



Garden Thyme

May 2019

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

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Winter's Woes Spur Spring Action

By Nikky Witkowski, Porter County Extension Educator



Things are finally getting warmer and staying that way. It's been a long, hard winter. This is one year that plants will most likely show delayed winter injury. Be mindful of all plants to see how they come out this year, and if they start to look like they are failing after coming out. The winter temperatures (or little rodents) could have caused damage that would still allow for the tree to leaf out initially. However, after the initial growth, it can then fail as it may have a severed connection to the roots due again to the low temperatures or animals.

The other issue to keep in mind is that flowering may be reduced or stopped entirely. This would primarily affect trees and shrubs. Peach trees should have reduced flowering, if any, because the temperatures just got so cold their flowers most likely didn't survive the Polar Vortex this year. This should not affect them for next year. Others, like hydrangeas, could have the same problems. So just watch your plants and see what happens and hopefully, next winter won't be so cold and harsh.

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Just as a note, this winter could have affected your lawn as well. It would have been hard on new grass and grass struggling in the shade. If you have to, over seed to fill in any bare spots in the turf by this time. But keep in mind that May is getting pretty late to seed and it might be better in fall. Also, if you applied a pre-emergent weed killer this spring, you have to wait until fall to re-seed. 🌱



Get Ready for Garden Walk 2019

By Ellen Standafer and Kaye Lynn Beeler
PCMG Class of 2017

Save the date! June 29th

This year's event is on track to be our biggest ever. We've been so pleased with the great response from Porter County residents who love gardening. In keeping with our organization's mission, Garden Walk attendees will find a wealth of learning opportunities that anyone can put into practice. Here's a preview of what's in store for Garden Walk 2019:

- Spice up your garden with unusual plants
- Create a big landscaping plan on a budget
- Use drip irrigation to keep your garden looking fresh
- Repurpose and recycle objects to add character and whimsy to the landscape
- Use fencing to keep marauding mammals at bay
- Hostas, hostas, hostas!
- Find beauty in natural settings
- Add daily inspiration to your garden
- Creatively use containers to add variety to your landscape

Lots of volunteer slots are available to staff this important event. It's a great opportunity to interact with members of the community and showcase all that membership in PCMGA has to offer.

Tickets are \$8.00 in advance and will be on sale beginning June 15th at:

- Chesterton Feed & Garden
- Four Seasons Nursery
- Heinold & Feller (Valparaiso)
- Horses Garden Center
- Jake's Feed & Garden
- Lifestyles Unique Gifts
- Phillips Ace Hardware (Valparaiso)
- Porter County Extension Office
- Reed's Nursery & Garden Center
- Town & Country Market
- WRF Nursery & Garden Center

Tickets are \$10.00 the day of the Walk and can be purchased at the Kmart parking lot 2801 Calumet Avenue, Valparaiso, IN. 🌸



Enjoy nine gardens on Garden Walk 2019 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. CDT held Saturday, June 29. In and around Porter County Indiana, Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer questions and explain plantings at each garden.



Beauty Along the Rails By Gerry Lehman, PCMG Class of 2009

We have our own grand display of lupine in the spring. Usually one has to take a hike into the dunes to see colonies. Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore personnel do not advertise these displays, but there have been beautiful colonies in Howes' Prairie, the Tolleston Ridge parcel and other areas.

But in the spring of 2018, an earlier prescribed burn on land north of US 12 and west of the entrance to Ogden Dunes, reduced the tall grass and exposed these lovely May blooms to passing cars. Yes, this is railroad property, but the lupine is happy on any sandy, sunny, south-facing slope. Even with 140 freight trains passing daily.

Our variety is *Lupinus perennis* in the legume family, Fabaceae. Colonies can stay in bloom for about a month. The flower clusters, or raceme, then mature to a long pod typically containing seven seeds. When dry, these pods will snap open and throw the seeds several feet in all directions. The seeds have an extremely hard case, assuring viability of the species for years until the conditions are best for germination. If home grown from seed, scarification is a must. Lupine plants have a tap root; transplant with extra root care.

Lupine are the only host plant for the Karner Blue butterfly which is no longer found in the dunes.

The Texas Hill Country Bluebonnet displays are iconic. But this genus can be found in the Mediterranean and in the Americas from the Andes to Prince Edward Island. 🌸





GARDEN WANDERER ΓΑΡΔΕΝ ΜΑΝΔΕΒΕΡ

Morton Arboretum

By Shari Zavala, PCMG Class of 2017

If you are looking for the perfect way to obtain your Master Gardener education hours, I have the place for you to go. Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois not only offers a variety of interesting classes, you can spend the day there exploring the beautiful grounds and taking in all the magnificent beauty as well.

