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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



Doug Rohde

And it's April, a far better one than last year at this time when we were all hunkered down and fearful of Covid-19. We did manage to slip in the July, October and January meetings with a rather cautious and understandable small group but we did it carefully with masks, spaced and brown bag lunches.

I asked the officers for suggestions about the April 17th meeting and we are in agreement that we should continue the same careful set up for our meeting/plant sale and to be aware that some of you will not have had the Covid shots by that time so we continue to do our sort of low risk type of meetings.

Bring your plants for sale as well as your mask and brown bag/water for a lunch. Margaret will bring in some drinks and snacks as she did for the last several meetings. I'm trying to get a speaker for a relatively short presentation before we get into the plant auction so it should be an informative and interesting meeting.

We are working on our 17 July meeting at the Teter Organic Farm and by then we should be getting back to a fairly normal meeting, but still Covid cautious, by bringing in your cooking specialties as we always did. We will or have reserved the farm's air conditioned lodge so if it's hot, we'll have somewhere to cool off and have our meeting indoors.

All of my winter rye is regrowing so my concerns that it froze out shouldn't have been a concern. My compost bins are smelling great, an earthy, wonderful smell. One mistake I made was I forgot to trim the roses down when the late fall temps were consistently below freezing. That way most of their "sap" is in the roots not the stems. Now I have new growth on most of the long stems. Oh well, they will be taller roses this summer.

See all of you on the 17th.

Keep IOGA organic!
Doug

JANUARY 2021 IOGA MEETING

The meeting on January 23rd, 2021 was held at Cool Creek Nature Center in Carmel, Indiana. There were 15 members and 3 guests present.

We discussed gardening before eating our brown-bag lunches. Thank you to Margaret Smith who brought drinks and snacks. Larry Bills, Treasurer, collected dues.

President Doug Rohde started the meeting at 12:10. He said we hope to be able to have our plant sale in April, probably again at Cool Creek Nature Center. The July meeting should be at Teter Organic Farm (Margaret to confirm). We went around the room and introduced ourselves. Doug then told us about his problems with his tiller.

Program:

Amanda Smith, Supt. of Natural Resources & Education, Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department, gave a presentation on “Monarchs: The Gateway Insect.” The monarch is like the canary in the coalmine serving as an indicator of insect population decline. Amanda discussed the life cycle of Monarchs. They have 4 generations a year with the last one about 20% larger. These are the ones that migrate to Mexico. It wasn’t until 1976 that scientists discovered where all the Monarchs were migrating to in the winter. Monarchs lay eggs as soon as they find an acceptable site as they migrate back. They are specialists and the larva only eat Milkweed. There are 13 native species of milkweed in Indiana. Monarch populations have dropped 90% since 2013. Factors affecting this loss of population are habitat loss, climate change, neonicotinoids, factory farming, spraying, weather and drought.



Q&A:

There was a question asked about large praying mantises eating caterpillars. Amanda said this was probably the Chinese praying mantis which is larger than the Carolina praying mantis (native) and is becoming invasive. They can eat hummingbirds, birds and frogs. She recommended controlling them by going after the egg cases and burning them, stomping on them or freezing them and then feeding them to the birds.

There was a question about what to do when a butterfly leaving a chrysalis has a ripped wing. Amanda said this happened sometimes and they would likely survive.

Someone said they had caterpillars on milkweed the 1st year but none last year. They asked about moving the plants. Amanda said milkweeds have a tap root which makes them hard to move. Try the rhizomes. Someone said they had had success moving them early using a thin spade, digging in triangles.

There was a lot of discussion about mosquito spraying in neighborhoods. You can complain to your health department. Amanda said it was best to find where the mosquitos are coming from. Treat larva and use dunks, although dunks do affect aquatic life. Susan uses pots filled with water and goldfish which help reduce mosquito populations. Amanda said to treat yourself instead of spraying the area around you. A box fan works well as mosquitos can't fly in a breeze.

Community Information:

Jennifer Lambert said that the Central Indiana Seed Swap has been canceled for this year. There will be the Hamilton County Seed Library at the Carmel Clay Library starting March 1st. People can check out up to 5 seed packages. She announced that the Hamilton County Master Gardener classes start March 3rd.

