

August 2016

GARFIELD PARK MASTER GARDENERS



## Next Meetings

August 10  
6:30 p.m.

Topic: *Orchids*

Speaker: John Francis,  
President,  
Central Indiana Orchid  
Society

September 14  
6:30 p.m.

Field Trip: Purdue  
Extension-Marion County  
Demonstration Garden at  
Indiana State Fairgrounds

Speaker: Steve Mayer,  
Purdue Extension  
Educator-Horticulture

*Meetings occur the  
second Wednesday of  
each month at 6:30 p.m.  
at Garfield Park unless  
otherwise noted.*

Purdue University is an  
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university.

If you require an  
accommodation or spe-  
cial assistance to attend  
these programs due to a  
disability, please contact  
Steve Mayer at  
317.275.9290. Some  
accommodations may  
require 2 weeks notice.

**Newsletter Editor:**  
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**Learn more at:**  
[IndyMG.org](http://IndyMG.org)  
[IndyHorticulture.org](http://IndyHorticulture.org)

# Garfield Gardener

## President's Letter

Hello Fellow Gardeners:

Let's hope our flowers survive the remaining summer heat. I have had to water my hanging baskets and pots much more often this year than in the past.

Those of you who have vegetable gardens should have an abundance of produce since the water table for the month of July in above normal. However, keep an eye out for problems if the month of August is dryer. So far, what I have seen on display at local farm stands has been very fresh—melons have been juicy; tomatoes with nice color and tasty.

I attended the Lunch and Learn program Friday, July 22. Steve Mayer presented a program on *Weed Identification and Control*. His visual aids were outstanding, including several actual specimens freshly gathered. (I thought he had been to my yard and collected them.) I hope he will use this presentation again in the coming months. Several weeds he gathered helped me to identify those that I wasn't sure about.

Things to plan for this month include the Indiana State Fair. Hope many have signed up for the Tomato Juice Stand and Demo Garden. And, a reminder: If you need to reseed the lawn, August 15 to September 15 is the best time. Be sure to cultivate down to six inches before spreading the seed to give the rooting a chance to spread. Water thoroughly and keep the soil moist with a layer of straw or other cover until the grass shows strong growth.

If you have irises, check to see if the fans have turned brown. If so, cut them back to six inches. If petunias are getting leggy, cut them back at least a third and in about a week to ten days they should re-bloom. Give rose bushes fertilizer for the last time this season and start looking for the mailman to deliver the spring catalog for next spring's perennials. Many people ask questions about tulips and how to protect them from critters. As Dr. Dirt says: "Plant Daffodils". Tulips are a sure sign of spring. However, they deteriorate after two or three years, and lose color and vitality. Perhaps, they become costly in the long run.

Our September field trip will be to the Demonstration Garden and the Marion County Master Gardeners Club has informed me that plans are being made for the evening meeting to be held October 5 at Laurel Hall. More information to follow.

Happy Gardening.

Boynton Robson  
President, GPMGA

## August Meeting: Agenda

- Welcome
- Speaker: John Francis  
President, CIOS
- Break
- Meeting
- Board/Committee Reports
- Volunteer Report
- The Good and The Welfare

## 2016 GPMG Officers and Committee Chairs

### President

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### Hospitality—Set-up Coordinator

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*Please contact the officers and chairs of the Garfield Park Master Gardeners Association if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions about the organization.*

### Questions about Reporting Hours

Debbie Schelske  
dschelsk@purdue.edu

## GPMGA Next Meeting: August 10

**Topic:** *Orchids*

**Speaker:** John Francis, President, Central Indiana Orchid Society

Come and learn some basics about orchids—and maybe one or two unusual tidbits about these fascinating plants—at the next meeting of the Garfield Park Master Gardeners Association.

The next meeting will occur at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 10, at the Garfield Park Conservatory. John Francis, President of the Central Indiana Orchid Society, will present an overview about orchids.

If you do not have a chance to make it to the Indiana State Fair this month to see the Purdue Extension-Marion County Demonstration Garden, you will have another opportunity this September when the GPMGA takes its fall field trip on Wednesday, September 14. Join Steve Mayer, Extension Educator-Horticulture, for a tour of the Demonstration Garden (beginning at 6:30 p.m.). New items this year include a vertical succulent garden, a very small water feature and some “blue-violet”/“gold-yellow” flowers to help celebrate Indiana’s Bicentennial.

