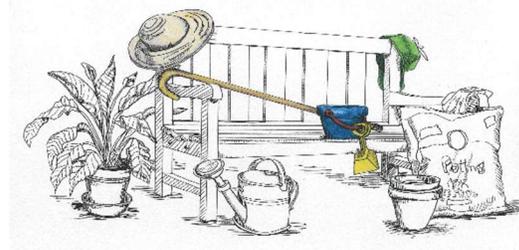


HENDRICKS GARDENER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
HENDRICKS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS



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June, 2020



President's Message

Greetings Master Gardeners. Hope this message finds you healthy, wealthy & wise. As I said last month, seems like forever since we have seen one another, and it has been nearly four months now. It has been refreshing to see or talk to a few of you on rare occasions, but I really do miss the regular interactions we usually have. We may have some opportunities before long, Lord willing and the "virus" creek don't rise.

In case you haven't heard, Purdue did not extend the curtailment of face-to-face interactions beyond July 1st, but instead are following the Governor's "Back on Track" plan with some restrictions. So many of our activities planned for the rest of the year MAY occur as scheduled. Although I am sure you realize that these activities will look very different than what we are used to as we institute due precautions. Consideration is being given to what we will need to do to move forward with these events, and we will make you aware of those as the time gets closer. The County Fair in July will be replaced this year with a 4H Exhibit Showcase, which will be essentially a 4H only event, so we will not have a booth or man the Demo Garden at the Fair. Watch your email and newsletters for more information on other events.

A quick update on the non-GFAA 2020. We refunded the fees to all the vendors who invested in booth space, some of them needed the funds more than us. We further offered refunds to our sponsors, all of which responded for us to keep the sponsorship donation or hold it till GFAA 2021. So a big thank you to Hendricks Power, Kramer Companies, Lawsons, and Dammann's for their generosity. We had already ordered and paid for the trees, John Dottenwhy picked them up and worked hard on finding homes for them. Several trees were donated to deserving groups such as the Avon Outdoor Learning Center, and many were given to the public at opportunities such as the 4H geranium pick up. Special thanks to Kati Sweet and the 4H Flower Committee for their assistance in this endeavor. Many of the seeds that were donated have been given away at food pantries, to the Correctional Facility, and other charity groups. We still have many seeds remaining but have decided to hold on to most of those. There seems to be higher than normal demand for seeds this year, and we fear the seed companies may not have the seeds

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left over to donate for next year. So rather than have to purchase seeds for GFAA 2021, we decided to hold on to some of what we have.

Even though it may feel like it to some of us, HCMG is not at a full stop. We continue to adapt to our ever changing new normal and try to find what works. We will still award our annual scholarship if we have qualified applicants, but it will not be awarded at the plant sale as in the past. With the confusion created by the closure of schools, the deadline for the scholarship application has been extended to June 8th and the scholarship will be awarded in July. We are looking into staffing a booth at the July and August Farmers Markets if it is permitted. The Demo Garden has been considered as a community garden, so we ARE ALLOWED to work in the garden, even prior to July 1 with some restrictions of course, so watch the MG Manager for Demo Garden Volunteer opportunities. We will also be opening the Education Center by having volunteers research and respond to questions from their home, watch your email and MG Manager for further details and opportunities.

Kathy Moran and the Bylaw Review Committee have drafted a revision to our current Bylaws which is now being reviewed by the Executive Board. You may recall the purpose of the revision is to add the Assistant Treasurer and possibly another position to the Executive Board. We hope to be able to present the revision to the membership for review and adoption this fall.

I would also be remiss if I didn't mention, the 2020 Directories are finished, and have been finished since March. Debbie Off worked very hard on compiling and completing the Directories. Unfortunately, we have not had the opportunity to distribute them to you. We will have them available at the first opportunity.

If all goes well, we will be able to have Open Gardens starting in July. Since many of you have had a little extra time working in your home gardens this year, I am sure they are looking spectacular. Please consider hosting a Social Distance Open Garden. After spending all the extra time at our own homes, we all will be anxious to get out and see what others have been doing. Gardens need not be show quality, we all know

that any garden or landscape is always a "work in progress," and we all have a few weeds. You would not be expected to provide snacks, amenities or anything else, you won't even be required to place X's in your yard 6 ft. apart. Just let fellow MG's tour your gardens. The point is to share and show off your ideas, plantings and accomplishments, and maybe get a few ideas and suggestions from fellow MG's. Date and time are at your convenience, you decide. If interested, please let Sara Fenton know.

