



GARDEN BEET

Master Gardener Association of Tippecanoe County

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March 2024

Message from Your Co-Presidents

Cheryl and Dee Dee

Congratulations Master Gardeners for making 2023 a successful year!

We had a grand total of 8013.17 volunteer hours. That's impressive! Thank you for making 2023 a success.

Spring is on the way, and it's time to think about what areas of the gardens you would like to spend your time in. Can't physically garden this year? There are other activities to participate in like Spring Fest, Garden Expo, Outdoor Explore, writing an article for the Garden Beet, and starting seeds for Expo. These are all important activities, and we need your participation.

Finally, remember the Expo is April 27th. Start your plants, save your boxes. Collect items for raffle and used items for the Garden Shed. See you in April!

Cheryl and Dee Dee

**GARDEN EXPO
Coming Soon!**

**April 27th from 9-3
April 26th Set Up**

**Fun & Easy
volunteer opportunities**

See pages 4 & 5 for more info

MGATC Programs

March 5, 2024 TCEO
5:30pm Social time
6:00pm Awards Night Carry-In Dinner
 with speaker following:
Gardening as We Age and with Disabilities.
Speaker: Stephen J. Swain, ATP, Rural Rehabilitation Specialist Indiana AgrAbility/ National AgrAbility and serves at Purdue University in Agricultural Health and Safety

April 2, 2024 TCEO
6:00pm Social time, 6:30pm Speaker
Weather/Climate Change and the Impact on Gardening
Speaker: Chad Evans, WLF

Do you have any speaker suggestions or questions about upcoming events?
 Contact Sally Casey jscasey04@gmail.com
 or Alison Roth alison.roth2020@gmail.com

Attention members:

If you have any changes to your membership details, please send them to Pat Miller at pmillerathome@comcast.net

Websites: <http://www.tippecanoemastergardener.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: February 6, 2024, TCEO

At 6:36PM Cheryl McCool called the seminar meeting to order. Alison Roth quickly reminded the group to pick up the seed-starting and dessert handouts for Expo and to pick up their green books, and then introduced the guest speaker, Jenna Parks Freeman, DNR Interpretive Naturalist, Prophetstown State Park. The title of Jenna's talk was 'Restoration in Progress: Prophetstown State Park'. Jenna gave a brief historical overview of the park's history, described which native tribes lived in the area and how Prophetstown got its name. She discussed the historic habitat of the park, the Grand Prairie and the Tipton Till Plain, which includes mainly the prairie, some oak savannah, a fen, wetlands and the convergence of two rivers, the Tippecanoe and Wabash. Restoration efforts at Prophetstown involves both habitat types, using prescribed burns and seed-starting of native flowers and grasses (anywhere from 20,000 to 40,000 plants each year) in their greenhouse. Jenna finished by providing various pamphlet resources and displayed a few reference books for people to peruse.

After the talk the business meeting was called to order by Cheryl McCool. A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the January meeting minutes published in the February Garden Beet without changes or corrections. Pat Miller provided details of the treasurer's report. There were no questions about the financials.

Cheryl McCool discussed the planning for Garden Expo, which is on April 27th. Vendors are full, a total of 29 spread across 40 slots (some vendors are renting two spaces). We are renting the facility for \$1000. Last year, we had approximately 4500 people come to Expo, therefore, the committee decided to charge a \$2 entry fee for anyone 17 and older. If charging a nominal fee works, this will allow us to rent the larger space next year for \$10,000, where we would be able to have even more vendors and guest speakers. This year will be an experiment year to see how this works. We can always go back to the free, smaller event if we need, in the space we are now renting.

Deb Lewis discussed the handout for bake sale items for Expo. Items are to be bagged in pint

or quart plastic baggies on a small paper plate if needed. Bags must be clearly labelled, especially if nuts are used, if item is gluten free, etc. All of the time spent purchasing ingredients and baking counts as volunteer hours. The homemakers will also have a booth selling soup and sandwiches. We will also have the use of the popcorn machine but need to purchase our own supplies. Last year they were donated.

