

WEED 'EM AND REAP

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DELAWARE COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION | APRIL 2022

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Sarah Kreps

President
sjkreps14@gmail.com

Martha McClurg

1st Vice President
martha.n.mcclurg@gmail.com

Sylvia Finney

2nd Vice President
sfinney5215@hotmail.com

Paula Sampson

Secretary
psampson@bsu.edu

Dottie Kreps

Treasurer
dkreps1918@gmail.com

Julie Mason

Historian
m.julie.mason@gmail.com

Chris Allen

Member-at-Large
ccallen1@gmail.com

Debbie Cowan

Member-at-Large
debbiecowan14049@gmail.com

QUESTIONS?

Contact the helpful staff of the Delaware Co. Extension Office
100 W. Main Street, Room 202
Muncie, IN 47305-2879
Phone: 765.747.7732

NEWSLETTER SUBMITTALS

To submit an article for the upcoming newsletter or to report an error in the publication, please email kdkoger@gmail.com by the 15th of each month.

Upcoming Meeting

It's almost time for our Member Share Night! Remember to join us on **Wednesday, April 27** from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Minnetrista for this "round-robin" style arrangement of education presentations.

The presentation line-up includes:

- Chris Allen presenting on Tropical Gardens
- Sylvia Finney presenting on Winter Bird Feeding
- Pete Granger presenting on Fruit Culture
- Mark Kreps presenting on Pawpaws


Attendance in all 4 sessions will qualify EMGs for 1 education hour.

A Zoom option will be made available, but we encourage members to attend this meeting in-person if possible to support the efforts of your fellow EMGs! As always, join us for social time and light refreshments at 6:30 p.m. and stay for a brief business meeting at the conclusion of the Member Share Night presentations.

May is National Salad Month & National Gardening for Pollinator Month!

May 1	International Permaculture Day
May 7	National Herb Day
May 2-8	National Wildflower Week
May 6	National Public Gardens Day
May 8	Iris Day
May 13	Tulip Day
May 15	Bring Flowers to Someone Day
May 29-June 5	National African Violet Week



 Follow us on Facebook!
[@DelcoMGAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/DelcoMGAssociation)

Remember to report your volunteer and educational hours at
www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/master-gardener



PURDUE EXTENSION
MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

Stay connected with the DCMGA by visiting delcomastergardener.org to learn more about upcoming activities, view photos from recent events, and read the latest edition of the newsletter.

It is the policy of the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service that all persons have equal opportunity and access to its educational programs, services, activities, and facilities without regards to race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, disability or status as a veteran. Purdue University is an Affirmative Action institution. This material may be available in alternative formats.

Monthly Gardener Checklist

May 2022

– written by Rosie Lerner, Extension
Consumer Horticulturist, Purdue University

HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

- Many indoor plants can be moved to shady locations outdoors but only after the danger of frost has passed. Plants will dry out more often outdoors, so keep a close eye on soil moisture. Sinking the pots in soil will help slow down moisture loss.
- Now is a good time to take cuttings of houseplants to increase a collection or share with friends. Stick cuttings to root in media, such as vermiculite, perlite, or potting soil. Roots grown in water tend to be weak from lack of oxygen and do not adjust well to planting in soil.
- Fertilize houseplants according to label directions. Foliage plants require relatively high nitrogen fertilizer; flowering houseplants respond best to fertilizer high in phosphorus.

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals & fruits)

- Prune early spring-flowering trees and shrubs after flowers fade.
- Plant balled-and-burlapped or container nursery stock, and water thoroughly.
- Remove and destroy overwintering bagworms from landscape trees and shrubs.
- Follow a spray schedule to keep home-orchard crops pest free. While trees are in bloom, use fungicide sprays without insecticide to avoid injuring bees. Follow label directions. More information is available in [Managing Pests in Home Fruit Plantings](#) (Purdue Extension publication ID-146-W).
- Thin apple tree fruits, if needed, about three weeks after petal fall. Apples should be about 8 inches apart. Mother Nature may have taken care of thinning fruit set this year!
- Apply fungicides to roses to control diseases such as black spot.
- Purdue turf experts recommend that if you are going to fertilize your lawn in May, apply 3/4-1 pound of nitrogen (N) per 1,000 square feet with a product that contains 50% or more of slow-release fertilizer. Try to schedule the application prior to a rain or irrigate following application to move the fertilizer off leaf blades.

