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2020 Officers

Steve Pearl, President

Sara Fenton, Vice President

Teri Mitchum, Treasurer

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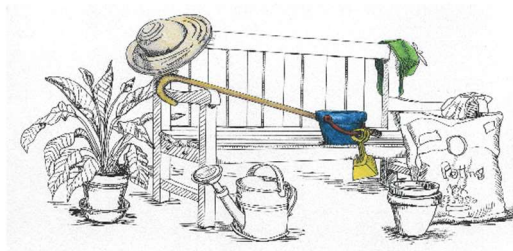
Judy Kenninger,
Communications Director

July 2020



HENDRICKS GARDENER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
HENDRICKS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS



President's Message

ON Your Mark, Get Set, LETS GOOO! After nearly four months of no face-to-face contact, beginning in July we can (hopefully!) once again meet face to face. We'll need to follow the Governor's "Back On Track" guidelines for social distancing, but even that will be a refreshing change. It'll be great to see your smiling face in person, or at least the top half of that smiling face.

Planning—including social distance and safety considerations—is moving forward for the remainder of 2020. Kathleen Hutton and her committee are deep into planning the HCMG Summer Picnic on July 28 at the Fenton Gardens. Carol Gillaspay, Susan Gackenheimer and their committee are busy planning Adventures in Gardening on October 10. At the August, September, October and November HCMG business meetings, we'll have some changes. In August, we'll skip the social time at 6:30 and snacks, so we'll start at 7 p.m., and the meeting will be limited to 35 people. For those that can't attend in person can watch online. After August, we'll finalize plans for later meetings.

Work and progress continue in the Demonstration Garden, and it's looking GREAT. Watch the Master Gardener Management System or contact Becky Troutman for volunteer opportunities. Because of the procedures put in place for the Danville Farmers Market, we've decided not to staff a booth at Danville this year; a decision on the Plainfield Farmers Market hasn't been made.

If you volunteer at the Avon Outdoor Learning Center, you may have received emails from info@safevisitorsolutions that the required Avon Community School background check is expiring. This is a valid email, however, there is a \$12 fee if you apply online. For now, please hold off on applying. Jennifer Davies, OLC Education Coordinator, is working with the Avon Schools to see if AOLC volunteers can apply another way. If you've already reapplied and paid the \$12 fee, please submit the reimbursement form found on the HCMG website and we'll reimburse you; HCMG members shouldn't have to pay to volunteer.

Pat Dallas, Chuck Dallas and Vicki Coleman have agreed to serve as the Nominating Committee for 2021 officers. Please let them know if you're interested in an Executive Board position, please let one of them know. Also, if you're asked to serve, please give it careful consideration.

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As I mentioned last month, the 2020 HCMG Directory has been finished since March. Debbie Off worked diligently to compile and complete it. Your copies will be available at our upcoming events. Better late than never, huh?

Starting this month, we're allowed to have Social Distance Open Gardens, so please consider hosting one. Since many of you have spent extra time working in your gardens this year, I'm sure they're looking spectacular. Gardens need not be show quality—we all know that any garden or landscape is always a "work in progress." You need not provide snacks; you won't even be required to place X's in your yard 6 ft. apart. Just let fellow MGs tour your gardens. The point is to share and show off your plantings, and maybe even get a few ideas and suggestions from fellow MGs. Date and time are at your convenience. If interested, please let Sara Fenton know.

I really miss seeing all of you and am looking forward to seeing the upper half of as many of your faces as possible. In case you didn't take the hint, please wear masks to HCMG events as appropriate. Please take care of yourselves and others. As any gardener knows, you must be adaptable to be a gardener and our adaptability will continue to be challenged. But we also know gardening is wonderful therapy, so take advantage of as much therapy as you can. Stay safe, stay well, stay strong and stay positive. Hope to see you soon.

Steve Pearl

Summer Picnic is On!

The HCMG Summer Picnic at Sara Fenton's home at 6 p.m. on July 28th will look a bit different this year. Our usual pitch-in isn't safe now, so HCMG will supply all food, and we'll have properly protected people serving you. The menu is your

favorite picnic fare: Fried Chicken, several salads, chips, desserts, and lemonade, tea, and water.

New this year: There will be a plant exchange following the meal. Each member (guests may also participate) is asked to bring one plant that's well rooted, reasonably sized and labeled with the plant's name and care requirements. This isn't a swap of gardener's closet items; however, you may get creative with a unique item as a container or plant accent to make it interesting. Thinking "out of the pot" will add to the fun.

The address for the picnic is 6188 E. County Road 91 N in Avon (just west of Avon Gardens). Overflow parking is within walking distance at nearby soccer fields, and shuttle service will be available. Please **RSVP** now but no later than **July 20** by calling or texting Kathleen Hutton at 812-261-2725 or Sara Fenton at 317-902-3160. Hope to see you there!

Remember to bring:

- Your Mask
- Your Own Lawn Chair
- Your Insect Deterrent
- Your Plant Exchange Item
- Your Gloves to help with clean-up...Please?
- Your Appetite

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. (Instructions and more information will be provided in the August Newsletter.)

Adventures in Gardening

Plans are still underway for AIG on Oct. 10. Three speakers are already booked (one will be speaking virtually), and more speakers are currently in the works. You can attend on-site or online, and Master Gardeners outside Hendricks County will be invited. On-site attendees will receive a box lunch from a local small business. Watch your email for more info.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

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

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