

Garden Beet

Master Gardener Association of Tippecanoe County

June 2010

State MG Conference

June 17-19 • Beck Center

Register Now!

The Purdue Master Gardener State Conference is fast approaching! Registrations are coming in fast and will be shut off on June 4. If you haven't registered already, remember that every MGATC member is eligible for a \$30 refund, to be paid after conference notifies us who has registered from this association.

What's on Tap

Many of the special workshops and tours have filled, but there are lots of interesting speakers and workshops left. The tour date is Thursday, June 17, with the vendors and exhibitors coming on Friday, June 18. The banquet is that evening, too. There are workshops and a luncheon on Saturday.

Lots of hospitality is planned by our members on the Meals and Hospitality committees, including continental breakfasts, snacks, two lunches, and the banquet dinner! In addition to the vendors, we will have exhibits of other associations' activities, the Silent Auction, a book-signing table, and non-profit organizations with booths. Lots of education hours can be earned with this conference!

Volunteers Still Needed

To put on a conference of this size takes many volunteers. Here's what's still open:

1. Assisting the Food Committee at Friday breakfast, lunch and banquet as well as Saturday lunch. We have catering staff, but MGs would help steer the attendees to the food lines, beverage service, etc.

2. We need a host/hostess for each concurrent session on Friday and Saturday. This entails greeting the speaker (at Beck), making sure they have what they need and introducing the speaker to the group, thanking the speaker at the end for their presentation. Since we should have MGATC members in all the sessions, we hope we can find some volunteers once Rosie sends the details on who is registered.

3. Silent Auction: We need people early Friday morning to help set it up as the vendors give us their donated items. We will arrange these on tables with the bid charts in front of each item. We will need a volunteer to "babysit" the auction items to prevent their disappearance during the time the crowd is in the Silent Auction room (between sessions and at lunch). Would like to split this among 4-6 of us. This room will be locked during conference sessions.

As the sponsoring association for the 2010 state conference, we want this event to be memorable and of value to MGs attending from all over the state. You can ensure its success by being part of our volunteer team. Let us hear from you if you haven't signed up yet. Contact Lynn Layden at 463-2242 or layden.lm@verizon.net.

Lynn Layden

Upcoming Program

June 1 • 6:30 pm Social • 7 pm Program

NOTE Location Change:
Hort Building Room #117

Off with Their Heads!
Beverly Shaw & Dennis Kovar

From the Secretary

Minutes of the May 4, 2010
meeting of the Master Gardener
Association of Tippecanoe County

Program

Linda Mann introduced Cliff Sadof from the Purdue University Department of Entomology as our guest speaker. He spoke about biological control in your home garden with a power point presentation of garden pests.

Business Meeting

President Linda Mann called the meeting to order after explaining that the executive committee motion was approved for her to take over Don Nead's president position for the remainder of his term. This leaves the vice president position open. Linda asked that anyone interested in this should contact Maribeth Slebodnik, nominating committee.

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

Treasurer Lynn Layden reported a checking balance of \$2,864, new checking account at LSB \$6,292, savings \$127.01, and Vanguard money market \$10,467.

The budget committee will meet during the month of May.

Standing Committee reports:

Public Education: Robin Hamel reported that on May 22, Reni Winters of WinterHaven Farms will present a program at the Extension Office on wildflowers from 9-12 am.

Reports from special projects:

MindBogling Event: Sue Hiser thanks everyone who helped make this event a success.

Demo Garden: John Pickett reported that the early vegetables have been planted. All volunteers are welcome.

Display and Idea Gardens:

Linda Cooper reported that work days have been set for late May and they will send out an e-mail to let volunteers know. Cheryl Borst reported that the Children's Garden was toured by daycare. Bev Jones has added a water feature to this area. Please stop by to take a look.

Art in Bloom: This years date is June 26 and will be in the New Chauncey Neighborhood. Contact Lynn Layden to volunteer.

Old Business:

All standing committees will develop a handbook to pass on to the next chair to have consistency in our organization by May 31. Policy and procedure issues that need approval or restatement need to be developed and presented to a monthly meeting of the membership for adoption and approval.

Lynn Layden, reporting for Monique on the Garden Expo, reported that attendance was 2,500 plus. The plant sale was a huge success, with plans to enlarge the space for next year. This year 2,400 plant markers were used. A big thank you to everyone involved this year.

Volunteer Records: Carmen Dunn needs you to keep track of all volunteer hours. This year we will only accept dues from members who have completed their required volunteer and education hours. An e-mail will go out explaining what counts for volunteer/education hours.

