

March 2023

# Garden Beet

MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY

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Chris Ramsey



## Message from Your Co-Presidents Jim and Mickey

At the January meeting we reviewed progress on the MGATC 5-year plan. The committee didn't want to go further without sharing current ideas and direction with the rest of the membership and letting everyone contribute ideas and comments of their own. The feedback as people left the meeting and afterwards was positive; people felt energized.

The great suggestions received were very ambitious and far-reaching. The planning committee is reviewing every one of them, but the goal of the committee is to determine not only what we should do, but what we can do now and in the future. As Jim explained at the February meeting, last year we had to be creative to pick up the slack between the level of resources and our basic commitments.

We still have a few vacancies, but several members stepped up to either lead or help out in many of the areas. The board is soliciting more help based on responses to the Skills Survey. (If you haven't sent yours in yet, please do so.)

We understand that everyone has other commitments - family, work, and other obligations take priority, and we thank everyone for making time in your busy schedule to be a master gardener. Some commitments can be scheduled around your own time. People who did them in the past are available to answer questions and coach you through. And, just like we learned at swimming lessons all those years ago, practice the buddy system. Two people sharing even a small project can make the work easier and more enjoyable. (We are planning an event before the April meeting to allow everyone to learn in more detail about volunteer opportunities for this spring and summer. More on this later.)

One comment from the January meeting was that the same people seem to be running everything, that we need "new blood." That's true. In 2022 about 10% of the members put in 54% of all volunteer hours.

We do need new blood while maintaining much of the energy and com-

mitment of the old blood. Let's all work together to make the MGATC a success and to make some of those "aspirations" posted on the wall in January a reality. If you are the new blood, you will be welcomed with open arms. Call one of us or anyone on the board.

Jim & Mickey

## Programs

**March 7 • 5:30 p.m. • TCEO**  
5 p.m. Social Time  
*Finding Your Friends:*  
*Beneficial Bug ID*  
Karen Mitchell

Consumer Horticulture Extension Specialist Karen Mitchell will be the speaker for our annual awards banquet. This is a carry-in dinner and will start at 5:30 p.m. with the business meeting starting at 6:30 p.m. and Karen at 7 p.m.

**April 4 • 5:30 p.m. • TCEO**  
*Mushrooms*  
Nick Harby

A MGATC volunteer interest fair will start at 5:30 p.m. with the business meeting starting at 6:30 p.m. and the speaker following. Nick will tell us which mushrooms are okay to eat and which ones are poisonous. He will also talk on other foraging opportunities in the spring.

For more information on upcoming events, contact Amanda Burge at [amanda\\_personett@yahoo.com](mailto:amanda_personett@yahoo.com).

One swallow does not make a summer, but one skein of geese, cleaving the murk of March thaw, is the Spring.

~Aldo Leopold



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.tippecanoemastergardener.org>

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

# MGATC Minutes: Feb 7, 2023, 6:30 p.m., TCEO

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Co-President Mickey Penrod.

The minutes of the January 3, 2023, meeting were approved as posted in the February 2023 *Garden Beet*.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Deb Rimer. She reviewed the income and expenses for the month and noted that the ending bank balance was \$33,884.10, of which \$17,333.06 is in restricted funds. That leaves an unrestricted balance of \$16,551.04.

Co-President and Chair of the 5-Year Planning Committee, Jim Jeray, then gave the members an update after last month's monthly meeting. The committee received a total of 220 post-it notes from the members which the committee reviewed.

The following things included in the suggestions, we are already doing:

- Keeping the members informed about Wednesdays in the Wild Program (WitW): The schedule is in the *Garden Beet* each month. Another way to get WitW information is to contact Joan Mohr Samuels at [mohrsamuels@comcast.net](mailto:mohrsamuels@comcast.net).
- Build a Gazebo: we already have two in the extension gardens.
- Use Purdue Resources Extension: We already do this as we have a computer set up at the extension office to answer questions submitted by the public; these questions are answered by the Master Gardener members.
- Connect and work with Tree Lafayette and IN Native Plant Society: MGATC already has a working relationship with these organizations.
- Get our events on Community Calendars: we do this and have for years.
- Promotion of available plots at community gardens: As we already have

waiting lists for the community gardens, it is not necessary at this time.

