

VOLUME 10 / ISSUE 4

JULY / AUGUST 2024



# GARDEN THYME



[PCGARDEN.INFO](http://PCGARDEN.INFO) | 219-465-3555

PURDUE EXTENSION PORTER COUNTY 155 INDIANA AVENUE, SUITE 301 VALPARAISO, IN 46383



## — *In this Issue*

# Table of Contents

In this Issue	01
A Note from Nikky	02
Garden Wanderer:	
Designing for the Future, Chelsea's WaterAid Show Garden	03
Porter County Fair	
Open Class Updates	06
Eco-dye Workshop	07
Getting to Know Invasives	08
ALL ABOARD to Sunset Hill!	10
European Market	11
Garden Games:	
Olympics on Your Lawn	12

*Equal Opportunity Statement:* It is the policy of the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service that all persons have equal opportunity and access to its educational programs, services, activities, and facilities without regard to race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, disability or status as a veteran. Purdue University is an Affirmative Action institution. This material may be available in alternative formats.

The Porter County Master Gardeners Association (PCMGGA) is a not-for-profit corporation that promotes the education and pleasure of gardening in cooperation with Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service in Porter County, Indiana.



page 11



page 03



page 07



## *A Note from Nikky* —

# Nikky Witkowski

*Extension Educator, Agriculture & Natural Resources Purdue Extension Porter County*

Summer is going fast and so are the cicadas! The problems associated with the cicadas' emergence have included damage to trees and shrubs, and issues with cicada killer wasps. Be aware there is not much that can be done at this time of year besides taking the best care of the plants that incurred damage by watering and fertilizing them to promote recovery.



The Porter County Master Gardeners have already accomplished a lot this year, and now the Porter County Fair is upon us. Please continue to spread your joy and love of gardening in the community through the fair! Volunteer for the Ask a Master Gardener Booth. Submit projects in the open class competition. These activities bring great visibility to our Porter County Master Gardener Association and "help others grow!"

During this time of year, remember to get your EMG volunteer and education hours reported and documented! You can do this yourself online using [www.purdue.edu/mg-volunteer/login](http://www.purdue.edu/mg-volunteer/login), or you can submit your hours by contacting the Porter County Extension Office at 219.465.3555. Hours are due by September 1 in order to receive Master Gardener badges in November. If you know you will level-up soon, but not yet before the September 1 deadline, let Nikky Witkowski or April Fifield know, and they will make note of it to watch for your additional hours. **Remember, September 1 is the deadline for submitting hours in order to get a badge in November.**

Please also note: The Extension Office will use the hours reported by the September deadline to generate status letters at the end of the year—in other words, you may be marked *Inactive* if you don't report your hours by September 1st. So please do input those hours, so that we can keep sending many *Active* letters!



— *Garden Wanderer*

# Designing for the Future

## Chelsea's WaterAid Show Garden

BY HILLARY MILES, PCMG CLASS OF 2023

Photography credit: [Tom Massey Studio](#)



Tuesday, May 21st-Awards Day at the 2024 Royal Horticultural Society's Chelsea Flower Show in London. I was met with prototypical British weather: mid-50's, overcast, frequent rain showers. Celebrating over 100 years of horticultural excellence (with breaks for both world wars), Chelsea has risen to become the world's most famous flower show; an annual expression of Britain's great national tradition—gardening. This year's exhibition included 25 showcase gardens, trades booths, shopping lanes galore, and the renowned Great Pavilion—where the UK's leading nursery growers and floral designers demonstrate their talents. Under the pavilion's tent, flower lovers are guaranteed an impressive front-row seat to picture perfect blooms, a first glimpse at innovative breeding projects, and a generous reprieve from the rain. Outdoors, brave and umbrella-clad spectators are more than rewarded with a look at horticulture's most beautiful & inspiring designs on display throughout the grounds.

Chelsea's show gardens are chosen one year in advance

for pre-determined positions around the CFS host-site, The Royal Hospital's South Grounds. Design teams are often paired with charities who sponsor the designs and contribute a theme or mission to the garden plan. Prior to opening day, teams are allotted three weeks on-site to execute their garden designs. This includes the installation of structural elements: walls, patios, water features and sculpture, and setting hundreds of plants in place—often including fully mature shrubs and trees—grown or borrowed specifically for the five-day affair.

