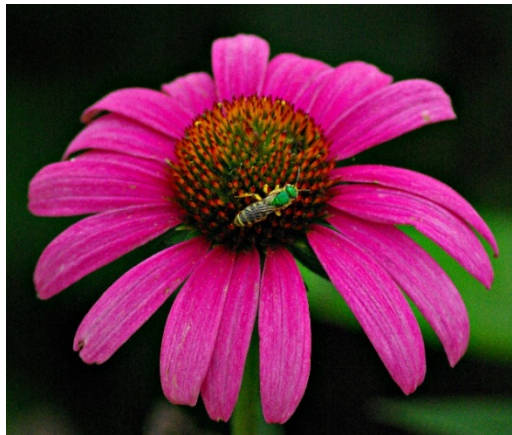


Advancing Urban Food Systems with Community-Campus Partnerships

By: Jacob Rayl and Ashley "Rose" Newton



Who are we? What are we? Why are we here?

- Jacob Rayl
 - Community Garden Coordinator
 - Indiana State University Sophomore
- Rose Newton
 - Former Graduate Research Assistant
 - Previous Community Garden Coordinator
 - Indiana State University Graduate



Jacob Rayl (2016)



Rose Newton (2015)

- How the University can boost their community engagement with a community garden
- The many projects completed at the Garden and within the community
- The many partnerships that make up the Community Garden system
- The amount of volunteerism that takes place at the Community Garden

Outline

- Development and Organization
 - Institute for Community Sustainability (ICS)
 - Garden Steering Committee
 - Hired and Volunteer Workers
 - Partnering Companies
 - Garden Systems and Policies
 - Funding and Grants
- Urban Growth and Outreach
 - What Makes Us Unique?
 - Jacob Butler - Terre Haute Mycologist Amateur
 - and Wabash River Mycology Society Founder
 - Cover Crops, -cides, and Tilling
 - Education and Curriculum
 - Sensory Garden



A little about the Indiana State University Community Garden...

- Located at 219 N. 11th Street in Terre Haute, IN. 47807
 - On the corner of Chestnut St. and 11th St.
- The Garden was founded in 2008 - we are almost to our first decade! 😊
- The 2008 Mission Statement reads:
 - Promote food security and awareness of hunger in the local community
 - Support education of children and adults regarding gardening, nutrition, and the environment
 - Improve access to health and nutritious food in the local community
 - Contribute to the beautification of the community
 - Provide a model of best gardening practices and demonstrate what community members can do in their own yards
 - Contribute to the environmental sustainability initiatives of the local community and ISU
- We have a fully functioning greenhouse on site

Development and Organization

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Institute for Community Sustainability (ICS)



INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
**Institute for
Community
Sustainability**

- Office House located onsite of the Community Garden
- Was created and opened in 2012
- The house was renovated using sustainable materials
- There is a large storage shed, a 575 gal. rain barrel, a deck to suit outdoor class space, raised herb beds, and a facility chipping and composting area
- Community members, gardeners, and professors utilize the space for class meetings as well as for community meetings and programming
- The ICS oversees the Community Garden's operations
- The Institute is made up of 6 paid staff

Garden Steering Committee

- Created to solve issues arising in the Garden and acts as governing body
- Comprised of both university and community affiliates
- Currently holds 7 seats with open invitation to gardeners
- The current mission statement reads:

“ The ISU Community Garden Steering Committee exists to support the community of gardeners and ensure stewardship of garden resources. The Committee develops policies to increase the garden’s pleasure and productivity. It also supports a system of sub-committees to implement these policies; to communicate with gardeners and the general public; to further educational goals for sustainable gardening and community well-being; to aggregate resources; and to encourage a culture of participation, peacefulness, and goodwill. ”

Hired and Volunteer Workers

- The Garden has 2 hired workers and 1 volunteer worker
 - Patricia Weaver - Garden Manager (volunteer)
 - Jacob Rayl - University Garden Coordinator
 - Ivy Coble - University Garden Apprentice
- The Garden acts as a site for volunteerism throughout all seasons
- We are host for Donaghy Day (a recognized day of service) at ISU - a major volunteer day in the Fall and Spring semesters; here we have had over 40 volunteers at one time
- Our volunteers can assist any handicapped or elderly gardener with a task that may not be too difficult

Partners for the Community Garden

- The original concept partners for the Community Garden Project were:
 - ISU Center for Community Engagement
 - Catholic Charities
 - White Violet Center for Eco-Justice
 - Purdue Extension
 - ISU Grounds Division

Garden Systems and Policies

- The Garden is free to anyone who would like a plot
 - We only ask for 10% donated crop harvest
 - And 5 hours of Garden Service Hours through March - November
- We have a “blue flag system” in place at the garden
 - This system is used to mark many things:
 - Needed-watering, ripe produce may be picked, failing a garden check, etc.
- The Garden has a “no-perennial” policy - gardeners may keep perennials in above-ground pots
- The Garden allows for pets, but only if they are leashed and well-maintained
- The Garden, being apart of ISU, is a “Sycamore Safe Zone”
 - You may be yourself and be free of all judgement

Funding and Grants

- The deck, and rain barrel were funded through Lilly Endowment
- In the spring of 2013, ICS was awarded with \$99,910 in funding through the Lilly Endowment for the construction of 7 “sister” passive solar greenhouses
- ISU has financed a budget of \$300 annually for the Garden, with often less than half of that budget being used
 - We receive tools such as shovels, rakes, tillers, lawn mowers, and weed-eaters from grounds which cut out most of the cost from the budget
- The land, water access units, water usage bills, on hired student garden employee’s and a small annual budget of \$300 are all funded through by ISU

