

Message from Your Co-Presidents Jim and Mickey

Cheryl and Dee Dee called this year's Garden Expo an outstanding success; a great day. The greeters counted 2,752, but likely missed many impatient guests who walked around to other doors. Visitors had a lot of gardening questions. The vendors were happy; many sold out. The parking lot was overflowing. (Not a bad problem to have.) No surprise that sales set a record.

We couldn't have done it without you! It was great to see a solid turnout of enthusiastic volunteers helping at the booths, making our guests feel welcome, helping our vendors, and being available for questions. It took a lot of teamwork and individual effort, before and during the event, to make it so successful. To everyone we send a big thank-you on behalf of the Expo committee and the MGATC board.

This year is a new start after the doldrums of the pandemic. It is kind of a recovery, and we need to work hard to make the gardens something we can be proud of for at least three reasons: to attract more people to the Master Gardener program, to make a good impression on the community, and to reassure the county commissioners that they made the right decision in leasing the gardens to us. Like any business, good public relations are important to our ability to thrive.

Even as we focus on our core gardens, there are opportunities available. Some of the most pressing include: quadrant leaders at the extension community gardens (as discussed in the board meeting minutes in this issue); an AAS Garden chair for next year to train with Mickey this year and the Display & Idea plots that Pat Miller highlight-

ed at the last meeting: the entrance beds, the wildflower bed in need of weeding, the no fuss rose bed, and the bed of hope.

Other needs include: someone mechanically minded to back up Guido in taking care of our garden equipment and someone to take charge of the path between the gardens - periodically clearing weeds and leading a groupmaintenance day around mid-summer.

Some of these take very little time, some are large commitments, but we know from the results at the Expo we can count on some of you to step up. Thank you in advance.

Mickey and Jim

Volunteering Help Needed

The MGATC has been invited to occupy a table at the Green Expo on Sunday, June 5 at the Fairgrounds from Noon to 4 p.m. We need four volunteers, two for each 2-hour shift. Someone on the first shift needs to pick up material from the extension office on Friday, June 3 and the second shift needs to pack up and return it.

The Green Expo is part of the Greater Lafayette Climate Action Plan. It is important to the long term success of

our organization to appear at as many of these events as we can to keep Master Gardeners in the public mind. Volunteers should keep a count of the number of visitors to our booth.

Sign up using the link below.

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4CAEA62CA4F8CF8-green

Thank you, Jim and Mickey

Programs

June 7 • 6:30 p.m. • TCEO
6 p.m. Social Time
Cousins Composting
These nephews of Master Gardener
Sharon Townsend will speak on their
new composting business and what
they are doing.

July 5 • 6:30 p.m. • TCEO 6 p.m. Social Time Tentative Presentation on Chemicals Pat Williams

For more information on upcoming events, contact Amanda Burge at amanda personett@yahoo.com.



MGATC Minutes: May 3, 2022, 6:30 p.m., TCEO

At 6:30 p.m. on May 3rd, the monthly MGATC meeting was held both virtually and in person. The speaker was Mary Cutler, Naturalist for the Tippecanoe County Parks & Recreation Department. Her speech was "Backyard Habitat & Native Gardening 101." She talked about providing the basics for wildlife: food, water, and shelter. She also gave examples of native plants to grow, where to learn more about them, and where to purchase them.

After Mary spoke, the business portion of the meeting was held. Jim Jeray noted that the zip code for the Master Gardener P.O. Box was incorrect in previous minutes. The zip code should be 47903.

Also, Jim noted that the Dark Roots garden is not a MGATC garden. So any time spent at that garden can not be added to volunteer hours.

Mickey Penrod announced that we had an unbelievable turnout at the Expo. Cheryl McCool added that the Expo raised \$11,500, which was an all time high. Every area did well. Also all of the vendors were very happy. Several of them ran out of inventory before the Expo ended. The Expo committee

will meet on May 10th to discuss how the event went and possible changes for next year. The next Expo will be April 15, 2023. Since this is a week earlier, it won't be competing with a couple other large garden and plant sales, so hopefully we can get more vendors and visitors.

Deb Rimer gave a financial report on the Expo and broke down the \$11,500 that was raised. Then she gave a group finance report for April.

Jim gave thanks to everyone who helped with the Expo.

Mickey gave a demonstration of the tools she uses in the extension gardens. She said that she needs volunteers to help clean up the gardens, especially to get control of the weeds. The thistles are especially bad.

Kathryn Reeves, who was attending remotely, talked through Jim about the Education Center. The Education Center, which is located at the extension office, is open Monday mornings and Thursday afternoons. If more master gardeners volunteer to help run it, it can be open more hours. Contact Kathryn if you are interested.

