



# THE GARFIELD GARDENER

THE NEWSLETTER OF GARFIELD PARK MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

## February 2026 Next Meeting

February 11

Topic: *Packing Seeds*

Speaker: Jill Edwards,  
The Seed Library

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

### 2026 Meeting Dates

March 11

April 8

May 13

June 10

July 8

August 12

September 9

October 14

November 11

December 9

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

### Newsletter Editor:

Oren Cooley

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### Learn more at:

[www.IndyGPMGA.com](http://www.IndyGPMGA.com)

[www.IndyMG.org](http://www.IndyMG.org)

[www.IndyHorticulture.org](http://www.IndyHorticulture.org)

## President's Message: Happy Mid-Winter

### Greetings!

#### We Have Survived to Mid-Winter!

We have made it to mid-winter which is known as Imbolc or the celebration of St. Brigid. It is a celebration of being halfway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox. The first stirrings of spring and the return of the light. We gain an hour of daylight in February.

February is a good month to prune some trees and other woody plants. The sap in the trees has not started to flow yet, so the trees are still dormant. Pick a warm February day and get outdoors and give your trees some love.

### Board and Member Activities

The board met in January to discuss changes to the bylaws. More on that coming in the future and ideas for improving the meetings, website and our processes overall.

This month, we get to learn about the Seed Lending Library at the local public libraries and to help package seeds for this wonderful program.

### Looking Ahead to Spring

The reopening of the fountains and gardens at Garfield Park is getting closer and closer. Jessica is sending e-mails to people who want to know about volunteer opportunities at the conservatory and gardens that are coming up. If you would like to be included, send an email to [jessica.helmbold@indy.gov](mailto:jessica.helmbold@indy.gov). Also, as always, please check the conservatory events calendar at <https://www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org/programsevents> for the specific dates of upcoming events at the conservatory and gardens.

### Upcoming Dates

Our next meeting is February 11th. See you all there. As a reminder the board will be bringing snacks for the February meeting.

—Kay Martin-Pence, GPMGA President

## 2026 Spring Bulb Show

Come see Garfield Park Conservatory's stunning display of tulips and other spring blooms against the backdrop of the conservatory's permanent tropical collection during the Spring Bulb Show from February 27 to March 6.

Admission is \$7 for individuals and \$15 for families (2 adults maximum per family). Admission collected at the door; No online ticket purchases.

According to the conservatory's website, after the show, bulbs from the display will be on sale Saturday, March 7, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (or until they run out!).

For more information, visit [www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org](http://www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org).



## Conservatory Tours

**February 14 (11:00 a.m.)**

Arlene Bow  
Oren Cooley

**February 28 (11:00 a.m.)**

Tour Guide Needed

## At the Conservatory

**February 19 (6:00-7:00 p.m.)**

*Coffee and Conservation*  
Garfield Park Conservatory

Join the staff of the Garfield Park Conservatory to discover the history of coffee and gain a greater appreciation for one of people's favorite beverages.



Learn more about how coffee can be grown in harmony with the rainforest and protect Indiana native migratory birds.

Ages: 16 and up; Cost is \$10 per person. Registration required.

For more information, visit [www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org](http://www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org).



## GPMGA's Next Meeting: February 11

The Garfield Park Master Gardener Association will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 11, at the Garfield Park Conservatory for *Indy PL Seed Library and Seed Packaging*, a presentation by Jill Edwards, Adult Program Specialist with the Indianapolis Public Library.

We will package seeds for the Seed Library and learn more about this wonderful public library service. The Seed Library, a service of the Indianapolis Public Library, started at the Glendale branch in 2015 and has since grown to all 25 library branches.



The Indianapolis Public Library's popular Seed Library provides free vegetable, herb and flower seeds at all branch locations. Seeds are available from March through September and a patron can pick up as many as five seed packets to start or expand their gardens.

In addition to seeds, the Seed Library offers presentations on everything from seed starting to vermicomposting. Branch locations offer a plethora of gardening education programs such as workshops, seed calendars and story times that aid the Indianapolis gardening community.

The Seed Library is designed to promote food equity while embracing diverse diets and cooking styles, ensuring greater access to fresh, homegrown ingredients. The Seed Library is made possible by the Indianapolis Foundation Library Fund.

For more information about the Seed Library and the available seeds, stop by any branch or visit [indypl.org/seeds](http://indypl.org/seeds).



