



LINTON'S

Leaflet

newsletter volume 17/issue 1



Spring 2011

Landscaping • Lawn Care • Nursery
Garden Centre • Floral & Interior Décor Shoppe

HOPE BLOOMS IN 2011

A Living Quilt and Hand-Stitched Quilt
Convey Hope for Breast Cancer Cure

Local fiber artist and quilter, Diana Bennett, is donating her artistry and skills to create an original “Hope Blooms” pattern and quilt for the Vera Bradley Foundation. She’s been given exclusive rights to use Vera Bradley fabrics to make the quilt that will be displayed at six local Vera Bradley retailers. People can enter to win the quilt for a \$2 donation, with all proceeds benefitting the Vera Bradley Foundation for Breast Cancer.

Linton’s Enchanted Gardens is proud to be a part of this campaign. Come and celebrate the spring season and see the beautiful “Hope Blooms” quilt during our Spring Fling on Saturday, April 30 and Sunday, May 1. Meet the artist, Diana Bennett from 10:00-12:00 am on April 30!

It’s all part of “Hope Along the Heritage Trail,” a partnership with the Elkhart County Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Vera Bradley Foundation for Breast Cancer to plant the seeds of education, funding and collaboration in the fight against breast cancer

Contact the Elkhart County Convention & visitors Bureau at 574-262-8161 or visit QuiltGardensTour.com for detailed information regarding Hope Along the Heritage Trail and a complete quilt viewing schedule.



GARDENING WITH KIDS

By Mark Linton, President

Ready, set GROW!!! Spring time is upon us and it’s time to start thinking about planting a garden. Including your children in this growing trend can teach kids a lot of valuable things.

Children who garden have a better knowledge in making good and healthy food choices as they mature. This activity also builds a valuable love of nature as well as creating an environmental awareness. Not only is gardening fun for kids, it is a great form of exercise and relaxation.

Gardening with kids will create family memories while working in our yard. These days most kids spend more time in front of their computers, TV’s or with their cell phones or i pods. Gardening is a great, healthy way to encourage kids to have some fun with an outdoor activity. Gardening also teaches the child patience as they wait for the garden plants to grow and get ready for harvest. Your children will learn where food comes from as they see it being picked from the garden, rather than being picked up at the grocery store. Be sure to explain the entire process to your children, including the names of all of the plants as well as all of the different parts of the plants.

Let them feel and touch everything! Gardening appeals to the senses! As a child, I can still remember the pleasing aroma of good dirt! To get started, I recommend some pre-planning. Be sure to have the proper clothes and tools for gardening. Make a list of all of the gardening tools that you are going to need. It is best if you can supply your kids with kid-sized gardening tools, which will be their “very own”. The kids should be dressed in a hat, gardening gloves and appropriate clothes that are okay to get dirty. And don’t forget the sunscreen! As it gets closer to harvest time, you should also have a harvest basket in which to put all of your vegetables.

First, I recommend planning out the garden on paper with the kids. Talk about the various possible locations of the garden and talk through the process of determining where it would work best. Have your kids draw the shape and size of the garden on paper. Remember, that gardens that are long and narrow work out best, so that you and your kids can reach across the garden. Go over the safety rules about tools and sharp objects before starting. Once the area has been selected, talk about preparing the earth and amending the soil. If you don’t

have much room or a back yard, then container gardening can work well on an apartment balcony or patio.

Vegetable plants can be started by several different ways, such as starting seeds to germinate indoors, planting seeds directly in the garden, or purchasing vegetable starts from your local garden centre. Make sure to involve your child in the process of selecting what should be grown. Not only are vegetables fun to grow, but many families are also enjoying planting fruit and berry producing plants, trees and shrubs. Strawberry plants are easily grown in containers, and raspberries and blue berries can be planted among your landscape foundation plantings as well. Fruit trees can be planted for both their beautiful spring flowers, as well as their edible fruit. After the garden is planted, now comes the maintenance. Watering, weeding and fertilizing, oh my! Yes, it’s a lot of work, but a great deal of satisfaction at the same time. Next comes the harvesting, and that is when you reap the rewards that were sown. Make sure to discuss the proper care and storage of the garden tools.

