

December 2019

# Garden Beet

MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY



## 2019 AAS Display Garden Landscape Design Challenge

“FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
DOWNERS GROVE, IL - November 5,  
2019 - All-America Selections’ 2019  
Landscape Design Challenge used the  
theme of “Re-Use, Recycle, Re-  
Imagine” to inspire this year’s crea-  
tions. Each garden was free to inter-  
pret the theme in their chosen manner,  
resulting in some very fun, creative and  
interesting displays.

“For this challenge, AAS provided  
the gardens with recent AAS Winner  
seed and plants. The gardens also  
had the option to incorporate older  
AAS Winners in their design to illus-  
trate the “Re-Imagine” theme. Gardens  
not only had to create and execute a  
design based on this year’s theme,  
but also, were encouraged to generate  
publicity and hold events to share the  
story of All-America Selections and  
AAS Winners.

“Gardens were divided into three cate-  
gories based on the number of visitors  
per year:

Category I: fewer than 10,000 visitors  
per year  
Category II: 10,001 – 100,000 visitors  
per year  
Category III: Over 100,000 visitors per  
year ...

“Category I: fewer than 10,000 visi-  
tors per year

“First Place Winner: Master Gar-  
dener Association of Tippecanoe  
County (MGATC) Display Gardens,  
Lafayette, Indiana.

“The MGA of Tippecanoe Country  
was lauded as having the most all-  
encompassing use of the 2019 theme  
“Re-Use, Recycle, Re-Imagine” in this  
year’s competition. They used multiple  
items that might have gone to the  
landfill had they not been used in the  
garden as props and holders for AAS  
Winners. Even volunteer plants from  
their 2018 garden were incorporated  
into their theme! Clear signage not

only explained the theme but also ex-  
plained how items were being re-used.  
The garden also took the opportunity  
to explain and demonstrate to visitors  
how they could save money in their  
own gardens by reusing and recycling  
things such as plastic milk jugs, nest-  
ing boxes and old satellite dishes. As a  
final “Wow”, the harvest from the AAS  
Edible Winners was donated to the  
local Salvation Army to feed the less  
fortunate.”

A huge CON-  
GRATULATIONS  
to Mickey Penrod  
and her team for  
their hard work in  
getting this won-  
derful recognition  
for the MGATC!



## Garden Gadgets and Tools

By Kathryn Reeves and Mike Hathaway

Ho, Ho, Ho, or Hoe, Hoe,  
Hoe! Tis the season to  
think about gifts for gar-  
deners. There are so  
many great tools availa-  
ble to make gardening  
easier. Besides our local  
garden center, hardware  
store, and big box stores,  
our favorite sources for  
tools and gadgets are

Gardeners Supply Com-  
pany, Johnny’s Selected  
Seeds, and Park Seed.

While we love new gad-  
gets, some time-honored  
tools like a **dibble** re-  
main the best. Some folks  
call it a **dibber** - either  
name is okay. If you’re  
looking for a stocking

stuffer, a dibble is a good  
one. Made to poke a  
small hole in soil, dibbles  
are great for planting  
flower or vegetable seeds  
or transplanting small  
seedlings in pots or in  
the garden. Even small  
spring bulbs can be  
planted with a dibble.

(continued on page 4)

## Programs

December 3 • 6 p.m.

Judi’s Catering

101 Plaza Lane, Lafayette

5:30 p.m. Social Time

Tundra on the Wabash

Dr. Darrell Schulze

Darrell is a professor of Soil Science at  
Purdue. Dinner will start at 6 p.m.

January 7 • 6:30 p.m. • TCEO

6 p.m. Social Time

Karen Mitchell

Karen is our Ag & Natural Resources  
Educator.

For more information on upcoming  
events, contact Dee Dee Long at

[deedee1mg@gmail.com](mailto:deedee1mg@gmail.com) or Jan Sadler

at [grammajnx8@comcast.net](mailto:grammajnx8@comcast.net).

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).

<http://www.tippecanoeastergardener.org>

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



# MGATC Minutes: Nov 5, 2019, 6:30 p.m., TCEO

At 6:30 p.m., Pat Miller introduced the Ivy Tech scholarship winner, Kim. Kim studies natural resources and hopes to be a conservation officer. She thanked MGATC for the scholarship support.

Jan Sadler introduced the evening's speaker, Stephen Swain, Rural Rehabilitation Specialist at Indiana AgrAbility/National AgrAbility. His presentation, "Perpetuate Your Season: Despite Age or Mobility," described how physical impediments impact gardening and demonstrated tools that enable ergonomic gardening.

Jolaine Roberts called the meeting to order at 7:52 p.m.

The October meeting minutes were approved as posted in the November issue of the *Garden Beet*.