The community gardens are still short on volunteers. They are looking for master gardeners who have plots to help keep the gardens looking presentable and answer people's questions. They are also looking for a chairperson to oversee everything. This would be a fairly large job.

Pat Miller said volunteers are still needed for the Display & Idea Gardens. They are needed to clean up the beds. She gave a quick demonstration on which beds need the work.

Jim said that the parking signs are up at the extension gardens. Please use those spots for parking when visiting the gardens.

Cheryl McCool said that she would like to dig up the rain garden plants that are in the old extension parking lot and find a spot to plant them until next year's Expo, where they could be sold. She will need some volunteers to help dig them up.

The meeting was then adjourned.

- Nancy Cope, Recording Secretary

Treasurer's Report

May 2022 Board Meeting Treasurer's Report

Income for the month of April 2022 was \$230 from 2022 Garden Expo Vendors, \$689 from the Expo Raffle, \$9,363.81 from Plants, Shed, Café, Silent Auction, and Expo donations, \$75 from Donations, (\$39) refund of 2022 Dues, and \$0.25 from bank interest. Total Income for April was \$10,319.06 and a total of \$14,894.28 income for Year-to-date 2022.

In April, we spent \$211.92 for the Garden Expo. For the Compost Project, we spent \$308.28. The balance of the Compost Fund is \$3,488.14. We also spent \$110.25 for the Community Gar-

dens. The balance of the Community Gardens Fund is \$1,435.98. The Restricted Fund Balance for April is \$11,507.35. A total of Unrestricted Funds available is \$26,708.10 as of 4/30/22.

Now let's talk more about the 2022 Garden Expo. Our goal was to have \$8,450 in income and \$1,675 as expense, for a total of \$6,775 Net Income. We made \$11,503 with \$1,268 (so far) in expense for \$10,234 in Net Income. This is 51.1% more than our goal. However, I am expecting more invoices for advertising. Of the total Expo sales, the plant sale was 53%, the shed

It's beautiful the Summer month of June . . . and the sun shines most of the day brightly

~ Francis Duggan

sales were 16%, vendor tables were 13%, the café, raffle, and auction each contributed 6% of sales, and the donation jars made 0.5% of sales.

Deb Rimer Treasurer

MGATC Board: May 12, 2022, 6:30 p.m., Virtual

Mickey Penrod called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Attending were Dee Dee Long, Jim Jeray, Kathy Cox, Cheryl McCool, Jolaine Roberts, Nancy Cope, and Pat Williams.

Minutes from the April meeting were approved as published in the Garden Beet with one change. The July meeting is scheduled for July 5 in spite of the holiday. This brought up the question of whether the board had permanently changed the September meeting to the second Tuesday due to Labor Day. Jim found after the meeting that it was changed only once - in 2019 - with no indication that this would apply to future years.

Deb Rimer was not available to present the treasurer's report, but everyone had received a copy. Since the endof-month report there was no change in income and one bill for \$256.56 paid for publicity.

Expo Summary: Cheryl and Dee Dee reported on a very positive Expo, an overall great day. The door count was 2,752 and likely missed many people who used other doors. Visitors had a lot of garden questions. The vendors were happy; many sold out. Parking and traffic were problems the committee will address for next year. A resolution was passed to send a thank you gift (\$50 limit) from the MGATC to Dee and Bill Dilling for their large contribution of plants from their greenhouse.

Publicity: All the work so far has been related to the Expo and Open House. Nancy stated that we should have something more organized and have more frequent posts on Facebook to keep our name in front of the public. Pat suggested news coverage of activities like GAAP. We also need an archive of photos and a place to store them. Nancy will meet with Pat to discuss a plan so the board can consider an appropriate budget.

Education Center: Kathryn Reeves had extension office increased the responexpressed the need to organize coverage at the Education Center. She agreed to serve as chair. Jim showed her how to use SignUpGenius to create slots for people to volunteer. When she is ready, she will create a group email with an explanation of the duties and a link to sign up for dates throughout the year. Kathryn stressed that this is a good opportunity for members who are less mobile.

Pollinator Sign: Mickey received a proposal. The board approved \$108 to spend on the sign and installation.

Tillers: Working tillers of the right size and with the right features are desperately needed. Mickey can write a grant to SIA, but that will not solve the current problem. The board asked her to look into pricing both for the grant and to purchase needed tillers this year. Nancy offered to contribute a good, working model from her home and will work with Mickey to determine if this is a good temporary fix.

