

WEED 'EM AND REAP

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DELAWARE COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION | JANUARY 2024

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Sarah Kreps
President (interim)

Nancy Reynolds
1st Vice President | 2023 - 2024

Sylvia Finney
2nd Vice President | 2024 - 2025

Paula Sampson
Secretary | 2024 - 2025

Dottie Kreps
Treasurer | 2024 - 2025

Christina Breese
Historian | 2024 - 2025

Jill Schneider
Member-at-Large | 2023-2024

Katherine Irwin
Member-at-Large | 2023 - 2024

Joyce Baker
Member-at-Large | 2023 - 2024

QUESTIONS?

Contact the helpful staff at the
Purdue Extension-Delaware Co. Office
100 W. Main Street, Room 202
Muncie, IN 47305-2879
Phone: 765-747-7732

NEWSLETTER SUBMITTALS

To report an error or submit an article
for the upcoming newsletter, please
email [kdkoger\(at\)gmail\(dot\)com](mailto:kdkoger(at)gmail(dot)com) by
the 15th of each month.

Remember to report your volunteer
and educational hours at
[www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/
master-gardener](http://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/master-gardener)



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



January Meeting

The Delaware County Master Gardener Association (DCMGA) will resume our monthly meetings on **Wednesday, January 24, 2024**. Members and guests are encouraged to join us for a special horticulture-related presentation at 7:00 PM. Attendees will also be able to hear from each committee and learn about the upcoming events, activities, and volunteer opportunities planned for 2024.

Monthly meetings are held at the Dr. Joe and Alice Rinard Orchid Greenhouse and Educational Classroom located on the Ball State University Campus (2500 W University Ave). Public parking is available near the greenhouse and the Glick Center for Glass.

Please contact Nancy Reynolds at 765-729-1703 with questions.

Hospitality Reminder

Extension Master Gardeners are encouraged to bring a savory, refreshing, and sharable snack to our monthly meetings. Members with a surname beginning with the letter **A through L** are encouraged to bring a tasty refreshment to share at our January, March, May, July, and September meetings. Members with a last name beginning with the letter **M through Z** are encouraged to bring a tasty refreshment to the February, April, June, and August meetings.

Please direct any hospitality-related questions to Mark Kreps.



Indiana Flower and Patio Show
March 9 - 17, 2024
Indiana State Fairgrounds
West Pavilion & Expo Hall
General Admission: \$15 (adults ages 13+)
\$2 discount if purchased online



PURDUE EXTENSION
MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

Stay connected with the DCMGA by
visiting delcomastgardener.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

January 2024

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

HOME (Indoor Plants)

- Keep holiday poinsettias and other plants near a bright window. Water as top of soil becomes dry.
- Increase humidity around houseplants by grouping plants together, placing them on a pebble-water tray or running a humidifier.
- Check stored produce and tender flower bulbs and roots for rot, shriveling or excess moisture. Remove and discard damaged material.
- Repot houseplants as they outgrow current pots.

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals & fruits)

- Check young trees for rodent injury on lower trunks. Prevent injury with hardware cloth or protective collars.
- Keep road and sidewalk salt away from plants. Construct a screen of burlap, if necessary, to keep salt spray off plants.
- “Leaf” through nursery catalogs or visit websites and make plans for landscape and home orchard additions. Order plants early for best selection.
- Early spring-flowering trees and shrubs such as forsythia, crabapple, flowering quince, and flowering dogwood can be forced for early indoor blooms by placing cut branches in water in a warm location.

GARDEN (Flowers, Vegetables, & Small Fruits)

- Send for seed catalogs for the garden.
- Sketch your garden plans on paper, including what to grow, spacing, arrangement and number of plants needed.
- Order seeds and plants as early as possible for best selection.
- Wood ashes from the fireplace can be spread in the garden, but don’t overdo it. Wood ashes increase soil pH, and excess application can make some nutrients unavailable for plant uptake. Have soil tested to be certain of the pH before adding wood ash.

Member Spotlight: John Huber

Congratulations to Extension Master Gardener **John Huber** for being awarded the prestigious **Phyllis Yuhus Wildlife Habitat Preservation Award** by the Robert Cooper Audubon Society on December 6, 2023. The award, which is given to a local environmental advocate “for their development or preservation of habitat that contains significant wildlife and/or native plant life populations”, was awarded to John for his contributions to the Red-tail Land Conservancy’s Growing Home™ Habitat Certification program.

John has been an integral part of the Red-tail Land Conservancy’s conservation and wildlife habitat-building program since its inception in 2021. He has mentored individual gardeners, represented the program and its goals at Minnetrista’s Farmer’s Markets, helped write the Growing Home™ guide, and given numerous presentations about create a functional space for wildlife.



photo: Wasson Nursery

Monthly Gardener Checklist

February 2024

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

HOME (Indoor Plants)

- Check water levels in cut flowers daily.
- Check stored produce and flower bulbs for rot, shriveling, or excess moisture. Discard any damaged items.
- Most houseplants require less water in the winter because growth is slow or stopped. Check the soil for dryness before watering.
- Move houseplants to brighter windows, but don't place plants in drafty places or against cold windowpanes.
- Potted spring-flowering bulbs forced into early blooming can make good gifts for a sweetheart. Keep these plants in a bright, cool location for longer-lasting blooms. Forced bulbs make poor garden flowers, and you should discard them as blooms fade.

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals & fruits)

- Choose appropriate plant species and cultivars, and begin drawing your landscape plans.
- Cut branches of forsythia, pussy willow, crabapple, quince, honeysuckle, and other early spring-flowering plants to force them into bloom indoors. Place the branches in warm water, and set them in a cool location.
- Check mulches, rodent shields, salt/wind screens, and other winter plant protections to make sure they are still in place.
- Prune landscape plants (except early spring bloomers that should be pruned after flowers fade). Birches, maples, dogwoods, and other heavy sap bleeders can be pruned in early summer to avoid the sap flow, although bleeding is not harmful to the tree.
- Delay pruning fruit plants until you can assess winter injury.

GARDEN (Flowers, Vegetables, & Small Fruits)

- Order seeds before it's too late for this year's planting.
- Sketch your garden plans. Remember to include plants to replace or replant crops that you will harvest in spring or early summer.
- Prepare or repair lawn and garden tools for the upcoming season.
- Start seeds indoors for cool-season vegetables so they will be ready to transplant to the garden early in the season. You should start broccoli, cauliflower, and cabbage seeds five to seven weeks prior to transplanting.
- Test leftover garden seed for germination. Place 10 seeds between moist paper toweling or cover with a thin layer of soil. Keep seeds warm and moist. If fewer than six seeds germinate, then purchase fresh seed.

INDIANA



Peony Festival

Saturday, May 18, 2024 | Noblesville, IN

The Indiana Peony Festival is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to inspire Indiana residents statewide to celebrate the peony, the state flower. Stunning Seminary Park in Noblesville will offer the backdrop to peony-inspired floral installations, food, music, wine, beer and many more fun activities!

Mark your calendar and visit www.indianapeonyfestival.com for more information!

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi everyone.

I hope that all of you had a successful gardening season. If you're like me, you've already started planning for next year's garden.

I want to thank everyone for their hard work planning, organizing, and volunteering at the many events, programs, and activities that our Association held this year. The success of our programs would not be possible without your involvement. This year the DCMGA was able to:

- Teach 1,000+ elementary-age children how to plant seeds at the Delaware Co. Farm Festival
- Orchestrate 18 unique education programs – including discussions on soil health, fruit pruning, vertical gardening, beekeeping, gourds, and tropical plants – during the Minnetrista Farmers Market
- Raise \$2,600 at the annual DCMGA Plant Sale
- Host 6 booths at the Yorktown Farm and Artisan Market
- Promote our organization at the Fire Up Downtown Muncie festival
- Participate in the Minnetrista Garden Fair
- Distribute fall bulbs at the Old Washington Street Festival

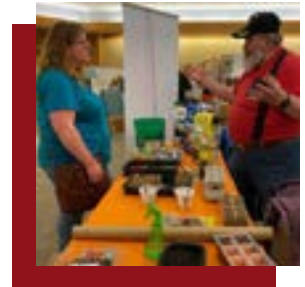
In addition, we successfully brought back the annual Garden Walk with 7 beautifully curated gardens in June. The 2023 Garden Walk saw the addition of *en plein air* painters and door prizes. Planning is well underway for the 2024 Garden Walk.

The summer months also saw EMG volunteers partake in other community-sponsored programs. Volunteers participated in two fun-filled days at the YMCA kids' camp in July. EMG volunteers also distributed D.I.Y. Herb Gardens to families during the Families at the Farmers Market event sponsored by IU Health.

The DCMGA sponsored the 4-H horticulture and floriculture awards during the Delaware County Fair. We were able to donate \$500 to the Delta Jr./Sr. High School agriculture class for their contribution and support during the Plant Sale. Additionally, we sponsored the Power of Produce program at the Yorktown Farm and Artisan Market. Through our generous contribution 425 local children were able to receive \$2 tokens at each farmers market to be redeemed for healthy and nutritious produce.

While we look ahead to what 2024 holds for our organization, I want to encourage you to get involved in one or more of our upcoming volunteer opportunities. Your dedication and support will help us achieve our mission to "help others grow".