Karen Mitchell reported that the work for the compost pile has largely been completed. The next step will be to create satellite bins and move the old compost to the new pile. The funding went further than expected and the

project was completed under budget. Signage will be installed to identify prairie species and provide information on composting. The project costs should be reimbursed in the next month.

Jim Jeray delivered the treasurer's report. The beginning balance for October was \$44,616. Income of \$855 included dues of \$725; expenses of \$1,720 included \$500 for the 2020 state conference sponsorship, \$350 for the hoedown, and \$715 for the Demonstration and Idea Gardens. The ending balance was \$43,752 including unrestricted funds of \$20,726 and savings of \$10,541.

Mickey Penrod announced that the All-America Selections garden won first prize. The AAS specifically liked MGATC's use of recycling into the displays. The 2020 AAS garden theme is "Make an Entrance."

Jeri Bosworth Parker announced that the next public education workshop will take place on November 23rd at 9 a.m. and feature crafts from nature.

Pat Miller announced that she was collecting money for the December 3rd holiday dinner at Judi's Catering. The meal will begin at 6 p.m.

Jolaine Roberts introduced the 2020 slate of Board officers: Dee Dee Long and Jan Sadler, co-presidents; Maralee Hayworth, vice president; Jim Jeray, recording secretary; Kathie Cox, corresponding secretary; Pat Miller, treasurer; and Nancy Cope, member-at-large.

Karen Mitchell announced that she will be stepping down as Tippecanoe County extension director but will still serve as the extension educator for agriculture and natural resources. Amber Noll has agreed to take the extension director position.

Jolaine Roberts recognized the several interns in attendance.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kristen Noel, Recording Secretary

## Treasurer's Report

Better hurry! Only a month left! If you haven't paid your 2020 dues yet, you may pay at the December dinner/meeting (cash, check, or charge), mail or drop off the form and check at the extension office, or mail them to me at home. The forms are on line. If you need me to email you a form, I can do that. If you have any questions call or email me. I'm trying to make it as easy as possible to get dues paid, the list complete, and everyone's membership book out on time next year.

Better hurry! Only a month left! Our year closes at the end of this month. If you are hanging on to any garden receipts for reimbursement, I have the checkbook out and ready.

Thank you, Jim Jeray, Treasurer

### Spicy Chicken Quesadillas Recipe

3 ounces (85g) shredded cooked chicken breast	2 (8-inch) flour tortillas
1 tablespoon (12g) minced pickled jalapeño	2 tablespoons (30ml) vegetable oil
1 tablespoon (12g) minced fresh cilantro leaves	Salt
4 ounces (115g) shredded pepper Jack cheese	

Combine chicken, jalapeño, cilantro, and pepper Jack in a medium bowl and mix to combine. Spread half of mixture evenly over half of one tortilla, leaving a 1/2-inch border. Fold tortilla over and seal edges by pressing down firmly. Repeat with remaining filling and second tortilla.

Heat oil in a 10-inch cast iron or nonstick skillet over medium heat until shimmering. Carefully add both folded tortillas and cook, swirling and moving tortillas around, until golden brown and puffy on first side, about 2 minutes.

Using a flexible metal spatula, flip quesadillas, season with salt, and continue cooking until golden brown and puffy on second side, about 2 minutes longer. Transfer quesadillas to a paper towel to drain. Cut into triangles and serve immediately. Serves 2. ~ [seriouseats.com](http://seriouseats.com)

# God gave us our memories so that we might have roses in December

~ J. M. Barrie

# MGATC Board: Nov 14, 2019, 6 p.m., TCEO

Jolaine Roberts called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. In attendance were Jolaine Roberts, Jim Jeray, Pat Miller, Dee Dee Long, Jan Sadler, Jeri Bosworth Parker, Kristen Noel, Karen Mitchell, Maralee Hayworth, and John Pickett.

The October meeting minutes were approved as posted in the November *Garden Beet*.

Jim Jeray delivered the treasurer's report. The October beginning balance was \$44,616. Income of \$855 including \$725 in dues; expenses of \$1,720 included \$360 for the hoedown, \$715 for the Display and Idea Gardens, and \$500 for the 2020 state conference sponsorship. The end of month balance was \$43,752. The Purdue MGATC scholarship was cashed in the past week.

Karen Mitchell announced that compost expenses of \$23,000 have been cashed; an additional \$5,000 check has not yet been cashed. Grant reimbursement of at least \$24,000 will be distributed in early December.

Jim Jeray reviewed three pieces of received correspondence: an Ivy Tech thank you card, a thank you card from the Master Gardener Association of Hamilton County, and a State Farm letter.

Jim Jeray reviewed the 2020 budget. Changes included reducing expected membership dues by \$1,000 and removing the Mascouten and Women's Shelter adopt-a-spot allocations as well as the \$500 allocated for consulting fees. Increased budget allocations include the Veterans' Home, Public Education Workshops, and the Display and Idea Gardens. A \$500 budget line was added for the security system. The total 2020 budget is \$13,285, a decrease of \$2,225 from the 2019 budget.

