



LINTON'S

Leaflet



Spring  
2010

newsletter volume 16/issue 1

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

## U.F.O'S (UNUSUAL FLOWERING OBJECTS)

By Jennifer Martinez, Linton's Nursery Manager

Happy Spring, everyone! This year I am so happy to announce that I have a new helper for my garden. My son Kenneth was born in September and I am looking forward to our time together in the garden! We have a lot of great new plants this year and I am so excited to tell you about them.

Let's start with some of our new shrubs! We have a new "RE-BLOOMING" lilac called Bloomerang Purple. It has a compact, full growth habit reaching 4-5 feet tall and small leaves that make it the perfect shrub for smaller gardens. It is highly fragrant and mildew resistant. Another great spring flowering shrub is Chardonnay Pearls Deutzia. Attractive, lime-yellow foliage with pure white, pearl-like buds that explode into a shower of fragrant flowers.

As for our perennials again, we have plenty! Tons of new and exciting coral bells, like Havana have dense wands of bright pink flowers that glow like the end of Fidel's cigar. These dance to the Cuban beat over swirling yellow-lime leaves with white veins. And you'll need to call the "Fire Chief" when you see our other new coral bells. It reblooms all season with mid-sized leaves of glowing wine red. Gorgeous! We also have some exciting new Heucherellas (a mix of Heuchera & Tiarella) called Golden Zebra, Alabama Sunrise, and Sweet Tea. The Golden Zebra has bright yellow, feathery leaves that are boldly marked with dark-red. Alabama Sunrise has gold leaves with red veins, and Sweet Tea leaves look like huge cinnamon stars that are surrounded by the loveliest orange tea colored borders.

We have a new bleeding heart called Burning Hearts. Bright red flowers with just a hint of white at the tips. They only grow 10" tall and bloom continuously throughout the entire season. We have several new varieties of hosta this year. The 2010 "Hosta of the Year", First Frost, is among them. The beautiful blue leaves are edged by a creamy-yellow margin that brightens to creamy-white by midsummer. Lavender flowers top the clump in late summer. Leaves will grow 16 inches tall. We already have the 2011 "Hosta of the Year", Praying Hands, in stock! A very unique selection with skinny leaves give it an unusual look like no other hosta. Each green leaf is rolled and folded into a tube shape, displaying the prominent veins on the back of the leaf. It grows 14-18 inches tall.

We have even more additions to our Fruit Punch series of dianthus (hardy carnation) that we started offering last year. We are featuring Pomegranate Kiss & Black Cherry Wild, as well as Apple Slice, Dragon Fruit, & Coconut Punch that we introduced last spring. We have a delicious new yellow shasta daisy called Banana Cream. Large 4 inch flowers open lemon yellow, then brighten to light butter yellow as they mature. It grows 15-18 inches tall.

And lastly, we have a large, wonderful selection of garden peonies & tree peonies. All sizes and colors are available, in red, pink, corwWhite, and two-toned. Come check out our new and exciting plants by the UFO.....Unusual Flowering Objects display.




*Vera Bradley*

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**Fresh Delivery for Spring 2010**

Just in! Seven new styles and four fresh colors in full bloom!  
Shown above: Loves Me..., Sittin' in a Tree, Totally Turq and Poppy Fields.

Explore this collection as well as these other unique specialty items.

- Handmade Jewelry
- Crabtree & Evelyn Personal Care
- Designer Watches
- Fine Gifts & Interior Décor

**YOUR FLORAL, HOME & GARDEN CENTRE**  
315 CR 17 (at Beck Drive)  
ELKHART  
574/293-9699 • Lintons.com  
Mon.-Fri. 8-7 • Sat. & Sun. 8-6



## Hope ...along the Heritage Trail

**A partnership with the  
Elkhart County Visitors  
Bureau and the Vera  
Bradley Foundation for  
Breast Cancer**



The 2010 Quilt Gardens and Vera Bradley Foundation for Breast Cancer are partnering to raise funds for breast cancer research by raffling an original quilt wall hanging! Artist Diana Bennett, Millersburg, IN, created her "Interlocking Hearts of Hope quilt using the exclusive Vera Bradley Hope Garden fabric among others. From April thru September, you may see the quilt and purchase a raffle ticket to win it at Vera Bradley retailers along the Heritage Trail. \* Proceeds benefit the Foundation. The "Interlocking Hearts of Hope" design is also the inspiration for two new additions to the 2010 Quilt Gardens along the Heritage Trail, a contemplative quilt garden and quilt art mural.

The quilt will be on display at Linton's Enchanted Gardens from May 8 - 22. Come and meet the artist, Diana Bennet on Saturday, May 8 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. Raffle tickets go on sale April 26 and sell for \$2.00 each. The first fifty customers that purchase a raffle ticket, will be able to purchase a limited edition Vera Bradley bag filled with gifts for \$50.00.

