

December 2020

Garden Beet



MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY

The Latest Spin from D&J

Dee Dee and Jan

'Tis the Season to be Jolly and Merry!

2020 has been a year with many challenges but there is still a lot for which to be thankful. Even with COVID, we have many members who have been volunteering to help with our many projects around the community and we want to thank each one of you.

As most of you know, this year has been a bad year for Canadian thistle so we had to do something about the Extension Office Demo Garden which was full of it! In the past couple of weeks, a group of us worked together to clear, spray, and put black plastic over the Demo Garden. We would like to personally thank Jim Jeray, Konie Hughes, Andy Hughes, Georgia Brist, Jolaine Roberts, Pat Miller, Mary Kay McCauley, Norbert Welch, Brenda Nicholson, and Mickey Penrod for their help getting this done.

Treasurer's Report

Income for the month of October was from dues and interest for a total of \$786. Expenses included the Garden Expo refunds, Speakers, Demo and Cumberland Community Gardens for \$709. There was one restricted fund expense for the Cumberland Community Garden and 2021 Dues as income giving a balance in the fund of \$19,075. The total of unrestricted funds available is \$17,622 as of October 31.

We are now collecting the 2021 dues. Checks should be made payable to

We are hopeful that this will make it easier when we get started on spring planting.

Just a reminder - due to the pandemic, volunteer hours are not required for 2020. However, please enter any volunteer and education hours that you have accumulated.

Don't forget to renew your membership for 2021. You can drop your dues off, along with the membership application in the dropbox just outside the front door of the Extension Office or mail them to: Master Gardener Membership, 3150 Sagamore Parkway South, Lafayette, Indiana 47905. If you need a copy of the membership application, let us know. We sure hope all of you renew for 2021; hopefully COVID-19 will be in our past and things will be back to normal.

MGATC. Please send your completed membership form (found on the website or attached to the *Garden Beet*) and your payment to the Extension Office, MGATC, 3150 Sagamore Parkway South, Lafayette, Indiana 47905 or you can drop them in the black mail box outside the Extension Office door.

If you have any changes to your membership details please send them to me at pmillerathome@comcast.net.

Pat Miller, Treasurer

The Master Gardeners are a varying and creative group and even with COVID-19, we have found ways to work together in the gardens and stay healthy.

Watch for 2021 activities being planned to allow us to spend time together and still adhere to social distancing. As soon as weather permits, we are planning monthly caravans to different Indiana gardens and we are also planning monthly get-togethers to go hiking/walking. Let us know if you have any ideas for other activities.

Our December Zoom meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 1 at 6:30 p.m. Please plan to join us!

*Happy Holidays to All and to All
a Good Night, Jan and Dee Dee*

Programs

December 1 • 6:30 p.m. • Zoom
An Overview of the Heritage Methodology for Classification of "Rareness" as it Pertains to Plants
Teresa Clark

Teresa Clark is the Coordinator of the Indiana Natural Heritage Data Center, Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

January 5 • 6:30 p.m. • Zoom
No further information was available at the time of this printing.

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

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 Meeting: Nov 4, 2020, 6:30 p.m., Virtual

At 6:30 p.m. Karen Mitchell welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded everyone that member forms are available in the *Garden Beet* or on the website. If you need a paper copy she will mail one. She is working to set up a way to pay by credit card. Please pay your dues soon. Mail them to the Extension Office or drop them in the box next to the door.

Maralee Hayworth introduced Victoria Beaty, Executive Director of Growing Places Indianapolis. Her presenta-

tion was "Feeding the Community." The 10-year-old non-profit organization emphasizes food access and education. She gave a virtual tour of the urban lots used for growing and discussed their plans for the future. Unfortunately, they have been facing the same COVID restrictions and challenges as everyone else. The presentation was well received with several questions from members at the conclusion.

Maralee Hayworth announced that the December meeting will feature Theresa Clark.

Again, please remember to pay your dues for next year.

About 42 master gardeners signed on to the Zoom meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jim Jeray, Recording Secretary

MGATC Board: Nov 12, 2020, 4 p.m., Virtual

Jan Sadler called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. Attending were Pat Miller, Dee Dee Long, Jan Sadler, Mickey Penrod, Nancy Cope, Maralee Hayworth, Jim Jeray, Jolaine Roberts, and Karen Mitchell.

