

Garden Beet

Master Gardener Association of Tippecanoe County

January 2010

Let's Grow Together by Don Nead

As the year comes to an end we sometimes get caught up in making resolutions for the New Year only to break them before the end of January. Well maybe as Master Gardeners we can do better than that for 2010. I challenge you to think about what you have done in 2009 so that you can continue to call yourself a Master Gardener.

We have been very lax in looking at our standards for association membership; it is more than merely paying annual dues. There is an annual recertification requirement for 12 hours of volunteer service and 6 hours of continuing education. Have you done that in 2009 and have you turned in your report to Carmen Dunn, our recorder of hours? According to the records, many have not.

Your Board of Directors and Membership Committee are struggling with how to resolve this question. If we were strict legalists we would declare all those members as inactive even though they paid their dues. Since we are committed to "helping others grow," we will not enforce the standards this year, and hope that we do not face this issue next year.

Therefore it is up to you who have not turned in your hours, or who have not been involved enough to earn recertification, to resolve for 2010 to become involved in a way that will get you back in good standing.

We have plenty of work to do and offer continuing education events in a variety of ways in addition to the first hour of our monthly meeting with guest speakers that do count as continuing education.

Become involved so we can all grow together!

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer speakers and booth workers are needed. Please consider "Helping Others Grow" in our community!

March 13-21
(TBD)

Indy Flower & Patio Show
Info Booth workers. Work days TBD.

April 17 & 18
(Sat/Sun)

Spring Fest/Hort Show
Info Booth workers in Plant Sale Area
Three individuals per shift both days:
10 am to 12:30 pm, 12:30 to 3 pm,
3 to 5 pm

May 6
(Thurs)

Happy Hollow Garden Club @ 1 pm
Handling small garden areas. (30 minutes) Rosie Lerner has power point presentation that may be utilized.

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

Upcoming Programs

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

January 5 • 6:30 pm • Extension Office
Tom Creswell: Diagnosing Plant Disease Problems

February 2 • 6 pm* • Beck Center,
Hwy 52W
Annual Banquet & Carry-in

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

From the Secretary

Minutes of the December 1, 2009 meeting of the Master Gardener Association of Tippecanoe County

Program

Lilly Nature Center

Linda Mann introduced our guest speaker, Landscape Architect Gregory Pierceall. Greg gave a power point presentation about his latest project, Smart Home, Green & Wired, at the Chicago Museum of Science & Industry. The home will be open through Christmas and will reopen in March. With the help of the Chicago Master Gardeners they received the "Best Public Garden in Chicago" award. Overall in the United States, the new trend for people of all ages is gardening and mixing flowers with vegetables. Greg has also been selected by the City of Chicago to design the center stage for the Chicago Flower Show in March, located at Navy Pier. He will feature Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat using new varieties of flowers developed by the Ball Corp. New on the horizon is teaching horticulture with a culinary class. He is finding that some culinary students do not know where there food is coming from. In closing we saw a picture of the first ever living billboard, commissioned by McDonald's. Google "lettuce billboard" and his creation will come up on the screen.

Business Meeting

President Don Nead called the meeting to order. Members of the current MG class were introduced.

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

Treasurer Lynn Layden reported a checking balance of \$5047. Vanguard money market \$10,466

Call for Volunteers:

Volunteer Committee: Kay Falley explained the new volunteer inventory sheet and asked that everyone fill one out tonight and turn them in to her. This form will be helpful in so many ways, speakers, committee members, workers for our current projects.

Linda & Peter Cooper are having a planning meeting for the All American Display Garden on January 12.

John Pickett is having a planning meeting for the Extension Demo Garden on January 9 at 9 am at the Tippecanoe Extension office.

Marge Lawson, chair of the social committee, needs three more people to help with this committee. Please contact Marge if you are interested.

Brenda Carton needs a co-chair for the photo contest at the State Master Gardener meeting this summer. Please contact Brenda if you are interested.

Standing Committees: No reports.

For the Good of the Association:

Happy Holidays!

