



GARDEN BEET

Master Gardener Association of Tippecanoe County

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June 2023

Message from Your Co-Presidents

Jim and Mickey

In the last month or so, at least one master gardener received an email from “Jim Jeray” asking for money in the form of gift cards. Scam Alert! This is the second time it has happened in a couple of years. The last time I (Jim) got a few phone calls asking if I was OK. (Thank you for reaching out.)

Then a few weeks later I received an email from Kristel Kaye, an alumni member, with some pictures attached that I might like. Although, it showed her name in the “from” line, moving the cursor over the name revealed a totally different underlying email address. Today another email told me that Pay Pal received a questionable charge for \$854, and I should contact them immediately (by clicking on the link) to straighten out any possible error. This scammer didn’t even bother to disguise the Gmail address. This has become a frequent occurrence.

So as a public service announcement I thought I would pass along some recent advice from my bank, along with a few other tidbits.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, \$8.8 Billion was lost to scammers in 2022. Tips to avoid being a victim: 1) They contact you first, often using faked email addresses or caller ID; 2) They ask for money in advance to cover expenses or fees; 3) They ask for payment in a certain way, e.g., prepaid cards; 4) They ask for personal information; 5) They convey a sense of urgency or an emergency situation to catch you off guard.

I sometimes get emails from companies I don’t do business with, so I know they are phony. In the case of the Pay Pal message, another give-away was the opening “Dear Customer.” Companies I do business with know my name and use it in email notifications.

If I’m still not sure, I use the link in my Bookmarks instead of the one provided in the email.

One more tip: I don’t answer a phone call if I don’t recognize the number. Let them leave a message, and I’ll call back if interested. (I will always return a master gardener call, so do leave a message.)

If you received a scam phone call, email, or message, you may report it to the Federal Trade Commission online or by calling 877-FTC-HELP (877-382-4357)

Jim & (approved by) Mickey

MGATC Programs

Please note the June & July speakers have been rescheduled since last month’s newsletter

June 6 6:30 p.m. TCEO
Social time 6:00 p.m.

Plant Diseases, John Bonkowski, D.P.M.
MGATC business meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. with the speaker following. Dr. Bonkowski is a Plant Disease Diagnostician at the Plant and Pest Diagnostic Lab, Purdue University.

July 11, 6:30 p.m. TCEO
Social time 6:00 p.m.

Hydroponics, Dr. Krishna Nemali
MGATC business meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. with the speaker following. Dr. Nemali is an Associate Professor, Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, Purdue University.

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

Websites: <http://www.tippecanoemastgardener.org/> <https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/master-gardener/>

Newsletter: 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

MGATC Meeting Minutes: May 2, 2023, 6:30 pm TCEO

The meeting was called to order by Co-President Mickey Penrod at 6:45 p.m.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2023 monthly meeting as printed in the May 2023 **Garden Beet**.

Co-President Jim Jeray gave the Treasurer's Report noting April income totaled \$13,577.93 with expenses in the amount of \$2,443.27. The ending bank balance for April was \$43,929.87 with unrestricted funds totaling \$26,994.12. The savings account balance remains at \$10,555.94.

Jim Jeray also reported that Deb Rimer is working on getting the Indiana Tax Exempt Certificates set up for 2023. She is working to make it as easy as possible. A bar code or form will be required for each vendor each time it is needed. Copies will be placed in the brown shed for use in purchasing items for Master Gardeners.

Dee Dee Long reported that we had a record Garden Expo this year, both in terms of numbers in attendance and income. In 2022, approximately 2,700 visitors were in attendance while 2023 brought us over 4,000 guests. And, vendors were very happy and positive about this year's Expo.

