



# THE GARFIELD GARDENER

THE NEWSLETTER OF GARFIELD PARK MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

## February 2019 Next Meeting

February 13 (6:30 p.m.)

**Topic:** *Behind the Scenes  
at Garfield Park*

**Speaker:** Susan Micks,  
GP Interior Horticulturist

March 13 (6:30 p.m.)

**Topic:** TBD

**Speaker:** Irvin Etienne,  
Newfields

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

### Future Meetings:

April 10

May 8

June 12

July 10

August 14

September 11

October 9

November 13

December 11

Purdue University is an equal  
opportunity / equal access /  
affirmative action  
university.

If you require an  
accommodation or special  
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:

Oren Cooley

[pastpfct@aol.com](mailto:pastpfct@aol.com)

### Learn more at:

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

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

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

## President's Letter

Welcome to 2019! First, thank you all for trusting in me to be your (not-so) fearless leader in 2019! Frankly, it terrifies me to have everyone looking up to me. I like to lead by example, and taking on the volunteer opportunities at the Indiana World War Memorial has been a huge feat over many years now and continues to evolve.

I would like to see the Garfield Park Master Gardeners evolve in 2019. Let's strive to be more engaged this year, take on a new responsibility and all be leaders. There are so many volunteer opportunities out there, and everyone has their own passion—be it a school, a church, a community garden and, of course, our own gardens are our pride and joy! When I finished the MG program in December 2007, I thought to myself, "Oh boy! There are all these people looking for opportunities to satisfy that first year's requirement to cinch that certification; there will be a lot of competition." I have since come to realize that there are way more opportunities than there are people. And, we made a commitment through the Master Gardener program to contribute to our communities.



One of the challenges is that, as we get older, we must become more teacher and instructor rather than brute strength and endurance. I have evolved over the past 10+ years. My first volunteer experiences were at Holliday Park, and all I wanted to do was to put my head down and pull weeds. But, that experience exposed me to the teacher role as well. There were other people there who were also satisfying various community service requirements, and had less knowledge than me. And, through those experiences, I have also been exposed to people who have way more knowledge than me. We are always learning – it never stops!

I wish I knew at 18 that I would be such a plant geek; my career path might have taken a different route. But, alas, gardening is something that comes to a lot of us as we grow older. As a kid, I did have to weed the vegetable garden, especially since I was going to be eating from it. Elementary school science classes taught me basic tree identification, and I loved the field work. As a young apartment dweller, I had some flower pots on a patio or balcony, but I did not truly create my own garden, which included trees, shrubs and flowers, until the first home purchase.

Already at the War Memorial, we are in discussion with garden centers and growers about what flowers we want to ensure we get the quantity we need. I saw a need here years ago and, with persistence and time, have developed a great working relationship with the staff. I also have some fantastic people who volunteer with me, and we are continuing to develop our volunteer network. Not everyone is a Master Gardener, and everyone has their own reasons for volunteering. Some people help by providing refreshments for those who are doing the physical work or make donations to the landscape fund for things such as tree replacement.

Jump out of your comfort zone and make some contacts. Find that volunteer opportunity that makes you smile, and bask in the glow of knowing that you are helping to improve our community. <wink>

—Lane Judkins, GPMGA President

## Garfield Park Conservatory Tours

**February 9 (2:30 p.m.)**  
Volunteer Needed

**February 23 (2:30 p.m.)**  
Arlene Bow  
Oren Cooley  
John Montgomery

Anyone interested in becoming a tour guide should contact Victoria Metheaux at [vmethx@comcast.net](mailto:vmethx@comcast.net).

### At the Conservatory

It's springtime at Garfield Park Conservatory!

Come see the stunning display of tulips and other spring blooms against the backdrop of the conservatory's permanent tropical collection during the Spring Bulb Show March 2-9. Hours are 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday-Saturday; 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sunday.

Admission is \$4 for individuals and \$10 for families (2 adults maximum per family). For more information, visit [www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org](http://www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org).

