

June 2020

Garden Beet

MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY



The Latest Spin from D&J

Dee Dee and Jan

GREEN is the color of spring - the trees, the flowers, the grass - all just beautiful! It just makes us all SMILE!

Can't believe it's June already!

We regret to inform you that the June monthly meeting has been cancelled. Even though we do not have to be concerned about the Master Gardener volunteer and education hours requirements this year, we hope you are all taking advantage of the online education suggested from Karen Mitchell, as well as working in your own gardens and doing what you are comfortable doing for the Master Gardeners.

The Board discussed the 2020 budget at the online Board meeting on May 14 in regard to things that can be done to help with this year's expenses.

As for Master Gardeners who have yearly expenses, we ask that everyone be conscientious about how much is spent on the gardens since we didn't have the Garden Expo this year and therefore do not have the funds we usually do. We are not saying that you can't spend, we just want you to be aware and do your best to keep expenses to a minimum.

As we are unsure what to expect in the coming months regarding the COVID-19 Virus, the Board has decided that we should "play it safe" and cancel the Open House this year. We feel it is better to be safe than sorry. We don't

want to do anything to put our Master Gardeners and our Community at risk.

Being optimistic that we will have meetings later this year, the Board also decided to have a carry-in dinner in December instead of going to Judi Painter's.

As far as GAAP is concerned, we planted with a minimum number of volunteers this year. We had social distancing measures in effect and wore masks. We asked everyone to make their own decision as to whether or not they felt comfortable to be around other gardeners.

We will keep you informed as much as we can via email blasts. Don't hesitate to contact us if you have questions or need anything.

Sure hope things are back to normal soon and we can have our regular meetings and enjoy our time socializing and working together.

Continue to Stay Safe,
Dee Dee and Jan



Flowers lift
the Spirit
and refresh
the Soul

~M. Lever

What's Happening

There will be no Wednesdays in the Wild programs in June, but a schedule of outdoor programs is being planned for July and August.

Tippecanoe County Naturalist Mary Cutler announced that Wah-ba-shik-a Nature Center in Battle Ground will open for the season on Monday, June 15.

Programs

June 2
Meeting Cancelled

July 7 • 6:30 p.m. • TCEO
6 p.m. Social Time
Bees Gone Wild - "Who Moved In"
Heather Harvey

Please note that we do not yet know if this meeting will take place. Watch your email and next month's *Beet*.

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

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.tippecanomastergardener.org>

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



Board Minutes: May 14, 2020, 4 p.m., Virtual

Dee Dee Long called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m. In attendance were Jim Jeray, Pat Miller, Dee Dee Long, Jan Sadler, Maralee Hayworth, Mickey Penrod, Cheryl McCool, Karen Mitchell, Nancy Cope, and Kathie Cox.

The March Board meeting minutes were approved as posted in the *April Garden Beet*. There was no Board meeting in April.

Pat Miller delivered the Treasurer's Report. The ending balance at the time of this meeting was \$42,244.24. A total of \$55.38, checks and interest, was deposited. Regular expenses totaled \$1,211.66 in vendor refunds, irrigation and mulch for the Cumberland Community Garden. The big expense was \$3,000 for a new Demonstration Garden gazebo to replace the one that had fallen apart over the years. This payment came from the Garden Improvement budget. Other restricted funds were unchanged, leaving an unrestricted balance of \$22,728.13. The savings remains at \$10,543.43.

Pat pointed out that dues have been collected for the year and the Garden Expo, which provided approximately 2/3 of our annual funding, was cancelled. There will be no more income. (Note the Expo for 2021 may have to be downsized due to the Fairgrounds availability.) Thus, she recommended the Board discuss ideas to economize.

Expo expenses: We expect more vendors to request reimbursement, although a few have donated their fee. No advertising expenses.

The two annual scholarships will be reduced from \$1,000 to \$750, each.

The co-presidents will ask all garden chairs to keep expenses to a minimum.