\*Visit [QuiltGardensTour.com](http://QuiltGardensTour.com) for detailed information regarding Hope along the Heritage Trail and a complete quilt viewing schedule.



## 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 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.

*Note: Pots must be in relatively good condition.*

## 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](http://www.lintons.com).

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





# Take Back Your Dining Room

by Andrew Skipper,

Interior Designer/Linton's Enchanted Gardens

With the state of the economy, more and more of us are choosing to spend our leisure time at home rather than out. For this reason, many people are reclaiming their dining rooms. The dining room is a place to reconnect with loved ones. It is a place to gather, talk, laugh, eat, and celebrate our daily lives. Meals in this room are different from those taken in the kitchen or breakfast nook. They are more ceremonial and deliberate. Why not create a special atmosphere in a room that can be used every day?

Time spent in the dining room is usually limited, so it is a great place to use bold or dark colors, as long as they don't clash with adjoining rooms. A great way to be sure that your dining room decor doesn't conflict with the rest of your house is to repeat a few colors throughout your entire home. For example, if you have yellow walls in your dining room, perhaps you could use a yellow lampshade or throw pillow in your living room to visually link the two spaces.

Lighting is very important in this space. If you have a hanging light over the table, a great way to set the mood is with a dimmer. Dimmers are cost effective and you can usually install them yourself. On a buffet, use one short lamp in the middle, or two matching buffet lamps on either side. Use low wattage bulbs (40 watt or less) to create a soothing atmosphere. If you have favorite pieces of art-work on the wall, use ceiling mounted spotlights to highlight them. And the most important lighting in the dining room is candlelight. If you're having guests or throwing a dinner party, nothing is more festive than a room full of candles.

Another way to set the scene is with music. Don't fret if you do not have an in home sound system. A CD player will do just fine. If you have an ipod and an ipod docking station, you can create custom playlists to go with the theme of your dinners. For instance, if you're serving Italian food, why not compile a list of songs by classic Italian singers?

It is also important to keep the dining table clear of clutter, wiped clean, and always ready to be set. Two very significant things you bring to the table are manners and a positive attitude. Cloth napkins and candles help set the proper tone. A centerpiece, simple as it may be, also shows that you put thought into your mealtime. Use this space to create lasting memories for yourself and those you care about. You won't be sorry.

Linton's Floral and Interior Décor Shoppe has everything for those finishing touches for your dining room, including candles, lamps, wall art, centerpieces, as well as accent furniture. Stop by and take advantage of our free on-site designers and let us show you what we can do to make your dining room or any room as unique as you are.

Andrew Skipper is available for in-home consultations, and is a part of the Floral and Interior Décor team at Linton's Enchanted Gardens.

off the mark.com

by Mark Parisi



## 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 24**

**May 15**

**May 22**

**Unique Container Gardening**

**Grow Your Vegetable Garden**

**Late Spring Lawn Care Needs**

## Petting Zoo Spotlight



**Introducing . . .**

Petunia, the newest member of our petting zoo family, a Vietnamese Potbelly Pig (PBP) is 6 months old and weighs 50 pounds. She comes to us from the Elkhart County Humane Society after being rescued by the Elkhart Police Department from a neglectful environment. The transition has been slow for her but she is adjusting very nicely to her new home.

Vietnamese Potbelly's are a dwarf swine breed developed in the 1960's. A full grown PBP on average weighs anywhere between 100 to 250 pounds and is an average of 3ft. long and approximately 15" tall. They are considered full grown at 5 to 6 years of age and have an average life span of 12 to 15 years. The oldest know PBP is 19 years of age. Colors range anywhere from solid black to solid white with varieties of spotted and striped in between.

Next time you're planning a trip to shop for plants, trees and shrubs, bring the kids along to visit Petunia and all of the other animals in our free petting zoo. As always, animal food is only a quarter!

## Welcome To Our Home

by Ruth Linton, Floral Designer for Linton's Enchanted Gardens

Before a visitor steps inside, there are numerous ways to make them want to feel "welcomed" to your home.

Lighting always plays an important part. A well-lit driveway, a post lamp, and, perhaps the most important, co-ordinating porch or garage lights. Under-the-eave lighting not only adds a feeling of warmth, but also, security.

In rural and suburban areas, the mailbox itself might be decorated with a lovely seasonal swag. A flower box on the post can boast colorful flowers and vines. In the yard, a seasonal flag can show team support, college identity, or just a pretty scene while, once on the porch or door entrance, a wreath depicting a particular holiday or color scheme may be displayed.

Often, several rocking chairs or a bench could give a "homey touch". Co-ordinating pillows, available in treated weather proof materials, accent the chosen color scheme. A small table with a plant could be added.

