

# Garden Beet

Master Gardener Association of Tippecanoe County

March 2010

## A Word from Don

by Don Nead

Wow! March 1—time to get serious about the next several months, both as individual gardeners and as members of the MGATC.

If you do your own seed starts, think about doing an extra set for the Garden Expo Plant Sale, scheduled for Saturday, April 24, at the Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds. This is one way to assist in making some money to help underwrite many of the other things that we do during the year. If you do this be sure to mark the item carefully and have it potted and deliver it to the fairgrounds on April 23.

Or, another way to add to the plant sale, if you have perennials that are up by the time of the Garden Expo and you are going to divide them, repot some and bring them to the plant sale as well. Be sure to mark them and identify the color of the blossoms.

Hopefully, you have been contacted by the committee chair or project manager of the area in which you expressed interest when you filled out the Volunteer Inventory Form; if not let me know. We are still looking for a chair for the re-development of the Fund Raising Committee and also need someone with some financial background to be a part of the newly established Finance Committee.

Your MGATC has been like a sleeping giant and is now coming awake with a lot of hard work being put in place by standing committees and major projects of the association. If you are reading this and still have not found a place where you earn some volunteer time during this coming year, please contact Kay Falley, chair of the Volunteer Committee.

My last words for this month offer a special thank-you to two of my fellow classmates in the class of '95—two people who have quietly worked behind the scenes now for a number of years and have done yeowoman's service to the MGATC—Denise Dorsey-Zinn, editor of the *Garden Beet*, and Kristel Kaye, keeper of the membership role and electronic communicator. Well done, ladies, and thank you!

## Time to Get Ready for Garden Expo Plant Sale

Today it is snowing again, but Spring and the plant sale are coming soon. The Garden Expo and plant sale are on April 24 this year.

As plants begin to peek from ground, please consider what you will donate to make our sale a success. We sell perennials, annuals, vegetable starts, trees, grasses, shrubs, etc.

Hopefully, many of you have plants that were potted last fall in preparation for the sale. When the weather turns nice, bring them out to a protected area and water with ½ strength liquid fertilizer for a quick start and large plants for the sale.

Items to do now might include locating and cleaning pots so you will be ready for those first nice days when we all want to be outside working. We have a supply of pots if you need extras.

*Linda and Doug Mann*

## Upcoming Programs

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

**March 2 • 6:30 pm • Extension Office**  
**Dee & Bill Dilling: *Roses of New Zealand***

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

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# From the Secretary

Minutes of the February 2, 2010  
meeting of the Master Gardener  
Association of Tippecanoe County

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## TCMGA Annual Banquet Beck Center/Purdue Agronomy Farm

President Don Nead called the annual meeting to order and thanked the social committee for their work on this event. Don led us in prayer before we enjoyed a delicious carry-in meal.

After the meal Don introduced Rosie Lerner, Extension Consumer Horticulture Specialist at Purdue University and Master Gardener State Coordinator. Rosie shared the progress of the state convention, which will be held at the Beck Center/Purdue Agronomy Farm. Ball Seed Company has donated tote bags and a wave petunia for all attendees this year. Rosie then presented a photo journal of the recent Master Gardener trip: Gardens of France.

Extension Advisor Jeff Phillips and President Don Nead presented awards and badges to our new interns. Master Gardeners who completed their service and education hours also received their badge for various levels of volunteer hours. This past year, MGATC turned in 8,000+ hours in volunteer time. Of special note, Peter Cooper, Kristel Kaye and Don Nead received their 1,000+ hour badge. The 2009 Outstanding Master Gardener award went to Peter and Linda Cooper, developers of the AAS Display/Idea Gardens. Congratulations to the Coopers for their tireless dedication to MGATC.

Kristel Kaye reminded people to pick up their membership book and calendar of events for MGATC for 2010. Books not picked up tonight will be mailed to members. Currently we have 223 members for 2010.

Treasurer Lynn Layden reported income \$409, expense \$715. Balance in checking \$5,052 and Vanguard \$10,500.

If anyone needs pots for the plant sale at Garden Expo please see or call Bill Dilling. He has plenty to share.

President Don Nead thanked our be-

hind-the-scenes people, Denise Dorsey-Zinn, newsletter creator extraordinaire, and Carmen Dunn, the keeper of our many volunteer hours.

