



LINTON'S

Leaflet

newsletter volume 18/issue 1



Summer  
2012

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

## THIRTY YEARS AND COUNTING...

By Mark Linton

Over 30 years ago, our founders, and brothers, Mark and Kirk Linton had a dream. Their dream was to someday be Indiana's premier home and garden center and provide landscape architectural design and both landscape installation and landscape maintenance services for the Michiana area home and business owners. Both brothers had an eye for creating beauty, were passionate about gardening, and knew what it took to grow their small business. Always "one-upping the competition," the brothers set out on a course to accomplish these goals. In 1982, a small landscape company was born. Brothers Mark and Kirk humbly started out of their parents garage, along with an old Chevy pickup truck, purchased for 500 bucks, a couple of wheel barrows and gardening tools. They placed a few newspaper ads and set up a business phone line in their shared bedroom.

Their new landscape company quickly blossomed and soon became the areas largest landscape contractor for both residential and commercial clients. Mark and Kirk later saw an opportunity to expand upon their offerings to the area's residents and wished to expand into the Home and Garden Centre market, which at that time, was being under-served locally. This business expansion allowed the two brothers to provide landscape options to their do-it-yourself customers, who not only wanted to save some money and install a professionally designed landscape themselves, but also would serve those who enjoyed their connection with the earth and shared a passion for gardening as well. Linton's new Garden Centre was born, and this new division quickly grew as well!

The firm's Garden Centre customers were asking for even more offerings, specifically fresh flowers and both interior and exterior garden décor. The Linton brothers, along with their mom, Ruth Linton, began the firm's floral and interior décor shoppe. Their new Floral Shoppe soon became known as the local's "favorite florist" and the business was voted "The Best of Elkhart." Ruth Linton, along with the firm's many talented designers, were honored to provide the Presidential Flowers for a recent visit by the President of the United States to our area. Linton's Floral Shoppe has now grown into one of the areas largest florist and specializes in both weddings and special events.

Mark and Kirk realized an additional opportunity to expand their business even further when the firm's landscape clients asked the brothers

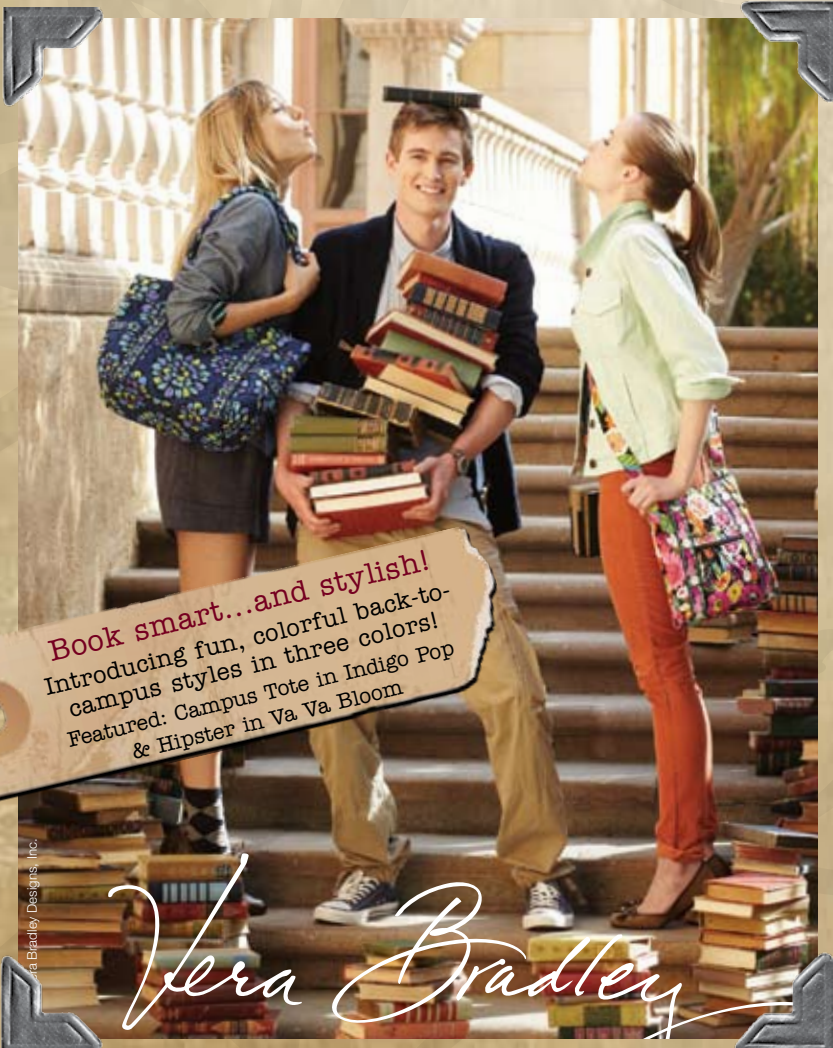
for maintenance services. They set up specially trained crews to offer lawn and landscape maintenance services year 'round. This became another division of the ever-growing business.

