



THE GARFIELD GARDENER

THE NEWSLETTER OF GARFIELD PARK MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

March 2017
Next Meetings

March 8
6:30 p.m.
Speaker: TBD

April 12
6:30 p.m.
Topic: TBD
Speaker: TBD

Future Meetings
May 10
June 14
July 12
August 9
September 13
October 11
November 8
December 13

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

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2 weeks notice.

Newsletter Editor:
Oren Cooley
pastpfct@aol.com

Learn more at:
IndyMG.org
IndyHorticulture.org

President's Letter

Greetings Gardeners,

While many are celebrating our incredibly mild February, I am a bit uneasy.

Given our ever-changing Indiana weather, we will probably have a freeze that may damage our early bloomers including the flowers on our shrubs and trees. The plants will survive, but we'll miss the beauty that they typically provide in the spring. That being said, I have taken advantage of the lovely weather to finish my winter pruning, rake up the rest of the leaves in my flower beds, and re-grade two of my beds for better flow of rain water.

I recently made the very difficult decision to remove an old self-planted maple tree. It was located near power and phone lines and had been pruned by the power company many times and was no longer healthy. It was a sad reminder that we must consider the mature size of our trees and shrubs when planting!



I'm hoping that the website will be launched by our next meeting. The work that Joe Kunkel has done for us (at no cost) is spectacular! We welcome all who are interested in learning how to maintain our WordPress site.

With Angela Smitman's help, I was able to retrieve the recipes from the site to which they had been submitted several years ago. I compiled them into a Word document that will be accessible to members from our website. Please let me know if you see any errors.

—Nancy Boettner
President, GPMGA



*"A garden should make you feel
you've entered privileged space -- a place
not just set apart but reverberant -- and it
seems to me that, to achieve this, the gar-
dener must put some kind of twist on the
existing landscape, turn its prose into
something nearer poetry."*

— Michael Pollan,
"Second Nature:
A Gardener's Education"

Garfield Park Conservatory Tour Guide Schedule

March 11 (2:30 p.m.)

Arlene Bow
Oren Cooley
John Montgomery

March 25 (2:30 p.m.)

Judy Martin

Anyone interested in becoming a tour guide should contact Victoria Metheaux at vmeth@comcast.net.

March Hospitality Help

The following volunteers will provide the snacks at the March meeting:

- Nancy Boettner
- Susan Micks
- Donna McDougall
- Connie Morris-Fisher

If you wish to help with a future meeting, please contact Jeanne Corder at corder99@aol.com. If you wish to help with the July and December pitch-ins, contact Sue Hoyt at msue3@hotmail.com.

Next GPMGA Meeting— March 8

The Garfield Park Master Gardener Association will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 8, at the Garfield Park Conservatory. The speaker is yet to be determined.

Garfield Park— Then and Now



Garfield Park Conservatory (above, left) with Sunken Garden Under Construction, (circa 1915)



Garfield Park (left)
(September 9, 1920)



Garfield Park Today (below)

To learn more about Garfield Park's history, see Boynton Robson's article on the park's history on Page 5.

2017 GPMGA Officers and Committee Chairs

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nancyboettner@sbcglobal.net

Immediate Past President

Boynton Robson
robby2931@gmail.com

Vice President

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Treasurer

Cindy Maude
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Secretary

Lane Judkins
APJ44@sbcglobal.net

Program Directors

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Hospitality—Snack Coordinator

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Conservatory Tour Coordinator

Victoria Metheaux
vmeth@comcast.net

Historian

Jayne Queck
jaqueck@aol.com

Questions about Reporting Hours

Debbie Schelske
dschelsk@purdue.edu

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

GPMGA Meeting Minutes — February 8

Programs

- Joe Kunkel, IT Manager for Christel House, demonstrated the new GPMGA website (www.indygpmga.com) which will launch sometime in March.
- Then, Steve Mayer, Extension Educator-Horticulture, Purdue Extension-Marion County, presented *New Varieties of Annual Flowers and Vegetables*.

