



© 2024 Master Gardener Association of Tippecanoe County

April 2024

## Message from Your Co-Presidents

Cheryl and Dee Dee

Spring has sprung and puts joy in our hearts. It's a time of renewal for all things outdoors. Gone are the gloomy days of winter as we welcome the spring flowers that boost Master Gardener spirits.

A big thank you to all the Master Gardeners who have made last year a success. The total volunteer hours for 2023 were 8013.71.

Pollyn Aranas was awarded the Outstanding Master Gardener award. Deb Rimer was awarded the Outstanding Master Gardener Support Person award. Debbie Lewis was awarded the Outstanding Rookie Master Gardener award. Mickey Penrod earned the Platinum 7000-hour name badge. She is the first in our organization to attain

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### GARDEN EXPO Coming Soon!

**April 27<sup>th</sup> from 9-3**  
**April 26<sup>th</sup> Set Up**

**Fun & Easy  
volunteer opportunities**

**See pages 5 & 6 for more info**

### MGATC Programs

**April 2, 2024 TCEO**

**6:00pm Social time, 6:30pm Ed. Seminar**  
***Weather/Climate Change and the Impact  
on Gardening***

**Speaker: Chad Evans, Chief Meteorologist,  
WLFI TV 18**

Business meeting following the speaker.

**May 7, 2024 TCEO**

**6:00pm Social time, 6:30pm Ed. Seminar**  
***Understanding the Importance of Soil Health  
and Implementing Practical Solutions for  
Healthier Plants***

**Speaker: Kyle Daniel, Nursery and  
Landscape Specialist, Dept. of Horticulture  
and Landscape Architecture, Purdue  
University**

Do you have any speaker suggestions or  
questions about upcoming events?

Contact Sally Casey [jscasey04@gmail.com](mailto:jscasey04@gmail.com)  
or Alison Roth [alison.roth2020@gmail.com](mailto:alison.roth2020@gmail.com)

### ***Attention members:***

If you have any changes to your membership  
details, please send them to Pat Miller at  
[pmillerathome@comcast.net](mailto:pmillerathome@comcast.net)

**Websites:** <http://www.tippecanoemastergardener.org/> <https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/master-gardener/>

**Newsletter:** Please submit items for the *Garden Beet* to [MGATCGardenBeet@gmail.com](mailto:MGATCGardenBeet@gmail.com)

by the 15th of the month for the next month's issue.

Items to be emailed to the membership should be sent to Dee Dee Long at [deedee1mg@gmail.com](mailto:deedee1mg@gmail.com)

### Message from Your Co-Presidents continued:

7000 hours! Jim Jeray earned his Gold 4000-hour name badge and Joyce Pearson earned her Gold 1000-hour name badge.

Please join us in congratulating all our Master Gardeners who advanced to the next level or were awarded OMG awards.

If you haven't decided how you would like to make MGATC grow in 2024, please check out the green book for volunteer opportunities. Contact the chairs, attend the monthly meetings, watch for the mass emails that offer ways to get involved. There are so many ways to get your volunteer and education hours.

*"We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop."* Mother Teresa

Cheryl & Dee Dee

## MGATC Meeting Minutes: March 5, 2024, TCEO

This month was the Annual Awards banquet to award Master Gardeners who have volunteered enough hours to receive their next level badges and to award special persons who have gone above and beyond in their efforts for the organization. The evening started with a social hour at 5:30PM, followed by a wonderful pitch-in dinner at 6PM. For dessert, vanilla ice cream was set out with many different toppings from which to choose.

