



# THE GARFIELD GARDENER

THE NEWSLETTER OF GARFIELD PARK MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

## August 2026 Next Meeting

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

Purdue University is an equal  
opportunity / equal access /  
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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  
pastpfct@aol.com

### 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: August already?

### Greetings!

How summer flies! We can't wait for the lovely summer days to garden, enjoy the outdoors, and just do the things that gardeners love to do and BAM we are in the dog days of summer, harvesting our bounty, and leaning towards fall. I love the seasons though and am glad that Indiana experiences them.

What fun things have you gotten to do this summer? I had a couple of lovely visitors last week. A hummingbird that loved my red Cardinal Flowers *Lobelia cardinalis* and a Monarch on my Truffula Pink Globe Amaranth *Gomphrena pulchella*.

I have been harvesting the heck out of the lovely Empress tomatoes that I mentioned in the last newsletter. They are beautiful and delicious. I would suggest you add them to your garden next year if you can.



I will be unable to attend the August meeting due to an injury. The August meeting is a field trip to Helen Steussy's gardens in New Castle, Indiana. I look forward to hearing about the gardens and seeing your pictures.

Reminder to 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 but, until then, please contact the current member in the position with interest or questions you might have:

- 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](http://GarfieldParkConservatory-Indianapolis)

### Upcoming Club Meeting Dates

September Meeting: September we will be in the conservatory classroom.

—Kay Martin-Pence, GPMGA President



## Conservatory Tours

**August 8 (11:00 a.m.)**

Adam Musgrove

**August 22 (11:00 a.m.)**

Arlene Bow

Oren Cooley

## At the Conservatory

**Until August 23**

**Tuesday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-**

**5:00 p.m.; Sunday 1:00-5:00 p.m.**

**Mondays Closed**

*Cactus and Succulent Show*

Come explore the Third Annual Cactus and Succulent Show.



The Garfield Park Conservatory has partnered with several local institutions to create a whimsical and imaginative display of some of the coolest cacti and succulents around town!

The cost is \$7 per person, \$15 per family (2 adults maximum per family).

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

**Garfield Park**

## GPMGA's Next Meeting: August 12

This is the tour you don't want to miss! Our next meeting on Wednesday, August 12, is a tour of Helen Steussy's wildflower prairie garden in New Castle Indiana.

The garden is an hour from Garfield Park. Participants will leave at 5:30 p.m. from the parking lot at the Garfield Park Conservatory to drive to the garden. There are no bathrooms in the garden and snacks will not be provided for this meeting.

Remember to bring walking shoes, a water bottle and a hat. You also may bring little lunch bags or envelopes to collect seeds as we walk in the prairie.



Helen and her husband started seeding this 20-acre tall grass prairie more than twenty five years ago when Spence Nursery installed the first plants. Since that time, they have used strategic mowing and burning for space to broadcast seeds for new plants.

There are nearly 200 varieties with some plants reaching ten feet tall. They have documented over 200 species of birds and 300 species of insects living in the prairie. With plant roots that reach 15 into the soil, this prairie can absorb eight inches of rain. Our tour promises to help us learn more about natives, collect some seeds and relax in nature.

**Carpool Drivers:** The address is 1401 South County Road 125 West New Castle, IN 47362. Follow the narrow drive past the house and park on the grass in front of the barn.



## 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  
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### 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: July 8

The Garfield Park Master Gardener Association met on July 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the Garfield Park Corporate Shelter (near the Arts Center).

### Kay Martin-Pence (President):

- Correction to June 10 meeting minutes: Minutes should read that the size of the Growing Places Park is nearly 6,000 *square feet* (not acres)
- A new volunteer opportunity with Garfield Park. The park no longer has a security staff, so after our monthly meetings on Wednesdays, they are kindly asking us if we would have a volunteer help check for visitors still in the Sunken Gardens (at 8:00 p.m.), help request that any remaining visitors leave, and lock up the Sunken Gardens. Since the meeting in August involves a field trip, if there is a member who is not joining the field trip, please let Kay or Teresa know if you would like to help close up that day.
- Reminder on open Board positions. Current openings are the Treasurer (needed before 2027), recommend a background in accounting or bookkeeping; Plant Sale Chair (needed around October or November) which could be one to three or more people; and Hospitality Co-chair, which can start as soon as the person is willing. If interested, please reach out to Kay or the person currently holding the position.

