

newsletter volume 20/ issue 3

# allourb Appeal

According to Mark Linton, owner/designer at Linton's Enchanted Gardens in Elkhart, "homeowners who want their homes to make a strong first impression must make curb appeal a top priority." Mark explains that this can be accomplished through many simple additions to the home's exterior. "I first recommend that the homeowner step back and view their property from the street and assess what the home's exterior is communicating to them. If what they see is over-grown trees and shrubs that are hiding an otherwise attractive home, then the first thing to do is to prune and trim the foundation plantings. If all that they see is green, then splashes of color should be added by the installation of flowering trees, shrubs and perennial flowers."

Homes with strong curb appeal provide a welcoming feeling to visitors right off the bat, and as a result, sell faster! Improving curb appeal need not be expensive, and the following are a handful of ways that Mark suggests to improve the appearance of your home:

- Install a colorful silk wreath, a swag, and a coordinating front door mat, along with a decorative flag and a mailbox wrap to add splashes of color.
- Consider painting your front door and shutters a bright vibrant color to stand out and welcome your guests.
- Maintain your existing landscape. Pull weeds, power edge along sidewalks and drives. Remove fallen leaves and branches. Apply fertilizer and weed killer to your lawn. A little bit of maintenance to your lawn and landscape will go a long way!

- Add outdoor lighting to highlight your homes' features, which will also make your home more inviting and safer at night.
- Install potted annual flowers, in groupings, to add additional splashes of color, and to coordinate with your homes exterior.
- Topdress existing landscape beds with fresh bark or stone ground cover.
- Remove and replace old cracked sidewalks with paving bricks to provide a welcoming look.
- If your home doesn't have many trees, considering adding both shade and ornamental trees.
- If your home's landscaping is over twenty years old, then it is probably time to remove and replace your landscaping. This will dramatically update the look of your home.
- If the scope of the work is beyond what you are able to do yourself, then call and hire a professional. According to local real estate experts, a professionally landscaped home will add over 10% to the value of your home. Real estate experts agree that professional landscaping is a great investment for your home!

Linton's Enchanted Gardens was voted by the Elkhart Truth readers as the area's favorite Home and Garden Center and also the area's favorite landscape contractor. Landscape estimates are offered free of charge, and the firm offers a Do It Yourself Program.

## What Everyone Wants to Know

-loral Trends

#### By Ruth Linton

Have you been asking 'What the forecasters' have in mind for late 2014 and 2015 floral trends?' Be on track with accessorizing and, as an alternative to silver and gold, look for brass to come into its own. With its warm color, polish, and weight, brass gives a modern, yet classic allure.

Secondly, expect interior decor to reflect graceful arches, intricate geometries, and calligraphic lines. Home furnishings, textiles, tabletops and accessories will pay homage to designs from lower Spain, Northern Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. Choices will be classic and playful, lush and lyrical, foreign yet familiar.

Tight, scaled down prints will draw inspiration from floral and nature motifs. You may use multiple, tiny, related, yet different patterns, with same color background. Color choices will reflect greens and earth tones; American accents and a woodsy mood.



Fall Fashion colors are here! Introducing Moon Blooms, Moon Drops, Ink Blue and Ink Spots.

Shown: Glenna in Moon Blooms, Soft Frame Case for iPhone 5 in Moon Drops, and Vera in Ink Blue

Jera Bradley

#### Good Neighbor Program

What it is: A program that allows Linton's customers to designate a non-profit organization to receive \$1 for every fresh floral purchase they make valued at \$30 or more.

How it works: Non- profit organizations register at the Linton's customer service counter by giving the agency name, contact name, address, phone number and Tax I.D. number.

Customers who purchase a fresh floral arrangement inform Linton's staff at the time of purchase which non-profit organization they would like their purchase to benefit. Offer is valid only at time of purchase, no retro-active donations will be made.

Linton's issues a check to the non-profit organization quarterly.



Linton's Hours Monday -Friday 8:00am - 7:00pm Saturday & Sunday 8:00am - 6:00pm

#### By Jackie Weiss, Garden Centre Manager

If you want or need more shade, or maybe just want to add a flowering ornamental tree to your landscape, or want to add some height to your property, trees are an excellent addition to your yard. There are hundreds of varieties of Deciduous and Evergreen trees from which to select.

First you need to narrow down your ultimate goal. Shade, color, and height all need to be considered. Do you want a Deciduous or Evergreen tree? Is the tree going to be planted near buildings, power lines, or underground

## ade in the shade.

utilities? Size and shape will play a deciding role. Is the site wet or dry? Some trees do well in moist soils, and take into consideration the pH balance as well! Linton's sells soil testing kits in the Secret Garden that can help you determine what may need to be added to the soil to help your chosen tree. Once everything is decided, it's time to select your tree! The Garden Centre staff at Linton's Enchanted Gardens will happily help you find the perfect tree for your yard. Trees can be planted any time of the year as long as the soil is not frozen. There are considerations for each season.

Since Linton's grows all of their trees in containers, any time the ground isn't frozen is a great time to plant, plus we back them up with our Two Year GuaranTree!

As always, Linton's Garden Centre staff recommends using Fertilome Root Stimulator (essential for Linton's two-year guarantree) to all new plantings. Fertilome Root Stimulator contains a minor amount of fertilizer, but it's main ingredient is vitamin B1 which stimulates root growth much quicker than if left solely to 'Mother Nature'.

Do not prune your newly planted tree at this time except for broken and damaged branches. The roots need to re-establish themselves so watering is very important as well. Tree guards protect the bark of small trees from both rabbits and deer. Tree staking kits help it to grow straight and strong. Both are available at Linton's Enchanted Gardens.