- Group Garden Clean-Up days (work days): We do this already but will expand the number of members which receive the notices.
- Set term lengths for leadership roles: Officers hold a two-year term in office.
- Garden Signage with description: We have planned to add signage to the Display and Idea Garden and it would be easy to add short descriptions.
- Give more scholarship to college students: Scholarships to both Purdue University and Ivy Tech have been increased to \$1,000 per school.
- Tours: Garden tours are already being done.

The following are reasons why some things are not being done:

- Demonstrations and speakers during the Garden Expo: The building that we previously used for demonstrations and speakers was torn down during the renovation of the Fairgrounds; therefore, that space is no longer available. In addition, we previously did not have to pay to rent the Swine Barn at the Fairgrounds; since the renovation the cost of renting the same space was \$800 last year and possibly will be increased this year. The cost to rent the entire large building would be over \$8,000. This is a fundraiser and demos and speakers can cost money and take up vendor space.
- Fairy Garden Booth at the Garden Expo: A vendor set up the Fairy Garden booth so it is up to them to bring it back. It was not our booth.
- Have demonstrations at booths for fairs: The State Fair, Indiana Flower and Patio Show, and Purdue's Spring Fest booths are Purdue booths; therefore, they set them up and decide what is acceptable. We can offer demonstrations at the Tippe-

canoe County Fair and other booths we set up and manage.

- Bus trip: A bus trip was planned for 2020 but due to COVID, it was cancelled. The plan is to have a bus trip in 2024 and then do a trip every other year thereafter.

Items that could possibly be added or will be added this year:

- Bring back Saturday workshops (six members asked to bring back the workshops): The 5-year Planning Committee will ask those six members to form a committee to decide what type of workshops to have and how often the workshops should be held (previously workshops were held monthly during the summer months). The 5-Year Planning Committee can guide them and offer suggestions in order to get them started again.
- Vine and Trellis Program: This will be brought back this year.
- Participate in Prophetstown October Scarecrow Contest.
- Advertise Woldhuis Sunrise Garden trip: Dee Dee Long and Jan Sadler will invite members again this year. The event will be a caravan trip and will be held in April or May. Members can also go on their own or plan a separate group trip.
- Going out to dinner prior to monthly meetings: A group of members has been meeting at Cristo's on Teal Road most months. It will be opened to all members, via mass email starting in May.

The 5-Year Planning Committee is continuing to work through all of the suggestions that the members have requested. In order for this to work, the committee will need everyone's help. Things will be done in stages (Year 1, 2, 3, etc.) in order to run smoothly.

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# MGATC Board: Feb 9, 2022, 6:30 p.m., Virtual

The Zoom board meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Co-President Mickey Penrod. Board Members present were Jim Jeray, Mickey Penrod, Cheryl McCool, Amanda Burge, Deb Rimer, Kathie Cox, Jolaine Roberts, Dee Dee Long, and Jan Sadler. Pat Williams was also in attendance.

In regard to the minutes of the January 12, 2023, board meeting, Jim Jeray asked that the paragraph regarding the MGATC Post Office Box be amended to indicate that our mailing address will be transitioned to 1950 South 18th Street, Lafayette, IN 47905, as soon as possible, but not later than June 30, 2023. The board minutes were approved as posted in the February 2023 *Garden Beet* with this correction.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Mickey Penrod. She reviewed the income and expenses for the month and noted that there were no changes since the February 7 monthly meeting report. It was noted that Mickey Penrod and Jim Jeray sat in on the financial seminar for non-profits which reviewed the changes in the law. Deb Rimer has contacted the State in order to get a log-on into the system and help her with tax forms.

The first item on the agenda was to handle our Recording Secretary vacancy since Nancy Cope resigned in order to handle the organization's publicity. A motion was made and carried unanimously for Jan Sadler to become Recording Secretary through the end of Nancy's term (December 31, 2023).

