

# The Grapevine

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE By Jackie Larson

Gardening is the thread that holds us together as Master Gardeners. We love the feel of the warm dirt in our hands and the satisfaction of beautiful flowers and overflowing baskets of veggies as a reward for our hard work. The joy of nurturing a tiny seed into a thriving plant is a testament to our passion, patience and commitment to growing something greater than ourselves.

I hope you had an opportunity to tour the beautiful gardens on the Garden Walk and to purchase some plants for your gardens from the Plant Sale. Our Garden Walk and Plant Sale committees work tirelessly to create events that allow us to share in the beauty and creativity of fellow gardeners, gathering inspiration and finding new plants to enrich our own spaces. These events also enable us to extend our passion beyond our own gardens by supporting grants and scholarships in Lake County, helping others cultivate their love for gardening and education.



Please remember that we are always looking for gardens for our Garden Walk. Each garden, no matter its size or style, offers something special — a glimpse into the gardener's vision, care and dedication. If you or someone you know has a garden that might inspire others, we encourage you to consider sharing it with our community. Email [cjcheatle@comcast.net](mailto:cjcheatle@comcast.net) to learn more.

Take advantage of our beautiful summer days to explore some of the garden offerings available, such as the [Morton Arboretum](#), the [Chicago Botanic Garden](#) and [Hamstra Gardens](#). These remarkable spaces provide an opportunity to immerse yourself in nature's artistry, fuel your imagination and discover new ideas to bring to your own garden. Whether you are wandering through stunning landscapes or studying the intricate designs of a well-planned garden, there is always something to learn and admire. As we embrace the joys of summer, let's continue nurturing our gardens, sharing our experiences and growing together. Happy gardening!



Photos from Jackie's visit to Gardens by the Bay in Singapore earlier this year.

# Thyme-Sensitive Updates

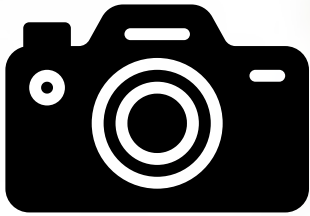
## Members' meetings and volunteer opportunities

- July 24, Aug. 14 at 7 p.m., Board of directors meeting via Zoom
- Demonstration Garden maintenance days: July 17, Aug. 21, Sept. 18
- Demonstration Garden and Lake County Fair Booth committee meetings: July 8, July 29

## Education opportunities

- July 12, 10 a.m., "Creating Curb Appeal with Native Plants," with horticulturalist Chris Baran, Lake County Extension Office.
- Aug. 12, 6 p.m., "Functional and Fantastic Plant Choices," with horticulturalist Wayne Gruber, Lake County Extension Office.
- Sept. 13, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Bloom & Thrive: A Native Fest, Griffith Izaak Walton.

For more information on meetings and education opportunities, see Grapes and Constant Contact emails.



Photos needed! Let your garden shine — snap pictures this summer of your plants or yourself in the garden. Submissions will be requested this fall for the 'Tis the Season to Grow holiday slideshow.

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## Check out the latest news and board activities on MG Only at [lakecountymastergardeners.org](https://lakecountymastergardeners.org)

Lake County Master Gardeners do not need to create an account to log in to MG Only. To access the login credentials, please contact us.



Not a member yet? Learn how to join the Lake County Master Gardeners and be part of our growing community! Visit our website for details.

## Feedback appreciated

Do you have an idea for a topic to feature in this newsletter? Is there a master gardener who you think we should feature? Is there a certain gardening-related topic (eg. native plants, tree diseases, how to create a cottage garden) you would like to see addressed here? Please let us know.

We welcome your feedback. Please email [lakecountymastergardeners@gmail.com](mailto:lakecountymastergardeners@gmail.com).

## Earn MG hours by reading this newsletter

Did you know you can earn MG hours by reading this newsletter?

- Record .5 education hours for reading the newsletter
- Record volunteer hours for contributing to the newsletter



# Thyme-Sensitive Updates

## Enter your garden's best at the Lake County Fair



**By Kristin Overbey**

Chair, Lake County Fair Committee

Whether you have grown prize-worthy peppers, stunning sunflowers or any other garden favorites, now is your chance to show them off and compete for ribbons, cash prizes and serious bragging rights by entering your items in the Lake County Fair. The fair runs Aug. 1-10 at the Lake County Fairgrounds in Crown Point.