Meeting adjourned. m/s/p

Board of Directors Mtg. 12/10/09

Arts & Crafts Room - Westminster Village, West Lafayette

Attendance: Linda Mann, Lynn Layden, Carla Barnhart, Linda Cooper, and Don Nead

Absent: Sue Hiser.

Mtg. called to order by President Don Nead.

Minutes of 11/12/09 meeting m/s/p

Lynn Layden, Treasurer, presented an income/expense report for the last quarter of 2009

Review of tonight's agenda, Lynn requested time to talk about a MG State Convention proposal under new business.

Old Business

Public Education: Carla Barnhart will plan January's Community Outreach, starting in February, Robin Hammel will plan and continue the program for the remainder of her term.

Social Committee: Marj Lawson is the chair and will need to secure a speaker for the February Annual Banquet. Carla Barnhart will be in touch with her to see what is planned and

help secure a speaker if necessary.

Community Gardens: Don Nead reported that we have received the official grant application from NCHS.

New Business

Task Force reports and actions m/s/p

1. *Volunteer* All recommendations have been completed.

Finance Adopt item 8 & 9 (establish a finance committee and a fundraising committee) and refer all other items to the newly formed committees. Add the annual audit to finance committee. Move budget process up 1 month for ease of transition to a new treasurer.

Membership Approved item #7 (redeveloping a membership committee) and refer all other items to the newly formed committee.

By-laws Future meeting for bylaws will be scheduled now that changes are in place.

2. Developing or redeveloping standing committee job descriptions will be handled in committee and brought back to BOD for approval. m/s/p

Finance Committee Pat Miller, chair

Fund Raising Committee (reactivate, chair needed)

Membership Committee Kristel Kaye, chair

Nominating Committee Maribeth Slebodnik, chair

Publicity Committee Glen Vick, chair

Public Education Robin Hammel, chair

Program Committee Linda Mann, chair

Social Committee Marj Lawson, chair

Volunteer Committee Kay Falley, chair

The above committees will be filled from the MG inventory sheet. We have had 40 returned so far and

the form will run in the Jan. 2010 Garden Beet.

3. Nominating Committee has submitted the name of Charlene Roden for the replacement of Wendy Kerssemaker vacant position of corresponding secretary. m/s/p

4. Motion to subsidize an eight color t-shirt for volunteers at the MG State Convention denied. Motion to give \$25 scholarship to go towards registration fee for volunteers approved.

Mtg. Adjourned. Happy Holidays!

Demonstration Garden Planning Meeting

**Saturday, January 9, 9 to
10:30 am at the Extension
Office**

Please bring ideas on varieties and growing methods.

Also, bring garden catalogs.

For additional information contact John Pickett at pickettvet@yahoo.com

AAS Display & Idea Gardens Winter Planning Meeting

**Tuesday, January 12, 6:30
pm at the Extension Office**

We want to get a head start so when the weather gets warm we can hit the ground running.

See the changes to the garden layout for 2010.

Have an idea for an Idea Garden or would like to have one?

Anyone interested in helping is invited to come.

*Thanks,
Peter & Linda Cooper*

Scented Geraniums Workshop

**Saturday, January 23, 9 am
to noon at the Extension
Office**

Want to know more about scented geraniums? Ranging from 1 to 3 feet tall, they are excellent “jewels” in the border, and equally suitable for pots, planters and hanging baskets. Learn about their cultivation and great variety from Crawfordsville-based Davidson Greenhouse & Nursery.

Master Gardeners at Work Calendar

Master Gardeners at Work is the “working” title of a 2011 TCMGA calendar that features “Calendar Girl” poses of TCMGA members wearing tastefully concealing MG aprons. Each month will have a seasonal theme with gardening tips and perhaps a recipe or two. Don’t miss out on this exclusive opportunity!

Proceeds from this calendar will help us have a spectacular 2010 State Master Gardener Conference and they will be on sale there too.

We are taking orders for this calendar now. No money down (they will sell for \$10 when they are ready) is needed, just the number you would like to order.

A mock-up of the calendar will be available at the January meeting so you can get an idea what it will look like, and there will be an order form there.

But if you can’t make the meeting and would like to order some calendars now, let one of us know:

Esther Chosnek at
esther@fnpmail.com or 567-8569.