Jolaine discussed changes to be made to the 2020 Green Book. The Board reviewed the committee chairpersons and upcoming dates sections. The 2020 Open House was scheduled for Sunday, August 2nd.

Jim Jeray announced that 101 people have paid for 2020 membership dues. The Board then discussed the proposed idea of providing free membership dues for one year to MG intern scholarship recipients. The motion passed; 2019 recipients will receive free dues.

Jolaine Roberts introduced Maralee Hayworth, who was in attendance and has been nominated as co-vice president.

Karen Mitchell reported that 21 people expressed interest in taking the Growing Through Leadership program to be

held in spring 2020. Karen expects that the cost will be \$60; the Board agreed to subsidize the registration by \$20 so that any Master Gardeners may take the course for \$40.

Jolaine Roberts reported that multiple members have expressed frustration with the 6:30 p.m. monthly meeting time. This start time, which was previously moved up by 30 minutes, is too early for some members. The Board will revisit this issue in January and ask members to voice their opinions.

Pat Miller reported that 63 people have RSVP'd for the December 3rd dinner at Judi's Catering. Jeri Bosworth Parker then relayed details for the upcoming Public Education Workshop in December.

Karen Mitchell announced that the Master Gardener Association of Hamilton County, who will host the 2020 State MG Conference, sent a letter announcing plans for a block party. All county associations are invited to have an education booth; associations that participate will receive 10% off registration for two attendees.

With no further business, Jolaine Roberts adjourned the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Kristen Noel, Recording Secretary*

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## Volunteer Ops

### RIP Squad

RIP squad volunteer workdays for December are Tuesdays and Thursdays.

On Tuesday, December 3, 10, and 17, from 3-5 p.m. they will be at Prophet's Rock Woods removing bush honeysuckle and burning bush. Meet at the little parking lot near Prophet's Rock on Prophets Rock Road, just north of 600 N near Battle Ground.

On Thursday, December 5, 12, and 19, from 3-5 p.m. they will be at Ross Hills Park removing bush honeysuckle and other shrubby invasives. Take South River Road/Division Road past Ft. Ouitatenon, and past the Granville Bridge; then turn left on 875 W (past the Ravines Golf Course buildings). Follow the signs for Ross Hills Park, and take its entrance road to the Ross House parking lot (left turn from the entrance road).

Long sleeves, long pants, gloves, and boots are recommended. Bring loppers, pruning saws, or stump pullers if you have them. They will be pulling out or cutting lopping/awing/herbicide invasive shrubs. Herbicide will be provided for those comfortable using it.

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

# Gadgets

(continued from page 1)



Dibbles are traditionally made of hardwood with or without a handle on top. They're especially useful if they have inch markings to gauge depth like this one. If there's a handy person in your household, consider asking him or her to make one for you. You can make a perfectly smooth dibble with a power lathe. Whittle or carve a hardwood stick to make a dibble with a charming handcrafted look. Drill a hole at the top, add a bit of colorful ribbon or cord, and you won't lose the tool in the garden. Seems like a good garden related activity on an icy winter day.

Park Seed sells a "Widger" that's part trowel, part dibble. This hand tool is very narrow and long, and is made of carbon-forged steel and sustainably harvested hardwood, with a leather hanging loop.

At the November Master Gardener meeting, Stephen Swaim, ATP (Assistive Technology Professional), introduced [agrability.org](http://agrability.org) and gave a great talk on adaptive tools and equipment for gardeners. Many of Stephen's suggestions for tools and safe ergonomic work habits are great for folks of all physical abilities. One of the things he mentioned was a **dibble board**.

Stephen Swain's suggestion got us thinking about this as a great DIY project. A dibble board is an inexpensive low-tech gadget. It's a board marked with cut V-shape notches or drilled holes at intervals (for example: 6" - 12" - 18" - 24" and so on) to help space seed and seedlings in rows.

The dibble board can be made with 1x4, 1x6, or 1x8 common lumber in any length you find useful. Consider making it to fit the width or length of your raised beds. Note for recyclers: Habitat for Humanity ReStore (3815 Fortune Drive, Lafayette, IN) usually has lots of scrap lumber for very little

money and the proceeds of sales benefit a great cause.

Stephen mentioned this is good for gardeners with limited vision as they can feel the notches. Our additional suggestion to help with visibility is to add a bit of white paint around each notch or hole. If you don't want to notch or drill the board, just mark it with paint alone. The flat narrow edge of the board is also handy for making a shallow furrow in soil. A dibble board beats the heck out of the yardstick we usually use, so we may make one of these for Christmas.

