



# Hoosier Organic Gardener

January 2011

Indiana Organic Gardeners Association

## Message from Our President ...

Worms, Microbes, and Compost, Oh My! Have you ever wondered how compost happens? Does the high cost of worm castings at your local gardening center discourage you from making your garden all it could be? Are you inhibited by a small space in which to compost or intimidated by the thought of producing your own nutrient rich black gold? You're not alone.



Lynne Sullivan

January is the perfect time to start making your own super soil in the comfort of your own living room (well, maybe in the basement or garage). Vermiculture (composting using worms) can be done indoors and can be a great way to get a jump on building a strong, thriving garden. IOGA is delighted to host guest speaker Renee Sweany from Green Piece Indy ([www.greenpieceindy.com](http://www.greenpieceindy.com)) at our January meeting. Renee will dazzle and educate us on how to set up our very own vermiculture composting system using kitchen scraps and our good friends, worms. Please join us at the Greenwood Public Library on January 15 and we can play in the dirt in January! See the back cover of the newsletter for meeting details.

Winter is also time to start planning for the spring garden. What better to plant in your vermiculture compost infused garden, than local organic seeds and seedlings? To assist you in your organic pursuits, IOGA has partnered with member Maria Smietana's Valentine Hill Farm ([www.valentinehillfarm.com](http://www.valentinehillfarm.com)) and local seed and seedling supplier Nature's Crossroads ([www.naturescrossroads.com](http://www.naturescrossroads.com)) to offer a variety of organic seeds and seedlings for sale. A portion of the proceeds from each sale will benefit IOGA so that we may continue to offer a variety of educational programs.

Once the program set-up is complete, seeds will be available on-line through Nature's Crossroads through both IOGA's website ([www.gardeningnaturally.org](http://www.gardeningnaturally.org)) as well as Nature's Crossroad's website (however, in order for IOGA to benefit from the seed sales, be sure click on the IOGA link when ordering). For those who like a jump-start to the growing season, you will be able to order your seedlings this Winter, where they will be grown for you by these select local farmers, for distribution in time to plant in Spring. Look for more information and details to become available soon!

Happy and Healthy Gardening!

-Lynne

### 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.

# Member Profile:

## Jackie Martin

IOGA member Jackie Martin is a hard working lady! She teaches school, mentors 4-H members about raising alpacas, AND takes care of 27 acres of land near Shelburn, Indiana, including a herd of alpacas plus one llama, and a garden! The alpacas ([www.jackiepaca.com](http://www.jackiepaca.com)) are adorable and their fur is really soft. Jackie shears them each May and sells the wool but also weaves the wool herself to make lovely soft scarves. She also sells the animals and runs a stud service. The animals are interesting. They have only been raised in the US since the 1970s, coming from South America. They do not like hot weather and she has fans blowing on them and a sprinkler system that cools them during the day. They are a herd animal and



### Some of Jackie's Alpacas

would not survive living alone, so Jackie always keeps at least two together in a given area. They even have a communal "poop" pile and she shovels the poop to use as organic fertilizer for her garden and hay field. The animals take a lot of time, but Jackie loves working with them and the animals look very healthy! Alpacas have no top teeth and can't protect themselves from coyotes so Jackie has two dogs that are always on guard. She got her animals in 2003 after studying about alpacas for two years and visiting alpaca farms to get ideas. She now has fourteen of her own animals plus several boarders. Alpaca wool is warmer than sheep's wool and also wicks dry, so it is a very desirable fiber.



Jackie Martin with one of Her Alpacas

A reader of Mother Earth News, Jackie also invested in a wood burning, *Central Boiler Classic* hot water heater and wood furnace in her back yard that has a steady stream of smoke rising from the chimney. A pile of logs stands outside the free standing boiler that heats her water all year and heats her house in the winter.