## GPMGA Meeting Minutes: July 13

### Annual Picnic

- Due to inclement weather, the picnic was held inside in the Garfield Park Conservatory; Tables of delicious food were enjoyed by members and guests; Thanks to the Hospitality Committee—Cira Coates, Sue Hoyt and Lane Judkins—for all of their work!

### Program

- Master Gardener Fred Kidwell presented a short program on *Bees*

### Business Meeting (Board Reports)

- President-Boynton Robson: Board meeting to be held to discuss budget; Seeking candidates for 2017, Officers to be chosen in November
- Secretary-Nancy Boettner: No written minutes since formal meeting was not held; Brief summary of activities included in newsletter
- Treasurer-James Scherschel: Checking balance \$5,869.17; 2016 Plant Sale netted \$1,329.20.
- Hospitality-Cira Coates, Sue Hoyt, Lane Judkins: Have sufficient snack providers for next meeting
- Newsletter/Communications-Oren Cooley: Membership rosters available
- Conservatory Tours-Boynton Robson: Filled for this year

### Other Business

- Web Page-Nancy Boettner: Meeting—to include Debra Boyer, Oren Cooley and Nancy Boettner—to be held to discuss format
- Club’s Historical Documents-Boynton Robson: Debra Boyer will purchase cabinet for \$349 plus tax and shipping
- Indiana State Fair Support-Boynton Robson: All encouraged to sign up for Tomato Juice Stand and Demonstration Garden

—Nancy Boettner  
Secretary, GPMGA

# Garfield Gardener

## Indiana, Orchids and Lady Slippers

Indiana has over 40 species of native orchids, more than occur in Hawaii.

While Indiana's orchids are often not as conspicuous as tropical varieties, they may be found in every county. In bogs and prairies, along creeks and in deep woods, orchids are members of one of the most numerous plant families in Indiana.

The largest Indiana orchids, as well as the best known, are the lady slippers. Yellow lady slippers are the most common, and may be found in a variety of habitats, from dry woodlands to bogs and wetlands.



Pink lady slippers are rarer, and generally are associated with sphagnum moss bogs, although they also are known to grow under pines and hemlocks in other states. White lady slippers, the smallest of this group, are perhaps not only one of the rarest orchids but also one of the rarest plants in Indiana, with only a few locations known today. In the past however, they were a common orchid of the prairie, possibly seen in the millions.



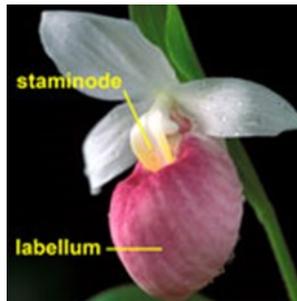
Lady slipper orchids are the orchids in the subfamily Cypripedioideae. They are special because of their slipper-shaped pouches on their flowers. The pouch traps insects so that they must climb up past the modified stamens, where they get or give pollen, fertilizing the flower.

A lady slipper orchid has a deep pocket that is actually able to "trap" a bee. When a bee crawls down into the flower to get the nectar,

the pocket on the flower closes shut. As a result, the bee is "stuck" for a while, wiggling and squirming, getting pollen all over itself. The bee finally finds a small opening near the top of the orchid, and it gets out only to get trapped inside another lady slipper, where it will deposit that pollen to the other lady slipper.

The genus name—*Cypripedium*—is derived from the Greek words "Cypris"—an early reference in Greek myth to Aphrodite—and "pedilon" for sandal. This is because the fused petals that form the orchid's pouch or modified lip (labellum) resemble a slipper or shoe.

The *Cypripedium* orchids of North America are hardy terrestrial plants that can grow in cold climates and flower in early to mid-spring when there is plentiful moisture and cool temperatures. Species such as *Cypripedium guttatum* and *C. passerinum* that grow in Alaska are so well adapted to cold that their shoots sprout up under the snow in the spring.



