

August 2022

Garden Beet

MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY



Message from Your Co-Presidents

Jim and Mickey

A man moves to a new town and finds that it has only two barbers. He stops by each shop. The first barber has a really bad haircut. The second barber has a very nice haircut. It's an easy decision. He goes to the barber with the bad haircut figuring that he got his hair cut by the other barber and vice versa.

Is it possibly a similar situation with master gardeners? Can you drive down the street and see a so-so garden in the backyard because the master gardener spends so much time "helping others grow?"

We often see people working - whoops, we meant to say volunteering - out at the extension gardens

having to leave early for another MG engagement, either a meeting, a docent commitment, or helping at another garden.

Just in the last week there were several examples. Someone must leave after working in the demonstration garden to fulfill a promise to help out at the Veterans' Home. Some master gardeners who just stopped by to see what is going on or to tend to their own community garden got caught up in a small project. Someone finished up in the Display and Idea Garden only to have something else to do in the demo garden before heading home. And the never-ending compost project! Many of the members who volunteered at the

County Fair booth are active in other areas as well.

These are just a few of our members flitting from one MG activity to another like pollinators from flower-to-flower - and are as appreciated by us as those pollinators. We wish we could recognize them all by name here, but you know who you are, and we thank you so much for your good work.

Note: Before the July monthly meeting a question came up about requirements to become an Alumni Master Gardener. Among those requirements are 10 years of service and silver status, which means 500 volunteer hours. This reinforces our suggestion in last month's message of setting a personal goal of 50 hours a year, only 2 hours per week during the season, as a realistic benchmark.

The month of August had turned into a grid-dle where the days just lay there and sizzled.

~Sue Monk Kidd

Jim and Mickey

Treasurer's Report

July 2022 Board Meeting
Treasurer's Report

There was no income for the month of June. Total Income Year-to-date 2022 is \$14,933.12 which is 31% higher than budgeted due to the success of the Garden Expo event and the efforts to promote memberships/dues.

In June, for the unrestricted budget, we spent a total of \$949.13. \$299.51 was for building beds in the Demo

Garden and \$367.08 was for the Display/Idea Beds. We also spent \$211.99 for the Website and \$70.55 for thank you cards and flowers sent. In the Restricted funds, we spent \$50.56 in the Chatham Square Community Garden for soil and gas/oil and \$24 for the Compost project tractor fuel. The Restricted Fund Balance for June was \$11,134.62. The total of unrestricted funds available was \$25,211.89 as of 6/30/22.

Deb Rimer, Treasurer

Programs

August 2 • 6:30 p.m. • TCEO

6 p.m. Social Time
Subject: Herbs and possibly tomatoes
Dan Falls
Bloomers Greenhouse

September 6 • 6:30 p.m. • TCEO

6 p.m. Social Time
Outdoor endeavors
Dan Childs

For more information on upcoming events, contact Amanda Burge at amanda_personett@yahoo.com.

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.tippecanomastergardener.org>

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



MGATC Minutes: July 5, 2022, 6:30 p.m., TCEO

At 6:30 p.m. on July 5th the monthly MGATC meeting was held both virtually and in person.

The speaker was Dr. Pat Williams, ANR Extension Educator for Tippecanoe County and MGATC advisor. His speech was a potpourri of topics: Chemical Modes of Action (MOAs), Quick Shrub Trimming, and the MGATC five-year plan.

The Chemical Modes of Action are a color coded system for insecticides that describes the physiological functions that the chemical affects in the target insects. If a person continues to use insecticides that have the same MOAs, the insects will eventually develop resistance. Just switching brands might not solve the problem, so it is important to read the MOAs, which are color coded and numbered. For more information, go to <https://irac-online.org/modes-of-action>.

As for quick shrub pruning tips in summer, most shrubs shouldn't be pruned in the summer. It should either be done in the spring or fall, depending on the species. Pruning is a process, and it should not look like you pruned. The shrub should still look natural. Various branches that should be pruned are dead branches, crossed branches that might rub against each other, suckers, and water sprouts.

Pat has several different hats in his job that are still being determined since he has only been here for seven months. But the areas of his job so far include: small scale agriculture, natural resource education, residential horticulture, pesticide applicant recertification, and MGATC advisor.

