

seasons

HORTICULTURE NEWSLETTER



PHOTO COURTESY IRVIN ETIENNE

'Wisley Supreme' witch hazel (*Hamamelis mollis* 'Wisley Supreme')

Active Spring at the IMA



Dear members:

We welcome Jonathan Wright, who recently joined the IMA as the Ruth Lilly Deputy Director for Horticulture and Natural Resources. Please see the accompanying article in this issue of Seasons for more about Jonathan's. When you have an opportunity to meet Jonathan, please introduce yourself as a member of the Horticultural Society and welcome him to Indiana and the IMA.

Jonathan succeeds Mark Zelonis, who retired this past December. The IMA Horticultural Society will host a reception for Mark from 3 to 5 p.m., May 1 at Garden Terrace. Watch for a flyer that will provide more details, and please join other members of the Society in honoring Mark for all his accomplishments at the IMA and for his work with the Horticultural Society.

The IMA Horticultural Society held its annual member meeting on March 6, with about 60 people in attendance. After a brief business meeting, which included adoption of revised bylaws (thanks to Kathleen Hull and Jo Ellen Meyers Sharp for all their work on

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Save the Date:

Volunteer Work Day
April 9.

Perennial Premiere
April 23 and 24.

A Garden Affair,
5:30 p.m., June 12.

Perennial Premiere will be in the parking lot and Newfield, where people can shop without paying admission.

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these), Douglas Allen presented a talk on growing orchids in the home, an apt complement to Color Me Orchid, an exhibition of orchids that is taking place in the Madeline Elder Greenhouse and the Museum building through March 13.

Last summer the Horticultural Society's library moved from Newfield to the museum building. The Society used Newfield not only to house its library, but as a place for the board and other groups to meet. Garden Guides also held their monthly meetings there. However, the building is being closed down until a facility management plan has been completed. The board is now holding its monthly meetings in the museum administrative wing. A number of items belonging to Hort Soc that had been in Newfield – furniture and other things – have been moved to other spaces or sold at auction.

Perennial Premier will take place this year on April 23 and 24. It will be held in the Newfield parking lot area rather than at the Madeline Elder greenhouse parking lot. This will allow people to attend without having to pay admission to the museum, and will make it easier to pick up plants once they have been purchased. Horticultural Society members are encouraged to help out with this activity. Many volunteers are needed. Please contact Janet Belden (thebeldens@aol.com), Hort Soc's Volunteer Coordinator. In closing, I am delighted to announce that members contributed more than \$6,000 to the Horticultural Society's Garden Fund. Thanks to all who contributed for your generosity. These funds will allow us to do even more to enhance the gardens.

Sincerely,
Greg Shaner, *President, IMA Horticultural Society*

Updated Member Directory in the Works

Membership chairwoman Dawn Stelts is working on the updated IMA Horticultural Society membership directory, which should be out in the next few weeks.



Welcome New Members

Sharon Gamble
Kim Gattle and Carter Wolf
Jennifer Hehman
Julia Holbrook and
Mathew Holbrook
Dorothy Schulz
Robert Hoffman and
Anita Hoffman
Norman Mazurowski and
Virginia Mazurowski

Book Discussion Group

Join the IMA Horticultural Society Book Group at 11 a.m. in the Café for a discussion of these books.

- Friday, March 11, *The Orchid Thief: A True Story of Beauty and Obsession* by Susan Orleans.
- Friday, May 13, *Gertrude Jekyll* by Sally Festing
- Friday, Aug. 12, *Flowers: How They Changed the World* by William Burger
- Friday, Dec. 2, *Tomorrow's Garden: Design and Inspiration for a New Age of Sustainable Gardening* by Stephen Orr.



IMA Horticultural Society's officers and directors appointed to serve from June 1, 2015 to May 31, 2017:

President
Greg Shaner

Vice Presidents
Kevin Foy, Ann Hathaway

Secretary
Kathleen Hull

Treasurer
Rosie Steinmetz

Directors
Janet Belden
Jamie Gibbs
Jason Griffin
Jo Ellen Meyers Sharp
Dawn Stelts

Committee chairmen and chairwomen:

Book Discussion Group
Oren Cooley

Communications
Jo Ellen Meyers Sharp

A Garden Affair (auction and dinner)
Kevin Foy

Historian
Helen Dickinson

Hospitality
Brenda Stewart-Rudolph

Library
Cindy Monnier,
Edie Enright

Membership
Dawn Stelts

Travel
Ann Hathaway
Patty Wilkins

Volunteers
Janet Belden

Wright loves the IMA's diverse landscapes

BY JO ELLEN MEYERS SHARP

The opportunity to work at a world-class art museum committed to making its gardens a priority lured Jonathan Wright from the country's gardening mecca to the Indianapolis Museum of Art.

