

HENDRICKS GARDENER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
HENDRICKS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

October 2022



PURDUE EXTENSION
MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

Hendricks County Extension Office
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President's Message

One day it's summer, and then - - well, you were here! Now it really feels like fall, at least some days. So time to do those fall things: clean up some things, but leave some for the bugs and other critters to enjoy. This should be a good time to work on invasive honeysuckle while they're starting



to go dormant, they supposedly absorb the glyphosate more effectively now. Tidy up any other plants that aren't food for birds, like iris leaves and peony stems, it keeps them healthier. Raking leaves is the new

contentious point – they do make excellent mulch but can suffocate grass if too thick. Mow 'em, Dano, and let 'em go! In the woods they just settle and become next year's compost, so I try to just tidy, and (leave).

Still trying to get my head together, only somewhat effectively, and my watch is still on island time. Hope to see many of you on Saturday for AIG! Trowels up -

Sara Fenton, President

Communicate

It is very important to keep our members informed. A great avenue to do this is through the monthly Newsletter. The input received this month has been very much appreciated.

Next Meeting

Our next general meeting will be October 18. The educational topic will be by Sam Lashley, Senior Meteorologist with the National Weather Service (Warning and Forecast Operations).

New HCMG Website

A lot of effort has been expended on the development of the new HCMG website. Igor

Kalenyy and I have fleshed out a site that we believe will provide a lot of information to our members and will be of great value.



We intend to start out with the basic functionality that we believe will be of most value, and expand upon that platform based on input from our members.

One of the basic intents in choosing the platform that we did is to provide flexibility so that we can easily integrate such things as an "Ask A Master Gardener" capability where we can capture questions from the public and respond back easily...as well as sharing those Q's and A's with everyone. We have a lot of knowledge to share.



The draft site will be demonstrated to the Board at their next meeting and to the members at the October 18 meeting.

Movie – The Biggest Little Farm

Karen Smith provided information about the upcoming screening of the movie "The Biggest Little Farm" on Thursday, October 20.

2022 Officers

Sara Fenton, President Debbie Off, Vice President Teri Mitchum, Treasurer
Bruce Crum, Assistant Treasurer Sharon Miller, Secretary Carl Osborn, Communications Coordinator
Karen Chapman-Smith, Project Coordinator

A testament to the immense complexity of nature, The Biggest Little Farm follows two dreamers and a dog on an odyssey to bring



harmony to both their lives and the land. When the barking of their beloved dog Todd leads to an eviction notice from their tiny LA apartment, John and Molly Chester make a choice

that takes them out of the city and onto 200 acres in the foothills of Ventura County, naively endeavoring to build one of the most diverse farms of its kind in complete coexistence with nature. The land they've chosen, however, is utterly depleted of nutrients and suffering from a brutal drought.

THE BIGGEST LITTLE FARM chronicles the eight-year quest of John and Molly Chester as they trade city living for 200 acres of barren farmland and a dream to harvest in harmony with nature.

Through dogged perseverance and embracing the opportunity provided by nature's conflicts, the Chester's unlock and uncover a biodiverse design for living that exists far beyond their farm, its seasons, and our wildest imagination.

Featuring breathtaking cinematography, captivating animals, and an urgent message to heed Mother Nature's call, THE BIGGEST LITTLE FARM provides us all a vital blueprint for better living and a healthier planet.

Date: October 20, 2022

Time: doors open @ 6:30p

Place: Royal Theater Danville

FREE to the public

Sponsored by Hendricks County Master Gardeners

Indiana Rose Society

Theresa Byington has provided information on the upcoming events at the Indiana Rose Society through February 2023:



Tues, Oct 11, 6:30 pm

Sullivan Munce Cultural Center / 225 W Hawthorne St / Zionsville, IN

PROGRAMS:

- Bugs that Benefit Your Rose Garden: John Chapin
NOTE: John will have plants to sell from his garden shop – TREE FROG GARDEN ([link](#)).
- Plants that Attract Pollinators: Eloisa Garza

Tues, Nov 8, 6:30 pm

Sullivan Muncie Cultural Center / 225 W Hawthorne St / Zionsville, IN

Holiday Party, installations of 2023 board, book

swap and awards!

NOTE: Book Swap: Bring rose books you would like to go to a new home!

You do not have to bring books in order to take something home.

Tues, Jan 10 at 6:30 pm EST (ZOOM)

MY 59 YEARS WITH ROSES

Tom Carruth, Curator of the Huntington Rose Garden and award winning hybridizer. Tom has over 150 introductions to his credit with numerous national & international awards. Roses like Marilyn Monroe, Julia Child, Perfume Factory, Moonstone, Easy on the Eyes and so many more.

Tues, February 14 at 6:30 pm EST (ZOOM)

SPRING INTO SPRING... Getting Roses Started on the Right Foot

Gaye Hammond, Former President of the Houston Rose Society and life member and patron of the American Rose Society. Gaye is an entertaining speaker and an avid writer of more than 300 articles that have been published in local, state, national and international magazines and newspapers.

Returning Houseplants to the Indoors

John Chapin posted an article on Facebook that I thought would be interesting to share:

It's common practice for people to "summer" their houseplants outdoors, tucked under shrubs, set on a shaded patio, or in the protection of a covered porch. Houseplants really benefit from natural rainfall and humidity. The cooler days and crisp nights of

late September and early October, before danger of frost, signal that it's time to bring them back indoors to enjoy over the winter.

However, you don't want to bring in any pests that are likely to hitch a ride on your plants. Aphids and mealybugs are the most common houseplant pests that can quickly become a problem, even a major infestation within weeks of placing your plants in their winter settings.

De-bugging and cleaning your houseplants before bringing them indoors is actually not all that difficult. Simply mix a few squirts of mild dish soap or insecticidal soap in a large bucket of warm water. (Don't use any soaps that contain degreasers or detergents that can damage or even kill the plants.) Some recommend that you submerge the whole pot in the soapy water for 15 minutes, but I usually don't, opting to wet down the foliage which then drips into the soil, using a spray bottle, pump sprayer, or even a watering can till the foliage is dripping. This cleans the foliage as well as kills pests. After twenty minutes or so, rinse the plants with a garden hose, then let drain and dry.

Even with these precautions, you will likely have problems with houseplant pests, especially mealybugs and scale, both of which are very difficult to eradicate. For many years now, I have used a systemic insecticide on all of my houseplants after bringing them indoors for the winter. It's easy to use, and protection lasts all winter. Simply mix in water according to the directions and water your plants the first time they need watering after bringing them indoors. Once and done!

One more bit of advice: Most all houseplants are tropicals, and although they grow more slowly over the winter months, they definitely benefit from continuous fertilization. I mix a very small amount of houseplant fertilizer in water (I prefer to use rainwater which I store

on old plastic gallon milk jugs.) that I then use every time I water my houseplants.

Happy Gardening

2022 Calendar

Oct 7 - AIG Set Up North & South Halls

Oct 8 - AIG North & South Halls

Oct 18 - General Meeting Classrooms A, B & C

Nov 15 - General Meeting Classrooms A, B & C

Dec 13 - Winter Dinner & Awards South Hall