Gardening can be a wonderful family project filled with adventure, experimentation, and learning. I’ve found that children love to learn when they’re having fun. Not only will your kids enjoy the satisfaction of raising a garden, but they’ll love spending good quality time with their family. Happy Gardening!

Mark Linton is President of Linton’s Enchanted Gardens in Elkhart, IN and developed the love of gardening through his parents. After growing up in a family of gardeners, Mark followed both his dream and passion and started his business along with his brother Kirk, over 28 years ago. What started originally as a landscape design and installation company, has now blossomed into a 40 acre Nursery, located in Bristol, IN and Indiana’s largest Home and Garden Centre, located on County Road 17 in Elkhart, a lawn and landscape maintenance company, as well as a Floral and Interior Decor Shoppe. The firm has two locations and employs over 100 team members. Mark’s love of children shows in their business. The Garden Centre has a “Kids Korner” featuring a tree house play area and a free Petting Zoo, where kids can interact and feed an array of exotic miniature animals. Linton’s Enchanted Gardens may be visited on the web at Lintons.com.

Help SAVE Mother Earth

Every year millions of nursery pots are used just once and then hauled away to the landfill. By recycling and re-using the pots, we can all do our part to help Mother Earth. For each used black plastic nursery pot (1 gallon or larger) returned to us, Linton’s will reward you with a credit of 5 cents per container. And we don’t mind if the container was purchased elsewhere. (We also recycle glass floral vases too!)

Note: Pots must be in relatively good condition and without labels.

SEASONAL DÉCOR

Did you know that Linton’s can decorate your home’s interior to reflect the seasons? Whether it be spring, summer, fall or winter, let our design team create an indoor living space that is as unique as you are! As always, our initial visit is complimentary!

Linton’s Hours: Monday through Friday 8:00 - 7:00 • Saturday & Sunday 8:00 - 6:00

CREATING AN OUTDOOR ROOM

By Laura Sherman, Linton's Garden Centre Manager

People are extending the comfort and luxury of their homes into the great outdoors. They are spending more time at home and are showing an increasing interest in outdoor rooms. These rooms can easily be created with just a little imagination and a little help from Linton's. To create an outdoor room you need to decide what you will use the space for. Will it be used to sit and watch your children play, is it a relaxing area to read your favorite book, is it for entertaining your closest friends or will it be a combination of a few different uses?

You can begin to build your room by adding some of the main pieces of furniture. How about a pergola and a wonderful set of outdoor furniture? A good set of furniture can last many years. Small tables to place accessories are also important pieces of furniture to incorporate into your room. These will be the bones of your room and will probably be your most expensive pieces. They add beauty and character and create the atmosphere of a lush oasis. To add some color and your own style to the furniture, try adding some comfy cushions and contrasting pillows. To change the look of the room, change the cushions on the furniture depending your entertaining needs.

Now that you have furniture, you will need to accessorize your room. There are so many items to choose from. The most popular accessory is



potted plants. They can add important texture and appeal to the area. Lintons grows a wide variety of plant material to help you create stunning combination pots. Choosing containers for your plants can really get fun and interesting. There are so many choices and they can be changed from year to year as trends come and go. Firepots have become very popular because of their wonderful calming effect. The varieties are endless, tabletop versions, floor models, country, contemporary, large and small. They use an alcohol based gel for burning and can help repel insects. What about waterproof art? This is the newest thing to brighten up a dreary corner and add some pizzazz. New on the market, these are fabulous paintings that are weatherproof and fade resistant, so they are perfect for an outdoor space with a plain wall or fence. The final touch for your outdoor room is a water feature. Fountains act like a magnet and will draw your guests to your outdoor room. Fountains can help drown out

road noise or other noises from neighboring properties and create a relaxing atmosphere!

Whatever type of room you would like to create, just make it your own. You can make it as elaborate or simple as you wish. Just have fun with it. If you need help to create your outdoor space, just come in and we can help you get started. Happy Gardening!