### Upcoming Hospitality Help

If you wish to help with a future meeting, please contact Jayne Queck at [jaqueck@aol.com](mailto:jaqueck@aol.com). If you wish to help with the July or December pitch-ins, contact Carrie Alumbaugh at car-

## Next GPMGA Meeting: February 13

There's always something happening at Garfield Park - whether it's an orchid show, Sweets for Your Sweetie on Valentine's Day, Conservatory Crossing during the holidays, weddings, farmers market, and much more. Join us February 13 to find out what goes on behind the scenes at Garfield Park to make its events and displays happen.

Susan Micks, Interior Horticulturist, and Elizabeth Schleicher, Assistant Conservatory Manager and Education Coordinator, are collaborating on a presentation that will take us through the seasons and the programs at the park. Susan will present at the February meeting.



Before joining the Garfield Park staff, Susan worked at White River Gardens where her former supervisor, Duane Martin, taught her the importance of editing the landscape. As she told *Indianapolis Monthly* magazine in 2015, "That may mean pruning a tree to allow more light to the plants under it, or finally pulling a plant that doesn't perform well in your garden. When I walk through the conservatory, my mind is always thinking, what needs to go so that this will look better?"



As part of her conservatory responsibilities, Susan also chooses which insects to release to keep pests at bay. When not tending to the interior landscape, she assists with keeping the 3½-acre Sunken Gardens in pristine, photo-ready shape.

For more information about the programs and events at Garfield Park, go to [www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org/copy-of-programsevents](http://www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org/copy-of-programsevents).

## 2019 GPMGA Officers/Committee Chairs

### President

Lane Judkins  
[APJ44@sbcglobal.net](mailto:APJ44@sbcglobal.net)

### Immediate Past President

Carrie Alumbaugh  
[carriesalumbaugh@gmail.com](mailto:carriesalumbaugh@gmail.com)

### Vice President

Position Not Filled

### Secretary

Nancy Boettner  
[nancyboettner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nancyboettner@sbcglobal.net)

### Treasurer

Cindy Maude  
[cmaude@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cmaude@sbcglobal.net)

### Plant Sale

Kay Martin-Pence  
[guitargirl929@gmail.com](mailto:guitargirl929@gmail.com)

### Program Director

Carrie Alumbaugh  
[carriesalumbaugh@gmail.com](mailto:carriesalumbaugh@gmail.com)

### Debra Boyer

[idealgardenspace@aol.com](mailto:idealgardenspace@aol.com)

### Hospitality—Snack Coordinator

Jayne Queck  
[jaqueck@aol.com](mailto:jaqueck@aol.com)

### Hospitality—Set-up Coordinator

Bill Bernstein  
[billbe19@comcast.net](mailto:billbe19@comcast.net)

### Hospitality—Pitch-In Coordinator

Carrie Alumbaugh  
[carriesalumbaugh@gmail.com](mailto:carriesalumbaugh@gmail.com)

### Newsletter/Publicity Director

Oren Cooley  
[pastpfct@aol.com](mailto:pastpfct@aol.com)

### Conservatory Tour Coordinator

Victoria Metheaux  
[vmethx@comcast.net](mailto:vmethx@comcast.net)

### Historians

Mike Brown  
[mikebrownindy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mikebrownindy@sbcglobal.net)

Mike Doran  
[michaeljdoran2010@gmail.com](mailto:michaeljdoran2010@gmail.com)

Mike Logan  
[MBLOG@aol.com](mailto:MBLOG@aol.com)

### Questions about Reporting Hours

Debbie Schelske  
[dschelsk@purdue.edu](mailto:dschelsk@purdue.edu)

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

## Garfield Park Offers Many Amenities

Garfield Park (consisting of approximately 128 acres) is an integral component of the Indianapolis Park and Boulevard System designed by George Kessler.

Much of the park is rolling fields, due in part to its location at the confluence of Pleasant Run and Bean Creeks. Pleasant Run enters the park from the north and flows southwest before exiting on the west. Bean Creek enters from the south near Shelby Street and flows northwest until joining Pleasant Run. Seven bridges span the streams within the park. The oldest of these bridges are made of limestone.

A dam located where the two creeks meet at one time created a pond that was used for ice skating during the winter. That dam has since been removed, but remnants of it can still be seen near the Pagoda Drive bridge.

