

IOGA



Hoosier Organic Gardener

January, 2020

Indiana Organic Gardeners Association

IN THIS ISSUE

**President's
Message**

**Ron Clark
Obituary**

**October IOGA
Meeting**

**Impacts of
Invasive Plant
Species**

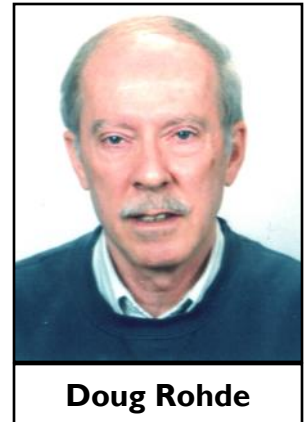
**Fall Leaves Are
Treasure, Not
Trash**

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, and we're off to another new gardening year....well, later as now we have to get through winter. IOGA has undergone a few changes in 2019...Ron Clark passed away on December 12, 2019. Ron was the soul of IOGA for years and will be sorely missed. Rain or snow, Ron kept us on the organic gardening road, out of the ditches and maintained IOGA guidance through personnel changes, was always our plant sale auctioneer, collector of dues, and maintained meticulous accounting of our financial standing. Larry Bills has volunteered to be our new treasurer and I'm sure, will do an excellent job. Dues should be sent to Larry at: Larry Bills, 7159 W 200 N, Tipton, IN 46072-8637. Steve Swinford has volunteered to maintain our membership listings and other membership business. Judith Houser, our secretary, will be the editor of our Hoosier Organic Gardener newsletter. It will take us a few months until we get through our trial and error time period, but everything will get back in order, so bear with us. It was necessary to make these changes and I'm impressed with the members who stepped up and volunteered. One of the helpful things that all of our IOGA family (or most unless it's a problem) can do is to opt for your newsletter via e-mail. That would eliminate a lot of printing, labeling, stamping for us, especially now during our transitioning with new personnel.



Doug Rohde

Don't forget that IOGA meets this month, January, 18th, at the Franklin Road Branch Library....hopefully no snow blizzards predicted for this year as last January's meeting had! Carol Michel will be the speaker and the subject will be "Gardening tools beyond the hoe" (no, she's not Tim, the Tool-Man Taylor). If we don't get it figured out how to include the directions at the end of the newsletter as Ron always did, just pull up your January 2019 newsletter and check the last page.

In April, we will have our plant sale the Saturday before Earth Day. If we have it after Earth Day like we always did, we would be in May. Our meeting in July will be at the Teter Organic Farm in Noblesville, but this time we will be in the air conditioned lodge so if we have another weather index of 94, at least we'll have a place to have our cool meeting, eat "coolly" before entering the outside temp for the tour....and return to cool off a bit before we head home.

A special thank you to Steve and Patty Bonney for hosting our October meeting at their house. An interesting lecture by a very experienced gardener along with a great yard tour. I enjoyed it along with everyone else.

Keep IOGA organic,
Doug

Dr. Ronald "Ron" Ray Clark

February 10, 1939 - December 12, 2019

Dr. Ronald Ray Clark, of Zionsville, Indiana, passed away on December 12, after a long battle with pancreatic cancer.

He leaves behind his best friend and wife of 55 years, Claudia (Otten) Clark, as well as his three children, Carolyn Miner (Mike), Andy Clark (Laura), and Russell Clark (Stephanie). He is also survived by his sister, Susan Starkey; his grandchildren, Christopher Miner (Sarah), Courtney Campbell (Sean), Bennett Clark, Harrison Clark, Max Clark, Isabelle Clark, Alexis Clark, and Carter Clark. He was preceded in death by his parents, Ray and Marna Clark.

Born on February 10, 1939, in Omaha, Nebraska, Ron grew up in Upper Arlington, Ohio. As a boy he was active in scouting and achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Ron's senior year of high school he moved to Indianapolis, where he graduated from Broad Ripple High School. He played football at both Upper Arlington H.S. and Broad Ripple.

