

March 2016

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In This Issue

Message	1
Membership and Meetings	2
2016 Events Update	3
From the ANR	3

Message from the Editor

It's March. Spring is coming. Soon. Remember? This is what it looks like (from last year).



We get to do our first work in the veggie garden this month, and it's about time to get some plants started inside. The beehive has already been active on some of the warmer days. Sandhill Crane formations have been overhead. And the days get longer very rapidly.

This is a unique March as it contains the only Pi day of the century (3.1416). Be alert and watch out for wildly frolicking mathematicians in your strawberry patch.

Applications for this year's scholarship are available on our website and on the extension website. If you know of a high school student who is considering an agriculture-related major, be sure and say something.

The State Master Gardeners Conference registration is open. See page 2 and 3 or the members page on the website for more info and a web link. The conference is in West Lafayette this year from June 16 through 18.

Morgan County Master Gardeners will have their Garden Fest and Pansy Sale on Friday and Saturday March 18th and 19th.

GFAA and AIG both still need volunteers of course, but don't forget about the other committees:

Welcome Committee, Audit Committee, Hendricks Co. Fair Booth, Plant Auction Committee May 17th, Display Window-March, April, May & August, Farmers Markets, Summer Picnic/Awards, Avon Learning Center, Plainfield Correctional Center, Christmas Party/Awards, Membership Directory, Scholarship Program

And consider the opportunity to volunteer for one of the two big projects on page 3!

We will be discussing a potential mega-project at the March meeting. Be sure to attend.

Ed Freeman



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www.hendricksgardeners.com

For the latest information, visit our website and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.



Member Meetings & Information

Meetings

Date: March 15, 2016

6:30 Social Time

7:00 Business Meeting

8:00 Presentation — Aliums: Planting, Storing, and Varieties 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.

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.

Master Gardener Presentations

101 Landscaping Ideas by Colletta Kosiba

March 22 at 6:30

Brownsburg Library, 450 S. Jefferson, Brownsburg

Register at 852-3167

Adding style and fun to your outdoor space. Water features, fences, rocks, arbors and other plant “stuff”. Plant combinations.

2016 Master Gardener Classes

Hendricks County’s Master Gardener Classes began on January 7th. Requirements to be a MG include:

- Attend MG training program classes. (This year’s classes are 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.

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

2016 State Conference

Registration is open for the Purdue Master Gardeners State Conference at the Four Points Sheraton in West Lafayette June 16-18.

Early registration deadline is April 1, final deadline is May 1. For forms and more information see <http://www.tippecanoemastergardener.org/2016-mg-conference/>

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.
- Please consider volunteering for two new opportunities this year—staffing a new resource center and developing a demonstration garden. See page 3.

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

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ANR Educator Report

Remember, we have two exciting projects that I am seeking assistance from Master Gardeners on this spring: 1. Demonstration Garden at the Fairgrounds and 2. Master Gardener Resource Center. Please read the project description of the two projects below and consider signing up to volunteer if you are interested.

1. **Demonstration Garden:** The Fairgrounds would like to have a new feature added to the facility as part of Indiana's Bicentennial and have asked Purdue Extension's to create a demonstration garden on the Fairgrounds that would be available for the public to walk through during the County Fair in July. At this time, I am looking for volunteers who are interested in helping to design, build and plant the garden this spring. I am also looking for volunteers who would be interested in leadership roles with this project too.
2. **Resource Center:** The Extension office receives hundreds of phone calls every year on various backyard horticulture and gardening questions, concerns and inquiries. To help meet these needs in the community, I will be developing a Master Gardener Resource Center at the Extension Office. Master Gardeners will staff the Resource Center and assist with public inquiries related to backyard horticulture and gardening. I am in the process of developing a training session in partnership with Purdue Extension Hamilton County for Master Gardeners interested in staffing the Resource Center. I am searching for volunteers who would be willing to attend the training and consider helping to staff the Resource Center. (Those volunteers who sign up will be notified first of the training opportunity.)

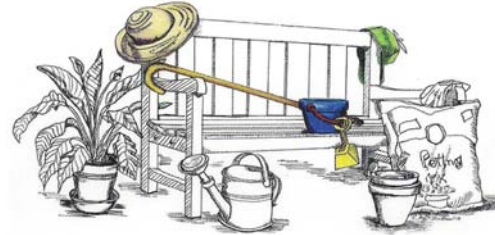
I had a sign-up sheet at the January meeting and I will continue to bring one to future meetings. If you are interested in volunteering and haven't been able to sign up at one of the meetings, please email Janet at jcunningham@purdue.edu or call the office at 317-745-9260 and let us know which project or projects you would be interested in volunteering for.

There are plenty of other exciting opportunities to get involved in and volunteer. I am really looking forward to all that the Hendricks County Master Gardeners have planned for 2016. There are certainly some exciting things growing here already!



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.

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>