

April 2015

Garden Beet

MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY



The Beat from the Beths

Eliza- and Mari-

Spring is about to spring as I write this - we have almost officially made it through another hard winter. It's not so hard to find bulbs popping up and green reappearing in the landscape! That means that the Garden Expo is right around the corner - divide your perennials and give them a chance to settle into their pots, start your seeds for the Plant Sale, and go through your tchotchkes to gather those you'd like to donate to the Garden Shed. Beth Timmons is still looking for volunteers contact her if you can help before or during the Expo. Thanks, Cheryl McCool, for so ably leading this project again! We look forward to seeing

you at the Fairgrounds on Saturday, April 25.

It's hard to believe that we won't see Pat Millard this spring at the Garden Expo or in the Demo and Community Gardens, but it's true. Her spirit and unflagging energy live on, and her many contributions to our group and the greater Lafayette community will endure. Peace to her dear husband, Jerry, and the rest of their family as they adjust to their loss. We mourn with you.

Several of you have contacted us about a memorial to Pat and offered great suggestions. We'd like to discuss this at the April meeting.

*Keep green and growing!
Maribeth and Elizabeth*

The Latest Dirt

by Flora N. Fauna

 According to the Garden Media Group, the garden trends for 2015 will include the following: 1. The color Marsala, the Pantone "Color of the Year" will be big in the garden. 2. Garden-tainment - your garden as entertainment, from outdoor room to outdoor kitchens and grills. 3. Portable gardening container gardens on wheels and mini-hydroponic systems. 4. Bite size plants making

it possible for getting more plants in less space with small plants. 5. Urban agriculture including backyard flocks and herds. 6. Meadow-like beds, native plants and water wise plants to attract pollinators. 7. The overall theme from the Garden Trends report is that there is no right or wrong way to garden, only your way! Your garden should reflect your own personality, your style, your wants, desire and your needs.

Programs

April 1 • 7 p.m. • TCEO

6:30 p.m. Social Time

Straw Bale Gardening

Konie & Andy Hughes

Konie and Andy Hughes will be talking about their experience with straw bale gardening during the 2014 growing season. Careful production records were maintained and analyzed revealing interesting results. Both are Purdue graduates very interested in vegetable gardening and alternative ways of growing produce. They are dedicated volunteers helping our organization to achieve the MG mission of increasing community knowledge of sound gardening practices and proper gardening techniques. Make plans to attend this informative presentation at our April meeting.

May 4 • 7 p.m. • TCEO

6:30 p.m. Social Time

*Plant and Pest Diagnostics
Laboratory (PPDL) Hot Topics -
What to Watch for in 2015*

GAIL RUHL

 National Garden Bureau announces 2015 Year of the Sweet Pepper in the vegetable category and Year of the Gaillardia in the flower category. Easy-to-grow sweet peppers bring a rainbow of colors and a plethora of shapes to the table. The few colors of bell peppers in the average supermarket are only the beginning - blocky shaped bell peppers can ripen to many colors;

(continued on page 4)

Please submit items for the *Garden Beet* to MGATCGardenBeet@gmail.com by the 15th of the month for the next month's issue.

<http://tippecanoemastergardener.org/index.html>

<http://www.hort.purdue.edu/mg/index.html>

MGATC Minutes: Mar 3, 2015, 7 p.m., Beck Center

Jerry Millard called the meeting to order at 7 and introduced, Rosie Lerner our Extension Consumer Horticulture Specialist. Rosie's topic for the evening was *Where do Ginkgo's Belong?* It was a discussion of why labels such a non-native, alien, introduced, naturalized or invasive might be a "can of worms." It was a thought provoking talk and very interesting.

At 7:50 Elizabeth called the meeting to order. Minutes posted in the February *Garden Beet* were approved.

Cheryl McCool spoke on Expo and encouraged members to be planting seedlings, and hopefully digging up yard plants for the plant sale.

Beth Timmons spoke about the volunteer sign-up for Expo and sign-up sheets were located in the lobby of the Beck Center.

It was announced that the public education offering on March 7 at the extension office would be on fairy gardening and making copper trees.

Discussion took place regarding paying membership dues promptly and next year we plan on making the process smoother.

Joanne Liphard thanked everyone for their contributions to the banquet this evening

Sue Hizer announced that community planting will be done during the first two weeks of May. Watch for announcements on that activity.

