

# Garden Beet

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Master Gardener Association of Tippecanoe County

May 2010

## Shalom from Don

by Don Nead

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A few last words: It was with real regret that the circumstances of my wife's illness made it necessary for me to step down as president.

The MGATC is a great and growing organization and needs to stay on top of bringing back old members, as well as integrating new members from the annual class. My hat is off to the interns from this last class; you have stepped forward to become involved in the association and its many projects.

To the older members who are on the sideline: I challenge you to return and become an active part of the association by attending meetings, as well as working on some of our projects. And by all means don't forget to turn in your volunteer and continuing education hours so that, when you pay your dues in the fall, you can continue to be a certified Master Gardener.

In the future I will continue to be a part of you. Thanks for your support over the past few months. SHALOM!

## State MG Conference

June 17-19 • Beck Center

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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](http://www.hort.purdue.edu/mg), or pick them up at our April 6 and May 4 meetings.

## Register Early to Save \$50

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. 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

**We still need 38-40 volunteers during these times to make the conference a success:**

6/17 Thursday afternoon and early evening  
6/18 Friday morning, afternoon and evening  
6/19 Saturday morning and afternoon

Contact Kay Falley at (765) 471-4919 or [kfalley@comcast.net](mailto:kfalley@comcast.net) for information or to volunteer. You'll be assigned at task based on the time you're available. Mark these dates on your calendar, and join us in hosting the State Conference this year, welcoming Master Gardeners from all over Indiana.

## Upcoming Programs

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

**May 4 • 6:30 pm • Extension Office**

***Beneficial Bugs***

**Cliff Sadof**

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# From the Secretary

Minutes of the April 6, 2010  
meeting of the Master Gardener  
Association of Tippecanoe County

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## Program

Linda Mann introduced fellow Master Gardeners Peter Cooper, Lynn Layden, Wendy Kerssemakers, and Doug Mann for the evening program: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly. Each MG represented one of our community garden spots and spoke of what varieties work and what ones do not. During the social time, tips submitted from all MG were shared by power point.

Anne Hunt introduced the Master Gardener scholarship winner, Matthew Kreager, from Batesville, Indiana. He is a junior in the landscape architecture program at Purdue University and is very appreciative of our support.

## Business Meeting

President Don Nead called the meeting to order and recognized our attendance for the evening at 82.

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

Treasurer Lynn Layden reported a checking balance of \$3638.04, new checking account at LSB \$976.47, savings \$127.01, and Vanguard money market \$10,467.22.

Income for the month \$1,837.20  
Expenses \$3612.26

Board of Director's Special Meeting. New policy: No one is to sign anything for the MGATC, Inc., unless approved by the Board. Also the selection of the speaker for the annual meeting shall be done by the Program Committee until further notice.

### Standing Committee reports:

All standing committees will develop a handbook to pass on to the next chair to have consistency in our organization. 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.

Public Education: Robin Hammel reported that on May 22, Reni

Winters of WinterHaven Farms will present a program at the Extension Office on wildflowers.

### Reports from special projects:

GAAP: Sue Hiser reminded people to sign up to help plant.

Demo Garden: John Pickett reported that the early vegetables have been planted. May 8 is the big planting day and he hopes to see lots of Master Gardeners there.

Display and Idea Gardens: Peter Cooper reported that work days have been set for 4/11, 2-4 pm and 4/14, 5:30-7:00 pm

Edie Boes, MG Intern, will present a program on Square Foot Gardening on April 14 at 7 pm at the Extension Office.

Mauscouteen Adopt-A-Spots: Kathie Cox announced spring clean-up will be on May 13 from 9-11 am and has a sign-up sheet for weekly maintenance.

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.

Community Gardens: Don Nead reported that we still need mentors for Community Garden Project. Please talk with him if you are interested.

### Old Business:

Garden Expo date is Saturday, April 24. Set-up is on Friday, April 23. Our publicity has been very good this year so we expect a large attendance.

Blossom Tickets are available from Kay Conner. Please contact her for more info.