Judy Houser
Secretary

EARTH DAY IS APRIL 22, 2021.

The theme for Earth Day 2021 is **Restore Our Earth.**
Take action and make a difference today.



EARTH DAY INDIANA FESTIVAL

June 5, 2021
11:00 am -5:00 pm
Garfield Park
2345 Pagoda Dr.
Indianapolis, IN

Control Earwig Damage in Your Vegetable Garden

By: Chris Sherwood
Dengarden.com

Earwigs hold a unique position with being both a helper and a pest in your garden. When earwig populations are kept in check, these bugs can be beneficial by eating other harmful pests such as aphids and slugs. However, earwigs are fast breeders and with the right conditions can quickly multiply to a point where they start looking for other forms of food, such as your favorite tender plants and new starts. When populations are out of control, earwigs can easily wipe out a bed of seedlings in a few nights. In order to protect your garden, there are a few steps you should take in early spring and throughout the growing season to keep earwigs under control.



Recognizing Damage

Earwig damage can look similar to slug damage. Earwigs tend to prefer the more tender parts of plants and will target young plants first, often leaving the tougher veins of the leaf alone. Because earwigs feed at night like slugs, you'll need to go out with a flashlight at night to be sure that's what you're dealing with. Luckily, they don't hide well at night and are easy to spot.



Oil Traps

Oil traps are by far the fastest and most effective way to kill earwigs. As you can see in the picture from my garden below, oil traps can attract and kill hundreds of earwigs in a single night. This is one of four traps that were placed out with each containing hundreds of earwigs by the morning for the first week of use.

The process is simple and inexpensive. Take a used tuna can (I didn't even wash mine out that well, which may or may not have helped) and pour just enough olive oil in to coat the bottom of the can. At first, place oil traps on the outside edges of your garden so that you don't attract additional earwigs to your plants. Once you're only catching 10 or 20 earwigs each night, start moving your cans to where you continue to see plant damage. Some people bury the trap up to the sides to make it flat with the ground, but I found placing it anywhere on the surface of the soil works just fine.

Be sure to clean out the trap each day, I used a plastic fork, and reset for the next night. Change the oil periodically until you no longer catch earwigs. This is especially effective in the spring right after earwig eggs have hatched and before your first seedlings start to poke through the soil.

Paper Towel Traps

With earwigs living a nocturnal lifestyle, they are drawn to dark cool places during the day. To take advantage of this behavior, place out paper towel rolls or rolled up newspaper in areas around your garden. Cut up pieces of old garden hose also work well. Leave them out overnight and as the sun rises in the morning, earwigs will seek shelter in your traps. Simply shake them out into a bucket or into your oil trap for quick dispersal. Earwigs especially like shady, damp areas of soil but can be caught in almost any area of your garden.

Continued on Page 5

Use DE Sparingly

Food-grade diatomaceous earth, or DE, is a non-toxic way to combat many pests in your garden, including earwigs. Apply a liberal amount of DE directly around the base of impacted plants so that earwigs will have to crawl through it to get to the plant stem. I also use DE around pots and other hiding areas where earwigs seek refuge. DE works by getting under the shell, or carapace, of the bug creating microscopic cuts in the skin. These cuts eventually cause the earwig to dehydrate to death. Because DE is a non-discriminatory killer, avoid using near blooms or on areas where bees or beneficial insects like ladybugs are active.

Mechanical Removal

Sometimes the best method of removal is simply squashing them on the leaves of your plants with your fingers or knocking them into a can of oil if you can't stomach touching them. Use gloves while performing this task. Once it's been dark for an hour, use a flashlight to locate the earwigs. While you can find a lot of them easily on the top sides of leaves, make sure and check the stems and undersides as well. Usually, the earwigs won't run until they sense movement in the leaf, so make sure you get them on the first try or they will let go of the leaf and drop to the soil quickly and disappear.

Chris Sherwood (author) from Washington on June 09, 2020:

Chris Sherwood is a project manager by day and avid home and garden scholar by night who loves to share his trials and success with others.

