

May 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 President

Happy May to one and all. I must start this letter with a HUGE thank you to all Master Gardeners and Interns who volunteered at the Gardening for All Ages event April 23rd. WOW! What a great show and it was so much fun. Ed and Suzy Freeman did a superlative job coordinating everything. The committee chairs did their jobs and all ran like clock work. If I could sing I would have done so on my way home from the show. "The hills are alive with gardening ideas."



At our last meeting I failed to give credit to Barb Zupan for organizing the Welcome Intern Drawing. Thank you Barb.

Warmer weather brings all sorts of volunteer opportunities for our club. Try something new.

Martha Rardin spoke at our April meeting about education opportunities with the YMCA in Avon. Eloisa Garza talked about a training session coming for the Plainfield Correctional Center. The session is May 13th at 1:00 p.m. or May 14th at 10:00 a.m. The training will be at the Plainfield Correctional Center just south of HWY 40 on Moon road.

If you were not at the meeting in April and would like to help at the Farmers Markets let me know.

The Avon market is on the second Tuesday of June, July and August 4-7pm. The Plainfield market is on the third Wednesday of June, July and August 4-7pm. The Danville market is on the third Saturday of June, July and August from 8 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

May 11th is the perennial plant exchange at the Plainfield Library at 6:30 p.m. Bring 4-6 plants from your yard labeled with name, sun or shade. Take home new plants!

Our May 17th meeting is in the Expo hall at the Hendricks County Fair grounds. It's our annual plant auction. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend. Cash or checks accepted. Doors open at 5:30 and we will have a brief meeting from 6:45-7:00. The auction will begin promptly at 7 and end at 8p.m.

Go MG's and Interns. Let's grow together!
Becky Troutman , President



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Member Meetings & Information

Meetings

Date: May 17, 2016

Plant Auction

5:30 open for "buy now" tables—Expo Hall at Hendricks County Fairgrounds

6:45 Brief Business Meeting

7:00 Auction Begins

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 on the website. You can download the blank form and use it to report with a pen. 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 are using Firefox or Chrome as your web browser please be sure you are NOT using the default PDF readers that come with these to submit your forms. They are just readers, they will not save a filled in PDF form—even though it looks like they are working — and they will not warn you that they are not saving your content.

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

Volunteer and Educational Opportunities

Plainfield Correctional Facility Garden

From Eloiza Garza

We are involved with a gardening program at the Plainfield Correctional Facility which provides detainees the opportunity to learn about plants and gardening. We are in the process of getting the garden planned out and prepared for planting. The next step is our annual hunt for plants. We are looking for tomatoes, peppers, cabbage, squash, cucumbers, zucchini, any and all herbs and some flowers. Because it is a restricted facility there are some limitations with regard to flowers. They must be under 3 feet. Marigolds, zinnias, and short sunflowers are some of the ones that are on our wish list, but all suggestions are welcome. So if any of you have a plant or two that could be shared, your contribution would be much appreciated. Contact me at garzafarm@gmail.com or Rita Kerner at rikerner13@gmail.com

Master Gardeners for Plainfield Garden Tour

From Terri Tram

The 8th annual Plainfield Garden Tour will be held on **Saturday, June 18th**, from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm and **Sunday, June 19th**, from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm. They are adding an education piece to the tour this year. Several gardens will have a content "expert" to help educate the public on garden related subjects. One of those gardens will have an "Ask a Master Gardener" table manned by two Hendricks County Master Gardeners who will be available to answer general gardening questions. It is understood that you will not have all of the answers but could direct the visitor on the correct path to finding a solution. In return for your time, you will receive volunteer hours for Master Gardeners. This is an opportunity for Master Gardeners to do what we do best - educate the public.

We would like two Master Gardeners per two-hour shift. Depending on the number of volunteers, the volunteers may work more than one two-hour shift.