## 2026 GPMGA Officers/Committee Chairs

### President

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### Plant Sale Chair

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### Historian

Open

### Extension Office Contact:

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rusin0@purdue.edu

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

## GPMGA Board Minutes: January 14

The Garfield Park Master Gardener Association met at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 14, at the home of GPMGA President Kay Martin-Pence.

### Kay Martin-Pence (President)

- Meeting minutes for December are approved
- Motion to not require the Vice President to take the role of President in the following year
- Suggest instead having specific tasks for Vice President to take on; Current task is to create a Google Drive to maintain documents for the board and a public section for public documents like photos
- Motion to remove the Hours Chairperson role as it is no longer needed due to entering hours online
- Motion to remove Historian role, possibly move to media person (photography or social media) instead
- Motion to remove Pitch-in Chair role from board
- Board will be meeting quarterly; Will not change regular GPMGA meetings
- Purchase of a podium for presentations is not in process; Waiting on conservatory staff to receive previously purchased equipment and will need conservatory management to tell us what would work for them
- Have board members come up to the front when speaking so all can hear

### Jo Ann Klooz (Programs)

- Committee for programs will meet quarterly; First meeting was held at end of December; Committee has 6 members
- Role of members is to help supply ideas and contacts, and the goal is for each member to be responsible for a program or some significant contribution for that program
- A short program will be held in February to help members to put in hours
- In April, we will have a joint meeting with Marion County Master Gardeners—with a goal of maybe once or twice a year connecting with MGs outside of our organization

### Will Gerlib (Website Updates)

- Provide suggestions for the website to Will
- Update FAQ on website
- Looking into version of current website that allows preview of changes to website before going live; Will be slight increase in cost or moving website to different host for more modern appearance

### Carrie Alumbaugh (Plant Sale, not present)

- Plant sale date is May 9th; Will not receive remaining plants from Marion County sale since that sale this year will occur after the GPMGA plant sale
- Will have a vote with members for location of Plant Sale: Blake's Garden or Overlook/Veranda
- Would like to rent a larger van for pickups of plants at Sullivan's and Brenda's to eliminate trips; Will need to find a person comfortable driving a large van
- Possibly purchase a second iPad for plant sale use

### Cindy Maude (Treasurer, not present)

- Purchased a second Square for plant sale
- Teresa reminded the group, if Cindy were here, she would remind us that we are tax exempt and that any purchases such as for plant sale or spring clinic need to be coordinated with Cindy in advance

### Spring Garden Clinic

- Want to purchase a tablecloth with GPMGA logo

### Teresa McCurry (Former President)

- We are providing a scholarship for two prospective members to pay for virtual Master Gardener course

—Adam Musgrove, Secretary

## Garfield Park Master Gardener Association



*in association with*

### Purdue Extension - Marion County

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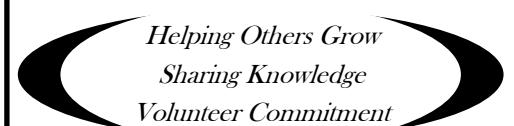
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If you require an accommodation or special assistance to attend programs due to a disability, please contact Carey Grable at 317-275-9290 or Barb Rusin at 317-275-9279. Some accommodations may require 2 weeks notice.

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**Questions:** Contact Carey Grable at [cagrabl@purdue.edu](mailto:cagrabl@purdue.edu) or at 317-275-9290.

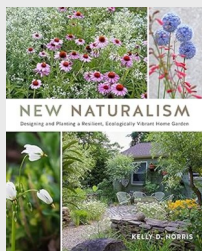


## From the Bookshelf . . .

### ***New Naturalism: Designing and Planting a Resilient, Ecologically Vibrant Home Garden***

by Kelly D. Norris

In *New Naturalism*, horticulturist Kelly D. Norris shares his inspiring, ecologically sound vision for home gardens created with stylish yet naturalistic plantings that mimic the wild spaces people covet—far from the contrived, formal, high-maintenance plantings of the past.



Through a basic introduction to plant biology and ecology, readers will learn how to design and grow a lush, thriving home garden by harnessing the power of plant layers and the palettes defined by nature. Naturalistic garden designs contribute to positive environmental change by increasing biodiversity, providing a refuge for wildlife and reconnecting humans to nature.