The Open House is cancelled due primarily to the expectation that COVID-19 will still be an issue. A virtual tour of the gardens is a possibility, but we have no details yet.

The December dinner meeting will likely be changed to carry-in rather than a buffet.

We will see a savings in speaker fees due to meeting cancellations.

The Board will revisit some of these decisions in the future. Comments and recommendation from members are welcome at any time. We are only a phone call or email away.

Future Meetings: There will be NO June master gardener meeting. Karen noted that Purdue will announce soon whether, and to what extent, they will permit July events.

GAAP Update: Annuals have been planted at the zoo. The courthouse was postponed. With weather and virus-related hesitancy, it has not gone as smoothly as expected.

Solar Panels: Mickey reported the panels near the high tunnel are missing. No one had an explanation. One remains on the roof of the shed. Mickey will try to get help to make it more functional.

Wabash Center Gardens: They no longer have someone to take care of it and would like our club to take it over. Karen is looking into converting it to a grow-local space.

Community Garden Update: There are still several open gardens. Karen will update the list and provide it to Jan for further action.

Children's Garden and D&I: There is a plan to combine these under one chair. One group is working on the Children's Garden but with no leader. Pat will work from the list of assignments in the budget to confirm who will commit to work on each of the gardens and notify Jan and Dee Dee so that they can work on finding a volunteer for the chair.

Water Problems: One of the water spigots is broken. Karen will call Lawn and Shrub to repair it and to bill the garden improvement budget for the cost. The Kitchen Garden is fixed. Mickey and Andy will check to ensure the irrigation is working properly. Even with the office closed, the flag-pole has access to water.

The question of offering honorary memberships to those who have been with the club for a long time and feel they are no longer able to fully participate due to health or age was brought up again. Kathie will draft a letter to those deemed eligible. They would pay the same dues and continue to receive the *Garden Beet* and Green Book, but would be excused from hours requirements. Specific rules are left up to each county. Karen will check with others to see how they are handling this issue as guidance for us.

With no further business, Dee Dee Long adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Jeray, Recording Secretary

Lemon-Pepper Asparagus (serves 4)

1 lb fresh asparagus spears
3 tablespoons olive oil
2 to 3 teaspoons grated lemon peel
1 teaspoon coarse sea salt
Ground black pepper to taste
3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice (1 medium)

Heat oven to 400°F. Line cookie sheet with parchment paper.

Spread asparagus in single layer on cookie sheet. Drizzle oil over asparagus; toss to coat. Sprinkle with lemon peel, salt, and a generous sprinkling of pepper.

Bake 20 to 25 minutes or until asparagus is crisp-tender. Just before serving, drizzle lemon juice over asparagus.

~pillsbury.com

Gadgets

(continued from back)

heavy-duty cloth bucket “caddy” like the blue one in the photo has pockets for lots of gear. Uline, Fiskars Garden Bucket Caddy, Bucket Boss, The Bucketeer, and Milwaukee Bucket Organizer are a few of the many brands available that are made to fit standard 5 gallon buckets.

We added a leather carpenter’s tool belt to keep even more tools handy and organized. Plenty of space for gloves, sunscreen, DEET, hat, sunglasses, bottle of water, trowel, pruners, lopper, folding pruning saw, hori-hori knife, scissors, twine, pliers, level, folding ruler or tape measure, pencil, plant markers, small notebook, roll of plastic bags, radio, phone, spray bottle of alcohol disinfectant for tools, and hand towel. Lightweight long handle tools like the small rake pictured can be inserted. We haven’t figured out yet how to attach a beer cooler to this.

Last month, we said we’d experiment with reusing hemp fiber mats after growing microgreens and report the results. After harvest, we let all the roots and mat dry out, washed and rinsed it, then microwaved it to be sure there were no living roots and no mold. We sowed new seed on the mat and grew a new crop of microgreens. It worked, but not quite as well as with a new mat. We think that the mat loses some of its “loft” so it’s a little harder for seeding roots to penetrate. Still, it seems worth it to use the mats twice before tossing in the compost pile.