Ron was very intelligent and always enjoyed learning. He earned a bachelor's degree from DePauw University in 1962 and both a bachelor's and master's degree from Purdue University in 1965. He was active in Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity at both Depauw and Purdue. After Purdue, Ron went on to earn another master's degree in Aeronautics and Astronautics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1966, followed by a PhD degree in Electrical Engineering in 1975 from Polytechnic Institute of NY. Ron worked for 39 years as a civilian engineer for the Navy department in Indianapolis at Naval Avionics and Raytheon.

Ron always enjoyed working on old cars, especially his 1956 Packard which he refurbished and enjoyed driving into town to go to Dairy Queen every once in a while. He liked exploring new places and traveled with his family to many of our national parks. He and his wife went to Colorado almost every year to hike, often in the fall to see the changing leaves of the aspens. He insisted on driving as many back roads as possible to get there, sometimes stopping to picnic on the way. Ron was a member of the Indianapolis Hiking Club for many years, logging 3,688 miles hiked with the club. He led at least four hikes a year and often on Thanksgiving Day. A popular hike, which was also his favorite to lead, was on the east side of Eagle Creek Park where the lack of trails meant the hikes would include bushwacking and crossing creeks. In addition to hiking, Ron stayed active playing pickleball several times a week and participating in Rock Steady Boxing.

Ron had a huge organic garden each summer. He created several of his own tomato varieties, including a heart-shaped one he named "Claudia" for his wife. Ron was a member of the Indiana Organic Gardeners' Association for over 20 years and served the club as both treasurer and newsletter editor. He was passionate about researching organic gardening and writing articles to share this information with others. Each year he also served as the auctioneer at the group's annual plant auction. Ron thoroughly enjoyed helping new gardeners learn to garden organically.

Ron enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren, watching them participate in sports, listening to records and playing games with them, letting them help drive his tractor, taking them on wagon rides full of leaves they had raked, and even assisting his granddaughter Lexi with her cheer routines!

Ron is much loved and will be missed for his kind and quiet manner and his wonderful sense of humor, which he held onto till the end.

Because Ron was so passionate about the environment and climate change, the family is requesting memorial contributions be made to the Sierra Club (act.sierraclub.org or 2101 Webster St. Ste 1300, Oakland, CA 94612) or the Nature Conservancy (support.nature.org OR 4245 N Fairfax Dr, Ste 100, Arlington, VA 22203)

October IOGA Meeting

The meeting on October 19, 2019 was held at the home of Steve and Patty Bonney in West Lafayette. There were 13 members and 7 guests.

We had a great pitch-in lunch which, as always, included many home-made and/or organic dishes and a lot of desserts this time.

After the lunch at 12:25, President Doug Rohde began the meeting. He said we needed volunteers to take support positions. Larry Bills offered to assist Ron Clark as treasurer. Nick Hardebeck offered to take over the IOGA Facebook page. An election was held and current officers will continue for another 2 year term. Margaret Smith brought greeting cards for members to sign that she would send to Beulah Cobb and Ron Clark.

Kay Grimm, owner of Fruit Loop Acres, a member of the Fruit and Nut Growers Assn. nutgrowers.org said our groups were similar and maybe IOGA could partner with them. Their next meeting is December 1st at Fitness Farm.

At 1:00 Steve Bonney began the program. He has been a gardener for over 50 years and organic for 45 years. They have another property of 10 acres where he has 4 raised beds (6' x 60' x 18"). Steve buys ground up pellets and adds manure, sand and compost. He has added 80 yards this year. He has 61 peony plants. Some of the catalogs he uses are Gardens Alive (they bought up a lot of catalogs). Michigan Bulb is pretty good. Schreiners Iris Gardens is good, but expensive for new introductions. Prices go down each year so wait for the summer sale in 3rd year. Gilbert H. Wild is another good catalog,

Steve built his own seed starter system using plywood and 9 LED bulbs. This uses less electricity. He saves seeds from many annuals, including impatiens. Steve puts organic kelp in every planting hole. Plantain is an indicator of wet, compacted soil. For pumpkins he says to spray copper early for powdery mildew.

