



# APRIL 2016 NEWSLETTER

## *President's Message*

Dear Fellow Floraphiles,

Spring has finally arrived and with it all the beautiful spring flowers. Now if the weather would settle down and act like it really is spring we could get more spring work done. I have fertilized my iris with 6-24-24 and will be using that on the daffodils, too. As soon as it warms up to the 70's I will work on the iris borers by putting on some granular Merit (imidacloprid).

Coming up before our next meeting is the Master Gardeners' Garden Fair on Saturday, April 2, at the Bloomington Armory. We will have a display there and would like to have several daffodils, so if you can help with that please bring them to the Armory on Saturday morning before 8:30 am. Nancy Deckard is coordinating this event and we need some workers; if you could help please check with Nancy (812) 606-2538 for more information. Admission is \$2 starting at 9am but the Fair is worth visiting.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, April 6, at 7 pm at Southside Christian Church. Amy Thompson will be presenting the program on "Gardening, Insect Control, and Organic Gardening." [See article below.] Be sure to come early to enjoy the food and fellowship.

As you begin working in your gardens, think about our member-to-member plant sale which will take place May 4. Too many of some plants? Tired of some plants? Do you have some plants that you would just like to share with others? Why not bring these to the sale on May 4?

Looking forward to seeing you all at the Meeting on April 6 and/or the Fair on April 2. Mark

## **April 6 Meeting at Southside Christian Church**

### **"Moles, Butterfly Gardening, Insect Control and Organic Gardening"**

Amy Thompson will be our speaker. Amy was born and raised in Bloomington Indiana and gained a love of gardening from her father and grandmother. Amy has a B.S. In forest Management from Purdue and an M.S. In Forest ecology from the University of Kentucky. This Boiler/Wildcat has worked for Purdue Extension in Monroe County since 2006.

***Speaker will start at 7 pm - refreshments and fellowship from 6:30 to 7 pm.***

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**Refreshments** will be provided by Gail Atkinson, David Sherlock, Barb Leisz, Shirley Deem, Jacqueline Harding, and Bernadette de Leon.

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## Plant Care for March and April

**Iris** - When iris are 6" tall or when air temperature reaches 70°, you must do something for borers. If you garden organically, use Grub Away Nematodes from Gardens Alive; if you are not organic, use any of the Bayer treatments that include Merit (available at Lowes). There is a granular one now that lasts several months. Deadhead early bloomers as necessary, cutting off bloom stalks at the ground when bloom is finished. Keep weeds down. A mulch is useful here, but keep mulch off the tops of the rhizomes of bearded iris, so that the rhizomes are exposed to full sun.

**Hosta** - Remove debris off crowns; apply 1-2 tablespoons of 10-10-10 fertilizer taking care not to burn the crowns. Apply a 10% ammonia solution on crowns to kill slug eggs and provide extra nitrogen. Keep mulch and debris 3-4 inches away from the crown. Divide if you want to and water afterwards. Hostas can be planted now through August. Keep watered.

**Daffodil** - Although daffodils will usually bloom well without fertilizer, putting a handful of low nitrogen fertilizer, such as 6-24-24, on the clumps after the foliage appears will improve the quality of the blooms. Don't cut the green leaves off before they begin turning brown which will be June or thereabouts.

**Daylily** - Pull debris, mulch, leaves, etc. away from emerging new plants. At the end of March apply a fertilizer such as 18-6-12 (12-12-12 would be fine, too). If thrips are a problem, use an insecticidal soap or neem oil or a systemic insecticide such as Spinosad, Abamectin, or Imidacloprid (=Merit) as the buds are being formed in the scape. Daylilies can be transplanted in late April or early May depending on the weather. Soak roots in water a couple of hours before planting. The crown should not be more than an inch below the soil surface. Water. Use a root stimulator to help establish a good root system.

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## Green Chile Cheese Squares



Cook time: 45 Min

Prep time: 10 Min

### Ingredients

- 1 stk butter or margarine
- 10 eggs slightly beaten
- 1/2 c flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 c chopped green chile (canned is ok)
- 1 pt small curd cottage cheese
- 1 lb shredded cheddar & monterey jack

### Directions

1. Melt butter and cool, pour into large bowl, add eggs beating slightly. Add in all other ingredients and mix well.
2. Pour into a buttered 13" x 9" x 2" pan. Bake at 400 degrees for 15 minutes - THEN lower to 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

*I brought this to the March meeting—John Simpson ate half a pan 😊 Jane Herr*

## Prepare Now!

The **Member-to-member Plant Sale** will be held **May 4** at IU Southside Christian Church. Be thinking about what plants you would like to bring. Clean up your containers and pot up a few starts to bring. Please price all contributions.

Mark your daffodils as they bloom so you can dig some for the **Annual Public Plant Sale** on **Saturday, August 27** at Highland Village Pentecostal Church.

## Upcoming Events

### April 6-11, 2016

*"Show Me Daffodils" 2016 World Daffodil Convention*

St. Louis, Missouri

Website at <http://stldaffodilclub.org/wdc2016/schedule.html>

### April 9, 2016

*Herb Society of Central Indiana Symposium  
Pepper Your Life With Herbs*

9:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m., Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds, 2003 Pleasant Street, Noblesville. Register at [www.herbsocietyofcentralindiana.org](http://www.herbsocietyofcentralindiana.org) or call 317-251-6986.

### April 11, 2016

*The Indianapolis Hosta Society Program  
Holliday Park Nature Center*

The April program, "Chasing the Rare and Unusual in Shade Gardens," will take place on Monday at 6:30 p.m. at 6363 Spring Mill Road. The featured speaker is Gene Bush, a nationally known shade garden expert, garden writer, photographer, former owner of Munchkin Nursery and Gardens and regular contributor to *Indiana Gardening* magazine. Visit [indianapolishostasociety.org](http://indianapolishostasociety.org).

### April 14-15, 2016

*Indiana Daffodil Society (IDS) Annual Show  
Nature Center at Holliday Park*

Indianapolis, Indiana

<http://www.indianadaffodilsociety.org>

### April 22-24, 2016

*31st Annual Wildflower Foray*

Between 20 and 25 hikes and programs will take place in multiple locations in Brown and Monroe counties including T.C. Steele State Historic Site, Hoosier National Forest, Lake Monroe, etc.

[http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/hoosier/workingtogether/partnerships/?cid=FSBDEV3\\_017504](http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/hoosier/workingtogether/partnerships/?cid=FSBDEV3_017504)

## 2016 Directories Available at April Meeting

The 2016 Directories with lists of people, events, meetings, officers, and other important club information can be picked up at the April 6 meeting. **Please try to make this meeting and pick up your Directory to save the club the cost of mailing.** *Many thanks to those who have already picked them up!*

I think that no matter how old or infirm I may become, I will always plant a large garden in the spring. Who can resist the feelings of hope and joy that one gets from participating in nature's rebirth? ~Edward Giobbi



Jane Herr  
4923 Stevens Road  
Nashville, IN 47448



## **Happening Saturday April 2:**

**9am - 4pm**

Indiana National Guard Armory  
3380 South Walnut Street  
Bloomington, Indiana

Admission: \$2.00

Over 30 vendors of lawn & garden products & services  
Fantastic door prizes, Free educational seminars, Answers to gardening questions from Master Gardeners  
Food available at the Garden Thyme Cafe  
Handicap accessible, Free Parking

*SIDHDIS will have a table at this event, To volunteer for a shift -- and free admission -- please contact Nancy Deckard 812-606-2538 [n\\_deckard@yahoo.com](mailto:n_deckard@yahoo.com)*