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

Pat Miller delivered the treasurer's report. Since the beginning of the month, we received \$429 in dues and a refund of \$26.45, while paying out an additional \$172.87. Those are the only changes to the monthly treasurer's report that appears in this month's *Garden Beet*. Pat encourages everyone to submit expenses right away so they can be paid and assigned to the correct year. Note: the restricted compost project fund is awaiting bills and will be reduced by about \$10,000.

Budget 2021: Pat presented a proposed budget passed by the finance committee for Board approval. It has two alternatives. Plan A assumes a limited Garden Expo with some of the other usual expenses slightly reduced. Total expenses would be \$11,880. Plan B eliminates both income and expenses from a Garden Expo, the open house, and workshops. Total expenses would be \$9,820 - just enough to meet our normal commitments. Income in Plan

B would be limited to member dues. The Board discussed reducing some individual budgets and/or asking for a fixed percentage reduction in all categories. Pat will solicit ideas by email and rework the scenarios for final approval at the December meeting.

Membership Update: As of this meeting only 44 membership forms for 2021 have been received. The Board discussed how to encourage more folks to sign up during the pandemic. Pat will help develop a list to allow the Board members to send personal reminders to everyone we have not yet heard from. Karen has developed a way through Square to pay using credit cards on line. Once it is tested, she will send a link to everyone. Anyone can still turn in the membership form with cash or check at the Extension Office drop box.

2021 Activities: The coronavirus has really taken some of the fun out of gardening as a club! To maintain a level of enthusiasm the Board is considering ideas for different activities that allow personal contact with social distancing. These include nature hikes, caravans to in-state gardens, or other fun outdoor social activities. A blast email will cover this in more detail.

Open Volunteer Positions: Two key chairperson positions remain open: the Demonstration Garden and the Idea and Display Garden. Each can be filled by one person or by two people as co-chairs. The Canal Park Garden in Carroll County also needs a volunteer. We now have a local contact for anyone interested.

Alumni Membership: We have permission to make our guidelines official. There is still a question of whether they need to be added to the Bylaws to take effect. This question has been referred to Lynn Layden.

Awards Criteria: The general feeling is that volunteer hours should not be the primary criterion for Outstanding Master Gardener in that there are other meaningful ways to contribute. The current process does not exclude anyone, but the emphasis on hours during the presentation seems to give that impression. In the future, total hours will be less influential than overall contribution in the decision. There will be a review of winners and runners-up from previous years to get a better perspective.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Jeray, Recording Secretary

What's Happening

Wednesdays in the Wild

There will be no Wednesdays in the Wild programs in December.

In light of the COVID-19 uncertainty/restrictions, on November 6th, the WITW planning committee met and decided that they would not have programs in January-March 2021. However, they are planning to resume Wednesdays in the Wild outdoor programs in April 2021 and have a tentative schedule for April-June 2021 programs.

Note that Tippecanoe County Naturalist Mary Cutler has been posting ideas for outdoor nature walks that folks can do on their own on their Facebook® page at "Wednesdays in the Wild," also a good source for up-to-date information on their plans.

Sage and Onion Stuffing

(Serves 6)

1 tbsp. butter, plus more for the dish
2 tbsp. olive oil, plus a drizzle
2 onions, finely diced
1/2 small bunch sage leaves, picked and chopped
8 oz. soft white breadcrumbs
1/2 tsp. ground mace
2 large eggs

Heat the butter and oil in a frying pan and fry the onions for 10-15 minutes until soft and translucent. Tip into a bowl, then mix in the rest of the ingredients and some seasoning until well combined.

Heat the oven to 425 F. Spoon the mixture into a buttered oven dish, or roll into balls and put on an oiled baking tray. Drizzle with more oil and bake for 20 minutes until golden and crisp. ~218 calories per serving.

~Anna Glover, *Olive Magazine*

New Dues Alternative

The MGATC now has an online option to pay your Master Gardener dues. This link, <https://master-gardener-association-of-tippecanoe-county.square.site/>, will take you directly to the site. Just choose the option/s you want (membership, couples membership, Green Book, and/or newsletter). If you register online Karen will survey your interests at the beginning of the year.

