



MASTER GARDENERS  
"Helping Others Grow"

## LCMGA May Education Program

### "Garden Harmony - Nurturing Ecosystems to Enhance Insect Diversity" with Desi Robertson-Thompson

**Tuesday, May 7, 2024**

**6:00 pm**

**Purdue Cooperative Extension - Lake County**

**2293 N Main Street**

**Crown Point, IN 46307**

How to create garden ecosystems that support insect biodiversity will be our topic for May. By creating a welcoming environment for insects you'll be contributing to a healthier ecosystem for everyone – especially your garden. Desi Robertson-Thompson will show us how insect variety is crucial for a balanced garden ecosystem, leading to natural pest control, healthy plants, pollination power, reduced workload, and environmental benefits. Don't miss learning how to have a balanced garden ecosystem. It's a win-win for you, your plants, and the environment. It's a more natural and sustainable way to garden, and it can lead to a more beautiful and productive garden as well.

#### **Desi Robertson-Thompson, PhD**

Desiree (Desi) is the Research Coordinator for the Midwest Climate Adaptation Science Center (MW CASC), one of the nine regional centers that form the National and Regional Climate Adaptation Science Centers network.

Prior to this role, Desi served as the research coordinator for the National Park Service's Great Lakes Research and Education Center, where she coordinated projects across several park units in collaboration with partners from multiple agencies, conservation organizations, and universities. Her focus was on promoting science-based stewardship, advancing public awareness of science within parks, and cultivating the next generation of park scientists.

Desi is an entomologist. Most recently, her work has focused on understanding the role of habitat restoration and management in pollinator conservation. She is especially interested in the integration of climate science into insect conservation. Desi holds a BS in Biology from Northern Arizona University and a PhD from University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Desi served two years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Bolivia, was formerly a faculty member at Frostburg State University, and was a research associate at the Field Museum of Natural History.

Desi resides in Indiana, a few miles from the shoreline of Lake Michigan on 10 acres of glacial moraine with her husband, 2 teenagers, 2 dogs, 2 lizards, and an old goat.

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