



# THE GARFIELD GARDENER

THE NEWSLETTER OF GARFIELD PARK MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

## June 2026 Next Meeting

July 8

Event: GPMGA  
Annual Picnic,  
Followed by GPMGA  
Board Meeting,  
Garfield Park Corporate Shelter  
(near the Arts Center)

August 12

Field Trip: Helen Steussy's  
Native Wildflower Garden,  
New Castle, Indiana

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

## 2026 Meeting Dates

September 9  
October 14  
November 11  
December 9

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university.

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 Independence Day and What a Scorcher

### Greetings!

Happy 250th Birthday of our country's Independence! I hope that you all had fun celebrating in whatever ways you enjoy.

July has been a scorcher and a half! Watering my pots at least once a day and my veggie garden every other day. So far so good. The upside is the tomatoes and peppers are really coming on and ripening. I got to try a new variety of purple cherry tomatoes this year called Empress tomato. The purple goes all the way through. This is a picture from the Internet but that is what they look like. They are tasty too. I think you will be able to find this variety next year in more places.



I look forward to seeing everyone at the picnic.

The meeting portion should be short and sweet. If you can, bring your floral/plant centerpiece for the tables. We will have a moment for each person who brought one to tell us about their centerpiece.

Please consider the following board and leadership roles for next year. I will be sending out more details on each role and the tasks involved.

- President
- Treasurer
- Plant Sale Chairman (This can be more than one person.)
- A hospitality co-chair to help our current chair Amanda

### Events and Garden Happenings

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

### Upcoming Club Meeting Dates

August Meeting:

August is another field trip with the MCMGA group (Details forthcoming).

—Kay Martin-Pence, GPMGA President

## Purdue Extension's Transformation

As part of its commitment to providing impactful programming to meet the needs of Indiana residents, Purdue Extension is undergoing a transformation designed to enhance how they serve communities by maximizing resources and strengthening expertise.

Beginning in January 2027, Purdue Extension will transition from a county-based structure to a regional model consisting of 12 regions. This change is intended to improve efficiency, expand collaboration and better meet the evolving needs of Indiana residents. It is important to add that Purdue Extension will continue to have offices in all 92 counties.

(Continued on Page 4)

## Conservatory Tours

**July 11 (11:00 a.m.)**  
Judy Martin

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

## At the Conservatory

**Saturday, August 1 (10:00-11:30 a.m.)**  
*Herbal Harvest*  
Garfield Park Conservatory

Join the Herb Society of Central Indiana for a fun class on making gifts with herbs, perfect for mother or anyone else who needs a little pick-me-up.



Participants will have the opportunity to learn about herbs they can grow throughout the season and flowers that they can grow that are edible. This workshop will include recipes, handouts and herbal snacks.

Pre-registration is required; Cost is \$6 per person. For more information, visit [www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org](http://www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org).

*Garfield Park*

## GPMGA's Next Meeting: July 8

The Garfield Park Master Gardeners again will enjoy the GPMGA annual picnic Wednesday, July 8, at 6:30 p.m. in the Garfield Park Corporate Shelter (near the Arts Center).

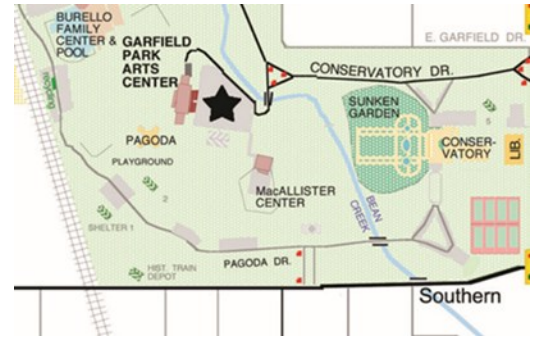
GPMGA will provide meat from City Barbeque (including buns), water, plates, napkins and utensils. Members are encouraged to bring their own plates and utensils to support sustainability if they wish.

Also, please consider bringing a dish to share. If your last name begins with:

- A-M Please bring a side dish to share
- N-Z Please bring a dessert to share

Members are also invited to bring a centerpiece they have created to decorate one of the picnic tables.

The GPMGA Board will meet in the corporate shelter after the picnic clean-up occurs. Members are welcome to attend; however, attendance is not required.



