

HENDRICKS GARDENER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
HENDRICKS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

March 2023



PURDUE EXTENSION
MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

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

President's Message

Coming Soon – Spring!
My tulips and daffodils
are starting to come up
and seeds have been
planted in milk jugs.
I'm getting excited for warmer days,
and working in my flower beds.



Spring is also a busy time for us. GFAA is just around the corner – April 29th. The GFAA team ROCKS! All booth spaces are SOLD! We have 5 premier sponsors, trees have been ordered, and 4 of our own master gardeners will be speaking the morning of April 29th. There will be lots of volunteer opportunities for this event.

Don't forget the Spring 2023 Virtual EMG Advanced Training Series focusing on soils. March 23rd is the first session. May 16th is the Plant Sale and Auction. Start thinking about plants in your yard that can be divided and thinned out. More information about the plant sale will be coming soon. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the March meeting.

February Meeting: Gardening in the "Hell Strip" by Gaye Hammond

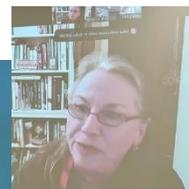
The February meeting had a great turnout, including interns from the previous and current MG classes. The presentation via Zoom was by Gaye Hammond. She gave an informative and humorous talk on areas in our landscapes, which for a variety of reasons are challenging to grow plants, shrubs, trees, etc. Gaye shared ways to identify causes and strategies for remediating the issues. Helpful information because we all have had those frustrating "hell strips."

What is a "Hell Strip"?

Commonly associated with the strip of grass between the curb and sidewalk...but it is really

Any place where plants and turf do not thrive ...

No matter what you do!



March Meeting & Program – 3/21/2023

March Speaker Spotlight

John Chapin
Tree Frog Gardens

**Great Hydrangeas
for Midwest Gardens**

March 21st. 8:00 pm
Hendricks Co. 4-H Complex

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Local gardeners are familiar with our March speaker! John Chapin from Tree Frog Gardens will present "Great Hydrangeas for Midwest Gardens." He will also offer our members a private selection of top-quality plants for purchase at the meeting.

John writes a bi-weekly gardening column for the ICON newspaper which keeps readers well-informed on gardening, especially seasonal issues. He also speaks to various garden clubs and Master Gardener classes. He taught elementary school for 36 years so once a teacher, always a teacher!

Five years ago, John started Tree Frog Gardens, growing and selling unusual or hard-to-find plants. He also offers perennials, shrubs, ornamental trees, and conifers. The company holds three big seasonal sales each year and is open by appointment otherwise.

John has graciously offered to host our summer picnic in his beautiful gardens on July 25.



GFAA April 29, 2023

GFAA Planning Update

GFAA will be here before we know it. So much planning and activity occurring to make this our best garden show ever! There will be many volunteer opportunities which will be posted in early March on MG Manager. Here are some important updates from chairs Steve and Kim Somermeyer:

1. **Postcards;** were available at the meeting and are available in the Extension Office. Please distribute them!
2. **Publicity;** Steve S. is pursuing quotes for banners to be displayed by the Danville hill and on 36 by Champion Auto. In addition to FB, there will be an article in the Republican and in an ICON article by John Chapin.
3. **Presentations;** Carol Gillaspay has four confirmed presenters, all our own MGs; 9:00 Kathe Rae; Container Gardening 101
10:00 Colletta Kosiba; Watch out for Jumping Worms and Spotted Lanternfly!
11:00 Eloisa Garza; Roses
12:00 Jackie Rosales; Zinnias
4. **Vendors;** ALL 60 Booths are sold out! Our thanks to Chuck and Pat Dallas!
5. **Trees;** Please continue to save newspaper bags and shredded paper for the trees and bring to the 3/21 meeting. The trees will be bagged on April 27th in the evening.
6. **Seeds;** Vicki Coleman has received a few more seed packets, most recently from Country Harmony. Seed sorting and bagging times will be scheduled.
7. **Gardener's Closet;** Keep cleaning out garages, barns sheds, closets, etc. for items, preferably garden related. Contact Becky Troutman for pick up and storage.
8. **Children's Booth;** Kerry Cates reported her team has chosen "Plants and Pollinators" as the theme, with a focus on vegetable gardening. Kids will be planting seeds instead of flowers; or maybe some of the excess donated bulbs, if available. Also planning a story time with garden related books
9. **Food truck;** Chompz is confirmed and will arrive early to sell coffee.

10. **Bulbs:** a small group of “bulbers” recently sorted the donated bulbs. A bulb planting party occurred on Feb. 28th with 288 pots filled!



Sorting Bulbs



Planting Bulbs

Deadline to Order GFAA T-Shirt is Soon!

Suzy Freeman showed the various GFAA t-shirts for sale at the Feb. 21 meeting. **The deadline for ordering and paying for shirts is March 21, which is our next meeting.** The shirts will be distributed at the April 18th meeting. The shirts come in three colors; dark grey, forest green, and cardinal red. Long-sleeved or short-sleeved shirts are available.

Type, size & price:

- Short Sleeved T-Shirt; S, M, L, XL \$10
XXL \$12, XXXL \$14
- Long Sleeved T-Shirt; S, M, L, XL \$13,
XXL \$15, XXXL \$17

Sample sizes and the three colors will be available at the March meetings. If you are not able to attend the meeting and would like to order a shirt, please call or e-mail Suzy Freeman (317-730-5954 or efandtsf@gmail.com) to place your order.



