

December 2016

Next Meetings

December 14
6:30 p.m.

Topic: GPMGA Website
Speaker: Joe Kunkel;
Annual Holiday Pitch-In

January

GPMGA does not meet;
Board Members Retreat

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

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accommodation or
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accommodations may
require 2 weeks notice.

Newsletter Editor:
Oren Cooley
pastpfct@aol.com

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GARFIELD PARK MASTER GARDENERS

Garfield Gardener



President's Letter

Hello Fellow Gardeners:

As we approach the holiday season, let's all stop for a moment and consider what a great and beautiful country we live in.

Let's give thanks for all the opportunities afforded us. Our heritage has taught us to help one another. As Master Gardeners, we all have been able to do many different things and to attend and create many programs that enrich our environment through safe and healthy practices.

I wish one and all a safe and Merry Christmas and a most Happy New Year!

—Boynton Robson
GPMGA President

December Meeting: Agenda

- Welcome
- Holiday Fare
- Speaker: Joe Kunkel,
Website Update
- Committee Reports
- Welcome: New Officers
- The Good and The Welfare

Indiana's Christmas Tree Farms

There is nothing like the fresh scent of a tree in the home during the Christmas season.

As a Christmas tree producing state, Indiana ranks 11th in the nation with more than 200 tree farms, producing almost 200,000 harvestable trees per year. Most Christmas trees are grown on farms utilizing soil that does not support other crops.

It takes an average of seven years to grow a tree of typical height (6 – 7 feet). A labor intensive crop, the trees are shaped by annual pruning (called shearing) every year. This process allows the grower to control the tree's growth and to produce a bushy appearance and desired conical shape.

For every Christmas tree harvested, typically one to three seedlings are planted the next spring. During its life cycle, a Christmas tree supports life by absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing fresh oxygen.



The most popular tree types grown in Indiana are:

- Scotch Pine
- White Pine
- Canaan Fir
- Fraser Fir
- Colorado Blue Spruce
- Concolor Fir
- Douglas Fir

For more information, visit
www.indianachristmastree.com.



2016 GPMG Officers and Committee Chairs

President

Boynton Robson
robby2931@gmail.com

Immediate Past President

Bill Bernstein
billbe19@comcast.net

Vice President

Nancy Boettner
nancyboettner@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer

James Scherschel
gpmga.treasurer@gmail.com

Secretary

Nancy Boettner
nancyboettner@sbcglobal.net

Program Directors

Kay Martin-Pence
guitargirl929@gmail.com

Cira Coates
ciracoates@comcast.net

Newsletter/Publicity Director

Oren Cooley
pastpfct@aol.com

Historian

Ed Myers
emyers3670@aol.com

Hospitality—Pitch-In Coordinator

Cira Coates
ciracoates@comcast.net

Hospitality—Snack Coordinator

Sue Hoyt
msue3@hotmail.com

Hospitality—Set-up Coordinator

Alane Judkins
APJ44@sbcglobal.net

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: December 14

Topic: GPMGA Website

Speaker: Joe Kunkel, Christel House

The Garfield Park Master Gardeners' annual holiday pitch-in will occur at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 14, at the Garfield Park Conservatory.

Joe Kunkel, IT Manager for Christel House International, will demonstrate the new GPMGA website and solicit members' feedback. He will incorporate provided suggestions into the website—which will launch in late January.

For the holiday festivities, the club will provide sandwiches, shrimp cocktail and all paper products. Please bring a covered side dish, salad, drinks or ice for the event. Please let Cira Coates (at ciracoates@comcast.net) know if you plan to attend and what type of dish you plan to bring.

As part of the annual holiday pitch-in, several Master Gardeners will share the stories behind the photos they submitted for the GPMGA Holiday Slide Show. They will reveal where they have been, what captured their fancy, and what they accomplished this year. If you have any questions about the upcoming slide show, contact Debra Boyer at idealgardenspace@aol.com.

Hope to see you at the pitch-in for a great time!

