
answer in our
Garden Games.

JUST NAME IT



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Longwood Gardens

GARDEN WANDERER



Kaye Lynn and Mike Beeler
enjoy Longwood Gardens

by Kaye Lynn Beeler

This past November, my husband and I took a road trip during a recent business / vacation in Washington D.C. and experienced Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania. I had recently learned of these gardens in my Master Gardener class and was really excited to have the chance to see it in person. Located only an hour and a half from Washington, D.C., the short drive was an added bonus of rolling hills covered with colorful fall foliage.

Longwood Gardens surpassed all expectations I may have had. The day was chilly, but sunny, and so most of our time was spent inside the massive glass building.

The Chrysanthemum Festival was the main attraction in the East Conservatory. It was filled with gorgeous and amazing mums of all kinds, sizes and colors. The show stopper was the 1,000 bloom chrysanthemum grown from 1 stem—a genius horticultural engineering feat that takes 17 months to grow. (See yellow buds in photo.)

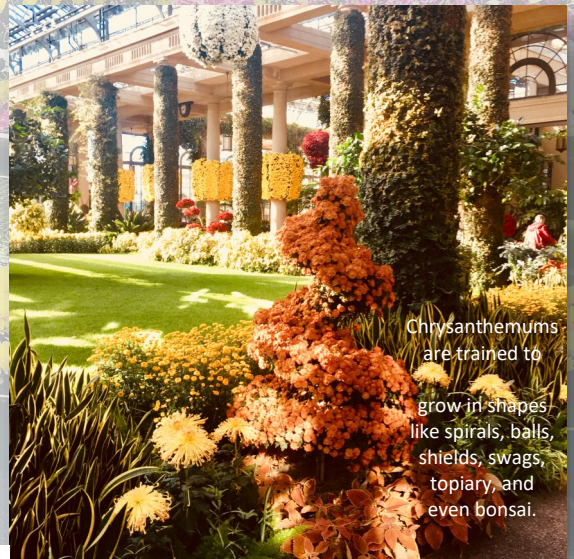
Another very intriguing specimen was one plant with 150 different mum blossoms grafted on it. We were in awe of the dramatic hanging balls, topiary trees, swags, and shields; all designed from trained mum plants.

During our visit we were treated to grand views and tranquil, quiet spaces under a half acre of glass. A meandering central water feature made up of waterfalls, pools and fountains, added sound and motion to the dynamic Longwood Gardens.

Visit in person or check out longwoodgardens.org

Other gardens in the conservatory included an Orchid House, Palm House, Silver Garden, Children's Secret Garden, Rose House, Tropical Terrace, Fern Passage, Bonsai Display and many, many more. On the grounds outside the Conservatory is the enormous and recently refurbished fountain garden that has lighted fountain displays at night in the summer and an Alice in Wonderland sort of garden of sculpted trees and shrubs. We saw a large railroad garden, a bird watchers' treehouse, and wandered through a whimsical treehouse overlooking forests and meadows.

But there are many more features we missed at this magnificent place because of time restraints.



Chrysanthemums are trained to grow in shapes like spirals, balls, shields, swags, topiary, and even bonsai.

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"Remember horticulture is an art in which you and your plants will grow as your experience increases along with your love of gardening."

Winter is an excellent time to prune your trees and shrubs. This time of the year, after the leaves have fallen, the structure of both trees and shrubs are revealed allowing you to see damaged areas or branches needing trimming.

First, before trimming, research the plant you plan to trim. An excellent source for this information is the Purdue publication: "Pruning Ornamental Trees and Shrubs," HO-4-W, which is online. See link below.

<https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/HO/HO-4-W.pdf>



By-Pass
Hand
Pruner



By-Pass
Hand
Lopper

Winter Pruning

By John Nash

HotLine HotSpot

Next, make sure you have the right tool. The best trimming tool is either a hand trimmer or lopper with blades that by-pass one another as you make a cut. A by-pass clipper provides a clean precise cut which will heal fast. For large branches, when a hand clipper is impractical, it is better to use a trimming saw.

Before making a cut, examine the tree or shrub looking for any damaged branches. Furthermore, remove any branches that may be rubbing together causing damage to the bark to prevent future damage. Also remove branches that are dead or out of alignment with the desired shape of the plant.



Trimming
Saw

Telescoping
Pole Saw with
Center Cut
Pruner, Blade,
and Rope

One last word of advice: if you make a mistake trimming, **do not panic**. The plant will recover and you will learn from your mistake.



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GARDEN GAMES

By Wilma Willard

I just can't help it - I love purple. So when I discovered that **Allium 'Millenium'** with its masses of purple blooms was selected by the Perennial Plant Association (PPA) as the *2018 Perennial of the Year*, I just had to share it with you and make it the focus of our "garden game". I think it's very appropriate for our first issue of our "new" 2018 newsletter to honor this 2018 perennial!

