

February 2022

# Garden Beet

MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY



## Message from Your Co-Presidents Jim and Mickey

We are looking forward to a year of many changes. As a result of the Extension Office move, operations at the gardens behind 3150 South Sagamore Parkway will be quite different. The county plans to sell the building. That's why we had to move the tractor shed.

In December the MGATC Board met with the county commissioners to settle on a lease for the garden area. The county was quite generous. We will rent the same area for all the gardens from them for just one dollar a year. The agreement also guarantees access

to the garden from the street and allocates some parking spaces to us along the edge of the gardens. Unfortunately, we will lose the convenience of easy access to the Extension Office and staff. In addition, we will need to be considerate of our future new neighbors and develop good relations with them.

As tenants of the county, the MGATC will be expected to be more involved in overseeing the community gardens while maintaining high standards of appearance of the entire area. The county will no longer be doing all

the mowing around the building and around the edges of the garden so we will be responsible for some of that. The dumpster also moves with the Extension Office. (We have neither the space nor the budget to rent our own dumpster for only half a year.)

As if that were not enough, the compost project that was delayed by the pandemic will be back in full swing with some new services and new rules. Led by Andy Hughes, we hope to be in the business of making our own compost soon. Anyone interested is invited to contact Andy about helping out and learning more about composting.

Finally, we look forward to working with Pat Williams, our new ANR Extension Educator, and learning from him in the year ahead.

Change can be a new adventure. We are happy to be able to share it with you.

Mickey and Jim

## Important Reminder

All Master Gardeners:

I am writing to remind you of requirements to be a master gardener. Most people should be okay, but please check. **Purdue will not allow you to remain a master gardener unless you have a current signed Annual Agreement - even if you have filled out your form and paid your dues.** This is important. Here is how to do it.

Go to the page where you enter hours: <https://www.purdue.edu/mg-volunteer/login.php>.

Log in and click on the "My page" link and scroll to the bottom. If it shows that you are up to date, you are good. If not, there should be an Annual Agree-

ment button to push. If you can't find it, email Pat Williams for help: [pnwillia@purdue.edu](mailto:pnwillia@purdue.edu).

Also, It may not have been clear but, per John Orick, hours required were: for 2020 0 and 0; for 2021 6 volunteer and 3 education. If you didn't have enough hours for 2021 and you can find a way to get and enter 6 and 3 before February 1, it will count. (Call or email me and I'll help you think of something.)

I'm telling you this because I want everyone to be up to date and eligible. Please take care of it.

Thank you,  
Jim Jeray, Co-President

## Programs

**February 1 • 6:30 p.m. • Zoom**  
Kathryn Reeves

Kathryn will be talking on winter seed sowing for wildflowers, vegetables, and more.

**March 1 • 6:30 p.m. • Zoom**  
TBD

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: Jan 9, 2022, 6:30 p.m., Virtual

At 6:30 p.m. on January 9th, 2022, the monthly MGATC meeting was held virtually. The speaker was Pat Williams, who is the new ANR Extension Educator and advisor for our group. His presentation was on composting, including suggestions on improving the compost bins at the MGATC gardens. He discussed not only what could go into composting, but the correct combination of brown and green matter and the proper size of items to ensure rapid composition. He noted that the amount of water in the compost also played an important part. If done correctly, compost piles should not smell, and should break

down into usable compost within a couple months.

After Pat's presentation there were a few announcements:

Dee Dee Long noted that we will be holding the Garden Expo this year. She asked that everyone think about growing vegetables, houseplants, and perennials for the Expo plant sale. More details will be coming.

Katje Armentrout said that Master Gardener meetings need to continue virtually for at least a couple months, per Purdue's rules. Jim Jeray also noted

that this also might be influenced by the type of equipment at the new extension building.

Jim Jeray also reminded everyone that if you have questions about anything new, Board meeting minutes are posted in the latest *Beet*.

Pat Williams also reminded all master gardeners that they need to make sure their yearly agreements are signed. These agreements are at the Purdue website where you post your hours.

