

December 2015

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President's Message

Greeting Hendricks County Master Gardeners & Interns

As you may know, in addition to being a HCMG, I am a Grandmother. How blessed I am. I was a Mystery Reader last week for my grandson John's first grade class (how long ago for some of us). As a Mystery Reader you give the teacher three hints for your grandchild to guess who was coming through the door. My hints were 1) I am the Grandmother of two boys and two girls; 2) We grow elephant ears; and 3) We play cheetah. Hooray, John guessed me!

Before reading books, I told the true story of my Dad's garden and how we kids put those vegetables on our pony cart to sell to the neighbors - this was the 1950's. This type venture was a Farmers' Markets. My grandkids and I do grow elephant ears - probably bulbs from some of you - thank you. The cheetah game is one John designed where I sit still - in of course, a nature area - and try to catch the (grandkid) cheetahs that fly past me - our imaginations do great things - sometimes we even imagine I catch them there in the wild!

As I was thinking of how to write my last HCMG President letter to you I looked for a magnificent quote to bind our worlds and experiences. I see my grandkids continuing the gardening venture from my Dad, from me, from my kids and hope this connection will continue. I have pulled from a great naturalist who pioneered preservation of nature - John Muir. Per Muir, "When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it connected to the real world."

So like each of us tugging at our gardens, connecting to the weeds, plants, trees, birds, bees, etc., we are connected and reconnected. We have introduced and connected with nature through Open Gardens, Plant Digs, Plant Exchanges and MG Extras. For us that does happen through HCMG, through the PU MG class, the interns, the projects and programs, our Purdue staff, our events, our friendships, on and on.

For the past two years as serving as HCMG President, and with a Board of dedicated gardeners, I thank each of you for your time, talent and treasure to HCMG. Thank you for two very educational gardening years. And from Robert Frost, "Never cut what you can untie". So now I reconnect from the front of the room to the other side of the tables. We have connected and learned much together. Thanks to each and every one of you.

Wishing you a Blessed Christmas and hope to see you at our MG Christmas Party.

Please continue to "Grow an Intern - Grow Master Gardeners"

Rosie Lenihan



Member Meetings & Information

Meetings

Date: December 8, 2015

Awards Night and Christmas Dinner: Reservations required.

We will enjoy a social hour from 6-7 and our buffet dinner will be served at 7pm. We will enjoy fellowship, appetizers and Christmas music in one of the large halls. Then at 7pm we will move to the next room and enjoy our meal and recognition event. The caterer for the evening is Brad and Christine Born owners of the Mayberry Cafe.

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 4 days 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 (<http://www.hendricksgardeners.com/members.html>) no more than one week after the most recent business meeting.

Reporting Volunteer Hours

The reporting form is updated on the website. You can download the blank form and use it to report just like the old form. Or you can fill out your downloaded form with your computer using Adobe Acrobat reader IX or later or Acrobat DC. If you use your computer and the Adobe free readers it will set your fonts up, standardize your date formatting, and automatically add up the hours you are submitting. Take a quick look at the form instructions you will find on the website.

If you have questions or problems using the form, please let the webmaster know.

2016 Master Gardener Classes

Hendricks County's Master Gardener Classes will begin on January 7th next year (2016). Requirements to be a MG include:

- Attend MG training program classes, which will be from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday evenings, with the final class planned for April 7th.
- Achieve rank of Intern by completing the training classes and passing the exam
- Complete 35 hours of volunteer service within 2 years of attending the training class
- To maintain active status as a MG, complete 12 volunteer hours and 6 education hours per year.

The cost for class materials is \$120. Registration is now available. For complete information and registration materials go to the Hendricks County Extension website page at <http://extension.purdue.edu/Hendricks/Pages/article.aspx?intItemID=12475>.

Direct questions to Angie Tilton at 317-745-9260 or email tilton@purdue.edu.

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" tabs.

Contribute to the Newsletter

Chairing a committee? Know about an interesting event? Have some timely garden advice? Giving a presentation somewhere? Need volunteers for a project?

Keep your fellow members informed. Contact Ed Freeman to get your info into the newsletter or on the website

America Selections announces 9 new varieties as 2016 Winners

Submitted by: Angie Tilton, Extension Educator

In November, All-America Selections (AAS) announced that nine new plants have been trialed by horticulture experts throughout North America and deemed worthy of the All-America Selections® brand.

