



## IN THIS ISSUE

**President's  
Message**

**Teter Organic  
Farm**

**April Meeting  
Minutes**

**Making  
Compost**

## 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 now we move cautiously into our July pitch-in meeting with Covid-19 sort of pushed to the back of our minds....however, however, the new Delta strain is lurking so we should still be a bit cautious. Bring your mask and even though it's one of our good old pitch-ins, if you want to bring a brown bag that's OK. The Teter Organic farm still has its Covid-19 policies on their contract so I don't know if they have relaxed them or not even though Indiana has. We should be OK. The lodge is air-conditioned and in reading the brochure, quite nice so we should have a very good meeting.

One of the things that changed is that our normal start time has been changed from the usual 11:00 to 12:00. This is due to the fact that our Teter tour guide staffs the farmers market in downtown Noblesville and won't arrive until 2:30. We can wander the farm after we are done with lunch (except we aren't allowed to enter the greenhouses) so there are things to do in the meantime. Another thing that we usually never have time to do is have members comment on their gardens and we thought that might be a good time for an exchange like that. I'm always messing with different set ups for my garden so I'd like to find out what all of you are doing.

For example, I just finished building a new raised bed garden bed using 2 x 12's for the bottom with 2 x 10's for the top portion. I found out a lot about making a bed like this as 2 x 12's are really heavy but with the added 2 x 10 height, this should keep the bunnies at bay. (For those of you who don't know, a 2 x 12 is really about 1 3/4 x 11 1/2 as the lumber industry messed with the true measurements many years ago). I also added 1/4" wire mesh on the bottom as a chipmunk tunnel preventative. Then of course, the boards had to be stained and later some good old boiled linseed oil painted on each board. Raised bed gardens are normally 4 foot by 8 foot but technically you can have whatever length you wish. With a 4 foot width you can reach half way across on each side without having to walk on the bed so 4 x 8 sort of became the standard for raised beds. The height also varies as you can have them 4 feet high if you wish but that would take a lot of soil to fill and good organic soil isn't cheap and often hard to find. I put in only aged compost in one old bed last year but compost isn't complete soil however, it was sort of ok but I should have mixed some bags of basic garden soil in it right away. I did that this Spring and the soil has a

Continued on Page 2

better structure to it now. However, my winter rye did well in the compost only bed and helped to break down the compost so by next year it'll be great soil. For some more good info on raised beds go to...<https://joegardener.com>.

This coming October 16th will be our next meeting. We haven't finalized where it will be and depending on the Covid Delta strain we'll see how we stand in early October. We seem to have found a home at Cool Creek Nature Center and are always welcome there plus there's a lot of room to spread out for our pitch-ins (there's even a neat little kitchen that we can use) as well as the plant sale.

Also coming up in October is our IOGA officer elections. Ron and I both had the election year wrong the last time and, as it was with Ron's untimely passing, I did another 2 year term. In October I will have been president for 6 years and have enjoyed being your president. Two years ago, at this time it was emotionally tough going for a lot of us, especially Claudia. I was very concerned as how IOGA would go on without Ron working behind the scene on so many things but with Judy volunteering to take over Ron's data, download all of his IOGA documents and set to work reestablishing the newsletter and many other things Ron did so well plus Larry volunteering to be the new treasurer and Steve volunteering to manage our membership and Margaret hanging in there doing what she always does, we averted disaster and kept rolling along with a few blurps but IOGA is still rolling along.

Which brings me to the point, I think it's probably time for IOGA members to elect a new president in October. It's usually good for an organization to bring in new leadership at the top for fresh ideas and outlook. I'll continue to attend and be a part of IOGA, but it might be time for a change. The staff members that I talked to will volunteer to keep their names out there for reelection for their respective offices but that doesn't mean that you can't throw your name in and go for it. If you wish to run for president (or any of the other positions), send me a brief resume basically stating your background in gardening, experiences in other things/organizations, etc. We can't have an election without names to vote on.

I'm looking forward to see everyone at the Teter Organic Farm later this month.

Keep IOGA organic.  
Doug



## Election of Officers at the October Meeting

IOGA members will elect officers for a two year term at the IOGA October meeting. The elected officers will take office in January. The IOGA offices and their duties are the following:

**President:** The President presides at meetings, appoints the newsletter editor and committees, and provides executive oversight of IOGA activities.

**Vice President and Program Director:** The Vice President/Program Director arranges for meeting places, programs, speakers, etc.

