



# Hoosier Organic Gardener

OCT 2008

## When the Frost is on the Punkin...



(thanks to James  
Whitcomb Riley)

“They’s something kindo’ harty-like  
about the atmusfere  
When the heat of summer’s over and  
the coolin’ fall is here —  
Of course we miss the flowers, and  
the blossums on the trees,  
And the mumble of the hummin’-  
birds and buzzin’ of the bees;  
But the air’s so appetizin’; and the  
landscape through the haze  
Of a crisp and sunny morning of the  
airly autumn days  
Is a pictur’ that no painter has the  
colorin’ to mock —  
When the frost is on the punkin and  
the fodder’s in the shock.”

## Reminiscences of the Summer Garden

Fall is here! Time to look back and  
enjoy thinking about the successes of  
this year’s garden, but also to admit to  
any failures so next year’s garden will  
be even better! So, with that in mind,  
we asked some IOGA members for  
their thoughts on gardening as they  
look back on the past months...

**Jane and Charlie Gerrari**

My thing I learned this year was from  
someone at the Horticultural Congress  
I went to last winter. I can’t remember  
his name. He said he plants white  
icicle radishes among zukes, cukes,  
and melons to deter squash bugs. So I

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### 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.

## NATURAL LIVING FESTIVAL



Indiana State Fairgrounds,  
October 3-5, 2008  
[www.naturallivingexpo.net](http://www.naturallivingexpo.net)



*Continued from page 1*

did that and my knee is giving me trouble so the radishes grew up and flowered (can't get down to weed etc). I discovered that the white cabbage butterflies love the tall radishes and left my broccoli alone!! Only a few squash bugs came late after the squash was pretty much done anyway. (I'm not growing melons this year.) So I did the 2nd planting of cukes and zukes the same way and so far they're great. Also hardly any cucumber beetles which have been very heavy for several years. So yay for white icicle radishes!! Also learned you gotta keep the weeds outta your onions. I'd read that and always did it but the knee thing got in the way. Sure nuf- it's true my onions are small this year.

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### **Beulah and Clarence Cobb**

#### Weather:

Overwhelming rainfall this Spring  
Now diminishing rainfall since July 10  
Today (August 19) we are very dry

Our early garden did very well:

Lettuce, peas, and especially green beans  
Our best green beans in recent memory!  
We are now picking beans for Shellie-outs  
By the end of July Clarence had dug a  
bushel of potatoes. Very nice.

Once again we have companion planted cucumbers with our staked tomatoes. We are still getting beautiful cucumbers. The tomatoes are struggling in this cool, dry weather. They are slow in ripening and no new blossoms.

My Fall planting of leafy vegetables is not doing well in the drought.

Our early Red Raspberries were nice — not many Japanese Beetles. I think they drowned in the early rains.

We have lots of nice peaches!

I am getting a few ground cherries every day.

#### Overall:

It's a good season. We have enough veggies to eat and not so many that we are overwhelmed!!

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### **Ron and Claudia Clark**

We couldn't seem to get any ripe tomatoes except for the very small tomatoes until the third week of August. Our county agent said that this is a problem over much of the state and is probably due to cool days and a lot of rain.

We also had heavy mildew on all the Zucchini plants — probably from all the rain. Didn't slow the Zucchini down, but it was strange. The rain must have had a positive effect on the rabbits — we finally had to put up a third fence to protect the beans as the rabbits kept finding a way to get inside the first two fences!!

Also, saved Okra seeds from previous year — planted twice — did not germinate (??) — next year buy new seeds!!

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## **Ask us...!**

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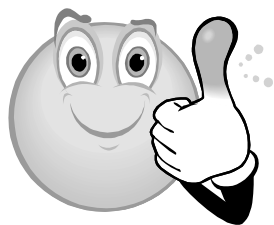


# Gardening Tips

by Paula Boone

Plant rows north and south so sunlight makes maximum impact east and west.

Don't get in a big hurry to plant in April unless its lettuce or potatoes!



Better to wait til the soil is dry enough to work and then add a gallon of water to the seed bed before one plants it. I add water to the seed bed trench even if rain is forecast.