Jim Jeray reported that he showed the sample pens to the board members at the monthly meeting on Tuesday evening. The members were in agreement to purchase the nicer, more expensive pen to be given to all MGATC members and the lesser expensive pen to be given out at public events, such as the Tippecanoe County Fair. He asked the board to approve ordering 120

pens for members and 500 pens to be handed out at MGATC booths for a total cost of \$480, which includes the pens, printing, tax, and shipping. The board unanimously approved this expenditure. The pens for MGATC members will be given out at the March Awards Banquet.

In regard to our 2023 Garden Expo, Dee Dee Long reported that the vendor slots have been filling up quickly. There is only room for two or three more vendors. It was agreed that we should not be soliciting for any more vendors at this time. Other interested parties could be placed on a waiting list. Dee Dee Long also noted that she was contacted by the Fairgrounds staff about an increase in the cost to rent the Swine Barn this year, from \$800 to \$1,000 or \$1,500. She contacted the Fairgrounds and asked if the rent could remain the same as last year. (After the board meeting, she received notice on Friday that the cost this year would be \$1,000.) She reported that she put the MGATC Garden Expo on the calendar for the next three years. Dee Dee Long noted that Pat Williams gave out free seeds at the monthly meeting along with a flyer indicating deadlines to plant seeds in order to have plants ready for sale at the Expo. She mass emailed a copy of the flyer to all members.

Regarding the Community Garden road work, Mickey Penrod reported that Bill Webster will give us a schedule for work being done so that we will be aware of what is going on prior to it happening. We would like to grade the roads prior to work being done. In regard to the ditch project, Jim Butcher (surveyor), will check and get back to Mickey with information about timing and which direction they will be starting from.

Jim Jeray and Mickey Penrod looked at the stones which have been offered to the MGATC. The stones are large and

we will need help to move them. This will be reviewed and placed on next month's agenda.

This year's Green Book is in draft form. Pat Miller and Pat Williams are finalizing it, but are waiting on a couple of awards to be listed in the book. The plan is to distribute it at the March Awards Banquet. The books should be distributed as members leave as the award winners will be included. Jim Jeray noted that effort should be made to get the Green Book distributed before March in future years.

The following volunteer positions remain open: Public Education Workshops, Social Committee Chair, AAS Garden Chair, Chatham Square Chair, Demo Garden Chair, and Native Bees Volunteer.

In order to share information about our various projects, Dee Dee Long suggested that we have an "Interest Fair" at our April monthly meeting, whereby a display table will be set up for each of our different projects with a poster with photos and information about each, along with sign-up sheets for those interested. The Interest Fair would begin at 5:30 p.m. prior to the business meeting which starts at 6:30 p.m. This was approved by the board. Dee Dee Long and Jan Sadler will set up a meeting with event chairs to prepare for this event. It is believed that some members are hesitant about chairing and the hope is that if they are made aware of the description of the projects, they would be more willing to volunteer for these positions.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to have the Recording Secretary send a copy of the minutes to all board members for review prior to them being submitted to the *Garden Beet* for publication.

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# Treasurer's Report

## February 2023 Board Meeting Treasurer's Report

The income for January 2023 was \$147.94 for 2023 Dues and \$770 for Expo Vendors, and \$.29 checking account interest. \$3,236.51 of 2023 Dues was transferred from dues collected in 2022. The total 2023 Dues paid is \$3,359.45 (includes 1 refund of \$25) which is \$609.45 or 22.2% higher than projected. Total Income Year-to-date 2023 is \$4,129.74.

In January, for the Unrestricted Budget, we paid \$400 for the balance of the Expo building rental and \$159.78 in General expense - \$50 Nursery license, \$99 PO Box rental, and \$10.78 for December 2022's meeting. Total expense was \$559.78.

For the Restricted Fund Balance we received the Community Gardens 2022 income: Chatham Square \$2,440.92, Cumberland Garden, \$5,380.85, and the Extension Garden was \$2,274.97. The Restricted Fund Balance at the end of January was \$17,333.06. The Ending Checking account balance was \$34,284.10. Savings balance was \$10,555.16.