Monique Fontaine asked people to get started soon on growing vegetables, herbs, flowers for Expo, and to dig up anything from the yard to add to the sale. All of these efforts to grow seedlings and to dig up plants counts as volunteer hours. Houseplants are always good sellers. Small sturdy seedlings sell better than tall leggy plants, so plan accordingly and use good light sources for growth. Start saving cardboard boxes to be used at the sale. Monique also said that this would be the last year she would organize the plant sale.

Candy Sheagley, who is in charge of the Garden Shed at the Expo, wanted people to start thinking about all of the older, gently used garden items that can be sold at Expo. This is a good time to begin early spring cleaning of sheds and garages to find items to donate. Tools, flowerpots, yard ornaments, etc are all good items to sell.

Dee Dee Long reminded the group about the upcoming summer bus trip. Please respond to the email with a yes or no so we can get an accurate idea of how many people are interested before we sign the contract. The trip requires a minimum of 25 people. Spouses are included but preference will be given first to Master Gardeners. Dee Dee also said the number of volunteers for the ABCs of Ag now requires 4-5 people per shift, up from 3 people per shift. The email with the link will be resent.

Patty Clifford, a transfer Master Gardener from Hamilton County, won a plant in the drawing.

With no further business, meeting was adjourned at 7:54PM.

*Respectfully submitted,
Mary Kay McCauley, Recording Secretary*



MGATC Board Minutes: February 8, 2024, 6:30pm, TCEO

Attendees: Mickey Penrod, Jim Jeray, Pat Miller, Alison Roth, Dee Dee Long, Cheryl McCool, Mary Kay McCauley, Kathie Cox, Georgia Brist, and Sally Casey. The Meeting called to order at 6:30PM. The minutes of the January board meeting were approved as published in the February Garden Beet.

Pat Miller provided an update on the financial statement. Pat Miller discussed getting an updated tax-exempt form for the MGATC so we can obtain tax exempt purchases at the various vendors where the MGATC shops. Pat also stated we are now up to 110 members. We had one master gardener transfer from Hamilton County.

Dee Dee informed the board that Matt Scarpelli will write two grants to the Community Foundation for the Demo Garden after he verifies with them that we are a good fit for the grants. There are two types of grants, a general grant (due March 15th) and a beautification grant (due in May). If required, Jim will work with Matt on any letter writing representing the board. The Demonstration Garden committee will be giving a presentation to the board on plans for the garden on March 4th.

Cheryl and Dee Dee stated that all vendors positions are filled for Garden Expo, and Cheryl and Jim have worked on the layout. The Expo committee had recommended the \$2 entry fee, for anyone 18 and older. Advertising for Expo is in the works. We discussed what to do about people bringing in their own wagons and if they should be set aside so as not to be a hazard as they are wheeled around the show. No final decision was made but tabled for another time. Committee members are working on getting volunteers committed to working various positions so there will be no issues with having critical volunteer positions filled.

Georgia is working on the details of the setup for the ABC's of AG. She plans to do a presentation using a trifold with pictures on how to grow celery and how it relates to agriculture, making the snack ants on a log using the celery to share with the children.

Dee Dee informed the group that 36 have responded yes to the June bus trip. Details of the trip are still being finalized. We will go ahead and get the deposit down on the 32-passenger bus. Spouses are welcome but if the bus fills up, first choice goes to master gardeners.

Dee Dee stated that all awards are purchased, and certificates in progress for the March awards banquet. Dee Dee and Alison would still like to receive pictures to show at the awards meeting of master gardeners doing their volunteer activities. The conference room has three new large monitors to use for a scrolling slide show of everyone's activities and involvement.

Dee Dee and Mickey received an email asking us to host a booth on May 18th at the SWCD Native Plant Fest. In the past at this event, we found that this event is not a good booth event, as people were not going to the booths. This year we would have to provide our own tent, tables and chairs. It would take whoever volunteered to do all of the setup and tear down. Since there is already a tremendous amount of master gardener activity going on in May, and our own Expo is at the end of April, a motion made, seconded, and carried not to attend this year.