*New Naturalism* covers:

- Planting recipes for building meadows, prairies and other grassland-inspired open plantings even in compact, urban settings
- Nature-inspired ways to upgrade existing foundation plantings, shrub beds and flower borders to a wilder aesthetic while still managing the space
- Inspiration for taking sidewalk and driveway plantings and turning them into visually soft, welcoming spaces for humans and wildlife
- Creative ways to make an ecologically vibrant garden in even the smallest of spaces

*New Naturalism* approaches the planting beds around homes as ecological systems. If properly designed and planted, these areas can support positive environmental change, increase plant and animal diversity and create a more resilient space.

Kelly D. Norris is an award-winning author, and the former Director of Horticulture and Education at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, a revitalized public garden in Des Moines, Iowa. His work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *Organic Gardening*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, and *Garden Design*.

## 2026 All-American Selections Winners

The professional, volunteer judges for All-America Selections each year select only the top garden performers to become AAS Winners. This year brings a wide variety of annuals, edibles and perennials to the market—all of which have been “Tested Nationally & Proven Locally”.

AAS Judges are professional horticulturists who volunteer their time to evaluate all entries next to comparisons. Universities, public gardens, breeding companies, growers, brokers, extension agents and retailers are current and potential judging sites. The number of Judges and sites may vary by year, but the trials are always conducted in approximately 80 trial sites throughout the United States and Canada.

This year’s All American Selections are:

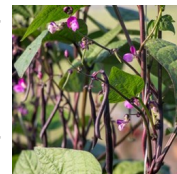
### **Basil Treviso**

This award-winning basil is an outstanding choice for any kitchen garden, boasting a tight, compact and highly branched habit perfect for larger containers. Not only does it offer delicious, slightly anise-flavored leaves but it also stays tender longer—resisting bitterness after harvest and maintaining excellent leaf quality late into the season.



### **Bean Pole Majesty**

This outstanding purple pole bean delivers on all fronts: high yield, superior quality and rugged performance. Plants maintain dense, dark green foliage with notable resistance to insect damage and excellent recovery from summer heat stress. The pods are beautifully straight and uniform in size, making them easy to harvest. Best of all, the beans boast a delicious, sweet flavor and tender, non-bitter texture.



### **Coreopsis SunGlobe**

Bring brilliant, season-long color to a garden with this outstanding Coreopsis. Praised by judges for its impressive bloom quantity, this variety produces tons of fluffy, golden yellow, semi-double flowers on sturdy stems slightly earlier than comparisons. The plant maintains a tidy, compact and densely branching form, delivering multiple flushes of vibrant gold from spring through fall.



### **Dianthus Supra Cherry Picotee F1**

Dianthus Supra Cherry Picotee has unique, fringed blooms that feature a lovely picotee pattern, opening with dark cherry centers and soft pink edges. This interspecific hybrid joins the Supra series, delivering profuse, eye-catching blooms on a wonderfully compact, bushy plant. Judges praised its excellent habit and strong heat and drought resistance, keeping the foliage green and the flowers vibrant all summer.



### **Heliopsis Sole Giatto**

Sole Giatto, a remarkably compact False Sunflower, is perfect for containers, borders or any sunny spot! Standing 20 inches tall and wide, this highly floriferous perennial explodes with gorgeous, long-lasting, bright yellow blooms from late spring right through fall. Bred for extended appeal and continuous garden performance, Sole Giotto effortlessly attracts beneficial pollinators while resisting deer and rabbits.



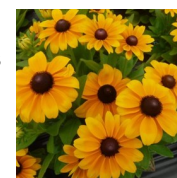
### **Kale Rubybor F1**

This outstanding kale is a dual-purpose showstopper as it won a Gold Medal award in both the ornamental and vegetable trials. . . . a first occurrence in the AAS trials! Rubybor’s rich, deep purple foliage and uniform, compact habit make it a standout ornamental in any garden or container. The bountiful leaves are exceptionally tender and non-bitter, providing a continuous harvest of delicious, high-quality greens.



### **Rudbeckia Claire Orange F1**

Claire™ Orange is the world’s first pollen-free F1 hybrid Rudbeckia. This compact, early-flowering beauty boasts a tidy, uniform habit and an abundance of bright, clear orange blooms that truly stand out. Enjoy its exceptional vigor, impressive floriferousness and remarkable heat and disease tolerance, which ensure a long-lasting, vibrant display.