As Linton's continued to grow, the business was experiencing plant shortages and also wanted to offer a larger assortment of rare and unusual plants, trees and shrubs. These were simply not readily available or didn't meet the brothers high standards of quality. This un-fulfilled need sparked the idea of starting the firm's own nursery. A forty acre tract of land was purchased and the two brothers began planning for this facility. The new nursery was to be unlike any other in the area and would feature many new state of the art growing techniques which would allow them to offer an unheard of Two Year Guarantree. Mark and Kirk met with nursery consultants from all over the United States and started construction on their new growing facility. Linton's nursery not only ensures that their plants are of the highest standards of quality, but the close proximity to the firm's Garden Centre allows them to compete competitively with big box store pricing.

In 2007, Mark and Kirk Linton were approached by the local county government and were informed that the land at their retail location was needed for a road and bridge expansion project and their property of over 20 years would be taken through the eminent domain process. After the initial shock wore off, the brothers saw this as an opportunity to further grow and expand their retail offerings with a new and improved facility and larger location to serve their ever increasing demand for quality plants and décor items. This new location for Linton's Enchanted Gardens soon drew national attention and Linton's became one of the "Top 100 Revolutionary Garden Centers" in the United States and also was awarded as being the best new garden center in the state of Indiana.

Today, their new facility boasts over 9 acres, attracts thousands of out-of-state tourists and has been recognized by the state of Indiana as a local attraction. In 2011, the state of Indiana posted attraction signs along both the Indiana Toll Road and the U.S. 20 Bypass to help direct the out of town visitors to the firm's Elkhart location.

Linton's Enchanted Gardens maintains the feel of a small business by offering personal attention to their guests and clients.



**Book smart...and stylish!**  
Introducing fun, colorful back-to-campus styles in three colors!  
Featured: Campus Tote in Indigo Pop & Hipster in Va Va Bloom

Vera Bradley

**From Joan Reedy,  
Brand Ambassador with Vera Bradley**

"Just wanted to thank you for the wonderful time I had at your lovely store last week. Meeting your family and staff was great and you have so many loyal customers. Thanks also for the gift certificate. I had fun shopping and finally have a little dog the kids have been insisting I have. Thanks again."  
Fondly, Joan Reedy

**From Community Church Services**

Church Community Services would like to express our appreciation for your recent donation to our pantry. We value each and every donor. We face a big challenge to assist 2,500 families a month. It's been especially hard since the first of this year. Donations are way down. We need all the help of our "village". Thank you for caring and sharing. Linton's raised 292 pounds of food during our Easter Egg-straordinaire.

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



# It Has Been A Sizzling Spring! What Does The Summer Hold?

By Laura Sherman

The weather in Michiana has broken many records this year and this is not necessarily a good thing. A warm winter, followed by a hot spring and a dry beginning to summer has stressed our landscapes. Many of our customers are asking how to help their landscapes. Questions of how much to water and when to water are coming in regularly.

Most lawns require more water than our landscape plants, but some irrigation systems under water. It is much healthier for your lawn to water with more water less often. For a healthy lawn, watering deeper less often allows the roots to grow deep into the soil for moisture sources. Your lawn will be thicker and healthier if you water at least 1 inch of water per week, maybe more if we are experiencing extremely hot weather. If you water only ½ inch every other day, the grass’ roots stay closer to the surface and your lawn becomes susceptible to disease, weeds and will be less winter hardy. To figure out how much water your irrigation system is releasing, place tuna cans around your yard and time how long they run until the can is full of water. Once you have determined the length of time to fill a tuna can (which is approximately 1”), you can remove the cans.