Sarah Kreps
President



Treasurer's Report

prepared by Dottie Kreps

DCMGA Approved Budget for January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024

ITEM	EXPENSE	2023 BUDGET	ACTUAL EXPENSE	2024 BUDGET
01	Children Camps	\$650.00	\$400.00	\$700.00
02	Delaware Co. Farm Festival	\$175.00	\$199.92	\$200.00
03	Garden Walk	\$400.00	\$261.00	\$400.00
04	Growing Through Gardening	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
05	Minnetrista Farmers Market	\$600.00	\$378.00	\$700.00
06	Minnetrista Garden Fair	\$100.00	\$110.00	\$125.00
07	Minnetrista Herb Garden			\$500.00
08	Muncie Childrens Museum Project	\$200.00	\$0.00	
09	Old Washington Street Festival	\$150.00	\$80.00	\$150.00
10	Plant Sale	\$600.00	\$150.00	\$600.00
11	Scholarships	\$650.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
11a	Scholarship: Basic Training Course	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
11b	Scholarship: State Conference	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
12	Tree Planting Event	\$0.00	\$0.00	
13	Yorktown Farmers & Artisan Market	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
14	New Projects	\$200.00	\$43.70	\$200.00

ITEM	ASSOCIATION EXPENSE	2023 BUDGET	ACTUAL EXPENSE	2024 BUDGET
15	Association Awards			\$100.00
16	Donation & Sponsorships	\$150.00	\$212.00	\$500.00
16a	Sponsorship: Power of Produce (POP)		\$212.00	\$500.00
17	Executive Board Expenses	\$100.00	\$40.00	\$100.00
18	Extension Office Expenses	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$150.00
19	Hospitality	\$100.00	\$20.00	\$100.00
20	Insurance	\$350.00	\$334.00	\$350.00
21	Marketing & Supplies	\$750.00	\$63.00	\$500.00
21a	Marketing: Take Out Gardens	\$250.00	\$63.00	\$186.00
21b	Marketing: General Supplies	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$314.00
22	Meeting Facilities & Speakers	\$800.00	\$490.00	\$800.00
23	Membership Booklet	\$150.00	\$83.00	\$150.00
24	Printing & Copies	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
25	Postage	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
26	Special Events	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$200.00
26a	Event: Fall Pitch-in / Potluck	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$200.00
26b	Event: Spring Banquet	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
27	Website: Hosting & Maintenance	\$275.00	\$315.00	\$325.00
28	Miscellaneous & Clearing Acct.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL		\$7,800.00	\$3,379.62	\$8,400.00

END OF YEAR REPORT

Savings Account	\$20.00
Checking Account	\$10,141.78
12-month C.D. (matures April 2024)	\$5,107.77
12-month C.D. (matures Dec. 2024)	\$5,000.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$20,269.55

2023 Estimated Total Expenses	\$3,500.00
2023 Estimated Total Income	\$7,000.00
2024 Estimated Total Income	\$6,700.00
Budget for 2024:	\$8,400.00

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Twenty-seven attendees were treated to a delicious fall pitch-in at the Community of Hope United Methodist Church in Muncie. The dining tables were decorated with seasonally appropriate chrysanthemums, tree leaves, and gourds.



CALL TO ORDER

President Sarah Kreps called the annual business meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The September meeting minutes were approved as written in the October newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Dottie Kreps reported a current balance of \$11,132.26 in the organization's checking account, \$20 in the savings account, and \$5,107.07 in a CD. Dottie said the 12-month CD will mature in April 2024. The Executive Board plans to open and transfer the money into another CD in April at a 5.25% interest rate.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget Committee

Treasurer Dottie Kreps reported. The committee met in September to review the 2023 budget, evaluate actual expenses for 2023, and assess projected income for 2024. Income is anticipated to be gathered from dues, donations, sponsorships, grants, profits from the Plant Sale, and ticket sales from the Garden Walk. While Dottie stated that she anticipates a few more expenses to be paid by the end of 2023, the committee estimated the annual expenses for 2023 to be \$6,500.00. The committee estimated the income for the organization to be \$7,000 in 2024.

Dottie said that the proposed budget was distributed to all members via email during the prior week. Dottie summarized a few changes to the budget:

- The Spring Banquet and Fall Pitch-in have been combined into one event. Therefore, the Spring Banquet budget has been combined with the Fall Pitch-in.
- The Children's Museum Courtyard project and Annual Tree Planting events have been put on hold. Therefore, these items have been removed from the 2024 budget.
- The Donations & Sponsorships line item includes funds allocated towards the Yorktown Farm & Artisan Market's Power of Produce (P.O.P.) sponsorship program. The Executive Board voted to increase our sponsorship for the P.O.P. program from \$200 to \$500 for 2024.
- The fee for hosting the DCMGA website (delcomastergardener.org) went up for the first time in five years. The new fee is reflected in the budget.
- A "Herb Garden" line item was added to the budget. Funding will be used to support the Minnetrista Herb Garden. The Executive Committee has discussed purchasing a "Free Herb Seed Library" for the garden space.

The floor was open to questions. Member Kyle Koger sought clarification on a few line items. Jill Schneider requested more clarification and transparency within the budget. She suggested breaking down each line item to show what expenses were included within them. Karen Ford asked to include a column with expenses to the budget.

A motion to accept the proposed budget was made by Joyce Baker, seconded by Julie Mason. Twenty-six (26) were in favor of the proposed budget, one (1) opposed. The budget was approved as presented.

Nomination Committee

The Nomination Committee is composed of members Dottie Kreps, Deanna Hines, and Amy Trendler. Dottie said that the positions open for election included the President, 2nd Vice-president, Treasurer, Secretary, and Historian. The Nomination Committee provided the following slate of candidates:

- No nominations were provided for the President. The position remains vacant. Current President **Sarah Kreps** will continue to serve as President until that position is filled.
- **Nancy Reynolds** will continue her second year of a 2-year term as 1st Vice-president.
- **Sylvia Finney** will serve a second 2-year term as 2nd Vice-president.
- **Dottie Kreps** will serve a second 2-year term as Treasurer.
- **Paula Sampson** will serve a second 2-year term as Secretary.
- **Christina Breese** was nominated to serve a 2-year term as Historian.
- **Jill Schneider** will continue to serve her term as an At-large member.
- **Katheryn Irwin** will continue to serve her term as an At-large member.
- **Joyce Baker** will continue to serve her term as an At-large member.

Mark Kreps asked for clarification on the vacancy for President. Dottie said that Sarah has completed her second consecutive term as President. The Nomination Committee could not find a member willing to take on the role of President. Therefore, Sarah will serve as the interim President until the position is filled.

No nominations were made from the floor. Cheryl Haas motioned to approve the slate of candidates, seconded by Julie Mason. The motion passed.

Garden Walk

Chairperson Karen Ford announced that a date has been set for the 2024 Garden Walk. The tour will occur on Saturday, July 13, 2024. The committee decided to host the tour later in the summer to capture more summer-blooming plants in the garden. Volunteers for the Garden Walk will be able to attend a Pre-tour on Saturday, June 29. The next planning meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 24 at 5:30 pm. All are encouraged to help plan for the event.

EXTENSION REPORT

A Purdue Extension Master Gardener Basic Training Course has been scheduled for next year. Classes will begin on Monday, January 8 at the Kennedy Branch Library. The cost to participate has yet to be determined. Extension Educator Justin Curley said that the Extension Office already has two dozen individuals who have shown interest in the class.

OLD BUSINESS

Dottie Kreps reminded members to complete and submit the 2023 DCMGA Membership Form and due as soon as possible. Failure to complete the form and pay the annual due may result in a penalty fee.

NEW BUSINESS

Sarah Kreps provided a year-end review. Highlights of the year include:

- Continued participation in the Delaware County Farm Fest and Old Washington Street Festival
- Increase participation at the Minnetrista Farmers Market which included themed discussions and hands-on demonstrations.
- Monthly participation at the Yorktown Farm & Artisan Market.
- Our sponsorship of \$200 to the Yorktown Power of Produce (P.O.P.) program provided access to free and nutritional food to 425 children.
- Sponsorship of 4-H Floriculture and Horticulture awards at the Delaware County Fair.
- Donation of \$500 to the Delta High School Agriculture class from the proceeds made during the Plant Sale.
- Revival of the annual Garden Walk with 7 unique gardens in Delaware County.

Sarah announced that free seed packers were available at the back table for members. The seeds were what was left over from a donation earlier in the year and passed out at the Farmers Markets.

Sarah Kreps and Extension Educator Justin Curley provided new badges to active members who were promoted. Promotions were based on the amount of cumulative volunteer and education hours.

- Amy Trendler: Advanced EMG (65+ hours)
- Bill Meyer: Bronze EMG (200+ hours)
- Sandy Kreps: Silver EMG (500+ hours)

AWARDS

Award Committee members Nancy Reynolds and Beverly Reese presented the Green Thumb Outstanding Service Award to Mike Knight and Kyle Koger. Mike was recognized for his many years of volunteering with the organization and his donation of propagated hostas each year to the DCMGA Plant Sale. Kyle was recognized for his monthly commitment to providing an informative newsletter for members.