### How to enter:

Visit [lake-county-fair.com](https://lake-county-fair.com) → "Exhibitor" → "Departments" → "Agriculture" or "Flower Show"

View the premium lists for all rules and entry information before completing the entry form.



Mail entry form with a \$20 check by deadline listed. Be sure to enter every possible class in which you may want to exhibit because entries may not be added or changed after the deadlines. The \$20 entry fee allows the exhibitor to enter as many classes as desired in all departments, and covers the cost of an exhibitor's ticket, which admits one person and vehicle to the fair each day. Separate entry forms must be completed for each department.

### Deadline:

- Flower Show: 4 p.m. on July 18
- Agriculture: 4 p.m. on July 25

### Why enter?

Celebrate your gardening achievements, compete for ribbons and cash prizes and connect with fellow gardeners and the community. Don't miss your chance to showcase your garden's best and be part of one of Lake County's most cherished summer traditions — submit your entry today!

# Bloom & Thrive

## A Native Fest

Lake County  
Master Gardeners  
Association

**SEPT. 13**

📍 Griffith Izaak Walton  
1532 E. Main St.,  
Griffith, IN

🕒 9 AM - 2 PM

- \* **Scott Stewart, Ph.D.**  
“Incorporating Native Plants  
in Your Landscaping”
- \* **Heather Prince**  
“Woody Plants for Butterflies”
- \* **Gardening workshops**
- \* **Local vendors & artisans**

\*Small processing  
fee will be added  
to purchase price



**\$25/  
person**

includes continental  
breakfast  
& lunch

Click QR code to register.  
Visit [lakecountymastergardeners.org](http://lakecountymastergardeners.org) for more info.



# The Dirt on Latest Events



Committee members and volunteers pose for a photo before the sale starts on May 10.

## 24th Annual Plant Sale

Once again, master gardeners and garden enthusiasts came out in force to support the 24th LCMGA Annual Plant Sale on May 10 at the Lake County Fairgrounds Fine Arts Building.

We thank the members of the Plant Sale committee along with all of the MGs who volunteered or came out to shop, which made the event a success.

Looking toward 2026, the committee wants to curb costs and asks MGs to save save 3" to 6" round or square pots from this summer's garden planting. Pots do not need to be sterilized. The committee can also use trays. For questions, email Veronica at [veronicapet1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:veronicapet1@sbcglobal.net).



Above, shoppers make their selections with the help of MGs. Below left, MGs Lisa Stelter and Eileen Truby pose with tomato plants. Below right, MG Shirley Haney looks over items before the sale begins. Photos by MG Lee Hartsell.



# The Dirt on Latest Events

## Temperatures in 90s no deterrent to Garden Walk visitors



Above, MGs Debbie Herndon, Cathy Cheatle, Nancy Payonk and Pam Metzger pose for a photo at the raffle table at the Keilmans' garden. Right, artists from the Art Barn in Valparaiso paint in the Grutzius' garden in Lowell.



High temperatures on June 29 did not deter garden enthusiasts from touring the nine gardens on our June in Bloom Garden Walk. This year's gardens centered around Lowell, Crown Point and Cedar Lake.

Highlights included koi ponds, native and specialized plants, flowers and trees, clever he/she/our sheds, an orchard, a fairy garden tea party and a bee farm.

We also had a raffle for visitors and at longtime Purdue University instructor and Master Gardener Mark Kepler answered visitors' questions about garden maintenance.



Sharon Vacendak, John Vacendak pose at the Keilmans' garden.



Behind, Tracy Ryan and Cathy Misch In front, Linda Boyd Johnson and Rebecca Crum pose at the Nietzels' garden.



Above, Erin Snyder drew a welcome on her father's driveway. Left, a fairy tea party at Lorna Nietzel's garden. Below, a garden stone painted Sharon Martin.



Photos by MGs Lee Hartsell and Joyce Duriga



# The Dirt on Latest Events

## MGs take field trip to Spring Meadow Nursery and gardens

By Petra Julian

About 30 Master Gardeners and their guests enjoyed a full day of horticultural exploration on a field trip May 15 to Proven Winners' Spring Meadow Nursery and Walters Gardens in Michigan.

The visit began at Spring Meadow Nursery, where tour guide Natalie Carmolli welcomed the group and kicked off the tour with a fascinating video showcasing Proven Winners' computerized planting systems. It was incredible to see how technology is used to increase efficiency and precision in large-scale plant production.

Afterward, attendees toured the greenhouses and saw the entire process in action — from propagation to finished plants.