Gardening Assistance

Claudia is still interested in trying raised bed gardening., She really can't do much by herself and would appreciate any help on this or any other suggestions such as container gardening. If there is anyone who could volunteer to help her get started, she would be very appreciative. If anyone is interested, please give Claudia a call.

Claudia Clark
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Whitestown, IN 46075-9689
Cell phone: 317-626-1553
ronaldrayc@gmail.com

New IOGA Member

Welkom

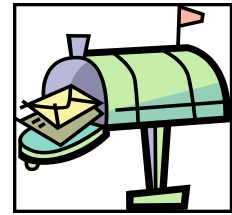
Patty Godinez

Ready
Set
Go!



LETTERS:

Hugelkulture



By: Paul Matzek

My first attempt at making a hugelkulture bed succeeded in direct proportion to the effort I put into it. It consisted of two logs between which I piled tree branches, then covered with some clay left from other yard work. When attempting to work the dirt I kept running into twigs and chunks of wood, and what little I planted died.

The attached photo shows my current attempt, using corrugated steel from a roll-up door for the sides. My next will be made using a leftover steel roof panel. The metal strips are about a foot wide and attached to a wood frame. I dug a trench around one of my existing beds to accommodate the sides, assembled the sides in it, then excavated the bed about 10 inches deep. Traditionally hugelkulture mounds may be up to 2 meters high, but I can imagine how they would look after a 4 inch Kansas downpour. I sank mine in the ground so it would take less water.



To avoid the problems I had previously, running into pieces of wood, I put a layer of straight branch pieces in the bottom, limiting their diameter to about 2 inches, or with semi-rotted firewood pieces I could split down to that size. This I covered with about 5 inches of wood chips left by tree trimmers. One caution- don't use Osage orange chips. They will outlast the current lifetime and the next.

I heaped the dirt I had removed onto the chips and tilled in a layer of leaves. The layer is thick enough I shouldn't run into wood when planting. The rotting material, coupled with the lovely dirt left ahead of the glacier here, should give me greater success.



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

Starting Seeds Inside

by Claudia Clark

STARTING SEEDS

We use the following steps when starting and growing seedling indoors:

1. Use potting soil (We use [Happy Frog](#) brand that we get from [Worm's Way](#) in Bloomington or [Urban Farmer Garden Center](#) in Westfield. [Other locations.](#)) Mix 4 parts soil to 1 part water. Mix well.
2. Fill a tray of containers with the moistened potting soil and put one or two seeds in each container. Containers may be just paper cups with holes in the bottom. Pat down soil gently over seeds.
3. Place tray inside a large plastic bag (to retain moisture) and set on an electric blanket set to Low. Do not place in sunlight.
4. In a few days check to see if some of the seeds have germinated and are showing some green stems/leaves. Germination may take anywhere from a few days to 10 days or more. Tomatoes take roughly 5-7 days. Peppers take a really long time, maybe 7-10 days longer.
5. The seeds that have germinated should be removed from the plastic bag and placed under a grow light if available. Otherwise, place the young plants next to a south facing window. Under a grow light you get plants with stronger stems by placing them immediately under the light so that they are almost touching the light. As the plants grow taller, move the lights higher so that the plants continually almost touch the light. This will result in the strongest and sturdiest stems.
6. To water the small plants, water them from the bottom (to prevent rotting) by removing the containers from the tray and placing them in a large tray filled with about an inch of water. Leave the seedlings in the water for several hours until the moisture is fully absorbed. You should be able to see the wetter soil on some of the plants. Every two weeks, add some liquid organic fertilizer to the water.
7. Keep the plants under the grow lights until a few weeks before planting. Then put them outside for an increasing number of hours each day to get them adjusted to the outdoors. This is called "hardening them off." We place the plants outside next to a south facing wall under some old storm windows that lean against the house and eventually leave them there overnight. We open or close off the sides of the windows depending upon the temperature. (Probably not a good idea to use liquid fish fertilizer on the plants when they are left outside unprotected — Raccoons!)



WHEN TO PLANT SEEDS INDOORS

Plant tomato seeds April 1st or about six weeks before planting outside. Plant pepper and basil seeds March 15 or about 8 weeks before planting outside. Also, plant broccoli, cabbage, lettuce, spinach, and parsley seeds about March 15th.