### Danielle Randles (Vice-President):

- The scholarship and grant applications have been updated to a Google form. Currently, these are available from one of the Board members. It will be added to the website when it is fully updated.
- Will provide a demonstration of the updated website at the September meeting at the Garfield Park Conservatory.

### Cindy Maude (Treasurer):

- Account balance is \$13,341.22
- One outstanding grant waiting to be fulfilled and two potential applications. Reminder about donating more to Purdue for the Spring Garden Clinic in addition to the \$500 that was left over from 2026's donation.

**Program:** Annual Summer Picnic

### JoAnn Klooz (Programs):

- August 12 meeting will be a field trip—a tour of 20 acres of exclusively native plants located in New Castle, Indiana, an hour away. Expect a Google form in an e-mail to let JoAnn know if you will be joining and if you are interested in carpooling opportunities.

### Committee Reports:

- Oren Cooley (Newsletter/Publicity Director): Thank you for the suggestions for the newsletter. If you are not receiving the newsletter in your e-mail, please let Oren know.
- Victoria Metheaux (Conservatory Tour Coordinator): Not present; Tours covered.
- Teresa McCurry (Garfield Park Volunteer Coordinator): A new member has joined GPMGA and has been volunteering at the park.

—Respectfully submitted,  
Adam Musgrove



## 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.

Purdue does not endorse nor disclaim information that appears in this newsletter. It is intended only for informational purposes.

**Questions:** Contact Carey Grable at cagrabl@purdue.edu or at 317-275-9290.

*Helping Others Grow  
Sharing Knowledge  
Volunteer Commitment*

## From the Bookshelf . . .

### ***Designing the Lush Dry Garden: Create a Climate-Resilient, Low-Water Paradise***

by Cricket Riley, Alice Kitajima and Kier Holmes of The Ruth Bancroft Garden

"Drawing on the wisdom of . . . Ruth Bancroft, this book shows how to adapt her renowned dry garden principles to modern landscapes. It demonstrates how these ideas can transform real-life spaces into thriving, beautiful sanctuaries."

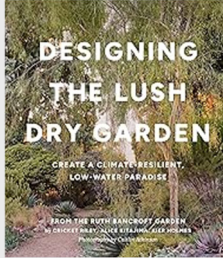
—*The American Garden*

Ruth Bancroft (1908-2017) was a self-taught gardener and designer whose eclectic methods encourage richly textured, bold and colorful layers of regionally climate-appropriate flowers, shrubs, trees and succulents. These include the aloes, agaves, yuccas and echeverias that she collected and experimented with for over 60 years at the Ruth Bancroft Garden—a pioneering garden reflecting resilient design with a focus on water conservation.

*Designing the Lush Dry Garden* is the first guide to lay out Ruth Bancroft's methods for the home gardener and designer. With gorgeous photographs by Caitlin Atkinson and detailed portraits of 20 gardens, gardeners will discover how to create a design that suits their vision, including:

- How to choose the right plants for the garden
- The appropriate methods for adapting any garden to climate change
- Advice on integrating paths and structures in a waterwise design
- Tips for low-water container gardens and designs

The book's authors include Cricket Riley, a landscape designer who specializes in lush, low-water garden design and in helping homeowners embrace regionally climate appropriate gardens; Alice Kitajima, a specialist in Japanese-style gardens; and Kier Holmes, a contributing writer and content creator for *Gardenista* and *Sonoma Magazine*, and a writer for *Martha Stewart* and *Better Homes & Gardens*.



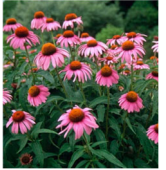
## Indiana's Summer and Fall Wildflowers

Indiana's summer and fall wildflowers represent a dynamic shift from the delicate, shade-loving ephemerals of spring to robust, sun-tolerant species. These plants dominate prairies, roadsides, open woodlands and wetlands, providing vital ecosystems for local pollinators.

### Mid-to-Late Summer Wildflowers (June – August)

Summer wildflowers in Indiana are built to endure intense sunlight and variable moisture. They are characterized by deep root systems and vibrant, nectar-rich blooms.

**Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*):** Features drooping purple-pink petals surrounding a spiked, orange-brown central cone. It thrives in full sun and serves as a primary nectar source for native bees.



**Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*):** A vibrant orange member of the milkweed family. It is a critical host plant for monarch butterfly larvae and thrives in dry, sandy soils.

