

August 2019

Garden Beet



MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY

A Word from Your Co-Presidents, Jolaine & Cheryl

Wow! We are in the middle of summer already. I just picked several red tomatoes out of my garden last night and they are lovely and look delicious. My peppers look very productive too. I hope your gardens are growing well.

My family and I are getting ready to leave on vacation this week and are looking forward to exploring Niagara Falls, Acadia National Park in Maine, and Salem, Massachusetts; we anticipate we will see some beautiful gardens in those states. I hope all of you have gotten to travel a little this summer and visit some beautiful places.

Our Master Gardener's Open House is coming up on August 4. Please plan to participate by volunteering, bringing a recipe and food giveaway, or bringing tomatoes for our tasting table. We hope to have a good turn-out and look forward to showing off the gardens to the public. Please put the Open House on your calendar.

Why not think about running for a Master Gardener office and let us know what position you would like to fill on our Board. Jolaine and I look forward to your participation. We have several volunteer positions availa-

ble, too. Let us know how you might be able to help with those openings.

I hope you are having a wonderful summer and plan to see you at the Open House.

Cheryl McCool & Jolaine Roberts

Book Update

Please change Lynn Layden's email address in your Green Book to:
laydenlm@gmail.com

Garden Gadgets and Tools

By Kathryn Reeves and Mike Hathaway

There are wine connoisseurs and there are twine connoisseurs. We're more in the twine/cord/rope category. A ball of fine twine is a thing of beauty.

Our favorite twine is a brown color, halfway between fawn and hot chocolate with notes of oak bark. LOL - does that sound like a twine connoisseur? The brand is Nutscene, manufactured in Kingmuir, Scotland, sold throughout the UK, and is possibly the best twine in the world. Nutscene twine comes in a variety of colors for use in the garden and craft projects. It is soft, pliable, thin but strong. Their standard roll of twine is sized to fit into the pocket of a gentleman gardener's tweed jacket. You can find Nutscene online in rolls or tin dispensers in a few colors: natural, green, and orange. A few vendors in the US sell expensive

mini-pools of Nutscene twine in eight colors. Sadly, the brown twine cannot be found online.

One of us believes you can never have too much twine socked away and is always on the look out at thrift stores and yard sales for twine. A treasured garage sale find was a huge ball of really thick vintage macramé twine, aged to a medium dark but subtle green color. It was probably "avocado" color in its time. This thick 6 ply twine is perfect for tying in floppy yew and juniper branches, strong enough to endure several years in the garden, soft enough not to harm plants and the color helps camouflage it. The really thick stuff is now only available in natural jute color that blends in with plants almost as well.

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Programs

August 6 • 6:30 p.m. • TCEO
6 p.m. Social Time
Extension Gardens
Weather Station
John Scott

John Scott is the Digital Agriculture Extension Coordinator with Purdue Cooperative Extension Service and the Wabash Heartland Innovation Network (WHIN).

September 10 • 6:30 p.m. • TCEO
6 p.m. Social Time
Extension Gardens
Native Bee Project
Heather Harvey

Heather Harvey is the founder of Bees Gone Wild.

For more information on upcoming events, contact Dee Dee Long at deedee1mg@gmail.com or Jan Sadler at grammajax8@comcast.net.

Please submit items for the *Garden Beet* to 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.

<http://www.tippecanoeastergardener.org>

<https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/master-gardener/>



MGATC Minutes: July 2, 2019, 6:30 p.m., TCEO

At 6:30 p.m., Jan Sadler introduced Bridget Gregory, greenhouse supervisor at Bennett's Greenhouse. Her presentation on container gardening explained how to choose the proper soil, fertilizer, container, and conditions for maintaining plants such as African violets, orchids, and citrus.

Cheryl McCool called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

The June minutes were approved as posted in the July issue of the *Garden Beet*.

Jim Jeray delivered the treasurer's report. The June beginning balance was \$47,198, with income of \$5,135 and expenses of \$4,231. Significant income included \$1,099 from Art in Bloom, \$1,035 from the bus trip, and \$3,000 reimbursement from The Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette. Major expenses included \$1,741 for insurance and \$1,063 for Art in Bloom. Jim noted that \$745 in uncashed checks plus outstanding receipt submissions remained. The month's end balance was \$48,103, with unrestricted of \$25,677 and savings of \$10,538.

