

June 2021

Garden Beet

MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY



The Latest Spin from D&J

Dee Dee & Jan

“June is busting out all over!” Summer is almost here. What crazy, unpredictable weather we have had in Indiana so far in April and May. Snow and lots of rain, along with continuing to deal with COVID issues, has caused many of us to get a late start with our spring planting. In fact, we experienced snow on April 20 so we had to postpone our first caravan trip for a week.

Our first caravan trip was a success. We went to Woldhuis Farms Sunrise Greenhouse in Grant Park, Illinois, on April 27 and had a great time. Another caravan trip is in the works for the latter part of June. We will be sending a mass email when the details are finalized. We hope you can attend and would ask that you RSVP if you plan to come.

We will also be scheduling a hike in June. Details on that will be coming soon by mass email, and it is also an RSVP event.

Our June Zoom meeting will be held on June 1. Amy Krzton-Presson, Recycling Educator, Tippecanoe Recycling and Solid Waste District and Resource Specialist for the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation will be giving a presentation on “Food Waste and Composting.” We hope you will join us.

Thank you all for your continued help and support. All of us together make a great team!

Jan and Dee Dee

New Member

We would like to welcome new member Dale Williams to the MGATC.

For full demographic information, please see the membership listing on the MGATC website.

Pat Miller



Programs

June 1 • 6:30 p.m. • Zoom

Food Waste and Composting

Amy Krzton-Presson

Amy is the Recycling Educator, Tippecanoe Recycling and Solid Waste District and Resource Specialist for the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation

July 6 • 6:30 p.m. • Zoom

Dealing with Wildlife Damage Around the Home and Yard

Brian MacGowen

Brian is the Wildlife Specialist, Department of Forestry & Natural Resources at Purdue University.

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.tippecanoeastergardener.org>

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

MGATC Meeting: May 4, 2021, 6:30 p.m., Virtual

At 6:30 p.m. Karen Mitchell began the meeting by asking Mickey Penrod to introduce the speaker. Dr. Stott, Professor Emerita of Soil Science at Purdue University, worked over 30 years as a soil health specialist. She gave the presentation: "What's the Big Deal About Soil Health." In it she covered: what is soil health, including the use of the term health rather than quality; soil assessment; and the biology of soil health. Soil is a living ecosystem.

Karen recorded the presentation. It was followed by several good questions.

Jan Sadler announced that the first GAAP planting would take place next week. She will send a reminder email to all members.

About 45 master gardeners signed on to the Zoom meeting to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Jim Jeray, Recording Secretary*

MGATC Board Meeting: May 13, 2021, 4 p.m., Virtual

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

Minutes from the April meeting were approved as published in the *Garden Beet*.

Pat Miller delivered the treasurer's report. There were no changes to monthly income from the end-of-month total as it appears in this month's *Garden Beet*. Since the beginning of May, however, checks were cashed for the Purdue scholarship for \$750 and two garden reimbursements totaling \$86.87. In addition, Lawn and Shrub received \$25 from the garden improvement fund. Pat will check soon at the extension office for other reimbursement requests.

Compost Project: The objective of the discussion was to decide what products to use in gardens for composting and how to get compost to the compost area, including the design of the satellite compost bins. Three ideas were presented.

Andy Hughes recommended using a wagon that would be moved by the garden tractor. He sent a video before the meeting. He acknowledged that it would be expensive, but it had many useful features. Andy was also concerned about legal or governmental restrictions on the composting process. Karen reassured the board that what we are composting would be acceptable.

Mickey Penrod pointed out that community gardeners would also use these products at their various satellite locations. She favored reinforced bags. They come in different sizes and can be moved by hand.

Board (continued from page 2)

Pat Miller showed a video of how large, plastic, wheeled trash containers could serve the purpose. They wouldn't rust and are easy to dump. They come in 60- to 95-gallon sizes, roll by hand and are less expensive than a trailer. Later discussion brought up the fact that they can blow over or blow open and may fill with rainwater. They can get heavy if users pack them too full.

Afterward several board members brought up good points. We don't want to be dependent on the tractor and put an extra burden only on those qualified to drive it, but some parts of the garden are so far from the compost area that it seems impractical to move the compost by hand. We could use wheelbarrows to make it easier, and they come in ergonomic configurations. At the end of the season any container will likely get filled daily, and people will be reluctant to volunteer to move them, instead trying to pack them down for someone else to worry about.

