

# HENDRICKS GARDENER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE  
HENDRICKS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS



PURDUE EXTENSION  
MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

September 2023

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

## President's Message

Where has the summer gone? It's quickly winding down and Fall will be here soon. You know what else is coming soon – AIG. This year's keynote speaker will be Charlie Nardozzi. Charlie is an Emmy® award-winning writer, speaker, radio and television personality. He has worked for more than 30 years bringing expert gardening information to home gardeners. He will speak to us about "No Dig Gardening." A full list of speakers, date and cost is included in the newsletter. Registration deadline is September 19.



THANK YOU to Karen and Wayne Smith for hosting an open garden in August. There was a lot to see. They have a hoop house, prairie of native flowers, and a chicken coop. John Chapin also gave 2 demonstrations on pruning Japanese Maples. Thanks John!

Our next meeting is Tuesday, September 19. Looking forward to getting back together again. Happy Gardening!  
Debbie

## We're Back – September 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting

After a busy summer of gardening, it is time for us to meet and catch up! The meeting will occur in A B C.

6:30 p.m. – Social time/refreshments

7:00 p.m. – Business Meeting

8:00 p.m. – Program "What's Sticking to My Sock" presented by Coletta Kosiba. The amazing story of how plants have figured out how to move from place to place through seed dispersal. We always enjoy Colletta's presentations! Also check her helpful article on the alarming jumping worms in this newsletter.



## Nominations for 2024 Board Members

The Nominating Committee has determined the proposed slate of officers, based on the Hendricks County Master Gardener bylaws to ensure nominees meet the requirements and duties of each board officer.

The slate will be presented at the 9/19 meeting. Additional nominations can be taken for all the positions and then the slate will be closed. At the October meeting the slate will again be presented and if there is only one candidate for each position, a verbal vote will occur on the slate as a whole. If there is more than one candidate for a position/s, a paper ballot will be provided for that position/s only. The elected officers will take office 1/1/2024.

Thank you to the Nominating Committee members; Vicki Coleman, Chair, Deloris Elza and Annella Abell.



# Here comes Fall!



## Adventures in Gardening is Oct. 7

Registration for Adventures in Gardening (AIG) is open! Have you registered? Here is the link:

[www.hendricksgardeners.com](http://www.hendricksgardeners.com)

The last day to register is 9/19 and please note: no late registrations will be accepted. If paying by check, either mail by 9/15, pay at the MG meeting, or drop it off at the Extension office by the 19<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$35 which includes continental breakfast, lunch & snacks. AIG will occur at the Hendricks Fairgrounds Conference Center.



The theme this year is "Whoo's in Your Garden." Here are the presenters and topics;

Charlie Nardozi – "No Dig Gardening"

Amy Mullen – "Designing with Native Plants"

Laura Kearby – "Backyard Habitats"

Dr. Kathleen Hull – "Medicine from the Garden"

Randy Collins – "A Mint in Every Garden"

Nicole Harmon – "Supporting and Managing Native Wildlife in & Around Our Gardens"

AIG has a silent auction, and we are accepting donations. Please consider donating items such as themed baskets, autumn and holiday decor, new or very gently used garden related items, gift cards, artwork etc. We are dedicating the auction to Nancy Rice, who did a phenomenal job coordinating the auction last year, despite significant health challenges. Please let Kathe Rae know if you would like to donate an item for the auction.

**silent**  
Auction



## Beasley's Orchard Tour Sept. 28

Join your MGs to usher in Autumn at Beasley's Orchard on September 28th. The exclusive tour will begin promptly at 3:00 and run until 5:00 p.m. We will take a guided wagon ride through the orchards to learn about their history and growing practices. We will also learn about their large apple cider processing. Participants will select a pumpkin and an apple to take home as a souvenir. Following the wagon ride, Mr. Beasley will meet us in the Loft for a question/answer session. A delicious snack will be provided at this time. Our MGs may bring a friend. The ticket cost is \$12/person and is due by September 20th. Club members may pay at the September meeting by card or mail a check to the Extension office by September 14th. Checks should be made payable to HCMG. & sent to:  
Hendricks Co. Master Gardeners  
P.O. Box 7  
Danville, IN 46122



**PLEASE NOTE:** Add ORCHARD to your memo line so it goes to the correct place.

## BEASLEY'S ORCHARD TOUR

Grab a friend and bring them to the Master Gardener Orchard Tour for an afternoon of FUN! Exclusive tour will include a guided wagon tour, cider processing demonstration, and fruit orchard history. Participants will receive a special snack with apple cider, a pumpkin, and an apple.

