

Garden Beet

Master Gardener Association of Tippecanoe County

April 2010

Garden Expo 2010

Saturday • April 24 • 10 am to 3 pm
Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds

Garden Expo returns with great vendors and speakers, a wonderful selection of Master Gardener-propagated plants, and the Garden Café with its fabulous “Just Desserts” Bar.

Speakers include Craig Whitten, who is *Exploring the Aquatic Landscape* at 10 am, and Cynthia Miller Wilhoite, owner of Soules Garden, speaking on *Shade Gardening* at 11:30 am.

Garden Expo Plant Sale

We can use all the healthy plants you can't! If you have potted plants from last fall, now is the time to uncover and start preparing them for the sale. Other possibilities include your volunteers, divided perennials, small shrubs, grasses, and veggie/herb seed starts. It's not too late to pot up for the sale. Watering with 1/2-strength fertilizer gives them a good start.

Plants will be collected and priced at the Swine Barn on Friday, April 23, from 3 to 6 pm. Bring your potted and labeled plants at that time. Tubers or bulbs sell best if bagged and labeled. Labels should include plant name, sun/shade and color/height if known. Plant sticks will be available at the April meeting. The ultra-fine Sharpie® works best for writing on the sticks, or you can write on 1/2-inch address labels and affix them to the sticks. If you need plastic pots, contact us for help.

Linda and Doug Mann

Goodies Needed for the Garden Café

The “Just Desserts” Bar needs HOMEMADE cookies, cakes, pies, fudge, or whatever goodie you would like to donate for our sale at Garden

Expo. Please note the emphasis on homemade—we don't want to re-sell store bought items. Here are a few guidelines:

- All Master Gardeners are encouraged to bring goodies—and don't forget to count your time baking and delivering as volunteer hours.

(Continued on page 3)

Purdue State MG Conference June 17-19 • Beck Center

The Purdue Master Gardener State Conference offers a tremendous opportunity to hear some inspiring speakers, take guided tours around the area, meet Master Gardeners from all over the state, and come away with lots of ideas on how to help others grow!

Find the registration materials online at www.hort.purdue.edu/mg, or pick them up at our April 6 and May 4 meetings.

Register early for great savings and volunteer early to pick your spot!

See Page 3 for Early Bird Discount, MGATC Subsidy info and Volunteer Opportunities.

Upcoming Programs

Unless noted otherwise, each meeting begins with a social time at 6:30 pm, followed by the program at 7 pm.*

April 6 • 6:30 pm • Extension Office
The Good, the Bad and the Ugly
Techniques and Plants
from MGATC gardeners

A Word from Don

by Don Nead

WOW! The 1st of April! Time to get moving on gardening. I hope all of you are as excited about the upcoming gardening season as I am; it looks to be a promising year for the Master Gardener Association of Tippecanoe County.

However, we have two major leadership needs. First, we need someone to step forward as a coordinator of volunteers for the Garden Expo. The Garden Expo is scheduled for Saturday, April 24, and we need someone to step in and help manage the volunteer assignments. If you are interested contact Monique Fontaine, Kay Falley or me.

Another key position that is missing a leader is our Fund Raising Committee. We need someone to take on this chair. As a former funds development person, I am willing to help train someone. If you are interested or want more details, please contact me.

We broke a record at the March meeting with attendance of 87. We are now an organization with over 220 members – and our goal for this year is to get all of you involved in one way or another. Remember, holding membership in the association requires payment of the annual dues and yearly recertification as a Master Gardener. If you plan on being a member of MGATC in 2011, you need to start tracking your volunteer hours now and send in a record of them. Your dues will not be accepted for 2011 membership unless you have recorded the necessary hours to be re-certified as a Master Gardener.

Start today. Think about how and where you want to “spend” your volunteer hours. This issue of the *Garden Beet* is full of opportunities; check them out and sign up early to secure the best time and activity for your schedule. Then, record the hours and send them in!

Shalom!

Square Foot Method Workshop

Join Eddie Boes at 7 pm on April 14 at the Tippecanoe County Extension Office to learn about *Vegetable and Herb Gardening Using the Square Foot Method* with helpful tips, useful information, and colorful photos.

The workshop includes:

- Introduction to the Square Foot Gardening Method
- Plant selection, sowing, and maintenance
- Planning for a successful growing season
- Enjoying the Harvest

Warm weather is quickly approaching, so join us as we prepare for abundance this growing season.