In response to a question regarding Art in Bloom's income, Esther Chosnek reported that the sale of plants plus donations ensured that the income and expenses evened out each year. She also noted that the 2019 event was very successful.

Pat Miller announced that the 2019 bus trip to the Chicago Botanic Garden will take place on July 19th. She thanked those members who signed up and reported that the bus was full.

Jan Sadler and Dee Dee Long announced that sign-up sheets were available for the August 4th Open House. Volunteer positions include overseeing the tomato tasting, lemonade and cookies, and other activities. In response to a question about the children's hayrides, Karen Mitchell

reported that she was still in search of a small utility trailer.

Cheryl McCool noted the following vacant volunteer positions: Display and Idea Gardens Coordinator, Public Education Workshop Co-chair, and Coordinator for the Extension sign flower bed. She also reported that the extension gardens had a lot of weeds and asked members to consider volunteering.

Joan Straber asked Display and Idea Gardens volunteers to consider water lines underneath walkways before digging and to be considerate of others before pulling flowers out of beds. She also reported that there were a couple of empty beds and plenty of weeding for anyone willing to volunteer.

Karen Mitchell reported on the status of the back three acres of the Extension property and showed before and after photos. Fifteen-30 feet of trees and honeysuckle on the western edge of the field was cleared. More gravel will be placed to extend the road in the next month. The field will then be mowed and sprayed before wildflower prairie mix is dormant seeded for 2020. The Community Garden shade pavilions are now erected. Ron Has-ton, a restoration ecologist, will be working with MGATC on an ongoing basis to manage invasive species and oversee prescribed burns.

Cheryl McCool announced that the October Hoedown programming will be an open mic night. Members are encouraged to share successes and lessons learned from their own gardens; pictures are welcome. Members who volunteer should anticipate speaking for a maximum of 5-7 minutes.

Cheryl McCool reported that volunteers are needed for the following officer positions with terms beginning January 2020: Co-vice Presidents,

Recording and Corresponding Secretaries, Treasurer, and Member-at-Large. She encouraged members to feel free to team up and split position duties. Jolaine Roberts and Cheryl will move to an advisory role and Dee Dee Long and Jan Sadler will become Co-presidents.

Cheryl McCool then asked for any additional business. Dee Dee Long announced that the sign-ups were available for the Tippecanoe County fair booth with shifts from July 20-23.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kristen Noel, Recording Secretary

Treasurer's Report

We ended June with about \$25,700 in unrestricted funds. As of now we have about \$2,700 in additional checks sent to members. I expect more expenses from the garden Open House before the next meeting, both for the Open House itself and from individual members sprucing up their gardens. That will put us at about \$22,000. Receipts with reimbursement forms can be sent to me, dropped in the MG mailbox in the Education Center room at the Extension Center office, or handed to me at the meeting.

Reminder: I will be available to collect dues starting at the September meeting after updated forms are posted on the website. Everyone should pay the dues before the end of the year so the new Green Books can be complete and published on time. I expect to be able to take payments by cash, check, or credit card (using the square like we do at the Expo).

Jim Jeray, Treasurer

MGATC Board: July 11, 2019, 6 p.m., TCEO

Cheryl McCool called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. In attendance were Cheryl McCool, Jolaine Roberts, Jeri Bosworth Parker, John Pickett, Jim Jeray, Karen Mitchell, Pat Miller, Kristen Noel, and Dee Dee Long.

The June Board meeting minutes were approved as posted in the July issue of the *Garden Beet*.

Jim Jeray delivered the July treasurer's report. The month's beginning balance was \$47,199. Income of \$5,135 included The Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette reimbursement of \$3,000 and \$1,035 paid for the July bus trip. Expenses of \$4,231 included \$1,741 for insurance. As of July 11th, the ending balance was \$48,103, with an unrestricted balance of \$23,000 and savings of \$10,538.

Jolaine Roberts noted that she purchased a battery-powered mower for use in the Children's Garden.