Hybrid Zoom: The experience for Zoom participants in the monthly meetings is less than ideal. Pat's PC is on Zoom during the meeting but he said it would go smoother if he received a PowerPoint in advance from the speakers. The June meeting will give us another chance to try to improve.

Mailing Reminder: Our address is MGATC, PO Box 6135, Lafavette, 47903.

Project Updates: The board reviewed a list of all projects that appear on our website. Many of them are no longer active and will be removed. Due to the inability to make up for a decrease in membership due to the pandemic and personal decisions and with only five from the class of 2020 and no class in 2021, resources are very limited. Additionally, the lease with the county forced by the move of the

sibilities/workload at our core gardens. A couple of projects, Canal Park and Fairview Community Center, are under review so we can better focus our efforts.

Facebook: Paul Niles is listed as the chair of the committee, but has not been included in discussions. He told Jim that he is willing to help with Facebook, the website, or both.

Extension Community Gardens: Katje Armentrout had volunteered to be chair of the community gardens, but found that without four active quadrant captains, the commitment was beyond her capabilities. We desperately need a solid team of five, including perhaps some community gardeners, to help manage such an extensive project. For example, their contract states that if nothing is planted by June 1, the plot(s) is forfeited. Also, there are 36-38 gardens out of control with thistle. Pat will be at the garden every Friday doing some maintenance work, mowing, and spraying, but day-to-day issues and administrative functions belong to the MGATC.

Mickey has been invited to attend the national Garden Bureau AAS Summit Conference in Des Moines, based on her first-place awards in recent years. She would consider leading the community gardens next year, but needs to find a replacement for AAS who she can train for the rest of this year. please contact Mickey for more information.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

> Respectfully submitted, Jim Jeray for Nancy Cope, Recording Secretary

Expo Exchange Garden Gossip

The Garden Expo was a huge success! We are so grateful for all the assistance we received. Thank you to all the Master Gardeners who provided plants for the sale. Each one of you did a superb job. We had beautiful plants, delicious goodies, treasures for the Garden Shed, and a beautiful basket for the raffle. Thank you to the committee for working tirelessly preparing for the event. Thank you to Nancy Cope, our publicity chair. Nancy did a wonderful job of getting the word out to the community. Thank you to Kathryn Reeves for the beautiful brochure. Thank you to Monique Fontaine, Candy Sheagley, Jeri Bosworth-Parker, Jan Sadler, and Pat Miller for organizing and keeping their areas running smoothly. A special thank you to Marilyn Jeray for her beautiful watercolors for the silent auction and to Dee and Bill Dilling for their donation of plants. We had 2,757 people go through the front doors, with reports that many people came through the side and back doors. Vendors were all happy and we received emails from some stating "it was the best and busiest." Also, numerous visitors expressed their thankfulness that "we are back" as they have missed our Expo the last two years. Cleanup was done in record time. The "Ask a Master Gardener" booth was very busy. Pat Williams, thank you for all your assistance, answering the many questions from the community, T.V. interviews, and guidance.

We couldn't have done this without all of you. Master Gardeners, you are all truly amazing. We raised a total of \$11,502.81.

Dee Dee and Cheryl Garden Expo Co-Chairs

FROM THE COMPOST COMMITTEE

Andy Hughes - Compost Committee Chair

The compost committee has been busy this spring cleaning out the compost bins of the accumulation from the last two years, and using the trailers to haul material out of the gardens. We also have a new screener that is working well to sift out good compost from the old piles.

We've begun to use the new shredder to process brown materials and do proper mixing of browns, greens, water and turning to get our pile started in the bins. Temperatures of 160 degrees F have been recorded in our first pile, which means we are getting things right and the microbes are doing their job.

A photo collage of our work is included below.

The images are...

Tractor and shredder, our MG Co-Presidents using the shredder, the new compost sifter, MG Konie Hughes leveling the shredded brown materials and watering after adding greens, the compost thermometer showing the temperature inside the pile (160°F), and our first managed pile.



A properly managed compost pile should easily reach 140°F, which breaks down all organic matter, including weed seeds, and makes usable compost in a few months. rather than the two years that our old piles took to break down.

It was June, and the world smelled of roses. The sunshine was like powdered gold over the grassy hillside

What's Happening

Wednesdays in the Wild

Registration is required by noon on Monday prior to the program to:

<u>mcutler@tippecanoe.in.gov</u>
or 765-567-2993

June 1 • 1-3 p.m. • TIPP BF The Key to Tree ID Donna Rogler

Indiana is fortunate to be home to a great number of native trees. Come and discover how to learn about Indiana's native trees with Donna Rogler (IDNR Forestry Education Specialist). Using all of our senses, we will observe various characteristics of trees at the Tippecanoe Battlefield and learn how to ID them using a botanical key. Limited to 30 participants.

