



THE GARFIELD GARDENER

THE NEWSLETTER OF GARFIELD PARK MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

July 2023 Next Meeting

July 12
GPMGA Annual Picnic
Garfield Park
Corporate Shelter

August 9
Field Trip:
Dollie's Farm
Near I-65 Whiteland Exit

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

2023 GPMGA Meeting Dates

Sept. 13 Nov. 8
Oct. 11 Dec. 13

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university.

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

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Oren Cooley
pastpfct@aol.com

Learn more at:
www.IndyGPMGA.com
www.IndyMG.org
www.IndyHorticulture.org

President's Letter

Greetings!

We finally received some rain in the past few weeks and hopefully those of you who were impacted by the damaging storms have recovered. I continue to be amazed how the weeds thrive while I fret and struggle to keep my potted plants and perennials alive during the frequent dry spells. Mother Nature is truly amazing!

Friends have been sharing stories of their cucumbers not producing and some are experiencing low numbers of tomatoes on the vine as well as perennials not flowering as usual so we hope it's due to this year's odd weather and not diminishing pollinators. I'd love to hear your garden success stories when we meet again, which will be at our annual pitch-in picnic at the pavilion near Garfield Park Arts Center on the 12th. And, as we do each year, we ask our members to bring side dishes (appetizers, salads, desserts, etc.) to accompany the meat which is provided by the GPMGA Board. And, in our efforts to be more sustainable, we would appreciate you bringing your own reusable plates and cups.

Happy summer!



—Teresa McCurry, GPMGA President

Purdue EMG State Conference

The Purdue Extension Master Gardener Program recently announced the 2023 Purdue EMG State Conference will occur October 6-7 on the Purdue University campus in West Lafayette.

The conference will bring together again Extension Master Gardeners from all parts of Indiana to enjoy learning and interacting with fellow gardeners. Registration tentatively will open in early August.

Although still confirming session presenters, Purdue EMG has indicated that *Celebrating Purdue EMG Volunteers' Impacts* will be the topic of the opening session. The options for the subsequent sessions include:

Session 1:

Tree ID Walk & Planting Demonstration, Gardening While Aging / Horticultural Therapy, Plant Disease Diagnostics, Spreader Calibration & Reading the Fertilizer Bag

Session 2:

Beekeeping Demonstration, Flower Arranging, Home Hydroponics, Landscape Design

Session 3:

Vermi-Composting, Fruit Gardening, Alternatives to Pesticides & Fertilizers in Turf, Field Diagnostics Walking Tour

The Jules Janick Horticulture Gardens and Greenhouse Tour will be offered as an option during each of the above sessions. Educational sessions are approved for Purdue EMG education hours.

For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/2023EMGStateConf>.



Conservatory Tours

July 8 (11:00 a.m.)

Arlene Bow
Oren Cooley

July 22 (11:00 a.m.)

Tour Guide Needed

At the Conservatory

Thursday, July 20 (10:00-11:00 a.m.)

Little Green Thumbs

Garfield Park Conservatory
2505 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis

Young ones will learn about gardening and have the chance to help plant, grow and harvest in the vegetable garden—while exploring Garfield Park's Blake's Garden. Program includes a story and a craft. Registration required.

Saturday, July 22 (2:00—3:00 p.m.)

*Cultivating Minds Garden Series:
Pollinator & Wildlife Gardening*

Visit the Garfield Park's Children's Garden to learn about gardening for pollinators and other wildlife. A naturalist will discuss the benefits of pollinators and those plants which make the best pollinator host plants and the best native plants for wildlife. Participants will get native wildlife and pollinator seed packets and handouts to take home.

For more information, contact
www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org.

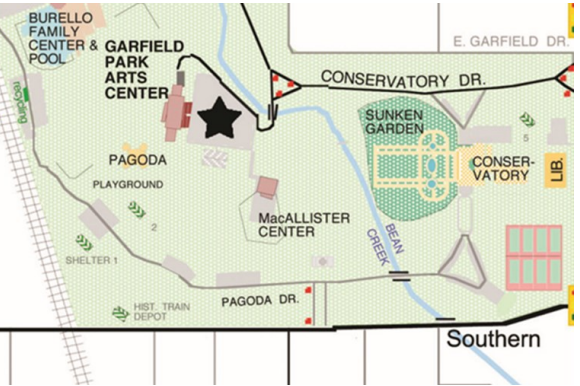
GPMGA's Next Meeting: July 12

The Garfield Park Master Gardeners and their guests will enjoy delicious picnic food and great summer fun at the GPMGA Annual Picnic on Wednesday, July 12, at 6:30 p.m. in the Garfield Park Corporate Shelter (near the Arts Center).

