



## A Garden Affair 2014



*By Kevin Foy, Auction Chair*

Our biennial social and fundraising event raised \$25,000 to support the work of the grounds maintenance team that keeps our museum landscaping looking so tremendous.

Along with the opportunity to mingle and partake in a wonderful meal, 160 Horticultural Society members and their guests were entertained by beautiful piano music while they bid on a huge assortment of specialty plants, home and garden items and Indianapolis cultural foods and events. New this year was the ability to place silent auction bids via cell phone, which despite a few bumps for some participants, was a great success.

Noel Heymann (left) Dottie Miller (center) and Ann Pantzer trade bidding tips while examining auction items. IMA Horticultural Society's auction raised \$25,000 to support the gardens and grounds of the museum.

The highlight of our event was the after dinner presentations by Mark Zelonis, Ruth Lilly Deputy Director of Environmental and Historic Preservation, on The State of the Garden. Charles Venable, the Melvin and Bren Simon Director and CEO of the IMA, spoke about the current state of the museum.

Great thanks to all that participated, to the planning committee for all its work, and to our donors and patrons for their financial support ! A special thanks to our sponsors: The Brickman Group, Bartlett Tree Experts, Davey Tree, Elements Engineering, Upland Brewery, Custom Touch Irrigation, Stone Center of Indiana, Tiffany Lawn and Landscape Supply, Treeo, Vine and Branchand YATS. We couldn't have done it without you. A very special thanks to our devoted supporter and premier sponsor, Mark M. Holeman, Inc. Landscape Architects and Contractors.

Our next dinner auction will be in June 2016.

## Scotland: The South and the Borders

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*By Mark Zelonis, Ruth Lilly Deputy Director of Environmental & Historic Preservation*



Little Sparta garden captures the essence of the Scottish countryside.

Horticultural Society members travelled to central and southeastern parts of Scotland, visiting art galleries, important architectural monuments, sculpture parks, and, of course, gardens in July. Led by Mark Zelonis, the IMA's Deputy Director of Environmental & Historic Preservation, the tour was expertly organized by Frances Roxburgh of London-based, Specialtours.

The third such overseas excursion for the society, this itinerary included magnificent homes, such as Ardgowan, Dumfries House, Mellerstain, Traquair and Balcarres. Art was enjoyed in Glasgow at the Hunterian Gallery and the Burrell Collection, and in Edinburgh at the National Gallery of Scotland.

Some of the world's best contemporary art was witnessed at Ian Hamilton Finlay's Little Sparta, Jupiter Artland art festival, and the mind-boggling Garden of Cosmic Speculation of Charles Jencks.

And the group relished private visits to some of the country's most magnificent gardens: Drumlandrig, Dawyck Botanic Garden, Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh, Kailzie Gardens, Tyningshame and the jaw-dropping rose garden of Carolside.

Scotland's beautiful sheep-dotted countryside and delicious meals also helped make this a memorable journey for all. Plans are already under way for another HortSoc trip to southern California in April 2015. Please join us.

## Divide and Conquer: Creating New Queendoms

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*By Gwyn Rager, Assistant Horticulturist*

What's a beekeeper to do when fall is around the corner, winter mortality is unnervingly high, and you've got just one hive? Make new queens, of course! (Right...just like that!)



Assistant horticulturist Gwyn Rager examines a hive to determine which frame to use when splitting the hive.

I've been helping Chad Franer, Director of Horticulture, keep bees at the IMA for six years and every season we both learn something new. This year, we tried our hands at splitting the hive – our one and only hive that we purchased in the spring. Did we know what we were doing? Of course not!

Splitting the hive to force the production of queen cells felt a lot like moving from the freshmen level course to somewhere with the upperclassmen. It was one of those moments where we felt the training wheels coming off and it was time to ride or fall. After much instruction from our mentor, Brian Shattuck, we took on the challenge.

A healthy honeybee hive is composed of the queen, worker bees (female), drones (male) and brood (future bees). The queen will lay an average of 1,000 to 1,500 eggs per day, all the while producing a pheromone that communicates to the rest of the hive that she is present and thriving. The daily egg laying, referred to as the brood cycle, ensures a constant and strong colony. When a hive becomes robust, the beekeeper may have the option to split it.

