

# Garden Beet

Master Gardener Association of Tippecanoe County

September 2010

Dear Master Gardeners,

On behalf of everyone at the YWCA Domestic Violence Intervention and Prevention Program, I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the Tippecanoe County Master Gardeners Club for all the plants, mulch and yard maintenance they have done for us over the years. Your donation is particularly touching considering we are unable to invite the press or community members to see the beautiful work the club has done in the garden due to the secrecy and confidential location of the shelter.

You have supported us year after year, despite the "under the radar" profile that we must maintain at all times. What an amazing gift you have given our program. The garden has flourished with the tender loving care your members have shown it, and is now a source of comfort and safety where our clients actually enjoy spending time with their children.

Our clients may not be lucky enough to be safe in their own homes, but they can give thanks that there are people and organizations in the community like yours that are concerned and kind enough to reach out to make their world a little more peaceful and beautiful.

Thank you so much for supporting the work we do and for helping us make a difference in the lives of our clients.

Sincerely,

Danielle Gaylord, Program Director  
YWCA Domestic Violence Program

Information from the first inventory sheets produced a number of members interested in specific projects, but not willing to volunteer.

Hopefully with clarification the new information will be more helpful for you and the chairpersons of the projects.

Thanks again for volunteering!

## Garden Chats at the Zoo Ideas for Home Gardeners

This free series of 5-15 minute presentations by Master Gardeners is followed by time for questions and answers in the Butterfly Garden. MGs are encouraged to come and listen, or to help answer gardening questions.

### Saturday • September 4 • 2 pm

*Cactus & Succulents*

Mary Ann Talavage

### Sunday • September 12 • 2 pm

*So You Want to Grow a Giant Pumpkin*

Adam Cooper

### Sunday • September 19 • 2 pm

*Butterfly Garden Tour*

Linda Cooper

### Sunday • September 26 • 2 pm

*Indiana Native Plants and their Uses*

Peter Cooper

## Upcoming Programs

### September 7 • 6:30 pm • TCEO

Judy Gasvoda from the Wild Bird Shoppe.

### October 5 • 6:30 pm • Hort 117

Joan Sozen, Kay Connor & Marlene Hodge discuss their trip to Turkey.

## Volunteer News

by Kay Falley

With September upon us, the pace of volunteering slows down a bit. Thanks to all of you who volunteered for one of our yearly projects, the state conference, and to speak to groups out in the community.

The effects often reach beyond our own goals, as you can see from the thank-you letter printed above. As it turns out, the next workday at the Women's Shelter is September 4 from 8 to 11 am. Come help if you can. Call Kim Baunach for info at 464-1352.

The inventory sheet that you filled out last January will be used again for the upcoming year. Between now and January, please consider the projects for which you are willing to volunteer your time.

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# From the Secretary

## Minutes of the July 6 & August 10, 2010 meetings of the Master Gardener Association of Tippecanoe County

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### July 6 Program

Sue Swick introduced our guest speaker for the evening, Sara Peel, who is the Watershed Coordinator for the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation. Sara explained the watershed management plan for our area. The plan is a working document and a necessary step to implement water quality improvement projects. Rain gardens and native plant examples were shown. For more info on these topics go to [www.wabashriver.net](http://www.wabashriver.net).

### Business Meeting

President Linda Mann called the meeting to order and thanked Sara Peel for an informative and educational presentation.

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

Treasurer Lynn Layden reported a LSB checking balance of \$9,238.33, Vanguard money market \$10,467.22. No transfers made from checking account to Vanguard as LSB is paying more in interest.

Income from State Conference booths, auction and book sale: \$1,500. We are still waiting for invoice from Purdue Press, after shipping unsold books back to them. Sent \$1,000 to Allen County MG for next year's conference. Art in Bloom broke even: \$74 in donations and water sales on tour and \$400 expense money from WL Dept. of Development. HELEN magazine paid for printing of posters and cards.

Call for approval of financials as presented. m/s/p

Lynn also reported that the budget is in process, please call if you have a project that needs to be in the budget.