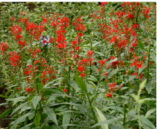


**Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*):** Also known as Bee Balm, this species produces ragged, lavender pom-pom clusters. Its fragrant leaves and tubular flowers are highly attractive to bumblebees and hummingbirds.



### Wetland and Woodland Edge Species

**Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*):** Emits intense, fiery red spikes in late summer. It grows in moist soils along streams and marshes, relying almost exclusively on hummingbirds for pollination.



**Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*):** A highly adaptable daisy-like flower with bright yellow rays and a dark brown center. It blankets open fields and roadsides across the state.



### Autumn Wildflowers (September – November)

As days shorten, Indiana's landscapes transition into hues of deep purple and gold. Fall wildflowers are crucial for migratory insects and insects preparing for overwintering.

**The Goldenrods (*Solidago* species)** Goldenrods are often unjustly blamed for hay fever but their heavy pollen is moved by insects, not the wind. **Showy Goldenrod (*Solidago speciosa*):** Produces dense, club-shaped plumes of tiny, bright yellow flowers. It prefers full sun and well-drained soils.



**Stiff Goldenrod (*Oligoneuron rigidum*):** Features flat-topped yellow clusters and rigid, hairy leaves, making it a hardy anchor for late-season prairies.



**The Asters (*Symphyotrichum* species)** Asters provide the final major nectar burst of the year, blooming well into the first frosts.

**New England Aster (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*):** Displays large clusters of rich purple to rose-pink petals centered around yellow disks. It grows robustly in moist fields.



**Sky Blue Aster (*Symphyotrichum oolentangiense*):** Features delicate, pale blue flowers on branched stems, tolerating drier, poorer soils than its New England counterpart.



The transition from summer to fall blooms creates a continuous "nectar corridor".



## Newfields' Flower & Vegetable Garden

Newfields' rejuvenated Flower & Vegetable Garden is projected to open in late 2026.

The new garden will be a culinary hub that will use produce from the garden to enhance the Newfields' menu for guests, develop cooking and mixology classes, and eventually bring seasonal produce to support local food pantries.

In addition, the space will feature educational programming like gardening, nutritional instruction and horticulture therapy in an accessible atmosphere. The flexible-use pavilion will double the museum's current capacity for garden-based interactive programs.

The new Flower & Vegetable Garden will reimagine and restore the heart of The Garden at Newfields by recreating a vital piece of the historic and self-sustaining Oldfields estate into a vibrant and dynamic space for growth, learning and engagement.

Construction, in partnership with Shiel Sexton, is now underway to enhance the garden experience. Among the accomplishments thus far:

- The path connecting the Lilly House to the Madeline F. Elder Greenhouse and future Flower & Vegetable Garden site has been poured and is open for guests.
- Excavation has begun for the underground work needed for the Summer House and the Reflecting Pool. When completed, this space will be a calm oasis in the shade and lend itself to quiet moments of reflection.
- Horticulturist Marian Keith is keeping the first round of potential plantings healthy in the Horticulture Service Area as they wait for their permanent places to be readied. More than 1,000 individual plants are cared for in this nursery space including espalier fruit trees, grasses, blooming perennials and colorful shrubs.



## Sunflowers Stamps Available

The U.S. Postal Service is celebrating a beloved native flower with the release of the Sunflowers Forever stamp. The stamp highlights the sunflower's beauty and positive symbolism as well as its nutritional and ecological importance.

Designed by Greg Breeding, an art director for USPS, and illustrated by Nancy Stahl, the stamp features four sunflowers with golden yellow petals, a brown center and leaves and stems in shades of green against a pale-yellow background. Stahl created the design using ink sketches based on photographic references.

A dependable source of nectar for birds, bees and butterflies, sunflowers also provide seeds eaten by humans and livestock. The seeds' oil is extracted for cooking.

Sunflowers have long symbolized happiness, loyalty and adoration because of their bright, sunlike appearance and the way their young flower heads turn to follow the sun (heliotropism).

Hardy and easy to grow, sunflowers tolerate dry conditions well. They also offer sustainable benefits in gardens and on farms — including drought resistance, soil rejuvenation through deep taproots and natural pest control.

The Sunflowers stamp is available in a double-sided booklet of 20 stamps. As a Forever stamp, the Sunflowers stamp will always be equal in value to the current First-Class Mail 1-ounce rate.