In addition to gathering suggestions about the organization, the meeting will allow members to become more familiar with the GPMGA Board's operations and to express any desires to take a



more active role the organization.

Next month's meeting will occur on Wednesday, August 12. It will include a field trip to New Castle, Indiana, to see Helen Steussy's amazing native wildflower garden.

## 2026 GPMGA Officers/Committee Chairs

### President

Kay Martin-Pence  
guitargirl929@gmail.com

### Previous Past President

Teresa McCurry  
tmccurry@iu.edu

### Vice President

Danielle Randles  
danielle.n.randles@gmail.com

### Secretary

Adam Musgrove  
admmusgrove@gmail.com

### Treasurer

Cindy Maude  
cmaude@sbcglobal.net

### Program Director

JoAnn Klooz  
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### Hospitality—Snack Coordinator

Amanda Anez  
anezartist@gmail.com

### Plant Sale Chair

Carrie Alumbaugh  
carriesalumbaugh@gmail.com

### Historian

Open

### Conservatory Tour Coordinator

Victoria Metheaux  
methx@comcast.net

### Newsletter/Publicity Director

Oren Cooley  
pastpfct@aol.com

### Website Coordinator

Will Gerlib  
billgerlib@gmail.com

### Extension Office Contact:

Barb Schwartz (formerly Rusin)  
rusin0@purdue.edu

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

## GPMGA Meeting Minutes: June 10

The Garfield Park Master Gardener Association met at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 10, at the Growing Places Garden at White River State Park (across from the JW Marriott Hotel).

The Growing Places Farm is a U pick garden with 6,000 acres and has been at the White River State Park since 2010. Its goal is to encourage people to think about the role of urban agriculture in Indianapolis and beyond.

Danielle Randles (Vice-President)

- Minutes were approved
- Grants have been going out; Please use the new Google form for grant requests. This form will be going on the website. You also can ask one of the members of the board for the form and they will send you the link
- Day Early Learning: Early learning centers have nine sites where they would like to set up children's gardens in 2027. Danielle is helping with one and, if you would like to get involved with helping set up any of the others, please reach out to her.

Amanda Anez (Hospitality)

- July's meeting is the GPMGA Annual Picnic; Please begin thinking of side dishes or desserts you would like to bring.

No other board members were present at the meeting.

—Respectfully submitted,  
Adam Musgrove

## Indiana's Pitcher Plant

The only pitcher plant native to Indiana is the purple pitcher plant (*Sarracenia purpurea*). A rare, carnivorous bog plant, *Sarracenia purpurea*—the only pitcher plant of its genus native to cold climates—can survive subzero temperatures during dormancy.

The pitcher plant's rainwater-filled traps are low to the ground and catch small insects who fall in and sink to the base of the trap where they drown. As with other pitcher plants, this species' traps are lined with downward facing hairs to prevent prey from escaping. A new pitcher plant produces digestive enzymes to process the prey; however, as a pitcher ages into its second year, digestion of prey is aided by a community of bacteria living within the pitcher.

The plant produces flowers that are held above the foliage to avoid the pollinator from becoming prey.

Because they require specific, highly acidic bog ecosystems, these plants are incredibly localized and protected. Wild sightings are almost entirely restricted to the extreme northern part of the state—either Pinhook Bog (Indiana Dunes National Park) or Lydick Bog (St. Joseph County).



Water can be seen in the pitchers (traps) of *Sarracenia purpurea*

**Pinhook Bog (Indiana Dunes National Park):** The most famous location in the state for carnivorous plants. It features floating mats of sphagnum moss where pitcher plants thrive.

Due to the fragile ecosystem, the bog is only accessible via guided, ranger-led tours during the summer. Check the Indiana Dunes National Park schedule (<https://www.nps.gov/indu/index.htm>) for tour reservations.

**Lydick Bog (St. Joseph County):** Managed by the Shirley Heinze Land Trust, this property just west of South Bend contains rare bog habitats that shelter pitcher plants and sundews. Visit Shirley Heinze Land Trust (<https://heinzetrust.org/>) for visiting guidelines.

## Garfield Park Master Gardener Association



in association with

### Purdue Extension - Marion County

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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.