#### 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.

Nominating: Maribeth Slebodnik reported that corresponding secretary and the fund development committees spots still need to be filled. The slate will be complete by July 15 and ready for the August mtg.

Public Education: Robin Hammel reported that no mtg. will be held in July. August 21, 9-12 will be a presentation by Peaceful Greens.

Social: Marj Lawson reminded us that the Hoe-Down will be on August 10 at 6 pm at the Extension Office.

#### Reports from special projects:

Demo Garden: John Pickett reported that 350 pounds of fresh vegetables have been delivered to the food pantry so far this year. Monday and Thursday are picking days; weeding is any day or any time!

Garden Open House: Maribeth Slebodnik reminded us of the community garden open house at the extension office on August 15 from 2-5 pm. 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 have over 200 people working in the community gardens this year.

The Butterfly Garden located at the Celery Bog received an award from the City of West Lafayette.

#### Old Business:

If you attended State Convention, 18 hours of education were available.

Art in Bloom: We had a great turn out this year: 400-500 people. Five gardens were on display plus Lincoln Park. Next year Barberry Heights and University Farms will be on tour.

#### New Business:

Tippecanoe County Fair: We are having our information booth again this year. Please see Dee Dilling to sign up for a shift from 6-8:30 pm on the following days: 17-24.

Garden Expo date for 2011 will be April 30, which is the fifth Saturday in April. We are in need of storage space for the garden shed booth items.

The membership committee has approval to make designations in our 2011 book as to active and inactive status. One more reason to turn in your hours this year. Hours may be turned in at any time to Carmen Dunn. You need 12 volunteer hours and six education hours each year for an active status.

Meeting adjourned.

### August 10 Program

Dave Huth from Bennett's gave us an outstanding program on autumn turf care. He discussed moles, mold, crabgrass, creeping Charlie, purslane, fertilizer, seeding, and other lawn diversions.

### Business Meeting

Minutes Minutes from the last meeting distributed as they were not in the last Garden Beet. Motion made to approve. Approved by voice vote.

#### Standing committee reports:

Treasurer \$9,699 in checking, \$10,000 in Vanguard investment account. Outstanding bills and accounts receivable will alter this slightly. New FY starts in September, about \$9K in each account.

Membership Dues to Kristel Kaye by 9/1 so green book can be completed

Public Education No report, 8/21 program planned on Peaceful Gardens.

Volunteer Hours Can be turned in at any time; send hours to Carmen Dunn.

#### Reports from special projects:

Finance Committee instituted and Fundraising/Development committee reinstated.

Calendars here for sale!

Cumberland Gardens – Magnolia tree needs to be replaced – suggestions accepted.

Open Garden Day this Sunday – all are welcome.

Demo Garden – Over 1/2ton of food to St. John's food pantry so far this summer. About 20 MGs have helped in the garden this season, with the usual suspects providing consistent support. Fall crops are planted and weeding is coming to a conclusion. Corn gluten was used as a pre-emergent in one quadrant and has noticeably decreased the weed burden. Linda Cooper said that Preen has been used for pre-emergent weed control in the Idea and AAS garden, also to good effect.

Nominating – Slate of officer candidates read and members urged to attend September meeting to vote for officers and discuss bylaws changes. Voting on bylaws will occur in October meeting, so that will also be an important meeting. One paragraph inadvertently not included in the bylaws will be published in the September Garden Beet. Don Nead was honored at the state conference by achieving 'gold pin' status, indicating at least 1010 volunteer hours and 155 education hours – congratulations!

The "Zoo Crew" is presenting information at the Columbian Park Zoo for the first time this year.

Linda Mann noted that members have requested more garden tours, but this has been tried before without much response from those willing to be toured. She suggested that we take photos of our gardens to loop on the screen during the pre-meeting 6:30-7 pm social hour. Contact Linda if you would like to contribute to this.

Dee Dilling thanked the MGs who manned the MGATC booth at the Tippecanoe County Fair.