Deanna Hines was presented the DCMGA Master Gardener of the Year award for her leadership with organizing the Minnetrista Farmers Market booths. Deanna has served in many positions throughout the year including a volunteer at the Children Camps, chairperson of the Old Washington Street Festival booth, and Secretary.

Alice Crouse is moving. She is needing assistance digging up plants from her condo.

A Craft Bazaar will be held on Saturday, October 28 at the Community of Hope United Methodist Church. Members are encouraged to attend.

Julie Mason said that a seed swap will be held at Minnetrista on March 16, 2024.

Mark Kreps thanked members for their continuous prayers and support for his family this year.

Secretary Paula Sampson reminded members to sign in on the attendance sheet before leaving the meeting.

Door prizes were distributed to members.

Members with October birthdays were recognized.



ABOVE (clockwise): Mike Knight, Deanna Hines, and Kyle Koger accept awards from the DCMGA Award Committee members Nancy Reynolds and Beverly Reese during the Annual Meeting on October 25, 2023.

photos: Julie Mason

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 24 at the Ball State University Field Station and Environmental Education Center (Nature Lab).

ADJOURNMENT

Having no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paula Sampson

Secretary

The GREAT GROW ALONG
March 16-31, 2024
The World's Largest Virtual Garden Festival
A three-weekend FREE virtual festival inspiring and connecting tens of thousands with the influencers, taste-makers, educators, and cutting edge content of today's gardening world.
greatgrowalong.com



IWF Annual Conference:

Waterways for Indiana Wildlife

Sat., February 3 | 9 AM - 5 PM

Conner Prairie, 13400 Allisonville Rd, Fishers

Join IWF and other wildlife lovers to learn about how waterways throughout our state are benefiting wildlife. From the Ohio River in the South to the Kankakee River in the North, Indiana has an abundance of waterways where wildlife can thrive, but many of these waterways are seriously impaired. Learn what IWF and our partners are doing to improve water quality throughout the state to benefit humans and wildlife alike. In-person attendees will receive a catered lunch as well as a happy hour following the conference where they will have the opportunity to sample Copi (invasive Asian Carp) and chat with speakers and fellow attendees. As always there will be a silent auction where registrants can bid on a variety of items and experiences, all to help advance common sense conservation in Indiana.. Register at <https://indianawildlife.org/annual-conference/>



Rinse veggies right in the garden and then re-use the water on the plants. Plastic bucket and small laundry basket/colander



Image: Midwest Groundcovers

Midwest Groundcovers LLC Winter Webinar Series

Join Midwest Groundcovers, a wholesale plant nursery in St. Charles, Illinois for a series of informative webinars intended for industry professionals (landscapers, landscape designers, and nursery growers). A \$10 registration fee is required for each webinar. The fee will be donated to industry partners including ILCA, ASLA Illinois, and The Conservation Foundation.

Blooms on the Horizon: 26 New Additions for 2024

Friday, January 19, 2024

This webinar will focus on the 26 plants Midwest Groundcover has added to their 2024 catalog. From proven durability to an amazing WOW! factor, these natives, perennials, and deciduous shrubs were each chosen for reasons which will be revealed in this motivating, informative webinar.

Reimagining Landscape Staples in a Native Way

Friday, February 9, 2024

As awareness of the benefits of native plants continues to grow, customers are looking for ways to use native plants in transitional plantings. In this webinar, attendees will look at commonly used landscape staples and explore native substitutions.

Carex Spotlight: Insights from the Mt. Cuba Report

Friday, March 8, 2024

The Mt. Cuba Center's four-year Carex trial evaluated the horticultural qualities, vigor, and adaptability of 70 different Carex species and cultivars. In this webinar, attendees will take a closer look at many of these varieties.

More information and registration:

www.midwestgroundcovers.com/blog/winter-webinars/

Gardening From the Ground Up



February 19-23, 2024

University of Minnesota Extension Educators are pleased to bring you the fifth annual **Gardening from the Ground Up** Zoom webinar series. Free virtual workshops will take place from 1:00-2:30 pm (CST) each afternoon. The series will focus on maximizing efficiency in the home landscape. Webinars will cover topics ranging from optimizing fertilizer, water, and space, to reducing stress on your body by using safe body mechanics.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Boost your garden harvest: Plant selection & propagation tips

Learn how to choose the right plants and seeds with Extension Educators Lia Spaniolo and Robin Trott. Discover techniques for plant propagation, seed saving, and utilizing edible plant parts to maximize your garden's success and yield.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Don't overapply, optimize: Tips for selecting & applying fertilizer

Applying nutrients incorrectly can hurt your checkbook, the environment, and your plants. Compost as a fertilizer may seem safe enough, but is it really? Extension Educators Claire LaCanne and Shane Bugeja will review effective nutrient sources and discuss how to fine tune their application – with the goal of promoting productive and happy plants.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Water wisely

We all want our gardens to thrive during the growing season. More water isn't always the answer. During this session, Extension Educators Katie Drewitz and Tarah Young, will discuss watering methods to improve the overall health and longevity of your plants. They will also dive into several water saving methods you can use at home.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

So many veggies, so little space

Sometimes lofty goals for a vegetable garden run into the realities of space. How can we get pounds of produce out of a small raised bed, five gallon buckets, or even a straw bale? Is there a way to get plants to play nice with one another? Extension Educators Troy Salzer and Shane Bugeja will show you tricks to maximize your area—no matter if you live in the country or in a condo.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Maximizing labor efficiency in the garden

Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just starting to explore the world of horticulture, this presentation will share with you best practices and tips to continue your love of gardening. During this session, Extension Educators Emily Hansen and Quincy Sadowski, will discuss Maximizing Labor Efficiency in Gardening. They will discuss methods to reduce stress on your body by using safe body mechanics and using tools to save time.

To join one or more of these webinars, please go to z.umn.edu/GardenUp to register. When you register for the series, you receive access to all five sessions. Pre-registration is required to receive the webinar link. Recordings of the webinars will be sent out at the conclusion of the series.

image: Adobe Stock

Whitley Co. Master Gardener's
8th Annual Garden Symposium
Nature's Brilliance
Saturday, February 17 | 8:30 am



Get ready to dig in and grow your gardening skills at the Whitley County Master Gardener's 8th Gardening Symposium on February 17, 2024, from 8:30 am-3:30 pm at Indian Springs Middle School in Columbia City, IN.

Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just starting out, this event is perfect for everyone with a green thumb. The agenda includes presentations on container gardening by Jo Ellen Meyers Sharp, backyard habitats by Mary Cutler, native plants for water quality by Brad Clayton, hydrangeas by Kim Jewell, and invasive species by John Woodmansee.

A catered lunch of chicken noddles, vegetarian bean soup, and a full salad bar will be provided to all registrants.

The cost to participate is \$40. Guests may register on Eventbrite (www.eventbrite.com/e/whitley-county-master-gardeners-8th-symposium-registration-718001199917?) or download and mail in a PDF copy of the registration form here: <http://tinyurl.com/WhitleyMG>.



Michiana Master Gardeners Association's
5th Annual Garden Expo
Think Spring
Saturday, February 24 | 8AM - 4PM

Guest Lectures • Demonstrations • Handouts
• Food • Networking • Garden Vendors •

Faith United Methodist Church
22045 CR 18, Goshen, IN 46528

Admission: \$10

Tickets can be purchased at the door or online at michianamastergardeners.com



Robert Cooper Audubon Society
Winter Bird Hike
at Mounds

Saturday, January 13 | 9-11 am

Please join the Robert Cooper Audubon Society for their next monthly bird walk at Mounds State Park on Saturday, January 13, 2024. Attendees will meet at the bird feeder viewing station inside the Nature Center at 9 a.m. Binoculars will be provided.

The another bird walk will be held on Saturday, February 10. Mounds State Park is located at 4306 Mounds Road, Anderson.



in memoriam

William S. "Bill" Finney, 89, passed away on Sunday afternoon, November 19, 2023 at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital.

He was born on November 28, 1933 in Gibson County, Indiana, the son of Delmar and Marie (Robinson) Finney. On February 2, 1960 in Muncie, he married Sylvia L. Curry.

He worked for Marhofer over 20 years and Culligan Water in Muncie for 21 years, until he retired in 1999. Bill owned Finney Stables where he boarded horses, participated in barrel races and served as Past President of the Contest Riders Association. He enjoyed cutting the grass and taking care of his property.

Surviving are his wife of 63 years, **Sylvia L. Finney** of Muncie; three daughters, Saundie Coombs (husband, Rick) of Hartsville, TN, Vicki Musgrove (husband, Mark) Douglasville, GA and Robin Duncan (husband, Eugene) of Muncie; six grandchildren, several other great-grandchildren, two brothers, three sisters, and one sister-in-law.

