

August 2020

Garden Beet



MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY

The Latest Spin from D&J

Dee Dee and Jan

August is a “happy” and “busy” time for gardeners! It’s time for picking, canning, freezing, and, of course, eating the wonderful fruits (and vegetables) of our hard work.

A major part of the Master Gardener organization is volunteering at one of our many sites or events held throughout the year. Due to COVID-19, volunteer hours have been waived for 2020. Of course, if you are volunteering, your hours will be counted so be sure to post them on the Master Gardener website.

Volunteering is the perfect opportunity to meet and get to know other Master Gardeners. There is still time for you to get in some hours this year. Check pages six thru 10 of the 2020

Master Gardener Membership Directory (Green Book) which lists those opportunities and contact chairs. If you are concerned about COVID-19, we want you to know that gardeners are wearing masks, wiping down tools, and social distancing.

We hope you were able to attend the Zoom meeting July 7th. Karen Mitchell spoke on how to use Zoom, and our famous Rosie Lerner from Purdue spoke on Indiana Native Shrubs. It was a wonderful presentation, many people were able to sign on, and we got really good feedback. It was nice to see everyone, even if only on Zoom.

We plan to do Zoom meetings for the remainder of 2020. We hope that you will sign on so you can get your educa-

tion hours, as education hours were not waived. The August 4 Zoom meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. and Dr. Mike Saunders from the Purdue Department of Forestry and Natural Resource will explore the critical role fire plays in promoting ecosystem health. Make sure you watch for Karen Mitchell’s email on the link to log into our monthly Zoom meeting.

We look forward to seeing all of you on Zoom on August 4th.

Hope you are having a great summer!

Dee Dee and Jan

Great Gadgets and Tools

By Kathryn Reeves and Mike Hathaway

We have a bumper crop of yellow summer squash - four different varieties this year. The squash started producing the 2nd week in June and shows no sign of slowing down. The seed we had on hand this spring was very old, so we attribute our success to good compost and newspaper mulch to suppress weeds and conserve moisture. More about summer squash later.

This month, we’re focusing on paper, a natural plant based material. There are so many uses for paper for gardeners.

Invented in Asia almost a thousand years ago, paper was handmade from natural fibers of plants local to the region. Knowledge of papermaking traveled from Asia to the Middle East, and later to Europe. To a large extent, paper replaced European parchment (real sheepskin).

Papyrus is technically not paper; its fibers are parallel and not interlocked. Papyrus is prone to cracking; paper is flexible. (Bear with us - we’re paper nerds.)

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Programs

August 4 • 6:30 p.m. • Zoom
Fire Ecology of the Eastern Forest
Dr. Michael Saunders
Dr. Saunders is an Associate Professor of Ecology and Natural Resources at Purdue University.

September 1 • 6:30 p.m. • Zoom
The Golden Key: A Consortium of Midwest Herbaria
Karen Mitchell
Amy Thompson

Karen is ANR for Tippecanoe County and Amy is ANR for Monroe County. Note: this topic is still tentative.

[Information for joining the Zoom meetings is on page 3.](#)

For more information on upcoming events, contact Maralee Hayworth at mhaywort@purdue.edu.



MGATC Meeting: July 7, 2020, 6:30 p.m., Virtual

At 6:30 p.m., after giving some brief instruction on the use of Zoom, Karen introduced Rosie Lerner, Purdue Extension Consumer Horticulture Specialist.

Almost 60 attendees settled down to a presentation of "Native Shrubs in the

Landscape." (Rosie's handout was attached to the initiation email.) Generally, native means occurring naturally in the region for hundreds of years. It was an excellent presentation with several good questions.

There was no business meeting.

The meeting ended at 8 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jim Jeray, Recording Secretary

MGATC Board: July 9, 2020, 4 p.m., Virtual

Dee Dee Long called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. In attendance were Jim Jeray, Pat Miller, Dee Dee Long, Jolaine Roberts, Jan Sadler, Maralee Hayworth, Nancy Cope, and Karen Mitchell.

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

Pat Miller delivered the treasurer's report. There were no changes since the beginning of the month, and that report will appear elsewhere in this *Garden Beet*.

Maralee discussed speakers for future meetings. She has a speaker for August willing to do a Zoom presentation. At the October meeting we were planning to have short presentations from individual members as we did last year. The Board will send an email to the membership to solicit topics and volunteers to see if this will be possible.

Until further notice, future meetings will be conducted via Zoom.

