



THE GARFIELD GARDENER

THE NEWSLETTER OF GARFIELD PARK MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

July 2021 Next Meeting

July 14 (6:30 p.m.)
Event: *Pitch In,*
GPMGA Annual Picnic

Aug. 11 (6:30 p.m.)
Program:

Live Your Best Gardening Life
Speaker: Carol Michel,
Award-Winning Author

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

Future Meeting Dates:

Sept. 8 Oct. 13
Nov. 10 Dec. 8

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Newsletter Editor:
Oren Cooley
pastpfct@aol.com

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www.IndyGPMGA.com
www.IndyMG.org
www.IndyHorticulture.org

President's Letter

Greetings Fellow Master Gardeners,

Just a few notes to share this month.

Hope everyone had a great 4th, hopefully with friends and family this year.

Looking forward to the annual picnic in July. Hopefully, the weather will be kind to us this year. It will be great to see everyone again.

Starting next month, we will be meeting in person at the Garfield Park Conservatory.

Hopefully, everyone will be able to volunteer or at least visit the Demonstration Garden at the state fair this year.

Since we have been advised not to fill bird feeders at this time, I'm sure all of our flower gardens are providing ample nutrition for our feathered friends.

Hope everyone is having a great summer. Respectfully submitted,

—Bill Bernstein
President, GPMGA



Songbirds Dying Across Indiana

Songbirds are dying across Indiana and experts still don't know why.

More than 400 birds have been reported showing signs of illness according to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, who is currently investigating the issue. Species that have been mostly affected include blue jays, American robins, common grackles, Northern cardinals, starlings and brown-headed cowbirds.

The birds have been found in more than 50 counties, including Marion County and in each of the bordering counties. Sick birds also have been found in Ohio, Kentucky, Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania.

The sick and dying songbirds have shown neurological signs of illness, such as tremors, stumbling, weakness and lethargy. They also have displayed crusty discharge around the eyes and eye swelling.

The DNR is asking that all Hoosiers bring in their bird feeders — including hummingbird feeders — and bird baths to prevent the disease from spreading. Because experts do not know enough about the disease at the moment, removing bird feeders will reduce the risk of the infection transmitting as birds congregate.

People who see a sick or dying bird should report the incident to the DNR staff online at on.IN.gov/sickwildlife.

Indiana Daylily-Iris Society and GPMGA Plant Sale

The Indiana Daylily-Iris Society participated in the GPMGA Annual Plant Sale last May—setting up a booth and answering many floral questions.



Rod Maust, President of the Indiana Daylily-Iris Society, sent the following thank-you note after returning from his travels immediately following the plant sale:

I wanted to send you a note thanking the Garfield Park Master Gardeners for allowing us to have a booth at your plant sale this year! It worked out well for us to display some iris and to talk with visitors about our club and growing iris/daylilies despite the limitations from COVID.

Everyone was very helpful and welcoming. Thanks again for this opportunity,

—Rod Maust



Next GPMGA Meeting: July 14

The Garfield Park Master Gardeners will enjoy delicious picnic food and great summer fun at the GPMGA Annual Picnic on Wednesday, July 14, at 6:30 p.m. in the Garfield Park Corporate Shelter (near the Arts Center).

With the easing of COVID restrictions, the GPMGA received approval from the Purdue Extension Office to meet in person and to gather as a group. The GPMGA board members thought the annual pitch-in picnic this July provided the perfect opportunity to get together again.

We have missed seeing many members on Zoom this past year and hope you will join us at our July meeting/picnic. Guests also are welcome.

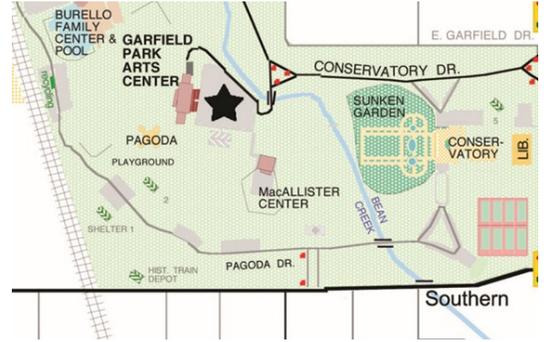
As in past years, the GPMGA will provide the meat as well as water, plates, napkins and cups. If you desire, please bring a side dish of your choice—such as an appetizer, salad or dessert. If you have a moment, please let Teresa McCurry (tmccurry@iupui.edu) know what you plan to bring. It will help Teresa (who is organizing the event) keep track of what dishes to expect.

