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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

July greetings to all,

Hopefully the 15th meeting won't be too hot. June had some up and down weather but July can be counted on for heat. I need to get some administrative things out first.....we have elections in October for IOGA officers. Judy is not running for secretary but will manage and produce the IOGA newsletter, so the secretary position is open. It's one of the important offices, requiring good note taking and taking pictures of wherever we are at and what we're doing. Judy's preferred pictures should be taken and sent using an iPhone or Android as they are easier to upload into the IOGA newsletter. I am not running for president. In October I will have been your president for 8 years so it's time for some new blood. I will not be taking any secret IOGA documents to my home. I will continue to be a member of course and attend. That said, I won't be able to attend the July meeting as I have a family reunion on the East coast. So, be thinking about running for office, it won't cost you anything, no TV ads, no CPACs, no letters to members begging for money, etc.



Doug Rohde

My garden isn't doing too badly this year. The tomatoes were slow to germinate so they aren't nearly as tall as they should be (so much for that old saying about having ripened tomatoes by the 4th of July). Potting soil seems to be one of the main keys and new seeds. I used some 2023, 2022 and 2021 seeds. The 2021 seeds struggled to germinate, most often they didn't, then I waited too long to reseed the ones that were not coming up. I even used a garden heating pad which worked for the newer seeds. BTW, an old electric blanket works good as I read somewhere. Now I have about 5 tomato seeds that came to life out of the blue. They are doing great outside in a cold frame so I'll have to give them away as I'm out of room. The crappy potting soil even stunted my Marigold seeds but they are starting to rebound. I did plant several plastic milk jugs on the 22nd of December. Surprisingly I got a big bunch of milkweeds which need to be set out. Somewhere I downloaded a piece about "winter sowing" and those who do it seem to have high success. I need to find that article.

My garden nemesis' are back. The chipmunks, squirrels, rabbits, wrens and a new foe appeared....Robins. Two determined diggers, a constant scratcher and a flying critter that terrorizes other bird's nests. Last year I built a Bluebird house but it was too late to get it up so this year I got it up early and low and behold a beautiful male Bluebird appeared. Gorgeous! Soon he and his mate were going in and out of the

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box when the neighbor put up a Wren house. Wrens don't tolerate other birds in their territory or will try to take over a Bluebird house so the new war was not only on the ground but in the air as well. The Bluebird god is powerful as the Wren house blew down before they could start laying eggs and since the neighbors were on a two week vacation, the Wrens moved out to a new territory. My Bluebirds hatched out 4 little guys and now have started on the second batch. The Robins always seem to scratch out newly planted seedlings and the chipmunks, well they are worthy adversaries. Havaheart cages, rat traps, secret ingredients in expensive plastic containers from garden stores guaranteed to repel rodents (which they don't seem to do) are on the FEBA (military jargon for Forward Edge of the Battle Area) and at my disposal. So far, Rohde and the Monks are at a stand-off, Robins are hit and run types, squirrels usually avoid the Havaheart trap (but don't seem to always avoid the peanut butter inside) so I'm generally winning the invasion and the invaders take casualties but so far I'm unscathed unlike my encounter with the ground bees two years ago.

So, think about running for one of those two offices mentioned above. We haven't solidified where we are going for the October meeting in fact Margaret is always open for suggestions as there are a lot of interesting places out there. We only have two outdoor places to meet in July and October as January and April need to be indoors. BTW, at our plant sale this year we had some other things for sale. I'm still drooling over that great garden wagon that Steve bid on as that was a great deal and I was sure thinking about it.

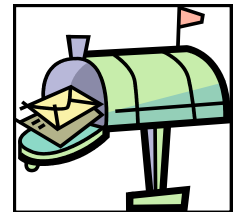
Have a great July meeting!

Keep IOGA organic!  
Doug

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Tina Godinez sent in the following email regarding one of the plants included in IOGA's April plant auction.

*I went to my first plant auction today, that was fun. However I wanted to mention the name of one of the plants that was auctioned, the wandering jew, I too have one. I was educated last year that this plant's name is highly offensive. I've used that name for years, and on the inside I think I knew that name just couldn't be right but never bothered to look it up. My Jewish friend brought this up to me as we were looking at my plants and took the opportunity to educate me. I know everyone knows that plant by that name, but now that I know better I have to do better. Instead can we please refer to this as the inch plant, that is also its name, and maybe we can eradicate the other popular name.*



## *Tradescantia zebrina*

*Tradescantia zebrina*, formerly known as *Zebrina pendula*, is a species of creeping plant in the *Tradescantia* genus. Common names include **silver inch plant** and **wandering Jew**. The latter name is controversial, and some now use the alternative **wandering dude**. The plant is popular in cultivation due to its fast growth and attractive foliage. It is used as a groundcover in warm winter climates, and as a houseplant elsewhere.