State Conference 2010 hosted by Tippecanoe County MG June 18-19  
Meeting adjourned.

## MGATC Board 4/20/10

The meeting was called to order by Linda Mann, Vice President. Members attending were Sue Hiser, Linda Cooper, Lynn Layden and Linda Mann. Members absent were Charlene Roden and Carla Barnhart. An invitation to attend had been given to Maribeth Sledbodnik, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, but she was unable to be there.

The first item of business was to acknowledge the receipt of the resignation of the President of MGATC, Don Nead, due to the grave illness of his wife. Sue Hiser moved that the Board accept the resignation, seconded by Linda Cooper. The motion carried. Lynn Layden moved that Linda Mann serve the remainder of Don's term, until August 31, 2010. The motion was seconded and carried. Sue Hiser moved that Linda Mann become the second, optional signature on MGATC bank accounts. The motion was seconded and was passed. Linda will set up a time with Lynn to visit Lafayette Savings Bank.

Linda Mann asked for an update on Garden Expo and there was discussion of last minute preparations.

A list of unfinished Board projects was developed to provide structure for the remaining four months of this year. They include:

- (1) finishing a listing of approved volunteer projects;
- (2) finishing the bylaw revision;
- (3) assembling Job Descriptions for standing committee chair and project chair;
- (4) developing the mission of the Membership Committee and new policies regarding reporting of service hours;
- (5) the formation of a fund development committee to assist with grants, and
- (6) the recruitment of two members to the Nominating Committee to assist Maribeth. Linda Mann will

contact Maribeth to talk about finding a replacement for Vice President, who will continue onto next year's slate of nominated officers.

Lynn handed out copies of the proposed Finance policies and procedures and asked that they be considered and approved at the next Board meeting. She also had two other questions: how

to recruit additional volunteers to help Doug Jones solicit items for the Silent Auction at the State Master Gardener Conference, and should the MGATC make a reservation at Beck Center for the annual meeting in 2011, knowing that the cost will be at least \$300? The Silent Auction is important as it will raise most of our goal of \$1000 for

support of the 2011 State Conference in Fort Wayne. There will be additional financial support from vendor fees and sale of the calendars.

Linda will set a date for a meeting in May after consultation with missing Board members. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Lynn Layden, Secretary pro tem*

## Treasurer's Report

Lynn Layden, Treasurer

Note: The "bank charge" expense item is a transfer of \$1,000 to the second checking account. FECU checking account: \$3638.04. LSB checking account: \$976.47. FECU savings account: \$127.01.

### Income/Expense by Category - All Dates 8/30/2009 through 4/4/2010

Category Description	8/30/2009- 8/30/2009	10/1/2009- 12/31/2009	1/1/2010- 3/31/2010	4/1/2010- 4/4/2010	OVERALL TOTAL
<b>INCOME</b>					
Comm. Garden Sign	0.00	0.00	440.00	0.00	440.00
Contributions	0.00	25.00	250.00	0.00	275.00
Cookbook sales	66.40	61.20	109.20	0.00	236.80
Garden Expo gross receipts	0.00	0.00	440.00	0.00	440.00
Grants	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
Membership dues	745.00	1,690.00	330.00	0.00	2,765.00
Other Inc	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Seed Sales	0.00	0.00	152.00	0.00	152.00
Social Event fees	0.00	0.00	46.00	0.00	46.00
State Conference booth fees	0.00	0.00	70.00	0.00	70.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>813.40</b>	<b>3,876.20</b>	<b>1,837.20</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>6,526.80</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Uncategorized	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
AASDG Budget	0.00	31.99	10.20	0.00	42.19
AASDG Grant	0.00	0.00	464.94	0.00	464.94
Bank Charge	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Children's Garden	3.84	747.29	100.00	0.00	851.13
Community Garden	0.00	0.00	600.00	0.00	600.00
Cumberland Adopt a spot	0.00	95.04	74.83	0.00	169.87
Demonstration Garden	80.00	60.23	0.00	0.00	140.23
Garden Beet	76.10	527.75	426.91	0.00	1,030.76
Garden Expo Booths	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	50.00
Hanna Adopt a spot	0.00	53.32	0.00	0.00	53.32
Membership Directory	0.00	0.00	312.01	0.00	312.01
Memory Garden	0.00	25.50	0.00	0.00	25.50
Office Supplies, administration	14.50	0.00	163.67	0.00	198.17
Public education workshops	0.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	20.00
Seed Expense	0.00	0.00	39.70	0.00	39.70
Social Events	0.00	0.00	300.00	0.00	300.00
Speakers, program expense	21.40	21.00	50.00	0.00	92.40
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>195.84</b>	<b>1,582.12</b>	<b>3,612.26</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>5,390.22</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>617.56</b>	<b>2,294.08</b>	<b>-1,775.06</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,136.58</b>