Special Events For 2011

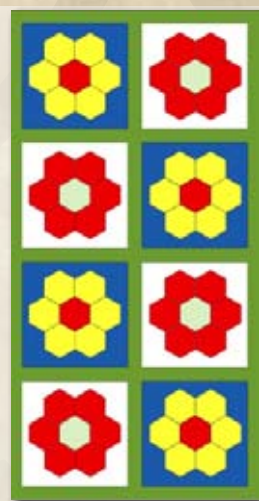
Saturday & Sunday hours for all events 8:00 am - 6:00 pm.
Red Carpet Event hours 4:00 - 8:00 pm.

Spring Fling April 30 & May 1	Dog Days of Summer July 30 - 31	Pumpkin Bowling October 15 & 16
Mother's Day Event May 7 & 8	Hawaiian Luau August 13 & 14	Spooktacular October 22 & 23
Le Tour de Plants May 21 & 22	The Big Pink Weekend Event August 27 & 28	Red Carpet Event November 1 & 3
Garden Party June 11 & 12	Birthday Party September 10 & 11	Christmas Open House November 5 & 6
Pirate Event July 16 & 17	Oktoberfest October 1 & 2	

Quilt Gardens

The 5th annual Quilt Gardens...along the Heritage Trail joins quilting, gardening, and art into a one-of-a-kind event!! Linton's Enchanted Gardens is proud to once again be part of this wonderful experience. Our new 2011 quilt garden is "Grandmother's Flower Garden" which features a beautiful assortment of Zinnia's, Petunias, Alyssum Ageratum and Dusty Miller. The origins of this particular pattern lie in ancient Roman times. Known as "honeycomb" or "mosiac", the 6 sided rosette came to America with colonists and received it's current name in more recent history.

Enjoy the Quilt Gardens Tour from May 30-October 1. It's free, fun and fantastic!



Mr. Smarty Plants

Dear Mr. Smarty Plants,

I bought a wisteria three years ago and it has never bloomed. I don't understand why. I water, fertilize and train all the new shoots to cover my trellis. It's big, but a flop!

Signed,
Floppy

Dear Floppy,

You care too much! Try becoming Cruella de Ville of the plant world for a while! Cut off all its long twining arms back to two buds, except those being trained for framework. Do this once in June or July and again in October or November. Don't fertilize it, ever! Starve it!!! Good soil and water are okay, but keep fertilizer away from root zone. By denying it lush growth and food it will strive to flower and produce seed. Just be stern! By the way, it takes 20-30 years for seedlings to flower.

Signed,
Mr. Smarty Plants

Rainy Day Sale

Rainy Days Need
Not Get You Down.

Next time the heavens pour liquid sunshine, plan a trip to Linton's Enchanted Gardens. You can shop in the comfort of our Interior Décor Shoppe or Conservatory! When our Rainy Days Flag is flying, you'll save 10% off your day's purchases in the Garden Centre! We even have a supply of umbrellas for you to use if you'd like to stroll through our gardens. You can visit our website, rain or shine, at www.lintons.com.

In an ongoing effort to increase our ADA accessibility, Linton's Enchanted Gardens now has a wheel chair available for the use of our guests. It is located just inside our front entrance.

Petting Zoo Spotlight

Introducing . . .

Forest, the newest member of our petting zoo family, a 33" buckskin miniature horse who comes to us from Big Rapids, MI. He is registered with "The American Miniature Horse Association, Inc." His registered name is "Inglemist Kokopelli", stable name of Winchester (Chester for short) and added most recently to the list, "Forest" as his Linton's Enchanted Gardens name.

Born 06-07-01, in Missouri, his mother's (Dam) name is "Shoo Fly Acres Buttercup" and his father's (Sire) name is "Longview Royal T". Forest is double registered, trained for cart driving and has won many ribbons in the show world and until recently, was used for stud services.

