

July 2021

# Garden Beet

MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY



## The Latest Spin from D&J

Dee Dee and Jan

It's July. Happy Birthday, America the Beautiful.

First of all, we would like to congratulate Karen Mitchell on her new position as Consumer Horticulture Extension Specialist (i.e. Rosie Lerner's job), effective July 1, 2021, and thank her for all of her effort and support of our MGATC program. We will definitely miss her but we wish her well and look forward to working with her in her new position.

Thanks also to everyone who helped with GAAP (Great Annual Annual Planting) this year. Even though we faced many challenges, we still had 29 Master Gardeners who planted thousands of annuals at four of our GAAP sites: Indiana Veteran's Home, Colum-

bian Park Zoo, Lafayette Art Museum, and the Pedestrian Bridge. Our challenges at these sites included greenhouses not being able to provide plants on the day of planting, plants arriving late, and Master Gardeners having to unload a delivery truck, and of course weather being either too wet or too cold to plant. Unfortunately, we were not able to plant at the Tippecanoe County Courthouse this year due to the greenhouse not having their plants on time and personnel changes at the courthouse, but hope to be back there next year.

As always, we couldn't do this without you. Each GAAP site has its own unique planting style and we always have a good time working together. Everyone seemed to be very happy

being able to participate. It's really nice to be able to do some "normal" things again! Hopefully, this will continue to be the case.

Our July Zoom meeting will be held on July 6 at 6:30 p.m. Brian MacGowen, Wildlife Specialist from Purdue's Department of Forestry & Natural Resources will be doing a presentation on "Dealing with Wildlife Damage Around the Home and Yard" which should be very interesting to all of us. We hope you plan to attend.

Have a wonderful and safe Fourth of July holiday.

Jan and Dee Dee



## Great Board Members Wanted

We are planting the seed now because the nomination committee is looking ahead to the December election when MGATC will be electing new officers. There will be many open positions, and this is a fun way to volunteer with our organization. You would have many experienced Master Gardeners to mentor you, and be assured that past officers are always available to help.

If you think you might have an interest in this, feel free to contact the current board members with any questions.

Their names and phone numbers are listed on page 3 of your membership directory. You can also find a description of officer duties in our bylaws. The bylaws can be found on the Master Gardener website: [www.TippecanoeMasterGardener.org](http://www.TippecanoeMasterGardener.org). The password is: Grow4it!2021 (this is case sensitive). Once you are in, look under "FOR MGATC MEMBERS" and click on Bylaws - Revised version 2017. Thank you for considering this opportunity.

Cheryl McCool and Jolaine Roberts  
Nominating Committee

## Programs

**July 6 • 6:30 p.m. • Zoom**  
*Dealing with Wildlife Damage Around the Home and Yard*  
Brain MacGowan

Brian is the Extension Wildlife Specialist and Extension Coordinator at Purdue's Department of Forestry & Natural Resources.

**August 3 • 6:30 p.m. • Zoom**  
TBD

For more information on upcoming events, contact Maralee Hayworth at [mhaywort@purdue.edu](mailto:mhaywort@purdue.edu).

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.tippecanoeastergardener.org>

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



# MGATC Meeting: June 1, 2021, 6:30 p.m., Virtual

At 6:32 p.m. Karen Mitchell began the meeting by asking Maralee Hayworth to introduce the speaker. Amy Krzton-Presson, Recycling Educator, Tippecanoe Recycling and Solid Waste District and Resource Specialist for the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation gave a presentation on "Food Waste and Composting." Amy focused on the environmental impact of composting and how you can help. She covered sources of food waste, how composting can reduce the amount that goes to landfills, and produce fertilizer for your garden. She discussed the pros and cons of various methods of composting.

The presentation was followed by a number of questions.

## Treasurer's Report

Income for the month of May was from Amazon Smile donations and interest for a total of \$19. The expenses for the month are for the flagpole, Display & Idea Garden and demo gardens, and the annual scholarship for Purdue for a total of \$1,057. There was no change to the restricted funds giving a balance of \$20,151. The total of unrestricted funds available is \$18,913 as of May 31.

