

HENDRICKS GARDENER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
HENDRICKS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

April 2024



PURDUE EXTENSION
MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

Hendricks County Extension Office
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President's Message



Spring – the season when nature awakens and comes to life. All my trees and flowers are budding. Daffodils are in bloom! It is truly a beautiful season. Springtime means GFAA is just around the corner! The team is working on the final details. Friday, April 26th, beginning at 10:00 am we need all hands on-deck to set-up. No need to sign-up – just show up! Volunteer opportunities for Saturday, April 27th, are posted in MG Manager. It takes ALL of us to make this show a success. As mentioned at the March meeting, Working with Minors on-line training is no longer required.

May 21st is our plant sale and auction. Proceeds from the sale benefit our scholarship program. Start thinking about plants you can divide and thin out to donate to our sale. If you would like to host a plant dig, contact Jo Vickery.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the April meeting.

Debbie

March 19th Meeting Highlights

Another packed meeting with updates on GFAA, Demo Garden, Plant Sale & Auction, Avon Outdoor Learning Center Plant Sale, Plainfield Correctional Facility Garden. The 2024 directories were distributed. If you have not received one, they will be at the April meeting and are also available in the Extension Office.

We also recognized several more MGs who achieved new levels. Congrats to Rhonda Orem, Sue Carey, Jeff Cunningham & Biljana Tygart!



Our program was entitled “Urban Forestry Benefits & Master Gardener Involvement” by Aren Flint. Aren’s presentation was interesting & informative; what is urban forestry, why is it so important, and what each of us can do to help our community. She comes by her commitment to sustaining our environment naturally, as her parents are MGs John & Donna Dottenwhy. Thanks Aren!



GFAA Time!



April 16th Meeting



Our program at the next meeting will be “Dazzling Dahlias” by Barb Pantos. She will be doing this presentation at GFAA; however, since we will be

volunteering, she is sharing her dahlia knowledge with us, just in time if you would like to try growing dahlias! Many of you have enjoyed her beautiful dahlias in the demo garden in recent years. Her presentation will be 30 minutes to allow time for our hats activity.



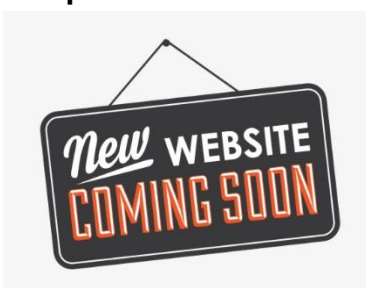
“Hats Off to Hendricks County!” We are Master Gardeners! We are Hendricks County! In celebration of HC200, we are wanting to wear



decorated hats or other headgear at GFAA & other events this year. Please bring your favorite hat, another hat, head band, visor, etc. to the April meeting. Here is a list of

some items you might add to YOUR hat; MG badges, seed packets, gloves, plastic flowers, cartoons, GFAA postcards, dried flowers, flower pot, hand tools, ribbons, bows, and bling. Thanks to Rosie Lenihan for all her efforts to make this a fun HC200.

As was reported at the March meeting, there will be a demonstration of the new website. Thanks to Laura Graham for her efforts to develop the site. Thanks also to Ed Freeman for all he has done to keep the current site updated and functional!



GFAA is April 27th!



HC200; Excitement is building as we are very excited to announce that GFAA has been endorsed as a Hendricks County Bicentennial Celebration event! <https://www.hendricks200.com/events/gardening-for-all-ages>. We are listed in their event page along with a picture of our smiling faces from last year's annual group photo. Thanks to Ann Wynn for completing the required documentation.

The 2024 GFAA Committee updated volunteer needs. Volunteer sign ups are available on MG Manager. Kristyn Horning has sent us an email regarding the details. We appreciate her efforts to input the changes into the system.

We invite and hope everyone (including MG class students) can help on Friday, April 26th, at 10 am or after, as we prepare for the show; moving tables, chairs, adding table covers, setting up our MG booths, hanging signage, stuffing goody bags and children's bags, wrapping potted bulbs, unloading boxes from cars, trucks, trailers and our own storage closet. And much more! This is always an amazing MG team effort!

On Saturday, April 27th, promptly at 8:30 am, we invite everyone to join us for this year's group photo! See the info mentioned in the April meeting plans about "Hats off to Hendricks County!" We hope everyone will be in hats or other head gear.

We are expanding and enhancing our parking processes and Eloisa Garza is taking the lead for parking. Thank you Eloisa! She will be recruiting additional volunteers for this important activity. If you have a particular interest in assisting our guests, vendors and ourselves with parking, please let Eloisa know! Stay tuned for more details about parking!

Starting at 4 pm we will begin the tear down and cleanup process, and all are invited to help. We have listed specific volunteer opportunities to ensure we have plenty of help to assist our vendors packing up items in their vehicles.