Dee Dee then fielded a number of questions and comments regarding Expo. The question was asked about having a larger venue to include more vendors. Prior to COVID and the update of the fairgrounds, there was no charge to the Master Gardeners for the use of the Swine Barn for our Garden Expo. However, the cost for the Swine Barn was \$800 last year and \$1,000 this year. The cost to rent the entire larger facility at the fairgrounds would be \$10,000. In order to deal with a huge increase in rent, the Master Gardeners would need to consider charging entry to the Expo which we have not done in the past and some members are reluctant to begin charging. One of our visitors suggested to one of our greeters that we should be charging an entry fee. Another issue is the fact that if we were to move to the new building, we would have more space but it would be broken into separate parts so the plant sale, vendors, etc. would be split up into separate rooms; the fairgrounds has noted that they have had some complaints in this regard. Another issue to consider is more space would allow us to again have speakers at Expo which would draw more visitors. However, more space would require more volunteers. In 2024, the Master Gardeners have already committed to using the Swine Barn. Further discussion will need to be held for 2025.

This year's Expo had 29 vendors who were very happy as many of them sold out. We also had several more vendors on a waiting list.

It was suggested that we be more selective in our vendor choices so as not to have a lot of vendors in competition with our plant sale. Vendors also need to be garden-related.

A number of volunteers did not show up for their designated times. In the future, cashier spots will be designated on invitation only basis. All other volunteer positions will continue to be filled on Sign-Up Genius.

The Just Desserts Café ran out of desserts early. The popcorn machine was a hit but we need more desserts next year.

We had numerous compliments regarding the new set up for the plant sale. However, we need to adjust it so that the check-out lines are not backed up in the middle of the plant tables. Also, a large sign is needed for the cashiers as well as better signage for entrance to and exit from the plant sale. The change from ½ price to BOGO (buy one get one) for the last hour of the plant sale worked out nicely as we did not have to deal with change.

We needed a PA system for announcements.

Jim Jeray reminded everyone that our constraining factor is not dollars but volunteer hours.

Please contact either Dee Dee Long or Cheryl McCool if you have any further comments/suggestions for next year's Expo.

Dee Dee Long reminded everyone that GAAP is coming up this month and additional volunteers are needed for Columbia Park and Indiana Veterans Home. A mass email was sent out with a Sign-Up Genius link for volunteers to sign up. Check the email for dates for each venue.

Mickey Penrod reported that construction on the Humane Society project will begin soon. We will not have any parking available on the pavement in the current parking lot as it will be fenced off for the construction. All Master Gardeners will enter the parking lot and turn left and drive through the area which has our reserved parking spaces and then go left again into the drive which goes back to the Community Gardens. Parking will be available close to the tractor shed as well as in the back behind the Community Gardens.

Tecton will keep us informed as things change
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during the construction period. There may be some brief periods of time or days when we will not have access to our gardens. Once construction is complete, we will be able to use our parking spaces again.

Jim Jeray asked for help in the demo garden and composting area. Any volunteers should contact Jim directly.

Guido Nizzi was thanked for servicing our garden tractor and other equipment.

The business portion of the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Following the business meeting, Amanda Burge introduced the speaker for the evening. Deidra Nicley discussed Tippecanoe County 4-H and preview of Junior Master Gardener Program, which is planned to be implemented this year.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jan Sadler, Recording Secretary*

MGATC Board Minutes: May 11, 2023 TCEO

The Board meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Co-President Mickey Penrod. Board Members present were Jim Jeray, Mickey Penrod, Kathie Cox, Jolaine Roberts and Jan Sadler. Cheryl McCool was present as noted. Dee Dee Long, Amanda Burge and Deb Rimer were absent from the meeting.

The April 13, 2023 Board minutes were approved as posted in the May 2023 **Garden Beet**.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Jim Jeray. He reviewed income and expenses from Garden Expo.

Jim Jeray reported that Deb Rimer was able to get on the website to file all forms and reports that were needed in regard to Indiana Non-Profit Regulations. Regarding the Indiana Tax Exempt Certificate, Jim had a copy of the Menard's (Lafayette) bar code and will put it in plastic and place it in the brown shed for Master Gardener use. A copy can also be printed from our MGATC website. Menard's (Lafayette) is the only one we have so far but Deb Rimer is working on Bennett's and Lowe's.

