

Hendricks County Extension Office
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www.HendricksGardeners.com

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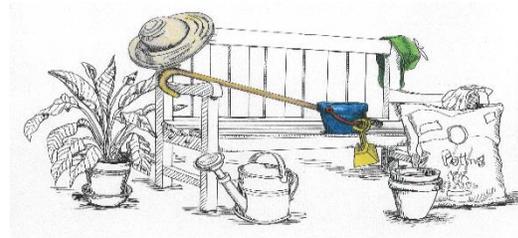
Karen Chapman-Smith,
Project Coordinator

January 2021



HENDRICKS GARDENER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
HENDRICKS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS



President's Message

Hello Fellow Master Gardeners. I hope everyone had a happy Thanksgiving and Christmas, as abbreviated as they may have been. It's hard to believe that 2020 is over, although in some respects it couldn't be over soon enough. Instead let's focus on some positives--I am sure we all can find a few, whether it was more time in the garden, more time with the immediate family, or many others. As I have said numerous times, gardeners must be adaptable, and 2020 proved to be the ultimate test of how adaptable we can be.

Thanks to all who attended our Fall meetings, whether in person or virtually. The combo format has been awkward, but it has served the purpose. And one thing for sure, meetings held via Zoom do tend to be shorter. A big THANK YOU to Jeff Pell, Jeff has been instrumental in making the meetings work by setting up the Zoom and dealing with technical problems. Without Jeff, the meetings certainly would not have gone as well as they did, if at all.

At its November meeting the Board established HCMG dues for 2021. The dues will remain as they have been in the past, \$15 per individual or \$25 per couple. In order to appear in the 2021 Directory, dues should be paid by the January 31, 2021. Payment options are listed on the next page. If the payment of dues creates difficulty for anyone, please contact our Membership Chair, Bruce Crum, or me, and we will work something out. Please note the other requirement for membership is signing the Annual Purdue Volunteer Agreement.

Looking forward, we have established a schedule of events and meetings for 2021 (see page 2). While we do not expect that everything will instantly be back to normal, we are attempting to move forward and will make whatever adaptations are appropriate and prudent.

Wishing everyone a Safe and Happy Holidays, remember to look for enjoyment in the simpler things this year. Looking forward to a more positive year in 2021.

Steve Pearl, President

2021 Membership Dues

In order for you to appear in the 2021 HCMG Membership Directory, you'll need to submit your dues payment by Jan. 31. (We'll accept dues any time during the year, but we have to set a cut-off for the Directory). Dues are the same as 2020: \$15 per individual and \$25 per couple. Make checks payable to HCMG. There are three ways to pay:

1. Mail to the HC Extension Office, 1900 East Main Street, Danville, IN 46122-0007
2. Pay at the January 19th business meeting
3. Use Paypal through the link at www.hendricksgardeners.com/members.html

If the payment of dues creates a hardship, please contact Membership Chair Bruce Crum or President Steve Pearl.

When you're paying your dues, please also sign the Annual Volunteer Agreement on the Purdue MG Manager website. This is a requirement for all members.

GFAA Update

After having to postpone and eventually cancel Gardening for All Ages in 2020, the GFAA committee met on November 9 to brainstorm possible ways to present GFAA for 2021.

The committee first addressed perhaps the most popular GFAA feature, the kids booth. They discussed outside activities such as plant or tree identification, a scavenger hunt, or planting something at the fairgrounds. Perhaps create to-go kits such as a mini planter or a bug puzzle to put together?

There was a big craft fair at the fairgrounds the weekend following our meeting and several of us attended. It utilized both halls and attendance was capped with 300 permitted (to allow for 6 foot separation) in the Expo Hall counting both vendors and attendees. There were volunteers counting heads at the entrances to both halls. Masks were required. Booths were 10' x 10' but the aisles were much wider at recent GFAAs.

The Expo Hall and Conference Rooms have been reserved for GFAA. Unfortunately, the auditorium is reserved for an event Saturday evening.

Discussing the challenges for our vendors was the next topic. Many of our usual vendors are older and might not be interested in participating.

A theme was limiting or reducing the number of booths to allow for more spacing and more attendees at any one time. We might want to limit non-profits or be strict in allowing only garden-related vendors. We tossed around some ideas to create more space for vendors such as a tent outside or using the sheep barn. Several expressed the opinion that the sheep barn might not be realistic because the distance from the expo hall and the unpredictability of April weather.

We moved to our schedule of educational presentations. The group felt strongly that these should occur since a primary mission of our is education. Attendance for each talk would have to be monitored to maintain the required distancing.

Food service was then discussed. Lines at food trucks tend to get compressed so perhaps we should consider box lunches for our volunteers or prepackaged items for our vendors. We probably shouldn't consider refreshments or food for our attendees.

We have a lot of items for the Gardener's Closet. We might rearrange the booth to have a marked path to walk through maintaining distance. If the kids booth is minimized maybe the Gardener's Closet could be enlarged.

We could still hand out goodie bags to attendees as they enter.

We probably need to prepack assortments of seeds rather than allowing the guests to pick their own. If we don't have a food truck, we might expand the seed area into what is normally the eating area. One idea would be to put the seed bundle in the goodie bags.

Trees have been ordered so we could consider giving them away outside.

Depending on the situation running up to GFAA we might have to limit the number of MG volunteers at any one time. All in all everyone felt that it is possible to offer GFAA next year to the public although it is probably going to be different from what it's been previously. We'll start spreading the word about our spring event – on the website, postcards, etc. If any members have suggestions and ideas, please feel free to get in touch with us.

-Submitted by Kim and Steve Somermeyer

HENDRICKS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

2021 Events Calendar

January 19, 2021	General Meeting	Classrooms A, B & C
February 16, 2021	General Meeting	Classrooms A, B & C
March 16, 2021	General Meeting	Classrooms A, B & C
April 20, 2021	General Meeting	Classrooms A, B & C
April 23, 2021	GFAA Set Up	Hendricks Power Expo
April 24, 2021	GFAA	Hendricks Power Expo
May 18, 2021	Plant Sale & Auction	Hendricks Power Expo
July 18 - 24, 2021	County Fair	TBD, Expo and/or Demo Garden
July 20, 2021	MG Summer Picnic	Becky Troutman's
Sept. 21, 2021	General Meeting	Classrooms A, B & C
October 8, 2021	AIG Set Up	North & South Halls
October 9, 2021	AIG	North & South Halls
October 19, 2021	General Meeting	Classrooms A, B & C
Nov. 16, 2021	General Meeting	Classrooms A, B & C
December 7, 2021	Winter Dinner & Awards	South Hall

2022 Calendar

January 18, 2022	General Meeting	Classrooms A, B & C
February 15, 2022	General Meeting	Classrooms A, B & C
April 29, 2022**	GFAA Set Up	Hendricks Power Expo
April 30, 2022**	GFAA	Hendricks Power Expo
October 7, 2022	AIG Set Up	North & South Halls
October 8, 2022	AIG	North & South Halls