



THE GARFIELD GARDENER

THE NEWSLETTER OF GARFIELD PARK MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

April 2026 Next Meeting

April 16

Topic: *De-Mystifying Hydrangeas*

Speaker: John Chapin,
Tree Frog Gardens

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

2026 Meeting Dates

May 13

June 10

July 8

August 12

September 9

October 14

November 11

December 9

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Oren Cooley

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Learn more at:

www.IndyGPMGA.com

www.IndyMG.org

www.IndyHorticulture.org

President's Message: Spring is on the horizon!

Greetings!

What a crazy March we have had. I guess it is normal but how manic can a month get. It looks like things are on the upswing, fingers crossed.

I was finally able to get out and get some plants dug up for our plant sale. I still have a lot to go through, but I feel like I got a good start. I also have been perusing the plants I brought home from Sullivan's last fall, and it looks like I have a lot that made it through and are showing some good growth.

Events and Garden Happenings

The Garfield Park Conservatory team needs our assistance to get the flower beds in and around the fountain area spruced up. See the e-mail sent from Teresa McCurry for the details.

Gnome Away from Home (Until April 5) – Spring break for the gnomes to gather at the conservatory.

I am eagerly anticipating the reopening of the fountains and gardens this spring. The gates opened on April 1 (no fooling) and the fountains will be turned on April 15. Visit <https://www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org/programsevents> for the specific dates when the gardens will open and details about the official opening ceremony for the fountains.



Upcoming Club Dates

Note: Our April meeting will NOT be on the second Wednesday, April 8th! We will be having a short Zoom board meeting and the details for those involved will be sent out soon.

April Meeting:

Our April meeting is Thursday, April 16, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the Northminster Presbyterian Church, 1660 Kessler Blvd., E. Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46220.



We will meet with the Marion County Master Gardeners. We'll take a few minutes to mingle and talk with fellow Master Gardeners. We are excited about this opportunity to spend some time together.

John Chapin, Tree Frog Gardens, will present *De-Mystifying Hydrangeas*. Chapin says most of the questions he gets are about hydrangeas. People always ask about pruning, and even experienced gardeners want to know more about native and new varieties.

Chapin will bring one-quart hydrangeas to sell for \$16 per plant.

Consider carpooling to conserve parking space.

If you can, please bring an appetizer/side dish for the meeting. They can keep your dish warm if needed.

—Kay Martin-Pence, GPMGA President

Conservatory Tours

April 11 (11:00 a.m.)
Adam Musgrove

April 25 (11:00 a.m.)
Arlene Bow
Oren Cooley

At the Conservatory

Saturday, May 2 (10:00-11:30 a.m.)
Spring Herbal Gifts
Garfield Park Conservatory

Join the Herb Society of Central Indiana for a fun class on making gifts with herbs, perfect for Mother's Day (or for anyone else that needs a spring pick-me-up).



Participants also will have the opportunity to learn about herbs they can grow themselves throughout the season. There will be recipes, handouts and herbal snacks.

Pre-registration required; cost is \$6 per person. For more information, visit www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org.

Garfield Park

GPMGA's Next Meeting: April 16

Our April meeting is a joint meeting with Marion County Master Gardeners on Thursday, April 16, at 6:30 p.m. at Northminster Presbyterian Church (1660 Kessler Boulevard, East Drive, Indianapolis).

Come and make new friends and reconnect with old friends. We will have a very short business meeting to leave plenty of time to socialize. Be prepared to play a fun game to "break the ice" at the beginning of the meeting.

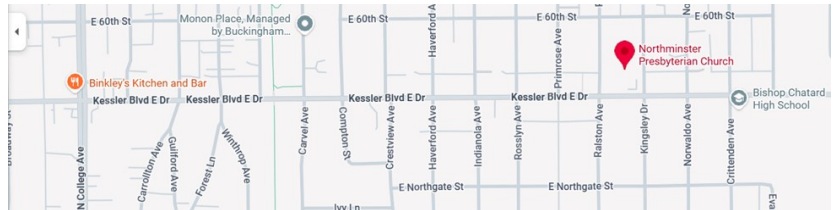
Everyone wants to know about hydrangeas, says John Chapin of Tree Frog Gardens. People ask: What varieties are best to grow in our Indiana gardens? Are there any native species of hydrangea? Which hydrangeas are the "fussy" ones? Should I grow them? And how or when do I prune my plants?