**Treasurer:** The Treasurer is in charge of dues and finances, keeps the membership list current, and keeps the not-for-profit status of IOGA current.

**Secretary:** The Secretary keeps minutes of meetings and serves as corresponding secretary to other organizations.

# Teter Organic Farm

*“This is what we’re about: We plant the seeds that will one day grow.” - Oscar Romero*

Teter Organic Farm is an outreach mission of Noblesville First United Methodist Church which grows over 40 varieties of mixed vegetables on five acres. Our mission is to combat food insecurity, to build community through meaningful relationships across barriers that sometimes divide us, and to educate children and adults on the importance of environmental stewardship and care.

**Farm Manager Katy Rogers** is an Indiana native who has worked in agriculture and the food system from soil to plate. She has held a myriad of positions on farms from the midwest to the southeast. After spending two years at Purdue studying agriculture, she changed programs and earned her BA in Political Science from IU. Since that time she has run a CSA from her farm, served as a volunteer coordinator, campaign manager, communications director, advocated for ethical food systems, and managed a farmers’ market. Her television show, *Katy on the Farm*, serves the southeast by educating viewers about local food systems and sustainable agriculture.

**Why we grow** - Because we believe everyone deserves to eat healthy food. We grow certified organic produce for local food pantries, food banks, and feeding programs, as well as for a 45 Share CSA and the Noblesville Farmer's Market.

**How we grow** - We are USDA Certified Organic by OEFFA (The Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association). All of our produce is locally grown using sustainable growing practices and without the use of synthetic fertilizers or pesticides. We utilize cover crops, compost, and other natural soil amendments that contribute to healthy soils and healthy food. We grow on 30" raised beds in standardized 150' rows.

**Bees & chickens** - We have a 23-hive apiary filled with happy bees who help pollinate on the farm and produce some yummy honey, too. We also are home to 34 ISA Brown laying hens who provide eggs for a local feeding program.

<https://www.teterorganicfarm.com>

## Indiana Wildlife Federation Receives Grant To Add Trail At Teter Farm

On October 11, 2019 the Indiana Wildlife Federation (IWF) announced it had received a \$15,000 grant from the Duke Energy Foundation to support a new trail through the habitat restoration site at Teter Retreat and Organic Farm (TROF) in Hamilton County.

While the Teter Retreat and Organic Farm are best known for the 5 acres of their property that provides healthy, certified-organic foods to local food pantries, food banks, feeding programs and the Noblesville Farmers Market; many are unaware that the larger property (120+ acres) is a high-quality river corridor that provides abundant wildlife habitat and supports a network of trails. For nearly 25 years a portion of the property has been in a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), a federal program that pays a yearly rental payment in exchange for farmers removing environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and planting species that will improve environmental quality.

The CRP has approximately 30 acres planted with an abundant and diverse mix of native trees, grasses and wildflowers that now support a large number of birds, mammals, insects and other critical wildlife. As with most natural areas, this area is under immense biological pressure from the encroachment of aggressive invasive species like Asian Bush Honeysuckle and Callery Pear. This grant will help bring resources and coordinate efforts to reclaim the native habitat and open access to the site.

## APRIL 2021 IOGA MEETING MINUTES

The meeting on April 17, 2021 was held at Cool Creek Nature Center in Carmel, Indiana. There were 15 members and 4 guests present. Three of the guests later became IOGA members.

Members arrived early bringing their donated plants and arranging them on the tables. There was plenty of tomato starts and lots of perennials. Everyone looked at what was available before and during our brown-bag lunches. Thank you to Margaret Smith who brought drinks and snacks. Larry Bills, Treasurer, collected dues and new memberships.



Steve and Jodi Swinford looking at plants.



President Doug Rohde started the meeting at 11:48. Doug showed off his tool bucket from Home Depot. He had also purchased a new plastic cover for his greenhouse. On hot days, he puts black plastic over the top to keep the heat down. Debbie Voelpel uses a grow light in her greenhouse.

### **Program:**

Jenny Lambert spoke about seed swaps, seed libraries and seed saving. She was later joined by Shelli Broadbent. They also brought seed packets to either exchange or take.

People have been planting seeds for 20,000 years. Ninety-four percent of seed diversity has been lost because of patents and seeds not being saved.

During the Carmel Farmer's Market they handed out 280 Victory Garden seed bundles.



Shelli and Jenny



Doug Rohde

Four reasons to save seeds are: commercial seed shortages, increased diversity, regional adaptation and food security.



