

CONSERVATION EDUCATOR



Larry Caplan has served as the Vanderburgh County Horticulture Educator for over 25 years. He has a Bachelors and a Masters degree in Horticulture. He has served on numerous local and state boards and committees to promote environmental protection and the proper care of trees; including serving on the city of Evansville's Smart Growth Group which was started by the Vanderburgh County SWCD. He served as a member of the Vanderburgh County Area Plan Commission. He is a board member of Wesselman Nature Society where he has served on the Education Committee and taught in the Indiana Master

Naturalist courses.

Larry has taught and administered the Purdue Master Gardener Program in Southwestern Indiana since 1987. He currently advises and manages over 300 trained Master Gardener volunteers in the local chapter of the Southwestern Indiana Master Gardeners Association covering four counties. He has worked in development and education in community gardens and farmers markets in the local urban area. Larry has won several national awards for his work with disabled gardeners. One example is "Breaking New Ground Best Practices Award" for his demonstration exhibit, "Gardening for People with Physical Disabilities." He also won awards for teaching about "Alternatives to Pesticides", in his weekly column with the Evansville *Courier and Press*.

Larry is also a professional magician, and as "The Magic Gardener," uses his sleight of hand skills to teach children how to protect the environment with horticulture topics.

Larry is a Certified Arborist and an Indiana Accredited "Plants man". Larry also serves as an appointed member of the Evansville Tree Advisory Board. He was a founding member of the Indiana Urban Forest Council. He serves as an annual volunteer at local Arbor Day events. He also serves the community each year at the annual Christmas-trees-in-to-mulch recycling event.