With the release of the new Sunflowers stamp, the Postal Service continues to highlight its floral-themed stamps series. An enduring favorite among customers, stamps featuring flowers and botanical beauty have been frequently issued.

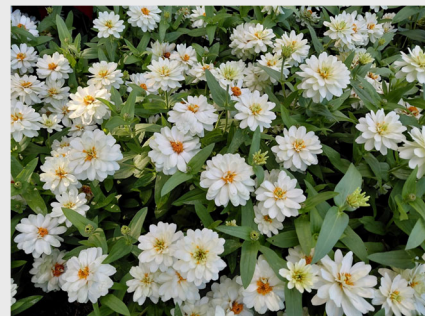


## Demonstration Garden

Every year, new award-winning All-America Selections (AAS) flowers and vegetables are showcased in the Demonstration Garden —the only official AAS Display Garden in Indianapolis.



One of the new plants featured this year is 2026 AAS Gold Medal Winner Zinnia Profusion Double White Improved. The plants with red foliage behind the new winner in the photograph above are Coleus Main Street Beale Street, a 2020 AAS Winner.



The 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. Bred for superior performance, this variety is exceptionally sturdy and disease-resistant, and thrives in diverse climates, even enduring high night temperatures.

Enjoy continuous color and an immaculate appearance from spring through frost. Profusion Double White is the ultimate choice for reliable, season-long beauty.

For more information about the Zinnia Profusion Double White, visit <https://all-americaselections.org/.../zinnia-profusion.../>

For more information about the Coleus Main Street Beale Street, visit <https://all-americaselections.org/.../coleus-main-street.../>

## Calendar/Events

### Monday, August 10 (6:30 to 8:30 p.m.) (Free)

*Celebrating North America in Our Gardens and Landscapes*

Presentation by Dawn Slack of Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM).

Indianapolis Hosta Society

St Luke's Methodist Church, 100 W. 86th Street, Entrance #6, Indianapolis

<https://indianapolishostasociety.org/>

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

*Native Pond Buffers Webinar*

Join Indiana Native Plant Society, Central Chapter, to learn how to reduce annoyance fowl and boost pond health with natural plants! Jessica Merkling, Urban Wildlife Biologist with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, will show easy ways to create and maintain buffers using native plants that help keep water clean and habitats thriving. Learn steps and logistics to consider when contemplating putting in native plants around a pond. In addition to creating habitats that attract birds, butterflies and other fascinating creatures, the transition from water to land will create a wildlife hotspot that doubles as mitigation for certain wildlife that sometimes linger where they aren't wanted.

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

### Saturday, October 17 (7:30 a.m. Doors Open; 4:10 p.m. Closing remarks)

*Wildlife Corridors: Linking Landscapes for Biodiversity*

*Indiana Native Plant Society Annual Conference*

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

The keynote speaker at the Indiana Native Plant Society Annual Conference is Doug Tallamy, the T. A. Baker Professor of Agriculture in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware. Chief among his research goals is to better understand the many ways insects interact with plants and how such interactions determine the diversity of animal communities. Birds as well as other forms of biodiversity are declining at an accelerating pace, and our common birds are declining the fastest. Which birds are declining? The ones that require insects to rear their young. The best way to keep common birds common is to keep their insect food common. In his talk titled *Keeping Our Common Birds Common*, Tallamy will tell which insects birds need most and how to create landscapes that make these insects more abundant.

Register: <https://fs27.formsite.com/JinkhW/ucccv8vpp/index>

## Volunteer: Firefly Atlas

Firefly Atlas needs help collecting and analyzing data about firefly species distributions, habitat needs and threats in order for the organization to make successful conservation decisions, especially in their focus regions.

The Firefly Atlas is a collaborative effort to better understand and conserve the diversity of fireflies in North America. Launched in 2022, the project aims to advance the collective understanding of firefly species' distributions, phenology and habitat associations, as well as to identify threats to their populations.

Although Firefly Atlas tracks all species from the US and Canada, the organization currently prioritizes efforts for a subset of 13 threatened and "data deficient" species.

Volunteers will learn more about fireflies, their ecology and ongoing conservation efforts; help researchers better understand the distribution of fireflies; and connect with other researchers, land managers and community scientists.

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

## GPMGA Membership – 2026

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

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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cindy Maude 7416 Rooses Drive Indianapolis, IN 46217

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