Meeting adjourned.

## Master Gardener

Kathy Burton  
Marsha Castello  
Adam Cooper  
Becki Comstock  
Judy Cox  
Richard Fuhs  
Sandy McDanel  
Michael Hurni  
Tonia Kasica  
Jim Mailloux  
Ann Pickett  
John Pickett  
Belva Pritchett  
Charlene Roden  
Beverly Schnelle  
Jim Smith

## Advanced Master Gardener (Green Level)

Carla Barnhart  
Adam Cooper  
Becki Comstock  
Judy Cox  
Kay Falley  
Richard Fuhs  
Sandy McDanel  
Mary Isaacs  
Doug Jones  
Pat Niswonger  
Norm Alkire  
Ann Pickett  
Maribeth Slebodnik  
Sue Swick

## Advanced Master Gardener (Bronze Level)

Cheryl Borst  
Carol Byers  
Adam Cooper  
Karen Franzmeier  
Janet Hansell  
Betsy Jones

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# Coopers Awarded 2009 OMG

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Congratulations to Linda and Peter Cooper—2009 TCMGA Outstanding Master Gardeners.

Criteria for this award include an exemplary volunteer service record while performing a variety of services, with particular emphasis on “helping others grow.” Again this year, the committee had a difficult choice to make among the many qualified and deserving Master Gardeners.

Linda and Peter’s activities included docent service at Wabashika and Lilly Nature Centers, Adopt-a-spot, demo garden, AAS/idea gardens, grant proposals, past president of TCMGA, and website developer.

Linda and Peter should also be recognized for the volunteer hours that they have submitted. Linda submitted 802 volunteer hours and 75 advanced training hours for 2009 making a cumulative total of 2247 hours. In 2009 Peter had 698 volunteer hours and 60 advanced training hours making a cumulative total of 1408 hours.

Well done!

# Volunteer News

by Kay Falley

Garden Expo is April 24. Volunteers are needed for set-up on April 23. The chairperson is Monique Fontaine. Linda and Doug Mann are in charge of the Plant Sale, and Kay Connor will take care of the Cafe and Food Sale. Please be thinking about volunteering as this event will be here soon.

The Patio and Flower Show: Volunteer slots are filled. Thanks to those that have agreed to work the show.

Spring Fest/Hort Show: Volunteers are still needed: Saturday 12:30-3 pm (3), 3-5 pm (1); Sunday 10 am-12:30 pm (3), 12:30-3 pm (2).

## Volunteer Opportunities

<b>April 10</b> (Sat)	<b>Mind BOGgling Event/Celery Bog</b> Sue Hiser needs food donations and serving help; Dan Dunten needs tree planting help. See page 4 for info.
<b>April 17 &amp; 18</b> (Sat/Sun)	<b>Spring Fest/Hort Show</b> Info Booth workers in Plant Sale Area
<b>April 23 &amp; 24</b>	<b>Garden Expo</b> Set-up, plants, workers, bakers.
<b>Aug 13</b> (TBD)	<b>Indiana State Fair</b> Info Booth workers on Purdue Day

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

IF OF THY MORTAL GOODS THOU  
ART BEREFT,  
AND OF THY MEAGER STORE  
TWO LOAVES ALONE TO THEE ARE  
LEFT,  
SELL ONE, AND WITH THE DOLE  
BUY HYACINTHS TO FEED THY SOUL.  
~SAADI, PERSIAN SUFI POET  
GULISTAN (THE ROSE GARDEN) 1258

## Wednesdays in the Wild

Mar 3 1-3 pm **Outdoor Moss ID** Purdue Dendrologist Sally Weeks leads a walk to explore the amazing Fall Creek Gorge in Warren County. The diversity of mosses is spectacular. Some are easy to identify with the naked eye; others are not. We will focus on those easy ones! Carpool leaves LNC at 12 noon. \*\*PLEASE NOTE: Rugged terrain; could be slippery. POTHOLE

Mar 10 1-3 pm **In Their Own Words: Nature Revealed Through the Observations of Lewis & Clark** During the Bicentennial Events of Lewis & Clark's epic journey, Reenactor Rob Durrett spent 10 months following the course of this historic trek, from St. Louis to the Pacific Ocean. Unique insights will be shared about the natural features, plants, and animals encountered en route, both then and now. LNC