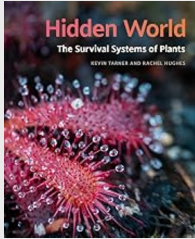
Helping Others Grow  
Sharing Knowledge  
Volunteer Commitment

## From the Bookshelf . . .

### *Hidden World: The Survival Systems of Plants*

by Kevin Turner and Rachel Hughes

For millions of years, plants have managed to resist and defend themselves from a continuous onslaught of life-threatening events.



What Kevin Turner and Rachel Hughes reveal in the *Hidden World: The Survival Systems of Plants* are the creative and constantly changing methods plants call on to survive. Despite the daunting pressures of being eaten by other species and competing among themselves for water, sunlight and pollinators, plants manage to survive by calling on a deep well of ingenious strategies.

The authors describe plant survival as a complex combination of physical barriers, chemical defenses, warning signals and partnerships with other organisms. Some plants protect themselves with thorns, tough surfaces, irritating hairs, bitter tastes or toxins. Others produce chemicals that repel attackers, attract predators of plant-eating insects, or help plants respond to damage.

A major theme of the book is that plant defenses have shaped human life as well. Many familiar foods, spices, scents and stimulants come from plant survival strategies. The book connects botany to everyday experiences such as drinking coffee, eating peppers, cooking vegetables and enjoying ornamental plants.

This volume's other points include:

- Plants use both passive and active defenses to survive.
- Plant anatomy, chemistry and reproduction all contribute to survival.
- Some plants recruit allies, such as predators or pollinators, to improve their chances of survival.
- The hidden complexity of plant life challenges the idea that plants are simple or inactive organisms.

The book encourages readers to look more closely at plants and recognize the sophisticated systems that allow them to endure, reproduce and influence the world—including human life.

## Picnic Flowers

Picnics deserve flowers! The warm summer months are the perfect time for outdoor picnics and open-air celebrations. Here are some flower ideas to consider for your summer picnics this year:

### Sunflower Arrangements

The warm color, sunny radiance and large size of sunflowers cannot help but make an impression at a picnic or barbecue. What better way to celebrate the fun summer vibe and create the perfect centerpiece? Make a statement at your next picnic with a sunflower arrangement that is sure to bring a smile to all those who see it.



### Wildflowers and Daisies

Summer wildflowers and daisies thrive in summer fields, but they can also make for a lovely country themed centerpiece at a summer picnic. Freshly picked wildflowers from outdoors are nice, but if time to search for them is limited, bringing a special pre-made arrangement of colorful daisies, carnations and asters offers both beauty and convenience when attending and enlivening a summer picnic.

### Bountiful Blooms

Some flower colors and petal shapes really fit the summer vibe, and

an arrangement combining summer favorites in creative ways can help to add a bright, happy feel to any summertime get-together. A summery arrangement will brighten the mood at any picnic table.



### Summer Roses

There is no flower quite like the rose, and its versatility makes it an excellent flower to give for just about any occasion — including a summer picnic. An arrangement featuring lavender roses and eucalyptus greens is sure to impress. Pink or multicolored roses also can make for a distinguished centerpiece.



Whether attending a picnic in the park, a patriotic barbecue or a classic backyard picnic, there is no reason to go empty-handed. You will make a fantastic impression on your host and add to the fun vibe of the day by bringing along the gift of a colorful, brightly-blooming summer flower arrangement.

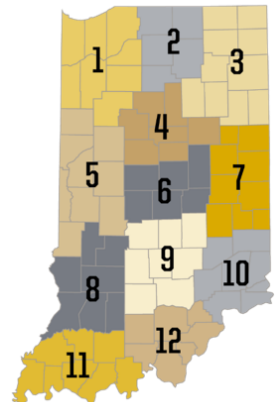
## Transformation *(continued from Page 1)*

EMG Basic Trainings will continue to be delivered through both in-person and online formats. Extension staff will remain actively engaged with the program and will continue serving as EMG Coordinators and collaborating with EMG volunteers to provide valuable home horticulture programming.

Purdue Extension began to prepare for the reorganization by introducing the transformation to west-central and east-central Indiana in summer 2025. Extension employees, volunteers and others have been included in discussions and provided feedback about the change.