Wright was named the Ruth Lilly Deputy Director for Horticulture and Nature Resources at the Indianapolis Museum of Art, succeeding Mark Zelonis, who retired last December after 18 years. Wright started the first week of March.

The IMA is somewhat unique in the world of horticulture because of its mix of properties. Wright was particularly attracted to the diversity of gardens: the Olmsted-designed Oldfields; the IMA's gardens and grounds; 100 Acres, the Art and Nature Park; and the Kiley-designed Miller House and Garden in Columbus. Wright comes to the IMA from Chanticleer Garden in Wayne, Pennsylvania, where he was a horticulturist for 12 years.

"I wasn't looking for a job when I got the call," Wright said in a phone interview shortly after he moved to Indianapolis. "But it was so exciting. There's an Olmsted landscape, Kiley and 100 Acres (designed by Marlon Blackwell and Edward L Blake). That was really exciting to me to be a part of all these different styles of gardens. We're going to take them to the next level."

The mid-century modern Miller House and Garden in Columbus and Oldfields, an American County Estate, are on designated National Historic Landmarks. He said he didn't know of any other museum with the rich diversity of historically significant landscapes.

A graduate of Temple University, the Longwood Gardens' Professional Gardener Program, and the Getty Leadership Institute's Next Generation Program, Wright has extensive experience at gardens throughout the United States and England.

"I feel Jonathan Wright has the vision, knowledge and



PHOTO COURTESY IMA

"I feel Jonathan Wright has the vision, knowledge and creativity to provide strategic direction and leadership to establish the IMA as one of the preeminent public garden and urban ecosystem destinations in the country."

— CHARLES VENABLE

creativity to provide strategic direction and leadership to establish the IMA as one of the preeminent public garden and urban ecosystem destinations in the country," said Charles Venable, the Melvin and Bren Simon Director and Chief Executive Officer at the IMA, in a press release.

"Most of Jonathan Wright's work experience and training have been in former private gardens now open to the public," said Bill Thomas, executive director and head gardener at Chanticleer. "Jonathan has a great eye for design and a sensitivity to the individual site, both of which he has developed well here at Chanticleer. I expect to see great things from him and the talented staff of the Indianapolis Museum of Art."

This article first appeared in *The Indianapolis Star*, March 7, 2016. Reprinted here with permission of the author. ●

A Fresh Look for the Understory

BY PATTY SCHNEIDER, HORTICULTURALIST

'Purple Prince' is bred to be highly resistant to crabapple diseases.



PHOTO COURTESY J. FRANK SCHMIDT & SON CO.

People generally develop a relationship with plants because of the way they make them feel, and that relationship is frequently realized with a tree. Perhaps it's a landmark on the horizon that says, "You're home." Or, the place where so many hours were spent in its shade that from below, you've memorized the pattern of the branches. Or, perhaps it is one whose sheer breadth demands a slight pause in admiration each time you pass by. Trees that are relatable are tied to memories, and have the ability to calm, refresh and inspire.

One of the IMA's crowning glories is its tree canopy. Summer heat is tempered by its shady, cool pockets. Fall is a daily festival of change and color that rivals the quality of a drive through the hills of Brown County. Winter reveals

the variety of evergreens showcased against snow and sky. But the spring canopy brings fresh buds, and the profoundly satisfying shade of new green that is too shy to linger for long under the haughty glare of the pending summer sun. With a window of opportunity before the leaf canopy closes overhead, spring-flowering understory trees have their moment. This spring we'll be improving the show with the addition of two flowering crabapples that will bring new life to the understory for one of the Oldfields border gardens.

'Purple Prince' crabapple (*Malus* 'Purple Prince') maintains the traditional look and feel of the border garden while incorporating the better disease resistance of newer breeding efforts against fire blight, apple scab, powdery mildew

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and cedar-apple rust that may plague the leaves of many crabapples. Blooming in a profusion of rosy-pink flowers, the name Purple Prince comes from the dusky purple cast of new leaves that transition to a bronze green for the summer months. The purple theme continues into the fall with the development of fruit that, according to an evaluation published by the Arnold Arboretum, has been reported to be so prolific as to weigh down the branches in alarming fashion. A second cultivar brings a completely different look to the crabapple collection.