June 8 • 1-3 p.m. • WNC A Bird in the Hand: Using Mist Nets to Capture Birds Mickey & Sally Weeks

Join Dr. Mickey and Sally Weeks (Purdue University, Retired) as they share the scientific practice of mistnetting: 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! Limited to 20 participants.

June 15 • 1-3 p.m. • TIPP AMPH

Parks & Pollinators: The Stewardship ABCs of a Public Pollinator Habitat Mary Cutler, Angie Miller, & Dan Childs

Join Mary Cutler (Tippecanoe County Naturalist), Angie Miller (Rural Conservationist, Tippecanoe County SWCD), and Dan Childs (wildflower enthusiast and author) on a stroll through a very visible pollinator habitat recently installed adjacent to the Tippecanoe County Amphitheater soccer fields. They'll share planting plans and execution, stewardship and educational goals, and management techniques. Learn what it takes to get a public project like this underway and maintained; many applications for smaller scale home landscapes will be shared. Limited to 30 participants.

June 22 • 1-3 p.m. • OPO
Tour of Ouiatenon Preserve
National Historic Landmark: A
Roy Whistler Foundation Project

Colby Bartlett & Angie Miller Colby Bartlett (Director, Ouiatenon Preserve) and Angie Miller (Rural Conservationist, Tippecanoe County SWCD) lead this 3-4 mile hike through Indiana's newest National Historic Landmark (NHL) and only NHL Archeological District. Native American, French, British, and early American history will be discussed along with the ongoing archaeological research of Ouiatenon and ongoing 320-acre environmental restoration. Limited to 30 participants.

June 29 • 10 a.m.-noon KWPROP

Landscaping for Birds & Butterflies Kent Walters

Curious about landscaping for wild-life? Join us for a walking tour of Biologist Kent Walters' property in Warren County where he has created a 30-acre sanctuary for wildlife through his passion for landscaping with native plant communities. Take this opportunity to learn more about how to landscape with native plants to benefit our native pollinators and birds. Limited to 20 participants.

LOCATIONS:

KWPROP (Property of Kent Walters): Meet at 10 a.m. at 251 W 125 S, Williamsport, Indiana 47993 or join the 9 a.m. carpool from LNC. 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. 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 Amphitheater soccer field parking lot at 4449 State Road 43 N, West Lafayette. TIPP BF (Tippecanoe Battlefield): Meet at

TIPP BF (Tippecanoe Battlefield): Meet at 1 p.m. at the large picnic area east of the Battlefield Museum off North 9th Street in Battle Ground.

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

VEGAN CHICKEN SALAD

Ingredients:

1/2 cup raw slivered almonds
15 ounce can chickpeas, drained and
rinsed
2 celery ribs, diced small
1/2 cup red grapes, halved
1/4 cup dried cherries
1/2 cup Vegan Mayo
1 tablespoon lemon juice, from about 1/2
lemon
salt and pepper to taste

Instructions:

In a food processor, pulse the slivered almonds a few times until crumbly, but not so much they turn into a powder or paste.

Add the drained and rinsed chickpeas to the food processor with the almonds, and pulse a few times until flaky. You can leave a few beans whole; you don't want to over process and have the mixture become pasty and smooth. Just a few pulses will do.

Add the almond/chickpea mixture to a large bowl and mix in the celery, grapes, dried cherries, vegan mayo, lemon juice, and salt and pepper to taste.

Refrigerate until ready to serve. It will keep in the refrigerator for up to 5 days. Serve on bread with lettuce, on a salad or even with crackers. 4 servings. Enjoy!

~ Nora Taylor

Et Cetera

Returning Member

We would like to welcome the following returning Master Gardener:

Norbert Welch

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

Let us be grateful to the people who make us happy; they are the Charming gardeners who make our souls blossom

~ Marcel Proust

Classic Creamy Coleslaw

2/3 cup mayonnaise
1/3 cup sour cream
3 tablespoon apple cider vinegar
I tablespoon honey
I teaspoon mustard powder
I teaspoon celery salt
7 cups shredded green cabbage
I cup shredded carrots
Salt and pepper to taste

Whisk the mayo, sour cream, vinegar, honey, mustard powder, and celery salt together in large bowl until combined. Add cabbages, carrots, toss to coat. Cover and refrigerate at least 1 hour. Toss before serving.

