

# HENDRICKS GARDENER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE  
HENDRICKS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

November 2023



PURDUE EXTENSION  
MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

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## President's Message

It's sweater weather – so it must be November! The Fall chill signals time to put away the hoses, lawn furniture, garden tools and prepare the gardens for the end of the season. November is a month to be thankful! I'm THANKFUL for all of you and the time that you volunteer and give to this organization. Our members are the heart of HCMG.



Congratulations to the 2024 Executive Board members –

Barb Pantos – Vice President  
Martha Rardin – Treasurer  
Bruce Crum – Assistant Treasurer  
Sharon Miller – Secretary  
Kathe Rae – Communications Coordinator  
Karen Smith – Project Coordinator  
Thank you for volunteering to serve on the 2024 Board.

(Editor's note: Congratulations to Debbie too as she will continue as President)

Don't forget to bring cash or your checkbook to the November meeting. We will be collecting dues for 2024 and money for Winter Dinner on 12/12. Dues are \$15/per person or \$25/couple. The Winter Dinner is \$30/per person and will be held in

the North and South Halls at the fairgrounds. Social time is from 6:00 – 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner and awards.

Our next monthly meeting is Tuesday, November 21. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the meeting.

Debbie

## October Meeting Program was "Batty"

David Wiles, Indiana DNR Bat Survey Coordinator presented an informative and fascinating

program entitled, "Bats of Indiana and Their Benefit." He shared the importance of bats in our eco-system, including eating insects which damage crops and

are a health menace to humans. There are

so many species of bats and unfortunately many are on the endangered list. David also discussed ways to

help the bat population, including planting natives, cleaning out invasives, and slowing down deforestation, etc. His presentation generated a lot of questions, which he eagerly answered. Our thanks to David for his bat advocacy.



## November Program on Vermicomposting

At the 11/21 meeting, Michelle Jones, ANR for Morgan County, will be providing a program on vermicomposting. It is a process of converting biodegradable waste into organic manure with the help of earthworms.



# Happy Thanksgiving!



## Annual Winter Awards Dinner

It is the time of year when we celebrate all that the Hendricks County MGs and interns have accomplished! From projects like Gardening for All Ages and Adventures in Gardening, to maintaining the fairgrounds demonstration garden, guiding inmates at the Plainfield Correctional Facility whose gardens provide fresh produce to food pantries, partnering with the Outdoor Learning Center, our annual community plant sale, the summer Farmers Market booths and scholarships program, and the annual 4-H County Fair booth. Whew! It is certainly a lot to be proud of!

Let's celebrate those good works! Please come enjoy a festive evening of mingling with your MG friends, imbibing in a drink or two at our bar of donated beer, wine and soft drinks, and an always delicious dinner. There will be some very enthusiastic entertainers, the awarding of HCMG certifications and pins, after dinner. The evening will end with poinsettia door prizes.

The dinner is Tues. 12/12, with check-in and social time at 6 pm, and dinner at 6:30 as chosen by you from the survey results at the October meeting. The cost is \$30 per person, the same as the past three years! Spouses and guests are welcome to attend. To register, go to: <https://www.hendricksgardeners.com/members.html> You can also register at the 11/21 meeting. The deadline for registration is 11/30.

We hope to see you there!  
Suzy Freeman and Kathleen Kindred, co-chairman for the Winter Dinner



## 2024 GFAA Planning Starting to Ramp Up!

Our 37th annual GFAA is April 29, 2024, just a little over 180 days away! The planning committee is meeting 11/13 to, review last year's lessons learned, establish a general timeline for major milestones, discuss committee changes, including leadership, etc. Our facility layout guru Steve Pearl has already created the first layout template. As reported last month, John Dottenwhy has our trees ordered, which increased to 1200! Please remember to save shredded paper and newspaper sized bags for the trees.

Looking forward to another fun and successful year. This will be our last year as co-chairs; however, we will be mentoring new co-chairs throughout the planning process. Given this is our largest annual undertaking, GFAA takes the entire membership to make it happen. Be watching for opportunities to help and get involved as the months pass!

Steve and Kim Somermeyer



## Welcome Kristyn Horning!

Kristyn Horning is the new ANR/CD Administrative Assistant in the Extension Office. She will support our group with communications, projects and other needs. Stop in the extension to say hi and introduce yourself. Our thanks to Lisa Pitts who helped us by doing double duty during the interim!



## Demonstration Garden Receives Honorable Mention in AAS Landscape Design Challenge

This year, the All American Selections (AAS) design challenge theme was “A Whimsical Garden.” Our demo garden



committee gave a thumbs up to entering the challenge and certainly delivered with creative, fun, colorful, yet functional garden beds. While we did not win, our gardens received Honorable Mention! Thanks to the demo garden team’s efforts, under the leadership of Terri Tramm, Becky Troutman (who recently moved to Georgia), and Dick Meier. You are all our whimsy winners!

In the pollinator garden, we leave all the spent flowers to provide shelter for insects and seeds for birds. So now it is time to say goodbye to the demo garden for this year and we look forward to 2024!



## The faces of HCMG . . . Why is everyone smiling? Because gardening makes them happy!



### 2023 Calendar

- November 21, General Meeting; Classrooms A B C
- December 12, 2023, Winter Awards Dinner