I know all of us have been looking for ways to help those less fortunate than us, and here is one small way. Many people and families are attempting grow their own vegetables and flowers this year, many for the first time. If any of your neighbors or friends who happen to be in this group, please offer some gentle assistance and advice if needed. You all have expertise that others do not and are aware of many resources that others are not aware of. It's a way we can individually help our community, which collectively can add up to a big impact.

Lastly, I really miss seeing all of you and want to make sure I get to see you again. Please take care of yourselves and others. Gardening is great therapy, so turn off the news, get outside and enjoy a slower pace in your own little world, talk to your plants, talk to a bird or any other critter friends you share your backyard with. Stay in touch and check up on fellow MG's, friends and family via phone, text, email, drums, smoke signals, or any other methods you may have implemented. I know many of us have gotten creative on communication. We all know gardeners are strong willed, determined, and have learned to be very adaptable, so we will get through this. Stay safe, stay well, stay strong and stay positive. Hope to see you soon.

Steve Pearl, President

Editor's Note

Please excuse the tardiness of the June newsletter. I wanted to wait until the board met to finalize plans for summer and fall programming. Then I had a major computer issue... Please email Judy@Kenningercommunications.com with any information for future newsletters or Facebook.

Summer Picnic is On!

Save the Date of July 28th for the HCMG Summer Picnic to be held at the home of Sara Fenton. Details and directions will be shared in the July newsletter, but we are working to assure the safety of all attendees. Rather than the normal pitch-in, gloved master gardeners will be plating meals using social distance measures. The picnic will include a plant exchange, so please bring ONE nice plant (potted or rooted) to participate in the exchange. Please include the name and care instructions for your plant.

Sheltering Wings Update

The Sheltering Wings committee has kept in contact with the center's director but has decided to wait until next year to implement the planned curriculum and help with the garden. The director is excited with everything planned, so the committee will be ready to go next year. The center did come and get six Redbud trees leftover from the cancelled GFAA to plant behind the shelter.

Adventures in Gardening

The Adventures in Gardening Committee has been keeping in contact and had a recent meeting. They already have three speakers in place and plan to accumulate two to three more. The conference will take place both in house and virtually; those on-site will be following protocols set by Purdue and by Governor Holcomb. The committee has discussed serving boxed lunches and/or allowing those attending in house to bring their own lunch and snacks. Due to the many changes in the event this year, there will be no registration fee.

The committee will meet again on June 23rd at 7pm, via Zoom for anyone who would like to attend. To receive an invite, contact Carol Gillaspay via email gillaspycarol@yahoo.com.

Master Gardner Status News

Due to cancelations and restrictions associated with Covid-19, Purdue Extension has suspended the Master Gardener minimum volunteer hours' requirement for the remainder of 2020. This means Master Gardeners will be able to report less than 12 volunteer hours and still maintain active status. Please don't jeopardize your health or safety through participation in the program. If you can safely volunteer, please keep reporting these hours in MG Manager. This information is extremely important for communicating the impacts of the program to funding agencies and stakeholders. There are many opportunities for education hours, and you should continue to report these as well. These two resources can connect you with educational and volunteer opportunities.

- www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/mastergardener/volunteerideas-at-home/
- www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/mastergardener/continuedhours/

Monthly Meetings Resume on August 18

Our monthly meetings resume in August with Broch Martindale of Wildflower Farms giving a presentation on Growing Flowers for Bouquets. There will not be the usual social hour and refreshments will not be served. The room will be set up to allow for social distancing, and members can observe the business meeting and presentation via a Zoom link. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us either in person or virtually.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

July 28 • HCMG Picnic
August 18 • Monthly Meeting, Cutting Gardens
September 9 • HCMG Plant Sale
September 18 and 19 • Outdoor Learning Center Native Plant Sale
October 10 • Adventures in Gardening

(Note: all dates are subject to change based on conditions related to COVID-19)