GPMGA Meeting Minutes: November 9

Program

- *Where the Wild Things Are*, Jo Ellen Meyers Sharp, The Hoosier Gardener

Business Meeting/Board Reports

- President-Boynton Robson: 10-12 potential members in evening MG class; Cabinet now available for storage of historical documents and hospitality supplies, Additional keys to be made
- Secretary-Nancy Boettner: Minutes accepted as printed in the newsletter
- Treasurer-James Scherschel: Checking balance is \$5,160.59; Collecting dues up to February meeting
- Hospitality-Cira Coates, Sue Hoyt, Lane Judkins: Sign-up sheet available for December pitch-in, Club will supply sandwiches
- Newsletter/Communications-Oren Cooley: Thanks for suggestions for newsletter; Working with website volunteer who will present site at December meeting; Contact Oren if interested in training on how to update site
- Programs-Cira Coates, Kay Martin-Pence: Send e-copies of photos (up to 12 per person) to Debra Boyer for slide show at December meeting, December 1 deadline

Other Business

- Presentation of Board-Barbara Jablonski: Slate presented and approved (Motion to accept slate by Jan Mernone, seconded by Betty Hurn Johnson); Nancy Boettner-President, Carrie Alumbaugh-Vice President, Lane Judkins-Secretary, Cindy Maude-Treasurer, Kay Martin-Pence & Penny Place-Program Co-chairs, Sue Hoyt, Jean Corder, Betty Hurn Johnson-Hospitality Co-chairs, Jayne Queck-Historian, Victoria Metheaux-Garfield Park Conservatory Tours, and Oren Cooley-Newsletter/Publicity
- Sign for Demo Garden-Boynton Robson: Steve Mayer will advise about sign content and location
- Grants-Boynton Robson: Members encouraged to submit grant requests, Also can cover tuition of a MG student
- Opportunities-Lane Judkins: Helpers needed at Indiana World War Memorial property on Nov. 12 and 16, See e-mail from Extension Office for details
—Nancy Boettner, Secretary, GPMGA

Garfield Gardener

Indiana World War Memorial Progress

A lot of progress was made this year at the Indiana World War Memorial.

Thanks to both MG and non-MG volunteers, we have got University Park looking very nice, and our efforts free up the staff to focus on other matters, such as keeping the fountains functioning and the museums clean.



The War Memorial Foundation Board is revamping their website, and has agreed to add a volunteer sign-up link in order to provide a dedicated place where people may contact the foundation and indicate they want to help out and learn in the gardens.

There are so many downtown residents, and more apartments are being built that will look over the parks. I like to think of the War Memorial as Indy's own 'Central Park!' The Foundation Board is also setting up a 'make a donation' link to their website, and has confirmed there is a 'landscape' sub-account established for donations to be directed specifically for trees and flowers.

We successfully transplanted a plethora of hostas, mini iris and daffodil bulbs from the City-County Building as part of a re-purpose project. Plans are in place to solicit apartments, offices and restaurants for donations to add additional trees to University Park and to recruit additional volunteers.

Two years ago, more than 100 trees were planted in the American Legion Mall to replace the ash trees that died due to the Emerald Ash Borer. However, University Park was not targeted for additional tree planting at that time. A group of volunteers and IWWM staff met with Angela Smitman, former GPMGA President, in her role as a representative of Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, to discuss plans for re-foresting University Park.

I am looking forward to 2017 with grandiose visions of enhancing the landscapes with more plantings, more volunteers and teaching as many people as I can about the flowers, trees and shrubs in the parks. I say grandiose because I am a dreamer, and my visions and expectations are way out from what really happens, but that is how we have gotten to where we are today! In the meantime, enjoy your walks in the park!

—Lane Judkins, GPMGA Member

Conservatory Crossing Continues

There's still time to enjoy the winter wonderland at Conservatory Crossing as Garfield Park Conservatory remains decked out in its holiday best with a brilliant display of poinsettias, thousands of twinkling lights, model trains and a train village.

Conservatory Crossing will continue until January 1. The hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Monday through Saturday and from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Special evening hours (until 8:00 p.m.) on December 16, 17, 21, 22 and 23.

The cost is \$4 per person or \$10 per family (2 adults maximum). For more information, visit www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org.



Service & Training Opportunities

January 5 (1:00 p.m.)