Business Meeting/Board Reports

- President Nancy Boettner: 2017 focus on membership retention; partnership with Garfield Park; members sharing volunteer opportunities; and revamping the grant process. Nancy also to meet with Steve Mayer regarding the Demonstration Garden tent sign by the end of March.
- VP Carrie Alumbaugh: Introduced new members Natasha Jones Whittaker, Autumn Lowry and Nancy Butler.
- Secretary Lane Judkins: Minutes from December meeting accepted as printed in newsletter.
- Treasurer Cindy Maude: Checking balance is \$4,992.81. Dues for 2017 are due now.
- Hospitality-Jean Corder & Betty Hurn Johnson: GPMGA Officers and Committee Chairs provided snacks for this meeting.
- Newsletter/Communications-Oren Cooley: Joe Kunkel working to complete website by March's meeting. Oren thanked everyone for their story ideas and suggestions; Thanked Subway (South Street) for donation of sandwiches.
- Programs-Kay Martin Pence: 2017 schedule in process; Welcome to suggestions, including places where YOU volunteer.
- Historian-Jayne Queck: Past President Boynton Robson wrote the history of Garfield Park; Oren will publish in newsletter.
- Conservatory Tours-Victoria Metheaux: Sufficient volunteers through April.
- President Nancy motioned to accept all Board of Directors reports. Motion accepted by Bill Bernstein and seconded by Boynton Robson.

Other Business

- Gift to Demonstration Garden of \$500 proposed by Board of Directors. Seconded by Bill Bernstein. No grants were distributed in 2016.
- Gardening Opportunities:
 - Thomas Graham willing to work on All American Garden but does need volunteers.
 - Jayne Queck spoke about Marion County Fair Garden.
 - Spring Garden Clinic is Saturday, March 4, 2017
- Cookbook will not be pursued as a printed issue but consideration will be given to putting the recipes on the website.
- Joint meeting: Northside MGs seeking help in planning event to be held in September or October.
- Certificates Issued: Kathleen Berry Graham, MG & Advanced MG; Cira Coates, Gold Advanced MG

Miscellaneous

- Susan Micks has cards available regarding the Spring Bulb Show and the *Gnome Away from Home Show*.
- Nancy Boettner urges all members to wear their name badges.
- Cindy Maude donated notepads for all members.
- Lane Judkins to attend Department of Natural Resources' Tree Steward course.

—Respectfully submitted,
Lane Judkins

Garfield Park Master Gardener Association

in association with:



Purdue Extension - Marion County

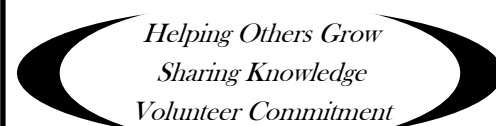
Discovery Hall, Suite 201
Indiana State Fairgrounds
1202 East 38th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46205
Phone: 317.275.9290
FAX: 317.275.9309

E-mail: MayerSL@purdue.edu
MG AnswerLine: 317.275.9292 or
marioncountymg@gmail.com

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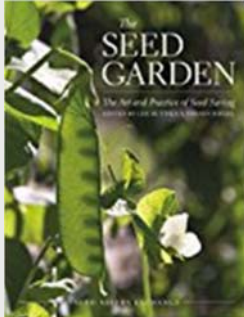


From the Bookshelf . . .

The Seed Garden: The Art and Practice of Seed Saving

by Lee Buffala and Sharyn Siegel, with contributions by Jared Zystro and Micaela Colley

Filled with advice for the home gardener as well as the more seasoned horticulturist, *The Seed Garden: The Art and Practice of Seed Saving*



provides straightforward instruction on collecting seeds and getting ready to sow them in next year's garden. Seed Savers Exchange and the Organic Seed Alliance created this volume to bring together decades of knowledge about saving the seeds of more than 75 coveted vegetable and herb crops—from heirloom tomatoes and long-favored varieties of beans to centuries-old varieties of peppers and grains. With clear instructions, lush photographs and easy-to-comprehend profiles on individual vegetable crops, this book provides a deeper understanding of the art, the science and the joy of saving seeds.

On the Web . . .

www.seedimages.com
SeedImages: "The Go To Resource"

This comprehensive website organized by Colorado State University revolves around *everything* connected to seeds—seed identification, seed dormancy, seed testing, seed analysis, seed development and seed germination to name a few areas of interest. In addition, the site has a "subscription only" portion that features the SeedImages database—which contains seed photographs and identifying descriptions of more than 1,700 species of seeds. The site's comprehensive search mechanism makes SeedImages a powerful identification tool.

