



THE GARFIELD GARDENER

THE NEWSLETTER OF GARFIELD PARK MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

February 2021 Next Meeting

February 10 (6:30 p.m.)

Program: *Winter Twig Identification* (Webinar)

See Page 2 to download meeting handouts

Speaker:

Rosie Lerner, Retired
Purdue Consumer Horticultural
Extension Specialist

**Virtual Meeting Only:
No In-Person Meeting**

March 10 (6:30 p.m.)

Program:

Volunteer Opportunities

Speaker: GPMGA Members,
Contributions Welcome

**Virtual Meeting Only:
No In-Person Meeting**

*Programs are being planned
on a month-to-month basis
according to Purdue University
Extension Office Guidelines*

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If you require an
accommodation or special
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President's Letter

Greetings Fellow Gardeners,

Hope everyone is doing well. This year has been off to a slow start, but fortunately winter has been kind so far. The groundhog saw its shadow but we can only hope the six more weeks of winter will not be too harsh.

The meeting this month will again be held virtually. The February 10 meeting will feature the Zoom webinar *Identifying Deciduous Woody Plants in Winter* by Rosie Lerner, Retired Purdue Consumer Horticultural Extension Specialist.

During the winter, a lot of my gardening is done indoors. Cactus and succulents are among my favorite plants.

Cactus come in a wide variety of sizes, shapes, colors and forms. Many are suitable to grow at home.

Cactus (family *Cactaceae*)--plural cacti or cactuses—is a flowering plant family (order *Caryophyllales*) with more than 2,000 species and about 175 genera. Cacti are native through most of the length of North and South America from British Columbia and Alberta southward; the southernmost limit of their range extends far into Chile and Argentina.

Some more common varieties are:

Opuntia (also called Beaver Tail, Bunny Ears or Prickly Pear): These cacti can grow from 6 to 36 inches. They come from the southeastern U.S. and Mexico.

Mammillaria: There are over 200 varieties--mostly global- or ball-shaped. They typically grow from 1 to 12 inches.

Echinopsis: Over 100 species exist and come in a wide variety of sizes and shapes. They are known for their large showy flowers and are native to South America.

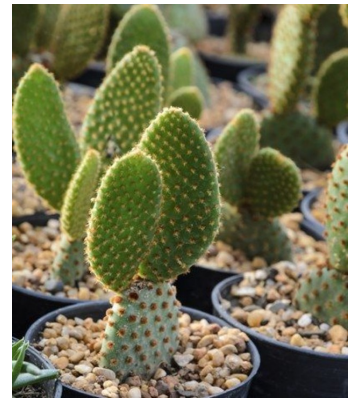
Astrophytum (also called Bishop's' Cap): These cacti are from Mexico can grow from 6 to 12 inches and have yellow flowers.

Ferrocactus (also called Golden Barrel Cactus): These cacti are from Mexico, can grow from 12 to 24 inches and have yellow flowers.

Schlumbergera (also called Christmas and Thanksgiving Cactus): Native to Brazil, these cacti grow from 18 to 24 inches and have a wide variety of flower colors.

I look forward to “seeing” all of you this month.

—Bill Bernstein
President, GPMGA



2021 GPMGA Meeting Dates

The 2021 GPMGA meeting dates are:

Feb. 10	June 9	Oct. 13
Mar. 10	July 14	Nov. 10
Apr. 14	Aug. 11	Dec. 8
May 12	Sept. 8	

At present, meetings occur virtually at 6:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month unless otherwise noted. Currently, programs are being planned on a month-to-month basis according to Purdue University Extension Office guidelines.

At the Conservatory

Experience a much-needed preview of spring at the Garfield Park Conservatory's Spring Bulb Display from March 5-12.

The annual Spring Bulb Show features an array of colorful spring blooms—ranging from classic favorites to unique hybrids of tulips, hyacinth and daffodils.

Visitors also may stroll through the conservatory's tropical plant collection, enjoying waterfalls, orchids and more.

The hours are 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and 1:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m., Sunday. Cost is \$4 per person.

All visitors must purchase timed-tickets in advance. This rule will help limit capacity as the health and safety of staff and patrons is a priority. Ticket sales begin February 19.