At 6:50PM, after the meal, Sally Casey introduced the guest speaker, Stephen Swain, ATP, Rural Rehabilitation Specialist, Indiana AgrAbility /National AgrAbility and who serves at Purdue University in Agricultural Health and Safety. The title of Stephen's talk was 'Gardening as We Age and with Disabilities'. Stephen began the talk by giving the organization's historical background and how it has grown over the years across several states to provide resources mainly for farmers and others who have either become disabled or otherwise are having difficulty with doing even the simplest garden task or more demanding farming tasks. His organization works with various agencies to help those in need find the correct resources that address their particular situation. His organization also provides on-site assessments, as well as training, education, and presentations, all of which are available to the public. Throughout his talk, Stephen gave a show-and-tell of various retro-fitted tools that help make a task physically easier. He also showed many tools and equipment readily available on the market for anyone to purchase. At the end of the talk, Stephen provided various pamphlet resources for people to take with them.

Following the talk, Pat Williams, along with Dee Dee Long and Cheryl McCool, presented the 2023 awards and badges. The 2023 Master Gardener of

the Year was Pollyn Aranas. The 2023 Support Person of the Year was Deb Rimer and 2023 Rookie of the Year was Debbie Lewis. Those receiving award level badges and certificates are as follows:  
**Certified EMG** – Elva James, Alison Roth, and Emily Hughes

**Advanced EMG** – Sue Bracey, Melissa Deason, Cherry Delany, Kathleen Dykhuizen, Lynn Hall, Aaron Hazzard, Debbie Lewis, Bethany McGowan, and Vicki Mills

**Bronze Level EMG** – Kathy Cubberley, Elizabeth Lockrey, Mary Kay McCauley, Kelly Peterson, Deb Pettry, Amy Rader, and Deb Rimer

**Silver Level EMG** – Georgia Brist, Pattie Hall, Mike Hathaway, Guido Nizzi, and Carolyn Perrucci

**Gold 1000 Level** – Joyce Pearson

**Gold 4000 Level** – Jim Jeray

**Platinum 7000 Level** – Mickey Penrod

**Alumni Master Gardener** – Candace Larson

Congratulations to everyone for their efforts!

At 8:06PM, Cheryl McCool called the business meeting to order. A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the February meeting minutes as published in the March Garden Beet without changes or corrections; however, a clarification was made regarding the \$2 entry fee into Garden Expo, which will be 18 years and older, while 17 and under will get in free (different ages had been proposed at the February monthly meeting versus at the board meeting). Pat Miller provided details of the treasurer's report.

Monique Fontaine reminded people to really get started on growing vegetables, herbs, and flowers for Expo, and to dig up anything from the yard to add to the sale, although be cognizant of anything that could be considered invasive or aggressive.

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(MGATC meeting minutes continued from page 2)

She stressed the importance of good plant labels with information on name, height, color, variety, etc. Clear labels with good information will help to sell the plants. Debbie Lewis reminded the group again about baking food items to sell. Please remember to save boxes for customers to use at the sale to carry out their purchases.

Cindy Gilles stated that the dates have been set for the upcoming the GAAP (Great Annual Annual Planting) days in May. There will be a mass email sent with a SignUp Genius link. Gardeners can sign up to plant annual flowers at the Columbian Park and Zoo, the Indiana Veteran's Home, the Art Museum of Greater Lafayette, the Vegetable Demonstration Garden, the John T. Meyers Pedestrian Bridge, and the Tippecanoe County Courthouse.

Cheryl informed the group on the board's decision to grant the Demonstration Garden Committee \$10,000

to get started on Phase 1 of their garden redesign project. (See the special board meeting minutes for more details on the discussion of the design). The committee has worked for several months reimagining a complete overhaul of the Demonstration Garden. The new layout will be completed in three major phases over the next 3-5 years. Grant money is also being pursued for this project. The committee will be required to give the board monthly progress updates on the project. As these gardens are being redeveloped, this will be a good opportunity for master gardeners to get volunteer hours and be a part of a large beautification project in our Demonstration Garden.

