

February 2023

# Garden Beet

MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY



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Cheri Plummer

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## Message from Your Co-Presidents Jim and Mickey

The March meeting will soon be upon us where badges for various certification levels are presented recognizing individuals for their volunteer efforts during their time as master gardeners. Before long the gaps between these levels become quite large, and some volunteers can put in significant time and effort without moving to the next level. They should not be forgotten or taken for granted.

Therefore, we have created the MGATC honor role to recognize everyone who worked so hard to help the organization fulfill its mission last year. Using the hours reported as of January 6, 2023, here is a list of members who have reported more than 50 volunteer hours for last year: Diana Allen, Sandra Burbank, Nancy Cope, Debbie Erickson, Cindy Gilles, June Johnson, Doug Ketterer, Arlene Nizzi, Guido Nizzi, Joyce Pearson, Deb Pettry, John Pickett, Chris Ramsey and Sue Swick. And special recognition goes to those who contributed over 100 volunteer hours for the year: Polly Aranias, Georgia Brist, Jerilyn Bosworth Parker, Linda Cooper, Patricia Hall, Michal Hathaway, Sue Hiser, Andrew Hughes, Konie Hughes, Ed Knoth, Dee Dee Long, Cheryl McCool, Pat Miller, Carla Oilar, Kathryn Reeves, Debra Rimer and Janet Sadler.

We offer a special thank you to all these MGATC master gardeners. We hope the next co-presidents will continue this type of additional recognition and that the list of those making such a significant commitment continues to grow in 2023.

*Jim & Mickey*

## March Meeting Reminder

March 7, 2023 is our annual awards banquet (carry in). Social time will begin at 5:30 with the meal at 6:00 and the meeting beginning at 6:30. After the presentation, badges earned in 2022 will be awarded along with Outstanding Master Gardener and other special recognition. Anyone who wishes to help with set up should arrive at 4:30.

--Jim Jeray

The March speaker will be Karen Mitchell. The speaker who was scheduled for March will now present in June.

-- Amanda Personett

## Thank You

Master Gardeners,

I would like to thank you for the beautiful sympathy card and the comforting words that I received upon the death of my nephew. It is a difficult time but friends make it easier.

--Candy Sheagley

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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.tippecanomastergardener.org>

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

# **MGATC Meeting Minutes: January 3, 2023, 6:30 p.m.**

At 6:30pm on January 3rd the monthly MGATC meeting was held in person. This was a special meeting to discuss and brainstorm the 5 year plan for MGATC, so there was no speaker and no online option for participating in the meeting. This meeting counts as volunteer hours only, no education hour.

First the business portion of the meeting was tended to. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Deb Rimer read the Treasurer's Report.

Pat Miller announced that 108 master gardeners had paid their memberships for 2023. She said they will get started on the Green Book very soon.

Mickey Penrod said that there are still a couple people struggling to enter their hours for 2022. If anyone has a problem, please contact Pat Williams.

Jim Jeray gave a demonstration on how to record a member's hours on the Purdue website. He also went through most of the links in the "members only" area of the MGATC website. Jim also said that if you make a mistake entering your hours on the Purdue website, contact Pat Williams within 18 hours and he can fix it for you.

Then Jim talked about the 5-Year Plan Committee and the areas that they felt the group needs to create future plans for.

The details of Jim's talk and the result of the brainstorming at the meeting can be found in the 5-Year Plan Committee's report.

With that, the meeting was adjourned.

-- Nancy Cope, Recording Secretary

## **Treasurer's Report- Jan 2023**

The only income for December 2022 was \$.26 checking account interest. Total Income Year-to-date 2022 is \$14,948.44. As of the end of December 2022, we collected \$3,236.51 for 2023 dues. Our goal for 2023 Dues Income is \$2,750.00, so we met our goal plus \$486.51.

In December, for the unrestricted budget, we spent a total of \$150.80 reimbursements for the Display/Idea Pathways. Total expense for 2022 was \$9,699.48. The remaining budget of \$1,327.52 will be applied to the 2023 Garden Improvement fund. The Restricted Fund Balance at the end of December was \$ 10,398.78. The Ending Checking account balance was \$30,888.30. Savings balance was \$10,555.16.