Volunteer News

April 10—Mind BOGgling Event

Sue Hiser needs MGs to donate finger foods for the event, or help with set-up/clean-up, nature crafts and/or nature hikes. Contact Sue Hiser at lhiser@iquest.net or (765) 583-2624. For tree planting contact Dan Dunten at ddunten@westlafayette.in.gov or 775-5172. (See story on page 7.)

April 17 & 18—Spring Fest/Hort Show

All the times have been filled for this show. Those who secured a volunteer spot should report to the Greenhouse headhouse potting room where the plants are for sale, located between the Hort Building and the Greenhouses. Parking can be a problem but here are a few ideas: Check out the parking lot just east of the Hort Building, in front of the King Pao Center for Performing Arts, and the Marstellar Garage.

April 23 & 24—Garden Expo

Volunteers are still needed for set-up duties on the 23rd and working in various areas on the 24th. Sign up at the April meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting, contact Monique Fountain to get in some volunteer hours. Plant sale volunteer slots have been filled, but plants—and goodies—are still needed. (See story on page 1.)

May 5-14—GAAP

Help beautify our community by planting. Contact Sue Hiser at lhiser@iquest.net or (765) 583-2624. (See page 4 for more info.)

June 17-19—State MG Conference

Volunteers are needed in many areas over three days. (See page 3 for more info.)

Aug 13—State Fair Purdue Day

Booth workers can choose from four time slots: 9 to 11:30 am, 11:30 am to 2 pm, 2 to 4:30 pm and 4:30 to 7 pm. Please consider giving your time to this event, but sign up early to secure your spot.

**Contact Kay Falley at (765) 471-4919
or kfalley@comcast.net for
information or to volunteer.**

Garden Expo (cont. from front)

- Pies are very popular and cakes sell well too. The first things to sell out in 2009 were fruit pies and carrot cake (Jan Fader's beautiful carrot cake recipe was featured in the *Garden Beet* after its appearance at last year's Expo!). Every year is different though, so use your imagination and bring something yummy!

- Last year we also had some requests for no (or low) sugar treats, so if you've got a good one, please consider that.

- Desserts must be able to be held overnight without refrigeration, so please, no custard or whipped cream.

- Please label your dessert so that we know what it is, and **especially let us know if there are nuts in the recipe**. If it's from the MG cookbook, please note that as well.

We will package your desserts into serving-sized portions, or you may do so ahead of time. Most importantly, please bring your desserts to the Swine Barn at the Fairgrounds between 3 and 6 pm on Friday, April 23, if at all possible, or before 10 am on Saturday. Thanks for helping make Expo's "Just Desserts" a great success!

Kay Conner

MG Conference (cont. from front)

Save \$50 with Discount & Subsidy

The cost of the basic conference is \$150, but if MGATC members register before April 30, the fee is \$100 (\$20 early bird discount from Purdue and \$30 subsidy from MGATC.) If you are unable to register early, you will still get the \$30 subsidy from MGATC. Beck Center offers a great venue, with plenty of parking close to the building. Meals provided include a continental breakfast, lunch and banquet dinner on Friday, plus a noon meal on Saturday. This is a great chance to experience a state conference without having to travel. If you want to attend the State Conference but are struggling with the cost because of economic reasons, partial scholarships are available. Contact Jeff Phillips or Don Nead for info. **Save the date and register before April 30 for big savings!**

Volunteer Opportunities Abound

The Purdue Master Gardener State Conference can't happen without a lot of help from you. Many committees are working with Rosie Lerner to plan all the

events, and they have identified some jobs that we need to fill during the three day conference. Contact Kay Falley at (765) 471-4919 or kfalley@comcast.net for information or to volunteer. Although more opportunities will develop, here is some general information on what you can sign up for now. Mark these dates on your calendar, and join us in hosting the State Conference this year, welcoming Master Gardeners from all over Indiana.

Thursday, June 17:

3-6 volunteers for afternoon tour

3-4 volunteers in early evening to set up the Vendor/Exhibit area and to welcome early birds.

Friday, June 18, morning:

2 volunteers to help with breakfast

3 volunteers to help with lunch

4 volunteers to host concurrent sessions, welcome speaker, etc

3 volunteers to work the Exhibit Area

2 volunteers for Silent Auction

4-6 workers at Registration/Hospitality

Friday, June 18, afternoon/evening:

4 volunteers to host concurrent sessions, welcome speakers, etc.