Some trends in garden design at this year's show included native and ornamental

meadow plantings, impeccably sweet and sophisticated pastel palettes, stonework, timber, and traditional craft elements such as woven willow and lime plastering. Though, I'd argue, the most memorable design choices were those that reflected the demands of our world's complex and changing needs—creative solutions, new and old, to address wellness, adaptation, resiliency, and flexibility within ourselves and our gardens.

The Royal Horticultural Society has made a mission of increasing the show's sustainability measures, touting 2024 as its greenest show to date. Measures such as fully compostable

*(continued on page 05)*





serviceware and cutlery from all of the CFS eateries, regenerative garden designs, and innovative new and repurposed materials offer some solutions to our world's growing concerns around issues like climate, flooding and drought. Design team Tom Massey and Je Ahn's 12 x 22 meter WaterAid Show Garden demonstrates the importance of considering rainwater harvesting for irrigation, and selecting appropriate plants with the proven ability to thrive in the most challenging circumstances. "I think we need to be designing-in resilience, designing-in adaptability; and having a huge amount of biodiversity," says Massey, in a BBC interview, "[which] by its very nature, is resilient."



The WaterAid garden, sponsored by Project Giving Back and WaterAid, supposes how a garden might look and function 50 years from now. It features a reclaimed steel-clad elevated canopy—whose green roof provides shade below and is planted with a dry-loving palette of species.

The canopy's main structure consists of four funnels that connect to the ground and act as both channels and filters that help lead rainwater to a collection pond and storage tanks at the garden's lowest level. The whole of the garden landscape is designed to slow, funnel, filter and store as much water as possible in the landscape. In a future scenario with drier, hotter seasons, these measures ensure the soil's ability to store water, fertility, and even to sequester carbon.

Poking their mature trunks through gaps in the steel-canopy, Alder trees demonstrate their superhero

*(continued on page 06)*

Photography credit: Tom Massey Studio







ability to maintain healthy roots even when submerged in water, and further improve the quality of the soil by absorbing heavy metals. In between the garden's very dry-roof and the base-level pond, are two additional micro-climates—a drier band of ground level plantings, and a wet meadow—spanned by an elevated and fully permeable pathway made of timber and steel decking to support fluctuating water levels and wildlife habitat below. All of these careful considerations maximize the potential for healthy biodiversity within the landscape, offering an array of habitat and food sources for a wide range of species.

Massey and Ahn were

awarded a Chelsea gold medal for the WaterAid garden, an impressive design with such elegant solutions to prescient environmental challenges. It is worth mentioning that though this garden provides a peek into the future, now is the perfect time to begin designing our gardens this way: for uncertainty, for extremes, for habitat creation and rehabilitation. Resiliency measures can be really simple too: plant trees for future shade and sequestering carbon, store water for later use and habitat creation wherever you can, whether in rain barrels or in ponds, and plant for wildlife by designing microclimates that encourage healthy biodiversity.

Photography credit: [Tom Massey Studio](#)

## *Porter County Fair Open Class Update*

### Upped premiums up incentive

Get excited for the [Porter County Fair Open Class Flower and Horticulture Exhibit!](#) You and your designs, blooms and veggies can bring education and encouragement to fair goers.

Beginning this year the open class premiums have been increased to: \$8 for first place, \$7 for second place and \$6 for third place.

Entries for flowers may be submitted from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. on three separate days: Thursday July 18, Monday July 22 and Thursday July 25.

Details including the schedule, rules and judging for 2024 will be posted to the Porter County Fair website soon! Keep your eyes [here](#) for updates.

*(continued on page 09)*



From the Editors:  
For more eco-dye info,  
explore [here](#).



# Eco-dye Workshop

MARCIA CARSON, PCMG CLASS OF 2012

Eco-dye, also called Eco-print, is a method of creating prints using the dye in leaves, vegetables or rusty objects and imprinting on paper or fabric. The paper or fabric is tightly wrapped, then soaked/steamed in solutions of vinegar or iron water.

The workshop was held at my home and was taught by Destina Paige, art teacher at Gary West Side HS. Two PCMG members, JoEllen Raby and Nancy Rosene, attended along with other eager participants. We learned why certain vegetables and leaves work, what colors they will print, and how to create papers and clothing with a nature theme.

The photos don't begin to show the excitement of the day when we unwrapped our papers and clothing, or the fun we had learning and making friends. I'm hoping we can do this again!

Pictured: Eco-dye participants. Photography credit: Marcia Carson





## Webinar Series

**JUNE 20TH**

HAMMERHEAD WORM: YES, IT'S STILL ALIVE.