Next GPMGA Meeting: February 10

What can a gardener do during the cold, gray days of winter besides browse seed catalogs? It's the perfect time to take a closer look at twigs and sharpen your identification skills.

For the February 10 GPMGA meeting, we will feature the Zoom webinar *Identifying Deciduous Woody Plants in Winter* by Rosie Lerner, who recently retired from Purdue after 37 years of service.

In the webinar, Rosie will give an in-depth look at the parts and kinds of buds—especially the difference between floral and vegetative bud—with numerous examples. Also examined are leaf scars and lenticels. A handout of the presentation and the Winter Tree ID Key can be downloaded ahead of the meeting at the following link:

<https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/master-gardener/continuedhours/>

A native of Illinois, Rosie has an AAS in flower shop and greenhouse management from North Dakota State University; a BS in horticulture, production and business management from Iowa State University; and an MS in horticulture from Ohio State University. But we Master Gardeners know her best from her role as state coordinator of the Purdue Extension Master Gardener program as well as her numerous articles and publications. For more about Rosie's contributions during her time at Purdue, visit the following link:

<https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/master-gardener/rosie-lerner-retires-from-purdue-university-after-37-years-of-service/>



Since the presentation will last about a half hour, plenty of time will exist both during and after the program to ask questions and share experiences about twig identification. Time permitting, discussion about winter gardening activities also will occur.



2021 GPMGA Officers/Committee Chairs

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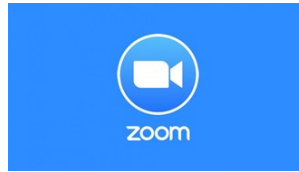
Barb Rusin
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Please contact the officers and chairs of the Garfield Park Master Gardener Association if you have any questions or suggestions.

Zoom Guidelines for GPMGA Meeting

Rosie Lerner, Retired Purdue Consumer Horticultural Extension Specialist, will present virtually *Winter Twig Identification* at the GPMGA's next meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 10.

Just copy the link below into your search engine or click on the link provided in the Purdue University— Extension Office's meeting notification. After you "Open Zoom", you will need to enter the password when prompted.



To Join the Zoom Meeting by Computer

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4393722451?pwd=SmlVTWN5eUI0SFNYRStESEF2SUc0UT09>

Meeting ID: 439 372 2451
Passcode: GPMG2020!

To join by telephone. Dial +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) or find your local number at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4393722451?pwd=SmlVTWN5eUI0SFNYRStESEF2SUc0UT09>.
Meeting ID: 439 372 2451; Passcode: 808503

To join by one tap mobile. Enter:

+19292056099,,4393722451#,,,,*808503# US (New York)
+13017158592,,4393722451#,,,,*808503# US (Washington DC)

Problems with Zoom

If you have questions about the Zoom meeting, experience problems with logging on to Zoom or wish to ask a question of the presenter during the meeting, please contact Kay Martin-Pence at guitargirl929@gmail.com.

GPMGA Monthly Meeting

The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a short business meeting. When the presentation starts, all members will be muted to allow Rosie to present and talk. After the Q&A session at the presentation's end, the meeting will be opened up again to complete the remainder of the business meeting.

Marion County SWCD Winter Workshops

The Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) will offer virtually the following free winter workshops:

February 9 (12:30 – 1:30 p.m.)

Beautiful Bountiful Borders by Greg Monzel

Woody perennials provide benefits to soil and crops on farms and gardens. This workshop explores species selections for central Indiana and their many uses. Greg Monzel is a community herbalist and foraging instructor connecting people and plants at Wild Persimmon School of Wellness in southeastern Indianapolis.



February 16 (4:00 – 5:30 p.m.)

51st Annual Meeting of the Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District and Presentation by Doug Tallamy

The 51st Annual Meeting of the Marion County SWCD will feature renowned author Doug Tallamy, professor at the University of Delaware Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology. Doug is widely known for his book *Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants* and will be speaking about native plants and insect interactions.

February 24 (12:00 – 1:00 p.m.)

Insect Management Strategies in Vegetable Production by Laura Ingwell

Laura Ingwell, a Purdue University Specialty Crops Entomology Extension Specialist, has an interest in understanding the role of natural enemies in pest management, including compatibility with pesticide use. Laura will speak about insect management strategies in vegetable systems.

To register, visit <https://marionswcd.org/winter-workshop-series-2021>.