Adapted from: www.meeksmortuary.com/obituaries

image: provided/Meeks Mortuary



Winter 2024 Horticulture Lunch n' Learn and Happy Hour Webinar Series

Register for each session at mastergardener.osu.edu/HHHLNL23-24

Thursday, January 4 | 4 - 5 PM

What It Means to Be Social in the Insect World

Dr. Joe Raczowski, Assistant Professor,
Dept. of Entomology, The Ohio State University

Wednesday, February 7 | 12 - 1 PM

Native Vs. Non-Native Landscape Plans

Dr. Dave Shetlar, Professor Emeritus,
Dept. of Entomology, The Ohio State University

Thursday, February 15 | 4 - 5 PM

Plant Propagation Basics

Dr. Wendy Klooster, Assistant Professor,
Horticulture & Crop Sciences, The Ohio State University

Wednesday, February 21 | 12 – 1 PM

Boxwood Moth Update: Ohio's Newest Invasive Insect Pest

Maria Gulley, Horticulture Program Coordinator,
Hamilton County, The Ohio State University

Thursday, February 29 | 4 – 5 PM

Landscape Design: Getting Started

Erika Lyon, Extension Educator, Jefferson/Harrison
Counties, The Ohio State University

Wednesday, March 6 | 12 – 1 PM

Common & Emerging Soil Contaminants, From Arsenic to PFAS

Maggie Rivera, Extension Educator, Summit Co, & Jeff
Hathey, Professor, Soil Sciences, The Ohio State University



HBO Documentary Films presents A Vermilion Films
Production, **Trees and Other Entanglements**.

Filmmaker Irene Taylor crafts a poetic meditation on nature, mortality, and the passage of time in her exploration of our symbiotic nexus with trees. *Trees and Other Entanglements* uses artful imagery, photography, and animation to weave together several stories of arboreal adoration. What unfolds is a human tale of our connection to both the natural world and one another. This 1 hour and 55-minute documentary can be viewed on-demand on HBO's MAX: www.hbo.com/movies/trees-and-other-entanglements

Indiana Native Plant Society, Central Chapter

A Truly Green Lawn Tuesday, January 16 | 7:00 p.m.

Learn how to have a thriving lawn by optimizing turf grass health through cultural practices. We will learn about practical organic alternatives that exist for the typical home lawn care regimen without chemicals! Also discussed will be defining the use and purpose of your lawn space.

This program is presented by Justin Curley, a graduate of Penn State and Indiana State University. Justin spent a decade as a golf course superintendent in Central Pennsylvania before finding his true calling with Purdue Extension. He is now the regional extension turf expert with Purdue Extension and conducts lawn and turf programming throughout the region. His current passion project is teaching people that it is possible to have a quality lawn without using pesticides & synthetic fertilizers!

This virtual program will be hosted on Zoom and is open to everyone. Registration is required. Reserve your spot at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-truly-green-lawn-tickets-624097090197>

Marion County & Garfield Park Master Gardeners'

Spring Garden Clinic

Sat., February 3 | 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

St. Luke's United Methodist Church
100 W. 86th St, Indianapolis

This annual event is designed for both beginners and expert gardeners. It provides a wide array of gardening information and a chance to network with other Hoosier gardeners. The Spring Garden Clinic offers attendees education on a variety of gardening topics. There are 4 one hour long presentations offered. Attendees will have the option of choosing one of three presentations for each time slot.

The cost to participate is \$65 and includes admission to the education sessions, breakfast, and lunch. Register by January 14 at extension.purdue.edu/events/county/marion/2024/02/spring-garden-clinic.html

Wasson Nursery Fishers

Succulent Planter Workshop

Thursday, January 25 | 6:00 PM



Discover the art of succulent planting at Wasson Nursery Fishers on Thursday, January 25th. Get your hands dirty and create a stunning 11-inch succulent planter to adorn your home or office. Whether you're a seasoned green thumb or a budding plant enthusiast, this workshop is perfect for all skill levels.

What's included:

- Expert guidance from our talented staff
- All materials required for your succulent planter
- Tips & tricks for succulent care and maintenance

The cost of this workshop is \$55. Spaces are limited, so grab your friends, unleash your creativity, and let the succulent magic unfold. Don't miss out on this hands-on experience that promises to leave you with a beautiful creation to take home and enjoy for years to come.

Reserve your spot today by visiting our website or calling our friendly staff at 317-770-3321.



UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

FOUR SEASONS GARDENING WEBINARS

Seasons come and go, but home gardening never stops. As the winter season shifts, explore gardening topics such as starting native springs for your home garden, insect updates, and the power of rain gardens to slow and filter stormwater. Four Seasons Gardening sessions are led by University of Illinois Extension experts and begin January 23. Each virtual session is free to attend, but registration is required. Every program will be recorded and made available on the Illinois Extension Horticulture YouTube channel.

NATIVE SEED STARTING FOR SPRING PLANTING

Tuesday, January 23 | 2:30 PM (EST)

Native plants are adapted to grow and survive in all types of weather. Knowing how they naturally grow can help you learn how to start native seeds in your own garden. Participants will learn how to winter sow and germinate native seeds in order to successfully grow even some of the trickiest plants with limited space and no specialized equipment.

INSECTS TO KNOW: SPOTTED LANTERNFLY & PERIODICAL CICADAS

Tuesday, February 13

In 2023, the first spotted lanternfly in Illinois was identified in Cook County. In spring 2024, a large brood of periodical cicadas are set to emerge in Northern Illinois, making it a big year for insects! Learn about the biology of these insects and what their arrival means for gardeners and farmers.

RAIN GARDEN ESSENTIALS: DESIGN, BUILD, PLANT

Tuesday, March 5

Discover the power of rain gardens, which act as nature's filter by slowing storm water runoff, reducing soil erosion, and relieving strain on storm water systems. Gain insights into the principles of rain garden construction and design, ensuring that your garden not only enhances the beauty of your space, but also contributes to the health of the environment.

Register for each session at:

extension.illinois.edu/plants/four-seasons-gardening

Newfields 2024 Winter Horticulture Forum

Saturday, February 24 | 9 AM–1 PM

\$50 Members and \$65 Public

4000 Michigan Rd, Indianapolis

stay tuned for more information



Indiana Maple Syrup Association's


Maple Syrup Weekend

March 9-10, 2024

Various Locations

Join local maple syrup producers from around the state as they open up their sugar shacks to the public. Enjoy walking through the woods on a brisk winter day, discover the process of making 100% pure maple syrup, and sample fresh maple syrup and other treats.

To find a participating sugar camp, please visit indianamapleweekend.com



February 29 - March 3, 2024
Thursday & Friday 11am-8pm
Sat. 10am-8pm | Sun. 11am-5pm

Allen Co. War Memorial Coliseum
4000 Parnell Ave., Fort Wayne, IN

General Admission: \$12
(Seniors: \$8; Children 15 & under are free)

The Fort Wayne Home & Garden Show features over 650 exhibitors. Attendees will discover the latest trends in contemporary garden design, learn from knowledgeable home and garden experts, and find inspiration from several display gardens.



Registration is now open for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Indiana Natural Resources Foundation (INRF)

HAPPY LITTLE 5K (VIRTUAL) RACE.

Anyone can complete this non-competitive fundraising race. Registrants can complete their 5K anywhere outdoors – on foot, or by bike, skate, paddle or using a mobility device – anytime between April 22 (Earth Day) and April 26 (Arbor Day).

Each participant will receive a keepsake Happy Little T-shirt, a commemorative bib number and a Bob Ross-inspired finisher's medal. Registration is \$36 per person. Registration closes on March 1, 2024. All race proceeds will support tree planting and other healthy-forest initiatives in Indiana State Parks. In 2023, the race raised more than \$16,000.

"This is a great way to celebrate Indiana State Parks and Indiana's connection to Bob Ross, and get some exercise at the same time," said Ginger Murphy, deputy director for stewardship for Indiana State Parks. "We are grateful for all those who sign up to participate and support the management of our parks' natural resources."

Ross filmed his iconic television show, The Joy of Painting, in Muncie for more than a decade. The program was aired on public television stations around the world. The virtual 5K race was first created by the Michigan DNR in partnership with Bob Ross, Inc. in 2020. Nine states have since joined the Happy Little 5K, including Indiana.

For more information and to register for the race, visit runsignup.com/happylittletrees. Participants should select Indiana on the registration form to support Indiana State Parks.

How to Dispose of Your Live Christmas Tree

by Sharon Yiesla, Plant Knowledge Specialist, The Morton Arboretum | December 22, 2023

A live tree with festive decorations is a delight through the Christmas season, but it won't last forever. Plan now for how you will dispose of the tree when the season is done. Here are some tips from the Plant Clinic experts at The Morton Arboretum.

PREVENT FIRE HAZARDS: Dispose of your tree as soon as it shows signs of drying out to prevent it from becoming a fire hazard. Needles will become brittle and start to fall off, and the tree will no longer take up water. Never burn your evergreen tree in a fireplace or wood stove. It may cause creosote buildup that could lead to a chimney fire.



RECYCLE: Check with your municipality or waste management company about local tree recycling or disposal arrangements, including when and where trees will be picked up or whether you need to take your tree to a recycling site. Recycled trees are chipped into mulch or compost. In some municipalities, the fine-smelling mulch that results can be picked up to spread in your garden.

TREES ONLY, PLEASE: Only the actual tree can be recycled. Be sure to remove all decorations, and if you use a plastic tree bag to carry the tree from the house, take the bag off outside. Trees that aren't bare will go to a landfill instead of being recycled. Flocked trees—those covered in white synthetic powder to suggest snow—can't be recycled; they must be thrown away in the regular trash. Don't try to recycle garlands, wreaths, or anything that contains wire, which could damage the shredding machinery. Discard those items in the trash.