Mar 17 7-9 pm **The Habits and Haunts of Local Salamanders** The lives of seldom-seen salamanders are brought to life by Rick Howard (PU Biology Professor), followed by outdoor search for trapped salamanders & discussion of field research techniques. Bring flashlights. LNC

Mar 24 7:30-9:30 pm **Sounds of Spring—Wacky Woodcocks!** Experience this spring ritual with Naturalist Mary Cutler & members of the Sycamore Audubon Society. Dress for the weather and bring flashlights & binoculars. AMPH

Mar 31 1-3 pm **Planning with POWER** Robert McCormick (project leader for Planning with POWER—Protecting Our Water & Environmental Resources) presents an overview of this collaborative program between Ill-Ind Sea Grant & Purdue University, highlighting smart growth initiatives and Local Decision Maker tools available through the program. LNC

### Locations

**AMPH** (Tipp Co Amphitheater): Meet in parking lot on east side of North River Rd, near Soldiers Home Rd in West Lafayette.

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

**POTHOLE** (Fall Creek Gorge): In Warren County. Limited parking, so join carpool from LNC at noon.

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# The Latest Dirt

by Flora N. Fauna

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The Perennial Plant Association announces blue false indigo (*Baptisia australis*) as its perennial plant of the year for 2010. The name of the genus, *Baptisia*, is derived from the Ancient Greek word, *bapto*, meaning to dip (dye) or immerse, while the specific epithet, *austalis*, is Latin for southern. This perennial thrives in full sun but with staking will tolerate partial shade. A North American native, it is easily grown in well-drained soil and is drought tolerant after establishment. Use this spring flowering shrub-like perennial to fill the back of the border or in the wild garden. The combination of flower and leaf color is dramatic in the early blooming season. Flowers are followed by inflated seedpods that are useful for dried flower arrangements.

Tim Wood of Spring Meadow Nursery has traveled the world looking for new plants. Now he creates his own. Among his creations is the new Bloomerang® Purple Lilac. It is a reblooming variety that flowers in spring, as expected, and then again in late summer and fall – and with a wonderful fragrance. Check it out at [www.springmeadownursery.com](http://www.springmeadownursery.com), click on ‘ee “see our new plants’ to view it and many other temptations.

Thinking about a vertical garden and don’t know how to begin? Check out <http://www.floragrubb.com/idx/index.php> then click on succulent gardens.

Historic farmlands all across America are threatened by development. In a move that’s sure to raise the profile of these endangered landscapes, the World Monuments Fund

has included the Great Meadow of Hadley, MA, on its 2010 Watch List. Read about it in the newsletter of the Library of American Landscape History. Subscribe at [lalh.org/new.html](http://lalh.org/new.html). How did this 350-acre plot of farmland in rural western Massachusetts wind up on the same list of endangered heritage sites as Peru’s ancient Machu Picchu and a medieval village in Spain? The World Monuments Fund says the tract represents a rare, large-scale example of open-field agriculture. This practice, in which individual landowners farm adjacent parcels laid out in long, unfenced strips, dates back to medieval Europe. The Great Meadow borders the Connecticut River and has been farmed continuously since the 1650s, when English Puritans settled Hadley. Local land trusts and historic preservation groups have been on the case for years, helping farmers preserve pieces of the Great Meadow.

“Saint David’s Day . . . is the feast day of Saint David, the patron saint of Wales, and falls on March 1 each year. The date . . . was chosen in remembrance of the death of Saint David on that day in 589, and has been celebrated . . . since then. The date was declared a national day of celebration . . . in the 18th century. “On this day many Welsh people wear one or both of the national emblems of Wales on their lapel to celebrate the daffodil (a generic Welsh symbol) or the leek (Saint David’s personal symbol). The association between leeks and daffodils is strengthened by the fact that they have similar names in Welsh, *cenin* (leek) and *cenin Bedr* (daffodil, literally “Peter’s leek”). “In south Wales, males usually wear leeks

while young girls wear daffodils; in the north, the daffodil predominates.” Source: Wikipedia.com.