As in past years, the GPMGA will provide the meat (barbecue chicken and pork) as well as water, plates, napkins, utensils and cups. Members are encouraged to bring a dish of their choice—such as an appetizer, salad, side dish or dessert.

If you are bringing a side dish, please indicate what you will bring through the Google Sheets link entitled "GPMGA Annual Picnic Sign-up Sheet" that Oren Cooley sent to you by e-mail on July 5. This effort will ensure a variety of dishes and not too many of the same thing.

To save on waste, members are encouraged to bring their own beverages and table service.



We also invite members to bring a centerpiece they have created to decorate one of the picnic tables. The 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.

2023 GPMGA Officers/Committee Chairs

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tmccurry@iupui.edu

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Open

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

GPMGA Meeting Minutes: June 14

The Garfield Park Master Gardener Association (GPMGA) met at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 14, at the Paramount Schools of Excellence Farm.

Introduction

Teresa McCurry (President): Meeting minutes from 5/10/23 were approved; Board needs to meet to discuss Friends of Garfield Park donation

Presentation

Tour of Paramount Schools of Excellence Farm with Danielle Randles, Secretary of GPMGA

Committee Reports

- Cindy Maude (Treasurer): Current balance—\$9,086.07 before giving \$500 to St. Vincent de Paul
- Debra Boyer (Program Director): July - Annual Picnic at Garfield Park; August - Field trip to Dollie's Farm in Franklin; September - Debra to present on *Tea and Chocolate*; October - Cynthia has suggestion; November and December - Looking for programs
- Jayne Queck (Hospitality - Snack Coordinator): Jayne not present; Bill heading up the annual picnic planning; Meat is provided, members may sign up to bring sides and desserts via Google Sheet
- Oren Cooley (Newsletter/Publicity Director): Asked members to let him know if they are not receiving the newsletter
- Victoria Metheaux (Conservatory Tour Coordinator): Conservatory closed for tours June 17 and 18
- Carrie Alumbaugh (Plant Sale Chair): Plant sale done; Everything cleaned up

Other

- 2023 Purdue EMG State Conference in October 6-7 at Purdue University

—Danielle Randles

GP Conservatory's Allspice Tree

The allspice tree (*Pimenta dioica*)—also known as Jamaica pepper or myrtle pepper—is native to the West Indies, Mexico and Central America.

The genus name comes from the Spanish word "pimiento" meaning "pepper"—in reference to the similar appearance of the fruits of this species to those of the genus *Piper* (which includes black pepper). The specific epithet "dioica" means dioecious, or having separate male and female plants.

Although allspice is a single spice and not a blend of spices, it smelled enough like a blend (with its hints of cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves and black pepper) for the British, who took Jamaica from the Spanish in 1655, to give it the common name of allspice.

The allspice tree typically grows from 20-40 feet tall. The dried unripe fruits (peppercorn-like drupes growing up to a 1/4 inch in length) from this tree are ground up into the cooking spice known as allspice.

Leaves (3-6 inches in length) are oblong, leathery and aromatic. Leaves are sometimes used in cooking in somewhat the same manner as bay leaves (with the need to remove leaves after cooking).

Creamy white flowers in panicles (pyramidal cymes) bloom from the upper leaf axils in summer. Female flowers give way to small green fruits which mature to reddish-brown.

Allspice is perhaps the most important spice in Caribbean cuisine. It is used in Caribbean jerk seasoning, mole sauces, marinades and for pickling. It is also used as a spicy addition to meats, stews and sausages.



Garfield Park Master Gardener Association

in association with



Purdue Extension - Marion County

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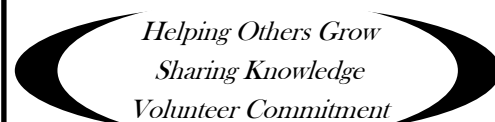
Answerline: 317.275.9292 or
marioncountymg@gmail.com

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If you require an accommodation or special assistance to attend programs due to a disability, please contact Carey Grable at 317-275-9290 or Barb Rusin at 317-275-9279. 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 Carey Grable at cagrabl@purdue.edu or at 317-275-9290.