Do you know a great Website? Send info to www.pastpact@aol.com.

Local Garden Centers Provide Discounts

A very special "Thank You" to the 21 local garden centers who this year generously agreed to give members of our Master Gardener Associations a 10% discount on regularly priced plants and garden merchandise, or to sell items to MGs at wholesale.



For 2017, the list of participating garden centers providing the 10% discount include:

- Allisonville Nursery (on green items, not gift shop): www.allisonvillenursery.com
- Altum's Garden & Landscape: www.altums.com
- Avon Perennial Gardens: www.avongardens.com
- Butler's Flowers & Plants: www.facebook.com/Butlers-Flowers-and-Plants-115983831794596/
- Cool Ponds: <http://coolpondsonline.net>
- Courts Yard and Greenhouse: <https://www.facebook.com/CourtsYard-Greenhouse-150766741648819/>
- Cox's Plant Farm: www.coxsplantfarm.com
- Eagle Creek Nursery Co., Inc.: www.eaglecreeknursery.com
- Gary Greenhouse: www.garygreenhouse.com
- Grendell Landscape Solutions: <http://grendelllandscape.com>
- Habig's: <http://habiggardenshop.weebly.com>
- Heartland Growers (wholesale prices, but \$100 minimum purchase): www.heartlandgrowers.com
- Heidenreich Greenhouse & Garden Center: www.facebook.com/pages/Heidenreich-Greenhouse-Garden-Center/139051142809530/
- Jones' Greenhouse: www.jonesgreenhouse.com
- McCarty Mulch & Stone, LLC (up to \$500 in sales only): www.landscapemulch.com
- Soules Garden: <http://soulesgarden.com>
- Sullivan's Garden Center: <http://sullivanhardware.com/pages/garden-center>
- Sundown Gardens: www.sundowngardens.com
- The Garden Center-71st St.: <http://thegardenctr.com>
- Tiffany Lawn & Garden Supply, Inc. (wholesale prices given to MGs; discount % varies per item): <http://www.tiffanylawnandgarden.com>
- Wanamaker Feed (does not include seed corn, farm-grade fertilizers & bagged soils and mulches): www.facebook.com/wanamakerfeedandseed

Although not a discount for Master Gardeners . . .

- The Indianapolis Museum of Art (www.imamuseum.org) in its gift shop provides a 10% discount for members of the American Horticultural Society and State-by-State Gardening. Also, IMA members and volunteers receive a discount of 20%.
- Perennials Plus (<http://perennialsplus.nrostores.com>) will extend wholesale prices to Master Gardeners who have a landscape business or a nursery dealer's license. Be sure to file the necessary documentation with Perennials Plus.

To receive the 10% discount at the participating garden centers, remember to:

- Keep current your membership in the Master Gardener Association.
- Always present your 2017 membership card BEFORE the purchase. (Cards for paid members will arrive in March 2017.)
- Thank the managers/owners of the garden centers and let them know how much you appreciate their great support of Master Gardeners!

Again, the 10% discount applies only to regularly priced garden plants and merchandise only, not sale products, dog food, etc. Also, your membership card is not transferrable.

—Happy Gardening!!!
Barb Jablonski

GPMGA Plant Sale May 20

Fellow Members,

Time is almost here for the Garfield Park Master Gardeners' Annual Plant Sale! This year, the plant sale will occur from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 20.



We are looking for plants to sell. They can be divisions from your perennial garden, plants grown from seed, bulbs, vegetables, herbs, annuals, houseplants, trees (small enough to pot up) or shrubs.

Plants will need to be potted and ready for sale when you bring them in. No plants with mildew or other problems. And, please, no invasives.

Some pots will be available at future meetings. If you have any clean, empty pots, please bring them to the meetings as well. We need 3" and 4" plastic pots as well as 1-5 gallon size.

We don't accept plants until May 19—the night before the plant sale. However, if you need help preparing plant labels in advance, please let us know.

Of course, we also need help the day before and the day of the sale—setting up, tearing down, assisting customers—as well as needing shoppers! If you would like to help, please contact me at guitargirl929@gmail.com.

We are looking forward to another successful plant sale this year. Thanks in advance for your support!

