

May 2014

**Rosie Lenihan, President**

[lenihrose1161@att.net](mailto:lenihrose1161@att.net)

**Barb Zupan, Vice President**

[bsz@indy.rr.com](mailto:bsz@indy.rr.com)

**Jill Clouser, Treasurer**

[mclouser@indy.rr.com](mailto:mclouser@indy.rr.com)

**Judy Kenninger, Secretary**

[judy@kenningercommunications.com](mailto:judy@kenningercommunications.com)

**April Blevins, Journalist**

[hcmg.communications@gmail.com](mailto:hcmg.communications@gmail.com)

**Ed Freeman, Webmaster**

[webmaster@hendricksgardeners.com](mailto:webmaster@hendricksgardeners.com)

**Jon Cain, AG and Natural Resources Educator**

[jcain@purdue.edu](mailto:jcain@purdue.edu)

## In This Issue

President's Message	1
Volunteer and Educational Opportunities	2
News and Meeting Information	3
Contests and Upcoming Events	4-5



## President's Message

Greetings Hendricks County Extension Master Gardeners & Interns,

Gardening for All Ages! What a wonderful event! It was a huge amount of work, education and fun. As I was leaving the Hendricks County Fairgrounds Saturday, I walked up to the final group of MG and Interns and said, "Thanks a lot for all your work." Then I thought, "Who am I to be thanking them?", because it's their show and their work. So, THANK YOU TO ALL! Now you Interns can see why we couldn't explain just how much fun it is.

I also want to thank Kathy Stamper for the "Hoop House" program presented to us at the April 15 meeting. Kathy wanted to let us know that MGs are invited to visit their farm. She asked that members call first to ensure someone is there. Stamper Farms is located at 1288 S. County Road 600 West in Danville, and Kathy's phone number is 317-539-4616. Maybe their strawberries will be ready!

The Bus Trip for June 7 is a GO. There is still additional room on the bus. Please complete and submit the registration form [here](#) as soon as possible if you want to go.

The MG Plant Auction is on Tuesday, May 20 in the Expo Hall at the Fairgrounds. Remember that payment is cash and check only. Below are some noteworthy items regarding the Auction:

- There will be a short business meeting at 6:15 p.m. The Auction will begin at 6:30 p.m.
- Plants may be brought to the Expo Hall on Monday, May 19 (from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 5:30 - 7 p.m.) and on Tuesday, May 20 (Starting at 3:00 p.m.). On Monday, plants can also be left outside the Expo Hall between 1 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.
- Last year there were a lot of daylilies and hosta without names/color. These are still wanted and can be sold as "buy now."
- Family and friends are always welcome at the Auction. Flyers were handed out to visitors at GFAA so we hope to see some of those people in attendance.
- All plants should be marked with common plant name, soil and light preference. If you don't know the plant name, someone else probably will. Dig plants at least 4-5 days before the Auction so they have time to recover being moved. Plants dug a couple weeks in advance work best as long as they are watered as needed.

On a final note, remember to take pictures this spring to enter in the Photo Contest that will be part of the October meeting. The HCMG Board is looking for someone to chair the Photo Contest, so please contact a board member if you are interested.

Welcome to Spring!

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

- Rosie Lenihan

## Volunteer & Educational Opportunities

### Volunteer Opportunities

**NEW!** Members planning the Plant Auction will be digging bulbs on Wednesday, May 14 at Joe & Debbie Ashby's in Bainbridge. Please contact Rosie Lenihan if you can volunteer. Shifts can be afternoon or evening. The Ashby's address is 6605 N CR 600 E, Bainbridge (Take US 36 west to 600 E, turn left on to 600 E, continue for about 1 mile until you see the yellow brick house on east side of road).

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

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

### Hendricks County Master Gardeners Teach

**May 14, 2014 - "Perennial Plant Exchange" - Colletta Kosiba**  
Brownsburg Library, 6:30 p.m. (Call 852-3167 to register)

Dig up several of your perennial favorites (4-6): please identify with labels) to exchange for plants brought by others. Garden expert Master Gardener Colletta Kosiba will give all the information you need about the plants to create a lovely garden. You take home the same number of plants you brought to exchange. Don't have any plants to exchange? Come anyway; this is great informative program and Many gardeners bring extra plants to share. A great way to get free plants!

- **May 21, 2014 - "Fairy Gardens" - Rosie Lenihan**  
Plainfield Aquatic Center, 11:00 a.m. (No registration is required). The public is welcome and refreshments will be provided for the first 30 attendees.

## Another Successful Year of Gardening for All Ages

With the help of a superstar team, Hendricks County's "Gardening for All Ages" show successfully turned 26 this year! From urbanites to hard-core farmers, from owners of acreage to those with small suburban plots, our show drew in over 1,300 guests from Hendricks and surrounding counties. Visitors left with free seeds and trees, good garden books, valuable garden information from our stellar speakers, tools and, best of all, lots of contented smiles.

It was obvious that with the indispensable help of Jon Cain and his staff, fairgrounds personnel, a commendable crew of hard-working interns and the backbone master gardener organization we had achieved fruition, when an attendee was overheard to say it was "the best one ever."

The GFAA team thanks all the Master Gardeners and Interns for their contributions of both brains and elbow grease, which helped so much to ensure this remarkable achievement. We hope you had as much fun as we did and look forward to spreading the garden "gospel" at this fall's Adventures in Gardening!