Pat Miller provided an update on the upcoming July bus trip to the Chicago Botanic Garden. As of the meeting, the bus was full and all 31 people had paid.

Dee Dee Long reported on preparations for the August 4th Open House. Several volunteers were still needed, as well as three tents. Karen Mitchell and John Pickett volunteered to bring additional tents. Tomatoes for the planned tomato tasting and recipes and sample dishes for the garden recipe activity were still needed. The Board then discussed logistics regarding activities, food, and volunteer openings. Dee Dee confirmed with Jim Jeray that the event's budget was \$200.

Karen Mitchell provided an update on the compost project. The honeysuckle previously bordering the Extension property was removed. Andy Hughes will contact contractors to inquire about the road paving; gravel for the road and select garden paths will be delivered mid-July.

Cheryl McCool and Jolaine Roberts reported that no one had yet volunteered for available officer positions. Cheryl noted that Brenda Carton will not be stepping away from the Rain Garden as previously reported at the June Board meeting. Since the Extension Office sign volunteer position was vacant, Cheryl planned to tackle the weeds if necessary.

Jim Jeray reported that 2018 Extension intern Kara Schueler sent MGATC a thank you note, which Karen Mitchell read aloud. Kara thanked Master Gardeners for their service to the community and for all that she learned from the organization throughout her internship.

Jim Jeray relayed that Billie Seaton notified him that Jerry Millard's *Garden Beet* was returned in the mail. As membership chair, Jim will inquire about updating the printed return address on the *Garden Beet* to the Extension Office and Jerry's address.

Jim Jeray reported that he talked to Mitchell Insurance regarding potential overlap in MGATC's three policies for general, liability, and bonding insurance. Two policies have terrorism insurance included, which the Board decided to opt out of save \$40-\$60 per year. The Board will review the bonding coverage once the new treasurer is nominated.

Jim Jeray provided a handout detailing chairperson job descriptions in response to the Board's discussion in June. Jolaine Roberts confirmed, after speaking to Jerry Millard, that no existing list of chair descriptions existed. The goal of the list is to provide a thorough description of chair responsibilities to ensure smooth transitions between chairpersons and efficient coordination. Jim has contacted several chairs and hopes to have a final product by September.

Karen Mitchell asked about the status of a Display and Idea Gardens map and coordinating list of gardens and chairpersons. Jolaine will confer with Mickey Penrod to ensure an updated list and will also create an accompanying handout detailing garden procedures. Dee Dee Long asked if a 2019 MGATC annual report was ever released; Karen noted that a report did not exist.

Jolaine Roberts asked how MGATC handles Menards rebates, especially concerning the recent purchase of the electric mower. Jim Jeray will check to ensure that Menards accepts organizations as a rebate recipient.

With no further business, Cheryl McCool adjourned the meeting at 6:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen Noel, Recording Secretary

Vegebabs for Outdoor Cooking

(Serves 4)

This combination may be varied by substituting any of the following: tomato wedges, unpeeled cucumber or eggplant chunks, 2-inch pieces of celery, par-boiled small potatoes.

2 small zucchini
2 small yellow squash
2 medium red onions
1/4 cup vegetable oil
1/2 tsp. dried oregano
Salt and freshly ground pepper

Trim ends of zucchini and yellow squash. Peel onions. Slice squash and onion into 3/8-inch rounds. Place vegetables in bowl. Mix oil, oregano, and salt and pepper to taste. Pour over the vegetables and gently turn to coat the slices. Spear vegetables on four 10-inch skewers, dividing equally. Prepare barbecue. Broil 3 inches from coals until tender but still crisp. Turn several times and brush with additional oil mixture.

~Bon Appetit Kitchen Collection/Outdoor Cooking

Volunteer Opps

Education Workshops

I would like to have one or two more people to help organize the Saturday Education Workshops.

We will have one in September, October, November, February, March, and April. They are on the third Saturday of the month.

You receive education hours for attending the workshops and volunteer hours for helping to plan them. Please contact me if interested.