—Kay Martin-Pence
Chair, GPMGA Plant Sale Committee

Garfield Park: 'Gnomes Away from Home'

It will soon be Spring Break, and once again, garden gnomes from far and wide will gather at the Garfield Park Conservatory!

Garfield Park's *Gnomes Away from Home* will occur from March 18 to April 2 (10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday; and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sunday). The cost is \$4 per person or \$10 per family (2 adults maximum).



Come see this whimsical display of garden gnomes and see if you can spot them all! This year, visitors can enjoy a glimpse of everyday gnome life.

If you wish to loan your gnome for the display or want additional information, contact Garfield Park Conservatory at www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org.



Garfield Park's History

We continue this month with GPMGA member Boynton Robson's series on the history of Garfield Park. Enjoy!
—Jayne Queck, GPMGA Historian

A Pagoda was constructed in 1903; the site was picked because it was on a knoll with a view quite prominent to the area. The Pagoda was designed for band concerts and dancing, and still stands today. Believe it or not, a zoo was added in 1905! Monkeys, bears and other small animals were housed during the winter months and then sent back to their summer residences at other venues.

The park's first official consulting landscape architect, George Kessler, was hired in 1908 and his ideas were incorporated into the park's design. He envisioned the need for a conservatory to preserve perennial plants during the winter months to give patrons a year-round opportunity to gaze at the beauty of them as they did during the summer months. The conservatory and the Outlook (overlooking the planned Sunken Garden) were completed in 1915.

When Kessler planned the Sunken Garden, his intentions were for the summer plants to be very formal in design. He envisioned other gardens along the sides of the formal garden to be planted in an informal pattern; this would satisfy all who would come to admire the beauty. He included Prairie-style planters as well and he also suggested shrubs, trees and pathways—his idea was to show off the elegance of the formal gardens. Kessler also envisioned space for playgrounds, picnic areas and ball fields, and for people to be able to enjoy a leisurely stroll and take in the scenery.

F.D. Darlington of Chicago was hired in 1916 to design the fountains, the first in this country equipped with a mechanism which enabled the changing of the spray of water and which had colored light that changed to reflect the seasons. Soon, the fountains and the garden were ready—and the Garfield Park Conservatory and Sunken Garden was officially dedicated on October 29, 1916.

To be continued. . .

EXTENSION HORTICULTURE HINTS—MARCH 2017

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

Steve Mayer serves as coordinator and instructor for the Purdue Master Gardener program in Marion County.

Thank you!

Many thanks to the Garfield Park Master Gardener Association for the \$500.00 donation to the PE-MC Demonstration Garden. The demonstration garden is one of our largest program expenses. The GPMG association will be recognized on our main donor sign in front, beginning in mid-summer.

March Garden Calendar Tips

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

First Week: Due to the early spring this year, it is time to apply crabgrass preventer to the lawn (AY-10). <<http://purdueturftips.blogspot.com/2013/04/when-should-i-apply-my-preemergence.html>>

Second Week: Visit the Purdue info booths at the Indiana Flower and Patio Show on March 11-19, 2017: the Purdue Extension-Marion County booth and the Purdue Master Gardener "Plant Info To Go" booth. <<http://www.indianaflowerandpatioshow.com/>>

Third Week: Plant rhubarb as soon as the ground can be worked and planted. Place crowns 3 feet apart in rows 5 to 6 feet across and 1 to 2 inches deep (HO-97). <https://hort.purdue.edu/hort/ext/Pubs/HO/HO_097.pdf>

Fourth Week: Watch for new growth on house plants. Start fertilizing when growth appears (HO-39). <<https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/yardandgarden/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2016/10/HO-39.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.

Expect Pests to Come Early This Year

Don't expect to control pests at the normal time this year – at least early this year. As of early March, some weather data for Indianapolis indicates that we are 11 days ahead of 2016, 36 days ahead of 2015, and 55 days ahead of our 30-year normal <<http://uspest.org/wea/>>. Of course, with an extended below-normal cold spell, things could change.

Do not wait until early April to apply crabgrass preventer this year. Weather data suggests we have now entered the optimum time period to apply crabgrass preventers <<http://www.gddtracker.net/?model=7&offset=0&zip=46205>>. The

concept of using growing degree days (GDD) is useful for more accurate pest control <<https://extension.umd.edu/learn/growing-degree-days-why-and-how-use-them-and-where-find-them>>. Insects and mites are cold blooded organisms and therefore their development rate is directly related to temperature – as temperatures get warmer insects develop faster. Our Indianapolis weather development is fairly similar to Columbus, OH (43210). To see both plant and major pest development thus far this year in Columbus, OH, go to: <<https://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/gdd/gdd2new.asp?fill=all#tenpercent>>.



