

HENDRICKS GARDENER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
HENDRICKS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

April 2023



PURDUE EXTENSION
MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

Hendricks County Extension Office
1900 East Main Street
Danville, IN 46122-0007
317-745-9260

President's Message



Happy Spring! They say April showers bring May flowers. For us April brings GFAA! The GFAA team is working hard to put the finishing touches on our show. It takes

ALL of us volunteering to make this event successful. Friday, April 28, from 10 am – 8 pm we need all hands on deck to set-up. No need to sign-up – just show up! Volunteer opportunities for Saturday, April 29, are on the calendar. The Working with Minors training needs to be completed if you are volunteering in the Children's Booth and/or Free Trees.

May brings flowers and our Plant Sale & Auction. This year our sale will be held Tuesday, May 16, in the Expo Hall. Proceeds from the sale and auction benefit the scholarship. Start thinking about plants that need to be divided and thinned out. Andria has arranged for a tour on May 11, of the Danville High School FFA Greenhouses. Stay tuned for more details. Looking forward to seeing everyone at our April meeting.
Debbie

March Meeting Highlights

Our March meeting was busy as we are gearing up for GFAA, our annual plant sale & auction, updates on various MG projects.

Eloisa Garza, who coordinates the Plainfield Correctional Program, gave an impassioned plea for volunteers at the Plainfield Correctional Facility gardens. She shared that there are many volunteer opportunities. For anyone interested in knowing more about the program and how they might be able to participate, Eloisa would like to have a short introduction meeting. Please email Eloisa for date, time, and location; garzafarm@gmail.com.



Demo Garden update: The plan is to replace the current beds in the vegetable garden with new ones. There is a theme this year in the demo garden: whimsical, which should be fun and colorful! There will be an entrance garden cleanup soon, in April and mulch will be spread on a work day in May.

Our speaker was John Chapin from Tree Frog Gardens, who presented, "Great Hydrangeas for Midwest Gardens." One of his hydrangea tips was to fertilize now before buds break with either 10-10-10 or Holly-tone. Also important to pay attention to the specific hydrangea variety; whether growth occurs on old wood or new shoots. This makes a difference in how and when it should be pruned. A new paniculate variety he will be carrying at his plant sales is called "Puffer Fish" which only gets 3-5 ft tall.



 *Happy Spring!* 

April Meeting & Program – 4/18/2023

Our April program is “iPhone Photography in the Garden” by Rad Drew. He is a teacher, accomplished photographer, and tour leader.



Since the iPhone 4 appeared on the scene in 2010, the iPhone has become a powerful camera that allows us to create images that previously were possible only with our “big” cameras. To get the most from our iPhone camera, there are a few simple things we can do to produce high quality, engaging photographs. In his presentation, Rad will share tips he’s learned about creating images with iPhone cameras over the years that will help you create images that you’ll love to share with family and friends or maybe even hang on your wall!

Topics Addressed:

- What to Photograph?
- Composition Matters!
- Image Examples
- iPhone Native Camera Fundamentals
- Basic Processing to improve any image



GFAA April 29th

9:00 – 4:00

Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds & Conference Center

GFAA Planning Update!

GFAA is just around the corner! Plans are coming together nicely, and we look forward to everyone’s participation in hosting our organization’s largest event of the year!

Please check our HCMG Facebook page to see many of our fabulous vendors featured. And if you don’t volunteer for a morning shift, please attend our fellow Master Gardeners educational Sessions:

9:00 AM - “Container Gardening is Fun & Easy” presented by Kathe Rae

10:00 AM - “Beware of Jumping Worms and Spotted Lanternfly!” presented by Colletta Kosiba

11:00 AM – “Sweetness Created by Roses and Honeybees” presented by Eloisa Garza

12:00 PM “Growing and Hybridizing Zinnias” presented by Jackie Rosales

There are still numerous volunteer opportunities available listed in MG Manager. We need help especially with distributing trees in the afternoon and working in children’s activities throughout the day.

Don't forget to complete the Purdue “Working with Minors” training for helping in Children's Activities and the Free Trees booth where there will be a game for kids. Providing family focused activities is a tremendous draw to our show and therefore a key area of volunteer needs. This training is quick and easy!

Please note we need everyone to assist with setup on Friday April 28th from 10AM - 8PM. No specific volunteer opportunities are listed. We request all hands on deck!

Similarly, all are welcome to assist with tear down and cleanup on Saturday April 29th at 4PM. The more folks working, the faster we finish!

Lastly, our organization has grown and continues to grow with the current class of students. Please wear your name badge and reach out to meet those you do not know!

Donated Bulbs Update #3

The potted bulbs were moved to a sunnier area to encourage growth & buds. Most have started sprouting! The blooming spring bulbs will be available for purchase at GFAA. Thanks to our MG “bulbers” who have worked hard to make this fun project happen!



T-shirt Pickup at April 18th Meeting

For anyone who ordered GFAA t-shirts, distribution will occur at the April 18th meeting. Any shirts not picked up at the April 18 meeting will be available again at GFAA setup on April 28th, or at 8 a.m. on the morning of GFAA, April 29th.



Coming in May: Annual Plant Sale & Auction



2023 Plant Sale/Auction co-chairs, Kathleen Kindred and Jan Myers have started the planning for this fun event! The sale will occur on May 16th in



the Fairgrounds Exhibition Hall. We are asking MGs to start thinking about plants to donate.

