

February 2020

Garden Beet

MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY



A Word from Your Co-Presidents, Dee Dee & Jan

With 2019 behind us we look forward to 2020. Many of us are thumbing through seed catalogs and designing our dream gardens. While designing your own gardens, please think about starting seeds for the annual Garden Expo on April 25th. Preparations are already underway. As this is our biggest fundraiser, the plants grown by our own Master Gardeners are in high demand.

Plans are also taking shape for the MGATC annual awards banquet

scheduled for March 3rd at the TCEO. This is a carry-in dinner starting at 6 p.m. Remember all volunteer and education hours for 2019 are to be turned in by February 1st for the awards banquet.

We hope you are thinking about how you can make MGATC grow and flourish. MGATC has many volunteer opportunities. Please consider chairing a committee, serving as an officer, or leading a project. Buddy up, get a small group together, recruit a friend, you

can "share" many of the volunteer positions that are available. It's always more fun when we work together.

Jan and I look forward to the coming year and want to hear your ideas. Please feel free to contact us and make the MGATC thrive.



Happy Gardening,
Dee Dee
&
Jan

Great Garden Gadgets and Tools

By Kathryn Reeves and Mike Hathaway

This month we're continuing to suggest fresh flowers for your health and wellbeing, and additional eco-friendly alternatives to floral foam. Last month we showed traditional floral frogs for flower arranging.



Tiny glass bottles holding a few small flowers look wonderful.

The arrangement below uses only one stem of yellow mums and one stem of alstroemeria cut into individual blooms - very budget friendly.



Decorative wire (plastic coated or copper) can be loosely coiled as an inventive floral frog so you can use fewer stems to fill a vase. Some florists even use multicolor plastic Slinkies in wild modern arrangements.



Chicken wire has been used for decades for flower arranging. Cut a square of it a few inches wider than your vase or bowl, fold the corners under, form a bun shape, and squeeze the chicken wire into your container. We used a soft, flexible, green plastic-coated 1/2" chicken wire (1" would work too). The photo shows how well this works even for holding up heavy sunflowers. The chicken wire will be completely hidden by foliage and flowers.

(continued on page 5)

Programs

February 4 • 6:30 p.m. • TCEO

6 p.m. Social Time

Winter Seed Sowing

Kathryn Reeves

Kathryn is a MGATC Master Gardener and Purdue Professor of Arts Emerita.

March 3 • 6 p.m. • TCEO

5:30 p.m. Social Time

*Hydroponics and Aquaponics:
Fascinating Way of Growing Fruits
and Vegetables in Your Home*

Dr. Hye-Ji Kim

Dr. Kim is an Assistant Professor of Sustainable Crop Production Systems at Purdue University.

This is the annual awards carry-in banquet. Please bring a dish to share. Dinner starts promptly at 6 p.m.

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.tippecanomastergardener.org>

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



MGATC Minutes: January 7, 2020, 6:30 p.m., TCEO

At 6:30 p.m., Cheryl McCool introduced the evening's speaker, Karen Mitchell, Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Educator. Her presentation, "Sowing Seeds for Spring Starts" covered: seed characteristics, selection and storage, timing, soil temperatures, supplies, and planting.

As both co-presidents were unavailable, Cheryl McCool called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

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

Pat Miller delivered the Treasurer's Report. The account balance at the beginning of December was \$15,624.03. Income of \$6,575.06 included \$1,073 in dues and \$111 paid for the holiday dinner. The remainder consisted of restricted funds for Cumberland, the extension gardens, and Chatham Square. Expenses of \$2,439.62 included \$513 for prepaid security monitoring, \$1,567.39 paid out at the time of the holiday dinner, and several smaller payments to reimburse members. The ending balance was \$19,759.47. Of that \$17,934.11 is unrestricted. The reimbursement for the compost project is expected early this year. There is \$10,542.15 in savings.

Cheryl McCool announced that the March meeting will be the annual awards ceremony on March 3 at the extension office. It will be a carry-in dinner. Social time will begin at 5:30 p.m. and dinner will begin at 6 p.m. Please bring your favorite dish to share. The education portion of the meeting will start at 7.