Cardinal Red

Checks should be made payable to HC Master Gardeners, with “GFAA T-Shirt” in the memo section. If paying by mail, send check as indicated above to:
Purdue Extension Office
PO Box 7
Danville IN 46122

Any shirts not picked up at the April 18 meeting will be available again at GFAA setup on April 28th, or at 8 a.m. on the morning of GFAA, April 29th.

MG Clarissa Petery to Present at McCloud Park March 25

Pollinator Pockets
Saturday, March 25 • 2 p.m.
McCloud Nature Park

Do you like butterflies? Hummingbirds? Beautiful seasonal color? You need native pollinator plants! Beautiful flowering plants, joyful bird watching, and helping the bees! Pollinating your vegetable garden, and fruit trees! Yes, all of that! Let's plant pollinator pockets, which are groups of different native flowers that are bundled together for easy planning and planting. Join Master Gardener Clarissa Petery for this informative talk, which will include recommendations on where to get seeds and plants for your yard.

RECOMMENDED FOR ADULTS
FREE TO ATTEND
NO ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED
APPROXIMATE PROGRAM DURATION: 1 HOUR

Updated Purchasing Policy

The HCMG Board has approved an updated Purchasing Policy. HCMG maintains a 501(c)(3) not for profit status and a sales tax exemption from the State of Indiana. It is prudent for HCMG to avoid paying sales tax whenever possible.

Members wishing to make a purchase for HCMG should check with the Treasurer (Teri Mitchum) for a current list of preferred vendors and purchasing instructions. For vendors not on the preferred list, check with the vendor customer service to find out their policy and contact the Treasurer for any need documentation.

A HCMG member who makes a purchase and seeks reimbursement shall complete a Reimbursement Request available from the website. The form is submitted along with copies of all receipts to the Treasurer. If a purchase is for a project, the reimbursement must be approved by the committee chair prior to submittal. Sales tax may be reimbursed only in cases approved by the President, Treasurer, or Committee chair, prior to making the purchase.

Any printing which uses the Purdue Extension Logo must be done by a Purdue approved printer. A list of Purdue approved printers may be obtained from the Extension Office. Any purchased item or material that is reimbursed by HCMG, becomes the property of the Hendricks County Extension Master Gardeners.

Upcoming Garden Shows

March 18th, Putnam County Master Gardeners “Garden Fair” 9 – 3, Fairgrounds in Greencastle; free

March 25th, Morgan County Master Gardeners “Gardenfest”, 9:00 – 3:00 2.00; Hoosier Harvest Church, Martinsville

April 1st, Boone County Master Gardeners “Gardenfest”, 9:00 – 3:00, Fairgrounds in Lebanon; free

May 6, Johnson County Master Gardeners “Garden Celebration” 2.00 Fairgrounds in Franklin

2023 Calendar

- March 21st, General Meeting; Classrooms A B C
- April 18th, General Meeting; Classrooms A B C
- April 28th, GFAA Set up; Hendricks Power Expo
- April 29th, GFAA; Hendricks Power Expo
- May 11th, Tour of Danville HS FFA greenhouses with the retiring Duane Huge (evening)
- May 16th, Plant Sale & Auction; Fairgrounds; building TBD.
- July 25th, Summer Picnic at Tree Frog Gardens
- September 19th, General Meeting; Classrooms A B C
- September 28th, Tour of Beasley Orchard \$12/person (sign up in August)
- October 6th, AIG Set Up; North/South Halls
- October 7th, AIG; North/South Halls
- October 17th, General Meeting; Classrooms A B C
- November 21st, General Meeting; Classrooms A B C
- December 12th, 2023, Winter Awards Dinner; North/South Halls

Winter Seed Sowing

By Steve Pearl

(Based on article in Garden Gate Magazine, February 2010)



This is a simple process; the plastic container acts like a mini greenhouse keeping seeds warm and moist. You can use almost any plastic container, but milk jugs are easy to find. Planters can be started as early as February. **EXPERIMENT and HAVE FUN!**

Prepare Container: Using a clean container, cut horizontally at least 4 inches up from bottom, cut nearly all the way around leaving a couple inches near handle to form a hinge. Poke 6 to 10 holes in bottom for drainage using an awl or screwdriver. **IMPORTANT: Throw cap away as it is not needed.**



Make Labels: Make labels for inside the container; important because many plants look similar when young. You can also label the outside of container.

Make Dividers (optional): If desired, make cardboard dividers for inside bottom of container, dividing contain into 2, 4 or 9 sections. This will allow separation when planting different types of seeds in one container.

Soil & Seeds: Fill bottom of container with pre-moistened potting soil within an inch of top. Pre-moistened soil usually helps avoid

watering after planting. Plant seeds using a pencil point to make a hole the depth as specified on package. As an option for planting, leave a little soil out, sow seeds and finish adding soil over seeds.



Tape it Up: Tape the container together using clear plastic packaging tape or clear duct tape.

Place Outside: Place containers (without caps) outside where they will get light, rain or snow. Secure container with mulch or rocks and avoid the north side of buildings. Keep an eye on soil, during dry periods you may need to mist to moisten soil. Containers can be set outside as early as January or February. Perennial seeds will remain dormant until conditions in the container are right for germination.

Open Containers: As the weather warms, flip back the tops on nice days and close at night. When temperatures remain above freezing the tops can be removed permanently. Keep an eye on soil, so it doesn't dry out.



Transplanting: When plants are ready, usually after threat of frost, cut open the container, separate plants, and plant keeping top of soil from container level with the surface of ground.

VEGETABLES & ANNUALS: The plastic container will also work for starting vegetables and annuals; **HOWEVER, care must be taken not to allow seeds or seedlings to freeze.** Containers with vegetables or annuals must be placed outside later in season than perennials, and should be brought inside with freezing temperatures.