Following a relaxing lunch break, the group explored the beautiful trial gardens, filled with colorful new introductions and creative design ideas. As a generous sendoff, each attendee received a Reminiscent® Coral Rose to take home — thank you, Proven Winners' Spring Meadow!

In the afternoon, the group headed to Walters Gardens for a behind-the-scenes look at their perennial growing operation. It was a great chance to learn more about large-scale horticulture and get a sneak peek at upcoming plant varieties.

The day was filled with learning, inspiration and great company!



MGs and their guests pose for a photo at the entrance of Proven Winners' Spring Meadow Nursery.



Center, Spring Meadow guide Natalie Carmolli and MG Lynne Barbee discuss perennials in the garden.



MGs Cathy Cheatile and Susan Kimmet pose near Hostas.



**MASTER GARDENERS**  
"Helping Others Grow"

July 2025

# Meet a Master Gardener

## Love of horticulture turns into new position at Purdue Extension

Master Gardener Dolly Foster (Class of 2000) is a longtime member of the Lake County Master Gardeners Association and a horticulturist. Many of us know Dolly because she has served as a board member and has had a hand in almost all aspects of the association, from the annual plant sale to leading education sessions and more.

Now, Dolly is taking a break as a member of the association to serve as Purdue Extension's horticulture program assistant. She shares here what her new role entails.

### What will you be doing in your new role?

Being Purdue Extension's horticulture program assistant will cover answering all garden questions from the public. This will take over for the MG Helpline. I will also be responsible for site visits and home visits to problem solve with homeowners on tough landscape problems.

I will be teaching the Master Gardener training this fall and going forward for Lake County. I am most excited about this because it is something I have always wanted to do.

Lastly, I am the liaison between Extension and the MGs for the Demonstration Garden.

I am very excited about this position. Extension has been a place where I have wanted to work for a long time. It is the perfect mix of helping people, developing programs and new skills and working in an office with great people.

I will be developing new programming for the winter for the MGs and that is very fun for me. Look for a program on becoming a speaker, winter tree ID and more. If you have suggestions for programs you would like to see, let me know.

### How did the idea come about to create this position and how will you use your skills?

The development of this job came out of Extension needing a person to take over all things horticulture.



Dolly pictured with the plants she sells through her business Hort4U.

Covering horticulture and urban agriculture is more than a one-person job. My experience as a MG and working in public parks as well as the horticulture industry is valuable experience that will help me cover all of these tasks.

My experience teaching for the past 25 years on an informal basis will help me plan and teach the volunteer training.

### One of your new roles is leading the efforts of the Demonstration Garden.

The Demonstration Garden is the large area on the south end of the Extension property. It is going to be a space shared by MGs, 4-H and Health and Human Services. Each will have a section.

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# Meet a Master Gardener

There will also be a pavilion for outdoor activities and a tool shed. The high tunnel is the first thing that has been built.

Before the MGs start building gardens out on the lawn, they have adopted the front landscape of the Extension building. This area needs care and refining before other areas are developed. A solid committee also needs to be formed.

We are currently working on all these items. The goal for the front landscape is to cater to pollinators, show how native plants can be incorporated into landscaping as well as showing off some really nice plants.

## **What ideas do you have for things you would like to do in your new role?**

I had the opportunity to sit in on a meeting with county officials talking about invasive species along the roadsides. They are committed to working on control and eradication. That was very interesting.

I will also be developing some new programs this winter and going forward. As time goes by, more opportunities will present themselves.

## **How did you become interested in all things growing?**

When I was a little girl, my mom had a real talent for indoor gardening. Outside we only had annuals and large ground cover areas. But I have always had a fascination with plants. Learning plant names came easy to me especially after two years of Latin in high school! But I really became interested as an adult when we bought our first home.

## **What has being a MG meant to you?**

Becoming a MG was very instrumental in my career development. I was laughed at by all the retirees in my class by saying this is my first step in my horticulture career.

As time went by, I became comfortable calling myself a horticulturist. Imposter syndrome is real! One thing the program sparked in me was the desire to keep learning. I was insatiable. I took classes everywhere I could: Morton Arboretum, Chicago Botanic Garden, Gabis Arboretum and Joliet Junior College. I even had stacks of books all over the place.

I eventually finished a master's degree at the University of Illinois. By continuing my education anywhere I could, I honed my knowledge of horticulture so I know a little bit about a lot of topics, but I also know where to find the answers (Thanks, Stan!).