Please remember to always 'call before you dig'! It is always better to be safer than sorry, and it is a free service! The number is 811 (in Indiana and Michigan) and call at least forty-eight hours in advance. The utility crews will then come and mark the locations with a chalk that will eventually wash away.

Stop in at Linton's Enchanted Gardens and let our garden centre staff help you find the perfect tree to enchance your home's landscape, and give you the knowledge and supplies to keep it happy and healthy.

## Following are some suggestions for trees in different uses:

TRPS

**FLOWERING TREES** Crabapples, Weeping Cherry, Dogwoods, Magnolia, and Flowering Pear

TREES FOR FALL COLOR Maples, Sweetgums, Flowering Pear, and Amelanchiers

**SHADE** Sycamore, Maples, Sweetgum, Beech, Tulip, and Oak

**EVERGREEN** Spruce, Pine, Cypress, Juniper, Cedar, Firs and Arborvitae

October | | & 12 • 18 & 19 Free Straw Pumpkin Bale Maze! BOW \$2.00 donation. Proceeds go to ADEC, I at \$9.99 (bring your own camera) Pumpkin Patch **EXPRESS RIDES** In our Garden Café Only \$5.00 and includes a pumpkin! Fall decorations GARD available!

#### **FREE PETTING ZOO!**

#### **AN EVENT LIKE NO OTHER!**

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

Build your own SCARECROW! Assembled by kids of all ages starting

October 11th - Adoptable Dogs from the Humane Society of Elkhart County I I am- 2pm

Enjoy the tastes



Kind Words from our Customers

"You folks do everything right!, very rare nowadays. Keep up the great work." - John Edwards

"Lyuba helped us in the Garden Centre. She was very knowledgeable and helpful. She is an asset to your business!" - Margaret Panelli

"Just wanted to thank you and your staff for a great experience yesterday. Lunch was great, my niece enjoyed the animals, my Mom enjoyed the aift shop, and my sister enjoyed it all! I want you to know that Amy was especially nice to take time to show me around the tree area after I let her know what I was looking for and seemed to be able to answer more of my questions. What she did not know, she was able to locate and answer quickly"

- Deb Jones

"Thank you for your fantastic attention to our landscape needs for our daughter's graduation open house this weekend. We are thrilled with the results- your staff was competent, friendly and helpful. We couldn't be happier that 13 years ago we chose Linton's to design and install landscaping for our new home. Thank you for honoring our relationship with this special, speedy treatment. Please pass along our huge thanks and appreciation."

- Jenni and Andy Wysong



Did you know Linton's can decorate your home's interior to reflect the season? Whether it is 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.



As a service to our customers, Linton's offers complimentary wedding consultations. Please call Ruth Linton at 293-9699 to set up your appointment.

### October 11-12 and 18-19

PUMPKIN BOWLING was a SMASHING success! We are again partnering with ADEC, Inc. and the Elkhart Truth for our annual Pumpkin Bowl, October 11 & 12 and October 18 & 19. Come to our straw bale bowling alley, grab a pumpkin and 'bowl'. The lane is set up all weekend, pumpkins are only \$2, and 100% of the proceeds go to ADEC, Inc! The best part is that you get to bowl until your pumpkin breaks up. Pumpkin Bowling is fun whether you are 4 or 84!

> ADEC, Inc helps community members open their hearts, minds and doors by providing opportunities and inclusion for those we serve. By enhancing the lives of people with disabilities, we enrich our communities through the diversity that comes from inclusion.

> So, grab your 'bowling shoes' and help us raise funds and awareness for ADEC, Inc!

## **UFO** Fall Release

Roswell at Linton's? No, but it is a "Restricted Area" for serious UFO (Unusual Flowering Objects) plant collectors! At the landing gear of the alien space ship you'll find the products from our 'Research Facility' in Bristol. The cover-up has been blown and the whistle-blowers have demanded we disclose the presence of these results to the public. This area, previously off-limits, has been opened up to customers classified as 'Top Plant Collectors.' We are seeking 'test sights' to help our Research Facility. Each UFO has been properly identified and tagged with its unique statistics. Test Sights will be charged a fee to obtain the UFOs to cover discovery and development costs.



## **Mr. Smarty Plants**

#### Pear Mr. Smarty,

#### With all the rain we've had so far this year, I am having trouble with my yard and garden areas. New wet areas, and no place to drain. What am I to do?

#### - Signed, At Wet's End

Dear friend, If you are sick of soggy feet, there are several solutions from which to choose. Water problems may be easily resolved by introducing a French drain, grassy swail or rain garden to manage water runoff. Excessive soil moisture swells and rots the root systems of intolerant plants. This wetness displaces oxygen in the soil pores and can cause suffocation. Clay soils also need modification to be more suitable for plant growth. Raised beds, terraces, wet-weather beds, and rain gardens offer placement for plant solutions.

Plants that like damp to moderately moist soils are: Turtlehead, Astilbe, Cardinal Flower (Lobelia), Rose Mallow, most Iris species, Bleeding Heart, Sweet spire, Inkberry, Summer sweet, Fothergilla, hardy Hibiscus, and Cranberry Viburnum. More delicate moist-soil plants include: Hellebore, Hosta, and Forget-me-not, and some Ferns & Epimediums.

When these are not an option in a prolonged submersion situation, this selection of marginal-wet plants works too: Buttonbush, Red & Yellow Twig Dogwood shrub, Winterberry, Iris & Daylilies, and Marsh Marigold may fit in just fine. Wear clogs too!

- Mr. Smarty

