

January 2023

# Garden Beet

MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY



## Message from Your Co-Presidents Jim and Mickey

A few years ago the word solutions began to appear in company names and advertising tag lines. When looking for everything from roofing to worldwide logistics to pest control to software companies and many more, you are bound to find at least one or two called some kind of solutions.

Now don't get us wrong, solutions are good things even if the word has been overused. They're particularly important when working to improve an organization.

Generally speaking, there are two kinds of people: those that highlight problems and those that come up with solutions. Type one are seen as complainers, type two as problem solvers.

It's like the true story of a man asked to help a neighbor move his small business. When he arrived with his teenage son, the small staff was scurrying about packing things up and moving boxes.

In the commotion, the boy asked his father what he should do. The father was unaware of the overall plan, and no one appeared to have the time to help him. He told his son, "Just make yourself useful." They each looked around and saw a loose end or noticed someone who needed help. Later in the day someone told them that things moved more smoothly after they arrived.

Last fall two interns from the class of 2022 were helping with the compost project. They went to the far end of the gardens to pick up a loaded trailer. On the way back they saw several piles of material along the side of the road. They stopped to add them to the trailer until it was overflowing. Then they suggested driving another lap around to pick up the rest. Without specific instructions, they showed initiative; they "made themselves useful."

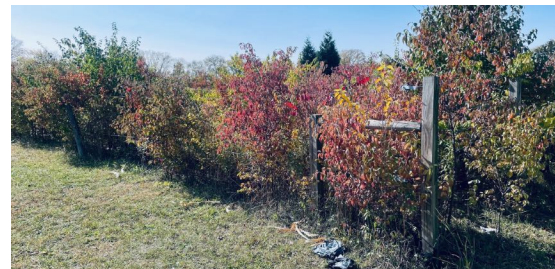
Alone in the garden with no direction, our members should always be able to find something that needs doing. We are trained master gardeners capable of taking the initiative and figuring out something that can be made better, even if it's just pulling a weed or two. We value our problem solvers, whether in the gardens or in the other activities that keep the MGATC running smoothly, contributing to the community and helping others grow.

*Jim & Mickey*

## Vineyard Revitalization

An effort to revitalize the Demonstration Vineyard next to the Demonstration Garden at 3150 Sagamore Parkway South is on-going. So far, a group of volunteers has cleared the overgrowth (see the before and after photos).

Starting in the New Year, a committee will begin planning infrastructure replacements, planting, and the next steps. If you would like to join the planning committee, please attend our first meeting Tuesday January 10th, 2023 at 12:30 PM on Zoom. If you cannot attend, but would like to participate in planning in the future, please email Alison at [aroth2010@yahoo.com](mailto:aroth2010@yahoo.com). Future work days will be posted on Sign Up Genius.



### Vineyard Revitalization Zoom information:

[https://purdue-edu.zoom.us/j/98676445031?](https://purdue-edu.zoom.us/j/98676445031)

[pwd=RHITdE5oQ0h0ZVE2azlUUGhVb2k1QT09](https://purdue-edu.zoom.us/j/98676445031?pwd=RHITdE5oQ0h0ZVE2azlUUGhVb2k1QT09)

Meeting ID: 986 7644 5031

Passcode: 60426

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 Board Meeting: Dec 8, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

The MGATC Board meeting was called to order at 6:30pm on December 8th, 2022. Present were: Jim Jeray, Mickey Penrod, Pat Williams, Deb Rimer, Dee Dee Long, Cheryl McCool, Jolaine Roberts, Jan Sadler, Kathie Cox, Renee Levans, Amanda Burge, and Nancy Cope.

The minutes from the previous meeting had two changes: the 2023 Budget will be on the MGATC website in January, and the annual agreement can be found on both the MGATC website and the Purdue website where master gardeners enter their hours. The minutes were approved with the changes.

Deb Rimer gave the Treasurer's Report.

Pat Williams reminded everyone to enter their education and volunteer hours by the end of December.

The 2023 Budget was approved with the changes that were made at the previous board meeting. For the 2022 end of year, surplus amounts in income and expenses will be put into garden improvement.

The 2023 Greenbook front pages were gone through by the board to verify any changes and typos. There are a number of positions that are open, for anyone who might be interested in volunteering.

