

January 17, 2018 Hamilton County Garden Network Quarterly Meeting Notes

Summary Notes by Andrew Fritz

Reminders and Announcements

- The Hamilton County Garden Network directory works and people use it to find gardens. If your garden has had any leadership, contact, or organizational changes, please let Andrew Fritz know so that he can make the necessary updates. (Andrew.fritz@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)
- The urban agriculture conservationist position, thanks to a significant grant from the ISDA via the Clean Water Grant (CWI), is more secure.
- The HCSWCD will be offering tool rentals in the near future. Stay tuned! Among the tools available are [Pullerbears](#), a tool that can uproot trees and shrubs like Honeysuckle. Another tool is a flame weeder.
- Saturday, April 14th, Purdue Extension and HCSWCD will host a permaculture workshop that will include both theory and breakout sessions to design your own permaculture landscape. This will serve as the second quarterly meeting of 2018.

Presentation by Jenny Lambert and Shelli Broadbent – Central Indiana Seed Swap

Central Indiana Seed Swap

- The Central Indiana Seed Swap will take place on Saturday, January 27, 2018 from 9:00am to 2:00pm at the Hamilton County Fairgrounds.
- <https://goo.gl/wMMZhs>
- There will be a number of great speakers and vendors!



Seed Library Launch

- The Seed Library launch will take place Sunday, March 4 at 2:00 p.m. at the Carmel Clay Public Library at 55 4th Avenue SE, Carmel, IN 46032.
- Ben Cohen of Small House Farm will be the guest speaker.

Other Notes

- More Information: [Purdue Master Gardner Program: Seed Savers](#)

Presentation by Keith O'Dell – Castaway Compost

Worm Compost

- Keith demonstrated how one of his worm composting bins work. As the organic matter is decomposed by the worms and microbes, a pass-through mechanism allows easy harvesting.



Community Gardening Composting

- Everything composts eventually.
- Community gardeners will place their compost, despite signage indicating otherwise, in the closest bin to their plot. Consider separating bins so that the initial phase is closest whereas the finish bin is further from the garden plots.
- Applying worm tea (also called worm brew) on compost can speed up the natural process of decomposition. Adding composting worms can help, too.

Other Notes

- Learn more about Castaway Compost at <http://castawaycompost.com/>. Castaway Compost offers a number of products and services including composting bins, worms, and worm tea application.

Raffle Prize Winner

The winner of the raffle, a flame weeder, was Pam TerBush!