If you desire, we encourage you to bring a centerpiece you have created to decorate the picnic tables. Your centerpiece should have some connection to gardening, but can be flowers, vegetables, herbs, fruits, natives only, flowering shrub branches or anything else garden-related that your imagination conjures.

Remember, our July program is member driven! As usual, we will have the best food to enjoy along with time to chat and savor one another's company.

If you have any questions, please contact Teresa McCurry at tmccurry@iupui.edu.

After the in-person gathering on July 14, the GPMGA will resume in-person meetings in the Garfield Park Conservatory classroom on August 11.



2021 GPMGA Officers/Committee Chairs

President

Bill Bernstein
billbe19@comcast.net

Previous Past President

Lane Judkins
APJ44@sbcglobal.net

Vice President

Nancy Boettner
nancyboettner@sbcglobal.net

Secretary

Teresa McCurry
tmccurry@iupui.edu

Treasurer

Cindy Maude
cmaude@sbcglobal.net

Program Director

Debra Boyer
idealgardenspace@aol.com

Hospitality—Snack Coordinator

Jayne Queck
jaqueck@aol.com

Hospitality—Pitch-In Coordinator

Teresa McCurry
tmccurry@iupui.edu

Hospitality—Set-Up Coordinator

Carrie Alumbaugh
carriesalumbaugh@gmail.com

Extension Office Contact:

Barb Rusin
rusin0@purdue.edu

Newsletter/Publicity Director

Oren Cooley
pastpfct@aol.com

Plant Sale Chair

Carrie Alumbaugh
carriesalumbaugh@gmail.com

Conservatory Tour Coordinator

Victoria Metheaux
methx@comcast.net

Historian

Becky Walker
otisdog2@hotmail.com

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

International Master Gardener Conference

The 2021 International Master Gardener Conference (IMGC) from September 12-17 will feature five keynote speakers, more than 30 concurrent sessions broken into five different blocks and optional workshops—all in a virtual format.

The keynote speakers include:

- **Brie Arthur:** Bestselling author and horticulturist, Arthur has garnered acclaim for enthusiastic presentations and practical, out-of-the-box gardening advice.
- **Joseph Tychonievich:** A life-long gardener and lover of plants, Joseph was named by *Organic Gardening Magazine* as one of “six young horticulturists who are helping to shape how America gardens”.
- **Kelly Norris:** An award-winning author and plantsman from Iowa, Norris is the director of horticulture and education at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, a revitalized public garden in Des Moines, Iowa.
- **Dennis Dimick:** A photography editor at the National Geographic for 35 years and the magazine’s environment editor for a decade, Dimick orchestrated major magazine projects on energy, climate change, soil conservation, global freshwater, world population and the future of food security.
- **Cole Burrell:** An acclaimed lecturer, garden designer, award-winning author and photographer, Cole is an avid and lifelong plantsman, gardener and naturalist. He has twice won the American Horticulture Society Book Award.

In 2021, the International Master Gardener Conference will virtual—which will provide a unique opportunity to bring speakers, workshops and networking occasions to even more Master Gardeners near and far at a greatly-reduced cost from attending an in-person event.



Keynote and concurrent sessions will be recorded and available for viewing later. The session recording library will only be available to those registered. In order to prevent webinar fatigue, each day will only feature a few hours of virtual sessions (instead of filling the entire day—as with an in-person event).

There will be opportunities virtually for socializing and networking with Master Gardeners from around the country and further abroad. Registration will be first-come-first-served and will be capped at 2,500 people. For more information, visit www.internationalmastergardener.com/register.

GPMGA Meeting Minutes: June 9

Business Reports:

- **Bill Bernstein, President:** The annual July picnic will be an in-person gathering at Garfield Park; The park’s pagoda has been reserved but this may change before July, citing some issues with the site (play areas, traffic, etc.); Waiting on guidelines from Garfield Park and Extension Office regarding social distancing, sharing food, masking, etc.; Will send more information to all GPMGs soon; The Indiana State Fair is on (7/30-8/22); Purdue Extension Demonstration Garden will be recruiting volunteers.
- **Hospitality:** No report
- **Carrie Alumbaugh & Kay Martin-Pence, Plant Sale:** Carrie thanked everyone for their help in making this year’s event a great success; \$2,101.03 in profits.
- **Bill Bernstein on behalf of Cindy Maude, Treasurer:** Bill shared Cindy’s report: \$7,728.49 in bank; plant sale proceeds — Cash: \$1,492.75; Credit: \$608.28.
- **Debra Boyer, Program Director:** No program in July due to GPMGA picnic

Program:

- **John Thieme, Retired Entomologist,** presented slide show on *Worrisome, Wayward Weeds*.
- Debra noted that John was our last in-person speaker in March 2020 and will be our last virtual speaker in June 2021.

