The Garfield Gardener

THE NEWSLETTER OF GARFIELD PARK MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

September 2026
Next Meeting

September 9
Topic: *Invasive Species*
Speakers: Lynn Lautzenhiser and Josephine Lock, Boone County Invasives Cooperative

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

2026 Meeting Dates

October 14
November 11
December 9

Purdue University is an equal opportunity / equal access / affirmative action 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
www.IndyMG.org
www.IndyHorticulture.org

President's Message: Fall is Almost Upon Us

Greetings!

August was a busy and challenging month for many gardeners, and my thoughts go out to those managing the aftermath of recent flooding.

Here we are on the cusp of fall and you can feel the change in the air. Cooler mornings and evenings, a few trees are already dropping leaves while others are starting to get that golden tinge that says fall is on its way. Mums are popping up in all of the garden centers. Remember to pick mums with flower buds that have not yet opened—that way you will have flowers later into the season.

In my own garden, the vibrant colors of autumn are emerging, and I am busy clearing vegetable beds as the final harvest wraps up. This year, I tried the "Three Sisters" planting method. While the raccoons took all the corn and the pumpkins only produced male flowers, I did get a good harvest of beans—and happily note that the pumpkins remained entirely free of squash bugs. For those unfamiliar with this traditional method, you can read more here: The Three Sisters of Indigenous American Agriculture.

I am also experimenting with late summer bedding plants for a fall harvest, including broccoli, cabbage, Brussels sprouts and lettuce. Are you planning any fall plantings this year?

I look forward to seeing everyone at our September meeting, where we will discuss invasive species.

IMPORTANT: Leadership Openings for Next Year

Please review the following open board and leadership roles for next year. If you are interested or have any questions, please reach out to me or the current member holding the position:

- President: I am willing to serve for one more year, but please let me know if you are interested in stepping into this role.
- Treasurer: This is a vital position that requires prior financial experience or a similar role with other organizations.
- Plant Sale Chairman: We need one or two individuals to coordinate the plant pick up from Sullivan's. Their generous donation is crucial to our annual plant sale, and we want to ensure this partnership continues.
- Hospitality Co-Chair: We are looking for a co-chair to assist Amanda with hospitality duties.

Events and Garden Happenings

See the conservatory website for details on upcoming events: Garfield Park Conservatory - Indianapolis.

—Kay Martin-Pence, GPMGA President

Conservatory Tours

September 12 (11:00 a.m.)
Arlene Bow
Oren Cooley

September 26 (11:00 a.m.)
Adam Musgrove

At the Conservatory

October 17 (10:00—11:30 a.m.)
Herbal Soaps Workshop
Garfield Park Conservatory

Join the Herb Society of Central Indiana for an opportunity to learn more about soap making. The program will include recipes, handouts and a hands-on workshop.

The program is designed for ages 16 and up. The cost is $6 per person. Registration is required.

For more information, visit www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org.

Garfield Park

GPMGA's Next Meeting: September 9

Lynn Lautzenhiser and Josephine Lock with the Boone County Invasives Cooperative (BCIC) will be at the GPMGA's meeting on Wednesday, September 9, at 6:30 p.m. at the Garfield Park Conservatory.

Lautzenhiser and Lock will tell us about the invasive species that are particularly problematic in Indianapolis. We will learn which ones particularly need action in the fall.

They also will talk about BCIC's approach to land stewardship and give examples of how they create space for nature using native plants.

Lautzenhiser is the Land Survey Team Coordinator and Lock is the Weed Wrangle and Restoration Coordinator and Vice Chairperson for BCIC. The organization was founded in 2021 to reduce the impact of invasive species in Boone County.

BCIC provides free land surveys in Boone County and has Weed Wrangle events where volunteers help remove invasive species. The group also installs bootbrush stations in local parks (like Turkey Foot and Starkey Nature parks in Zionsville) to stop the spread of invasive seeds.

For more information, visit: https://www.facebook.com/BooneCountyInvasivesCooperative/

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
jklooz@me.com

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 Reports: August 2026

The Garfield Park Master Gardener Association's field trip on August 12 was canceled due to inclement weather. The GPMGA Officers and Committee Chairs have the following updates:

Kay Martin-Pence (President): Currently creating role documents to provide more detailed descriptions for each board and chairperson position.

Danielle Randles (Vice-President): Nothing to report.

Cindy Maude (Treasurer): The bank balance at the end of July was $12,627.63.

Program: Wildflower Garden Tour with Helen Stuessy canceled due to inclement weather

JoAnn Klooz (Programs): Nothing to report.