**Saving Seeds:** Start with the easy ones. For **tomatoes**, fermenting seeds is the best way to save the seeds. Squeeze the seeds into a jar. Viable seeds will sink. Then spread the seeds onto a coffee filter. They won't stick and you can fold the filter to make an envelope and write the variety on the filter. Provide isolation by planting pollinator plants between the different varieties. With **squash** it's easy to get cross-pollination. Use an isolation cover and hand pollinate. Wait until **peppers** are red and fully ripe before gathering the seeds.

**Plant Sale/Auction:**

After a short break, Susan Irwin-Simmons, "auctioneeress", started the auction.



Distributing seed packets.

Judy Houser  
Secretary



Ready to start the auction.

# Making Compost

by Paul Matzek

Look up "Making Compost" on the internet and you'll find a plethora of articles espousing the layer method-alternate layers of greens and browns. I have long wondered why, since every time I have tried that, I ended up with alternate layers of browns and festering, soggy layers of moldy looking, fermenting crud. I'm sure that could have been avoided if I had turned the pile every two days, but I just never get to it

I voiced my consternation to Max, our mutt, as I went to the shed for the pitch fork to build a new pile. Max had no answer.

After studying my dilemma, I made another trip to the shed for a poly tarp, which I weighted down against the refreshing wind next to the materials piles. On that I made a scattering of dead grass collected this spring after the weed seeds had a chance to fall, then a scattering of fresh, clover-rich grass clippings from two days ago. I added an occasional fork full from the oak leaves, chicken manure, coffee grounds pile, then more of the first two, and maybe a fork full from the almost finished pile. "Waddaya think of that Max?" I asked. Again, silence but his attitude said, "Not my purview." I think he was more interested in the prospect of a rat or vole running out of the dry stack than the efficacy of my process.

Seizing each corner of the tarp in turn and pulling it up to roll the contents toward the center, I was able to get it mixed somewhat. Then I dragged it to the new pile location and rolled the contents off the tarp mixing it some more. From a prone position Max observed. Never one to criticize, he kept his council. I continued until I finished the pile of grass clippings I collected last week but didn't get around to composting. By this time they were hot and an ugly green-grown.

In two or three days I'll turn the pile to see how this method works. Maybe. If I get around to it.

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

## New IOGA Members



Shelli Broadbent  
John Fisher  
Jenny Lambert

## Ask us...!

President – Doug Rohde  
(317) 842-2423  
[drohde71@gmail.com](mailto:drohde71@gmail.com)



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

Secretary – Judy Houser  
(317) 243-6671  
[judithouser@att.net](mailto:judithouser@att.net)

Treasurer – Larry Bills  
(765) 963-2947  
[lbillsioga@gmail.com](mailto:lbillsioga@gmail.com)

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



## Treasurer's Report 2nd Quarter 2021



**Opening Balance March 31, 2021**      **\$6,358.53**

### Income

Dues & Plant Sale	547.00
Amazon	5.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$552.00</b>

### Expenses

Newsletter	150.86
Larry Bills—WEB Plan	199.56
Larry Bills—Entity Report	22.00
Teter Retreat Rental	200.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$572.42</b>

**Closing Balance June 30, 2021**      **\$6,338.11**

*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.

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. July 17

**Teter Organic Farm**  
**10980 E. 221st Street, Noblesville, IN ([Map](#))**

12:00—1:00	Pitch-in/Brown-Bag Lunch
1:00—2:30	Introductions & Gardening Q&A, Business
2:30	Tour of Teter Organic Farm

**Program:** Katy Rogers will lead a tour of the farm at 2:30. We will be able to walk the grounds but cannot enter the greenhouses except during the tour.

Because of Covid-19, Teter requires that everyone wash their hands before entering. Mask wearing is strongly encouraged, especially inside the Lodge except during lunch, and social distancing will be in place. We hope that many of you can attend.

**Lunch:** Bring a favorite dish filled with food (“home-made” and/or organic appreciated) to share and your plate, fork and drink. If anyone is not comfortable with that, please feel free to bring your own lunch. We will have the use of the kitchen facilities.

**Directions:** From I-465 in northeast Indianapolis take Exit 37 to merge onto I-69 N/IN-37 N toward Ft. Wayne. Use the right 2 lanes to take Exit 205 for IN-37 N. Turn left onto E 206th St. Turn right at the 1st cross street onto Riverwood Ave. Destination on right. For more specific directions, click on Map above.

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



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