The meeting was adjourned.

- Nancy Cope, Recording Secretary

**If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome**

~Anne Bradstreet

## MGATC Board: Jan 13, 2022, 4 p.m., Virtual

Jim Jeray called the meeting to order at 4 p.m. on January 13, 2022. Present were Jim Jeray, Mickey Penrod, Amanda Burge, Pat Miller, Cheryl McCool, Debra Rimer, Nancy Cope, Jolaine Roberts, Kathie Cox, Dee Dee Long, Jan Sadler, Pat Williams, and Katje Armentrout.

Minutes from the December meeting were approved as published in the *Garden Beet*.

Deb Rimer read the Treasurer Report.

Pat Miller discussed our membership numbers. We now have 106 active members, plus one alumnus. There was discussion about one more person who may have signed up on the day of the meeting and not been included in the 106 count.

MGATC now has a PO Box for a mailing address, which is PO Box 6135, Lafayette, IN 47905. There will still be a mail box in the new Extension Office as well. The PO Box address will be put into the Green Book. As a reminder, the new physical address is 1950 South 18th Street.

The new bylaw changes, which adds the ability for members to become alumni, will be announced at the February monthly meeting and voted on in March.

Dee Dee Long reported that on January 12th the Expo committee met at the fairgrounds to get a tour of the swine barn, where the Expo will be held this year. A layout of the barn was created and copies will be made so that vendor stalls can be organized. With the persistent COVID virus, it was decided that vendors will be capped at 25, rather than the usual 40+ vendors, in order to spread people out.

Dee Dee also noted that in order to reserve the 2023 Expo on the 4th Saturday in April, a \$400 deposit is required immediately. The county is quickly booking the fairgrounds and will not guarantee that the time slot will be available. The motion was carried to pay the \$400 deposit, plus the remaining \$400 balance due for the 2022 Expo.

Jim Jeray said that the website needs to be updated and old information removed. He and Andy Hughes will be discussing this and will get back to the Board with suggested changes.

Katje Armentrout announced that the offices will be moving January 24-28. During that time it will probably be a little harder to reach her as everything is moved. She said that hopefully the Board will get a tour not long after that. After everything is moved in and settled they will be having an open house and ribbon cutting ceremony.

Jim Jeray will be at the next County Commissioners' meeting to get the gardens and parking leases signed.

The changes to the management of the community gardens were discussed again. Because of the lease agreements with the county, there will be changes to the agreements that gardeners sign to reserve a plot in the Community Gardens. To familiarize them with these changes, several meetings will be held in February at the new offices.

# Treasurer's Report

## January 2022 Board Meeting Treasurer's Report

Income for the month of December 2021 was from Dues for 2022, the annual income for Cumberland Community Gardens and Chatham Square Community Gardens, and Bank Interest. Total Income was \$2,251. Expenses for the month were for the Shed

## Board

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They will be: 02/24 at 1 p.m.; 02/25 at 10 a.m., 1 p.m., and 5:30 p.m.; 02/26 at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. There was also more discussion on managing the gardens. Most agreed that a garden coordinator, with the assistance of sector captains, would monitor the gardens and ensure that the rules in the agreements are followed. The "sector captains" would be Master Gardeners who rent Community Garden plots. Rent money would continue to be handled by the Extension Office. Finding a Master Gardener to be the garden coordinator is probably the most urgent task right now.

Pat Miller met with the insurance agency that holds the MGATC liability insurance to see if anything needed to be changed for the next year. The agent noted that there could be liability with holes, broken concrete, or other trip hazards. Pat suggested that Master Gardeners who are in the gardens keep an eye out for any trip hazards and flag them for repair or removal. Other than that, there were no changes needed to the insurance policy.