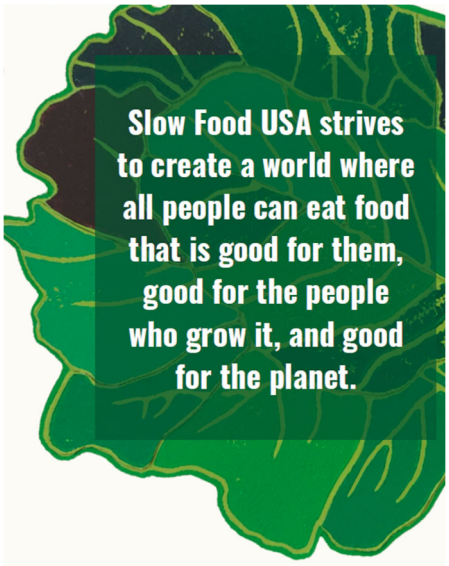
Committee Reports:
Amanda Anez (Hospitality-Snack Coordinator): Nothing to report.
Carrie Alumbaugh (Plant Sale Chair): Nothing to report.
Victoria Metheaux (Conservatory Tour Coordinator): Nothing to report.
Oren Cooley (Newsletter/Publicity Director): Nothing to report.
Will Gerlib (Website Coordinator): Nothing to report.
Teresa McCurry (Garfield Park Volunteer Coordinator): Nothing to report.

. —Respectfully submitted,
Adam Musgrove

Slow Food Indy's Relaunch Potluck

Slow Food Indy's Relaunch Potluck will occur from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on September 12 upstairs at Goose the Market (2503 North Delaware Street).

Bring a dish to share that features a locally grown ingredient or product. The board will share a history and vision for Slow Food Indy that brings community members, chefs, growers, producers and vendors together. Everyone in attendance will be encouraged to share and brainstorm.



Slow Food Indy is the Central Indiana chapter of Slow Food USA, the international organization dedicated to providing good, clean and fair food for all. The organization believes in the community value of high-quality, flavorful and healthy food. Its work supports Indiana-based initiatives and collaborations that promote ethical, equitable and sustainable relationships with what people eat.

Over the past decade, Slow Food Indy has connected thousands of Hoosiers with local farms and restaurants through educational programs, hands-on workshops, farm tours and delicious meals.

The event is free although space is limited. Thus, attendees must register through Eventbrite using the QR code.

Slow Food Indy

For more information, visit www.slowfoodusa.org. If you have any questions, please send to slowfood-indy@slowfoodusa.org

Garfield Park Master Gardener Association

Garfield Park Master Gardener Association
Helping Others Grow
www.indygpmga.com

in association with

Purdue Extension - Marion County
Discovery Hall, Suite 201
Indiana State Fairgrounds
1202 East 38th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46205
Phone: 317.275.9279
FAX: 317.275.9309

E-mail: cagrable@purdue.edu or rusin0@purdue.edu
Answerline: 317.275.9292 or marioncountymg@gmail.com

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 regard 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.

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.

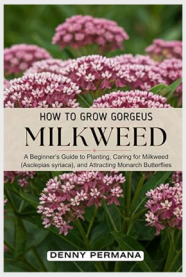
Purdue does not endorse nor disclaim information that appears in this newsletter. It is intended only for informational purposes.

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

Helping Others Grow
Sharing Knowledge
Volunteer Commitment

From the Bookshelf . . .

How to Grow Gorgeous Milkweed: A Beginner's Guide to Planting, Caring for Milkweed (Asclepias syriaca) and Attracting Monarch Butterflies
by Denny Permana



Discover the joys of growing milkweed and creating a butterfly-friendly haven with *How to Grow Gorgeous Milkweed*.

This comprehensive guide walks readers through every step of cultivating vibrant milkweed plants, from choosing the right variety to understanding seasonal care. Learn how to transform a garden into a sanctuary for monarch butterflies while enhancing the beauty of the space with low-maintenance, colorful blooms.

This book provides the essential tips for growing healthy, thriving milkweed plants—detailed advice on soil preparation, watering schedules and pest management tailored specifically to support monarch caterpillars and pollinators. Along with practical planting techniques, explore DIY projects—like creating butterfly feeders and shelters—and discover how to design a pollinator-friendly garden that nurtures biodiversity.