Pat's vision for the MGATC group has a handful of areas, but it is still fluid. And as the MGATC advisor, these are ideas, not necessarily set in stone. The things he would like to see MGATC emphasize are: impacting the residents of the county, continue to be visible in the county, secure a management structure for the community gardens,

recruit the next classes of master gardeners and build the organization, and have members be happy and enjoy being master gardeners.

As for Pat's five-year plan, he would like to see: MGATC create a road map going forward, more community outreach, and have the commitment and outreach needs match the member involvement.

In other announcements, he reminded members to record their volunteer and education hours as well as contacts with outside people. Not many people are recording contacts, which is an important function of letting the public know about MGATC. He said that there should be more hours that include contact with the public. Examples would be volunteering for the Expo and answering people's questions about plants. He stated that the purpose of the MGATC should be less of a gardener and more of a master gardener. In other words, less digging in the dirt and more meeting with the public.

Pat had several ideas of future needs for MGATC: creation of officers in waiting; realistic program involvement; more volunteering at the community education center; more speakers; more contacts with the public; encouraging master gardeners to volunteer past the 12-6 hour membership minimum; having the current and future officers form a group to create a five-year plan; step outside our box; examine the sacred cows; ask members what keeps them active; meeting the three levels of volunteer management: worthwhile endeavor, education opportunities, and sense of belonging; and have a greater education presence in the county and communities.

After Pat finished his speech, the business meeting was brought to order.

If you didn't put your contact time in during the Expo or other times, go back and put it in the system.

Deb Rimer gave the Treasurer's report.

Dee Dee Long reminded everyone that she sent out an email asking for volunteers to man the booth at the Tippecanoe County Fair. Please volunteer if you are available.

Jim Jeray stated that the new lease for the community gardens was received in the mail, so we have them for another year.

Mickey Penrod thanked Nancy Cope for donating her rototiller to the gardens.

Someone in the meeting asked why there wasn't a sign at the Chatham Square Gardens. Jim stated that there was confusion in the public that anyone could come by and pick produce. So the sign was taken down. A new one will be put up stating that the crops are not for the public. Jim also said that there are various signs that need work.

With that, the meeting was adjourned.

- Nancy Cope, Recording Secretary

Ginger-Sesame Cucumber Salad

Whisk 3 tablespoons rice vinegar, 1 tablespoon sesame oil, 1/2 teaspoon sugar, and 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt. Toss with 1 pound thinly sliced cucumbers, 1/4 cup chopped cilantro, 2 thinly sliced scallions, 1/2 minced red jalapeño, 2 tablespoons thinly sliced pickled ginger, and 1 tablespoon sesame seeds.

- Food Network Magazine, May/June 2022

MGATC Board: July 14, 2022, 6:30 p.m., Virtual

Mickey Penrod called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on July 14, 2022. Present were Pat Williams, Jolaine Roberts, Mickey Penrod, Dee Dee Long, Deb Rimer, Jim Jeray, Kathie Cox, Jan Sadler, and Amanda Burge.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Deb Rimer gave the Treasurer Report.

Mickey gave a report on the status of the tillers in the gardens. Thanks were given to Nancy Cope for the donation of her tiller for the extension garden and to Mike and Cheryl McCool for transporting it to the garden. Deb stated that both tillers in the Chatham Square Community Gardens are currently inoperable. She will ask Guido Nizzi to check out the tillers. In the event that they are not repairable, Mickey suggested that we apply for a SIA grant to replace the equipment. She will begin the preliminary work of determining pricing because the grant application needs to be submitted by September 30th. We could also consider transferring one of the tillers from the extension garden to the Chatham garden. Pat further suggested that we might consider procuring a commercial weed eater.

Jim reported that the compost sign was installed at the extension gardens.

There continue to be problems with the watering system at the extension gardens. There are two underground water leaks that need to be addressed first. Jim has advised Lawn and Shrub that they are to contact him first before proceeding on repairs to the system so that he can be onsite at the garden.

The Master Gardener booth has been completely updated to include new photographs, a new banner, and a new tri-fold. Handouts have been prepared

including bookmarks, save the date cards, and Master Gardener info, so that people will have reminders about the Expo, classes, etc. It is ready to go, and will be used at the Tippecanoe County Fair this month.