Garfield Park Master Gardener Association

in association with



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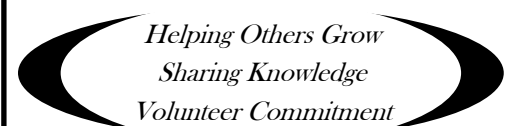
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If you require an accommodation or special assistance to attend programs due to a disability, please contact Barb Rusin at 317.275.9279. Some accommodations may require 2 weeks notice.

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Questions:

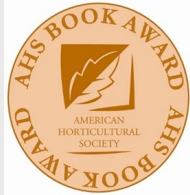
Contact Barb Rusin at rusin0@purdue.edu or at 317-275-9279.



From the Bookshelf . . .

The Melon by Amy Goldman

Melons are the vegetable garden's crown jewels--and Amy Goldman's lifelong passion and calling. Her new book, *The Melon*, was produced in collaboration with photographer Victor Schragar.



The word "melon" is often used to refer to both melon and watermelon. These vining crops belong to two different species within the *Cucurbitaceae* or gourd family of plants. *The Melon* explores these different groups and gives watermelon--which is less genetically diverse--more consideration.

Melon and watermelon are now among the world's most important vegetable crops. The 125 varieties illustrated and described in *The Melon* comprise 85 melons and 40 watermelons from all over the globe.

In addition to stunning pictures and detailed descriptions, *The Melon* includes in-depth sections on picking and choosing melons and watermelons in the market, growing them in the garden and saving pure heirloom seeds. Mouth-watering recipes by cookbook author Mindy Fox complete this journey "from seed to table".

On the Web . . .

Pinetree Garden Seeds www.superseeds.com

Family owned and operated, Pinetree Garden Seeds was founded in 1979 with one mission: To support the home gardener by offering affordable, high quality seeds. Over the years, the company has expanded to include over 1,300 varieties of seeds, including many heirlooms and organics.

Promoters of sustainable agriculture, Pinetree has never sold any genetically modified seeds and has signed the Safe Seed Pledge, promising never to sell any GMO seeds. The company supports efforts to label GMO foods and strives to support responsible and organic gardening practices.

2021: Pandemic Gardening Trends Continue

The enthusiasm for gardening certainly flourished last year and a recent survey revealed that gardeners of all ages will continue "digging in the dirt" in 2021.

The research, conducted by the Minneapolis-based firm Axiom Marketing, found that 86% of homeowners plan to continue gardening in 2021. Nearly 40% of those surveyed say they will plant about the same as last year, and 46% say they will be planting more and expanding their garden spaces this year.

Many homeowners surveyed said they were gardening in 2020 because it gave them something to do while stuck at home during the pandemic, provided a source of exercise and helped to cope with stress. However, overwhelmingly, most respondents indicated they were gardening to grow their own food as the pandemic spread.



COVID-19 influenced younger homeowners to garden more, according to the research. In the 19-28 age range, 23% said they spent "more time" gardening (that includes indoors or out) and 49% of that age group said they spent "definitely more" time gardening. In the 29-39 age bracket, 26% spent "more time" gardening, while 50% said "definitely more".

That younger demographic also said they plan to grow more in 2021 – 81% of 19- to 28-year-olds and 83% of 29- to 39-year-olds. The response from 40- to 55-year-olds was impressive, too, with 64% saying they plan to garden more next year.

For 2021, it's clear that the enjoyment of being in nature, in general, will be bigger than ever, with people increasingly turning to their yards for exercise, stress-relief and a creative outlet. However, they also want to keep up the "victory gardens" they started because of the pandemic, especially if those gardens can help their neighbors.

The research suggested the following trends in 2021:

Bigger and Better Food Gardens

The top reason many people began gardening in 2020 was their desire to grow their own food as the pandemic spread. The report notes that 67% of surveyed adults are "growing or plan to grow" edibles in 2021 not only to secure food for their families but also to help people in the community by giving to food pantries.



Turning Backyards into Outdoor Living Spaces

As people have grown increasingly tired of "staring at their own four walls" while in quarantine, they have begun bringing the indoors outside. Backyards are becoming the "new" living rooms as the idea of "open-air living" fosters the contentment often associated with gardening.



