

January 2021

Garden Beet

MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY



The Latest Spin from D&J

Dee Dee and Jan

“Baby, it’s cold outside!” It’s a good time to start dreaming and making plans for spring gardening. So, Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow.

Happy New Year to all of our Master Gardener friends. Let’s put 2020 behind us and plan for a prosperous 2021.

2020 was affected by COVID-19, making it a different kind of year for the Master Gardener program, but we were still able to be effective and accomplish some of our annual projects. Starting with GAAP (Great Annual Annual Planting), we were able to plant at the Columbian Park Zoo, Tippecanoe County Art Museum, Tippecanoe County Courthouse,

Pedestrian Bridge, and the Indiana Veteran’s Home. The Demonstration Garden was able to produce and donate 1,371.4 pounds of produce to the local food pantries. We moved our education and Board meetings online to Zoom and had good attendance and great speakers. We also just graduated the Master Gardener Class of 2020.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Master Gardeners for the time you put into our program during 2020. As always, whatever volunteer time you were able to provide is much appreciated.

Hopefully 2021 will prove to be a good year for the Master Gardener program

and we will be able to again have the Garden Expo, GAAP, Open House, etc. At this point in time, we are planning to have the Garden Expo Plant Sale May 8 at the extension office. It will be held exclusively outside. Rain dates are May 15, 22, and 29. Hopefully, all will be back to normal by fall.

Also, watch for the February *Garden Beet* for information on a caravan trip to an Indiana garden and nature hiking, weather permitting.

Have a “safe” and “relaxing” winter so you’re rested up for a “safe” and “busy” spring!

Jan and Dee Dee

Great Gadgets and Tools

By Kathryn Reeves and Mike Hathaway

We hope your holidays were peaceful and filled with hope for a better year. We wish you good health and happiness. This month, we’re looking for indoor gardening activities to help keep our spirits high.

Winter seed sowing (aka WS) is a fun activity for those suffering from gardening withdrawal. It is a great method for seeds that need cold stratification like native wildflowers. Basically, you make a low maintenance mini greenhouse and use sunlight instead of electricity to start seeds. The container also protects seeds from foraging birds and rodents.

Milk jugs, utility knife, duct tape, marker, and labels are the tools you’ll need for this project. No milk jugs? Any translucent or transparent container will work. A ruler and drill are helpful, but not required.

WS for perennials and native wildflowers starts anytime after winter solstice in December and continues through January and February. Cold season veg and half-hardy annuals can be started after that, followed by warm season veg and tender annuals. The following photos are from our 2019 Winter Seed Sowing Workshop for Master Gardeners.

Programs

January 5 • 6:30 p.m. • Zoom
Wea Plains
Tom Swinford

Tom Swinford is the Assistant Division Director of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

February 2 • 6:30 p.m. • Zoom
Hardwood Tree Regeneration
Lenny Farlee

Lenny Farlee is the Sustaining Hardwood Extension Specialist at Purdue University, Department of Forestry and Natural Resources.

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

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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.tippecanoeasterngardener.org>

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



MGATC Meeting: Dec 1, 2020, 6:30 p.m., Virtual

At 6:30 p.m. Karen Mitchell welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Maralee Hayworth to introduce the speaker.

Teresa Clark is the Coordinator of the Indiana Natural Heritage Data Center, Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Her presentation was: "An Overview of the Heritage Methodology for Classification of "Rareness" as it

Pertains to Plants." The program has been in place in Indiana since 1978. It focuses on the status and distribution of plant species with an emphasis on identification, categorization, and conservation of rare native plants. The situation in the state is continually monitored and updated. The presentation included a thorough explanation with many maps and examples.

About 46 master gardeners signed on to the Zoom meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jim Jeray, Recording Secretary

MGATC Board: Dec 10, 2020, 4 p.m., Virtual

Dee Dee Long 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, Kathy Cox, and Karen Mitchell.

The November 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 \$374.01 in dues from 15 members. The fee from the use of Square for credit card payments explains why the dues do not come out to an even dollar amount. There were no additional expenses. 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 as soon as possible.

Budget 2021: Pat received no comments or suggested changes to the budget presented at the November

meeting and briefly summarized in the December *Garden Beet*. The Board voted to approve the budget. Pat will notify individuals of the amount available to spend on their respective projects.

Membership Update: As of this meeting 95 membership forms for 2021 have been received. Of those, 24 used Square on line to pay by charge card. Membership is still open. Go online or turn in the form with cash or a check to the extension office drop box. Some Board members have been calling past members encouraging continued membership.