The Garden Expo was originally planned for April 14/15, 2023 (setup day and expo day). This has been changed to April 21/22, 2023. Dee Dee would also like to book the 2024 expo date with the Fairgrounds at the end of the year. There are many demands for space at the Fairgrounds, and we need to secure our spot. This will require paying a deposit.

A question had arisen regarding what constitutes a "contact" when reporting MG volunteer hours. Jim requested clarification from John Orick the Purdue Master Gardener State Coordinator. His response was as follows: "Contacts are interactions with the public where a Purdue EMG volunteer provides consumer horticulture information to the public in an approved Purdue EMG volunteer activity. Casual interactions are important but are not approved as EMG volunteer activities and are therefore not reported in MG Manager."

Dee Dee recently participated in the Outdoor Explore day, working in the Master Naturalist booth. She feels this would also be a good fit for the Master Gardener booth. Mary Cutler, with the Tippecanoe County Parks Department, agrees and encouraged us to secure a spot. Pattie Hall has agreed to facilitate a committee to plan for the event in June of 2023. The committee would consist of five-six members. Please let one of the board members know if you are interested.

Forms for the 2023 MGATC dues will be included the September *Garden Beet*. Jim will be updating the form to include the current mailing address.

Pat will hand out applications at the Saturday Master Gardener Class after their second session. Pat wants to emphasize to the participants that volunteering as an intern at the conclusion of the class is part of their commitment.

Pat has encouraged our organization to begin developing a five-year plan. Ideally this committee would consist of two board members, two-three persons from the general membership, and one intern from the latest class. They would be exploring various topics such as:

- What do we want to do and how do we accomplish it?
- How large should our membership be in order to accomplish everything?
- Elections, preparing incoming officers in advance.
- Identifying member's skills and getting them involved.
- Putting plans on a calendar - five years out.
- How do we want to impact the community?

This is just a sample of what would be covered. We would be brainstorming and the goal is to have an "Active Document" to work from.

In other business, it was decided that the Canal Park volunteer opportunity would be added back to the Green Book in 2023. Because Carroll County does not have a Master Gardener program, this gives Master Gardeners in the area a nearby location to volunteer. Canal Park has agreed to acknowledge the involvement of the Master Gardeners of Tippecanoe County.

The meeting was then adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Jolaine Roberts, Corresponding Secretary

What's Happening

Wednesdays in the Wild

July 27 • 1-3 p.m. • STEPHENS
*Purdue Stephens Forest:
A Carroll County Gem*
Brian Beheler

Brian Beheler (Purdue Farm Manager) will lead a hike at this unique property where glacial till soils collide with changes in land use, ecological challenges and forest management. A wetland created by the old canal trench and deep ravines dominate the landscape. We'll take a look at some unique planted species on the property, tree planting results, and much more. Easy walking on forest roads. A carpool leaves at 12:30 p.m. from the Battle Ground Monument parking lot. Limited to 30 participants.

August 3 • 6-8 p.m. • PWA
*Get Up-close and Personal
with Wetland Plants!*

Mary Cutler, Carole Lembi Ross,
& Stephanie Frischie

On this short hike to visit a wetland at the Purdue Wildlife Area, learn about the values of wetlands with Naturalist Mary Cutler, the unique adaptations of plants to the wetland environment with Carole Lembi Ross (Purdue Botany & Plant Pathology, Professor Emerita), and invasive plant species unique to this habitat with Stephanie Frischie (Botanist, Xerces Society). You will get your hands wet, but that is all! Limited to 20 participants.

August 10 • 1-3 p.m.
NICHES/SB

*Shawnee Bottoms: Restoring
a Savanna Ecosystem*
Bob Easter

Join NICHES Stewardship Director Bob Easter for a hike through the developing silt-loam savanna restoration at this Fountain County property. The rich seed mix for this restoration was researched in detail and includes 190 total species seeded in 2019 and 2020. The restoration has been burned twice in its early development and invasive species have been controlled obsessively. See the early returns on

this great restoration. A carpool leaves at noon from LNC. Limited to 20 participants.

August 17 • 1-3 p.m. • DELPHI
Delphi VanScoy Towpath Trail Hike
Lois Johnston

Lois Johnston (enthusiastic and knowledgeable Delphi hike leader) will narrate this easy, level hike on stone trails that follow the visible prism of the Wabash and Erie Canal via the VanScoy Towpath Trail and feature three National Register archaeological sites making this section one of the most unique areas along any canal in America! A carpool leaves from the Battle Ground Monument parking lot at 12:30 p.m. Limited to 30 participants.

