

Garden Beet

Master Gardener Association of Tippecanoe County

July 2010

INPAWS Garden Tour: Landscaping with Native Plants

Saturday, July 10, 10 am to 4 pm
Free and open to the public

Artist's Tapestry—A densely packed, multi-layered gem of a garden created by botanical illustrator and artist Jan Glimn-Lacy.

Chapman Oasis—Jan Chapman has achieved the ambience of an English garden with plants indigenous to the Midwest.

Landscape Laboratory—Wendy Ford's suburban yard, a garden designer's dream laboratory, features many cultivars of native plants.

Hilltop Haven—Charles and Marilyn Spurgeon's 13-acre homestead will transport you to another time and place.

Big Sue's Wonderland—Garden Whimsy in a lakeside setting complete with a bog garden and the knobby knees of a bald Cypress.

"Type A" Natives—A beautiful, well-designed, highly organized landscape created using a completely native plant palette.

Shady Acres—An eclectic collection of shrubs, wildflowers, native and exotic plants on two shady acres of wetland and woodland.

Monarch Way Station—Wind through the trees to a beautiful 20-acre certified wildlife habitat.

Register at www.inpaws.org (descriptions of the gardens are provided) or phone Kelly Spiegel at (317) 418-5489 to receive addresses and directions. Registration is limited.

Master Gardeners at Work and Play

That's the name of the long-awaited calendar. If you're one of the 150 Master Gardeners who pre-ordered and you didn't pick yours up at the State Conference, they will be available at the July and August meetings (and until they are gone.) If you can't remember whether you ordered one or more, I've got the list.

Calendars are \$10 each (\$12 if you'd like it mailed to you). Checks should be made out to MGATC.

Kay Conner

Rain Garden Workshop

June 30 • 7 pm • Lilly Nature Center

Dan Dunten presents a workshop on rain gardens at Lilly Nature Center, where he recently installed a rain garden, on June 30 at 7 pm.

Homeowners who install such a rain garden might be eligible for partial reimbursement by a West Lafayette and Lafayette grant fund.

Ann Hunt

Upcoming Program

June 1 • 6:30 pm Social • 7 pm Program
Tippecanoe County Extension Office

Water Conservation

Sara Peel, Watershed Coordinator
Wabash River Enhancement Corporation

From the Secretary

Minutes of the June 1, 2010
meeting of the Master Gardener
Association of Tippecanoe County

Program, Hort Building

Sue Swick introduced our speakers for the evening, Bev Shaw and Dennis Kovar. They presented "Off with Their Heads," an informative talk on flower arranging.

Business Meeting

President Linda Mann called the meeting to order and recognized our attendance for the evening at 74.

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

Treasurer Lynn Layden reported that after this month the transition to our checking account at LSB will be complete.

Jeff Phillips and Rosie Lerner, along with Cliff Sadof from Purdue University, would like to present a public education workshop in Tippecanoe County on the Emerald Ash Borer. A committee is meeting to work out the details for this workshop to be held at a later date.

Standing Committee Reports

Nominating: Maribeth is in the beginning stages of filling the slate of officers and committee positions.

Volunteer: The committee is streamlining the process for approval of projects. Please remember that there needs to be an educational component to all projects.

Reports from special Projects

State Conference: Rosie Lerner reported that 170 people have registered, registration closes on June 4. We still have volunteer opportunities available; please contact Lynn Layden if interested.

Demo Garden: John Pickett thanks all MGs who have been helping in the demo garden this year. To date, 52.5 pounds of spring vegetables have been delivered to local food bank. The irrigation system has been a tremendous help this year.

Display and Idea Gardens: All MGs are welcome to help water and weed at any time.

Adopt-A-Spots: All spots will be cleaned up in time for the conference.

Art-in-Bloom: Lynn Layden reported that June 26 is the tour in West Lafayette.

10 am -3 pm. 500 people attended last year. She is still looking for volunteers.

Columbian Park Zoo: Linda Cooper reported that we have a new project at the zoo. We are giving 5-15 minute talks about plant-related topics. We also are helping out with the butterfly garden there. Please contact Linda if you are interested.

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.

Old Business

Children's Garden will be hosting children 50-60 from Burgett's Child-care on Friday June 4.

New Business

The August hoe-down will be a week later, August 10.

Meeting adjourned.

5/18/2010 Executive Meeting, TCEO

Those in attendance: Linda Mann, Carla Barnhart, Lynn Layden, Linda Cooper, Sue Hiser, and Sue Swick. The meeting was called to order by President Linda Mann. Minutes from 4/20 m/s/p

Treasurer's report: Lafayette Savings Bank \$5,217.26, Savings \$127 FECU, Vanguard \$10,470. Lynn has completed the switch of our checking account to Lafayette Savings Bank.