Steve said Japanese beetles were the most common pests he sees. He uses soapy water to kill them. Squash beetles are a timing issue – planting later helps to control them. He hasn't had much damage from stink bugs and Asian beetles.

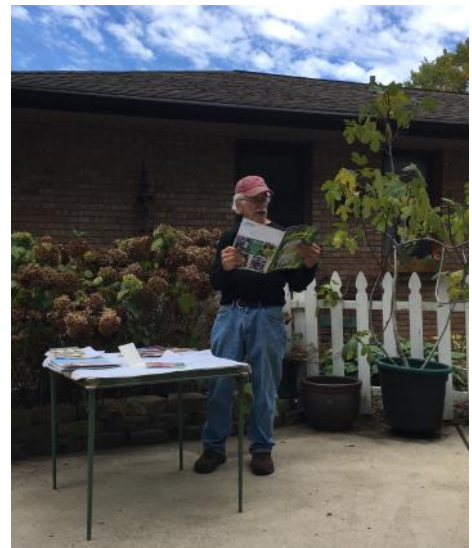
Rita asked if anyone knew about a tomato with white specks. No answer

A tour of the property started at 2:00. There were many large flower beds with some vegetables mixed in. Most of the annuals were from seeds Steve saved from previous years.

Judy Houser
Secretary



Susan Simmons & Doug Rohde



Steve Bonney

The Impacts of Invasive Plant Species: Part 2 of 3

By Tony Branam, USDA-NRCS

Environmental Harm

If there is one statement that stands true of nature it is “survival of the fittest.” The statement implies struggle, perseverance and success of an organism to withstand all that can and will destroy it to include weather, predators, disease and climate change. The single driving force of all organisms is survival of the species as an individual for the good of the community. The success of invasive species is based on their ability to outcompete our native woodland species for sunlight, water and soil nutrients using one of three principle mechanisms.

First, by capturing sunlight more effectively than native plants. Many non-native and invasive plant species will emerge from winter’s sleep earlier than native plants. When you are out flying kites in March you will notice that just about everything that is green and budding out is not native. Leafing out early gives non-native plants a head-start on the growing season capturing the sun’s rays on their leaves while shading out the native plants emerging later in spring.

Second, many non-native and invasive plants are allelopathic giving them a chemical defense against native plant competitors. If you have ever grown tomatoes close to a walnut tree then you have seen firsthand the effects of allelopathy. Some plants like the black walnut exude or secrete chemical compounds into the soil that can be toxic to other species of plants. They do this to deter competition from other plants seeking sunlight, water and soil nutrients. Allelopathy is a very common survival tactic of non-native and invasive plant species such as garlic mustard and autumn olive. When walking through dense thickets of bush honeysuckle you will see a bare, exposed soil surface due to chemicals excreted by the invasive bush and lack of sunlight reaching the natives wildflowers.

Third, would be the palatability or lack thereof of non-native and invasive plants consumed by native wildlife and insects. This tactic is used extensively by all plants foreign and native, but it’s the absence wildlife consuming the non-native vegetation which throws the system off balance in favor of invasive species. For example, Japanese stilt grass grows in dense clumps approximately 18-24 inches tall crowding out native sedges and wildflowers. Deer and other wildlife that typically browse on native plants find themselves searching harder for forage due to the over-crowding by the Japanese stilt grass. Therefore, the deer will over-browse/over-eat the native plants threatening the survival of native plant populations already stressed by the non-native plants. Because stilt grass is not native it is not appealing to deer and stilt grass is not kept in balance by the natural process of browsing.