Watering landscape plants should not be overlooked. There are many factors in how much water your plants need: soil type, wind, large trees, type of plant, etc. Choosing the correct plant for the right conditions is always the best solution. Mulching your landscape is another excellent way to regulate moisture and reduce soil-borne diseases like black spot and fungus. In order to gauge how much water you need to put on your landscape, stick your finger in the ground near a plant and answer these questions.... is it dry, slightly wet, moderately wet or very wet? In what conditions does the plant flourish? Dry, slightly wet, moderately wet or very wet? Once you answer the question of how wet or dry the soil is, you can now water accordingly.

It is not healthy to have your plants wilt on a regular basis. It places stress on the plant and makes it more susceptible to disease and insect problems. One type of plant that often gets over looked are evergreens. We do not see our evergreens wilting because they do not really wilt. So we tend to overlook them with the hose when we see other plants wilting. This is a big mistake. Evergreens are very slow to show signs of stress. When your other plants are getting watered please give your evergreens a little extra also. All of the same rules apply, water deeply and infrequently.

When watering anything, do not water in the evening. There should not be water on the leaves over night. It causes fungus to appear (i.e. powdery mildew, scab, black spot). Water early in the morning so the foliage can dry out during the day.

If your perennials and shrubs are planted under or near large trees, the trees will use water and nutrients before your other plant material has a chance to absorb it. So to help with this situation, give your plants a bit more water and use a water soluble fertilizer (like rooting and blooming, or liquid plant food) to foliage feed the plants. This will help you win the war with water.

Speaking of fertilizer.....Never fertilize dry plants. The plant will absorb the fertilizer with the small amount of water you are using to distribute it. The fertilizer is too concentrated for the plant’s vascular system and it will clog the veins. When this happens the plant can no longer take up water or nutrients. The plant will then need to make new feeder roots, which takes a lot of energy and can put the plant in unnecessary stress. Water the plant thoroughly and leave it for a day or two, then fertilize it.

Expert, friendly gardening advice is always offered at our Garden Centre seven days a week. Happy Gardening.

## Rainy Day Sale

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 from 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](http://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.

## Special Events Calendar

July 14-15	The Hawaiian Luau	November 5-7	Red Carpet Event
August 4-5	The Big Pink Weekend Benefits: Vera Bradley Breast Cancer Foundation	November 10-11	Christmas Open House *Pictures with Santa Sat. & Sun. 10am-4pm
August 18-19	Our Birthday Party	November 15	Diamonds & Divas (4-9pm) Benefits Soup of Success
October 6-7	Oktoberfest	November 24, December 1, 8, 15, 22	Pictures with Santa Saturdays 10am - 4pm Benefits Guidance Ministries
October 13-14	Pumpkin Bowling Benefits ADEC		
October 27-28	Spooktacular!		

## Summer Plant Introductions Have Landed!

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 summer include:  
Saucy Seduction Yarrow, Tutti Frutti Pomegranite Yarrow, Blue Lagoon Monks-hood, Tango Agastache, Blueberry Cobbler Butterfly Bush, Blue Chip Butterfly Bush, Miss Molly Butterfly Bush, Lilac Chip Butterfly Bush, Peach Cobbler Butterfly Bush, Snow White Butterfly Bush, Grande Vanilla Butterfly Bush, Summer Skies Butterfly Bush, Madame Rosy Trumpet Vine, Lil’ Miss Sunshine Blue Mist Shrub, Amethyst Dream Bachelor Buttons, Stolwijk’s Gold Clematis, Fire-works Clematis, Durandii Clematis, Sunset Clematis, Golden Harvest Clematis, Princess Diana Clematis, Veronica’s Choice Clematis, Thailand Giant Elephant Ears, American Dream Coreopsis, Aloha Coneflower, Hot Summer Coneflower, Leilani Coneflower, Piccolino Coneflower, Southern Belle Coneflower, Solar Flare Coneflower, Raspberry Truffle Coneflower, Secret Joy Coneflower, Summer Sun Coneflower, Big Blue Sea Holly, Blue Hobbit Sea Holly, Arizona Apricot Blanket