For reimbursement you can mail your requests to my home address which is 3801 South River Road in West Lafayette, IN 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 [pmil@erathome.com](mailto:pmil@erathome.com) cast.net.

Pat Miller, Treasurer

Karen announced that she will be moving to a new opportunity effective July 1. She has accepted the position of Consumer Horticulture Extension Specialist, the job Rosie left when she retired. She will be on campus, so not far away. The new Tippecanoe County Extension Director and Community Development Educator, Katje Armentrout will act as an advocate for the Master Gardeners and will support our efforts until a new ANR educator is hired.

Many expressed their appreciation and thanks to her for all the support over the years.

Julianne needs tall tomato cages at Darkroots and is looking for straw bales. She reminded everyone that

You have to love a nation that celebrates its independence every July 4th, not with a parade of guns, tanks, and soldiers who file by the White House in a show of strength and muscle, but with family picnics where kids throw Frisbees, the potato salad gets iffy, and the flies die from happiness. You may think you have overeaten, but it is patriotism.

~ Erma Bombeck

Food Finders' store on Greenbush is another option for produce donations. They open after 1, but are closed on Mondays.

Perry will be doing a presentation at Homecare by Design on Sagamore Parkway at noon on June 17.

July's monthly meeting presentation will be about voles and moles.

About 40 Master Gardeners signed on to attend the Zoom meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jim Jeray, Recording Secretary

### Watermelon Arugula Salad

3 tablespoons olive oil  
Finely grated zest of 1 medium lemon  
Juice of 1 medium lemon  
Kosher salt  
Freshly ground black pepper  
5 ounces arugula (about 5 packed cups)  
2 cups (1-inch) watermelon cubes  
4 ounces feta cheese, crumbled (about 1 cup)

Whisk the olive oil, lemon zest, lemon juice, a pinch of salt, and a few grinds of black pepper together in a large bowl. Add the arugula and watermelon and toss to combine. Add the feta and toss again lightly.  
~ 152 calories per serving. Serves 6.

~ [thekitchn.com](http://thekitchn.com)

July is not only a season of the year; it is a season of the mind and memory. Hot days and sultry nights and crashing thunderstorms are a part of July and to the drone of bees in the clover fields will soon be added the high-pitched sibilance of the cicada. The tang of ripe cherries and the sweetness of sunning hay.

~ Hal Borland

# MGATC Board: June 10, 2021, 4 p.m., Virtual

Jan Sadler called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. Attending were Pat Miller, Dee Dee Long, Jan Sadler, Mickey Penrod, Maralee Hayworth, Jim Jeray, Nancy Cope, Cheryl McCool, Jolaine Roberts, and Karen Mitchell.

Minutes from the May meeting were approved as published in the *Garden Beet* with two corrections. It was Pat not Dee Dee who was assigned to notify members of the Amazon Smile program, and the large composting bags cannot be carried by hand.

Pat Miller delivered the treasurer's report. There were no changes to income from the end-of-month total as it appears in the *Garden Beet*. On the expense side, one additional check was cashed for \$58.56 since the beginning of the month.

Nominating Committee: Jolaine and Cheryl will identify Master Gardeners to fill board positions for 2022. A *Garden Beet* article was suggested to notify everyone of the needs. Duties of all board positions are listed in Article V of the bylaws which can be found on the MGATC website. They began by surveying current board members at the meeting to see who would be willing to continue to serve on the board. They also asked current board members to email suggestions of other possible candidates.

Garden Structure and Repairs: The question arose of how we will handle these needs in the future. Pat pointed out that the Garden Improvement Fund is getting very low. We will need to pay for materials and possibly labor from this fund. Money could be transferred from the general fund or from savings, but this needs further consideration. A subgroup led by Pat will explore solutions. Meanwhile, Jim will contact Doug Ketterer and Ed Knoth to see if they are willing to use their expertise in this area to assess, estimate, and/or repair garden structure problems. One immediate need

is the doors on the shed in the children's garden.