Finally the board agreed on an experimental approach. Karen will order one trailer, two large trashcans with wheels, two medium and one large compost bag, and one special wheelbarrow. Before she puts in the order, she will inform the board of the prices. We will also need a hitch lock or other device to ensure that the trailer is not stolen.

Mixing trash with compost may also be a problem. We will need signage to educate people about the composting rules. There should be trash bins next to the sheds to make compliance easier. There is already an effort to add signs, more than 30 in all, with general rules, for example not picking what you don't plant and garden etiquette, as well as garden descriptions.

Discussion of the compost project also led to concerns about the permanency of the garden at the current site. The timing of the office move is still uncertain, but Karen is confident that the garden site is secure for the foreseeable future.

The gate across the road to the compost area is expected to be finished by mid-May.

Bylaws: The objective was to get a brief update about progress since the last board meeting. Since then, Jan went through the bylaws and made a list of all changes. She will forward that information to the committee for comments and additions. Because we are a non-profit organization, there are regulations to observe. Lynn Layden is our expert for these questions. In informal conversations Lynn believes our changes would be relatively simple. It's just a matter of the committee getting together for the meeting.

The primary change to the MGATC bylaws is the establishment of an alumni member category for those no longer able to fully participate but still interested in belonging to the club. Karen informed the board that the state office is also discussing this item.

Other business:

Karen will find out about getting a separate dumpster for the garden area after the office takes their dumpster with them when they move.

Dee Dee will remind members that using Amazon Smile benefits the MGATC.

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

*Respectfully submitted,
Jim Jeray, Recording Secretary*

Treasurer's Report

Income for the month of April was from dues and interest for a total of \$50. The expenses for the month are for irrigation repairs from the restricted fund, speaker gifts, and the Memory Garden for a total of \$132. The change in the restricted funds was \$25 for the irrigation repairs giving a balance in the fund of \$20,151. The total of unrestricted funds available is \$19,951 as of April 30.

I would like to remind everyone to sign up for Amazon Smile. Through this program the Master Gardeners Association of Tippecanoe County (MGATC) will receive a portion of the amount of your purchases. To date, MGATC has received over \$341 from your Amazon Smile donations. If you would like to sign up, go to the Amazon Smile website and please encourage your extended family and friends to participate also.

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 pmillerat.home@comcast.net. The Tax Exempt form for 2021 is located on the MGATC website.

Pat Miller, Treasurer

Five-Ingredient Rhubarb Squares

- 1 box Betty Crocker™ Super Moist™ yellow cake mix
- 3/4 cup cold butter or margarine, cut into small pieces
- 1 3/4 cups sugar
- 3 eggs
- 4 cups sliced fresh rhubarb
- Whipped cream, if desired

Heat oven to 350°F (325°F for dark or nonstick pan). Reserve 2 tablespoons of the cake mix. In large bowl, cut butter into remaining cake mix, using pastry blender (or pulling 2 table knives through ingredients in opposite directions), until crumbly. In bottom of ungreased 13x9-inch pan, pat 2 cups of the mixture. Reserve remaining crumbly mixture for topping. Bake 13 minutes.

In large bowl, beat reserved 2 tablespoons cake mix, the sugar and eggs with electric mixer on medium speed until creamy. Stir in rhubarb. Pour over partially baked crust. Sprinkle remaining crumbly mixture over top.

Bake 45 to 50 minutes longer or until golden brown and center is set. Cool slightly before serving. Serve warm or cold with whipped cream. Store covered in refrigerator. ~ 290 calories per serving. Serves 16.

Tips: If fresh rhubarb isn't available, use 4 cups frozen (slightly thawed) rhubarb (from two 16-oz bags).

If you have a food processor, you can use it to cut the butter into the cake mix, using on-and-off pulses, until crumbly.

~ www.bettycrocker.com

Vegetarian Potato and Squash Casserole

- cooking spray
- 1 baking potato, cut into 1/2-inch slices
- salt and ground black pepper to taste
- 1 1/2 large yellow summer squash, cut into 1/2-inch slices
- 2 large tomatoes, cut into 1/2-inch slices
- 1/2 sweet onion, cut into 1/4-inch slices
- 1 tablespoon butter

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Spray a 9x13-inch baking pan with cooking spray.

Cover the bottom of the baking pan with a layer of potato slices; season with salt and pepper. Place squash slices on top of the potatoes; repeat seasoning. Lay tomato slices on top of the squash; repeat seasoning. Continue layering the vegetables in this pattern, seasoning each casserole layer. Scatter onion over the casserole; dot with butter.