2 volunteers for Exhibit area

2 volunteers for Silent Auction

2 volunteers for Hospitality/Registration

5-6 volunteers to set up dinner

Saturday, June 19:

2 volunteers to help with breakfast

3 volunteers to help with lunch

6 session hosts

2 volunteers for Hospitality/Registration

1 volunteer for Silent Auction

Lynn Layden

THERE IS NO TIME LIKE THE OLD TIME,
WHEN YOU AND I WERE YOUNG,
WHEN THE BUDS OF APRIL BLOSSOMED,
AND THE BIRDS OF SPRINGTIME SANG!
THE GARDEN'S BRIGHTEST GLORIES BY SUMMER
SUNS ARE NURSED,
BUT OH, THE SWEET, SWEET VIOLETS, THE
FLOWERS THAT OPENED FIRST!

~OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES, 1809-1894

From the Secretary

Minutes of the March 3, 2010 meeting of the Master Gardener Association of Tippecanoe County

Program

Linda Mann introduced our guest speakers, Master Gardeners Dee and Bill Dilling, who presented a beautiful slide show on the roses of New Zealand taken from a month-long trip to visit Dee's pen pal of 45 years. The roses were outstanding in color and variety. One public park, Hamilton Gardens, had 58 hectares of gardens. If you are interested in seeing more pictures of the floral in New Zealand/Australia, please feel free to contact them.

Business Meeting

President Don Nead called the meeting to order. A thank you to Marj Lawson and her committee, for an outstanding annual banquet this year. One guest was introduced, Karen Butler, a community garden plot member.

Kay Falley, volunteer: All slots filled for Purdue Spring Fest. Our State Fair booth day is August 13.

Linda Mann, plant sale, Garden Expo: Sign-up sheet passed around to help set up, sell and tear down. Please mark your plant material donations: sun/shade perennials/annuals, what the plant is/variety, etc.

Monique Fontaine, Garden Expo: Sign-up sheet passed around. A volunteer coordinator is still needed. Please call Monique if you are interested. Please note the time change for Expo: now 10 am to 3 pm. Today an excellent promotion for the Garden Expo was on the front cover of the ShopSmart magazine.

Sue Hiser, MindBogling Event: Sue passed around a sign-up sheet for this new event to be held at The Celery Bog on April 10th. She is asking for MG to donate finger foods for the event, or help with set-up/clean-up, nature crafts and/or nature hikes.

Call for approval of February minutes from the *Garden Beet*. m/s/p

Treasurer's report: not available

Committee Reports:

Community Outreach: Robin Ham-

mel reported that a February 20 workshop on gardening was attended by 32 people.

Greenhouse Tours: Perry Schnarr reported that docent training will be held after March 25. A group from Sunnyside is touring on that day and you can observe the tour if you are interested in becoming a docent.

GAAP: Sue Hiser reported that the Great Annual Annual Planting will be in early May, before Mother's Day. We will be planting at the Tippecanoe County Courthouse, Columbian Park Zoo, Municipal Golf Course, Myers Pedestrian Bridge, Fowler House, and Soldiers Home. Look for sign-up at the next meeting. It is a fun day and a great social activity to get to know one another.

Demo Garden: John Pickett reported that Spring is Here! Look for emails on updates and work sessions.

Display Gardens: Linda Cooper asked for help in the Colonial Gardens that Deb Browning is planning.

Women's Shelter: Kim Baunach announced an April 10 workday from 10 am to 1 pm for prepping the area for planting this spring.

Children's Garden: Cheryl Borst reported that a Daisy Girl Scout Troop and a Cub Scout Troop will plant in late April. Also, Saturday educational workshops are being planned for children this year.

Gigantics Garden: Adam Cooper plans to get an early start this year in April, so that we will have sizeable plants for the state conference tour.

Community Gardens: E-mail or call Don Nead if you are interested in becoming a mentor. He would like to have one Master Gardener for every 12 community gardeners.

Old Business:

none at this time

New Business:

Jeff Phillips reminded us of the fruit workshop this Saturday at Miegs Farm. He will be flipping pancakes for

the breakfast.

State Conference, June 18-19 at Beck Center. Please sign up now and know that your board of directors is working on some sort of financial support for each registered Tippecanoe County MG.

Record attendance tonight of 86 people!

