



THE GARFIELD GARDENER

THE NEWSLETTER OF GARFIELD PARK MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

May 2026 Next Meeting

May 13

Topic: Carnivorous Plants
Speaker: Rachel Walker, Ph.D.,
Mundell & Associates

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

2026 Meeting Dates

June 10
July 8
August 12
September 9
October 14
November 11
December 9

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

President's Message: May is one busy month

Greetings!

I had an enjoyable time at the April shared meeting with the MCMGA group. We had fun ice breaker events, delicious food, enjoyable conversation and a wonderful talk on hydrangeas. Looking forward to future events with the MCMGA group.

May is here and what a month it will be. Mother's Day, all the Indy 500 events, Memorial Day, outdoor Farmers Markets opening, and so many plant sales and plant-related events. Looking forward to all the fun events.



Speaking of plant sales, as you know ours is happening on Saturday May 9th, 9:00 a.m. to noon. You all should have received the latest e-mail with the details of the sale, how to sign up to volunteer for the plant sale set-up on Friday, May 8, and for the day of the plant sale itself on Saturday, May 9th, and what to bring besides your amazing plants. Hoping we have all had time to get our lovelies potted up and labeled for the sale. Let Carrie Alumbaugh, Danielle Randles or myself know if you have any questions.

Events and Garden Happenings

The Garfield Park Conservatory team needs assistance to get the flower beds spruced up in and around the fountain area. See the e-mail sent from Teresa with the details and a message sent from the park if you signed up to receive them. I will be happy to forward Teresa's or the park's message if needed.

See the conservatory website for details on upcoming events: Garfield Park Conservatory - Indianapolis (<https://www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org/>).

Upcoming Club Meeting Dates

May Meeting: We will be meeting at our normal date, time and location on May 13th at 6:30 p.m. at the Garfield Park Conservatory. This month's topic will be carnivorous plants in Indiana.

June and July Meetings: June brings a field trip to the White River State Park U-Pick Gardens; July is our club's annual picnic. Details forthcoming for both events.

—Kay Martin-Pence, GPMGA President



Conservatory Tours

May 9 (11:00 a.m.)
Adam Musgrove

May 23 (11:00 a.m.)
Arlene Bow
Oren Cooley

At the Conservatory

May 24 (1:00 -2:00 p.m.)
Butterfly Planters
Garfield Park Conservatory

Help support local butterflies by making a planter full of their favorite foods! During the workshop, participants will plant flowers for pollination and host plants for caterpillars—something for every part of the butterfly life cycle.



Program fee is \$25 per planter. You can make one planter for your family or make individual planters. The fee includes: a planter, soil, plants and labels. Conservatory admission for one person also included in program fee.

For more information, visit www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org.



GPMGA's Next Meeting: May 13

Rachel Walker, Ph.D., will tell us about carnivorous plants at our next GPMGA meeting on Wednesday, May 13, at 6:30 p.m. at the Garfield Park Conservatory.

Did you know that there are carnivorous plants that are Indiana natives? Everyone has seen a Venus Fly Trap but you may not know they are native to the US. So are many other carnivorous plants. We will learn about different types of carnivorous plants—where they are found and how you can grow them yourself!

Rachel has a variety of carnivorous plants and will bring plants for us to see as well as giving tips on how to build our own carnivorous bog garden. Walker is principal geologist with Mundell & Associates.

Rachel's gardening interests started with an orchid in 2005 after she finished graduate school. She has miniature cypress, various cactus, carnivorous plants, aroids and begonias as indoor plants. Rachel is replacing the lawn at her home with a native dominated garden and also has a vegetable and herb garden. She is in the Irvington Garden Club and serves as Treasurer of the Central Indiana Orchid Society.



Garden Seed Sharing

Bring your unused garden seeds to the next meeting to share with fellow Master Gardeners. The seeds should not be any older than 2023 and must be labeled with their origin (Burpees or Johnny's, for example) as well as their name, variety and your name. These are STATE regulations, not an MG policy.

GPMGA June Meeting

Our June 10th meeting is a tour of the U-Pick Garden at the White River State Park. EVERYONE who comes must sign the GPI Volunteer Liability Waiver and Agreement:

GPI Volunteer Liability Waiver and Agreement
forms.gle

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc8lmbQUXQIseryWak6Jc0GjDhrTBEbF9WEZt1o_kbsZpmmqQ/viewform

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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: April 16

The Garfield Park Master Gardener Association met with the Marion County Master Gardener Association on Thursday, April 16, at 6:30 p.m. at Northminster Presbyterian Church (1660 Kessler Boulevard, East Drive, Indianapolis).

