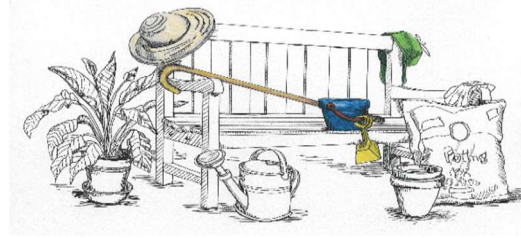


HENDRICKS GARDENER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
HENDRICKS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS



Hendricks County Extension Office
1900 East Main Street
Danville, IN 46122-0007
317-745-9260

www.HendricksGardeners.com

2020 Officers

Steve Pearl, President

Sara Fenton, Vice President

Teri Mitchum, Treasurer

Bruce Crum, Back Up Treasurer

Cathy Frederick, Secretary

Judy Kenninger,
Communications Director

August 2020



President's Message

Hello Master Gardeners. I hope your summer is going well despite this invasive virus. Flowers blooming and fresh vegetables ripening always help me keep a positive outlook. I've been able to see several you recently, which has done wonders for my attitude. Even with masks and social distancing it is so nice to see REAL PEOPLE!

A big shout out to Sara Fenton for hosting our summer picnic, and to Kathleen Hutton for chairing the Picnic Committee. It was a wonderful evening, great surroundings and excellent company. Kudos to the entire committee for keeping everyone safe while still providing an enjoyable evening. Thanks to everyone who attended for your cooperation. You proved again that gardeners are an adaptable group of people!

Here is your calendar update for the rest of 2020. The HCMG meeting on August 18 will have a revised format. To maintain social distancing, in-person attendance will be capped. If you plan to attend in person, please use the MG Management System to sign up now. If you don't feel comfortable coming in person, please attend virtually via Zoom Meetings. A Zoom link will be sent out about a week before the meeting with the meeting agenda. There will NOT be a social time; the business meeting will begin at 7:00 and the presentation at approximately 8:00. There will not be any snacks or drinks provided at the meeting, those attending in-person are welcome to bring their own. I know this is a major change, so if anyone has questions please feel free to contact me.

Carol Gillaspay, Susan Gackenheimer and the AIG Committee are busy planning Adventures in Gardening on October 10. As with our monthly meetings, there will be changes to provide appropriate precautions and safety. They are getting close to having the program established, so mark your calendars and keep an eye out for further details.

The Annual Plant Sale and Auction, previously rescheduled for September 9 has been cancelled. There were several factors contributing to this decision, but generally it didn't appear there was a lot of interest and it would have been a lot of work for little benefit. And lastly, the Winter Dinner & Awards in December is currently still on but is very questionable. We'll have to see how the things develop in the next couple months and then make that decision.

At the July Executive Board meeting, the Board adopted a proposed revision to the HCMG Bylaws. The primary reason for revising the by-

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laws now is to add two new positions to the Executive Board, an Assistant Treasurer and a Project Coordinator. The proposed revision also includes a few housekeeping details. They will be distributed prior to the August meeting so you can see all the changes, and if all goes well, we'll have a ratification vote at the October meeting.

The Nominating Committee for 2021 officers is Pat Dallas, Chuck Dallas and Vicki Coleman. If you're interested in an Executive Board position, please let one of them know. Also, if you should get a call from them asking you to serve, please give it careful consideration. Under our existing Bylaws the Nominating Committee is to present a slate of 2021 officer candidates at the September meeting, and elections will be at the October meeting. In anticipation of the bylaw revision, the Nominating Committee will be seeking nominees for the new positions of Assistant Treasurer and Project Coordinator.

This type of announcement is always difficult, but I am so sorry to inform you that one of our members, one of our friends, Pam Brown passed away on July 18. Pam was in the class of 2016 and was an active HCMG member. Pam and her husband Wayne moved to Kirklin a couple years ago, but Pam maintained her active status in HCMG and served as our Photography Coordinator. Please keep Pam, Wayne, and family in your thoughts and prayers.

As I mentioned, it has been simply wonderful to see some of you, and I really look forward to seeing many more. We have a lot of catching up to do. In the meantime, please keep up with your garden therapy. Stay positive, stay strong, stay adaptable, and above all STAY SAFE. Hope to see you soon.

Steve Pearl

Policy Update from the HCMG Board

During their July 9 meeting, the HCMG board of directors discussed the need to accommodate members who aren't able to attend meetings in person due to the pandemic. They adopted a policy stating that when virtual attendance is offered at a HCMG business meeting, all attendees (whether their attendance is virtual or in-person) are eligible to vote.

