

NEWS RELEASE

Robert Pollock, Indiana County Extension Director
724-465-3880

2011 MASTER GARDENER CLASS

Penn State Cooperative Extension in Indiana County is offering a new Penn State Master Gardener Class beginning on Tuesday, January 11, 2011 and running through May 10. The classes will be conducted on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the first floor meeting room at 827 Water Street, Indiana.

The Penn State Master Gardener Program is a volunteer program that trains good gardeners to help Penn State Cooperative Extension better serve home gardeners. We are always looking for good enthusiastic gardeners who want to share their knowledge and time to help Penn State serve the gardening public. The trainees attend classes covering a broad range of topics and agree to do at least 50 hours of volunteer work helping to educate other gardeners.

A sampling of the topics include: plant science, soil science, integrated pest management, entomology, plant pathology, propagation, woody ornamentals, herbs, bulbs, vegetables, and landscape design.

The Master Gardener Volunteer Program is a nationwide program. Indiana County Master Gardener volunteers have conducted numerous workshops for the public and interested groups on gardening, composting, and landscaping topics throughout the county. Visitors to Blue Spruce Park have enjoyed the gardens planted and maintained by the Master Gardeners with the assistance of the Indiana County Parks staff. Master Gardeners have conducted question and answer sessions at local nurseries and retail gardening outlets as well as set up booths at May Mart and the Indiana County Fair.

The purpose of the program is to train volunteers to promote and expand Penn State Cooperative Extension's educational programs related to consumer horticulture. People with knowledge and skills in basic ornamental horticulture, gardening, or related areas are encouraged to enroll in the program. Each year advanced training opportunities are provided to members. The Indiana County Master Gardeners include persons with a wide variety of specializations within gardening. The interaction of the group provides for stimulating sessions to share gardening knowledge and practices.

If you love gardening and volunteer work, it is a chance to take some excellent training, get to know other enthusiastic gardeners, and help others by sharing your knowledge.

The cost for the course is \$80 for the Master Gardener text and other related learning materials. To receive an application and further information on the program, call the Indiana County Extension Office at 724-465-3880. Deadline to register is January 5.

###