



Hoosier Organic Gardener

October 2019

Indiana Organic Gardeners Association

IN THIS ISSUE

**The Impacts of
Invasive Plant
Species**

Potato Planter

IOGA Elections

IOGA MISSION:

To educate ourselves and others in reasons for and methods of environmentally friendly gardening; and to encourage the reduction of chemical dependency in gardens, lawns and farms.

President's Message



Doug Rohde

Hard to believe it's October again. We had our own "climate change" in IOGA this year. First was the incoming January snow storm that never materialized but I canceled the meeting as the predictions were ominous a few days before, then the miserable rainy, cold and muddy Earth Day. That followed with July's IOGA meeting day which listed a 94 degree heat index and us being outside in a pavilion instead of an air conditioned room so that wisely got canceled too as did many other organization's meetings that day. At least we had a great April plant sale meeting location and a warm, dry location at Cool Creek Park plus we are invited to (always) return So, what's in store for our October meeting Mr/Ms Weather persons? I don't care but I'm going to be there unless...massive thunderstorms, the creeks rising and guaranteed tornados at Steve Bonney's place (see usual directions at the end of the newsletter)

I've had good luck for the most part, with my garden this summer...and fall. The Alan Chadwick cherry tomatoes always do well along with my Black Krim. I have a small 4 x 4 raised bed that always has unusually good growth and two tomato plants over power the bed. I stuck in three pepper plants and they too just took off with great growth. My normal beds did ok but I think I need to dig in some manure and more compost as the plants lagged a bit I thought. The sort of neat thing is that those tomatoes are now starting to produce better but I think they will run out of time but maybe not as long as the fall frost is late in arriving.

I have to stick a book or two recommendation in quickly. [The Hidden Life of Trees](#) by Peter Wohlleben is really interesting. Scientists have been into the mycelium, fungi, root relationship between trees for some time and Wohlleben has a neat talent for writing about it. He also authored two others, [The Inner Life of Animals](#), and [The Weather Detective](#) which I just got. If you want to get more into how mushrooms can save the world then [Mycelium Running](#) by Paul Stamets is another interesting book. I went to a lecture on fungi several months ago and it sure was a reminder of what goes on in the soil and the need to take very, very good care of our soil. Always be thinking of making compost and adding to your soil. No chemicals!

I've been working on trying to get support for the "Botany Bill", [H.R. 1572](#). It promotes botanical research and sciences capacity such as research on botanical issues, increases the number of new botanists/biologists and entomologists in public research in plant, fish and wildlife species across the United States. But getting through our political system is a giant maze of problems to accomplish anything as

Continued on page 6

The Impacts of Invasive Plant Species: Part 1 of 3

by Tony Branam, USDA-NRCS

Drive around any neighborhood or even a small cluster of homes and you see lawns adorned with Japanese barberries and burning bushes, wisteria vines climbing over trellises and Bradford pears lining both sides of the driveways. In some developed and manufactured communities these are the ONLY woody plants observed with an occasional dead and dying ash trees stricken down by the Emerald ash borer.

Why are some ornamental, non-native garden and landscaping plants considered bad? For the purposes of this article I will focus on plant species using in part the U.S. Department of Agriculture's definition of an invasive plant as "... a plant species that is 1) non-native (or alien) to the ecosystem under consideration and 2) whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health."

So what? Humans have been moving and relocating around the globe for centuries taking with them familiar items from their homelands such as livestock, pets, plant seeds, and transplants. And sometimes these relocations are innocent and accidental if you can imagine how easily a beggar tick seed sticks to your socks and you carry them with you to a new destination. The problem, however, is when a non-native plant becomes dominant in its new location and threatens the natural, native plant community.

At first glance one or two Japanese barberry shrubs planted at the corner of one's house may not seem to pose a threat. After all it's only a couple shrubs and the landowner will insure they stay in their place, right? But what about all the berries eaten by birds as they migrate from winter and summer ranges? When birds deposit the seeds of a non-native plant in a neighboring woodlot how likely is it the landowner will understand and treat these new shrubs growing in his woods? Not likely at all.

Economic Harm

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is concerned with the impacts invasive species due to the threats to our food security and timber production. Kudzu, a vine known for its aggressive swallowing old buildings and landscapes in the Southern U.S. is also an alternate host for soybean rust. Asian soybean rust, a fungus, can survive the winter among the foliage of Kudzu and can damage soybean and vegetable yields the following crop year. Changes in weather patterns creating warmer winters and longer wet springs could threaten agricultural production and affect food exports.



A Healthy and a Diseased
Chestnut Oak

Threats to grain and vegetable production is not the only concern at the USDA. According to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry 's 2018 Indiana Forest Products Price Report and Trend Analysis published in January 2018 Indiana exported \$32 million dollars of logs and timber products in 2016 and was expected to exceed \$37 million in 2017. The three biggest consumers of Indiana native logs are China, Viet Nam and Japan.