In other business, more tables are being ordered for the conference room. Our February monthly meeting had 56 people attending and some people sat in the extra chairs and not at a table. Mickey announced the first garden tour, the Happy Hollow garden club, scheduled at the community gardens on July 11th. Also, Mickey will be given a flyer for Garden Expo to share at the upcoming community garden call-out meetings in late February. With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 7:40PM.

*Respectfully submitted,
Mary Kay McCauley, Recording Secretary*

Treasurer's Report – January 2024

Income for the month of January was from dues, Garden Expo Vendor payments and interest for a total of \$732. Expenses for the month were for the social committee and website support for a total of \$336. There were additions to the restricted funds for the three community gardens for a total of \$3,047 and the total Restricted Funds were \$16,451 at month end. The bank balance was \$37,914 as of January 31 and the total of unrestricted funds available is \$21,464. The Savings Account balance was \$10,558 and the Gaming/Scholarship Account balance was \$767 at month end.

Pat Miller, Treasurer

GARDEN EXPO *Coming Soon!*

April 27th from 9-3
April 26th Set Up

♥ Earn Master Gardener volunteer hours
for all Expo work ♥

In the West Pavilion at Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds (Swine Barn)

Get ready for Garden Expo our fundraiser for MGATC. It's time to start growing your plants, saving boxes, collecting items for the Raffle, gathering objects for the Garden Shed, and thinking about the delicious goodies for the Just Desserts Garden Café.

We hope all of you plan on working either Friday or Saturday, or both days! We really need you. Please get the word out to family and friends. The more the merrier.

In March we will send out information on how to sign up to work at the event! It's a busy day, but lots of fun.

Just Desserts Garden Café needs your homemade baked goods for EXPO!

- Fruit Pies-Apple, Peach, Berry, Rhubarb, Strawberry, Pecan.
- Cookies of any variety
- Homemade Candy
- Brownies,
- Fudge
- Snack Mix

♥ Earn Master Gardener volunteer hours
for all Expo work ♥

Labeling is important!

Label what you bring, and identify if it has nuts or is gluten free, sugar free, or anything special.

If you are baking cookies, please bag two large cookies to a bag, three medium cookies to each bag, four small cookies to each bag.

For cakes, pies, or anything sticky, it would be best if we cut and bag items on a small plate.

Please supply a box of sandwich size, zip lock bags or a package of small plates if you are not bagging your items.

Thanks for all your help! Happy Baking! Questions? Please contact Debbie Lewis at deboralewis58@gmail.com

Raffle at Garden Expo



Each year we hold a raffle at Garden Expo to support the scholarships MGATC gives to Purdue and Ivy Tech students.

Courtney Fredrick and Pat Miller will be collecting new items such as pruners and other hand tools, pots, grow bags, garden books, and fun garden items.

If you have any donations for the raffle, please bring them to the March or April meetings or contact Courtney Fredrick at Courtney.frederick13@gmail.com or Pat Miller pmillerathome@comcast.net with any questions.

GARDEN SHED at GARDEN EXPO

♥ Earn Master Gardener volunteer hours
for all Expo work ♥

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. 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!

Contact info: phone - 765-563-3497, cell - 765-822-0916, email - candy@purdue.edu

DEMO GARDEN

Georgia Brist asks members to bring clean dry plastic bags to the monthly meeting. The bags will be used in the Demo Garden when we harvest vegetables. The bags are folded and put in empty coffee cans and are then easily pulled out one at a time.

“By March, the worst of the winter would be over.
The snow would thaw, the rivers begin to run and the world
would wake into itself again.”

~ Neil Gaiman ~



Photo: © 2023 Mike Hathaway



What's Happening

WEDNESDAYS in the WILD

Registration is required by noon on Monday prior to program:

765-567-2993 or mcutler@tippecanoe.in.gov

Feb. 21, 1-3 pm, Rachel Carson and the Wonder of Nature, LNC.