Community Gardens: Jeff Philips reported that all spots are filled and there is a waiting list for Community Gardens. Mentors are still needed for this program.

State Conference 2010 hosted by Tippecanoe County MG is June 18-19

Meeting adjourned.

Volunteer Needs

June 17-19—State MG Conference

Assist the Food Committee, host concurrent sessions, or help with the Silent Auction. See story on front page and contact Lynn Layden.

Aug 13—State Fair Purdue Day

Booth workers can choose from 2 time slots: 3 workers are needed from 11:30 am to 2 pm, 1 is needed from 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
info or to volunteer.*

Association Refund

Those MGATC members who paid \$130 to register for the state conference will receive a \$30 refund check from Treasurer Lynn Layden when she receives a listing from Purdue Conferences.

GAAP Thank You!

Wow! During GAAP this year we planted 580 geraniums, 10 ferns, 20 perennials, and about 100 flats of annuals at the Lafayette Municipal Golf Course, Tippecanoe County Court House, Pedestrian Bridge, Columbian Park and Zoo, Tippecanoe Battlefield, Fowler House, and Soldiers Home. With all the volunteers, we spent less than an hour to about 3 hours at each of these locations to complete the plantings. The weather cooperated this year and we didn't have to plant in the rain. Everyone we worked with is most appreciative of our help with planting the flowers.

Many thanks to the following Master Gardeners for all their help: Ellen Barker, Ed Bisker, Rita Bombassaro, Kathy Burton, Carol Byers, Esther Chosnek, Judy Cox, Dee Dilling, Bill Dilling, Cindy Gilles, Ruth Ewbank, Karen Franzmeier, Jan Hansell, Sue Hiser, Wendy Kerssemakers, Jan Knotte, Nancy Kriebel, Lynn Layden, Etta Lazaros, Doug Mann, Pat Millard, Janie Petersen, Carol Peerman, Ann Pickett, John Pickett, Belva Pritchett, Carol Smith, Mary Ann Talavage, Nancy Werner, and Tom Werner—a total of 30 volunteers.

Special thanks to the many super-planters who worked two or more days! I so appreciate

the dedication of the Master Gardeners to this special planting project that gives our residents and visitors beautiful flowers to enjoy throughout the summer.

Sue Hiser, Coordinator

Your Input Needed

The 2010-2011 budget is being considered by the Finance Committee now. There has been a change in timing so that the knowledge and experience of the current committee and project chairs can be utilized in preparation for the spending plan.

All members of committees and projects that spend money should be reviewing plans for next year as well as estimates of what these opportunities could cost. The Finance Committee also would like to know if there are plans to seek grants and in-kind gifts from local businesses and foundations to fund these opportunities.

Because of the success of Garden Expo, there will be more money for activities. A form will be sent to each committee and project chair to provide these estimates.

Thanks for your help.

Lynn Layden, Treasurer

Help Boys & Girls Grow

Beverly Skinner is starting a garden at the Lynn Treece Boys and Girls Club and is seeking donations. There are approximately 18 young boys and girls learning to garden, and they need: apple tree, plum tree, carrot seeds, onion sets, seed potatoes, blueberry bushes, trowels, shovels, light wire fencing, metal fence posts, hay, petunias. Please contact Beverly at beverly.skinner@gmail.com if you can help.

Scholarship Thanks

I would just like to thank you for choosing me as the recipient for the 2010 Tippecanoe County Master Gardener Association Scholarship. It will greatly help me next year as I continue to further my education at Purdue University.

I would also like to thank you for your support to Purdue University's Horticulture Department. I really appreciate the Tippecanoe County Master Gardener Association helping me meet my financial obligations to get an education. My college experience is all the better because of organizations like yours.

*Sincerely,
Matthew Krieger*

The Latest Dirt

by Flora N. Fauna

If you dug and stored your glads last fall, you probably noticed lots of tiny cormlets (or cormels) clustered around the bases. Ranging in size from a BB to larger than a pea, these mini-corms will grow to blooming-size in a year or two.

Getting them to sprout, though, can be a challenge, due to their nearly impermeable shells. You can nick or gently crack the shells, but it's easier to dissolve them by soaking in full-strength household bleach for a few hours just before planting.