From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

## A Pea-utiful Harvest

Fresh peas are one of my favorite things. Frozen peas aren't as good but the harvest doesn't last all year. A number of years ago, ignoring that they were coated (with I didn't know what) I planted Miragreen peas and they were a great success. Since, searches for uncoated Miragreens were fruitless. So I settled on Maestros. They also produced well but didn't seem quite as well as Miragreens.

I vaguely recall buying a half pound of Maestro seed and have been planting out of that paper bag for at least 3 years. The 2021 spring harvest wasn't much to write home about and the fall crop froze as the pods started to fill. The 2022 spring lasted about two weeks and the peas "withered on the vine" so to speak though I did get some peas. The fall planting suffered the same fate as the year before.

Though Annie told me several times there were lots of peas in the freezer, I couldn't find them so I have been on a self-imposed rationing program, trying to make them last until I could grow some more. Just before the first pods of this year's crop were full, I felt safe in squandering a little and found, in the freezer, about 10 1-cup bags of peas marked 2021. There are probably some 2022s there too so I have suffered this self-deprivation for nothing.

This spring's rows of peas are loaded with many pods with ten and eleven peas per pod. A two inch rain a few days ago boosted them along. I have enjoyed a couple hands full, then this morning picked a gallon bucket full.

To my confusion, I found that brown bag of pea seeds has "Laxton's Progress" written on it. I will never understand my buying those when I was happy with Maestros, but I think I have found a new favorite pea

Paul Matzak.

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### Ode to the Dandelion

Oh golden harbinger of spring  
In woodland glen and fairy ring  
You tell of coming planting time  
For adding mulch, compost and lime.

Immune to every herbicide  
The ruin of every urbanite's pride  
With gleeful laugh at their plight.  
You whet the bee's spring appetite.

And when maturity turns you white  
Your fluffy progeny take flight.  
Fly off little ones where you roam  
Find the place you'll call home,

**BUT NOT IN MY GARDEN!**

P Matzek



Bobcat: short for Robert Feline.



# IOGA Meeting Minutes

## April 22, 2023

April 22, 2023 IOGA MEETING

The meeting on April 22, 2023 was held at Cool Creek Park Nature Center in Carmel, Indiana. There were 18 members and 2 guests present.

We met in the Greenhouse because the room where we usually meet was being used for voting. The greenhouse was humid. There were 2 tables along the edges where the auction items and the food were placed. Members sat at tables arranged around the tortoise enclosure. We were interrupted by people wanting to see the tortoise. The Nature Center was also selling and giving away trees.

There was a bountiful supply of food including chili and stew. There were lots of desserts. Following lunch and conversation, the auction started. Susan Irwin-Simmons kindly agreed to be the auctioneer again. She was assisted by Tamara Shockley.

Judy Houser, Secretary



Chumley



# INDIANA SUMMER AND MOSQUITO CONTROL

by Nancy Tatum

Summer time in Indiana and mosquitos – an all too familiar and irksome couplet. Not surprising, then, that a number of companies in Indiana have decided to go into the business of spraying yards with pesticides to get rid of them. Likely it's not just the mosquitos that are dying, since insecticides are broad spectrum varieties. These also kill critters that we want in our native plant gardens – pollinators, fireflies, spiders, earthworms, and more. The sprays can drift and, even if you don't do this in your own yard, your garden and yard may have these chemicals.

The fogging company may argue that pyrethroid-based products are safe. Those in current usage are synthesized rather than from natural sources and more resistant to breakdown and more toxic to insects. The jury is still out as to how dangerous they may be to humans and animals, but caution is advised while further research takes place (Hoyńska-Iwan & Szewczyk-Golec. 2020). Then too, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP-CEH 2012) has identified “landscaping chemicals” (and includes pyrethroids on their list) as important contributors to childhood illness.

Mosquito control should begin with the appreciation that not all mosquitos are bad or irksome. They are an important part of the food web for many vertebrates, including hummingbirds and bats. Their role in pollination is understudied, due to their predilection of being most active at dusk. But they clearly do visit some orchid species (most notably a northern bog species, *Platanthera obtusata*).

Dealing with mosquitos in your yard and neighborhood should begin with larval control, rather than control of the adult stage. Doug Tallamy, Professor of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, recommends creating mosquito traps. Put out five gallon buckets of water in a sunny spot and add a handful of hay or straw. This concoction will result in an irresistible brew to egg-filled female mosquitos who will lay their eggs there, after which the buckets can be dumped and the eggs/larvae destroyed. Some recommend adding a commercially available mosquito dunk tablet that contains Bt to water-filled buckets. Others argue, however, that this still does harm to non-biting insects, such as midges, whose abundance in wetlands make them a major food source for aquatic animals, birds, and bats (Xerces Society 2023).