Please e-mail me at Hayladyjrin-mail@yahoo.com or contact me at (317) 919-7679 to volunteer. Provide your name, e-mail address, cell phone number, preferred day/time to volunteer, and Master Gardener experience level (i.e. Intern, Master Gardener, etc.). I would appreciate you responding as soon as possible but no later than **Wednesday, May 18th**. A sign up sheet will also be available at the HCMG Meeting on **May 17th**.

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 the new resource center and developing a demonstration garden at the Fairgrounds.

From Our ANR

ANR Educator Report

The Master Gardener Basic Training class is finished, the exam is done, and we now have 35 new intern Master Gardeners. Congratulations to all!

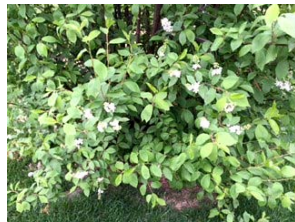
Congratulations and thanks, too, for all the volunteers who helped with Gardening for All Ages. Well done--it was a great day!

The Master Gardener Resource Center is about ready to go. The room has books, a computer, a printer, and a tablet and we are just finishing setting up. The joint boot camp with Hamilton County on **April 27th** went well. Hendricks County Master Gardeners had 29 participants. There were "frequent question" topics --urban tree problems, insects, plant diseases, and common lawn problems. Master Gardeners with experience in Marion County's center and from a few other states contributed to the "How to" discussion. We now have a nice pool of well-prepared volunteers for the Resource Center. If you couldn't attend the training, you can still volunteer in the Resource Center- we will pair you with someone who did attend while you gain experience.

We should be able to start up the Resource Center by early June. Watch your email and the Master Gardener website for a schedule update and opportunity to volunteer for specific sessions. We'll take a go-slow approach to launching while we iron out any kinks, and then ramp up over the summer.

From Our Members

From Rosie Lenihan



For those of you who attended the 2015 MG Picnic at my home I pointed out a "shrub" that had once been a flowering tree - Canadian Chokeberry. The tree was very distorted and I wanted in cut down. Landscaper, John Chapin, suggested we cut it back to the ground and let the suckers form a shrub - not certain if it would flower again. And we did! First year, no flowers. Second year, no flowers. Our magical gardening third year - when many plants soar - it bloomed!! Hang in there - another lesson in gardening



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2016 Events Update

From Colletta Kosiba

Hendricks County Master Gardeners Annual Plant Auction and Sale will be held **Tuesday May 17th** at Hendricks County Fairgrounds, in the Expo Hall. Doors and Buy Now tables will open at 5:30 pm. There will be a brief business meeting 6:45 7:00, with the auction beginning at 7pm. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend. Bring friends, cash or checkbook, and boxes or crates to tote your winnings home. Sorry, we cannot accept credit or debit cards

Not only will there be a wide variety of healthy, locally grown plants (natives, perennials, bulbs, trees and shrubs), there will be other garden goods, as well. At past auctions, we have had benches, garden gates, garden art, garden tools, you get the idea, anything garden related.

Members are asked to dig and pot as early as possible to allow the plants time to recover from being disturbed. Please be sure to label your donations with the plant name, **sun** and soil requirements, and any other information that would be useful to the buyer. Donations may be dropped off at the Expo Hall after 3:30 pm on **May 17th**. If you would like for someone to pick-up your donations, please contact a committee member.

Just a reminder, we use the honor system. Each buyer is responsible for keeping track of the plants they have purchased, both from the sale table and the auction. Buyers can check-out at the cashier table at any time.

A few of the changes you will notice this year are:

- The auction will be limited to one hour. To accomplish this, the more common and plentiful plants will be on the Buy Now tables. The auction items will be the more unique and limited quantity of items.
- There will be no formal break, so help yourself to the refreshments during the open buying time.

Upcoming Master Gardener 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>

October 15, 2016: Adventures in Gardening at the Hendricks County Fairgrounds.