Kay Conner at
kay.conner@comcast.net or
583-2509.

Nancy Kriebel at
tejas30@aol.com or 589-8922.

And if you would like to pose, let us know that too!

Board Change

Wendy Kerssemakers
resigned as Corresponding
Secretary; Charlene Roden
has been elected to replace
her.

THE GREATEST
SERVICE, WHICH
CAN BE RENDERED
ANY COUNTRY, IS
TO ADD A USEFUL
PLANT TO ITS
CULTURE.
~ THOMAS JEFFERSON

Herb Bed (continued from back)

to the ground in green rosettes barely peeking through a light layer of snow. They wait the same wait that I endure until the weather announces the coming of spring. On some mornings, especially after a heavy snowfall, the garden is a wonderland: white, calm, and peaceful. On those mornings, I return a second time to photograph its beauty. Many of those pictures have graced my family's Christmas cards.

When I volunteered to measure the rain and snow, it was difficult to find the correct spot for hanging the rain gauge and placement of the snow-board. However, the garden turned

out to be the best location and I'm happy about that now because I have observed so much more than I did from just watching from the window. How can I be sullen and blue when there is so much promise and hope in my small garden bed? January serves as a threshold to the New Year and derives its name from Janus, the Roman god of gates and doors. Along with the gate of January, I have my garden that serves as a second gate to the New Year, and together they are daily reminders that we are not locked in the grips of winter forever, but instead, we are moving, even though slowly, towards those first, welcome glimpses of spring.

Beat the Winter Blues Decadent Oatmeal Dream Bars

- 1-2/3 C. all-purpose flour
- 1 package (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
- 1-1/2 C. uncooked oatmeal
- 1 can (14 oz.) sweetened condensed milk
- 1-1/2 T. lemon juice
- 3/4 C. firmly packed brown sugar
- 1 C. (6 ounces) toffee bits, divided
- 2 t. vanilla
- 1/2 C. butterscotch caramel topping or caramel topping
- 1/2 C. chopped, toasted walnuts
- 3/4 C. milk chocolate chips
- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter or margarine, melted

Heat oven to 350°F. Spray 13 x 9-inch metal baking pan with cooking spray. In large bowl, combine flour, oats, brown sugar, 1/2 cup toffee bits and walnuts; mix well with fork. Add melted butter; mix until crumbly. Reserve 1-1/2 cups oat mixture for topping; set aside. Press remaining oat mixture firmly onto bottom of prepared pan. Bake 13 to 14 minutes, until deep golden brown; cool 10 minutes on wire rack.

In same bowl, beat cream cheese, sweetened condensed milk, lemon juice, and vanilla with electric mixer until smooth. Pour over crust, spreading to edges. Crumble reserved oat mixture over cream cheese layer. Drizzle with caramel topping and sprinkle with remaining toffee bits. Bake 32 to 38 minutes, until topping is light golden brown and filling is set. Cool to room temperature in pan on wire rack.

Melt chocolate chips according to package directions. Transfer to small resealable plastic food bag; seal. Cut tip off one corner of bag then squeeze chocolate decoratively over cooled cookies in pan. Chill until firm. Cut into bars. Store tightly covered in refrigerator.

Wednesdays in the Wild 2010

Jan 13 1-3 pm **Winter Animal Tracks & Trails** Join Naturalist Mary Cutler in learning how to decode the clues animals leave behind in the natural world. Dress for the weather, as an indoor how-to session will be followed by a chance to practice tracking skills outdoors. LNC

Jan 20 1-3 pm **Radio Transmitters in Timber Rattlesnakes** Steve Thompson (Purdue School of Veterinary Medicine) presents pictures and video of the handling, anesthesia, surgery and tracking of rattlesnakes. LNC

Jan 27 1-3 pm **Bringing Back the Bluebird** Tippecanoe County Naturalist Mary Cutler & Property Manager Brenda Moore team up to discuss the natural history of this delightful songbird, with tips & techniques on becoming a bluebird landlord. Bluebird boxes may be made for a \$15 materials fee. (Limited scholarships available.) LNC

Locations

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

EVERY GARDENER
KNOWS THAT UNDER
THE CLOAK OF WINTER
LIES A MIRACLE.