For centuries, *Cypripedium* species have been sought after and collected not only for their unique beauty but also for the medicinal trade. Widespread collection, attempts at transplantation, and loss of habitat have drastically reduced their numbers. Wild lady slippers have special requirements that make them difficult to cultivate, and they rarely survive transplanting from the wild.

### Service & Training Opportunities

**August 9 (6:30 p.m.)**

*An Evening of Mini-Programs*

Indianapolis Rose Society

Sullivan Munce Center

205 W. Hawthorne, Zionsville

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

**August 13 (11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.)**

*Indiana Daffodil Society Bulb Sale*

Holiday Park

6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis

[www.holidaypark.org](http://www.holidaypark.org)

**August 17 (6:30 p.m.)**

*Monarch Butterfly Wonder*

Brownsburg Library

450 S. Jefferson, Brownsburg

<https://www.facebook.com/brownsburgpubliclibrary>

**August 27 (1:00 p.m.– 4:00 p.m.)**

*McCloud Honey Bee Fest*

McCloud Nature Park

8518 Hughes Road, North Salem

[www.pfohc.org](http://www.pfohc.org)

### Garfield Park Conservatory Tour Guide Schedule

**August 13 (2:30 p.m.)**

Boynton Robson

**August 27 (2:30 p.m.)**

Barb Jablonski

Anyone interested in becoming a tour guide should contact Boynton Robson at [robby2931@gmail.com](mailto:robby2931@gmail.com).

### August Hospitality Help

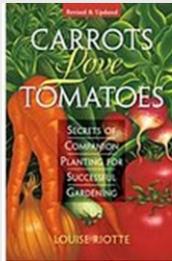
The following GPMGA members will supply snacks at the August meeting:

- Bill Bernstein
- Jeanne Corder
- Kay Martin-Pence
- Amber Ternet

If you wish to help with a future meeting, please contact Sue Hoyt at [msue3@hotmail.com](mailto:msue3@hotmail.com).

### From the Bookshelf . . .

*Carrots Love Tomatoes: Secrets of Companion Planting for Successful Gardening* by Louise Riotte



Plant parsley and asparagus together and you'll have more of each, but keep broccoli and tomato plants far apart if you want them to thrive.

This companion-gardening guide outlines the keys to creating a harmoniously varied and bountiful garden. Utilize the natural properties of plants to nourish the soil, repel pests and secure a greater harvest. With plenty of insightful advice and suggestions for planting schemes, Louise Riotte will inspire you to turn your garden into a naturally nurturing ecosystem.

This book not only tells what to plant with what but also how to use herbal sprays to control insects, what wild plants to encourage in the garden, how to grow fruit and nut trees, how to start small plots or window-box gardens, and much more. It's one of the most practical books around for any gardener, no matter how serious or casual.

### On the Web . . .

#### Indiana Plant Atlas

<http://www.indiana.plantatlas.org>

Butler University's Friesner Herbarium has launched The Indiana Plant Atlas (IPA), an online resource that documents Indiana's wild plants. Based initially on data from the more than 40,000 specimens housed in the herbarium, the site now includes records from other herbaria. Nomenclature is based on Kay Yatskievych's *Indiana Vascular Plant Catalogue*. Information on each plant includes rarity and status, coefficient of conservatism and wetness classification values, physiognomy and common name. The IPA also has wonderful photographs of plants taken in situ in Indiana by local photographers.

Do you know a great Website? Send info to Oren Cooley at [www.pastpact@aol.com](mailto:www.pastpact@aol.com).

## 'Adventures in Gardening' Seminar

The Hendricks County Master Gardeners will hold their annual *Adventures in Gardening* from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on October 15 at the Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds and Conference Complex (1900 E. Main St., Danville).

This year's theme is *Natural Attraction* and the conference's speakers will provide guidance on making gardens enticing to bees, birds, beneficial insects and even humans. In addition, Hendricks County Master Gardeners will be celebrating Indiana's Bicentennial with blue- and gold-themed decorations, door prizes and a special birthday dessert.



The keynote speaker is Benjamin Vogt, who owns Monarch Gardens, a prairie garden design firm in Lincoln, Nebraska. He speaks nationally on native plants, pollinators and sustainable garden design, and has a weekly column at Houzz.com. Vogt's writing and photography have appeared in dozens of publications from *Garden Design* to *Orion Magazine* as well as books such as *The Tallgrass Prairie Reader* and *Gardening for Butterflies*.