August 24 • 1-3 p.m. • WS FWA
*Exploring Willow Slough
Fish & Wildlife Area*
Gus Nybert

Join Gus Nyberg (formerly w/NICHES Land Trust, now a staff member at Willow Slough FWA) on a two-mile level hike through oak savanna in Area 14 of this Newton County property. Learn about the diversity of the property and the challenges of managing 9,000 acres of habitat. A carpool leaves from LNC at 11:45 a.m. Limited to 30 participants.

August 31 • 6-8 p.m. • WOLFPK
Go Wild at Wolf Park
Wolf Park Staff

Through a tour of the entire park, Wolf Park staff members will introduce you to the species that call Wolf Park home, including the newest species on exhibit, the Eastern Box Turtle. Included in the tour will be a stop at the new "Go Wild" exhibit, designed with a youth-focus to teach about backyard conservation, re-wilding, and co-existence with local wildlife. Note: There is a \$10 program fee unless you have a Wolf Park membership. Limited to 30 participants.

LOCATIONS:

DELPHI (Blue Bridge): Meet at 1 p.m. in the parking area at Blue Bridge, 100 yards west of Delphi's Pizza Hut (806 West Bicycle Bridge Road) or join the 12:30 p.m. carpool leaving from the Battle Ground Monument parking lot.

LNC (Lilly Nature Center): 1620 Lindberg Road, between Northwestern Avenue and McCormick Road in West Lafayette (this is the meeting place for listed LNC carpools).

NICHES/SB (Shawnee Bottoms): Meet at 1 p.m. in the property parking lot (directions can be found at www.nicheslandtrust.org) or join the noon carpool from LNC.

PWA (Purdue Wildlife Area): Meet at 6 p.m. at 8000 IN-26, West Lafayette. Take 26 west across the Purdue Campus; 1/4 mile past 750W, turn right (north) into the gravel drive where the big white pines start (small black and white sign); park at the end of the lane.

STEPHENS (Stephens Forest): Meet at 1 p.m. at the parking area adjacent to the property (9613 N 500 W, Delphi) or join the 12:15 p.m. carpool meeting in the Tippecanoe Battlefield parking lot off North 9th Street in Battle Ground.

WOLFPK (WOLF PARK): In Battle Ground, take Main to Jefferson (which becomes Harrison Road). Turn onto the gravel road, 800 N to the Wolf Park parking lot.

WS FWA (Willow Slough Fish & Wildlife Area): Meet at 1 p.m. at the parking area on the west side of N 600 W, between W 100 N and W 300 N in Morocco or join the carpool.

One day you
discover you
are alive.
Explosion!
Concussion!
Illumination!
Delight!
You laugh,
you dance around,
you shout.
But, not long after,
the sun goes out.
Snow falls, but no
one sees it, on an
August noon.

~Ray Bradbury
Dandelion Wine
(Green Town, #1)

Gadgets

(continued from back)

off before frost and may be subject to winter kill. Save major pruning of boxwood for spring.

The Chicago Botanic Garden recommends: “The best time for overall pruning to shape boxwoods is in the early spring. However, trimming stray branches and thinning cuts can be done anytime during the growing season.” https://www.chicagobotanic.org/plantinfo/pruning_boxwood_shrubs

As noted earlier, August is not the best month for pruning. Winter or early spring during dormancy is the best time to prune many hedges. Wait to prune spring flowering shrubs until after flowering.

You may or may not want to prune other evergreen hedges in summer. They're more flexible than flowering shrubs about the appropriate time to prune, although it is best to do this right before they break dormancy in late winter or early spring. You can do regular light shearing or pruning during summer to maintain formal hedges.

Nationally known gardening expert and author, Melinda Myers wrote, “Yews, junipers, and arborvitae go into a semi-dormant phase in mid summer. Once the new spring growth has hardened off, turned the same dark green as the rest of the plant, you can do some pruning. This is the perfect time to clip back wayward branches and overgrown shoots by two thirds. Prune them back to an adjoining branch or above a healthy bud to maintain the plant's natural appearance. Save major pruning for late winter or early spring.” <https://www.melindamyers.com/articles/pruning-yew-in-summer>

August is National Tree Check Month. We're not suggesting pruning your trees! This is a good month to enjoy some cool shade and while you're taking a break from gardening, take a few minutes to look for diseases or pests.