Splitting the hive means moving the queen, along with a few handfuls of workers and brood, to another hive box and leaving the majority of the original hive intact and in need of a queen.

What happens next is pretty fascinating! The colony notices the absence of the queen and begins to prep several of the recently hatched eggs to potentially become the next queen. These select larvae are fed royal jelly and larger cells are constructed for them each to develop within. Then it's a race to see who will emerge first and survive. A new queen, in her due diligence, will systematically kill off the other potential queens as they emerge. Once her position is secured, she takes her mating flight and returns to the hive to pick up where the last queen left off. Voila! The beekeeper now has two hives!

Brian encouraged us to also create a nuc (short for nucleus) around this time. A nuc is a mini version of an official hive. Midway through the splitting process, we opened up the original hive and removed a frame that contained a few queen cells, dropped it into a nuc box along with a starter kit, frames of honey, brood and room to start laying eggs, for the soon to emerge queen. We beekeepers now have three hives!

So, why go through this effort when we've got a strong, healthy hive? I guess I could argue that it's part of proper beekeeping. We're making certain that we go into winter with more bees and two new, fresh queens. Winters can be long and hard in Indiana and our honeybees need all the resources we can offer to ensure survival – survival into the next spring and for years and generations to come.

The training wheels are long gone and we're a little bit wiser. Can we claim now that we know what we're doing? Probably not! I'll always be a gardener first and beekeeping is a bonus. But I couldn't be a gardener without the bees. Each day that I work in the gardens of the IMA and I see my tiny worker friends, I thank them for their diligent pollination...and their sweet honey!

## Horticultural Society Fall Lectures

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Talk // Stephanie Cohen

### Small Shrubs for the Perennial Garden

Thursday, September 11

7:30 PM / Woodstock Club / FREE

Located at 1301 W. 38<sup>th</sup> Street, Indianapolis

Whether for some welcome diversity in size and texture, or for reduced maintenance, adding a few woody plants to your perennial border may be just the answer. A strategically placed shrub, or even a group of them, helps relieve your eye's view while adding a measure of permanency to your artfully crafted arrangement of herbaceous beauties.

Stephanie Cohen, aka "The Perennial Diva", will once again grace our stage to share her insights into working a few choice 'woodies' into an otherwise all-herbaceous planting. From Abelia to Zenobia, she will share her favorites and demonstrate how one can enliven and enhance a border, while reducing the need for constant fussy maintenance.

Stephanie is an award-winning garden communicator, having lectured across the country and taught at Temple University and the Barnes School of Horticulture. She writes prolifically and is the author of several books including *The Perennial Gardener's Design Primer*, *Fallscaping*, and *The Non-Stop Garden*.

Talk // Jane Roy Brown

### My Mother's Garden: Eudora Welty's Garden and Its Roots in the Progressive Era

Sunday, November 16

The Toby - 2 pm FREE

Even in her earliest short stories, the writer Eudora Welty (1909–2001) wove images of flowers and gardens into her descriptions of people and place. Most Welty readers and scholars, however, did not realize that this rich imagery originated in hands-on experience in the garden she shared with her mother in Jackson, Mississippi. Long after she became the garden's sole caretaker, Welty never failed to call it "my mother's garden."

The story of *One Writer's Garden: Eudora Welty's Home Place* unfolds during the rise of home gardening as an American pastime in the 1920s, when women viewed it as a means of self-improvement. Author and lecturer, **Jane Roy Brown**, will show how the garden echoed the prevailing style of Welty's mother's generation, which in turn mirrored wider trends in American life: Progressive-era optimism, garden clubs, streetcar suburbs, civic beautification, plant introductions, conservation, and garden writing. Poring through letters and journals, she learned that their shared pastime also brought the Welty women solace, joy, and creative inspiration.

Jane is a landscape historian and an award-winning travel and garden writer who focuses on historic gardens and landscapes. She has published in numerous popular and professional journals, and is co-author of *One Writer's Garden*, copies of which will be available for purchase and signing.