Old Business

Vice President vacancy needs to be filled with the appointment of Linda Mann as president. Nominating recommended Sue Swick. Lynn Layden motioned, Sue Hiser second. Approved.

A scholarship thank-you note from Matthew Kieger was read.

Garden Expo: \$386 caf, \$4,551 plant sale, \$151 seed sale, \$508 market, \$300 vendor fees. \$1,000 in expenses. Profit this year around \$6,000. All in all it was a great day for the Expo.

New Business

Bylaws Committee Chair Lynn Layden discussed changes proposed and exec committee voted to mail out the bylaws in August, discuss in September, and vote on proposed changes in October.

Finance committee report presented the final draft of policies and procedures. Most notable changes are to gifts and grants. All gifts shall be accepted and acknowledged by the board, and sent to the treasurer, meeting IRS requirements. m/s/p

A motion was made to reimburse the hospitality committee for MG State Conference expense up to \$1,500. m/s/p

Meeting adjourned.

Something New for Plant Lovers

A new group of plant enthusiasts meets Sundays at 5 pm at Peaceful Greens Restaurant on Main Street in Lafayette. The group, organized by Nick Harby, usually makes a short botanical foray, often walking over to the Wabash River Trail where there are plenty of wild plants to identify and to talk about.

"We all have some knowledge of plants that we can share with each other," says Nick. "And every time we venture out into nature, it has something to teach us." You can check on more of Nick's love for plants on one of his blogs: the natural world in the local area (<http://lafayettereport.blogspot.com/>); daily entries and background information on plants in Hort Gardens (<http://hortgardentoday.blogspot.com/>)

Contact Nick at

nickharby@yahoo.com

Wednesdays in the Wild ... and More!

Jul 7 8-10 pm **Fireflies-nature's little night lights!** Why the lights? How do they do it? Find out with Purdue Entomologist Arwin Provonsha. Bring a flashlight. indoor/outdoor LNC

Jul 14 1-3 pm **Butterflies of Tippecanoe County** Purdue Entomologist Jon Neal will give an indoor presentation on our local butterflies followed by an outdoor butterfly identification walk. (Good preparation for the upcoming Butterfly Encounter on July 17.) Bring binoculars. indoor/outdoor LNC

Jul 21 1-3 pm **Collecting & Identifying Fish in Burnett Creek** Small streams are often overlooked as sources of high biodiversity, although they often contain many interesting fish. Sampling fish communities is often used as the basis for assessing stream quality, and a particularly useful approach is through the use of a backpack electroshocker. Reuben Goforth, Purdue Professor of Aquatic Community Ecology, will demonstrate the use of this equipment and teach attendees how to identify the fish species collected during the demonstration. Outdoor WNC

Jul 28 1-3 pm **GO FISH!** (Rods, reels & bait provided) Fish biology & adaptation talk by Mary Cutler, Tippecanoe

County Naturalist, will be followed by fishing on Burnett Creek. indoor/outdoor BEEC

Aug 4 7-9 pm **The Natural History of Mud Daubers, Cicada Killer Wasps, & Carpenter Bees** Using a color slide presentation and demonstrations, Purdue Entomologist John MacDonald will cover the most common species of solitary wasps and bees associated with homes and yards in our area. The program will focus on biology and behavior, but will also include practical information pertaining to control when deemed necessary. indoor LNC

Locations

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

LNC (Lilly Nature Center/Celery Bog Nature Area): On north side of Lindberg Rd (betw Northwestern and McCormick), West Laf.

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

Butterfly Encounter Tippecanoe County Butterfly Count at Evonik

Evonik (formerly Eli Lilly) Wildlife Habitat Recreation Area is the site of the Butterfly Count on Saturday, July 17 (rain date is July 18).

Find schedule and details online at <http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/butterflycount>

Volunteer Needs

This is such a busy time of year for volunteering. Everyone has been helping with Garden Expo, State Conference and all the gardens. With the major events behind us, I hope you can consider Purdue Day at the State Fair.

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 worker is needed from 4:30 to 7 pm

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

GENTLEWOMEN,
IF THE GROUND
BE NOT TOO WET, MAY
DO THEMSELVES MUCH
GOOD BY KNEELING
UPON A CUSHION AND
WEEDING. AND THUS
BOTH SEXES MIGHT
DIVERT THEMSELVES
FROM IDLENESS AND EVIL
COMPANY.