Here, seasonal plants in decorative pots are also used as focal points. Even a practical door mat, available in numerous colors and designs, helps to carry out your decorator touch that, without a single spoken word, says, "Welcome, we're glad you're here."

Linton's Enchanted Gardens offers a wide array of interior and exterior décor items to make your house feel welcoming to your guests.

## 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 sometimes 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 have over produced.

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.

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

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



# The Budget Conscious Bride

by Ruth Linton, Floral Designer, Linton's Enchanted Gardens

You've got the ring and have set the special date. All of a sudden your job hours have been cut! You still have a dream of a beautiful wedding. How can that long-awaited dream wedding still take place? How can you stay within your newly reduced budget and fulfill this life-long dream of yours? Stop, and don't panic!

Make a list starting with the most important elements of your wedding. Cover all items you've dreamed about such as location, date and time, dress, attendants, flowers, music, reception, number of guests, honeymoon, etc. Jot down simplified notes by each item and, after pondering, see if any elements can be cut without changing your vision. An example might include a honeymoon closer to home or fewer attendants.

An exciting and sensible plan might be to speak with your floral designer as to suggestions using the wedding flowers also at the reception. Linton's floral designers are willing to accept the challenge of providing "a look you want" within your budget. This might involve a more open design, less expensive types of flowers, etc. Often, a very unusual flower can take the place of numerous others and also make a very striking, sometimes contemporary statement.

A "green" wedding can be very beautiful, less expensive and also be a silent statement that you care for the environment. Check into various considerations such as using recycled or mismatched vases or containers, rental items, gathered items, etc.

Bouquets from the wedding party may be used at the reception. Rental holders for the bouquets put down the center of the head table allow guests to enjoy these floral creations. A unity candle arrangement may also be transferred from the wedding to the reception as well as altar pieces.

Stunning table pieces might be a single bloom put into various glass containers. Even a beautiful edible fruit arrangement could be tied in with the theme. A container of rolled and be-ribboned thank you for coming cards or bride and groom history set on a mirror or petals can save mega dollars, and add a very personalized touch for your guests.

The possibilities are endless! Don't be afraid to substitute, get out of the original box and remember to have fun! This is your special day! Linton's Enchanted Gardens has a team of five experienced and trained wedding designers that will be happy to help you keep your dream alive and stay within your budget! Linton's is the areas largest florist and specializes in both weddings as well as special events. Floral consultations are offered free of charge!



## Outstanding Home & Garden Centre

Linton's Enchanted Gardens is proud to be recognized by the Indiana Nursery and Landscape Association (INLA) for their outstanding achievements with the development and construction of their new facility located at 315 County Road 17, Elkhart. Each year the INLA awards just one Garden Centre with this prestigious award. Pictured is Kirk Linton, General Manager and Laura Sherman, Garden Centre Manager accepting the award from Robert Johnstone (left). Linton's is featured in the March/April 2010 edition of the Indiana Nursery & Landscape News

According to Mark B. Linton, President, "We are so excited to receive this award. We set out to build a destination Home and Garden Centre and are thrilled with all of the out of town and out of state visitors that we are attracting."

As a service to our customers, Linton's offers  
COMPLIMENTARY INTERIOR ACCESSORY CONSULTATIONS.  
Please call Andrew Skipper at 293-9699 to set up your appointment!

## Attracting Hummers

Hummingbird feeders are a fun and inexpensive way to attract these unusual birds. We recommend placing the feeder in a shaded area near a window, or attaching it to a low branch in a tree or shrub in the early spring when the hummingbirds return back to our area. The most important thing after placing the feeder is to be patient. It may take up to a month for the hummers to find your feeder, but once they find it, don't be surprised to see others coming every 10 or 15 minutes.

It's easy to make your own hummingbird nectar, take 1/4 cup of granulated sugar to one cup of boiled water and stir until the sugar dissolves. You may store any extra nectar in a container in your fridge up to 2 weeks.

At Linton's Enchanted Gardens, we carry a wide array of hummingbird feeders and accessories, including ant guard, which is a maintenance-free device that repels ants from the feeder all season long.

Also located in our Secret Garden is our popular hummingbird instant nectar. It is 100% pure-natural and is the best high energy food for hummers. Each time you are ready to refill your feeder, be sure to use one of our hummingbird feeder brushes. It is important to keep your feeder clean and your hummers healthy. We recommend cleaning at least twice a week. Simply rinse the bottle and the red base thoroughly with very hot water, add vinegar and rinse again thoroughly. Never add red food coloring to the nectar, tests have proven that this coloring is harmful to hummers.

We also carry a large assortment of birdhouses, and birdbaths, as well as birdfeeders and seed for all of our feathered friends.