Alumni Membership: Jan shared that we need to form a committee to update the bi-laws to make our guidelines official. To make them official, all members must vote on the changes after they have been posted in the *Garden Beet*. Jan will get further guidance from Lynn Layden and ask if she is willing to head the committee. Anyone interested in serving on the committee

should notify the Board. In the interim, Board members committed to review the current bi-laws as posted on the MGATC website in case other changes would be appropriate at this time.

Demo Garden: Dee Dee announced that she, Jan Sadler, and Jim Jeray would lead the project this summer with an emphasis on demonstrating various gardening methods.

New Master Gardener Class: The Class of 2020 will be graduating today at 6:30. Several Board members agreed to attend the virtual graduation.

Upcoming Meetings: Maralee announced that she has secured commitments from speakers for four of the next five monthly meetings.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

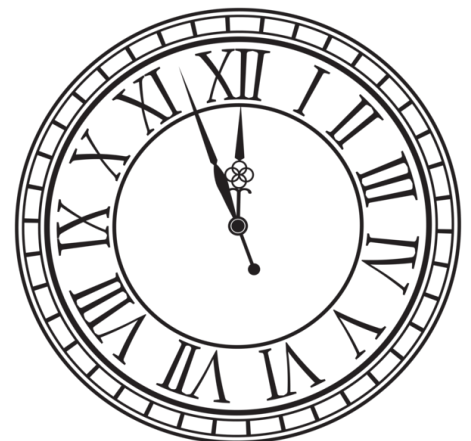
Respectfully Submitted,
Jim Jeray, Recording Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Income for the month of November was from dues, Demo Garden refund, a donation, and interest for a total of \$1,421. Expenses included the Garden Expo, speakers, various gardens, Native Bee project, and Garden Improvement fund for a total of \$1,215. There was a restricted fund expense for the Garden Improvement and 2021 dues as income giving a balance in the fund of \$20,014. The total of unrestricted funds available is \$16,889 as of November 30.

For reimbursement you can mail your requests to my home address which is 3801 South River Road in West Lafayette, Indiana 47906 or you can drop them in the black mail box outside the extension office outer door. If you have any changes to your membership details, please send them to me at pmillerathome@comcast.net.

Pat Miller, Treasurer



What's Happening

Climate Facts

Mickey Penrod submitted this from an email she received from IN CCIA.

“Did you know?

“Perennial plants are particularly vulnerable to shifting seasons, especially as it relates to their chilling hour requirements, or the amount of time they need to spend with temperatures between 35°F and 50°F, which prepares them to break their winter dormancy and blossom. If you get too few chilling hours, certain varieties of apples, peaches and grapes simply won't bud. If you accumulate the required chilling hours too early in the year, like what happened in 2012, some fruits may bud before the risk of frost damage has ended. And if you have winter and spring temperatures that fluctuate too much, that can lead to resets in chilling hours required to end dormancy, resulting in erratic blooms, yield loss and reduced fruit quality.

“So here in Indiana, where we're already sitting on the boundary of suitability for many fruit varieties, it is expected to become more difficult to produce reliable crops in the future, and farmers may need to shift the varieties being used. And with perennial crops, that's especially challenging since it can take many years to establish a crop and you expect to produce from those plants for many years or decades.

“The IN CCIA Agriculture Report's section on [Specialty Crops](#) provides chilling hour projections for Indiana by mid-century along with information about coping with these changes.

[Read the IN CCIA Agriculture Report.](#)”



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Chilling Hours

#INCCIA

Perennial plants require periods when temperatures are between 35°F and 50°F

Too few - Reduced suitability for some apple, peach and grape varieties

Too quickly - Buds break before the risk of frost damage has ended

Too much temperature fluctuation - erratic blooms, yield loss and reduced fruit quality



Another Article of Interest

Joan Mohr Samuels recently read an article in *The New York Times Magazine*, “The Social Life of Forests,” by Ferris Jabr that she thought we might find interesting.

“Trees appear to communicate and cooperate through subterranean networks of fungi. What are they sharing with one another?” You can read the entire article at this website: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/12/02/magazine/tree-communication-mycorrhiza.html?smid=em-share>.

And, #3

Sheila Koller sent me an article that she found in the Wisconsin Ag School's magazine, *Grow*. She says, “It just seems too well written not to share with like-minded folks like MGATC.”

See the scanned article on page 5.

Cheesy Baked Spaghetti Squash

(Serves 2)

1 Spaghetti Squash
1/4 cup Mozzarella Cheese per half squash
1/4 cup diced Tomato per half squash
Minced Garlic
Olive Oil

Start by cutting your spaghetti squash in half and scoop out the seeds. Place the squash, with the cut side up on a baking sheet or bar pan. Drizzle with olive oil and sprinkle with a bit of garlic.

Bake at 400 degrees for 45 minutes or until the insides of the squash can be “fluffed”.

Remove the squash from the oven and fluff up the spaghetti part. Carefully mix the cheese and diced tomatoes into each half of the squash.

Place back in the oven and bake a little while longer until the cheese is melted. Serve warm.

~ littlehouseliving.com

Happening

(continued from page 3)

Education Hours, etc.

An email sent by Karen Mitchell in December about education hours:

“As 2020 is coming to an end, many of you have reached out regarding education hours. It is true that volunteer hour requirements have been waived for 2020, but we would still like to encourage furthering your education. The annual requirement is 6 education hours, but given this difficult year, I will not be inspecting the hour reports harshly and no one will be “removed” for not complet[ing] the 6 education hours. I appreciate everyone that has volunteered this year and you have not gone unnoticed. Thank you. Not everyone was able to volunteer or participate in the online educational opportunities, and that is okay too. If this year has taught me anything, flexibility and understanding is absolutely necessary for surviving a pandemic. I will be running the hour reports on Friday, January 29th, 2021. If you were able to complete hours in 2020, please have them entered by 01/29/2021 so I can recognize your hard work. Thank you.

“If you would like to participate in online education, check out the State MG Website at the link below for a TON of resources: <https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/master-gardener/continuedhours/>.

“Regarding the MGATC Monthly Meetings, I am having some software problems but hope to have more loaded soon. I will send them out as soon as they are done. Below is the link for the August meeting with Dr. Saunders on Fire Ecology of the Eastern Forest- <https://youtu.be/ffUmVCxlnog>.”



Dues

Dues were due by the end of the year in order to be included in the Green Book, but dues for 2021 will still be accepted via mail in or drop off. For one last time, I've included the form in the *Beet* (see page 7). There is also an option to pay online with a credit card. Just go to the link, <https://master-gardener-association-of-tippecanoe-county.square.site/>. If you register online, Karen will survey your interests after your payment is received.

The hiss was
now becoming
a roar - the
whole world
was a vast
moving screen
of snow - but
even now it
said peace,
it said
remoteness,
it said cold,
it said sleep

~ Conrad Aiken

2021

Garden Vegetable Soup

(Serves 6-8)

- 4 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 cups chopped leeks, white part only (from approximately 3 medium leeks)
- 2 tablespoons finely minced garlic
- Kosher salt
- 2 cups carrots, peeled and chopped into rounds (approximately 2 medium)
- 2 cups peeled and diced potatoes
- 2 cups fresh green beans, broken or cut into 3/4-inch pieces
- 2 quarts chicken or vegetable broth
- 4 cups peeled, seeded, and chopped tomatoes
- 2 ears corn, kernels removed
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1/4 cup packed, chopped fresh parsley leaves
- 1 to 2 teaspoons freshly squeezed lemon juice

Heat the olive oil in large, heavy-bottomed stockpot over medium-low heat. Once hot, add the leeks, garlic, and a pinch of salt and sweat until they begin to soften, approximately 7 to 8 minutes. Add the carrots, potatoes, and green beans and continue to cook for 4 to 5 more minutes, stirring occasionally.

Add the stock, increase the heat to high, and bring to a simmer. Once simmering, add the tomatoes, corn kernels, and pepper. Reduce the heat to low, cover, and cook until the vegetables are fork tender, approximately 25 to 30 minutes. Remove from heat and add the parsley and lemon juice. Season, to taste, with kosher salt. Serve immediately.

225 calories per serving.

~ foodnetwork.com, Alton Brown

Five things everyone should know about . . .

‘Plant Blindness’ (and How We Can Cure It)

By Benjamin Futa

- 1 **“Plant blindness” is the inability to recognize or notice the plants in one’s environment.** For many people, it’s far easier to discern or recall an image of an animal than that of a plant, and this deficit diminishes interest in the critical role that plants play in the biosphere and human affairs. American botanists James Wandersee and Elisabeth Schussler first gave plant blindness its name in 1998 after noting its rapid spread — a trend that has continued under the pressure of forces such as urbanization and digitization.
- 2 **Plant blindness results in an underappreciation of plants and limits future interest in plant sciences and conservation.** This is problematic because plants matter for human health, and more time spent on digital devices leads to “nature deficit disorder” — a term coined by author Richard Louv in his book *Last Child in the Woods*. While not meant to be a medical diagnosis, a lack of connection to nature can lead to serious negative health effects — mental, emotional, and physical.
- 3 **Public gardens are in a unique position to help reverse plant blindness.** These spaces provide meaningful and authentic experiences with plants that invoke curiosity about the flora in our midst and help build personal affinity and awareness. Where I work, at UW–Madison’s Allen Centennial Garden, we achieve these experiences through community co-creation and participation, which means we carefully craft our offerings *with* — rather than *for* — the audiences we want to reach.
- 4 **Public garden experiences can combat plant blindness by increasing public engagement with plants in innovative ways.** One example from Allen is our annual Plant Adoption Day. Participating students agree to adopt and care for an indoor plant. Our student interns also become involved in the adoption process by educating new “plant parents” about each species’ unique needs. In 2019, when nearly 2,000 UW students participated, the event evolved into a collaborative social media project between the interns and “master gardener” volunteers through an Instagram account, [@UWPlantParents](#).
- 5 **We must cultivate a new mind-set among younger generations to ensure that plant blindness does not persist.** As a living museum, Allen is a repository of our community’s natural and cultural commonwealth. Our events make plants provocative; they transform plants into social objects that mediate conversations and spark connections. As a result, students want to work with us — with plants, in a garden. This is evidenced by the 100-plus applications for summer internships we received last year. We’re cultivating a community of future leaders who are inspired to care about plants and pursue professions that nurture, support, and embrace nature. We believe gardens can — and will — save the world.



ILLUSTRATION BY DANIELLE LAMBERSON PHILIPP

With a background in landscape architecture and sustainability studies, Benjamin Futa is passionate about connecting people to plants — and each other — through public gardens. He is executive director of Allen Centennial Garden, the Department of Horticulture’s living laboratory, outdoor classroom, and public botanical garden. More at allencentennialgarden.org. *University of Wisconsin*

Gadgets

(continued from page 1)



Drill or cut drainage holes in the bottom of the jug. Cut vent holes in top of jug or just leave lid off to keep the mini greenhouse from overheating.



Mark a line and cut almost all the way around the jug, leaving a small area uncut as a hinge. The hinge keeps top and bottom aligned and adds strength when you carry the jug.



Fill bottom with pre-moistened potting mix. Sow seeds at recommended depth. Put a label on the inside of jug.



Duct tape top and bottom of jug together. No rules on how much or how little tape. Label the outside too. Put the jug outdoors. Done. Ta dah!



Usually rain or snow provides enough moisture, but check once a month or so and bottom water if needed.

As seedlings sprout in springtime, remove tape to open top half for extra ventilation but be ready to close up again in case of freezing temperatures. These little plants have already had their hardening off period and are ready to transplant when they're big enough to handle. Try it!

There's a Facebook group called "Winter Sowers" if you want more info and inspiration: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/wintersown>.

This month we'll also check our seed supplies, do germination tests, and order new seeds. How many seeds are you going to get in a packet? Buying seed by weight can be confusing. If you want to be able to estimate, you can use the table at the link below to figure it out. <https://harvesttotable.com/vegetable-seeds-per-ounce-per/>

JANUARY TO-DO LIST

- * Take a hike. Indiana State Parks' First Day Hike may not be scheduled this year at Prophetstown State Park - so plan your own socially distanced walk through a winter wonderland.
- * Keep houseplants watered, but not too wet as their growth slows down in winter. Water when top inch or so of soil is dry.

- * Order seeds and check seed starting supplies. Call local garden centers. If big box stores don't have it on the shelf, they may have it in their warehouse - order online for in store pick-up.
- * Wash and disinfect pots, 6-pack cells, and plastic flats with soap and hot water, followed by soak in 10% bleach & water solution, air dry.
- * 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.
- * Mulching with branches and leaving plant stalks provides places for beneficial insects that need brush piles and dead ground cover to overwinter in. Give the pollinators and predators cover and they'll reward you next spring and summer.
- * Keep bird feeders filled. Leave native plants and flower stalks standing, since their seeds and berries are most likely to be edible for local wildlife. Seed heads of sunflowers, black-eyed Susan, purple coneflower, and others provide vital food.
- * See tips from Rosie Lerner, Purdue University Extension Consumer Horticulture Specialist at <https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/yardandgarden/january-garden-calendar>.
- * As winter really sets in, stay indoors and plan your spring and summer garden. Seed catalogs, feet up, and hot cup of coffee - contentment.

January, month of empty pockets! ... let us endure this evil month, anxious as a theatrical producer's forehead

~ Colette

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 Parkwav S, Lafayette, IN 47905

Updated 8/13/2020

The twelve months...
Snowy, Flowy, Blowy,
Showery, Flowery, Bowery,
Hoppy, Croppy, Droppy,
Breeze, Sneezy, Freezy

~ George Ellis

YOUR MGATC OFFICERS:

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