Plant in full sun, one to two inches deep and one to two inches apart, depending on size. Keep the soil moist but not soggy till grass-like foliage emerges and, for optimal growth, throughout the summer. With good care, any cormlet larger than a pea will grow to blooming-size by the time you harvest them in the fall, and the smaller ones by the following fall. (Old House Gardens www.oldhousegardens.com)

The economy is picking up, but it's still a tough world out there. On April 2, three of the oldest and most highly respected plant suppliers in the country filed for bankruptcy protection: Wayside, Park, and Jackson and Perkins. According to a spokesperson for the three, "The horticulture industry is challenging and highly seasonal in

the best of times. As the general economic situation declined starting in 2008, demand for luxury, non-essential purchases dropped sharply. Seeking court protection and restructuring is clearly our best option for returning to a position where we can focus on delighting our customers."

Invasive species are becoming dominant in our environment and eliminating many of our diverse native species and altering our soils. To learn about species invading our state, check out the Midwest Invasive Plant Network at <http://www.mipn.org/>.

All-America Selections is pleased to announce that the 2010 The American Garden Award (AGA) is now open for voting. AGA is a unique opportunity for the general public as well as professional horticulturists to vote on a specific flower or plant that they think has the most appealing garden characteristics.

Some of the world's most prestigious flower breeders have chosen their best varieties to enter into this competition. The four entries are Echinacea 'Prairie Splendor', Ornamental Pepper 'Purple Flash', Rudbeckia 'Denver Daisy', and Zinnia Profusion 'Knee-High Red'. To purchase any of these flowers for your home garden, visit

your local garden retailer.

In cooperation with 18 highly respected public gardens throughout the United States, All-America Selections presents the four entries so garden visitors can view the plants in person, then vote for their favorite.

The participating gardens are Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Boerner Botanica Gardens, Cantigny Gardens, Chicago Botanic Garden, Chicago Park District, Cole Gardens, Dallas Arboretum & Botanical Garden, Denver Botanic Garden, Longwood Gardens, Massachusetts Horticultural Society, Missouri Botanical Garden, Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City, Oregon State Fairgrounds, Park Seed Company, Pier 39, Inc., Rotary Botanical Gardens, San Francisco Botanical Garden, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

There are a number of ways to vote: by texting a given code to a polling number, by going to www.americangardenaward.com and clicking on the voting button, by using postage-paid voting postcards available at most gardens, or by becoming a fan of American Garden Award on Facebook. For anyone who is unable to visit one of those 18 gardens, online voting is another way to "View and Vote!"

All gardens will be planted by June 1 and voting is open until August 31. The winners will be announced in September. For images, logo,

or further info, contact Diane Blazek, American Garden Award, 1311 Butterfield Rd., Ste 310, Downers Grove, IL 60515.

Herb Bed

(continued from back)

songbirds may eventually leave and never return. Another source noted that dense cover of bush honeysuckle attracts mice, especially white-footed mice that attract larval ticks that feed off the mice and carry harmful diseases to humans, including Lyme's disease. The cycle of tick disease is complicated and includes deer, which are the adult tick's preferred source of nutrition. I even came across a source that found that the number of ticks double in an ecosystem where invasive shrubs like the Japanese bush honeysuckle exists.

Under usual circumstances, I look forward to learning about the herbal qualities of plants; however, bush honeysuckles do not elicit that same anticipation from me. My only thought is how to eradicate them. I don't care that its name has a charming origin, probably derived from the fact that children enjoy sucking the nectar from its blossoms. I don't care that ancient Chinese writings dating back to 659 AD find honeysuckle used in medicine as one of the most potent of their herbs, acting as an agent to clear heat and relieve toxicity within the body. I don't care that the fruit of

bush honeysuckle can be used to make jelly when prepared like blueberries. I don't care that in experiments, its flower extracts were also shown to lower cholesterol and proved to be antiviral and antibacterial. I only wish it banned from my woodland.

I am thankful, though, that bush honeysuckle is shallow rooted and easily pulled when small. Eradicating larger bushes is time- and labor-intensive work involving muscles, loppers, shovels, weed whackers with blades, chainsaws, and the need to paint freshly cut stems with a powerful herbicide. Then the debris must be properly handled to inhibit it from re-rooting.

I recently discovered a tool that may speed up the eradication process: the honeysuckle popper. Its construction is very simple and uses leverage to remove unwanted bushes. It also works on buckthorn, blackberry bushes, autumn olive, privet, multiflora rose, burning bush, barberry, yucca, small evergreen shrubs, and many more. Information about this handy tool is found at <http://www.misterhoneysuckle.com>. Now, if I can talk my husband into buying a couple tools, we can work together popping away over the next few years. After watching the two men on the website video struggle to remove a larger bush, looks like I'll be able to skip the gym and get my workout in the field.