Continued on next page

The interactions and impact of non-native plants species on native communities have been monitored and assessed over several years. The most common interest has been the damage to forest communities from over-browsing by whitetail on native woodland plants. When woodlands become infested with non-native, invasive shrubs the whitetail deer will browse more heavily on oak seedlings creating a generational gap in the development of forest communities as well as a loss of wildflowers. The photo at left on previous page shows a wall of Autumn olive along field edge and dominating forest understory, also not browsed by deer adding pressure on native plants by deer.

More recent studies have been assessing the subtle impacts of plant community shifts on smaller animals, beneficial insects and pests. An example is the introduction of the Golden Wattle shrub from Australia into other regions of the world to stabilize sand dunes from erosion. Research published by Gomes, Carvalho and Gomes in the journal *Biological Invasions* found a change in spider species living in sand dune communities of Portugal as a result of the invasive shrub. Researchers observed that native populations specialized spiders living in dune grasses had been displaced by more generalized spiders. A change in the composition of predators like generalized spiders threatens the whole community as more prey species are eaten. Similar results have been found in Argentina with the golden wattle shrub impacting populations of native lizards. It is easy to dismiss these changes in lizard and spider populations because we don't understand the implications. It is quite probable these small native animals may be critical in controlling disease carrying pests such as rodents and mosquitos.

A local and recent example of how easily non-native species can be introduced into our neighborhoods was the transport of fire ants from the deep south to a church lawn in Carmel, Indiana. The church hired a landscape contractor to beautify the entrance of the property with ornamental grasses. Unbeknownst to the landscape contractor the ornamental grasses in pots that he purchased from a nursery in Ohio were laden with fire ants. The nursery obtained the grasses from a wholesaler in Tennessee who had contracted with a sod farm in Alabama. Had it not been for the keen eye of a church goer noticing the unusual ant mounds in the landscaping the colony could have flourished and spread across Hamilton County.

The surest way in controlling the impacts of invasive species in the wild and our neighborhoods is avoiding non-native plants when landscaping and always buy native plants from local growers. Our native plants offer year-round beauty, are easily adapted into our landscapes and offer benefits of pollinators, wildlife and aesthetic appeal.

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 Compendium, Detailed coverage of invasive species threatening livelihoods and the environment worldwide <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/2312>

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

Fall Leaves are Treasure, Not Trash

by Rosie Lerner

The hot dry weather experienced throughout much of Indiana in late summer is bringing an early leaf drop to many landscape plants. But even under the best weather conditions, the shorter, cooler days of autumn signal deciduous plants to begin their color change and eventual leaf drop. For some, this marvel is overshadowed by the chores of raking and disposing of leaves.

What's needed here is an attitude adjustment! Autumn leaves don't have to become trash. On the contrary, they easily can be turned into valuable soil-enhancing organic matter. There are several ways to manage tree leaves at home.

Green-thumbed gardeners long have known the value of recycling plant material. Dry leaves can be plowed or tilled under in the vegetable or annual flower bed in fall to provide a source of organic matter. Shredding the leaves first will speed the breakdown so that the leaves will not be visible by spring. Be sure to mix the leaves into the soil, rather than leaving them on top through the winter, to avoid keeping the soil too cold and wet to work in the spring.

Tree leaves can be recycled directly on the lawn. Use your power mower or shredder/vacuum to break dry leaves into smaller pieces. A mulching blade on the mower will speed this process, but even a standard blade will do an adequate job. For large leaves, such as maple and sycamore, it may take several passes to get a finely shredded product. Once the leaves are pulverized, they will break down quickly. A fall application of nitrogen fertilizer (about 1 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet) will help speed decomposition of the leaves and also will benefit the grass plants.