Last year around this time a membership email purge was performed to remove any emails for people who are no longer members. It hadn't been done in several years, so there was a lot of cleanup to do. Dee Dee Long

Move, Garden Expo 2022, Cumberland Community Gardens, and a Check Order for a total of \$229. There were changes to the Compost Project, 2022 Dues, Chatham Square Community Gardens, and Cumberland Community Gardens which changed the restricted funds giving us a balance of \$19,334. A total of unrestricted funds available is \$13,005 as of December 31.

*Debra Rimer*

suggested doing it again. She said that it did bring in a couple memberships, so she thought it was worth doing. A motion was passed to perform the email purge again.

A possible change to the time of the Board meeting was discussed. After much bantering back and forth, it was noted that Pat Williams will be unavailable at the suggested 6:30 p.m. time for a couple months because of another commitment. A motion was passed to keep the Board meeting at the current 4 p.m. time, then change to 6:30 p.m. once Pat is available. The meeting date will remain the same.

Pat Williams brought up the organization of press releases to get MGATC into the public eye more. He would like to see something about the group in the news around once a month. He wants to meet with Nancy Cope, who is the group publicist, to discuss.

Pat Williams also brought up that a large number of volunteer hours are not being logged into the website. He said that it is very important to get these hours recorded, as the group benefits in grants and other possible funds. He would like to see volunteer hours posted on the last day of each month.

The meeting was then adjourned.

*- Nancy Cope, Recording Secretary*

# Expo Exchange

## Garden EXPO is back!

Mark your calendars for April 23rd from 9-3. We will need lots of people growing plants for the plant sale, gathering items for the garden shed, baking for the café, and looking for vendors for the event. Please email me with any new vendors we may want to invite. We will also need you to volunteer for set-up, during the event, and clean-up. Please email me with any questions you may have.

We want to make this the best event possible and bring in as much money as possible. So start planting and collecting!

*Cheryl McCool, Expo Chair*

## Garden Shed

Candy Sheagley says: Gee-Gaws...Do-Dads...Thing-a-ma-Bobs...Gem-Cracks - these are all things needed for the garden shed this year. This is a good time to clean out your basement, garage, or wherever you stash all your garden 'stuff.' Donate whatever you no longer want and they'll find a new home for it. This list will give you some ideas: books and magazines, garden related tools (shovels, rakes, hand tools, etc.), pots and other suitable planting containers (empty of soil), garden flags and holders, fence and garden stakes, bird feeders and houses, garden ornaments, chimes, 'rusty stuff,' scarecrows, plant markers, clean, unused garden gear like gloves and hats, wreaths, stepping stones, hoses, fountains, artificial flowers, garden furniture, rain gauges, pavers, baskets, thermometers, outdoor clocks, buckets, garden related picture frames, dishes, linens, garden totes, sprinklers, vases and flower frogs, hooks; you get the idea.....stuff! Drop your 'thingies' off Friday afternoon or early Saturday morning before the Expo and they'll do the rest. All items should be gently used. Please no chemicals or fertilizers. For more information contact Candy at 765-563-3497, 765-822-0916 (cell), or [candy@purdue.edu](mailto:candy@purdue.edu).

# What's Happening

## Wednesdays in the Wild

Wednesdays in the Wild will resume in March 2022. Space is limited and registration is required by noon on the Monday prior to the program at 765-567-2993 or [mcutler@tippecanoe.in.gov](mailto:mcutler@tippecanoe.in.gov). Facial coverings and/or physical distancing are highly recommended. More detailed information will be available in the next issue of the *Garden Beet*.

**March 2 • 10 a.m.-noon or 1-3 p.m. • SBTF**  
*Maple Syrup & More!*  
Rich Hines

**March 9 • 1-3 p.m. • WNC**  
*Did You Say You Want to Learn Winter Tree ID?*  
Sally Weeks

**March 16 • 1-3 p.m. DELPHI/MHBT**  
*Monon High Bridge Trail Hike*  
Lois Johnston and David McCain

**March 23 • 1-3 p.m. • CBNA**  
*Exploring the Equinox: Having Fun With Phenology!*  
Mary Cutler

**March 30 • 1-3 p.m. • ROSS BR**  
*Spring at Ross Biological Reserve*  
Dr. Kerry Rabenold

**April 6 • 1-3 p.m. • HORT**  
*Woodland Wake-Up at Hort Park & Stewart Woods*  
Lenny Farlee

**April 13 • 10 a.m.-noon MARTELL**  
*Cameras in the Sky: Testing New Capabilities to Assess Natural Resources*  
Brian Beheler, Jarred Brooke, and Cameron Wingren