Garden Beet Soup

4 medium beets, about 1 pound
1 large carrot
2 cloves garlic
3 cups chicken stock or water
1 lemon, juiced
1 t. salt, or to taste
freshly ground black pepper, to taste
1/2 cup sour cream or plain yogurt
2 T. chopped fresh dill leaves (optional, but good)

Peel and grate beets and carrot. Press or mince garlic. Add to saucepan with broth or water and simmer until all vegetables are tender, about 10 minutes. Add lemon juice, salt and pepper. Chill, if serving cold. When ready to serve, top with sour cream and dill, if using. Eat hot or cold.

Make extra and freeze to serve hot when the days are cold. Serves four.

TRUE
GARDENERS
CANNOT BEAR
A GLOVE
BETWEEN THE
SURE TOUCH
AND THE
TENDER ROOT.

~MARY SARTON

From the President's Desk

by Linda Mann

I would first like to congratulate the MGATC for the wonderful Garden Expo 2010. It was a great success, measured by the increase in attendance, great lecture participation and income. The public now seems to be marking this event on their calendars and it's a great way to fulfill our mission of "Helping Others Grow." I thank everyone who gives of themselves and volunteers for our many projects during this busy spring gardening season.

In business matters: Your board is working on four main areas for improvements to MGATC. These are bylaws, finances, membership, and volunteering. As we continue to grow, all are important to the success of the organization. You will continue to be updated through the **Garden Beet** and our monthly meetings as to our progress.

I am urging all to keep up with their volunteer hours to maintain active membership. Coming to six monthly meetings will fulfill volunteer and education hours for most after your internship. We love to see your smiling faces. These hours must be turned in to count.

Thanks for your support, and contact me anytime!

linda.mann1@comcast.net

Art in Bloom Garden Tour

June 26 • 10 am to 3 pm

This year's tour pairs gardens in New Chauncey Neighborhood in West Lafayette with talented local artists. The tour will go on rain or shine, with maps available at Lincoln Park on Lincoln Street, between Robinson and Rose. Signs and balloons will show the way!

The tour offers a glimpse of at least six gardens paired with a variety of artists from pottery, to woodworking, fabric art, glass garden art, and jewelry. There is no charge for the tour.

Volunteers who have already signed up to work will be contacted as to when and where each will be assigned. If you haven't signed up, please contact Lynn Layden at layden.lm@verizon.net or 463-2242.

A Day of Gardens and Art

Saturday • June 12
9 am - 4 pm

Historic Landmarks of Fountain County presents A Day of Gardens and Art in historic Attica.

Tour nine distinctive gardens and historic homes and attend the floral, gardening and herb grilling programs.

Shop the FREE Art Fair at 200 South Brady Street that features glass, pottery, painting, and more as you enjoy the musicians.

The Garden Walk is \$15 and is "rain or shine," so bring your umbrella just in case! Tour headquarters are at the Old Attica Library at 100 South Brady Street.

Need more info or want to help out as a garden docent? Contact Dennis Kovar (dhkovar24@comcast.net or 765.762.0948) or Emily Harrison (765.762.0948).

ARRANGING A BOWL OF
FLOWERS IN THE MORNING
CAN GIVE A SENSE OF QUIET
IN A CROWDED DAY - LIKE WRITING A
POEM, OR SAYING A PRAYER.

~ANNE MORROW LINDBERGH

Wednesdays in the Wild

Jun 2 1-3 pm ***Up-close Bird ID Using Mist Nets*** Mick & Sally Weeks (Purdue Dept of Forestry & Natural Resources) demonstrate the use of mist nets and identify the birds that come to the nets during this program: a wonderful opportunity to get an up-close look at our local birds. outdoor—WNC

Jun 9 1-3 pm ***Birds of the Grasslands*** Join Susan Ulrich and other members of the Sycamore Audubon Society on this prairie walk to talk about bird species in grasslands, as well as identify the plants, insects and other critters seen along the way. Entry pass or \$5 fee required. Bring binoculars & park pass or \$5/car gate fee. outdoor—STPK

Jun 16 1-3 pm ***NICHES Property Walk & Talk*** Gus Nyberg (NICHES Executive Director) leads this exploration of the oak woodlands in Warren County along the bluffs of the Wabash River. Carpool leaves LNC at noon. outdoor —W-L

Jun 23 1-3 pm ***Stream Critters*** Explore Burnett Creek and find out who lives there. Program led by Mary Cutler (Tippecanoe County Naturalist). Bring boots. indoor/outdoor—BEEC

Jun 30 8-10 pm ***Goin' Batty (ALL about BATS)*** Join Naturalist Mary Cutler to explore the fascinating world of Indiana's bats. An indoor program

highlighting bat natural history will be followed by a hike to go bat-watching at the Battlefield. Bring a flashlight! indoor/outdoor—BEEC

Locations

BEEC (Brier Environmental Educ Ctr): In Battle Ground: turn into drive by small sign on south side of Prophet St near intersection with N. 9th St.