## Mind BOGgling Event

Join in the Mind BOGgling Event celebrating Celery Bog on Saturday, April 10, at the Celery Bog Nature Area and Lilly Nature Center. Day-time activities include a bird walk, wildflower walk, tree planting, nature-inspired art activities, and wetland activities. The evening program consists of live music, art, and readings inspired by the Celery Bog and similar wetland areas. Artwork by local artists will be on display through the end of May.

## Volunteer at Bog Event

Master Gardener Sue Hiser is coordinating the evening refreshments. She is looking for donations of desserts and other goodies, and needs set-up and serving help for the evening program. Please let Sue know if you can help by contacting her at [lhiser@iquest.net](mailto:lhiser@iquest.net) or (765) 583-2624.

Dan Dunten, who is coordinating the planting of buttonbush and bald cypress trees, would appreciate having Master Gardner tree planting expertise for the planting scheduled for 1 pm on Saturday, April 10. For more info, contact Dan at [ddunten@westlafayette.in.gov](mailto:ddunten@westlafayette.in.gov) or 775-5172.

## Hot Color in West Lafayette!

This year’s hot planting color will be yellow, with dark blue or purple accents. We hope that all the yellow daffodils that have been planted will inspire residents of West Lafayette to plant more perennials and annuals featuring yellow.

We plan to have flats of annuals available for purchase from Galema’s to help brighten your



neighborhoods and public plantings you may be planning. The selection is not yet finalized, but will probably include marigolds, zinnias, petunias, lantana, and dark purple salvias. Order blanks will be available from Lynn Layden and must be prepaid. Delivery will occur before Mother's Day.

Please think about using yellow in your flower beds, containers and hanging baskets to help beautify West Lafayette this year.

Lynn Layden

## Perennials Needed

The Children's Garden is looking for some perennials for its Alphabet Garden this spring. Please check the list below to see if you have any you could donate. If you do have something, please contact Judy Cox at 463-9533 or f-r-cox@comcast.net or Cheryl Borst at 446-8282 or caborst@gmail.com as soon as possible. Judy will be ordering seeds for the missing plants at the end of February. Thank you!

Evening Primrose

False Lupine

Hens and Chicks

Obedient Plant ("vivid" dark pink variety)

Pincushion Plant

Veronica

"Queen Bee" Sedum

Coreopsis (or Tickseed)

## Membership Book Corrections

**Maribeth Slebodnik**—Correct cell phone is 413-1497

**Chris Brewster**—Change e-mail address to jim.chris.brewster@att.net

**Joan Sozen**—Change e-mail address to janam.sozen@gmail.com

## State MG Conference June 17-19 • Beck Center in West Laf

Conference Registration fee (\$130 through April 30) includes: Lectures, tours, round table discussions, vendors, silent auction, lunch, workshop, and dinner banquet. More info coming soon on a Master Gardener Photo Contest, Trade Show, and Silent Auction.

## Conference highlights

*Cultivating a Sense of Place* and *Gardens with a Sense of Place*

by Claire Sawyers, director of Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College

*Teaching About Insects, Travels with a Chicken, and Other Tales*

by Tom Turpin, Purdue entomologist, author, and creator of Purdue's "Bug Bowl"

*An Ecological Odyssey: Foundations for a Livable Future*

by Brent Ladd, director of education & outreach at Purdue Center for the Environment, permaculturist, and suburban farmer

## Search For Excellence

Inspire your fellow MGs throughout the state by sharing your group's impact! Instructions and nomination forms are available on the conference website. Register at [www.conf.purdue.edu/gardener](http://www.conf.purdue.edu/gardener). Additional information about the conference can be found at [www.hort.purdue.edu/mgconf](http://www.hort.purdue.edu/mgconf).

WHETHER SAID, "DO SOMETHING RIGHT THE FIRST TIME AND YOU WON'T HAVE TO DO IT AGAIN," NEVER WEEDED A GARDEN.

## Herb Bed (continued from back)

and musty bureaus. Do not rinse. The aromatic smell is strong but dissipates within a few days.

