



*For those who share our interest in gardening . . .*

September, 2016

*Kris Medic, Bartholomew County Extension Educator and Becky Pinto, Master Gardener Newsletter Editor and Advanced Master Gardener, Bronze Level.*

*Gardening simply does not allow one to be mentally old, because too many hopes and dreams are yet to be realized.*

— Allan Armitage

## **Are They Sweat Bees or Hover Flies? The Purdue Team Clarifies**



It's a safe bet that there's not one Columbus resident this summer who hasn't encountered these little pests, but most have probably mis-identified them. They are the little hover flies that could -- - could annoy, provoke, and generally become a nuisance, that is.

But don't be too hard on them; they're beneficial, too. Some folks even plant to lure them to the garden. Hint: one of their favorite foods, in their immature state, includes aphid larvae.

So how did they ever get the bee reputation? Probably because very few have bothered to peer closely enough at one to count their wings for ID purposes. After all, they do have stripes (or symmetrical markings that sure look like stripes), are close in color to bees we've seen flying about, and some claim to have felt a tiny sting from one. So? True, but they're still flies, not bees.

First of all, they have only two wings, not four, a bare minimum requirement for bees. And for another thing, they can't sting; they have only the tiniest of mouths with which to lap up the salt from human sweat to which they are sometimes fatally attracted.

For more information and clarification, visit <https://www.ppdL.purdue.edu/PPDL/hot15/8-19.html>

-BP

## A Skink By Any Other Name is Still a Skink

The put-upon hover fly is not the only garden inhabitant that gets its share of mis-identification. Skinks do, too. *Plestiodon fasciatus*, or the American Five-Lined Skink, is one of 1,250 varieties, so it's easy to get confused. The American Five-Lined skink is indigenous to Virginia. Sometimes mistaken for lizards, chameleons or newts, these little guys may be spotted slithering along concrete block foundations right before they slip under siding slats to scurry home (buildings are one of their favorite picks to call home). And for nesting purposes, abandoned burrows of other animals do nicely. At our house, since there are all sorts of mole burrows along our foundation, I'm pretty sure that's why our resident skink chose this spot.

Apparently the skink who has chosen us is a juvenile, as he still

has his bright blue tail. I know that he eats crickets, 'cause I caught him snacking on one about a week ago. I can see how you might tame the skink --- he doesn't seem the least bit afraid --- and Wikipedia says that a pair of them can live in captivity with proper care for 5-10 years in a 25-30 gallon tank. Indiana is one of the states that requires a permit to take them from their habitat into captivity. I didn't find any bad press on these little guys.

I've left him to his chosen habitat - but named him Schuyler... -BP



### NORTHERN PECAN SEMINAR

Saturday Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> 2016 Registration \$20.00 includes catered lunch

Location...Scottsburg, In. High School (Commons room)

500 South Gardner St.

Scottsburg, In. 47170

8:30 am Introduction John Harrell

Welcome: Virgil Vaughn, Cooperator with USDA ARS. Northern Pecan Test Grove

9:00 am Seminar

Jim McKenna of Lafayette, In. Operational Tree Breeder

HTIRC USDA Forest service, Northern Research Station

Purdue University, West Lafayette, In

Dr. William Reid Chetopa, Ks

Pecan Experiment Field, Kansas State University

Dr. L.J. Graube, USDA ARS

Pecan Breeding Program, College Station, Tx.

12:00-1:00pm Lunch

1:00pm-5pm Tour of USDA, Northern Pecan test cultivars

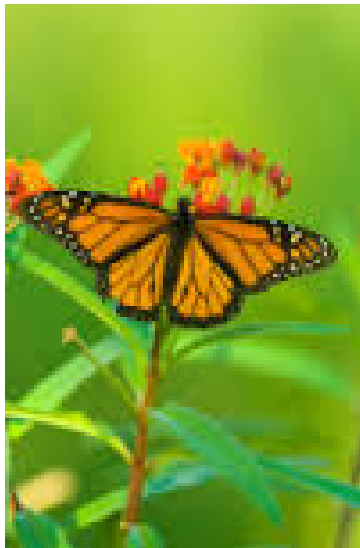
Vaughn Family Pecan Farm, (812) 752-4929

Information and registration [www.vaughnfamilypecanfarm.com](http://www.vaughnfamilypecanfarm.com)

*This seminar is the first of a continuing series to be held in Indiana and is being advertised by a number of groups and organizations that promote the propagation and planting of nut trees as an alternative crop with emphasis on the Northern United States.*

## Pining For a Prairie in Your Backyard?

Believe it or not, garden planning for year 2017 is not that far away! It's never too early to plan, is it? Here's a list of native prairie flowers blessed as ideal for the home landscape by INPAWS (Indiana Plant & Wildflower Society). Find native plant retailers at [www.inpaws.org](http://www.inpaws.org) and remember, plants are not to be removed from state parks or nature preserves.