On April 16, we will hear all about hydrangeas from this expert gardener in his presentation *De-Mystifying Hydrangeas*. Chapin will present a slideshow detailing how to select, plant and care for hydrangeas. Chapin also will discuss the best pruning practices to ensure the best blooms, how and when to fertilize your plant, and tackling tricky plant problems.

Bring your questions and your check-book, because John also will offer one-quart hydrangeas for sale that evening for \$16 each.

Chapin is the owner of Tree Frog Gardens near Danville. He is a retired elementary school teacher who created beautiful gardens at his home. He also sells nursery stock (twice a year, usually) with many unusual or hard-to-find plants. You can find him on Facebook at Tree Frog Gardens or join his mailing list.



2026 GPMGA Officers/Committee Chairs

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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: March 11

The Garfield Park Master Gardener Association met at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 11, at the Garfield Park Conservatory.

Kay Martin-Pence (President):

- Meeting minutes were approved
- In an effort to be more sustainable, we are encouraging that members bring their own plates and flatware for meetings. Not a requirement, we will continue providing disposables
- This is Carrie Alumbaugh's last year as the Plant Sale Chair; If you are interested in a chair or possibly even co-chair position, please keep the opening in mind
- GPMGA donated \$1,000 to the Spring Garden Clinic; A number of speakers decided to do the event for free and MCMGA offered to return \$500 to GPMGA; Committee and association decided to keep the \$500 with MCMGA towards next year's donation.
- Bill Bernstein celebrated his 80th birthday yesterday; Thanks to him for all he has done for the group over the years. The association voted to give him a lifetime membership.

Danielle Randles (Vice President):

- Follow-up reminder to enter your hours earned last month, both volunteer hours and education hours earned for seed packing.

Cindy Maude (Treasurer):

- Account balance is \$8,093.52
- Sent a check to The Benjamin Harrison Home for \$500; They requested extra money for another special project; Will wait for first project's completion before awarding another grant.
- If anyone is connected to someone who wants a grant, please submit it.

Program:

- *Indiana Phenology* by Amanda Wanlass

Committee Reports:

- Amanda Anez (Hospitality and Snack Coordinator): Next meeting is a joint meeting with MCMGA; Their meeting is more of a meal; If you wish to bring food, please bring an appetizer
- Vickie Methaux (Conservatory Tour Coordinator): No updates; All good
- Oren Cooley (Newsletter/Publicity Director): No updates
- Will Gerlib (Website Coordinator): No updates

Barb Jablonski:

- List of garden centers providing a MG discount is in the March newsletter
- You must show your membership card at the register before paying

Jo Ann Klooz (Program Director):

- April Program: Joint program with MCMGA group; Will be on Thursday April 16
- Members at the February meeting packed 1,363 packets of seeds
- August will be another joint meeting; Visiting a wildflower garden

Carrie Alumbaugh (Plant Sale Chair):

- Friday, May 8: Set up for Plant Sale; All day event
- Saturday, May 9: Annual Plant Sale
- Think of what you might like to dig up or seeds you would like to start for the sale; Please save pots, boxes or trays for transporting plants; Also consider bringing a cart or wagon, if you have one
- GPMGA now has two Square readers for card payments

—Adam Musgrove, Secretary

Garfield Park Master Gardener Association



in association with

Purdue Extension - Marion County

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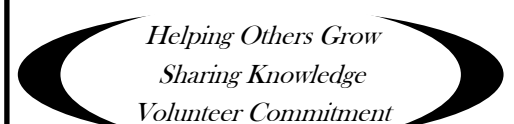
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If you require an accommodation or special assistance to attend programs due to a disability, please contact Carey Grable at 317-275-9290 or Barb Rusin at 317-275-9279. Some accommodations may require 2 weeks notice.

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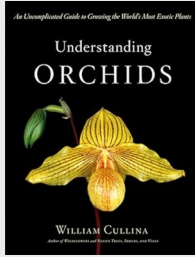
Questions: Contact Carey Grable at cagrabl@purdue.edu or at 317-275-9290.