Revised bylaws distributed to all who attended and will be mailed to all who are not present. Changes in italics and bold type will be discussed at the Annual Meeting in September, and voted on at the October meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m. Attendance – 66.

*Maribeth Slebodnik*

## Wednesdays

Sep 1 1-3 pm **Wings and Wildflowers at Prophetstown State Park**—Visit a fen and prairie at their peak: butterflies, birds and blooming plants put on quite an end-of-summer display! Naturalist Mary Cutler leads this trek along the trails in our local state park. Bring binoculars & bug repellent! STPK (\$6 gate fee)

Sep 8 8-10 pm **Pictures in the Late Summer Sky**—Learn to find and identify major constellations & asterisms of the summer sky with George Wyncott (Wabash Valley Astronomical Society). Indoor slide show is followed by an outdoor search for planets, star clusters, nebulae, and constellations. Bring binoculars & folding chairs for stargazing! LNC

Sep 15 7-9 pm **Pharmaceuticals in the Environment & Their Impact on Aquatic Life**—Marisol Sepulveda, Purdue Professor of Ecotoxicology & Aquatic Animal Health) discusses the major types of pharmaceuticals and personal care products detected in streams and rivers across the U.S. and presents info on their impact to fish and aquatic invertebrates. LNC

Sep 22 7-9 pm **Monarch Migration & Conservation**—Reni Winter (Master Naturalist & monarch aficionado) gives a presentation on monarch butterfly migration and conservation, followed by a demonstration of tagging and releasing monarchs. LNC

Sep 29 7-9 pm **Insect Songsters**—Tom Turpin (Purdue Entomologist) talks about the why and how of insect songs and the species that fill the summer and night air with their clicks, scrapes and hums. Join us and stridulate along if you like! LNC

### Locations

**LNC** (Lilly Nature Center/Celery Bog Nature Area): On north side of Lindberg Rd (betw Northwestern & McCormick) in West Lafayette.

**STPK** (Prophetstown State Pk): Enter park via Swisher Rd (off North 9th St, just south of Battle Ground); meet at Coneflower Picnic Shelter. NOTE: PASS or \$5/car PARK ENTRY FEE is required.

## Our deepest sympathy ...

Rosie Lerner's father passed away very unexpectedly in August.

Rosie's address is:  
5101 Moores Bay Road  
West Lafayette IN 47906-9488

Connie Musser, 2009 Master Gardener graduate, lost her son Matthew in a tragic farm tractor/train accident in Earl Park.

Connie's address is:  
496 S 1100 E  
Otterbein IN 47970

John Pickett's brother passed away in August. John and Ann's address is:  
7539 Foxtail Lane East  
Lafayette IN 47905

AND PLUCK TILL  
TIME AND  
TIMES ARE DONE,  
THE SILVER APPLES  
OF THE MOON,  
THE GOLDEN  
APPLES OF  
THE SUN.  
~WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS

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## Bylaws Changes

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By now, each member should have received a copy of proposed bylaw changes for the association. Most of the changes reflect a definition of membership that is the statewide policy of Purdue Master Gardeners: In order to be considered an active Master Gardener, each member must report a minimum of 12 hours of volunteer activity and six hours of education each year. If you are an "active" member of MGATC, you can be an officer or chair of a project/committee, vote for the nominated slate, and call yourself a Master Gardener. Purdue is concerned that people who have been trained as Master Gardeners but do not keep current in education or service opportunities may not be up to date in gardening knowledge and advice. If members attend each monthly meeting, they will have enough service and educational hours to re-certify each year, in addition to gaining valuable information on current gardening topics. If you do not report hours to Carmen Dunn, your status in the Membership Directory will be recorded as "inactive." However, you can attend meetings and social events and receive the Garden Beet if you continue to pay dues.

As our organization has grown, the number required to make a quorum has expanded. We are proposing that the percentage be dropped from 25% to 20%. That would require approximately 10 fewer active members to be present to vote at regular and annual meetings.