It's About Color

Fort Benjamin's Blossoms Garden Club
Benjamin Harrison YMCA
5736 Lee Road, Indianapolis
snsmls@aol.com

January 10-12

Indiana Horticultural Congress and Trade Show

Marriott Indianapolis East
7202 East 21st Street, Indianapolis
www.inhortcongress.org

January 28

'Spring is Just Around the Corner' Gardening Show

Porter County MG Association
Porter County Expo Center
215 East Division Road, Valparaiso
www.pcgarden.info/gardening-show

February 11

The Garden Reimagined

IMA Horticultural Symposium
Indianapolis Museum of Art
4000 N. Michigan Road, Indianapolis
www.imamuseum.org

Garfield Park Conservatory Tour Guide Schedule

December 10 (2:30 p.m.)

Oren Cooley
John Montgomery

December 24

No tour offered; Garfield Park's Conservatory Crossing in progress

Anyone interested in becoming a tour guide should contact Boynton Robson at robby2931@gmail.com.

December Hospitality Help

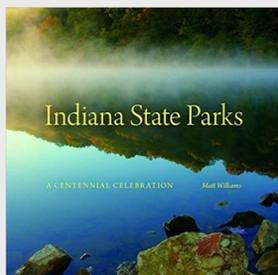
The annual Christmas pitch-in dinner is December 14. (See article Page 2). This year, the club will provide assorted sandwiches, shrimp cocktail and all paper supplies. Please bring a side dish, a salad, dessert or another holiday delight.

If you wish to help with a future meeting, please contact Sue Hoyt at msue3@hotmail.com.

From the Bookshelf . . .

Indiana State Parks: A Centennial Celebration
by Matt Williams

The stunning photographs in this book bring out the full glory of Indiana's state parks and reservoirs. From the icy toboggan run at Pokagon State Park to the fireworks on a balmy night at Versailles State Park, the splendid images by nature photographer Matt Williams record the seasonal landscapes and the variety of activities that make these parks so exceptional. As Hoosiers observe the centennial of their state park system, this beautiful and informative book marks the occasion with a visual celebration of the parks' scenery, wildlife, recreation and history.



On the Web . . .

Random Acts of Flowers
<http://indianapolis.randomactsofflowers.org>

Random Acts of Flowers recycles and repurposes flowers to make into arrangements for delivery to local residents struggling with health and aging issues at local hospitals and nursing homes. A national organization, Random Acts of Flowers launched its Indianapolis chapter last October at Eskenazi Health—with lavish praise from recipients expressing appreciation for the burst of color and the personal visits that accompanied those surprises.

Those flowers the organization cannot repurpose they compost. All vases they use for arrangements are recycled as well. Randon Acts of Flowers encourages people to donate flowers or vases as well as to participate as volunteers.

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



Indiana's State Tree: Tulip Tree

Indiana has a long history with its official state tree: The tulip tree (*Linodendron Tulipifera*).

A valuable timber and shade tree, the tulip tree is fast growing and—reaching heights of more than 100 ft.—is the tallest of the eastern hardwoods. A lightweight wood, it was used to craft canoes by Native Americans and to build shelter and other structures by early settlers. Today, the easily worked wood maintains a high commercial value because of its versatility and as a substitute for scarce softwoods in furniture and framing construction.



Designation as the official state tree was not the first official recognition given to the tulip tree.

The distinctive tulip tree leaf is found in the border of the State Seal of Indiana designed in the 1800s and, from 1923 to 1931, the blossom of the tulip tree served as the official state flower.

In 1931, an effort was exerted to replace the blossom of the tulip tree with the zinnia as Indiana's state flower. As a result, the tulip tree was adopted as the official state tree by a legislative act approved on March 3, 1931.



The tree's leaf is distinctive and the lovely bell-shaped greenish-yellow flowers appear in May or June. The bloom's shape suggest a flowering tulip and, consequently, inspired the tree's name. The tulip tree can be found throughout the state.



Indiana State Bird: Cardinal

Indiana designated the northern cardinal as the official state bird in 1933.

One of America's favorite backyard birds, cardinals are distinctive in appearance and song —known for their "cheer cheer cheer", "whit-chew whit-chew" and "purty purty purty" whistles.

Male cardinals are a brilliant scarlet red; females a buffy brown with reddish wings. Both have a jet-black mask, pronounced crest and heavy bill.