In regard to the May 2023 issue of **Garden Beet**, everyone agreed that it looks good and everyone was pleased with it. The only concern was in regard to posting mass emails in the Beet. It was suggested that the author of the mass email be contacted as to whether or not to put the email in the Beet as sometimes the links are only accessible online.

Jim Jeray gave an update on the demo garden irrigation system. He had to make a call to Lawn & Shrub as several zoning signals were not working. After Lawn & Shrub worked on them, two were still not working so they will need to send someone else out to work on it. When sending a repairman, they need to contact the person who placed the call in order for him/her to meet them at the garden to repair the issue. We continue to have issues with Lawn &

Shrub. Jim ordered connectors which will work on our hoses and will order a timer if needed to hook to the faucets.

In regard to the Children's Garden, Jim Jeray received a request from Pattie Hall (class of 2018) for permission to place a periscope on top of the rabbit hole tunnel and asked if there would be a liability issue in doing so. Jim Jeray contacted our insurance agent. He said there would be a liability issue but gave guidelines on how to limit the liability. We could put steps up to and railing around the periscope which would make it safer and more functional.

The summary meeting of the 5-year planning committee is scheduled for June 12 due to so many calendar conflicts, Jim Jeray wanted to give a brief update to the Board at this meeting and to the membership at the June monthly meeting. Planning meetings will resume in late fall to look at years 2-5.

The emphasis for year 1 will be to get the word out about MGATC by signage and publicity. Expo publicity was successful. We encourage the publicity chair to attend monthly meetings to stay current. Signage and setting initial objectives are left to project chairs to be reviewed at year end. They will be reminded about both by email after our next meeting.

In an effort to right-size the organization, that is, match commitments to resources, we strongly recommend no additional projects for year 1 as the organization tries to match needs with volunteer hours. Although Pat Williams has authority by the Purdue Policy to approve programs and hours, we look to him for leadership in moving our recommendations forward.

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Pat Williams announced that there will be a State Conference October 6-7, 2023 on Purdue Campus. John Orick has not yet sent out any information indicating the extent of MGATC involvement. It was noted that it is scheduled the same weekend as the Feast of the Hunters Moon.

It was suggested to purchase a small riding mower to mow around trees with a bagger for composting.

Pat Williams is also looking into options regarding burning the prairie. He believes the ideal time would be after the work has been completed on the ditch.

Pat Williams then asked if MGATC would be willing to work with the Mandela scholarship program again on July 5. The Board agreed to help with this program as it is only one morning and renewal of a commitment from last year.

Pat Williams then asked if he could ask Dee Dee Long to send out a mass email with a Sign-Up Genius link to get MGATC volunteers to help with the Junior Master Gardener Program. The program would run for 9 weeks - every Thursday from June 8 through August 3. There would be two group sessions: the first from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and the second from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The program would include

10-12 youth per session and be directed toward 3rd to 6th graders.

Cheryl McCool arrived at the meeting.

After a lengthy discussion, Jim Jeray made a motion to not ask Dee Dee Long to send out a mass email with a Sign-Up Genius link for the Junior Master Gardener Program. The main reason is that it would be a new program and the 5-year planning committee strongly recommends no new projects be implemented this year. The motion was seconded and carried. As noted earlier Pat Williams has the authority to okay it without board approval. He said he would send out an email himself.

In her position of member at large, Kathie Cox has not received any complaints or concerns which need to be addressed.

Cheryl McCool reported that she has received many great comments about Expo. We do need to look at floor plan again next year.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jan Sadler, Recording Secretary*

Treasurer's Report

May 2023 Board Meeting Treasurer's Report

The income for April 2023 was \$13,577.93. We received \$12,910.64 for 2023 Expo Sales and Auction and \$667 for the Expo Raffle, and \$.29 checking account interest. Total Income Year-to-date 2023 is \$18,314.83 which is 37% over budgeted income for 2023.

For the unrestricted budget, we paid \$1,425.28 for the Garden Expo supplies, cash box change, and the Square Fees. We also sent a \$1000 check for the Purdue Scholarship and spent \$17.99 on office supplies. Total Unrestricted expense was \$2,443.27. The Unrestricted Balance was \$26,994.12 at the end of April 2023.