Purdue's *Landscape Report* provides a checklist to help you spot early warning signs of native pests and pathogens and invasive pests like Asian long-horned beetle, spotted lanternfly, and sudden oak death. You can help stop invasive pests in their tracks by reporting them if you see them. <https://www.purduelandscapereport.org/?s=national+tree+check+month>

While you're taking care of your garden take care of the gardener too. Use sunscreen even if gardening in shade. Stay hydrated with plenty of water. Use repellents to avoid ticks and mosquito bites. Look forward to cooler fall temps!

August TO-DO List

- It's hot and your garden may be looking tired. Weed, trim, deadhead, edge, mulch, water, and remove debris to keep things looking fresh.
- Keep compost pile “cooking” with adequate moisture.
- Pick veg like tomatoes, peppers, beans, and squash to keep plants producing.
- Watch for tomato hornworms - handpick and destroy unless they're covered 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. Wait to fertilize until September.
- Think about garden areas that need improvement. Plan to buy or order perennials, shrubs, and trees for fall planting.
- See more tips from Purdue Extension August Garden Calendar: <https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/yardandgarden/august-garden-calendar/>

Herb-Stuffed Zucchini

Halve 2 medium zucchini lengthwise and scoop out the seeds. Season with salt. Combine 1/3 cup pinko, 1 chopped tomato, 1/4 cup mixed chopped parsley and dill, 2 tablespoons chopped walnuts, 1 minced garlic clove, 2 tablespoons olive oil, salt and pepper to taste. Spoon into the zucchini, drizzle with olive oil. Bake at 425, 25 - 30 minutes.

- Food Network Magazine, May/June 2022

**This morning,
the sun endures
past dawn.
I realise that it
is August: the
summer's last
stand.**

~Sara Baume

Great Gadgets and Tools

By Kathryn Reeves and Mike Hathaway

This may not be the best month to trim hedges, but this month's featured tool is the BEST hedge shears on the planet. If your old hedge shears aren't cutting it anymore...it's only five months until Christmas, so you might want to let Santa know you've started a list.



ARS-KR1000 Hedge Shears are ultra-lightweight, ergonomically designed

and razor sharp, making them a pleasure to use. These are also sold as ARS Topiary-Shrub Hedge Shears. If your garden design is formal and includes sheared hedges, these are for you!

The shears have a durable aluminum forged grip. The strong blades are made from thermally treated, high carbon tool steel - and the blades are easily replaceable if they are ever damaged or worn. There's also a built-in shock absorber that maintains comfortable handling during use. With long handles for extra cutting power and extremely sharp blades, this tool cuts like a dream.

We use these shears to prune boxwood hedges and sometimes use them

YOUR MGATC OFFICERS:

Co-Presidents:

Jim Jeray, jerayjm@sbcglobal.net

Mickey Penrod, cmpenrod@frontiernet.net

Co-Vice Presidents:

Amanda Burge, amanda_personette@yahoo.com

Cheryl McCool, mikeandcherylmc@msn.com

Treasurer:

Debra Rimer, debrimer@yahoo.com

Recording Secretary:

Nancy Cope, nancyc1970@hotmail.com

Corresponding Secretary:

Jolaine Roberts, jolaineroberts@gmail.com

Member at Large:

Kathie Cox, kathiecox@gmail.com

Past Co-Presidents:

Dee Dee Long, deedee1mg@gmail.com

Jan Sadler, jansadler23@comcast.net

to edge the lawn and clip ground covers. Boxwoods can be lightly sheared or trimmed at almost any time of the year, but it's best to avoid shearing in the late fall. New growth coming after trimming may not have time to harden

(continued on page 5)

Garden Beet

20 North Third Street • Lafayette IN 47901

Address changes:

Nancy Cope • 6932 East 300 North • Lafayette IN 47905
(765) 589-3372 • nancyc1970@hotmail.com

Editorial correspondence:

Chris Ramsey • 4801 North 600 East • Lafayette IN 47905-9764
(765) 589-8601 • MGATCGardenBeet@gmail.com