GARDEN (Flower, vegetables, & small fruits)

- Plant frost-tender plants after the danger of frost has passed for your area. This includes warm-season vegetables (such as tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, and vine crops) as well as most annual flowers and tender perennials (such as cannas, gladiolus, dahlias, tuberous begonias, and caladiums).
- Pinch chrysanthemums and annual flower plants to keep them compact and well-branched.
- Make successive plantings of beans and sweet corn to extend the harvest season.
- Thin seedlings of early-planted crops such as carrots, lettuce, spinach, and beets to their proper spacing.
- Harvest early plantings of radishes, spinach, and lettuce.
- Both asparagus and rhubarb season may be delayed this year due to the slow progression of spring.
- Harvest asparagus by cutting or snapping spears at or just below soil level.
- Harvest rhubarb by cutting or grasping the stalk and pulling it up and slightly to one side.
- Control cucumber beetles (which are carriers of bacterial wilt) as soon as cucumber plants germinate or are transplanted to prevent disease.
- Remove blossoms from newly set strawberry plants to allow better runner formation.
- Remove unwanted sucker growth in raspberries when new shoots are about a foot tall.

Treasurer's Report

Dottie Kreps, Treasurer

Date of Report: 4/15/22		1/5/22	1/31/22	2/28/22	3/31/22	Total
Balance Brought Forward		\$15,119.16	\$15,129.16	\$15,129.29	\$15,149.41	
Income		\$10.00	\$0.13	\$20.12	\$20.13	\$50.38
Expenses					\$120.00	\$120.00
Balance On Hand		\$15,129.16	\$15,129.29	\$15,149.41	\$15,049.54	
Income	Goals					
Annual Master Gardener Dues	\$600.00	\$10.00		\$20.00	\$10.00	\$40.00
Garden Walk	\$0.00					\$0.00
Growing Through Gardening	\$1,000.00					\$0.00
Kids Camp ~ Future MG						\$0.00
Kids Camp ~ Mini MG						\$0.00
Plant Sale	\$3,000.00					\$0.00
Walmart Volunteer Grant	\$1,000.00					\$0.00
Wassons Sponsorship~Take Out Gardens	\$500.00					\$0.00
Donations					\$10.00	\$10.00
Bank Interest			\$0.13	\$0.12	\$0.13	\$0.38
Miscellaneous & Clearing Acct						\$0.00
Total	\$6,100.00		\$0.13	\$20.12	\$20.13	\$40.38
Expenses	Budget					
Bucket Community Garden	\$0.00					\$0.00
Childrens Museum	\$200.00					\$0.00
Community Garden-Maring Hunt	\$0.00					\$0.00
Community Garden-Red Tail	\$100.00					\$0.00
Farm Fest	\$100.00				\$100.00	\$100.00
Farmers Market	\$200.00					\$0.00
Garden Fair	\$100.00					\$0.00
Garden Walk	\$0.00					\$0.00
Growing Through Gardening	\$1,000.00					\$0.00
Kids Camp ~ Future MG	\$650.00					\$0.00
Kids Camp ~ Mini MG	\$650.00					\$0.00
Plant Sale	\$600.00					\$0.00
Scholarship ~ MG Training	\$400.00					\$0.00
Scholarship ~ State Conference	\$275.00					\$0.00
Tree Planting Event	\$0.00					\$0.00
Washington Street Festival	\$150.00					\$0.00
New Events	\$200.00					\$0.00
Association Expenses						
Banquet	\$500.00					\$0.00
Board Expenses	\$100.00					\$0.00
Booklets	\$150.00					\$0.00
Donations & Sponsorships	\$150.00					\$0.00
Fall Potluck	\$150.00					\$0.00
Hospitality	\$100.00					\$0.00
Insurance	\$350.00					\$0.00
Marketing & Event Supplies	\$500.00					\$0.00
*Marketing ~ Take Out Gardens	\$500.00					\$0.00
Meeting Facilities & Speakers	\$800.00				\$20.00	\$20.00
Postage	\$100.00					\$0.00
Printing & Copies	\$50.00					\$0.00
Purdue Extension Expenses	\$150.00					\$0.00
Website Hosting & Maintenance	\$275.00					\$0.00
Miscellaneous & Clearing Acct						\$0.00
Total	\$8,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$120.00	\$120.00

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 23, 2022

EDUCATION PRESENTATION

Thirty-four Extension Master Gardeners and guests attended the March meeting virtually via Zoom. The in-person meeting at Minnetrista was cancelled.