--Deb Rimer, Treasurer

*“Probably more pests can be controlled in an armchair in front of a February fire with a garden notebook and a seed catalog than can ever be knocked out in hand-to-hand combat in the garden.”*  
— Neely Turner

## "WEDNESDAYS in the WILD" ~ FEBRUARY - MARCH 2023

**REGISTRATION is required by noon on Monday prior to program: 765-567-2993 or [mcutler@tippecanoe.in.gov](mailto:mcutler@tippecanoe.in.gov)**

**Natural History Talks/Workshops/Field Trips: 1-3pm EDT or as Noted**

**Like us on Facebook at "Wednesdays in the Wild"**

### **FEB 1<sup>st</sup> 1-3pm Bird-friendly Forests: Tools for Songbirds and Healthy Forests ----- indoor pgm—LNC**

**Jessica Outcalt (Purdue Ag & Natural Resource Extension Educator, Grant Co.)** will share information about her collaboration with The Nature Conservancy on "Forestry for the Birds," a toolkit for landowners and foresters to manage their woodlots and forests for the Birders' Dozen (twelve species of forest birds) as well as timber. She will also share ways that homeowners can make their backyard forests - whether a single tree or a large plot - into bird-friendly landscapes. *REGISTRATION is required.*

### **FEB 8<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm Climate Change and Indiana Plant Communities ----- indoor pgm—LNC**

Climate change is already affecting temperatures and precipitation patterns across Indiana. The Purdue Climate Change Research Center has documented these changes and forecasted potentially alarming effects on Indiana plant communities if fossil fuel emissions are not rapidly reduced. **Kevin Tungesvick (Senior Ecologist, Eco Logic, LLC)** will delve into these effects and address the challenges that climate change brings for those working in the field of ecological restoration. *REGISTRATION is required.*

### **FEB 15<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm Never Again: Two Wildflower Guides in Two-and-a-Half Years ----- indoor pgm—LNC**

Have you ever wondered what it's like to write a wildflower field guide? What goes into choosing the species to include, selecting photos, writing species accounts, dealing with a publisher and waiting for the final product? Imagine doing this TWICE, as **Scott Namestnik (Botanist, IDNR)** did as he worked on two guides: Wildflowers of the Midwest and Wildflowers of the Indiana Dunes. Scott will provide a behind-the-scenes look at this process and provide **copies of both books for sale and signing (\$30 each: cash/check, Venmo or PayPal.)** *REGISTRATION is required.*

### **FEB 22<sup>nd</sup> 1-3pm A Photographic Tour of the Natural History of the Indiana Dunes ----- indoor pgm—LNC**

After taking thousands of photographs of the Indiana Dunes over the years, **Dr. Dan Shepardson (Purdue Dept. of Earth, Atmospheric & Planetary Sciences and Dept. of Curriculum & Instruction)** recently published a book documenting this iconic landscape's natural history. Explore the geologic processes, plant communities and wildlife on this armchair tour of this Hoosier treasure. A limited number of Dan's book, Indiana Dunes: A Photographic Essay on the Natural History of the State and National Parks, will be **available for purchase at the discounted price of \$25 (cash).** *REGISTRATION is required.*

### **MAR 1<sup>st</sup> 1-3pm An Introduction to Groundwater Processes with Application to Indiana and Elsewhere ----- indoor pgm—LNC**

Groundwater is an unseen but extremely important and often misunderstood natural resource. **Dr. Marty Frisbee (Purdue Dept. of Earth, Atmospheric & Planetary Sciences)** will provide an introduction to hydrogeologic (groundwater) flow processes, demonstrating these processes with a groundwater simulator. Topics include: defining where/how groundwater is found, groundwater recharge, groundwater chemistry, and the use of isotopes to show flow processes. Research related to the Wabash River and Indiana will be shared. *REGISTRATION is required.*

### **MAR 8<sup>th</sup> 10-noon OR 1-3pm Maple Syrup & More! ----- NOTE: two time choices--choose a session ----- indoor/outdoor pgm—SBTF**

Join **Rich Hines and family (Owners, Springboro Tree Farms in Brookston)** on an indoor/outdoor woodland tour highlighting the maple syrup making process, from tree to table, along with an overview of the stewardship efforts that earned this 35-acre woodlot the 2021 Charles Deam Forest Stewardship Award in recognition of outstanding woodland management. Dress for outdoor conditions with sturdy hiking shoes. **Bring cash/check (no credit cards) to purchase honey and syrup.** *Each session is limited to 12 participants; register for one session.*