John Orick, our State Coordinator for Master Gardeners, reported on the rainscaping education program starting on April 6 and finishing May 4 at the extension office. Brochures are in the lobby of the Beck Center on this offering.

Adjournment was first, seconded and the meeting closed for the awards presentation.

Congratulations to Sue Swick and Jerry Millard who were honored as Master Gardeners of the Year.

*Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl McCool*

MGATC Board Minutes: Feb 25, 2015, 7 p.m.

Attendees: Mary Wilcox, Lynn Layden, Jerry Millard, Joan Messing, Maribeth Slebodnik, Cheryl McCool

Cheryl McCool was asked to report on Expo. She has secured speakers for the Garden Expo: Rosie Lerner will be speaking on Container Gardening at 10:30 and Justin from Maximum Grow Gardening will be the 1 p.m. speaker on hydroponics and aquaponics.

Discussion took place on one of the new non-profit members selling cupcakes for their fund-raiser and it was decided to ask them not to do this against our Master Gardener café.

Greg Dean came to the meeting and reported on his progress on the MG website, he has been working with Peter Cooper to make the website more user friendly, he has set up a Google Calendar on the website.

Marelena Thomas currently takes care of the Facebook page.

Elizabeth and Maribeth are going to meet at Fourpoints Sheraton

regarding the state conference next week. Ed Knoth and Linda Stafford will be working on the fundraising for the state conference. We want to keep conference fees around \$150. Glen Vick will be working on the programming.

We currently have several active MG members who have not paid their dues. These persons will be approached and asked to pay.

Lynn reported that she cannot report to the IRS more than 12 months of financials. If we change to calendar year reporting and change the date of dues collection, a budget review would be needed and a change to the bylaws required.

Display and AAS gardens - we still need leadership for these gardens and need to have succession planning, as only 2-3 persons are really active in these gardens at this point. Mary Wilcox and Maribeth Slebodnik will work on AA gardens.

The agenda for the March MG business meeting was discussed and the payment of dues will be men-

tioned. The public education workshop on March 7 will be announced.

A current member wrote to Maribeth regarding an article in the *Garden Beet* that they felt was inappropriate. We agreed as a Board that we will not censor the *Garden Beet*.

Lynn Layden reported that the Finance Committee has a meeting. We will be closing out the Van Guard account and changing it to a savings account. Lafayette Savings merged into Old National Bank. Our balance is currently \$12,828.19.

Our security account from 990 IRS is locked. They are requiring organizations to change passwords.

Joan Messing said the book group met and discussed the Sissinghurst Gardens.

We discussed calling soil and water and the state nursery on the tree give away at the Expo. Check on seed the giveaway.

The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl McCool*

Garden Expo

Expo Help

April 25 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Volunteering opportunities abound for this event! Help out with the plant sale, garden shed, café, speakers, set-up and clean-up. You can count your preparation time for this event by planting seedlings, digging up plants in your yard, splitting house plants, baking for the café, and collecting things for the garden shed sale. Friday before the sale is an opportunity for you to gain hours by helping with set-up for the Saturday sale. Please put this opportunity on your calendar.

Just Desserts Bar

The “Just Desserts Bar” is in need of your **HOMEMADE** goodies for our café at the Garden Expo on Saturday, April 25, 2015. Please note the emphasis on homemade - we don't want to resell store bought items.

Here are a few guidelines to assist you:

☼ All Master Gardeners are encouraged to bring goodies for the Café - and don't forget, you can count your time baking and delivering as volunteer hours. Please drop them off **between noon and 6 p.m. on Friday, April 24th** at the Swine Pavilion at the Fairgrounds. The Expo will begin at 9 a.m., so Saturday morning drop off of desserts will not work this year.

- ☼ No (or low) sugar treats sell out and a few gluten free items would be welcome.
- ☼ Desserts must be able to be held overnight without refrigeration, so please, **NO** custard or whipped cream. Our top selling items are pies, cookies and brownies. Also, no “sticky” or “iced” type desserts that create problems in bagging or wrapping. Please bring desserts in disposable containers so that our committee is not responsible for anyone's dishes.
- ☼ Please **LABEL** your dessert so that we know what it is, and especially let us know if there are **nuts** in the recipe.

Our committee will package your desserts into serving-sized portions on Friday afternoon, so no need to do any pre-packaging.

Thanks to all of you for helping make Expo's “Just Desserts Bar” a great success!