Other ways to control mosquitos and the larva are to frequently dump bird baths and refill. Keep downspouts clear of standing water. Even a bottle cap filled with water can hold dozens of eggs. Use aerators in backyard ponds. Mosquitos do not like moving water – females will only lay eggs in still water. Kiddie pools can be a mecca for egg laying. Note that eggs can stick to the sides of buckets, water filled gutters, and any water holding container. Finally, encourage natural enemies in your yard, such as damselflies, bats, and birds.

If you have neighbors that hired a company that sprays for mosquitos, you can have your plants checked to see if there is pesticide drift. One can make drift complaints through the Office of Indiana State Chemist, OISC at: [www.oisc.purdue.edu](http://www.oisc.purdue.edu) or contact Joe Becovitz at [becovitz@purdue.edu](mailto:becovitz@purdue.edu). It would be best to file the form on the day of the application so that you can get an investigator to come out as soon as possible. I was surprised to know that Indiana even has an Indiana Pesticide Review Board. As noted by the Xerces Society, the more complaints that are filed against mosquito spraying, the more power we have over our own property and pollinator gardens.

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II spoke with Amanda Smith, Superintendent of Natural Resources and Education for Hamilton County Parks. She suggests that when you are outdoors, personal protection is number one. Wear long sleeves and long pants. The Thermacell Cartridge, which is worn on clothes and can be hooked on a belt, pocket, or waistband, actually works and there is no odor! When at home, burn citronella candles or torches; but here is something I did not know, plug in a box fan and set it on your deck or porch. Mosquitos do NOT fly in the wind.

The all too automatic response of controlling pests by using insecticides kills beneficial insects. Instead of looking at the leaf that is chewed in your garden and assuming it is a “pest,” take time to learn more about the insect or caterpillar. It really could be something good.

Mosquitos truly can be pests. They have been known to carry deadly diseases. Make yourself comfortable and mosquito free by following some of the suggestions and have a happy outdoor experience!

Nancy Tatum, VP of the Central Chapter of INPS, promotes an awareness of how hard it is to be a beneficial insect in this human-dominated world.

References:

AAP-CEH (American Academy of Pediatrics, Council on Environmental Health). 2012. Pesticide exposure in children. Pediatrics:130-e1757-e1763 (Available at [publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/130/6/e1757/30399](http://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/130/6/e1757/30399)).

Hoyńska-Iwan, I. & K. Szewczyk-Golec. 2020. Pyrethroids: How they affect human and animal health? Medicina (Kaunas) 56:582 (available at [ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7692614](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7692614/)).

Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation 2023. (Search mosquito control at [xerces.org](http://xerces.org) for several helpful articles).

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## Upcoming Meetings

IOGA generally meets quarterly on the third Saturday of the month.

Mark your calendar for upcoming meetings.

July 15, 2023  
October 21, 2023



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## New IOGA Member



Emily Roark

## Ask us...!

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## Treasurer's Report 2nd Quarter 2023



Opening Balance April 1, 2023 \$5,009.29

<b>Income</b>	
Dues and plant sale	385.50
Amazon	10.62
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$396.12</b>

<b>Expenses</b>	
Newsletter	79.21
Sobremesa donation	250.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$329.21</b>

Closing Balance June 30, 2023 \$5,076.20

*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. July 15

## Sobremesa Farm

47811 N. Mount Gilead Rd., Bloomington, IN 47408 ([Map](#))  
812-606-0865

11:30—12:30	Pitch-in Lunch
12:30—12:50	Introductions, Q&A, and Business
1:00	Tour

Sobremesa Farm is an organic farm and is part of the farm to table movement. They practice regenerative growing methods using a permaculture approach that results in the finest produce available. Sobremesa Farm was founded in 2013 with the idea of providing organically grown farm fresh fruits and vegetables to the local community.

**Lunch:** Bring a favorite dish filled with food ("home-made" and/or "organic" appreciated) to share and your plate, fork, and drink. Our pitch-in luncheon will be followed by a short meeting. The farm has a covered area with tables and chairs for our meal and meeting.

At about 1PM we will be given a tour of the farm by Juan Carlos and/or Robert, who own and manage the farm.

**Directions:** From IN-37/I-69 S. take exit 125 for Sample Road. At the traffic circle take the 3rd exit onto Sample Road. At the traffic circle, take the 1st exit onto Wayport Rd. Turn left onto E. Wylie Rd. Turn right onto N. Old Indiana 37/W. Old State Road 37. Turn left onto E. Robinson Rd. Turn right onto N. Tunnel Rd. Turn left onto IN-45N. Turn right onto N. Mt. Gilead Rd.

**Note: I-465 westbound lanes on the south side of Indianapolis will be closed from I-65 on the east to I-70 on the west.**

**Everyone welcome!** Questions- call Margaret Smith at 317-698-0526.

Remember to car pool, if possible.

Join us and bring a friend!



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