(continued on Page 5)

## Indiana Flower and Patio Show

The Indianapolis Landscape Association is proud to present the Feature Gardens for this year's Flower + Patio Show! The event will occur from March 14 to March 22 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds.

Both West Pavilion and Expo Hall will be brimming with color — from gorgeous greens to beautiful blues. The area's top landscape professionals will have a variety of affordable to big-budget options for the next garden or backyard project.



Contributing landscapers are: All Pro Landscaping LLC, B&F Landscaping, Brookside Timber Frames, Emerald Meadows Landscaping, Franklin Brothers Landscape LLC, Hamilton County Lawn & Landscape, JMT Landscape Group, Lakeshore Hardscapes, Lejendary Landscape, McNamara Florist, Moran Outdoors, Plant Studio Landscape, Primary Grounds, R&R Outdoors, Seacat Landscaping, Start to Finish, Sugar Creek Landscape, Sunnyside Landscapes and Turner Scapes.



This year the Indiana Garden and Patio Show will offer garden tours! Step into an exclusive garden experience with a semi-private tour led by the esteemed Show Landscaper, Bill Brown. Get an immersive, one-of-a-kind look at how the Showcase Gardens are built, and expert explanations on the greenery that makes these gardens show stopping.

These tours will occur on March 16 (at 4:00 p.m.); March 17 (at 9:00 a.m.); March 18 (at 4:00 p.m.) and March 19 (at 9:00 a.m.). The cost is \$25.00 and includes the price of show's admission.

Since entering the Home & Garden scene in 1978, Bill Brown has been active in the local landscape market. As acting Landscape Coordinator for both the Indianapolis Home Show and the Indiana Flower & Patio Show, he is instrumental in organizing and working with a majority of landscape design and build companies in the Indianapolis area. Overseeing all aspects of the design and creation of the feature gardens is Brown's main emphasis.



BILL BROWN

For more information, visit <https://www.indianaflowerandpatioshow.com/>

## AAS Winners *(continued from Page 4)*

### Sedum Spectacular

This exceptional Sedum is remarkably sturdy, full and does not flop, maintaining a tight, compact, mounded habit perfect for borders or containers. It produces generous, light pink flower clusters set against attractive, light green foliage, guaranteeing an excellent garden performer that provides reliable color and structure for any landscape.



### Squash, Winter Butter Lamp F1

This mini, pumpkin-shaped butternut squash variety features short vines, requiring less garden space than traditional types. It produces abundant, uniform 15-30 oz. fruits with attractive exterior color, rich yellow flesh and a smooth, sweet, nutty and buttery flavor.



### Tomato BadaBing! F1

Tomato BadaBing! F1 have outstanding flavor, boasting juicy, 1.5" bright red fruits. Bred for superior garden performance and robust disease resistance, this truly unique and reliable tomato promises an effortless, predictable and bountiful harvest.



### Zinnia Profusion Double White Improved

This Gold Medal award-winning Zinnia Profusion Double White features impressive, large, double flowers (2.5-3 inches in diameter) that create a lush, full look. This variety is exceptionally sturdy, disease-resistant and thrives in diverse climates, even enduring high night temperatures. Enjoy continuous color and an immaculate appearance from spring through frost, all without the hassle of deadheading.



## GP's Bleeding Heart

The bleeding heart vine (*Clerodendrum thomsoniae*) is a twining evergreen from tropical west Africa. The common name comes from the flowers which look like a drop of red blood exuding from the heart-shaped calyx.



The small, slightly flat flowers have inflated, balloon-like white calyxes from

which emerge brilliant crimson or dark red corollas with prominent stamens. The flowers are borne in terminal clusters (cymes) of 8-20 together.

The flowers last several months, although the red corolla is short lived. As they age, the flowers turn from white to pale pink or lavender, then eventually become tan as they dry up.

If pollinated, the flowers will produce fruits. The green fruits ripen to a red to black color before splitting open to reveal four black seeds against a fleshy, bright orange interior.



Even though it is vine or liana, it is also a somewhat bushy climber. The glossy, dark green,

oval leaves are 5-7" long with smooth edges and pointed on the end. The plant can grow 10-15 feet tall.

Another unambiguous common name for the plant is bleeding glory-bower. Terms like "glory-bower" or "bagflower" though can refer to any of the more than 400 species of clerodendrum.