Extension Educator Laurynn Thieme provided a presentation titled "Greenhouses: Extending the Garden Season".

Laurynn discussed the purpose of greenhouses, the history of greenhouse cultivation, and described the various greenhouse structures. Laurynn said that greenhouses allow gardeners to grow in controlled micro-climates rather than by natural hardiness zones. This allows gardeners to expand the diversity of plants they can grow.

Laurynn described several aspects that can be controlled by the use of a greenhouse. They include temperature, water, humidity, light, air/wind, fertility, and pest management.

Laurynn described various greenhouse structures including cold frames & hot boxes, plastic mulch, low tunnels & floating row covers, and walk-in tunnels such as hoop houses, caterpillar tunnels, and high-tunnels.



ABOVE: A caterpillar tunnel built with PVC pipe, greenhouse plastic, rebar and baling twine.

CALL TO ORDER

The business meeting was called to order by President Sarah Kreps at 7:52 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The February meeting minutes were approved as submitted in the March newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Dottie Kreps reported a current balance of \$15,039.41. March expenditures included a \$100 payment for booth sponsorship at the Delaware County Farm Festival. Dottie reported a deposit of \$10 for the month. Dottie also indicated that the organization's 2021 taxes were filed.

Sarah Kreps stated that the Audit Committee reviewed the organization's records for 2021. The committee, comprised of Sherry Riggan and Sylvia Finney, gave a report at the March Executive Board meeting. They found no errors or omissions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Delaware Co. Farm Fest

Sarah Kreps acknowledged and thanked volunteers. Sarah indicated that over 1,000 cups planted with seeds were distributed to children over the two-day festival. Sarah apologized to volunteers for the wet soil. She said that the soil was frozen when it was picked up and didn't have enough time to properly dry and thaw. Several children who attended the event on Tuesday with their class came back with their parents on Wednesday to partake in the activities again.

Mini Master Gardener Kids Camp

Dottie Kreps and Martha McClurg are co-chairpersons for the event. Dottie reported that four separate camps will be scheduled for June and July. The camps will be for two hours and include an educational lesson and special activities. The camps will be hosted at the Eaton Public Library, Ross Community Center, Yorktown Civic Square, and Maring-Hunt Public Library. Final dates will be announced at a future meeting.



ABOVE: Several Extension Master Gardeners help children plant vegetable and flower seeds into cups filled with soil during the annual Delaware County Farm Festival on March 15, 2022.

photo: Andrea Long

A planning committee meeting will be held on April 5 at 6:30-7:30 pm via Zoom. Contact Martha McClurg if you would like to be a part of the planning group. A separate sign-up form will be distributed for those who would like to volunteer during the actual camp days.

Garden Walk

The Garden Walk committee is seeking suggestions for garden locations from members for the 2023 Garden Walk. The committee is currently comprised of Karen Ford, Alice Crouse, and Sylvia Finney. Sylvia is the chairperson.

DCMGA Plant Sale

Chairperson Dottie Kreps announced the plant sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 14 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Delaware County Fairgrounds. Set-up and plant drop-off is scheduled for Friday, May 13 from 3-6 p.m. Dottie will be sending an email soon with a link to sign-up for volunteer positions. EMGers can also email or call Dottie as well to register as a volunteer. Dottie encouraged all Extension Master Gardeners to share the Facebook Event post and hardcopies of the Plant Sale flyer. Flyers will be available at the April monthly meeting as well as the Delaware County Extension office.

A plant sale planning committee meeting will be scheduled for the first week of April.

Sylvia Finney said the Madison County Master Gardener Association will host their plant sale on May 14 - the same day as the DCMGA plant sale. The Madison County Master Gardeners will also be hosting a rummage sale and training opportunity on April 9 at the Madison County Fairgrounds.

Hospitality

Contact Mark Kreps if you are willing to bring individually-packaged light refreshments to an upcoming monthly meeting.