PROTECT PLANTS: Branches cut from your tree can help protect plants in your garden. Laid over beds, they will insulate the soil so it doesn't heat up in winter warm spells and cause plants to come out of dormancy too early. This is most useful in beds that are in full sun.

SHELTER WILDLIFE: If you have the space, consider leaving the whole tree in your yard to provide a winter refuge for wildlife. In spring, cut up the tree and dispose of it through your municipality's landscape waste disposal program. ~



18th Annual Porter County Garden Show

January 20, 2024 | 9 am to 5 am EST

215 E Division Street, Valparaiso, IN

Make plans to join the Porter County Master Gardeners for the 18th Annual Gardening Show at the Porter County Expo Center on Saturday, January 20, 2024. The seminar will feature a seed & bulb exchange, multiple presentations by gardening experts, garden vendor booths, demonstrations, a catered lunch, and door prizes. Admission is \$10 at the door (check or cash, no pre-sale). Check out the details which will be updated frequently at: www.pcgarden.info/gardening-show-2024



Learn ecologically sound land practices that promote pollinators, climate resilience, clean waters and lands. Practical knowledge and innovation on pesticide reduction, habitat installation, fostering soil health, pollinator biology, pollinator conservation and more.

PRESENTATIONS

- Native bee specialists, plant hosts, threats and conservation*
- Invertebrate animals and their roles in soil health*
- Huffman prairie: the long view, plant and animal abundance*
- Indigenous practices on the land*
- Restoring relationships and beneficial fire to Great Lakes forests*
- Catastrophic Regime Shifts in Midwest Savanna Ecosystems: Restoration & Why it Matters*
- BMPs for converting old fields to pollinator habitat*
- Living with wild things*
- Flower bugs: the flower is naked if it doesn't have a bug on it*
- Understanding wildflower forage value: Advocating for plant diversity to ranchers*
- Supporting beneficial birds with native habitat*
- Leveraging our power as plant buyers to get pollinator-safe plants*
- Importance of forests and woody habitat for pollinators*
- Monarch biology, land management and monitoring*
- Mosquito Integrated Pest Management in practice*
- Fungi insects*

This three-day virtual summit is co-hosted by the Pollinator Friendly Alliance and the Xerces Society. Registration is now open. Presentations will occur 11am to 4pm EST each day. The cost to participate is \$60. Visit www.pollinatorfriendly.org/summit to register and learn more.

photo: The Nest of Mother Hen



D.I.Y. Succulent/Cacti Rock Garden

these carefree & decorative cacti are easy to make and kid-friendly

Materials

River rock of various shapes and sizes, green acrylic paint, a white permanent marker, a favorite plastic or clay pot, and small pebbles or glass marbles.

Instructions

1. Paint the stones different shades of green. Let dry.
2. Paint cactus spikes of various designs with a white marker.
3. Fill the decorative pot 2/3 with the decorative pebbles or marbles.
4. Arrange your stone succulents upright in the pot.
5. Backfill around the stone succulents with the remaining pebbles.

Source: www.elnidodemamagallina.com/2014/05/CACTUS-CON-PIEDRAS.html



ABOUT THE WEBINAR

The vast majority of landowners have small woodlots less than 10 acres in size. Woods in Your Backyard Series is designed specifically, but not exclusively, for smaller landscapes. Join Penn State Extension to learn how landowners can positively influence the environment by implementing simple stewardship practices.

The training series unfolds across nine one-hour live evening webinar sessions, all centered on forest management.

The series will cover topics such as forest ecology and soils, tree planting and native landscaping, tree identification, enhancing wildlife habitat, water in the woods, invasive species management, and woodlot management techniques.

REGISTRATION

Registration is required to receive the link to access the webinars. Registrants will also receive access to the webinar recordings.

The cost to participate in this virtual class is \$50 and includes a complimentary copy of the 108-page *The Woods in Your Backyard: Learning to Create and Enhance Natural Areas Around Your Home* (a \$29 value). Upon completing your registration, a confirmation email will be sent to you containing an unique "code" and instructions for obtaining your free copy of the book.

Register online at extension.psu.edu/woods-in-your-backyard-series

Robert Cooper Audubon Society

Bird mortality from collisions with glass

Jan. 17 | 7 p.m. | BSU Nature Lab

Dr. Christine Sheppard, Bird Collisions Campaign Director for the American Bird Conservancy, will join Robert Cooper Audubon Society members via Zoom at the Nature Lab for her presentation "*Bird mortality from collisions with glass: What we've learned. What we need to know. What you can do.*"

Her presentation will explain why birds collide with glass, how mortality from collisions with glass is causing bird populations to decline, and what solutions are available, especially for home windows.

Dr. Sheppard's program will begin at 7 p.m. To join other RCAS members for the presentation, come to Ball State's Nature Lab, located at 2500 W. University Ave. in Muncie.



6th Annual Central Indiana Seed Swap

Sat., January 28, 2023 | 9 AM - 2 PM

Gardeners will have the opportunities to trade, swap, and buy popular, rare, heirloom, and unique plant seeds from other gardeners around the state. FREE seeds will also be available. This swap will take place at the Hamilton Co. Fairgrounds in Noblesville.



2024 Perennial Plant of the Year Jeana Garden Phlox (*Phlox paniculata* 'Jeana')



According to the Perennial Plant Association (PPA), "*Phlox paniculata* 'Jeana' is an exceptional garden phlox reaching five feet tall and four feet wide, although size will geographically vary. It is known for its **impressive flowers**, held on **tall and sturdy stems** from midsummer to early fall. Hummingbirds, butterflies – especially Eastern Tiger Swallowtails – and other pollinators are attracted to the **nectar-rich flowers**." It was discovered by Jeana Prewitt growing along the Harpeth River near Nashville, TN.

While not particularly fragrant as some of the other garden phlox varieties, *Phlox* 'Jeana' stands out as an excellent **transitional perennial** – bridging the gap between early and late summer-flowering perennials. The tubular, four-petal lavender-pink florets of *Phlox* 'Jeana' reach peak bloom in late July and continue through early September. Interestingly, the individual flowers, or pips, are much smaller than any other garden phlox. The plant also touts **exceptional mildew resistance**, which commonly plagues the leaves and sturdy stems of phlox plants.

Phlox paniculata grows in moderately fertile, medium moisture, well-drained soil in full sun to light shade. It can tolerate heavy clay soil and can grow under the canopy of black walnut trees. It is intolerant of drought and needs to be watered in dry spells. Avoid overhead watering, however, and provide adequate air circulation between plants to decrease the spread of powdery mildew. *Phlox paniculata* 'Jeana' performs best when regularly deadheaded as it promotes blooming. Deadheading also prevents self-seeding.

Herb Society of Central Indiana

History of Medicinal Plants Monday, February 5 | Noblesville

Join the Herb Society of Central Indiana for the February monthly program. Dr. Kathleen Hull, MD will discuss the history of medicinal plants. Herb Society members and guests should plan to gather at the John W. Hensel Government Center, 10701 N College Avenue, in Indianapolis around 6:15 pm. The program will begin at 6:30 pm and followed by a brief business meeting. All are welcome to attend.



Indiana Organic Gardening Association's

Winter Meeting Saturday, January 21 | Carmel

Join the Indiana Organic Gardening Association (IOGA) for the first meeting of the year on Saturday, January 20, 2024. The meeting will be held at the Cool Creek Park Nature Center, 2000 E. 151st St., Carmel. A pitch-in meal consisting of homemade or organic dishes will begin at 11:00 AM. Following the meal, members and guests will have the opportunity to listen to Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Interpreter Holly Faust discuss Hoosier writer and naturalist Gene Stratton-Porter.



image: Indiana Historical Society

All are welcome to attend. Attendees asked to bring their own plate, fork, drink, and a dish/dessert (homemade or organic preferred) to share. Contact Tammy Shockley, 317-437-3767, with questions.

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.



Plant Quest 2024

JOIN US ON THIS QUEST FOR AMAZING PLANTS FOR MIDWEST GARDENERS!

January 8 - 29, 2024 | Virtual

Join Michigan State University Extension in hosting nationally known experts to explore a vast selection of native plants for the residential landscape, exciting new plants, trees and shrubs for the forward-thinking gardener, and colorful plants that have show-stopping leaves that will light up your landscape!!

This interactive 4-part virtual series will be presented via ZOOM. The instructions and a meeting link will be sent to registrants the day prior to each session. The cost to participate is \$50. Register by January 28th.

Can't attend all the live webinars? Register and pay for the 4-part series and the recordings will be available to view when it is most convenient for you!

PLANTS YOU WISH YOU HAD PLANTED THIS YEAR!

Monday, January 8 | 6:00 - 7:15 PM

Looking for the latest and greatest new addition to your landscape or home garden? Join Matthew Ross, Executive Director of The Botanic Garden at Historic Barns Park as he takes you on a journey through the nation's top botanic gardens, private gardens, nurseries, and natural areas in search of the latest, the greatest, and the most durable plants.