Cardinals remain in Indiana year round and nest in thickets of brambles or low saplings. Northern cardinals breed 2 to 3 times each season. The eggs, 2 to 4, are bluish-white with brown markings.



The female builds the nest and tends the hatchlings for about 10 days while the male brings food. The male then takes over the care of this first brood while the female moves on to a new nest and lays a second clutch of eggs.

In addition to Indiana, the cardinal is the official state bird of 6 states: Illinois, Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, and West Virginia.



Indiana State Flower: Peony

Indiana has a long, tumultuous history regarding its state flower, beginning with the adoption of the carnation by Concurrent Resolution in 1913.

Amid protests that the carnation was not native to Indiana, the blossom of the tulip tree was substituted as the state's floral emblem by an act of the General Assembly in 1923. The tulip tree blossom gave way to the zinnia eight years later in 1931.

Since it was rumored that a grower of zinnia seeds was responsible for the 1931 legislation, the Indiana General Assembly took up the issue of an official state flower again in 1957. In March that year, the peony was adopted as the "official state flower of the state of Indiana".

This legislation was not without controversy though. A commercial peony grower—and a state representative—is said to have been behind the House move that substituted the peony for the dogwood that had been proposed by a Senate committee.



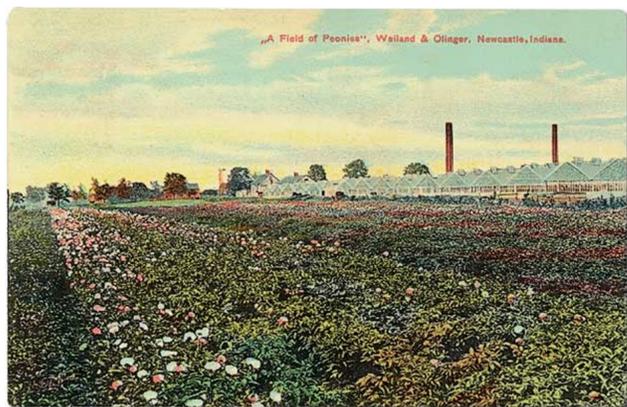
Adopted on March 15, 1957, Indiana's state flower has been subject to criticism because it is not native to the state. The peony, however, has managed to maintain its position as the official state flower for almost 60 years.

The peony typically blooms the last of May and early June in various shades of red and pink and white; it occurs in both single and double forms. No particular variety or color was designated by the General Assembly.

Today, the peony is cultivated widely throughout the state. Some varieties of peonies:

- **Single Forms:** Single forms of peony have centers of pollen-bearing stamens.
- **Semi-Double:** Centers of semi-double peony forms consist of broad petals intermingled with pollen-bearing stamens.
- **Double Peony:** Double peony types have dense centers of only broad petals (transformed stamens).
- **Anemone Form:** The anemone form of peony, often included in the semi-double category, may have more than one row of guard petals encircling a center of thin, petal-like structures.
- **Japanese Type:** The Japanese-type peony is similar to the anemones but has staminodes (stamens that do not produce pollen) in their centers.

Peonies tend to attract ants to the flower buds. This is due to the nectar that forms on the outside of the flower buds, and is not required for the plants' own pollination or other growth.



Peonies can be effected by fatal fungal diseases, which include *Phytophthora* blight and *Verticillium* wilt.

A field of peonies, New Castle, Indiana (c. 1950s)

White Snakeroot



White snakeroot—a wildflower, with white, button-like flowerheads less than a 1/2-inch across—is a shade-loving plant found throughout Indiana. It is commonly seen growing on roadsides, in damp open areas or on the shaded north side of ridges.

In the early nineteenth century, the "milk sickness" was a perplexing disease that took the lives of thousands on the Indiana frontier. In the fall of 1818, Nancy Hanks Lincoln (Abraham's mother) died when milk sickness struck the Little Pigeon Creek settlement.

By the late 1800s, researchers realized that milk sickness was caused by a poison in milk from cows that had eaten white snakeroot. The illness was most common in dry years when cows wandered from poor pastures to the woods in search of food.