I attended a class in January of this year. The title, *Be Well, Be Swell*, was presented by Shawna Coronado. The class made a connection between gardening and wellness. It was held on a very cold winter evening. Free meatless appetizers were served, many door prizes were given away and all for a very reasonable cost. The workshop was very entertaining with excellent garden tips, beautiful photos to capture the ideas and lots of audience participation. In two hours, I learned a lot about growing the food we eat, secret soil combinations, gardening with elevated beds, container gardening and the best to use, composting and so much more.

I left with so much valuable information, a sense of peace for being in nature and amply satisfied from the generous amounts of the complimentary appetizers. The classes are ongoing and range from such topics as, The Edible Patio, Spring Planting Workshop; Trees and Shrubs, Growing a Salsa Garden, Do-It-Yourself Rain Gardens, Basic Tree ID and much more. There is a wealth of material to discover and learn. Admission to the Arboretum is included in the class registration. Make time to explore the 1,700 acres with more than 222,000 live plants. It is open 365 days a year. There are activities, exhibits and walking trails.

I highly recommend attending a class/workshop; you won't be disappointed. For more information, visit mortonarb.org/ed-gardening or call 630.719.2468. 🌸

Meet a Master Gardener

By Annette Young, PCMG Class of 2013

Empty nester, retiree, garden hobbyist--taking a passion for horticulture to another level--it's a familiar tune we Master Gardeners hum when asked why we enrolled in the program. But my lyrics have another twist. Since becoming Master Gardener in 2013, my life has taken directions I never would have anticipated five years ago.

While an intern, I enjoyed volunteering at PCMG events, but I also sought other opportunities in my community. Essentially, it began after planting flowers at a recently purchased home in the Dunes, and a neighbor asked (with raised eyebrows), "are those native?"

And so I embarked on learning the answer to that question while volunteering in native landscapes managed by two local organizations, the Environmental Restoration Group and the Association of Beverly Shores Residents. Flash forward five years, I now am on the board of directors of both organizations and the president of the latter.

I was also tapped to join the Steering Committee of the Beverly Shores Garden and Art Walk while in the nascent stages of development. I am happy to report that the walk will celebrate its fifth year in the spring of 2019!

Additionally, a MG classmate offered an opportunity to work for Michigan City's Safe Harbor Afterschool Program providing horticulture enrichment. This fall begins my sixth year of bringing the joy of gardening into the lives of young people through the Junior Master Gardener Program.

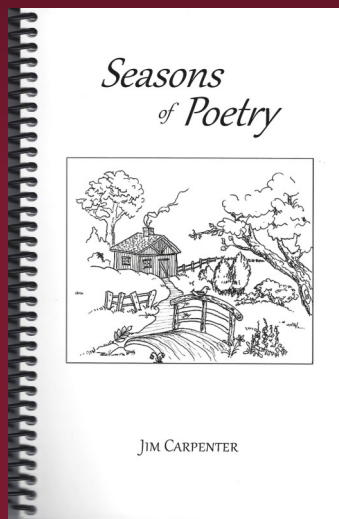
Indeed, it's a lot of giving, but what I've received is so much more! 🌱



Getting to Know Other Master Gardeners

By Suzanna Tudor
PCMG Class of 2002

As Master Gardeners, we rub shoulders with many interesting people who share the love of horticulture with us. And it's always amazing to learn what talents each possesses. While attending Elkhart County's 1st Annual Garden Expo, I had the pleasure of meeting MG and poet, Jim Carpenter, who now shares one of his poems with us for our May newsletter. 🌸



The May Garden

By Jim Carpenter
Elkhart County MG 2010

*March has the promise of spring,
April has flowers and rain.
But May is the month I love the most,
when the planting can truly begin.*

*The frost free date will soon be here,
'though carrots and lettuce are up.
But now the peppers and tomatoes go in,
and I wonder, "will there be room enough?"*

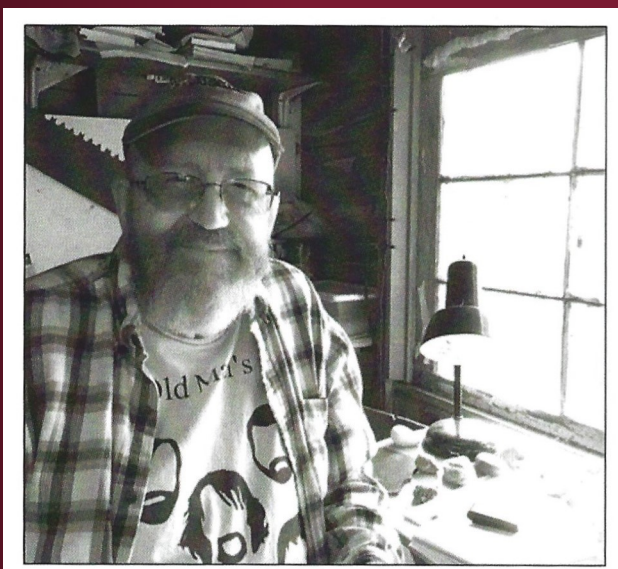
*With cabbages growing and potatoes showing,
the sweet corn is spiking its way.
Soon the beans will begin to take off.
What a wonderful time, this month of May!*