Vogt will present the following two sessions:

*21st Century Garden Ethics:* Gardens can empower people to help wildlife, heal nature and overcome environmental grief. This talk explores ecology, science, psychology and philosophy as participants ponder how to embrace gardens as places to create social and cultural change.

*Designing for Winter Wildlife and Beauty:* The gardening season does not end in October. In fact, the garden is just beginning to show its deeper side. Vogt will look at native plants that add pizzazz in the fall, from herbaceous perennials with fantastic autumn color and ornamental seed heads, to structural perennials, shrubs and grasses that look outstanding amid blizzards.

Additional programs include: *Botanical Workhorses: Heavy-Hitter Native Plants* presented by Jim McCormac of the Division of Wildlife, Ohio Department of Natural Resources; *The Amazing Honey Bee* presented by Terry Plank, beekeeper and pollinator educator, and *101 Landscaping Ideas: Adding Style & Fun to Your Outdoor Spaces* presented by Colletta Kosiba, 2500 Level Gold Master Gardener and Advanced Master Naturalist.

To learn more or register, please visit [www.HendricksGardeners.com](http://www.HendricksGardeners.com).



## IMA: Day of Flight, Native Tree Plant Sale

The Indianapolis Museum of Art will have its Indianapolis Day of Flight as well as the museum's Native Tree and Pollinator Plant Sale on August 27.

The Indianapolis Day of Flight will occur from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. that day at various places on the IMA grounds. Participants can start their day with the museum's annual hummingbird banding at 8:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 10:30 a.m. Birds will be caught and given a thorough check to examine their health before being identified with a small band. Later, participants can catch a nature photography class or see various birds on display with expert Mark Booth. Other demonstrations include bee-keeping and pollinator plants.



The Native Tree and Pollinator Plant Sale will occur from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. that day on the lawn by Newfield, adjacent to the main surface parking lot. This plant sale will feature native trees and pollinator plants as well as the IMA's horticulture experts, who will be on hand to help answer questions about the plants and provide gardening guidance.

For more information, visit [www.imamuseum.org](http://www.imamuseum.org).

## Indiana's Variety of Wasps

The following wasps are found throughout Indiana:

**Baldfaced Hornet** is a large, gray and white wasp that lives in very large colonies—sometimes numbering more than 1,000 workers. Because of the sheer number of wasps in a baldfaced hornet colony, any tree-mounted colonies that present a potential for human interaction should be removed.



**The Giant Hornet**, sometimes called the European hornet, is larger and thicker than the yellow jacket. Giant hornets are usually yellow and black, although sometimes they may be white and black. They hide their colonies inside the walls of buildings, often deep inside structures. Extermination is difficult and requires a professional.



**Ground-Nesting Yellow Jackets** build subterranean nests, thus people often stumble onto them accidentally. They are also protective of their nests, which are often well hidden. People usually do not realize they have crossed one until it is too late. Since the colonies are large, be careful when traversing creek banks and forest floors. Yellow jackets often scavenge for food, especially in late summer and early fall.



**Paper Wasps** are particularly slender. They have the same narrow waist as all wasps, but the proportion is less pronounced. Their legs are long. Paper wasps live in smaller colonies than other types of wasps. Paper wasp nests are identifiable by the single comb through which the wasps leave and arrive. Paper wasps are generally nonaggressive and live off caterpillars. Thus, people often find a colony of them near or in a garden.



## Indiana's Native Fireflies



Indiana's native fireflies are a bright addition to our state.

Chasing after the blinking glow of fireflies on a warm, summer evening is a favorite childhood memory for many Hoosiers. Unfortunately, we may be chasing after fewer and fewer of these magical insects this summer. Populations are dwindling.

Fireflies, also known as lightening bugs, are winged beetles known for their use of bioluminescence in the twilight hours. Bioluminescence is a type of chemical reaction that allows fireflies to produce a cold light, meaning it emits little to no heat.