*Deb Rimer, Treasurer*

# Minutes

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The business portion of the meeting was adjourned and was followed by a presentation from Jim Jeray, titled "Wild Things of the Celery Bog." The presentation included photos from March through October showing plants as they appear/progress through the year.

Pat Williams noted that there were seed packets available in the back of the room for the Garden Expo. Along with the seeds, there is a flyer indicating suggested sowing dates for each seed type.

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Sadler, Recording Secretary*



# Board

(continued from page 3)

Pat Williams was contacted by Bennett's Greenhouse. Bennett's is planning an event for April 1 and 2 (Saturday and Sunday) and asked if the MGATC would be interested in participating, by having speakers on different topics, maybe a booth describing the Master Gardener Program, etc. This event is still in planning stages so Jim Jeray will obtain additional information and submit it to the board in order that we can make a decision regarding our participation.

Dee Dee Long stated that she feels it is important to have in-person board meetings. It was felt that this was a good idea but that we should still have Zoom available for those who cannot be there in person. It was agreed to begin in-person meetings in April with Zoom also available. When the reminder is sent out for the board meeting, all members will be asked to respond as to whether they plan to attend in-person or via Zoom. It was also noted that all members can attend board meetings if they have an issue or just want to attend.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Sadler, Recording Secretary*

To own a bit of ground,  
To scratch it with a hoe,  
To plant seeds, and watch their renewal of life,  
This is the commonest delight of the race,  
The most satisfactory thing a man can do.



~Charles Dudley Warner



# What's Happening

## Wednesdays in the Wild

Registration is required for each program by noon on the Monday prior to the program. Registrations are accepted at [mcutler@tippecanoe.in.gov](mailto:mcutler@tippecanoe.in.gov) or 765-567-2993.

**March 1 • 1-3 p.m. • LNC**  
***An Introduction to Groundwater Processes with Application to Indiana and Elsewhere***  
**Dr. Marty Frisbee**

Groundwater is an unseen but extremely important and often misunderstood natural resource. Dr. Marty Frisbee (Purdue Department of Earth, Atmospheric, & Planetary Sciences) will provide an introduction to hydrogeologic (groundwater) flow processes, demonstrating these processes with a groundwater simulator. Topics include: defining where/how groundwater is found, groundwater recharge, groundwater chemistry, and the use of isotopes to show flow processes. Research related to the Wabash River and Indiana will be shared.

**March 8 • 10 a.m.-noon**  
**or 1-3 p.m. • SBTF**  
***Maple Syrup & More***  
**Rich Hines and Family**

Join Rich Hines and family (Owners, Springboro Tree Farms in Brookston) on an indoor/outdoor woodland tour highlighting the maple syrup making process, from tree to table, along with an overview of the stewardship efforts that earned this 35-acre woodlot the 2021 Charles Deam Forest Stewardship Award in recognition of outstanding woodland management. Dress for outdoor conditions with sturdy hiking shoes. Bring cash/check (no credit cards) to purchase honey and syrup. Each session is limited to 12 participants; register for one session.

**March 15 • 1-3 p.m. • LNC**  
***Welcome to the Dark Side: Mothing in Indiana***  
**Jeanette Jaskula**

Often unseen and under-appreciated, moths are viewed as the drab, dingy-looking cousins of butterflies. However, they are dazzling denizens of the night with nearly 2,300 species recorded in Indiana. Jeanette Jaskula (President, Friends of Kankakee Sands) will introduce the joy of moths, from their stunning colors, patterns, and behaviors to their roles in ecosystems as pollinators and members of food webs. Learn how to attract moths to your own backyard and report moth sightings to the Great American Indiana Nature Lepidoptera Project (GAINLP).