—Teresa McCurry, GPMGA Secretary

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: 317.275.9279
FAX: 317.275.9309

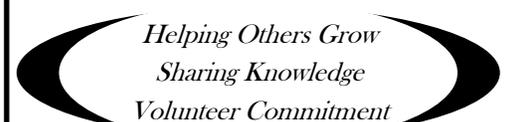
E-mail: cagable@purdue.edu or
rusin0@purdue.edu
Answerline: 317.275.9292 or
marioncountymg@gmail.com

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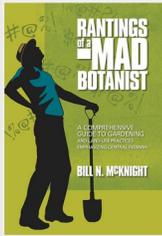
Questions: Contact Carey Grable at cagable@purdue.edu or at 317-275-9290.



From the Bookshelf . . .

Rantings of a Mad Botanist: A Comprehensive Guide to Gardening and Land Use Practices Emphasizing Central Indiana
by Bill N. McKnight

This 456-page book offers candid, insightful and succinct explanations emphasizing the trees, shrubs and herbaceous perennials found in central Indiana. Organized into 106 short, topic-specific chapters with extensive cross-referencing, the volume emphasizes the importance of stewardship to this region.



While the plant selections are tailored to the prevailing climatic conditions and physiography of central Indiana, they also apply to adjacent regions, especially due east and west.

The book is intended to help gardeners and property managers make fewer mistakes (thereby, saving money, time and failed plants). A read will reduce the likelihood of expensive and time-consuming missteps.

The text also contains a healthy smattering of environmental, historical and social commentary as well as some culinary advice.

Bill McKnight (a.k.a. The Mad Botanist) is a professionally trained botanist, experienced gardener and educator. A native Illinoisan, he attended school at Eastern Illinois University, University of Michigan and the University of Illinois. Bill also was a curator and research/field biologist for 10 years at the Illinois Natural History Survey and at the Indiana State Museum.

He is comfortable dealing with flowering plants and cryptogams (i.e., fungi, lichens, bryophytes and ferns) as well as ornamental and food plant issues. For more than three decades, he has directed the special publications program for the Indiana Academy of Science, producing and marketing numerous books (i.e., *Orchids of Indiana*, *The Sunflower Family in the Upper Midwest* and *Sedges of Indiana*).

He lives at and gardens a three-acre property on the northeast side of Indianapolis. For more information, visit www.themadbotanist.com.

Newfields' Day of Flight August 3

This year's Day of Flight will occur from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 3, throughout The Garden at Newfields.

Participants will have an in-depth encounter with native birds and pollinators—and will help Newfields do its part to understand and care for its flora and fauna. On this day, visitors are able to see the delicate wings of a hummingbird, the flight of a raptor and the wingspan of the magnificent hawk. In addition to the birds, visitors will be able to learn how a hive is managed or how a butterfly goes through its life cycle. Newfields' staff also will catch, band and release both hummingbirds and song birds in order to check their health and gain more information about their migration patterns.



The day's schedule includes:

8:30-11:00 a.m. - Art Activities & Hummingbird Banding | *Garden for Everyone*
Hummingbirds will be caught and given a thorough examination to check on their health. Each bird then will be identified with a small band. Participants will see the beauty of these small birds and join a nationally certified professional to understand how hummingbirds make their long journey to Mexico for the winter.

9:30-11:00 a.m. - Butterfly Lifecycles | *Madeline F. Elder Greenhouse*
Learn everything about butterflies from their lifecycles to what they eat. Experts also will share trips and tips for attracting these colorful beauties to backyard gardens.

9:30 -11:00 a.m. - Raptor Viewing Stations and Q&A | *Lilly Allee*
See hawks and owls up close and meet falconer Mark Booth. He will share how each bird of prey has become specialized for its environment. A live raptor flight will follow from 11:30 a.m. to noon on the Lilly Allee.