There only Restricted fund expense was \$46.11 for the Compost Project- diesel fuel for the tractor. The Restricted Fund Balance at the end of April was \$16,935.75. The Ending Checking account balance was \$43,929.87. Savings balance was \$10,555.94.

Deb Rimer, Treasurer



photo: © 2023 Kathryn Reeves

Tomatoes, as always, were a big hit at Garden Expo. Hoping everyone's tomatoes bear fruit this month and throughout the summer.



What's Happening

WEDNESDAYS in the WILD

REGISTRATION is required by noon, Monday prior to program: mcutler@tippecanoe.in.gov or 765-567-2993. Programs are LIMITED to 20 participants.

*SHS=sturdy hiking shoes, TP=trekking poles

JUNE 7th, 1-3pm , Conservation Partnerships in Action along Big Shawnee Creek, NICHES/WHW

Conservation partnerships are the cornerstone of creating quality work to accomplish stewardship goals. Join Justin Harmeson (NICHES Land Steward), Sandra Toruno (NICHES Administrative Manager), and the DeSutter family (local regenerative farmers) for a hike at Whistler Hare Woods to discuss the multitude of partnerships that went into the stewardship work being done at this Fountain Co. property, as well as the work being completed by the DeSutter farm upstream. Meet at the property parking lot. Wear sturdy hiking shoes SHS. Limited to 25 participants.

JUNE 14th, 1-3pm, A Bird in the Hand: Using Mist Nets to Capture Birds, WNC. Join Dr. Mickey & 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! Limited to 20 participants.

JUNE 21st, 1-3pm, A Prairie Awakening at Prophetstown State Park, PSP. Celebrate the first day of summer on this exploration of the prairie to see the harbingers of the solstice - prairie wildflowers. Jenna Parks Freeman (Interpretive Naturalist, Prophetstown State Park) will discuss the history of prairies in Tippecanoe County and the importance of this habitat while hiking through one of the park's restored prairies. Meet at the far east parking lot,

near the Circle of Stones. No gate fee; program fee is \$2. Limited to 20 participants.

JUNE 28th, 1-3pm, Parks & Pollinators: The Stewardship ABCs of a Public Pollinator Habitat, TIPP AMPH.

WEDNESDAYS in the WILD LOCATIONS:

NICHES/WHW (Whistler Hare Woods – near 164 W Covered Bridge Rd, Attica, 47918): Meet at 1pm in property parking area (directions at www.nicheslandtrust.org ~ 0.4mi gravel lane is across from mailbox #164 on W Covered Bridge Rd) OR join 12 noon carpool from Lilly Nature Center (1620 Lindberg Rd, between Northwestern & McCormick, West Lafayette).

PSP (Prophetstown State Park): Enter the park via Swisher Rd (off North Ninth St.) just south of Battle Ground. Meet 1pm at the far east parking lot, near the Circle of Stones. NOTE: \$2 program fee/NO gate fee.

TIPP AMPH (Tippecanoe County Amphitheater): Meet 1pm in Amphitheater soccer field parking lot at 4449 State Road 43 N, West Lafayette.

WNC (Wah-ba-shik-a Nature Center): Meet 1pm at Wah-ba-shik-a Nature Center at the Tippecanoe Battlefield off N. 9th St. in Battle Ground.



JUNE 10th, 2023, 10am- 4pm, Outdoor Explore MGATC will be joining many organizations, by hosting a booth, for a fun filled day at Outdoor Explore at the Tippecanoe County Amphitheater.

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The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul.