The chemical reaction is usually produced in the light-emitting, lower abdomen. The light may be yellow, green or pale red depending on the different firefly species found across temperate and tropical environments.

Larvae of all species glow, and some also have glowing eggs. However, not all adult fireflies twinkle at dusk or dawn.

Fireflies glow as a way to communicate with potential mates as well as predators. When attracting a mate, it comes down to how it twinkles. Every species of firefly has its own distinct pattern of flashing their light-producing bottoms. Males and females of the same species will flash this pattern to let each other know of their presence.

When it comes to predators, fireflies glow as warning to stay away. Most species of fireflies are filled with a nasty tasting chemical. Those who have had a mouthful of this chemical quickly learn to associate the firefly's attractive glow with a very bad taste.

## Extension Horticulture Hints—August 2016

Steve Mayer, Extension Educator-Horticulture, Purdue Extension-Marion County

Steve Mayer, Extension Educator-Horticulture, for Purdue Extension-Marion County, serves as coordinator and instructor for the Purdue Master Gardener program in Marion County.

### August Garden Calendar Tips

*Note: Letters and numbers following the tip refer to Purdue publications on the topic. Other reference links may also be supplied.*

- **First Week:** Another application of fertilizer in early August will often help strawberry fruit bud formation (HO-46). <<https://hort.purdue.edu/ext/HO-46.pdf>>
- **Second Week:** Buy high quality grass seed when purchasing seed for the lawn (AY-25). <<https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/AY/AY-25-W.pdf>>
- **Third Week:** The ideal time to plant daylilies is mid-August through September <(HO-16). <https://hort.purdue.edu/ext/HO-16.pdf>>
- **Fourth Week:** Make another seeding of leaf lettuce and spinach (HO-29). <<https://hort.purdue.edu/ext/HO-29.pdf>>

Follow me on Twitter @purduehortindy (or view at: <http://twitter.com/purduehortindy>) for more tips. You don't have to be on Twitter to simply view my comments.

### Purdue Extension Demo Garden Update

The cover crop trial at the end of July was doing well. The tomatoes planted in the cover crop (with no added fertilizer) were a little more vigorous than the conventional planting of tomatoes. The first harvest of tomatoes in late July was the same for both plantings (with cover crop vs. no cover crop). Total production over the season will be recorded for each planting bed.

Many of the plants outside the demonstration garden fence and a couple of areas inside the fence feature "blue and gold" flowers to help celebrate Indiana's Bicentennial.



Here is one "blue and gold" combination this year: Rudbeckia 'Indiana Summer' and Evolvulus 'Blue My Mind'. To appreciate the beauty of these blue flowers, view them during the morning since the flowers are closed after lunch time. (Photo: Steve Mayer, 7/31/16)

We have also added a few aquatic plants to the demonstration garden this year.



This is 'Blue Sapphire' – a tropical water lily in the garden. (Photo: Steve Mayer, 7/16/16)

### Two Master Gardener Classes Begin this Fall

Master Gardener classes begin September 13. If you know someone who is interested, please direct them to our website: <<https://extension.purdue.edu/Marion/Pages/article.aspx?intItemID=8358>>. The basic registration fee had to be increased this year after four years at \$150.00. The current basic fee for the 19 sessions is \$160.00. However, some financial assistance may be available to individuals who cannot pay the full registration fee.

## Extension Horticulture Hints—August 2016

Steve Mayer, Extension Educator-Horticulture, Purdue Extension Marion-County

### The Question Box August 2016



Amount of Rain in the Demonstration Garden on the morning of 7/30/16 (photo by Steve Mayer)

#### Q. Do gardeners need their own rain gauge?

**A.** Yes, it is best if gardeners have their own rain gauge. Rainfall varies tremendously, even over a short distance. A rain gauge near your garden or landscape tells you how much you received on the site. The National Weather Service reported only 0.16 inch of rain on Friday, July 29, 2016 at the Indianapolis International Airport. At the Indianapolis Eagle Creek location, only 0.13 inch of rain was recorded. However, in the rain gauge at the Purdue Extension-Marion County Demonstration Garden on the State Fairgrounds, we recorded around 2.8 inches of rain.

