

Dick & Sandy Wells - Orchids, Growing & Greenhouse

Dick & Sandy Wells (sandy@hilltoporchids.com) are the owners of Hilltop Orchids. Dick has been growing orchids since 1954. He was in High School when he was first struck by the beauty and elegance of orchids. Sandy, on the other hand, inherited her passion for orchids, when she married Dick 41 years ago.

The original plan was to operate a small business to support Dick's 'orchid habit'. He began with one small 8 X 10 foot greenhouse. Somehow he must have given it too much fertilizer, because it has grown to over 9600 square feet of growing space with two breeding labs and flask houses. In 1997 Hilltop Orchids incorporated and became an official business.

Hilltop Orchids specializes in unique Phalaenopsis breeding. In addition, Hilltop carries large collections of Paphiopediliums, Phragmipediums, Cattleyas, Oncidiums, Brassias, & various other genera that are easy to grow in the home. Breeding & flasking is done on site in sterile orchid laboratory conditions. Many of our their hybrids have been nationally awarded and recognized for quality. Most of their plants from seed to bloom in their greenhouses, so that they can control quality and horticultural conditions to best meet their customer's needs.

We also offer support and assistance to the hobby grower by providing orchid supplies, written instructions, answering e-mail questions as quickly as possible, and offering hands-on workshops for potting, dividing, and general care of your plants. To that end Hilltop Orchids has established a community forum and picture gallery where you can ask questions, share ideas, get advice from other orchid enthusiasts and best of all, show off your orchid growing accomplishments in pictures. Dick and Sandy monitor these forums daily and will make every effort to make sure your questions are answered. We are here for you!!

www.hilltoporchids.com

“The Wonderful World of Pumpkins, Squash and Gourds”

Mac will present an in-depth look at the great diversity of the pumpkin family. This look will include the growing of, the eating of, and interesting historical facts, all of which explain the cultural appeal and reliability of this versatile plant family throughout centuries.

Bio: While Mac Condill's love for anything cucurbit began at a very tender age with his brothers, his academic journey enhancing his keen knowledge-base began in 1997 with his Practical Gardening Training in Scotland. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Agribusiness/horticulture in 1999 at Illinois State University – Normal and headed straight into his internship with Longwood Gardens (PA), for whom he continues to provide the entire cucurbit display for the ninth year running. He then headed to the world's best botanical garden at Kirstenbosch in Cape Town, South Africa for an internship and trip around the country.

His national recognition has been bolstered by a guest visit on the Martha Stewart TV show, coverage of the Patch by the DIY-Network, magazine articles in Martha Stewart Living, Country Living, Modern Traveler, along with guest appearances on several radio programs. Each year, Mac stays on-the-go with speaking engagements, workshops and trade shows throughout the central Midwest area. Mac's global interests in promoting and supporting sustainable farming and business practices, as well as procuring rare and heirloom seeds, have taken him to South Africa, Kenya and India.

It was in 1999 that Mac began fulfilling his duties as the General Manager and the Production Manager of The Great Pumpkin Patch on the McDonald/Condill farmstead. In November of 2008, he launched his heirloom cucurbit seed business (The Homestead Seeds), with portions of the proceeds going to The Sumerian Foundation in Kenya. And in the fall of 2009, Mac continues in his 4th year of owning his Amish-inspired, made-from-scratch bakery (The Homestead Bakery) with his wife, Ginny.

Amid all his national and global bouncing around, and the year-round demands made by a 200-acre farm, Mac is able to keep himself very humbly grounded by his most cherished of all privileges . . . being a devoted husband to Ginny, and a loving and attentive father to his lovely little girls, Charley [2004] and MacKenzie [2006], with another little pumpkin on the way! www.the200acres.com

Linda Teague has been a Gold Master Gardener in the DKP Master Gardener club for many years. She is a native to Pike County and has her own herb garden. She continues to expand and experiment with its production and has produced many herbal oils, potpourris, and other herbal meals. She will be presenting information on uses of herbals that we can grow in our own gardens. Recipes, ideas, and demonstrations with herbs of all varieties will round out the presentation.

Davie Sue Wallace Litov is a native of Evansville, IN. My family has lived in the area for nearly 200 years. My undergrad work was in Horticulture, Communication and Art. My Masters is in Public Services Administration. I am on the board for the Vanderburgh County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD). A member of the Southwestern Indiana Master Gardener Association (SWIMGA), I have served on the board and on many committees in SWIMGA and am a Silver level Master Gardener. I am a member of the Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society (INPAWS). My husband and I are business partners in the clinical research business. Our home is in the process of being designated a Backyard Wildlife Habitat by the Indiana Wildlife Federation.