~ UNKNOWN

VOLUNTEER INVENTORY for 2010

Master Gardener Association - Tippecanoe County

Your name _____

Date _____

I am willing to commit myself to the following volunteer opportunities - as my schedule permits.

I am willing to be a member in the MGA Speakers Bureau

___ am willing to consider an open assignment (i.e. gardening in general, etc.)

I can give speeches in the area of _____

I am willing to work on one of the following standing committees:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ___ Social Committee | ___ Membership Committee |
| ___ Volunteer Committee | ___ Nominating and Audit Committee |
| ___ Publicity Committee | ___ Fund Raising Committee |
| ___ Public Education Committee | ___ Finance Committee |
| ___ Program Committee | |

I am willing to be on the work force for the following projects of the Association

- ___ Art in Bloom - West Lafayette - (June) - Lynn Layden
- ___ Butterfly Garden at Lilly Nature Center - (growing season)
- ___ Cumberland Park - adopt-a-spot - (growing season) - Doug & Linda Mann
- ___ Hanna Center - adopt-a-spot - (growing season) - Johanna Kircher
- ___ Mascouten - adopt-a-spot - (growing season) - Kathie Cox
- ___ All America Display & Idea Gardens - Peter & Linda Cooper
- ___ Children's Garden - Cheryl Borst
- ___ Community Gardens - (growing season) - Don Nead
- ___ Docents ___ LNC ___ Purdue Greenhouse ___ Wah-ba-shik-a Nature Center
- ___ Extension Bldg Gardens - (growing season) - Dee & Bill Dilling
- ___ GAAP - (May) - Sue Hiser
- ___ Garden Expo - (April) - Monique Fontaine
- ___ Gigantic Garden - (growing season) - Adam Cooper
- ___ Memory Garden - (growing season) - Wendy Kerssemakers
- ___ Vegetable Demonstration Garden - (growing season) - Ann & John Pickett
- ___ Women's Shelter Garden - (growing season) - Kim Baunach
- ___ Flower and Patio Show - (March) - Indianapolis
- ___ Ag Day at Fairgrounds - (April)
- ___ County Fair Booth - (July) - Dee & Bill Dilling
- ___ Purdue Spring Fest/Hort Show - (April)
- ___ State Fair - MG Booth - (August)

Over the past three years I have done volunteer work on the following, please list

| | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |

Return to Kay Falley, 1822 Mill Pond Ln., Lafayette, IN 47905 or bring to the next meeting.

**Please fill out the Volunteer Inventory
form on the reverse
and return by January 5 to:**

**Kay Falley
1822 Mill Pond Lane
Lafayette IN 47905**

or bring it to the January meeting.

Thank you.

The Latest Dirt

by Flora N. Fauna

Julie Berk has fallen in love with forcing vases, and she's sharing her enthusiasm in a brand-new Website: hyacinthvases.org.uk. There you'll find colorful photos of all sorts of vases, images from antique books and catalogs, reports on her latest bulb-shopping forays, and a "Collectors Community" for email discussions with fellow enthusiasts.

Though far from slick, the site is well worth exploring, and Julie has big plans for developing it as an educational resource.

Once Upon a Time . . . A Cemetery Story is an unconventional how-to manual for anyone who wants to bring new life to a neglected historic place. It's an extraordinary, yes-we-can success story that, with a little help, could inspire similar efforts all across the country. It is so full of beauty and energy and people having fun that you may find yourself forgetting it's about a cemetery.

Cemeteries today are no longer a central part of most of our lives, and many are moldering into ruin. The key to reviving them is to get people visiting them for something other than graveside services.

For nearly 30 years Jane Baber spearheaded efforts to restore, replant and revitalize the Old City Cemetery in Lynchburg, Virginia

(www.gravegarden.org), turning it into America's liveliest "gravegarden" with bird walks, concerts, workshops, parties in period dress, heirloom daffodils, a cookbook, four mini-museums and archives, 12 self-guided brochures, a chapel that's popular for weddings, a composting education center (how fitting!), and hundreds of volunteers.