### **MAR 15<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm Welcome to the Dark Side: Moths in Indiana ----- indoor pgm—LNC**

Often unseen and under-appreciated, moths are viewed as the drab, dingy-looking cousins of butterflies. However, they are dazzling denizens of the night with nearly 2,300 species recorded in Indiana. **Jeanette Jaskula (President, Friends of Kankakee Sands)** will introduce the joy of moths, from their stunning colors, patterns and behaviors to their roles in ecosystems as pollinators and members of food webs. Learn how to attract moths to your own backyard and report moth sightings to the Great American Indiana Nature Lepidoptera Project (GAINLP.) *REGISTRATION is required.*

### **MAR 22<sup>nd</sup> 1-3pm Angel Mounds: Ecology & Culture of the Ohio River in 1450 ----- indoor pgm—LNC**

The advanced agriculturalists of the Mississippian culture studied the skies, grew maize, and utilized their environment to support large villages. **Tom Swinford (Director of Stewardship, The Nature Conservancy, Indiana)** will share the story that the landscape of Angel Mounds State Historic Site reveals about this flourishing period of human history in our state, through his work helping to develop a Cultural Resource Management Plan for the Indiana State Museum. *REGISTRATION is required.*

### **MAR 29<sup>th</sup> 7:15-9:15pm Caves, Karst, & Landscape Evolution in Southern Indiana & Kentucky ---- NOTE: evening -- indoor pgm—LNC**

The early ice ages played a role in cave and landscape formation in both southern Indiana and Kentucky. **Dr. Darryl Granger (Purdue Dept. of Earth, Atmospheric & Planetary Sciences)** will take us on a journey underground to share the secrets that places like Mammoth Cave have revealed about our buried Teays River, formation of the Ohio River, and even the mighty Mississippi. *REGISTRATION is required.*

#### **LOCATIONS of these FREE PROGRAMS (unless otherwise noted) which are OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**LNC (Lilly Nature Center):** 1620 Lindberg Rd, between Northwestern & McCormick at Celery Bog Nature Area, West Lafayette.

**SBTF (Springboro Tree Farms in Brookston):** Meet at the Tippecanoe River public access parking lot, just east of the intersection of Springboro Rd. and SR 18 (located on north side of SR 18), to form carpools to drive to the nearby farm.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION or TO HELP WITH PLANNING, contact:**

**Mary Cutler 765-567-2993; Dan Dunten 765-775-5172; Joan Mohr Samuels 765-532-3245, [mohrsamuels@comcast.net](mailto:mohrsamuels@comcast.net)**

**SPONSORED BY**

**Mary Cutler, Naturalist, Tippecanoe County Park & Rec. Dept. — Sycamore Audubon Society — NICHES Land Trust  
Dan Dunten, Lilly Nature Center Director, West Lafayette Parks & Rec. Dept. — West Central Chapter of INPS**

# **MGATC Board Meeting: January 12, 2023, 6:30 p.m.**

The MGATC Board meeting was called to order at 6:30pm on January 12th, 2023. Present were: Pat Williams, Amanda Burge, Dee Dee Long, Jan Sadler, Jim Jeray, Jolaine Roberts, Mickey Penrod, Pat Miller, Nancy Cope, and Kathy Cox.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Deb Rimer was not present to give the Treasurer's Report.

Jim Jeray noted that the PO Box address for the group expires on January 31st. It was originally created to ease the move from the original Extension office to the new one. The board decided to renew the PO Box for another six months. After that the mailing address will be 1950 S. 18th St, Lafayette, IN 47905

Pat Miller said that the group is now up to 113 members. As for the Green Book front pages, all of the changes discussed at the last meeting have been made.

Pat Williams discussed the open positions. He said he would like to see them filled before printing the Green Book.

The special recognition meeting will be March 7th. This is when awards and new badges are given out to those members who have advanced a level.

It was also discussed whether the group should buy some pens with the MGATC info on them for giving out to the public at events. Jim Jeray said he would email the board members some links to some pen samples.

Mickey Penrod updated the board on the roadwork and ditch work that will be happening in the community gardens. Elliott Ditch runs south of the gardens. The county is widening the ditch for increased runoff and also beautifying the area to connect it to the trail system. Mickey is still getting quotes on repairing the gravel road around the gardens. It's still unknown if the county pays for the expense, as they are the landowners.