Jackie raises chickens, and has chickens that lay blue eggs as well as brown. To keep the chickens from laying eggs in the yard and garden, she has an egg shaped gourd in the nest (where she wants the eggs laid) and the chickens then will always lay their eggs there! She tried raising bees but the



Central Boiler Classic Wood Furnace

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**Part of Jackie's Garden**

hive died, possibly because of the chemical spraying done by the farmer across the road. She will try to raise bees again this year, since she had a much bigger crop of melons, squash, and cucumbers the year that she had the bees. Her garden looks very healthy, and she thinks the huge compost piles she has are largely responsible. She has a big pile of compost about 3 or 4 feet wide, encircled by a movable fence. She removes the fence to turn the compost, then puts the fence back. There are 3 piles of compost and they are at the edge of her garden for easy access. She also puts grass clippings between the rows of plants for weed control. She uses a lot of raised beds, and finds they work really well, though they do need some watering. To raccoon proof her corn, she usually plants pumpkins, since the vines deter the coons from getting into the corn!

She has had good success with strawberries. Instead of raised beds, she has raised rows and she



One Raised Bed Garden with Asparagus

waters them by a hose connected to two rain barrels attached to the gutter of her house. In winter, she layers straw on the berries to prevent freezing and thawing that makes the berries heave out of the ground. She has a hoop house for starting seedlings and it is heated just by the sun, with the help of three large, black barrels filled with water. The water in the barrels heats during the day, thus moderating the heat in the hoop house. At night, the heat from the barrels radiates out to warm the greenhouse.

Jackie is doing a great job of creating an organic farm. It takes a lot of hard work, and we certainly commend her for all her "green" efforts. We are lucky to have her as an IOGA member!



Two Rain Barrels Attached to the Gutter

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### Mark your calendar

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

- January 15, 2011
- April 16, 2011  
(Plant Auction)
- April 16, 2011
- July 16, 2011
- October 15, 2011



# Gardening

By Janet Glover

## Tomato Blight

2009 was a terrible year for tomato blight, and I used both *Soap Shield* and Neem oil. As you may know, *Soap Shield* is made from a natural copper fertilizer and a fatty acid that give the plants protection from fungal disease...and it decomposes to a soluble copper and fatty acid, both of which Gardens Alive says are used by microbes and by plants. And they do use a very low amount of copper in their formula. I used both *Soap Shield* and Neem oil in 2009 as a preventive and after I saw blight starting. I have to say that the blight was still devastating, though we were able to help the tomatoes struggle through the summer. We did end up with quite a few tomatoes from the eight plants, but the harvest was spread out...with just a few tomatoes at a time. It took quite a while to can enough tomatoes to last through the winter! It's hard to say how much the *Soap Shield* and Neem oil helped, because I don't know what would have happened if I had not used them at all. But they definitely did not stop the blight in 2009. At most, they only helped the tomatoes to just barely make it through the summer.

This year, I read about *Plant Guardian*, which is a biofungicide...*Bacillus Subtillis*...that attacks harmful bacterial and fungal garden diseases. So I began using *Plant Guardian*, along with *Soap Shield* and Neem oil, as soon as we planted tomatoes, because I was concerned about a repeat of the awful blight we had in 2009. I do believe that the *Plant Guardian* is what has made the difference, since it's the one thing that's different than what I did in 2009. As I said...the *Soap Shield* and Neem oil together didn't stop the blight in 2009, but this year, our tomatoes have been very green and healthy, with no blight. Recently, three of the plum tomatoes were hit with something that appears to be fungal, but it hasn't really spread to the other plum tomato plants in that bed. We did take out two of the plum tomato plants, because they were nearly dead, but the other plants are growing and producing very well. So...I'm not sure exactly what did hit those three plants. It seems to have been a matter of them wilting overnight in the heat and then not recovering...and perhaps that weakened them and made them more susceptible to disease. I did use *Plant Guardian* on them right away, and one has recovered fairly well...and the other two were taken out yesterday. The rest of the plants have a few yellowed lower leaves on them, but nothing serious. We will remove the leaves and continue with *Plant Guardian* and *Soap Shield* and Neem oil. I would like



Janet Glover

to have a test plant somewhere separate from the other tomatoes, so that I could use only the *Plant Guardian* on it...just to see if it would do as well or even better than the plants sprayed with *Soap Shield* and Neem oil. And I plan to do that next year. In any case, I think I can say that the *Plant Guardian* has made a BIG difference this year. Our second bed of tomatoes has done very well and does not show any signs of blight.