Here's how the game works: Be the first to finish this puzzle, call the extension office with all the correct answers, and win a prize. **Happy 2018!**



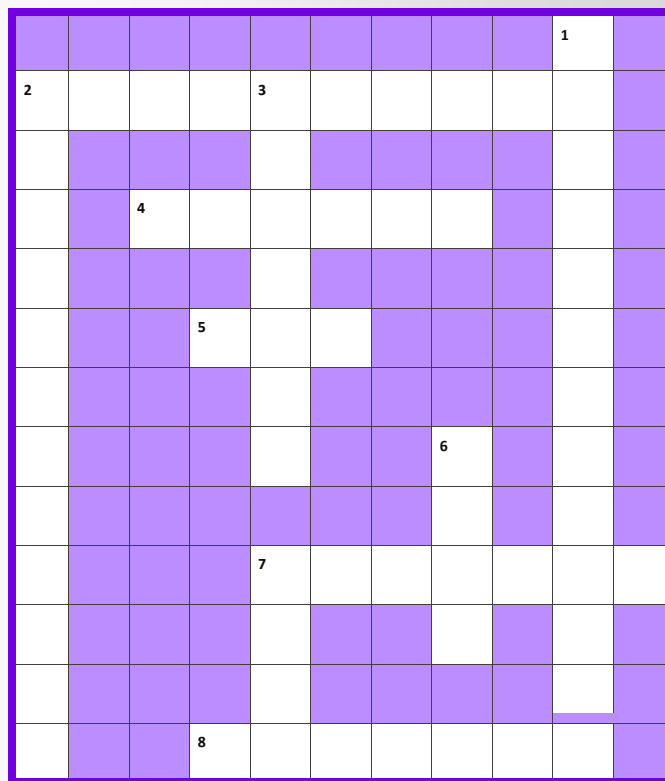
Contact Angel Leuck at 219.465.3555
Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am - 4:30pm

DOWN

1. The common name for the mystery plant from *Just Name It* on page 4 is ____.
2. The PPA decides the Perennial of the Year by ____.
3. 'Millenium' has a clump habit with a ____ root system.
6. This Allium hybrid flowers ____ in the season.
7. Its globes of purple florets last as long as ____ weeks.

ACROSS

2. Twenty years ago the Perennial of the Year was purple also. Its common name is ____.
4. This creature, the ____, appears to avoid browsing 'Millenium'.
5. This hybrid Allium is a ____ maintenance plant.
7. Its upright foliage clump of grass-like, glossy, deep green leaves reaches up to ____ inches tall in spring.
8. 'Millenium' is resistant to ____.



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OPPORTUNITIES



8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"Renovate! Repurpose! Revitalize!"

Porter County Expo Center

215 East Division Road, Valparaiso, IN 46383

<http://www.pcgarden.info/gardening-show>

Join us at the 2018 Gardening Show! Tickets are \$10; children age twelve and under are free. Purchase tickets at the door.

Highlights of the show include:

- * A Seed & Bulb Exchange - quite possibly the largest on-site event of its type in the country. Your \$10 paid admission (cash or check) includes free Seed & Bulb Exchange tickets. This year our goal is to have an inventory of 10,000 packets of seeds and an assortment of approximately 2,000 bulbs. So many choices!
- * Presentations by national, regional and local gardening speakers
Demonstrations - hands on "how-to" topics on basic gardening skills
[Seminar Schedule](#)
- * New this year! Fresh floral design demonstration area! (additional cost for your choice of lovely make-and-take-home arrangement)
- * The Happening Place in Building 3 will have lots of things TO DO
- * More than 125 exhibitors and vendors of products and services for and about gardens and gardening
- * Garden photography contest
- * Gently used gardening books and magazines with bargains of 25¢
- * Used-but-useful gardening items for sale in the Garden Shed
- * Children's Corner educational activities
- * Catered dining service - Delicious!
- * The chance to win valuable door prizes
- * Discounted hotel rate for overnight guests



Garden Show: Volunteer Sign up <http://signup.com/go/iSSQKFF>

Newsletter: Guest writers and those on the Newsletter Team earn volunteer hours for creating and contributing the newsletter. Contact the Extension Office for more information.



Did you know?

The Purdue Master Gardener Program of Indiana began in 1978 with 4 participating counties. Currently, about 40 Indiana counties have active Master Gardener programs.

Garden Show: Earn 1 hour towards education hours by attending seminars and demonstrations. Report them to Extension Educator.

Check out the [Seminar Schedule](#).

For those who volunteer at the Garden Show and who are unable to attend seminars and demonstrations, contact the Extension Office to see videos of the presentations and earn education hours.

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EXTENSION**

**LOCAL FACES
COUNTLESS CONNECTIONS**

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