**March 22 • 1-3 p.m. • LNC**  
***Angel Mounds: Ecology & Culture of the Ohio River in 1450***  
**Tom Swinford**

The advanced agriculturalists of the Mississippian culture studied the skies, grew maize, and utilized their environment to support large villages. Tom Swinford (Director of Stewardship, The Nature Conservancy, Indiana) will share the story that the landscape of Angel Mounds State Historic Site reveals about this flourishing period of human history in our state, through his work helping to develop a Cultural Resource Management Plan for the Indiana State Museum.

**March 29 • 7:15-9:15 p.m. • LNC**  
***Caves, Karst, & Landscape Evolution in Southern Indiana & Kentucky***  
**Dr. Darryl Granger**

The early ice ages played a role in cave and landscape formation in both southern Indiana and Kentucky. Dr. Darryl Granger (Purdue Department of Earth, Atmospheric, & Planetary Sci-

ences) will take us on a journey underground to share the secrets that places like Mammoth Cave have revealed about our buried Teays River, formation of the Ohio River, and even the mighty Mississippi.

### **WitW LOCATIONS:**

**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.

**SBTF (Springboro Tree Farms in Brookston):** Meet at the Tippecanoe River public access parking lot, just east of the intersection of Springboro Road and SR 18 (located on the north side of SR 18) to form carpools to drive to the nearby farm.

## Indiana Flower & Patio Show 2023

The Indiana Flower & Patio Show is March 11-19 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds, Indianapolis.

Karen Mitchell, Purdue Horticulture Extension Specialist, will present "The Social Side of Seeds: Growing Communities" on Monday, March 13, at noon and 4 p.m.

Kathryn Reeves, Purdue Extension Master Gardener, will present "Top Tips for Growing Vegetables in Containers" on Friday, March 17, at noon and 4 p.m.

## Library Series

Dr. Pat Williams will be presenting the following Library series. Master Gardeners are welcome to attend.

**March 14 • 6-7 p.m.**  
**Klondike Library**  
***Foodscaping as a Landscape Addition***

**March 22 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.**  
**West Lafayette Public Library**  
***Secrets to a Good Lawn***

March is a tomboy with tousled hair, a mischievous smile, mud on her shoes and a laugh in her voice.

# Expo Exchange

## The MGATC 2023 Expo

EXPO is right around the corner; it will be April 22nd before we know it! Please start propagating plants, collecting things for the garden shed, and plan on doing some baking for the cafe. This is our only fundraiser and we want it to be our best year ever. We are changing some things up and moving the Plant Sale to the center and north end of the building and the Garden Shed to the southwest corner. We need each of you to sign up for a volunteer shift at one of our booths; also people for set-up on Friday and tear-down on Saturday. We will send out an email to sign-up on SignUp Genius. This is your opportunity to get several volunteer hours, so help us out and sign-up!

### Gee-Gaws....Do-Dads... Thing-a-ma-Bobs... Gem-Cracks

These are all the kinds of things we want for the Garden Shed this year.

This is a good time to clean out your basement, garage, or wherever you stash all your garden 'stuff,'

Donate whatever you no longer use/ have room for/know what it is/or want and we'll find a new home for it.

The list below will give you some ideas.

Today is the day when bold kites fly,  
When cumulus clouds roar across the sky.  
When robins return, when children cheer,  
When light rain beckons spring to appear.

~Robert McCracken, Spring

All items should be gently used.....

Please no chemicals or fertilizers

Books and magazines  
Garden related tools (shovels, rakes, etc.), hand tools  
Pots/fancy pots (empty of soil), containers that could be used for planters  
Garden flags/holders  
Fence and garden stakes  
Bird feeders, garden ornaments, chimes  
'Rusty stuff,' scarecrows  
Plant markers  
Clean/unused garden gear like gloves/hats  
Wreaths, artificial flowers  
Stepping stones  
Hoses, buckets, fountains  
Garden furniture  
Rain gauges, bird houses, pavers  
Baskets, thermometers, outdoor clocks  
Garden related picture frames, dishes, linens  
Garden totes, sprinklers, vases/flower-frogs, large/small hooks

You get the idea.....stuff! Drop your 'thingies' off Friday afternoon or early Saturday morning before the EXPO and we'll do the rest.