The sickness—sometimes called "the trembles"—had the following symptoms in humans: loss of appetite, listlessness, weakness, vague pains, muscle stiffness, vomiting, abdominal discomfort and severe constipation. Recovery was slow and often never fully achieved. More often, an attack was fatal.

Milk sickness was more prevalent in late summer and early fall since, by late summer, the plant is in full bloom. As more woodlands were cleared, cattle had adequate pasture even in dry weather. As a result, the incidence of the disease tapered off.

However, it was not until 1926 that USDA Chemist James F. Couch showed that fresh—not dried—White Snakeroot caused milk sickness. In 1927, he isolated the chemical complex—tremetol—as the toxic component.

Extension Horticulture Hints—December 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.

December 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:** You can lightly prune evergreens such as yew and holly now to furnish material for holiday decorations that you can make yourself (HO-22). <<https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/yardandgarden/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2016/10/HO-22.pdf>>
- **Second Week:** Many house plants do not require much, if any, fertilizer during the winter months since their growth rate is usually reduced (HO-39). <<https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/yardandgarden/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2016/10/HO-39.pdf>>
- **Third Week:** African violets may flower more profusely if additional fluorescent light is provided (HO-10). <<https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/yardandgarden/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2016/10/HO-10.pdf>>
- **Fourth Week:** Planning your landscape? Consider this: On average, a well-designed landscape saves enough energy to pay for itself in less than 8 years. <<http://energy.gov/articles/energy-saver-101-infographic-landscaping>>

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.

Report Master Gardener Hours

It's already December. Please complete reporting your past hours as soon as possible. To maintain active Master Gardener status, volunteers need 6 advanced training (continuing education) hours and 12 volunteer hours in one calendar year.

Remember, according to the state Master Gardener policy, if there is a lapse in service of more than four years from the last active reporting year, the Purdue Master Gardener volunteer will be required to retake the Purdue Master Gardener Basic Training, purchase any updated Purdue Master Gardener manuals or materials, retake and pass the Purdue Master Gardener Basic Training exam (70% or more) and submit the required paperwork.

Demonstration Garden Update

There were about 3 more weeks in the growing season this year due to the warm fall months. Finally, on November 12-13, a freeze occurred in the demonstration garden. The warm weather helped the growth of our 7 cover crop beds which were planted a little late this year. We were also able to do soil improvement in some raised beds (added compost and Sphagnum peat moss).



Cover crops on 12/2/16 in the 5 patio block-cedar lumber raised beds. The oats (in front) showed only slight cold temperature injury so far. (Photo: Steve Mayer, 12/2/16)



Not much left in the demo garden: just cover crops, snapdragon plants, a few plants in the garden towers, and some perennials. (Photo: Steve Mayer, 12/2/16)

Extension Horticulture Hints—December 2016

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

The Question Box

Q. What should I consider when selecting trees for my urban lot?

A. Consult Purdue's new publication FNR-531, Tree Selection for the "Un-natural" Environment: <<https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/FNR/FNR-531-W.pdf>>. This publication takes a look at some important components of the decision-making process for tree selection.



Here is one of the vines from the Cinderella's Carriage pumpkin in the demonstration garden. (Photo by Steve Mayer, 11/20/16)

Q. How long do pumpkin vines grow?

A. This depends on the pumpkin cultivar as well as the fertility of the soil and amount of soil moisture. Generally, pumpkins need a lot of space.

Consult the seed packet and/or catalog for information on planting the specific cultivar. Some general suggestions are:

- Vining types: 5-6 feet between "hills" (groups of plants) and 6-8 feet between rows (some people suggest 10-15 feet between rows for strong vining types).
- Semi-bush types: 4 feet between hills and 8 feet between rows.

- Miniature types: 2 feet between hills and 6-8 feet between rows.
- Bush types: a single plant every 3 feet and 4-6 feet between rows.

The information about the pumpkin Cinderella's Carriage (2014 AAS Winner) suggests a garden spacing of 2-3 feet and a plant spread of 5 feet. However the photo on this page from our demonstration garden shows one Cinderella's Carriage vine that was about 30 feet long.

Q. Where can I get more expertise on emerald ash borer?

A. Other than the Purdue EAB website (<<https://extension.entm.purdue.edu/EAB/>>), check out the Emerald Ash Borer Information Network: <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/eab_university.cfm>. There are spring and fall webinar series on the subject that can be viewed live or as a recording. The webinars also count as advanced Master Gardener training (continuing education).

