

# Marshall County, The Garden Gate

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At the South entrance of the county building is a drop-box, labeled **payment box**. Label whatever you are putting in it for the Extension office and you can drop things off **AFTER HOURS!**



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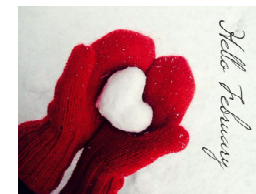
Find our Website: <https://extension.purdue.edu/Marshall>



Extension - Marshall County

## PURDUE EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

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Extension - Marshall County

PURDUE UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE  
Marshall County  
112 W. Jefferson St. Rm. 304  
Plymouth, IN 46563  
*Cooperating with U.S. Department of Agriculture*

Address Service Requested

# Garden Gate

NEWSLETTER

## Marshall County Master Gardener January Meeting Recap

The January Board Meeting discussed many topics. The Unity Gardens meeting was discussed, and Lynn Fitzpatrick and Barbara White volunteered to chair the bed preparations class on April 18th. The March 14th class lunch will be provided by Tamara Libersky Needham and Caitlin Spencer. The May 16th class lunch will be provided by Harold Diedrich. That leaves us with one remaining lunch spot to be filled, on April 18th. It was also discussed that a class for recipes and how to process and can foods could be beneficial and Brianna Slonaker is going to look into options for who could help with that class. The Plymouth Home Show was also discussed during the board meeting. A possible theme was mentioned, and we thought bringing awareness to our zone change would be a great theme. We discussed that we could use March as a working meeting in preparation for the home show, instead of finding a speaker. The Perennials Galore trip was discussed with a possible date of April 29th. The dates for the plant sale were also discussed, for May 18th and May 25th. We finished the meeting with a discussion of some possible trips, the Holland Tulip Festival was an idea, which is going on from May 4th through the 12th. Another possible trip idea was going to the Ft Wayne Botanical Gardens.

The January monthly meeting had River Watson from Recycle Depot as our speaker. River discussed vermicomposting, which is the use of worms to convert organic waste into fertilizer. He explained that red wigglers are the best worms to use for this method because they easily adapt to confined spaces. They also have a big appetite, rapid reproduction, tolerate a temperature range between 55-75F, as well as being non-burrowing so they won't disturb the compost. River explained why worm castings are so beneficial. The digestive process of a red wiggler introduces beneficial microorganisms, which are more diverse than the microbes found in traditional composting. The nutrient content contains higher concentrations of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium which is easily absorbed by plants. The worm digestion process helps regulate the PH level. Castings also provide improved water retention, aeration, and root penetration. Which all increased seed germination rates. River also explained the proper care instructions for your bins. A balance of shredded newspaper, cardboard,



### February

12- MG Monthly Meeting @ 7PM

### March

11- Monthly Meeting @ 7PM Extension Office. Home show prep

21-Plymouth Home Show set up noon to 6PM Theme yet to be decided.

22,23 & 24- Plymouth Home Show

24- Plymouth Home Show Breakdown of the booth 4-6PM

**29- Office Closed**

### April

8- Monthly Meeting @ 7PM

## Submit your Volunteer and Educational Hours!

In order to stay an active Master Gardeners, members will need 12 hours of volunteer time, 6 hours of educational hours, and you will need to fill out the Annual Agreement each year! (associate members do not need to complete volunteer hours or educational hours)

<https://www.purdue.edu/mg-volunteer/login.php>

If you would like to turn in or call in your hours in to our office to be recorded you send them to:

Marshall Co. Extension  
Office  
**574-935-8545**





[www.facebook.com/marshallcountymastergardeners](https://www.facebook.com/marshallcountymastergardeners)



[www.facebook.com/marshallanr](https://www.facebook.com/marshallanr)



<https://www.smores.com/u/purdueboilmaker>



<https://extension.purdue.edu/Marshall>



**2024 Master Gardener Officers**

President: Harold Diedrich 574-936-4546  
Vice President: Barbara White, 574-936-6725  
Secretary: Caitlin Spencer  
Treasurer: Carol Nelson, 574-315-5577

**Board Members**

Amy Heinke  
Ken Waite  
Deborah Howard  
Lynn Fitzpatrick

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and a small amount of well-aged compost. Keep it moist and not soggy. Do not put it in direct sunlight. Provide a diverse diet, avoiding acidic or citrus fruits. Worms do not have teeth so give them soft, chewable foods. Adding crushed eggshells can help maintain pH levels. Monitor for pests such as fruit flies or mites. Finally, expand the bin as your population grows.

We also got to hear from Amanda Boener and discussed permaculture, which is the development of agricultural ecosystems intended to be sustainable and self-sufficient. She has some pretty exciting plans for her family's newly purchased property in Florida and walked us through her thoughts behind them. She is pursuing her Permaculture Design Certificate and was able to share some wonderful local resources available to check out at the library related to Permaculture.

We wrapped up the meeting with Roy Danforth sharing his mapped-out ideas for the Unity Gardens in Plymouth. He has some excellent ideas ranging from produce to herbs, as well as a native flower display. We will continue to discuss ideas and work out plans at the follow-up meeting on January 29th.

Attendees were: Ken Waite, Diana Smith, Barbara White, Roy and Amy Heinke, Carol Nelson, Susan Kuntz, Lynn Fitzpatrick, Todd Edmonds, AJ Boener, Pat Popa, Dave and Pat Kaiser, Tom Edgerton, Marion Ellis, Roy Danforth, Tamara Libersky Needham, Liz Bottorff, Janet Manual, and Caitlin Spencer.

Caitlin Spencer, MG Secretary




**Unity Gardens**

## Growing Grapes

Learn The Basics of Growing Grapes

Free Class  
 Wednesday March 6th 6:00PM  
 At the Unity Welcome Center  
 3701 Prast Blvd. South Bend

[www.theunitygardens.org](http://www.theunitygardens.org)




**Unity Gardens**

## Small Fruits And Berries

Learn About Adding Small Fruits and Berries to Your Garden

Wednesday March 20th 6:00PM  
 At the Unity Welcome Center  
 3701 Prast Blvd. South Bend

[www.theunitygardens.org](http://www.theunitygardens.org)



**2024 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION MARSHALL COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION**

FISCAL YEAR JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: Home (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Work (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone numbers will be published only to club members. If you wish your number to NOT be published, check here

I am a: New member  Renewal  Associate Member

Transfer from \_\_\_\_\_ County

This is an Individual membership: (\$10)

Family membership: (\$15)

Please mail this form along with check payable to *Marshall County Master Gardeners* by **January 31** to: Carol Nelson, 915 Sunrise Drive Bremen, IN 46506 or bring to next meeting.

Cash: \_\_\_\_\_ Check #: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please share activities for association i.e. trips, programs, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Community Service Project \_\_\_\_\_

<p><b>January</b> 8th– Board Meeting 6PM 8th– Monthly Meeting with River Watson at 7 PM 29<sup>th</sup> – Unity Garden Planning Meeting @11:00 Life Enrichment Center</p>	<p><b>July</b> 8th– Meeting and 4H Fair Prep 13-19- 4H Fair. <b>Sign up for booth!</b> TBD- Open Class Info</p>
<p><b>February</b> 12th– Monthly Meeting. Lindsey Spaulding Speaker: Natural Plantings and Invasive Plant Mgmt @ 7PM Extension office 15<sup>th</sup> - UG – Seed Selection @ 11:30am Life Enrichment</p>	<p><b>August</b> 12th– Board Meeting? 12th– Monthly meeting.</p>
<p><b>March</b> 11th– Monthly Meeting. 7PM . Home Show 14<sup>th</sup> – Seed Starting UG @11:30am Life Enrichment 21– Set up for Plymouth Home Show 12PM – 6PM Sign up for booth! 22,23,24- Plymouth Home Show 24- Plymouth Home Show Clean up</p>	<p><b>September</b> 19th– Monthly Meeting</p>
<p><b>April</b> 8<sup>th</sup> – Monthly Meeting 7PM 18th – Bed preparation @11:30 Life Enrichment 29<sup>th</sup> - Perennial’s Galore Trip- Last Mon of April</p>	<p><b>October</b> 14th– Monthly Meeting Plant Swap?</p>
<p><b>May</b> 13th- Board Meeting? and Monthly Meeting. Prep Farmers Market.? 6<sup>th</sup> – Patio Tomato Planting @11:30 Life Enrichment 18/25<sup>th</sup> - Farmer’s Market Plant Sale (pending approval)</p>	<p><b>November</b> TBD– Annual Extension Board Dinner TBD– Harvest Dinner TBD Monthly Meeting?</p>
<p><b>June</b> 10th– Monthly Meeting.</p>	<p><b>December</b> TBD– Annual MG Breakfast</p>



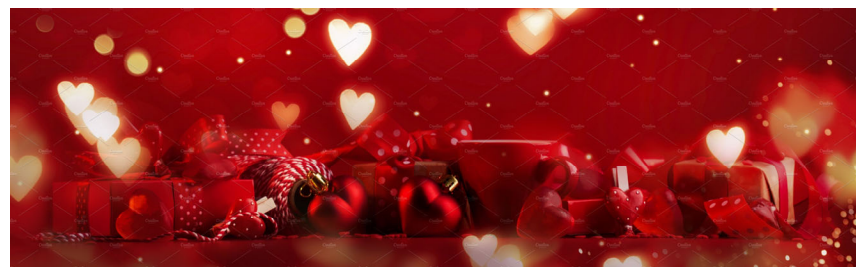
## February Master Gardener Meeting

Date: February 12, 2024

Location: Marshall Co. Extension Office, 112 W Jefferson St. Room 304, Plymouth, IN 46563. Enter the building at the North Doors.

Time: 7:00 PM— 9:00 PM ET

Lindsey Spaulding Speaker: Natural Plantings and Invasive Plant Management



**PRIVATE PAGE just for our Master Gardeners**

[www.facebook.com/groups/217503359656977](http://www.facebook.com/groups/217503359656977)

**PUBLIC PAGE for our community**

[www.facebook.com/marshallcountymastergardeners](http://www.facebook.com/marshallcountymastergardeners)



## 2024 Master Gardener Officers

President: Harold Diedrich

Vice President: Barb White

Secretary: Caitlin Spencer

Treasure: Carol Nelson

Board Members:

Amy Heinke, Ken Waite, Deborah Howard and Lynn Fitzpatrick.



PURDUE EXTENSION  
MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

## EDUCATIONAL HOUR OPPORTUNITIES

New Master Gardener Educational Videos have been posted! You can view these videos at:

[www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/master-gardener/continuededhours/](http://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/master-gardener/continuededhours/)



PURDUE EXTENSION  
MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

## Michiana Master Gardeners Association

### 5th ANNUAL GARDEN EXPO



## Think Spring



### Saturday, February 24, 2024

### 8:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m. EST



Faith United Methodist Church  
22045 County Road 18 (corner of CR 17)  
Goshen, IN 46528

Tickets \$10 at the door or our website  
[michianamastergardeners.com](http://michianamastergardeners.com)

*Michiana Master Gardeners' Association holds this event in cooperation with Purdue Extension. Please see <http://www.michianamastergardeners.com> for more information.*

*If you are in need of accommodations to attend this event, please email [nborkhol@purdue.edu](mailto:nborkhol@purdue.edu) or call Purdue Extension - Elkhart County at 574-533-0554 by February 9, 2024*

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## Master Gardener Club offers spring lunch & learn classes at M.C. Council on Aging

Posted by Kathy Bottorff

The Marshall County Council on Aging offers a variety of seminars, training, and classes on a multitude of topics.

For the next four months, they are partnering with the Master Gardener Club to host a series of “Let’s Think Spring” lunch and learn classes.

In preparation for a successful Community Unity Garden this upcoming growing season they will offer classes on gardening. The Community Unity Garden is located next to the Council on Aging at 1305 West Harrison Street in Plymouth.

The Thursday, February 15th class will be about seed selection and collecting. On March 14th the class will be on seed plantings and startings. Bedding preparation and planting will be discussed during the April 18th class and the final class on May 16th is patio tomato planting.

These classes are offered by the Master Gardener Club at no cost and begin at 11:30 a.m. with a free lunch provided. Classes are open to all and will include giveaways and door prizes for participants.

Because lunch is provided and seats are limited, participants need to RSVP through the Marshall County Council on Aging at 574-936-9904 a week before each class.



**PURDUE EXTENSION ST.  
JOSEPH COUNTY**

## *MASTER GARDENER BASIC TRAINING CLASS*

Topics include: Plant science,  
soil fertility, vegetables, shrubs,  
flowers, pesticide safety,  
diseases, weeds, insects,  
invasive plants

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**CLASSES HELD  
WEDNESDAYS, 1-4PM  
FEB 14 - MAY 22, 2024  
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY  
FAIRGROUNDS**

Application Deadline: Feb 7, 2024  
For more information, contact  
Emily Evers, 574-235-9605,  
[everse@purdue.edu](mailto:everse@purdue.edu)





## MIDWEST HOME AND YARD SHOW

February 9th—Friday, 1:00 PM—9:00 PM

February 10th—Saturday, 8:00 AM—4:00 PM

Admission is \$5 at the door. Children 12 and under are free to attend

Location: Michiana Event Center, 455 E Farver St. Shippshewana, IN 46565

For more information visit [www.michianaevents.com](http://www.michianaevents.com)

The Midwest Home and Yard Show kicked off in 2011 and is the perfect cure for that winter restlessness we all feel around this time. Picture this: 112 local vendors are getting together, showing off cool stuff for your home, garden, and outdoor spaces.

If you're into summer BBQs, you definitely want to check out the newest grills. Plus, skilled craftsmen will be there flaunting their amazing kitchen cabinets, furniture, patios, and gazebos. It's like a dream come true for home and garden lovers, with all the experts you need to chat with.

And wait, there's more! The Midwest Home and Yard Show is giving away goodies worth around \$20,000. Don't miss out on this chance to get inspired and turn your home dreams into reality!



## Feb 29 – Mar 3, 2024 51st Annual Show!

Thursday & Friday: 11a – 8p

Saturday: 10a – 8p

Sunday: 11a – 5p

Memorial Coliseum  
Allen County War Memorial Coliseum  
4000 Parnell Ave.  
Fort Wayne, IN 46805

### Ticket Pricing

\$12 – General Admission

\$8 – Seniors (62+)

FREE – Children 15 & under

### Coliseum Parking

\$8 – Per Vehicle

While the heart and soul of our show continues to be the 650+ home improvement experts / artists & crafters / service providers / exhibitors... we're excited to be able to bring back extra features to the show this year!