Meeting adjourned. m/s/p

GAAP 2010

Spring is coming and it is time to make our community more beautiful with our Great Annual Annual Planting! Plan to sign up for GAAP at the April meeting. We have set aside May 11 or 12 for Fowler House if they do confirm. Rain date for any planting days will be Friday, May 14, at 9:30 am. Hopefully, it will be sunny and warm, but we will still plant in a light rain. Please bring your gloves and trowel. Questions? Please contact Sue Hiser at lhiser@iquest.net or (765) 583-2624.

Wednesday, May 5, 9:30 am

Lafayette Municipal Golf Course—meet at first tee

Thursday, May 6, 9:30 am, 2 groups needed

Courthouse—meet at Columbian and 4th Street

Pedestrian Bridge over river (28 pots to plant)—meet on Depot side

Friday, May 7, 9:30 am

Columbian Park and Zoo—meet at the triangle

Monday, May 10, 9:30 am

Battlefield Museum (Battle Ground)

Thursday, May 13, 9:30 am

Soldiers Home—meet at Gazebo

Fresh Cress and Potato Salad

11/2 lbs. small potatoes,
unpeeled Salt
Water
1 large ripe avocado, pit
removed and flesh sliced
1 carrot, peeled and sliced
3 bunches garden cress
(about 1/2 cup) or to taste,
shredded
1 clove garlic, minced
4 T. extra-virgin olive oil
Juice of 1 to 2 lemons
Pepper

Boil potatoes in salted water
until fork tender. Cut into
quarters. In a bowl, combine
avocado slices, carrot, potato
quarters, garden cress, garlic,
and olive oil, and season to
taste with lemon juice and salt
and pepper. Makes 4 servings.

French Breakfast Radishes with Garden Cress on Buttered Baguette

2 baguettes (sliced in half
and cut into 3 sections)
1/4 c. unsalted butter, room
temperature
Salt
1 bunch garden cress,
washed and trimmed
12 French breakfast radish-
es, washed and sliced thin

Spread butter over bread
slices, and sprinkle with salt.
Place garden cress sprigs on
top of buttered bread, then
place radish slices on top of
watercress. Served best at
room temperature.

Herb Bed (continued from back)

water more frequently. Room light is usually adequate and will not dry out the medium as rapidly. It might be necessary to water from the side to prevent injuring the tiny plants. When the cress attains open green leaves, harvest by snipping just above the medium.

When purchasing garden cress at Farmers Markets or groceries, look for firm, fresh-looking, rich green bunches. Avoid cress with any signs of slime, wilting or discoloration. Keep the herb fresh by storing it in the refrigerator, stem-side down in a glass of water and covered with a plastic bag. There it will keep for up to five days. Keep in mind that cress is extremely perishable so purchase only when needed.

Use garden cress on sandwiches, as garnishes, or as an addition to soups and sauces. Cooked briefly, cress can add a subtle zip to a puree of spring vegetables like peas, favas and leeks. Its fresh or dried seed pods can be used as a peppery seasoning. The assertive flavor of garden cress adds a delicious blend when tossed with milder lettuces like Bibb and green leaf in salads. Its leaves are packed with iron, calcium, folic acid, and vitamins C and A.

I find the best way to rid a garden of unwanted, returning weeds is to learn to craft with them or to eat them. Here are two recipes that will help to accomplish the eating task.

A Day of Gardens and Art

Save the date! Historic Landmarks of Fountain County presents A Day of Gardens and Art in Attica on Saturday, June 20, from 9 am to 4 pm. The Art Fair is free, and the Garden Walk is \$15. The tour is "rain or shine," so bring your umbrella just in case! Need more info or want to help out as a garden docent? Contact Dennis Kovar at dhkovar24@comcast.net or (765) 762-0948.

Goodbye Helen

*That each day
I may walk unceasingly
on the banks of my water,
that my soul may repose
on the branches of trees
which I planted,
that I may refresh myself under
the shadow of my sycamore.
~Egyptian inscription*

Helen Lillich, founder of the West Lafayette Tree Fund and the lifeblood of beautification efforts in West Lafayette, died on March 11. Because of Helen's efforts, the City of West Lafayette had a tree ordinance and began planting street trees far before it crossed the minds of most other communities.

Helen single-handedly raised funds for the West Lafayette Tree Fund each year, giving the community reforested neighborhoods, tree-lined streets, and enhanced public spaces. She was a determined advocate for the trees and feared no one! Helen will be sorely missed but the Tree Fund vows to carry on her work. The city and tree fund are planning a fitting memorial to her.