Denise Ottinger, Chair

Garden Shed

With the warm weather approaching, it is a good time to take inventory of your things and donate what you no longer need/want to the Garden Shed at the Expo. For details or question contact me at 494-7311.

Candy Sheagley

Finance Report

MGATC Finance Report
March 15, 2015

Income 01/01/15 to 30/15/15	
Membership dues	\$ 630.00
Grant - PEFCU for	
Community Garden	<u>500.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 1,130.00
Expense:	
Community Garden	\$ 500.00
Demo Garden	282.79
Garden Beet, printing	
and postage	111.50
Membership refunds	30.00
Membership book postage	83.94
Public education	
workshop	32.50
Speaker program	
expense	<u>50.00</u>
Total Expense	\$ 1,090.73

Checking Account
Balance \$12,828.19

Spring Garden Strawberry Salad

- 1 1/2 c. trimmed fresh sugar snap peas (about 5 oz.)
- 1 (4-oz.) package baby arugula
- 2 c. sliced fresh strawberries
- 1 c. seeded and chopped English cucumber
- 3/4 c. frozen baby English peas, thawed
- 4 oz. Gorgonzola cheese, crumbled
- 6 cooked bacon slices, coarsely chopped

Arrange sugar snap peas in a steamer basket over boiling water. Cover and steam 1 to 2 minutes or until crisp-tender. Plunge peas into ice water to stop the cooking process; drain. Cut peas diagonally in half. Toss together arugula, next 5 ingredients, and sugar snap peas on a large serving platter. Serve with Sweet Basil Vinaigrette (see page 9).

Latest Dirt

(continued from page 1)

ivory, pink, purple, red, yellow, orange and chocolate. Sweet peppers come in many shapes as well; the elongated banana, the blocky bell, the oblong or “half-long” bells, flat “cheese” shapes, and smooth cherry types. Gaillardia, like Audrey Hepburn in *Sabrina*, and some of our best garden flowers started in the New World, went to Europe for culture, then returned to great acclaim. Gaillardia is one of these. Its daisy flowers usually come in shades of red or orange with fringed rays that look like their tips have been dipped in yellow paint. Plants bloom heavily from summer through fall, don't mind the heat, and prosper with less water than most other high-performance flowers.

www.gardenbureau.com.

 Concerned about the effects of early spring frosts on peonies? Here are some pointers from Peony's Envy. If you have established peonies and anticipating a large frost after your peonies have begun to sprout, you can place an overturned pot over the plant during the frost, just don't forget to remove the pot as soon as possible. We have thousands of peonies and never cover any of our plants during frost and our peonies bloom well and remain beautiful. This frost hardiness is especially true for tree peonies

that emerge very early in the season. We have had plants with blossoms ready to open get frosted and they have opened beautifully not too long after. Just be careful not to touch your peonies when they are frozen as it could cause them to break. This being said it is not impossible that frost will damage your peonies, anomalies in the weather can cause extra stress on the plant, but peonies are very resilient and tend to recover with time.

www.peonysenvy.com.

 The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) announced more than \$3 million in funding to increase habitat for the monarch butterfly. In recent years monarch populations have declined by an estimated 90 percent. Much of the decline has been attributed to the decreased availability of milkweed, which serves as the main nutrition source for the monarch butterfly. The loss of milkweed has been attributed to agricultural practices, especially herbicide use that is highly effective in killing milkweed, and cropland conversion. An additional factor in the monarch's decline has also been the loss of winter habitat in Mexico and California. The FWS will dedicate \$1.2 million to start a Monarch Conservation Fund to be matched by private and public donors. FWS will also fund several conservation projects to-

taling \$2 million to restore 200,000 acres of monarch habitat that will include support for 750 schoolyard habitats and pollinator gardens. These funding efforts come as the FWS is reviewing a petition led by the Center for Biological Diversity to list the monarch butterfly under the Endangered Species Act.

 You can be a butterfly hero by joining Botanical Interests in supporting the National Wildlife Federation's efforts to be a Butterfly Hero. Send a picture of yourself making the butterfly sign in sign language to www.nwf.org/butterflyheroes, and you'll receive a Butterfly Garden Starter kit, including Botanical Interests seed packets, while supplies last. The kit inspires engagement with nature and encourages participants to send follow-up photos, through Facebook and Twitter, of kids and families, butterflies, and other animals observed in nature. As home gardeners, we can help to replenish the butterfly habitat by growing butterfly-friendly plants in our home, school, and community gardens. Pledge to be a Butterfly Hero or visit your independent garden center and www.botanicalinterests.com to purchase our butterfly-friendly varieties. Sow butterfly flowers in your garden and just wait for the butterflies to arrive!