Purdue Extension will transform to a statewide organizational structure with 12 regions with a county level 4-H presence. Marion County will be part of Region 6—along with Boone, Hamilton, Hendricks, Hancock and Madison.

To learn more about this initiative, please visit the Extension Transformation website (<https://extension.purdue.edu/about/transformation.html>) or reach out at [extensiontransformation@purdue.edu](mailto:extensiontransformation@purdue.edu).



## Indiana State Fair—August 7-23

The Indiana State Fair and Corteva Agriscience again are honoring 15 Featured Farmers at this year's Indiana State Fair—which occurs from August 7-23.

In its eleventh year, this program celebrates and helps put a face on Hoosier agriculture by connecting consumers with fellow Hoosiers who grow the food they eat. These 15 farm operations represent all regions of the state, showcasing different agricultural products throughout the state fair.

Visitors to the Indiana State Fair can attend a live chat with a Featured Farmer every open day in the Glass Barn. In addition, many other opportunities exist to talk with the Featured Farm family and learn about their operations.

The list below contains the Featured Farmers, their farm products and their home counties:

- **Friday, August 7 – Maplewood Farms LLC** (Maple Syrup, Timber, Maple Sugar, Maple Craft Soda, Maple Gifts), Union County
- **Saturday, August 8 – Greer Farms** (Soybeans, Produce, Watermelons), Gibson County
- **Sunday, August 9 – Fischer Farms** (Beef, Pork, Poultry), Dubois County
- **Monday, August 10 — Fair Not Open**
- **Tuesday, August 11 – Chism Family Farm** (Corn, Soybeans, Sweet Corn), Howard County
- **Wednesday, August 12 – Hasting Plants** (Annual and Perennial Flowers and Plants), Posey County
- **Thursday, August 13 – Schoettmer Prime Pork Farm** (Pork), Tipton County
- **Friday, August 14 – P.E. Brocksmith and Son Farm** (Corn, Soybeans), Knox County
- **Saturday, August 15 – Sennett Cattle** (Beef, Corn, Soybeans), Montgomery County
- **Sunday, August 16 – Promise Keeper Farms** (Lavendar and Lavendar Products), Noble County
- **Monday, August 17 — Fair Not Open**
- **Tuesday, August 18 – The Seedlings Flower Farm** (Flower Farm, U-pick, Flower Truck, Air BnB), Monroe County
- **Wednesday, August 19 – Yellow Tree Farm LLC** (Custom Pork, Pumpkins, Drone Spraying), Rush County
- **Thursday, August 20 – Stuckwish Family Farms** (Watermelon, Cantaloupe, Tomatoes, Sweet Corn, Peppers, Pumpkins, Gourds, Flowers), Jackson County
- **Friday, August 21 – Dague Dairy Farm** (Dairy), Fulton County
- **Saturday, August 22 – Morning Harvest Produce** (Lettuce, Leafy Greens, Herbs, Salad Kits), Washington County
- **Sunday, August 23 – Ault Farms Inc.** (Row Crops, Beef), Fulton County

In addition to honoring the Featured Farmers, the Indiana State Fair is bringing back one of its most popular attractions as the Big Top Circus (presented by Bee Window) returns for the 2026 Indiana State Fair. Located in the Fair's Big Top Zone, the circus will feature an expanded lineup of world-class performers, breathtaking aerial acts, comedy, danger and high-energy entertainment—all included with fair admission. The Big Top Circus will offer multiple performances with daily shows at 1:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

The Indiana State Fair, known as the state's premier multi-day event, is a vibrant celebration of the Hoosier spirit and agricultural legacy. Renowned for its top-notch entertainment, spotlight on 4-H youth, engaging agricultural education programs, modern facilities and an array of delicious fare, the Indiana State Fair has been a treasured tradition for Hoosiers for over a century.

For more information, visit [www.indianastatefair.com](http://www.indianastatefair.com).



## Indiana' State Flower

Indiana has had four official state flowers, with the peony (*Paeonia*) holding the title since 1957.

Unlike many state flowers, the peony is not native to the US. It was adopted due to heavy lobbying by Representative Laurence D. Baker, a commercial peony grower from Kendallville.