With no further business, meeting was adjourned at 8:28PM.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Kay McCauley, Recording Secretary*

## Special MGATC Board for Demonstration Garden Proposal Minutes: March 4, 2024, 6:35pm, TCEO

Attendees: Mickey Penrod, Jim Jeray, Pat Miller, Alison Roth, Dee Dee Long, Cheryl McCool, Mary Kay McCauley, Kathie Cox, Sally Casey, Georgia Brist, Courtney Frederick, Deb Lewis, Dave Broughton, Nina Morgan, Jan Sadler, Pat Williams.

The Meeting called to order at 6:35PM. Three members of the Demonstration Garden Committee, Dave Broughton, Courtney Frederick, and Georgia Brist, gave a presentation on the design layouts and proposals for the re-development of the Demonstration Gardens. These gardens have become overrun with weeds and unwanted, old items and have not been productive gardens for a few years. Dave began by presenting the overall goals for the gardens, followed by Courtney who shared the illustrated drawings of the new layout as they will unfold in three phases in the next 3-5 years. Georgia presented the total financial cost, with itemized details from actual quotes. The total cost will be ~\$102,000, most of which will be supported by grants. The committee asked for seed money of \$10,000 to get started on major items for Phase 1.

Phase 1 will include initial cleanup of trash and removal of old items, followed by spraying of weeds and laying down new weed barrier for the new pathways. Beautification around the existing gazebo will be done, as that will be the entry focal point into the Demonstration Gardens. Also included in this

phase will be a new raised bed area for the grocery garden that is closest to the parking lot of the new animal shelter. The hoop house and its surrounding area will also receive extensive work in this phase, as well as putting in cover crops for areas to be developed in the next phases. Most of phase 1 was developed around working in the area closest to the parking lot first, as it will have the most exposure to the general public coming to the new animal shelter.

Phases 2 and 3 will fill out the remaining areas of the Demonstration Garden, having a theme around each garden area. For instance, one garden will demonstrate how to garden with disabilities, another garden will use mostly vertical structures to demonstrate vertical gardening, there will be a pollinator garden area, an area for a formal garden (like an English tea garden) and a quilt garden. There will be a deck and patio area built near the gazebo. Near the center of the gardens is planned a Master Gardener Educational Pavilion, a sheltered area in which to hold meetings and workshops, and to provide a shady space for visitors to sit and relax. All of these gardens will continue to demonstrate various types of vegetable gardening. The designs were also built around much of the existing water lines. All of the plans allow for flexibility depending on costs, volunteer  
(continued on page 4)



(Special MGATC Board meeting minutes continued from page 3)

help, any unexpected layout changes, etc.

There was much discussion on the financials, as this is a very ambitious project. While everyone agreed that the Demonstration Garden severely needs an overhaul and that this is a step in the right direction, there were many concerns about providing not only a huge lump sum up front, but that the total cost will also be hard to support in order to see the project through. (It should be noted that at last month's board meeting the group was informed that two grants were being written to help support this project which, if both are awarded, would add another \$25,000). Mickey Penrod made a motion that the committee should improve the budget by clarifying the expenses required for each phase and then come back to the table. This motion was not seconded, resulting in a failed motion. Dee Dee Long then stated that if the board did not approve the money,

then the committee would not begin working in the garden. The committee will be having trash hauled off and weeds sprayed in April, which cost money, and needed to know if money would be approved to pay for it. Alison Roth then made a motion that was seconded by Jim Jeray to accept the Demonstration Garden committee's request to receive \$10,000 to get started, with the stipulation that monthly progress reports are presented at board meetings and to allow for additional money as determined by progress made. The motion was approved. The board thanked the committee for their very hard work. It is hoped that with the new design, there will be new enthusiasm for volunteers to join in and rebuild a new and beautiful Demonstration Garden.

The meeting adjourned at 7:47PM.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Kay McCauley, Recording Secretary*

## Treasurer's Report, March 2024

Income for the month of February was from dues, Garden Expo Vendor payments and interest for a total of \$107. Expenses for the month were for the social committee, bus trip and general items for a total of \$184. There were no changes to the Restricted Funds and the total Restricted Funds were \$16,451 at month end. The bank balance was \$37,838 as of February 29 and the total of unrestricted funds available is \$21,387. The Savings Account balance was \$10,558 and the Gaming/Scholarship Account balance was \$767 at month end.