Jeri Bosworth Parker, "Class of 2005"

State Fair

Volunteers are needed for the Master Gardener Education Booth at the Indiana State Fair. Tippecanoe County will be handling the booth on Saturday, August 17. Volunteers will be signed up on a first come-first served basis. Four volunteers are needed for each of the following time slots:

11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Please contact me at grammajanx8@comcast.net and give me your first and second choice of times to work the booth. I will reply with confirmation of your scheduled time.

You will receive free admission to the State Fair. More information will follow as it is received.

Jan Sadler

Open House

This year's Open House will take place on Sunday, August 4th from 1 to 4 p.m. The event will feature guided tours of the Community Gardens, Demonstration Gardens, and Display and Idea Gardens.

Volunteering opportunities abound! Please help out with the children's area, cooking hot dogs, baking cookies, Recipes from the Garden, water stations, tomato tasting, set-up, and clean-up.

I have had many questions and realized I didn't explain what "Recipes from the Garden" means.

We have a booth titled "Recipes from the Garden." People get to taste what is made. Last year we had people make zucchini bread, salsa, pickled green beans, zoodles, gazpacho, etc. You would make enough for about 50-100 people to taste. We put them in very, very small cups; about a tablespoon worth for each individual. You can make anything that would come from your garden.

If you decide to donate food/recipes for the Open House, please email the recipe to Karen Mitchell by August 1st. Karen will have the recipes printed so we can give them out during the tasting. We could use a few more recipes.

For more info, you can contact Dee Dee Long by email at deedeelmg@gmail.com or cell phone at 765-586-2735 and Jan Sadler by email at grammajanx8@comcast.net or cell phone at 317-201-4256.

What's Happening

Wednesdays in the Wild

July 31 • 1-3 p.m. • BEEC

The Art of Falconry

Tom Hagovsky & Tanner Baird
Tom and Tanner (local falconers) will share the art and practice of the sport of falconry.

August 7 • 1-3 p.m. • LNC

Butterflies of Tippecanoe County

Jon Neal

Purdue Entomologist Jon will give a brief indoor presentation on our local butterflies followed by an outdoor butterfly identification walk, weather permitting. Bring your binoculars.

August 14 • 7-9 p.m. • LNC

Geocaching: Where YOU Are the Search Engine!

Karen Wiggins

Who doesn't like a treasure hunt? Add technology and you've got Geocaching: a family-friendly way to get tech-obsessed loved ones into the great outdoors. Karen (Indiana Master Naturalist) will provide tips on getting started, then lead everyone outside to give it a try. Bring your smartphone and/or handheld GPS device, if you have one. Note the evening time.

August 21 • 10 a.m.-noon

KWPROP

Landscaping with Native Plant Communities

Kent Walters

Interested in developing a natural landscape that attracts more birds and butterflies to your yard? Join Biologist Kent for a tour of his two-acre property where he has been establishing prairie, savanna, and wetland plantings. Note the morning start time.

(continued on page 5)

A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows

Gadgets

(continued from page 1)

Smaller gauges of twine are easy to find locally in beige tones or a really harsh unnatural green. Some baling twine is treated against rot, and looks the same weird blue-green as treated lumber. Orange plastic twine is available and will not rot - ugly forever. There's also white polypropylene twine. Biodegradable natural or organic fibers like jute, linen, cocoa fiber, and wool are better for the environment. A few natural fiber twines are waxed to make them longer lasting in the garden.

Some twine is hard, rough, and stiff (like baling twine) and some is soft and almost like yarn. Birds love any kind of twine as nesting material and often pull twine loose; a pliable twine can be tied in more securely. Leave biodegradable twine scraps on the ground for our feathered friends to collect.

Our favorite tool for cutting all kinds of twine is an old pair of kitchen shears. Kitchen shears are usually rust resistant and waterproof, seem to cut better than pruners, and they're very good for harvesting herbs too.

Life in the garden isn't all about twine. After a day of tying up tomato vines and tall floppy perennials, a glass of chilled chardonnay wine with a few drops of crème de cassis, a splash of club soda, and lots of ice would be perfect (if we had a bartender on staff). A cold beer from the fridge is perfect too.