Almost any garden, if you see it at just the right moment, can be confused with paradise.

~Henry Mitchell

What's Happening

GAAP

It is almost time for GAAP 2015 (Great Annual Annual Planting).

Spring is coming (finally!) and Master Gardeners love to plant. GAAP is the time we serve our community and make it more beautiful by planting annuals and some perennial flowers.

GAAP planting days will be May 7, 8, 11 and 12 as follows:

Thursday, May 7, 9:30 a.m.,
Columbian Park and Zoo, meet at the triangle.

Friday, May 8, 9:30 a.m., court house, meet at corner of Columbia and 4th Streets.

Rain date for Columbian Park and Zoo and the court house will be Friday, May 8 at 1 p.m.

Note: There will be no planting at the pedestrian bridge this year because of repair and construction work there.

Monday, May 11, 9:30 a.m., Lafayette Art Museum, meet at parking lot off 10th Street.

Tuesday, May 12, 9:30 a.m., Indiana Veteran's Home, meet at the gazebo.

Rain date for the Art Museum and the Indiana Veteran's Home will be Thursday, May 14 at 9:30 a.m.

Hopefully it will be sunny and warm, but we will still plant in a

light rain. Please bring your gloves and trowel.

Plan to sign up for GAAP at the April MGATC meeting or by email.

I can be reached at 583-2624 or landshiser@gmail.com if you have questions or wish to sign up via email.

Sue Hiser

Wednesdays in the Wild

April 1 • 1-3 p.m. • LNC

Soundscape Ecology: A New Science of the Biophony, Geophony, Anthrophony of Landscape
Bryan Pijanowski

Purdue Professor in Forestry & Natural Resources

Bryan discusses this scientific field that uses sound to understand the ecological characteristics of a landscape and to reconnect people with the importance of natural sounds. He will play a variety of recordings made around the world and talk about collaborative work with musicians who have studied natural sounds.

April 1 • 4-6 p.m. • WCP

Wildcat Creek Float
Greg Jones and Gus Nyberg Float from Wildcat Creek Park to Peter's Mill with avid kayakers Greg and Gus. A limited number of canoes and kayaks are available on a first come first served basis. RSVP to Gus by March 30 at 765-423-1605 or gnyberg@nicheslandtrust.org.

April 8 • 1-3 p.m. • PINE

Birding at Pine Creek

Susan Ulrich

Avid Birder and a NICHES founder

Susan will lead this Benton County walk to look for birds of water, grassland and open country, as well as early spring migrants. Bring binoculars and boots. Carpool from LNC at noon.

April 15 • 1-3 p.m. • LNC

Plants of Celery Bog:

Photo Tour and Walk

Sam Postlethwait

Purdue Botany Professor and Celery Bog devotee

Nick Harby

Plant and mushroom aficionado and former staff member of Purdue Herbaria

Sam will take you on an indoor photo tour of the Celery Bog's plants, after which he and Nick will take you on an outdoor "all things nature" walk along the Celery Bog trails.

April 22 • 1-3 p.m.

WRIGHT

What's the RIP Squad Got to Do with Earthday?

Patty Rader

RIP Squad Coordinator

Patty leads this program that includes a brief history of the Remove Invasive Plants (RIP) Squad, information on Stilt Grass - a new invasive in our area and an opportunity to remove invasive garlic mustard with RIP volunteers.

(continued on page 6)

Thank You

I was shocked and honored at the banquet to be, along with Jerry Millard, awarded Outstanding Master Gardener of the Year. While I truly appreciate this award, I feel that I don't deserve an award for being involved in anything that I love so much, working with plants. I love meeting and talking to others that share that love. Is it not nice to talk to someone about plants and not have their eyes glaze over? To share ideas, plants, laughter, digging in the soil, giving to others and viewing other's gardens is what it is all about.

There are volunteer opportunities in the Master Gardener program for varied interest. The bonding with others does not come from the meetings, where conversation time is very limited, but through the volunteer projects in the program.

Sincerely,
Sue Swick

A BIG thank you to Konie and Andy Hughes and Pollyn Aranas for helping to clean off all of the idea gardens.