Among the topics covered in this book:

- Learn how to grow healthy, vibrant milkweed plants that attract monarch butterflies
- Discover how to start growing milkweed from seeds and store milkweed seeds for the next season
- Discover easy-to-follow planting and care techniques that guarantee blooming success
- Learn the best way to care for milkweed throughout the year
- Create a stunning, pollinator-friendly garden that supports wildlife and biodiversity
- Determine how to attract monarchs and other pollinators to a garden
- Learn about the common pests and diseases that affect milkweed
- Gain confidence in managing common pests and troubleshooting growing challenges

INPS's 33rd Annual Conference

Join the Indiana Native Plant Society's 33rd Annual Conference on October 17 as they explore *Wildlife Corridors: Linking Landscapes for Biodiversity*.

The conference will encompass topics from ecological restoration and rare plant conservation to gardening for birds and HOAs. Among the topics and speakers are:

Doug Tallamy (Keynote Speaker)
Keeping Our Common Birds Common

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. Tallamy will tell which insects birds need most and how to create landscapes that make these insects more abundant.

Doug Tallamy is 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. His books include *Bringing Nature Home*, *Nature's Best Hope* and *The Nature of Oaks*, winner of the American Horticultural Society's 2022 book award.

Mike Homoya
Chronicles of Primeval Indiana

What was Indiana's landscape like hundreds of years ago? Indiana was a land of vast forest, prairie as far as the eye could see, crystal clear lakes, and bountiful wetlands. We know this from information given to us by early explorers and pioneers who observed and wrote about it. Come marvel as we look through their eyes to see Indiana as it once was.

Michael Homoya served for 37 years as Botanist/Plant Ecologist for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Nature Preserves. He is a Fellow and former president of the Indiana Academy of Science and past president of the Indiana Native Plant Society. Books he has written include *Orchids of Indiana*; *Wildflowers and Ferns of Indiana Forests: A Field Guide*; *Wake Up, Woods*; and *Wildflowers of the Midwest* (co-authored with Scott Namestnik).

Dani Tippmann
Naloomina Neewe Myaamiaki – Wild Rice and the Miami

This presentation will tell the story of the beginning of the renewal of a relationship between the Myaamia people and Naloomina – 'wild river rice'. The lives and history of the Myaamiaki—'Miami' people—is intertwined with many plants that are used as food medicine and technology. This presentation will tell of the relationship and how it strengthens bonds between the Miaamiaki, plants and governmental agencies.

Dani is a Miami Tribe of Oklahoma citizen, descended from Takumwah and Chief Jean Baptiste Richardville. She serves the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma as the Kiihkayonki ARPA Community Food Program Director at the Fort Wayne CREO. Part of her job is installing and maintaining gardens for food production, eliminating invasive plants and harvesting plants for natural foods and crafts.

Jared Goodykoontz
Native Plants are Party Invitations!

Join Jared Goodykoontz (aka Jared "the Nature Guy") and play his Native Plants Party game to learn a fast, effective way to get kids, adults, groups . . . EVERYBODY excited about planting natives! Jared Goodykoontz is a school naturalist, author, game designer and native plant enthusiast from Columbus, Ohio. He is blessed to live in the country with his wife and 3 children surrounded by forest and a restored prairie. his books and games are available on his website Jaredthenatureguy.com or on Instagram @jaredthenatureguy.

(continued on Page 5)

Newfields' 2026 Fall Horticulture Forum

The Newfields' 2026 Fall Horticulture Forum will occur from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 3, at The Tobias Theater at Newfields.

Come get insight and inspiration from three leading experts: Jenny Carey, author of *Essential Guide to Bulbs* will give you tips and tricks on how to bring beautiful bulbs to gardens, porches and entryways; Wesley Knapp, CEO of Center for Plant Conservation, will present on the organization's work to identify and prevent plant extinction in North America; and Michelle Catania, Green Industry Outreach Coordinator for Morton Arboretum, will help attendees learn how to recognize stress in trees and reduce decline.

Jenny Carey is an avid hands-on gardener and professional horticulturist. Her degrees are in Biology, Horticulture, and Education. She has been the director of two public gardens: The Ambler Arboretum of Temple University and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Garden at Meadowbrook Farm. Jenny is the author of several best-selling gardening books, including *Glorious Shade* and *The Ultimate Flower Gardener's Guide.*

Dr. Wesley Knapp is a botanist, explorer and conservation leader whose career has taken him from remote mountain peaks and coastal wetlands to the forefront of efforts to prevent plant extinction. Widely recognized as one of the leading field botanists in eastern North America, he has spent more than two decades searching for rare plants, documenting biodiversity, discovering species new to science and helping protect the continent's most remarkable landscapes.

Michelle Catania is devoted to disseminating peer-reviewed scientific research aimed at improving tree and soil health in urban and suburban environments. She effectively provides both technical and non-technical talks and workshops that encourage the integration of science-based tree care. Catania holds two degrees from Northern Illinois University: a B.S. in biological sciences with an emphasis in plant science and a M.S. in geography with an emphasis in forest ecology.