10:00 a.m.-noon - Songbird Banding | *Tanner Orchard*
Join the Chief Naturalist for Wild Birds Unlimited John Schaut to learn more about backyard song birds. John will catch and release birds to record and better understand key factors—like the health, weight and sex of various species.

By collecting data to share with birding professionals across the U.S., scientists are able to tell how far the birds fly, if they are eating enough and if they are declining or prospering.

10:30 a.m.-noon - Art Activities | *Madeline F. Elder Greenhouse*

10:30 a.m.-noon - Beekeeping Basics | *Madeline F. Elder Greenhouse*
It is estimated that one out of every three bites people eat can be linked to the honey bees pollinating plants. Learn from beekeeper Ross Harding why bees collect pollen and create all that honey, how bee colonies work and how bees navigate through gardens. Ross also will share some of his secrets to beekeeping.

2:00-3:00 p.m. - Backyard Birding Lecture with Jim Carpenter | *Beer Garden*
Join Jim Carpenter, founder of Wild Birds Unlimited and author of *The Joy of Bird Feeding*, in Newfields' beer garden for *A Bird Feeding Geek's Guide to Backyard Birding*. Jim will share tips on foods and feeders, habitats for birds, hand-feeding, problem solving solutions for squirrels and raccoons, and more and fun facts about these avian visitors.

For more information, visit www.discovernewfields.org.

Indiana State Fair July 30—August 22

The Indiana State Fair will occur from Friday, July 30, to Sunday, August 22, at the Indiana State Fairgrounds (1202 East 38th Street).

This year's theme—Celebrating the Hoosier Spirit—rejoices in all things Indiana and the resiliency of the Hoosier Spirit.

For 2021, the state fair has added a weekend to the front end of the fair schedule (but will be closed on Mondays and Tuesdays weekly). By adding an additional weekend, it will allow the fair to spread attendance across a new weekend.

The fair occurs on more than 250 acres on a mostly outdoor campus. This year, the fair is planning to fill that campus with fairgoer favorites including carnival rides, wacky fair food, 4-H competitions, free entertainment, and much more.

The 4-H community welcomed the announcements earlier this year extending the fair since the fair provides the opportunity (and recognition) for the highest level of achievement for 4-H participants. The 4-H community—like many Hoosier families—also make this fair a family tradition

In addition, the fair's website encourages people to visit the Purdue Extension-Marion County Demonstration Garden at the Indiana State Fair—from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. daily (during fair days). It is one of 100 free things visitors may do at the fair.

While visiting the fair, masks will not be required for fully vaccinated individuals, including guests, staff, vendors and contractors. For those people not vaccinated, the fair encourages all guests to wear a mask and to follow CDC guidelines regarding whether and when wearing a face covering is warranted.

Other COVID procedures implemented by the fair include:

- Free vaccinations available daily at the Indiana State Fair
- Contactless entry available and encouraged.
- Food service utensils and condiments individually packaged
- Hand sanitizing packets available for all guests upon entry
- Deploying 500+ hand sanitizing and hand-washing stations around fairgrounds
- Tractor shuttles to be free to ensure contactless experience
- Park & Ride shuttle eliminated

The Indiana State Fair is the state's largest multi-day event celebrating Hoosiers' spirit and agricultural heritage. These 18 days celebrate Indiana agriculture and promote it to hundreds of thousands of people across Indiana and beyond.



Nationally recognized for offering great entertainment, showcasing 4-H youth, interactive agriculture education programs, premier facilities and a variety of unique, fun foods, the Indiana State Fair has been an annual attraction for generations of Hoosiers since 1852.

For more information, visit www.indianastatefair.com.

Swine Barn Renovation

The Indiana State Fair Commission announced in 2019 its plans to renovate the Swine Barn at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. Last month, the State Budget Committee released the \$50 million to replace the nearly century-old livestock showplace with a multi-use facility that can host many swine-free events when the fair is not in session.

The new \$50 million facility, renamed Fall Creek Pavilion, will include a restoration of the front façade of the original swine barn but a total reconstruction of the rest of the structure. That includes an addition of 50,000 sq. ft., bringing the space's total size to 197,000 sq. ft.



That addition will allow the facility to host large sporting events. It already has been booked to host the NCAA Track and Field Division 2 Championship in 2025.

Construction was originally planned to start after the state fair last year, but it is now pushed back to start this fall, with the goal of opening the new space in time for the 2023 state fair.

The building will keep the historic north facade that reads "Swine Barn". It also will be climate-controlled, accessible and better built specifically for livestock use.