Friends are invited to join Helen's family for remembrance at 3 pm on Saturday, April 17, at University Place, 1700 Lindberg Road in West Lafayette. Memorial contributions (no flowers, please) may be sent to the West Lafayette Tree Fund, City Hall, 609 W. Navajo, West Lafayette, IN 47906 or the University Place Foundation, 1700 Lindberg Road, West Lafayette, IN 47906.

**She was a
determined
advocate
for the
trees and
feared
no one!**

Beverly Shaw

The Latest Dirt

by Flora N. Fauna

Place a disposable coffee filter into a pot before you fill it with soil. It keeps the soil from escaping through the drainage hole. Plus, the filter can be left with the soil once the plant dies since almost all filters are biodegradable.

The American chestnut was the most important food and timber trees species in the Eastern hardwood forest. It was almost completely destroyed by a bark fungus accidentally introduced from the Orient in 1904. Within 40 years, over 30 million acres of chestnut trees were killed from Maine to Georgia and west to the Mississippi. This tragedy was the largest ecological disasters in American history. The loss of the chestnut, at the time of the Great Depression, had a devastating effect on the people and wildlife of the Appalachian Mountains. The economic loss from the chestnut's demise amounted to untold millions of dollars. Visit www.chestnuthilltreefarm.com and learn how Chestnut Hill Tree Farm developed the blight-resistant Dunstan Chestnut that now makes it possible to re-establish American Chestnut Trees and chestnut orchards in America.

Randolph E. Schmid, Associated Press science writer, writes that stressed plants produce an aspirin-like chemical. "Researchers at the National Center for Atmospheric Research were surprised to discover that stressed plants produce an aspirin-like chemical that can be detected in the air above the plants. The chemical may be a sort of immune response that helps protect the plants, the scientists speculated. According to the researchers, the finding raises the possibility that farmers, forest managers and others may eventually be able to start monitoring plants for early signs of a disease, an insect infestation or other types of stress. Currently they often do not know if an ecosystem is unhealthy until there are visible indicators, such as dead leaves. In addition to having an immune-like function, the chemical may

be a means for plants to communicate to neighboring plants, warning them of the threat. Previous studies have shown that plants being eaten by animals also produce chemicals that can be sensed by other plants nearby. The new findings, announced by NCAR in Boulder, Colorado, were published in the journal *Biogeosciences*. The research was funded by the National Science Foundation, NCAR's sponsor."

Earthworms were wiped out by the last Ice Age in North America, but they made a comeback in the 1600s and 1700s as stowaways in the soil of plants brought over by European settlers. When the pioneers moved westward, so did the earthworms, their cocoons attaching to wagons and horses' hooves.

Interested in purchasing a Survival Seed Vault that holds over 50,000 seeds of various non-hybrid vegetable seeds and stored in a resealable bucket with a shelf life of up to 7+ years? Check out <http://www.non-hybrid-seeds.com/survivalseedvault.html?gclid=CL73ktG4kKACFQIhDQodNRTEeg>

Blossom Tickets Are Here!

If you shop at Bennett's Greenhouse, please don't go without a supply of Blossom Tickets. This is a way for you to support the Lafayette Symphony Orchestra without it costing you a penny!

How is this possible? For every \$5 Blossom Ticket you buy, you can purchase \$5 worth of anything Bennett's has for sale—this includes all plants, mulch, seeds, potting soil, pots, birdbaths, as well as any services such as landscaping and lawn care that Bennett's provides. And for each \$5 Blossom Ticket you spend, Dick Bennett will give the LSO \$1—a very generous donation.

Blossom Tickets may be used from March 1 through May 31 and I have a basketful of them now. I will

have them at the April meeting and you can call (765-583-2509) or e-mail me (kay.conner@comcast.net) any time, and I will find a way to get them to you.

Please think of all the wonderful things you need from Bennett's and take lots of Blossom Tickets with you—a way for you to beautify your garden and support the LSO.

Kay Conner

Beekeeping Equipment

Master Gardener Doug Jones is trying to pull a beekeeping project together and needs some equipment. He's interested in seeing if there is any used beekeeping equipment out there that is not being used, specifically: bottom boards, hive bodies, frames, supers, smokers, veils, etc., that are in good shape. If anyone has any equipment or knows someone who does, they can contact me at dwj762@aol.com or by phone in the evenings at (765) 497-8916.