TAMING THE WILD: NATIVE PLANTS FOR THE RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPE

Monday, January 15 | 6:00 - 7:15 PM

The movement to support the environment with native plants continues to gain momentum every year. While natives are often considered "wild" and "unwieldy", Nikki and Shannon will share examples from the Midwest Native Gardens showcasing options for low profile native plants that can be used in a traditional garden setting. Learn about manageable native plants that are aesthetically pleasing, making them perfect when used in residential garden combinations.

FOLIAGE, FOLIAGE, & MORE FOLIAGE: USING LEAVES TO LIGHTEN UP THE LANDSCAPE

Monday, January 22, 2023 | 6:00 - 7:15 PM

One of the most popular trends in gardening is using plants with colorful foliage to accent and highlight the landscape. Lane will tap his 40+ years of gardening experience to focus on scintillating foliage plants you might consider adding to your garden! His dramatic combinations of plants that will knock any garden-lover's Crocs off!

NEW AND EXCITING TREES & SHRUBS FOR FORWARD-THINKING GARDENERS

Monday, January 29 | 6:00 - 7:15 PM

Each year hundreds of new species, varieties and cultivars of plants are introduced into commerce. These choice specimens offer superior flowers, foliage, fruit, improved vigor, and cultural adaptability. At the same time, there are many underutilized mainstays that are exceptional for the landscape. Join horticulturist Vincent 'Vinnie' Simeon to explore some of the newer and most promising selections of trees and shrubs available on the market along with old favorites that offer exceptional garden merit.

Register at: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/plant-quest-2024>
Payment by Credit Card only (Debit cards requiring a PIN are not accepted).

Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Gardens'

Landscaping for the Homeowner Series

February 7 - March 6, 2024 | Virtual

Join one of the region's top horticulturists and the Cincinnati Zoo's Director of Horticulture, Steve Foltz for a 5-week virtual series of lectures regarding all aspects of landscaping for the homeowner. If you are planning on garden renovation or a new installation in your landscape these classes provide great insight on design, preparation and plant selection with emphasis on plants that do best in the Tri-state area. A different aspect of landscaping is covered each week such as perennial design and tree care, but one way or another everything is covered!

This is a virtual program. You will receive a confirmation email with a Zoom link upon registration. The cost to participate is \$75 for non-members.

You can learn more about the program & register at: <https://store.cincinnati-zoo.org/webstore/shop/viewitems.aspx>



Indianapolis Rose Society's

2024 ROSE SALE

All roses will be available on a first come, first serve basis



Non-member Prices:

David Austin: \$43 / All Other Roses: \$35

PICKUP: Pickup will be sometime in April. Exact day, time, & location to be determined at a later date.

To view the catalog, visit: indplsrosesoc.files.wordpress.com/2023/11/2024-irs-rose-sale-selections.pdf

The International Herb Society's 2024 Herb of the Year



Image: San Diego Seed Co.

Each year the International Herb Society selects one herb to be honored as "Herb of the Year". In 2024 that distinction belongs to Yarrow (*Achillea*).

We are most familiar with this vigorous, long blooming perennial as an attractive ornamental plant in our gardens. Historically, though, Yarrow was valued for its medicinal uses.

How It Got Its Name

The botanical name for Yarrow (*Achillea*) comes from the great war hero Achilles of Greek mythology. Legend has it that Achilles used the Yarrow leaves to heal his wounded warriors during the battle of Troy.

Historic Medicinal Use

In fact, Yarrow has historically been used as an herbal medicine to stop bleeding. It was known in the past as "woundwort". Plants with the "wort" suffix are those that have been used traditionally as herbal medicine, in this case for the treatment of wounds. The aromatic leaves, when crushed, release tannins. These tannins assist with blood clotting while also causing blood vessels to constrict. Applying a compress of tannin-rich crushed Yarrow leaves to a wound will slow or stop the bleeding as well as act as an antiseptic to reduce the chance of infection.

Valued Garden Plant

Beyond its historic use as a medicinal plant, Yarrow also has much to offer as a garden plant. It is drought tolerant, resilient to deer grazing, attractive to butterflies & other beneficial pollinators, and extremely long blooming if regularly deadheaded. The blooms are a great addition to flower bouquets & potpourri.

Source: Heyden's Gardens

www.heydensgardens.com/2024-herb-of-the-year-yarrow-achillea

image: iStock Photos

Indiana Nut and Fruit Growers Association

What Grows Best in Indiana

Wed., January 17, 2024 - Virtual

Cost: \$10 for non-members (includes 1-year INFGA membership); FREE for members

INFGA board-member, Chris Gonso, will present a revised version of his talk at the 2023 Indiana Homesteading Conference. This webinar provides insights from 15-years of tree crops experience at Worries Are Gone Farm in Owen County, Indiana. Worries Are Gone Farm is trialing over 500 cultivars and 50 species of nut & fruit trees using beyond-organic/regenerative methods to determine the best no-spray tree crops for SW Central Indiana.

This webinar aims to provide useful information for both beginning and novice growers. It is particularly directed to new INFGA members.

Besides learning more about the nuts and fruits that grows best in Indiana, attendees can expect to learn more about:

- Indiana Nut and Fruit Growers Assoc. basics
- Grafting, methods and tools
- Sourcing & working & rootstocks and scion
- Sources for further learning
- Harvesting, processing considerations
- General disease and pest considerations

This virtual presentation will begin at 6:00 PM. Attendees should come away inspired at the diversity of species that offer a path for tree crops success.

There will also be time for Q&A and follow up dialogue. Learn more at www.infga.org/meetings.



Herb Society of America

2024 Education Conference

Once upon a thyme... stories from the garden

June 20 - 21, 2024 in Malvern, PA

To learn more, visit www.herbsociety.org

Michigan State University

Pruning Workshop

January 31, & February 21, 2024
1 to 5 PM | Virtual



Image: Stark Bros.

Master the Art & Science of Pruning

Pruning is an important cultural practice used to maintain health, safety, vigor and appearance of woody plants. It involves both art & science – art in shaping plants in harmony with their growth habit to enhance the landscape, and science in knowing how, when, where & why to prune for maximum benefit.

MSU Extension Sr. Horticulture Educator, Rebecca Finneran will lead the on-line Zoom workshops that are designed to help participants learn best practices for pruning and the proper equipment it takes for each job. You will be able to ask questions and interact with the instructor. You will also have the option to submit photos for discussion and analysis prior to the presentation.

For your convenience, this workshop is being offered on two different days: January 31 and February 21 from 1 - 5 PM.

The cost to participate is \$40 per person. The workshops will be recorded, and the recording link sent to the registrants after the session. Hurry! The registration deadline is January 30, 2024 or when the workshop is full.

Learn more and register:

www.canr.msu.edu/events/pruning-workshop-2



Please update your contact information for DCMGA Member Joyce Baker.

P: 765-217-1658

E: [joycebaker3545\(at\)gmail\(dot\)com](mailto:joycebaker3545(at)gmail(dot)com)

Indiana Beekeepers Association's

Bee School XXII

Saturday, February 24 | Muncie

The 2024 Bee School will be held on February 24th, 2023 at Horizon Convention Center in Muncie. The school will feature guest speakers Dr. Judy Wu-Smart and Shelby Kittle. Dr. Judy Wu-Smart leads the Bee Lab at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Shelby Kittle is a former Nebraska Youth Scholar (2014) and Honey Queen (2018). She currently helps manage roughly 100 colonies for research and teaching at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) Bee Lab throughout the past 5 years.

Along with the guest speakers, the conference will also feature multiple sessions and discussions for beekeepers of all skill levels.

Topics focusing on introductory beekeeping tools and techniques, as well as learning opportunities for the more advanced beekeeper will be available. The school will also have a raffle, live auction and silent auction. Many vendors will be on-hand with a variety of displays and supplies.

The cost to participate is \$50 for members; \$60 for non-members.

A Beginner Beekeeping class will also be offered to new beekeepers with little to no experience in beekeeping. The cost to participate in this class is \$55 for members; \$65 for non-members.

For more information or to register, visit: indianabeekeeper.com/events/indiana_bee_school_xxii



GroMoreGood Grassroots Grant

The GroMoreGood Grassroots Grant, brought to you by The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation and KidsGardening, is designed to bring the life-enhancing benefits of gardens to communities across the USA. 170 programs will be awarded in 2024.



Application Period: January 3 - February 9, 2024

Award Announcement: March 18, 2024

Learn more: kidsgardening.org/grant-opportunities

CONGRATULATIONS to the Purdue Extension Marion County Demonstration Garden, for their **THIRD PLACE** win in the 2023 national All-America Selections (AAS) Landscape Design Challenge "A Whimsical Garden". Purdue Extension Master Gardener volunteers worked with the local Purdue University Extension office to execute this year's theme at the Indiana State Fairgrounds' trial garden.



This year the garden featured a variety of AAS Winners arranged by different stories or topics. Some popular ideas included the "Surfing the Waves" garden bed with Petunia Wave Carmine Velour and Petunia Tidal Wave Silver, and the "Once Upon a Time" grouping of the eggplants Fairy Tale, Hansel and Gretel. The "Tropical Paradise" collection of plants included the Canna South Pacific Scarlet & Canna South Pacific Orange as well as the elephant ear Royal Hawaiian Waikiki along with a scarecrow with a tropical look. The garden also included a variety of containers with AAS Winners, such as the trio of sitting birds planted with Portulaca Sundial Peach and Salvia Blue by You. A fun activity in the garden was the "spin the wheel & win a prize" game, where participants could win a free package of vegetable or flower seeds by answering questions about the AAS Winners in the garden.