Q. What plants were covered in the last lunch and learn (Plants That Stand Out in Winter)?

A. They included the following:

- **Bark & Stems:** Paperbark Maple, Three-flowered Maple, White Tigress Striped Maple, River Birch (Heritage, Fox Valley), Hackberry, Kousa Dogwood, Kentucky Coffeetree, Japanese Tree Lilac, Common Baldcypress, Lacebark Elm, Bloodtwig Dogwood (Midwinter Fire, Winter Flame), Cardinal Red Twig Dogwood, Arctic Fire Red Twig Dogwood, Ivory Halo Variegated Tatarian Dogwood, Bud's Yellow Tatarian Dogwood, Japanese Kerria and Seven-Son Flower.
- **Fruit Display:** Brilliant Red Chokeberry, Winter King Hawthorn, Common Winterberry (Winter Red), Possumhaw (Warren's Red), Cardinal Candy Linden Viburnum and Flowering Crabapple (Manbeck Weeper, Jack Crabapple, Prairifire, Red Jewel).
- **Foliage & Form:** Evergreen, Semi-Evergreen or Tardily Deciduous: Shingle Oak, Northern Bayberry, Brakens Brown Beauty Southern Magnolia (marginally hardy cultivar), Weeping European Beech and Pagoda Dogwood.

Q. What's the best Christmas tree to buy?

A. Selecting an Indiana-Grown Christmas Tree (FNR-422) describes various tree species and the characteristics that most tree-shoppers ask about: <<https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/FNR/FNR-422-W.pdf>>.

Show / Event Calendar

Now until January 1

(Mon-Sat: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.;
Sunday: 1:00-5:00 p.m.)

Conservatory Crossing

Garfield Park Conservatory
2505 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis
www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org

December 11

Indiana Birthday Bash:

200th Anniversary - Indiana Statehood
Multiple locations statewide
www.indianabicentennial.org

January 6-July 9

Lilly Collection: Orchids in Watercolor

Indianapolis Museum of Art
4000 N. Michigan Road, Indianapolis
www.imamuseum.org

January 20-29

Indianapolis Home Show

Indiana State Fairgrounds
1202 E. 38th St., Indianapolis
www.indianapolishomeshow.com

February 10-March 5

Orchids: Cultivating Beauty

Indianapolis Museum of Art
4000 N. Michigan Road, Indianapolis
www.imamuseum.org

**Children of Indiana
Nature Park**

December 13 (7:30 p.m.)

Children of Indiana

Nature Park Initiative Presentation

Sponsored by Amos Butler Audubon
Holliday Park Nature Center
6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis
www.amosbutleraudubon.org/

Join Amos Butler Audubon of Central Indiana as they learn about a unique Hoosier project—the Children of Indiana Nature Park—designed to reboot every child’s interest in nature. Studies show that children who spend time outside are healthier, better problem solvers and less stressed! To foster healthy children, several Indiana organizations are collaborating to connect kids and nature. Come learn about the research showing the benefits of getting kids outside as well as this new park initiative.

2017 GPMGA Membership Dues

Renew your membership in the Garfield Park Master Gardeners Association. Dues are \$15.00 per year and help pay for special activities, speakers, the newsletter and donations to community projects.

Monthly meetings occur on the second Wednesday of the month and begin at 6:30 p.m. Unless otherwise noted at the prior meeting or in the newsletter, meetings are held at the Garfield Park Conservatory, 2505 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis.

Date _____ Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Completion date of Master Gardener Training Class ____/____/____

Volunteer with:

_____ I wish to be included in the 2017 GPMGA Member Directory.

_____ I wish to receive future newsletters by e-mail only.

Submit this form and your \$15.00 annual membership fee to:

James Scherschel 1416 N Leland Ave Indianapolis IN 46219



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

Purdue Extension - Marion County

Suite 201, Discovery Hall, Indiana State Fairgrounds

1202 East 38th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46205

Phone: 317.275.9290; FAX: 317.275.9309

E-mail: MayerSL@purdue.edu

Answerline: 317.275.9292 or marionmg@purdue.edu

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