We planted five tomato varieties, *Sweet Olive*, *Early Girl*, *Better Bush*, *Better Boy*, and *Mountain Spring*, all purchased from *Whole Foods*. Oh...and we also have one bed of only *Roma* plum tomatoes. We do love heirloom tomatoes, but they seemed to have less resistance to blight, and so we began trying varieties that are VFN resistant, and that seems to have helped. Next year, I want to try heirlooms again, to see if *Plant Guardian* will make a difference with them. I would like to use no sprays at all...not even the safer organic ones...but with tomatoes, it seems that there is no way to get around it. Blight quickly takes over if we leave them untreated. But I think *Plant Guardian* is safer...so hopefully my experiment next year will show me if I could raise tomatoes using only *Plant Guardian*. I'll let you know how that comes out! With gardening, I think our motto is always "Next year...."

## Potatoes

Potatoes go hand-in-hand with tomatoes as far as disease, since both are susceptible to blight and other fungal diseases. We've had potato problems this year and in 2009, and I read quite a bit about that online. I buy only certified organic seed potatoes from *Seeds of Change*, and this year we planted *German Butterball* and *Red Sangre*. Both started out beautiful, lush, and green, but then one bed began turning yellow. We're very careful to rotate beds on a 3-5 year schedule with tomatoes and potatoes, so I knew it was not because potatoes had been planted there before. I read as much as I could find, and I believe it may have been verticillium wilt...which I learned can still be present in seed potatoes, even if they are certified virus free. Though it didn't make sense that the seed potatoes had been infected, because only one bed started turning yellow. And no potatoes or tomatoes (or peppers or eggplant) had been planted in that bed before...so it was really a mystery as to why the yellowing began. And I may be mistaken about verticillium...though that is the only answer I could come up with. Perhaps it was actually blight, and I just didn't realize it. I began using *Soap Shield*, *Plant Guardian*, and Neem oil on that bed and on the other two beds of potatoes. I do believe that it was the *Plant Guardian* that made the difference. *Soap Shield* and Neem oil together did not really stop blight on our potatoes in 2009 but when I used *Plant Guardian*, I did see the potato plants make a partial

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recovery. They would begin growing again, and the new growth was green. They would really "perk up" after an application of *Plant Guardian*...much more than with the *Soap Shield* and Neem oil. And I do think *Plant Guardian* gave the other beds of potatoes some protection so that they were able to stay healthy several weeks longer...though eventually all three beds did succumb to whatever this is...blight or verticillium. Truly, it looks like blight now...though I cannot be 100% sure of that. I do think from all that I have seen that *Plant Guardian* has given the most protection and has helped most when the potatoes were diseased. Again, I think I will plant a test potato bed somewhere next year using only *Plant Guardian*...to see how it does. I really do feel better about using *Plant Guardian* than using *Soap Shield*, even though *Soap Shield* is a safe product. So I am going to experiment and see what I find out!

Oh...for those who may not know...*Plant Guardian* is safe to use right up to the day of harvest, and it can be used at any time of day--in heat or high temps--and will not burn or damage plants in any way.