The Purdue Extension Marion County Demonstration Garden has placed first, second or third place every year they participated in the AAS national design challenge for AAS Display Gardens.



Eastern Indiana Beekeepers January Meeting

Hayes Arboretum, 801 Elks Road, Richmond

Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 6:30 PM

Longwood Gardens Community Read

Looking Back to Create Something New

~ with Julia Kelly ~

Inspirations for the *Last Garden in England*

Tues., March 26, 2024 | 6:30-7:45 PM

photo: Longwood Gardens



Join author Julia Kelly online for a discussion of the inspirations behind her book, *The Last Garden in England*. Explore the real-life people and gardens that inspired her to write this historical fiction novel that exemplifies the meaning and solace we can all find in gardens. Attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions. Longwood Gardens' award-winning Community Read, now in its eleventh year, brings books and people together to spur discussion about an important idea or topic.

This virtual discussion is free to attend, but advance registration is required. Learn more: longwoodgardens.org/events-performances/events/looking-back-create-something-new-julia-kelly



Cultivating Garden Educators Who Inspire Today's Youth to Become Tomorrow's Gardeners

Hendricks Co. Master Gardeners Association's

Gardening for All Ages

Sat., April 27, 2024 | 9 AM - 4 PM



Enjoy a day full of lectures by local horticulture experts and professionals, do-it-yourself workshops, multiple garden exhibit booths and vendors, free tree and seed giveaway, children's activities, food, and many more special events. The conference will be held at the Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds.

Visit www.hendricksgardeners.com for more info.



photo: K Woodgyer/Shutterstock

The National Audubon Society's Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is a free, fun, and easy event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of bird populations.

Participants are asked to count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the four-day event and report their sightings online at birdcount.org. Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, from beginning bird watchers to experts, and you can participate from your backyard, or anywhere in the world.

There are three ways you can submit data: on the Merlin Bird ID app, the eBird mobile app, or on your desktop or laptop through the eBird website.

For more information, visit: birdcount.org.



Growing Great Vegetables Webinar Series

Dig in with confidence this spring with Growing Great Vegetables, a five-week webinar series that will cover how to grow a vegetable garden from seed to harvest. Log on for a weekly online workshop covering a new topic, engage with Illinois Extension horticulture experts, and receive emails with factsheets and research-based tips.

Each class covers a different topic and will consist of a live 50-minute webinar presentation followed by Q&A. Sessions will be recorded and made available to registered participants if they are unable to attend live. Register before February 24. Cost to attend the entire series is \$10.

WHERE WILL YOU GARDEN?

February 27 | 6:00 PM (EST)

Build a garden using whatever space you have. Learn about traditional garden plots, raised beds, salad tables, container gardening, growing vertically, and more.

SEED AND PLANT CHOICES

March 5 | 6:00 PM (EST)

Planning, design, and layout are key elements to successful gardening. Learn about hardiness zones, frost and freeze dates, reading and selecting seed packets, and starting plants from seed. We'll also cover soil testing and amendments, fertilizer, manures, mulch, watering, and weeding.

COOL SEASON VEGETABLES

March 12 | 6:00 PM (EST)

Cool-season crops can be grown in spring or fall, each with its own characteristics and potential issues. Learn about growing cool-season vegetables including how to manage common insect pests.

WARM SEASON VEGETABLES

March 19 | 6:00 PM (EST)

Warm season crops grow during the hottest part of the year. This session will cover how to help vegetables such as peppers, tomatoes, squash, and more flourish while keeping pests at bay.

INSECT AND DISEASES

March 26 | 6:00 PM (EST)

New and experienced growers alike are challenged by pests, diseases, and disorders of vegetable plants. Learn about insects, diseases, and wildlife pests and how to prevent and handle them.

Register at: <https://registration.extension.illinois.edu/start/growing-great-vegetables-4>



February Garden Calendar

February 2 - World Wetland Day

February 7 - National Rose Day

February 14 - Valentines Day

Iowa State University's

2023 Home Gardening Webinar Series

January 3 - March 8 | Online



The Iowa State University's Master Gardener program is excited to announce the schedule for the 2023 Home Gardening Webinar series! Join us for a variety of webinars that will expand your knowledge, introduce you to new topics, and allow you to connect with experts from across the field.

Throughout the series, participants will hear from experts at Iowa State University, the University of Illinois, North Dakota State University, Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District, and Reiman Gardens. The series starts January 3 and runs until March 8, 2023.

Growing Crops in the Cold

January 3 at 7 PM (CT)

Join Dan Fillius, ISU Extension & Outreach, to learn how to protect crops during colder temperatures using simple D.I.Y. structures so you can enjoy homegrown salad during the winter months.

Microgreens: Confetti for Your Plate

January 10 at 7 PM (CT)

Growing microgreens is the perfect winter project. Most microgreens can be grown indoors from start to finish in one to three weeks. Learn from Esther McGinnis, North Dakota State University, how to grow this trendy crop and add homegrown produce to your winter diet.

Harvesting and Preserving Herbs

January 17 at 7 PM (CT)

Herbs are fun and easy to grow in the home landscape. Join Bruce Black, University of Illinois Extension Horticulture, to learn more about harvesting and preserving your home-grown herbs to enjoy in recipes all winter.

Edible Landscaping

January 24 at 7 PM (CT)

Want a landscape that does more than simply providing beauty? Consider edible landscaping. Dr. Cindy Haynes (ISU Extension & Outreach) will discuss design tips on vegetables and fruits that work well in Midwestern landscapes.

The webinars are free and open to the public, although registration is required. All live webinars will feature a 50-minute presentation with a short Q&A session.

Register for each session by visiting: www.extension.iastate.edu/mastergardener/webinar-series. Previously recorded webinars will be available on the Iowa State University Extension Youtube channel.

Shade Tree Pruning: Make it a Habit and Conifer Care for Iowa's Landscapes

February 2 at 7 PM (CT)

Your recently planted shade tree will provide shade, shelter, and enjoyment for generations to come. But the anticipated benefits and return on investment will only happen if your newly-planted trees receive timely and appropriate maintenance. This session will focus on practical pruning techniques and the science behind them to get your young trees off to a great start. Overview of conifer planting, pruning, vigor, and protection - for both landscapes and windbreaks.

How to Tame Your Unruly Apple Tree with Winter Pruning

February 9 at 7 PM (CT)

Apples trees can be notoriously difficult to prune correctly, especially if the tree has been neglected for a couple years or has become too tall and burdensome to reach the top. In this webinar, Suzanne Slack (ISU Extension & Outreach) will demonstrate proper pruning technique for large, unruly apple trees as well as some tips and tricks for younger trees to prevent unwanted unruliness.

Pruning Brambles

February 16 at 7 PM (CT)

Dr. Nonnecke will discuss different types of brambles and how to manage them to get the best yields for summer- and fall-bearing raspberries and blackberries in the Upper Midwest.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION

GARDENING FROM THE GROUND UP WEBINARS

The University of Minnesota Extension Educators are excited to bring you the fifth annual **Gardening from the Ground Up** Zoom webinar series. Free virtual workshops will take place February 19-23, 2024 from 1:00-2:30 pm (CT) each afternoon. The series will focus on maximizing efficiency in the home landscape. Webinars will cover topics ranging from optimizing fertilizer to water and space, to reducing stress on your body by using safe body mechanics - all useful for any curious beginner gardener or yard owner.

BOOST YOUR GARDEN HARVEST: PLANT SELECTION AND PROPAGATION TIPS MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Learn how to choose the right plants and seeds with Extension Educators Lia Spaniolo and Robin Trott. Discover techniques for plant propagation, seed saving and utilizing edible plant parts to maximize your garden's success and yield. Whether you're growing potatoes, beets, peppers or zucchini, optimize your garden this season for better results while saving time and money.

DON'T OVER APPLY, OPTIMIZE: TIPS FOR SELECTING AND APPLYING FERTILIZER TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Applying nutrients incorrectly can hurt your checkbook, the environment and your plants. Compost as a fertilizer may seem safe enough, but is it really? Extension Educators Claire LaCanne and Shane Bugeja will review effective nutrient sources and discuss how to fine-tune their application to promote productive and happy plants.

WATER WISELY WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

We all want our gardens to thrive during the growing season. More water isn't always the answer. During this session, Extension Educators Katie Drewitz and Tarah Young will discuss watering methods to improve the overall health and longevity of your plants. They will also dive into several water-saving methods you can use at home.

SO MANY VEGGIES, SO LITTLE SPACE THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Sometimes, lofty goals for a vegetable garden run into the realities of space. How can we get pounds of produce out of a small raised bed, five-gallon buckets or even a straw bale? Is there a way to get plants to play nice with one another? Extension Educators Troy Salzer and Shane Bugeja will show you tricks to maximize your area—whether you live in the country or in a condo.