The Swine Barn was built in 1923 when agriculture in Indiana was reaching the end of its "golden age", when it turned from family subsistence-level farming to a modern business. A notable feature of the building is the hog's head sculpture found on the north facade.

The age of the building, challenges with loading livestock and a lack of accessibility to those with disabilities were cited as reasons for the renovation.



Plants that Attract Pollinators

More than a third of the food people eat is reliant on pollinators such as butterflies and bees. But pollinator habitat is disappearing — and backyards could play a role in bringing them back.

There are an estimated 40 million acres of lawn and turf grass in the lower 48 U.S. states, about 2% of the country's land area. In some states, that percent is higher—like in Indiana where about 5% of land area is turf grass.

Hoosiers, though, who replace lawn with pollinator-friendly species and native plants will contribute to helping save butterflies and bees essential to the ecosystem. The following list contains plants to consider for a more pollinator-friendly yard:

- **Milkweed:** Monarch caterpillars only eat the leaves of milkweed, making the plant critical for the species' survival.
- **Wild Geranium:** Wild geranium produces delicate, pale flowers and blooms in the spring.
- **Columbine:** This plant also blooms in the spring.
- **Rose verbena:** A great ground cover plant, Rose verbena produces a lot of nectar.
- **Spiderwort:** The Ohio variety of spiderwort remains a popular alternate.
- **Coneflowers:** This plant attracts numerous pollinators.
- **Blazing Star:** This plant—which reaches as tall as three or four feet—has one of the more showy blooms with its bright, almost fluffy-looking bunches of flowers.
- **Joe Pye Weed:** These delicate-looking plants bloom in the summer.
- **Cardinal Flowers and Great Blue Lobelia:** These shockingly red and blue flowers are a favorite of hummingbirds.
- **Serviceberry:** This tree produces beautiful white flowers in the spring. The berries are delicious too.
- **Dogwood:** Like Serviceberry trees, dogwoods produce showy flowers and work well as an alternative to the invasive Bradford pear.
- **Yellowwood:** Every few years, Yellowwood trees are laden with big, drooping white flowers. They make great ornamental trees.



Build A Rain Barrel Workshop Offered

The Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District is teaming up with ROW (Reconnecting to Our Waterways), Kheprw Institute and The City League to offer a build-a-rain-barrel workshop.

The workshop will occur from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 29, at the Boner Fitness and Learning Center, Chase Near Eastside Legacy Center, 727 N. Oriental St., Indianapolis. This outdoor workshop is limited to 25 Marion County residents; COVID precautions will be followed.

Made possible by a Clean Water Indiana grant through the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, this workshop will allow residents—especially those residents living along Pogue's Run—to build their own rain barrel to capture stormwater off their home downspouts. Kheprw Institute and their "Express Yourself Rain Barrels" program will provide both the knowledge and materials needed for this workshop.

For more information, visit www.marionswcd.org.

Xerces Society: Take the Pledge! Protect Pollinators!

Pollinator conservation is huge task but it will be easier if individuals would adopt this four-step mantra recommended by the Xerces Society: (1) Grow pollinator-friendly flowers, (2) Provide nest sites, (3) Avoid pesticides and (4) Spread the word. With these core values, pollinator conservation may be adapted to any location, whether an urban community garden or a suburban yard; whether in a city park or on a farm.

Make your commitment to these four principles by signing the Xerces Society's Pollinator Protection Pledge. More than ten thousand people have already signed the pledge to protect pollinators—which is part of the Xerces Society's Bring Back the Pollinators campaign—which advocates:

Growing Pollinator-Friendly Flowers

Flowers provide the nectar and pollen resources on which pollinators feed. Growing the right flowers, shrubs and trees with overlapping bloom times will support pollinators spring through fall.

Providing Nest Sites

It is important to support all pollinator life stages, including eggs and larvae! For bees, you can leave patches of bare ground and brush piles or install nesting blocks and, for butterflies and moths, plant caterpillar host plants.

Avoiding Pesticides

Pesticides, especially insecticides, are harmful to pollinators. Herbicides reduce food sources by removing flowers from the landscape. Fungicides also can have synergistic effects on bees. The good news is that there are alternatives!



Spreading the Word

Make your commitment both official and visible by signing the Pollinator Protection Pledge! You also can share information about pollinators on social media, or spread the word with a pollinator habitat sign.

For more information, visit www.xerces.org/bring-back-the-pollinators.