Fall leaves also make great composting ingredients, especially when mixed with green trimmings and grass clippings. Again, the smaller the pieces, the faster they'll break down, so shred or chop dry leaves before adding them to the compost pile. If you don't have green trimmings or grass clippings, add a source of nitrogen to the leaves, such as commercial fertilizer or dry cow, horse, sheep, or poultry manure. The nitrogen is needed by the microorganisms that break down the carbon in plant materials. Add a sprinkling of soil or finished compost to introduce a source of the microorganisms, and water just enough to moisten. The compost will heat up in the center as it breaks down. Stir the contents occasionally to add air and allow for uniform heating. Generally, the more often you turn the pile, the faster you'll get a finished product. Compost is ready to add back into the garden when it looks uniformly dark and crumbly. Compost improves soil aeration, moisture retention and drainage, and nutrient-holding capabilities.

Last, but not least, shredded leaves can be used as a winter mulch to protect tender perennials through the coming harsh weather. Shredding the leaves will help prevent them from packing down as they get wet and smothering the plants that they are supposed to protect. To provide winter protection, apply a 3-to 6-inch layer of shredded leaves over the top of tender perennials after several hard freezes. The goal of winter mulch is to keep plants dormant through the winter, so it must be applied after the ground is cold and plants are fully dormant. The timing of application will vary from year to year with the weather, but most years will be appropriate sometime between the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

B. Rosie Lerner is a member of the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, College of Agriculture at Purdue University and is the Purdue University Extension Consumer Horticulture Specialist. This article originally appeared in the Yard and Gardening News of the Purdue University Consumer Horticulture Program at Purdue University and is reprinted with permission.

LETTERS:



8/23/19

Being on a slope with well drained soil, our tomatoes did OK, though I know people whose tomatoes and cukes bloomed but never set fruit. We have been on a steady diet of cantaloupe, which are wonderful this year due to a healthy dose of bone meal this spring. Watermelons are good too. Plants need phosphorus to produce sugar. Beans are producing a long staggered out crop rather than a lot over a short period. We're getting enough to fill the pantry. And my little peach tree, planted two years ago produced a bumper crop. Another didn't hold up to the wind and broke off at the base.

The crab grass keeps trying to overrun my compost piles, so, happening upon some free material, I am finally building some compost bins to help keep it out,

I don't remember if I told you about my loom project. The Meriden Antique Engine and Threshers Association had an old rug loom, kind of in pieces and missing some cast iron parts. I restored, and was able to locate the needed parts in time to do rag rug weaving demos at our summer show in July. Coincident with that, a woman gave me a loom she had been given and stored outside so the frame was rotted beyond use except for patterns. Luckily, the beams and rollers with associated cast iron parts were in good shape. I have built a new frame and treadles and levers and steel parts for it and located a couple missing harnesses and it is now ready to move into the house. It will keep me from wasting so much time on the computer in the evenings.

Annie is still unemployed, but is canning lots. She made forty some jars of pickles, and is doing beans and carrots now. I think she likes it :-).
We wish you well.

Paul and Annie

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

Clarence M. Cobb M.D. Jr.
1924-2019

Clarence M. Cobb passed away on March 15, 2019. He and his wife Beulah were long time members of IOGA. Beulah attended the first organizing meetings.

Dr. Cobb was a Pathologist. He and Beulah married in 1956. He practiced pathology at Cass County Hospital and Longcliff State Hospital in Logansport. In 1967 he became Associate Pathologist at Winona and Clinical Associate Professor of Pathology at Indiana University Medical School. In 1978 he joined Physicians Clinical Laboratory in Lafayette. After serving at IU Health, Tipton and other local hospitals, he retired in 1989.

Book Review: From Our Seeds & Their Keepers – A Collection of Stories
Saving Our Seeds - The Practice & Philosophy.

Author: Bevin Cohen

By: Judy Houser

Ben Cohen was one of the speakers at Hendricks County Master Gardeners “Climate For All Ages” on September 28, 2019. His talk was about “Adaptation: Saving Seed For Our Changing Climate.” I found his presentation very interesting and bought two of his books. The stories told by seed keepers are very compelling.