The bylaws now include a more detailed description of the responsibilities of the Volunteer Projects Committee as well as the Fund Raising Committee. The Finance Committee is new, and its description was mistakenly omitted from your copies. It should read as follows:

"Article VI, Section 2, paragraph k: Finance Committee: This committee shall receive regular finance reports from the Treasurer, examine MGATC accounts at least annually, write and revise policies and procedures relating to financial management, and approve

disbursements not included in the yearly budget. This committee shall prepare and recommend an annual budget to the Board of Directors in July."

These policies will be discussed briefly at the September meeting, and will be voted on at the October meeting. We urge you to attend both meetings so that a quorum is present and to ask questions you may have about these changes.

*Lynn Layden*

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## From the Prez

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Hello Master Gardeners,

Our Hoe-down was once again a great evening; good food, good friends, and we even learned a few things concerning lawn care. I hope everyone took advantage and viewed how the gardens at Extension have progressed. Good jobs have been done by many hands.

If you attended the Hoe-down you received your copy of the updated bylaws. Others will receive theirs in the mail. These bylaws will be open to discussion at our annual meeting on September 7 and will be voted on by the membership at the October 5 regular meeting. We also introduced the nominees for office, and our election of officers is at the annual meeting on September 7. Please plan to attend these two important meetings of the MGATC.

All MGATC members should have received a dues notice; these are due by September 1, 2010. Please pay on time so our membership book can be completed. If you did not receive a dues notice, contact Kristel Kaye.

*Happy gardening to all,  
Linda Mann*

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## AAS Display & Idea Gardens

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If you have not visited the gardens lately, please do and bring your friends. The gardens are beautiful, free and open to the public from dawn to dusk every day.

In April, volunteers potted excess violas, cilantro and raspberries grow-

ing in the paths for the Garden Expo plant sale. In late May we planted the new plants in the AAS Display garden started by Mickey Penrod and her students, Bill & Dee Dilling, and Linda and Peter Cooper. The AAS gardens and general garden areas are maintained by Master Gardener volunteers from June through October.

This year we have 18 Idea gardens planned, planted and maintained by the garden's sponsor and their group of volunteers. Some are new this year; others have been with us since 2008. Thank you gardeners!

### 2010 Idea Gardens

**Canna Garden** - Bill & Dee Dilling

**Butterfly Garden** - Jan Hansell

**Mickey's Students' Garden** - Mickey Penrod & students

**Great Sunflower Project** - Peter & Linda Cooper

**Wildflower Garden** - Sandy McDanel & Linda Cooper

**Gourd Trellis** - Linda Cooper

**Gigantics Garden** - Adam Cooper & Becki Comstock

**Children's Garden** - Cheryl Borst

**Rainbow Garden** - Pat Niswonger & Rita Bombassaro

**Sunflower Room** - Melissa Evens & daughter

**Raspberry Garden** - Bev Jones

**Dahlia Garden** - Jim Mailloux & Jim Smith

**Colonial Garden** - Deb Browning, Linda & Peter Cooper

**Iris Walk** - Linda Cooper

**Sorghum Garden** - Peter Cooper

**Scented Garden** - Marsha Castello

**Unusual Plants Garden** - John Reese, Linda & Peter Cooper

**Daisy Garden** - Daisy Girl Scout Troop 1719 & Linda Cooper

If you want to have an Idea Garden for 2011 or want to help in any of the gardens, contact the garden sponsor or Linda or Peter Cooper, AAS Display & Idea Gardens chairs.



# 2010-11 Budget

The budget adopted by the Board is a spending plan, without benefit of a panel of economic advisers, Congressional Budget Office, or reading of tea leaves. How close to reality this plan will be is a matter of speculation. We do know that postage for the Garden Beet will be going up, so we appreciate each and every member who chooses to receive the newsletter electronically. When the budget year ends, the unspent funds in the current budget will be put back into the common pot and we will start with the new budget funding. If a project receives grant money from outside sources, those funds will carry over to the next year if there are unspent monies. This year, our spending plan was not a very good predictor of income or expense: the Community Gardens received \$11,213 directly, with many thousands paid in plumbing bills. The Colonial Garden received large amounts of in-kind gifts. The All-American Selections and Display Gardens received several grants from local foundations. Much of the \$9,600 in our checking account is earmarked for the four gardens which are carrying over grant and gift money. If you have any questions about the funds approved in the budget, please contact Lynn Layden or Linda Mann.