Compost Project: Last month the board agreed on an experimental approach. Karen would order one trailer, two large trashcans with wheels, two medium and one large compost bag, and one special wheelbarrow after informing the board of the prices. At this meeting she reported that the extension office donated a cart. She ordered the bags because the cost was low, under \$40. The more expensive items waiting for approval included: the wheelbarrow (\$120), the trashcans (\$185 each), and a hand truck (\$114). The board approved these purchases. Payment will come from the Compost Project Fund.

Karen was going to meet the next day with the individual who will be building the gate across the road to the compost area. Mickey volunteered to put up a temporary barrier to keep the mulch trucks from dumping there.

Related to the composting project is the need to inform and educate all gardeners. It's a big project including signage and education. It probably requires reps from each of the three main gardens. Mickey, Andy Hughes, Dee Dee, and Jan will work on the issue and report back to the board.

Bylaws: The objective was to get a brief update about progress since the last board meeting. We are currently at a standstill. Jan suggested that the committee meet to consider only the two changes proposed. Karen will schedule a meeting for the committee.

Other business:

What is going on with the bees? Karen reported that Doug and Patty Jones were willing to mentor a master gardener to take over bee care. Someone suggested Pat Poole as a likely candidate, and Karen agreed to contact him.

There is some concern about outsiders helping themselves to our compost. Anyone out in the garden who observes this should ask them if they have a garden and try to discourage this behavior without taking any personal risks.

The board asked Karen what duties she needs to transfer before her departure on July 1. One issue is who would receive calls about the alarm system after hours. Mickey will temporarily fill the role, but when the office moves to the new location it may become more complicated.

Mickey reminded everyone of the tour of our gardens sponsored by Riverfest scheduled for July 18 from 6-7 p.m.

Expo 2022: Is there any new information about the availability of the Fairgrounds next year? Karen reported that the date is being held for us to be in the West Pavilion, but the price has not been set. We will have tables and chairs available.

With Karen's transition, the master gardener class for this fall is tentative. If it takes place, the 20-person limit on the classroom will limit participation.

Karen is working the easement situation that we thought had been settled. The owner is considering gifting the land to the MGATC. Karen will update the board as the situation becomes clearer. She noted as an FYI that there were plans for additional construction in the vicinity of the gardens.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at approximately 5:25 p.m.



Respectfully  
submitted,  
Jim Jeray,  
Recording Secretary

# What's Happening

## Wednesdays in the Wild

Registration is required by noon on the Monday before at 765-567-2993 or [mcutler@tippecanoe.in.gov](mailto:mcutler@tippecanoe.in.gov).

### July 7 • 1-3 p.m. • CB/AMPH *Trekkin' with Turtles at the Celery Bog* Amber Slaughterbeck

Amber Slaughterbeck (Regional Specialist at the Indiana Invasives Initiative) also has a passion to educate others about native turtles and their conservation. At this program she will describe turtle habits and habitats, then lead a hike to look for the common turtles found at the Celery Bog: red-eared sliders, painted turtles, common snapping turtles, and - if we're lucky - eastern box turtles. Amber will also be selling turtle rescue t-shirts (\$10, cash/check) to support her turtle rescue organization. Binoculars will be helpful. Limited to 30 participants.

### July 14 • 1-3 p.m. • SC RES *Native Plants in the City* Sally Carter & Margy Deverall

Sally Carter's small yard is a native plant oasis, but her journey to native plant appreciation was not as you might expect. Learn the joys and challenges of creating and maintaining a mini-habitat in the midst of the city. The program will also include a tour of the Erie Street Sharing Garden led by Margy Deverall (Lafayette City Planner). Limited to 12 participants.

### July 21 • 1-3 p.m. • CB/AMPH *Butterflies of Tippecanoe County* Jon Neal

Retired Purdue Entomologist Jon Neal will give a brief outdoor presentation on identification techniques related to local butterflies and then head out into the planted prairies and savannas of the Celery Bog in search of these jewels of summer. Binoculars will be helpful. Limited to 30 participants.