From the Bookshelf . . .

Bloom: The Secrets of Growing Flowering Houseplants Year-Round
by Lisa Eldred Steinkopf

In *Bloom*, "The Houseplant Guru" Lisa Eldred Steinkopf unleashes all the secrets on how to grow dozens of indoor plants that produce colorful, intricate and sometimes fragrant blooms.



Steinkopf reveals the insider strategies gardeners need to encourage houseplants to bloom well. In a warm and beginner-friendly tone, she introduces simple techniques gardeners can use to encourage bloom—alongside all the ins and outs of caring for these beautiful plants. Full-color photography accompanies each in-depth plant profile.

If gardeners want to expand the number of houseplants they have, they should consider exploring further the world of flowering houseplants. New cultivars of old favorites and other, more unusual, species are now making their way "into the limelight".

Inside *Bloom*, readers will discover:

- The best flowering houseplants to cascade from window ledges, hanging pots and plant shelves
- A collection of small blooming houseplants perfect for tabletops, desks and windowsills
- Houseplants with colorful blooms for the living room, dining room and bedroom
- Techniques to fill the home with foliage and flowers, and enjoy all the color and calm they add to a living space.

On the Web

Grounded Plant and Floral
www.groundedplantandfloral.com/

Need some advice about caring for houseplants? Wondering what houseplants make the best gifts? Grounded Plant and Floral specializes in houseplants—the varieties, the care and the fixtures needed to make any home alive with houseplants. The shop recently expanded when they relocated to the Stutz Building (1060 N. Capitol Ave.) from their former location on E. Washington St.

Indiana State Fair: July 28-August 20

The Indiana State Fair and Corteva Agriscience recently unveiled the 2023 Featured Farmers to be honored at this year's Indiana State Fair from July 28 to August 20.

In its eighth year, this program celebrates and helps put a face on Hoosier agriculture by connecting consumers with fellow Hoosiers who grow the food they eat. These 18 farm operations represent all regions of the state, showcasing different agricultural products throughout the 18-day state fair.

Visitors to the Indiana State Fair can attend a live chat with a Featured Farmer every day at 2:30 p.m. in the Glass Barn. In addition, many other opportunities exist to talk with that day's Featured Farm family and learn about their operation.

In addition to their featured day, the list below contains the Featured Farmers, their farm products and their home counties:



- **Friday, July 28 – Hill Farms** (Swine), Hancock County
- **Saturday, July 29 – Hackman Family Farm Market** (Melons), Jackson County
- **Sunday, July 30 – Morgan Brothers, LLC** (Corn, Soybeans, Wheat), Vermillion County
- **Wednesday, August 2 – Risin' Creek Creamery** (Goats, Cheese), Morgan County
- **Thursday, August 3 – Groth Farms** (Corn, Soybeans), Randolph County
- **Friday, August 4 – Marble Hill Farm** (Sheep, Wool), Monroe County
- **Saturday, August 5 – Able Acres Polled Herefords** (Beef, Corn, Soybeans), Fountain County
- **Sunday, August 6 – Howard Swine Farm** (Swine), Cass County
- **Wednesday, August 9 – Country Meadows Farm** (Dairy, Beef, Goats, Sheep, Chickens), Steuben County
- **Thursday, August 10 – Scherle Tree Farm** (Christmas Trees), Dubois County
- **Friday, August 11 – Estes Dairy** (Dairy), Shelby County
- **Saturday, August 12 – K-Brothers Inc.** (Soybeans, Tomatoes), Cass County
- **Sunday, August 13 – Carterly Farm** (Dairy), Boone County
- **Wednesday, August 16 – Cornucopia Farm** (Pumpkins, Produce, Farmers Market, Corn, Soybeans, Flowers, Agritourism), Washington County
- **Thursday, August 17 – Whaley Farms Partnership** (Corn, Soybeans, Alfalfa, Cattle), Newton County
- **Friday, August 18 – At Ease Orchard** (Apples, Bees), Hancock County
- **Saturday, August 19 – Dutch Country Organics** (Eggs), LaGrange County
- **Sunday, August 20 – Sunset Ridge Berries and Blooms** (Flowers, Strawberries, Pumpkins, Agritourism), Owen County

The Indiana State Fair is the state's largest multi-day event celebrating the Hoosier spirit and agricultural heritage. These 18 days bring all communities together to celebrate all things Indiana and promote it to hundreds of thousands of people across the state, and beyond.