Focus on Bright, Bold Tropicals

Tropical plants will increase in popularity as gardeners yearn to bring a little exotic flair to their landscapes. Tropical "nooks" in the landscape, filled with plants like bromeliads, elephant ears and banana plants, are becoming increasingly popular.

Adventurous, Unusual Houseplants in Demand

While everyone has been at home more, they have been increasing their houseplant collections. Indoor plants have been in demand for several years, and 2021 will see an increase in sales of easy-care plants like philodendrons, anthuriums and aglaonemas as well as plants in the Hoya genus.

For more information, visit www.axiomcom.com/2021-garden-survey.

Central Indiana Land Trust Challenge

The Central Indiana Land Trust recently announced their Trek Our Trails challenge in an effort to encourage Central Indiana residents to explore five of the organization's most popular nature preserves during 2021.

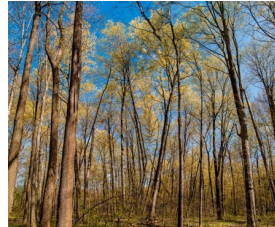
Participants should visit the website for the Central Indiana Land Trust (<https://conservingindiana.org>) in order to plan their visits. During a visit, participants should take a photo of themselves and their companions at the preserve's sign or trailhead. Then, e-mail the photo to smiller@conservingindiana.org (or post on Facebook or Instagram with hashtags #cilti #trekourtrails2021). After visiting the five sites, all trekkers will receive CILTI pins and be entered into a drawing for CILTI logo gear.



The five preserves are Burnett Woods (Hendricks County near Avon), Fred and Dorothy Meyer Nature Preserve (Morgan County near Martinsville), Laura Hare Preserve at Blossom Hollow (Johnson County near Trafalgar), Meltzer Woods (Shelby County near Shelbyville) and the Nonie Werbe Krauss Nature Preserve (Hamilton County near Fishers).

Burnett Woods Nature Preserve (80 Acres, Easy Trek: 1.5 miles)

Burnett Woods Nature Preserve offers a tranquil hike through mature woodlands in the midst of a largely developed area near Avon. Fall colors and spring wildflowers make this a seasonal destination spot. Tall black walnut, beech, oak, hickory, sugar maple and tulip trees grow here as well as diverse understory shrubs from pawpaw to spicebush.



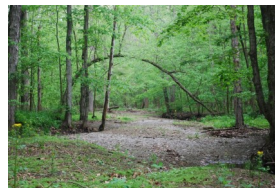
Fred and Dorothy Meyer Nature Preserve (68 Acres, Moderate Trek: 0.6 miles)

Part of the Long Ridge conservation area, Meyer Nature Preserve's steep slopes, ridges and valleys offer a dramatic hike through a large forest block unbroken by roads. Its forest interior habitat shelters rare native species like hooded and worm-eating warblers and the state-endangered cerulean warbler.



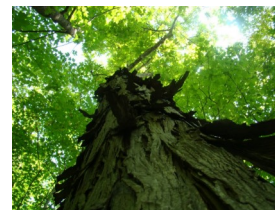
Laura Hare Preserve at Blossom Hollow (149 Acres, Moderate Trek: 2.0 miles)

Blossom Hollow is part of a large unbroken hardwood forest block, habitat that is key for migratory birds and forest interior nesting birds. On its ridges, mature white and red oaks cling to slopes covered with ferns and wildflowers. Eastern box turtle, a species that struggles in many parts of the state, has enough territory to thrive in this state-dedicated nature preserve.



Meltzer Woods (60 Acres, Easy Trek: 1.2 miles)

Meltzer Woods is one of Indiana's last remaining fragments of old growth forest. "Old growth" means the land has trees more than 150 years old and has been left as forest for a century or more. Large colonies of bellwort bloom pale yellow here each spring alongside lovely ephemeral wildflowers like spring beauties and Jack-in-the-pulpit. The site also provides important habitat for the declining West Virginia White Butterfly.



Nonie Werbe Krauss Nature Preserve (77 Acres, Easy Trek: 2.0 miles)

Lying alongside the White River, this property offers views of glorious summer wildflowers in season, with a mix of prairie plants and oak savanna. Along the river to the south, bottomland forest is growing—a result of restoration efforts in 2008, when more than 19,000 trees were planted. From the young forest, one can hear the hoarse "fitz-bew" of willow flycatchers.



