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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 is here! I got most of my plants in early so they seem to be doing well. However, my radishes and lettuce are not. I think my seed may be too old, but I'm going to replant in another area. One of the frustrating problems I seem to have is to get sunflowers to come up. I plant them exactly at the depth the package recommends, but usually no seedlings show up. This year I placed a poultry wire circular fence around several plantings and two are growing so far. My big raised bed went to pepper plants and lettuce. The other raised bed is in zucchini and red beets. I have about 8 tomato plants out in various spots that get the most sunlight so now it's just a matter of patrolling the back yard for critters. I also got out early this year on my annual chipmunk invasion. The Havaheart trap was working well for those who were lucky and got a trip to a new environmentally friendly resort, at least 5 miles away. The others, well, rat traps with peanut butter work well and the coyotes, foxes or raccoons have a nightly treat on the other side of the fence. But if I didn't do anything, I wouldn't have much of a garden. When I built my large raised bed last year, I lined the bottom with half inch wire which surprises the chipmunks that tunnel down and run into it and seems to discourage more digging, although they still dislodge plants sometimes in the process. I always seem to have one or two that make a hole right next to the house foundation. That hole got the water hose treatment several days ago. The water ran for about 15 minutes before I shut off so that the Chinese wouldn't be calling up about me flooding their country. Those tunnels are long and deep, plenty of places for raising even more chipmunks. I even had an adult and very large squirrel trap itself in my chipmunk cage. Quite funny as he/she was so wedged in that it couldn't move. Ah yes, my fat squirrels....they're also on the list for a far away resort location as they can really dig up a garden planting nuts or looking for previously planted nuts. This one was really pissed and started growling and chattering on the floor of the car in back. I usually turn up some loud rock music to offset the squirrel's angry chattering at me. Hopefully after a good blasting by the Rolling Stones, it'll never come back.



Doug Rohde

Normally we attend Earth Day and set up a table, but this year it was on the 4th of June I think instead of the normal 22 of April...at least in Indiana and we/I didn't get it together this year. I was asked to participate in a local church's "Creation Day" however. That sort of flies in the face of the Earth Day mentality, but I

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showed up and did a pollinator table alongside of the Hamilton County Master Gardeners. In our tent also were other “earthy” representatives. One guy, an entomologist, was a master birder and bird house builder. He was very knowledgeable and built great looking bird houses. We had some interesting talks about each other’s projects as I was there with my new pollinator houses and to the surprise of most, Mason bees were flying to the houses and going inside and out, inspecting the tubes for possible places to lay their eggs. It was quite amazing and of course, Mason bees don’t sting, the females were just looking at the perfect place to start laying their eggs. Kati, from the Teter Organic Farm, was there selling honey from their hives. Too bad that we didn’t get a little distant tour of their 30+ hives when we were there last year.

Margaret did well again as she has us booked into another interesting garden tour. Judy will have the complete Minnetrista tour event/Instructions included in the newsletter. I’m looking forward to the tour and also want to see the “Bob Ross Experience” as I loved to watch him paint and hear his soothing voice as he painted. I had no idea that’s where his show was filmed.

Check out Susan’s garden tour dates and time as that’s another great garden to see, one of my favorites.

Keep IOGA organic!
Doug



Integrated Pest Management

(IPM) uses a variety of methods to control pests in an economically and environmentally sound way.

Components of IPM:

- Correct identification of the pest.
- Determine whether the number of pests will cause enough damage to warrant control.
- Consider more than one control method.
- Apply control methods at the correct time.
- Evaluate the level of control obtained.

Control Methods:

- Cultural: Select plant species and varieties less susceptible to attack. Properly grow plants so that they are healthier and better able to withstand pests.
- Biological: Use predators, parasites, or diseases to provide control. Introduce them into the garden or increase the number present with cultural methods or reduced pesticide use.
- Mechanical: Physically remove pests by hand-picking or destroying infested plants. Use screening or other barriers to keep pests off of the plants.
- Chemical: Select the least toxic pesticide that will provide the desired control. Select this option only after considering other methods of control.

Illinois Natural History Survey

Aphids

Homoptera: Aphididae

IDENTIFICATION: Aphids are pear-shaped, soft-bodied insects up to 1/8" long, usually with two tail-pipe-like posterior projections. Most aphids are green, but can be any color. They are usually found in crowded colonies on the underside of leaves and/or growing tips.

DAMAGE: Aphids suck juices out of leaves and stems of spinach, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, tomato, pea, apple, milkweed, goldenrod, and other plants. Large numbers can cause leaf and stem distortion. Aphids excrete honeydew that makes leaves sticky and may support sooty mold growth.