Minnetrista Farmers Market

Dottie Kreps reported that chairperson Deanna Hines gave a presentation on trellis gardening at the last Minnetrista Winter Farmers' Market. Deanna made connections with over 100 individuals during the day. Deanna has submitted the application to reserve a booth for the Minnetrista Summer Farmers' Market. The summer market will begin in May. The DCMGA will host a booth two Saturdays per month from 8:00 a.m. to noon. Contact Deanna Hines to volunteer.

EXTENSION REPORT

Extension Educator Laurynn Thieme reminded members about the Environmental Education Series held on the third Thursday of the month. There is still time to register for the program. Cost is \$10 per person for each session. Extension Master Gardeners are eligible to receive education hours for participation in the sessions.

Laurynn reported that the statewide Purdue Extension Master Gardener Basic Training class is going well. There are currently 9 active participants from Delaware County and the surrounding area.

OLD BUSINESS

Spring Banquet

Sarah Kreps announced that the annual DCMGA Spring Banquet has been postponed and rescheduled for the September monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 28th. The Executive Board anticipates hosting the banquet outdoors. More details will be provided at a later date.

Member Share Night

Sarah reported for Martha McClurg on the Member Share Night. The Member Share Night will be held during at April DCMGA meeting on Wednesday, April 27. Four Extension Master Gardener

members will give 10-15 minute presentations on a gardening topic. Attendees will have the opportunity to listen to each presentation. Members and topics include Mark Kreps discussing Pawpaws, Sylvia Finney discussing winter bird feeding, Chris Allen discussing tropical gardens, and Pete Granger discussing fruit culture. Contact Martha if you have questions about the event.

NEW BUSINESS

The May meeting will feature a presentation by Taylor University Assistant Professor of Sustainable Development, Dr. Phil Grabowski.

Sarah Kreps reported that Maring-Hunt Public Library will have a Garden Fair on Saturday, April 30th from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. near the community garden. Sylvia Finney will be presenting at 2:00 p.m. on container gardening. The DCMGA will host a booth at the event. Two to 4 volunteers are needed to work the booth. Contact Martha McClurg to sign up to volunteer.

Jackie Johnston posted in the Zoom chat that she is closing her pond garden. She has 4 fish that need new home. Contact Jackie to adopt the fish.

Sarah Kreps requested all event chairpersons to submit a short report to her that summarizes each committee's activity. These reports will need to be submitted to her by the first of each month.

Barb Crawford asked about access to the DCMGA committee chairperson budget tracker form. Dottie Kreps said that forms were uploaded to the "Members Only" section of the DCMGA website (delcomastergardener.org).

Barb Rudicel has several free amaryllis plants to give away. Contact Barb if you are interested.

March birthdays were recognized.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no other business to discuss, Vicki Seymour motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mark Kreps. The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paula Sampson
Secretary

David Owsley Museum of Art
**ART IN
BLOOM**
May 14 & 15 | 12 - 5 p.m.

Art in Bloom is an annual celebration of the David Owsley Museum of Art (DOMA) through innovative floral interpretations created by regional designers. This floral exhibition of arrangements will be on view for the public May 14 and 15 with no admission fee and extended hours of noon - 5:00 p.m. each day. Join the museum staff for family-friendly tours, activities, and demonstrations.

Rinard Orchid Greenhouse
Plant Sale Fund Raiser
April 14 - April 23



photo: bsu.edu

The Rinard Orchid Greenhouse annual plant sale will take place from April 18th to April 23rd. Orders can be placed online from April 18 through the 22nd for curbside pickup. An in-person sale will take place at the greenhouse on Saturday, April 24 of all the remaining plants available. The link to place online orders is commerce.cashnet.com/cashnetg/selfserve/storehome.aspx

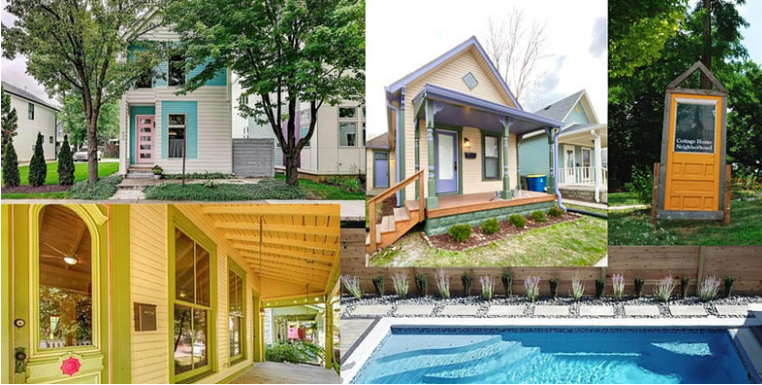
Friends of Mounds State Park
Native Plant Sale
Saturday, May 7, 2022