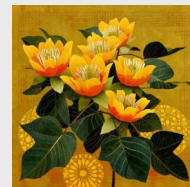


Indiana's fascinating floral history has shifted four times:

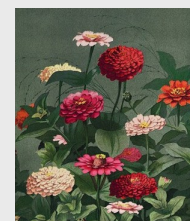
**Carnation (1913–1923):** The state's very first official flower, despite it being native to Europe, not Indiana.



**Tulip Tree Blossom (1923–1931):** A native choice for state flower—the blossom of the official state tree.



**Zinnia (1931–1957):** Native to Mexico, it replaced the tulip tree blossom for more than two decades.



**Peony (1957–Present):** Representative Laurence Baker successfully persuaded the state legislature to make the peony the official flower. Since the legislation specified no particular color or variety, Hoosiers can claim any peony variety as their own.

In Indiana, the peony blooms in late May and early June, perfectly aligning with the month of the 500 Festival and with Memorial Day. Historically, the blooms are popular for decorating gravesites (driving high demand during the holiday). Noblesville also celebrates this floral legacy at its annual Indiana Peony Festival each May.

Since the peony is an imported species, the Indiana Native Plant Society and local conservation groups continue advocating for the state to adopt a native bloom—such as the fire pink—as the official state emblem.

## Calendar/Events

### Saturday, July 11 (8:00 a.m. to noon)

*Hamilton County Master Gardeners Annual Daylily Sale*

*Hamilton County Fairgrounds, 2003 Pleasant St., Noblesville*

Over 190 varieties—including must-see new selections! Pick the daylilies you like, and they dig them for you. Master Gardeners will be on-site to answer questions.

<https://hcmga.org/>

### Saturday, July 18 (9:00 to 11:30 a.m.)

*Bees and Prairie at Camp Cullom (Frankfort)*

*Camp Cullom, 6815 W. County Road 200 N., Frankfort*

*Indiana Native Plant Society, Central Chapter*

Come for presentations and a guided hike on the restoration of prairies and the impact on native pollinators. Ella Stroh, Indiana Partner Biologist for the Pollinator Partnership ([pollinator.org](http://pollinator.org)), will describe Pollinator Partnership's initiatives and the resources they offer. She also will share her extension knowledge about native bees.

Registration: <https://www.campcullom.org/camp-map>

### Saturday, July 25 (9:00 to 10:30 a.m.)

*Summer Bloom Hike at Nonie Krauss Nature Preserve*

*Nonie Krauss Nature Preserve, Eller Road, Fishers*

*Indiana Native Plant Society, Central Chapter*

Soak up those wildflower vibes as participants explore this beautiful prairie landscape in full summer bloom! This in-person, members-only hike is the perfect chance to spot colorful wildflowers and enjoy the great outdoors with friends. INPS member Becky McNichols will lead the hike and share her knowledge of this beloved prairie, pointing out the variety of plants in bloom and her favorite attributes of the preserve.

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/summer-bloom-prairie-hike-at-nonie-krauss-tickets-1984468428490>

### Wednesday, August 12 (7:00 to 8:00 p.m.) (Webinar)

*Native Pond Buffers*

*Indiana Native Plant Society, Central Chapter*

Join INPS for this webinar to learn how to reduce annoyance fowl and boost pond health with natural plants! Learn steps and logistics to consider when contemplating putting in native plants around a pond. Jessica Merkling, Urban Wildlife biologist with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, will show you easy ways to create and maintain buffers using native plants that help keep water clean and habitats thriving.

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1989160648045>

## 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

## Volunteers Needed at Fair's Children's Garden

Master Gardeners are needed to volunteer in the Purdue Extension-Marion County Children's Garden at the Indiana State Fair. Now in its second year, the garden gives families a fun, hands-on way to explore gardening, healthy foods and nature.

Located behind the Corteva Agriscience Building and next to the Marion County Master Gardener Demonstration Garden, the garden features vegetables, flowers, educational displays, a daily scavenger hunt, hands-on activities and creative play.



Volunteer shifts are available on Opening Day and every Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday during the fair:

- 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Volunteers will help lead activities, assist with the scavenger hunt, and engage with visitors. Purdue Extension-Marion County will provide materials and activity instructions.

Volunteers will receive a complimentary Indiana State Fair admission and a parking pass for the day of their shift. Passes will be e-mailed the Monday before the volunteer date.