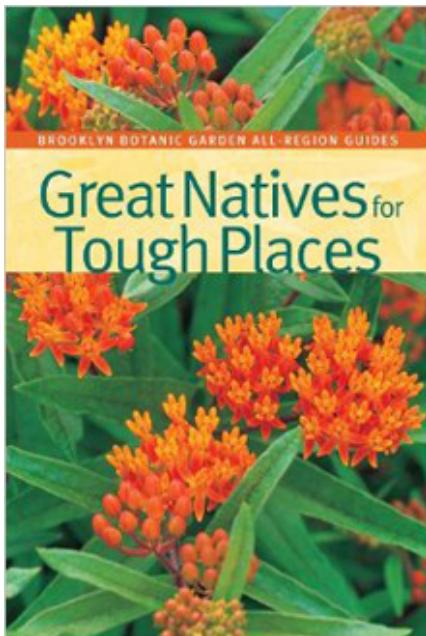
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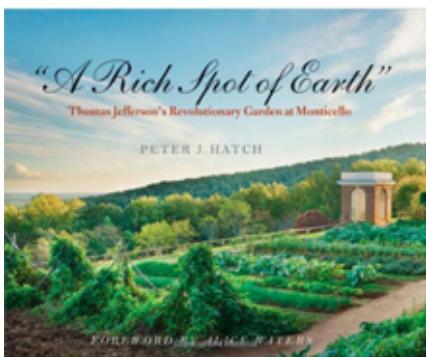
# New Books at the HortSoc Library

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By Cindy Monnier, Librarian

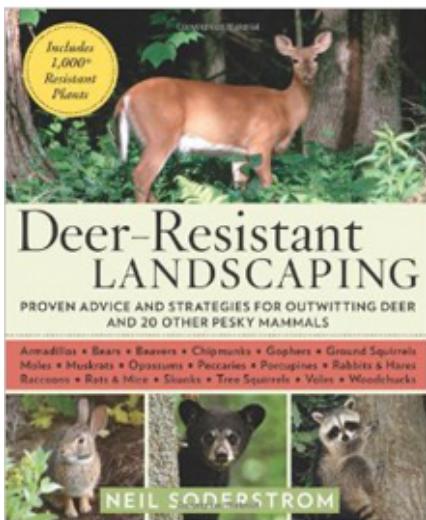


We have purchased 55 new books for our library, all recommendations of HortSoc members and IMA horticulture staff. These will be reviewed in the next few issues of Seasons. Here are three:



**Great Natives for Tough Places** (*Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2009. Niall Dunne, editor*), 119 pages with color illustrations.

Various well-known authors give their suggestions for dealing with difficult combinations of sun, shade, wet and dry sites; compacted, alkaline and nutrient deficient soils. Explanations of how to diagnose and treat problem conditions, including soil texture and structure, light and moisture conditions, drainage and variations thereof. Includes many suggestions of what trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants. Main Collection.



**Deer-Resistant Landscaping: Proven Advice and Strategies for Outwitting Deer and 20 Other Pesky Mammals** by Neil Soderstrom. (*Rodale Press Inc., 2009*) 368 pages. This comprehensive guide discusses home remedies and simple diversions to more elaborate methods, always with a humane approach. You learn what works and what doesn't, and why, based on scientific research and the experience of landscape and wildlife control specialists. Main Collection.

## **Horticultural Society & IMA Events**

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September 11 | 7:30 pm | TALK: [Small Shrubs for the Perennial Garden](#)

November 15 - January 4 | [Christmas at Lilly House](#)

November 16 | 2 pm | TALK: [My Mother's Garden: Eudora Welty's Garden and Its Roots in the Progressive Era](#)

December 4 | [Holiday Hullabaloo](#)

December 18 | Winter Solstice

SAVE THE DATE: February 21 | [IMA Horticulture Symposium: The Living Landscape](#)

## **Support the IMA When You Shop for Bulbs This Fall**

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**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 & horticulture, thank you for your support!

- 1) Go to <http://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, call Brent and Becky's Bulbs at 877-661-2852.

IMA Horticultural Society online:

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

Our mailing address is:

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