

# HENDRICKS GARDENER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE  
HENDRICKS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

June 2023



PURDUE EXTENSION  
MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

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## President's Message



The annual plant sale and auction was a HUGE success. Thanks to Kathleen Kindred, Jan Myers and their team for all their hard work.

Auctioneer Rosie Lenihan and her assistant Jan did an outstanding job. Fun was had by all at the event. Jan introduced the two scholarship winners – Alyson Owen and Kate Newberry. Both are sophomores at Purdue. This year we had a record number of applicants – 14! Thanks to Jan and Rosie for chairing the scholarship committee.

Summer has finally arrived. Time for planting, weeding, mulching, and mowing. It's definitely a busy time of year for all of us gardeners. Our next meeting will be on September 19. Between now and then, there will be several volunteer opportunities posted on the HCMG calendar. We will need lots of volunteers for the Hendricks County Fair which is July 16 - 22. Volunteering at the fair is FUN! It gives us the opportunity to showcase our demonstration gardens and promote our organization. Our booth is always popular with great information and kids' activities.

The summer picnic will take place on Tues, July 25, at Tree Frog Gardens in Danville. More details will be sent out later.

Happy Gardening!  
Debbie

## Annual Plant Sale & Auction

The 2023 Plant Auction & Sale "grew" into another successful event on May 16! Donations from our own MG and friends/neighbors' beds provided a nice selection of quality plants at very reasonable prices. In addition to our members as customers, we also hosted people from the public, many of whom look forward to coming every year.



Kudos to Rosie Lenihan and Jan Myers for coordinating the auction and acknowledging our contributors. Two \$2,000 scholarships were awarded to deserving recipients, Alyson Owen and Kate Newberry. Both will be sophomores at Purdue in the fall.



Before the sale started, Sara Fenton provided a demonstration on how to make hypertufa bowls and pots. Great job and very cool Sara!



The event proceeds were \$2,290! Thank you to all who contributed plants, auction items, snacks and their time. Thanks also to Judy Kenninger and Kathe Rae for promoting this increasingly popular and fun event.



## GFAA Follow Up

The GFAA Committee met one last time for this year to review the planning process, day of the event, proceeds, feedback from guest surveys, etc. The show was a huge success! The Committee is very appreciative of the fairground facilities, and recommended \$1,000 be given to Fairgrounds.

Here are some numbers and survey results:

- 2,224 attendees
- 3,148.46 in sales (proceeds TBD)
- 131 attended the educational programs
- Good attendance at outdoor demonstrations
- 133 survey respondents
- 97 stated vendors were favorite at show
- 30 heard about through FB (highest)

Improvement suggestions from the survey to consider next year included; more picnic tables outside to eat, parking, credit card issues. The committee chuckled at one comment that we should serve cocktails!

Next year will be our 37<sup>th</sup> annual GFAA and the date is April 27, 2024.

## Avon Outdoor Learning Center Native Plant Sale

Since MGs can never have enough plant sales, another favorite one is the annual native plant sale at the Avon Outdoor Learning Center on May 12 and 13. Thanks to MG Jo Vickery who helped to coordinate the sale; and all of the other MGs who volunteered and provided guidance for shoppers on which plants to consider in their gardens.



## Avon Outdoor Learning Center Blair Cabin Family Connection

Jo Vickery not only enjoys helping at the Avon Outdoor Learning Center, but has a family connection to the Blair Cabin! Her maiden name was Blair, and in recent years Jo has done an extensive on-line search about the Blairs in Hendricks County.



The cabin belonged to her great, great, great grandfather, Lindsey Blair. He came to Indiana with his family at age 12 in about 1824, from North Carolina. Several similar cabins were built in Stilesville by and for Blair relatives, and he lived in his until his untimely death in 1851. There was a fire in a Stilesville office and records were lost, but Jo was able to glean information from old quaker documents on the internet. She found out that the cabin was moved somewhere on SR 267 and later was donated to the Avon School System. The cabin was again moved to the present location.