As part of this joint meeting, the Garfield Park Master Gardener Association conducted a brief meeting:

- Kay Martin-Pence (President): Kay asked GPMGs to let Adam or her know if last month's minutes need any edits.
- Carrie Alumbaugh (Plant Sale Chair): Carrie reiterated what has been sent in the plant sale e-mails including workdays at Brenda's, signing up for duties, bringing bags/carts/canopies/boxes/wagons, and putting yard signs out with the new date stickers.

After the MCMGA conducted its brief meeting, John Chapin of Tree Frog Gardens presented *De-Mystifying Hydrangeas*. Chapin presented a slideshow detailing how to select, plant and care for hydrangeas. He also discussed the best pruning practices to ensure the best blooms, how and when to fertilize the plant, and tackling tricky plant problems. He also provided information on native and new varieties.

Chapin offered one-quart hydrangeas for sale that evening for \$16 each.

Five Common Type of Hydrangeas

Hydrangeas are beloved for their stunning blooms. Here are five common types and how to identify them:

Bigleaf Hydrangea - *Hydrangea macrophylla*

Bloom shape: Large, round clusters (mophead) or flat-topped with outer petals surrounding a central cluster (lacecap)

Colors: Varies from pink to blue, depending on soil acidity

Leaves: Large, oval-shaped leaves

Note: Typically blooms on old wood; pruning at the wrong time can affect flowering.

Bigleaf Hydrangea
Hydrangea macrophylla



Smooth Hydrangea - *Hydrangea arborescens*

Bloom shape: Large, round, snowball-shaped clusters

Colors: Primarily white but some newer cultivars offer pink or green hues

Leaves: Smooth, heart-shaped leaves

Note: Blooms on new wood; pruning in late winter or early spring is okay.

Smooth Hydrangea
Hydrangea arborescens



Panicle Hydrangea - *Hydrangea paniculata*

Bloom shape: Cone-shaped clusters that start green, turn white, then pink or red as the season progresses

Colors: Green, white, pink and red

Leaves: Oval-shaped leaves with serrated edges

Note: Blooms on new wood; pruning in late winter or early spring is ideal

Panicle Hydrangea
Hydrangea paniculata



Oakleaf Hydrangea - *Hydrangea quercifolia*

Bloom shape: Large, lacecap-shaped clusters

Colors: White, turning to pink or brown as the season progresses

Leaves: Oak-shaped leaves that turn vibrant red, purple and orange in autumn

Note: Blooms on old wood; avoid heavy pruning

Oakleaf Hydrangea
Hydrangea quercifolia



Mountain Hydrangea - *Hydrangea serrata*

Bloom shape: Lacecap-shaped clusters

Colors: Pink to deep red to purple

Leaves: Ovate and serrated leaves

Note: Blooms on old and new wood; cut back stems by 1/3 in August

Mountain Hydrangea
Hydrangea serrata



Many cultivars exist within each type with variations in color, size and bloom shape.

Garfield Park Master Gardener Association



in association with

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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.

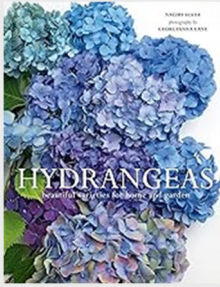
*Helping Others Grow
Sharing Knowledge
Volunteer Commitment*

From the Bookshelf . . .

Hydrangeas: Beautiful Varieties for Home and Garden

by Naomi Slade and
Georgianna Lane (Photographer)

Perhaps the most abundantly blooming plant, hydrangeas have captivated gardeners and cultivators alike with their old-fashioned charm and tantalizing colors.



From late spring to early autumn, they burst from the ends of stems in natural bouquets of vibrant pink, stunning white, lavender, rose and blue. With over 75 species and 600 named cultivars around the world, the variety makes them perfect for many landscapes.

Georgianna Lane's entrancing photography showcases the varieties of nature's "firework" flower, such as the intensely colored Alpenglühchen and the airy Lanarth White, while Naomi Slade imparts her gardening expertise for the fullest bloom of this rewarding flower. Readers will discover the wide array that hydrangeas have to offer, and why these bountiful blossoms are becoming increasingly popular as houseplants.

Naomi Slade is an author, gardening expert, award-winning designer and TV presenter. In 2022, she became Practical Journalist of the Year at the prestigious Garden Media Guild Awards and, in 2024, she co-designed the acclaimed Flood Resilient Garden at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

A keen gardener with a particular interest in small gardens, naturalistic planting and the environment, Slade is interested in landscape, orchard and meadow restoration and conservation, and sympathetic garden design. She has written eleven books to date.