So, if you want to be listed in the MGATC Green Book, please make sure to pay your dues by the end of the year!

I wander forth
this chill De-
cember dawn;
John Frost and
all his elves
are out, I see,
As busy as the
elfin world
can be,
Clothing a
world asleep
with fleecy
lawn.

~Robert Buchanan
(1841-1901), "Snow"

Honey Spiced Roasted Chickpeas

(great for snacking, on salads,
or as a topping for soups)

1 can chickpeas, drained and rinsed
1 tbsp. olive oil
1 tsp. cumin
1 tsp. paprika
1/2 tsp. sea salt
1 tbsp. honey, optional
Preheat oven to 425 degrees

Drain, rinse then dry the chickpeas. Discard any loose skins by pinching the beans in between your thumb and index finger (the beans should pop right out of their skins).

Mix the salt, cumin, paprika and oil, then toss the dried beans into the mixture.

Bake for 10 minutes. Shake the pan to prevent them from sticking then bake for another 10 minutes.

*Drizzle with honey then place back into the oven for 5-8 minutes or until crispy. Yield: 1-1/2 cups.

Note: to make sure the chickpeas are crispy, dry them well before tossing them in oil. If you choose not to add the honey at the end just make sure and continue baking them for about 5 minutes.

~thevintagemixer.com



Master Gardener Association of Tippecanoe County

2021 Membership Application & Annual Dues

The Master Gardener Association of Tippecanoe County dues are \$25 per year for an individual or \$40 per year for a couple at the same address. We are now on a calendar year and these dues will be for all of 2021. This annual fee allows access to the Garden Beet by email, the 'Members Only' area on the website, and the monthly educational seminars, as well as, voting rights during the annual election. If you would like to receive printed copies of either the monthly Garden Beet or the Green membership book, please select the option below.

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please check the membership options that you would like below:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| <input type="radio"/> Individual Annual Dues | \$25 |
| <input type="radio"/> Couple Annual Dues (please include both names above) | \$40 |
| <input type="radio"/> Garden Beet (if you wish to receive monthly printed copies) | \$12 |
| <input type="radio"/> Green Membership Book (if you wish to receive a printed copy) | \$2 |

TOTAL = \$ _____

Areas in which I think I can be an effective Master Gardener and achieve volunteer hours:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Speaking | <input type="checkbox"/> Staffing info booths |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great Annual Annual Planting | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning workshops |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serving as an officer | <input type="checkbox"/> Presenting workshops |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serving as committee chairperson | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing for the Garden Beet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Working at Adopt-A-Spot | <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse or nature center docent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Event planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Working in Display & Idea Gardens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preparing publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Working in Demonstration Gardens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Working with youth | <input type="checkbox"/> Helping at the Garden Expo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helping with plant sales | <input type="checkbox"/> Helping at the Annual Open House |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran's Home gardens | <input type="checkbox"/> Ext Office Community Garden |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MG Educational Center | <input type="checkbox"/> Chatham Sq Community Garden |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hosting Garden Tours | <input type="checkbox"/> Cumberland Community Garden |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ | |

Please return this completed form and a check for the amount of your dues payable to **Master Gardener Association of Tippecanoe County (MGATC)** by the December 2020 monthly meeting, or mail them to:

Attn: Master Gardener Membership,
3150 Sagamore Parkway S, Lafayette, IN 47905

Updated 8/13/2020

Gadgets

(continued from back)

kind of bulb in six packs and then repotted them in decorative pots and teacups as they come into bloom.

With a small supply of Amaryllis bulbs (now classified as Hippeastrum) and 'Nir' paperwhite narcissus in hand, we'll start a few bulbs every week throughout December and into January.

If you bought hardy spring bulbs for the garden, plant them when the soil temperature is 55 degrees or cooler in late fall before the ground is frozen.

After the ground freezes and when trees are definitely dormant, give some thought to pruning and prepping your trees for the coming winter months. Young trees especially need attention.

From West Lafayette Tree Friends: "Cold weather, ice, snow, and even the sun can damage trees in the urban forest. The best way to address this issue is to properly prune your younger trees and perform some general winter prepping during the fall months. Pruning is a horticultural practice that alters the growth and form of a plant. Often, pruning is used as a preventative measure against disease, severe insect infestation, storm damage, or structural issues such as rubbing branches. When done correctly, pruning promotes growth and prevents disease and structural issues during the formative years for a tree."