## MGATC BUDGET September 1, 2010 to August 31, 2011

### INCOME

|                               |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Banquet fees for guests       | \$ 75            |
| Calendar sales                | 800              |
| Contributions, memorial gifts | 500              |
| Garden Expo gross receipts    | 6,000            |
| Grants                        | 5,000            |
| Interest earned               | 100              |
| Membership dues               | 4,000            |
| Seed sales                    | 150              |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>           | <b>\$ 16,625</b> |

### EXPENSE

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| All-American Selections Garden<br>(2010 grants carry-over \$4,600) | \$ 525 |
| Butterfly Garden   | 150    |
| Children's Garden<br>(2010 grants carry-over \$1,900)              | 100    |
| Colonial Garden<br>(2010 grants, gifts \$478)                      | 0      |
| Cumberland Adopt a Spot<br>(2010 grants carry-over \$314)          | 1,000  |
| Demonstration Garden   | 800    |
| Educational activity   | 1,200  |
| Extension office postage, etc.                                     | 400    |
| Garden Beet printing & postage                                     | 1,750  |
| Garden Expo booths   | 300    |
| Garden Expo speakers   | 500    |

|                                      |                  |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Garden Expo publicity                | 750              |
| Garden Expo signs, etc.              | 775              |
| Grants to current or new activities  | 4,000            |
| Hanna Adopt a Spot                   | 150              |
| Mascouten Adopt a Spot               | 150              |
| Membership book printing             | 300              |
| Memory Garden                        | 250              |
| Office, administrative expense       | 250              |
| Public workshops                     | 100              |
| Scholarships for MG Interns          | 150              |
| Scholarships for Purdue, IVTC        | 1,500            |
| Seed sale expense                    | 50               |
| Social event expense (includes rent) | 450              |
| Speaker expense                      | 400              |
| Women's Shelter garden               | 150              |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>                 | <b>\$ 16,150</b> |

## Officers & Chairs

### 2010-2011 Slate of Officers

|                         |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| President               | Linda Mann      |
| Vice President          | Sue Swick       |
| Treasurer               | Lynn Laden      |
| Recording Secretary     | Carla Barnhart  |
| Corresponding Secretary | Erica Timmerman |
| Member at Large         | Sue Hiser       |

### 2010-2011 Committee Chairs

|                           |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Nominating                | Maribeth Slebodnik |
| Historian                 | Nancy Werner       |
| Membership                | Kristel Kaye       |
| Public Education          | Robin Hammel       |
| <b>Garden Beet</b> Editor | Denise Dorsey-Zinn |
| Publicity                 | Glen Vick          |
| Social                    | Marj Lawson        |
| Finance                   | Pat Miller         |
| Fundraising               | Kay Conner         |

MY EYES, WHICH  
HAD SEEN ALL, CAME  
BACK TO THE WHITE  
CHRYSANTHEMUMS.

~ ISSHO

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# The Latest Dirt

by Flora N. Fauna

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A reception was held in the Irwin Library on August 18 to celebrate the launch of a project to digitize Indiana specimens from the Friesner Herbarium at Butler University. The goal of the project is to increase access to, awareness of, and use by all citizens of Indiana of the valuable historical botanical information contained within the Friesner Herbarium. Phase One was a relatively small pilot project of about 1,800 Indiana fern and orchid specimens. An additional grant has been received to digitize the specimens in the Asteraceae (Sunflower) plant family. Butler University's digital herbarium site will be included on the Indiana Memory site of the Indiana State Library. To view the digitized herbarium specimens, visit [content.butler.edu/cdm4/about.php](http://content.butler.edu/cdm4/about.php). The entire collection may be browsed or individual records may be requested using the search function.