MANAGEMENT: Natural enemies, such as lady beetles, lacewings, hover flies, and parasitic wasps, provide control. Spray with insecticidal soap to control aphid populations.

Illinois Natural History Survey
The Bad Guys – Garden Pests

Killing Aphids Naturally: How To Get Rid Of Aphids Safely

Yellowing and distorted leaves, stunted growth, and an unsightly black and sticky substance on the plant may mean that you have aphids. Aphids feed on a wide range of plants, and in severe cases the plant fails to thrive. As they feed, they secrete a sticky substance, called honeydew, which quickly becomes infested with black sooty mold. They also spread viruses, many of which are incurable. For this reason, it's important to take steps toward controlling aphids in the garden.

How to Get Rid of Aphids Naturally

Killing aphids naturally is not only better for the environment, but also more effective. You can get them under control by taking advantage of their weaknesses and making a few changes in the way you manage your garden.

Aphids have a number of natural enemies, and these insects are much better at controlling aphids than any other method available to gardeners. Pampering and nurturing their natural enemies is an excellent method of organic aphid control. Introduce beneficial bugs, like lacewings and ladybugs, to your garden as a natural way to kill aphids. Nearby plantings of mint, fennel, dill, yarrow, and dandelions will help attract these insects to your garden.

Pesticides are more likely to kill the predatory insects than the aphids, so the insect population usually increases after spraying. Using natural ways to kill aphids preserves the insects' natural enemies while creating a hostile environment for aphids.

While predatory insects are bent on destroying aphids, ants in the garden are their sworn protectors. Ants feed on the honeydew produced by aphids, so it is in their best interest to defend this precious resource. Getting rid of the ants so that the predatory insects can do their job is an important part of a good aphid control program.

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Control ants by trimming the lower parts of the plant so that they don't touch the ground and give ants easy access. Coat the lower part of the stem with a sticky substance to prevent the ants from climbing. You can apply the sticky substance directly to the trunk of thick-barked trees and shrubs. Wrap the stems of other plants in tape and apply the product to the tape rather than the stem. Most of the time, however, the use of an organic aphid control pesticide, such as neem oil, will take care of the ants as well.

Organic Aphid Control

Killing aphids naturally is better for your plants, the environment, and beneficial bugs in your garden. Here are some natural deterrents for controlling aphids.

Grow young plants under row covers. Remember to remove the covers when the plants begin to flower.

Use aluminum foil or reflective mulch on the ground beneath the plants. The reflection of the blue sky from the mulch confuses aphids and they lose track of which direction is up so they do not land on the mulched plants. While you may not want to do this in your flower garden, reflective mulch in the vegetable garden is a very effective deterrent.

A strong spray of water from a hose will knock many of the aphids off the plant, and they won't be able to return. It also rinses off some of the honeydew. Spray the plant every day until the plant is aphid free.

Grow plants for a homemade aphid control. Plants such as the following are attractive to aphids and good for organic aphid control. Growing these far from other garden plants will lure aphids away and keep the garden aphid-free.

Aster
Cosmos
Dahlia
Hollyhock
Larkspur
Mum
Nasturtium
Tuberous begonia
Verbena
Zinnia

You can also try planting garlic or onions near infested plants, as the smell drives aphids away.

Gardening Know How: <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com>



Upcoming Meetings

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

July 16, 2022
October 15, 2022



IOGA Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2022

The meeting on April 16, 2022 was held at Cool Creek Nature Center, Carmel, Indiana. There were 16 members and 2 guests present.

Members arrived starting at 10:30 with their donated plants and food. Around 11:15, lunch began.

At 12:20 President Doug Rohde began a short meeting with a show and tell of the bee box he had purchased from Crown Bees for mason bees and leaf-cutter bees. These bees take different size tubes. In the winter the cocoons can either be stored in the freezer or sold back. The queen lays females in the back and males in front. Doug was going to attach the box to a fence post using a fender washer and a bolt. Mikel asked if the boxes could be put in full sun and Doug said that was OK.

At 12:30 Susan began auctioning off the plants, starting with the tomatoes. There were perennials, cana bulbs, herbs and strawberries.

Judy Houser, Secretary



Minnetrista Cultural Center

In 1887 the Ball family moved its glass manufacturing business from Buffalo, NY to Muncie, IN. The Cultural Center was formerly the home of Frank C. and Elizabeth B. Ball. Minnetrista is a spacious forty-acre campus which is open to the public and includes beautiful gardens, Nature Area, a modern museum facility, historic homes, children's play areas, and a portion of the White River Greenway.