Wonder, that feeling of surprise and curiosity in response to the natural world, was a subject of study for environmentalist and writer Rachel Carson. Her best known book, *Silent Spring*, alerted Americans to the risks of chemical insecticides. Even while focusing on this serious topic, Carson managed to inspire wonder and foster emotion in her readers. Dr. Frederick Davis (Dept of History, Purdue University) will invite participants to learn more about Carson's legacy, her ideas about wonder, and the role wonder plays in our own interactions with the natural world. *REGISTRATION is required.*

Feb. 28, 1-3 pm, Helping Hoosier Hellbenders: An Engaged Approach to Endangered Species Conservation, LNC.

Sherri Reinach (Hellbender Project Coordinator, Purdue University) will outline the conservation efforts used to aid recovery of populations of Indiana's largest amphibian, the hellbender, through partnerships among academics, governmental agencies, zoos, and non-profit organizations. Come discover how these partnerships led to the success of finding the first juvenile hellbender in Indiana waterways this summer! *REGISTRATION is required.*

MAR 6, 1-3 pm, Keeping Up with Invasive Insects and Other Moving Targets, LNC.

From spotted lanternfly to Asian jumping worms, invasive pests are moving through Indiana. Dr. Cliff Sadoff (Dept. of Entomology, Purdue University) will discuss the threats posed by these and other invasive species while showing us what we can do to slow their spread into our communities. Using emerald ash borer as an example, he will demonstrate how slowing the spread buys time and allows better tools to be developed for fighting off invaders. *REGISTRATION is required.*

MAR 13, 10-noon OR 1-3 pm, Maple Syrup & More!, SBTf.

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. NOTE: Preference will be given to registrants who have not previously attended this program!

MAR 20, 1-3 pm, The Great American Total Solar Eclipse of 2024, LNC.

On April 8, 2024 the path of a total solar eclipse will go right over Indiana, affording a rare opportunity to view this amazing celestial spectacle. Members of the Wabash Valley Astronomical Society will discuss eclipses and what to expect, depending on location, during the eclipse. NOTE: Solar viewing glasses will be available for \$2 (cash or check). Weather permitting, following the presentation we plan to view solar features through specially filtered telescopes. *REGISTRATION is required; max: 30 participants.*

MAR 27, 1-3 pm, Patterns of Nature at Frank Lloyd Wright's Samara, LNC.

Nathan Allaire (Curator, Samara House) will share the story of famed Wisconsin-born architect Frank Lloyd Wright and how he used patterns in nature to create organic architecture and design. Attendees will explore how Samara, a house built in 1956 for a young West Lafayette couple, was influenced by the local environment and why their home was named after the botanical term "samara". The presentation will end with a fun activity where participants make an astronomical-inspired dessert together (originally created to treat guests by Catherine Christian, one of Samara's owners, in recognition of Purdue's space connections.) Don't miss this opportunity to learn

(continued on page 7)

What's Happening cont'd

about how nature can inspire the way we live and build! REGISTRATION is required.

LNC (Lilly Nature Center): 1620 Lindberg Road, between Northwestern & McCormick at the Celery Bog Nature Area, West Lafayette.

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 Native Plant Society (INPS):

Monday, February 26, *Wild by Design: The Art of Gardening for Wildlife.* This program is presented by Karen Mitchell (Consumer Horticulture Extension Specialist at Purdue). Discover practical tips and strategies for creating a thriving ecosystem in your own yards from selecting plants to designing habitats. The session will help you turn your garden into a haven for butterflies, birds, and the life it supports. This is a zoom meeting. Contact Patty Jones at removeinvasiveplants.wcinps@gmail.com for the link and time.

No March volunteer workdays with RIP Squad - Remove Invasive Plants to help protect the native plants. *Programs will resume in spring/summer.*

For DNR events at State Parks see: <https://www.in.gov/dnr/state-parks/programs/program-schedules/>

For FOS events at Kankakee Sands see: <https://friends-of-the-sands.com/calendar-of-events/>
See The Nature Conservancy (TNC) events at Kankakee Sands and other TNC locations around the state:
<https://outlook.office365.com/calendar/published/1090e94c81a6426fb2079298d85371dd@TNC.ORG/4ee1e251dbcd4e77b629030c873f22893591099997417263813/calendar.html>

Check above calendars for each event on suggested gear and winter clothing. These events and workdays are hosted by DNR in partnership with FOS.