In addition, the board determined that HCMG will honor members who have died by listing them in the annual Member Directory for the next year. This includes members who were active at the time of their passing or were active at the time of the illness that ultimately lead to their passing.

HCMG Regroups August 18

Broch Martindale of Wildflower Farms will present "Field to Vase - Cut and Wildflower Production" at our August meeting. To attend in person, you must sign up via the MG Manager so that we can be sure we stay within social distancing requirements. We will email a Zoom invite so everyone else can attend virtually, just click on the link and follow the instructions. Zoom software is quite simple to use, but if you haven't Zoomed before, you can find tutorials and more info at support.zoom.us. Both those who attend virtually and in person qualify for education credits and can vote on HCMG business.

Adventures in Gardening

Plans are still underway for AIG on Oct. 10. Three speakers are already booked (including the ever-popular Jo Ellen Meyers Sharp AKA the Hoosier Gardener). They recently added Amy McKamey, who will be speaking on backyard poultry, 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, and plan to sign up on our website, HendricksGardeners.com.

HCMG Scholarship Winner



The Hendricks County Master Gardener's 2020 scholarship has been awarded to Dylan Kottkamp, a 2020 graduate of Cascade High

School who will be attending Oklahoma State University. He plans to major in agribusiness, then

return to Indiana to study law and become an agricultural lawyer in Hendricks County. A top student, Kottkamp was class president and a member of the student council. Active in 4-H for 10 years, he exhibited cattle in local, state and national shows and mentored younger members on how to do so. Scholarship committee chair Coletta Kosiba says, "HCMG members are proud to help Dylan Kottkamp along in his chosen career."

Demonstration Garden News ADOPT A PLOT!

Becky Troutman, 2020 director of the HCMG Demonstration Garden has asked to share some information regarding the program.

"Let me explain a little about the Demo Garden's Adopt A Plot program by addressing some of the questions often asked by MGs and Interns," she says. "For example, they ask, 'I would like to learn about landscaping plants and food crops in more depth than was covered in our Master Gardener's classes.' Check! The Adopt A Plot program has them covered.

"Another question is, 'I want to be somewhere I feel safe to work.' Check! The Adopt A Plot has you covered. Or, 'I need a flexible schedule and receive volunteer credits for my efforts.' Check! The Adopt A Plot has you covered."

"Lastly, 'I want some soil to call my own to nurture and be able to donate produce to food insecure families.' A HUGE check! The Adopt A Plot has you covered."

If she hasn't convinced you to Adopt A Plot in the Demonstration Garden, maybe some recent quotes from actual volunteers will help you with that decision. "Working in the demo garden, I find it to be sociable (when people are there), educational, and it is an amazing garden that we

can all be proud of! There are definitely volunteer hours that help keep it looking fantastic!"

"Working in the Demo Garden is relaxing. You always know there are other volunteers who help, so no pressure to get everything done like in your own garden. And there is such a variety of gardening there, so much opportunity to learn with plants you don't get to work with at home."

"Having retired at the end of 2019, I was really looking forward to being more involved with MG projects, gardens, committees, etc. After volunteering at the demo garden during the county fair last year, that interested me. With so few opportunities this spring, I jumped at the chance to work in the garden and have really enjoyed it. I like the idea of 'ownership' of sections and hope to help make that happen."

"I have been involved in the demo Garden since its inception. I take great pride in what our MG group has accomplished. Now the garden has developed enough, we can plant to give food to insecure families. How cool is that? New ideas, social-distance camaraderie, and learning are always welcomed."

The Adopt A Plot program is designed to take numbered sections of the Demonstration Garden and make them available for members to care for and nurture. This program is open to all active MGs and Interns. You may take one area or several areas. If you prefer, you can team up to adopt with a partner. The decisions are up to you. Here are the plot/options up that are available: Entrance Bed Areas, North Beds A and B, South Beds A and B, Raised Bed Areas 1-6, Bed 7 (PVC raised bed), Bed 8 (straw-bale bed), Bed 9 (keyhole garden), Bed 10 (square foot garden), Pollinator Garden Beds 1-7 (8 & 9 are taken), Raingarden area, and Shrub Guild area.

If you have any questions or to sign up, please contact Becky Troutman.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- August 18 • Monthly Meeting, Cutting Gardens
- September 15 • HCMG Monthly Meeting
- September 18 and 19 • AOLC Native Plant Sale
- October 10 • Adventures in Gardening
- October 20 • HCMG Monthly Meeting and Election of Officers

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