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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

Happy New Year to all!

I'm looking forward to the new year and especially the 20th of March, the first day of Spring. However, some more somber news to report to those of you who may not have heard, Claudia Clark passed away on the 20th of November. I, along with Margaret and Judy, attended her funeral on the 28th of November. IOGA sent a donation to the National Park Foundation in her name, as the NPF was recommended by Claudia's family. She, as was Ron, will always be missed as we had some great conversations and she always contributed greatly to IOGA.



Doug Rohde

Those of you who attended the October meeting at the Sobremesa Farm probably found it quite interesting as did I. I didn't know what type of farm and garden I was going to go to but I liked it (after I finally found it). They certainly were prepared for us and had a good tour as well as a nice luncheon area set up to put out our food plus the weather was great. The farm is set up as a permaculture farm which is more of a framework used to design holistic, interwoven systems. For example, in a garden designed from a permaculture perspective, the plants might give shelter and food for the chickens, who then eat the weeds and bugs. Ultimately, the garden produces food for humans who then recycle food waste back to the plants and animals. It's not overly complex, but the interwoven, interconnected part is what constitutes the concept. I've included an article on it (see page 5).

As you have known, I'm a big Doug Tallamy fan. One of his overall thoughts is how you can create your own national park in your backyard, in miniature of course. Make sure you attend our 21 January meeting at Cool Creek Park as we will have a video presentation on Tallamy's ideas and suggestions, which I did see and it's a good one. As I suggested in the October newsletter, check out one of both of his books: *Bringing Nature Home* and/or *Nature's Best Hope*. Libraries have them. I'm still astounded at all of the "goings on" in my large white oak in my back yard as he wrote in *The Nature of Oaks*.

This fall I either got lazy or lulled into sleep because I sort of underestimated Indiana's long leisurely fall. Maybe I just am never willing to give into the approaching winter but all of a sudden I was completely behind in yard/garden

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work and spent a lot of frantic time trying to catch up. I learned a lot this summer such as don't ever over plant a 4 x 8 raised bed garden with pepper plants. They went bonkers in the rich, well composted soil. Pretty soon there was no room to plant anything else and even though I tried, the pepper plants grew so large that they over shaded anything else I tried to get to come up. A good learning experience for me as pepper plants will no longer go in that raised bed. My tomatoes got some sort of disease that more or less wiped them out in the middle of the season. I don't know what it was, but it spread fast and that was that. Never had a problem like that.

My leaf collecting and composting was magnificent! I added bushels of oak leaves under my white oak, put chicken wire over most of the foot thick layer of leaves and added some old 4 x 4's on top of the wire to keep the leaves from blowing away. I also had so many leaves that I filled up 3 large compost bins with white oak and maple leaves that will break down into great mulch.

On the 22 of December (Winter Solstice) I set out 3 gallon jugs of milkweed, Joe pye weed and several other perennial native seeds as per the method that Denise's lecture was about last year. Perhaps by March the seeds should be coming up.

Hopefully, the weather cooperates in January for our meeting which should be another interesting one. See all of you there.

Keep IOGA organic!
Doug



Feeding the Worms



Before Christmas, like a lot of the country, we experienced sub zero weather for a couple days. I felt like standing out in the north wind and shouting "Death to garden pests!"

The weather relented. After a slight pause we had warmer weather with two days of torrid south winds struggling to fill the vacuum left by the low pressure area that moved on east. That was followed by two gorgeous calm days. The sun shone, the dark soil absorbed, and thawed.

I am the annual recipient of a number of bags of leaves from an elderly friend whose nephew each fall collects them and stacks them next to her house so her water line doesn't freeze. In the spring (since I am such a super guy) I haul the bags of leaves away for her.

I took advantage of the warm days to dig trenches across a garden bed, filling each with last year's leaves, then covering them with dirt from the next trench. The shovel sank easily, full-depth in the dark, crumbly soil in spite of the occasional scrape against a stone deposited by the glacier (NE Kansas) or rusty bolt from the old farmstead days. Sticks mixed in with the leaves were set aside for kindling for the shop stove against the inevitable return of the cold. But who says you can't garden in the winter?

I pondered as I worked about how vegetable gardening provides, not just sustenance, but solace, that respite from cares and concerns. The tilling, planting and harvesting become not just a pastime but a way of life, a union with the earth that sustains.

Paul Matzek

I Planted, I Persevered, I Conquered



Voles have been the bane of my gardening existence for probably 10 years, since the time in Indiana I had three plantings of sweet corn fail and finally had to sprout the seeds before planting to get a stand.

The scourge has continued here in Kansas. Our garden is bordered on two sides by hay meadow, the home of a plethora of critters that like to munch on my garden much more than on brome grass. The message has gone out to relatives and friends and the problem has gotten worse every year. Last year fifty to seventy percent of my sweet potato tubers had rodent damage.