Both trees in the photo are Chestnut oaks (*Quercus montana*) and similar in age. The tree on the left appears healthy with dark green leaves and a full canopy. The tree on the right has yellow-green foliage with a sparse canopy and will likely be dead next year. The tree on the right is one of many oaks that have recently, one by one, weakened and died of an unknown disease.

Forest professionals along with public and private lands managers fear that Sudden Oak Disease, discovered in the mid-1990s in California and Oregon, could soon spread to the eastern United States. The loss of young and old oak trees in the Eastern U.S. would have a devastating economic impact on the timber industry, mill works and cabinet makers, home builders as well as outdoor recreation and tourism. Unfortunately, the spread of Sudden Oak Disease will likely come from the transport of ornamental trees and shrubs to box stores, nurseries and online purchases. The same means in which the emerald ash borer has been transported throughout the Midwest and Eastern United States.

In Indiana, the invasive species of concern in woodlands are Autumn olive, tree of heaven, bush honeysuckle, burning bush and Japanese barberry. In 2017 the Indiana Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) allocated over \$640,000 to private landowners in 34 southern Indiana counties to improve forest habitats while treating invasive species. This initiative is known as the Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration initiative with multiple partners including U.S. Forest Service, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, local Soil & Water Conservation Districts, and The Nature Conservancy.

Managing and monitoring trees and shrubs on our lawns, in our neighborhoods, in our parks and in your neighbor's woodlot is more critical than ever. Purchasing native plants is important, however, knowing the source of that plant and/or seed is essential. Prevention and immediate corrective action is the only way we will be able to protect our natural plant communities. Plant diseases, insect pests or seeds are too easily transported accidentally on the underside of a plant leaf or in the pot of dirt because we don't ask questions at the nursery. For more information about invasive plant species and their impacts on the natural landscape or possible funding assistance to control them see the links below.

References Cited and Additional Information

Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasive Management <http://www.sicim.info/cisma-project/>

Indiana USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/in/programs/financial/>

The Nature Conservancy <https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/indiana/>

Invasive plants induce the taxonomic and functional replacement of dune spiders

Gomes, M., Carvalho, J.C. & Gomes, P. Biol Invasions (2018) 20: 533. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-017-1555-5>

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs10530-017-1555-5>

Invasive Species, June 21, 2018, By Ryan Colliton, Chief of Natural Resources & Regulatory Compliance <http://www.metroparks.com/natural-resources-department-updates/>

INFORMATION ON STATE INVASIVE SPECIES LAWS, AGENCIES, AND RESOURCES, <https://bugwoodcloud.org/mura/mipn/assets/File/StateCWMAResourcesUpdatedJune2010.pdf>

2018 Indiana Forest Products Price, Report and Trend Analysis, January 2018 https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-fall_2017_Timber_Price_Report.pdf

U.S. Department of Agriculture Definitions of native, Invasive and Other Plant Related terms https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ct/technical/ecoscience/invasive/?cid=nrcs142p2_011124

The USDA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Programs

Tony Branam is an IOGA member living in Nashville, Indiana

July IOGA Meeting Was Canceled Due to Weather

For the second time this year the IOGA meeting was cancelled due to weather. This time it was extreme heat.

Summer Meeting

The meeting scheduled for July 20, 2019 at the Teter Organic Farm was cancelled due to extreme heat, and the fact that we would have to meet outside. The meeting to the Teter Farm has been rescheduled to next summer on Saturday July 18, 2020. This time we will meet inside the Teter **air-conditioned** lodge



Winter Meeting

The meeting scheduled for last January 19, 2019, was canceled due to a snowstorm that was predicted to hit during the time of the meeting. The meeting was to be held at the Franklin Road branch of the Indianapolis Public Library and was to have Carol Michel as speaker. She was to give a presentation on gardening tools entitled, "Gardening Tools Beyond the Hoe." The meeting with Carol has been rescheduled for January 18, 2020 at the same location.



Steve Bonney

Steve and Patty Bonney will be hosting our October meeting at their home in West Lafayette, Indiana. Steve promotes ecological farming based on holistic models that incorporate a blend of principles and practices from organic agriculture, ecosystem management, permaculture, natural building, holistic management, biodiversity, solar energy and self-reliance

He says that he is a life-time learner who continues to integrate new knowledge into systems thinking and creating a bigger picture. And that he is passionate about everything that he does and that makes for an exciting and fulfilling life. He says that he is generalist that is competent in many principles and practices combined with science education at the doctoral level.