*The sweet potato and zucchini are starting,
not to mention the cucumber vine.
The carrots are coming the radishes are near,
Soon it will be pea-picking time!*

*The month of May has treats galore,
whether comes rain or sun.
So when I say I work in the garden,
I am really there having fun!*

*Of all the months that come in the year,
there is none so finer than this.
Digging toes in the dirt, feeling the sun.
Surely this must be bliss!*

*Days go by, the garden grows,
but this one thing I know,
in the garden as in life,
we harvest what we sow!*



https://www.goshennews.com/news/local_news/you-should-know-jim-carpenter/article_5daf3075-f46d-5ce9-9455-80644181e576.html


WHERE IN THE WORLD IS The Largest Flower Auction?

By Wilma Willard, PCMG Class of 2011

The Netherlands has been the home of Aalsmeer Flower Auction for 108 years. It is located just south of Amsterdam's Schiphol International Airport, 35 minutes from The Hague and 10 minutes from The North Sea. The cooperative that runs the auction is Royal FloraHolland. It sits on many acres and covers more than 120 football fields earning the bragging rights to the biggest store in the world.

Not just tulips, but 20,000 different kinds of flowers and potted plants are sold here, plus every year 1200 to 1500 new products are added. Aalsmeer Flower Auction is where 60% of all roses in the world are sold. Most of these roses come from Kenya. In fact, the top 10 out of more than 60 import countries are Kenya, Ethiopia, Israel, Belgium, Germany, Spain, Italy, Zimbabwe, Denmark and Ecuador while export countries number even more. Thus Royal FloraHolland's tag line *Flowering the World* is really quite accurate!

The logistics are tight resulting in the possibility that a flower harvested one day will be auctioned the next day and in a flower shop and your home by the next day. Flowers arrive tightly packed in watered cartons and at 41 to 46 degrees Fahrenheit in trucks, planes, boats and trains. Immediately after purchase away they go via the same modes of transportation.

When I toured the Aalsmeer Flower Auction last spring, I especially enjoyed the movement of the gorgeous flowers in the trolleys and watching the Dutch Auction Clock. This is how Royal FloraHolland's clock works: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FUJoRMD0B-Y> 



Fresh flowers are organized on trolleys. They are shipped in from all over the world then sold to places all over the world.



The auction room is where bidders use computers to make purchasing decisions in lightning speed.



Orange electric tractor units pull trolleys of flowers from the incoming delivery area to the shipping area after purchase.

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ОБЪЯВЛЕНИЕ

OPPORTUNITIES ОБЪЯВЛЕНИЕ

EARN VOLUNTEER CREDIT!

PCMGA Garden Walk

June 29 needs volunteers.
Contact Ellen Standafer at
estandafer@comcast.net



Porter County Fair July 19-28

Volunteers needed for Extension booth. Contact John Nash at johnjnash@comcast.net

Judges needed for the Open Class flower competition. Contact Janet Magnuson at njmag@hotmail.com

Helpers at "Ask a Master Gardener" booth. Contact Jim Albers at jim.albers@valpo.edu



Porter County Extension

Office helpers needed for occasional bulk mailings and for the "Help Line".

Contact Nikky Witkowski at nikky@purdue.edu

Shirley Heinze Land Trust is hosting their Trail Clean-up and Invasive Species Removal on June 8 from 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. They are looking for volunteers in prep of developing a native woodland wildflower and fern garden and nature trail. They provide necessary equipment and gear as well as snacks. Where to go, where to park, what to wear, what to expect... there are *many more important details*, so please go to <http://www.heinzetrust.org/volunteer-workdays.html>

For questions contact Christine Maloney of SHLT at (219) 916-8940 and cmaloney@heinzetrust.org or contact Terry Bonace of ERG (Beverly Shores Environmental Restoration Group) at (219) 201-4541 and tbonace@gmail.com



EARN EDUCATION CREDIT!

Education Opportunities around Indiana

<https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/master-gardener/events/categories/advanced-mg-training-opportunities/>

Monthly PCMGA meetings typically held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, often include an educational topic after the business meeting. These can be logged as educational hours, as well as, educational videos of former Garden Show seminars found at pcgarden.info on the Member Pages.

* May 8 Linda Mapes, "Plants that Attract Birds"

* June 12 Ellen Standafer and Kaye Lynn Beeler, "Garden Walk 2019"

* July 10 Victoria Jostes, "Do Plants Communicate?"

Indiana Dunes National Park Service Native Plant Propagation Facility Tour is May 18 at 10 a.m. led by NPS Botanist Dan Mason who will lead us through the work stations, green houses and bog nurseries used to maintain the park's populations of native plants. You must RSVP as soon as possible to bonnie.girton@gmail.com. Reservations are limited to the first 20 participants.

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Earn volunteer credit for contributing to the newsletter; contact the Extension Office for more information.

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