#### Q. What's causing my cherry tree leaves to turn yellow and fall?

**A.** Although it could be due to other factors, cherry leaf spot is a common disease problem on tart cherries. The fungus overwinters on diseased

leaves on the ground so leaf clean-up and removal can reduce the problem next year. Fungicides can also be used to prevent the problem next year (consult: <https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/id/id-146-w.pdf>). More information on the disease is found in this Purdue historical document (do not use pesticide recommendations in this fact sheet): <http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1432&context=agext>.



Damage from the sunflower head-clipping weevil on Rudbeckia (photo by Steve Mayer, 7/30/16).

#### Q. What animal is cutting my flower stems?

**A.** Whether it is sunflowers, purple coneflowers or black-eyed Susan, the answer is probably the same. It is an insect called the sunflower head-clipping weevil. The first sign of injury at the Purdue demonstration garden was on Rudbeckia 'Indian Summer' on July 25. After about a week, we found a half-dozen flowers affected. To control this insect, remove and destroy the dangling flower heads as well as those on the ground to prevent weevil larvae from completing their life cycle. Photos and more info are found at: <http://bygl.osu.edu/node/394>.

**Show / Event Calendar**

**Until August 21**  
 Indiana State Fair  
 Indiana State Fairgrounds  
 1202 E. 38th St., Indianapolis  
 www.indianastatefair.com

**August 27 (8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.)**  
*Day of Flight*  
 Indianapolis Museum of Art  
 4000 N. Michigan Road, Indianapolis  
 www.imamuseum.org

**August 27 (11:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.)**  
 Native Tree and Pollinator Plant Sale  
 Indianapolis Museum of Art  
 4000 N. Michigan Road, Indianapolis  
 www.imamuseum.org

**October 5 (6:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m.)**  
*Speaker: Scott Stewart,*  
*Director, Lurie Garden (Chicago)*  
 Master Gardener Evening Meeting  
 Laurel Hall  
 5395 Emerson Way, Indianapolis

**October 15 (9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.)**  
*Adventures in Gardening*  
 Hendricks County Master Gardeners  
 Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds  
 1900 E. Main St., Danville  
 www.hendricksgardeners.com

**November 5**  
*Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower*  
*Society's Annual Conference*  
 502 East Event Centre  
 502 E. Carmel Drive, Carmel  
 www.inpaws.org

**Keep Indianapolis Beautiful**

**August 18 (3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.)**  
 Keep Indianapolis Beautiful Offices  
 1029 Fletcher Ave., Indianapolis

Keep Indianapolis Beautiful needs help keeping the native landscape tidy at their Gold LEED-certified headquarters. Volunteers will be weeding, mulching, watering and taking care of general landscape work.

For more information, contact Abby Dennis at 264-7555 x123 or at [adennis@kibi.org](mailto:adennis@kibi.org).

**Indiana's Blueberry Festival**

Indiana has a strong tradition of hosting many excellent agricultural festivals each year—include the Marshall County Blueberry Festival, a nationally recognized celebration in Plymouth, Indiana.



This year, the Blueberry Festival will occur from September 2-5 in Plymouth's Centennial Park. The festival's main purpose is to enable participants to explore the wonders of the blueberry as well as to provide quality family activities at little or no cost.

Among the more than 100 food booths, participants will discover the very best in blueberry delights—blueberry pie, blueberry ice cream, blueberry shakes and sundaes, blueberry donuts, blueberry cheesecake and just plain blueberries! In addition, more that 200 local and regional craft and commercial vendors showcase their goods.

Sports activities and special events abound all four days of the festival—including softball, volleyball, arm wrestling and garden tractor pulls. The festival also includes the Labor Day Parade (and fireworks), the Antique Car Show and the wildly popular Blueberry Stomp 5K/15K run.



In 1966, the Plymouth Jaycees organized a Labor Day Celebration to observe Indiana's sesquicentennial. The celebration was so successful that some citizens organized an annual festival. Since Marshall County provided one third of Indiana's blueberry crop at the time, the organizers chose to call the festival The Marshall County Blueberry Festival.

GARFIELD PARK MASTER GARDENERS  
 THE SOUTH SIDE MASTER GARDENER  
 ASSOCIATION IN MARION COUNTY



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