

April 2014

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President's Message

Greetings Hendricks County Extension Master Gardeners & Interns,

Just maybe, the snow is going away, which moves us to thinking about water. At our March 18th meeting Jessica Norcross, Hendricks County Soil & Water, presented "Water Conservation". The program was well received by the 73 people in attendance. That evening, we also had a hands-on rain barrel workshop. Many members submitted their name and agreed to pay the \$60 cost if their name was chosen. Six lucky members got to take home the rain barrels we made.

National Volunteer Week this year is April 6-13. In addition to education, volunteering is our backbone. To date, we have reported 396 volunteer hours - imagine when we turn in all of our volunteer hours how that number will explode!

HCMG has more dates in April to know, including Arbor Day on April 25, the Friday before our Gardening for All Ages (GFAA) show. And how fitting, that on the 25th, we will be wrapping the 800 trees that will be given away at GFAA. Our free seed packages - over 12,000 - are being sorted for GFAA as well. A lot of volunteer time is being earned.

Refreshers are always good, especially for how HCMG and Interns earn volunteer and education hours. Here is a simple clarification, which has been approved by Jon Cain:

- Volunteer hours are the time spent performing horticultural service efforts intended to educate/teach people in the community. These hours may include working on MG approved projects - setting up/tearing down for GFAA, AIG, etc.; manning MG Farmers' Market booth, collecting materials for MG projects, etc. Volunteer hours are also earned by serving as greeters at MG programs/meetings, assisting with MG Open Garden, MG Plant Auction, Interns participating at Plant Dig for our Plant Auction, etc. MG/Interns may also include a teaching moment, like identifying plants, diseases, gardening tasks (i.e. showing how to make seed strips), how to clean tools/containers, etc. to people in the community. Travel time to and from the volunteer project is included in total volunteer hours for that project/event. MG labor is not endorsed unless it is to train by showing how to perform a task. A MG/Intern may pull the weed to show how, but to weed the bed is only labor, not education.
- Education hours are the actual time in training/learning sessions for Master Gardeners to learn. These may include MG workshops, parks and garden educational sessions, garden club programs, speakers at GFAA (other like learning events), MG State Conference, etc. For example, those who attended both sessions and the propagating area tour at Dammann's on Saturday, March 29 would report 2.5 hours. Reportable time for educational hours does not include travel time; only time in actual presentation. If you sign-in at MG meetings you do not need to report your education hour as Jon/Chase will log it.

Welcome to Spring!

Volunteer, grow, and meet an Intern!
"Grow Interns, grow Master Gardeners"

- Rosie Lenihan

Volunteer & Educational Opportunities

Volunteer Opportunities

Submit a HCMG Logo Idea

HCMG is in the process of refining its communications materials and branding. As a part of this process, the communications team and HCMG board are revisiting the logo currently in use and would like to open the door for other options to be considered. All submissions, along with the current logo, will go up for vote by the membership to make the final decision on what we use moving forward.

Any member interested in submitting a HCMG logo must do so by May, 1, 2014. Submissions must be from members only and time invested in logo ideas can be submitted for volunteer hours. Direct submissions and questions to April Blevins at hcmg.communications@gmail.com. The final logo may be recreated electronically by a professional graphic artist. The criteria for submissions is as follows:

- Must be a design that can be easily recreated in an electronic format so it can be reproduced at any size.
- Should include no more than 4 colors and look good in black and white.
- Is simple, identifies the organization clearly, and defines what is unique about HCMG.
- Has a timeless quality – the logo will not become dated.
- Reinforces the brand name or tagline or both.
- Fits in the spaces in which it will most likely appear – has the most advantageous (vertical/horizontal) orientation.
 - Including, is recognizable in small (e.g. business card) spaces.
 - Can be used in conjunction with the official Master Gardener logo and any associated Purdue logos.
 - Has recognition at maximum distances.

Is able to be easily recreated for use on collateral materials, including shirts, print materials, signage, etc.

Other Opportunities

HCMG is always in need of volunteers for committees and projects. Please contact a board member to be connected to the committee chair for more information. Full project descriptions and volunteer opportunities will be posted on the HCMG website under the “Projects” and “Members” tabs.