Check out The Columbus Dispatch at [dispatch.com/live/content/insight/stories/2010/07/18/urban-garden.html?sid=101](http://dispatch.com/live/content/insight/stories/2010/07/18/urban-garden.html?sid=101) to read how Cleveland, Ohio is combating the loss of workers and an abundance of vacant land by converting its acres of "vacant, abandoned buildings and debris-strewn lots into flower and vegetable gardens. And the city council introduced legislation last month to create urban agriculture districts of at least 10,000 square feet, roughly a quarter acre, that allows larger farms and mentions residents raising cows, horses, and alpacas. The city council last year passed legislation allowing residents to raise and keep bees, chickens, and other farm animals." City officials of Youngstown, Detroit, and Flint, Michigan have also discussed or are bulldozing city blocks so they don't have to provide them with costly city services. They're talking about turning entire city blocks into green, pasture-like settings or parks. And in some cases, small produce farms.

America In Bloom lists many grant resources for garden projects. Check out their list of over forty grants on their Community Resource area at [americainbloom.org/resources/Grant-Opportunities.aspx](http://americainbloom.org/resources/Grant-Opportunities.aspx). Make sure to find the deadline dates and don't be discouraged if they have expired, for they may be ongoing grants that will be available next year.

Having trouble keeping the varmints from nibbling on newly planted bulbs? Try these tips for protecting them. Plant those bulbs that seem to not be bothered by animals. Narcissus are usually not troubled by animals and other bulbs that are rarely eaten include hyacinths, Crocus tommasinianus, Eranthis, crown imperials (Fritillaria imperialis), snowdrops (Galanthus), Spanish bluebells (Hyacinthoides), snowflakes (Leucojum), grape hyacinths (Muscari), silver bells (Ornithogalum nutans), and Scilla. Tulips and lilies, unfortunately, seem to be a favorite on most animal menus. If animals dig your newly-planted bulbs—including ones they won't eat, like daffodils—try covering with plastic bird-netting, wire-mesh, a window screen, or burlap bags for a couple of weeks till the inviting smell of freshly-dug earth disappears. If animals burrow to your bulbs, try lining the planting hole with wire-mesh, plant in wire-mesh boxes, or plant in buried pots covered with a square of chicken wire.

Here are seven reasons to start from seed, according to Home Garden Seed Association at [ezfromseed.org](http://ezfromseed.org).

1. Grow your own food. It's healthier and more nutritious and costs a fraction of today's supermarket costs.

2. Save your gas money with fewer trips to the store. "Shop" in your own backyard.

3. When you buy started plants for your garden, you have no idea what has been fed to or sprayed on them to get them ready for market.

4. It is easy and fun to grow your own plants from seeds.

5. You can grow unusual plants from seed never found "already-started" in nurseries and garden centers.

6. You have personal control of nurturing your seedlings to become the safest, healthiest plants.

7. Become a member of the long legacy of American home gardeners who have grown their own vegetables, herbs and flowers from fresh seed.

## Demo Garden Update

Our Demonstration Garden project is doing well this summer. So far about 20 Tiptecanoe Master Gardeners have given time to help over the course of the growing season, but we enjoy seeing new faces. We tried several techniques and innovations in our garden—some working better than others.

- Corn gluten demonstrated its value in the area where we planted tomatoes, peppers and eggplant. I wish we had used it in other areas. There's always next year!

- Cheap contractor paper proved as good as more expensive planter paper.

- Growing peas on a fence panel worked well, but doing the same with cucumbers didn't.

- We planted potatoes on top of tilled ground and covered them with straw. We inspected some hills in mid-August and found some nice potatoes, though not quite ready for harvest.

- The new irrigations system has worked well, but July rains limited its use.

We have harvested and delivered over half a ton of fresh vegetables to St. Johns food pantry as of August 1. We hope your own home gardens are doing well and bringing you the pleasure of home-grown food.