Pat Williams mentioned the decorative stones that a homeowner is willing to give the group. The homeowners are in Arizona until April. Pat said he can meet with a couple board members at the homeowners' house to look at the rocks and decide if the group can use them. Pat will meet with Jim and Mickey on January 13th to make a decision.

Pat Williams brought up a discussion about future monthly meetings. He said that trying to work the Zoom portion of the meetings has been troublesome. He proposes recording the meetings internally and posting the video online at a later date for other members to see. The motion was approved. This will start at the February meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

-- Nancy Cope, Recording Secretary

**“While it is February one can taste the full joys of anticipation. Spring stands at the gate with her finger on the latch.” — Patience Strong**

# Consider Growing Jostaberries, a Great Cold Climate Fruit

By Sandra Kelly

It's not just a berry, it's a Jostaberry (pronounced yusta-berry). This complex hybrid cross of black currant and gooseberry was developed in Germany and takes its name from the German words for its parent plants. The Jostaberry is rarely grown commercially as it is not suitable for mechanical harvesting, so if you want to sample the fruit, you'll have to grow it yourself. Many online nurseries sell Jostaberry plants bare root for spring planting, you might also find them in a local nursery, and if you have a friend with a Jostaberry bush, you could ask for a stick as they are incredibly easy to propagate from hardwood cuttings.



Jostaberry Fruit  
Photo courtesy of  
Wikimedia Commons  
Photographer  
Oknarf2004  
[https://  
commons.wikimedia.org/  
wiki/  
File:Ribes\\_x\\_nidigrolaria  
\\_\(Jostaberry\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ribes_x_nidigrolaria_(Jostaberry).jpg)

Jostaberry bushes thrive in USDA Zones 4-8. They can be grown in sun or partial shade and prefer moist, but not soggy, soil. The disease-resistant plants are thornless, fast-growing to around 5-6 feet with an equal spread. Jostaberries may fruit the second year on old wood, but it could take 3-5 years until the plants produce a possible dozen pounds of berries per bush which ripen over a period of a couple of weeks. They share the attractive leaves of many of their Ribes relatives and are a pretty addition to the garden whether growing naturally or espaliered. The unusual flowers are borne in early spring and may need frost protection during a very cold spell. Jostaberries are self-pollinating. The fruits, which ripen in July, form clusters and are a dark almost black color. The berries are larger than currants and smaller than gooseberries with a taste that is both sweet and tart together. As well as tasting like a gooseberry and currant mix, some samplers say that they can taste grape, something savory, and even a tomato flavor too! The fruit is rich in Vitamin C and freezes well.

Jostaberries can be eaten straight off the bush or tossed into cereal or yogurt. They are also recipe ready, and can be cooked in pies, crumbles, or muffins. Many people in Europe make Jostaberry jam, jelly, syrup, vinegar, and liqueurs. Jostaberry wine is a perfect project for the home vintner. And if Jostaberries are not to your taste, grow them as a decorative background shrub and leave the fruit for the birds.

## Immunity Boosting Mushroom and Burdock Root Soup Recipe Recipe by Lea Abbott of Arbor Teas. Serves 6-8

### Ingredients

1 medium yellow onion, diced  
2-3 cloves garlic, minced  
8 oz shiitake mushrooms, stems trimmed & thinly sliced  
8 oz cremini mushrooms, stems trimmed & thinly sliced  
3 Tbsp low sodium soy sauce  
3 small organic bok choy, cleaned & chopped  
2 cups rough chopped organic kale (ribs removed)  
3 medium organic carrots, sliced into rounds  
3 Tbsp Organic Burdock Root  
8 cups low sodium organic vegetable broth  
salt and pepper to taste  
2 Tbsp white miso (optional, but adds more umami)  
toasted sesame seeds (for garnish)  
green onion, chopped (for garnish)

### Directions

Dice the onion and add it to a large soup pot over medium-low heat. You may add 1-2 Tbsp water or vegetable broth to prevent sticking. After onion cooks for 3 minutes or so, add minced garlic to the pot and continue cooking. Stir occasionally and add additional broth if necessary to prevent sticking. Once onion has softened, after a total of 5-7 minutes of sauteing, add sliced mushrooms to the pot. Stir mushrooms and onion gently, and cook over medium-low heat until juices have been released and mushrooms begin to brown. After mushrooms begin to brown add bok choy, soy sauce, kale, carrots and burdock root to the soup pot. Gently pour in 8 cups (2 quarts) low sodium vegetable broth and increase heat to high. Once the soup begins to boil, reduce heat to low and cover. Simmer soup for 15-20 minutes, stirring occasionally. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Allow soup to cool slightly before adding optional miso. Stir well to ensure the miso fully dissolves into the soup. Garnish with toasted sesame seeds and chopped green onion.