Georgianna Lane is a photographer with a passion for flowers, travel and the iconic cities of Paris, New York and London. Her work has been widely published internationally in books, magazines, calendars, greeting cards and other lifestyle products.

GPMGA's Annual Plant Sale May 9

The GPMGA Annual Plant Sale will occur from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 9, outside the Garfield Park Conservatory overlooking the Sunken Garden.

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. Please remember to label all plants.

Two different samples of labels for the GPMGA Annual Plant Sale have been sent to members in advance. 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 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Members must have plants potted and ready for sale when they drop them off. 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 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 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.

Please use the following link to sign up to volunteer on either May 8 or May 9:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1pV93BY6a1gUFL66d9HwRzbHd-Yj4NI65Hd6nLe4UZA/edit?usp=drivesdk>

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

Garfield Park's Upcoming Shows

The Indianapolis Bonsai Club will have its Annual Bonsai Show on Saturday, June 6, and Sunday, June 7, at the Garfield Park Conservatory.

Join the Indianapolis Bonsai Club as they showcase their unique bonsai specimens, including bonsai that have been in regional and national exhibitions. Vendors will have trees and supplies for sale.



The Garfield Park Conservatory will host its second annual Carnivorous Plant Show Saturday, June 27 and Sunday, June 28.



The conservatory in conjunction with Chad Williams of Indiana Insectivores will create a stunning display of predator plants. The show will have native Indiana predator plants as well as a plethora of tropical ones in the Gazebo Room. Throughout the conservatory, visitors will see a diverse carnivorous plant collection—with educational signage about each plant. There also will be carnivorous plants for sale!

The hours for both shows are from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. For either show, the cost is \$7 per person, \$15 per family (2 adults maximum per family).

Indianapolis Garden Club Walk June 3

The 30th annual Indianapolis Garden Club Garden Walk will occur from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 3. The walk will include the following gardens:

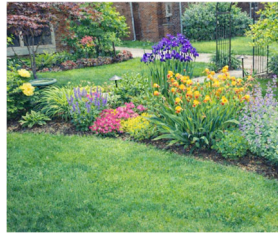
Boulevard in Bloom

Experience this Meridian-Kessler treasure with its historic, stately home, built in 1925. After undergoing an extensive two-year renovation, the home now blends seamlessly modern outdoor amenities—such as a tastefully designed pool, luxurious reflective sauna and a covered patio—with the surrounding green and wooded landscape. The garden boasts raised beds filled with cutting flowers and fresh vegetables as well as hydrangea, early bloomers (including tulips and daffodils), and an abundance of containers overflowing with seasonal flowers.



Garden Melodies

This enchanting property is a true gardener's garden featuring plants with history incorporating special musical melodies. The homeowner is not only a gardener but also a musician, and she showcases musical compositions inspired by specific garden plants. The home was built in 1929 and contains many original stained-glass windows. Plant materials to note are the hyacinth arbor, sweet autumn clematis arch, moon flowers, butterfly magnolia tree, heritage birch tree and many native plants that attract pollinators.



The Crow's Nest

This remarkable property was built in the 1900s and served as a summer escape for prominent Indianapolis families. Prepare to get lost in its expansive meadow with hollow tree habitats, remnants of an original swimming pool and a beautiful timbered gazebo. Plant materials are bountiful and distinctive. A true historic garden gem in the city.



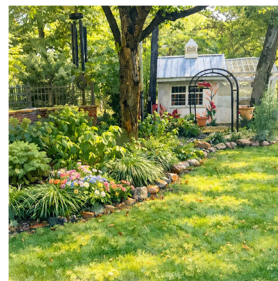
Horticulture Haven

With a fabled history and a bright future, this magnificent property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. From ravine gardens to broad sweeping lawns, it was once home to a leading family of Indianapolis. This sensational property was host to the Garden Walk thirty years ago at the club's inaugural event. Thirty years later, it is back on tour, and the gardeners will be present to answer questions and offer insights into the landscape. Prepare to be amazed as you view the past and the present at this inimitable estate garden.



Monon Oasis

The Monon Trail occupies the former corridor of the Monon Railroad, which was in operation from the 1840s to the 1980s, connecting Chicago, Indianapolis and Louisville. Stroll into this beautiful Monon Oasis through a decorative wrought iron gate and admire the home that was built in 1935. This delightful garden exudes neighborhood charm which boasts complementary plant material, garden art and unique garden ornaments that have been collected over many years. Unique features include a Zen Garden, a darling hand-painted potting shed and a hydroponic garden.



