



TALTREE TELEGRAPH

A newsletter for volunteers and members of Taltree Arboretum & Gardens

Administrative offices: 71 North 500 West, Valparaiso, IN 46385
Arboretum address: 450 West 100 North, Valparaiso, IN <http://www.taltree.org>,

November/December, 2009

Window on the Wetland offers wildlife viewing site



Photo by Julie Ziolkowski

Window on the Wetland is a place to sit and watch what's happening in the lives of the wildlife that call Taltree home. This open structure frames your view and allows for a 360° prairie and wetland experience. Wildlife become accustomed quickly to a new structure and the people in it, and will go about their daily business. Enjoy this unique view into the Wonderful World of Wildlife!!



In early October, members of the Valparaiso Rotary club were invited to see Taltree's newest structure—Window on the Wetland—the construction of which began with their donation of \$5,000.

Taltree board member Tom Brandt, volunteer John Sandie and staff erected the elevated structure and pergola during the hottest days of summer. Window on the Wetland is accessible from the Bluebird Trail.



7th Annual Gardening Show 9 a.m.—4 p.m. Saturday Jan. 23, 2010

It's coming up sooner than you realize—the Porter County Master Gardeners Association Gardening Show. The 2010 event is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 23 at the Porter County Expo Center. This show just keeps getting better every

year, with more booths, demonstrations, contests and speakers. If you would like to help Taltree make an impression at the show and obtain free admission, please consider volunteering for one of the time slots listed below. We will need a total of six volunteers, two for each shift.

SHIFT 1: 8—11 a.m., SHIFT 2: 11 a.m.—2 p.m.,
SHIFT 3: 2—5 p.m.

Gardening in Deer Country

Saturday, November 7, 2009 1 -3 pm

FEES: \$15 non-members / \$12 Taltree member

Class size is limited ~ Register early

Learn how to limit deer damage in the home landscape by choosing deer-resistant plants, avoiding “deer candy” and employing deterrents such as sprays, fencing, and elements of surprise.

Instructor: Maureen Phillips is a Purdue University Cooperative Extension Advanced Master Gardener. Since 2002, she has attempted to outsmart the herd of deer that regularly travels through her landscape between Bailly Homestead-Chellberg Farm and the Indiana Dunes State Park. Sometimes she succeeds!

Got Deer?



FREE TRAINING FOR WEATHER OBSERVERS AT VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY

1—2:30 p.m. Sat., Nov. 14

Valparaiso University Kallay- Christopher Hall, 1809 Chapel Drive, Room 112

Dr. Teresa Bals-Elsholz, Valparaiso University assistant professor of geography and meteorology, will present a training session for volunteers interested in joining the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS). Sponsored by the National Science Foundation, CoCoRaHS seeks to build a network of volunteer rain gauge

observers to take accurate measurements of precipitation. The results, posted daily online, will help weather researchers and forecasters to provide more accurate information to the general public and those who depend on precipitation for their livelihood. The training session will last between 60 and 90 minutes. To register, e-mail Teresa.Bals-Elsholz@valpo.edu or call (219) 464-6003 to ensure enough free rain gauges are available to distribute to volunteers. More information about CoCoRaHS is available online at www.cocorahs.org.

Taltree office changes

We just plain ran out of room. With the addition of a Development Officer and two employees taking on full time positions, change was inevitable. The Horticulture Department (i.e. Patty Stimmel) has moved into the adjacent building that was once the Welcome Center. She shares office space with the estate horticulturist, Chris Aylesworth.

Jim Hitz now has his office where Patty's was, Kimberly Parsons is in Jim's former office, Jean Starr

is in the office across from Kimberly's, and Melissa Thompson is in Jean's old office.

Longtime Taltree volunteer and Advanced Porter County Master Gardener Kathleen VanArsdel has started as part time receptionist. Julie Ziolkowski has accepted a fulltime office assistant position, and occupies what was formerly the conference room.

A computer for volunteers' use is in Julie's office. It is loaded with Microsoft Office and has Internet access.

New faces at Taltree

Melissa Thompson joined Taltree as Development Officer in September. The Porter County resident's experience is rooted in both the non-profit and corporate sectors. Most recently, she served as director of communications and fund development at a local council during a pivotal time in Girl Scouts of the USA's (GSUSA) history.

Since arriving in Northwest Indiana in 2005, Melissa has closely collaborated with a range of professionals from all segments of the region's business, governmental, education and philanthropic community to develop results oriented solutions for the purpose of enhanced outreach and fund development initiatives. This experience provides her with

the unique opportunity to advance those skills to benefit Taltree.

On a personal note, Melissa spent her child-



Melissa Thompson

hood in mid-Michigan with the nation's premiere land grant university in her backyard: Michigan State. The spectacular W.J. Beal Botanical Gardens along the Red Cedar River on campus was a favorite bike riding route. As a young Girl Scout, she also frequently visited the Carl G. Fenner Arboretum

(now the Carl G. Fenner Nature Center) in Lansing, Michigan.

Melissa has long understood the value of 'going green' and appreciates the importance of preserving natural spaces. She is pleased to be part of the Taltree family and, with your assistance, will continue toward turning the arboretum and gardens' potential into a reality.

On the Railway Garden front, John Sandie has been hired as part time Owner's Representative on Taltree Railway Garden's Project team. The Valparaiso resident will be responsible for managing contractors who will be working on the exhibit.

John and his wife, Kathy, have lived in Valparaiso since moving from Michigan

twenty years ago. They have lived in Ann Arbor, NYC and China. John has 35 plus years experience in engineering and production management; while Kathy has worked within Valparaiso schools, primarily at TJ Middle School, helping "at risk/challenged/ESL" students



John Sandie

for a number of years.

John's support for Taltree began this summer as a volunteer in helping build the Window on the Wetland Pergola.