Tip: If you prefer some spicy heat, feel free to add a little sriracha, chili paste, or red pepper flakes to your bowl.

# Great Gadgets and Tools

by Kathryn Reeves and Mike Hathaway

This month we're thinking a lot about knives. Recently, we watched "Knives Out" starring Daniel Craig and Ana de Armas, and highly recommend it if you need a midwinter diversion and enjoy a good murder mystery. Hopefully all this is not a symptom of cabin fever as winter drags on. We do think gardening and knives go together.



We're looking forward to spring when we can start lifting and dividing perennials for Garden Expo. But we're also looking back to last fall when this glorious Chrysanthemum 'Sheffield Pink' was the final flower to bloom in our garden in October. Bees, butterflies and moths love it as much as we do.

This hardy perennial is also sold as 'Hillside Sheffield Pink' and 'Single Apricot' and sometimes classified as Dendranthemum. The warm pink petals and bright yellow centers harmonize beautifully with fall leaves and the blooms last two weeks in a vase. 'Sheffield Pink' has spread slowly into a clump of daffodils and we'll need a sharp knife to cut small divisions away without disturbing the bulbs.

One of our indoor winter gardening tasks is repotting a few houseplants. Some plants, especially those in terracotta pots, seemed to cement themselves in.

Roots of Phalaenopsis orchids look smooth, but they can have a superglue-like grip on terracotta. Ordinarily we use an old steak knife or serrated bread knife to slice around the pot sides.

There's a great tool available for repotting: the Sneeboer Pottery/Container Knife. Sneeboer, a Dutch manufacturer of some of the best gardening tools in the world, has developed a 21" long knife. The 16" hand forged stainless steel blade is sharp on two sides, very flexible and very strong. Its slightly concave blade glides easily inside round pots.

## February To-Do List

- Enjoy all your new garden catalogues. Make crazy long "want" lists of vegetable and flower seeds and plants - you have plenty of wintertime left to regain your sanity.
- Check your seed inventory and test germination. Look 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>
- If you're forcing hardy bulbs like tulips, hyacinths and daffodils in pots, check 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. Cover perennials with mulch to keep frost-thaw cycles from heaving plants out of the ground. Don't throw away your Christmas tree after the holidays - cut branches are good covering for perennials.
- 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 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.
- Visit a local greenhouse/nursery for a quick mood lifter.
- Buy fresh flowers for Valentine's Day

For more tips on houseplants, yard and garden see <https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/yardandgarden/february-garden-calendar/>

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# Great Gadgets and Tools

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The 5" red beech handle is ergonomic and flared to prevent your hand slipping onto the blade. This knife received a product of the year award in 2020 at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

Available at [sneeboerusa.com](http://sneeboerusa.com), [whiteflowerfarm.com](http://whiteflowerfarm.com), [gardenheir.com](http://gardenheir.com), [gardentoolcompany.com](http://gardentoolcompany.com) and other vendors for \$\$\$  
We're adding this tool to our "When We Win The Lottery" wish list along with other luxury items like extra large Italian terracotta pots. You can watch a video about this tool at <https://www.sneeboer.com/en-us/garden-tools/pottery-container-knife/>

Search for extra long serrated bread knives online and you may find some budget friendlier options that may be useful. Bleteleh makes an extra-long 15" blade slicing knife for cake and bread (retails for around \$\$). Thrift stores and yard sales could be another source (\$).

We let a cactus get way too big in its pot with spines well beyond the pot edge and there was absolutely no way to get any kind of knife in. We resorted to a hammer. Final score: Cactus 1, Terracotta pot 0.

Hope your gardening year is off to a smashing start too.

## Garden Beet

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*"There is always in February some one day, at least, when one smells the yet distant, but surely coming summer." — Gertrude Jekyll*