Karen is involved in the planning of a virtual Master Gardener class in the fall. It will be a statewide program on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30.

She will supplement this with a one-hour virtual program on Thursday evenings to focus on information specific to the county.

Karen will post a recording of the July monthly meeting on-line for those who missed it.

With no further business, Dee Dee Long adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Jeray, Recording Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Income for the month of June is mainly from Garden Expo, state conference refund, and bank fee reimbursement for a total of \$583. Expenses included various garden projects, insurance, website, and tractor repair for \$2,034. Restricted funds expenses for the month totaled \$772 for the tractor repair leaving a balance in the fund of \$18,744. The total of unrestricted funds available is \$21,495 as of June 30. The tax exempt certificate for 2020 and the form for reimbursement are

available on the Master Gardener website. For reimbursement you can mail your requests to my home address which is 3801 South River Road in West Lafayette, Indiana 47906 or you can drop them in the black mail box outside the Extension Office outer door. If you have any changes to your membership details please send them to me at pmillerathome@comcast.net.

Pat Miller, Treasurer

August rain: the best of the summer gone, and the new fall not yet born. The odd uneven time.

~ Sylvia Plath

Homemade Dill Dip

1 teaspoon fresh dill weed (or substitute dried dill instead)
1 teaspoon dried parsley
1 Tablespoon grated onion
1 cup sour cream
1 cup mayonnaise
Stir all ingredients together until well blended.

For best results, store in an airtight container in the refrigerator for several hours before using, to let the flavors combine and kind of meld together.

~ littlehouseliving.com

What's Happening

Wednesdays in the Wild

REGISTRATION is required by noon on Monday prior to the program due to space limitations. Call 765-567-2993 or email mcutler@tippecanoe.in.gov.

July 29 • 1-3 p.m. • HHP
The Past & Present of Happy Hollow Park
Kathy Atwell, Dan Dunten, & Patty Jones

During a leisurely nature walk along the paved trail, participants will learn about the park's history from Kathy Atwell (Retired TCHA Director), see erosion control practices with Dan Dunten (Lilly Nature Center Director), and hear about invasive plant removal efforts from Patty Jones (RIP Squad Coordinator).

August 5 • 7-9 p.m. • SPINN
Remnant Prairie - Revelations at Spinn Prairie Hike
Stephanie Frischie

Join Stephanie Frischie (Plant Ecologist with The Xerces Society) on a botanical exploration of Spinn Prairie, a state dedicated nature preserve and one of the few unplowed prairie remnants in the state of Indiana! NOTE: NO ESTABLISHED TRAILS, so wear long pants and sturdy footwear! Caravan leaves Battle Ground at 6:30 p.m.

August 12 • 1-3 p.m. • TCEXT
Exploring Native Plantings at the Master Gardener Extension Gardens
Mickey Penrod

Master Gardener Mickey Penrod will share the development of the prairie plantings at the Tippecanoe County Extension Gardens, since 2009 to the present day. Original tall grass plantings have been enhanced to include other native plants that attract pollinators. Come get ideas for how to add natives to your own landscapes!

August 19 • 1-3 p.m. • TIPPBFB
The Battle and Beyond
Rick Conwell & Mary Cutler

The Battle of Tippecanoe played a pivotal role in Indiana history, but that is not the end of the story. Join Rick Conwell (Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum Store Manager) and Mary Cutler (Naturalist, Tippecanoe County Parks & Recreation Department) as they share the history of this iconic site from 1811 onwards. Political rallies, church camps, and Purdue University all have a connection to this unique site!

August 26 • 1-3 p.m. • ACRE
"The Prairie Threshold" Walk - where bison roamed, Indians hunted, and fire caused two ecologies to collide!
Jim Beaty

Jim Beaty (Superintendent, Purdue's Agronomy Center for Research & Education) leads this walk through a 4.2-acre restored prairie. Enjoy late wildflowers blooming just above the growing prairie grasses, and learn how the geography of our area where woodlands and prairie meet has given rise to the multiple soil types and climates which result in such a great diversity of native Indiana plants.

LOCATIONS:

ACRE (Purdue Agronomy Center for Research & Education): In West Lafayette at 4530 US 52 West. Park by the farm shop; second building on the left.

HHP (Happy Hollow Park): In West Lafayette off Happy Hollow Road. Meet at Shelter #4.

SPINN (Spinn Prairie/TNC): Go north on SR 43 (becomes SR 421). Two miles north of Reynolds, turn east on 200 N; go 1/4 mile; turn south/right at the "T" intersection and go 1/4 mile to the TNC sign on the west side of the road or join the 6:30 p.m. caravan from WNC.