- Nodding onion
- Butterfly weed
- Tall coreopsis
- False sunflower
- Prairies blazing star
- Wild bergamot
- Black-eyed Susan
- Ironweed
- Hairy foxglove
- Purple coneflower
- BP

## Help Needed

**2016 National FFA Youth Convention**, October 19-20 in Indianapolis, needs volunteers to help set up, judge, and monitor the Floriculture events. Contact Melissa Riley if you have questions or would like to volunteer, [mriley@gaaged.org](mailto:mriley@gaaged.org) or phone (478) 973-4071.

Alycyn Pratt at **Developmental Services** still seeks a Master Gardener who would be willing to set up basic gardening education experiences for their clientele. Contact Alyson at DSI: 812-376-9404 x 152, or [apratt@dsiservices.org](mailto:apratt@dsiservices.org)

## Indiana's Prairies

I have found that one of the very best ways to narrow down what to plant at home is to visit public gardens. Following are examples where prairie plants have been planted and are thriving.

Prophetstown State Park, Newton County. 2,000 acres of mostly prairie. An interpretive naturalist leads regular hikes to highlight wildflowers.

Kankakee Sands Preserve, Lake County. 7,000 acres of prairie, wetlands and black oak barrens owned by The Nature Conservancy.

Hoosier Prairie Nature Preserve, Lake County. 719-acre preserve, owned by DNR.

Gibson Woods Nature Preserve, Lake County. This 130-acre preserve in Hammond offers sand prairie and Oak savanna, owned by Lake County Parks Department.

Sandhill Nature Preserve, Tippecanoe River State Park, Pulaski County. 120-acre preserve offers flat sand plains and rolling dunes.

Spinn Prairie Nature Preserve, White County. 29-acre property with a large remnant of tallgrass prairie. Owned by The Nature Conservancy.

Fisher Oak Savanna Nature Preserve, Jasper County. Three habitat types meet on this 133-acre preserve, owned by NICHES Land Trust.

**Want to help support existing prairies?** Visit [dnr.IN.gov/naturepreserve](http://dnr.IN.gov/naturepreserve) or [http://www.in.gov/activecalendar\\_dnr/EventList.aspx?view=EventDetails&eventid=8581&information\\_id=17809&type=&syndicate=syndicate](http://www.in.gov/activecalendar_dnr/EventList.aspx?view=EventDetails&eventid=8581&information_id=17809&type=&syndicate=syndicate) to learn more about the Newgent Endowment, part of the Indiana Natural Resources Foundation's preservation effort.

-BP

**Thanks!**

**Jan Bruner, John Sohn, and Tara Waldo**, for ably assisting the Master Gardener Intern Training, now underway.

**Linda Hall and Tara Waldo**, for being on hand for the Community Garden Ramble at CSA New Tech High School.

**The association core planning group**, for working toward a more active Master Gardener program in Bartholomew County.

## Hey, Save the Date!

<b>Topics in Permaculture</b> Introduction - <i>Attend or assist!</i>	17 October 6:30 pm	BCPL
<b>MG Association Visioning</b> <i>All are invited.</i>	22 October 9:30-2:30	Villas at Stonecrest <i>Bring lunch!</i>
<b>Chainsaw Safety and Felling</b> <i>Attend for Education credit.</i>	25 October 1-4 pm	Youth Camp
<b>Topics in Permaculture</b> Site Design - <i>Attend or assist!</i>	27 October 6:30 pm	BCPL
<b>Super Saturday</b> Tree Walks – <i>Attend or assist!</i>	29 October 10 and 11:30 am	Mill Race Center
<b>Topics in Permaculture</b> Small Livestock - <i>Attend or assist!</i>	14 November 6:30 pm	BCPL
<b>Topics in Permaculture</b> Energy - <i>Attend or assist!</i>	17 November 6:30 pm	BCPL
<b>Wreath Making</b> Call 372-3541 to register	19 November 2-4 pm	Breeding Farm \$20
<b>Topics in Permaculture</b> Grazing under Trees	28 November 6:30 pm	BCPL
<b>Rain Barrels</b>	17 January 6 pm	BCPL

