

HENDRICKS GARDENER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
HENDRICKS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

February 2024



PURDUE EXTENSION
MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

Hendricks County Extension Office
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President's Message

As I write this, I am looking out the window at the first snow of the year. Winter is a season of glistening beauty. While the snow is sparkling, the GFAA team is busy working on this year's spring garden show – 1,200 trees have been purchased to give away and we only have 1 vendor booth available as of the date I'm writing this. WOW!



The next Master Gardener Intern class started January 29th. Last count there were approximately 37 signed up for the class. A huge THANK YOU to Rosie and Jan, our intern coordinators, for the fabulous job they do engaging our interns and helping them learn about our organization. Our membership is definitely GROWING!

Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 20th. Looking forward to seeing everyone in February.
- Debbie

January Meeting Via Zoom

Out of an abundance of caution due to the extreme cold, the January meeting occurred on Zoom. With Debbie Off happily enjoying sunny, warm Florida, new Vice President Barb Pantos did an excellent job chairing the meeting, especially given the last-minute change. Thanks to Jeff Pell who coordinated Zoom and Kristyn Horning for sending out the info. Our apology for the few who did not see the change and came to the conference center. The winter milk jug seed sowing presentation by Steve Pearl was postponed until the February 20th meeting, as it is a workshop.

Highlights of the meeting:

1. New Treasurer Martha Rardin presented the 2024 budget to the membership. The budgeted expense for grants was discussed and the proposed budget for the grant line item was amended to \$0. Should we need to expend funds for grant proposals, the necessary funds will be requested.
2. Steve Somermeyer gave an update on GFAA (see article for more information) He mentioned the antique tractors will be back thanks to Bruce Crum. The tractors were a hit with both kids & adults last year! Also, GFAA T-shirts can be ordered.
3. Jeff Pell reported there are 37 people taking the Master Gardener course. There will be some volunteer hours posted to help with class. MGs can sign up to help with one class to allow volunteer hours for others.
4. Jeff reminded members to complete the annual agreement. He also suggested looking on the Purdue MG site as there are a variety of resources for educational hours. Great learning opportunity during extreme winter weather!
5. Eloisa Garza provided an update on the Plainfield Correctional Facility Garden, which is looking promising for this year. The new warden is supportive of the



Happy Valentine's Day



garden program. There is a meeting on January 23rd; 16 facility residents and 6 MGs are “on board” with the garden project. There will be presentations for learning about gardens and planning every other week. The garden is being moved and will be larger.

GFAA Plans Ramping Up & Excitement is Building!

The GFAA Committee met on January 8th.

1. Treasurer comments – Martha Rardin reminded the committee that we must submit a receipt with the reimbursement form. Also, if we pay any entity over \$600 a w-9 form will be required. Contact Martha for more information or assistance She can provide documentation for our tax-exempt status to anyone needing such.

2. Vendor recruitment – Chuck & Pat Dallas, Teri Mitchum; around January 16th, there were only 6 booths remaining with 4 expected vendors to send checks. As of January 31st, all booths have been filled, GREAT JOB in record time! Pat and Chuck will send vendor photos and information for Kathe Rae to post on Facebook to generate excitement!

3. Layout – Steve Pearl & Dennis Nelson; As a reminder the layout this year decreases the children’s activity area and seed packet booth sizes to free up more vendor space.

4. Speaker recruitment – Kathe Rae reported that intern Laura Graham, will speak on “Bird and Butterfly Gardening”. Deb Pease will present on the irrigation system she used in the demo garden last

summer. Kathe and Carol Gillaspy are seeking possible speakers on houseplants, vegetable garden tips and succulents. Ideas generated at the meeting included a basic introduction to gardening; soil sampling (Jan volunteered to follow up on soil sampling!) Hoping to gear the content towards novice gardeners. John and Dee Dottenwhy’s daughter, who is an urban arborist has also offered to speak at GFAA and also at a HCMG monthly meeting. Please note: this is the correct email for Carol; Gillaspy.carol67@gmail.com

5. Spring Bulb Project; Dee Dee Moore and Jo Vickery are coordinating the bulbs. Dee Dee reported more pots needed! Also, she obtained a donation of 10 bags of soil and additional bulbs from Lowes in Avon. **UPDATE:** Ferguson Do it Best Hardware donated 2 large bags of soil and will be giving more later!