WHEN TO PLANT PLANTS OUTSIDE

Plant the broccoli, cabbage, lettuce, and spinach seedlings outside in early to mid April. Plant the tomato plants outside May 15th. Also, plant peppers plants May 15 if they are big enough.

WHEN PLANTING TOMATOES

Dig a hole deep enough so that half of the plant is in the hole, with only the top half above ground. Add organic fertilizer to the hole and water thoroughly. Place the plant in the hole and cover with dirt. Roots will develop from the stem of the plant that is under the dirt. Another option is to lay the plant down and plant the lower half of the plant in a shallow trench next to the plant with the top half of the plant above ground.

Reprinted from April 2015 issue.

IOGA PLANT SALE/AUCTION

Cool Creek Nature Center
Carmel, IN



IOGA is looking for donations of plants, books, tools and garden-related items for the auction. **Your donations are appreciated.**

Please arrive at 10:30 with your donations. Please label plants. Also, it would be very helpful if you would contact Margaret Smith to let her know if you are bringing plants.

For anyone bringing seeds, we may have a mini seed swap. Below is a guide on what to bring and what not to bring. Jenny Lambert is bringing some of her favorites. If you have a family heirloom seed please bring it. Jenny is always looking for a good story that accompanies a cherished seed. She will also be happy to accept any seed donations for the seed library.

Proceeds will be used to fund future IOGA programs. Each year the IOGA plant auction is attended by recently converted organic gardeners who are looking for plants and ideas, as well as those who have more experience and have lots of plants, tips and techniques to share.

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.



BEST Choices	GOOD Alternatives	AVOID
<p>Your Own Saved Seed Locally Grown Seeds Open-Pollinated Non-Hybrid Heirloom Organic Certified Naturally Grown Wild-crafted</p> <p>Whenever possible, source your seeds first from the area where you live. Seed libraries, seed exchanges and local seed companies that actually grow the seeds they sell are ideal choices.</p> <p>Support genetically diverse, sustainable, small scale, bio-regional agriculture.</p>	<p>Regionally Grown Seeds Open-Pollinated Non-Hybrid Heirloom Organic Certified Naturally Grown Wild-crafted Organic Hybrid Seeds</p> <p>If the diversity you seek is not found locally, source your seeds from regional seed companies and seed exchanges outside your area. Look first to regions with similar climates and similar latitudes. Look for companies dedicated to genetic diversity.</p>	<p>Industrial (F1) Hybrid Seeds Treated Seeds GMO Seeds* "Big-Box" Seed Rack Seeds Industrially-Produced, "One-Size-Fits-All" Seeds from large corporate seed companies.</p> <p>*What about GMO?* GMO (genetically-modified organisms) seeds have been lab-engineered to contain genes from other life forms.</p> <p>Central Indiana SEED SWAP</p>

PLANT SALES

Indy Urban Acres

7900 Shearer Rd
Indianapolis, IN

Organic vegetables, native plants and flowers.
Online ordering until April 3rd with curbside pickup.
In-person sales May 8 & 9.



100% of all sales support the work of Indy Urban Acres. Indy Urban Acres, a project of The Parks Alliance of Indianapolis, is a collection of organic farms used to empower and educate people by providing equitable access to free, high quality produce. Since 2011, Indy Urban Acres has grown into a multi-disciplinary farm that works to inspire transformational change within Indy's food system by providing food justness for low-income families, educating thousands of youth through tours and farm-to-plate workshops, providing community engagement to thousands of volunteers and groups, and teaching teens valuable job skills.

www.iuaplantsale.com

Indiana Native Plant Society

New This Year: ONLINE AUCTION!



The 2021 INPS Plant Auction is going virtual AND statewide!
The online auction will be open for bidding from **Saturday, May 15, to Saturday, May 22, 2021**. Live-streamed educational content and a live auction are also being planned!

Premium native plant specimens will be offered from nurseries in the Grow Indiana Natives program. The pick-up location of each plant or plant package will be clearly designated in item descriptions, and bidders will retrieve their winnings at the donor nurseries.