From the Bookshelf . . .

Understanding Orchids: An Uncomplicated Guide to Growing the World's Most Exotic Plants
by William Cullina

This plant care book can help readers quickly and easily find the orchid(s) that are right for them — which ones will thrive on a windowsill, which prefer artificial lights, which need a greenhouse, and which are for beginners (and which for experts). William Cullina's authoritative guide also explains what to do to keep the orchid(s) alive and healthy.



Featuring more than two hundred color photographs, *Understanding Orchids: An Uncomplicated Guide to Growing the World's Most Exotic Plants* covers what you need to know about orchid care to grow them successfully, whatever your level of interest or experience. This volume contains advice on the following topics:

- **Choosing Your Orchid:** Learn which of the 28,000 known species are right for your home, whether you have a sunny windowsill, artificial lights or a dedicated greenhouse
- **Beginner-Friendly Species:** Pinpoints the specific, resilient orchids that are the best and most affordable choices with which to start for a successful first experience
- **Expert Growing Techniques:** Go beyond the basics with authoritative instructions on what to do to keep your plants alive, healthy and blooming for many years
- **Stunning Photography:** Explore more than two hundred beautiful color photographs to help you identify and appreciate a vast range of orchids

A well-known author and recognized authority on North American native plants, Cullina lectures on a variety of subjects to garden and professional groups. He also writes for popular and technical journals. His books include *Wildflowers; Native Trees, Shrubs and Vines; Understanding Orchids; Native Ferns, Mosses and Grasses; and Understanding Perennials*. Visit www.williamcullina.com for writings, photography and lecture information.

GPMGA's Annual Plant Sale

Volunteers are needed for the GPMGA Annual Plant Sale—which will occur from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 9, outside the Garfield Park Conservatory overlooking the Sunken Garden.

We will need donations from Garfield Park Master Gardeners for our plant sale this year. The GPMGA appreciates the donations of plants members will make—divisions from members' perennial gardens, plants grown from seed, bulbs, vegetables, herbs, annuals, or houseplants.

The Garfield Park Plant Sale Committee will meet next from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 11, at Garfield Park. The committee's first meeting occurred last March.



This month, we will have workdays at Brenda's backyard (2749 E. Edgewood Ave.) to trim and maintain the plants donated by Sullivans Hardware last year. These workdays will occur on Wednesday, April 8 (5:30—6:30 p.m.); Sunday, April 19 (5:30—6:30 p.m.); Thursday, April 30 (5:30—6:30 p.m.). Everyone is welcome to help.

Promoting the Sale:

We will need volunteers to help promote the event on Facebook and other social media, various websites such as GPMGA, Friends of Garfield Park and other community platforms. In addition, Oren Cooley will promote the plant sale to various print and broadcast media.

A flyer for this year's GPMGA Annual Plant Sale will be sent to members in advance of the sale. Please feel free to print and post the flyer or distribute the flyer to any group you feel might have an interest in the plant sale.

Updated numbers for yard signs will be available soon for GPMGA members to pick up in the Garfield Park Conservatory classroom (in the GPMGA cabinet) where some will be stored.

Labeling the Plants:

Two different samples of labels for the GPMGA Annual Plant Sale will be sent to members in advance. Please feel free to use these templates to create labels for any plants you may wish to donate. If you wish to create your own labels, please include the following information: Common Name/Scientific Name, Type of Plant (Herb, native, perennial, etc.), Shade or Sun or Part-sun/Part-shade, Size, Color and Season of Bloom.

Dropping Off Plants:

GPMGA members may drop off plants at the conservatory on Friday, May 8, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Members must have plants potted and ready for sale when they drop them off. Again, please have your plants labeled before dropping off your plants. **REMEMBER:** No plants with mildew or other problems; no invasives.

Other Needed Supplies:

In addition to plants, the GPMGA asks members to check if they have canopies, folding tables, wagons, wheelbarrows, boxes and trays (for people to carry plants home), or other items needed for use during the plant sale.