### July 28 • 1-3 p.m. NICHES/MGW *Trails Along the Tippecanoe at Moyer-Gould* Justin Harmeson

Lace up your hiking shoes for a 1.5 mile walk along the hills bordering the Tippecanoe River. Justin Harmeson (Land Steward with NICHES Land Trust) will showcase the Moyer-Gould Woods property in Carroll County. See how active management helps bolster native flora and fauna populations. This hike will be easy to moderate in difficulty. Limited to 20 participants.

### August 4 • 1-3 p.m. • NICHES/SB *Exploring Swanson's Bluff* Bob Easter

Join Bob Easter (NICHES Stewardship Director) for a hike through the Swanson's Bluff property along the Big Pine Creek in Warren County. Explore the developing savanna restoration as well as the unique sandstone barrens and other botanical and geological features of the property, which is normally a creek access only preserve. The hike will be easy to moderate in difficulty. Limited to 20 participants.

#### LOCATIONS:

**CB/AMPH (Celery Bog Amphitheater):** 1620 Lindberg Road, between Northwestern Avenue and McCormick Road in West Lafayette.

**LNC (Lilly Nature Center/Celery Bog Nature Area):** In West Lafayette, on the north side of Lindberg Road, between Northwestern Avenue and McCormick Road at 1620 Lindberg Road.

**NICHES/MGW (Moyer-Gould Woods):** 4620 North US 421, Delphi 46923. Meet at 1 p.m. in the property parking lot (1 1/4 miles north of the SR 18/US 421 intersection) or join the 12:30 p.m. carpool from the WNC.

**NICHES/SB (Swanson's Bluff):** Meet at 1 p.m. at the property in Williamsport (a map will be provided to those registered for the hike) or join the 12:15 p.m. carpool from the LNC.

**SC RES (Sally Carter's Residence):** Meet at Sally's residence at 115 Erie Street, Lafayette. Parking is limited; so join the 12:45 WNC carpool, if possible.

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



# Volunteering

## Riverfest

The MGATC will be hosting a tour on July 18 from 6-7 p.m. at the extension gardens. The focus will be on practices that help the Wabash River. If anyone is interested in helping with the tour contact Mickey Penrod.

## Riverfest

Riverfest is taking on a new look. "River Days!" Three weeks of social distanced family fun featuring:

- \* MGATC tour
- \* River float trip
- \* Charcoal drawing classes
- \* Guided riverside hikes
- \* Rock climbing wall
- \* Unstaffed educational booths
- \* A virtual 5K
- \* A virtual scavenger hunt using the GooseChase app.

These events should be feasible to host with social distancing guidelines and recommendations from the health department. The activities will be spaced out over June 25-July 18, 2021 to minimize crowds and keep up the energy. There will be prizes for participants in the scavenger hunt and 5K to encourage participation and continue the fun.

# Et Cetera

## Thank You

We would like to thank all the master gardeners who donated vegetable starts to the Demonstration Garden, also Epic Tree Trimming and Removal for donating several loads of bark mulch and Ray and Tracy DeBord at Wyandotte Farms for over 20 free pepper plants. We really appreciate the help.

Jim Jeray, Dee Dee Long, and Jan Sadler

Gardening adds years to your life and life to your years

# Gadgets

(continued from back)



Ollas are hand-made in different shapes and sizes. The more bulbous shape is traditional, but there are many variations like

the tall cylinder shown. All of them are expensive, but can last a lifetime. Remember to dig up, drain, and store before freezing temperatures in the fall.

Some gardeners make a **DIY olla** with two inexpensive terracotta pots. Plug the bottom hole of one pot with silicon caulk and use more caulk to glue an upside down pot on top. After the silicon is thoroughly dry and cured it is ready to be dug into the soil. Use a funnel to fill the pot with water. A saucer on top is recommended. Before assembly, test your terracotta pot to make sure it is permeable - the pot should darken in color when soaked in water. After assembly, check to be sure the silicon seals are watertight.

If you are vacationing away this summer, providing water for houseplants can be challenging. A gadget you might try is a hydro wine container watering system.



The terracotta piece is inserted into the soil with a water-filled wine bottle on top. Like an olla, the terracotta slowly releases moisture into the surrounding soil. Bottles are not

included with this product - but this may be a good excuse for buying some wine or sparkling cider.