We also have a goal of returning the facility to exact pre-show condition in record time, beating the established 1 hour and 20 minutes. *Many MG hands make light work!*

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for participating in our HCMG event of the year! *We are Master Gardeners, We are Hendricks County!*

Kim and Steve Somermeyer
317-840-5803 317-445-1340

And the GFAA 2024 Committee!

Demo Garden Update

The Demo Garden Committee met on March 5th. The All American Selections (AAS) theme for 2024 is "Film." In keeping with the HC200 celebration, our theme could be "old fashioned garden." Here are summaries of discussion for each of the demo garden areas;

Entrance Garden: Denny Nelson reported a volunteer team has been created to redesign the current Entrance Garden area. The plans this year are to; fertilize, compost, mulch as needed; thin, replant spring bulbs; develop a watering schedule; plant annual flowers to add color throughout the seasons, and to ensure garden is at its peak during the Hendricks County Fair.

Raised Bed: A small group; Dick Meier, Debra Pease, Barb Pantos, Martha Rardin, and Steve Pearl, are developing a plan to remove, redesign, and build new raised beds, which includes the addition of the pergola. They will be evaluating

different types of beds for consideration. Two other issues to be addressed; a new irrigation system for the beds and a new system for garden waste.

Pollinator Garden: The spring clean-up day(s) will be scheduled for late April or early May. The leftover plant stems will be cut around 18" to create a nesting habitat for native bees. Terri Tramm shared information about links for educational videos on creating and maintaining pollinator habitats. She will distribute the links to the committee. Terri also stated she plans to get new markers and develop a sign to educate garden visitors as to why we clean up the Pollinator Garden in the spring and not the fall.

There was also discussion about offering tours of the demo garden, so that will be pursued through Jeff Pell.

Rhonda Legan Memorial Cutting Garden

By Karen Smith

A group of young women lead by Nicole Irving, and at the suggestion of Rhonda Legan's adult children have started a cutting garden in her memory. Rhonda was a HC Master Gardener for many years. They want to honor Rhonda's memory by providing flower bouquets to those who need healing. Rhonda would appreciate the community they have built through gardening. The group meets regularly to plan and learn. With an understanding of Rhonda's involvement in Master Gardeners, they contacted us for mentorship. They have been sponges....soaking up information.



It has been my pleasure to share Master Gardener knowledge and the beauty of flowers.

20th Annual AOLC Native Plant Sale

The Avon Outdoor Learning Center Native Plant Sale is May 3rd & 4th. Set up is May 2nd. Plants will be \$5. Volunteer sign ups will be posted on MG Manager.



INFGA Scion Swap Meeting By Laura Graham

On March 24th, the Indiana Nut & Fruit Growers Association (INFGA) held their annual Scion Swap Meet at Johnson County Park. This annual event brings together enthusiasts, professionals, and growers alike for a day of knowledge-sharing and networking. A scion is a piece of vegetative material, in which to graft with, from a tree that produces the fruit variety desired.



Attendees had access to a wide range of rootstock for fruit and nut trees, offered at affordable prices. This ensured that everyone, regardless of experience level or budget, could acquire the necessary

materials for their orchards. One of the highlights of the event was the scion swap, where grafting enthusiasts could obtain scions for free.

This generous exchange fosters the tradition of grafting and propagation, preserving valuable fruit and nut varieties for generations to come.

David Hughes, the owner and operator of Rock Bridge Trees <rockbridgetrees.com> in Bethpage, Tennessee, shared his expertise. His presentation focused on the propagation and cultivation of superior northern pecan trees, providing invaluable insights for growers looking to enhance their orchards. This organization lays a solid groundwork for individuals keen on delving into the realm of orchard creation.

2024 Calendar

April 16th MG Meeting; Classrooms A/B/C

April 26th GFAA Set-Up; Hendricks Power Expo

April 27th, 2024 GFAA; Hendricks Power Expo

May 2nd – 4th Avon Outdoor Learning Center Native Plant Sale

May 21st Plant Sale and Auction – Cartilage Barn

June 18th Meet-n-Greet for new interns & committee chairs only

July 14th – 20th Hendricks County Fair

July 23rd MG Picnic Washington Park in Avon; Pavilion Center Aspen Room

Aug 20th MG Meeting; Classrooms A/B/C

Sept 17th General Meeting; Classrooms A/B/C

October 12th AIG; South Hall

Oct 15th MG Meeting; Classrooms A/B/C

Nov 19th MG Meeting; Classrooms A/B/C

Dec 10th Winter Awards Dinner

Upcoming Events

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

4/13/2024 Monroe County Master Gardeners Garden Fair; 9 – 4 Switchyard Park

5/18/2024 Hamilton County Master Gardeners Plant Sale; 8 – 4 Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds