



The Garden Gate Newsletter

Boone County Master Gardener Association
July & August, 2020

NEXT MEETING – Monday, July 27, 2020
@ Boone Co Community Gardens Production
Garden, behind Lebanon Church of Christ, 1204
Indianapolis Ave, Lebanon

Details: We will be social distancing, so please bring
your own chair and mask if possible. We are excited
to be meeting together again.

President's Notes from Butch

I know we have heard, seen, and felt all sorts of things
related to the Corona Virus to the point of overload.
So, I will leave it that I hope you and yours are doing
well and staying safe. Fortunately, my family and
friends are all safe and well at this point. As time flies
by us (as I blinked and it was July) we shall see how
the days, weeks, and months ahead unfold.

Now for some pressing issues or, more specifically,
one issue which has been brought about by those cute
little Indiana Red Squirrels and their propensity to
breed and destroy whatever may stand in the way of
access our cache of birdseed. A couple of years ago
there was one or probably two of the little guys
running around the maple tree and eating some seed.
They were cute since they just looked to be miniature
grey squirrels. Now we can look out the window and
see 6, 7, or 8 of them scavenging under the feeders
and fighting over the jar of stripe sunflower seed on
the tree. If it stopped there it would not be ideal but it
might be at least bearable. No, they do not stop
there. Over the winter they moved in to one of our
outbuildings where they proceeded to eat some parts
of lawn furniture, all of the floats and pool toys, plus
hoard black walnut hulls (too numerous to count).

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PROGRAM

Boone County Master Gardeners 2020 Officers

President	Butch Kidd 317-690-5454 Kiddel56@gmail.com
V. President	Lynn Kenyon 765-482-4172 Lynnk1@earthlink.net
Treasurer	Jane Bewley 317-313-1496 jsbewley@gmail.com
Secretary	Barb Burkhardt 317-873-1022 Sparky8505@att.net

*Life begins the day you start a garden.
(Chinese Proverb)*

Our website:

<http://mastergardenerboonecounty.org/>

Can you integrate pollinators in your garden?



Facebook: *Master-Gardeners-of-Boone-County* and *Boone County Community Gardens*

Websites: www.mastergardenerboonecounty.org and <http://bewellboone.org/CommunityGardens.html>

Club News and Opportunities

Letter from the president (cont'd from page 1):

With the advent of spring and summer they have moved on to finding a way into our garage and eating holes in the plastic totes to get at the seed. I have tried mothballs and cayenne pepper. Both of which seem to be viewed as extra seasoning for the meal rather than a deterrent. I certainly will not even consider poison but other than taking away the food source we don't know what to do to control the issue. Enough of that and my whining sessions over, but any tips would be appreciated.

Up to this point it has been a good year in the garden. Ample sun and rain have kept the veggies, as well as the weeds, well satisfied and growing well. We usually don't have rabbits or deer in the yard but something has been eating the tops off of the radishes, oh well, I guess a little fencing should take care of that. The peas are shooting up the trellis and I am pretty sure that some extra height for the trellis will be needed or they will be hanging over like a weeping willow.

Upcoming, Linda Trips has put together a really nice day trip for July 8, starting at Terra Flora Gardens, a meal at Gray's Cafeteria, and on to Avon Gardens to finish out the day. It sounds like a great trip, but one I will have to miss unfortunately.

Our July BCMG meeting will be at the Production Garden on July 27. We will be outdoors with plenty of room for personal spacing as well as for parking. Come see what the team has done with this space, and take a look at our rain garden. Pray for a nice day!!

With that I will close, and wish everyone a safe and happy summer and look forward to the possibility of resuming group meetings in September (Fingers crossed).

Thanks,

Butch (Butch Kidd)

Boone County Master Gardeners Volunteer Opportunities

Boone County Community Gardens

We are gardening amid the COVID-19 crisis. Much of our produce goes to local feeding programs and pantries and there is an increased demand for food. Do a drive-by of the gardens if you get a chance and see what we're up to. We are following social distancing, using our own tools, and gardening safely following CDC guidelines.

This year the Youth Learning Garden project with Mental Health America Boone County (MHABC) summer camp is underway. The elementary-age campers enjoyed the activity totes we provided for June, and will join us in the garden Mondays in July (9:30-10:30).

We have already started delivering 10+ pounds of produce a week to them, from this garden and some from the production garden. Thanks to a Purdue Extension Growing Together grant and the many who volunteer to help and provide programming.

The gardens at The Caring Center and at the Production Garden (Lebanon Church of Christ) are producing a great bounty. Also, always a lot going on at St. Peter's share garden and Harvest House Community Center.

Let us know if you want to be involved and we'll plug you into a team.

Questions: Contact Holly Catron, 812-343-8554 or catronh@purdue.edu

Education Information

See attached flyer for **Indiana Invasive Plant Training**. Thursday, September 3, 9-4:30 at Cool Creek Nature Center in Carmel.

As reported in the last meeting, Curt is planning on delivering a Master Gardener class on this fall. They are developing some online curriculum at the state level to be coupled with hands-on. Details are coming soon. In meantime please refer anyone interested to Curt at cemanuel@purdue.edu.

Purdue Extension <https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/master-gardener/events/>

Click on the link above to learn about many garden shows and training opportunities in our area. The recent events have been virtual, with more added daily. You will also see more in-person events added as we move forward.

The **Hortuscope**, by Wendy Ford, highlights what is new in central Indiana gardening. Here is the link to that publication for January 2018: <http://hortuscope.info/>

There are many educational and volunteer opportunities. All count towards your training hours.