Auction Preview

Here are some of the choice offerings so far:

- Choice nursery grown plant stock from our Grow Indiana Natives retailers
- Rare native plants from INPS members
- Private garden tours
- Guided hikes with local plant celebrities
- 30-minute virtual meet-and-greet with an internationally recognized author
- Signed copy of the award-winning children's book, Wake Up, Woods
- Original Brown County landscape painting by V.J. Cariani

<https://indiananativeplants.org/native-plant-auction-2021/>

Hamilton County Master Gardener Association's 22nd Annual

PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 15th
8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds
2003 Pleasant Street, Noblesville, IN 46060

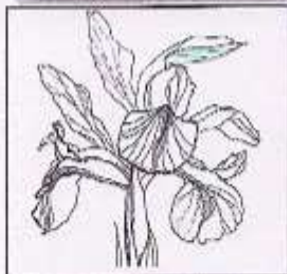
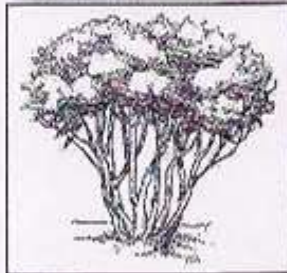
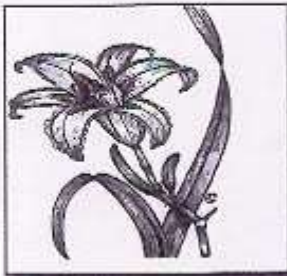
Bearded Iris dug to order from our own beds!
Free Gardening information and expert planting advice!

Shop from our large selection of plants,
including: Native Plants, Hostas,
Daylilies, Pollinators, Perennials,
Vegetables, Succulents
and Water Plants

**BRING YOUR
OWN
WAGON!**



Due to CDC Guidelines, shopper
capacity will be limited.
Consider limiting shopping to
1-2 people per family.



New, Improved Checkout System: Cash, Credit Card or Check for Payment

Hamilton County Master Gardener Association is a nonprofit organization



Purdue University Cooperative Extension
Service is an equal access/equal
opportunity institution.



Ask us...!

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Treasurer's Report 1st Quarter 2021



Opening Balance Dec, 31, 2020 **\$6,485.78**

Income

Dues	\$186.00
Total	\$186.00

Expenses

Newsletter	\$71.74
Larry Bills—Quicken	\$38.51
Liability Insurance	\$203.00
Total	\$313.25

Closing Balance March 31, 2021 **\$6,385.53**

Respectfully submitted by Larry Bills, Treasurer

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

July 17, 2021 — Teter Organic Farm
 October 16, 2021 — TBD



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., 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 _____ emailed _____ mailed.

IOGA
Meeting
Sat. April 17

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

10:30	Arrive with auction items
11:00—11:45	Brown-Bag Lunch
11:45—12:40	Introductions & Gardening Q&A, Business
12:45	Speaker—Jenny Lambert
1:15	Plant Sale/Auction

Plants, books, and garden items will be available for auction. Your donations are appreciated. Please label plants. Proceeds will be used to fund future IOGA programs.

Speaker: Jenny Lambert will speak about seed libraries, seed swaps and seed saving.

Because of Covid-19, masks will be required inside the building except during lunch, and social distancing will be in place. Also, because of the virus, it will be helpful to know how many will be attending. Therefore please let Margaret Smith know if you can attend and whether you are bringing auction items (email—margaret.smith803@gmail.com) or (cell phone 317-698-0526). We hope that many of you can attend.

Lunch: Because of the pandemic, we will not be able to have a pitch-in. Instead everyone will be asked to bring their own lunch, plate, and utensils. Drinks, chips, cookies, cups and napkins will be provided.

Directions: From north I-465 in Indianapolis take Exit 31 north onto US 31 N/N. Meridian St. Go 4.7 miles north on US 31 and exit right (east) onto 146th St. **(Use the 2nd from the right lane to turn right onto 146th St.)** Go 0.2 miles on 146th St. and turn left (north) onto E. Greyhound Pass. Continue 0.2 miles on E. Greyhound Pass and turn right onto Cool Creek Park Rd. Continue 06 miles on Cool Creek Park Rd. through a traffic circle to your destination on the right (north). (

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



Hoosier Organic Gardener
Judith Houser editor
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