The sonic buzzers I bought proved worthless, and the vibration from whirligigs I made was just as ineffective. Then some beautiful person posted in the Facebook NE Kansas Gardening group that placing empty ammonia bottles in the garden would keep moles and voles away. Reading that precipitated an immediate trip to the local market for a couple bottles of ammonia. Going one step farther, I started pouring about a half cup of ammonia in every burrow entrance I found, and shoving dirt over it to keep the stench in. I even made new entrances where I could see evidence of burrows below. Since farmers apply anhydrous ammonia to fields to provide nitrogen I felt it shouldn't do any harm. It only took a couple days until there were no new burrows. Mindful of my previous failed attempts to combat the voles, I occasionally poured a little ammonia on the soil between the plants and even into the crevices formed as the tubers grew and heaved themselves above the surface. The loosely capped empty bottles I scattered among the vines.

I also experimented with a corn planting, digging the furrow too deep, dribbling ammonia in, covering it with a thin layer of soil, then planting. But for about a 3 ft stretch of one row, the corn came up well.

The 100 plus pounds of sweet potatoes I harvested this October bore not one tooth mark.

Paul Matzek

Pea Leaves

While getting a bed ready to broadfork and till in leaves, I pulled up the spent pea vines that had frozen during our early freeze. After the first armful went to the compost pile, I noticed some of the roots were sending up new shoots and leaves.

For you fresh pea lovers, the tender leaves carry the same flavor and make a delicious salad. Calling myself a fool for not noticing them sooner, I picked what I could find in the bed, then went to the compost pile for what I could salvage there, and got enough for a tasty lunch salad.

Paul Matzek

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

IOGA Meeting Minutes

October 15, 2022

The meeting on October 15, 2022 was held at Sobremesa Farm in Bloomington, Indiana. There were 11 members and 2 guests present.

Members and guests arrived beginning at 11:00. We ate at a large wood table under a roof at the side of the barn. It was chilly in the shade. We were joined by Robert, Juan Carlos and one of their workers.



At 12:20 Robert and Juan Carlos talked to us about permaculture. The three tenets of which are: 1) care of the land, 2) care of people, and 3) taking only your fair share. Connection to the community is very important to them. Sobremesa Farm has a CSA and an on-site market on Sundays.

The 9 acre site was just a field when they bought it. No water, no access to water. They have since been able to secure access to metered water. Additionally, 1/5th of the land is used for water collection. They have an underground unlined 4,200 gallon cistern. The first pond they constructed didn't work because they didn't get a geological study and the ground at that location didn't hold water. They are thinking of terracing that site. The second pond they put in is good. They mounded dirt at one point to create a peninsula and they are growing arugula and strawberries on it. The pond is stocked with fish from DNR which provide fertilizer.

They started by taking Wild Edibles classes at IU and on backyard habitats with the National Wildlife Federation.

Permaculture is designed to imitate nature. It is a closed system, ideally with no outside materials sourced. They make compost using the Pochaki method which is more intense and produces compost in 2 weeks.

The first Hugleculture mound they built using a grant from NRCS was 8 ft. It holds carbon like a sponge and doesn't need water. On top they planted a pollinator garden, native grasses and flowers.



Robert and Juan Carlos found an old barn near Ft. Wayne and had it moved. They had it covered with car siding. Attached to it is a year round greenhouse for tropical plants and seeds.

Using a grant from NRCS they are building a 50X28 compost facility with a roof, concrete floor and ramp.

There are 4 orchards. The north orchard has nut trees and a few grafted fruit trees.

Their crops are mixed with cover crops, providing good diversity.

They raise chickens, geese, goats, guinea hens and bees. The guinea hens eat a lot of insects/ticks. The goats provide manure and are not eaten.

In the greenhouse they grow citrus, papaya, banana, lime, and orange.

They grow microorganisms in a bucket using decomposed matter from the woods, sugar, old bread and biochar.



Judy Houser, Secretary



Permaculture

Describing permaculture in a few words can be a challenge for even the savviest of experts. But that doesn't mean permaculture is overly complex. On the contrary, permaculture seeks to find the simplest, most common-sense solutions to problems, guiding us to mimic the patterns and relationships found in nature. In a sense permaculture means putting the cycles and resources in nature to work to support human life. The Ethics of Permaculture are: 1. Care of the earth, 2. Care of people. 3. "Fair share," or the return or surplus to earth and people. Earlier pioneers include Ruth Stout and Esther Deans, who pioneered no-dig gardening, and Masanobu Fukuoka who began advocating no-till orchards and gardens and natural farming. In the late 1960s, Bill Mollison, senior lecturer at the University of Tasmania, is one of the major pioneers in the formulation of permaculture. In his view, industrialization methods were highly dependent on non-renewable resources and were additionally poisoning the land and water, reducing biodiversity as well as removing billions of tons of topsoil from previously fertile landscapes. He responded with the word "permaculture" and with the publication of the 1978 book "Permaculture One." Permaculture design is founded in replication or imitating natural patterns found in ecosystems because these solutions have emerged through evolution over thousands of years and have proven to be effective. Permaculture draws from disciplines including organic farming, agroforestry, integrated farming, sustainable development, physics, meteorology, sociology, anthropology, biochemistry, engineering and applied ecology. To keep this short, check into Wikipedia on Permaculture as it has the most information that I've found on the subject and it's very detailed and highly, highly informative. This is what the Sobremesa Farm was all about and is in the process of developing their farm according to Permaculture's principles. Also, check out Wikipedia's reference sites on Permaculture at the end of their definition of Permaculture.



