

First Day of Spring - Virtual Garden Event

Two sessions available: 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Central Time

Saturday, March 20th, 2021

Presented by the La Porte County Master Gardener Association

Free registration: LaPorte County Master Gardener Website – lpmastergardener.com

Session #1 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. CDT

“The Edible Garden, Month by Month”

From seed shopping to harvest, what you need to do to keep your vegetable, herb and fruit garden on track throughout the season.

By: Beth Botts



Beth has written thousands of articles and blog posts, as an editor and garden writer for the Chicago Tribune and a freelance writer for magazines such as Organic Gardening, Country Gardens, Chicagoland Gardening and The American Gardener. She received awards from the Garden Writers Association while exploring landscapes all over the country. As a writer and speaker, she is an evangelist for common-sense gardening that is sustainable for the planet and for people; making friends with nature; and the satisfaction of lunching on your own warm, sweet home-grown tomatoes.

She is a good story teller “Raised on the South Side by an organic gardener and environmentalist, now gardens in a leafy suburb on the edge of Chicago -- in the deep shade on the north side of a four-story building, in the sunny strip by the garbage cans, in pots on the third-floor porch and on windowsills in the winter”. Also, she is a senior writer at The Morton Arboretum and a communications consultant to nonprofit organizations. Learn more about that at her other site, bethbotts.com.

Session #2 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. CDT

“Spring Woodland Wildflowers of the Lower Lake Michigan Region:

History, Folklore and Physiology” By: Steve Sass & Amanda Smith

Few sights are more of a delight to behold than the Midwestern forest floor in early Spring. Even before the snow begins to melt, the race is on for our native woodland flowers. Within a period of only a few weeks or less, they must employ specialized adaptations to maximize sunlight and reproduction before the tree canopy closes. Come along with Amanda and Steve as we take you on a seasonal journey through the flora of the Spring forest. Along the way, we’ll take a closer look and explore their physiology, life strategies and folklore. We’ll share our favorite locations to see them and provide tips on incorporating some of them into our home landscapes.



Steve Sass and Amanda Smith are the co-founders of Indiana Nature LLC. Their ventures include the IN Nature and Ecometrid brands, and the ecological education website indiananature.net. Through environmental outreach such as the Facebook Group “IN Nature,” which contains the Great American Indiana Nature (GAIN) projects, they have engaged thousands of Hoosiers to collaboratively build a database of moth, butterfly, tree, and wildflower populations in the state. They have collectively served in numerous capacities for Indiana environmental organizations, including land trusts, native plant societies, and Audubon societies. Amanda resides in Hamilton County and is the Superintendent of Natural Resources and Education for Hamilton County Parks, while Steve is a small business owner in South Bend. One of their most recent collaborations has been co-authoring a comprehensive, new Natural Resources Management Plan for the city of South Bend Venues Parks & Arts department.



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