Use the biodynamic way of planting according to the constellations. The plants are very healthy and need very little insect spray.

[www.stellanatura.com](http://www.stellanatura.com) | [info@stellanatura.com](mailto:info@stellanatura.com)

Stella Natura  
PO Box 783  
Kimberton, PA 19442 610-469-9686

Use any of the above to order your biodynamic calendar.

Happy & Fruitful Gardening!

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## UPCOMING MEETINGS

Mark your calendar

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



January 17, 2009  
April 18, 2009  
July 18, 2009  
October 17, 2009

# Thank You! Thank You!

Many thanks to long-time IOGA newsletter editor Lynn Jenkins for doing a terrific job! The news letter has always been very interesting and informative and we all really appreciate her efforts. It's been a time-consuming job, and now she must concentrate her efforts on her new magazine, Indiana Living Green. Ron and Claudia Clark, with the help of Lynn Sullivan, will attempt to follow in Lynn's footsteps by taking over the newsletter.

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INDIANA LIVING GREEN magazine is a great magazine that everyone who gets this newsletter should be subscribing to. It's full of interesting facts and figures about everything green, along with ideas anyone can do at home to make the world a little greener. You can get a free copy at Marsh, but if you subscribe then you not only get your copy delivered to your home (so you won't miss an issue) but you are also helping support something very important. A magazine is expensive to print. We all should support this great project!!



Subscriptions for one year (6 issues) are \$16.95  
Mail to Indiana Living Green  
1730 S. 950 E., Zionsville, IN 46077

# JULY IOGA MEETING

A big *thank you* to Paula and Dwight Boone for hosting the July meeting at their lovely home and farm! Their vegetable garden was incredible...no weeds, so many varieties of beans and other veggies that it was just amazing, fruit trees, berries....the list goes on and on! And Paula made it all sound so easy!! (which we know it is not!) It was great too that she involved her grandchildren in the entire gardening operation. What a wonderful way to pass on a love of gardening and the out-of-doors! We were all very impressed. A big thank you to the Boones!

A special treat was that Beulah and Clarence Cobb brought ground cherry plants which they gave away, and a *very* special treat was another of Beulah's ground cherry pies!

Something new for many IOGA members was seeing that Paula's Yukon Gold Potatoes had what looked like green cherry tomatoes growing out of the tops of the plants. Our county agent recently wrote in an article in the newspaper that these are the fruit of the potato and that Yukon Gold produces these more heavily than other varieties. The fruit should not be eaten as it contains relatively large amounts of solanine, a poisonous alkaloid.

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## GOOD BUGS REALLY ARE AN ORGANIC GARDENER'S HELPER

YES!! The good insects really do kill the bad insects reports Ron Clark — who enjoyed watching a Praying Mantis eat a Squash Bug for lunch! Chomp, chomp, chomp — sure beats pesticides! And makes an organic gardener very happy!!!

Ron also reported watching an Assassin Bug suck the guts out of a Japanese Beetle. Yay!



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## Treasurer's Report—2nd Quarter 2008

Opening Balance April 1, 2008    \$1559.76

### Income

Membership Dues	\$104.00
Donations	\$10.00
Plant Auction Proceeds	\$313.00
Bank Interest—Mar-May	\$1.73
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$428.73</b>

### Expenses

April Newsletter	\$212.88
Printing—Orchard in Bloom and Earth Day Handouts	\$309.76
Display Booth Table Cover	\$30.00
Host Gratuity April Meeting	\$50.00
Bank Service Charges	
—Mar-May	\$48.00
NUVO Green Guide Ad	\$244.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$894.64</b>

Closing Balance June 30, 2008    \$1093.85

*Respectfully submitted by Maria Smietana, Treasurer*

# The Compost Chronicles

## Diary of a Start-Up Organic Farmer

by Maria Smietana

It was a tough spring at the farm, the result of too much cloudy and not enough sunny on the weather map.