~WILLIAM COLES
THE ART OF SIMPLING, 1656

The Latest Dirt

by Flora N. Fauna

If your iris plantings have become over-crowded, or you want to share some with friends, now is the time to dig and divide them. According to Ken Druse writing in RealDirtRadio.com, “It’s easy, and fun. I dig my iris rhizomes with a garden fork when they are dormant—now. Most of the soil will fall off the thick rhizome and reveal slender roots. I trim back the leaves into fans and cut off the oldest section of rhizome (which will not bloom again). I dip the rhizome (holding it by the leaves) in a 10% solution of household chlorine bleach for about 10 seconds. I set them out to drain on some newspaper, and then replant with the top of the rhizome just at the surface of the soil. Sun-baked rhizomes bloom best. Older varieties of bearded iris do not need dividing as often as newer ones.”

Have you heard about guerilla gardeners? Guerillas plant flowers and vegetables on land they don't own. The eco-outlaws sneak flowers into land by freeway exits, abandoned city gardens, or vacant lots by using seed bombs. Guerillas walk by, drive by, or bike by vacant lots, or places that need beautifying and throw in a couple of seed bombs. A month later — flowers!

A seed bomb, or seed ball, is a self-contained weapon

used by guerilla gardeners. The golf-ball-sized bombs can be purchased commercially or made at home. Each contains seeds and compost, and some include fertilizer. Clandestine gardeners toss them into any area they think needs beautification, including vacant lots, abandoned gardens, and roadway easements. To make your own, start with three-parts dried compost, one-part seeds, five-parts soil, and one- or two-parts water. Sift the dry ingredients together, add the water, and roll the mixture into balls. Let them dry for one or two days. The seeds should be native to local areas. For more information about guerilla gardening or seed bombs, visit guerrillagardening.org. Or read a recent article by Bob Shaw in Twin Cities Pioneer Press, Saint Paul, MN at www.twincities.com/ci_15290804?nclick_check=1.

At www.watergartennews.com, experts shared some of their favorite bog plants with visitors. Here are a few that suit our zone.

Cardinal Flower (Zones 5-7)—Late summer through autumn blooms attract hummingbirds. It feeds on potassium and features red flowers.

Iris (Zones 5-11)—Favorites include Louisiana Iris and Japanese Iris. They bloom in late spring through autumn and feed on nitrogen and phospho-

rus. Choose from many varieties and colors.

Lizard's Tail, Swamp Lily or Water-dragon (Zones 4-11)—This summer bloomer is native to the Eastern United States and features white flowers.

Marsh Marigold or Kingcup (Zones 2-4)—Sporting yellow flowers, it blooms early, which jump-starts the system feeding. It re-blooms in autumn and feeds when other plants are dormant.

Pickerel Rush (Zones 4-11)—It feeds on the total nutrient system and blooms in late spring through early autumn. Designers recommend planting the bog with various plants to create an aesthetic smorgasbord of colors, heights and textures throughout the year.

Visit these four, fun websites if you enjoy creating recycled garden art and crafts: <http://www.yanzum.com/recycle-garden-art.htm> for bedspring flowers, <http://greenupgrader.com/8579/art-glass-bottles-in-the-sun/> for glass mobiles, <http://planetgreen.discovery.com/home-garden/reusing-wine-bottles-garden.html> for beautiful things to make with wine bottles, and <http://www.finegardening.com/how-to/articles/garden-lanterns.aspx> for making tin can lanterns.

Mixed Greens Salad with Blueberry Vinaigrette

2 qts fresh-from-the-garden or
packaged mixed greens, washed
1/4 C. fresh lime or lemon
juice

1 T. honey or sugar
1/2 t. salt
1 C. fresh blueberries, divided
1/4 C. plain yogurt
2 T. olive or canola oil
a few grinds of pepper

Clean the greens and spin
or blot dry. Mix together lime
or lemon juice, honey and salt.
Mash 1/2 C. blueberries into the
juice and honey mixture. Stir in
yogurt, pepper and oil. Taste for
seasoning. Dress salad just before
serving. Divide greens into four
large salad plates, spoon dressing
over greens, and scatter reserved
blueberries on top.

Mixed Greens with Mandarins and Thai Lime Vinaigrette

1 T. lime juice
1/4 C. sweet Thai chili sauce
2 T. vegetable oil
1 t. Soya sauce
8 C. fresh-from-the-garden or
packaged mixed greens, washed
1 C. canned mandarin oranges,
drained
1 C. red pepper, finely diced
1/4 C. red onion, finely diced
1/2 C. slivered almonds,
toasted

Clean the greens and spin or
blot dry. In a large bowl, whisk
together lime juice, chili sauce,
vegetable oil, and Soya sauce.
Add the rest of the ingredients,
toss well to coat with vinaigrette
and serve. To make this salad a
main course, double the ingredi-
ents and top with grilled chicken
or shrimp.

Herb Bed (continued from back)

records of cultivated lettuce date
back to Greek historical records
in 450 BC. In the first century
AD, the Romans were growing
a number of different cultivars.
They developed broad-leaved,
non-heading, non-spiny types that
were resistant to early seed stalk
formation, had decreased milky,
latex content, and produced larger,
uniformly germinating seed.