Tree Lafayette

Tree Lafayette will be planting over 60 trees to celebrate Arbor Day in April, and MGs are invited to help plan and plant these new trees in the Lafayette area. Contact Keith Shaw (former Master Gardener) at keithshaw3741@comcast.net or Rob Pahl at Rob.Pahl@alcoa.com to learn more about the group's activities. This non-profit organization needs both tree-planting help and financial support.

EARTH IS HERE
E SO KIND, THAT
JUST TICKLE HER
WITH A HOE AND
SHE LAUGHS WITH
A HARVEST.

~DOUGLAS WILLIAM JERROLD,
A LAND OF PLENTY

Member Updates

Renewing member:

Connie Joy '08, 7704 Peshewa
Lafayette IN 47905
491-5298 cwrightjoy@yahoo.com

New member:

James Moore, '09, 4029 W 150 N
West Lafayette IN 47906
743-5068 sheets1@comcast.net

New e-mail address:

Connie Sale csale@ecclife.net

Add to your list of members:

Teri Cook, 8122 Walnut Ridge Rd.
Lafayette IN 47909, 714-5870

John Reece, 652 N 8th St
Lafayette IN 47901, 269-9317

MindBoggling Event

April 10 • 9 am to 9:30 pm
Celery Bog Nature Area

Walks & Talks

9, 10 and 11 am— Morning Bird Walks.

10 am— Wetland Wonders Walk

1 pm— Tree Planting led by Stewardship Coordinator Dan Dunten. West Lafayette Mayor John Dennis will be there to kick off this West Lafayette Arbor Day event.

2 pm— Butterfly Garden Talk led by Master Gardener Lynn Layden and Entomologist John MacDonald.

2, 3, 4 pm— Afternoon Wildflower Walks led by Sam Postlethwait & Nick Harby.

Mini-Workshops

10, 11 am; 1, 2, 3 pm— Children's 45-minute workshop (\$2) taught by Rachelle Sipple.

Adult 2-hour watercolor workshop (\$10) taught by Rena Brouwer (Basic supplies provided or bring your own.)

10 am-12 noon— Basic Landscape Design and Technique

1:30-3:30 pm— Painting Intimate Studies of Nature

Seating is limited: For children e-

mail beau.monde@gmx.us. For adults e-mail wcena@tipmont.net.

All Day Activities

Wetland Family Activities led by Naturalist Mary Cutler and Holly Houser.

Indoor Celery Bog Nature Videos provided by Sam Postlethwait.

Art Exhibit of work inspired by Celery Bog and Wetlands. Items will be on display in the Lilly Nature Center classroom through the end of May.

Evening 7-9:30 pm

~ Introduction to Friends of Celery Bog and the evening by Joan Mohr Samuels, event coordinator
~ "Celery Bog History in a Nutshell— from Glacier to Marsh" by Naturalist Mary Cutler

~ Readings by Women's Creative Writing Group and coordinated by Nancy Patchen

~ "Art and the Celery Bog" by Jim Mailloux

~ Live music/art performance by "Deep & Simple" and Rena Brouwer— painting to "The Celery Bog Suite"

Refreshments by Master Gardeners and coordinated by Sue Hiser. Live music by local performing songwriters Joe Peters, Linda Hicks & Christi Clore, aka "Deep & Simple."

The Diversity of Jasper Pulaski

INPAWS features Ed Zschiedrich (nature photographer from Battle Ground) at their April 26 meeting from 7 to 9 pm. Ed will share his photos of the plants and wildlife encountered on his numerous hikes in several different areas of the Jasper-Pulaski State Fish and Wildlife Area.

Recycling & Composting

Master Gardener Ann Hunt is presenting an educational session on recycling, co-mingled recycling, reducing trash, and composting at the Lilly Nature Center on April 21 from 7 to 9 pm.