MAXIMIZING LABOR EFFICIENCY IN GARDENING FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just starting to explore the world of horticulture, this presentation will share with you best practices and tips to continue your love of gardening. During this session, Extension Educators Emily Hansen and Quincy Sadowski will discuss maximizing labor efficiency in gardening. They will discuss methods to reduce stress on your body by using safe body mechanics and using tools to save time.

Gardeners throughout Minnesota and the Midwest may find this FREE series useful. To join us for all or one of these webinars, please go to <https://extension.umn.edu/event/gardening-ground> to register. When you register for the series, you receive access to all five sessions. Pre-registration is required to receive the webinar link. Recordings of the webinars will be sent out at the conclusion of the series.

National Garden Bureau

“Year of” Plants

Each year the National Garden Bureau (NGB) selects one houseplant, one annual, one perennial, one shrub, one bulb crop, and one edible as the “Year of the” crops. Plants are selected on criteria such as consumer popularity, easy-to-grow, widely adaptable, genetically diverse, and versatile. The NGB has named 2024 the year of **Lily** (bulb), **African Violet** (houseplant), **Angelonia** (annual), **Squash** (edible), **Hosta** (perennial), and **Buddleia** (shrub). You can learn more about each plant by visiting ngb.org/2024-year-of-plants.



LILY

Lilies, a testament to nature’s artistry, boast a long and storied history. There are about 100+ species in the genus *Lilium*. Originating in various parts of the Northern Hemisphere, lilies have adorned myths and traditions for thousands of years. In ancient Greek mythology, these flowers were believed to have sprung from the milk of the goddess Hera, symbolizing purity and renewal. Similarly, in Christian iconography, lilies are often associated with the Virgin Mary, representing purity, virtue, and the divine.



AFRICAN VIOLET

The African Violet, *Saintpaulia ionantha*, was originally discovered in 1892 by Walter von Saint-Paul-Illaire in the wooded Usambara mountains near the border of Kenya and Tanzania in Africa. The African Violet was exhibited for the first time in 1893 and caught the attention of the public. The first commercial hybrids debuted in 1927. Nearly 100 years have passed with many innovations that have made the African Violet one of the most popular house plants in the world. Good air circulation is vital for a healthy African Violet.



ANGELONIA

Angelonia is a genus of approximately 30 species, which grow natively in regions from Mexico to Argentina. The plants grow mostly upright, with stalks filled with flowers. Angelonia florets resemble tiny orchid-like blooms and their shape aids in pollination through hairs in the inner corolla that help bees forage for pollen. This “summer snapdragon” thrives in heat and arid locations, making it a perfect choice for most summer gardens. *Angelonia angustifolia* is the most recognizable garden Angelonia species.



SQUASH

The indigenous people of the Americas included squash as a central component of the “Three Sisters” or “Trinity” planting system, which combined maize, beans, and squash to create a mutually beneficial ecosystem. Squash was introduced to Europe in the late 16th century, and it quickly became a popular food crop there as well. Today, squash is enjoyed all over the world in both sweet and savory dishes. Some squash varieties are grown primarily for their ornamental value, while others are used for a variety of practical purposes and delicious dishes.



HOSTA

Hostas have gained their popularity from fantastic foliage that provides interest throughout the growing season. They are adaptable, tough-as-nails plants capable of surviving in the toughest soils and shadiest locations. One of the ways Hosta ascended in popularity is they can be easily split and shared. They can be dug up, divided, and replanted at almost any time during the year. Botanically speaking, Hostas are also classified into five defined sizes: Mini (less than 6” tall), Small (7-10” tall), Medium (11-18” tall), Large (19-28” tall), and Giant (more than 28” tall).



BUDDLEIA

Buddleia (also spelled and recognized in botanical nomenclature as “Buddleja”) is commonly known as Butterfly Bush. It was Swedish botanist and taxonomist Carl Linnaeus who named this species after Adam Buddle, an 18th-century English botanist. Buddleia plants are endemic to Asia, Africa, and the Americas and are available in over 140 species. Buddleias are butterfly magnets, drawing a wide range of butterfly and other pollinators to them with their plethora of sweet-smelling flowers. Planting caterpillar host plants with buddleia provides food for butterfly larva.

Proven Winner's Plants of the Year

Each year the national garden plant grower Proven Winners recognizes some of their top performers in the nursery industry. Plants must meet 5 specific criteria: ease of care, iconic appearance, readily available at local garden centers or online, ideal for containers, and outstanding landscape performance.

2024 ANNUAL OF THE YEAR:

Supertunia Vista® Jazzberry® Petunia

Supertunia Vista petunias are one of the best garden plants around. They are large, mounding, and spreading plants. They are usually so buried in flowers that foliage is almost invisible. They are wonderful landscape plants, where they put on quite a show. They are also great in large containers. If you are looking for an all out show of color, this is the plant for you. Supertunias are heavy feeders, but a single dose is usually sufficient for landscape beds in most climates. In general, Supertunias in containers will need to be fed more regularly to be their absolute best.



photos: Proven Winners

2024 PERENNIAL OF THE YEAR: "Pink Profusion" Salvia

Enjoy these flowers again and again throughout the summer with continuous reblooms! Dark pink flowers are produced on darker pink calyxes on a perfectly rounded, dense and beautiful habit. Salvia is easy to grow in almost any climate in full sun. They are drought tolerant, but bloom better with average moisture. Cut back after flowering to promote rebloom.



2024 HYDRANGEA OF THE YEAR: Let's Dance Sky View®

Let's Dance Sky View big leaf hydrangea (*H. macrophylla*) is a standout for consistent, yearly blooming. Flowers emerge a beautiful sky blue with a honeydew-green eye before maturing to a full sky blue. Its nice compact growing habit makes it both a good container and garden plant.



2024 LANDSCAPE SHRUB OF THE YEAR:

Fizzy Mizzy Virginia Sweetspire

Fizzy Mizzy's abundant upright flower spikes are bright white and carry a light, lovely fragrance that attracts people and pollinators. An early summer bloom time helps bridge the gap between the seasons seamlessly and its thick, dark green foliage is handsome enough to carry the show for the rest of the season.



(continued on next page)

2024 AHGA Hosta of the Year

Hosta 'Mini Skirt'

The American Hosta Growers Association (AHGA) has named the hybrid 'Mini Skirt' as the 2024 Hosta of the Year. This sport of Hosta 'Mini Mouse' features wavy, thick, blue-green leaves with creamy yellow margins that turn to a creamy white by summer. Pale lavender flowers emerge on short scapes by mid-summer. Mini Skirt grows to 5 inches tall and 13 inches wide. As with most hostas, Mini Skirt performs best in partial to full shade in moist, organic soils.

Hosta of the Year recipients are selected by members of the American Hosta Growers Association (AHGA). Hosta winners must exhibit vigorous growth throughout all regions of North America and are widely available in local garden centers.



photo: Proven Winners

USDA Releases Updated Plant Hardiness Zone Map

John E. Woodmansee | Purdue University Extension | December 1, 2023

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently released its updated Plant Hardiness Zone Map.

The USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map uses weather data to map average annual extreme minimum temperatures (winter lows) over a recent 20-year period. The most recent release covers weather data from 1991-2020. The previous version, released in 2012, covered weather data from 1976-2005.

The map tells gardeners what plants are likely to survive winter temperatures in their area based on recent history. It also helps vendors of landscape plants to communicate to purchasers the range of zones for which particular plants are suited.

The USDA described the latest map as the most accurate and detailed it has ever released. It was jointly developed by Oregon State University's PRISM Climate Group and the USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

“The addition of many new stations and more sophisticated mapping techniques using the latest PRISM technology led to a more accurate and detailed Plant Hardiness Zone Map but also produced localized changes that are not climate related,”

said Christopher Daly, director of the PRISM Climate Group and the map's lead author.

The plant hardiness map contains 13 zones, representing 10-degree-F ranges. Each zone is further subdivided into two half zones, a and b, representing 5-degree ranges. Zone 1 starts in Alaska, and Zone 13 ends in Hawaii and Puerto Rico. Florida, famous for their palm trees, has zones from 8b to 11b. Palm trees won't survive winters in Indiana.

Indiana ranges from Zone 5b in the northwest, with average annual extreme minimum temperatures of -15 through -10 degrees F, through 7a, with average annual extreme minimum temperatures of 0 to 5 degrees F along the Ohio River. All of northeastern Indiana, including Whitley County, is in Zone 6a, with average annual extreme minimum temperatures of -10 to -5 degrees F. In the previous map, most of northern Indiana, including Whitley County, was predominantly in Zone 5b.

“Average” is the operative word on this map, based on recent 20-year temperature measurements. Winters with colder or warmer temperatures have and will continue to occur.

Find the USDA Hardiness Zone Map at <https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/>.

.....

2024 HOSTA OF THE YEAR: *Shadowland® 'Hudson Bay'*

This showy hosta forms a large mound of attractive tricolor leaves of heavy substance. The wide, bright blue margin, apple green jetting, and creamy white center will set this variety apart all season long.

2024 ROSE OF THE YEAR: *OSO Easy Peasy® Rose*

Oso Easy Peasy®'s apple-green foliage resists powdery mildew and black spot, and its abundant magenta flowers appear in endless profusion from early summer through frost. The size and scale of this rose and its blooms is perfect for incorporating into flower gardens.

