

# Tickets on sale for Secret Garden Tour

## Comet staff report

A Secret Garden Tour will take gardening enthusiasts to homes in Camden, Cutler and Flora on June 20. The tour, sponsored by Flora Community Club's K.I.C.K. team, will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with a June 27 rain date.

Featured gardens belong to Sherry and Ted Donoho, 3364 S. SR 75, Cutler; Jennifer and Tim Loepker, 570 W., 400 S., Cutler; Billie and Tom Hedde, 116 Meadow Lane, Flora; Lucy and Mike Ball, 405 W. Maple St., Flora; and Sharon and Keith Wolf, 473 N. Monroe St., Camden.

Billie Hedde says that gardening is her project; her husband does not enjoy working in the garden. However, she explains "he is very gracious about allowing me to do what I want with our yard."

"Two years ago he orchestrated and built the pergola that is attached to the shed."

Billie, who especially likes annuals, says she spends about an hour per day working on her flower garden. "I find a great deal of peace and wonder in my garden," she said. It's truly a miracle of life to have a dormant seed or plant spring forth with such great, unique beauty."

For the Balls, working in

their flower gardens is something they both enjoy.

Lucy said their passion for gardening and flowers started with a large KOI pond in their front yard.

Even with three young children, Lucy estimates that they spend 32 to 40 hours per month tending their gardens.

"We just enjoy the beauty the gardens and flowers add to our home," she said.

The Wolfs also garden together. "Keith's Grandmother Wolf always had a beautiful flower garden and his uncle owned a greenhouse," Sharon said.

In the past the couple has had their own greenhouse, selling flowers and vegetables for several years. They also had an orchard and sold apples.

Their gardens feature both annuals and perennials.

"Keith likes anything that grows," she added. "He has a wide variety of hostas and some daylilies."

The Loepkers are much like the Heddies in that she tends the gardens and he enjoys them.

"Tim loves seeing them when he comes home and takes pride in them and appreciates my hard work," Jennifer said.

Jennifer credits her sister-in-law for inspiring her love of gardening. "She designed my first flower bed when we built

our home 15 years ago.

Jennifer's passion in the garden is perennials.

"I love when they first emerge in the spring, and I love that you can keep dividing and sharing them," she added. "My favorite plant is hydrangea."

The Donohos both garden, but they have their preferences - she the flowers and he the vegetables.

"I have always enjoyed gardening, but really got into it when my son, Tony, started working at a greenhouse," Sherry said. "He urged me to step out of my comfort zone and was always bringing me the 'newest' plant they were selling that season."

Sherry said that Tony and Ted planted a lot of different trees in their yard and helped her start some of her flower beds.

Sherry has a lot of perennials, especially enjoying hostas and ferns, and uses annuals as fillers. Her gardens have plants that belonged to her mother, Ted's mother, and starts from friends.

All the gardeners agree that beautiful gardens do not just appear, they take a loving hand, some time, and some hard work.

Tickets for the tour are being sold at The Flower Shoppe and Loudon Printing Co. in Flora,

Armstrong Drilling in Burlington, The Flower Shoppe II in Delphi or on June 20 at any of the featured homes. Proceeds from the tour are used for community projects.

## Reunions & Get-Togethers

### Addresses needed

Plans are being made for a 40-year reunion of the Delphi Community High School Class of 1969. The event will be Aug. 1. The committee is trying to locate the following individuals: Ron Brooks, Bob Burkett, Randy Cox, Ruby (Denim) Pearson, Susan (Lohrman) Strelow, Louis McGlothlin, Shirley (McGowen) Williamson, Larry McKinley, Tim Miller, Rex Mitchell, Dee (Morrison) Easley, Bob Pritts, Becky (Randall) Haupt, Cathie (Robinson) Kelly, Linda (Scott) Lange, Diane (Tessier) Bullock, Gene Wagoner, John Walker, Nancy Ward, Rebecca Welch, and Patti (Wilson) Julian.

Anyone having information on these individuals is asked to contact Tara Garrison at 574-583-6716 evenings or e-mail wata51@comcast.net.

# Energy specialist to serve Carroll County

The Western Indiana Sustainable Energy Region (WISER) committee announces the appointment of Gary Freymiller as the Director of Regional Energy Initiatives.

Freymiller, a Purdue Cooperative Extension Associate Educator, will focus much of his work in the four counties (Carroll, Clinton, Tippecanoe, and White) that formed WISER.

One of his primary goals will be to increase the adoption of existing energy programs and to promote innovation of next generation solutions for regional economic growth, including the creation of new jobs and career opportunities in Clean Energy Industries. In addition, the Extension Associate will oversee regional initiatives related to outreach, awareness, and public education for renewable energy and energy conservation. The regional energy director will work closely with county Economic Development organizations, Purdue Extension, Ivy Tech, both existing and new energy businesses, and the general public.

The new Economic and Community Development position was funded through a grant from Workforce Innovations in Regional Economic Development (WIRED). WIRED is a three-year federally funded program that includes 14 Indiana Counties along with the region's colleges, universities, and other key organizations. One of the focal points that emerged from the grant is the WIRED region's unique opportunity to focus on sustainable energy development and conservation.

Gary Freymiller can be reached via email, gfreymil@purdue.edu or by phone, 574-360-0408.



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