What's Happening cont'd

SAVE THE DATE:

October 6-7, 2023
2023 Purdue Extension Master Gardener State Conference
Purdue Campus, West Lafayette

Registration online TBA in August.
 More information as details become available at:
<https://bit.ly/2023EMGStateConf>

October 6

- 5:30 pm Check-in and reception
 6:15 pm Heavy Hors d'oeuvres served and social time
 7:00 pm Guest Presenter (TBA)
 7:45 pm Interactive Presentation (TBA)
 8:30 pm Adjourn

October 7

- 10:30 am Choices for Session 1:
- Jules Janick Horticulture Gardens and Greenhouse Tour
 - Tree ID Walk & Planting Demonstration
 - Gardening While Aging /Horticultural Therapy
 - Plant Disease Diagnostics
 - Spreader Calibration & Reading the Fertilizer Bag
- 1:15 pm Choices for Session 2:
- Jules Janick Horticulture Gardens and Greenhouse Tour
 - Bee Keeping Demonstration
 - Flower Arranging
 - Home Hydroponics
 - Landscape Design
- 2:45 pm Choices for Session 3:
- Jules Janick Horticulture Gardens and Greenhouse Tour
 - Vermi-Composting
 - Fruit Gardening
 - Alternatives to Pesticides & Fertilizers in Turf
 - Field Diagnostics Walking Tour
- 4:00 pm. Break
 4:15 pm Closing Session and Evaluation
 4:30 pm Adjourn



Photo: Monarch butterfly on *Liatris scariosa*, (aka blazing star or gayfeather). *Liatris* species provide nectar for butterflies, especially monarchs, as well as for hummingbirds and other insects. Xerces Society says it's great for pollinators. Birds feed on the seeds later in the season. The range of this native wildflower is east of the Mississippi River, from Maine to Wisconsin, and south to Mississippi and Georgia. Photo credit: K. Reeves & M. Hathaway

Master Gardener Online Educational Opportunities

Purdue Extension Monthly Hot Topics:
"Plant Diseases"

Thursday, June 15th, 2023, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
 Earn MG Education hours.

Register at: <https://purdue-edu.zoom.us/j/90vdemqrzouGtDd9AuZ-guSD6OX0jHBkMBO#/registration>

Other Master Gardener web-based education at:
<https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/master-gardener/continuedhours/>

A variety of topics are available to watch anytime to suit your schedule. Earn MG Education hours.



Purdue Landscape Report – timely topics on trees, shrubs, flowers, plant diseases, insect pests, invasive species and more. To get this twice a month newsletter by email go to: <https://www.purduelandscape.org> Click on subscribe link. You can also read previous issues online at the same website.



MGATC Volunteer Opportunities

Interested in helping with other Master Gardener projects? Opportunities are available to assist with Demonstration, Display & Idea Gardens, Chatham Square Community Gardens, Social Committee and others. See pages 7, 8, 9 and 10 in your **Green Book** for committee projects and chairpersons (contact any of them to offer help).

If you'd like to help bring back fun Public Education Workshops on a few Saturdays each year, contact Cindy McDonald, cindymcdnld@gmail.com

Contact Jim Jeray for a trifold brochure that explains various volunteer projects.



Other Volunteer Activities

RIP Squad volunteers*

Remove invasive plants with the Indiana Native Plant Society's West Central chapter RIP Squad on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3-5pm. Enjoy spring wildflowers along the way! **May 30** Cumberland Woods -- **June 1** Ross Hills Park -- **June 6** Happy Hollow -- **June 8** Prophet's Rock Woods. For more information contact Patty Jones, removeinvasiveplants.wcinps@gmail.com or call landline/voicemail 765-463-3050.

**Removing invasive plants in Tippecanoe County is approved for Master Gardener volunteer hours.*



Miscellaneous

MGATC Members Green Book

With your 2023 membership in the MGATC you each receive a Green Book for the organization. You can pick up your book at the Purdue Extension Tippecanoe County office, located at 1950 South 18th Street in Lafayette. Please pick it up during regular business hours Monday through Friday at your earliest convenience. Also you will receive your "Thank you berry much" gift for volunteering at the same time.



June Garden To-Do List

- ☀️ Weed! 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.
- ☀️ Stake or cage tomatoes. Remove most suckers on indeterminate varieties.
- ☀️ 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 & outdoor gardening: <https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/yardandgarden/june-yard-garden-calendar/>
- ☀️ Enjoy flowers, vegetables and sunshine!



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