Cheryl listed the volunteer opportunities still available: co-vice president (to work with Maralee Hayworth), Open House Chair (with help and coaching from the outgoing team), Extension Community Garden Chair, and the Extension Office Sign. For most of these positions work times are flexible and other volunteers are willing to help out as needed.

The Garden Expo is coming up on April 25. Begin to think about what you can do to support the Garden Shed and Café. Vendor invitations are already out and Cheryl has some ideas for new vendor spaces. Planning meetings have been scheduled for 6 at the extension office on January 14, February 11, and March 18.

Karen Mitchell reviewed the list of upcoming programs and opportunities for master gardeners that were included in several recent emails to the group.

Webinars will be available monthly at the extension office on a variety of subjects as a brown-bag lunch meeting. They are: January 14 - Conifer Identification, February 25 - Lawn Care, March 4 - PDDL Sample Submission, April 1 - Insect Problems, and May 6 - Vegetable Diseases. Please sign up ahead.

The next MG public workshop will be held on January 18 from 9 to noon at the extension office. The subject will be "Herbs: Seed to Seasoning."

The gardening conference on January 23 will be at the Beef House in Covington, Indiana from 6 to 9 in the evening. The cost of \$25 includes dinner.

Train the Trainer for the Junior MG program will be held on February 5 from 6 to 9 p.m. The cost is \$20 for materials and must be paid to Purdue University. See Karen's email dated January 7, 2020 for the details.

Finally, the five-week Growing Through Leadership course will begin in March. The class will be held on Monday evenings from 6 to 9. The cost is \$40 for materials, reduced from \$60 by a subsidy from the Master Gardener Association.

Perry Schnarr announced that the Fairfield Township Board wants to improve the Greenbush Cemetery

with plantings of trees and flowers. Volunteer hours are approved for this project. Perry's contact information is in the member book.

Be sure to fill out the two-question survey on preferred meeting time and holiday dinner venue sent out last week. Anyone having difficulty with the online form can call opinions in to the extension office.

Reminder: Enter volunteer hours in the system by February 1 to qualify for the award you deserve.

Jan Hiple won the door prize.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Jim Jeray, Recording Secretary*

Freezing cold
winds, biting
chills, and
white snow
fluffed hills
Valentines day,
oh how gay!
Presidents' day
is coming
our way.
February,
sweet and small,
greatest month
of all.

~ Eric Lies

MGATC Board: January 9, 2020, 6 p.m., TCEO

Dee Dee Long called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. In attendance were Jim Jeray, Pat Miller, Dee Dee Long, Jan Sadler, Maralee Hayworth, and Cheryl McCool.

The December meeting minutes were approved as posted in the January *Garden Beet* with one correction: nominating committee members are Cheryl McCool and Jolaine Roberts.

Pat Miller delivered the Treasurer's Report. There were only two changes from the report delivered at the monthly meeting: \$104 in dues received since the beginning of month increased the bank balance while a reimbursement check for the Demonstration Garden for \$25.97 was cashed. This brought the current bank balance to \$19,837.50.

Pat has been working with Old National Bank to update the signature cards and access to the bank's website to correspond with officer changes at the end of the year. Until this is completed she will work with other Board members to ensure business is conducted in a timely way. She also hopes to receive the reimbursement grant for the compost project and will work

with Karen Mitchell on that and a few other Treasurer details.

Jim Jeray announced that 155 people have paid 2020 membership dues. That is a decrease of 8 from 2019, but Jim said that he expects to receive a few more dues from people who have expressed an interest but have yet to pay.

There was some discussion about whether people who have been with the club for a long time and feel they are no longer able to fully participate due to health or age could continue to be master gardeners on an honorary basis. This question must be cleared with Purdue and will be held over for Karen's opinion and guidance.

Pat Miller said that changes to the beginning of the 2020 Green Book were complete and turned in to Karen. Jim Jeray will coordinate with Rena at the extension office to turn the member spreadsheet into the proper format and get the books printed. The complete roster will also be posted on the MGATC webpage.

There are still several unfilled positions where we need volunteers. They

are: Co-Vice President, Open House Chair(s), Extension Community Garden Chair(s), Cumberland Garden Co-Chair, Extension Office Sign, Lily Nature Center Wildflowers, and Display and Idea Garden Coordinator. Dee Dee Long will check the status of our commitment to Columbian Park. Jan will pick up the membership where members expressed their interests from Jim so that she and Dee Dee can solicit help. Jim will email a copy of the latest draft of job descriptions to help them.