HCMG Training Opportunities for Educational Hours

Spring Walk with Bruce Crum

Bruce Crum will lead a group through the trails on his property near Brownsburg pointing out native plants and wildflowers and other “growing things”. Additional information forthcoming.

HCMG Bus Trip

Hendricks County Master Gardener bus trip to Yew Dell Botanical Gardens and Hidden Hill Nursery is June 7, 2014. See page 4 for details.

Hendricks County Master Gardeners Teach

Master Gardener Colletta Kosiba will offer the following free classes:

- April 12, 2014 - “Growing Vegetables”
Danville Athletic Club, 10 a.m. (Call 745-3015 to register)
- April 30, 2014 - “Monarch Butterfly Wonders”
Brownsburg Library, 7 p.m. (Call 852-3167 to register)
- May 2, 2014 - “Expert Garden Tips”
Plainfield Library, 7 p.m. (Call 839-6602 to register)

HCMG Certification Classes

HCMG members can receive training hours for attending 2014 Master Gardener certification classes. For class information, [click here](#).



Images from Bruce Crum's property.



Gardening for All Ages Updates

Sponsors

The 2014 Gardening for All Ages show is sponsored by McCarty GreenCycle, Dammann's Lawn & Garden, Lawson & Co. Auctioneers & Real Estate, and Denney Excavating Inc.

HCMG Cookbooks

The HCMG Cookbooks will be for sale at GFAA at \$8 per book.



GFAA Speaker Schedule

10:00 a.m. "Growing Together: A Child in the Garden"

Jennifer Davies, Avon Outdoor Learning Center

Sharing your garden time with a child—what you can both enjoy, what the child can learn, and how to keep it fascinating.

11:00 a.m. "Rooting Around: Plant Propagation"

Magen Eller, Hendricks County Master Gardeners

Have some perennials you really like? See methods for getting more of them in a predictable way.

1:00 p.m. "Keeping Your Soil Healthy"

Jessica Norcross, Hendricks County Soil and Water Conservation District

Most people take the soil under their feet for granted, but it's an important natural resource. Learn how the soils in Indiana were formed and what you can do to stop treating soil like dirt.

2:00 p.m. "Workers for Your Garden: Bees"

Jeff Dittmore, Indiana State Beekeepers Association

Your garden needs pollination. How to invite your neighborhood pollinators over for some enthusiastic help. More ambitious? Get an overview of what it takes to have full time resident bees.

3:00 p.m. "Great Beginnings: Starting a Veggie Garden"

Scott Campbell, Hendricks County Master Gardeners

Steps for getting a bountiful and flavorful garden going with confidence and just a little labor. Avoid the common traps that wreck the fun and the results.

Gardening for All Ages Needs Your Help

Gardener's Booth Items Needed

HCMG needs your gently used items for sale in the Gardener's Booth! Please check your tool sheds and closets, and bring those garden-related items - flower pots, plants, old tools (cleaned up, of course), or whatever you can find to the fairgrounds on April 25. If you cannot do that on the 25th, please contact Becky Troutman (317-456-5091), or Suzy or Ed Freeman (317-892-4077) to arrange pickup.

Volunteer Opportunities

Welcome Greeters

One of the most fun jobs is greeting visitors at the entrance to GFAA on April 26. Greeters hand out goody/tote bags and programs as people arrive at the door. This is a great way to meet people, especially those who enjoy gardening. Greeters should be familiar with locations of the children's booth, MG booth, book booths, food booth, and seed booth, as well as where the speakers will be presenting their talks in the Conference Rooms. A couple of people are still needed to work this position.

Children's Booth

The Children's Booth shift sheet will be posted at the next Master Gardener meeting to fill a few empty spots.

Member Meetings & Information

April Meeting

“Hoop Houses”

Speaker: Kathy Stamper, Stamper Farms

Date: April 15, 2014

Time: 7:00 p.m. (6:30 p.m. Social Time)

Location: Hendricks County Fairgrounds

A hoop house is a series of large hoops or bows—made of metal, plastic pipe or wood—covered with a layer of heavy greenhouse plastic. The plastic is stretched tight and fastened to baseboards with strips of wood, metal or wire.

Kathy Stamper will discuss the use of hoop houses, their benefits, and answer audience questions.