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# Wednesdays in the Wild

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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

May 12 1-3 pm **Indiana's Native Shrubs in Flower** Sally Weeks (Purdue Dendrologist) says, "Shrubs are flowering plants too!" On this walk, she reviews as many as are blooming—which should be quite a few since there are about 50 shrub species at the Purdue Wildlife Area. outdoor—PWA

May 19 1-3 pm **NICHES Property Walk & Talk** Gus Nyberg (NICHES Executive Director) leads this naturalist ramble to explore the rare natural community of the sand barrens Granville Sand Barrens. Plants of special interest blooming at this time are the Hairy Puccoon and the Fringed Puccoon. Carpool leaves LNC at 12:30 pm. outdoor—GSB

May 26 7-9 pm **Puddles in the Woods: Vernal Pools** Naturalist Mary Cutler provides an overview of the incredible ecology of these unique wetlands, followed by a chance to go outdoors to experience a vernal pool and meet its inhabitants. Bring Boots! indoor/outdoor—LNC

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

## Locations

**GSB** (Granville Sand Barrens): Meet at 1 pm in property parking lot (directions at [www.nicheslandtrust.org](http://www.nicheslandtrust.org)) or join 12:30 pm LNC Carpool.

**LNC** (Lilly Nature Center/Celery Bog Nature Area): In West Lafayette, on north side of Lindberg Rd, between Northwestern and McCormick.

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

**PWA** (Purdue Wildlife Area): Take 26 west across the Purdue Campus; 1/4 mile past 750W turn right (north) into gravel drive where big white pines start (small black & white sign); park at end of lane.

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

## RIP Squad Spring Garlic Mustard Pulls

Plastic bags will be provided, but bring your own gardening gloves and dress for poison ivy! Please call a workday contact person about "iffy" weather and to confirm the meeting place.

## Wednesdays 3-5 pm at West Lafayette Parks

### Thursdays 3-5 pm at Tippecanoe County Parks

- May 5 Celery Bog Nature Area, WL
- May 6 Ross Hills Park, Tipp
- May 12 Celery Bog Nature Area, WL
- May 13 Prophet's Rock Woods, Tipp
- May 19 Happy Hollow Park, WL
- May 20 Ross Hills Park, Tipp
- May 26 Celery Bog Nature Area, WL
- May 27 Ross Hills Park, Tipp

**Celery Bog Nature Area:** Meet at parking lot closest to Lilly Nature Center.

**Happy Hollow Park:** Meet in the last parking lot after entering the park from Happy Hollow Rd in West Lafayette.

**Prophet's Rock Woods:** Meet at little parking lot on Prophets Rock Rd near Prophet's Rock, just north of 600N in Battle Ground.

**Ross Hills Park** (in Tippecanoe County near Ravines Golf Course): Take South River Rd/Division Rd past Ft. Ouiatenon, and past the Granville Bridge; then turn left on 875 W (at the Ravines Golf Course). Follow signs for entrance to Ross Hills Park. Meet at far end of 2nd parking area (loop drive) on the left.