Flower, Mesa Bright Bicolor Blanket Flower, Mesa Yellow Blanket Flower, Red Sun Blanket Flower, Moxie Blanket Flower, Canary Helen’s Flower, Mardi Gras Helen’s Flower, Tuscan Sun False Sunflower, Calico Jack Daylily, Celestial City Daylily, Forty Second Street Daylily, Night Embers Daylily, Ruby Spider Daylily, Robert Fleming Hibiscus, Sultry Kiss Hibiscus, Berrylicious Hibiscus, Summer Storm Hibiscus, Autumn Frost Hosta, Goodness Gracious Hosta, Hudson Bay Hosta, Ice Follies Hosta, Paradise Island Hosta, Regal Supreme Hosta, Ripple Effect Hosta, Seducer Hosta, Endless Summer Bella Anna Hydrangea, Let’s Dance Starlight Hydrangea, Let’s Dance Moonlight Hydrangea, Mystical Flame Hydrangea, Little Lime Hydrangea, Blue Arrows Rush Grass, Laspidier Shasta Daisy, Sante Shasta Daisy, Bottle Rocket Ligularia, Cobra Oriental Lily, Magic Star Double Oriental Lily, Robina Oriental Trumpet Lily, Gladiator Lupine, Manhattan Lights Lupine, Waterloo Phlox, Flower Power Phlox, Flamingo Phlox, Party Punch Phlox, Purple Rain Phlox, Julia Child Rose, Livin’ Easy Rose, Carding Mill David Austin Rose, Crocus Rose David Austin Rose, Gentle Hermione David Austin Rose, Golden Celebration David Austin Rose, Teasing Georgia David Austin Rose, The Alnwick Rose David Austin Rose, Princess Alexandria of Kent David Austin Rose, Winchester Cathedral David Austin Rose, Winner’s Circle Climbing Rose, Zephirine Drouhin Climbing Rose, City Garden Black-eyed Susan, Little Goldstar Black-eyed Susan, Pink Diamonds Pincushion Flower, Regal Charm Spiderwort, Blue Explosion Veronica, Blue Pixie Verbascum, Hocus Pocus Veronica, Pink Explosion Veronica, Pink Pixie Verbascum, Goldwell Creeping Veronica, Sweet Lullaby Veronica, & Blue Bomb Veronica.

Additional U. F. O.s will be released this fall on October 6th & 7th.



Like us on Facebook



# Quilt Gardens along the Heritage Trail

BRISTOL ELKHART GOSHEN MIDDLEBURY NAPPANEE SHIPSHEWANA WAKARUSA

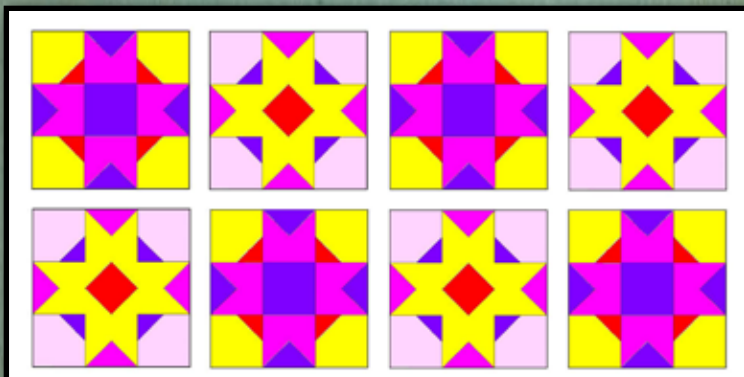
## Quilt Gardens in Northern Indiana

Did you know we are the only community in the United States with a Quilt Garden Tour? Have you been on this tour? Linton's is proud to participate in the Quilt Garden Tour hosted by the Elkhart County Convention & Visitor's Bureau. Quilt Gardens along the Heritage Trail may be viewed now through October 1, 2012 in Elkhart, Bristol, Goshen, Nappanee, Middlebury, Shipshewana and Wakarusa.

"The Quilt Gardens along the Heritage Trail brings visitors to our location from around the United States, as well as Canada! We had over 100 buses visit us through this tour. It is amazing how far people travel to see what is right here in our own backyard. It gives our community a great boost economically," says Jen Fultz, Executive Assistant at Linton's.