Bake in the preheated oven until the top is golden brown and the potatoes are soft, about 1 hour. ~ 73 calories per serving. Serves 6.

Notes: Larger squash should be sliced slightly thinner than smaller squash due to larger squash's toughness. You may want to slice the largest round of potato in half because you want the potato to be cut approximately the same size.

~ www.allrecipes.com

Do what we can, summer will have its flies

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

What's Happening

Wednesdays in the Wild

Note: All programs are full. Contact Mary Cutler to be put on the waiting list.

May 26 • 1-3 p.m.

NICHES/WHW

Restoration Revealed: A NICHES Property Case Study
Bob Easter

NICHES Stewardship Director Bob Easter will lead this Fountain County hike focusing on the ongoing transformation of Whistler Hare Woods, involving six adjacent landowners. Moderate hiking, with opportunity to explore more rugged terrain afterwards.

[Participant limit: 12]

June 2 • 1-3 p.m.

TIPP AMPH

Bikes, Boots & Brushes: Exploring a Multi-Purpose Trail System
Mary Cutler

The 166-acre home of the Tippecanoe County Amphitheater offers multi-purpose trails throughout the woodlands adjacent to Burnett's Creek and the Wabash River. Hike with Naturalist Mary Cutler (Tippecanoe County Parks Department) to explore the human and natural history of this property, learn how citizens can use these trails, and see Rena Brouwer and other local artists demonstrate artistic inspiration from the property!

[Participant limit: 25]

June 9 • 1-3 p.m. • WNC

A Bird in the Hand: Using Mist Nets to Capture Birds
Mickey and Sally Weeks

Join Dr. Mickey and Sally Weeks (Purdue University, Retired) as they share the scientific practice of mist-netting: capturing and banding birds to study. Birds will be caught at this presentation and participants will be allowed to ID and hold birds, if desired!

[Participant limit: 25]

June 16 • 1-3 p.m.

KERBER/DIV

Partnerships in Management Along the Wabash
Justin Harmeson and Shannon Stanis

Justin Harmeson (NICHES Steward) and Shannon Stanis (WREC Watershed Coordinator) lead this hike to see a major invasive species removal project on beautiful ravines leading to the Wabash River. Moderately rugged hike includes a fen; trekking poles are helpful.

[Participant limit: TBD]

June 23 • 1-3 p.m. • CB/AMPH

Spiders of Indiana: Incredibly Important Members of Healthy Functioning Ecosystems!

Marc Milne

Dr. Marc Milne (Associate Professor of Biology, University of Indianapolis) will discuss spiders common to Indiana, provide tips for identifying them, describe methods to capture them safely, and then explore Celery Bog trails to locate and identify some of these spiders.

[Participant limit: 20]

June 30 • 1-3 p.m. • WNC

Exploring the Ouiatenon Preserve National Historic Landmark

Colby Bartlett and Angie Miller Colby Bartlett (Ouiatenon Preserve Director) and Angie Miller (Tippecanoe County Soil & Water Conservation District) will share the natural and human history and archeology of Fort Ouiatenon and adjacent Native American village sites. Artifacts from the site will be displayed and the environmental restoration work and future development plans for the property will be discussed.

[Participant limit: 25]

LOCATIONS:

NOTE: Caravans meet at the LNC (Lilly Nature Center/Celery Bog) parking lot (1620 Lindberg Road, West Lafayette).

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

KERBER/DIV (Kerber Road/Division Road): Meet at the intersection of Kerber Road and Division Road in West Lafayette or join the 12:30 p.m. LNC caravan.

NICHES/WHW (Whistler Hare Woods – near 164 W Covered Bridge Road, Attica, 47918): Meet at 1 p.m. in the Whistler Hare Woods parking area (find directions at www.nicheslandtrust.org). A gravel lane of ~0.4 miles is across from mailbox #164 on W Covered Bridge Road) or join the noon LNC caravan.

OPO (Ouiatenon Preserve Overlook): Meet at 1 p.m. at the Ouiatenon Preserve Overlook, 3429 South River Road, West Lafayette.

TIPP AMPH (Tippecanoe County Amphitheater): Meet at 1 p.m. in the Tippecanoe County Amphitheater parking lot at 4449 State Road 43 N, West Lafayette.