Jim Mailloux
Jim Smith

Happening

(continued from page 5)

April 29 • 1-3 p.m. • LNC

*Field Guides 101:
Putting a Name with
those Wildflower Faces*
Mary Cutler
Tippecanoe County Naturalist

Mary will shed some light on the complexities of choosing a field guide, and walk participants through the use of Newcomb's Wildflower Guide (easily mastered by non-botanists). We'll take our guides into the field and use them to ID spring flowers, while learning about the natural history, uses and folklore associated with the plants. Bring your Newcomb's guide, if possible, or borrow or purchase one that day (at the discounted price of \$15, courtesy of Von's Book Store).

May 6 • 1-3 p.m. • LNC
*Landscaping with Native
Shrubs & Trees*

Sally Weeks
Purdue Dendrologist

Join Sally on a walk around the Celery Bog area talking about native shrubs and trees and their use in your landscape, no matter where you live.

LOCATIONS :

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

PINE (Pine Creek Gamebird Habitat Area): Meet at 1 p.m. in Parking Lot #3 of the Pine Creek Gamebird Habitat Area: go west from the intersection of US 231 and SR 18 north of Roundgrove. Turn right onto the first road after 1000 E, go 2 miles and turn right onto 200 N, go 1 mile to the parking lot.

WCP (Wild Cat Creek Park): 5201 Eisenhower Road, Lafayette, Indiana.

WRIGHT (Wright Forestry Center/Martell Forest): 1007 CR 725 W in West Lafayette.

(More "Happenings" on page 7)

RIP Pull

Volunteer with folks from the West Central chapter of INPAWS (Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society) to Remove Invasive Plants (RIP). Pull garlic mustard in West Lafayette and Tippecanoe County Parks on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons in April from 3-5 p.m. Weeding bags will be provided, but bring your own gardening gloves and dress for poison ivy. Call Patty Rader at 765-463-3050 to verify the location or if the weather is "iffy."

April 7 - Celery Bog Nature Area

April 9 - Ross Hills Park

April 14 - Happy Hollow Park

April 16 - Prophet's Rock Woods

April 21 - Michaud-Sinninger

Woods/Cumberland Woods

April 23 - Ross Hills Park

April 28 - Happy Hollow Park

April 30 - Prophet's Rock Woods

Celery Bog Nature Area, Scifres-Maier Woods and Marsh Trails: Meet at the parking lot closest to the Lilly Nature Center, 1620 Lindberg Road in West Lafayette, between Northwestern Avenue and McCormick Road.

Happy Hollow Park: Meet in the last parking lot (near Shelter #4) after entering the park from Happy Hollow Road in West Lafayette.

Michaud-Sinninger Woods/Cumberland Woods: Meet in the Athletic Complex parking lot, Salisbury Street entrance, north of Cumberland Avenue in West Lafayette.

Prophet's Rock Woods: Meet at the little parking lot on Prophet's Rock Road near Prophet's Rock - just north of 600 N in Battle Ground.

Ross Hills Park (in Tippecanoe County near the Ravines Golf Course): Meet at the far end of the last parking area (loop drive) on the left or at the Ross House (call Patty to verify).

Spring is nature's way of saying, let's party!

~Robin Williams

Happening

(continued from page 6)

Mind BOGgling

The 5th annual Mind BOGgling event will be held at the Celery Bog Nature Area on Saturday, May 16 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. It is located at 6020 Lindberg Road in West Lafayette. There will be nature walks and talks, special speakers and music, demonstrations, a nature photography exhibit, and crafts and games for all-around family fun! All activities are free. Bring your family and a picnic or buy lunch from The Emergency Munchie Truck. This will be a fun day.

There is also an opportunity to earn some service hours for Master Gardeners. Volunteers are needed to help with the crafts and games and possibly other areas. Please see Sue Hiser after the April meeting or contact her at landshiser@gmail.com or by phone at 583-2624.

Rainscaping Pilot

You are invited to participate in the *Purdue Rainscaping Education Program* (pilot) to be held at the Purdue Extension (Tippecanoe County) Office in Lafayette, Indiana, April 6-May 4, 2015 from 3-5 p.m. or at the Purdue Extension (Bartholomew County) Office in Columbus, Indiana, April 14-May 12, 2015 from 3-5 p.m. This newly developed training program consists of five, 3-hour training sessions focused on planning, installing and maintaining rain gardens for residen-

tial landscapes. The program will also include participation in the installation of a rain garden.

