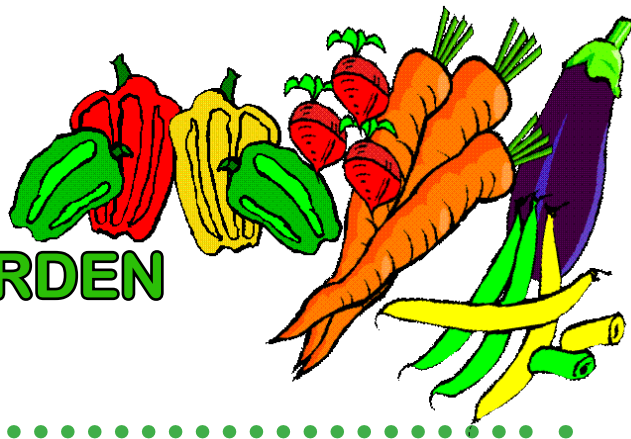


May 31, 2012

INDIANA COMMUNITY GARDEN NEWS



News from the Garden

Saturday, May 12, was our planting day. The weather was perfect and the energy, enthusiasm, and pleasure displayed throughout the day by all the participants made the event a wonderful community effort. The assembled gardeners planted three community plots and half of the individual plots. Jason Stubbe coordinated the K-Kids from Horace Mann and their families to plant the Horace Mann bed, while various members of the community planted the other two community plots. Thanks again to Bonnie Plants Company for donating enough plants to fill our two community plots; to Jim Bernard, Master Gardener, for donating plants from his own garden and giving us many useful gardening tips; to the Indiana Conservancy and Justin Thyme for donating so many seeds; to Cecile Evansic, Master Gardener, for talking to us about heirloom seeds; to Nancy Smith, Master Gardener, for presenting square foot gardening; and to all the adults and children who made this an enjoyable and productive event.



Since May 12, the garden has been growing nicely. Most of the remaining beds have since been planted. Thanks to Kay Snyder and Tom Nowak, we now have an entrance arch that adds to the garden's esthetic appeal. We also thank Dick Farabaugh, who patiently painted the arch to protect it, and Dave Thompson who has been mowing the grass around the beds since they were constructed. Our next step will be the construction of a pavilion to serve as a community gathering site, a storage space, and a rain water supply via attached rain barrels.

The Garden Needs You

Once the hot, dry weather we experienced toward the end of May returns, we will have to resume watering three times a week. The water pump is not installed yet, so we are relying on volunteers to water with gallon jugs filled with water brought from home. A little help from everyone would be appreciated: please contact the ICG at icg15701@gmail.com or check our website for a volunteer sign-up calendar. Soon we will also need to weed and stake the beans and tomatoes.

We are still working on fundraising in order to build our pavilion and to purchase various gardening tools. Ola Kaniasty and Marie Olson have submitted a grant application to the Indiana County Endowment. Kay Snyder, Paulette Blais Thompson, and Nancy Smith are coordinating the main fundraising effort. We now have a Pay Pal account on our website to make donations as simple as possible.

Paulette Blais Thompson will host a yard sale at her office location (31 South 3rd Street) with all proceeds to go to the Garden. It will take place June 22, 23, and 24. If anyone wishes to donate items for the sale, or help Paulette with it, please

contact her by email: pauletteblais@hotmail.com or cell: 724-840-0519.

We encourage all newcomers to the ICG project to come to the garden, explore, and leave your contact information in a box that will be on one of our garden posts. Please see our FAQ document in this newsletter.

Upcoming Events

The next community garden meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 5: we will meet either under the permanent pavilion at Mack Park at 5:30 if the weather is good or at the Indiana Free Library at 5:00 (note the different time) in case of rain. On the agenda will be garden organization and events for the rest of the season.

The first ICG picnic will take place on Saturday, June 9, from 6:00 to dusk at the Garden. Bring a blanket and a picnic basket for you and your guests. Come and enjoy the Garden and the camaraderie of the ICG community.

On June 15 at 5:30, Jill Fiore from Sunflower Yoga Studio will host "Yoga in the Park." Please check our website for details on these events and all other updates. www.indianacommunitygarden.org

As all can see, there are many opportunities to work and play at the Garden! Come to the June 5 meeting or send us your ideas for future events.

Please send items for future newsletters to Tami Whited at twhited@iup.edu. We especially invite gardening tips appropriate to the season and to our locale.



INDIANA COMMUNITY GARDEN NEWS

The Indiana Community Garden is a public gardening space located at the NE corner of Mack Park, where South Sixth Street intersects Carter Avenue. The Indiana Community Garden project seeks to promote health, education, enjoyment, and a sense of community. The project is led by a group of volunteers having connections with various organizations such as Indiana County – Penn State Extension, IUP, Indiana Garden Club, Evergreen Garden Club, and the Indiana Schools. Indiana Community Garden hopes to create many other connections.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can I still get a plot this year?

No. We built 15 individuals raised beds for this year. All these beds have been rented for a nominal fee of \$20.00. We are intending to build more beds next year. If you are interested in renting a plot, contact us at icg15701@gmail.com.

2. Who can use the communal plots?

We have three communal plots in the shape of an “I,” identified on a map at the garden. One of these plots is being used by children, families, and teachers from Horace Mann Elementary School. The two others are for the community to use. We will post simple guidelines on how to take care of these plots on a bi-weekly basis. The plots will need to be watered, weeded, and harvested, so feel free to stop by to help when you can. Anyone can volunteer to work on these plots and benefit from the harvest. We also have an herb plot donated by Indiana Community Garden. People will be able to take herbs, not plants, from this garden as well.

3. How can I get involved with the Community Garden?

You can contact us at icg15701@gmail.com, or check out our website and at www.indianacommunity-garden.org.

4. Is it an organic garden?

No, it is not completely organic. There are many requirements to fulfill the criteria of an organic garden, but we will strive to be as organic as possible by using sound ecological practices. We are partners with Penn State Master Gardeners trained by Penn State Extension, whose mission is to educate gardeners toward good gardening practices. As funds permit, we will have compost bins and a rain water collection system. If there is a strong community interest in organic gardening, we might in the future have a fully organic section in the garden.

5. Are you going to sell or donate the produce of the garden?

We are not going to sell any produce unless we decide to do a fundraiser using produce from the community plots. The owners of individual plots have complete control over what they want to do with their produce. The produce from the communal plots will be harvested by the people who volunteered in the garden. Any excess produce will be donated to local food banks.

6. Aren't you afraid of vandals?

We might have to protect the garden from four-legged vandals such as rabbits, chipmunks, or deer. We trust that this community will re-

spect the garden and its gardeners. People are welcome to take produce from the two communal plots. In exchange, we ask that they volunteer once in a while to help with the general maintenance of these plots.

7. Is the Community Garden a club or an association?

Neither. We are simply a group of volunteers dedicated to see a community garden grow and thrive in Indiana.

8. Do you accept contributions?

Yes. Funding for the community garden relies on donations. We want to build a pavilion as soon as possible and are looking for contributions. As finances permit, we also hope to make additional improvements to the garden, such as compost bins, a rainwater system, and additional raised beds. You can make donations in cash, checks, and via Pay Pal from our website. A \$100 contribution will guarantee your name on the pavilion structure, but any amount will be greatly appreciated.

Donations may be sent to the following address:
Indiana Community Garden Project
C/O Penn State Cooperative
Extension Office
827 Water Street; Indiana, PA 15701