The following new varieties were trialed during the 2015 growing season and exhibited outstanding garden performance:

- Geranium Brocade Cherry Night (National)
- Geranium Brocade Fire (National)
- Pepper Cornito Giallo F1 (National)
- Pepper Escamillo F1 (National)
- Pumpkin Super Moon F1 (Regional: Southeast and Great Lakes)
- Salvia Summer Jewel™ Lavender (Regional: Southeast, Heartland, Great Lakes)
- Strawberry Delizz® F1 (National)
- Tomato Candyland Red (National)
- Tomato Chef's Choice Green F1 (National)

For a description of each of these varieties and the entire list of 2016 AAS winners (3 others were announced in July), visit: <http://all-americaelections.org/winners/index.cfm>

Rosie Lerner, Purdue Extension Specialist in Consumer Horticulture recently wrote an article describing the first ever AAS strawberry variety. This annual strawberry variety boasts fruit production for up to 4 weeks on compact plants that do well in planters or small beds. To read the full article copy and paste this URL into your browser: http://agriculture.purdue.edu/agcomm/newscolumns/archives/YGnews/2015/November/151119YG.html#.V19UN_mrSM-

There are nearly 200 dedicated AAS Display Gardens. According to the listing of current locations, there are 6 in Indiana. Three of them are located within central Indiana- Indianapolis, Noblesville and Westfield. For a complete listing of AAS display gardens visit: http://all-americaelections.org/display_gardens/display_gardens.cfm

AAS winners should be available through local garden centers and mail-order catalogs next spring.

From Our ANR

I had the opportunity to present at the November MG Association meeting. This was my first "formal" presentation to members and the first opportunity I had to introduce myself to everyone a little more. For those of you who were able to attend, thank you for joining me. I really enjoyed presenting and I appreciated the time I was able to speak with members before and after the presentation. For those of you were unable to join us, we missed you. However, I will recap a few of the highlights or key pieces of information that were presented.

In 2014, you all volunteered 5,566.5 volunteer hours which equals a value of \$124,355.6. You also participated in 1,296 education hours. Congratulations to the Board for strong leadership and to all the volunteers for their dedication and hard work!

Purdue Extension and Purdue's College of Agriculture is currently in the process of developing 5 year strategic plans. In preparation for that, they conducted 21 Community Forums and 6 Dean's Listening Sessions. 5 priority issues came out of those forums for Community, Economy, Agriculture and Natural Resources that will be honored in our strategic plans. I discussed how the MG program tied into each of those 5 areas. (You should have received a copy of the summary from those forums in an email from me.)

I provided an overview reminder of what counts/doesn't count for volunteer hours and training hours. I have been getting a lot of questions on this lately. A handout of these guidelines were provided. (You can find a copy of this on the MG website and you also should have received it in an email from me.) The key take away is that not every example of what can count is on that handout, it is simply a guideline. The important thing is to communicate with me as the County Coordinator before volunteering or attending a training to discuss if it counts. When in doubt, just reach out to me-communication is key!

I announced two new projects I will be looking for help with from MGs. One is that we will be getting a Resource Center at the Extension office where MGs can help answer questions from the public regarding consumer horticulture. I am in the very early stages of this project, but a room for the Resource Center has been identified and I am working on setting that up. The other project is that we will be looking into developing a demonstration garden at the Fairgrounds as a Bicentennial project that will be ready for the 4-H Fair in July. If you have any interest in either of these projects, please let me know. Stay tuned for future updates on both of these projects as they progress.

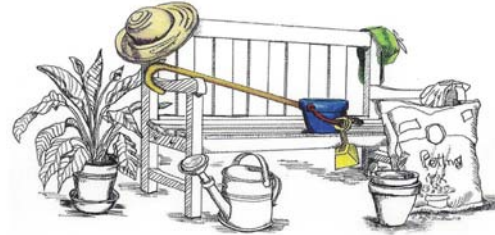
It is an exciting time in Purdue Extension as we look to enhance and evolve our programs. I am excited to be a part of the Hendricks County community and I am looking forward to working with each of you to establish strong and impactful community programs as we work together to continue helping Hendricks County grow. If you have ideas for projects or have any questions, please reach out to me anytime by phone or email. Thank you for all you do for our community.



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.

2016 Events Update

Hendricks County Master Gardeners Spring Gardening Show



Gardening for All Ages

Hendricks County Fairgrounds

April 23, 2016 9 to 4



Gardening for All Ages

April 23, 2016 9 to 4

Free Admission

- Garden Speakers
- Gardening Vendors
- Gardening Help Desk
- Trees & Seeds
- Children's Activities

www.hendricksgardeners.com

Purdue University is an equal opportunity/equal access institution.

If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program contact the Extension office at (317) 745-9260.

See last year pictures on Facebook.

Upcoming Events of Interest:

June 16 – 18, 2016: Master Gardener State Conference at the Four Points by Sheraton, West Lafayette. For more information: <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/mg/2016StateConf.html>