*John and Ann Pickett*

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## Your Dues Are Due

**It's MGATC dues time again! Payment is due by September 1.**

**Please send your payment by the due date.**

*Kristel Kaye*

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## Herb Bed

### (continued from back)

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chrysanthemum appeared in their writings as early as the 15th century BC; some experts say even earlier. Used initially as an herb, chrysanthemum was believed to have the power of life. Legend states that the people living in the Li district of China live to be 120 and 130 years old because they drank water flavored with the chrysanthemums that grow on the banks of a spring. Ancient Chinese believed chrysanthemum would protect people from getting a chill during the transition time of autumn. They found that its herbal infusion helped to relieve headaches, acne, dizziness, bad breath, and fevers, among other symptoms and conditions. American herbalists have long used the petals of another chrysanthemum family member, feverfew, to ward off migraine headache.

Because of the diversity in chrysanthemums, from the native oriental variety to the dazzling hybridized plants of today, it is important to research the various species of the plant before using chrysanthemums in medicinal or culinary recipes. For the most part, chrysanthemums are non-poisonous and edible, although they have a slightly bitter, pungent flavor. They are often listed among toxic plants because adverse effects are known to be associated with them if consumed in large quantities. Three such adverse effects are an allergic reaction from those who suffer with allergies to composite-type flowers; minor toxicity like rash, vomiting, or diarrhea caused by ingestion; and dermatitis caused by exposure to the plant's juice or sap. Sneezing might be the first indication of sensitivity.

But for modern day herbalists and health conscious people, chrysanthemum continues to be a therapeutically important flower. There are other herbs of the composite family that are considered safe and may be substituted for chrysanthemum: feverfew (*Chrysanthemum parthenium*), ox-eye daisy (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*), and dalmatian pelltitory (*Chrysanthemum cinerariaefolium*).

Pyrethrin is an active ingredient found in chrysanthemums and serves as a natural insecticide and miticide while being relatively harmless to humans and animals. Pyrethrin paralyzes the central nervous system of insects and is usually lethal but not always. In the latter case, it is still a powerful repellent. This makes chrysanthemum-based products safe and attractive unless one is allergic to the plant as stated above.

All mums contain pyrethrin, but since the highest concentration level is found in *Chrysanthemum coccineum*, or painted daisies, you may want to grow some of these to create your own, more powerful, natural insecticide. Cut chrysanthemums in full bloom, dry the flowers, and grind to a powder. Spot treat individual plants by sprinkling the homemade insecticide on its leaves. Store in an air-tight container in a cool, dark spot.

Kenya is the major producer and exporter of 70 percent of the world's pyrethrum daisies (*Chrysanthemum coccineum*), making this pretty flower a boon not only for ailments and pest control, but for an emerging third-world economy as well. The plants are grown and flowers harvested by small farmers.

The Japanese celebrate National Chrysanthemum Day, or the Festival of Happiness, on the ninth day of the ninth month. They prepare a special chrysanthemum cake made for the occasion called Chung-Yang cake. It is a steamed cake made from flour and sugar, stuffed with chestnuts, pine nuts and other types of nuts, and crowned with a colorful paper flag. In the practice of Feng Shui, chrysanthemums are believed to bring laughter and happiness to the home. So, now that we find ourselves in the ninth month, let's celebrate too, as gardeners, and enjoy a little happiness and laughter. Go buy a mum, bake a cake, and celebrate the arrival of autumn.

## Chrysanthemum Cocktail

2 oz. Dry Vermouth  
1 1/2 oz. Benedictine  
1/4 t. Pernod

Pour the vermouth and Benedictine into a mixing glass half-filled with cracked ice. Stir well. Strain into a cocktail glass. Add the Pernod, garnish with an orange twist, and serve.