## 2010 Special Events

The Spring Fling .....	May 1 & 2
Mother's Day Extravaganza .....	May 8 & 9
Our Garden Party .....	June 5 & 6
Le Tour des Plants .....	June 26 & 27
The Pirate Adventure .....	July 10 & 11
The Hawaiian Luau .....	August 7 & 8
Linton's Birthday Party .....	September 11 & 12
Oktoberfest .....	October 2 & 3
Spooktacular .....	October 23 & 24
The Red Carpet .....	November 2 & 4
Our Christmas Open House .....	November 6 & 7

## Ask Iris

Dear Iris,

I planted two Rhododendrons last year. Their leaves have now turned a dark red. These shrubs do have flower buds. My neighbors plants are all green. Are these Rhododendron saveable? Please help.

Signed,  
Sometimes Blushing

Dear Sometimes Blushing,

You must have purchased one of the wonderful varieties of Rhododendron that changes in winter (possibly a PJM variety). This is what they do. Not only do they produce gorgeous blooms in spring, but they put on a second show in the winter. As the weather heats up and your plant puts on new growth the green leaves will change color and return to green and you will enjoy the beautiful flowers as well!

Signed,  
Iris

## Arugula, Fennel, & Orange Salad

### Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 bunch arugula
- 2 orange, peeled and segmented
- 1 bulb fennel bulb, thinly sliced
- 2 tablespoons sliced black olives



### Directions

1. Whisk together the honey, lemon juice, salt, and pepper; slowly add the olive oil while continuing to whisk.
2. Place the arugula in the bottom of a salad bowl; scatter the orange segments, fennel slices, and olives over the arugula; drizzle the dressing over the salad to serve. Makes 6 servings.



# We've Got Fruit Trees!

By Laura Sherman, Garden Centre Manager

There have been many inquiries about whether or not we grow fruit trees. Well by popular demand.... We've grown them! Now the question is, "Are you ready for them?"

What type of fruit do you want to grow? Apples, peaches or cherries? First, let's find out what type of soil you have. This will help us choose the right tree for you. If you have loamy soil, this is great for all types of trees (and I'm jealous). Sandy soil is okay for apples, peaches, or cherries. You will need to amend the soil and fertilize more frequently. Sand drains quickly, and takes vital nutrients with it. If clay soil is present, amending the soil is also necessary to help with drainage. Most fruit trees do not like wet feet. The roots will rot and your tree will not thrive.

What do our tags mean by "dwarf cherry tree"? The terms miniature, dwarf, semi-dwarf and standard can be confusing. What these terms mean is all-relative. If the original tree is 25 feet tall, then a semi dwarf (of that tree) could be 20 feet, a dwarf 15 feet and a miniature 10 feet. So please, when looking for a small tree, find out the mature height.

Most apple trees need pollinators. What is this? It simply means you need another apple tree to blow pollen or pollen to be placed on the flowers of the other apple tree. Now this could be another fruiting apple or one of the many decorative crabapple trees already found in many landscapes. Why do you need one? You will get a better yield by having a pollinator. As the wind blows, the pollen flies to the other trees and pollinates the other flowers. After pollination is complete, it is now time to spray your tree for insects or disease. Do not spray your trees while beneficial pollinators are present. Wait until blossoming has ended, then spray.

As a rule of thumb, sour cherries do not need a pollinator as the sweet ones do. This is only with some trees, check with each variety to make sure you are getting the ones you want. Sweet cherry trees need moist, well-drained soil. Cherry trees prefer a top-coat of cow manure or peat moss applied around the drip line in the fall.

Most peaches are self-pollinating, so no second tree needed. Your yields will be greater with another variety of peaches as a pollinator. Sandy, loamy soil is best with plenty of organic material for the health of the tree and a good yield. Good drainage is a must. Apply fertilizer (a water soluble 20-20-20) around the drip line in the spring when buds are just emerging, then again when the last fruit is harvested. All of these trees need full sun and good air circulation to help prevent disease and to produce delicious fruit. If you need any other assistance with selection or maintenance of your newly acquired or existing fruit trees stop by and we will be happy to assist you.

Happy Planting!

*the* **SPRING FLING**

**Saturday & Sunday ~ May 1st & 2nd**

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

**ANNUAL FLOWERS**  
Flats only \$12.99 • Trays only \$1.29

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

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

**ENCHANTED GARDENS**

*Free Kids Korner  
& Petting Zoo*

**Linton's**  
Quality & Excellence

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## For All You "Do-it-yourselfers"

Our landscape design team has put together a selection of affordable landscape plans that are suitable for almost any front yard. Having a plan in place makes it easier to visualize your own enchanted home landscape. Then, our knowledgeable staff can help you with plant selection and placement, allowing you to create your oasis at your own pace! Plans are available at no charge at our Information Centre located in The Conservatory.