Wednesdays in the Wild

Apr 7 1-3 pm *Watershed Management, Water Quality Monitoring & the Wabash Sampling Blitz* Sara Peel (Watershed Coordinator, Wabash River Enhancement Corp), details WREC's watershed planning process, highlight results of the Wabash River water quality monitoring program, and suggest ways for local citizen involvement in these efforts. indoor—LNC

Apr 14 7-9 pm *Wildlife Everywhere! Managing Wildlife Populations Today* Carl Voglewede (Wildlife Biologist, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services) focuses on current problems and some solutions to wildlife population management in both the urban and rural environments. indoor—LNC

Apr 21 1-3 pm *Spring Wildflowers at Black Rock* Wildflower enthusiast Greg Shaner leads a walk to enjoy and identify wildflowers at this NICHES property in Warren County that features a sandstone outcrop rising over 100 feet from the Wabash River. Carpool leaves LNC at 12:15 pm. outdoor—BLACK ROCK

Apr 28 1-3 pm *Spring Warblers & Other Migrants* An indoor talk and a Celery Bog bird walk led by avid birder Susan Ulrich will cover warblers, vireos and other returning migrants. Bring binoculars. indoor/outdoor—LNC

May 5 1-3 pm *Woodland Gems (Spring Wildflowers)* Wildflower aficionados Chris & Jim Brewster lead this walk to see woodland flora in this small nature preserve. outdoor—M-S

Locations

BLACK ROCK (Nature Preserve): Meet at 1 pm in property parking lot (directions at www.nicheslandtrust.org) or join 12:15 pm LNC Carpool.

LNC (Lilly Nature Center/Celery Bog Nature Area): On north side of Lindberg Rd, between Northwestern and McCormick in WL.

M-S (Michaud-Sinninger/Cumberland Woods) Meet in athletic complex parking lot on Salisbury just north of Cumberland Ave in W. Lafayette.

Garden Beet

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I THANK YOU FOR THE SEEDS
... TOO OLD TO PLANT TREES
FOR MY OWN GRATIFICATION,
I SHALL DO IT
FOR MY POSTERITY ...
~THOMAS JEFFERSON, 1822

The Herb Bed by Connie Kingman

Garden cress (*Lepidium sativum*), sometimes called peppergrass, is a fast-growing, leafy herb and definitely a cool season lover. This annual crucifer has a tangy, pepper-like flavor and aroma – much like its more respected relative, perennial watercress, both of which are mustard family members.

Garden cress can be grown in the garden, in containers, on the windowsill, or simply sprouted on a growing medium for eating as sprouts. In the garden, cress grows best in moist and rich, well-drained soil or well-rotted compost. It prefers full sun and does not tolerate shade. Growing plants must be kept moist during dry periods or they will become bitter. In early spring as soon as the soil can be worked, sow seeds thickly at one-quarter inch deep, then cover lightly. Thin the seedlings to four inches between plants. Intercrop garden cress with radishes and the radishes will grow plump as you harvest the early rising cress from around it.

Most modern gardeners look upon this herb as a weed and eradicate it as soon as it spotted. Nicholas Culpeper states in his book *The Complete Herbal*, published in 1649, that, “The common Dittander (garden cress) has a small, white, slender, creeping root, which is difficult to remove from a garden once it is planted there.” Since this herb is an annual, keeping it from reseeding itself is more the task that should be attended. Personally, I have never had difficulty removing common peppergrass (*L. virginicum*) from my garden with its sandy soil. In fact, I encourage it to grow and flower and set seed for use in floral arrangements. I have on occasion also dried the seed heads for addition to dried arrangements and wreaths, always careful to pull the whole plant, root and seeds.

If you prefer not to incorporate this herb into the garden, container gardening will offer you more control over the herb. When container grown, ensure that containers sit on saucers of water that are replenished daily. Growing cress in containers allows them to be moved to different locations during

the day, always keeping them in sunny spots. Indoors, keep pots of cress in a cool, sunny window. Give them a shower in the sink twice a week to keep them moist and happy.

To harvest garden cress, snip the herb with scissors when its youngest leaves turn green, usually 10 days after sowing. Harvest fresh young cress leaves before the plants flower when they are very low-growing rosettes. If you wait until the plants bloom, you’ll find the leaves are tough and acrid.

Cress seeds are easy and quick to sprout indoors. Press seeds thickly and evenly on a clean, sterile and moistened growing medium, or on moistened paper towels or cheesecloth. Keep the seeds cool, about 50 degrees Fahrenheit, and in the dark for 10 to 14 days. Discard if there are any signs of fungus. Cress seedlings are susceptible to damping-off, hence the need for a sterile medium. Keep the sprouting medium moist but not soggy by watering or misting every day or two. When the seeds begin to shed their hulls, move them to a well-lighted location. If the sprouts are moved into direct sunlight,

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