

December 2022

# Garden Beet



MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY

## Message from Your Co-Presidents

Jim and Mickey

As we come to the end of the year, it's time to begin thinking ahead to the 2023 growing season. The Expo committee is already meeting to discuss fund raising, but beyond that lie spring and summer - planting, tending, and harvesting.

The MGATC has many obligations. Some of them are directly related to our lease with the county. The commissioners are trusting us to keep the gardens behind the former extension office, our biggest footprint in the county, looking good even as construction of the new animal shelter, right on our doorstep, moves forward.

The first order of business must be to have leaders for the Demo Garden, the Display and Idea Gardens and the Community Gardens, and plenty of volunteers for those. As of now we have a chair for the Children's Garden, but need coverage for the rest, including the AAS Garden.

## New Garden Beet Editors

Please welcome Lanette Jimerson and Courtney Frederick as your new Co-Editors of the *Garden Beet*. They will be sending you the January 2023 issue on December 26.

If you are sending them items for the *Garden Beet*, continue to send them to the [MGATCGardenBeet@gmail.com](mailto:MGATCGardenBeet@gmail.com)

Don't forget other on-going commitments: Chatham Square Community Gardens, Cumberland Community Gardens, Public Education Workshops, Indiana Veteran's Home and the native bees project. Anyone interested in managing the website or helping Guido with machinery maintenance?

For any of these needs it's not necessary to go it alone. We strongly endorse using the buddy system as Nina and Cindy did for a bed in the Demo Garden, Jan and Dee Dee did for the Hail Purdue plot in D&I. Jim and Jeri shared responsibility for the Demo Garden overall. Find a partner, coordinate schedules, and make a plan.

Just to cover current operations and obligations the MGATC has so many opportunities, and we need your help! If you don't feel ready to take the lead, find a current leader, chairperson, or board member, get to know the expectations and use part of next year to learn more.

email. You might consider sending your items early next month so that they will have more time to get this first issue together before the holidays.

It has been a pleasure editing the newsletter for the last 11+ years.

Chris Ramsey

The Purdue EMG Policy Guide (MG-5-W) mentions the word "volunteer" 187 times in the space of 21 pages. Being an Extension Master Gardener means being a volunteer. There is plenty of time to think about where you want to be involved. If you have questions about where you are needed or where you could best fit in, ask around at meetings or talk to any board member.

Thank you for your hard work in the past. We look forward to working with everyone in 2023.

Jim & Mickey

## Programs

**December 6 • 5:30 p.m. • TCEO**  
Growing Christmas Trees  
Dull's Tree Farm

Please bring an appetizer to share with the group. We will start networking and eating at 5:30 p.m., the business meeting will start at 6 p.m., and then the presentation by Dull's Tree Farm.

**January 3, 2023 • 6:30 p.m.**  
TCEO

No further information was available at the time of publication.

For more information on upcoming events, contact Amanda Burge at [amanda\\_personett@yahoo.com](mailto:amanda_personett@yahoo.com).

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.tippecanomastgardener.org>

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

## **MGATC Meeting: Nov 1, 2022, 6:30 p.m., TCEO**

At 6:30 p.m. on November 1st the monthly MGATC meeting was held both virtually and in person. The business portion of the meeting was held first.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Deb Rimer read the Treasurer's Report.

The 2023 membership dues are due by the end of 2022. The dues form is available on the MGATC website in the password protected area.

For the December meeting we will be having appetizers and finger foods to eat.

The Class of 2022 is now official. Eighteen have passed the test, with two more that are scheduled to take it shortly.

Lanette Jimerson will be taking over the *Garden Beet* on January 1st.

Vickie Mills is now the co-chair of the Cumberland Community Gardens.

Pat Williams reminded everyone to please get their hours recorded by the end of the year.

Pat is also setting up advanced topic classes for any Master Gardener who wishes to brush up on some subjects and get more education hours.

Pat announced he received some seeds from Dollar Tree for the gardens or growing plants for the Expo.

Dee Dee said that the Trunk or Treat committee was expecting 500 vehicles for the event, but only around 100 showed up. So they have a lot of materials left over. Members are welcome to take some and pass them around wherever they think they are needed.