Here are some important tips for using these since they are fragile and break very easily. Pre-dig a hole for the terracotta piece and gently push it into the soil. When you insert the wine bottle, don't push down on the glass - only



push gently on the terracotta. You may find it easier to put the terracotta piece over the water-filled bottle and then turn it over for installation.

Based on online reviews, you should be aware the bottle will be top heavy, so it is best used in larger pots. You may also want to insert a couple bamboo stakes to keep the bottle from falling over. This watering gadget should keep your plant happy for a week or two. Hard water may clog the pores of terracotta over time, so a periodic or annual soak in vinegar will keep it in good shape. And most importantly, do not attempt any of this if you just drank the entire bottle of wine.

## July TO-DO List

- **MOSQUITO alert:** empty water from outdoor containers, pot saucers, etc. Empty and clean bird baths regularly.
- Harvest crops regularly. Small to medium summer squash, zucchini, and cucumbers are better than big seedy ones.
- Dig potatoes when the foliage dies, and onions and garlic when the tops turn brown.
- Water vegetables regularly. Avoid blossom-end rot on tomatoes and peppers by maintaining even soil moisture. Melons and cucumbers will be sweeter.
- Start planting transplants of broccoli, cabbage, and other fall crops as space becomes available.
- Prune off tree branches infested with fall webworm. Spray with Bt if defoliation becomes severe.
- Watch for spider mite damage (leaves speckled above, yellow below) especially if the weather has been dry. Conifer needles may look dull gray-green, yellow, or brown. Damage can occur before you even see the little webs.

- Pinch or shear back late summer and fall flowering perennials to encourage branching and more blooms. Mums: last pinching back early to mid July.
- Deadhead spent annuals for continued bloom. Prune roses and flowering shrubs after bloom. Divide bearded iris.
- Water newly planted perennials, shrubs and trees thoroughly, once a week.
- Apply no fertilizers to trees and shrubs after July 4th. Fertilizing late causes lush growth that's apt to winter kill.
- Fertilize container plants every two weeks with a water-soluble solution.
- Clean and refill hummingbird feeders every two or three days to prevent growth of harmful bacteria.
- See more tips at: <https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/yardandgarden/july-garden-calendar/>
- Enjoy your garden!

## Balsamic Green Beans with Walnuts

- 4 teaspoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 4 teaspoons minced garlic
- ½ cup chopped walnuts, toasted
- 2 teaspoons aged balsamic vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon Kosher salt
- 1 pound green beans, trimmed (about 8 cups)

Heat oil in a small skillet over medium heat. Add garlic and cook, stirring until the garlic is just barely showing signs of turning brown, 30 to 90 seconds. Immediately pour into a large mixing bowl to stop cooking.

Meanwhile, add 1 to 2 inches of water to a large pot fitted with a steamer attachment, cover and bring to a boil over high heat. Add green beans to steamer, and cook, covered until the beans are crisp tender, 4 to 5 minutes.

Transfer the green beans to the bowl. Add walnuts, balsamic, and salt and toss to coat.

~ 125 calories per serving. Serves 6.

~ [healthyseasonalrecipes.com](http://healthyseasonalrecipes.com)

# Great Gadgets and Tools

Kathryn Reeves and Mike Hathaway

July can be a thirsty month in the garden. Plants seem to want water, water, and more water right now.

*oh-yah*. It's an earthenware pot that is completely or mostly unglazed and permeable.

Water soil deeply when you water, then you won't need to water as frequently. It's a good idea to stick your finger a couple inches into the ground below any mulch to check for moisture. Aim for moist soil deep down in the root zone.



The olla is buried in the ground near the plant that needs slow, consistent water. Water is poured into the pot; the moisture gradually seeps out and is slowly absorbed into the surrounding soil. The rim of the olla and its cover should be at or slightly above ground level. A cover on top is important to prevent evaporation

An ancient device for watering deeply in

parched environments is an olla. This Spanish word is pronounced *aw-yah* or

and keep mosquitoes out and other little critters from falling in. Refill the

## YOUR MGATC OFFICERS:

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water reservoir as needed, usually every few days or once a week.

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## Garden Beet

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