Sources:

- Wikipedia (best, most informative source) <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Permaculture?wprov=sft1>
- Mother Earth News article by Jessi Bloom, coauthor of "Practical Permaculture for Home Landscapes, Your Community and the Whole Earth." <https://www.motherearthnews.com/organic-gardening/permaculture-practices-zm0z17jjzsr/>

Submitted by Douglas Rohde

CLAUDIA CLARK

Claudia Otten Clark, of Zionsville, Indiana, passed away November 20, 2022. She leaves behind her children, Carolyn Miner (Mike), Andy Clark (Laura), and Arcy Clark (Stephanie); her brothers, Mark, Carl, and Rich Otten; eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Her husband Ron and parents, Claude and Lois Otten, preceded her in death.

Claudia was born May 24, 1942, in Indianapolis. She graduated from Shortridge High School and then from Purdue University with a bachelor's degree in teaching. She later earned a master's degree in history from Boston University. She taught history at Arsenal Technical High School for several years before moving to New York, where she and Ron lived for three years before returning to Indiana. They settled in the countryside outside Zionsville, where they raised three children and enjoyed gardening and living in the woods. Claudia loved her flower gardens and kept busy each summer canning and freezing vegetables.



After several years of being a full-time stay-at-home mom and community volunteer, Claudia embarked upon a new career. She graduated from IUPUI law school and then practiced law for the next 10 years. Upon retiring, Claudia devoted her time to her grandchildren, volunteering at the Eiteljorg museum, baking, and gardening. She was active in the Indiana Organic Gardeners Association and the Indianapolis Hiking Club. She logged over 3,600 miles with the club and spent most family vacations out west hiking in the mountains. She recently said that her favorite memories were of being out west hiking with Ron. Claudia is much loved and will be remembered for her devotion to her family, her love of nature, and her curiosity about life. Many are thankful for having known Claudia and for the impact she had on their lives.

On Monday, November 28, visitation will be held from 10 AM - noon, followed by a funeral service at noon at Simplicity Funeral Home, 125 W. Sycamore St., Zionsville, IN, with burial immediately following the service at Indian Creek Hill Cemetery in New Market, IN. The family requests that memorial donations be made to the National Park Foundation, <https://www.nationalparks.org/>, or 1500 K St. NW, Ste. 700, Washington, DC, 20005.

Upcoming Meetings

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

January 21, 2023
April 15, 2023
July 22, 2023
October 21, 2023



Ask us...!

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Treasurer's Report 4th Quarter 2022



Opening Balance October 1, 2022 \$5,852.15

Income	
Dues	34.00
Total	\$34.00

Expenses	
Newsletter	76.92
Sobremesa Farm	100.00
Claudia Clark Donation	75.00
Total	\$251.92

Closing Balance December 31, 2022 \$5,624.23

Respectfully submitted by Larry Bills, Treasurer

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, make your check out to Indiana Organic Growers Association and mail to:

I.O.G.A.
7159 W 200 N
Tipton, IN 46072-8637



Please include ALL of the following information:

Full Name _____
2nd Name (if dual membership) _____
Address _____
Address _____
Phone Number _____
Email Address _____

I prefer my newsletter to be ___ e-mailed ___ mailed.

IOGA
Meeting
Sat. Jan 21

Cool Creek Park Nature Center
2000 E. 151st St., Carmel, IN ([Map](#))
317-774-2500

11:00—12:00	Pitch-in Lunch
12:00—1:00	Introductions, Q&A, and Business
1:00	YouTtube presentation by Doug Tallamy

If you arrive a bit early, you can take a hike through the woods, watch the birds from the observation room and explore the nature center's other critters or explore the meadow in front.

Lunch: Bring a favorite dish filled with food ("home-made" and/or "organic" appreciated) to share and your plate, fork, and drink. Kitchen facilities will be available.

Program: Pollinators' Best Hope: A New Approach to Pollinator Habitat That Starts In Your Yard by Doug Tallamy, Entomologist, University of Delaware.

Directions: From north I-465 in Indianapolis take Exit 31 north onto US-31 N / N. Meridian St.. Take Exit 129A to E. 151st Street. At the traffic circle take the 2nd exit (north). Go past the playground to the Nature Center where we will be meeting. The room is to your right. For more specific directions click on "map" above.

Everyone welcome! Questions- call Margaret Smith at 317-698-0526. Also, please let her know if you plan to attend.

Remember to car pool, if possible.

Join us and bring a friend!



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