Last month Jolaine Roberts reported that multiple members have expressed frustration with the 6:30 p.m. monthly meeting time. Since then Karen Mitchell sent out a two question survey asking members' opinions on both the meeting start time and the venue for the holiday dinner. Dee Dee Long will ask Karen to send out a reminder and to set a deadline so that results can be tabulated and changes made as necessary.

With no further business, Dee Dee Long adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jim Jeray, Recording Secretary*

Treasurer's Report

We have had few changes to the checking account since last month's report. Income is mainly from dues and three funds for the community gardens that will be held as restricted funds. Expenses were for projects and the holiday dinner. For the restricted funds, the compost project has been paid and we will be receiving grant funds soon to reimburse those expenses. Unrestricted funds are around \$19,000. Details are available at the next monthly meeting. If you have receipts from last year or the current year, please submit them to Pat Miller.

10-Minute Beef Teriyaki Skillet

1 lb. extra lean ground beef I used 96% lean
1 cup finely diced onion*
1 teaspoon minced garlic
1 teaspoon minced fresh ginger or about
1/4 teaspoon dried ground ginger

3/4 cup thick teriyaki sauce
Optional garnish: sliced green onion, toasted
sesame seeds
For serving: rice tortillas or lettuce wraps

In a large skillet preheat 1 teaspoon sesame oil over medium-high heat for about 1 minute. The sesame oil adds great flavor to the dish, but if you don't have any you can substitute with canola or vegetable oil. Add beef, onion, garlic, and ginger to the skillet. Cook, breaking up the meat as you stir, until the beef is no longer pink and the onion is tender (about 5-7 minutes). Drain, and return meat to skillet. Stir teriyaki sauce into the beef mixture. Bring to a low simmer and cook for an additional 3-5 minutes, just until sauce thickens slightly.

Serve over rice, in tortillas, or in lettuce wraps. Serves 4. 220 calories per serving.

~ theseasonedmom.com

If you wish to mail items to me directly my address is 3801 S River Road in West Lafayette, 47906.

Pat Miller, Treasurer



What's Happening

MGATC Workshop

Feb 22 • 9 a.m.-noon • TCEO

All About Recycling

Where, What, and How!!

Amy Krzton-Presson

(Tippecanoe Solid Waste District)

Using Native Plants for Your

Space, After Removing Invasives

Mickey Penrod

Bi-State Conference

Registration is now open for the first Bi-State Small Scale Ag Conference on Thursday, February 6th from 6-9 p.m. at the Beef House (16501 Indiana State Road 63, Covington, Indiana).

The doors open at 5:30 p.m. (EST) with dinner being served at 6 p.m. The presentations are: *Small Scale Mushroom Production* by Ashley Adair, Purdue Extension, Montgomery County and *Basics of Permaculture* by Dane Hunter, Southern Illinois University.

The cost for the program is \$25, which includes dinner and is payable online with credit or debit or at the door with cash or check. To register for this program, you can visit the online registration - GO.ILLINOIS.EDU/SMALLSCALEAG, call the extension office at (765) 474-0793, or email Karen Mitchell at mitcheka@purdue.edu.

Please contact Karen if you would like to carpool or you are driving and have room in your car.

Wednesdays in the Wild

January 29 • 1-3 p.m. • LNC

Signs in the Sky: Using What you See in the Sky to Make a Forecast
Chad Evans

Take a look at the sky with Chad Evans (Chief Meteorologist, WFLI TV 18) and learn how to observe cloud formations and sky phenomena to make a weather forecast without any modern computer guidance. Chad will also share information about the Co-CoRahs program (Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Net-

work), a citizen science data collection project sponsored by the National Weather Service.

February 5 • 1-3 p.m. • LNC

Hoosier Maple Syrup Making

Richard Hines

Richard Hines will present a brief history of the maple syrup industry and give an overview of how sap is collected and made into syrup at the Springboro Tree Farms sugaring operation near Brookston. Learn how maple syrup is made on a small scale and then taste the difference between popular pancake syrup and the real wood-fired maple syrup.