**April 20 • 1-3 p.m. • CBNA**  
*Celery Bog Saunter*  
Dan Childs

**April 27 • 1-3 p.m. • NICHES/SB**  
*Shawnee Bottoms Spring Wildflower Hike*  
Bob Easter

**LOCATIONS:**  
CBNA (Celery Bog Nature Area)  
DELPHI/MHBT (Monon High Bridge)  
HORT (Purdue Horticulture Park)  
LNC (Lilly Nature Center)  
MARTELL (Martell Forest)  
NICHES/SB (Shawnee Bottoms)  
ROSS BR (Ross Biological Reserve)  
SBTF (Springboro Tree Farms)  
WNC (Wah-ba-shik-a Nature Center)

## Orange Breakfast Bread

3/4 cup water, 95-110 F  
1 package active dry yeast  
1/2 cup orange juice, room temperature  
2 tablespoons brown sugar  
1 teaspoon salt  
2 tablespoons butter, soft  
2 tablespoons orange zest, 1 medium orange  
3 cups all-purpose flour

In a large bowl, mix warm water and yeast. Add orange juice, brown sugar, salt, butter, and orange zest. Stir.  
Add 2 1/2 cups of flour and mix well. Add in enough remaining flour to make a dough that follows the spoon around the bowl.  
Turn dough out onto lightly floured surface and knead for 10 minutes, adding more flour as needed until dough is firm and smooth to touch.  
Place dough in a medium greased bowl. Turn dough over in a bowl so that the top is also lightly greased. Cover with clean cloth and let rise in warm, draft-free place for 1 hour.  
Punch dough down. Turn dough out onto a lightly floured board and knead for 5 minutes or until bubbles are out of the bread.  
Shape dough into a loaf. Place in greased, 8 x 4 inch bread pan. Cover and let rise in warm, draft-free place for 45 minutes or until doubled in size.  
Bake bread at 350 F for 40 minutes or until bread top is golden brown and the bread sounds hollow when the top is tapped. Remove bread from pan and let cool on a rack.

~The Spruce Eats

While away the dreary winter months by reading seed catalogs and planning your next garden

~Unknown author

## Miscellaneous

### Extension Office Move and Community Gardens

THE PURDUE EXTENSION - TIPPECANOE COUNTY OFFICE IS MOVING!! We will begin our relocation process January 24, 2022 and hope to be fully operational by February 1, 2022. The new office is located at 1950 South 18th Street, Lafayette, IN 47905 (in the old YMCA building behind the Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds). Our new mailing address will be: 20 North Third Street, Lafayette, IN 47901. Please contact the

Extension Office if you have any questions at 765-474-0793.

Pat Williams (Purdue Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator) and Katje Armentrout (Purdue Extension Community Development Educator and County Extension Director) will be hosting public meetings prior to the 2022 season for individuals renting plots at the Extension Community Gardens. Since the MGATC is leasing property from Tippecanoe County, there are some changes occurring with rules and regulations in the Community Garden contracts. These meetings will highlight those changes, reflect that the MGATC is now in

charge of the property, and hopefully address any questions or concerns.

These meetings are scheduled for:

Thursday, February 24, 1 p.m.  
Friday, February 25, 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 5:30 p.m.  
Saturday, February 26, 10 a.m., 1 p.m.

Community Gardeners will need to attend one of these sessions or meet with Pat or Katje prior to planting this year, as well as pay their \$30 plot fee at that time. Please contact Pat ([pecbaw@purdue.edu](mailto:pecbaw@purdue.edu)) or Katje ([armentro@purdue.edu](mailto:armentro@purdue.edu)) with any questions.

