

Hendricks Gardener

The Official Newsletter of the Hendricks County Master Gardeners

March 2017

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Use the webmaster's email address or the contact form under "about" on our website to contact our officers.

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Message from the President



HAPPY MARCH MASTER GARDENERS AND INTERNS!

I am writing this letter from Georgia. It is supposed to be warmer weather than what I left in Indiana. Oh well, Mother Nature can be a pill sometimes.

Our February meeting was one of the busiest we have had. I hope those attending came away with a good understanding of the idea behind the Demo Garden. Thank you Steve Patterson letting us know the Fair Grounds commitment to our project and Angie Tilton who sent out the call last fall for MG's interested in starting a Demo Garden. A Double Whammie thank you goes out to Debra Kovacs. After hearing Debra and her well thought out presentation about our first Demo meetings to what is going on now, I came away with a renewed enthusiasm for the project.

We will have new shirt sales at our March meeting. Payment is at time of pickup at the April meeting just a few days before GFAA. Kelly Allen has our program in March. She will be speaking about root crops.

I see our Hendricks County Master Gardeners at a cross roads of change. We are growing with ideas and knowledge. Volunteer to help and be a part of a GREAT organization.

Come Grow with us.

Becky Troutman - President



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Member Meetings & Information

Date: March 21, 2017
6:30 Social Time
7:00 Business Meeting
8:00 **Presentation:** Root Crops by Kelly Allen

For Upcoming Member Meetings

Contact the president one week in advance of monthly meeting if you have business or committee reports to be included in meeting agenda.

- Meetings are normally held on the third Tuesday of each month.
- Master Gardener meeting agenda will be forwarded to membership prior to meeting.
- Remember to wear your Master Gardener badges to all HCMG events and meetings.

Future meeting information will be posted on the website.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes will be posted on the members page of the website after the most recent business meeting.

Open Gardens

If you would like to offer an open garden please let Vicki Coleman know.

Reporting Volunteer Hours

The method for reporting volunteer hours has changed. We are now using the Purdue on-line system. You must register to use the system. Register for Purdue MG Manager here: <https://www.purdue.edu/mg-volunteer>. There is a video on how to register at: <http://tinyurl.com/ze9jaz3>. You will need to obtain the county code first from the extension office.

Once you have registered, the system is very straight forward. You should enter all volunteer and educational activity from last November forward. The system will also accept entries (that you have not previously submitted) for older unreported activity that you want to catch up with.

The old reporting form has been deleted from the website. Reports on the old paper from won't be accepted by the extension office.

Volunteer and Educational Opportunities

Volunteer Opportunities

HCMG is always in need of volunteers for committees and projects. Full project descriptions and volunteer opportunities will be posted on the HCMG website under the "Members" tab. You can volunteer currently for GFAA, the resource center, and work on the demo garden, as well as ongoing summer time tasks like farmers markets.

Resource Center

The Master Gardeners Resource Center and Help Line has begun operating for this gardening season. The center will be staffed on Tuesdays and Thursdays until the end of gardening weather. Contact Jerry McIntyre to volunteer.

Demo Garden Updates

Spring is almost here, and serious work is about to get started on the demo garden. As soon as it is feasible site preparation begins and raised bed construction gets underway.

2018 Updates

Hendricks County will host the Purdue Master Gardener State Conference on June 7-9 2018 at the Hendricks County Fairgrounds and Conference Center.

The keynote speakers are now secured as reviewed at the November meeting.

The Master Gardeners on the steering committee include Jan Myers, Rose Lenihan, Theresa Byington, Cathy Frederick, Ed Freeman, Chuck Dallas, Pat Dallas, Vicki Coleman, Martha Rardin, Ginny Brandgard, Theresa Mathieson, Jill Clouser, Steve Pearl, and Kathleen Hutton. Chat with committee members to keep up to date or to let us know how you want to help.



2017 Events Update

Gardening for All Ages Update

This year Gardening for All ages falls on Earth Day—April 22. Setup begins on Friday April 21 and finishes up in the early morning hours of April 22. The event is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Something New—Introduction to Food Gardening

This year the educational sessions will feature a mini-course on food gardening beginning at 9:30. Sessions will include Cool Weather Gardening (peas, lettuce, etc.) with Colletta Kosiba (a Gold Level Master Gardener and Master Naturalist), a panel discussion “Hints, Kinks and FAQs” featuring experienced food gardeners, Warm Weather Gardening (tomatoes, peppers, etc.) with Colletta, and Site Preparation and Raised Beds, where weather permitting, attendees will visit the new demonstration garden at the fairgrounds.

Other Speakers

Afternoon sessions, which will take place at 1:30 and 2:30 p.m., will include the Savage Garden (growing carnivorous plants) and Attracting Backyard Birds.

Volunteers

We have 55 volunteers signed up to make GFAA exciting this year. We still need a few volunteers for greeters and the children’s booth.

Trees

We will distribute 500 trees from the DNR tree nursery, along with advice on how to plant and care for them. SAVE PLASTIC BAGS AND NEWSPAPERS FOR TREE WRAPPING.

Seeds

We have flower, vegetable, and herb seeds to distribute at the seed booth.

Vendors

We have 50 gardening/home landscaping related vendors signed up.

Door Prizes

Thanks to the generosity of local businesses and GFAA vendors our colorful door prize team will be in action again.

Wizard

The very secretive Wizards will surprise attendees again with things astonishing and fascinating! They started working on it in January—it will be good.

Children’s Booth

The volunteers for the children’s booth are planning a pollinator theme this year. 4H will be participating in GFAA this year with a booth adjacent to the Children’s booth—they will be featuring a live demonstration hive of Honey Bees (weather permitting).

Gardeners Closet

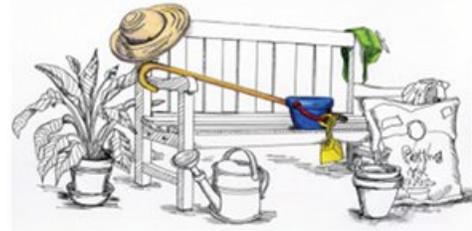
We have started gathering donated items for this rummage sale for gardeners. If you have items to donate, please bring them to a meeting or contact Becky Troutman for assistance.

Food

Stream Cuisine will be vending food from their converted Air-stream once again.

2017 Events Update

Hendricks County Master Gardeners Spring Gardening Show



Gardening for All Ages

Hendricks County Fairgrounds

April 22, 2017 9 to 4



It’s time to sign up for Gardening for All Ages volunteer jobs. See the members page of the website for more info.

Adventures in Gardening

October 7, 2017



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