Forest has the most wonderful disposition, is very friendly, and ready for petting. Next time you're planning a trip to Linton's Enchanted Gardens, bring the kids along to visit Forest and all of the other animals in our free petting zoo. As always, animal food is only a quarter!

As a service to our customers, Linton's offers
COMPLIMENTARY WEDDING CONSULTATIONS.

Please call Ruth Linton at 293-9699 to set up your appointment!

A REVOLUTIONARY GARDEN CENTRE

Linton's Enchanted Gardens, in Elkhart, was featured in an article in the January 2011 "Today's Garden Center" Magazine as being selected as one of the "Revolutionary 100 Garden Centers" in the entire United States. The criteria for the selection process was based upon garden centers who "think outside the box" and thus create a "Revolutionary Garden Center". Linton's Enchanted Gardens was awarded this title based upon many different accomplishments, such as, creating a "destination home and garden centre", partnering with the local visitors bureau and attracting over 100 tour buses each year, the various themed special events that the firm promotes throughout the seasons, meticulously maintained themed and display gardens, themed architectural structures throughout the facility, ADA accessibility, various promotions, such as the firm's Flower of the Month Club, the Green Thumb Savings Club, and the Great Gardeners Rewards program, the introduction of over 300 new plants annually grown at their 40 acre nursery, and their free seminars, just to name a few.

The award was presented to Mark Linton/President, while in Atlanta, GA, and included a three day seminar which allowed the 100 Revolutionary Garden Centre owners to participate in workshops and network with the others as well as exchange ideas. According to Mark Linton: "We are both thrilled and honored to be recognized for our team's hard work and accomplishments." Linton's Enchanted Gardens is in their 29th year of business and operations include a home and garden centre, a floral shoppe, interior decor and design, a nursery located in Bristol, IN, a landscape architecture design and installation firm, as well as a complete lawn and landscape maintenance company. The firm employs over 100 employees and was selected and awarded last year by the Indiana Association of Nurserymen as Indiana's best new Home and Garden Centre for the firm's new location and 9 acre facility on County Road 17.

RECIPE

mmm ...
mmm ...
GOOD!

In the Gooseberry Patch Cookbook "Farmers' Market Favorites" you find the best tried and true recipes to get the tastiest meals on the table. There's also crafty ideas for vintage finds and tips for market shopping. Following is a recipe from this cookbook.

SALE

Gooseberry Patch Cooks regularly \$19.99 now \$14.99!

STRAWBERRY-RHUBARB PIE

5 c. strawberries, hulled and chopped
2 stalks rhubarb, peeled and diced
3/4 c. brown sugar, packed
1/2 c. sugar
9-inch pie crust

1/4 c. all purpose flour
2 T. cornstarch
1/8 t. salt
1/2 t. cinnamon
1 1/2 T. butter, diced

Combine strawberries and rhubarb; set aside. Sift together sugars, flour, cornstarch, salt and cinnamon. Stir into strawberry mixture. Place crust in a 9" pie plate; chill for 10 minutes. Spoon strawberry mixture into crust; dot with butter. Sprinkle Crumb Topping over filling. Bake at 400 degrees for 50 to 60 minutes, or until topping is golden. Set pie on a wire rack to cool for 2 hours. Makes 8 servings.

CRUMB TOPPING

3 T. all purpose flour
1 T. sugar

1/8 t. salt
1 T. butter, softened

Mix together flour, sugar and salt; cut in butter until crumbly.



Linton's Enchanted Gardens, located in Elkhart, was selected to be featured in the February, 2011 edition of the "Country Folks Grower", a monthly publication. The firm was featured on both the outside and inside front cover of the magazine. The magazine is distributed to those businesses that are associated with the horticultural industry and either grow or sell plants.

According to Mark Linton, president, "I was excited to learn that they wanted us to be their featured business." The article featured Linton's Enchanted Gardens and compared it to a Disney-like attraction, or theme park. The complete article may be viewed on line by searching "Linton's Enchanted Gardens Country Folks Grower".

THANK YOU FOR VOTING US #1!

I am both humbled as well as honored to have Linton's Enchanted Gardens chosen by The Elkhart Truth readers as being the areas "Best Home and Garden Centre", the "Favorite Florist", the Favorite Place to Buy a Gift", as well as being the "Favorite Place of Employment"! It isn't a secret as to what makes us "the best" in all of these categories, for it is simply our people that make up the entire Linton Team that sets us apart from our competition. We are

truly blessed to have a highly-skilled, and a dedicated team that shares my vision to exceed our guests expectations. It's our people that make the difference! It's the way our guests are pleasantly greeted as soon as they arrive and it's the warm way that they are thanked when they leave. We want every visit to be a memorable experience for our guests!

Each and every year we continue to raise our own bar, and continue to offer additional rare & unusual plants, fabulous florals and gifts, unique furniture & decor, and spectacular lawns and landscapes! We continue to look forward to the future, for we know that our BEST years are yet to come!

Mark B. Linton
President, Linton's Enchanted Gardens

SATURDAY SEMINARS

Mark your calendars to attend our Saturday Seminars!

If you would like to attend one of our informative seminars starting at 10:00 am, please call us at 574-293-9699 to make your reservation. Seating is limited.

April 16th Rose Care and "No Maintenance Roses"
April 23rd Unique Container Gardening with Annuals, Tropicals and Perennials
May 14th Grow Your Vegetable Garden - You will reap what you sow.
May 21st Le Tour Des Plants - See our latest & greatest new plant introductions.
November 19th Winter Greens & Containers - Deck your halls with boughs of holly.

off the mark.com



by Mark Parisi



LINTON'S HOURS:

Monday through Friday 8:00 - 7:00
Saturday & Sunday 8:00 - 6:00

**Landscaping • Lawn Care
Nursery • Garden Centre
Floral & Interior Décor Shoppe**



Area 51 Warning: U.F.O.s Spotted!

No, this isn't Roswell; this is a "Restricted Area" at Linton's Enchanted Gardens for serious plant collectors only! Yes, the U.F.O.s (Unusual Flowering Objects) have been spotted in the middle of our Garden Centre located around the landing gear of the "large, metallic silver flying disk". We acknowledge, and no longer deny that these plants truly do exist! Our "Research Facility", aka Linton's Nursery, has grown these U.F.O.s utilizing intense security surrounding these never-been-seen-before, Unusual Flowering Objects. What many have believed to have been once a "cover-up", we now agree to openly share these once "off-limit" U.F.O.s to only civilians who are classified as being "plant enthusiasts".

These U.F.O.s are now available for the very first time to those that are authorized to help our "Research Facility" find appropriate "test sites" for their future growth and development. We must insist that a strict limit of only 10 per variety be put into place, due to the extreme rarity of these growing and living organisms. Each U.F.O. has been properly identified, named, and tagged with its unique vital statistics, and each U.F.O. includes a small fee to help cover our plant research and development costs.

The U.F.O.s that are scheduled to be released from our "Research Facility" for this spring include:

Color Flash Astilbe, Color Flash Lime Astilbe, Diane's Gold Brunnera, Dickson's Gold Bellflower, Jelly Bells Bellflower, Summertime Blues Bellflower, Tiffindell Magenta Ice Plant, Summer Stars Delphinium, Summer Cloud Delphinium, Summer Blues Delphinium, Fire & Ice Dianthus, Fire Star Dianthus, Pop Star Dianthus, Razzle Dazzle Dianthus, Ruby Sparkles Dianthus, Very Cherry Dianthus, Valentine Bleeding Heart, Pink Frills Echeveria, Southcombe Double Geranium, Okey Dokey Geranium, Alabama Slammer Avenas, Flore Plena Sunrise Avenas, Mai Tai Avenas, Onyx Odyssey Lenten Rose, Jade Tiger Lenten Rose, Berry Swirl Lenten Rose, Sparkling Diamond Lenten Rose, Blackberry Crisp Coral Bells, Ginger Peach Coral Bells, Peach Crisp Coral Bells, Root Beer Coral Bells, Cherry Cola Coral Bells, Hercules Coral Bells, Brass Lantern Foamy Bells, Gunsmoke Foamy Bells, Solar Power Foamy Bells, Alakazaam Hosta, Dream Queen Hosta, Empress Wu Hosta, Komodo Dragon Hosta, Sugar Daddy Hosta, Sum of All Hosta, White Feather Hosta, Sweetheart Candytuft, Bold Pretender Louisiana Iris, Gypsy Romance German Iris, Spin Off German Iris, Poem of Ecstasy German Iris, Saturday Night Live German Iris, Superstition German Iris, Tanzanian Tangerine German Iris, Blue Denim Dutch Iris, Blue Moon Siberian Iris, Contrast in Styles Siberian Iris, Double Standard Siberian Iris, Hubbard Siberian Iris, Ruffled Plus Siberian Iris, Temper Tantrum Siberian Iris, Gerald Darby Variegated Iris, Violet Intrigue Lavender, Matrix Asiatic Lily, Brunello Asiatic Lily, Distant Drum Oriental Lily, Red Dutch Oriental Trumpet Lily, Kokuryunishiki-Pink/Red Tree Peony, Renkaku-White Tree Peony, Taiyo-Red Tree Peony, Yachiyotsubaki-Yellow Tree Peony, Elfin Pink Beard tongue, Sentimental Blue Balloon Flower, Red Stem Variegated Solomon's Seal, Variegated Solomon's Seal, Dark Vader Lungwort, Silver Bouquet Lungwort, Denver Daisy Gloriosa Daisy, Prairie Sun Gloriosa Daisy, Ultra Violet Salvia, Jeepers Creepers Foamflower, Oregon Trail Foamflower, Clementine Mullein, Purple Haze Calla Lily, Purple Sensation Calla Lily, Lavender Sensation Calla Lily, Rose Sensation Calla Lily, Selina Calla Lily.

We will be featuring many of these new plants during our Le Tour de Plants Special Event on Saturday and Sunday May 21 & 22! Additional U.F.O.s will be released this summer on July 25th, and again in the fall on September 12.

the **SPRING FLING**

Saturday & Sunday ~ April 30 & May 1
AN EVENT LIKE NO OTHER!

SAVE 50% TO 75% OFF
Selected items in our Garden Centre.

ANNUAL FLOWERS
Locally Grown Flats \$8.99 (limit 10)
Trays only .99 cents

Floral & Interior Décor Shoppe
YELLOW TAG SAVINGS
UP TO 90% OFF

ENTER TO WIN!
Exclusive Hope Blooms Quilt
With every \$2 donation to the
Vera Bradley Foundation for Breast Cancer,
you will be entered to win!
See the quilt and meet
the artist, Diana Bennett
on Saturday
10 am - 12 pm.

Free hot dogs,
popcorn, cotton
candy & drinks!
(served from 10am - 5pm)

ENCHANTED GARDENS

Free
Kids Corner
& *Petting Zoo*

315 CR 17 (at Beck Drive)
ELKHART
teleflora
574/293-9699 • Lintons.com
Mon.-Fri. 8-7 • Sat. & Sun. 8-6

Linton's
Quality & Excellence



What Are "Free Bees"?



What are "Free Bees"? If you are a regular customer of Linton's, you already know. But if you're new to the area, you might just think that we are passing out those pesky pollinators that may sometime sting us. Well, you are wrong! Every week during the Garden Centre season, we pass on HUGE savings to our customers with our weekly Free Bee Sale. These are healthy plants that we have grown at our own Nursery in Bristol and need to adjust and lower our inventory.

When we need to get our inventory level down, we pass on these unheard of savings to our customers! Where else can you buy one or two plants and get three free? Linton's Enchanted Gardens of course! Just watch our weekly ads in the Elkhart and South Bend newspapers, or just simply stop by and pick up a weekly sales flyer and look for the red sale flags throughout the Garden Centre.

Our Free Bees specials may also be found on our website at LINTONS.COM., FreshTV/abc57-SaturdayMorning, and YouTube - search LintonsEnchanted.