6. Garden Wizard – Rosie Lenihan, Jan Meyers and Ed Freeman are planning a special focus on the Hendricks County Bicentennial Celebration. Stay tuned!

7. Greeters - Sharon Miller requested ten bags of bulbs to use as special prizes given away by the greeters for guests (#100, #200, etc.). Much fun giving prizes last year!

8. Children’s booth – Karen Smith reported there will be a pioneer theme in keeping with the Bicentennial theme. The booth will be smaller, but will still have a lot of fun kids’ activities.

9. Facilities – Steve S. discussed developing a plan for vendor loading after the show. Attendee parking is clearly a challenge, so we will also pursue a plan to address parking challenges. Steve will look at the possibility of shuttles.

10. Gardener’s Closet – Biljana Tygart is coordinating and is emphasizing the need to donate GARDEN RELATED items, including books. Please no knick knacks, furniture, holiday décor, non-garden related household items, etc. We are pursuing

options for the excess items in storage, such as a MG presale and/or donating to charities.

11. Requests – Please bring paper to meetings to be shredded for the tree giveaway along with newspaper sleeves and clean grocery veggie bags. We have more trees this year so need additional paper and bags. Also need **4" & 5" POTS** for the bulbs.

12. T-Shirts – Pam Hoffman and Cheryl Clarkson are coordinating. Will be available in springy colors, both short and long sleeve. Pink is in short sleeve only.



Short sleeve \$10

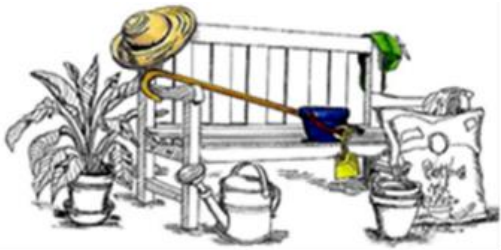
Long sleeve \$13.50

2XL add \$1

3 XL add \$2

4XL & 5 XL available with an additional charge. The GFAA logo will be on the back.

We need a minimum order of 24 t-shirts to place the order.



Gardening Presentations at Avon-Washington Library

This year our MGs will be providing a variety of gardening related presentations at the Avon-Washington Township Library. The first occurred on January 18th. Colletta Kosiba presented on the benefits of raised beds, how to organically improve soil, importance of



fertilizing, & discouraging the use of herbicides & pesticides.

Steve Pearl (sorry no photo) presented on milk jug seeding, which provides an early start to sowing seeds in the winter! His presentation at our January 16th meeting was postponed due to the change to Zoom. We look forward to his presentation at our February 20th meeting.

Thanks to Colletta & Steve for sharing their knowledge; also, to Avon-Washington Library for hosting!

2024 Calendar

- ❖ February 20th – General Meeting; Classrooms A B C
- ❖ March 19th - General Meeting; Classrooms A B C
- ❖ April 16th - General Meeting; Classrooms A B C
- ❖ April 26th – GFAA Set-Up; Hendricks Power Expo
- ❖ April 27th – 2024 GFAA; Hendricks Power Expo
- ❖ May 21st – Plant Sale and Auction – Cartilage Barn
- ❖ July 23rd – MG Picnic (location TBD)
- ❖ September 17th – General Meeting; Classrooms A B C
- ❖ October 5th – AIG; South Hall
- ❖ October 15th - General Meeting; Classrooms A B C
- ❖ November 19th - General Meeting; Classrooms A B C
- ❖ December 10th – Winter Awards Dinner

Upcoming Events

3/16/2024 Morgan County Master Gardeners Gardenfest 9 – 3 Bell Intermediate Academy \$2 admission

4/6/2024 Boone County Master Gardeners Gardenfest 9 - 3 Boone County 4-H Fairground