This year, the fair's theme is *BASKETBALL—The State That Grew the Game*. The Indiana State Fair—in conjunction with Pacers Sports & Entertainment—will activate the theme through multiple interactive experiences, including All-Star Court (a Basketball Amusement Park), the Pacers Sports & Entertainment Court, exhibits paying homage to Indiana's rich basketball legacy, and daily storytelling moments – 18 of Indiana's greatest basketball stories told through the 18 days of the fair—and team player "meets and greets".

The Indiana State Fair is rooted in telling the agriculture story - and the history of why the game of basketball grew here in Indiana is tied directly to agriculture. The game was affordable, and the playing season was based around the farmers' planting and harvest season. After each harvest, farm kids could play basketball, and then when the season ended in March, they could go back to the fields for planting.

For information, visit www.indianastatefair.com.

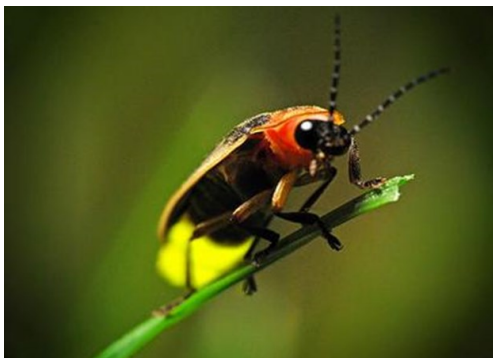
The Firefly: Indiana's State Insect

Fireflies (*Lampyridae spp.*) play an important role in nature beyond providing pyrotechnics. They loosen soil, allowing oxygen, sunlight and water to penetrate. They maintain balance by eating impressive quantities of food while in the larval form. . . .

Fireflies, or lightning bugs, belong to the beetle family *Lampyridae*. Like all beetles, they have two sets of wings. The top wings are tougher and shorter, covering the insect while at rest and providing balance during flight. If lifted, the second set of longer wings unfolds to propel the firefly through the air.

In spite of the name, some adults don't produce light. In Indiana, 13 varieties fly only during the day—we call them lightning bug fireflies, and they attract mates by scent. At least 30 other types of "dark" fireflies emerge when the summer sun sets in Indiana, flashing patterns and colors to find mates.

Many also flash rapidly when caught in a spider web or placed in a jar, a stress reaction that others recognize as a danger signal. The light is produced by chemicals mixing with oxygen in the insect's abdomen. The color, intensity and duration of the flashes, along with movement, allow fireflies to find each other.



Although most of Indiana's fireflies don't have common names, the one known as the Big Dipper, *Photinus pyralis*, is our most readily seen variety. It regularly graces lawns and roadsides as summer darkness falls. Its yellow flash lasts up to three quarters of a second, and it flies upward as it glows.

The fireflies darting through our summer evenings are male. Females rest on grasses and shrubs, watching and flashing back. Attracted males approach and mate. . . . A few days after mating, females move to damp areas in meadows, forest edges, along streams, or near wetlands, depending upon species. They lay up to 200 glowing eggs in moist soil. The eggs hatch three to four weeks later when a small brown segmented larva emerges.

The larva's eighth segment produces green light, earning the common name glowworm. Some scientists say the glowing eggs and larva announce to predators that they are toxic or distasteful. Firefly larvae spend much of their time eating and growing. Like spiders, the larvae inject prey (other insect larvae, slugs and snails) with digestive enzymes, then feed on the resulting slurry. They can even kill earthworms, after which several glowworms might share the spoils.

In autumn they burrow underground to hibernate through winter, coming out in spring to feed for a few more weeks. They burrow again to pupate, emerging in June or July as adults. Mature fireflies live a few weeks, long enough to restart the cycle. . . .

Article by Barbara Tibbets, *Naturalist*, Turkey Run and Shades state parks.

Xerces Society's New Firefly Atlas

The United States and Canada have more species of fireflies than most people realize—173 at last count. And, contrary to popular belief, beetles in the firefly family *Lampyridae* are found in every state except Hawaii.

Yet, for more than half these species, scientists are missing enough data to even evaluate their population status. With the Xerces Society's new Firefly Atlas, anyone can join and help collect observations that will allow the Xerces Society and its conservation partners to better protect fireflies for generations to come.