Thank you, Katje Armentrout

# Gadgets

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sides and bottom to make removing transplants easy. If you've ever tried to start seeds in silicon ice trays or cupcake baking pans, you know the spaces are too shallow for good root development and it's no fun to cut drainage holes in each one.

This product is thoughtfully designed with generous size cells, taller sides to keep potting mix from washing over the sides when watering, and two tall tabs to make lifting the tray simple. One rectangular drainage hole is in the bottom of each cell.

Individual cells make it easy to pop transplants out when they are ready. Apply a little upward pressure on the bottom, maybe give the sides a gentle squeeze, and your plants will come right out. You can also use a Popsicle™ or craft stick to gently poke through the bottom hole to help loosen the root ball when transplanting.

After growing seedlings in Sili-Seedlings®, wash and rinse out the trays and reuse. They're dishwasher safe if you want to sterilize them. And they're stackable for easy storage so they'll be ready for you to use again next year and many years to come.

Fun bright colors adobe red, sapphire blue, emerald green, and orange are available, as well as gray and black. They had us at "emerald green." The lifetime warranty is a plus. The manufacturer also makes 10 cell trays and five of those will fit in a standard seed flat. Be prepared for sticker shock - the initial investment is steep (\$6.50 to \$7 per tray) - but again they'll last forever. [GardeningProductsReview.com](http://GardeningProductsReview.com) gives them the top 5 star rating. Available from eHabitus at [sili-seedlings.com](http://sili-seedlings.com), and from Gardeners Supply Co., Amazon, and other vendors. If you want to transition away from disposable plastics, these may be a good choice.

Meanwhile back at frugal acres, we've washed and sterilized our seed starting gear. We have old plastic cell-packs for starting seedlings and cuttings. The thin plastic is flimsy and sometimes the cell-packs tear or



photo: © 2022 Kathryn Reeves

crack. Given the choice between throwing away a big piece of unrecyclable plastic or using a small piece of plastic to repair and re-use, what would you do? It's easy to repair them with a little transparent tape. Surprisingly, this quick repair can give the cell-packs a couple more years of service. Seedlings started in these don't care if the tape looks a little shabby.

If you're thinking about taking cuttings of houseplants for the Master Gardener plant sale on April 23, cell packs are good for that purpose too.

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.
- ◆ 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 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. Check COVID guidelines for each venue before visiting.
- ◆ Visit a local greenhouse/nursery for a quick mood lifter.
- ◆ Buy fresh flowers!
- ◆ For more tips on houseplants, yard, and garden see: <https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/yardandgarden/february-garden-calendar/>.
- ◆ Stay warm and happy. Spring will happen...only 82 days until last frost date and the Garden Expo.

# Great Gadgets and Tools

By Kathryn Reeves and Mike Hathaway

February 3 is “National Feed the Birds Day.” In case you miss it, don’t worry - February is “National Bird Feeding Month.” John Scheepers Kitchen Garden Seeds has packets of seed mixes for Songbird Habitat Flower Gardens and Hummingbird Habitat Flower Gardens. Other vendors also have great seed mixes for native birds and pollinators.

Are you getting the urge to start some seeds? We hope you’ll start some for yourself and more for the Master Gardener plant sale at the Garden Expo. We’ve been winter seed sowing outdoors. Late February is when we’ll start pepper seeds indoors, as well as any annual flowers that need 10-12 weeks head start for the earliest blooms.

This year, we’re trying Sili-Seedlings® seed starting six packs. The manufacturer calls this a “tray.” These trays are a very eco-friendly choice because they’re re-useable for years and years of service. Twist them, step



photo: © 2022 Kathryn Reeves

on them, they’ll bounce right back and won’t tear or crack.

## YOUR MGATC OFFICERS:

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Made from BPA-free food safe silicone, you don’t have to worry about chemical leaching. Unlike silicone ice cube trays, these cells are separate on the

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## Garden Beet

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