### Contact

Kris Medic, Purdue Extension Educator, [kmedic@purdue.edu](mailto:kmedic@purdue.edu)

Or

MG newsletter editor, Becky Pinto, [bandbpinto@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bandbpinto@sbcglobal.net)

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*The Hendricks County Master Gardeners present*

## **Adventures in Gardening 2016: Natural Attraction**

Oct. 15, 2016 • Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds & Conference Center



Benjamin Vogt

You've put your heart and soul into your garden, and it's beautiful! Now join the Hendricks County Master Gardeners to learn how to attract bees, birds, beneficial insects, and humans to your garden. Keynote speaker Benjamin Vogt of Monarch Gardens, Lincoln and Omaha, Nebraska, will present two sessions:

**21st Century Garden Ethics:** Our gardens can empower us to help wildlife, heal nature, and overcome environmental grief in a time of extinction and climate change.

**Designing for Winter Wildlife and Beauty:** The gardening season doesn't end in October, not for us and not for wildlife or even the plants.

Additional programs:

**Botanical Workhorses: Heavy-Hitter Native Plants** presented by Jim McCormac of the Division of Wildlife, Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

**The Amazing Honey Bee** presented by Terry Plank, beekeeper and pollinator educator

**101 Landscaping Ideas: Adding Style & Fun to Your Outdoor Space** presented by Colletta Kosiba, 2500 Level Gold Master Gardener and Advanced Master Naturalist.



Jim McCormac

**Attendee information:** 1) The \$45 registration fee includes continental breakfast (8 – 9 a.m.) and lunch.

2.) This event will be held Oct. 15, 2016 at the Hendricks Co. Fairgrounds, 1900 E Main St., Danville, IN

3.) Registration, silent auction, and breakfast begin at 8 a.m. • Programs run from 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

4.) Bring your checkbook to purchase discounted gardening books and silent auction items.

5.) To register, complete and mail this registration form or go online at [hendricksgardeners.com/AIG](http://hendricksgardeners.com/AIG).

6.) For the latest information on this or any HCMG event, visit [HendricksGardeners.com](http://HendricksGardeners.com) or like us on Facebook.

Questions? Call 317.745.9260.



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**REGISTRATION is \$45/PERSON)**

**Write check to:** Hendricks County Master Gardener Inc or HCMG

**Mail check and this form to:** HC Ext. Office, 1900 E Main Street, PO Box 7 Danville, IN 46122

Or register online at [hendricksgardeners.com](http://hendricksgardeners.com)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/ST/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Master Gardener or Intern? Y/N \_\_\_\_\_

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Accommodations: \_\_\_\_\_



## South Central Indiana Master Gardeners

*"Master Gardeners help people and communities grow"*



**Welcome, all Master Gardeners—former and current—  
& all Master Gardener Interns**

*Fall 2016 Master Gardener  
Homecoming at the Breeding Farm*

**Tuesday, October 4, 2016; 5:30 – 8:00 pm**

*"Exploring possibilities for our Master Gardener role"*



**Potluck Dinner—Bring a potluck dish to share & your table service/drink**

**Silent Auction—Bring an unwrapped 'white elephant' item**



### The Program

**Something New at the Farm** - During this evening, we'll walkabout the Breeding Farm property and discuss possibilities for creating demonstration gardens, events and activities at this historic site for Master Gardeners to use in promoting and sharing good horticulture and home gardening practices with the community.

**Helping People & Communities Grow** - What are the next steps for organizing a Master Gardener Association? Learn how Master Gardeners can participate in a visioning process in October, help plan how our Association operates and functions, and how it is promoted in our community.

**Teaching, Mentoring and Leading** - We'll hear how fellow Master Gardeners are using their Master Gardener knowledge and skill to teach and mentor young people in the art and science of gardening and how they're leading an effort to develop bluebird habitat in our community.

**Driving Directions** The historic Henry Breeding farm is managed by the Bartholomew County Historical Society and is located just north of Columbus at 13730 N 100 W, Edinburgh, IN 46124. Drive north on US 31 past the Edinburgh Premium Outlets Mall. Turn right onto 800N. Turn left onto 100 W. The Breeding Farm is just ahead on the left. Park in the large parking lot and walk to the barn. Dress warmly—for possibly cooler October weather.

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