West Lafayette contact: Dan Dunten 775-5172 or [ddunten@westlafayette.in.gov](mailto:ddunten@westlafayette.in.gov), Bob Cheever 775-5124

Tippecanoe contacts: Joan Samuels 567-7023, Mary Sue Waser 589-3228, Margareta Fong 463-5093

## Saturdays 9:30 am-noon at NICHES properties

May 1 Black Rock Nature Preserve—Warren County (Jeff Ganley); followed by a 1 pm Springtime Hike

May 8 Moyer-Gould Woods—Carroll County (Brad Weigel) Garlic mustard removal & trail maintenance; followed by 1 pm hike

For NICHES property directions go to [www.nicheslandtrust.org](http://www.nicheslandtrust.org) or call contact person.

NICHES contacts: Brad Weigel 765-423-1605, [niches@nicheslandtrust.org](mailto:niches@nicheslandtrust.org) or Susan Ulrich 765-583-2275

## Mind BOGgling Event

Many thanks to the volunteers who made cookies and helped with the activities and the reception at the Mind BOGgling Event. Over 400 people attended the activities during the day that included wildflower, bird and wetland hikes led by experts; a butterfly garden presentation; children's nature crafts; art classes; and an art show of works by local artists inspired by nature and the Celery Bog. The evening program was attended by over 125 people and included a talk on the history of the Celery Bog, excellent music by Joe Peters' group Deep & Simple, readings about nature, and a very talented watercolor artist, Rena Brouwer, at work, plus the art show. The event was a wonderful success!

Lynn Hiser

## Blue Cheese Potato Cakes

1-1/2 to 1-3/4 lbs. baking potatoes, peeled and cut into 2" pieces  
2 T. unsalted butter  
2 T. minced fresh chives  
1 T. minced garlic  
1/4 t. ground nutmeg  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste  
2 T. minced fresh dill  
2 T. minced fresh flat-leaf parsley  
1 c. blue cheese, crumbled  
1 egg yolk  
1 c. all-purpose flour  
2 eggs beaten with 1/2 c. 2% milk  
1 to 1-1/2 c. seasoned breadcrumbs  
1 to 1-1/2 c. canola oil  
Sour cream or creme fraiche for topping, optional

Cook potatoes in boiling salted water for 12 to 15 minutes or until they are tender. Drain and mash the potatoes. In a small skillet, melt the butter over low heat. Saut the chives and garlic 1 to 2 minutes or until soft. Stir into the mashed potatoes. Stir in the nutmeg, salt, pepper, dill, and parsley. Remove from the heat and cool completely. Stir in the blue cheese and egg yolk. The cheese should remain in lumps scattered through the potatoes.

Preheat the oven to 250 degrees F. Shape the potato mixture into 12 cakes and refrigerate for 20 minutes to firm them. Lightly dredge each cake in the flour, then coat it with the egg-milk mixture and dredge it in the breadcrumbs. In a large skillet, heat the oil over medium-high heat. Working in batches, add the potato cakes to the hot oil and cook for 3 to 5 minutes on each side, or until browned. The cakes can be prepared ahead up to this point and refrigerated until later. To serve, place the cakes on a baking sheet and reheat them in the oven for about 5 minutes. Serve with a dollop of sour cream or creme fraiche.

## Herb Bed (continued from back)

When growing dill for pickling, a whole flower head and leaves are often placed in each jar with the pickled vegetables. Harvest the dill when the head is still green and flexible, with flowers having given way to seeds – the seeds do not need to be fully mature. If there is an abundance of dill growing in the garden, use its feathery green leaves and yellow cluster flowers in floral arrangements, but remember to leave a plant growing in the garden if you want it to self-sow.

Dried dill seeds and leaves can be stored up to a year in airtight containers as long as they are kept away from heat and bright light. Seeds must be very dry before they are stored. If any signs of moisture appear in the container shortly after storage, remove the seeds and dry them further. Seeds can be used whole or crushed in a mill or coffee grinder. Use much like caraway and fennel seeds, sprinkled over casseroles and breads, and in salad dressings. Freshly plucked dill leaves can be frozen or refrigerated.