Forsythia blooms were open on the last day of February this year (photo by Steve Mayer, 2/28/2017)

The Status of Boxwood Blight

Boxwood blight was first described in the United Kingdom in the mid-1990s and is now found throughout Europe. The first identification in the United States was in 2011. Boxwood blight has now been found in over 20 states, most of them in the eastern U.S. To my knowledge, boxwood blight has still not been documented in Indiana. However, it is something you should know about.

The University of Illinois has recently updated a fact sheet on the subject. It was first confirmed in Illinois from samples submitted in late 2016 from Lake and Cook counties. Both samples were from recent landscape additions (one location planted in 2016 and the other in 2015). A third location was confirmed in a production facility in Clinton County, IL. All affected plants were originally sourced from other states.

As mentioned in the fact sheet, **there are three characteristic symptoms of boxwood blight: leaf spots, stem cankers, and defoliation.** Several other common pests and abiotic problems can cause leaf and stem discoloration. However, complete defoliation caused by boxwood blight is fairly characteristic and not typically associated with other issues. For more info and color photos, consult the Illinois Extension fact sheet on Boxwood Blight Detection available at: <<https://uofi.app.box.com/v/plantclinicfactsheets>>. Information on the following subjects is also available at the above link: rose rosette virus, Verticillium wilt, and common tree diseases.

The Question Box

March 2017

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



*These two photos show insect damage to a wood chest.
(Photo credit: Steve Mayer, 2/7/2017)*

Q. Here is an uncommon situation from our Master Gardener AnswerLine that you might think is impossible. A moth damaged a wood chest in our house. Why did it happen? Could this insect spread? Could it create a future problem for us?

A. The client described a cocoon where the damage was located. No other damage was found. The chest was in the house for many years and was not taken outside. The cocoon was no longer available so images and a description were sent to the Purdue Plant and Pest Diagnostic Lab for an answer. The reply follows.

Purdue PPD Lab Report: The perplexing phenomenon that you have described seems very mysterious until you understand the behavior of certain caterpillars in our area. The exact species cannot be identified but it belongs to the order Lepidoptera

and the family Erebidae – which includes many species that have “hairy” caterpillars such as tussock moths (Lymantriidae), underwings (Catocala), litter moths (Herminiinae), tiger, lichen, and wasp moths (Arctiinae), and others. The caterpillar stage of these species of moths begins its pupation phase by selecting (apparently quite randomly) a site on a vertical substrate upon which to attach its cocoon. Outside they are found on the sides of tree trunks, fence posts and attached to the sides of out buildings. The larva begins chewing the substrate so that it becomes rough enough to allow for the attachment of a fine mesh bag of spun silk and hair from its own body. This mesh bag is laid down first and offers a secure site on the substrate to begin the actual pupation phase. It is thought that this bag not only serves as an anchor but also offers a barrier to protect the developing cocoon from possible parasites. Once the outer bag is created, the caterpillar then pupates inside in much the same way as other moths do. So, to be exact, this damage was caused by a caterpillar (not a cocoon) that was just beginning to pupate.

What you found and described as a white cocoon was exactly correct. In the case of this particular moth, it was simply a cocoon within a bag. The remnants of white silk and hair that remain around the edges of the scar – even after you removed the cocoon – are also evidence of this being a silk making caterpillar. The absence of any other similar damage on or inside the chest is to be expected. These caterpillars are not attracted to the chest to feed on it, nor are they attracted to anything in the home per se. This was an accidental entry by a wandering caterpillar that, for unknown reasons (other than being a vertical substrate), selected the front of the chest to call home. In the process of making its cocoon this caterpillar chewed up the face of the wood to make it more like the bark on the trunk of a tree. There is no reason expect that more damage will be found or that you will find another caterpillar inside the home.

Q. Where can I find information on how to deal with storm damage?

A. It appears the spring storm season is arriving early and with a vengeance. Hoosiers are already feeling the impact. Use this Purdue Extension web page to assist with storm questions and assistance: <<https://www.purdue.edu/fnr/extension/blog/2017/03/02/storms-are-causing-damage-and-tree-cleanup-what-to-do-next/>>.