After a full day of housecleaning, the body needs some pampering, too. Chamomile and olive oil are great aids to relaxation. Brew a cup of chamomile tea. While the tea is brewing, prepare a natural moisturizer for your overworked or rough hands by microwaving or oven warming a small bowl of olive oil. Sip the warm chamomile tea while taking turns soaking your fingers or hands in the warm oil. If you need to remove layers of accumulated dry skin, try adding some granulated sugar to the oil and scrub away. For a more invigorating hand wash, place a small amount of powdery ground mustard in a bowl with other herbs and essential oils, such as rosemary and thyme or lavender and mint. Add hot water and wait for the tingling sensation of the mustard to warm your skin.

Then at bedtime, relax your body and induce a good night's sleep by running warm bath water over a chamomile bath bag. Linger in the soothing water for a while to unwind before slipping into bed. You'll feel as refreshed and clean as your home.

## Chamomile Bath Bags

1 T. dried chamomile leaves or flowers  
1 T. dried thyme  
1/2 T. dried rosemary  
1 T. dried rose petals  
6 T. oatmeal

Crumble the dried herbs and mix them in a bowl with the oatmeal. Spoon the mixture into little cheesecloth bags and tie or sew closed. Hang the bath bags from the faucet in the bath to let the water wash over them or simply swirl them a few times through the bath water before bathing.

# Garden Beet

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YOU KNOW YOU'VE  
BEEN BITTEN BY THE  
GARDENING BUG WHEN  
YOU START DREAMING  
ABOUT SEED CATALOGS.

## The Herb Bed by Connie Kingman

It's once again the time for spring-cleaning. I try to accomplish this annual ritual on one of those moody, spring days that bring thunderstorms and rain showers. That way I'm not tempted to be outdoors digging in the dirt. I've gathered a few new tips and cleaning recipes to freshen and brighten our homes. Naturally, most of them include herbs or their essential oils. And it's no wonder, since many herbs have disinfectant qualities and most offer pleasant fragrances, adding a bit of joy to this otherwise mundane chore.

For the laundry room: 1. When musty smelling towels are a chronic problem, add 1/8 cup lemon juice to their wash cycle. 2. Add several drops of lavender essential oil to the final rinse of the wash cycle and/or add a bag of lavender buds to the dryer to impart its scent into the drying load.

For closets: Stick whole cloves into oranges, then hang them in closets to aromatically freshen them.

For the kitchen: 1. Clean a gritty

coffee or spice grinder by running 3/4 cup of dry white rice around the blades. The grains will whisk away bits of debris while removing musty flavors and scents. 2. Run orange peels through the garbage disposal from time to time to sweeten its odor.

For rugs and carpets: Make your own carpet deodorizer by adding 10 drops tea tree essential oil, 10 drops lemon essential oil, and 20 drops lavender essential oil to 16 ounces baking soda in a large glass bowl. Be sure to mix the oils thoroughly into the baking soda. Lemon essential oil is normally yellow so mix it well into the baking soda ensuring that no undiluted lemon oil stains your carpet. Any favorite essential oils will work, but strive to add essential oils that offer antibacterial and disinfectant properties to give the deodorizer an added benefit. Pour the deodorizer into a glass jar or airtight container. I like to re-use discarded carpet deodorizer shaker containers that have been thoroughly cleaned. Sprinkle the scented deodorizer over the carpet and allow it to work at least 10-20 minutes or longer before vacuuming normally.

For furniture: Hide wood scratches

by rubbing them with the meat of a walnut, then polish with a furniture polish made by adding three parts olive oil, (or any vegetable oil), and one part lemon juice to a spray bottle, shaking to mix well. If the mix separates in between uses, give it a quick shake to remix.

For windows: Add 30 drops of eucalyptus essential oil to three ounces of distilled water in a spray bottle. Shake well before spraying on windows. Then dry the windows with crumpled newspaper to prevent streaking and to increase their shine.

For trash cans: Clean trash cans with two to three drops of eucalyptus essential oil that has been mixed with hot water to deodorize and disinfect them. Follow up with a drop every now and then to keep the cans smelling fresh.

For the bathroom: 1. Add a few drops of a favorite essential oil to the inside of the cardboard toilet tissue roll. Fragrance is released with each turn of the roll. 2. To combat mold and mildew, combine two teaspoons tea tree essential oil with two cups of water in a spray bottle. Shake and spray on problem areas such as shower curtains, rugs

**(Continued on page 5)**