Homoya to Speak

March 2 (7:00—8:00 p.m.)

Orchids of Indiana

Presentation by Michael Homoya

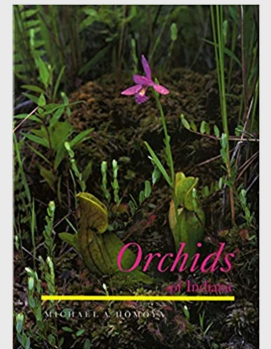
The Indiana Native Plant Society's Central Chapter will host Michael Homoya when he virtually presents *Orchids of Indiana* at 7:00 p.m. on March 2.

The orchid family is considered by many to have a greater number of species than all other plant families. Indiana has over 45 naturally occurring species. Homoya's presentation will examine a selection and discuss their occurrence in the state.



Homoya served as Botanist/Plant Ecologist for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Nature Preserves, for 37 years before retiring in 2019. He is a board member and past president of Indiana Native Plant Society.

He has written over 75 scientific papers, popular articles and books about Indiana's natural features, including *Orchids of Indiana; Wildflowers and Ferns of Indiana Forests: A Field Guide; Wake Up, Woods; and Wildflowers of the Midwest* (in press).



To register for the event, visit <https://bit.ly/3brqln6>. Participants will receive a link prior to the event.



Newfields Horticultural Symposium

The 2021 Newfields Horticultural Symposium will occur virtually on February 27 (9:00 a.m.– 1:00 p.m.) and February 28 (9:00 a.m.—noon).

The series of virtual lectures will focus on conservation, native plants for native wildlife, native pollinators and climate change. The symposium features the following speakers:



**Saturday, February 27 (9:00 a.m.)
Nature's Best Hope (Douglas Tallamy)**

Recent headlines about global insect declines and three billion fewer birds in North America are a bleak reality check about how ineffective our current landscape designs have been at sustaining the plants and animals that sustain us. Tallamy will discuss simple steps that each of us can—and must—take to reverse declining biodiversity.

**Saturday, February 27 (11:30 a.m.)
What's the Buzz About Native Bees (Heather Holm)**

This presentation explores the nesting habitat, life cycle, pollen collection, brood rearing and general characteristics of common genera of native bees occurring in the Midwestern, Eastern United States and southern Canada. The pollination of native plants and the mutualism between native plants and native bees is also highlighted. Heather also discusses the presentation of floral resources and how the physical characteristics of bees can influence the bees' effectiveness as pollinators.

**Sunday, February 28 (9:00 a.m.)
Climate Change Impacts on Indiana Plant Communities (Kevin Tungesvick)**

Kevin's involvement for 22 years in numerous large scale, significant wetland and prairie restorations throughout Indiana provided not only experience and but also pragmatism. Kevin will discuss climate change and its impact on green infrastructure, native landscaping and plant community establishment.

**Sunday, February 28 (10:30 a.m.)
Selecting Native Trees and Shrubs that Support Pollinators (Heather Holm)**

While most trees are wind-pollinated, the ones that are insect-pollinated provide important forage for pollinators. Learn about which canopy trees, small trees and shrubs are insect-pollinated and the types of pollinators each plant attracts.

For more information or to register, visit <https://discovernewfields.org/calendar/2021-newfields-horticulturesymposium>.

Habig Garden Closes Meridian-Kessler Store

Long-time local business Habig Garden Shops has closed its original Meridian-Kessler location at 5201 N. College Ave., though its Nora and Carmel locations remain in operation.

The company's Facebook page carries the following post:

*"Dear friends,
Due to multiple circumstances, the Habigs have made the decision to close the 52nd and College location and consolidate our efforts to our Nora and Carmel stores. There is no one reason or blame. It is the best way for us to continue moving forward with our business, our employees, our customers and our friends."*

The company explained that the Meridian-Kessler store's staff and its "beloved cat Marley" are now at Habig's Nora location (1225 E. 86th St.). Habig also operates a Carmel store (15311 N. Meridian St.).

A fourth Habig store (1105 N. Arlington Ave.), just north of Irvington, closed in 2015. The company was founded in 1953 by Frank Habig, whose four children now run the business.



Renew Your GPMGA Membership

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 either virtually or at the Garfield Park Conservatory (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 2021 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