100+ different species available!
Mounds State Park, Anderson

Cottage Home Neighborhood Home & Garden Tour 2022

Sat., May 14 | 11 am - 5 pm
Indianapolis

photo: Eventbrite.com



The Cottage Home Neighborhood Association invites you to visit 15 homes and gardens in one of Indy's most beautiful and historic Near Eastside neighborhoods. Neighbors proudly welcome you through their doors and garden gates into some of the eclectic vintage cottages, modern homes, and private and community gardens. Guests will also be able to visit the History Hub to learn more about the neighborhood in addition to watch local artists paint en plein air (outside).

Pre-sale tickets may be purchased online for \$15 or \$20 on the day of the event. Children 12 and under are free. Tickets can be purchased at 714 N. Highland Avenue along with beer, wine, soft drinks, and light refreshments during the day of the event.

Purchase tickets online at:
www.eventbrite.com/e/cottage-home-home-garden-tour-2022-tickets-269901611987?fbclid=IwAR2vB5M6gGmwV0cV1jwHY9Fh0yJHrwcSGzJ5N47p_jRY7BqYfKlxxzr0GuE

Indianapolis Hosta Society's

Upcoming Monthly Meeting

Monday, May 9 | Indianapolis

Join the Indianapolis Hosta Society on Monday, May 9th for the May monthly meeting. The guest speaker will be Sara Gray. All are welcome to attend. Indianapolis Hosta Society meetings are held at the Holliday Park Pavilion, 6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis. The meeting begins at 6:30 pm. For more information, visit indianapolishostasociety.org.

Shalom Garden Tour 2022

Sat., June 18 | 10 am - 4 pm
Boone County, Indiana

Enjoy a relaxing stroll through 7 beautiful gardens – 4 Lebanon gardens, 2 Whitestown gardens, and 1 Zionsville garden. Each location will be open to the public from 10 AM to 4 PM on June 18th. Don't forget to stop in one of the three communities to enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. Proceeds from the garden tour will go to The Shalom House's two food programs that help feed food insecure families in Boone County, Indiana.

Pre-sale tickets are \$15 or \$18 at the door. Presale tickets can be purchased online or in-person at Lebanon Public Library, Parkside Pharmacy, Thorntown Public Library, Akard's Hardware, or Goodman Jewelers. Online ticket sales can be found at: www.eventbrite.com/e/shalom-garden-tour-2022-tickets-261816238417?aff=erellivmlt.

Indiana Daylily-Iris Society

Annual Iris Show

Saturday, May 21 | 1-4 pm



photo: iStock Photo

Browse through the collection of some of Hoosier gardener's most showy irises during the Indiana Daylily-Iris Society's Annual Iris Show on Saturday May 21. The Iris Show will be held at Newfields (Indianapolis Museum of Art), 4000 N Michigan Rd, Indianapolis. Judging will begin at 10:45 a.m. with the show open to the public from 1 to 4 p.m. at no charge with paid admission to the museum (\$18 for non-members).

DELAWARE COUNTY
MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

2022 Spring Plant Sale

SATURDAY, MAY 14
8AM-11AM

DELAWARE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
COMMUNITY BUILDING

Annuals,
Perennials,
Native Plants,
Houseplants, Herbs,
Vegetables, and more

New and Gently used
items including
Yard Art, Garden Tools,
Decorative Containers,
Pots and Gardening
Books!

CASH AND CHECKS ACCEPTED FOR PAYMENT.

Wagons will not be provided, but you can bring your own.

Free Gardening information and advice from
Delaware County Extension Master Gardeners.

We will follow CDC guidelines in effect at the time of the sale.



delcomastergardener.org

Delaware County Master
Gardener Association
is a 501c3 nonprofit organization.



PURDUE EXTENSION
MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

Join Purdue Extension Floyd County for
Pollinator Day 2022
Saturday April 30 | 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Come spend the day learning about native pollinators at this free, family-friendly event. There will be classes, hands-on activities, a children's craft corner, t-shirts, garden vendors, and many more special events.