The plant was named at the request of Rev. William Cooper Thomson (1829-1878), a missionary and physician in Nigeria, in honor of his late first wife. This plant was very popular during the mid 19th century under the name "beauty bush".

It lost favor only when its unusual growing conditions made the plant "troublesome". Specifically, its root system must be partially submerged in water most of the time, and it wants very good light.

## Calendar/Events

### Thursday, February 12 (7:00 to 8:00 p.m.)

*Landscape Design with Native Plants in Indiana*  
*Indiana Native Plant Society Central Chapter*

Join the Indiana Native Plant Society for a broad overview on designing with native plants. This virtual talk will show some new things about design concepts, plant combinations and maintenance as well as some common pitfalls to avoid when using native plants in an ornamental landscape. The guest speaker is M.J. Meneley, a professional landscape architect in Indianapolis with Guidon, a full-service architecture and engineering firm. M.J.'s projects include residential, higher education, hospitality, healthcare, parks and recreation, streetscapes and more.

To get the Zoom link, register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/landscape-design-with-nativeplants-in-indiana-tickets-1979245295960?>

### Tuesday, February 17 (6:00 to 8:00 p.m.)

*Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District 56th Annual Meeting*  
*Common Ground at Faith, 9031 East 16th St., Indianapolis*

A presentation from Tyler Gough from Indy Urban Acres and John Hazlett from the Marion County SWCD will highlight the long-standing partnership between IUA and the district. Come learn about the history of this unique partnership and current efforts to serve people in need by growing food and native plants.

Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/marion-county-soil-and-water-conservation-district-56th-annual-meeting-tickets-1981715239628>

### March 21 (9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)

*IMMI Conference Center, 18880 N. East Street, Westfield*

### March 28 (9:00 a.m. to noon)

*Cool Creek Park, 2000 E. 151st St., Carmel*

*Two-Part Seminar on Trees & Shrubs*

*Hamilton County Master Gardeners*

Part I: Speakers include: Eva Monheim on *Shrubs and Hedges & Creating a Woodland Garden*; Jud Scott on *Trees in your Project/Garden--Asset or a Liability?*; Carrie Tauscher on *The Landscape Below Ground--Architecture of Woody Plant Roots & How it Impacts Your Landscape*; and Amanda Smith on *Understanding the Ecological Benefit of Your Tress & Shrubs*.

Part II: Carrie Tauscher will provide classroom pruning instruction, outdoor hands-on pruning education, a tree ID walk, techniques on how to plant a tree or shrub, and proper invasive species removal. One must register for Part I to attend Part II.

To register, visit <https://hcmga.org>.

## Newfields Symposium

### February 21 (9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.)

*Newfields Winter Horticulture Forum*  
*Newfields (4000 N. Michigan Road)*

Gardeners! It's time to take those gardening tools out of hibernation and start planning for the season with help from three leading plant professionals in this half-day horticulture forum at Newfields.

Nick McCullough, horticulturist, designer and author, will present on his book, *American Roots*, featuring home gardens across America. Matthew Ross, Executive Director of The Botanic Garden at Historic Barns Park, will present on the historic Northern Michigan Asylum and how its transformational ideas established the principle of "beauty is therapy". Phil Douglas, Director of Horticulture and Center for Global Initiatives for Denver Botanic Gardens, will present on the implications of habitat destruction and the role botanic gardens play in conservation efforts, guiding us from the subtropics to the grasslands.

Fees: \$50 Newfields Members, \$65 public. To purchase tickets, visit: <https://discovernewfields.org/events-exhibitions/2026-winter-horticulture-forum-presented-bybartlett-tree-experts>.

## GPMGA Membership – 2026

Become a member of the Garfield Park Master Gardener Association. Dues are \$15.00 per year and help pay for special activities, speakers, the newsletter and donations to community projects.

Monthly meetings occur on the second Wednesday of the month and begin at 6:30 p.m. Unless otherwise noted at the prior meeting or in the newsletter, meetings are held at the Garfield Park Conservatory, 2505 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Completion date of Master Gardener Training Class \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Are you volunteering anywhere? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I wish to be included in the 2026 GPMGA Member Directory.

\_\_\_\_\_ I wish to receive future newsletters by e-mail only.

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

Cindy Maude 7416 Rooses Drive Indianapolis, IN 46217

To pay using Zelle, use GPMG for recipient; [cmaude@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cmaude@sbcglobal.net) for e-mail