TCEXT (Tippecanoe County Extension Gardens): 3150 Sagamore Parkway South, Lafayette. Meet at the entrance to the extension gardens.

TIPPBFB (Tippecanoe Battlefield): In Battle Ground, off North 9th Street. Meet at the large picnic pad adjacent to the picnic shelter.

WNC (Wah-ba-shik-a Nature Center): In Battle Ground at the Tippecanoe Battlefield off North Ninth Street.

Zoom Meetings

Join the Zoom Meeting at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83828659931?pwd=VGNsdG9jaHVvTzZoQzEiWmVidXV4UT09>

Meeting ID: 838 2865 9931
Password: 3150

If you need to join by phone:

1. Call: (415) 762-9988 or (646) 568-7788 AND follow the verbal instructions.
2. Enter the meeting ID number followed by the # key.
3. You will be asked to enter your participant ID (If you are not at your computer and do not have the Participant ID just press #).
4. You will be joined into the zoom meeting.

Call or text 765-357-6956 if you are having trouble accessing the meeting.

Pecan Glazed Green Beans

(Serves 2)

1/2 lb. fresh whole green beans
1 Tbsp. brown sugar
2 Tbsp. butter
1/2 cup chopped pecans
Pinch of Kosher salt

Snip the ends off the green beans, wash and drain.

Place the beans into a pot of boiling water. Boil for about 8 minutes and drain.

Melt the butter and brown sugar in a skillet.

Add in the pecans then the drained green beans.

Sprinkle with the salt and cook, tossing occasionally for about 5 or 6 minutes.

Serve and enjoy!

~ littlehouseliving.com

Just living is not enough... one must have
sunshine, freedom, and a little flower

~ Hans Christian Andersen

Gadgets (continued from page 1)

Middle Eastern and European climates favored plant fibers like cotton and linen. One of the earliest paper mills in Italy, in the town of Fabriano, started making paper in the 13th century. Fabriano still produces quality artist paper as well as high tech currency/money papers. Twinrocker Handmade Paper in Brookston, Indiana makes paper with natural fibers using traditional methods.

Invented in 1765, wood pulp paper was cheap to make. Books and newspapers became accessible to millions of people. But millions of trees are cut down to make wood pulp paper. Traditional paper is made from annually grown, annually renewable plant sources. Traditional paper will last centuries. Wood pulp paper (newspaper and paperback books) turns yellow and crumbles with age.

Traditional European paper was called rag paper, because it was literally made from cotton and linen rags. Recycling is an old practice and now it has again become vital to sustainable practices. Modern gardeners can recycle/reuse paper in a number of ways.

Newspaper mulch is excellent for suppressing weeds. We apply compost over garden beds, then several layers of newsprint, then a layer of straw, dried ornamental grass or other mulch to hold down the paper. (Compost, newspaper, mulch.)

Here are some tips to make this easy even on a windy day. Take a minute to sort newspaper sections to get the desired number of paper layers. How many layers? 2, 4, 6 or 8 - depends on whether you're trying to prevent weed germination or smother existing weeds. As you sort, place all folds on the same side for easy handling later. Fan out the individual sections and soak the bottom half in a bucket of water. Water adds weight and keeps the newspaper from blowing away when you lay it. Water also makes the

sections stick together, so fanning out the paper and picking it up by the fold helps you handle it.



Sounds fussy, but think of the 5 P's: Proper Preparation Prevents Poor Performance (Kathryn's dad said G.I.s added another adjective before Poor to make it 6 P's).

Make **newspaper pots** for starting seeds. Tear paper strips, roll up around a small spice jar and fold in at bottom. There's also a hardwood **Paper Pot Maker** tool. (<http://www.gardeners.com>) You can buy small biodegradable **pressed paper pulp pots** for seedlings, instead of peat pots. Large thick paper pulp pots are an old standard in the nursery trade, and can be found online from greenhouse supply companies.

Gardeners can use a strip of newspaper rolled around the stem of transplants as a collar to prevent cutworm damage.

Composting newspapers? The ink is soy oil based (it used to be linseed oil) and has non- or low-toxicity pigments, BUT other nasty chemical additives are added to soy ink. We haven't gotten crazy enough to cut off the printed parts of the newspapers and only compost the non-ink margins...not that crazy...yet...