Minnetrista has a variety of garden experiences throughout three campus zones: nature area, center zone gardens, and boulevard zone gardens.

Nature Area

The **Nature Area** features three representations of Indiana native habitats, a tallgrass prairie, a wetlands feature, and a woodland area. Enjoy a great space to walk and explore. Enjoy a variety of fruits and vegetables in the **Orchard Garden** during the summer months. Learn about different ways to build and maintain a garden space. This garden is open for all to enjoy. Stop by the **Culinary Herb Garden** during the warmer months and enjoy a wide variety of herbs. Feel free to pick, smell, and enjoy! This garden is open to all and we encourage you to harvest the herbs and cook with them at home.

Center Zone

The **Wishing Well Garden & Lawn** contains a four-seasons garden that provides year-round interest. This garden was designed by groups of volunteers with the goal of educating by displaying a variety of perennial plants that provide season-long interest, color, texture, and differing heights. The **Rain Garden** uses its 6,200 square feet to capture stormwater. It is designed to hold water for up to two days, allowing it to slowly filter back into the soil. Native perennials thriving in this natural area are tolerant of fluctuating water conditions. Enjoy a variety of beautiful roses and an antique wrought iron gazebo in the **Rose Garden & Gazebo**. This garden is planted like a color wheel starting with orange and ending up with intense red shades. The Rose Garden is the perfect place to stop and enjoy. The **Bird & Butterfly Garden** is designed to attract birds and butterflies by displaying attracting plants loved by both. You will see a nice mix of annuals, bulbs, perennials, shrubs, evergreens, and small trees. Enjoy a walk and see what kind of birds and butterflies you can find.

Boulevard Zone

Oakhurst Gardens are the perfect place to walk and explore. Experience peaceful shade from the oak trees, enjoy gazing at the garden beds filled with beautiful perennials, shrubs, and annuals, keep your eye out for intricate mosaics and have fun in Betty's Cabin. **Colonnade Garden** is a place to sit and relax in a peaceful escape amidst limestone columns draped in wisteria, intricate mosaics, and capitals set in lush, shade-loving perennial plantings. Wander through the **Backyard Garden** and discover colorful flowers, the goldfish and koi pond, and numerous places to play, enjoy a picnic, or relax!

Additional Information for July Meeting

- Either before or after our lunch/meeting/garden tour, we can visit the Farmer's Market (8:00-12:00) or the Orchard Shop. The Orchard Shop at Minnetrista sells local, handmade goods, and unique gifts.
- There are also special exhibits available at a cost of \$15 per person. These exhibits are: The Robot Zoo, Tree Houses, Shape Scape, Bob Ross Quilts and Bob Ross Experience. For more information visit www.minnetrista.net. If you want to attend any of these exhibits, let Margaret know by July 8th.
- IOGA members are invited to visit Susan Irwin-Simmon's gardens from 3:00-6:00 after our tour of the gardens at Minnetrista. Susan's address is: 9054 West County Road 575 North, Middletown, IN 47356 (317-408-9434).

Ask us...!

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Treasurer's Report 2nd Quarter 2022



Opening Balance April 1, 2022 \$5,879.74

Income
Dues, donations, plant sale 497.00
Total \$497.00

Expenses
Newsletter 116.12
WEB plan 199.56
Total \$315.68

Closing Balance June 30, 2022 \$6,061.06

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 16

Minnetrista Cultural Center
1200 N. Minnetrista Parkway, Muncie, IN ([Map](#))

11:00—11:45	Pitch-in/Brown-Bag Lunch
11:45—12:40	Introductions & Gardening Q&A, Business,
1:00	Tour of gardens

We will meet at 11:00 in the Rose Garden for lunch and meeting. We will move to the Center Building at 1:00 for a guided tour of the gardens. There will be a farmer's market from 8:00 - 12:00. Also available to visit is the Orchard Shop. There are also special exhibits available (see page 6 for further information). For more information visit www.minnetrista.net.

Margaret would appreciate knowing who plans to attend (email—margaret.smith803@gmail.com) or (cell phone 317-698-0526). 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. We will be eating at picnic tables.

Directions: From northwest I-465 in Indianapolis, take I-69 north to exit 241 for IN-332 toward Frankton/Muncie. Continue to IN-332 E/W McGalliard Rd & W. Bethel Avenue. For directions click on Map above.

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

Open Garden Tour—Susan Irwin-Simmons is offering a tour of her gardens (9054 West County Road 575 North, Middletown IN) for IOGA members following the meeting or from 3:00-6:00.

Join us and bring a friend!



Hoosier Organic Gardener
Judith Houser editor
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