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## **Next Master Gardener Training Class starts Aug. 15**

Dolly will lead the next Master Gardener Training Class on Fridays, Aug. 15 through Dec. 5, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Purdue Extension Lake County Office, 2291 N. Main St., Crown Point. Cost is \$190 per participant and includes a spiral-bound manual; spiral and digital manual available for \$215.

Anyone interested in taking the class can contact Rena [rmwielgu@purdue.edu](mailto:rmwielgu@purdue.edu) or Dolly [dolly@purdue.edu](mailto:dolly@purdue.edu).



# Pollinator and Invasive alerts

## Understanding beauty of native and honey bees

By Gina Matury

Native bees and honey bees – cute little buggers, oh-so-necessary little buggers. You have probably heard all the amazing statistics that bees pollinate upwards of one third of the food we eat and 85% of all vegetables and fruits. So, pretty important guys – mostly girls actually.

Virtually all species of bees are female dominant. The males hang around long enough to mate then usually die. Females do all the brood rearing and resource gathering.

So what's the difference between native bees and honey bees? A Google search offered up the following pretty good summary: "Native bees are the indigenous bee species of a region, while honey bees are a domesticated, non-native species often brought in for agricultural purposes.

Native bees are crucial for maintaining the health of natural ecosystems, while honey bees play a role in commercial agriculture."

Just for info, though, there are lots of feral honey bees. Not native, but also not domesticated. All honey bees, feral or domesticated produce wax and honey. With the



exception for some bumble bees, that make a honey-like substance, native bees don't produce wax or honey.

Many native bees are specialists, co-evolving with specific plant species and often being more effective pollinators for those plants. In some cases, native bees forage only on their specific native plant.

Honey bees are valuable for pollinating crops. Native bees can pollinate some crops but honey bees do the heavy lifting there. Think of almonds as a huge example. Over 2 million honey bee hives are shipped to California almond groves every winter to pollinate the trees.

After they are done with those they can come back to where they came from or be shipped to

areas with summer crops that need pollinating – usually fruits and vegetable.

Native and honey bees do compete for some resources. Honey bees and some natives will forage on both native and crop plants.

But bees are under threat. Regarding honey bees: "In the 2024-2025 year, a significant number of honeybee colonies were lost, with some sources reporting over 1.1 million colonies dying, according to YouTube. Other reports indicate that nearly half of managed honeybee colonies in the U.S. died, according to AP News. One survey found that commercial beekeepers lost an average of 62% of their hives over the past winter, according to NPR."

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# Pollinator and Invasive alerts

How about natives? Studies say that from 20 to 25% of native bee species are at risk of extinction. Leafcutter and digger bees are at the most peril.

Why are both types of bees in trouble? Competition for resources between native and honey bees exists, but that factor is small in comparison to:

- Pesticides: Kills all kinds of bees
- Herbicides: Kill plants that all bees eat, severely reducing forage
- Urbanization: Also reduces forage land for all types of bees
- Climate Change: Messing with habitats for plants and living environments, things all bees need
- Disease: Kills all kinds of bees

You can help by reducing the use of pesticides and herbicides in your yard. Plant pollinator friendly plants and reduce the amount of grass in your yard to add more flowering plants. Adding certain kinds of trees to your yard is especially helpful. Trees produce millions of flowers per tree. So plant the flowers and find space for a bee tree!

Gina Matury (Class of 2023) has been beekeeping for three years and is a Journeyman Level Master Beekeeper with the Great Plains Master Beekeepers.

## Beware of Poison Hemlock

MG Tom Worthington sent this email to the Lake County Master Gardener Association to alert fellow MGs about the prevalence and danger of poison hemlock.

"I found this invasive at my place at 173rd and Mississippi; thought it was Queen Anne's lace. Fortunately, my wife saw an article and we identified it and pulled all the flowering ones and bagged them. Pretty scary stuff. Worth letting MGs know to be on the lookout." – Tom Worthington



Poison hemlock, Wikicommons

"Poison hemlock contains highly poisonous alkaloid compounds that can be fatal to humans and livestock. Poison hemlock easily invades disturbed/early successional sites and is typically found along roads, streams, trails, ditches, forest edges and waste areas," according to Purdue Extension Invasive Plant Series Fact Sheet.

Common infestation areas include roadsides, field edges and ditch banks.

Since the plant's alkaloids can be absorbed through the skin, wear gloves when handling poison hemlock. "Symptoms of toxicity include nervousness, trembling, and loss of coordination followed by depression, coma, and/or death. Initial symptoms will occur within a few hours of ingestion," according to Purdue Extension Etymology Pest and Crop Newsletter, May 2020.