Some of these species are at particular risk because they occur in limited areas and in special habitats, have flightless females, or need full darkness to communicate and mate. The Firefly Atlas aims to advance our collective understanding of North American firefly species distributions, activity periods, habitat associations and threats.

For more information or to volunteer to collect data, visit:
<https://xerces.org/blog/new-firefly-atlas-will-put-beloved-beetles-on-map>

Indy PL Classes

The Indianapolis Public Library will offer the following classes (at the indicated branch) this year:

Friday, July 14 (2:00 - 3:00 p.m.)

Glendale Branch

Cover Crops - Improving Your Garden's Health

Planting cover crops in a garden is a very easy way to improve the soil's health. Join Kevin Allison to learn about soil health and cover crops, and receive free cover crop seeds to plant this fall.



Monday, July 17 (6:00 - 7:00 p.m.)

Wayne Branch

Ask-A-Gardener: Tomatoes

It's the heat of summer. What do you do to help your tomatoes be juicier, tastier, and healthier? Join Dr. Jarrod Dortch of Solful Gardens to get answers to those tomato questions!



Saturday, July 22 (1:00 - 2:30 p.m.)

Garfield Park Branch

Foraging Walk - What is edible? What should I avoid?

Join Greg Monzel of Persimmon Herb School for this walking class to learn about what is in season, what is safe to eat, and what to consider when foraging in urban areas. You won't be able to look at "weeds" the same way again!

For more information and to register for the above programs, visit <https://www.indypl.org/blog/for-adults/gardening>.

Calendar/Events

Saturday, July 15 (8:00 a.m. to noon)

Hamilton County Master Gardeners Association Annual Daylily Sale

Hamilton County Fairgrounds, 2003 East Pleasant, Noblesville

More than 185 varieties of daylilies—many new varieties—are available for purchase. When shoppers select the varieties they want, the HCMGA will dig them up. The Daylily/Iris bed is in the southwest corner of the Hamilton County Fairgrounds. <https://hcmga.org/daylily-sale-saturday-july-15>

Friday, July 28-Sunday, August 20

Indiana State Fair

1202 East 38th Street, Indianapolis

The Indiana State Fair will honor 18 Featured Farmers this year. In its eighth year, this program celebrates and helps put a face on Hoosier agriculture by connecting consumers with fellow Hoosiers who grow the food they eat. These 18 farm operations represent all regions of the state, showcasing different agricultural products throughout the 18-day state fair.

www.indianastatefair.com

Sunday, August 6 (Noon to 8:00 p.m.)

Art in the Gardens—Art Festival

Avon Gardens, 6259 East CR 91 North, Avon

Avon Gardens is hosting the *Art in the Gardens - Art Festival*—featuring local artists and the nursery's you-pick flower gardens. Come join the fun and make your own flower bouquet, listen to live music, eat, support local artists and enjoy the gardens! As the evening progresses, the gardens will light up with fairy lights and candles covering the nursery's five acres.

<https://www.avongardensweddings.com>

Tuesday, August 8

Native Landscaping Tour

Interested in giving native landscaping a try but want some ideas of where to start? Join this tour of privately-owned properties in Danville and Clayton to see the wide variety of goals and objectives of these homeowners. Native landscaping can be an attractive privacy screen or it can encompass acres. Listen to these local native plant enthusiasts as they share how they got started and what resources they used. Addresses of the tour locations will be provided to registered participants a few days prior to the tour. Each location will include an approximately one-hour tour, and start times may vary. Free.

Register: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a44a4a72fa1f94-native>

GPMGA Membership

Become a member of 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 2023 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

Indianapolis Hosta Society

Monday, August 14 (6:30 p.m.)

Wildlife in the Garden

Speaker, Amanda Smith, Superintendent of Natural Resources & Education, Hamilton County Parks and Recreation
Indianapolis Hosta Society
Coxhall Mansion and Gardens
11669 Towne Road, Camel

Amanda Smith, Superintendent of Natural Resources & Education for Hamilton County Parks and Recreation, will present *Wildlife in the Garden* at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, August 14, at Coxhall Mansion and Gardens.

Smith has been with Hamilton County Parks Department since 1995. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Education from Ball State University.

Smith has a passion for learning about nature and sharing her knowledge in hopes that sharing knowledge will lead to a greater appreciation of the natural diversity in Indiana and help homeowners understand that their yards are indeed habitats.

For more information, contact Pat Brummer at 317-544-8206 or visit www.indianapolishostasociety.org.