Thanks....Candy Sheagley

Contact info: phone - 765-563-3497, cell - 765-822-0916, email - [candy@purdue.edu](mailto:candy@purdue.edu).

# Do You Care About the Garden Beet?

Would you miss it if it no longer showed up at the end of each month? The *Garden Beet* is currently hanging on with the help of a temporary editor. It needs longer-term loving care. If the *Garden Beet* means enough to you to do something to ensure its survival, please send an email to any board member or to [mgatcgardenbeet@gmail.com](mailto:mgatcgardenbeet@gmail.com).

## Seared Chicken With Carrots and Mint-Almond Pesto

### INGREDIENTS:

1 1/2 lb. small, thin carrots, scrubbed but not peeled, halved crosswise  
1 tsp. ground coriander  
2 tbsp. plus 1 tsp olive oil, divided  
Kosher salt and pepper  
4 6-oz boneless, skinless chicken breasts  
1/2 c. fresh mint  
1 1/2 c. flat-leaf parsley  
1/4 c. blanched almonds, toasted  
2 1/2 tbsp. fresh lemon juice  
1/2 jalapeño, seeded

### DIRECTIONS:

**STEP 1:** Heat oven to 425°F. On a large rimmed baking sheet, toss carrots with coriander, 1 Tbsp oil, and 1/4 tsp salt and roast until tender and browned, 18 to 20 minutes.

**STEP 2:** Meanwhile, heat a large skillet on medium-high. Season chicken with 1/4 tsp each salt and pepper. Add 2 tsp oil to skillet, then add chicken and cook until browned and cooked through, 3 to 4 minutes per side.

**STEP 3:** In a blender, combine mint, parsley, almonds, lemon juice, jalapeño, 1/4 cup water, a pinch of salt, and remaining 2 tsp oil and puree until smooth, adding up to 1 Tbsp additional water if needed. Slice Chicken serve with roasted carrots and almond pesto

YIELDS: 4 serving(s).

~BY WOMAN'S DAY KITCHEN

# Gadgets

(continued from back)

Analog moisture meters, like the one shown, require no batteries to operate and are inexpensive. Various brands of this type are widely available locally and online. Digital meters may be easier to read and more accurate, but are more expensive and require batteries or USB charging.

The easiest moisture meter, although not the most accurate, is right on your hand. Poke your finger into the pot, and if the first inch or so of potting mix feels dry, it's time to water.

You may be starting a lot of seeds indoors this month for your garden and for the Garden Expo Master Gardener Plant Sale. Moisture in seed starting mix or potting mix is critical for germinating seeds. Seeds want a moist (not soggy) but well aerated mix that's fairly sterile. But if the mix dries out, seeds lose the water they imbibed and they will die. But you can't stick your finger into tiny pots or 6 packs of seedlings, so a moisture meter may be the best tool.

If you're starting flower or wildflower seeds this month, March 12 is "National Plant a Flower Day." To celebrate this day, people are encouraged to plant a flower for inspiration and to honor the vital role flowers play in our ecosystems, histories, traditions, and cultures.

After doing all your seed starting prep - cleaning tools, shopping for new tools, disinfecting pots and seed flats, moistening potting mix, and sowing seeds - you'll be very happy but maybe a little bit tired. Don't worry: March 13 is "National Napping Day."