*Pat Miller, Treasurer*

## MGATC Board Minutes: March 18, 2024, 6:30pm, TCEO

Attendees: Mickey Penrod, Jim Jeray, Pat Miller, Alison Roth, Dee Dee Long, Cheryl McCool, Mary Kay McCauley, Kathie Cox, Sally Casey, and Pat Williams. Absent: Georgia Brist.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM by Cheryl McCool. A motion was made by Mickey, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the February board meeting as published in the March Garden Beet. Pat Miller provided an update on the financial statement. See her report in the Garden Beet for more details.

Pat Miller updated the group on the Tax Exempt certificates for businesses. An email will be sent to the group when more certificates are available and to check the MGATC website. Pat also announced that the summer bus trip will take place on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

Details of the itinerary will be announced in the future.

Cheryl announced that several MG members expressed an interest in an after Expo Party. This may take place at either the May or June monthly meeting. Details forthcoming.

Dee Dee asked for approval for signs (made of metal, 8 ½" x 11", \$13.25 each) to be made with the same logo and graphics that can be used at the various sites where master gardeners provide their services. This came as a request from the 5-Year Planning Committee, as a way to brand our group with more consistency. A motion was made by Cheryl, seconded and approved to spend \$132.50 for ten signs.

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Dee Dee provided a brief update on the Demo Garden, stating that trash removal had started, but there were no financial updates as of yet. She also stated that we did not apply for the grants from the Community Foundation as the current phase of the Demo Garden does not fit the requirements. The committee will reconvene regarding next steps toward pursuing other grants, but in the meantime, work will still continue on the renovation of the Demo Garden. Pat Williams stated that he also did not get a grant for \$1,295 for a production garden for SNAP, etc.

Pat Williams informed everyone that the large, brown extension sign at the old extension office location is still there, lying on the ground and asked if we would want the frame to use for a new sign for our gardens. Pat was asked to get the dimensions of the frame, so the board could get quotes on a new master gardener sign and installation costs.

Pat Williams will be closing down the Education Center at the extension office and moving it out to the county branches of the Tippecanoe County Public Library, rebranding it as the Plant Clinic. The use of office space at the library branches is free. Pat said that people are not coming in to the education center and by putting it out in a more public location, that will better serve the purpose of master gardeners educating the public. The timing is still to be determined. Also, Pat will be developing a home-schooling program and will be looking to recruit master gardeners as education session presenters.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04PM.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Kay McCauley, Recording Secretary*

## **GARDEN EXPO *Coming Soon!***

**April 27<sup>th</sup> from 9-3**  
**April 26<sup>th</sup> Set Up**

♥ Earn Master Gardener volunteer hours ♥  
for all Expo work

In the West Pavilion at Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds (Swine Barn)

Get ready for Garden Expo our fundraiser for MGATC. It's time to start growing your plants, saving boxes, collecting items for the Raffle, gathering objects for the Garden Shed, and thinking about the delicious goodies for the Just Desserts Garden Café.

We hope all of you plan on working either Friday or Saturday, or both days! We really need you. Please get the word out to family and friends. The more the merrier.

In March we will send out information on how to sign up to work at the event! It's a busy day, but lots of fun.

## **Raffle at Garden Expo**



Each year we hold a raffle at Garden Expo to support the scholarships MGATC gives to Purdue and Ivy Tech students.

Courtney Fredrick and Pat Miller will be collecting new items such as pruners and other hand tools, pots, grow bags, garden books, and fun garden items.

If you have any donations for the raffle, please bring them to the April meeting or contact Courtney Fredrick at [Courtney.frederick13@gmail.com](mailto:Courtney.frederick13@gmail.com) or Pat Miller [pmillerathome@comcast.net](mailto:pmillerathome@comcast.net) with any questions.