From Our Seeds & Their Keepers is a collection of stories about seed keepers and the seeds they saved. Mr. Cohen illustrates the importance of saving heritage seeds, especially since many seeds have become commodified and patented. These stories need to be preserved as well as the seeds. Just a few generations ago we were a nation of seed savers because it was essential to our survival. Many of us have lost touch with this ancient practice, but the knowledge is still inside each and every one of us just waiting to be unlocked. As the demand for locally grown food increases, the demand for local seed is not far behind. After all, food is only as local as the seed that grows it. Throughout his travels across the country, author Bevin Cohen has collected many interesting and heartwarming stories about heirloom and heritage seeds as well as the people that keep them. This book gives voice to these sacred tales and is told in the words of the seed keepers themselves; a unique blend of history and philosophy.



Saving Our Seeds is a practical “how to guide” going step by step through the process of saving seeds from 43 different crops; from adzuki beans to wheat and everything in between. There are easy to follow explanations on important techniques such as hand pollination, isolation, vernalization and even basic flower structure. A book like this would not be complete without stories that honor the many gardeners, farmers and seed keepers that have dedicated their lives to stewarding these heritage varieties.

Our Speaker for the January IOGA Meeting

Carol Michel is a lifelong gardener, author, owner of the world's largest hoe collection, keeper of the secrets to happiness in your garden, and collector of old gardening books. Carol mixes horticulture and humor in her presentations on a wide variety of gardening topics. Her presentation at the January meeting will be on gardening tools entitled, “Gardening Tools Beyond the Hoe”

She is the author of two books: 1) [Potted and Pruned: Living a Gardening Life](#) (2017) which received the 2018 Garden Media Gold Award for Best Book from GWA: The Association of Garden Communicators and 2) [Homegrown and Handpicked: A Year in a Gardening Life](#) (2018).



Carol Michel

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 – Larry Bills
(765) 963-2947
lbills53@gmail.com

Editor – Judy Houser
(317) 243-6671
ioga.newsletter@gmail.com



Treasurer's Report



4th Quarter 2019

Opening Balance Oct. 1, 2019 \$7,128.18

Income

Membership Dues \$12.00

Total \$7,140.18

Expenses

Teter Farm Deposit \$100.00

Total \$100.00

Closing Balance Dec. 31, 2019 \$7,040.18

Respectfully submitted by Larry Bills, Treasurer

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Mark your calendar

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

January 18, 2020
April 18, 2020
(plant auction)
July 18, 2020
October 17, 2020



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:

Please include ALL of the following information:

I prefer my newsletter to be ___ emailed ___ mailed.



IOGA
7159 W 200 N
Tipton, IN 46072-8637

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

**IOGA
Meeting
Sat. Jan. 18
10:45 am**

**Franklin Road Branch, Indianapolis Public Library
5550 S. Franklin Road
Indianapolis, IN 46239 ([Map](#))
317-275-4380**

10:45 Arrive & Welcome Guests
11:00—11:45 Great Pitch-in Lunch
11:45—12:45 Introductions & Gardening Q&A
12:45— 1:00 Business Meeting
1:00— 1:10 Break
1:10— Speaker & Questions

Meeting: The speaker will be [Carol Michel](#), lifelong gardener, author, and owner of the world's largest hoe collection. She will be giving a presentation on gardening tools entitled, "Gardening Tools Beyond the Hoe"

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 exit 96 on I-74 to south Post Rd. Go 0.6 miles south on Post Rd. and bear right (southwest) onto Northwestern Ave. Follow Northwestern Ave. another 0.6 miles and turn left (south) onto Franklin Rd. Go 1.1 miles south on Franklin Rd. to the library on the right (west side). (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 "**Get Directions**".)

Everyone welcome! Questions, or if lost, call Margaret Smith cell phone (317) 698-0526.

Join us and bring a friend!

Remember to car pool, if possible.

Hoosier Organic Gardener
Judith Houser editor
4654 Tempe Ct.
Indianapolis, IN 46241



**Annual Dues Are
Due in January!**

**Join us!
IOGA Meeting
Sat. Jan. 18**