### **Squash Bugs**

Yes, I use *Pyola* (from Gardens Alive--pyrethrin from pyrethrin daisies mixed with canola oil) for squash bugs and for Japanese beetles and cucumber beetles. It does kill squash bugs, and the label says it kills the eggs, though I have found that I need to keep a close eye on the squash and cucumbers once I find squash bugs. While the *Pyola* does kill the live squash bugs, I have also found more of them later...so I think the eggs did hatch out. We do go through the bed and remove all leaves that have eggs on them...and those leaves are destroyed. But I have found that squash bugs are so persistent that I have to keep a very close watch on them. I try to use the *Pyola* very carefully...even though it's a safe botanical remedy...because it will kill beneficial insects, too. So I spray judiciously...only on the exact area where I know there are squash bugs.

We didn't have too many Japanese beetles this year, though they did attack the basil, as they always do. With that, I just use tulle from the fabric store to cover the basil so that the beetles can't get to it. It works perfectly, and no *Pyola* is needed. We want to make floating row covers for more of our crops...such as squash and cucumbers...to hopefully keep squash bugs and cucumber beetles out. Even though *Pyola* is safe...I still would rather not use it unless absolutely necessary. If we can cover the plants to keep bugs away, then we'll definitely do it. That is something we'll work on a lot more next year.

### **Powdery Mildew**

We've had powdery mildew on cucumbers the in 2008

and 2009, though it's been fairly late in the season when it started. Really, we had gotten most of the harvest before powdery mildew set it...and we continued to get lots of cucumbers even after the mildew made the plants look fairly ugly. I did use *Soap Shield* and Neem oil in 2009 for powdery mildew, and I think it did hold it off somewhat...though it did not stop it. This year I've used *Plant Guardian*, and I haven't seen any powdery mildew on the cucumbers. Though I have to say that the cucumbers look awful for another reason...that small groundhog that dug under the fence the one night that the electric fence shorted out!! The groundhog ate at least half the leaves off the cucumber vines, and that really damaged the plants. They have looked awful since then...I think some sort of disease set in because of all those open wounds where the groundhog ate the leaves. The plants have produced, but not very well, so I planted a second bed of cucumbers...and it looks just fine. No powdery mildew or other problems, and we should get cucumbers from it later this month. I'm using *Plant Guardian* as a preventive, and so far it's looking good. I didn't do too much preventive spraying on cucumbers in 2009. Mostly, I sprayed after powdery mildew had set in. And this year I didn't have a chance to worry about it, since the groundhog created havoc with the cucumbers!

Our basic thought on sprays is to use them only when really needed...and then very carefully and judiciously. And we are trying to go without them whenever possible. We don't mind living with a small amount of insect damage, as long as it doesn't destroy the plants. The BIGGEST problem by far is fungal disease...and that is mostly the problems with tomatoes and potatoes...blight, verticillium, etc. For that, it seems that spraying is a necessity...but we use only safe sprays from Gardens Alive...and I really prefer the *Plant Guardian*...and I think it has given the most help and most protection.

### **Tomato Hornworms & Cabbage Loopers**

Oh...we do use Bt as well...*Bacillus thuringiensis*...to keep tomato hornworms and cabbage loopers out. But we use that very carefully, as well, because it will kill butterfly caterpillars too. And I have read that there is a concern that butterfly numbers are declining in areas where there is overuse of Bt. So I am very careful to use it sparingly...and only directly on the plants where caterpillars are a problem. Really, it seems that I need to use it only once or twice, and that takes care of it. We don't have any problem with tomato hornworms, and we did have them in the years before I used Bt. But a little of it does seem to do the trick insects not leaves.



# October IOGA Meeting: Spurgeon Farm & Tour of Oldfields Estate Gardens

The October 16, 2010 meeting of IOGA was held at the lovely home of member Marilyn Spurgeon. Spurgeon Farm is located 5 minutes northeast of 38<sup>th</sup> and Kessler Blvd. in Indianapolis but seems miles away from the city. The 14 hilly acres have beautiful old hardwoods, many in lovely shades of yellows and orange. Marilyn's garden is always spectacular, and her husband Charles has an impressive experimental orchard of hickory trees, along with a few pecan. The sun was shining, and the temperature was perfect. The lunch was delightful...lots of treats from members' own gardens. Fresh green beans, corn, and tomatoes. Persimmon pudding, ground cherry pie, and pawpaw bread. Lots of wonderful food! Twenty-five members and seven guests attended.