Naturally, we should have expected this in the year we quit our day jobs to devote ourselves fulltime to our suburban agri-venture. The spring lettuces and peas sat stunted for weeks, as if daring each other to be the first to grow. Even my tried-and-true tomato hybrids struggled, despite starting life under the same grow lights as in other years. The Early Girls weren't early, the First Ladies weren't first, and if the Better Boys were better, I can't figure out what they were better at. As if to mock me further, the normally slow-starting Sungellas bolted skyward at a rate that rivaled Canadian thistles. Go figure.

Shaken but not tilled under, Steadfast Spouse and I signed up for eight farmer's markets and welcomed ten members into our fledgling CSA. Spring had to come sooner or later, and while we waited, we figured we could at least turn whole new groups of unsuspecting shoppers into devotees of our hearty baked goods. So when the market season started, I did something I had sworn I wouldn't do for quite a few years yet: I hired help. Granted, it's teenage help, but it's living, breathing, 1099 tax-form-generating help nonetheless. Teenagers are an overabundant commodity these days, and a number of our friends have several



that they seemed curiously anxious to spare.

The top pick among the draft choices was Charlotte, the daughter of the architect who had designed our farmhouse nearly a decade ago. Now old enough to be trusted with a load of fresh merchandise and a cash box, I capitalized on

Charlotte's long-held notions of the farming life as a romantic way to make a living. As she and I headed out on our first market day, however, my old Ford truck chose the occasion to prove otherwise.

The rusty tailpipe (only the latest in what I am sure will become a series of tailpipes) cracked away from the truck's abdomen and began clattering along the asphalt at decibel levels that could only have been missed by the deaf and the dead. I pretended not to notice that four lanes of rush hour traffic were staring at me. Charlotte giggled with nervous teenage glee. A few blocks later, just as we had pulled into the market lot, the muffler followed the tailpipe downward, then wedged itself firmly between the pavement and the truck. A kind fellow farmer with a hacksaw saved me from having to complete the muffler amputation myself, and we rolled, slightly late and red-faced, into our assigned space. Our grand entrance made us the butt of good-natured ribbing for at least a month of markets.

On the way home hours later, I was relieved to find that Charlotte was

remarkably unfazed by her unglamorous initiation to junior farmerdom. "So what are you going to do," she asked cheerfully, "buy a new truck?"

"No", I laughed. "Just a new muffler."

"Oh yeah? You can buy those?"

I chuckled to myself. Oh, the blissful ignorance of middle-class youth! "Yes," I said. There are muffler shops all over the place. It'll be about \$200, so I'll have to wait till my next farmer's market to have enough money."

Charlotte thought some more. "Do trucks have more than one muffler?"

"No, fortunately just one" I replied.

"Good, that means we can't lose any more parts."

I didn't have the heart to tell her that a truck that's older than she is can shed a whole lot more than mufflers. No need to burst her bubble just yet. After all, she'll only be a teenager once, and we still have a large part of the farmer's market season to go.

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*Maria Smietana is a regular vendor at Traders Point Farmers Market where she sells home-baked bread and organically grown vegetables. She gardens in Zionsville, IN and is treasurer of IOGA.*

**IOGA  
Meeting  
Sat. Oct. 18**

**Fall Meeting at Worm's Way  
7850 N. SR 37, Bloomington, IN 812-876-6425**

11:00—12:15 Worm's Way tour  
12:15—1:15 Pitch-in at Oliver Winery  
1:15—1:30 Business Meeting  
1:30— Q&A

Worm's Way is right on SR 37, just a 1/2 mile south of Oliver Winery same side of the road (east side).

Our tour starts promptly at 11 AM. Julie will give us the tour of the hydroponics green house where growing vegetables organically is new...

Worm bin demonstration and a tour of the organic supplies and products they have for sale will finish off the tour...

By 12:15 we will travel 1/2 mile to the Oliver Winery where we will have our famous fabulous fair of food on the grounds and gardens there...

Bring at least one of your famous dishes filled with food to share and your plate, fork, and favorite drink. Throw in a lawn chair or two just in case...

Look forward to a gorgeous Fall day! And remember to car pool, if possible.

**Join us and bring a friend!**

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



**Join us!  
IOGA Meeting  
Sat. Oct. 18**