Education and Outreach

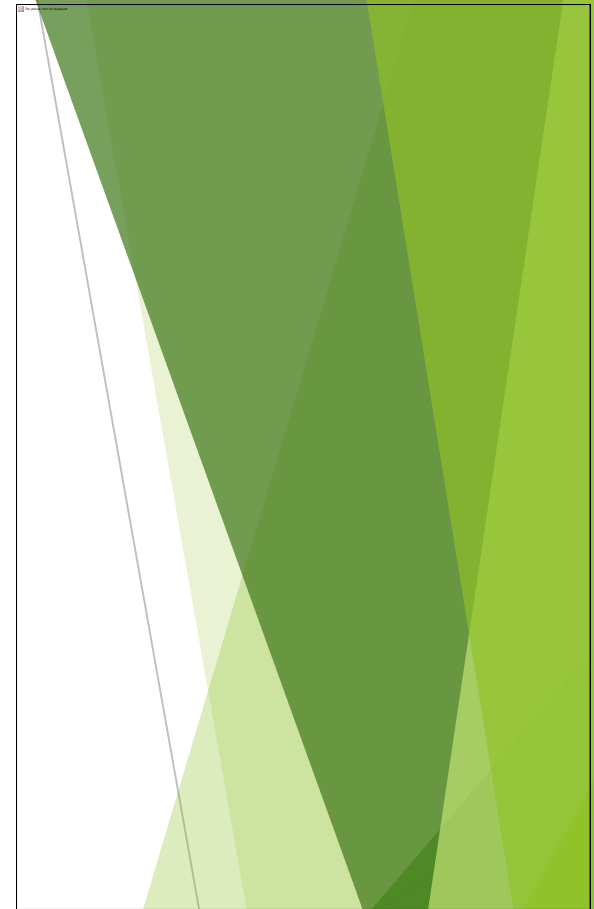
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What Makes Us Unique?

- Our Garden is community member based
 - We do not see an impact in growth when students go home in the summer
- The Garden is diversified between students, faculty, and staff
 - This bridges the gap between student and faculty integration
- The Garden is eight minute or less walk from central ISU campus
- Rose established free seeds and seedlings for gardeners
 - They and four volunteers were able to donate over 150 seedling to gardeners in 2015
- Students utilize our free land to grow 100% health food, productively exercise, and complete community service hours
- We have students from foreign countries growing at the Garden (India, Vietnam, Mexico, Germany)

Jacob Butler - Amateur Mycologist and Founder of Wabash River Mycology Society

- In 2014, Jacob Butler and Rose Newton began inoculating the garden with *Stropharia rugosoannulata*, or King Stropharia
- This mycelium was integrated into a permaculture plot in 2014
- Jacob also identified an isolated specie of mushroom growing at the Community Garden
 - The DNA was sent to the Hoosier Mushroom Society to be tested
 - The mushroom was identified as *Ganoderma sessile*, plainly known as Ganoderma
 - This mushroom holds medicinal properties
 - This mushroom is used in tea-like infusions



Cover crops, -cides, and Tilling

- The Garden is genetically modified organism (GMO) free
- We do not use any pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, or fertilizers
 - Only marked containers that are organic are allowed
- We have several cover crops at the gardeners disposal
 - Compost from ISU and organic scraps from the Garden
 - Composting leaves
 - Wood chips
 - Straw
 - Rye and winter wheat seed to sow for the winter
- A handful of gardeners prefer a “no-till” method for their gardens
 - Tilling up you ground with a machine can actually destroy the soil’s natural ecosystem
 - It also bothers your worms . . . Don’t bother the worms

Education and Curriculum

- Members of the garden, volunteers, and the Garden Coordinator create informational sessions for educating gardeners
- The Community Garden serves as a site for soil testing for the science labs on campus
- The Garden addresses a unique facet of education as ISU does not have an ag. Program
- Students may be mentored in beginning horticulture/agriculture concepts
- The greenhouse serves two classes under Edith Wittenmyer, Lecturer in Departments of Electronics and Computer Engineering with organization from Dr. Tom Derrick, professor of English, who built the greenhouse
 - Students created machines that opened and closed the vents based off a temperature control box inside the greenhouse

Education and Curriculum continued...

- The many different classroom settings help diversify the Garden's setting
- Gardeners exchange recipes and cultural traditions with each other
- It is important that students reconnect and learn what locally grown food looks and tastes like
- We see, in the future, some form of experiential learning done in partnership with classes from diverse departments of the campus
- All students should have the opportunity to become engaged in where food comes from and is grown
- Stemming from student engagement could attract diverse faculty and staff whom could create a curriculum around the Community Garden

Sensory Garden

- The Sensory Garden is currently being constructed
- The garden is handled by Alexandria Hendrix, the University Sensory Garden Coordinator
- This project was mainly built for our handicap community members and gardeners
- The area will attune to the five sense
 - Sight - Sunflowers/Swiss Chard/Love-in-a-mist
 - Smell - Curry Plant/Oregano/Chocolate cosmos/Stocks
 - Sound - Fountain grass/Sweetcorn/Greater quaking grass
 - Taste - Spearmint/Rosemary/Chives/Nasturtium/Sweet Basil
 - Touch - Lamb's ear/Silver sage/Jerusalem sage
- It is located to the North facing side of the ICS Office and the Community Garden

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