## **QUESTION & ANSWER (Q&A):**

Some members had SO many cucumbers that they almost had trouble giving them away! Others had problems with their cucumber crop. One of the successful cucumber gardeners attributed her bountiful crop to her system of throwing vegetable scraps, mulched leaves, and grass clippings onto her garden. In lieu of a compost pile, she simply throws those items onto the garden and lets them rot. She says it's the easy way to garden.

One member planted tomato seeds in late June, after also planting tomato plants in May. The seeds



Judy Houser (center) Asks a Question During Q&A While Raynesha Rogers (left) and Pam Sims (right) Listen

germinated well and he was having red tomatoes by mid September and plenty of green tomatoes to take inside to ripen during late fall. By early October his original tomato plants were dried up and had stopped bearing, but the plants from seeds were bearing by that time.



IOGA Meeting at the Home of Marilyn Spurgeon. IOGA Members (left to right) Jackie Martin, John and Elaine Englert, Blythe Potts, and Lynne Sullivan

Founding members Beulah and Clarence Cobb had a lot of interesting gardening information to share. Beulah brought her famous ground cherry pie and explained that ground cherries are part of the nightshade family. She has never eaten the wild ones with the small fruits, but she loves the ones in her garden, which re-seed prolifically. She said gardeners are realists. Some years one crop is better and others not so good. You just have to eat what grows and not complain! Clarence reminded the group that their 56 year marriage has been a happy one, in part due to the "his" and "her" gardens that each keeps in his or her own way....Clarence has neat rows and Beulah enjoys what grows wherever it comes up! The Cobbs use shredded newspaper and diatomaceous earth in the soil with the cucumber seeds to prevent cucumber beetles. Beulah also planted three onion sets around each hill of cucumbers and added a handful of Epsom salts. Epsom salt contains magnesium which is essential for all plants. In other words, plants must find in the soil all the nutrients that they need. Insects are much less likely to attack well-nourished healthy plants. For next year, the Cobbs are also adding some copper compound to the cucumber soil, early on, as they did have some fungal problems late in the season and copper may help with this. Beulah's final gardening hint is that we can and need to learn something new about gardening every year.

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One member had fantastic green peppers and thought that using Jane Gareri's milk and cornmeal mix made a big difference. (Jane's recipe is a handful each of bone meal and cornmeal, ¼ handful of Epsom salts, ½ handful of powdered milk. Mix together and throw into planting hole.) One member had great luck with Swiss chard, keeping it separate from lettuce to attract fewer bugs and also mulching it well. Ann Leatherman recommended using a spray for chard and other greens. She recommends mixing red pepper and garlic for 24 hours in a quart of water, skimming off the garlic and some of the pepper, and adding a tsp. of dish detergent. The spray washes off so it doesn't affect the taste of the greens. One way to keep greens into December is to cover them with leaves. To keep rabbits away from greens and beans, one idea is to spread hair clippings from a barber around the area.

Marilyn Spurgeon gave a demonstration of how a *nut wizard* works. It rolls across the yard, picking up nuts and acorns very efficiently and thus saving a lot of time.

#### **BUSINESS MEETING:**

President Lynne Sullivan announced that David Englert is the new volunteer coordinator.