## Member Meetings & Information

### **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. It's always a surprise to see what comes to Auction, but you can expect items such as plants, shrubs, vines, trees, bulbs, natives, hardscape, tools, etc. **Cash and check payment only.**

### **Cookbooks**

The Hendricks County Master Gardeners Cookbook is available and can be purchased for \$8.

### **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

- 5/13/14 “Herb Gardening”  
Constance Ferry, Hobbit Gardens
- 5/27/14 “Soils and Plant Nutrition”  
Chris Parker, ANR Educator (Morgan County)
- 6/3/14 “Lawns”  
Jon Cain, ANR/ECD Educator (Hendricks County)
- 6/10/14 “Weed ID & Pesticide Safety”  
Jon Cain, ANR/ECD Educator (Hendricks County)

[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.

- 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)

## Elephant Ear Bulb Contest

Below is more information\* about planting and caring for elephant ear bulbs for those of you who attended the April meeting and received a bulb to plant. Those who wish to take part in the contest to see who can grow the largest bulb will be asked to bring their bulbs back in to the October meeting.

- Elephant Ear bulbs are typically planted during the spring season once the threat of frost has passed
- Choose a planting location that has well-drained soil and receives as much direct sunlight as possible.
- Depending on the variety and size of the bulbs, space the elephant ears 24-48" apart (refer to specific variety instructions).
- It is sometimes difficult to determine which end of an elephant ear bulb is the "pointed end". When looking at the bulb, you will most likely notice one end is somewhat gnarly with small holes and divots. This is the end that will produce roots and should be planted downward in the soil. The opposite end of the bulb will be much smoother with distinct concentric rings around it. This smooth end will produce the sprout and should be facing up. Plant the bulb so that it is covered with 1-2" of soil.
- Thoroughly soak the area with water once the tubers have been planted. Continue to water regularly throughout the growing season. Fertilize plants once per month if desired with a well-balanced water soluble fertilizer while actively growing.
- Keep in mind that the Elephant Ear plant is native to area of extreme heat and a tropical climate. Therefore, it will require quite a bit of consistent warm weather to begin sprouting. This can mean sometimes taking a period of 6-8 weeks to sprout once the weather begins to warm in more northern climates. Patience may be required before initial growth is visible.
- Allow plants to continue growing up until just before the first frost. This enables them to produce food for next year's growth. If planted in containers, force the bulbs into dormancy by gradually withholding water at this point or move indoors so that it may continue to grow in the warmth.
- Gently dig up the bulb. Cut what is remaining of the plant stalks within 6" of the bulb and gently rinse off the soil. Allow the bulbs to air dry for at least one full day. Place bulbs in a dry paper bag.
- Store the bags for winter in a dry place which remains consisting below 55 degrees but does not freeze, such as a cellar, basement, or garage.

*\*Information listed is from [www.hollandbulbfarms.com](http://www.hollandbulbfarms.com).*

## Annual HCMG Photography Contest

The HCMG annual photography contest will take place at the October meeting. The contest is open to all Hendricks County Master Gardeners and Interns and takes place during the meeting.

### **Categories for Entry**

- Single Blooms
- Garden Landscapes
- Winged Things
- Unclassified (Must be garden-related)

### **Guidelines**

Images are to be photographed in 2014 only. Please print 5"x7" images and mount and mat them to 8"x10". Include your name, title, and category on the back of each submission. You may enter one image in each category.

### **Awards**

Awards will include First, Second, Third and Best of Show. Winning images will be displayed at Adventures in Gardening! Everyone is encouraged to submit images and join in the fun.

## Upcoming Events

### **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](http://www.2014indymgconf.org).

### **Adventures in Gardening**

Adventures in Gardening (AIG) is the HCMG's annual gardening seminar. This year AIG will take place on October 4, 2014 at the Hendricks County Fairgrounds from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. The featured speaker is nationally famous author and gardening expert Stephanie Cohen (AKA "The Perennial Diva"). Attendees will also learn about water conservation, native plants and invasive species. For more information on this or any other HCMG activity, call the Hendricks County Extension office at 317-745-9260, visit [hendricksgardeners.com](http://hendricksgardeners.com), follow us on Twitter [@HndrixCoGardens](#), or "like" us on Facebook.

### **Other Events**

[Click here](#) for more information on upcoming HCMG events. Be sure to mark your calendar for the following events:

- May 10 - Geranium Festival • Downtown Danville
- May-September - Danville Farmers Market (Third Saturday)
- May 20 - Plant Auction 6:30 pm • HC Fairgrounds
- June-September - Avon Farmers Market (Second Tuesday)
- June-September - Plainfield Farmers Market (Third Wednesday)
- June-September - Brownsburg Farmers Market (Third Thursday)
- July 13-19 - Hendricks County Fair • Q & A Booth
- August 1-17 - Indiana State Fair • Q & A Booth
- October 4 - Adventures in Gardening Seminar • HC Fairgrounds
- November 18 - Scholarship Auction 6:30 pm • HC Fairgrounds
- January 2015 - New Master Gardener class begins • HC Fairgrounds
- March 14 - 22, 2015 - Flower and Patio Show • Indiana State Fairgrounds
- April 25, 2015 - Gardening for All Ages • HC Fairgrounds Expo Hall

### **Statewide Events**

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



It is the policy of the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service that all persons have equal opportunity and access to its educational programs, services, activities, and facilities without regard to race, religion, color, sex, age, National origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, disability or status as a veteran. Purdue University is an Affirmative Action institution. This material may be available in alternative formats.