Special requests for the sale/auction;

1. Strawberry Plants
2. Asparagus Roots
3. Raspberry or Blackberry Canes
4. Rhubarb Plants
5. Seed Potatoes
6. Eggplant
7. Squash Varieties
8. Herbs
9. Native or Blue False Indigo
10. Beautyberry Bush
11. Red Twig Dogwood Bush
12. Forsythia Bush
13. Dahlia Tubers in pots
14. Unusual Color Lilies & Iris
15. Heuchera or Heucherilla Plants
16. Big Blue Hostas
17. X-Large Tomato Plants
18. Lungwort
19. Variegated Ajuga
20. Mixed Annual Container

Please call Jan or Kathleen if you are considering having a plant dig at your own garden or a neighbor's. We will bring soil, pots, and help dig if needed.

If, for some good reason you are not able to maintain the plants you wish to donate, please dig them, pot them in clean potting soil, prepare and attach the info card. Let Jan or Kathleen know as members of the committee can store them for you until the sale.

Kits containing information and labeling cards will be distributed at the April 18th meeting. Please read and follow the instructions for plants to be donated.

Also remember to log your volunteer hours for the prepping of the plants, researching the names, and completing the care cards for each plant.



L – R: Suzanne Roehling, Annella Abell, Patricia Furner, Andria Grady, Karen Smith & Dick Meier

HCMG New Projects

With a mission to provide information and education to our community on horticulture, we are continually looking for new programs and projects.

Board member Karen Smith is our Project Coordinator who oversees project requests and ensures Purdue MG guidelines are followed.



Sue Squiller & Susan Gackenheimer

There is a form on-line in the members section of Hendricks Gardeners website, entitled, “Hendricks County Master Gardeners New Project Approval Form.” Any MGs interested in new projects need to complete the form and submit it to Karen. Potential projects are discussed and approved by the Board. We have MGs and interns interested in volunteer hours, so if you have a project idea, please consider submitting.

MGs Helped at Indiana Flower & Patio Show

Several of our own MGs provided information and answered questions at the Purdue Extension Master Gardener booth at the Indiana Flower & Patio Show. Hopefully, they were able to walk around and enjoy this always popular spring show.

Lowe’s Community Event

The Lowe’s Avon store recently held a community event, in which local organizations could share information. Several MGs attended and answered gardening questions, promoted GFAA and took names of people interested in receiving information on becoming an MG. Thanks to Cindy Pierson, Debra Pease (pictured) and also Sue Squiller, Debbie Off and Karen Smith!



Ephemeral Spotlight: Bloodroot - *Sanguinaria Canadensis*

By Colletta Kosiba, Master Naturalist

What a name for this beautiful woodland spring flower! A solitary white flower, with a golden-orange center, grows



beside a lobed basal leaf that curls around the stalk. The bold, green leaves will persist through the growing season, growing large as the tree canopy develops.



A blood red juice comes from the reddish orange rhizome, hence the name Bloodroot. The generic name, from the Latin

sanguinarius, means bleeding. The spreading rhizomes will create an impressive colony. Native Americans used bloodroot as a dye, love charm, and medicine; teaching the early settlers its merits. You have used bloodroot if you bought the toothpaste "Viadent". Sanguinarine, from the rhizome, was used as a dental plaque inhibitor. Now a synthetic form of the extract is used in toothpaste and mouthwash to fight plaque and gingivitis.

Native Americans mixed the juice with animal fat for war paint, used as a dye for baskets, porcupine quills, to decorate weapons and an insect repellent. They mixed the juice with oak bark to color clothing. Braves applied stain to their palms before shaking hands with a maiden as magic inducement to attract her.

Medicinal Uses: Native Americans taught the settlers to use bloodroot for a myriad of medical conditions from skin cancers to sore throats. Externally, the rhizome is used in the treatment of skin diseases, warts, nasal polyps, skin tumors. A drop was put on a sugar cube for sore throats. The plant contains alkaloids similar to

morphine, so was used for relief of pain externally. The crushed root has been applied to the body as an insect repellent.

Bloodroot works great for the shade/woodland gardener. The early white flowers are a welcome sign that spring is here!

2023 Calendar

- April 18th, General Meeting; Classrooms A B C
- April 28th, GFAA Set up; Hendricks Power Expo
- April 29th, GFAA; Hendricks Power Expo Hall
- May 11th, Tour of Danville HS FFA greenhouses with the retiring Duane Huge (evening)
- May 16th, Plant Sale & Auction; Fairgrounds Exhibition Hall
- July 25th, Summer Picnic at Tree Frog Gardens
- September 19th, General Meeting; Classrooms A B C
- September 28th, Tour of Beasley Orchard \$12/person (sign up in August)
- October 6th, AIG Set Up; North/South Halls
- October 7th, AIG; North/South Halls
- October 17th, General Meeting; Classrooms A B C
- November 21st, General Meeting; Classrooms A B C
- December 12th, 2023, Winter Awards Dinner; North/South Halls

Upcoming Garden Events

May 6th - Putnam County Master Gardeners Plant Auction 9:15 am Preview 10:00 Sale

May 12 – 13 Native Plant Sale at Avon Outdoor Learning Center

May 20th – Hamilton County Master Gardeners Plant Sale 8am – 3pm Hamilton County 4H Fairgrounds, Noblesville