



## GARDENING PROGRAMS BY LINNEA KOCH

### SHADY CHARACTERS

This updated version of *Shady Characters* presents shade gardening in a new light. It is more than hostas and impatiens. Linnea Koch discusses creating two different shade gardens from a patch of lawn under heavy tree cover and shows the progression of her own garden over a period of years. Between these two studies she introduces many of her favorite woodland plants, most of which are native to our midwestern soils. Take a tour of the Nordine Wildflower Garden at Bickelhaupt Arboretum in Clinton, IA, which she and other volunteers created when the death of a large bur oak put the previous wildflower garden into full sun. Then follow her through the continuing development of her woodland garden, as she plants understory trees among the large mature oaks and hickories as well as suffering the loss of two of these major trees. Linnea will give you ideas for starting or extending your own woodland haven.

### HISTORIC GARDENS NEAR PHILADELPHIA

#### *Chanticleer and Mount Cuba Center*

Linnea Koch has visited many public gardens both here and abroad. The Philadelphia region features 30+ gardens within 30 miles of the city. The first program in this series features Chanticleer, in Wayne, PA. Chanticleer is a "Pleasure Garden" and gears itself toward an aesthetic, rather than scientific appreciation of horticulture. Mt. Cuba Center in Hockessin, DE is the second featured garden. Its focus is on woodland plants of the Piedmont region with one of the premiere trillium collections in the country. Both gardens are estates from the early 20th century that were owned by wealthy businessmen and their families. In both cases, the children of the founders felt the gardens should be shared with the public. Linnea shares the history of each garden and takes you on a tour of both estates guiding you through meadows and woodlands of spring blooming plants.

### GARDENS OF EUROPE

#### *Insel Mainau*

The first program in the series of GARDENS OF EUROPE is on the small island (or *insel*, in German) of Mainau, a botanic garden in Lake Constance surrounded by Germany, Austria and Switzerland which is owned by Swedish nobility. Linnea briefly presents the 5000 year history before touring three seasons of island plant life. She takes you to the Arboretum with its towering Sequoia, the formal rose garden, the seasonal gardens and

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topiaries, as well as a peek into the largest butterfly house in Germany and the “barococo” chapel. The island’s gardens encompass much of the 110 acres; the rest is in use by the 80+ gardeners that keep the gardens beautiful. Enjoy the tour of this “Blooming Island.”

### ***Keukenhof***

The second program in the GARDENS OF EUROPE series takes you outside of Amsterdam. Keukenhof translates as kitchen garden. Linnea gives a short history of the property and just who owned this keukenhof and adjoining land. The bulb growers’ display gardens and their sales huts are open only for the duration of the bulb blooming season in spring, approximately 6-8 weeks. She has visited the gardens on Opening Day, during the middle of the display and on Closing Day. These visits give a good representation of the early, middle and late blooming species of the spring bulbs. She takes you through the gardens filled not only with plants, but a variety of sculptures which vary from year to year. The indoor displays feature the latest cultivars available from the growers as well as unusual flower arrangements. The outdoor beds are a riot of color and redesigned with new plants each year. The gardens are surrounded by the acres of commercial tulip fields. Come, welcome spring on this tour of Keukenhof.

**LINNEA KOCH**, the daughter of an artist, has worked in different media, from painting and sculpture to etching and weaving. While she had fun with a simple camera during childhood, photography really became interesting when she received her first SLR camera in high school, a used early Exa (Exakta). That camera kept her looking for unusual subject matter, creating a new way of seeing common place subjects. From the beaches on Lake Michigan to travels around the country, as well as explorations in Europe, she has searched for intriguing subjects to photograph. Her photos have been published in corporate publications, calendars, books, including covers of nautical chart books, and have been exhibited throughout the region. She has owned and operated a graphic design studio for over three decades, is an Illinois Master Gardener with a special interest in native shade plants, and has given many talks on local landmarks, shade gardening and some of the wonderful gardens here and in Europe.

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