~ Jessica D'Ambrosio, Melissa Gaman, and Steve Jackson



Image from Master Gardener Association of Tippecanoe County Facebook page, April 8, 2021.

Gadgets

(continued from back)

Trudi Greissle Davidoff, the mother of Winter Seed Sowing, advocates planting WS babies in hunks of seedlings (a method she calls HOS) and letting nature decide which ones survive. That's probably a reasonable way for us to handle Lobelia siphiliitica, Great Blue Lobelia, since the seed is like dust and there are hundreds of tiny seedlings in the container (shown on the back page). For other larger seedlings such as Baptisia australis, Blue False Indigo, we prefer pricking seedlings out and potting them up.

And that brings us to our dilemma of what potting mix to use since we're trying to reduce or eliminate peat moss (a major ingredient in most potting mixes) because using it contributes to climate change and global warming. Substituting coir for peat moss presents some challenges due to coir's unique CEC. Plants grown in coir can have problems with chlorosis due to nutrient deficiencies, especially calcium, magnesium, and iron. Coir is very high in potassium, low in calcium, can't uptake iron and is neutral pH.

We've been experimenting with Monty Don's formula for peat-free potting mix: 3 parts coir, 1 part sieved garden compost, 1 part sieved loam or topsoil, I part sharp sand, perlite, or horticultural grit. Use a quart container to measure "I part" for small batches, and a gallon container to measure for larger batches. You can find sturdy measuring containers in the paint department at big box and hardware stores.

Monty's mix is 50% coir. In the past, we've used 10% to 25% coir in potting mix, but we're cautiously trying to increase the percentage of coir. This year, we're adding gypsum, a good source of calcium, at a rate of a scant 1/4 cup of gypsum to one cubic foot of coir. Gypsum adds calcium without increasing the pH. Adding lime to coir could unfortunately move the pH higher than desirable. Vegetables,

grasses, and most ornamental plants grow best in slightly acidic soils (pH 5.8 to 6.5).

Espoma gypsum is sold in 6 lb. bags and the small pellet size makes for easy mixing. Other brands are available. We pre-moisten coir bricks and then add the appropriate measure of gypsum. Any brand or size coir brick should say what its expanded volume is when moistened. We have coir bricks that expand to 10 quarts each (1/3 cubic foot).



Even though the fertilizers we use include macro as well as micro (trace) elements, some extra supplements in addition to calcium are recommended for coir. Magnesium helps the nutrient • Stake or cage tomatoes. Remove imbalance in coir potting mix. We'll use 1/8 to 1/4 teaspoon of Epsom Salts (magnesium sulfate) to one gallon of water with liquid fertilizer every week or two. And we may also add very dilute chelated iron solution if symptoms of chlorosis appear, that is, leaves • Deter mosquitoes from the yard by turn pale yellow or white between green veins.

We're hoping these tweaks in our potting mix and fertilizer - aided by measuring containers, measuring cups, and measuring spoons - yield great results. So far so good.

Hope you've a wonderful growing season this year!

June TO-DO List

- Weed! Weed! Add weeds that have not set seed to your compost pile.
- Mulch! Mulch! Mulch!
- 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 late frost.
- 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.
- most suckers on indeterminate varieties.
- Monitor and treat plants for pests. Insecticidal soap is an environmentally friendly alternative to harsh bugs sprays.
- 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/juneyard-garden-calendar/.
- Enjoy flowers, vegetables, and sunshine!

Great Gadgets and Tools

By Kathryn Reeves and Mike Hathaway

National Weed Your Garden Day is celebrated annually on June 13 and reminds gardeners to take five or 10 minutes each day to weed their gardens. A few minutes a day makes weeding more bearable and helps keep you in control of your garden.

No one needs to measure how many weeds they pull (though there's great satisfaction in getting a whole fivegallon bucket of weeds), but other garden tasks sometimes do require measuring. An assortment of gallon and quart containers or buckets as well as measuring cups and spoons are helpful tools for mixing liquid fertilizer and other garden chemicals - more about measuring later.

June 14 is National Strawberry Shortcake Day. June 25 is National Strawberry Parfait Day. Are we growing strawberries? Oh yes!

National Pollinator Week is June 20 - 26, 2022. Most of the world's crops and plants depend on pollinators. Scientists estimate that pollinators are responsible for one out of every three bites of food we eat on a daily basis. Hard-working insects, birds, bats, butterflies, and bees have one very important job they move pollen from one flower to another to fertilize plants. Pollinators sustain our vital ecosystems.

We've been using the Winter Seed Sowing method to grow wildflowers and other ornamentals to support pollinators. Some of our WS sowing results are shown at right.

(continued on page 7)

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