# Top 10 Reasons to Garden

Mobile phones, tablets, and apps have become the tools of our modern lives. But it wasn't that long ago that a shovel, a patch of soil, and a bag of seeds were the only tools needed to provide sustenance and satisfaction. Ask any new or experienced gardener why they garden and you'll get a variety of reasons why it's important to them. Here are National Garden's Bureau Top 10 Reasons to Garden:

Reprinted with permission

## 1. Garden for safe, healthy food.

Reports of food-borne illnesses and contamination regularly appear in the news media. Growing concerns about pesticides in our food supply have led to an increased interest in organic gardening and the availability of organic produce. Processed foods contain additives and preservatives that many consumers want to avoid.

The pandemic made some people question our food supply. An easy solution is to grow your own vegetables. It's estimated that during WWII, 20 million homeowners had Victory Gardens that produced close to 40% of the fresh vegetables consumed in the United States.

The numbers of new gardeners in 2020 are estimated at 16-20 million. Start your own garden and know the food you're eating is fresh, safe, and has a fantastic flavor.

## 2. Garden for exercise. Tired of the gym routine?

Can't get to the gym? Get a good workout without even thinking about it. Gardening activities provide both cardio and aerobic exercise. Studies show that an hour of moderate gardening can burn up to 300 calories for women, almost 400 calories for men.

For older people, especially women, gardening can help reduce osteoporosis.

Mowing the grass is like taking a vigorous walk, bending and stretching to plant a garden compares to an exercise class, while hauling plants and soil is similar to weightlifting. Adaptive tools help those whose physical limitations prevent some activities.



And after you're finished, you see immediate results in your garden even as your physical health improves—without being bored.

## 3. Garden to add beauty.

A house with a nice yard is a pleasure to look at and satisfying to live in. Your home can be made more inviting simply by adding a container of color near the front door. Herbs in the kitchen add freshness as well as flavor to daily meals. Trees and shrubs not only

provide color and shade but shelter for birds and wildlife. Think of the garden as another room to be enjoyed whether you are inside or outside the house.

## 4. Garden to learn.

Gardeners find that the more they learn about plants and gardening, the more they want to know. Problems with insects or spots on leaves provide the opportunity to find the cause and understand how to keep plants healthy.

Moving to a new house may mean leaving favorite plants but also provides the opportunity to discover new plants and growing conditions. There are a variety of ways to increase gardening know-how such as seminars, Master Gardener programs, vo-tech courses and formal degree programs at a college or university.

## 5. Garden to make money.

For some people, gardening is a lifelong hobby. For others, the love of plants can lead to a rewarding job at a local garden center, a large global company, or even owning their own business. A garden can be a source of flowers, vegetables, herbs, and other crops that can

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# Top 10 Reasons to Garden cont.

be sold at local farmer's markets and roadside stands. And whether you live in your dream home or plan on moving soon, gardening adds value to your property.

Real estate agents estimate that attractive landscaping increases a home's value by as much as 15%. It also creates interest in the house and can mean the difference between a potential buyer simply driving by or stopping to take a closer look.



## 6. Garden to meet people.

Gardening is a great way to expand your social circle. Whether it's with someone who lives down the street or halfway around the world, gardeners love to talk about plants. Surplus tomatoes, a bouquet of flowers or an extra plant, are gifts to be shared with friends and neighbors.

Meeting other gardeners through garden clubs, plant organizations, and social media is an easy way to share information, ask questions and get involved.

## 7. Garden to be creative.

Gardening provides an outlet for creative and artistic expression. A garden's design can reflect a personal sense of style such as a romantic cottage garden or a peaceful Japanese garden, as well as provide a showcase for art and sculpture. Like to try something new? With the wide variety of seeds and plants available, it's easy to experiment with new plants or change a garden's color scheme each year.

## 8. Garden to win.

For people with a competitive streak, gardening is a friendly way to show off their skills. Garden clubs regularly have shows that highlight the best flowers grown by local gardeners. County and state fairs provide an opportunity to show everyone the giant pumpkin, beautiful beans or luscious tomatoes harvested from the garden.

And photo-driven social media sites like Instagram are a natural way to show your successes!