Please see the brochure and news release for more information about this exciting new Purdue Extension program.

Purdue Rainscaping brochure: https://ag.purdue.edu/extension/rainscaping/Documents/Rainscaping_brochure.pdf

News release: <http://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/releases/2015/Q1/purdue-extension-offers-training-in-rainscaping.html>

To register for the program, go to: https://edustore.purdue.edu/wk_sessions.asp?item_number=cw-fnr-9.

John Orick

In memory of volunteer extraordinaire, Pat Millard. She will be greatly missed by us all.

Do Not Stand At My Grave and Weep

Do not stand at my grave
and weep;
I am not there. I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds
that blow.
I am the diamond glints
on snow.
I am the sunlight on
ripened grain.
I am the autumn's gentle rain.
When you awaken in the
morning's hush
I am the swift uplifting rush
of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that
shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave
and cry; I am not there,
I did not die.

Mary Elizabeth Frye

Gardenfest

April 11 • 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Boone County Fairgrounds
Farm Bureau Community Building
Lebanon, Indiana (I-65 at Exit 138)
29th Annual Gardenfest

The Boone County Master Gardener's Gardenfest features free admission, door prizes, soil testing, kids activities, a café, used tool sale, free tree seedlings for the first 400 participants and much more.

Speakers include Constance Campbell Ferry, *Hobbit Gardens*; Linda Kimmel, Indianapolis Rose Society, *Why Grow Hybrid Rugosa Roses?*; and Jeff Dittmore, *Bee Friendly Bees*. Information is available at the Boone County web site: www.bccn.boone.in.us/mg.



Et Cetera

Florida Connection

Sorry I missed writing to you last year. But, here is what has been going on this year in Florida.

This year I continue to volunteer at the Naples Botanical Garden. The garden was transformed this last year, adding three new gardens; Out of Africa, Australia and an orchid garden. How would you like to take care of 50,000 orchids? We now have several new meeting halls, a new entry pavilion, a gift shop and are serving vegetables grown on site at the Fogg café. As I walk in to volunteer in the Florida idea garden and go past all the other gardens, my senses are all exploding with colors, smells, textures and wonderment. Needless to say, I enjoy volunteering with many liked-minded gardeners. It reminds me of all the wonderful gardeners back home.



I also attended the Collier County Master Gardener 11 week Garden Series. This year some of the topics covered were: Pesky palm problems, Native plants, Landscaping in small spaces, Bromeliads, Herbs in Florida gardens, Staghorn ferns, Sansevieria (Mother-in-Law's Tongue/Snake) and Begonias. Each year I seem to focus on one type of plant. This year it is epiphytes,



commonly called air plants or Bromeliads. Bromeliads are easy to grow in the landscape in warm parts of Florida and are low maintenance in containers. Bromeliads include Spanish moss, ball moss and the pineapple. Many bromeliads grow on trees as epiphytes, living off the moisture and nutrients from the atmosphere and debris that decays in their cups. They are not a parasite as many believe and they will not harm the tree. We have many that live in the two oak trees at our home. They are a plant that I can leave while we are up north and return and they are okay. They take minimal care. Some Bromeliads produce beautiful colored foliage. Some of them flower and some prefer sun, but most prefer shade. Bromeliads slowly die over a period of a

year or two after they flower, which lasts for months. Pups, young plants develop at the base of the mother plants. So you have a self-propagating plant.

I have attached a couple of pictures of epiphytes that are in our trees and epiphytes that I have hanging in our liana. We will see next season what has survived without human care.

Pasta Primavera

- Kosher salt
- 12 oz. fusilli or other corkscrew pasta
- 1/2 lb. sugar-snap peas, halved lengthwise, or broccoli florets (or a combination)
- 2 carrots, shredded
- 1 yellow bell pepper, cut into thin strips
- 1/4 c. extra-virgin olive oil, plus more for drizzling
- 4 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
- 1 pint cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1/4 to 1/2 t. red pepper flakes
- 1/2 c. roughly chopped fresh mint
- 1/2 c. grated Parmesan cheese
- 4 oz. goat cheese, crumbled

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add the fusilli and cook as the label directs. Add the sugar snap peas and/or broccoli, carrots and bell pepper to the boiling water during the last 2 minutes of cooking. Reserve 1/2 cup cooking water, then drain the pasta and vegetables and return to the pot. Meanwhile, heat the olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the garlic and cook until just golden, about 30 seconds. Add the tomatoes, red pepper flakes and 1 teaspoon salt; cook until the tomatoes begin to wilt, about 2 minutes. Stir in 1/4 cup of the reserved cooking water. Pour the tomato mixture over the pasta and vegetables. Add the mint, Parmesan cheese, and half the goat cheese and toss to combine. Season with salt. Divide the pasta among bowls. Top with the remaining goat cheese and drizzle with olive oil.