Field and Forest Eco-Farm

Steve is currently owner of the Field and Forest Eco-Farm which is an ecological farm producing chemical-free fruit, nuts and forest products near Bloomington, Indiana. His off-grid farm produces heritage apples and pears; blueberries, hazelnuts, raspberries, and other fruits and nuts. He has been a beekeeper and honey seller for 30+ years.

Sustainable Earth

Since 1991 Steve has been president of the Sustainable Earth, a not for profit educational organization supporting small farm agriculture and local food systems. Steve has organized multiple annual conferences on small farm agriculture.

Potato Planter

by Paul Matzek

No, not that basket or tub you can plant potatoes in.

This year, after last year's drought, Mother Nature decided to compensate by sending all last year's rain in May. After a dry April when we dragged out the hoses and watered some of the garden, it started raining. Several rains the first half of the month interfered with gardening, then we received over 12 inches in eight days and some places nearby, more. Nearby Perry Lake is about 25 feet above normal and the outhouses and picnic shelters have disappeared. We are on high ground though so no flooding for us.

The peas are producing prolifically but they and the corn, in a level area, are starting to yellow because of the waterlogged soil. However, gardening must go on. We had made several early plantings of potatoes, setting them very shallow and covering deeply with mulch. We have found through the years that planting them later produces healthier, nearly bug-free plants so we held off planting the second half, the plan being to plant them deep and compare.

I'm tired of digging a hole for each seed, so while it rained I set upon making a potato planter so I could plant standing up. Fashioned after 18-19th century hand planters, it consists of two tapered pieces of 1x3 and two pieces of 1/2 inch plywood forming an open ended box. One piece of the 1x3 is hinged to the plywood so the tapered tips can be brought together forming a point. Handles about 36 inches long are attached to both 1x3s so the "jaws" can be opened and closed like a giant pliers.

In use, one can step on the top of the box with the jaw tips together to push them into the ground. When the handles are pushed together opening the jaws, a cavity is formed into which one can drop a potato seed. A piece of aluminum tube attached to one handle facilitates the seed passage into the box and the cavity. When the planter is withdrawn, dirt falls into the hole covering the seed (theoretically).

The last couple of days of May were sunny, so despite the really wet soil, I planted on June first. The dirt that had been fluffed up with the tiller in early April was packed from the rain but still the planter plunged in easily and planting went fairly well until the screws holding one handle twisted out. After a repair, and twisting them out again, I made a different handle and mounted it differently, and was able to finish planting.

Drier dirt would have been a plus, since I had to pause periodically to clean the mud off the business end. Dirt falls into the hole from the sides before the seed can be dropped but not too bad-shouldn't be too hard to remedy. I have to call it a success.

Now, if the seed doesn't rot or we have another drought, we should have new potatoes in the fall.



Potato Planter — Closed & Open

Paul and Annie Matzek are IOGA members formerly living in Elizabeth, Indiana, now residing in Meriden, Kansas

Continued from page 1

I've been finding out. It's ridiculous and obstructionist thinking even on things that benefit everyone. Just think of our stance on climate change compared to the rest of the world. But just maybe we are starting to move from "hoax" to reality. I'm hopeful.

Our past president, Lynne Sullivan is now in her new digs in northern California. We all wish her good luck and black, rich soil. Stay in touch Lynne. And, while I'm at it, a special greeting to Beulah Cobb, one of the original members of IOGA!

Start thinking about winter rye. Sometime in October get it in. Keep your beds covered with winter rye. Use about a pound for every 100 square feet of soil. I sow it fairly thick and it grows roots all winter and keeps the soil intact. I dig in a lot of compost before sowing. Last fall I piled a lot of Oak and Maple leaves onto my shrubs and my mini-prairie plus buried my raspberry bushes also with leaves. That seemed to work quite well. I usually bag a lot of my Shagbark Hickory leaves as they are a bit suspect to dig into the soil but not like Black Walnut leaves. My White Oak and Maple leaves are great.

See all of you Saturday, October, 19, 11:00 at Steve's home. Keep IOGA organic! Doug

Election of IOGA Officers

New IOGA officers will be elected at the October meeting. The nominating committee announces the following slate:

President: Doug Rohde
Vice President/Program Director: Margaret Smith*

Secretary: Judith Houser*

Treasurer: Ron Clark*

*incumbent

According to the IOGA by-laws, the membership present (at the October meeting) shall elect the officers (by simple majority) from the nominees selected by the nominating committee or from the floor. Elected officers will take office at the January meeting. The officers shall hold office for two consecutive years.

Editors' Corner

Green Tomatoes

We had a lot smaller garden this year. But we did plant 16 tomato plants. Our grandsons planted them when it was cold and wet. The early, heavy rains nearly drowned them. They looked so bad that we never thought we would get any. And once the rains stopped the heat came and the tomatoes did not set on well.