August TO-DO List:

- ⇒ It's hot and your garden may be looking tired. Weed, trim, dead-head, edge, mulch, water, and remove debris to keep things looking fresh.
- ⇒ Keep compost pile "cooking" with adequate moisture.
- ⇒ Pick vegs like tomatoes, peppers, beans, and squash to keep plants producing.

- ⇒ Watch for tomato hornworms - handpick and destroy unless they're covered with white eggs of parasitic wasps that will hatch and naturally kill the hornworms for you. Handpick Colorado potato beetles and squash bugs.
- ⇒ Melon and corn crops may start to ripen this month.
- ⇒ Cure potatoes, onions, and garlic after harvest before storing.
- ⇒ Start fall veg planting by transplanting broccoli, pak choi, kohlrabi, and kale or direct sow root and leaf crops.
- ⇒ Sow cover crops on bare areas in veg garden.
- ⇒ Start taking cuttings of favorite garden plants to root and overwinter indoors.
- ⇒ Keep watering newly planted perennials, shrubs, and trees.
- ⇒ No more fertilizer for woody plants at this time of year.
- ⇒ Prune and destroy branches infested with fall webworms and tent caterpillars. Hand prune bagworms.
- ⇒ Early August lawn care: if white grubs are causing damage, apply insecticide and irrigate.
- ⇒ More August lawn care: water during dry spells or allow to go dormant. It's better to wait to fertilize until September.
- ⇒ Think about garden areas that need improvement. Plan to buy or order perennials, shrubs, and trees for fall planting.
- ⇒ Plan to order spring bulbs for fall planting.
- ⇒ Gardener care: Use sunscreen even if gardening in shade. Stay hydrated with plenty of water. Use repellents to avoid ticks and mosquito bites.
- ⇒ See more tips from Rosie Lerner's Purdue Extension Summer Garden Calendar: <https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/yardandgarden/august-garden-calendar/>
- ⇒ Look forward to cooler fall temps!

Happening

(continued from page 4)

August 28 • 7-9 p.m. • LNC

*Monarchs on the Move:
Near and Far*

Stephanie Frischie

In late summer, monarchs begin their migration southward to wintering grounds in Mexico. In this program Stephanie (Xerces Society) will share the biology and migratory behavior of this beloved butterfly, including the challenges they face and how we can support them here in Indiana during the breeding and migratory seasons. Note the evening time.

September 4 • 1-3 p.m.

NICHES/MGW

Moyer-Gould Woods Hike

Gus Nyberg

Gus (NICHES Executive Director) will lead a stroll through the hills along the Tippecanoe River in Carroll County discussing the property's cultural history and appreciating the natural landscape work being done there.

LOCATIONS:

BEEC (Brier Environmental Education Center): In Battle Ground, watch for the sign on the south side of Prophets Rock Road, close to its intersection with North 9th Street.

KWPROP (Property of Kent Walters): Meet at 10 a.m. at 251 W 125 S, Williamsport 47993 or join the 9 a.m. carpool from LNC.

LNC (Lilly Nature Center/Celery Bog Nature Area): 1620 Lindberg Road, between Northwestern Avenue and McCormick Road in West Lafayette.

NICHES/MGW (Moyer-Gould Woods): 4620 N US-421, Delphi 46923. Meet at 1 p.m. in the property parking lot (1 1/4 miles north of the SR 18/US 421 intersection) or join the 12:30 p.m. carpool from the Battlefield Monument parking lot off North 9th Street in Battle Ground.

August
Creates as
she slumbers,
replete and
satisfied

~Joseph Wood Krutch



Oh, the summer night
Has a smile of light
And she sits on a
sapphire throne

~Barry Cornwall

Minted Tomatoes

(4-6 servings)

2 T. cider vinegar

1-2 T. sugar

Dash of salt

Dash of freshly ground pepper

2 tsp. minced fresh mint

2 lbs. large tomatoes, peeled and
sliced

Combine vinegar, sugar, salt, and pepper in small saucepan. Bring to boil over high heat. Stir in mint. Let cool slightly. Arrange tomatoes in shallow dish. Pour mixture over. Refrigerate tomatoes before serving.

~Bon Appetit Kitchen Collection/Garden Salads

Garden Beet

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