May Meeting

“Annual Plant Auction”

Date: May 20, 2014

Time: 6:15 p.m. (Business Meeting); 6:30 p.m. (Auction Starts)

Location: Hendricks County Fairgrounds

This event is open to the public. Hendricks County Master Gardener, Inc. and friends donate plants for the auction and all proceeds are used to support the mission of the organization.

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.

- Master Gardener meeting agenda will be forwarded to membership 4 days prior to meeting.
- Remember to wear your Master Gardener badges to all HCMG events and meetings.

Future meeting information will be posted [here](#).

Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes will be posted [here](#) no more than one week after the most recent business meeting.

Contribute To Upcoming Newsletters

Contact April Blevins with information you would like to include in the newsletter (i.e. events, volunteer opportunities, pictures, etc.). Information must be received no later than four days after each monthly membership meeting to be included in the following month's newsletter.

Upcoming Intern Classes & Speakers

- 4/1/14 “Insects”
Larry Bledsoe, Purdue Entomologist
- 4/8/14 “Woody Ornamentals”
Steve Mayer, Horticulture Educator Marion County Ext.
- 4/15/14 No class - HCMG member meeting
- 4/22/14 No class
- 4/29/14 “Home Landscaping Design”
Steve Mayer, Horticulture Educator Marion County Ext.

[Click here](#) for additional information on intern classes.

2014 Meeting Schedule

Unless otherwise noted, meetings will be at Fairgrounds.
Social time 6:30 p.m.; Business meeting 7 p.m.; Speaker 8 p.m.

- 4/15/14 “Hoop Houses”
Kathy Stamper, Stamper Farms
- 5/20/14 HCMG Annual Plant Auction
Business Meeting 6:15; Plant Auction 6:30
- 6/7/14 Bus Trip to Yew Dell Botanical Gardens and
Hidden Hill Nursery
Departs Fairgrounds at 7am sharp; returns by 8pm
- 7/15/14 Intern Graduation, Summer Picnic, and Awards
Washington Township Park - Pavillion
- 8/19/14 Tree Identification Workshop
Carrie Tauscher, IDNR
Location TBD
- 9/16/14 “Alternatives to Higher Cost Plants”
Dottie Warner, Frazee Gardens
- 10/21/14 “Cutting Gardens; Closing the Garden for Winter”
Karen Robbins, Avon Garden
Photo Contest
- 11/18/14 HCMG Annual Scholarship Auction
Election of Officers for 2015
- 12/2/14 Christmas Party
Dawson's Too (775 E Main St., Brownsburg)

Upcoming Events

Hendricks County Master Gardener Bus Trip

- **When:**
Saturday, June 7, 2014
The bus will depart from Hendricks County Fairgrounds at 7 a.m. sharp, and will return by 8 p.m.
- **Where:**
Yew Dell Botanical Gardens and Hidden Hill Nursery
Both locations are near Louisville. For more information visit, www.yewdellgardens.org and www.hiddenhillnursery.com.
- **Cost:**
\$45.00 per person
Includes bus fare (includes driver tip), box lunch and bottle of water, admission to Yew Dell (no charge for Hidden Hill), and snacks on return trip
- **Registration:**
Registration for members and guests is now through April 16, 2014. The registration form will be posted on the [members page of the website](#). Payment in full is required at the time of registration. Registration will be open to the public and other organizations April 17 - May 2, 2014. If there are not at least 40 paid registrations by May 2, the trip will be canceled. All payments will be held until the trip is confirmed. Payments will be returned if the trip is canceled. Due to the requirement to have 40 paid attendees, we cannot refund registrations.

Purdue Master Gardener State Conference

Registration is now open for the 2014 Purdue Master Gardener State Conference, which will be held in Indianapolis June 12-14. The State Conference includes many educational opportunities, recognition of MG achieving Gold Status and winners of the Search for Excellence Awards. For details on how to nominate your group project, [click here](#).

Additional information and registration forms are available on the conference website www.2014indymgconf.org

Master Garden State Conference Photo Contest

The Photo Contest for the 2014 Purdue Master Gardener State Conference will be **open for entries March 1 to May 1, 2014**. For more information about the contest, contact Meredith Hull (mhull@iupui.edu, 317 996-4380).

HCMG Upcoming Events

[Click here](#) for more information on upcoming HCMG events.

Statewide Events

[Click here](#) for statewide Master Gardener events.



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