June TO-DO List:

- ☼ Mulch! Mulch! Mulch!

- ☼ Weed! Weed! Weed! Add weeds that have not set seed to your compost pile.
- ☼ Plant! Plant! Plant!
- ☼ Apply fungicide to prevent /control black spot on roses.
- ☼ Continue planting vegetables as early season crops are harvested.
- ☼ Continue planting flowering annuals and perennials in beds and containers.
- ☼ Water all new plantings 2 or 3 times per week until established.
- ☼ Water pots, planters, and hanging baskets as needed. Check daily during hot dry weather.
- ☼ Established perennials, shrubs, and trees want at least 1” of water per week from hose or rainfall.
- ☼ Prune any growth on shrubs and trees that was damaged by the late frost in early May.
- ☼ Pinch or shear back late summer & fall flowering perennials to encourage branching and more blooms. Stake tall perennials and annuals before they get floppy.
- ☼ Deadhead spring flowering bulbs & perennials and cut back bulb foliage when it turns brown.
- ☼ Stake or cage tomatoes. Remove most suckers on indeterminate varieties.
- ☼ Stake tall perennials and annuals ASAP.
- ☼ Monitor and treat plants for pests. Insecticidal soap is an environmentally friendly alternative to harsh bugs sprays.
- ☼ Deter mosquitoes from the yard by eliminating standing water. Empty saucers. Clean birdbaths frequently. Use BTi (*Bacillus thuringiensis*

israelensis) dunks, bits, or liquid in ponds.

- ☼ Encourage natural predators like praying mantis, wasps, and ladybugs.
- ☼ See more tips for indoor and outdoor gardening from Rosie Lerner at: <https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/yardandgarden/june-yard-garden-calendar/>.
- ☼ Enjoy flowers, vegetables, and sunshine!

Spicy Squash Pickles

(serves 12)

3/4 pound zucchini, cut into 1/4-inch-thick slices

3/4 pound yellow squash, cut into 1/4-inch-thick slices

2 teaspoons kosher salt, divided

1/2 cup thinly sliced sweet onion (such as Vidalia)

1 cup water

1 cup cider vinegar

1/4 cup maple syrup

1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon crushed red pepper

Place a wire rack on a baking sheet. Arrange zucchini and squash slices on rack; sprinkle with 1 teaspoon salt. Let stand 30 minutes. Rinse well under cold water; pat dry with paper towels. Place zucchini, squash, and onion in a medium glass bowl.

Combine remaining 1 teaspoon salt, 1 cup water, and remaining ingredients in a small saucepan; bring to a boil, and pour over vegetables. Weigh down vegetables with a plate. Cover and refrigerate at least 2 hours or overnight. Drain or serve with a slotted spoon. *13 calories per 1/4 cup*

~myrecipes.com

It is the month of June,
the month of leaves and roses,
When pleasant sights salute the eyes
and pleasant scents the noses.

~Nathaniel Parker Willis



Great Gadgets and Tool

By Kathryn Reeves and Mike Hathaway

The month of June is named for Juno, the Roman goddess of marriage. Tomato and basil is definitely a match made in heaven - thank the Italians! We have lots of basil this June and we're hoping for a few tomatoes very late this month. Hope is a good thing right now.

On a typical day in the garden, you may start out with a cup of coffee in hand for a leisurely morning tour and find a number of different tasks that need doing. There are a few weeds to be removed (aka murdered!), a broken branch or two to prune, climbers to be tied up, seeds, veg seedlings and potted flowers to be planted, and so on. How many trips to the tool shed or garage do you make?

Our labor saving solution is "Mike's Excellent Garden Tool Kit on Wheels."



YOUR MGATC OFFICERS:

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It starts with a 2 wheel hand truck and a 5 gallon bucket. Attach the bucket to the hand truck with a bungee cord or rope. The bucket itself will hold a lot of tools, but a

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Garden Beet

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