An alternative to newspaper is **Organic Biodegradable Paper Mulch**. Available at <https://www.amleo.com> in 3 ft. or 4 ft. wide by 100 ft. to 500 ft. long roll, it's made of 100% biodegradable paper and is OMRI-listed for use in organic operations. It works like traditional plastic covers, but decomposes naturally and adds beneficial carbon to the soil.

Cardboard suppresses weeds too, but it doesn't allow rain to penetrate as easily as newspaper. It may be better suited as a cover under hard-to-weed crops like squash or pumpkins or on a pathway. **Cardboard TP rolls** are great for starting seeds. Both are a compostable source of "brown" carbon.

Used **paper coffee filters** are great for putting over drainage holes in pots to keep soil in and they can safely be composted. Poke a couple of holes in the filter to make sure pots drain quickly. Paper filters are "browns" (carbon) for compost. BTW coffee grounds are a great source of nitrogen in compost piles - though brown in color, they function as a "green."

Recording notes in a **garden journal** helps us remember successes and failures, what/when we planted, harvested, and pruned and so on from year to year. We also love drawing up garden plans on paper.

Back to the bumper crop of summer squash we mentioned at the beginning. **Muffin papers** are perfect for Double Chocolate Squash Muffins. These rich chocolate delights are beyond yummy! We added chopped walnuts or pecans to the recipe, and added one or 2 extra minutes baking time for every extra 1/2 cup of grated summer squash. <https://www.gracefullittlehoneybee.com/double-chocolate-squash-muffins/>

(continued on page 5)

Gadgets

(continued from page 4)

If you're freezing squash or zucchini bread (let's be honest - it's cake), pre-slice it and wrap each piece in a fold of waxed paper to make it easy to defrost only a couple slices. **Parchment baking paper** works almost as well. You can also wrap waxed paper around double chocolate squash muffins before freezing. Just kidding - these never make it to the freezer.

August TO-DO List

- ◆ It's hot and the garden may look tired. Weed, trim, deadhead, edge, mulch, water, and remove debris to keep things looking fresh.
- ◆ Keep compost pile "cooking" with adequate moisture and good balance of "brown" and "green."
- ◆ Pick tomatoes, peppers, beans, and squash to keep plants producing.
- ◆ Watch for tomato hornworms, Colorado potato beetles, and squash bugs - handpick and destroy.
- ◆ Start fall veg planting: transplant broccoli, pak choi, kohlrabi, and kale or direct sow root and leaf crops.
- ◆ Keep watering newly planted perennials, shrubs, and trees.
- ◆ No more fertilizer for woody plants until spring.
- ◆ Prune and destroy branches infested with fall webworms and tent caterpillars. Hand prune bagworms.
- ◆ Stop invasive pests or disease (Asian longhorned beetle, spotted lanternfly, and sudden oak death) by reporting them if you see them. <https://www.purduelandscapereport.org/article/august-is-national-tree-check-month-are-your-trees-safe-and-secure/>
- ◆ Lawn care: water during dry spells or let it go dormant. Wait to fertilize until September.
- ◆ Plan to buy or order perennials, shrubs, and trees for fall planting.
- ◆ Gardener care: Use sunscreen. 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!

Fresh Broccoli Salad

(Serves 4-6)

- 4 cups of fresh broccoli florets
- 1/3 cup bacon bits
- 1/4 cup dried cranberries
- 1/4 cup toasted candied pecans (walnuts work well too!)
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar
- 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard

In a large bowl, whisk together the mayonnaise, sugar, lemon juice, apple cider vinegar, and Dijon mustard. Set aside. In a large sauce pan, bring water to boil and cook your broccoli until they turn bright green, about 3 minutes. Rinse under cold water and drain. Add broccoli to your dressing and toss. Add bacon bits, cranberries, and pecans and toss again. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

~ littlehouseliving.com

Miscellaneous

From our July meeting, I added

[USDA Plant Database](https://plants.usda.gov/java/)
[\[https://plants.usda.gov/java/\]](https://plants.usda.gov/java/)

[Purdue Arboretum](https://www.arboretum.purdue.edu/)
[\[https://www.arboretum.purdue.edu/\]](https://www.arboretum.purdue.edu/)

to the MG Links page on our website:
<http://www.tippecanomastergardner.org/mg-links>

I updated some other links on the page as well.

Andy Hughes
MGATC website manger



If June was the
beginning of a hopeful
summer, and July the
juice middle, August
was suddenly feeling
like the bitter end

~ Sarah Dessen

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