Conference *(continued from Page 4)*

Clair Lane

From Awareness to Action: Engaging HOAs and Homeowners in Native Plant and Invasive Species Stewardship

Native plant advocates often face barriers when working with HOAs and residential communities. This presentation shares lessons that highlight practical strategies that help residents move from learning about native plants to actively restoring and stewarding their landscapes. Claire Lane is the Urban Conservationist for the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Scott Namestnik and Jill Casey

Updates on Indiana's Rare Plant Conservation Programs

Indiana has over 400 species on the Department of Natural Resources' Endangered, Threatened and Extirpated Plants of Indiana list. Scott and Jill will discuss the efforts by the Indiana Plant Conservation Alliance and Indiana Rare Plant Watch to help conserve Indiana's rare plants.

Scott Namestnik is the botanist at the Indiana Natural Heritage Data Center. Much of his work involves conducting botanical inventories, assessing sites for protection consideration and documenting and monitoring occurrences of endangered and threatened species. He has a degree in Botany with a focus in Environmental Science from Miami University.

Jill Casey joined the Indiana Native Plant Society as the Program Facilitator in 2024. Her work focuses on implementing the Indiana Rare Plant Watch program–a community science initiative to monitor Indiana's rare plant populations. Jill has a bachelor's degree in marketing from Indiana Wesleyan University and a graduate certificate in restoration ecology from Auburn University.

PEMC Demonstration Garden

The Purdue Extension Marion County Demonstration Garden —the only official All-American Selections (AAS) Display Garden in Indianapolis—showcases new award-winning All-America Selections flowers and vegetables every year.

Located at the Indiana State Fairgrounds, the Demonstration Garden this year featured larger masses of color. A few glimpses:

Calendar/Events

September 13 (12:30 to 5:00 p.m.)
Indianapolis Hosta Society's Annual Pitch-In and Auction
Location: TBA
Although a members-only meeting, it is never too late to join the Indianapolis Hosta Society and get great deals on some wonderful plants, garden décor, and tools.
https://indianapolishostasociety.org/

September 26 (9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.)
From the Ground Up (formerly Fall Fling)
Monroe County MGA (Bloomington)
Ivy Tech Community College, Shreve Hall, 200 Daniels Way, Bloomington
This year's event focuses on vegetable gardening. Learn about soil health, natural pest control, seed starting, container gardening, and urban agriculture.
https://www.mcmga.net/from-theground-up

September 26 (9:00 to 11:00 a.m.)
Tree ID Hike at Nelson-Stokes-Lewman Woodland
Purdue Forestry and Natural Resources Nelson-Stokes-Lewman property, 7768 U.S. 36, Greencastle
Indiana Native Plant Society Central Chapter (Greencastle)
Explore nature with Lenny Farlee, Extension Forester for the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, Hardwood Tree Improvement and Regeneration Center, and learn how to identify local trees.
Register: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tree-id-hike-at-nelson-stokes-lewman-woodland-with-inps-tickets-1997691637464

September 26 – 27 (Saturday 8:00 a.m. thru Sunday 3:00 p.m.)
Tree Climbing Championship
Forest Park, 701 Cicero Road, Noblesville
Indiana Arborist Association (Noblesville)
A competitive but educational opportunity for working arborists to demonstrate and exchange new climbing techniques. Showcasing the highest level of professional skills and safety, this learning environment also introduces the public to the skills professional tree climbing arborists must use for safe, professional tree work. Contestants compete in five preliminary events to gather qualifying points for the master challenge: Work Climb, Aerial Rescue, Throwline, Ascent Event and Speed Climb.
https://indiana-arborist.org/climbingcompetition/.

Xerces Society Talk

October 6 (2:00—3:00 p.m.) Virtual
Allies in Conservation: Making Your HOA a Haven for Pollinators

A growing number of people live in neighborhoods with Homeowner's Associations, covenants or deed restrictions. With a little creativity, these spaces can be transformed into havens for pollinators.

In this webinar, Xerces Society staff Aaron Anderson and Jacqueline Buenrostro will discuss the many ways to support those amazing invertebrates within HOA communities—with tips, tricks and new resources they will share for creating and maintaining habitats that are "HOA-ready".

This event also will be recorded and posted to the Xerces Society YouTube channel. To register, visit https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ApikAmSVSMyFHloNgyML0g#/registration

XERCES SOCIETY
for Invertebrate Conservation

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 for e-mail