## Just Desserts Garden Café needs your homemade baked goods for EXPO!

- Fruit Pies-Apple, Peach, Berry, Rhubarb, Strawberry, Pecan.
- Cookies of any variety
- Homemade Candy
- Brownies,
- Fudge
- Snack Mix

♥ Earn Master Gardener volunteer hours ♥  
for all Expo work

Labeling is important! Label what you bring, and identify if it has nuts or is gluten free, sugar free, or anything special.

If you are baking cookies, please bag two large cookies to a bag, three medium cookies to each bag, four small cookies to each bag.

For cakes, pies, or anything sticky, it would be best if we cut and bag items on a small plate.

Please supply a box of sandwich size, zip lock bags or a package of small plates if you are not bagging your items.

Thanks for all your help! Happy Baking! Questions? Please contact Debbie Lewis at [deboralewis58@gmail.com](mailto:deboralewis58@gmail.com)

## GARDEN SHED at GARDEN EXPO

♥ Earn Master Gardener volunteer hours ♥  
for all Expo work

Gee-Gaws....Do-Dads... Thing-a-ma-Bobs... Gem-Cracks

These are all the kinds of things we want for the Garden Shed this year. This is a good time to clean out your basement, garage, or wherever you stash all your garden 'stuff,' Donate whatever you no longer use/ have room for/know what it is/or want and we'll find a new home for it. The list below will give you some ideas. All items should be gently used.....

Please no chemicals or fertilizers.

Books and magazines Garden related tools (shovels, rakes, etc.), hand tools Pots/fancy pots (empty of soil), containers that could be used for planters Garden flags/holders Fence and garden stakes Bird feeders, garden ornaments, chimes 'Rusty stuff,' scarecrows Plant markers Clean/unused garden gear like gloves/hats Wreaths, artificial flowers Stepping stones Hoses, buckets, fountains Garden furniture Rain gauges, bird houses, pavers Baskets, thermometers, outdoor clocks Garden related picture frames, dishes, linens Garden totes, sprinklers, vases/ flower-frogs, large/small hooks You get the idea.....stuff!

Drop your 'thingies' off Friday afternoon or early Saturday morning before the EXPO and we'll do the rest. Thanks!

Contact info: phone - 765-563-3497, cell - 765-822-0916, email - [candy@purdue.edu](mailto:candy@purdue.edu)

*"April is the sweetest month of the year, the mellow season of  
rebirth and renewal." – Mary Sojourner*

# Great Annual Annual Planting (GAAP)

♥ Earn Master Gardener volunteer hours ♥

*"I must have flowers, always, and always". Monet*

We are looking forward to getting our hands dirty during the month of May, helping beautify various community locations in Greater Lafayette. As in the past, we will plant annual flowers at the sites listed below. Although not the type of "flowers" Monet needed in his life, we are adding dates to help the Garden Design committee in planting our own Vegetable Demonstration Garden this year.

Each community site prepares the soil and provides the flowers. The Garden Design committee will prepare the beds and provide veggies for the Vegetable Demonstration Garden. Master Gardeners need to bring their own planting equipment (e.g., gloves, trowels, soil knives, knee pads, kneelers, rain gear, and water). We plant in light rain. If dates need to be cancelled due to storms and/or heavy rain, you will receive notification and we plant on the rain dates.

## **Dates for your calendar:**

Vegetable Demonstration Garden: May 8, (May 20 Rain Date)

Tippecanoe County Court House: May 10, (May 14 Rain Date)

Art Museum of Greater Lafayette: May 13, (May 15 Rain Date)

Columbian Park & Myers Pedestrian Bridge: May 16, (May 17 Rain Date)

Indiana Veterans Home: May 21, (May 23 Rain Date)

Look for a SignUpGenius notification soon, allowing you to volunteer for numerous opportunities to plant for the benefit of our Lafayette community. We start at 9:30 am and depending on the number of Master Gardeners at each site, we usually finish in a 2-3 hours.