Purdue Extension has detailed advice for trees: "Pruning them Right" (FNR-FAQ-19W) <https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/fnr/fnr-faq-19-w.pdf>.

WINTER PREP FOR TREES

- ◆ Prune trees in fall and early winter to remove dead or weak branches.
- ◆ Make sure your tools are sharp and wear proper safety equipment (gloves, protective eyewear, etc.).
- ◆ Inspect the tree by walking around all sides.

- ◆ Remove any dead, diseased, and damaged branches, any branch stubs, and branches that rub against one another. Remove any suckers that form at the base of the trunk.
- ◆ Trunk wrapping. Thin-barked trees such as crab apples and smooth-barked maples are especially vulnerable to temperature swings. University of Wisconsin Extension says wrapping trees should occur in November. Purdue Extension says to remove the wrap after the last freezing temperature in the spring.
- ◆ Mulch around base of tree. Do not place mulch against the bark. For more information see <https://www.arborday.org/trees/tips/mulching.cfm>.
- ◆ Trees need adequate moisture to get through winter. Drought conditions in summer and fall can put trees (including evergreens) at risk. Continue to water soil around trees in fall until the ground freezes. See "Drought? Don't Forget the Trees" (FNR483W) <https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/fnr/fnr-483-w.pdf>.

When in doubt, reach out to Purdue Extension's specialist, Lindsey Purcell, at Purdue's Forestry and Natural Resources Department (lapurcel@purdue.edu) or an ISA Certified Arborist for advice on proper tree health and care. To locate a Certified arborist in your area, see <http://www.treesaregood.com>. For more info, visit: <https://mdc.itap.purdue.edu/item.asp?ItemNumber=FNR-484-W>.

Maybe Santa will give you a by-pass pole pruner/saw or Felco by-pass pruner. All we want for Christmas is a safer, happier 2021, but we never say no to great gadgets and tools.

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 1.

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! We're looking forward to a new year of gardening and hope you are too.

Chill December
brings the sleet,
Blazing fire, and
Christmas treat

~Sara Coleridge (1802-1852),
"The Garden Year"

Great Gadgets & Tools

By Kathryn Reeves and Mike Hathaway

This is the month gardeners anticipate the holidays and enjoy the warmth indoors. We sent in our membership renewal for MGATC, so we're now focused on indoor gardening and planning for next year.

Dreaming of a garden filled with abundant vegetables and gorgeous blossoms surely helps us cope with uncertain times and dreary weather. Knowing we can also have beautiful blooming flowers indoors in winter is a tremendous mood lifter.



Tulip bulbs can take 14 to 16 weeks to force indoors so you'll want to get started this month. The best tulips for forcing are double early, single early,

species and triumph tulips. Plant tulips in slightly moist, well-drained potting soil with their noses just at the soil level. Add extra perlite or sand to regular potting mix for best drainage to avoid rot. Potted bulbs are then chilled in cold (not freezing) darkness for many weeks. We provide darkness by putting pots inside cardboard boxes in the coldest part of our attached garage. We start checking for signs of bud emergence at 12 weeks, but it usually takes a few more weeks than that. Tulip 'Gavota' is shown above.

Small bulbs such as crocus can also be potted and forced into bloom.



YOUR MGATC OFFICERS:

Co-Presidents:

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Jan Sadler, jansadler23@comcast.net

Co-Vice Presidents:

Maralee Hayworth, mhaywort@purdue.edu

Mickey Penrod, cmppenrod@frontier.net

Treasurer:

Pat Miller, pmillerathome@comcast.net

Recording Secretary:

Jim Jeray, jerayjm@sbcglobal.net

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Kathie Cox, kathiecox@gmail.com

Member at Large:

Nancy Cope, nancyc1970@hotmail.com

Past Co-Presidents:

Cheryl McCool, mikeandcherylmc@msn.com

Jolaine Roberts, jolaineroberts@gmail.com

Grape hyacinths multiply rapidly in our garden, so this year we may try digging up a clump of those bulbs before the ground freezes to pot up and force. We've sometimes started this

(continued on page 5)

Garden Beet

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