



Illiana Garden Pond Society

# POND PAGES

MAY 2011

**MAY MEETING • SATURDAY,  
MAY 14, 2011 • 10:00 AM**

**Come to  
see Nancy  
Doktyz's  
slide  
show of  
a trip to  
see English  
Gardens  
at our  
May meeting!**



Illiana Garden Pond  
Society  
P.O. Box 448  
St. John, Indiana 46373

[Illianagardenpond.org](http://Illianagardenpond.org)

Meeting to be held at the St. John Library south of Route 30 on Route 41. Go to one block south of Walgreens at 93rd Avenue, right side of the street. If you get to K-Mart, you have gone too far.

## *Pond Expo*

A great big thank you to Bob Malik, Bob Manwaring, Kathy Bartley, Amber List, Nancy Distel and to everyone who helped to set up, organize, work the booth and sell tickets for the expo. See page 5 for a complete list.

The displays were sensational again as usual, and we got a lot of great feedback from those who attended. Our attendance was down some most likely due to the economy and gas prices, but those who came had nothing but good things to say..

Overall, the vendors seemed happy as well. Attend the meeting to see the feedback they gave on our vendor surveys. Go to the website [illianagardenpond.org](http://illianagardenpond.org) to see pictures of the show.

### 2011 EVENT SCHEDULE

#### **May 2011**

May 14, 2011  
Saturday, 10:00 am  
St. John Library  
St. John, Indiana

#### **June 2011**

**PLANT SWAP!!**  
June 8, 2011  
Wednesday, 7:00 pm  
Zahida Saleem Home  
Schererville, Indiana

#### **July 2011**

July 13, 2011  
Wednesday, 7:00 pm  
Kenn Krizan Home  
Dyer, Indiana

## May Checklist – General Garden Care

Plant warm-season flowering annuals, vines, herbs and vegetables after the Chicago area's average last frost date of May 15. Cautious gardeners often wait until Memorial Day before setting out cold-sensitive plants such as tomatoes, peppers, eggplants and squash. Pinch back one-third of new growth to encourage stocky habit (except vines). Be sure newly purchased annuals have been hardened off properly before planting them outside. Avoid fertilizing newly planted annuals for two weeks.

Continue to plant new perennials, ornamental grasses and roses in containers. If plant roots are root-bound (encircling the pot), make four cuts into the bottom of the root ball with a sharp tool, and flare the sections outward when planting.

Stake tall perennials before they reach 6 inches. Begin to regularly pinch back fall-blooming perennials such as chrysanthemums, asters and tall sedums. Pinch once a week until the middle of July. This promotes stocky growth.

Continue to direct the growth of perennial vines on their supports. Climbing roses should be encouraged to develop lateral, flower-bearing canes.

Continue to check peonies for botrytis blight or other foliar fungal problems. Peonies that suffered from botrytis or bud blast last year should be sprayed regularly, starting when the plants are between 2 to 4 inches tall. Cage or provide support for peony blossoms when the plants are 10 inches tall.

Let spring bulb foliage yellow and wither before removing it. The leaves manufacture food that is stored in the bulb for next year's growth. Even braiding the foliage of daffodils can reduce the food production of the leaves.

Spray emerging lily shoots with anti-rodent spray if rabbits and deer have been a problem. Be sure to reapply after rainfall.

Monitor all annual plantings in window boxes and containers. On warm, windy days, hanging baskets will require water every day. Always water the soil thoroughly before adding dilute quarter-strength fertilizer to containers. Terra cotta pots will dry out faster than plastic. Consider incorporating water-conserving granules into container soil.

Plant tender water lilies and lotus when water temperature is over 65 degrees.

Plant summer- and fall-flowering bulbs such as Asiatic and Oriental lilies, dahlias, peacock orchids (*Acidanthera*), cannas, tuberous begonias, caladium, crocosmia, freesia, gladioli, montbretia and calla lilies.



Provide a gentle water drip for migrating birds. The May migrants—warblers, tanagers, orioles and buntings—are all attracted to shallow pools and the slight pinging sound of dripping water.