Cindy Gilles, GAAP Chairperson



Photo: © 2023 Kathryn Reeves

*"April is the kindest month.  
April gets you out of your head and  
out working in the garden."  
— Marty Rubin*

## **DEMO GARDEN**

Georgia Brist asks members to bring clean dry plastic bags to the monthly meeting. The bags will be used in the Demo Garden when we harvest vegetables. The bags are folded and put in empty coffee cans and are then easily pulled out one at a time.





Photo: © 2017 Mike Hathaway

## What's Happening

### **WEDNESDAYS in the WILD**

Registration is required by noon on Monday prior to program:

765-567-2993 or [mcutler@tippecanoe.in.gov](mailto:mcutler@tippecanoe.in.gov)

#### **MAR 27, 1-3 pm, *Patterns of Nature at Frank Lloyd Wright's Samara, LNC.***

Nathan Allaire (Curator, Samara House) will share the story of famed Wisconsin-born architect Frank Lloyd Wright and how he used patterns in nature to create organic architecture and design. Attendees will explore how Samara, a house built in 1956 for a young West Lafayette couple, was influenced by the local environment and why their home was named after the botanical term "samara". The presentation will end with a fun activity where participants make an astronomical-inspired dessert together (originally created to treat guests by Catherine Christian, one of Samara's owners, in recognition of Purdue's space connections.) Don't miss this opportunity to learn about how nature can inspire the way we live and build! REGISTRATION is required.

#### **APR 3, 1-3 pm, Regenerative Agriculture: The DeSutter Farm, DSFarm.**

Dan DeSutter has played a pivotal role in extending the positive impacts of regenerative agriculture globally. Join the DeSutter family as they highlight their regenerative agricultural approach, delving into how this method enhances soil health, minimizes external inputs, and fosters the growth of nutrient-dense crops.

#### **APR 10, 1-3 pm, Spring Wildflowers: More Than Just a Pretty Face, TIPP AMPH**

Enjoy a woodland spring hike with Mary Cutler (Naturalist, Tippecanoe Co. Park & Rec. Dept.) as she shares fascinating floral facts and folklore associated with the diverse wildflowers that can be seen along the Tippecanoe Co. Amphitheater trails.

#### **APR 17, 1-3 pm, A Fresh Look at Fall Creek Gorge, NICHES/FCG**

Bob Easter (Director of Stewardship, NICHES Land Trust) leads this hike on new trails at Fall Creek Gorge Nature Preserve in Warren Co.; this property is re-opening to the public after being closed since

2021 due to overuse. Extensive stewardship is underway at the preserve along with vegetative monitoring which will guide future management. A special treat: we'll be joined by renowned watercolorist Rena Brouwer and others, who will be creating artistic responses to the beauty of the property along the trail. Experience the iconic landscapes of the Big Pine Valley on this moderate hike.

#### **APR 24, 1-3 pm, Moyer-Gould Mosey, NICHES/MGW**

Dan Childs (wildflower enthusiast and author) leads a leisurely stroll along the 1-mile trail at this NICHES Carroll Co. nature preserve, where a wide variety of spring wildflowers abound! Dan's wildflower books will be available for purchase (check or Venmo).

#### **MAY 1, 1-3 pm, An Introduction to the Woodland Sedges of Ross Hills Park, RHP**

"Carex" is a genus of sedges often overlooked or misidentified despite being one of the most diverse plant genera in North America. IU researcher Rich Hull discusses his work at the park on a hike showcasing the identifying features of a variety of sedges and where you can normally find them.

### **Wednesdays in the Wild Locations:**

**DSFarm (DeSutter Farm):** Meet at 1 p.m. at the DeSutter Farm: 3938 N SR 341, Attica.

**LNC (Lilly Nature Center):** 1620 Lindberg Road, between Northwestern & McCormick at the Celery Bog Nature Area, West Lafayette.