## Chrysanthemum Sweet Potatoes

6 medium sweet potatoes, peeled and cubed  
1/4 c. crushed pineapple, in juice  
1/4 c. honey  
3 T. butter, melted  
1/2 t. grated lemon zest  
1/2 c. chrysanthemum petals (not florist's petals)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Butter a 2-quart baking dish. Place the sweet potatoes into a large pot and fill with enough water to cover. Bring to a boil and cook until tender, about 15 minutes. Drain. Mash potatoes with pineapple, honey, and butter using a whisk or electric mixer until smooth and creamy. Stir in the lemon zest and chrysanthemum petals. Transfer to the prepared baking dish. Bake for 20 to 30 minutes in preheated oven until hot and fragrant.

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## Adventures in Gardening

### Saturday • September 25

### 8:30 am-3:30 pm • \$30

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Check out this MG seminar at the Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds Auditorium in Danville, Indiana.

Irvin Etienne, Horticultural Display Coordinator at the Indianapolis Museum of Art, is the keynote speaker, talking about *Orna-Edibles—Escaping the Vegetable Ghetto*. Irvin's great sense of humor offers delightful listening and learning. Other topics include *Going Native in Suburbia*, *Water Ponds Made Easy*, and *The Winter Garden*.

Learn more about other speakers and find the registration form at [HendricksGardeners.com](http://HendricksGardeners.com).

# Garden Beet

6375 Whippoorwill Lane • Lafayette IN 47905-8773

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**Address changes:**

Kristel Kaye  
6375 Whippoorwill Lane  
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IF YOU WOULD BE HAPPY  
FOR A LIFETIME, GROW  
CHRYSANTHEMUMS.  
~CHINESE PHILOSOPHER~

## The Herb Bed by Connie Kingman

In the language of flowers, chrysanthemum means cheerfulness. And what could be cheerier this early autumn than the showy displays of colorful mounds of chrysanthemums found at garden shops and on doorsteps?

Chrysanthemums are commonly called mums, but are also known as hardy mums or garden mums in contrast to the less hardy mums available from florists. Under the genus *Chrysanthemum*, there are about 30 different species, which vary in their size, shape and color. Based on the arrangement of florets, chrysanthemums are categorized under 13 bloom forms with the most common being daisy-like, buttons and pompons. Besides the traditional yellow variety, chrysanthemums bloom in white, golden, orange, pink, red, purple, and violet. For examples of these various types, visit the National Chrysanthemum Society at [www.mums.org/journal/articles/classifications.htm](http://www.mums.org/journal/articles/classifications.htm).

Cushion mums grow two to three

feet high and usually in a mounded form that is furthermore perfected by numerous pinchings from early spring to July. Pinching new growth and early buds every two to three weeks increases side shoot growth and delays blooming. Pinching is halted in July to allow enough time for the final bud formation.

Chrysanthemums enjoy full sun and well-drained soil enriched with compost. Good air circulation is a must, reducing the chance of disease. Resist overcrowding your plants. Here in Jasper County I find it best to treat these herbaceous perennials as annuals, thus keeping my heart from breaking when they fail to return year after year. I have followed all the recommended tips to ensure their return but have yet to find a truly hardy cultivar for my area. I've applied a winter mulch to keep the soil at an even temperature throughout the colder months in an effort to inhibit the heaving of soil when, in its fickleness, winter offers a few thaws amidst her freezes. I have faithfully removed the mulch early in spring as the mum sends it shoots through the warming soil under

the mulch. I have even searched for better-suited microclimates within my garden and the landscape around my home. I have planted mums early enough in the late summer season for the recommended six weeks before killing frosts to ensure good root establishment—all of this and more, to unsuccessful results. So for now, my chrysanthemums remain as annuals.

The parent species from which the garden mums of today were derived are native to China and Japan and are the source of all modern show chrysanthemums. In comparison to those early mums, our newly developed chrysanthemum hybrids are more vibrant and showy and most would be unrecognizable by ancient growers. The chrysanthemum was first introduced into the Western world during the 17th century when Carl Linnaeus, renowned Swedish botanist, combined the Greek words *chrysos*, meaning gold, with *anthos*, meaning flower, to give the plant its name. The earliest illustrations of mums show them as small, yellow daisy-like flowers.

First cultivated by the Chinese, the

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