

PURDUE HANCOCK COUNTY
**Master
Gardener**™
PROGRAM

“The earth laughs in flowers.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER

This quarter's newsletter is jam-packed with upcoming educational opportunities as well as programs caring for the great outdoors—there is something for everyone. Enjoy!

Thank you to this quarter's contributors! If you have a unique or special gardening project, interest, upcoming event/flyer or learned a new skill — please share it with us. Submit your article (and photos if you have them) *in Word format* for the Summer Newsletter by July 1, 2023 to Theresa Roush at roush4Jesus@gmail.com.

*All the flowers
of all the tomorrows
are in the seeds of today.*

Chinese Proverb





GROW THE PERFECT SPRING GARDEN!

GREEN THUMB PROJECT

Indiana's Keystone Plants



Indiana's Keystone Plants" presented by Lais McCartney, ARN Educator, Hancock County Purdue Extension.

Attendees will learn about the most important plants to encourage in their landscapes, keystone species, upon which other organisms depend to maintain a healthy ecosystem. This Green Thumb event is in partnership with the Hancock County Master Gardeners Association, Hancock Soil and Water Conservation District, Co-Alliance Agricultural Cooperative and the Hancock Public Library. Come, learn and share your thoughts and questions at our educational booths. You may even win a prize.

Get your spring garden off to the best start ever!

Location: Hancock County Library, Sugar Creek Branch, 5731 West US 40, New Palestine, IN 46163

APRIL 15

9:30 AM - 12 PM | New Palestine

SPONSORED BY



EXTENSION GARDENS

Submitted by Jackie Reeves



The appeal of master gardening is multifaceted and ranges from the simple action of growing a seed, sharing gardening tips, to implementing far reaching new practices to restore local ecosystems to healthy levels.

The garden is often a place where someone can follow their creative urges as a designer, artist, naturalist, skilled laborer, and scientific observer. Many find it a relaxing place to both lose the tension of everyday demands and

find a calm break. The attractions of gardening are many and various as one finds within the Master Gardening Community.

One does not have to venture far to find a representative sample of gardens that has appeal for all gardeners. The Extension Gardens (<https://hancockmga.com/public-activities/>) afford opportunities to learn, observe, and share in what the experience of community care and attention can produce.



As we plan this year's garden adventures, while keeping a watchful eye hoping to see a prized bud or two pop into view, give thought to spending time in the extension gardens. A garden can be one of the most magical places in one's life. These gardens showcase a taste of what the novice can achieve as well as helping the seasoned gardener improve past methods within controlled parameters. Hope you will include a few hours in support of the

maintenance and care of these amazing gardens. Bring a friend, a snack, and share with them the pride we all feel from our gardens and enjoy the magic.



**Bacon
Seed.**



Soil SQUAD

Hancock County Master Gardener Association

REQUEST A SOIL SQUAD TEAM

TO COMPLETE A COMPLEMENTARY SOIL
TEST AND EVALUATION OF YOUR
VEGETABLE OR CUT-FLOWER GARDEN

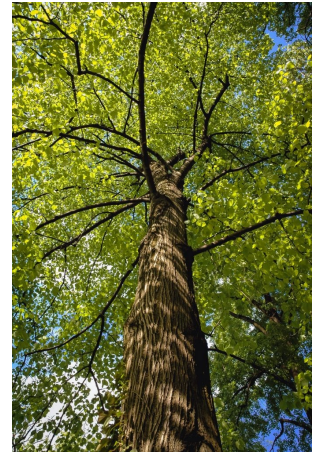
CONTACT US HERE:

-  Hancock County Master Gardener Association
-  www.hancockmga.com
-  Purdue Extension (317) 462-1113

Great places to earn Master Gardener hours— join the Schramm/Pennsy HCMGA Committee

Schramm Nature Preserve

- 33 acres to walk with an Indiana native tree & wildflower guide
- Located at 1926 South 600 West, New Palestine, IN 46163; on Mt. Comfort Road/600W just 1 mile south of US 40



Pennsy Trails of Hancock County, Inc.

- Currently under construction between 500W and 600W (Mt. Comfort Rd.) and expected to open this summer to connect to the 500W—400W section.
- Check out the 400W Trailhead's Eagle Station at 424 South 400 West, Greenfield, IN 46140 located just east of Washington Village Apartments and US 40.
- The Eagle Station has an outdoor classroom and educational signs with activities for adults, youth, and families designed to study environmental life at



For more information contact: Mary Ann Wietbrock, Master Gardener and Master Naturalist, Pennsy Trails of Hancock County, Inc. at 317-410-9140