Helping the Day before the Sale—Friday, May 8:

In addition, we will need volunteers on the day before the sale to help set up the tables, to check that all plants are labeled and priced for the plant sale, and to make sure all of the plants and donations are good to go. Set up will occur from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Helping the Day of the Sale—Saturday, May 9:

Volunteers may arrive as early as 7:00 a.m. The GPMGA Annual Plant Sale will occur from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 9. Members are needed to assist customers, provide plant care information and, of course, to help tear down. Any assistance is greatly appreciated.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Carrie Alumbaugh at carriesalumbaugh@gmail.com or at 317-538-0872.

ISM Exhibit: *Flowers Forever*

Visitors can surround themselves with the timeless beauty of blooms in *Flowers Forever*, a special exhibition at the Indiana State Museum until May 10.

The new exhibit will celebrate the unique ways florals appear in life's important milestones—from birth to death and many noteworthy moments in between—as well as the deep meaning flowers can hold, from love and admiration to sadness and remembrance. Let your curiosity bloom as you discover how flowers are used in society—through art and beyond.



Featuring more than 50 objects, this vibrant exhibit will explore the many ways flowers shape the stories of daily life. From a flowing floral gown by Bill Blass to botanical bell-bottom jeans, visitors can see examples of flowering fashions.

They also will discover how the natural appeal of blooms is reflected at home in works by renowned Hoosier artists including T.C. Steele, Carl Graf and Leota Loop. One-of-a-kind pieces will illustrate how flowers can evoke a range of emotions, from the cheerful Corndog Vase by contemporary artist Kelly Bohnenkamp to a somber golden rose casket.



Several interactive experiences invite visitors of all ages to use their senses and further immerse themselves in the world of florals. A collection of scents will give visitors a hint of how the blossoms in featured artworks might smell. Families will enjoy arranging beautiful bouquets and creating new blooms. Plus, attendees can take a fun quiz to find their flower match and learn its symbolism.

For more information, visit www.IndianaMuseum.org.



Garfield Park's Sunken Garden Fountains

The restoration of the historic fountains in the Garfield Park Sunken Garden is currently nearing completion, with a grand reopening event planned for summer 2026.

This multi-year, \$5.5 million project aims to return the 1916 Art Deco fountains to their "original glory", featuring improved water pressure and synchronized LED lighting. The project also includes improvements to the nearby Pagoda.

Groundbreaking for the major renovation occurred in July 2024. Construction and concrete pouring continued through 2025, with major components like limestone coping and new pumping mechanisms installed by late summer.



In November 2025, the Friends of Garfield Park announced the successful completion of the first phase, marked by several weeks of testing the water flow and light displays for the north, center and south fountains. As of early 2026, the project has shifted focus to a Preservation Fund to ensure long-term maintenance.

The upgrade includes 2,500 individual jet nozzles and 61 new LED lights designed to create colorful water displays. Efforts were made to preserve the original 100-year-old concrete work while integrating 19 miles of modern wiring for remote monitoring and efficiency.

This restoration marks a collaborative effort between the city and community organizations to preserve one of Indianapolis' most valued public spaces. Garfield Park remains an important civic landmark, known for its historic architecture, art deco elements and active community programming.

Upcoming Activities

April 13 (6:30 to 8:30 p.m.)
Gardening in the Shade—Beyond Hostas—A Presentation by John Chapin of Tree Frog Gardens
Indianapolis Hosta Society
St. Lukes Methodist Church
100 W. 86th St., Entrance 6, Indpls.

A variety of shade-loving perennials and annuals can add color, texture and seasonal interest beyond traditional hosta plantings, according to John Chapin of Tree Frog Gardens. Shade-tolerant shrubs and ornamental trees also provide structure and depth, anchoring garden beds and enhancing the overall landscape. By combining diverse plants with thoughtful design elements, gardeners can create layered, eye-catching shade gardens that stand out. For more info, visit <https://indianapolishostasociety.org/>.