Garfield Park today offers the following amenities to the public:

**Conservatory and Sunken Gardens:** The Conservatory is approximately 10,000 sq. ft. and is constructed of welded-aluminum and glass. (The original structure was the first of its kind in the United States.) Opened in 1916, the Conservatory today features tropical plants, including a large collection of orchids, bromeliads and other beautiful specimens. The Sunken Gardens (3.5 acres) are European-style formal gardens, with three fountains, paved brick walkways and benches adjacent to the Conservatory. (The fountains are the work of F. W. Darlington.) Several renovations have been undertaken since the fountains were inaugurated in 1916, including one in 1998 that was funded by Lilly Endowment. In October 2013, a \$1.23 million makeover saw the installation of 61 LED illumination lights and 2,500 water jet nozzles, all under computer control.



**Pagoda:** The Pagoda has a curved copper roof that covers the otherwise-open wrought iron, rock and concrete structure. Built in 1903, this picnic shelter was intended to take advantage of the then-popular fad of opera. Originally, it also housed the superintendent's office, a storage room, and, in a lower level, public restrooms. The office and restrooms were later removed.

**Garfield Park Arts Center:** The Community House (also known as the Shelter House) was built in 1922 and was designed to look like a picnic shelter with enclosing walls, high ceilings and fireplaces at each end. In 1930, an outdoor swimming pool was constructed at the bottom of the hill between the Community House and the creek, and the basement was converted into locker rooms. In the late 1990s, the old pool was removed because it had deteriorated and had been replaced by the Aquatic Center. In 2006, the Community House was remodeled and enlarged using a \$2.7 million grant from Lilly Endowment to become the Garfield Park Arts Center. The 8,000 sq. ft. facility now houses a multi-use performing arts space, an exhibition hall, visual and production arts classrooms, recording studio, a literary arts library and a rehearsal room.

**MacAllister Center for the Performing Arts:** The MacAllister Center for the Performing Arts, originally known as the Amphitheatre, was constructed in the mid-1920s. Consisting of a covered stage with outdoor bench and lawn seating, the center has hosted a number of musical and theatrical shows, including the first production of Starlight Musicals in 1944. Local Shakespeare groups have often performed at the center. The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra regularly schedules one of its Symphony in the Parks events there each summer.

**Burrello Family Center and Aquatic Center:** In 1998, the Burrello Family Center and Aquatic Center opened, replacing the old pool and basketball court at the Community House. The outdoor Aquatic Center is open during the summer months. The Family Center contains fitness and other recreational facilities in addition to the gymnasium.

## 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](mailto:MayerSL@purdue.edu)  
Answerline: 317.275.9292 or  
[marioncountymg@gmail.com](mailto:marioncountymg@gmail.com)

It is the policy of the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service that all persons have equal opportunity and access to its educational programs, services, activities and facilities without regard to race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, disability or status as a veteran. Purdue University is an Affirmative Action institution. This material may be available in alternative formats.

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

Purdue does not endorse nor disclaim information that appears in this newsletter. It is intended only for informational purposes.

Questions: Contact Steve Mayer at [mayersl@purdue.edu](mailto:mayersl@purdue.edu) or Debbie Schelske at [dschelsk@purdue.edu](mailto:dschelsk@purdue.edu).

*Helping Others Grow  
Sharing Knowledge  
Volunteer Commitment*

## From the Bookshelf . . .

### *The Plant Messiah* by Carlos Magdalena

Carlos Magdalena is not your average horticulturist. He's a man on a mission to save the world's most endangered plants.



First captivated by the flora of his native Spain, Magdalena has travelled to the remotest parts of the globe in search of exotic species. Renowned for his pioneering work, he has committed his life to protecting plants from man-made ecological destruction and thieves hunting for wealthy collectors. In *The Plant Messiah*, Magdalena takes readers from the Amazon to the jungles of Mauritius to deep within the Australian Outback in search of the rare and the vulnerable.

Readers will learn about Magdalena's laboratory and his groundbreaking, "left-field" techniques for rescuing species from extinction, encouraging them to propagate and thrive again. Throughout the book, he offers moving, heartfelt stories about the secrets contained within these incredible organisms. Passionate and absorbing, *The Plant Messiah* is a tribute to the diversity of life on this planet, and the importance of preserving it.