The open positions are:  
Board Officers:

- Recording Secretary

Standing Committees:

- Public Education Workshops
- Social Committee
- Webmaster

Project Chairs:

- Chatham Square Community Gardens
- Demonstration Garden
- Extension Community Gardens
- GAAP
- Native Bees

The July monthly meeting was rescheduled since the first Tuesday of the month falls on the 4th. The meeting will now be held on July 11th. The motion passed.

The condition of the Extension community gardens' roads was discussed. The last work done on them was a few years ago, so they are now fairly rutted. Mickey Penrod said that she has someone who will give her a quote for grading the roads and putting down rock. Mickey also asked that since MGATC now rents the land instead of owns it, does that mean that the new owners are responsible for this expense?

Pat Williams got more information from the homeowner who asked if we would be interested in a large number of decorative rocks he has at his new house. Pat stated that there are approximately 500-600 stones about 12"-16" in diameter. The owner said we could come any time to pick up the rocks over the winter. Pat will take photos of the rocks and send them to the board members.

Mickey discussed a Girl Scout project in the gardens. There is an information sign by the kitchen garden that will be replaced by the scouts. They also want to make some bee houses for native bees. They are working on finding donors for the materials.

The board discussed a couple different ways that people can donate money to MGATC. One would be useful for people with IRAs. When they get to a point where they have to withdraw money or get penalized, they can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). In this way they could avoid paying taxes on the money they withdraw.

Another way to get the word out on donating money to MGATC is on Giving Tuesday.

This is a national day of giving that is the Tuesday after Black Friday. The group might want to advertise ourselves as an entity to donate to. Mickey said she will bring samples of ads she has gotten about Giving Tuesday.

Mickey announced that we didn't get the SIA grant. However it is put out every six months, so she will apply again shortly.

It was brought up that Montgomery County, which has a small number of master gardeners, has asked if they can be allowed to attend our various education classes and workshops. The subject was discussed at length, but in the end Pat Williams said that he will talk to the Montgomery County group. He thinks he has some ideas and that it doesn't need to be a board issue.

With that, the meeting was adjourned.

- Nancy Cope, Recording Secretary

**"New Year's Day. A fresh start. A new chapter waiting to be written."**

**—Sarah Ban Breathnac**

"Leaving any bookstore is hard . . . especially on a day in January, when the wind is blowing, the ice is treacherous, and the books inside seem to gather together in colorful warmth."— Jane Smiley

# **MGATC Meeting: Dec 6, 2022, 6:30 p.m.**

At 6:30pm on December 6th the monthly MGATC meeting was held both virtually and in person. This was the Christmas meeting, so appetizers and finger foods were had by all. The business portion of the meeting was held first.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Deb Rimer read the Treasurer's Report.

The 2023 membership dues are due by the end of December.

Also, if you haven't already posted your volunteer and education hours on the Purdue website for 2022, please do so by the end of December, otherwise you will no longer be eligible to be a Master Gardener for 2023. Your annual agreement also needs to be signed for 2023. It is on the same webpage as where you enter your hours.

Dee Dee Long reminded everyone that she is using Signup Genius for people to sign up for events, volunteer opportunities, etc. It is very easy to use. If you have any problems with it, please contact her.

Cheryl McCool announced that the Garden Expo is going to be on April 22nd. We need volunteers to grow plants to sell. The Expo committee also needs a tomato wrangler to keep track of who is going to grow what, so we don't end up with a lot of the same varieties.

Jim Jeray reminded everyone that Kathie Cox is the board's Member at Large. If anyone has any ideas, problems, suggestions, etc., please let her know. She will then relay it to the board.

Jim also announced that on Thursday the 8th the board will be finalizing the 2023 budget. After that it will be posted on the MGATC website if anyone wants to see it.

For 2023 the group has many officer openings, for anyone who is interested. Please let the board know if you would like to volunteer.

On Thursday the 8th the 5 year plan committee will be having a meeting to put together some rough ideas on what might be included in the 5 year plan. Then, the January monthly meeting will be a special meeting. It will not be on Zoom. We would like everyone who can to be at the meeting in person to discuss the ideas brought up at the committee meeting. They would like to get everyone's input. There also will not be a speaker for the meeting.

Chris Ramsey was given a standing ovation for running the Garden Beet for 11 years. Well done, Chris!

Pat Williams gave an overview of the year that he has been with MGATC. He stated that although he might not be with us all the while, he is always available to answer questions. He gave a review of the various projects he's accomplished, and also all of the boards and meetings he attends as part of his position at Purdue. He also announced that he will be on extended personal leave for six weeks starting on December 13th. Also, between February 28th and March 10th he will be in Costa Rica.

After that, the business meeting was adjourned and the speaker was announced. The speaker was Tom Dull of Dull's Christmas Tree Farm. He spoke of how the farm was started and how the business has progressed and expanded over the years.

With that, the meeting was adjourned.

## **Special Monthly Meeting in January**

The MGATC monthly business meeting in January will have a presentation and brainstorming session led by the Planning Committee in lieu of a guest speaker.

Attendance will count as volunteer time instead of the usual one hour of education.

Our intention is to incorporate the ideas of as many members as possible before moving ahead with the 5-year plan. It will be in-person only without Zoom. The highly interactive nature of the meeting would make participation over Zoom unmanageable. We hope to see you there. If bad weather causes cancellation, the plan is to postpone the meeting to a later date in the month.

## ***MGATC Planning Committee***

## **Upcoming Speakers**

January 3- Jim will be speaking on the five-year plan

February 7- John Bonkowski will be presenting on plant diseases

March 7- Krishna Nemali on hydroponics

April 4- Anderson flower farm

May 2- Dedra Nicley-extension educator

# Treasurer's Report- Dec 2022

The income for the month of November was \$13.67: \$13.43 for Amazon Smile Donations and Checking account interest, \$.24. Total Income Year-to-date 2022 is \$14,948.18. We have collected \$2,063.10 for 2023 Dues. Our goal for 2023 Dues Income is \$2,750.00, so the remaining balance was \$686.90 at the end of November.

In November, for the unrestricted budget, we spent a total of \$113.22 for Memory Garden reimbursements. Total expense for the year is \$ 9,333.32. Remaining budget is \$1,693.68.

The Restricted Fund Balance at the end of November was \$ 11,313.37. The total of unrestricted funds available at the end of month was \$18,595.68. Savings balance was \$10,554.36.

Deb Rimer  
Treasurer

“January is here, with eyes  
that keenly glow, A frost-  
mailed warrior striding a  
shadowy steed of snow.” –  
Edgar Fawcett

## Delicious Immune Boosting Wellness Smoothie

Serves 1

Recipe by Monique Volz

### Ingredients

1 frozen ripe banana  
1 cup frozen pineapple  
2-3 cups organic spinach  
1 knob fresh ginger, peeled  
(about 2 inches of ginger)  
1 knob turmeric root, peeled  
(about 2 inches fresh turmeric)  
1/2 tablespoon manuka or raw honey  
1/8 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper (or a just couple grinds) 1/2-3/4  
cup almond milk or coconut milk

### Instructions

In a large high-powered blender, add in all ingredients and blend on high for 1-2 minutes or until all ingredients are well combined. If necessary, add in more almond milk to thin the smoothie. Makes 1 smoothie.

both recipes shared by Emily Hughes

## Peanut Butter Banana Baked Oatmeal Cups

Author: Monique of  
AmbitiousKitchen.com

Prep Time 15 minutes  
Cook Time 20 minutes  
Total Time 35 minutes  
Servings 12 oatmeal cups  
Calories 192 kcal

### Ingredients

1 heaping cup ripe mashed banana  
1/2 cup creamy or crunchy natural  
peanut butter (just peanuts + salt)  
2 eggs  
2 tablespoons pure maple syrup (or  
honey)  
2/3 cup unsweetened almond milk  
(or milk of choice)  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
2 cups old fashioned rolled oats,  
gluten free if desired  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1/3 cup dark chocolate chips, plus 2  
tablespoons for sprinkling on top  
(dairy free if desired)  
Optional: 1/3 cup chopped walnuts

### Instructions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Line  
a 12 cup muffin pan with muffin  
liners and spray with nonstick  
cooking spray to prevent oatmeal  
cups from sticking.

In a medium bowl, mix together the  
mashed banana, peanut butter, eggs,  
maple syrup, almond milk and vanilla  
until smooth and well combined.

Next stir in dry ingredients: oats,  
baking powder, cinnamon and salt;  
stir well to combine. Fold in 1/3 cup  
chocolate chips into batter.

Evenly distribute oatmeal batter  
between muffin liners.

Sprinkle extra chocolate chips on  
top and bake for 20-25 minutes.  
Drizzle with your favorite nut butter  
before serving, if desired.

Serves 12.

# Gadgets

(continued from back)

'Moonglow' crabapple fruits are very persistent and the last to be eaten in January and February. 'Moonglow' is a beauty with single bright red buds opening to white flowers with lime-chartreuse and rose fruit turning to lemon yellow with a rose-coral cheek on a rounded 12 foot tall tree.

While we prefer to grow natural food sources like crabapple, serviceberry, dogwood, pine, spruce, juniper and native wildflowers, we do use bird feeders. Helping birds in the coldest months means they'll know the area is good for feeding and nesting year round – and that helps reduce the number of insect pests in the garden.

A typical diet for a robin is 40% creatures (earthworms, insect larvae, grubs, caterpillars, snails, spiders, beetles, grasshoppers, termites, crickets, and other insects) and 60% fruits (berries such as blueberries, mulberries, winterberries, juniper, honeysuckle, and holly; wild and cultivated grape vine fruits; and small tree fruits like cherries, crabapples, chokecherries, dogwood, and hawthorn).

Sparrows, finches and wrens enjoy suet. Sparrows are omnivores, mostly eating seeds and grains along with some berries and a wide range of insects such as aphids, flies, beetles, caterpillars and spiders.

To simplify our outdoor tasks in freezing weather, we're just using suet feeders this winter. Next year we might reinstall bird feeders for seeds (maybe after we forget the horde of moths that hatched out in our garage inside a big bag of bird seed).

Woodpeckers eat mostly insects, especially beetles and ants, caterpillars, also seeds and berries, and suet at feeders. Flickers, Downy and Red-bellied woodpeckers are frequent visitors.



photo: ©2022 Mike Hathaway

Are you interested in growing bird food? Sunflowers are a good bet. Keep that in mind as garden and seed catalogues arrive this month. Do you need more seeds? Yes!!! Before you buy, January is a good time to check your seed supplies and do germination tests. See our column in February 2018 Garden Beet for DIY Seed Germination test kit supplies and instructions. Members can login at <https://www.tippecanoemastergardener.org> to find all past Garden Beet issues.

We're looking forward to the return of Master Gardener Garden Expo and plant sale – and planning for it. The Great Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*) that we winter sowed last winter should be big enough for the Expo plant sale

on April 22. Last fall we collected seeds of Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) and will winter sow those this month. If you want some native wildflower seeds, let us know. We hope your holidays were peaceful and joyous. Here's wishing you good growing, health, and happiness in a wonderful new year.

## JANUARY TO-DO LIST

- Enjoy a walk. Indiana State Parks First Day Hike on New Year's Day is scheduled at many parks this year.
- If you have indoor grow lights, take cuttings of houseplants to start propagating for Garden Expo. Plan your spring and summer garden.
- Keep houseplants watered moderately. 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 potting mix on the shelf, they'll 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.
- Keep bird feeders filled.
- Leave native plants and flower stalks standing - their seeds and berries are most likely to be edible for local wildlife. Decorative seed heads of sunflowers, black-eyed Susan, purple coneflower and others provide vital food

See more tips from Purdue University Extension Consumer Horticulture at <https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/yardandgarden/january-garden-calendar>



photo: ©2022 Mike Hathaway

# Great Gadgets and Tools

By Kathryn Reeves and Mike Hathaway

We're celebrating the New Year in our garden along with our feathered gardening partners. Especially in winter, bird watching brightens our spirits. Bird feeders, both natural and manufactured, are important parts of our garden toolbox.

National Bird Day on January 5 coincides with the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count in Indiana from December 14 to January 5. <https://indianaaudubon.org/christmas-bird-counts-in-indiana/> You can get involved and help tally the kinds and numbers of birds in your area. Scientists and conservationists need this data to track changes in bird populations. Another chance to help is February 17-20 with The Great Backyard Bird Count. <https://www.birdcount.org>



A robin is shown munching on the fruit of our 'Golden Galaxy' crabapple. We have three crabapples in our little garden. The oldest is an unknown white flowering cultivar with small red fruits. Studies have shown birds are especially attracted to red and prefer it to other colors. The red crabapples are gobbled up in November and December each year. A flock of cedar waxwings can pick the tree clean in a single day.

## YOUR MGATC OFFICERS:

### Co-Presidents:

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### Past Co-Presidents:

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Jan Sadler, [jansadler23@comcast.net](mailto:jansadler23@comcast.net)

We chose our two newest trees - 'Golden Galaxy' and 'Moonglow' - to extend the feeding season and decorate the winter garden for as long as possible. Fruit of 'Golden Galaxy' is fairly persistent until the end of January.

(continued on page 5)

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