Show / Event Calendar

Now until July 9

Lilly Collection of Orchids in Watercolor
Indianapolis Museum of Art
4000 N. Michigan Road, Indianapolis
www.imamuseum.org

Now until March 10

Spring Bulb Show (Sale: March 11)
Garfield Park Conservatory
2505 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis
www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org

March 11-19

Indiana Flower and Patio Show
Indiana State Fairgrounds
1202 E. 38th St., Indianapolis
www.indianaflowerandpatioshow.com

April 5 (6:00 — 7:00 p.m.)

Bonsai 101
Indianapolis Bonsai Club
Garfield Park Conservatory
2505 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis
www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org

April 8 (8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.)

Spring Herb Symposium
Herb Society of Central Indiana
Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds
2003 Pleasant St., Noblesville
http://herbsocietyofcentralindiana.org/

April 22 (11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)

Earth Day Indiana
Military Park/White River State Park
601 W. New York St., Indianapolis
www.earthdayindiana.org

April 22 (9:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.)

Parks Foundation of Hendricks County
Native Plant and Tree Sale
Sodalis Nature Park, 7700 South
County Road 975 East, Plainfield
www.pfohc.org

April 22-23

CIOS Orchid Show at Garfield Park
Garfield Park Conservatory
2505 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis
www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org

April 29-30

IMA's Perennial Premiere
Indianapolis Museum of Art
4000 N. Michigan Road, Indianapolis
www.imamuseum.org

May 13

INPAWS Native Plant Sale and Show
Park Tudor Gymnasium
7200 N. College Avenue, Indianapolis
www.inpaws.org.

Educational and Volunteer Opportunities

March 18 (8:30 a.m.—Noon)

Garden Guide Volunteer Training
(New Guides Welcome)
Indianapolis Museum of Art
4000 N. Michigan Road, Indianapolis
www.imamuseum.org

March 30 (8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.)

*Understanding Native Pollinators and
Their Needs*
Monroe County Convention Center
302 S. College Ave., Bloomington
http://ecologicindiana.com

March 30 (6:00—7:00 pm)

*Evening Garden Tour with Director of
Horticulture Chad Franer*
Indianapolis Museum of Art
4000 N. Michigan Road, Indianapolis
www.imamuseum.org

May 20 (9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.)

GPMGA Annual Plant Sale
Outside Garfield Park Conservatory
2505 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis
www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org

Indiana Flower and Patio Show March 11-19

The Indiana Flower and Patio Show, will occur Saturday, March 11, through Sunday, March 19, at the Indiana State Fairgrounds West Pavilion and Expo Hall.

Over 50 magnificent Showcase and Exhibitor Gardens created by Indiana's premier landscape designers will focus on utilizing frequently ignored vertical spaces, intimate evening settings and an incredible array of awesome features that homeowners can adapt to enhance their outdoor living environments.

This year's theme—*Making Magic Happen!*—is simple: Make the show a magical experience for showgoers! Some concepts new to 2017 to make your experience at the show memorable, fun and entertaining include:

- Each garden will have an element of surprise to it . . . something hidden around the corner, musical pavers, fire & water combined, surprise guests in the gardens, musicians, etc.
- Expo Hall Glows in the Dark – Special glow in the dark accessories for gardens.
- Magicians and Princesses strolling the garden aisles
- Show "Money" Giveaways – Organizers will give away "money" that can be used to purchase items at the show via contests and games.
- Little Climbers: A children's tree climbing experience
- Pop-up restaurants in the gardens after the show closes in the evening on certain nights.

The Indiana Flower and Patio Show each year typically features the following types of gardens:

- Showcase Gardens – The showcase gardens are huge works of art. Filling massive (up to 6,000 sf.) spaces, these gardens will deliver the "WOW factor" visitors have come to expect.
- Feature Gardens – These garden spaces are a minimum of 20' x 20' (400 sf.) and are scattered throughout the show aisles. These mid-sized gardens will blend the upscale and budget friendly options to showcase the range of capabilities of the landscapers.
- Gardens – These spaces will be 20' x 20' or less and offer a great showcase of what visitors can do on a budget.