## On the Web . . .

### Garden Guides

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

Garden Guides is the "ultimate resource" for cultivating a green thumb. More than twenty journalists and other professional writers with gardening experience use their communication skills to help explain the various techniques a person needs to "transition from crops to kitchen". Whether creating simple do-it-yourself instructions for green spaces, growing indoor plants or planting winter crops, Garden Guides are there to help provide information for every step of the gardening journey.

GARDEN GUIDES.COM

## National Garden Bureau's "Year of the . . ."

The National Garden Bureau (NGB) features plants in four categories during its 2019 "Year of the" program.

- For bulb crops, 2019 is the Year of the Dahlia
- For annuals, 2019 is the Year of the Snapdragon
- For perennials, 2019 is the Year of the Salvia (nemorosa and others)
- For edibles, 2019 is the Year of the Pumpkin

Each year the National Garden Bureau selects one annual, one perennial, one bulb crop and one edible as the "Year of the" crops. Plants are chosen because they are popular, easy-to-grow, widely adaptable, genetically diverse and versatile.

### Year of the Dahlia

The native dahlias found in the mountains of Mexico and Guatemala are the genetic source for the modern hybrid dahlias grown today. Initial breeders of dahlias were more interested in the dahlia as a food source since the blooms at that time were not particularly noteworthy. Dahlia is a genus of tuberous plants that are members of the Asteraceae (or Compositae) plants. Offering a wide range of colors and forms, the species offers a variety of flower sizes, ranging from 2" to 15" in diameter. The largest flower form is informally known as the "dinner plate" dahlia.



### Year of the Snapdragon

The snapdragon (*Antirrhinum majus*) is one of those flowers that, for some gardeners, evokes memories of their parents' or grandparents' garden. The genus name *Antirrhinum* comes from the Greek words "anti" meaning "like" and "rhin" meaning "nose or snout", which describes the shape of the flowers. Native to the Mediterranean region and parts of the Middle East and North Africa, the snapdragon offers multiple uses in the garden, smells great, attracts pollinators and comes in scads of colors. Snapdragons come in a range of heights: dwarf (6-10 inches wide, 10-12 inches tall), medium (16-24 inches tall, 12-18 inches wide) and tall (24-30 inches tall, 14-16 inches wide). Dwarf types are currently the most common snapdragons found at garden centers.



### Year of the Salvia

Salvias are among the most common ornamental and culinary plant species. Although its name is derived from the Latin "salvere", meaning "to heal or good health", this moniker undoubtedly refers to the common herb Sage (*Salvia officinalis*) and not the ornamental Salvia flowering in backyard gardens. The beautiful Salvia we find in our modern gardens originates from plants found in the wooded elevations of Eurasia. The most common hardy species are *S. nemorosa* and *S. pratensis*. Hardy Salvia like *S. nemorosa* are considered to be care-free and easy to manage in the garden. They can be in place for years without a need for dividing.



### Year of the Pumpkin

For many, pumpkins are associated with autumn, sweet desserts and holiday festivities. As a member of the Cucurbitaceae family, pumpkins are related to squash, cucumbers and melons. Most varieties belong to the species *Cucurbita pepo* and are characterized by round fruit with a thick shell that has smooth, slightly ribbed skin and a deep yellow to orange color. With sizes ranging from 4 ounces to over 1,000 pounds, various unique shapes and brilliant colors like orange, yellow, white, green, blue, gray, pink and tan, there are endless opportunities to select the perfect pumpkin.



## Flower and Patio Show March 9-17

The Indiana Flower and Patio Show will occur Saturday, March 9, through Sunday, March 17, at the Indiana State Fairgrounds' West Pavilion and Expo Hall.

This year's show will burst with beautiful buds, more colorful and extravagant than ever. After a blooming welcome from show entrances designed by McNamara Florist, visitors will experience more than 50 magnificent Showcase and Exhibitor Gardens created by Indiana's premier landscape designers. The various gardens will offer an incredible array of awesome features that homeowners can adapt to enhance their own finer outdoor living environments.



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 sq. ft.) 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 sq. ft.) 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.
- Backyard Gardens – These spaces will be 20' x 20' or less and will offer a great showcase of what visitors can do in their backyards on a budget.