It is claimed that lettuce is an
excellent remedy for acid indiges-
tion and heartburn. The bitter,
milky latex sap is a mild nar-
cotic and sleep inducer. The early
Romans ate lettuce at the end of
meals to aid digestion and induce
sleep. The Emperor Augustus
attributed his recovery from a
dangerous illness to it, built an
altar to it, and erected a statue in
its honor. Later, with the develop-
ment of lettuce varieties contain-
ing less of the bitter, soporific sap,
they ate lettuce at the beginning
of the meal to whet the appetite.
Some believe this is how the habit
of serving salad at the beginning
of the meal began. American wild
lettuce (*Lactuca canadensis*), a
common weed throughout much
of North America, is usually too
bitter to eat, but was used exten-
sively by Native Americans as a
sedative and for pain relief.

All lettuce cultivars such as
cos, leaf, butterhead, and iceberg
are regarded as being variants of
Lactuca sativa. Lettuce has been
transformed from an erect plant
with bitter leaves to various culti-
vars, including ones with distinc-
tive heads of chlorophyll deficient
leaves.

If you want to plant a late salad
garden, but have difficulty finding
an empty garden space, don't for-

get to use containers for planting.
Arugula, spinach, cress, radish,
cilantro, mustard, beets, mesclun
mixes, Oregon sugar pod peas,
kale, lettuce, carrots, chives, and
onions are all good choices for a
salad garden. Late salad gardens
usually don't need any special
care until about September. As the
nights begin to cool, draping some
of the less hardy plants like the
winter lettuce and cilantro with a
floating row cover protects them
from light frosts. If you are really
enthused about keeping the salad
greens coming, plastic cloches or
cold-frames can be erected over
the site or containers and used to
keep your salad greens viable.

Most lettuces are relatively low
in nutrients. Modern plant breed-
ers are developing varieties that
have more vitamins and miner-
als, but in general, we eat lettuce
for its crisp clean sweetness and
crunchy texture. No lettuce can
match the crunch that comes from
biting into iceberg lettuce leaves.
And even though most lettuce
connoisseurs do not consider this
a lettuce of choice, adding a little
shredded iceberg lettuce to those
salads created with the leaves of
the more tender lettuces will add
that crunch most Americans crave
when eating salads.

Just as last year, my seed pack-
ets of mixed lettuces and spinach
are on the kitchen shelf where I
see them everyday. I'm going to
plant them soon ... I really am.

ALL GARDENERS
LIVE IN BEAUTIFUL
PLACES BECAUSE THEY
MAKE THEM SO.

~JOSEPH JOUBERT
FRENCH ESSAYIST, 1754-1824

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BLOOM WHERE
YOU ARE PLANTED.
~MARY ENGELBREIT~

The Herb Bed by Connie Kingman

Last year, for the first time, I planted a late garden of mixed salad greens. I don't know why it took me so long to do this—probably because in the past, by the time late July and August arrived, I lost interest in daily gardening chores and thought late planting really wouldn't produce a harvest worth fretting over. Was I wrong!

In the spring of 2009, I purchased extra seeds of mixed greens to plant later in the season. On the first of July, I placed the packets in clear sight on a kitchen shelf as a reminder to plant them soon. Every time I passed by them, I reminded myself to plant them.

When late August rolled around, I wearied of my procrastination and took the seed packets, along with some spinach seeds and on-

ion sets I had left over, to the garden. I worked the soil in a small, fallow raised bed and planted the seeds in neat, short rows—not expecting much. All the rows were showing green within four days of resting in the warmth of the soil. As the days and evenings became cooler, the bed produced abundantly and continued all the way through Christmas.

I picked my last bunch of greens in January of this year. When the weather turned really cold and inclement, I failed to cover the bed and allowed the worst of winter to have its way with the plot. However, the snow—and ice—protected the spinach enough that when it finally melted from its leaves in February, the spinach was still green and sturdy, though the leaves were small. I was so delighted at its survival that I ate a few icy leaves right there in the garden. Of course, the lettuce

didn't fare as well. It was a snowy mush. Then, as the weather improved, the spinach continued to grow and produce for me up until early last month when it bolted in 80 degree weather. It was the lush-est, greenest spinach that I have ever grown.

July is a good month to start thinking about a late salad garden, along with the planting of other cool weather crops. It's such a boost to the morale to watch the new bed growing at the same time as the main garden declines—with roses no longer blooming, most plants withering to weediness, and seed heads forming where once flowers bloomed.

Lettuce is thought to have originated in the Mediterranean region in the form of prickly lettuce. Paintings of what appear to be cos lettuce are found in Egyptian tombs dating back to as early as 4,500 BC. The first authenticated

(Continued on page 5)