28 SEPTEMBER	Tour Time 3-5 pm Please arrive early for check-in. Tour duration is 2 hours
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**\$12 PER PERSON**

**Registration Required  
Deadline September 20th**

Beasley's Orchard  
2304 E Main St  
Danville

## Asian Jumping Worms By Colletta Kosiba

Asian jumping worms are not funny if you find them jumping in your garden. The jumping worms name comes from their dramatic thrashing when disturbed. They are also called “Alabama Jumpers” and “Crazy Snake Worms.” These worms have been spotted in Bloomington IN, so be on the lookout!

Invasive Jumping worms feed on organic matter and break it down very rapidly, using all the nutrients that plants and soil biota need to survive. Jumping worms stay close to the soil surface and don't aerate the soil. The castings they produce resemble large coffee grounds. There are many species in *Amyntas* genus, all of them jumping worms with similar characteristics and behavior. All bad boys!!!!

Jumping worms die off after the first hard freeze. They are asexual, the small egg cocoons can survive harsh winters and dry weather. The small cocoons are easy to move around on the soles of shoes, They are very difficult to eliminate, so stopping their movement into our gardens is very important. Jumping worms may come in on the soil, plants, and mulch. To prevent from introducing the worms to your yard, buy mulch that has been heat treated. When adding a new plant with soil remove the soil from roots of the plant far away from the garden ----collect that soil and dispose of it in a closed plastic bag in trash.

To identify them, the worms thrash wildly when handled. The clitellum completely encircles the body, is milky white to gray and smooth to the body (not raised) Body color varies but skin is smooth and shiny almost metallic.

You can test to see if you have jumping worms by clearing an area. Make a solution of 1 gallon water, plus 1/3 cup ground

yellow mustard seed. Pour mustard water on the ground and this will bring all worms up! Grab the jumping worms with forceps or your fingers and put them into a small plastic bag. Close plastic bag and leave it in the sun for a few hours so worms die. Then dispose of the bag in trash.

A suggested method for large area: cover the soil with clear plastic in the heat of the summer. A high temp 104 °F is needed to kill the jumping worms (this will kill all the worms). Research on the amount of time it takes to kill cocoons has varied and may take up to three days.

• It is important that if you find jumping worms, **PLEASE REPORT THEM!** By emailing [mciris2022@gmail.com](mailto:mciris2022@gmail.com)



Jumping worm (*Amyntas agrestis*)  
• Thrash and twitch  
• Shiny, slightly iridescent, and grey-brown  
• Milky-white ring (clitellum)  
• Mostly dry  
Photo credit: Purdue Plant and Pest Diagnostic Laboratory



Common earthworm (*Lumbricus terrestris*)  
• Wiggle gently  
• Dull red-brown  
• Red-ish ring (clitellum)  
• Slimy  
Photo credit: Joseph Berger, Bugwood.org

## Newsletter Feedback Requested

In an effort to evaluate and improve the monthly newsletter, Kathe Rae is asking for your feedback.

1. What have you found to be most helpful?
2. Do you have any suggestions to enhance the content; make it more informative, interesting & fun?
3. Our MGs are knowledgeable, creative and & dedicated. How can we better capture this talent to support our mission and celebrate accomplishments – “tell our story”
4. Do you have ideas for educational articles, especially topics which could be written by our MGs?

Please email feedback to Kathe at [krxae@comcast.net](mailto:krxae@comcast.net) Thanks in advance!

## 2023 Calendar

- 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

## Highlights from Karen & Wayne Smith's Open Garden



Pat & Chuck Dallas  
at the Danville  
Farmers Market

Susan Gackenheimer &  
Glenda Prysock at the  
State Fair MG booth.  
Thanks to all who helped  
answer questions of the  
fairgoers!