STPK (Prophetstown State Park): Enter the park via Swisher Rd (off North Ninth St, just south of Battle Ground); meet at the Picnic Shelter in Prairie View Picnic Area

W-L (Weiler-Leopold): Meet at 1 pm in Weiler-Leopold parking lot (directions at www.nicheslandtrust.org) or join 12 noon LNC Carpool.

WNC (Wah-ba-shik-a Nature Center): In Battle Ground, at the end of the Battlefield Monument parking lot off N. 9th St.

Tree Pruning

The West Lafayette Tree Fund is seeking volunteers to help prune trees and care for public-right-of-ways in June. Volunteers are asked to show up at 9 a.m. on June 3 and 10 for two-hour work sessions. Meet at the Harrison Bridge Interchange on the east side of N. River Road, south side of the bridge.

Training in International Society of Arboriculture Standards will be provided at the beginning of each session. Those who will help should bring pruners and gloves. For more information, contact Beverly Shaw, 775-5161.

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Don Nead's dear wife, Virginia.

There will be a Celebration of Life service for Ginny at Central Presbyterian Church in Lafayette on Saturday, June 12, at 10 am.

If you wish to send Don a card, his address is:

Don Nead
2725 Westminster
Court
West Lafayette, IN
47906-1414

Garden Beet

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HE IS HAPPIEST WHO
HATH POWER TO GATHER
WISDOM FROM A FLOWER.
~MARY HOWITT~

The Herb Bed

by Connie Kingman

June is Invasive Species Awareness Month in Indiana as officially proclaimed by Governor Mitch Daniels. According to Purdue University at <http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/CAPS/browsePest.html>, “the term invasive species is a biological attribute, meaning that the species under consideration can establish itself and out-compete other species, usually severely disrupting the stability of the affected ecosystem.”

As I look over Purdue’s list of “most unwanted” plants, I am reminded that I have one of those self-establishing, out-competing plants in my woods – an Asian bush honeysuckle I believe to be Morrow’s (*Lonicera morrowii*). Thanks to a well-meaning DNR and my naiveté, years ago I planted a few specimens hoping to encourage a wildlife-friendly habitat. Now those few plantings have multiplied into approximately 15 acres of woodland.

Morrow’s honeysuckle originates from Russia, Asia, and Japan and is related to the vine honeysuckle. In North America, non-native species of honeysuckle can quickly grow and spread into dense thickets, disrupting natural ecosystems. Although the plants provide cover for wildlife and food for insects and birds, these honeysuckles out-compete native plants for light, soil and water, eliminating the native plants that the wildlife depend upon naturally.

There are other invasive bush honeysuckles that cause problems. Amur, Tartarian and Belle are three more of the common ones. All four deciduous shrubs grow to heights of 6-20 feet and can block the sunlight needed for native flora to grow. They have egg-shaped leaves that range from 1 to 2 inches and they have flowers that are tubular and fragrant. The differences between the flowers of these four species are dependent on corolla and pedicel length and vary from pink/red to white/yellow, blooming from May to June with typically red berries. Tartarian honeysuckle was first cultivated in North America in 1752. Morrow’s

and Amur honeysuckles were introduced into the United States in 1875 and 1855 respectively. Originally the bush honeysuckles were promoted by state and federal agencies to improve wildlife habitat and as a popular ornamental. It is now known that bush honeysuckles are altering our soils and choking out our native flora.

Bush honeysuckle seeds have spread from private gardens to forests, prairies and wetlands. The shrub grows quickly and aggressively. It is one of the first plants to put on leaves in the spring and one of the last to drop its leaves in the winter. This trait also makes it easy to identify for early and late season eradication. Each root is capable of putting out multiple runners producing many new plants along its tendrils. Its shallow root system robs much of the available water from the soil thus eliminating its competition.

I have read that songbirds nesting in honeysuckle experience higher rates of nest attacks than birds nesting in native plants and that in areas dominated by bush honeysuckle,

(Continued on page 5)