Jim Jeray reported on the 5-year plan committee. He said they would like to get as many Master Gardeners together as possible to get their thoughts on the strategic plan by the next planting.

Mickey Penrod said if anyone is interested in working with her on the AAS Garden to let her know.

With the business portion finished, the speaker for the month, Andy Hughes, gave his talk on native bees. He discussed the several different species and how important they are as pollinators. He showed several slides on how he built bee houses to encourage some of the species to make homes in the gardens. He also recorded how successful the bee houses were in attracting new native bees.

With that, the meeting was adjourned.

- Nancy Cope, Recording Secretary

## **MGATC Board: Nov 10, 2022, 6:30 p.m.**

The MGATC Board meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on November 10th, 2022. Present were Pat Williams, Dee Dee Long, Jim Jeray, Deb Rimer, Jan Sadler, Jolaine Roberts, Kathie Cox, Nancy Cope, Cheryl McCool, and Mickey Penrod.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Deb Rimer gave the Treasurer's Report.

Any changes to members' contact information for the Green Book needs to be sent to Pat Miller, who is the chair. After that the contact information on the website will be updated.

The 2023 budget is on the website password protected area for members to look at.

Pat Williams reminded everyone that the annual agreement that must be signed is called the "volunteer application" on the Purdue website where your hours are entered. It too needs to be filled out by the end of the year.

Kathie Cox, who is the Member-at-Large, said that no one is using her services. The information needs to be brought out at the next meeting.

Mickey Penrod said that in the community gardens people are doing a good job at fall cleanup.

Pat Williams announced that a new homeowner came to him and said they have a substantial load of large rocks they would like to donate to the gardens, if the group is interested. Pat said he will get more information and report back.

In response to last month's question about whether the MGATC website is backed up, Andy Hughes said that it is.

The board spent a large amount of time discussing the 2023 budget and making some adjustments.

It was announced that the public education workshops will be started up again. They were suspended because of Covid.

Pat Williams suggested having a sign in the gardens to ask for donations. It could have a QR code on it that would point to our Square account or something similar. It could also have an option for the person to flag their donation to a certain area of the gardens (for example, the Children's Garden).

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# Treasurer's Report

## November 2022 Board Meeting Treasurer's Report

The income for the month of October was Checking Account Interest, \$0.26. However, we did collect \$1,445.39 for the 2023 Dues. Total Income Year-to-Date 2022 is \$14,934.91

In October, for the Unrestricted Budget, we spent a total of \$1,786.27. The expenditures were: \$386.91 for Display/Idea Pathways, \$1,365.10 for Display/Idea AAS which was a whole year of reimbursements, and \$34.26 in General Admin Expense. For the Restrict-

ed funds, we spent \$182.29 of the Community Garden fund: \$153 for Trash Removal and \$29.29 for Diesel Fuel and \$43.26 of the Extension Community Garden fund. Total expense for the year is \$9,220.10. Remaining budget is \$1,806.90.

The Restricted Fund balance at the end of October was \$10,916.42. The total of Unrestricted funds available at the end of the month was \$18,695.23. Savings balance was \$10,554.36.

*Deb Rimer, Treasurer*

## Board

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Another fundraising option that was brought up was to create a brickway in the garden and sell the bricks. They could be personalized with the donor's name on it or "in memory of" someone. Mickey Penrod said she would talk to Wendy Kerssemakers about the idea.

Mickey said that this last summer's community gardeners are asking about

adding more plots next year. Pat Williams mentioned that there is quite a waiting list. The idea of adding more plots will be discussed in the future.

With that, the meeting was adjourned.

*- Nancy Cope, Recording Secretary*

May and October, the  
best-smelling months?  
I'll make a case for  
December: evergreen,  
frost, wood smoke,  
Cinnamon.

*~Lisa Kleypas*

## Cranberry & Orange Buttermilk Breakfast Cake

### INGREDIENTS:

1/2 cup unsalted butter, room temperature  
The zest from 1 orange  
1 cup + 1 tbs. sugar  
1 egg, room temperature  
1 tsp. vanilla  
2 cups (256 g) flour  
2 tsp. baking powder  
1 tsp. kosher salt  
2 cups fresh cranberries  
1/2 cup buttermilk

### INSTRUCTIONS:

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Cream butter with orange zest and 1 cup of the sugar until light and fluffy.