To purchase tickets, visit <https://indianapolisgardenclub.org/annual-garden-walk/>. (Property addresses are provided at the time tickets are purchased.) Participants in the Indianapolis Garden Club's Garden Walk may visit the gardens in any order.

For inquires, please contact: igcgardenwalk@gmail.com

Hoosier Habitats Challenge

Join the Hoosier Habitats Challenge!

In March 2026, Earth Charter Indiana and the Indiana Wildlife Federation launched the Hoosier Habitats Challenge.



The goal is to certify multi-county regions and communities across the entire State of Indiana in the National Wildlife Federation's

Community Wildlife Habitat program. Once certified, this Statewide Network of Community Wildlife Habitats will be the first of its kind in the United States, reaching all corners of Indiana.

To achieve certification through the National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program, participants must create or restore wildlife habitat in their community and do education and outreach.

First, a certain number of homes, schools and common areas must become National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitats by providing the four basic elements that all wildlife need: food, water, cover and places to raise young.

The NWF Certified Wildlife Habitat program also requires sustainable gardening practices such as using rain barrels, reducing water usage, removing invasive plants, using native plants and eliminating pesticides.

Second, communities earn education and outreach points through a flexible checklist that includes educating citizens at community events, hosting a native plant sale, organizing a stream clean up, bringing new partners to the effort and hosting.

Anyone can participate in this effort! Find out what region you belong in and get started earning points. Every action you take not only works to further your region's success but also provides a beneficial service to the state's wildlife.

For more information, visit www.nwf.org.

Calendar/Events

May 11 (5:15 p.m.)

Backyard Medicine

Herb Society of Central Indiana

Glendale Public Library, 3660 E. 62nd St., Indianapolis

Backyards, parks and hiking trails are flourishing with wild medicine in springtime. Speaker Audrey Barron will talk about some truly amazing herbs you can find right outside your door. You will learn what they can do for your body and how to use them in your kitchen.

<https://sites.google.com/view/herb-society-of-central-indian/welcome-announcements>

May 27 (6:00 p.m.—Virtual)

Gardening for Monarchs with Myrene Brown

Indiana Native Plant Society, Central Chapter

Myrene has long dedicated space in her gardens to provide summer habitat for monarchs. In her presentation, she will show you how to create a butterfly-friendly garden right at home using the best plants to attract monarchs and tips on nurturing their habitat. She also will share insights from her amazing trip to Mexico’s central mountains where monarchs overwinter.

Register (Free): <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/32852673121?aff=ebdssshandroid>

June 6 (10:00 a.m.—Noon)

Identify Birds and Orchids at Eagle Creek Park

Meet at Eagle Creek Earth Discovery Center

Join Indiana Native Plant Society Central Chapter for a fun, members-only hike to spot cool birds and vibrant orchids up close! Participants will hike through the beautiful trails of Eagle Creek—a great location to search for breeding birds and, with some luck, blooming orchids—led by Wes Homoya with the Indiana Audubon Society. Perfect for nature lovers and anyone looking to learn more about local wildlife while enjoying fresh air and stunning views. Wes is planning a 2- to 3-mile route on mostly flat terrain, starting on paved paths and continuing onto grassy trails. There may be a few muddy spots depending on conditions.

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hike-to-id-birds-and-orchids-at-eagle-creek-tickets1983257144507>

Design with Nature:

New Directions in the American Landscape (NDAL)

New to ecology-based gardening and landscape design and not sure where to start? View founder Larry Weaner's free introductory session, *At Home with Nature: Beauty, Ecology, and Experience* and watch other virtual sessions at www.ndal.org.

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.

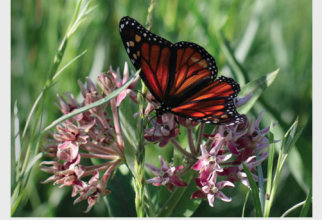
Submit this form and your \$15.00 annual membership fee to:

Cindy Maude 7416 Rooses Drive Indianapolis, IN 46217

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

Xerces Society

Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation mobilizes communities to establish wildlife habitat by distributing free, climate-smart, pesticide-free, native pollinator plants (they call them habitat kits) to partners. These kits establish vital habitats to sustain pollinators, while capturing carbon, beautifying landscapes, and bringing nature to areas that need it most.



The organization's key program areas are pollinator conservation, endangered species conservation, and reduction of pesticide use and its impacts. The Xerces Society has supported more than 2,400 projects and given away over 550,000 plants to help pollinators and people.

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation is an international non-profit organization that protects the natural world through the conservation of invertebrates and their habitats. As a science-based organization, the Xerces Society both conducts its own research and relies upon the most up-to-date information to guide its conservation work.

For more information, visit <https://xerces.org/>.