#### **TOUR OF THE OLDFIELDS ESTATE GARDENS:**

The group then drove to the Indianapolis Museum of Art (IMA) to see the Oldfields estate gardens. Of particular interest was the IMA's effort to restore a 19<sup>th</sup> century garden. They try to use no synthetic fertilizers, herbicides, or pesticides. They use plants either common in the 19<sup>th</sup> century or similar in looks but more pest resistant. The Oldfields Estate was from the country place era when the estate tried to be fully self-sustaining, growing everything they needed to eat. They had an orchard, and the IMA is using kaolin clay to



Mark Zelonis, the Ruth Lilly Deputy Director of Environmental & Historic Preservation, Gave the Tour of the Oldfields Estate Gardens

apply a thin coat of clay to reduce insect damage from the apple trees. They use a lot of horse manure and leaf mold. There are two wells. They water heavily and deeply so the roots develop well and go down deep. They think amending the soil is very important in providing strong plants that will resist insects. They use bees that help pollinate the entire garden. They plant clover and buckwheat to add nitrogen to the soil. Excess food from the garden goes to *Second Helpings* community kitchen.

The IMA has also installed a rain garden that drains half of the surface water from the parking lot by the green house and removes the heavy metals and oil so the water is purified before going into the canal.

Everyone enjoyed the tour of the Oldfields gardens.



View of the Oldfields/Lilly House at the Oldfields Estate



Fall Remnants of one of the Oldfields Vegetable Gardens



## In Memorium

Long time IOGA member Margret Ellen Veale 88, passed away Nov. 8, 2010 in Columbus, Indiana. She had been a member of IOGA beginning in 1984. She will be missed.



Margaret Veale

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## New IOGA Secretary

By vote of the IOGA board, Margaret Smith was appointed IOGA secretary to complete the term of Rosie Oaks. Thanks Rosie for all your past efforts as secretary.

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## Worms

Too excited to wait until the 15th to get worms? Renee's new web site, [www.GreenClipping.com](http://www.GreenClipping.com), will soon feature a great deal for locally-made vermicomposters complete with 1,000 wrigglers. Sign up to receive GreenClipping alerts so you can get worms!

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## IOGA Plant Auction

Plan to bring an item to the IOGA Plant Auction at our Sat. April 16 meeting if you can. Items may be plants, seeds,, books, Rosie's bullfrog tadpoles, or whatever.



## Editors Corner

### A Surplus of Okra

We had a lot of okra last summer and finally decided to try freezing it. It worked well! The key is to pick it every one to two days to ensure that the okra is small (2-3 inches long). To freeze it, rinse it and cut off the stems at the end of the seed cells – being careful not to expose the seed cell or the okra will get really slimy. Boil a large pot of water and put a small batch of okra into the pot of boiling water for 3 minutes, counting the time as soon as you place the okra in the boiling water. Cover the pot for the 3 minute boiling time. Remove the okra and place in ice water to cool for 5 min. Drain well and leave whole. Put on cookie sheet in a single layer to freeze. After frozen, place in plastic bags. This keeps the okra from freezing in a solid mass.

### Great Okra Stew

1 onion, diced  
1 clove garlic, minced  
1 rib celery, sliced  
2 c. chicken broth  
4 c. tomatoes  
3-4 c. sliced fresh or frozen okra  
1 c. corn  
1 t. Cajun seasoning  
Pepper and salt

Fry onion and garlic until tender. Add everything else. (If using frozen okra, let it partially thaw to ease slicing.) Bring to a boil and simmer for 30 min, until okra is tender.

## IOGA Annual Dues Are Payable in January

**Current IOGA members** — please take the time to send a check for your 2011 dues for membership in IOGA. Dues are \$10.00 per individual member, and \$12.00 for a dual membership. Please send the check payable to IOGA to:

I O G A  
7282 E 550 S  
Whitestown, IN 46075

Please indicate any changes to your address, phone number, e-mail address, and electronic/paper version or both. Thanks!