Rudbeckia

Common Name: black-eyed Susan
NGB 2023 Perennial of the Year

Hancock
County
Master
Gardeners
&
Hancock
County
Herb
Society



Ginger Zingiber

Common: Ginger
2023 Herb of the Year

2023 Annual Plant Sale

Friday May 5 8am - 6pm

Saturday May 6 8am - 3pm

at the

Hancock Co. Fairgrounds

4-H Show Arena

620 N. Apple Street

Greenfield, IN 46140



We Accept All Major Credit Cards



- Large variety of herbs, annuals and perennials. Vegetables and hanging baskets for Mom's Day also available.
- **Master Gardeners & Herb Society** members available to answer questions.
- You may also order ahead online April 25-May 2 at hancockmga.com and pick-up during the Plant Sale.
- Demonstration held on Saturday at 10 am



Ephemeral Walk and Weed Wrangle at Thornwood Nature Preserve

1597 South Morristown Pike, Greenfield, IN 46140

Saturday, April 29, 2023

1 – 2:30 pm

Join us for a wildflower identification walk at Thornwood Nature Preserve and witness the full spectrum of spring flowers in bloom! As part of this ephemeral walk, we will also focus on eliminating invasive garlic mustard. Bring gloves and dress for the weather!



Garlic Mustard, an Invasive Weed

Eliminating this invasive weed can help allow a wider diversity of spring plants to prosper at Thornwood Nature Preserve. Garlic mustard is commonly found in woodland habitats in North America and can advance across the forest floor at a rate of 20 feet per year. A single garlic mustard plant can produce up to 350 to 7,000 seeds depending on the size of the plant, and these seeds can stay viable in the ground for up to 10 years

ADAPT trial for Seed Savers Exchange

Submitted by Alicia Añino (intern)

In February, I signed up to be a part of the ADAPT trial with Seed Savers Exchange after a talk by Landrace

Gardener, Joseph Lofthouse at the online 11th Seed Library Summit. (If you haven't read his Landrace

gardening. Food security through biodiversity and promiscuous pollination, get a copy at <https://lofthouse.com/>, it's fascinating!)

The purpose of this project is to help Seed Savers Exchange decide which collection varieties to include in

future catalogs based on appealing traits.

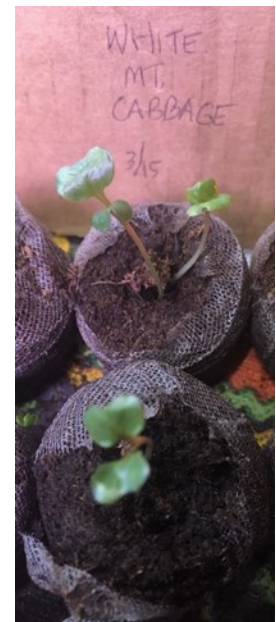
There were trials for sunflowers, dwarf tomatoes, romaine lettuce

and white and gold beets.

I was sent seeds on three types of collard greens and growing guides, with the goal of growing them,

observing their progress, then noting certain attributes at harvest. Traits to observe include appearance, bolt resistance, flavor, insect resistance, vigor, and winter hardiness. All observations are then posted on

<https://seedlinked.com/>





Upcoming HCMGA Education Programs

Please plan to join in on these 2023 educational opportunities

April 27 - Video "The Nature of Oaks" by NWF and Doug Tallamay, Author and Professor University of Delaware

May 25 - "European Garden Tour" presentation by Artis Kingston, EMG, Amsterdam Floridad and RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

June 23 - 30 4H Fair Education Booth

July 27 - "Planting a Meadow" presentation by Helen Stuessy, M.D

August 12 - 3:00 PM Garden Tour lead by Helen Stuessy at her property.

August 24 - TBD

September 28 - HCMGA Member Share - members share their gardening successes

October 26 - "What's to Love about Bats" presentation by Dawn VanDeman, Eagle Creek Discovery Center just in time for Halloween.

Upcoming HCMGA Events

April

1st – Pennsy Trail volunteer event 8-12

8th – Pennsy Trail volunteer event 8-12

15th – Pennsy Trail volunteer event 8-12

15th – Green Thumb Event – "Indiana's Keystone Plants"

24th – New Castle Seed Library Presentation "Pricking Out Seeds"

May

5th – Spring Plant Sale

6th – Spring Plant Sale

22nd – New Castle Seed Library Presentation "Intro to Companion Gardening"



***Check out the Events Calendar for all the upcoming Programs & Events:
<https://hancockmga.com/events/category/community/month/>***

Gardening Tip: When you plant a puppy, make sure you choose a container that can comfortably accommodate the **full-grown dog**.



HANCOCK COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/hancockmga>

WEBSITE

<https://hancockmga.com/>

MONTHLY MEETING

4th Thursday of the month in-person (at 792 E. Park Ave, Greenfield, IN)

or Zoom (to register: meier_lynn@yahoo.com).

MASTER GARDENER TRAINING

<https://hancockmga.com/become-a-master-gardener/>