Although dill seed and dill weed come from the same plant, they each have distinct flavors. Dill weed is much milder than the seed and its delicate flavor can enhance the taste of many dishes. Dill seed on the other hand, has a stronger flavor that can be somewhat bitter and citrusy. Both can be used for a variety of dishes but keep in mind that dill seed will dominate, while dill weed will enhance.

This sweetly pungent and sharp tasting herb, something between the tastes of anise and caraway, is used as a seasoning in the preparation of many dishes around the world. Dill is reputed to be one of the oldest known culinary herbs with ancient Egyptians mentioning it in their writings dating back five millennia. And though this tall, leggy herb is best known for its use in pickling, don't forget to

incorporate its wonderful flavor into your everyday cooking. The next time you throw hamburgers on the grill, sprinkle dill weed on the patties, just as you would salt and pepper. To preserve the delicate flavor of dill weed when mincing, snip the leaves with scissors and add only at the last minute of cooking. This will ensure the maximum flavor and aroma are brought out in the dish. Also, use dill sparingly as its flavor grows.

## Potato Salad With Dill

16 to 20 new potatoes  
1/2 c. oil and vinegar dressing  
1/2 t. coarse salt  
2 cloves garlic, peeled and minced  
1/4 c. chives or onions, minced  
1/2 c. mayonnaise  
1/2 t. mustard powder  
1/2 c. fresh dill weed, or 1/4 c. dried

Wash new potatoes and cook until just underdone. Drain and cool 5 minutes. With two sharp knives, slash the potatoes into halves and quarters. Pour dressing over them, sprinkle with salt, and toss with garlic and chives. Marinate at room temperature until completely cooled, tossing occasionally. Toss again, this time with mayonnaise and mustard. Just before serving, sprinkle liberally with dill weed.

**I**N GARDENS,  
BEAUTY IS A  
BY-PRODUCT. THE  
MAIN BUSINESS IS  
SEX AND DEATH.

~SAM LLEWELYN

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# The Latest Dirt

by Flora N. Fauna

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Spring Hill Nursery at [www.springhillnursery.com](http://www.springhillnursery.com) is offering \$20 worth of free plants if you pay for the shipping. Hurry – offer expires shortly.

Unfortunately, economics forced several of the larger garden shows to close their doors last year. The New England Flower Show, the longest running show in the United States, shut down after 137 years. San Francisco came close to closing its doors and continues to struggle for survival. These shows are more than splashy displays and marketplaces. They are an opportunity to see what the industry considers the finest plants, the smartest gardening techniques, and the latest research. Better take some time to visit them while you can.

Even though gardening is still the #1 hobby in America and a huge and diverse market, it has become difficult to find gardening shows on television – not those two day, mega-buck landscape renovation shows, but the loss of shows targeted toward the hands-on gardener who wants to see what other people are growing and to learn more. Shows like *A Gardener's Diary*, *Gardening by the Yard*, *The Victory Garden*, *Rebecca's Garden* and *Gardening Naturally*. Remember them? Apparently gardeners aren't a desirable demographic at this point in time. Thank goodness for the Web. At least gardeners can still congregate there. Try this site with "the most passionate and knowledgeable community of gardening enthusiasts and bloggers on the Internet" at <http://www.gardenguide.com>. Joining the community is free, fast and easy, and gives you access to your own blogs, photo albums, friends lists, and much much more. Look around, you may find more gardeners sites.

*Gardening How-To* magazine, the official publication of the Na-

tional Home Gardening Club, is offering a free issue. Check out <http://join.gardenclub.com> for your personal guide to planning, planting and cultivating your way to a beautiful garden. Your Gardening How-To subscription includes a FREE membership in the National Home Gardening Club, where you can test and keep gardening products free, access exclusive gardening projects, swap seeds with other members, share tips and techniques with other gardeners, and win gardening products in club giveaways & contests.

*Gardening by the Moon* from the *Old Farmers Almanac* for May 2010:  
1st-3rd Do no planting.

4th-5th Plant late beets, potatoes, onions, carrots, and other root crops.  
6th-8th kill plant pests on these barren days.