**You're Invited to the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual  
CONSERVATION DAY  
at the Indiana Statehouse  
Tuesday, February 1, 2011**

Sponsored by the Indiana  
Conservation Alliance\*

Conservation Day is an incredible opportunity to show our elected officials that Hoosiers care about protecting our precious natural resources and preserving our environment. Not only is there a chance to engage legislators in matters that mean the most to us, but we'll also have the chance to learn more about conservation organizations throughout the state. Remember, the more people that attend Conservation Day, the bigger the impact.

To register (free) and for more info:  
[www.nature.org/indiana](http://www.nature.org/indiana) ('events')

\* The Indiana Conservation Alliance is a statewide network of over 30 nonprofit organizations, including IOGA, providing a unified voice for the protection and wise use of natural resources to enhance our quality of life.

**Ask us...!**

President – Lynne Sullivan  
317-574-1921  
sagaemoo@yahoo.com

VP/Programs – Paula Boone  
317-758-4789  
boone@logical123.net

Secretary – Margaret Smith  
(317) 283-3146  
margaret.smith803@gmail.com

Treasurer – Ron Clark  
317-769-6566  
ronaldrayc@gmail.com

Editors – Claudia and Ron Clark  
317-769-6566  
ronaldrayc@gmail.com



**Treasurer's Report**

**4th Quarter 2010**

**Opening Balance October 1, 2010 \$1309.82**

<b>Income</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Newsletter	\$ 23.40
Conservation Day	\$ 150.00
Earth Day 2011 Fee	\$ 43.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 216.40</b>

**Closing Balance Dec. 31, 2010 \$1093.42**

*Respectfully submitted by Ron Clark, Treasurer*

**How do I join IOGA? (Annual dues are due in January!)**

Dues are \$10.00 per individual member, and \$12.00 for a dual membership (same address, one newsletter).

To join, please send your annual dues to:

I O G A  
7282 E 550 S  
Whitestown, IN 46075

Please include ALL of the following information:

Full Name  
2nd Name (if dual membership)  
Address  
Phone Number  
Email Address

I prefer my newsletter to be \_\_\_ emailed \_\_\_ mailed.

IOGA  
Meeting  
Sat. Jan. 15  
11:00 am

## Winter Meeting at Greenwood Library

310 South Meridian St., Greenwood IN 46143

(317) 881-1953

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 11:00       | Arrive   |
| 11:15—12:00 | Great Pitch-in Lunch<br>(bring food to share plus table service) |
| 12:00— 1:00 | Introductions & Gardening Q&A                                    |
| 1:00— 1:30  | Business Meeting   |
| 1:30— 2:30  | Vermiculture (Worms) Presentation/Discussion                     |

**Topic:** Renee Sweany of *Green Piece Indy* will give a presentation on worm composting. Worm composting is a method for recycling food waste into a rich, dark, earth-smelling soil conditioner. The advantage of worm composting is that it can be done indoors and outdoors, thus allowing year round composting. In brief, worm compost is made in a container filled with moistened bedding and worms. Add food waste for a period of time, and the worms and micro-organisms eventually convert the entire contents into rich compost. [*Green Piece Indy*, founded by Renee Sweany and Meghan McCormick, is a twice-weekly e-mail service that give green pieces of advice for living a more eco-friendly lifestyle in Indianapolis, [www.greenpieceindy.com](http://www.greenpieceindy.com) .]

**Pitch-in lunch:** Bring a favorite dish filled with food to share and your plate, fork, and drink.

**Directions:** The Greenwood library is in old Greenwood. Take I-65 South to exit 99. Go west on East Main St. (CR 950 N) to the 2nd stop light. Turn left on South Meridian St. The library will be 1/2 block south of Main St on the right side of the street with ample parking.

**Everyone welcome!** Questions, call Paula Boone 317-758-4789 or cell phone (if lost) 317-453-9773.

Join us and bring a friend!

Hoosier Organic Gardener  
Claudia and Ron Clark, editors  
7282 E 550 S  
Whitestown, IN 46075



Annual Dues  
Due in January!

Join us!  
IOGA Meeting  
Sat. January 15