Special presentations include:

- ~ *Container Planting for Butterflies* (TBD)
- ~ *Native Gardening* (11:15 & 1:15)
- ~ *Songbirds Need Pollinators Too* (10:30 & 2:15)

Pollinator Day will be held at the Purdue Research Park of Southeast Indiana, 3000 Technology Avenue, New Albany, IN. Please park in front of the building. The entrance to the event will be near the flag poles.

This event will be held weather permitting. For more information, please visit the Purdue Extension Floyd County Facebook page (@purdue.extension.floydcounty).

DCMGA Mission:

The Delaware County Extension Master Gardener Association's mission is to help others grow by sharing horticultural knowledge and educational opportunities with our members and the communities we serve through mentoring, community service projects, and stewardship thereby cultivating lifelong gardeners and positive change.

Indianapolis Hosta Society's
**Annual Hosta Sale
& Leaf Show**
Saturday, June 4 | Noblesville

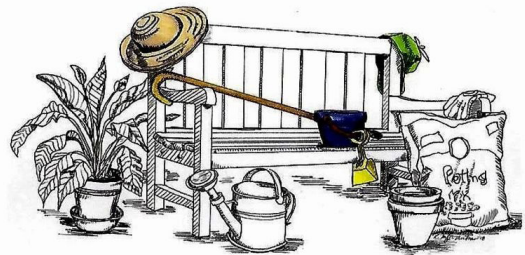
Join the Indianapolis Hosta Society for the Annual Hosta Sale and Leaf Show on Saturday, June 4. From noon until 4 pm Hosta Society members and the public will have an opportunity to buy the newest hostas that aren't available in retail stores as well as rare and unusual plants and trees. Cash, check and most major credit cards accepted.

The Leaf Show, which begins at 2 pm, is a great way to learn about the diversity of cultivars found in the hosta world. The competition includes twelve different cut-leaf sections, a container-grown division, trough/container gardens, artistic arrangements (using hosta leaves and other plants and flowers), along with educational displays.

The Hosta Sale and Leaf Show will occur at the Hamilton County Fairgrounds, 2003 Pleasant Street, Noblesville.



Hendricks County Master Gardeners'
Gardening for All Ages
Hendricks County Fairgrounds
April 23, 2022 | 9 am to 4 pm



The Hendricks County Master Gardener's annual "Gardening for All Ages" gathering and seminar will be held on Saturday, April 23 at the Hendricks County Fairgrounds Exposition Hall in Danville. Attendees will enjoy free admission, lectures by garden professionals and experts, handouts, seed swaps, a tree giveaway, children's activities, food trucks, and garden decor from several vendors.

Visit www.hendricksgardeners.com to learn more.

Webinar Series: Growing School Food Gardens



The *Growing School Food Gardens* was launched on February 1st, 2022 to facilitate networking and collaboration among school food garden practitioners locally, regionally, and nationally. Check out these recently recorded and upcoming webinars:

On-demand: *Growing School Food Gardens Welcome Webinar*

On-demand: *STEAM in the Garden*

April 12: *Teaching for Sustainability*

May 10: *How to Use School Food Gardens to Teach Place-based, Culturally-relevant, and Indigenous Learning*

June 14: *Funding Your School Food Garden*

Webinars are free and open to all. However, you must join the Growing School Food Gardens community on the Kids Garden Community website (community.kidsgardening.org/login/register) before joining a webinar.



Indiana Native Plant Society's Video:

Native AlterNATIVES to Invasive Plants



Watch it here: <https://youtu.be/i1KvpS5ylKo>

Landess Farm's

2022 Strawberry Festival June 12 & 19 | Daleville

Landess Farm is thrilled to announce the return of the annual Strawberry Festival in 2022. The festival will span two Sundays this year, June 12 and 19, to allow more people to enjoy the festival.

Each person, ages 2 and older, will need to purchase a ticket (\$5.50) for a specific date and time. Landess is attempting to limit traffic to increase attendees' safety and comfort. Pre-sale tickets may be purchased online at <https://app.barn2door.com/e/QMdd6/all>. You may also purchase tickets at the gate on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Admission includes entry to the festival, a hayride to the strawberry patch, and one pint of u-pick strawberries. Additional produce and baked goods will be available for sale. Dress appropriately for the weather and mild terrain. Portable restrooms and handwashing stations will be available.