**JULY 11TH**

A CLOSE LOOK AT OAK WILT

**JULY 25TH**

ASIAN BUSH HONEYSUCKLE: 2024 UPDATE

**AUGUST 8TH**

THE IMPACT OF CHESTNUT BLIGHT

**AUGUST 22ND**

EMERALD ASH BORER: IS ASH PROTECTION WORTH IT?



Hammerhead Worm (*Bipalium kewense*)

# Getting to Know Invasives

BY SUZANNA TUDOR, PCMG CLASS OF 2002

Bob Bruner, the Exotic Forest Pest Educator in the Department of Entomology of Purdue University, has made us aware of their free summer webinar series on invasives through ReportINvasive.com. These Zoom videos assist viewers in identifying, reporting and/or removing invasive plants and animals that impact our environment, health and economy.

You can register for any program [here](#). After you submit your registration (please check for correct spelling of your email address), you will receive an email with the Zoom link. On the day of the webinar, just open the Zoom link at the right time to join. For any questions, contact Bob Bruner at [rfbruner@purdue.edu](mailto:rfbruner@purdue.edu) or phone 765.494.0822. If you miss a webinar,

know that all recordings will be posted on YouTube and ReportINvasive.com.

### HAMMERHEAD WORM

The Hammerhead Worm eats our good guys, the earthworms, and yes, yuck, they have been found in Indiana. Their shovel-shaped head and flatness are their distinguishing characteristics. They secrete tetrodotoxin as protection from predators and may cause your pet to become ill if ingested. Touching it may cause skin irritation if we try picking them up. Giving them a vinegar or salt water bath is the best way to eradicate, as cutting them up may simply multiply these invasives.

(continued on page 09)

Photography credit: [Virginia Tech News](#).



## Oak Wilt (*Bretziella fagacearum*)



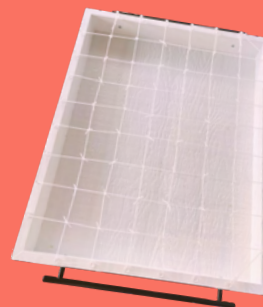
- Infected leaves appear dull green/bronze, water-soaked but partially green.
- Following the death of an infected tree, fungal mats develop under the bark.



Photography credit: [Wisconsin DNR](#)

## Porter County Fair Open Class Update, Continued...

Transporting entries to the fair without breakage or wilting can be tricky. Suzanna and Wilma, seasoned participants, have used carriers like these. Think ahead how you'll transport your beautiful blooms.



Photography credit left: Suzanna Tudor. Photography credit middle and right: Wilma Willard.



# ALL ABOARD to Sunset Hill!

## Illiana Garden Railway Society has ties to Master Gardeners

BY WILMA WILLARD, PCMG CLASS OF 2011

There's an overlooked attraction here in Porter County that's sure to delight both young and old. Every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., weather permitting, the miniature G scale trains are running on seven loops in the 40' x 120' layout at Sunset Hill Farm County Park. Take yourself, family or friends during the months of May through October.

A highlight of the railroading season is Saturday, July 20 when Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends are on the tracks! These popular characters from the British children's television series that aired from 1984 to 2021 still bring joy to many children and adults. Mr. Conductor will be there in person to answer questions. What a photo opportunity!



Sunset Hill Farm County Park  
775 Meridian Road Valparaiso, IN 46383

It is all free because of the collaboration between the county park, the volunteers who make up the Illiana Garden Railway Society and many donors, including the Porter County Master Garden Association. Lance Moleta, IGRS President, explains that as a 2019 grantee of the PCMG, the society purchased miniature trees and shrubs to plant along the rails to give it the realistic look of a natural setting.

George Sarver, IGRS Vice President and a LaPorte County Master Gardener, with his wife Karen, selected small trees and shrubs and oversaw the installation. To keep the miniature size, George removed the trees from the pot, loosened the soil, and pruned the roots. After adding food, rock and well-drained material, he placed the trees back in their pots with bottoms removed. This year he will pull out the pots and remove branching and roots below the pot. For now, George will not cut the leader stem. He will cut every third branch every 3 years. These bonsai type techniques will keep the trees less than two-feet tall, the right perspective for the G scale trains. Regarding plants in the layout, George says, "We have dwarf Alberta spruce, junipers, cedars, boxwoods, thrifts, hens and chicks, and Irish moss." The plants are well maintained and compliment the train layout.