Fiskars, the world's number one scissors brand and a leader in the garden tool industry, has announced the beginning of its 2010 Project Orange Thumb Grant Program. Applications are currently available for grants worth up to \$2,000 in garden tools and green goods.

In 2009, 20 groups received grants for gardening projects that supplied thousands of pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables to food local banks, educated community members on sustainable agriculture, and provided places of beauty and rest for entire communities. Past awards included garden projects geared toward community involvement, neighborhood beautification, sustainable agriculture and/or horticultural education.

Beginning November 13, applications for grants will be available at www.projectorange.thumb.com and are open to any community group for use on a gardening project. Past recipi-

ents have included school and church groups, master gardener groups, and community organizations. For more information contact Nicole Mayasich at 608.644.2812 or email her at nmayasich@fiskars.com.

This is a good time to study the bones of your garden to plan any structural changes needed for the next gardening season. Don't be surprised if you gain a deeper appreciation of the beauty of your garden and inspired by its potential.

At sunset on January 29 through nightfall on January 30 is Tu B'Shevat on the Jewish calendar. It is a holiday also known as the New Year for Trees. Its purpose is for calculating the age of trees for tithing. There are few customs or observances related to this holiday: One is to eat a new fruit on this day, some people plant trees on this day, and a lot of Jewish children collect money for trees for Israel.

Garden Award

The Cumberland Gardens received the West Lafayette Beautiful Garden Award for December. It was presented at the City Council meeting last Monday. The mayor commented to me that he walks in the park and enjoyed the plantings. See the write-up and a photo from the Fall Clean Up on the City web page.

Congratulations team!
Doug Mann

Garden Beet

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tippecanoemastergardener.org

LIFE IS THE FLOWER
FOR WHICH LOVE IS THE
HONEY.
~ VICTOR HUGO

The Herb Bed by Connie Kingman

My computer desk sits at an upstairs window overlooking my garden. As I type away, I watch the goings on out there. The scene changes less and less during the winter months, except for those days that bring a change in the weather.

One would think that watching over the garden in the dead of winter would bring only sullenness and melancholy, but I am always inspired by my garden whether it is wrapped in the cold and snow of winter, the muddy grass of spring, or the butterflies that frequent its stand of Joe Pye weed. In fact, I can gaze upon my winter garden in so much more peace than during the full gardening season of summer, for now there is no need to rush outdoors to weed, deadhead or water. Instead, I just sit here and type, watch and contemplate.

A few years ago I joined CocoRaHS, an acronym for the Communi-

ty Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow Network. It is a unique, non-profit organization of volunteers who desire to learn more about how weather affects and impacts our lives. I daily report my findings to the CoCoRaHS Website at www.cocorahs.org. There, the data are displayed and organized for many of the end users to analyze and apply to daily situations ranging from water resource analysis and severe storm warnings to neighbors comparing how much rain fell in their backyards. Anyone may view the information posted there, and at this time of the year, it is interesting to watch the weather maps as they show the snowfall amounts.

I truly enjoy my 7 a.m. visits to the garden in spring, summer and autumn, but around the middle of December through the end of February I dread going through the ritual of putting on coat, hat, gloves, and boots just for a quick trek to the rain gauge and snowboard. However, by the time I approach the gauges, I'm anxious to see what information they hold for me.

The rain gauge hangs on a post in the middle of the garden surrounded by a planting of bee balm. The snowboard is painted white and lies in the grass in another section of the garden. So to take my winter measurements, I must visit the garden and discover what goes on there on a daily basis. If I didn't have to take the daily measurements, I would never step foot outdoors to "garden" in the dead of winter at 7 a.m. It is much more comfortable to take it all in from the window within the warmth of my home.

And while I'm at the gauges, I can't resist looking around – my opportunity to observe slight changes that really do go on, things I can't easily see from my window. One morning I noticed that I needed to add more mulch to the holly seedlings I heeled-in in late November. The parsley, both Italian and curly leaf, are still green and encourage me to pick a few sprigs when not buried in snow or ice. The first-year mulleins I transplanted in August are nestled close

(Continued on page 4)