Spring Blooms

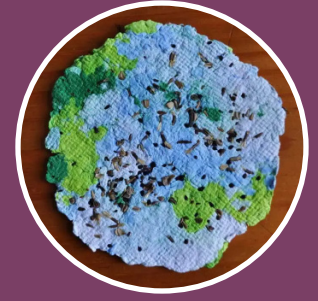
presented by Wild Birds Unlimited
Now - May 8 | Indianapolis

Warm days, cool nights and a mixture of rain and sun have done wonders for The Garden. Spring on over to Newfields to take in the spectacular showing of florals at Spring Blooms. Hyacinths, daffodils, poppies and early tulips are popping up around every turn. Access to the gardens is free with paid admission to the museum (\$18 for non-members). Newfields is located at 4000 Michigan Road, Indianapolis.

Earth Day Wildflower Seed Paper

Time to Complete: 2-3 hours

Grade Level: K-5



Materials:

- Scrap paper
- Wooden frame (build your own or use an old picture frame)
- Window screening (one piece slightly larger than the frame and several smaller pieces)
- Staples (for tacking the screen to the frame)
- Blender (to make the paper pulp)
- Old towels or rags
- Sponges
- Wildflower seeds

This handmade, Earth-inspired paper is made with recycled paper and embedded with wildflower seeds – a fun & meaningful way to celebrate Earth Day and a beautiful gift for family & friends.

INSTRUCTIONS

Important Preliminary Step: Making paper is a wet, messy process! Cover surfaces with plastic to waterproof them. Have plenty of old towels, rags, sheets, and sponges for both making the paper and cleaning up afterwards. Note that the dyes in colored papers can stain surfaces like countertops, so protect them, too.

Step 1: Gather scrap paper — including office paper, envelopes (remove any plastic windows), colored paper, and uncoated gift wrap. If possible, use paper from the recycle bin (rather than new paper) to make this activity the most sustainable. For Earth-inspired paper, choose shades of blue and green, as well as white. You can use small amounts of glossy or coated papers as well as newspapers, but don't make them the primary ingredient. Printed office paper often yields a grayish homemade paper, so consider your color scheme and include papers in those colors.

Tear the paper into pieces about an inch square (or smaller). Cover the paper with warm water and let it soak for at least two hours.

Step 2: In the meantime, make the mold — the paper-maker's term for a frame inset with a piece of screen. We recommend using an old 8"x10" wooden picture frame and some scraps of window screen. Use scissors to cut the screen so it's an inch or two larger than the frame in all directions. Holding the screen taut, staple it to the frame.

Step 3: Cut a few additional pieces of screen larger than the frame. You'll use these for transferring and drying the paper.

Step 4: Once the paper is fully saturated, transfer some to a blender. In this case, we're using an immersion blender with a food chopper attachment. Add enough water to almost cover the paper. Blend until the resulting pulp resembles cooked oatmeal. Repeat this step for each of the individual colors you plan to use.

Step 5: Cover your waterproof surface with several layers of felt, towels, rags, or old sheets. These will absorb the water. Note that the fabric may get stained from the colored paper. Place the mold (the wood frame with screen) on the fabric. Apply the pulp to the screen and press. To create an Earth-themed paper, add colors in sections to represent land (green), ocean (blue), and clouds (white).

Step 6: Place a piece of screen over the pulp and press firmly with a dry sponge to soak up some of the water. This damp paper is ready for seeds.

Step 7: Sprinkle wildflower seeds onto the damp paper.

Step 8: Place a piece of screen on top and press using a rolling pin (you could also use a flat-sided jar or bottle) to embed the seeds into the paper. Some of them may fall off once the paper is dry, but there will be plenty to grow.

Step 9: You can allow your Earth Day papers to dry, and then give them as gifts to celebrate our planet!

When it's time to plant, place the paper seed-side up in a container filled with moist potting mix. Spritz the paper with water to thoroughly moisten it. Then cover the container with plastic wrap; this will hold in the moisture and help seeds germinate.

As soon as you see the first sprouts, remove the plastic and place the pot in a bright spot or under grow lights. Check the plants daily and keep the paper and soil consistently moist.