So, on any Saturday GET ON TRACK and come to the [Illiana Garden Railway!](#)





# European Market

BY SHARI STUCKY, PCMG CLASS OF 2018

Chesterton's European Market is held every Saturday from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the beautiful and quaint downtown area of Chesterton, Indiana. The market has been a staple in the community for the past twenty years. It offers an array of products with literally something for everyone with selections from over 80 vendors. Local farmers offer freshly-picked fruits and vegetables, along with seasonal flowers, including perennial herbs, hanging baskets, and even mums and pumpkins in the fall. The farmers are always available to answer questions, suggest recipes and offer helpful tips.

You will find local honey, fresh bread, croissants, Danishes and homemade cookies. Vendors also offer a beautiful selection of plants, soap and body products infused with fresh herbs and essential oils, along with specialty drinks, cheeses, meats, spices, jewelry and handcrafted art.

Plan on staying for lunch with a wide variety of food vendors to choose from who offer delicious ethnic food. Have your lunch in the beautiful park while you are serenaded by live music. The market is pet friendly, so bring your favorite furry friend. The market runs from May through October, rain or shine. Check out their [website](#) for special events.

Chesterton's European Market is a wonderful way to spend a few minutes, a couple of hours or the whole day. Grab your family, some friends or take yourself out on a date. You will love the friendly people, the energy in the market, and will be supporting our local farmers and artisans in the community. See you at the market!





**JUMP ROPE JIVE**

Provide each player with a full cup of water. One at a time, each player must jump rope for 10 turns while holding their cup. The player with the most water left after each round wins. On a hot day, drink the remainder of your water!

**SPRINKLER SPORTS**

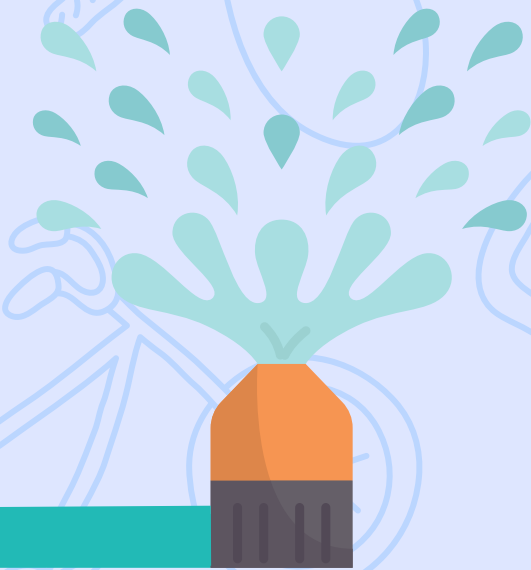
Call out the name of a sport and tell players they have to act it out while passing through the sprinkler.

**WATER RELAY TOSS**

Line up players in two lines and hand everyone an empty bucket or cup. The person at the head of each line has a bucket filled to the very top with water. Say "Go!" and the line leaders will "toss" the water from their bucket into the next bucket and continue all the way down the line. Whichever line has the most water in the last bucket of their line wins.

**CURVY BALANCE BEAM**

For lightweight kids: Lay the garden hose in the grass in a creative, curvy shape. Challenge the kids to walk on the "curvy balance beam" without falling off. Increase the challenge by trying it with eyes closed, or with a sprinkler attached at the far end of the hose. The water in the hose makes it firm and more difficult to balance on and more slippery as you get near the end.



Whether you have fun with a sponge toss game, water-gun target practice, shooting baskets with water balloons or making an obstacle course with buckets, sprinklers, hoses, and a kiddie pool, encourage the players to help devise the game and its rules.

Try some of these great activities on your lawn to celebrate the 2024 Olympics and beat the summer heat! Let the games begin!





# GARDEN THYME

IS A PUBLICATION OF THE PORTER COUNTY  
MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION [WWW.PCGARDEN.INFO](http://WWW.PCGARDEN.INFO)

Newsletter Team  
Hillary Miles, Suzanna Tudor, Wilma Willard

- EARN 0.5 HOURS OF EDUCATION CREDIT FOR READING THE NEWSLETTER
- EARN VOLUNTEER CREDIT FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THE NEWSLETTER
- WEB-BASED EDUCATION HOURS
- PURDUE CONSUMER HORTICULTURE
- PURDUE EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER EVENTS CALENDAR

**VOLUME 10  
ISSUE 04**