Feb. 21, 2024, 2:30 to 4:30 pm CT – Bringing Back the Prairie, part 2. We will be working to cut and treat

woody plants that separate Beaver Lake Prairie and TNC's Kankakee Sands Unit G to the south. *Please RSVP to learn the exact meeting location.* Contact Gus Nyberg (nyberggus@gmail.com or 765-427-4345). **Kankakee Sands**

Feb. 28, 2:30 to 4:30 pm CT – Bringing Back the Prairie, part 3. We will be working to cut and treat woody plants that separate Beaver Lake Prairie and TNC's Kankakee Sands Unit G to the south. *Please RSVP to learn the exact meeting location.* Contact Gus Nyberg (nyberggus@gmail.com or 765-427-4345). **Kankakee Sands**

March 12, 12 noon to 1:00 pm EST - West Lafayette Tree Friends Monthly Meeting.

Margerum City Hall - Bean Room, 222 N Chauncey Ave, West Lafayette, IN 47906



Purdue Extension Monthly Hot Topics for 2024

Feb. 21, noon to 1pm EST. Austin Pearson, Climatologist from the Midwestern Regional Climate Center will present "Weather." More information can be found at <https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/mastergardener/events/purdue-extension-monthly-hot-topics-2024-weather/>

March 20, noon to 1 pm EST. This month the Hot Topic is "Purdue on the Farm," Scott Gabbard, ANR Extension Educator. To register for this free, live, virtual program go to <https://bit.ly/HotTopics2024>.

"Hot Topics" is a free monthly live Zoom presentation featuring Purdue Extension Professionals discussing their research and area of expertise.

Virtual presentations will earn Master Gardener education hours. All programs are recorded for later viewing if you can't make the noon presentation.

Contact Courtney Ann Schmidt, Extension Educator, Ag & Natural Resources / Health & Human Sciences County Extension Director-Miami County Purdue Extension at schmi163@purdue.edu, for details.



"Springtime is the land awakening. The March winds are the morning yawn."

~ Lewis Grizzard ~



Recipes of the Month

Emily Hughes found great recipes for this month. See directions online for these recipes:

Chocolate Stout Cupcakes

<https://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/dave-lieberman/chocolate-stout-cupcakes-recipe-1953733>

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Spring Veggie Wraps

<https://www.eatingwell.com/recipe/279107/spring-veggie-wraps/>

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Master Gardener Online Educational Opportunities

Purdue Extension 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 EMG Education hours.

Purdue Landscape Report

Timely educational topics on lawn care, 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.



March Garden To-Do List

🌱 Mark frost dates on calendar. <https://www.weather.gov/ind/frostfreezedate> The National Weather Service records last frost as late as May 27 or as early as March 30, the average is April 25.

🌱 Grow some healthy happy plants for Garden Expo!

🌱 Keep planning your garden. Start flower seeds that need many weeks to grow before planting out.

🌱 Munch on some photosynthetic lifeforms (aka vegetables) and start some cold season veg seeds this month.

🌱 Clean pots and tools.

🌱 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.

🌱 To protect pollinators, wait until evening temps are above 50° before cutting back perennials left for winter interest.

🌱 Replant any perennials that heaved out of the ground during winter.

🌱 Cut back ornamental grasses before new growth begins. Pro tip: Tie up large bunches of ornamental grass before cutting to make it easier. Electric hedge trimmers work well for cutting large clumps.

🌱 Start slow-to-germinate seeds like peppers and celeriac in late February or early March in a very warm spot or on a heat mat and grow under LED or fluorescent lights.

🌱 A few perennials need to be started 8-10 weeks before last average frost date in our area.

🌱 More tips on houseplants, yard & garden see: <https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/yardandgarden/march-garden-calendar/>

🌱 Watch for the earliest spring bulbs to emerge.

🌱 Spring is happening...only a little more than 55 days until last frost date and Garden Expo.





YOUR MGATC OFFICERS:

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Garden Beet

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