Another stocking stuffer idea is Paperwhite Narcissus bulbs. Beautiful fragrant bulbs blooming in the house help everyone get through winter. Paperwhites are super-easy, no-brainer tender bulbs for forcing. Start a few bulbs every week in November, December and January.

We grow 'Nir' and 'Ziva' in tall glass vases or bowls with decorative gravel or glass beads and water. Water should just barely touch the base of the bulb. Once the paperwhite flower buds show several inches above the bulb, you can switch to a dilute alcohol solution which will keep the foliage from getting long and floppy: 1 part isopropyl rubbing alcohol (70%) to 11 parts water. Too much alcohol will kill the flowers. 'Ariel' and a few other paperwhite varieties should be grown only in pots and soil. Blooms appear in 4-6 weeks after starting.

We hope you have a joyful month filled with the spirit of the season and the sweet fragrance of blooming bulbs.

## DECEMBER TO-DO LIST

- \* Continue to apply animal repellent over spring bulbs such as tulips and crocus and on trees, shrubs, and evergreens.
- \* Store fragile pots before freezing weather. Frost-proof pots can stay outside during winter.

- \* Create seasonal displays in pots and planters with colorful stems, boxwood, and evergreen cuttings.
- \* Start forcing hardy bulbs like tulips, daffodils, hyacinth, grape hyacinth, crocus, and others for indoor blooms.
- \* Mulch tender perennial plants and provide winter protection for roses when plants are dormant, temperatures are cold, and the ground has frozen.
- \* Winterize mower and all power tools. Run them to use up remaining fuel or add a fuel conditioner.
- \* Leave some perennial foliage standing for winter interest - birds will feed on the seed heads. Cut back less decorative perennials after a frost, leaving 3-6" to protect the crown of the plant. Don't cut down perennials with hollow stems, as they are especially prone to rotting in a wet winter.
- \* Clean birdhouses and fill bird feeders.
- \* Mark your calendars for the First Day Hike at Prophetstown State Park and all Indiana State Parks on January 1st.

For more tips on houseplant, yard, and garden care see: "December Garden Calendar" by B. Rosie Lerner <https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/yardandgarden/december-garden-calendar/>

Happy Holidays to all!

At Christmas I no  
more desire a  
rose  
Than wish a snow  
in May's new-  
fangled mirth;  
But like of each  
thing that in  
season grows

~ William Shakespeare

# Education Ops

## Online Education

Online education options are now available thanks to John Orick and Pam Fisher. There is one web page where you can find many educational opportunities, including the recently recorded "Growing Your Presentation Skills." Check it out here:

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

It's a brand new page and Karen Mitchell would like us to let her know what we think.

## Education Workshop

The next MGATC Education Workshop will be on Saturday, January 18, 2020 from 9 a.m. to noon.

The first half Dean and Lisa from Bloomer's will be presenting on "Growing Herbs."

The second half will be Renee Levans and Margo Schueman on "The Process of Using Different Plants/Herbs in Cooking (from plant to cooking pot)."

We hope to see you on January 18th at the extension office.

*Jeri Bosworth Parker*

# Volunteer Ops

(continued from page 3)

The Master Gardener Class of 2019 is finishing up! There are only a couple more sessions to go before the exam. You all are invited to the Graduation and Volunteer Fair on Wednesday, December 11th. To help me plan for this event, please RSVP here - [https://purdue.ca.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6Kb9upz2RqZR0Cp](https://purdue.ca.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6Kb9upz2RqZR0Cp)

Thank you for your support!

*Karen Mitchell*

From December to March, there are for many of us three gardens - the garden outdoors, the garden of pots and bowls in the house, and the garden of the mind's eye

~ Katherine S. White

# Et Cetera

## Thank You from Sue

"I want to thank everyone that sent cards, thoughts and prayers for me during my open heart surgery in May. [Six] 6 months later I am fully recovered and eager for spring when I can again haul mulch and plant. While I would not wish my journey on anyone I have learned many things from this journey, number one being to listen to your body. Burning in my throat was my only symptom and I almost waited too long to get medical attention.

"What I don't regret is meeting the many amazing survivors who share the same journey."

*Sue Swick*



## Crustless Spinach Quiche

- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 cup sliced fresh mushrooms
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 2/3 cup finely chopped fully cooked ham
- 5 large eggs
- 3 cups shredded Muenster or Monterey Jack cheese
- 1 package (10 ounces) frozen chopped spinach, thawed and well drained

In a large skillet, saute onion and mushrooms in oil until tender. Add spinach and ham; cook and stir until the excess moisture is evaporated. Cool slightly. Beat eggs; add cheese and mix well. Stir in spinach mixture and pepper; blend well. Spread evenly into a greased 9-inch pie plate or quiche dish. Bake at 350° for 40-45 minutes or until a knife inserted in center comes out clean. Serves 4-6.

~ Taste of Home

# MGATC Wins First Place in the AAS Challenge



## Garden Beet

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