Add the egg and vanilla and beat until combined. Meanwhile, toss the cranberries with 2 tablespoons of flour, then whisk together the remaining flour, baking powder, and salt.

Add the flour mixture to the batter a little at a time, alternating with the buttermilk. Fold in the cranberries.

Grease a 9-inch square baking pan (or something similar) with butter or coat with non-stick spray. Spread batter into pan. Sprinkle batter with remaining tablespoon of sugar. Bake for 35 minutes, then check for doneness by touching the top gently or by inserting a toothpick. If necessary, return pan to oven, check every five minutes or so — it took my cake a little bit over 45 minutes to cook. (Note: Baking for as long as 50 minutes might be necessary, especially if you made the batter in advance.) Let cool at least 15 minutes before serving. 6-8 servings.

*~Alexandra Stafford*

# Gadgets

(continued from back)

“Less is more” is our design mantra in our little garden. Elsewhere we do enjoy seeing winter containers with bright ornaments, glittery stars, flocked stems, twinkling lights, and shiny red bows. Whatever gives you good cheer during the cold dark months is the right thing. It’s a great gift that we all have different ideas!

Armed with bypass loppers and very sharp Felco bypass pruners, we make careful cuts that won’t detract from the overall form of evergreens. Bypass tools can make healthy cuts in live wood; anvil loppers and anvil pruners are recommended for dead wood.

After the drought this past summer, we made sure to give all our evergreens and deciduous trees and shrubs extra water this fall to help them get through the winter. Even so, while we collect cuttings, we immediately put them in buckets of water to keep them hydrated.

You know a fresh cut on the bottom of a Christmas tree helps keep the tree hydrated. It’s also a good idea to make a fresh cut with sharp pruners on stems as they are arranged in very moist potting mix. Insert the stems as deep as possible to resist fierce winter wind. To help the greenery stay fresh through early spring, we’ll continue watering the containers until the potting mix freezes solid.

Before storing tools, clean goeey sap from pruners, loppers, and saws. We use either mineral spirits or Goo Gone

(gloves and adequate ventilation recommended) and then disinfect the blades with isopropyl alcohol.



If you want to make your own winter décor, some area nurseries like Niemeyer’s Landscape Supply (Crown Point, IN) and Woldhuis Farms Sunrise Greenhouse (Grant Park, IL) offer winter container workshops. Bennett’s and local big box stores offer pre-made porch pots as well as cut greens, colorful stems, evergreen swags, and wreaths.

After buying expensive little bunches of cut greenery in many past years, we grow most of our own now. We thought we had a design plan worked out for all the pots this year, but then we found a big potted ‘Blue Princess’ holly (with her pollinating mate ‘Blue Prince’ in the same pot) at 75% off year-end clearance. Who could resist those beautiful red berries? This holly may show up at the Master Gardeners Expo plant sale next April, but for now the happy couple will spend the winter in its pot nestled inside a large planter on our front porch.

## DECEMBER TO-DO LIST

- Continue to apply animal repellent over spring bulbs such as tulips and crocus and on trees, shrubs, and evergreens.

- Spring bulbs can still be planted this month before the ground is frozen.
- 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.
- Prune trees in fall and early winter to remove dead or weak branches.
- 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” <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.

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# Great Gadgets and Tools

By Kathryn Reeves and Mike Hathaway

'Tis the season for holiday celebrations and gift giving. From the practical to the purely joyful, there are so many perfect gifts for gardeners. What's on your wish list?

Among the gifts we give ourselves this time of year are outdoor pots full of seasonal greenery that bring joy throughout the winter. We don't have a Christmas tree farm, but we intentionally grow a number of evergreens and conifers that provide clippings for outdoor decorations.

We have two pots of red twig dogwood *Cornus sericea* that have served for many years, content with a yearly topping off with fresh compost. They spend most of the year tucked out of the way, but are moved into view

where they have a starring role in the winter garden.



## YOUR MGATC OFFICERS:

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Big empty pots look sad after annual flowers are done, so we "dress" ten or twelve more pots for the winter with simple greenery like pine, yew, spruce, and boxwood. (Photo: pine and yew in a freeze proof polypropylene 18" pot)

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