**NICHES/FCG (Fall Creek Gorge N.P.):** Meet at 1 p.m. at the new Fall Creek Gorge parking lot along W. Twin Bridges Rd., Attica.

**NICHES/MGW (Moyer-Gould Woods):** Meet at 1 p.m. in the property parking lot (1 1/4 miles north of the SR 18/US 421 intersection) at 4620 N US-421, Delphi 46923.

**RHP (Ross Hills Park):** Meet at 1 p.m. at the Ross House: 8815 W 50 S, West Lafayette.

**TIPP AMPH (Tippecanoe County Amphitheater):** Meet at 1 p.m. at the end of Amphitheater parking lot: 4449 State Road 43 N, West Lafayette.

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## What's Happening cont'd

### RIP SQUAD April volunteer workdays\*

Remove Invasive Plants to help protect the native plants.

#### TUESDAYS, 3-5pm:

**April 2 & 23** at Cumberland Woods // April 9 & 30 at Happy Hollow Park (meet at Shelter 4)

**April 16** at Celery Bog Nature Area

#### THURSDAYS, 3-5pm:

**April 4 & 18** at Ross Hills Park

**April 11 & 25** at Prophet's Rock Woods

For more information contact Patty Jones, landline/voicemail 765-463-3050 or email [removeinvasiveplants.wcinps@gmail.com](mailto:removeinvasiveplants.wcinps@gmail.com)

Co-sponsored by the West Central Chapter of the Indiana Native Plant Society and the Sycamore Audubon Society, in cooperation with West Lafayette Parks and Recreation, Tippecanoe County Park & Recreation and TICT (Tippecanoe Invasive Cooperative Task Force)

*\*Removing invasive plants in Tippecanoe County is approved for Master Gardener volunteer hours.*

### APR 6, 9 am - 3 pm, 36th Annual Boone County Master Gardeners' Gardenfest

Boone County 4-H Fairgrounds, 1300 E 100 S – LEBANON. The Gardenfest is free and offers kids activities, soil pH testing, Q&A, native tree seedlings to the first 300 attendees, vendors, and a garden café. Speaker lineup is: 9:30 a.m. - Jared Spokowsky "Pollinator Plants," 10:30 a.m. - Jennifer Davies & Karen Smith "The Laws of Attraction - Birds, Butterflies & Bees," and 11:30 a.m. - Rachel Walker "So You Bought An Orchid, Now What? Basic Orchid Keeping in the Home."

For more information visit

<https://mastergardenersboonecounty.org/gardenfest/>

### APR 13, 9 am – 4 pm, PURDUE SPRINGFEST

#### Container Garden Demos for Sun and Shade:

Master Gardeners Mike Hathaway and Kathryn Reeves, time TBA, HLA tent, #22 on map link below.

**Master Gardener Booth:** Q&A all day, HLA tent, #22 on map link below.

Both events at Dept. of Horticulture & Landscape Architecture tent, Marsteller St. and Agriculture Mall Dr., Purdue University campus, West Lafayette.

<https://ag.purdue.edu/springfest/>

<https://ag.purdue.edu/springfest/spring-fest-map.html>

**APR 19 & 20, 9 am – 5 pm, Purdue Rainscaping Education Program.** Noble County Public Library, 813 E. Main Street, Albion, Indiana. "Rainscaping is a combination of sustainable landscape design and management practices that prevents polluted runoff from reaching water bodies — directing stormwater to be absorbed by plants and soils. The Purdue Rainscaping Education Program provides training and resources on rainscaping practices that can be installed in residential settings or small-scale public spaces projects.

"The sessions include an introduction to Rainscaping (with site visit to Whitley County Rain Garden), site selection & analysis, plant selection & garden design, installation and maintenance, and we wrap up with a hands-on rain garden installation project.