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

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Et Cetera

From Sheila Koller

No occupation is so delightful to me as the culture of the earth [, and no culture comparable to that of the garden].
Thomas Jefferson, (1743-1826), 3rd U.S. President

"Gardening for a Lifetime" - How to Garden Wiser as You Grow Older, by Sydney Eddison, National Garden Club winner, Award of Excellence for 2010. Author of six books, also a teacher of gardening courses and seminars. Her first book, "A Patchwork Garden," was about the gardens she established, with her husband, at their Connecticut home on four acres. She had more than 200 cultivars of day lilies - it took hours each evening to dehead! A nearby friend had more than 20 perennial beds, some sizable - these women did things in a BIG way!! They were also smart enough to make the changes necessary to continue gardening when age caught up with knees, backs, and energy.

This was a recent gift to me from MG Joan Mohr Samuels and has been loaned to MG Ruth Coors. Maybe we're the only folks in the category - so look for this at the library or on Amazon if you are in denial! It is a Timber Press Book, 2010.

Sheila Koller, '91

This Months Newsletter

The newsletter looks a little different this month, due to the fact that I am having computer problems and had to use different software which I haven't used before. I've tried to make it as close to what everyone is used to seeing as possible. I apologize for any mistakes that you find in this month's issue as I muddle through this new software. Next month I should have the regular software back up and running. I hope this doesn't cause anyone any problems.

Garden Beet Editor, Chris Ramsey

Happening (continued from page 5)

GAAP

We will be planting at Columbian Park Zoo Monday, May 24 at 9:30 a.m. We could really use your help. We will meet at the triangle in front of the zoo. If interested please contact Dee Dee Long. Thank you!

Junior Master Gardener Summer Program

There will be a Junior Master Gardener Summer Program for children in grades 3-5 offered at the extension office on June 3, 10, 17, and 24 from 6-7:30 p.m. They will investigate how plants grow; plant, harvest, and sample plants from the JMG garden; and explore the environment through fun activities. The cost is \$10 per person. To register visit <http://bit.ly/JMGTippe> or call 765-474-0793.

Her love was entire as a child's, and though
warm as summer it was fresh as spring

- Thomas Hardy

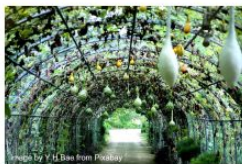
Gadgets (continued from page 8)



Options for trellis include wood or composite plastic lattice, welded metal arbors, plastic or string trellis netting, PVC pipe, metal fencing like cattle panel, concrete reinforcing mesh, or chicken wire. Peas are happy with a lightweight trellis or twine. Wisteria and Orange Trumpet (*Campsis radicans*) will happily crush and eat everything but the sturdiest wood structures. Clematis prefer small mesh that they can wrap their leaf petioles around. Fishing line interwoven through lattice is almost invisible and gives clematis something to grab on to. Climbing roses may need to be tied in and trained to a trellis.



'Major Wheeler' Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*) is shown in the photo below climbing and twining up a trellis attached to our fence. *L. sempervirens* is native to the southeastern United States and this cultivar is an especially prolific bloomer. Its bright red flowers attract and feed hummingbirds, one of our favorite pollinators.



Have a wonderful growing season this year. And if anyone tells you to grow up, do it!



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 and fall flowering perennials to encourage branching and more blooms. Stake tall perennials and annuals before they get floppy.
- Deadhead spring flowering bulbs and 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 at:
<https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/yardandgarden/june-yard-garden-calendar/>
- Enjoy flowers, vegetables, and sunshine!

In June, as many as a dozen species may burst their buds on a single day. No man can heed all of these anniversaries; no man can ignore all of them

Great Gadgets and Tools

Kathryn Reeves and Mike Hathaway



No month is quite as lovely as June. Hope your flowers are blooming beautifully for National Pollinator Week June 21 - 27, 2021.

National Doughnut Day 2021 is Friday, June 4. This 'Straight Eight' cucumber from last year was so 2020. Most of them grew long and

straight on the trellis, but not this guy! We're hoping for more normal, well-behaved cucumbers in 2021.

If you have a big garden plot, you have the luxury to let plants sprawl, although some vegetables like peas and others are best grown on a trellis. If you don't have lots of space, you may want to maximize your vegetable yields by growing vertically. We grow butternut and buttercup squash vertically to save space.

If you're planning to grow vegetables in containers this year on your patio, porch, or balcony, you can add a trellis to big pots. You can also hang smaller pots on a trellis. We prefer a trellis with spaces wide enough to reach through for easy harvest.

YOUR MGATC OFFICERS:

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