9th-10th Favorable time for planting late root crops. Also good for vine crops that can be planted now. Set strawberry plants.

11th-12th Poor planting, fine for cultivating or spraying.

13th-14th Favorable for planting beans, corn, cotton, tomatoes, peppers, and other above ground crops.

15th-16th Any seed planted now will tend to rot.

17th-18th Most favorable for planting corn, cotton, okra, beans, peppers, eggplant, and other above ground crops. Plant seedbeds and glower gardens.

19th-23rd A barren period. Good for killing plant pests, cultivating, or taking a short vacation.

24th-25th Excellent time for planting corn, beans, peppers, and other above ground crops. Favorable for sowing hay, fodder crops, and grains. Plant flowers.

26th-27th First day excellent for planting above ground crops. Second day favorable for carrots, beets, onions, turnips, and other root crops.

Both days good for planting cabbage, lettuce and other leafy vegetables, and for planting seedbeds.

28th-30th Do no planting.

31st. Plant late beets, potatoes, onions, carrots, and other root crops.

## GAAP 2010

GAAP Begins May 5! Get your trowel and garden gloves ready as we begin planting at the Lafayette Municipal Golf Course on Wednesday, May 5, at 9:30 am. We still need some more volunteers on Monday, May 10, at the Battlefield Museum, and Thursday, May 13, at the Soldiers Home. Please let me know if you can help by e-mailing [lhiser@iquest.net](mailto:lhiser@iquest.net) or calling (765) 583-2624. You'll also find sign-up sheets at the May 4 MGATC meeting. We plant in light rain or shine! Bring your trowel and garden gloves.

**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

## 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](mailto:dhkovar24@comcast.net) or (765) 762-0948.



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## Volunteer News

### May 5-14—GAAP

Help beautify our community by planting. Contact Sue Hiser at [lhiser@iquest.net](mailto:lhiser@iquest.net) or (765) 583-2624. We still need some more volunteers on Monday, May 10, at the Battlefield Museum, and Thursday, May 13, at the Soldiers Home.

### June 17-19—State MG Conference

38-40 volunteers are needed to make the conference a success. Please consider helping! We need workers on Thursday afternoon and early evening, Friday morning, afternoon and evening, and Saturday morning and afternoon.

### Aug 13—State Fair Purdue Day

Booth workers can choose from three time slots: 4 workers are needed from 11:30 am to 2 pm, 1 is needed from 2 to 4:30 pm and 2 are 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](mailto:kfalley@comcast.net) for**  
**information or to volunteer.**

### Scholarship Winner

The winner of the 2010 MGATC Scholarship Award is Matthew Krieger. Matthew, a junior at Purdue in Landscape Horticulture and Design, is from Batesville, Ind. He was presented with his scholarship check and certificate at the April 6 MGATC meeting. Thank you to the Seed Committee and others who worked hard to fund this annual scholarship.

*Ann H Hunt*

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**F**LOWERS ALWAYS MAKE PEOPLE BETTER,  
HAPPIER, AND MORE HELPFUL; THEY ARE  
SUNSHINE, FOOD, AND MEDICINE TO THE SOUL.  
~ LUTHER BURBANK, 1849-1926

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### MGATC, not TCMGA

Our Master Gardener organization has been going through a lot of changes this year ... and here comes another one: We are shedding our dual personality and reverting to our original name: Master Gardener Association of Tippecanoe County, Inc. Because we needed to conform to our Articles of Incorporation and the IRS letter of determination, we decided to ask everyone to think MGATC. The Board also decided to use the Extension Office as our official mail drop, so our address will change to 3150 South Sagamore Parkway, Lafayette, IN 47905. The post office box will be dropped in September. Please remember to use MGATC when writing out checks to our organization.

### Native Wildflowers

A recent issue of National Wildlife Magazine included information about using wildflowers to attract good bugs to your garden. These bugs or their larvae eat bad bugs or their larvae. The list of plants includes asters, goldenrods, coneflowers, tickseeds/coreopsis, sunflowers and milkweeds. The write-up had a beautiful color picture of the larva of a ladybird beetle dining on an aphid.