"Program is offered by Purdue Extension and the Noble County Public Library. \$95 registration fee includes lunch and snacks both days, a PDF Participant Guide (or option to purchase hardcopy), a personal copy of the Blue Thumb Guide, and many more resources."

For more information contact Reba Wicker ([rwicker@purdue.edu](mailto:rwicker@purdue.edu)) or Ann Kline ([kline60@purdue.edu](mailto:kline60@purdue.edu)). You can register here: <https://web.cvent.com/event/082849e5-f1e6-46d1-8faa-518e40cb374e/summary>



## Purdue Extension Monthly Hot Topics for 2024

**APR 17, noon to 1 pm EST.** This month the Hot Topic is "Eat Midwest Fish," Amy Shaumbach, Aquaculture Marketing Outreach Associate, Purdue University. To register for this free, live, virtual program go to <https://bit.ly/HotTopics2024>.

"Hot Topics" is a free monthly live Zoom presentation featuring Purdue Extension Professionals discussing their research and area of expertise.

Virtual presentations will earn Master Gardener education hours. All programs are recorded for later viewing if you can't make the noon presentation.

Contact Courtney Ann Schmidt, Extension Educator, Ag & Natural Resources / Health & Human Sciences County Extension Director-Miami County Purdue Extension at [schmi163@purdue.edu](mailto:schmi163@purdue.edu), for details.



## Recipes of the Month

Emily Hughes found great recipes for this month. See directions online for these recipes:

Artichoke Florentine Pasta

<https://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/artichoke-florentine-pasta/>

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Blackberry Croissant Breakfast Bake

<https://www.thekitchn.com/recipe-blackberry-croissant-breakfast-bake-243966>

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## Master Gardener Online Educational Opportunities

**Purdue Extension Master Gardener web-based education at:**  
<https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/master-gardener/continuedhours/>

A variety of topics are available to watch anytime to suit your schedule. Earn EMG Education hours.

### Purdue Landscape Report

Timely educational topics on lawn care, trees, shrubs, flowers, plant diseases, insect pests, invasive species and more.

To get this twice a month newsletter by email go to: <https://www.purduelandscape.org>  
 Click on subscribe link. You can also read previous issues online at the same website.



## April Garden To-Do List

🌸 Mark frost dates on calendar. <https://www.weather.gov/ind/frostfreezedate> The National Weather Service records last frost as late as May 27 or as early as March 30, the average is April 25.

🌸 Grow some healthy happy plants for Garden Expo!

🌸 Lift and divide perennials. Pot up extras for the MG Plant Sale.

🌸 Start warm season vegetable and herb seeds indoors - tomato, eggplant, cucumber, basil and others.

🌸 Sow flower seeds indoors - marigolds, zinnias and other quick annuals.

🌸 Make sure seedlings have good air circulation indoors – use a small electric fan to make stems of seedlings stronger.

🌸 Sow or transplant cool season crops outdoors – spinach, lettuce, salad greens, peas, radish, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, onions, leeks, chives and others.

🌸 Add compost/organic matter to flower and vegetable beds.

🌸 Remove winter mulch from strawberries and perennials.

🌸 Prune the “3 D’s” dead, damaged, diseased branches from trees, shrubs and roses. Wait to prune maples until they start to bud out to avoid excessive sap running.

🌸 Don’t prune oak trees during active growth from April through June to help avoid Oak Wilt disease.

🌸 Wait to prune spring-blooming trees and shrubs until after their blooms are finished. Prune summer-flowering shrubs by early April.

🌸 Watch for spring bulbs to emerge. Pure joy.

🌸 Just for fun, check out the Gardening Moon Calendar, a biodynamic planting guide by phases of the moon and astrological moon signs:

<https://mooncalendar.astro-seek.com/gardening-moon-calendar-farmers-guide>

🌸 More tips on houseplants, yard & garden see: <https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/yardandgarden/april-garden-calendar/>

🌸 Spring is happening...only a about 30 days until last frost date and then Garden Expo.!





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