Our thanks to Jo for sharing this interesting historical connection to that cabin we enjoy seeing every year at the native plant sale.

## Danville HS FFA Greenhouse Tour

A group of MGs went to Danville High School on May 11 for an impressive presentation on the horticulture/agriculture program and tour of the greenhouse. Mr. Huge, the program sponsor just retired after many years of dedication and service. He and middle school teacher, Ms. Crosby shared how the program has evolved and expanded in recent years under their leadership.



The high school will soon be undergoing an extensive remodel and there are plans to tear down and rebuild the greenhouse.



Those who attended the program and tour were also able to purchase flowers and vegetables from the greenhouse. For many years, Mr. Huge has donated flats of flowers for our plant sale and auction, which he did again this year.

### Annual Sheltering Wings Container Gardening Program

For the third year, container gardening training occurred at Sheltering Wings Domestic Abuse Shelter. Susan Gackenhimer, Carol Gillaspay and Kathe Rae coordinated the training.



Some of the current residents learned the basics of container gardens and were able to plant a tomato or pepper and some flowers in pots. Once residents leave the shelter, they can take the pots with them to enjoy in their homes. Some children came out with their moms. Always fun to watch new gardeners!



Sheltering Wings provides support services to Haven Homes, an apartment complex in Plainfield. They asked if a similar training could occur there, which happened this past week. Debbie Off came at the last minute to help Kathe with this educational and always fun program. Thanks to Debbie and also Bruce Crum who donated some much-needed tomato cages.

In planning for next year if anyone has large plastic pots (10" – 12") from planting trees and shrubs, and any tomato cages to donate, please let Kathe know.

### First Open Garden this Year

Like many of our MGs, Judy Kenninger has a passion for gardening, and it certainly shows. Judy and her husband, David, hosted our first open garden on a beautiful spring evening. All



who attended were treated to their beautiful landscaping; full of blooms, interesting plants, trees & bushes, all with a lovely lake



backdrop! Thanks to Judy and David for sharing their gardens!

We MGs love garden tours, especially when hosted by one of our own! Please consider sharing your gardens and gardening skills with us this summer by hosting an open garden. If you are interested, contact Andria Grady for more information and/or to schedule a tour (see the directory for contact information).

### HCMG Treasurer Search Continues

Our search continues for a treasurer! This is a very important position that our organization cannot function without. Have you been a Master Gardener and active in the organization for two years? Please consider serving on the board as our treasurer. Apply to Vicki Coleman, chair of the Nomination Committee, by August 1 or at the September 19 meeting.

## Demonstration Garden



The annual spring cleanup occurred in all sections of our demo garden. Last year's brush and new weeds were removed from the pollinator pockets and welcome garden, and peat moss added to the raised beds. While plants were just starting, the gardens

looked very nice for GFAA.

The raised bed garden has a whimsical theme this year. In addition to the veggies and flowers planted, some whimsical touches are being added.



John Dottenwhy, our water guy, has turned

on the irrigation system, which was suddenly needed when our weather turned very hot quickly.



Thanks to Terri Tramm, Becky Troutman and Dick Meier for their coordination and all others for their efforts to help our demo garden "shine."

## Drip Irrigation Demonstration

Speaking of John and the irrigation system, he and Becky Troutman will provide a demonstration on drip irrigation on Thurs. June 15, 6:00-7:00 p.m. at the Demo Garden MGs who attend can receive 1 hour of educational credit. It is a life saver when gardens need to be watered and you are busy or out of town. Questions call, text or email Becky Troutman.

## Adventures in Gardening

Plans are underway for our fall Adventures in Gardening (AIG) program. The date is Sat. Oct. 7 and the theme this year is "Who's in Your Garden." Stay tuned for details and registration information.

Kathe Rae is in charge of the silent auction and would like to send out a request for donations; themed baskets, Autumn and holiday decor, new or very gently used garden related items, gift cards, artwork etc. We are dedicating the auction to Nancy Rice, who did a phenomenal job coordinating the auction last year, despite significant health challenges.

## Upcoming Events:



## 2023 Calendar

- 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