April 18 (9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.)
Herb Society of Central Indiana Spring Symposium: Tea-riffic Herbs
Hamilton County Fairgrounds
Event Center (The Silo)
2003 Pleasant Street, Noblesville

Speaker presentations include *Chamomile and Skin Care*; *Turmeric Root for our Times: Magick and Manna*; *Chamomile Tea: Benefiting, Blending, Brewing*; and *Cooking with Turmeric*. Register: <https://sites.google.com/view/herbsociety-of-central-indiana/symposium-2026>

April 18 (9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.)
Boone County Master Gardener Gardenfest
Farm Bureau Community Building
Boone County 4-H Fairgrounds
1300 E. 100 S., Lebanon

This 38th annual event features more than 24 garden-related vendors selling unique garden art, gifts, flowers, herbs, shrubs, succulents and native plant seeds. Expert speakers include Tricia Mooney Lautenbach, *Never-Say-Die Containers: Stress Free Summer Planting*; Bill Eagleston, *Rocks in the Landscape*; and Marian McCanless, *Marian's Monarchs*. Free native tree seedlings will be given to the first 400 attendees.

www.mastergardenersboonecounty.org or <https://www.facebook.com/p/Master-Gardeners-of-Boone-County-Indiana-100064546065602/> Plant Shopping!

Calendar/Events

April 13 (6:30 to 8:30 p.m.)
Spring Natives with David Mow
 Johnson County Garden Club

Purdue Extension Education Room, 484 N. Morton St., Franklin

David Mow has been photographing and identifying wildflowers native to central Indiana for more than 25 years and has trained as an interpretive naturalist with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. He is active in the Indiana Native Plant Society and volunteers as a master gardener and master naturalist in Morgan County.

More Information: jcgardenclub@gmail.com

April 18 (11:30 a.m. pitch-in lunch; 12:30 p.m. plant auction)
Indiana Organic Gardeners Association Annual Plant Auction

Cool Creek Nature Center, 2000 E. 151st Street, Carmel

Items donated by members include organic vegetable seedlings, perennials, house plants, books and other garden items.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2788031181286983/>

May 1 (6:00 to 9:00 p.m.)

Indiana Daylily-Iris Society's Iris Show: "Early to Rise"

Harrison Center, 1505 N. Delaware St., Indianapolis

Members will display and be judged on their most prized irises, and a variety of early blooming irises will be shown.

<https://www.indianadaylilyirisociety.org/>

May 1 & 2 (Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)

Hancock County's Master Gardener Association & Herb Society Plant Sale

4-H Pioneer Building, Hancock County Fairgrounds, 620 Apple St., Greenfield

Select from an extensive variety of hanging baskets, perennials, vegetable plants, geraniums, begonias and house plants. The Herb Society will offer a variety of culinary, medicinal, decorative and craft-use herbs, along with tomato and pepper plants and potted perennials.

www.hancockmga.com

May 1-8 (Auction live May 1 at 7:00 p.m.; closes May 8 at 7:00 p.m. ET)

Indiana Native Plant Society Auction

Gardeners and nature lovers throughout Indiana can look to the virtual INPS Auction for home-grown native plants, private garden tours, celebrity guided hikes, books and choice native plants and services from our invasive-free Grow Indiana Natives vendors and designers.

<https://indiananativeplants.org/native-plant-auction/>

GPMGA Membership – 2026

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 ____/____/____

Are you volunteering anywhere? _____

_____ I wish to be included in the 2026 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

To pay using Zelle, use GPMG for recipient; cmaude@sbcglobal.net for e-mail

CIOS Orchid Show

April 25-26 (10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.)

Central Indiana Orchid Society

Spring Show

Garfield Park Conservatory

2505 Conservatory Dr., Indianapolis

The Garfield Conservatory will be filled with displays of blooming orchids from across the Midwest during the Central Indiana Orchid Society Spring Show this April. Come check out this annual event.



With more than 28,000 species officially recognized, orchids are found in nearly every habitat on Earth, making them one of the most diverse and resilient flowering plants, according to the American Orchid Society. The conservatory's winding paths will guide attendees to see a variety of species of orchids, as well as to vendors and local gardeners seeking to encourage the public to explore and delve deeper into the vast world of orchids.

The show will be open to the public from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on both days. Admission is \$7 per person or \$15 per family (2 adults maximum.)

Orchids will also be available for sale.

For more information, visit <https://centralios.org/upcoming-events/>.