Eventually, we did have lots of tomatoes in late June, July, and August but they were ALL green! We talked to others who had the same problem. Finally, in early September the tomatoes started to ripen. Very frustrating! It is now Sept. 19 and we have lots of red tomatoes and are busy freezing. About time!! We guess they are playing catch-up now because we are really getting a lot. Pretty crazy weather!

Squash Bugs

Another weird thing happened in our garden this year. Claudia planted four hills of zucchini and patty pan squash. We have had no squash bugs all season! Well actually, Claudia did find one under one of the boards early on, but that was it. Otherwise, no squash bugs for the whole season! The squash vine borer has also been absent until just recently when just one patty pan plant succumbed. We are still getting lots of squash. Best guess is that the heavy rains drowned the bugs or maybe the late planting because of the rains made the squash bugs go to someone else's garden.

AMAZONSMILE: YOU SHOP, AMAZON GIVES

Did you know that you can give back to IOGA every time you shop on Amazon? Select the Indiana Organic Gardeners Association (IOGA) as your AmazonSmile charitable organization, and Amazon will donate 0.5 percent of every eligible purchase. [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com)

Ask us...!

President – Doug Rohde
(317) 842-2423
drohde71@gmail.com

VP/Programs – Margaret
Smith
(317) 283-3146
margaret.smith803@gmail.com

Secretary – Judy Houser
(317) 243-6671
judithhouser@att.net

Treasurer – Ron Clark
(317) 769-6566
ronaldrayc@gmail.com

Editors – Claudia and Ron Clark
(317) 769-6566
ronaldrayc@gmail.com



Treasurer's Report

3rd Quarter 2019

Opening Balance July 1, 2019 \$ 6954.31

Income

Membership Dues \$ 62.00

Donations \$ 105.00

Total \$ 167.00

Expenses

Total \$ 0.00

Closing Balance Sep. 30, 2019 \$ 7121.31

Respectfully submitted by Ron Clark, Treasurer

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Mark Your Calendar!

IOGA generally meets quarterly on the third Saturday of the month. Mark your calendar for upcoming meetings.

October 19, 2019
January 18, 2020
April 18, 2019
(Plant Auction)
July 18, 2019



New IOGA Members

Nancy Tatum, Indianapolis, IN 46280
Robin Aldrich, Indianapolis, IN 46256



How do I join IOGA?

Dues are \$10.00 per individual member, and \$12.00 for a dual membership (same address, one newsletter).

To join, please send your annual dues to: I O G A
7282 E 550 S
Whitestown, IN 46075



Please include ALL of the following information: Full Name
2nd Name (if dual membership)
Address
Phone Number
Email Address

I prefer my newsletter to be emailed mailed

IOGA
Meeting
Sat. Oct., 19
11:00 am

October Meeting at Garden of Steve and Patty Bonney
100 Georgton Ct.

West Lafayette, IN 47906 ([Map](#))

11:00 Arrive and Welcome Guests
11:15—12:00 Great Pitch-in Lunch
12:00— 1:00 Introductions & Gardening Q&A
1:00— 1:15 Business Meeting
1:15— Garden Tour

Meeting: The October meeting will be a visit to the garden of Steve and Patty Bonney. Steve has been an organic gardener for most of his life. He is also a great public speaker. Hopefully, he will provide us with a few gems of wisdom from his life long endeavors.

Pitch-in lunch: Bring a favorite dish filled with food ("home-made" and/or "organic" appreciated) to share and your plate, fork, and drink.

Directions: Take I-65 N from Indianapolis to exit 175. At exit 175 turn left toward Lafayette onto IN-25 S/ Schuyler Ave. Continue on Schuyler Ave 1.5 miles to Sagamore Pkwy N. Turn right onto Sagamore Pkwy N. Go 2,3 miles on Sagamore Pkwy N. and turn left onto N Salisbury St. Go 0.6 miles on N Salisbury St and turn right onto Lindberg Rd. Go 2.5 miles on Lindberg Rd and turn left onto Klondike Rd. (roundabout). Go 0.3 miles on Klondike Rd and turn right onto Georgton Rd. Go 375 feet on Georgton Rd. and turn left onto Georgton Ct . Destination will be on the left in 100 feet.

(For precise directions and time of travel from your home, **click the word "Map" above, then "Directions" in the upper left part of the web page, enter your home address, and click "Search Button".**)

Everyone welcome! If lost, call Steve Bonney cell phone (765) 426-0420.

Remember to car pool, if possible.

Join us and bring a friend!

Hoosier Organic Gardener
Claudia and Ron Clark, editors
7282 E 550 S
Whitestown, IN 46075



Join us!
IOGA Meeting
Sat. April 27