This year, the Flower and Patio Show will promote the idea that outdoor living spaces should be a reflection of who a person is, represent what's important to a person and express how a person enjoys living their life. Thus, the following landscapers will showcase the idea of “Personal Spaces” in their designs:

- All Pro Landscaping
- BLC Outdoor Services
- Budde Landscaping, Inc.
- Calvin Landscape
- Country Gardens Lawn & Landscape
- Divine Outdoor Services
- Elsie's Flower Shoppe
- Grok Landscapes by Design
- Indianapolis Landscape Association
- JDK Hardscapes
- JMT Landscape Group
- Ken-Cut Lawn Service
- McNamara Florist
- New Leaf Landscape Design Studio
- The O'Studio Landscapes
- Precision Cut Lawn Service, LLC
- Pro Care Horticultural Services
- The Turf Boss



In addition, the Plant Market remains one of the most popular features at the Flower and Patio Show. Attendees will get an early peek at the sights and scents of the first buds of spring, a chance to take home herbs, seeds, and hardy spring annuals or purchase fresh flowers, plants and supplies throughout the market's 4,500 sq. ft.



For more information, please visit <https://indianaflowerandpatioshow.com>.

### Southside's Greenhouses

The southside's tradition of fruit and vegetable farming is the focus of the newest exhibit by the Indiana Historical Society (450 W. Ohio St.).

*The German Growers of Indianapolis* gathers historical photographs and images dating back to the 1860s, combining it with first-person accounts of the southside's greenhouse heritage from families who still practice it. The result is a look not only at an important aspect of history that shaped the area, but a precursor to the local food movement that has become so popular today.

The German immigrants who settled around Bluff Road starting in the mid-19th century built greenhouses as far as the eye could see. Along Bluff Road, these industrious farmers grew tomatoes, lettuce, beets, asparagus, spinach and other produce—thereby feeding the entire region.



More than 80 growers featured these “acres under glass”, providing fresh vegetables and fruit to central Indiana year-round. The growers were a vital part of the Indianapolis City Market, towing their produce each week into the city to provide residents with fresh food that they might not otherwise be available. Eventually, some of the growers formed their own wholesale market to sell to local grocery stores.

As their businesses became larger, they formed additional organizations to promote their produce to the region. Their “Hoosier Boy” trade name was designed to provide a reliable brand for people looking for fruits and vegetables.

By the 1940s, the southside of Indianapolis had become a behemoth in the greenhouse business. The city had the largest concentration of greenhouses in the country, and were the second-largest producer of winter lettuce and tomatoes, behind only Cleveland, Ohio.

## EXTENSION HORTICULTURE HINTS—FEBRUARY 2019

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.*

### February Garden Calendar Tips

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

- **First Week:** Groundhogs are good at many things but predicting the weather isn't one of them (ADM-16): <https://www.purdue.edu/fnr/extension/got-nature-blog/> <https://extension.entm.purdue.edu/publications/ADM-16.pdf>
- **Second Week:** A look back at the past year may help us be ready for problems ahead. Here's a summary of the most common problems received in the Purdue PDDL last year on woody ornamentals: <https://www.purduelandscapereport.org/article/woody-ornamentals-summary-2018/>
- **Third Week:** If your ash tree has lost MORE than 30% of the tree canopy, make plans to remove the tree. Delaying removal allows the tree to become more brittle and the problem more dangerous. If your ash tree has lost LESS than 30% of its canopy, hire a professional to protect the tree: <https://www.purduelandscapereport.org/article/avoid-deadly-risk-of-dying-ash-trees-with-timely-tree-removal/>
- **Fourth Week:** When designing the flower garden, use masses of flowers in drifts. Vary the shape of the informal groupings and make them irregular to flow into each other: <http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/homegardening/scenee40a.html>

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. You can also see my tweets on each Master Gardener association website: <http://indymcmga.org/> and <http://indygpmga.com/>.