Herb Bed

(continued from back)

The simple act of walking with Grandma was an adventure. She would often stop by the side of the road, point out a plant and tell me its name. I was very young the first time she explained how to harvest a whole plant with its root. "Just grab hold of it, child. Pull from its base, good and hard, so the root comes along with the leaves." I remember feeling so grown up because she had entrusted me with this task.

In her later years, Grandma moved from the country into a small, separate apartment within my parent's home in town. Despite the lack of freedom to collect plants from just anywhere she pleased, Grandma did find joy in her walks, spotting useful plants that errantly grew at the edge of manicured lawns or peeked from the cracks in broken sidewalks.

My paternal grandma became a widow at a very young age, left alone to raise five small children. Growing her own food was crucial for their survival since money was scarce during the Depression Era. Even after her children had grown, she remained a gardener, bending over the soil, weeding and tending her crops.

My mother carved out a small garden patch from the tiny lawn of our family's first home. She worked it to grow what she could, determined to produce vegetables and strawberries. As very small children, my brothers

and I had never tasted cucumbers. When we first saw them, freshly plucked from the garden, we wanted nothing to do with them. That is until Mom, who was very cunning, told us that the King of England ate cucumber sandwiches. I can still see her sitting on the porch, a tray of cucumber sandwiches on her lap. And although we knew she was trying to trick us into doing something we really did not want to do, we were mesmerized as she daintily lifted a quartered sandwich to her mouth, closed her eyes in ecstasy, and murmured a soft-but-sincere "yum." It worked. We gobbled them up and asked for more.

My husband's mother was a long-time vegetable gardener. She was tidy and meticulous in her manner. Her rows were straight and evenly spaced. She determined her row spacing by placing twigs at each side of the garden and stringing twine between them. She weeded every day, sometimes twice a day. I remember visiting her and offering to weed. "There are no weeds in the garden," she replied, as if it would be absurd to think otherwise. I went out anyway, wanting to be of help to her. And as you have probably guessed, there was not a weed to be found.

Perhaps being a role model is the best way to celebrate National Garden Month, being seen digging in the dirt and speaking pure poetry. We never know whom we may inspire.

Sweet Basil Vinaigrette

1/3 c. red wine vinegar
2 shallots, chopped
3 T. sugar
3 T. chopped fresh basil
1 T. fresh lemon juice
2 t. Dijon mustard
3/4 t. freshly ground pepper
1/2 t. salt
3/4 c. canola oil

Process first 8 ingredients in a blender until smooth. With blender running, add canola oil in a slow, steady stream, processing until smooth.

Update

Please add this to your membership directory:

Ettarose Lazaros
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Adopt the
pace of
Nature:
her secret
is patience.

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

MGATC GARDEN EXPO IS APRIL 25 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The Herb Bed

by Connie Kingman

April is National Garden Month, and I find myself reflecting on how I became a gardener. With my grandmothers, mother and mother-in-law as role models, I learned early how to dig in the dirt, not by instruction, but by simply being in their presence as they worked with plants and soil.

My maternal grandmother left an indelible mark on me. Born in the 1890s, she grew up at a time when people lived closer to the land. Because of this she had de-

veloped an intimate relationship with plants and learned to use them for food, medicine and utility. Her garden was atypical. It was not located near her kitchen door or fenced or walled to protect her harvests. Grandma was a country woman and gathered from the wild, the vast expanse of the great outdoors.

I witnessed Grandma's respect for plants in the way she treated them as old friends, calling them each by name, sometimes by their common name, sometimes by their botanical name. Those names evoked wonder and mys-

tery in my young mind. Even today, I continue to be fascinated by plant names. Whenever I learn a new one, it remains in my head for days, and I repeat its syllables over and over again.

A patch of baby's breath grew along an old shed behind Grandma's house. She asked me if I would go there and pick a few sprigs of gypsophila for her. Jip-SOF-uh-luh. Wow! What a magical word. And the way it rolled off Grandma's tongue was pure poetry.

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Garden Beet

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