Ecological Landscape Alliance

Webinar: Soil, It's What Plants Crave Wednesday, May 11 | 12 p.m. EDT

Come get your soils questions answered by *The Organic Mechanic*, Mark Highland. Soils are the foundation of any garden. Managing soils organically improves soil structure, soil microbiology, and increases ecosystem health. This conversation about organic soils, fertilizers, and soil amendments will outline basic soil science and focus on how to maximize soil productivity with organic methods.

It was on a beautiful piece of Illinois farmland that Mark Highland pushed his first shovel into garden soil. After he "grew up," Mark focused his M.S. degree studies in the Longwood Graduate Program on compost and potting soil. After the Longwood Graduate Program, Mark started The Organic Mechanic Soil Company, LLC in 2006, and serves as President of Organic Mechanics. Mark has served as a consultant for the EPA and Institute for Local Self-Reliance. Mark is the author of the recently published *Practical Organic Gardening: The No-Nonsense Guide to Growing Naturally*.

This webinar is free to attend. Register online at: www.ecolandscaping.org/product/soil-its-what-plants-crave/?event=161936



Hancock Co. Master Gardener Association

Tea Garden Talk Monday, May 23 | 6:30 PM

Join the Hancock County Master Gardeners for an in-person and virtual presentation at the New Castle Public Library on Monday, May 23. Extension Master Gardener Janet Ridenour will share different plants to make teas.

Registration is required. Visit nchcpl.librarycalendar.com/events/seed-library-tea-garden-person-virtual?fbclid=IwAR23VsS9d90zjqwgmjVCPp3HYp2uLt47y6k3QMGMd5iT77GEbSvaSM-L3jo.

National Public Garden Week at Minnetrista May 6-15 | Various Times

Join us for a week full of gardening fun! National Public Gardens Week is a great time for seasoned gardeners and those who love the outdoors while also serving as a great introduction for those new to gardening, hoping to advance their knowledge. Don't miss any of the exciting family-friendly opportunities and events planned for the week!



Hancock Co. Master Gardener Association

Webinar: Dividing Root-bound Plants Friday, May 6 | 10:00 AM

Have you ever purchased a beautiful tree or shrub from the local garden center only to discover that the plant overgrew the container it was growing in and has started to develop encircling roots? These roots put extra stress on the plant and can potentially suffocate the tree or shrub over time.

Join the Hancock County Master Gardeners for this informative presentation that discusses strategies for dividing root-bound plants. This event will be broadcast live on the Hancock Co. Facebook page (@hancockmga).



Maring-Hunt Public Library

Gardener's Day Celebration Saturday, April 30 | 1-4 PM

Join the staff of Maring-Hunt at the Gateway to Gardening Pavilions for Gardener's Day! Bring your surplus plants and seeds to share and trade with other gardeners. The Delaware Co. Master Gardeners will be providing a presentation on Container Gardening at 2pm. Community members will be able to sign up to lease one of the library's garden plots. Fun children's activities will be available too. This free program is open to everyone of all ages! A library card is not required to visit MPL or attend MPL programs.



PLANT CARE INSTRUCTIONS



Name: _____

Height/Width: _____

Plant Type: _____

Bloom Color: _____

Bloom Time: _____

Sun Requirements: Sun    Shade

Water Requirements: Wet    Dry

Description: _____

PLANT CARE INSTRUCTIONS



Name: _____

Height/Width: _____

Plant Type: _____

Bloom Color: _____

Bloom Time: _____

Sun Requirements: Sun    Shade

Water Requirements: Wet    Dry

Description: _____

PLANT CARE INSTRUCTIONS



Name: _____

Height/Width: _____

Plant Type: _____

Bloom Color: _____

Bloom Time: _____

Sun Requirements: Sun    Shade

Water Requirements: Wet    Dry

Description: _____

PLANT CARE INSTRUCTIONS



Name: _____

Height/Width: _____

Plant Type: _____

Bloom Color: _____

Bloom Time: _____

Sun Requirements: Sun    Shade

Water Requirements: Wet    Dry

Description: _____

PLANT CARE INSTRUCTIONS



Name: _____

Height/Width: _____

Plant Type: _____

Bloom Color: _____

Bloom Time: _____

Sun Requirements: Sun    Shade

Water Requirements: Wet    Dry

Description: _____

PLANT CARE INSTRUCTIONS



Name: _____

Height/Width: _____

Plant Type: _____

Bloom Color: _____

Bloom Time: _____

Sun Requirements: Sun    Shade

Water Requirements: Wet    Dry

Description: _____