## March TO-DO List

- Mark frost dates on calendar. <https://www.weather.gov/ind/> as early as March 30. [frostfreezedate](https://www.weather.gov/ind/frostfreezedate) The National Weather Service records last frost as early as March 30 or as late as May 27. Farmer's Almanac says our average last frost date is April 23 (50% probability).
- Keep planning your garden.
- Clean pots and tools.
- Inspect houseplants and start feeding with a very diluted fertilizer. Check soil moisture with your finger or moisture meter before watering.
- Start cold season veg seeds early this month and flower seeds that need 6 - 8 weeks to grow before planting out. Start warm season veg mid to late month. Use a moisture meter to avoid overwatering.
- Collect and dry samples for soil test if the ground isn't frozen.
- Improve your soil. Spread soil amendments like compost on vegetable beds so the worms have time to incorporate it into the soil.
- Rake lawn areas, removing leaves, twigs, debris, and matted grass. Apply grass seed to bare patches.
- Clean-up debris and leaves that piled up around bulbs and perennials. Do this on a cloudy day so that tender, pale growth is not burned.
- Cut back perennials that were left for winter interest before new growth begins later this month. Replant any perennials that have heaved out of the ground during winter.
- See more tasks on houseplants, yard, and garden from Purdue University Extension Consumer Horticulture at: <https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/yardandgarden/march-garden-calendar/>.

## Amazingly Easy Irish Soda Bread

Prep Time: 15 mins, Cook Time: 45 mins,  
Total Time: 1 hrs, Yield: 1 (1 1/2-pound) loaf

### Ingredients:

4 cups all-purpose flour  
1/2 cup margarine, softened  
4 tablespoons white sugar  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1 tablespoon baking powder  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 cup buttermilk  
1 egg  
1/4 cup butter, melted  
1/4 cup buttermilk

### Directions:

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Lightly grease a large baking sheet.

Mix flour, softened margarine, sugar, baking soda, baking powder, and salt together in a large bowl. Stir in 1 cup of buttermilk and egg. Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface and knead slightly. Form dough into a round and place on the prepared baking sheet.

Combine melted butter with 1/4 cup buttermilk in a small bowl; brush loaf with this mixture. Use a sharp knife to cut an 'X' into the top of the loaf.

Bake in preheated oven until a toothpick inserted into the center of the loaf comes out clean, 45 to 50 minutes. Check for doneness after 30 minutes. You may continue to brush the loaf with the butter mixture while it bakes.

~Recipe by MP Welty  
Updated on December 19, 2022

It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade.

# Great Gadgets and Tools

By Kathryn Reeves and Mike Hathaway

The vernal equinox is March 20, the first day of spring this year. Vernal is Latin for new and we all need some *new* after winter is over. Spring begins at 5:24 p.m. Eastern daylight time - we're counting the minutes until then.



photo: © 2022 Kathryn, Reeves

March 11 is humorously designated "National Worship of Tools Day." It's a day to go into the garden shed or gar-

age to clean, repair, or reorganize tools and maybe buy some new ones such as a moisture meter.

Soil moisture meters are handy gadgets to check moisture levels in houseplant potting mix. Stick the metal probe into potting mix or soil and it will read dry, moist, or wet. Probes



photo courtesy of Garland Products

## YOUR MGATC OFFICERS:

### Co-Presidents:

Jim Jeray, [jerayjm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jerayjm@sbcglobal.net)  
Mickey Penrod, [cmpenrod@frontiernet.net](mailto:cmpenrod@frontiernet.net)

### Co-Vice Presidents:

Amanda Burge, [amanda\\_personette@yahoo.com](mailto:amanda_personette@yahoo.com)  
Cheryl McCool, [mikeandcherylmc@msn.com](mailto:mikeandcherylmc@msn.com)

### Treasurer:

Debra Rimer, [debrimer@yahoo.com](mailto:debrimer@yahoo.com)

### Recording Secretary:

Jan Sandler, [jansadler23@comcast.net](mailto:jansadler23@comcast.net)

### Corresponding Secretary:

Jolaine Roberts, [jolaineroberts@gmail.com](mailto:jolaineroberts@gmail.com)

### Member at Large:

Kathie Cox, [kathiecox@gmail.com](mailto:kathiecox@gmail.com)

### Past Co-Presidents:

Dee Dee Long, [deedee1mg@gmail.com](mailto:deedee1mg@gmail.com)  
Jan Sadler, [jansadler23@comcast.net](mailto:jansadler23@comcast.net)

vary in diameter up to 1/4" and in length from about six to 15 inches. Longer sturdier ones are better for compost piles and soil outdoors.

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## Garden Beet

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### Address changes:

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