More than 115,000 locally grown annuals are planted in quilt patterns. The 19 gardens range in size from 800 to 2,500 square feet that cover over 23,000 square feet of soil.

Linton's 2012 pattern is called "Stellar Days" and is filled with a nice variety of annuals. We developed two master blocks by varying the position of each plant for two distinct looks. These two blocks are alternated throughout the pattern. This makes the design appear more vibrant, giving it more visual interest. We used Janie Canary Yellow Marigolds, Eureka Rose Begonia, Wave Blue Petunia, Dreamland Scarlet Zinnia and Celebrity Chiffon and Salmon Morn Petunia.



### Kind Words From Landscape Clients

"You run a class act operation and we couldn't be happier with the results on our end."

Dana Sullivan

"I just wanted to tell you the plants look great out at the Luft's. Charlie is great and the Luft's love it as well. Another satisfied customer. Thank you."

Donna Troyer, Troyer Custom Built Homes

"Keep up the Good Work. I love the landscaping. As I come up the driveway I still slow down to admire your excellent work. Thank you!"

Denise McCluckie



## Yes, We Are Beating Cancer!

Since the American Cancer Society (ACS) began fighting cancer, survival rates have been climbing steadily. Today two out of three people who are diagnosed with cancer will survive this disease for at least five years - a vast improvement over the last six decades. To discover how the ACS is saving lives and how you can help, call them at 1-800-227-2345 or visit their Web site at cancer.org anytime, day or night.

Linton's Enchanted Gardens supports the American Cancer Society each spring during our LeTour de Plants event. This year we raffled tickets for bikes. Our congratulations go to Glen Eash who won a trike for his grandson and Jim Hannah who's grandkids will enjoy the kid's bike when they visit.

### WE RAISED OVER \$250 FOR CANCER RESEARCH!

Thank you to all our customers  
that helped us raise these funds..



"Watch This!"



Linton's invites you to tune in to ABC57 each Saturday morning at 7 a.m. to watch "Colorful Inspirations." In this show Mark Linton features three segments: "Color by the Yard" features custom landscapes and tips for grouping and placing plants, trees and shrubs. "Every Bloomin' Thing" features a selection of unusual plants, trees and shrubs in our Garden Centre and plant care information. "Your Style, Your Home" features Mark and Linton's design team sharing decorating tips and ideas for your home.

We are also regularly featured on WNDU16 and WSBT22 as a local expert for both interior decorating and landscaping. Mark regularly gets to share his passion for plants and decorating as well as tips for all of us to use.

Of course, if you miss us, you can find the most recent show on our website or you can search YouTube for "Linton's Enchanted."

Once again, throughout July & August, Linton's and WNDU16 will be sponsoring the annual WNDU16 Curb Appeal makeover, where one lucky viewer is selected to have their house landscaped by Mark and the Linton's landscaping.



### 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**





**the HAWAIIAN LUAU**

**Saturday & Sunday  
July 14 & 15**

**AN EVENT LIKE NO OTHER!**

Save **75% OFF**  
on select plants when you wear a coconut  
bikini top and a hula skirt

or Save **50% OFF**  
on select plants when you wear a  
Hawaiian Floral Shirt

Yellow tag sale in  
**Floral & Interior Decor Shoppe.**

Save **50-90% OFF**  
on yellow tagged items!

Free leis and frozen  
tropical drinks!  
(served from  
10am - 5pm)

**ENCHANTED  
GARDENS**

**Linton's**

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

Quality & Excellence

Join the fun!

#### UFO at Linton's

"I read the history of the space ship in your  
spring newsletter and I think you did a  
wonderful job! My father would be very happy!  
We are glad it could be put to use by you.  
Dean Birzele

#### 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 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](http://LINTONS.COM)., FreshTV/abc57-SaturdayMorning, and YouTube - search LintonsEnchanted.

As a service to  
our customers,  
Linton's offers

**COMPLIMENTARY  
1 HOUR WEDDING  
CONSULTATIONS!**

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

## 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.*

**ENCHANTED  
GARDENS**

**Linton's**

Quality & Excellence

