

April 2018

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Use the webmaster's email address or the contact form under "about" on our website to contact our officers.

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Message from the President

President's Message – April 2018

Welcome to Spring! We all know that the weather is never boring in Indiana, especially in the Springtime. Ten inches of snow, which was gone in 2 days, followed by torrential rains, all of which left ponds and lots of mud in the garden. But it will get better, after all, the Groundhog's 6-week term of more winter is almost over.

Attendance at our March meeting was wonderful! John Thieme gave a great presentation "Where Have All the Butterflies Gone", which was both interesting and enjoyable. For those who chose to stay, we had a Bonas presentation by our own John Dottenwhy, who did a great job teaching us about Straw Bale Gardening. On April 17th Rosie Lenihan and Jan Myers will educate us on hosting a State Conference.

Spring of 2018 is going to be a great time for HCMG members, especially if you are looking to log volunteer hours. We are still seeking volunteers for our major 2018 events, GFAA and the State Conference, as well as our regular HCMG activities such as the Plant Sale and Farmers Markets. Please consider signing up and supporting these events. Also, please remember that May 1st is the deadline for entering volunteer and education hours, anyone who is moving up a level will have their new badge in time for State Conference.

We are also searching for someone to lead GFAA in 2019. This would be a great time to step up and learn a few of the details during this year's show. You would not be alone, Ed Freeman, myself and the rest of the GFAA team are more than happy to help. If you think you would consider leading next year's GFAA, let me know and we will talk.

As always, I want to thank everyone who is are working so very hard on the State Conference which is getting closer each day, and those working on GFAA which is even closer. Also, thank you to all those who have been working on the Demonstration Garden, Scholarship, Plant Sale, and all the other programs. And a special thanks to all those who have stepped up to be committee chairs.

Remember to keep your calendars open for April 27th & 28th for GFAA (and set up day), the annual Plant Sale & Auction on May 15th, and June 7th, 8th & 9th for State Conference. You should also add the HCMG Summer Picnic on July 24th at Bruce Crum's place. I hope to see everyone at our regular HCMG meeting on April 17th, which will be our last general meeting until September.

Steve Pearl, President

Member Meetings & Information

April 17, 2018

Social Time 6:30 – 7:00 pm

Business Meeting 7:00 pm

Presentation 8:00 pm
State Conference Hosting

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 except summer months.
- 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.

Gardening for All Ages



April 28, 2018



Time for GFAA!

Volunteer: Final sign up sheets at the April Meeting.

Find: Items for the Gardener's Closet

2018 Events

... The SHORTS...

Purdue Master Gardener State Conference 2018

June 7-9 2018

Thursday Tour Updates-

John Chapin and his wife Kathy built their home in 1983 on four acres of scrub and weeds. There were just a few trees of any size, including two huge white ashes and a silver maple,



as well as a grove of very small sugar maples, so they planted hundreds of white pines, river birches, and bald cypresses. The arrival of the Emerald Ash Borer necessitated the removal of the two huge ashes and about two dozen other smaller ashes and wild cherry trees, resulting in a

sudden change from full shade to full sun in a large part of the gardens. Dozens of shade perennials were transplanted to new areas and the new full-sun area has been replanted with magnolias, lilacs, redbuds, dwarf and/or unusual conifers, and perennials. John's garden is not only featured on Country Garden Tour #1 but will also be on the Plainfield Garden Tour for 2018. John will also be one of our vendors at the State Conference.



The Stephens family home is set on eight acres of secluded woods and is the first stop on Country Garden Tour

#2. Beginning in 1976 with the building of the gazebo overlooking a new pond and bridge, Bill Stephens continued to add to their wonderland with a second pond. There are many magnificent gardens, including a formal garden, rose garden and a variety of gardens with hostas, daylilies and irises. Bill is also a trial gardener for new irises and daylilies and was featured on the Iris tour in 2017.

Looking for Silent Auction Items - Please contact Kathleen Hutton.

Registration is open. Printable forms are available for downloading on the conference website, On-line registration and payment is also available on the website:

www.purduemgconference.com.

Keep thinking - less than 52 days to State Conference.

Jan Myers, Co- Chair Rosie Lenihan, Co-Chair



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