February 12 • 1-3 p.m. • LNC

Great Lakes Fishes:

Past and Present

Jay Beugly

The Great Lakes provide recreation and employment to millions of people, yet few understand the organisms that inhabit these waters. Jay Beugly (Aquatic Ecologist, Purdue/IL-IN Sea Grant) will share the dramatic change in fish communities over the years, brought about by many environmental factors. His historical perspective will take us from the invasion of alewives, zebra mussels, and round gobies, to the collapse of salmon fisheries in Lake Huron, and yellow perch dynamics in Lake Michigan.

February 19 • 7-9 p.m.* • LNC

Yellowstone: A Journey

Through Time

Dan Shepardson

Dan Shepardson (Purdue Departments of Education and Earth, Atmospheric & Planetary Sciences) will integrate his years of personal experiences and nature photographs with the natural history of this iconic park to create a visually stimulating and informative story about Yellowstone. His photographs, dating back to the 1960's, will chronicle his efforts to document and capture the majesty and mystique that is Yellowstone.

*Note the evening time.

February 26 • 1-3 p.m. • LNC

The Flora of Indiana

Scott Namestnik

The flora of our state is influenced by a number of biotic and abiotic factors including bedrock, topography, soils, climate, fire, and glacial history. These factors have led to the delineation of 12 natural regions across the Hoosier landscape, where unique plant diversity is found. Scott Namestnik (IDNR Natural Heritage Program Botanist) will take us on a fascinating botanical virtual tour of our crossroads state.

March 4 • 1-3 p.m. • LNC

Bird Feeding Basics/

Bird Feeder Construction

Mary Cutler

Naturalist Mary Cutler (Tippecanoe County Parks & Recreation Department) will provide tips and techniques for attracting birds to feeders and provide an introduction to the most common feeder visitors. Following this presentation, Brenda Moore (Park Manager, Tippecanoe County Parks & Recreation Department) will lead 20 participants in making their own unique wine bottle-inspired bird feeder. NOTE: attendance for the presentation is unlimited, however only 20 feeder kits will be provided at a cost of \$15. PRE-REGISTRATION is required to build a feeder: contact Mary at mcutler@tippecanoe.in.gov to register.

LOCATIONS:

LNC (Lilly Nature Center/Celery Bog Nature Area): In West Lafayette, on the north side of Lindberg Road, between Northwestern Avenue and McCormick Road at 1620 Lindberg Road.

Leadership Course

The Growing Through Leadership course is a five-week course that will be held on Monday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. at the TCEO. Classes will be held on March 2nd, 9th, 23rd, 30th, and April 6th. Thanks to the sponsorship of the MGATC, the program fee is only \$40 for members. If you are interested in participating, please submit your application and payment to the extension office by February 10. Forms are available at the TCEO.

Gadgets

(continued from page 1)



Another option is to fill a vase with glass test tubes, glass votives, liqueur glasses, etc. and arrange flowers in the spaces between and inside these. These allow you to create a fuller looking arrangement with fewer flowers. It's best if the vase is an inch or two taller than the little glass tubes, so you won't have to refill each tube and can easily keep the water topped up.

All these alternative floral frogs (including wire, Slinkies, and chicken wire) can be cleaned and re-used. Should we mention again how very good fresh flowers are for you and your loved ones?

And if you are sending Valentines this month, use flower stamps. The United States Postal Service has lots of different kinds available including wild-flowers. The USPS is also celebrating American Gardens in 2020 with stamps depicting botanical gardens across the country - these "Forever" stamps will be offered sometime this year.

The gardens shown on the stamps are: North Carolina's Biltmore Estate, New York's Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Chicago Botanic Garden, Coastal Maine Botanic Garden, Washington D.C.'s Dumbarton Oaks, California's Huntington Botanical Gardens, Florida's Alfred B. Maclay Gardens State Park, Virginia's Norfolk Botanical Garden, Ohio's Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens, and Delaware's Winterthur.

During icy weather in February, sodium chloride deicing salt may help keep you from slipping on sidewalks and driveways, but can harm your landscape. Damage on plants may be noticed soon after exposure or may show

up many months later. In an excerpt from Purdue Landscape Report, Rosie Lerner recommends: "when possible, use alternatives to sodium products, such as calcium chloride or calcium magnesium acetate (CMA). Protect roadside plants by constructing burlap or durable plastic screens to shield them from traffic splash. Use alternatives, such as clean cat litter, sand or sawdust, to help improve traction on ice." Read the complete report at: <https://www.purduelandscape.com/article/deicing-salts-helpful-for-people-but-not-landscape-plants/>.