### New Chicago Botanic Garden Plant Evaluation Notes on Hardy Ornamental Grasses

Another new issue (#43) of the *Chicago Botanic Garden Plant Evaluation Notes* is available. *An Evaluation Study of Hardy Ornamental Grasses* (2018) is now online: [https://www.chicagobotanic.org/sites/default/files/pdf/plantevaluation/no43\\_ornamental\\_grasses.pdf](https://www.chicagobotanic.org/sites/default/files/pdf/plantevaluation/no43_ornamental_grasses.pdf).

The study indicated 22 grasses received five-star (excellent) ratings:

- *Andropogon gerardii* (big bluestem): 'Blackhawks' and 'Dancing Wind'
- *Molinia caerulea* ssp. *arundinacea* (tall moor grass):

'Bergfreund', 'Cordoba', 'Fontäne', 'Skyracer', 'Transparent', and 'Windspiel'

- *M. caerulea* ssp. *caerulea* (moor grass): 'Dauerstrahl', 'Heidebraut', 'Moorflamme', 'Moorhexe', and 'Poul Petersen'
- *Panicum*: 'Bad Hair Day'
- *P. virgatum* (switch grass): 'Heavy Metal' and 'Northwind'
- *Pennisetum alopecuroides* (fountain grass): 'Desert Plains' and 'Red Head'
- *Schizachyrium scoparium* (little bluestem): 'Carousel', 'Jazz', and 'Prairie Munchkin'
- *Sporobolus heterolepis* (prairie dropseed): 'Tara'

Twenty-five additional taxa received four-star (good) ratings from various genera.

Thirty-four *Miscanthus* taxa were evaluated for potential invasiveness. Seed production and viability highly varied between *Miscanthus* cultivars, but all produced viable seed except *M. sinensis* 'Hinjo' & 'Silberpfeil', *M. sinensis* var. *condensatus* 'Cabaret', and *M. × giganteus* (and 'Hinjo' set seed in a study conducted in Minnesota). Based on the findings, the Chicago Botanic Garden (CBG) removed all *Miscanthus* plantings from its display gardens between 2010 and 2017. *Pennisetum alopecuroides* (fountain grass) and cultivars were also placed on the CBG invasive plant watch list in 2017 based on accounts from warmer climates and observations of its weedy nature at the CBG.

Additional information on the plant evaluation program and all 43 issues of their *Plant Evaluation Notes* are available online:

[https://www.chicagobotanic.org/research/ornamental\\_plant\\_research/plant\\_evaluation](https://www.chicagobotanic.org/research/ornamental_plant_research/plant_evaluation).

The Chicago Botanic Garden is in USDA Hardiness Zone 5b and AHS Plant Heat Zone 5 so recommendations are useful for central Indiana.



## The Question Box February 2019

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



Proper disposal of unwanted pesticides is important  
(photo by Steve Mayer, 10/15/2012)

### Q. I have pesticides I no longer use. How should I get rid of them?

**A.** If you no longer wish to use a pesticide (insecticide, herbicide, fungicide, etc.) according to label directions, it should be removed from your site and transported properly.

The best way to dispose of unwanted pesticides is to take them to a hazardous waste disposal site. You can dispose of household hazardous waste in Indianapolis on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays and during ToxDrop events throughout the city. According to the Indy.Gov website, here are the times and locations:

- First Saturday of each month, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., Traders Point Collection Facility, 7550 N. Lafayette Rd.
- Second Saturday of each month, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., Perry Township Government Center, 4925 S. Shelby St.
- Third Saturday of each month, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department Training Facility (located near Superior Court 13), 9049 E. 10th St.
- Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m., West Street Collection Facility, 1725 West Street, Bldg. 1

For details, contact the Main Office, 1761 S. West Street, Indianapolis, IN 46225 (call 317.327.2234 or e-mail: [ermd@indy.gov](mailto:ermd@indy.gov)). This info & a list of acceptable household hazardous waste items is at: <https://www.indy.gov/activity/hazardous-waste-dropoff-sites>. Transport pesticides in plastic crates, cardboard boxes, storage bins, or in other containers that are easy to see

through and access. Never transport pesticides in the passenger space of a closed vehicle and do not allow passengers or pets to ride with pesticides. If you live outside of Marion County, contact your city office or solid waste management district.