Trees and shrubs, including balled and burlaped evergreens, can still be planted this month. Plant on a cloudy day, early in the morning, to prevent heat and transplant shock. Water thoroughly and gently at planting time and continue for the first year with 1 inch of water a week, spread throughout the root zone. Mulch root zones to conserve moisture.

Prune spring-flowering shrubs and ornamental trees immediately after they bloom. These include forsythia, viburnum, lilac, small magnolias, rhododendron and azaleas. Prune to the ground old canes of forsythia and lilac.

Alternative time to do renovation pruning is in late winter when plants are dormant. Deadhead (or lightly prune) spent lilac blossoms to increase flower production. Avoid fertilizer with excessive nitrogen; it can encourage foliage at the expense of flower production.

Lilac blossoms will last longer indoors if they are cut in the morning on a long woody stem when the flower is only half open. Cut a second time indoors before putting in a vase and make a vertical slit up the woody tissue.

Gently pull off dried flowers of azaleas and rhododendrons. New sticky shoots are located at the base of these flower trusses. Take care not to break these shoots when removing flowers. To increase flower production for the following year, pinch off one-half of this new green growth when it is at least one inch in length.



Fertilize roses with a liquid 20-20-20 solution when flower buds are set.

Monitor roses for insects and diseases. Check daily for black spot, especially in wet weather. Do not handle rosebushes if foliage is wet and infected. Wait until leaves have dried before removing them and spraying.

Monitor roses for rose slugs (small white caterpillars with black heads) and their damage (tissuelike patches on the leaves).

Succulent new green growth is particularly susceptible to aphid attack. Monitor newly planted shrubs, small flowering trees and juicy perennials for signs of aphids — curled, distorted tip growth. Spray strong stream of water on damaged foliage to remove pests.

#### Lawn Care

Mow lawn at 2 to 2-1/2 inches, removing one-third or less of the leaf blade. Leave grass clippings on the lawn to return nutrients to the soil, or add them to compost heap. Rake clippings slightly if they are heavy and wet. If you are applying grass seed, do not use a pre-emergent weed killer in the same area.

Fertilize lawn in mid-May if necessary. Late fall is a preferable time to fertilize. Monitor for weeds and hand pull or spot treat accordingly.

## *Hummingbird Tracking*

Check out these website to see where your hummers are:

[Journeynorth.org](http://Journeynorth.org)  
[hummingbirds.net](http://hummingbirds.net)

# Pond Expo

We wish to thank all of the following people who helped at this years Pond Expo. Whether it was selling tickets, working the Pond Booth, Set up, or tear down, The Expo could not have been a success without your help.

Kathy Bartley  
Frank Bauer  
Carol Bauer  
Ed Berent  
Phyllis Grutz  
Kathy Berwick  
Mary Brancato  
Deb Curtis  
Merle Distel  
Nancy Distel  
Jackie Grutzius  
Henry Huitsing  
Kathy Huitsing  
David Kreuger  
Christine Kreuger  
Sara Legler

Amber List  
Bob Malik  
Bob Manwaring  
Pam Manwaring  
Chuck Olthoff  
Bernie Orelup  
Barb Orelup  
John Peterson  
Babette Peterson  
Mark Remaley  
Alpha Remaley  
Lynne Stacks  
Donna Trembezynski  
Jack Webb  
Joan Webb

Again a Special Thanks to all of you

Robert Malik, Expo Chairman  
Kathy Bartley, Expo Co- Chairman

# Plant Sales

Lake County Master Gardeners  
Annual Native Plant Sale  
Saturday, May 21, 2011  
8am to 3pm  
Lake County Fairgrounds  
Fine Arts Building  
Crown Point, Indiana  
[lakecountymastergardeners@gmail.com](mailto:lakecountymastergardeners@gmail.com)

Miller Garden Club  
Annual Plant Sale  
Saturday, May 21, 2011  
9am to Noon  
The Aquatorium at  
Marquette Park  
Miller Beach, Gary, Indiana  
millergardenclub.com

NW Indiana Hosta Society  
Annual Plant Sale & Auction  
Sunday, June 19, 2011  
1:00 pm Plant Sale  
2:00 pm Hosta Auction  
Lake County Fairgrounds  
Fine Arts Building  
Crown Point, Indiana