Author Janet Marinelli writes frequently about native plants for the magazine, and you can visit her blog on natural gardening at [www.janetmarinelli.com](http://www.janetmarinelli.com)

Also, the National Wildlife Federation has a Certified Wildlife Habitat program that provides homeowners with all the information needed to create inviting outdoor spaces for wildlife using native plants and other resources. For more information, visit [www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife](http://www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife)

*Chris Brewster*

## Art in Bloom 2010

Art in Bloom 2010 is kicking off a planting campaign for West Lafayette this spring.

This year's hot color is yellow, and for West Lafayette residents that means planting containers, hanging baskets and landscapes with colorful yellow complemented by dark purple accents.

To make this easier, the West Lafayette in Bloom committee has order blanks for full flats of yellow and purple annuals, available to us from Galema's Greenhouse. The order blank should be returned with a check by May 10, and delivery will be to the site of the Sagamore West Farmers Market on Saturday, May 15. Order blanks are on the West Lafayette city website at <http://www.westlafayette.in.gov/> and will be available at the May MGATC meeting.

The 2010 Art in Bloom tour is on June 24 from 10 am to 3 pm. Award-winning gardens in New Chauncey Neighborhood will feature many artists displaying and selling their art. Details of gardens and artists are coming soon!

# Garden Beet

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THROUGH LAUGHING LEAVES  
THE SUNLIGHT COMES,  
TURNING THE GREEN TO  
GOLD.  
~HERBERT EDWIN CLARKE

## The Herb Bed by Connie Kingman

The International Herb Association named Dill (*Anethum graveolens*) as Herb of the Year 2010. The name dill is derived from the Norse word *dilla*, meaning to lull or soothe. The name is most commonly thought to refer to the use of dill seed oil in soothing infants with colicky stomachs. The use of dill water or dill gripe water still persists to this day in offering soothing relief from digestive discomfort. In the language of flowers, dill also means to lull or good spirits.

Ancient Romans believed dill had fortifying qualities and gave gladiators food covered with dill to give them strength. Greek and Roman soldiers placed burned dill seeds on their wounds to promote healing by preventing infection. Medieval Europe could not grow dill fast enough for use in love potions, casting spells, and for protection against witchcraft. Carrying a bag of dried dill over the heart was

considered protection against hexes. In Colonial days, dill seeds were carried to prayer meetings in small pouches called meeting seeds, where the seeds were chewed to curb the appetite.

Dill is a hardy annual, sometimes classified as a biennial. It grows two to four feet tall and is best planted in groupings or staked to keep plants supported during windy weather. Sow dill seeds in loose, fairly rich or composted soils and full sun. Seeds may be started early in cold frames but they don't always transplant successfully, so better to sow directly into the garden early after the danger of frost is past. Early planting helps to ensure seed production. When seedlings are two inches high, thin them to stand 10 to 12 inches apart, keeping the soil free of weeds and relatively moist. Second sowings may be made at the end of July. Dill is said to be a good companion plant for cabbage, onions and lettuce, enhancing their growth. Keep watered during dry spells.

The feathery leaves of dill, called dill

weed, can be used fresh or dried with their volatile oils at the highest just before flowering. Harvest anytime during the growing season until the yellow, umbrella-like flower clusters open. Dill weed will last only a couple of days in the refrigerator before it droops and loses its flavor. Keep cut stems in a container of water and covered with a plastic bag to prolong freshness. To dry, simply place across screens or hang in bunches.

Dill seed, which is actually its dried fruit, should be harvested when the majority of seeds have formed, even though some flowers may still be blooming. The seeds will be a light brown color. Those seeds on the lower side of the flower umbel will be ripe, while the others will ripen as they dry. Cut long stems and tie them together in bunches. Hang upside down in a dark place. Spread paper beneath the seed heads to catch any that may fall or tie paper bags around the seed heads to catch the seeds as they fall. Poke holes in the bags for air circulation.

(Continued on page 5)