For more information on disposal of wanted pesticides and empty pesticide containers, consult Purdue publication PPP-109, *What Gardeners Should Know about Pesticides: A Practical Guide for Home Use* and PPP-21, *Pesticides and Container Management*. They are found at: <https://ppp.purdue.edu/resources/ppp-publications/>.

### Q. I am going to build a compost bin. Do you know of plans on how to do that?

**A.** Cornell University Extension has various plans: <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/bdo/downloads/55838.pdf>. More detailed information is available from the University of Wisconsin Extension. Here are details for a “high-end” wood 3-bin composter (<https://learningstore.uwex.edu/Assets/pdfs/G4020-07.pdf>) & an inexpensive wood pallet system (<https://learningstore.uwex.edu/Assets/pdfs/G4020-06.pdf>). Other titles in the *Do-It-Yourself Compost Bin* series are: barrel composter (G4020-01), can composter (G4020-02), concrete block composter (G4020-03), wire mesh composter (G4020-04) and wood & wire composter (G4020-05). Do a search on composting here: <https://learningstore.uwex.edu/>.

You can also purchase a compost bin or use various types of garden fencing to make a bin. Just make sure the bin is at least 3 feet tall, 3 feet wide and 3 feet deep (one cubic yard). Below is a 3-bin turning unit easily put together from garden fencing purchased from a local home improvement store.



A 3-bin turning unit composting system can be easily put together with purchased garden fencing (photo by Steve Mayer, 2/3/2019).

# Show / Event Calendar

### Until March 3

*Orchids* Exhibition  
Newfields  
4000 N. Michigan Rd., Indianapolis  
www.discovernewfields.org

### February 10 (2:00 p.m.)

*Establishing and Maintaining a Wildlife Garden*  
Nancy Tatum  
Indiana Native Plant Society  
Indianapolis Public Library—  
Nora Branch  
8625 Guilford Ave., Indianapolis  
www.indiananativeplants.org

### February 24 (2:00 p.m.)

*Indiana's Wetland Plants*  
Indiana Native Plant Society  
Indianapolis Public Library—  
Nora Branch Library  
8625 Guilford Ave., Indianapolis  
www.indiananativeplants.org

### February 26 (8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.)

*20 Years of Ecological Restoration: Past Reflections, Future Strategies*  
Eco Logic Conference  
Monroe Convention Center  
302 S. College Ave., Bloomington  
http://ecologicindiana.com/

### February 28-March 3

(Thursday-Friday, noon—5:00 p.m.;  
Saturday, 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.)  
*Make Room for Spring*  
Houseplant Sale  
Indiana School for the Blind  
& Visually Impaired  
7725 N. College Ave., Indianapolis  
www.in.gov/isbvi/

### March 2 (10:00 to 11:30 a.m.)

*Herb Society of Central Indiana Spring Workshop*  
Garfield Park Conservatory  
2505 Conservatory Dr., Indianapolis  
http://herbsocietyofcentralindiana.org

### March 9-17

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

### March 17

*Annual Meeting and Lecture*  
Horticultural Society of Newfields  
4000 N. Michigan Rd., Indianapolis  
http://imahortsoc.org

### May 18 (9:00 a.m.-Noon)

*GPMGA Annual Plant Sale*  
Garfield Park Conservatory  
2505 Conservatory Dr., Indianapolis  
www.indygpnga.com

## Spring Clinic March 30

The 25th Annual Spring Garden Clinic will occur Saturday, March 30, at St. Luke's United Methodist Church (100 West 86th Street, Indianapolis).

Registration is not available yet. Later this season, additional information will be posted to Purdue Extension - Marion County's web page: <https://extension.purdue.edu/marion/article/23987>.



More information on the program's topics and on registration also will be sent by e-mail soon.

A new registration process will be in place this year. Pre-registration will be required and registration will close two weeks prior to the event. Registrations after the 3/15/19 deadline or registrations on the day of the event will not be accepted.



## 2019 GPMGA Membership Dues

Renew your membership in the Garfield Park Master Gardener 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Completion date of Master Gardener Training Class \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

I volunteer with: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I wish to be included in the 2019 GPMGA Member Directory.

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

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

Cindy Maude 7416 Rooses Drive Indianapolis, IN 46217