Golden Raindrops crabapple (*Malus transitoria* 'Schmidt-cutleaf') has white flowers that precede a deeply dissected leaf, which gives the tree a softness complimentary of its graceful, open habit. While a subtle and refined beauty is appropriate for the spring border, Golden Raindrops will be anything but subtle as a contender in Oldfields' fall color riot. Reported to have good yellow to red fall leaf color, the real statement comes from the outburst of tiny, golden fruits.

Given Oldfields' history as a wide landscape of agricultural fields, it is noteworthy to consider that the Garden's sense of place has become so involved with the tree canopy, which now frames and softens the horizon. If you have yet to find Your Tree – the one that fills you with the sense of being merely human amidst the greatness of a living legacy, or the yearning of nostalgia, or a quiet peace – make this the year you make a memory with the canopy, however great or small. ●



PHOTO COURTESY ROTARY BOTANICAL GARDENS

One attribute of Golden Raindrops crabapple is its fall color.

Bloomin' Bucks with Brent and Becky's Bulbs

Bloomin' Bucks with Brent and Becky's Bulbs is a progressive fundraising program designed to earn select non-profit organizations cash for every order received through the Brent and Becky's Bulbs website! When you select Indianapolis Museum of Art, you directly support the work to keep our gardens beautiful. On behalf of the IMA grounds and horticulture, thank you for your support!

- 1) Go to www.bloominbucks.com where you will scroll down and select the Indianapolis Museum of Art.
- 2) Hit Go.
- 3) You will go to a special REMINDER page. Read it and click YES to continue.
- 4) You will be taken to the Brent and Becky's Bulbs website where a portion of every dollar you spend goes to support the grounds and gardens at the IMA.
- 5) If you have questions, please call Brent and Becky's Bulbs, **877-661-2852**.

New Programs, Books at the HortSoc Library

BY CINDY MONNIER, LIBRARIAN



Hort Soc volunteers sold duplicate and deaccessioned books at the horticulture symposium in February.

Planning a summer trip here or abroad? New library titles include current publications listing top U.S. and UK gardens, profiles of gardens in the U.S., Europe, UK and worldwide, and profiles of botanical gardens, such as Kew, Chicago Botanic, Winterthur, Missouri Botanical, and the Huntington in California. Also, the library has two titles on Chanticleer, recent home of our new Director of Horticulture, Jonathan Wright (hints of things to come at IMA?). All Book Discussion titles are available for member checkout or reserve. For a complete list of recent book additions, check the library website.

Orchids are the hot topic for early 2016 at the Museum, with a special exhibition and sale. The Color Me Orchid Exhibition continues through March 13, and the library has more than 30 books about orchids for browsing or borrowing.

Coming at noon on Saturday, April 30, Lynne Habig will present *A History of English Cottage Gardens*, in the Library, followed at 1:30 by lunch in the IMA Café. Details soon.

We continue to get the word out about our new location within the Stout Art Library at IMA, and our updated 2,600-book collection of gardening and landscape design titles. We held two Open Houses in the Fall of 2015, and will have more every few months through February 2017, to help members and the public learn about the collection.

In April, we'll begin a series of quarterly Roundtables, with presentations by gardening experts. These will be mid-day on Saturdays, or Thursday evenings. Our first Roundtable will be Saturday, April 30, with our very own Lynne Habig presiding. Stay tuned! Notice will be sent to all Hort-Soc members in April.

We wish to thank Kathy Hull, Charles Venable and Steve Shepherd for their recent generous donation of gardening books. ●

The Library is open 1 p.m. to 8 p.m., Thursdays, September through May, or any day year-round, by appointment. Call Librarian Cindy Monnier, 317-460-7751, email hslibrary@imamuseum.org, or leave a message at the library, 317-923-1331, extension 429. Do you have a special interest? We can research for you ahead of your arrival. Master Gardener volunteers and others are on duty to assist you.

Our online database is available for anyone to search from a home computer or smart phone <http://opac.libraryworld.com/opac/home.php>. Type in HortSoc to log in. No password is needed. ●

PHOTO COURTESY IMA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY LIBRARY

IMA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Our mailing address is:
Indianapolis Museum of Art
4000 Michigan Road
Indianapolis, In 46208

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<http://www.imamuseum.org/give-join/affiliate-memberships/horticultural-society>

Learn more about the Horticultural Society of the IMA.

<http://www.imahortsoc.org>



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