## 9. Garden for emotional needs and spiritual connections.

Gardens play an important part in our well-being. A garden might serve as a tranquil retreat or private escape from the demands of everyday life. The beauty of flowers can lift spirits while pulling weeds can be a great release for stress and excess energy. A harvest of colorful flowers or tasty vegetables provides a sense of achievement and feelings of success.

On a higher level, gardening provides a spiritual connection to life. It's a miracle to take a tiny seed, nurture it and watch it grow into a beautiful flower or delicious food for your table. Tending a garden also contributes to improving your own living space, the environment and our planet.

## 10. Garden for lasting memories.

Yards that once grew gardens have been replaced with hot tubs and driveways. Today's kids are missing the joy of cutting a bouquet of flowers for their mom or tasting the sweetness of a cherry tomato picked right from the plant. Gardening is a fun activity that can be shared with children and grandchildren, even if the garden is a single container or a small spot in the yard. And a garden provides a beautiful way to remember a special person or time of life.

# Purdue Extension Update

## Meet Rena Wielgus, the woman behind 'The Grapes'

Every other week or so, MGs receive an email from Rena (pronounced Re-nea) Wielgus with the latest "Grapes" edition. She's also the go-to person for lots Extension-related assistance. Veteran MGs know Rena, but those of us who haven't been around as long wanted to know, "Who is this Rena on our emails?"

Rena Wielgus joined the Lake County Extension team in 2020 as an Urban Agriculture Administrative Assistant. Previously, she served as a Regional Assistant for 10 years with the Purdue University Nutrition Education Program. She has a bachelor's in communications from Purdue University Calumet.

Rena primarily assists our Urban Agriculture Educator Rebecca Koetz and Horticulture Program Assistant Dolly Foster.

"I am always happy to find an answer and help support the staff in our office," Rena says.

That applies to MGs too. Reach out anytime with any questions, Rena says. She is at the office Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (219) 755-3240, email [rmwielgu@purdue.edu](mailto:rmwielgu@purdue.edu).

### How long have you worked at Purdue?

I've worked for Purdue since January 2020 as an urban agriculture administrative assistant at Purdue Extension-Lake County Office. Before that, I worked as a NEP Regional Assistant for 10 years with the Purdue University Nutrition Education Program.



Rena Wielgus poses for a photo with Becca Koetz at the Indiana 4-H Foundation meeting on May 18.

### Do you have any interest in gardening?

Yes, I enjoy learning about gardening, but I'm not a gardener. My phone is filled with pictures of nature – plants, trees and flowers!

### Family?

I am a lifelong resident of Crown Point, Indiana. I've been married for 32 years to Andy. He has been an administrator in education for 34 years. We have two adult children, Matt and Emily. We celebrated Emily's Roosevelt University Class of 2025 hooding ceremony in June. She earned a doctorate in pharmacy from Roosevelt University.

### Pets?

The family pets are the heart of our home. We have three Shiba Inu dogs.

### Favorite movies?

"Hope Floats" with Sandra Bullock, Harry Connick Jr. and Gena Rowlands. "Steel Magnolias" with Sally Fields, Dolly Parton, Julia Roberts, Shirley MacLaine, Olympia Dukakis, Daryl Hannah.

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# Purdue Extension Update continued



Rena poses for a photo with her daughter Emily at the hooding ceremony for Roosevelt University on May 9.

## Favorite foods?

Spaghetti, Polish sausage and kraut, cabbage rolls

## What are the common questions you get in your role?

- Can someone come out and look at my tree? I don't want it to die.
- When is it time to prune shrubs and trees?
- Is it too late to plant this type of flower? Or this type of vegetable?
- I saw this beautiful flower on the side of the road and here is a sample, can you identify it?
- I have this little insect coming into the house. Here is a sample, what is it and how can I get rid of it?
- What is the secret to keeping the animals out of the garden?

Most importantly, people with horticulture questions want an educator or program assistant to share their concerns with. I try to listen carefully to each person's story and pass on accurate contact information so Rebecca and Dolly can assist them.

## Join us at our booth at the Lake County Fair Aug 1-10

The Lake County Master Gardeners are getting ready for another exciting year at the Lake County Fair! This year's booth will feature herb education, kids' activities and engaging displays.

Linda Curley, MS, Extension Educator, will demonstrate how to dry herbs at home, with a dehydrator on display and examples of vinegar infusions. Learn simple ways to boost flavor using herbs while cutting back on salt and sugar. Be on the lookout for a date and time for her program!

Volunteer sign-ups coming soon. Join us in sharing gardening knowledge with the community.



Lake County Fair. Photo from South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority