

July 2015

# Garden Beet

MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY



## The Beat from Elizabeth

This month's Beat from the "Beths" is just *Elizabeth*. We said thank you and farewell to our Co-President Maribeth Slebodnik as she starts a new chapter at the University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona. She will be missed, not only because of the many ways she improved our organization, but because she was such a strong servant leader. I will especially miss her friendship and support!

June 4, 5 and 6 ten Tippecanoe Master Gardeners attended the "Dig.Sow.Grow" 2015 Purdue Master Gardener Conference held at the University of Southern Indiana (USI), Evansville, Indiana. After the SWIMGA group (South West Indiana Master Gardener Association) Tippecanoe County had the fourth largest delegation.

The university was lovely and a nice place to host the group of almost 300 gardeners. Our SWIMGA were gracious hosts and we were instant friends. Pre-conference tours were held on June 4. Mickey Penrod and I attended the Around the River City tour of historic Evansville. It was inspiring and we got lots of ideas for our display gardens.

Educational opportunities were plentiful with four keynote speakers and 14 educators leading 17 breakout sessions. The shopping was fun with 23 vendors selling garden related items. The three days went by quickly but we made new friends and got lots of ideas for the 2016 Purdue Master Gardener Conference.

John Orick and I wrapped up the conference with our presentation

for next year's state conference to be held here in West Lafayette, hosted by the Master Gardeners Association of Tippecanoe County. Mark your calendars (if you haven't already) for "Cultivating Our Legacy" June 16-18, 2016 at the Four Points at Sheraton.

Keep green and growing,  
*Elizabeth*

## The Latest Dirt

by Flora N. Fauna

 A reminder from Kerry Meyer at Proven Winners: Keep hanging baskets and patio planters looking tip-top. Remember that fertilizing is the most often overlooked element for having great hanging baskets and container gardens all summer.

 Check out the CoCoRaHS "Climate Resources Guide for Master Gardeners," an on-line guide for gardeners. The HTML version of this "Guide" introduces elements of large scale and local climate important to gardeners. An overview of climate patterns and differences are

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## Programs

**July 6 • 7 p.m. • TCEO**  
**6:30 p.m. Social Time**  
*Iris Gardens*

Master Gardener Barb and  
Dr. Chuck Bunnell

If you love irises, you won't want to miss this presentation. Not just a hobby for these two; well, maybe a hobby that grew into a love for growing and hybridizing irises. Additionally, Chuck has been a judge at iris shows for 15 years. They will also be telling us about an international iris event right here in 2017. NOTE: This is a Monday meeting.

**August 4 • 7 p.m. • TCEO**  
**6:30 p.m. Social Time**  
*Forty Years of Growing Succulent Plants*  
Dan DeCarlo



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.

<http://tippecanoemastergardener.org/index.html>

<http://www.hort.purdue.edu/mg/index.html>

# MGATC Minutes: June 1, 2015, 7 p.m., TCEO

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Jerry Millard who introduced our speaker for the evening, Ben Rockwell. Ben is a local pharmacist and he spoke regarding plant material being utilized in medicines. It was a very interesting and insightful presentation.

Elizabeth Hartley and John Orick gave the presentation for the 2016 West Lafayette conference, *Cultivating Our Legacy*, that they will be doing at the state conference in Evansville. A discussion took place regarding available tours on Thursday (pre-conference). John Orick spoke regarding keynote speakers already secured for the event. Some of the speakers John mentioned were:

- ⇒ Sharon Collman from Washington State University regarding her experience with the first active MG group in the US,
- ⇒ Nicholas Stadden, Director of New Plant Introductions,
- ⇒ Steve Foltz, Director, Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens, and
- ⇒ Dr. Larry Bradley, associate professor and state master gardener from North Carolina State.

Some of the concurrent session speakers will be:

- ⇒ Kate Jones, Blue Moon Farms,
- ⇒ Carrie Touscher on *Let's Get Real with Trees*,
- ⇒ Pam Bennett from Ohio State on *I Wish I Had Known That*,
- ⇒ Jud Scott on *How to Kill a Tree*,
- ⇒ Kara Salazar on *Recognizing Practices for Home Gardens*,
- ⇒ Fred Whittpool on *The Pesticide Program at Purdue*, and
- ⇒ Rosie Lerner on *Great Apps and Resources for Home Gardeners*.

John will also host a roundtable gardening discussion.

There will be a photo contest, silent auction and many vendors at the conference. You can access infor-

mation regarding the conference at <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/mg/2016StateConf.html>. The conference will be held June 16-18, 2016.

The business meeting was called to order. Jerry Millard asked that the MG minutes printed in June's *Garden Beet* be corrected to reflect the speaker being Gayle Ruhl instead of Rudd, the correction will be made.

Konie Hughes reported on the August 2<sup>nd</sup> Open House and Tomato Tasting Event. She spoke about the change in time to 1-3:30 p.m. and that instead of a meal cookies, lemonade and water will be provided.

Lynn Layden stated that there is currently \$16,096.95 in our Treasury. Lynn also spoke on Art in Bloom which will be June 27<sup>th</sup> in West Lafayette. Six great gardens will be featured mostly in Hills and Dales - the area between Grant and Salisbury Streets. There will be one to two artists in every garden. Lynn reminded members that if they volunteer for the event they can also go before or after their shift and tour the gardens for educational hours.

Elizabeth reminded the group of our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and would like some help with our September Hoe-Down to recognize members who started the group.

Sheila Koller spoke regarding the Bylaws committee and reminded that active members must pay dues, report volunteer hours and fill out the background check with Karen.

Dues collection is going to start in July so that hopefully all dues will be collected by the end of September. We are not going to change to a calendar year schedule in 2016.

John Orick spoke about the online volunteer management system

through Purdue. Only 28 counties currently have the system.

Sheila Koller spoke regarding the nominating committee and the roster being in the July *Garden Beet*.

Sheila also mentioned that she had some "cooler headbands" available for sale.

Mickey Penrod gave thanks to everyone who has come out to work in the Idea Gardens. She introduced three of our new interns who have worked very hard in the gardens and around the flagpole.

Sue Hiser thanked everyone for volunteering for GAAP.

Ed Knoth mentioned the available literature in the back of the room.

There was a shovel found at the Veteran's Home that can be claimed by a member.

Maribeth gave a heartfelt thank-you to all whom she has worked with during the past as president. She is leaving for Tucson on Friday but will be back next year for the state conference. Everyone wished her good luck.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,*  
Cheryl McCool, Recording Secretary

More grows in  
the garden  
than the  
gardener sows.

~Spanish Proverb

# MGATC Board Meeting, May 20, 2015

Attending: Maribeth Slebodnik, Elizabeth Hartley, Lynn Layden, Jerry Millard, John Pickett, Mary Wilcox, JoAn Messing, Kristel Kaye, Billie Seaton, Sue Swick, Andy and Konie Hughes, Cheryl McCool and Karen Mitchell.

The proposed website update was first on the agenda. Andy Hughes presented an overview of the proposed new website for the Master Gardener Associate of Tippecanoe County. He explained the information from the present website was moved to the proposed website. The difference in price from the present to the proposed was discussed. The present website is \$130 for two (maybe three years, check with Lynn Layden) plus a yearly domain cost of \$14.95. The proposed website cost is \$16/month or \$192/year.

After the presentation a motion was made to:

- move to the new website provider,
- develop a communication committee to run the proposed website,
- accept the extra cost for running and maintaining the proposed website, and
- keep the domain of [tippecanoe-mastergardener.org](http://tippecanoe-mastergardener.org).

The motion was seconded with a unanimous vote of approval.

Karen met with Greg Dean and discussion took place between them regarding the website.

Konie Hughes spoke regarding the Open House and Tomato Tasting on Sunday, August 2. There is no budget for the event. Roberta will pay for printing and an advertising sign in front of the extension office. No food will be paid for from extension.

Roberta contacted the insurance regarding the hayride and it will cost an additional \$200-\$300 for insurance just for the hayride, so unless we can come up with funding, the hayride will not be held.

A proposal for food was made and discussed - a hot dog, chips and a wrapped cookie. We want to take the focus off food and put it on touring the gardens. It was decided to change the time to 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. and just serve drinks and cookies (donated by the membership).

Konie will speak at the June and July meetings regarding the Open House and Tomato Tasting.

Kristel Kaye and Billie Seaton spoke regarding the collection of dues. They suggest starting dues collection in August and continuing to collect in September and October. If your dues are not paid by the end of October you will be dropped from the green membership book.

In the past, MGATC member status has not been tracked to verify whether a member is active or inactive. In 2016 volunteer hours and payment of dues will be tracked to determine each member's status. Purdue may take over recording volunteer and educational hours.

Billie Seaton spoke to this being a transition year with different dues information. There should only be one form this year. Discussion took place as to putting the form in the *Garden Beet* for members to complete. Kristel and Billie asked approval from the board for dropping members out of the green book if dues were not paid by the end of October. The board unanimously agreed with this proposal.

Every member will need to complete a background check form yearly according to Karen.

The corresponding secretary will contact members in October who have not paid their dues.

According to Cheryl, a follow-up meeting on the Expo will be held this week on Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Lynn Layden commented that a transition budget, if we switch to a calendar year, would leave us with the last four months of 2015 and the calendar year of 2016. She says there is \$16,837.71 in the account.

Elizabeth reported that on May 13 a state conference meeting for 2016 was held and 12 persons were present. Elizabeth and John Orick will be making a presentation in Evansville at the state conference and will do a "kick off" presentation at the June 1<sup>st</sup> MGATC meeting.

Registration fees have to be paid by members for state conference participation, but if you just want to work at the conference and not participate in the educational portion, that is allowable.

Chemical use in the extension office gardens was discussed. We would like to minimize chemical use to encourage good gardening practices.

June agenda for the Master Gardener meeting will focus on:

Art in Bloom  
State Conference PowerPoint  
Bylaws  
Dues  
Website  
Maribeth's last meeting with us as a board member

The meeting was adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Cheryl McCool, Recording Secretary*

# MGATC Board Meeting, June 16, 2015

Board members present: Jerry Millard, John Pickett, Dee Dilling, Mary Willis and JoAn Messing

Co-Vice Presidents Jerry Millard and John Pickett presided over the meeting.

Andy Hughes discussed the new website and presented ideas that we might use to reduce the costs of the green book and the *Garden Beet* by using the computer. He passed out sample copies. We could also reduce or eliminate Federal Express postage costs.

Mary Willis reported on attending the 2015 Master Gardener State Conference in Evansville. She said it was well organized, interesting and outstanding.

The Treasurer's report was given by Jerry Millard for the period 03/15/15 to 05/15/15. The total income was \$5,992.15 and the total expenses were \$856.29. The largest single expense was the kitchen garden and dahlias at \$503.21. The checking account balance is \$16,837.71

Konie Hughes was present and expressed the discouraging fact that the Idea and Demonstration Gardens just don't have enough help. The paths were recently washed out by the rains. Who should re-do this? Who should pay for the mulch? In the past Bellinger's has helped with this. We need answers to these questions before July 6.

The nominating committee presented the following slate of 2016 officers:

Co-Presidents: Jerry Millard and John Pickett

Co-Vice Presidents: Carol Byers and Cheryl McCool

Treasurer: Pat Miller

Recording Secretary: Jan Sadler

Corresponding Secretary: Dee Dilling

Member-at-Large: Deborah Ladd

This slate will be announced at the July meeting; the election will be held at the August meeting and the new officers will assume their duties in September.

The By-laws will remain unchanged for the time being. In the next few years revision in the state by-laws will be made and all chapters will then follow.

Ellen Barker and Sheila Koller will be co-chairs for the 25th anniversary of the MGATC which will be celebrated at our regular meeting in October. They have asked for \$150 to be used for awards for 25, 15, 10 and 5 year awards and also to pay for paper plates, etc. Punch and cookies will be served.

July meeting agenda:

Chuck and Barb Bonnell will present a program on irises  
Andy Hughes will discuss the website and its use  
Mulch

The Tippecanoe County Fair is July 18-24. Set-up will be July 17. Dee Dilling will contact the fair board and get them the required

information. She will have a sign up sheet at the July meeting for those willing to help.

The Tomato Tasting and Open House is August 2 from 1-3:30 p.m. There will be music, cookies and beverages only.

Pollyn Aranas has asked that we approve a name change for the Vinton area gardens to "North End Gardens." Mary Willis made the motion that the change be approved. John Pickett seconded it. The motion was carried.

Jerry Millard passed out the date schedule for the 2016 meetings.

The meeting was adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
JoAn Messing  
[[for C. McCool, Recording Secretary]]

One of  
the worst  
mistakes you  
can make as  
a gardener  
is to think  
you're in  
charge.

~Janet Gillespie

# MGATC

## Finance Report

May 15 to June 15, 2015

### Income

Membership	\$	50.00
Sale of cool wraps		15.00
Garden Expo booth rental		25.00
Memorial gift - Pat Millard		<u>100.00</u>
Total income	\$	190.00

### Expense

Garden Expo publicity	\$	617.00
GE booths		77.41
FedEx - Garden Beet		52.68
Webhosting - 1 year		219.90
Annual banquet rental - Beck		751.81
Program		75.00
Postage Garden Beet		44.32
Gardens		<u>279.02</u>
Total	\$	2,396.16
Checking Account Balance		\$16,133.12

# 2016 Slate of Officers

The Nominating Committee presents the following Slate of Officers to provide MGATC leadership beginning at the September meeting. The vote on this slate, and any nominations from the floor, will be taken at the August meeting. Permission of the nominee is needed from nominations made at the August meeting.

We are pleased to have nominees from many different classes as this is important for knowledge of our association's history. Formal nomination will be made at the July meeting. We encourage thanking our present officers and wishing the incoming the very best and your support.

### MGATC Nominating Committee:

Linda Cooper '05  
Mary Isaacs '07  
Betty Riley '11  
Sheila Koller '91, Chairman

### Co-Presidents -

Jerry Millard '12  
John Pickett '08

### Co-Vice Presidents -

Carol Byers '92  
Cheryl McCool '09

### Recording Secretary -

Jan Sadler '14

### Corresponding Secretary -

Dee Dilling '99

### Treasurer -

Pat Miller '05

### Member-at-Large -

Debbie Ladd '13



Jan Hiple and Connie Brown at the Indiana Veteran's Home on GAAP planting day.

## Gossip

(continued from page 8)

If you have not yet had the opportunity to see the Veterans' Home grounds, drive on out and take a look. Drive the boulevard past the fountain, chapel, flag pole, resident buildings and several other areas. It is a worthwhile excursion, and one that we think commemorates well Pat Millard's enthusiastic dedication to IVH.

*Bill Hayes and Jan Hiple  
Co-Coordinator*



## GAAP at the IVH

Many thanks to all who came on short notice to plant flowers at the Indiana Veterans' Home on May 22. This was the new date for the GAAP planting after the original date had to be postponed. Jerry Millard called our Master Gardeners to make this happen - thanks, Jerry.

Be sure to check out the flowers at the Veterans' Home, the Tippecanoe County Court House, Columbian Park and Zoo and the Lafayette Art Museum. The flowers certainly look great and add so much color and beauty!

*Sue Hiser*

## Et Cetera

Update your green book with Kay Falley's new email address: [kayfalley@gmail.com](mailto:kayfalley@gmail.com).

Carl Stafford would like to remind us that we are half way through the year. Please start turning in your hours. He can be reached at 2101 Indian Trail Drive, West Lafayette, IN 47906 or 765-586-8921.

# Latest Dirt

(continued from page 1)

shown. Links to local climate information are provided. Topics include: Climate & Gardening, Sunshine, Temperature, Humidity and Dew Point, Precipitation, Wind, Evapotranspiration, Climate Resources and Climate Change. Use it for your own gardening needs and pass along the URL link to other gardeners you know who may be interested in gaining a better understanding of climate and how climate might affect their local gardening efforts <http://www.cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=MasterGardener>.

 Do you live in a Rebel-hood? These are neighborhoods where residents rebel against and campaign for the reversal of ordinances. They work to transform their neighborhoods into agri-hoods, complete with urban chickens, bee keepers and lawnless landscapes. Just one of the many new 2015 garden trends listed by Garden Media Group at <http://www.gardenmediagroup.com/clients/client-news/435-gmg-releases-2015-trends>.

 From Diane Blazek at National Garden Bureau: National Pollinator Garden Network Launches Million Pollinator Garden Challenge. In an unprecedented collaboration, dozens of conservation and gardening organizations, including National Garden Bureau, joined together to form the National Pollinator Garden Network and launch a new nationwide campaign - the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge.

The National Pollinator Garden Network collectively represents nearly one million active gardeners and 15,000 schoolyard gardens. The Network is challenging the nation to reach the goal of one million additional pollinator gardens by the end of 2016. The Network will work to provide resources for individuals, community groups, government agencies and the garden industry to create more pollinator habitat through sustainable gardening practices and conservation efforts. Any individual can contribute by planting for pollinators and joining this effort to provide a million pollinator gardens across the United States. Every habitat of every size counts, from window boxes and garden plots to farm borders, golf courses, school gardens, corporate and university campuses. Everywhere we live, work, play and worship can, with small improvements, offer essential food and shelter for pollinators. Learn more at [www.millionpollinatorgardens.org](http://www.millionpollinatorgardens.org) and join the discussion on Social Media through the hashtag #PolliNation.

 According to the Old Farmer's Almanac 2015 and based on the moon's signs, the following are the best days in July for the following activities: 24, 25 - plant aboveground crops; 14 - plant belowground crops; 7, 8, 9 - destroy pests and weeds; 14, 15 - graft or pollinate; 17, 18 - prune to encourage growth; 7, 8, 9 - prune to discourage growth; 19, 20 - harvest aboveground crops; 10, 11 - harvest belowground crops; 5, 6 - can, pickle or make sauerkraut.

## Herbal Lemonade

2 quarts filtered water  
1/2 c. raw local honey (or more to taste)  
6 organic lemons, juiced  
2 oz. fresh dill  
2 oz. fresh mint  
3 to 5 sprigs rosemary  
Edible flowers to garnish

Bring 2 quarts of water to a boil and add honey. When honey is dissolved, refrigerate until cool. Juice the lemons and remove seeds. In a container, add the cool honey water, lemon juice and herbs (muddle the herbs to release their flavor). Refrigerate for 2 hours. Garnish with edible flowers and enjoy.

## Watermelon Slushy with Herbal Infusion

4 c. (1-inch pieces) seedless watermelon  
1/2 c. pomegranate juice  
1/4 c. lime juice  
1 c. ice cubes  
1/4 c. infused simple syrup (basil or mint)—recipe on page 9

Pre-freeze cubed watermelon. In blender, combine frozen watermelon, pomegranate juice, lime juice and ice cubes and puree until smooth. Add herb infused syrup to taste. Serve immediately. Silver tequila or white rum can be added as part of the pomegranate juice measurement.

# What's Happening

## Update and Reminder

Sunday, August 2, Open House & Tomato Tasting, 1:00-3:30 p.m. Please note that the time is slightly different this year. Also, we have simplified the food; this year we will only serve drinks (lemonade and water) and cookies. We would love to hand out homemade cookies. I need four more volunteers to each make six dozen cookies (double most recipes) and wrap them up, two per Ziploc. Please contact me or sign up at the July 6 meeting. I appreciate those of you who have volunteered so far to make cookies and to help during the event! Sue Swick and I appreciate your assistance!

Flyers will be provided at the July 6 meeting. All MG's, family and friends are invited to come and support the Display and Idea Gardens and Demonstration Garden at the Open House & Tomato Tasting. Visit the Community Gardens and see some very creative ideas! We'll have children's activities (face painting, stories and perhaps singing with Sheila Koller); Jim Mailloux painting; Don & Norma tomato tasting; Doug Jones selling honey; Zimdiana, playing relaxing music; and garden tours. MG's work very hard in both gardens and will enjoy sharing what we've been diligently working on this season!

Konie Hughes, Co-Chair, 418-6941

## Wednesdays in the Wild

**July 1 • 1-3 p.m. • BEEC**  
**GO FISH!**

Mary Cutler

A fish biology and adaptation talk by Mary, Tippecanoe County Naturalist, will be followed by fishing on Burnett Creek. Rods, reels and bait are provided.

**July 8 • 6:30-8:30 p.m. • LNC**  
**Field Guides 102:**  
**Putting a Name with**  
**Those Wildflower Faces**  
Mary Cutler

Mary, Tippecanoe County Naturalist, will shed some light on the complexities of choosing a field guide, and walk participants through the use of Newcomb's Wildflower Guide (easily mastered by non-botanists). We'll take our guides into the field and use them to ID summer flowers, while learning about the natural history, uses and folklore associated with the plants. Bring your Newcomb's guide or borrow or purchase one that day (at a discounted price of \$15, courtesy of Von's Book Store).

**July 15 • 1-3 p.m. • LNC**  
**Butterflies of**  
**Tippecanoe County**  
Jon Neal

Purdue Entomologist Jon Neal will give a brief indoor presentation on our local butterflies followed by an outdoor walk. Bring your binoculars.

**July 22 • 1-3 p.m. • STPK**  
**Profitstown Prairie Hike**  
Angie Manuel

Join Interpretive Naturalist Angie for a leisurely stroll through the prairie and discover the dozens of wildflowers and grasses that flourish here. We'll discuss general identification, plant uses of Na-

tive people and prairie restoration and management, but mostly we'll enjoy the beauty of the land. NOTE: Program fee is \$2/person; no gate fee.

**July 29 • 10-12:30 a.m.**  
**GTDT/KS**

**Prairie Restoration Walk**  
Alyssa Nyberg

Join Alyssa Nyberg (Kankakee Sands Nursery Manager/Outreach Coordinator) on a hike of the 2-mile Grace Teninga Discovery Trail that has 12 points of interest along the way. View the state endangered Regal Fritillary butterflies as they flutter across the prairies of Kankakee Sands. Alyssa will be joined by Ed Zschiedrich, photographer and plant aficionado.

**August 5 • 1-3 p.m. • WNC**  
**Collecting & Identifying Fish**  
**in Burnett Creek**  
Reuben Goforth

Sampling fish communities is commonly used as the basis for assessing stream quality, and a particularly useful approach is through the use of a backpack electroshocker. Reuben, Purdue Professor of Aquatic Community Ecology, will demonstrate the use of this equipment and teach attendees how to identify the fish species collected.

### LOCATIONS :

**BEEC (Brier Environmental Education Center):** In Battle Ground, turn by the small sign on the south side of Prophet Street near its intersection with N. 9th Street.

**GTDT/KS (Kankakee Sands-Newton County):** Kankakee Sands Office, 3294 North US 41, Morocco, Indiana. (Carpool leaves LNC at 9 a.m.)

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

**STPK (Prophetstown State Park):** Enter the park via Swisher Road (off North Ninth Street, just south of Battle Ground). Please note: the park charges a \$2/person or a \$6/car fee.

by the farm shop; the second building on the left.

**WNC (Wah-ba-shik-a Nature Center):** In Battle Ground, at the end of the Battlefield Monument parking lot off N. 9th Street.

A little studied negligence is  
becoming to a garden.

~Eleanor Perenyi

# Garden Gossip

## Demonstration Garden

Thanks to everyone who helped harvest the strawberries. It was an intense three weeks of bending and picking, but the folks at the food banks were so happy to see us pull up! By the end we had more than double the amount picked last year. We also have picked and delivered peas, spinach, radishes and arugula.

The garden is coming along nicely with lots of help from the team despite the rabbits and insects grazing on the beans. There may be a short lull as the other vegetables mature, but there is always the need for weeding to keep the garden spruced up and presentable for our occasional visitors and for the August Open House. Feel free to stop by on your own to weed or watch for the email notices of major activities. (If you wish to be added to my email list, contact me at [jerayjm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jerayjm@sbcglobal.net).) Every hour is greatly appreciated.

*Jim Jeray*

## Idea Garden

Take a walk through the Idea Garden, as I just did, and see the magnificent progress being made by Mickey Penrod's committee and volunteers. It is a large area that really needs a little more help; especially in the Pathway Weed Patrol Department.

Weed Whacking Warriors are actively being sought. Ten volunteers doing 10 feet of pathway

(about 31 weeds) could cover 100 feet of pathway in an hour and have a tremendous amount of fun doing it. Folks, let's give the Idea Garden volunteers a hand - this garden can be a real show place with just 10 "Weed Whacking Warriors" stepping up to the plate. Call Mickey at 765-714-8971 and volunteer to help with the pathways; you will be happy and proud that you did! Thanking all of you for all you do.

*Jerry Millard*

*Co-Vice President of MGATC*

## Indiana Veteran's Home

With the heart-breaking loss of our leader, Pat Millard, this year of Master Gardening activity at the Indiana Veterans' Home (IVH) did not begin as planned. Pat had not only set the bar high for what was expected for the gardens, but she had also developed working relationships with the IVH grounds crew, other volunteers and especially with the residents. We were fortunate, however, to have worked closely with Pat the preceding year, and with the help of her notes and the collective knowledge we had from working with her, we volunteered to be co-coordinators for planning the gardens.

It was a challenge, but we came up with plans for each flower bed and planter that we think will do justice to Pat's vision for IVH, trying to keep in mind that, as Pat so often said, it's the residents that matter the most - what flowers do they like and

where do they want to see them planted? We met with the volunteer coordinator and grounds staff, and began clearing the beds of winter's refuse and preparing them for planting. So many wonderful volunteers helped us, and many continue to do so with watering and weeding: Connie Brown, Julieann Rankin, Jan Scarcelli, Melinda Patton, Etta Lazaros, Konie Hughes, Gaby Sincich and Pat Engler. Jerry Millard not only provided us with valuable insight into the way things worked at IVH, but also brought out many canna and dahlia tubers that he and Pat had stored at their home over the winter. The GAAP crew arrived on planting day in mid-May, and those many volunteers were so greatly appreciated. They planted hundreds of flowers in just a few hours. And the dahlia garden is growing fuller with the kind donation of bulbs and plants from Jim Mailloux and Jim Smith. We thank all these dedicated volunteers for their hard work and enthusiastic help!

One of the most rewarding parts of volunteering at IVH is our interaction with the veterans who come out to stroll or wheel-chair through the grounds. We are making every effort to learn their names, chat with them, and most importantly, listen to their stories. It's also a great opportunity to get feedback on what they like and how we can improve the grounds for them.

**(continued on page 5)**

# Herb Bed

(continued from back)

Flavorful cool drinks and iced teas often find their starts with herbs. Herbal sun tea is a popular summertime drink, so easy to prepare. Place about two heaping tablespoons of your favorite herb(s) in a sterile quart container and fill with cold water. For ease in straining after the tea is brewed, tie the herbs in cheesecloth or place them in a muslin bag or tea infuser first. Cover the container, set in a sunny place, and let nature do the brewing. It is best to steep the tea for no more than a few hours, making only enough for the day. When the tea looks and tastes as you prefer, strain out the herbs. Squeeze them before discarding to release every bit of flavor into the tea. Store the container in the refrigerator and serve your tea over ice. If the tea appears thick or syrupy because of bacteria growth, discard it.

Not everyone is comfortable with the possible bacteria growth that sun tea might harbor. If you fall into that category, try making herbal iced tea by brewing it in the traditional way by using boiling water and then cooling and serving the brew over ice. Or make your tea directly in the refrigerator. Simply follow the directions for sun tea, but leave your container in the refrigerator overnight rather than in the sun for a few hours. This method works best with stronger herbs such as mints instead of the subtler herbs like chamomile. Since each method produces a slightly different-

tasting tea, experiment until you find the right ratio of herbs to water.

When it comes to sweetening cool tea, simple sugar syrup is easy to prepare and works better than adding dry sugar crystals that take a while to dissolve in cold drinks. By heating equal parts sugar and water, the crystals become syrup. See the recipe for Watermelon Slushy with Herbal Infusion within this newsletter.

To add more distinctive flavor once the sugar is fully dissolved, add spices, herbs or fruit and allow them to steep, uncovered, until the flavor is infused. Strain, if desired, and transfer to a sealed container. To make a honey syrup version, replace the sugar with an equal amount of honey. Syrups can be stored in the refrigerator in well-sealed bottles for up to six months. To insure safety always check for bacteria growth before using.

The consistency of simple syrups can be altered by the ratio of sugar to water. As a general guideline, thin syrup of 3 parts water to 1 part sugar is good for glazing cakes and cookies. Medium syrup of 2 parts water to 1 part sugar can be used to sweeten beverages and iced tea. Thick, rich syrup of 1 part water to 1 part sugar can be used as the basis for cold fruit drinks and cocktails or when making candied fruits.

To avoid ice watering down your tea, try brewing stronger tea to compensate for melted ice, or

make the ice cubes with tea or fruit juices. They will add flavor, color, and a little zing to your tea without watering down the drink as they melt. Try green tea with apple juice or raspberry tea with orange juice, just be creative. Another trick is to chill your serving glasses ahead of time and use frozen fruits such as whole strawberries, raspberries or blueberries instead of ice.

Don't wait until the 22<sup>nd</sup> to spend some quality time with your hammock. Today would be an excellent day to test it out. I think I'll visit mine right now.

## Herb Infused Syrup

1 c. water  
1 c. organic sugar  
1 c. or 1 handful fresh herbs

Bring water and sugar to a boil in a small, high-sided saucepan; reduce to a simmer, stirring often until sugar has dissolved. When no sugar crystals are apparent in a spoonful of the syrup, the syrup is ready. If not, simmer a little longer. Remove from heat, add herbs, stir, and remove herbs after 5-8 minutes. Taste and alter as needed. Allow syrup to cool to room temperature, then pour into a tightly sealed, clean glass jar and store in the refrigerator for 2 to 3 months. Add syrup to lemonade, iced tea, sparkling water, and alcoholic beverages, or use to "paint" on cakes or cupcakes before adding icing, adding a subtle, complimentary flavor.

# The Herb Bed

by Connie Kingman

“None of the seasons conform to drill-ground pace, but the steps of spring are the most incalculable of all.” This quote from *In Veronica’s Garden* was written by Alfred Austin in 1895. Our recent spring certainly reflected his observation - windy days, sunny days, chilly days, “floody” days, all jumbled into a “crazy quilt” of spring. Now that summer is upon us, how nice it would be to experience an ideal summer with long comfortable days and skies full of billowy clouds and evenings just cool enough to repel mosquitoes.

A sure sign of summer’s arrival is the appearance of hammocks swinging in backyards. Did you know that National Hammock Day falls on July 22? One of the oldest pieces of furniture in the history of mankind, the hammock is a sling made of fabric, rope or netting and suspended between two points such as posts or trees and used for swinging, sleeping or resting. According to Eagle Nest Outfitters, “Anthropologists believe that as far back as 1000 years ago, the hammock got its start thanks to the Mayan Indians of Central America. The Mayans and other indigenous people

created the earliest ones out of woven tree bark or fibers from the sisal plant.”

Hammocks have been used by the military, particularly aboard ships by sailors for comfort and to maximize space. They are utilized in the prison systems and by campers, who use them to keep from sleeping on damp ground with the creepy, crawly things. Most often, though, hammocks are thought of as an outdoor relaxation staple that can be quite at home in a shady spot in a garden. Just add a cool drink and swing away.

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## Garden Beet

1712 Mason Dixon Drive South • West Lafayette IN 47906

**Address changes:**

Billie Seaton • 1712 Mason Dixon Drive South • West Lafayette IN 47906  
(765) 463-5701 • seatonbl1@frontier.com

**Editorial correspondence:**

Chris Ramsey • 4801 North 600 East • Lafayette IN 47905-9764  
(765) 589-8601 • MGATCGardenBeet@gmail.com