For more info on salt damage as well as salt-tolerant plants, see Purdue Extension bulletin ID-412-W. <http://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/ID/ID-412-W.pdf>.

February TO-DO List:

- ♥ Check your seed inventory and test germination. If you don't want to bother with germination tests, check online for lists of seed viability. Purdue University Extension has a life expectancy list of some vegetable and flower seeds at: <https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/yardandgarden/storing-leftover-garden-seed/>. Iowa State Extension has a longer list of vegetable seeds average life expectancy at: <https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/1999/4-2-1999/veggielife.html>.
- ♥ Enjoy all your new garden catalogues. Make crazy long "want" lists of vegetable and flower seeds and plants - you have plenty of winter-time left to regain your sanity.
- ♥ If you're forcing hardy bulbs like tulips, hyacinths, and daffodils in pots, check periodically to see if they need water - they should be slightly moist but not wet to avoid rot.
- ♥ Houseplants need more light and humidity, but reduced water during winter.
- ♥ Check houseplants for insect pests. Some insecticidal soap is safe for use indoors.

- ♥ Start slow-to-germinate seeds like peppers and celeriac mid to late February in a very warm spot and grow under lights (fluorescent or LED). A few perennials need to be started 10-12 weeks before the last average frost date in our area - April 25.
- ♥ Keep bird feeders filled with seeds and suet cakes.
- ♥ If you notice damage to trees and shrubs from foraging animals, apply (or reapply) repellents and consider deer fencing for next year.
- ♥ Visit a big tropical glasshouse and bask in warmth and humidity. There's Hilbert Conservatory at the Zoo/White River Gardens and Garfield Park Conservatory in Indy; Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory in Fort Wayne; Krohn Conservatory in Cincinnati; Lincoln Park and Garfield Park in Chicago; and Chicago Botanical Garden in Glencoe.
- ♥ Visit a local greenhouse/nursery for a quick mood lifter.
- ♥ Buy fresh flowers!
- ♥ For more tips on houseplants, yard, and garden from Rosie Lerner, Purdue University Extension Consumer Horticulture Specialist at <https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/yardandgarden/february-garden-calendar/>.
- ♥ Stay warm and happy. Spring will happen...only 84 days until last frost date and the Garden Expo.

Every
mile is
two in
winter

~ George Herbert

Expo Exchange

Garden Expo 2020

Mark the date of April 25th on your calendars for Garden Expo 2020. Please start planting seedlings and gathering items to donate for the garden shed. Also, think about a sweet treat to donate to the café. Lots of volunteer hours are available at the Expo from set-up, the show itself, to tear-down. Plan on signing up to work and get your volunteer hours in. A sign-up sheet will be at the next general meeting in February. Make sure you plan to spend time at the Garden Expo.

*Cheryl McCool
EXPO Chairperson*

Make & Take Workshop

Donations are wanted for the Garden Expo "Make & Take: Terrarium Workshop":

Horticultural charcoal
Activated charcoal granules
Aquarium gravel (any color)
Beautiful stones/rocks (1" to 3")
Interesting seashells (1" to 3")

Any amount, big or small, even one or two stones, will help! Bring your items to the Master Gardener meeting on February 4 or contact Kathryn Reeves at kathrynreeves@yahoo.com.

Garden Expo Raffle

This year at the Garden Expo we will again be having a raffle of garden related goodies to support the scholarships for Purdue and Ivy Tech students. In 2019 we successfully raised over \$500 and we hope to exceed that level in 2020 with your help. We are looking for donations of new or like new items such as hand tools, pots, garden art, gloves, and other garden related items to fill the raffle baskets. No garden goodies in the cupboard or no time to shop, you can make a cash donation and we will do the shopping for you. We will be accepting donations at the February and March meetings. If you have any questions or need items picked up, you can contact Pat Miller at pmillerathome@comcast.net or (765) 714-5463. Thanks so much for your support of the raffle!

If we had no winter, the spring
would not be so pleasant

~ Anne Bradstreet

Garden Beet

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