

May 2018

Garden Beet

MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY



A Word from Our Co-Presidents

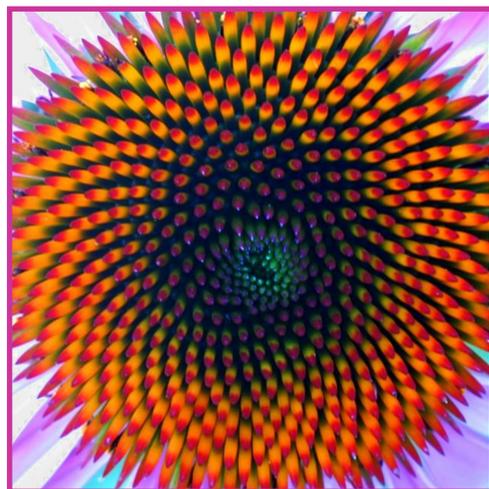
I am certainly not a math wizard, but I was fascinated by a recent program shown on NOVA about the Fibonacci Sequence. The Fibonacci Sequence is a series of numbers where a number is found by adding up the two numbers before it. Starting with the numbers 0 and 1, the sequence goes 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, etc. For example; $0+1 = 1$, $1+1 = 2$, $1+2 = 3$, $2+3 = 5$, $3+5 = 8$, $5+8 = 13$ and so on. Fibonacci recognized mathematical patterns in nature and wrote about this sequence in the early 13th century. This sequence or pattern occurs in many places in nature like seashells, sunflowers, and pinecones. For instance, pinecones usually have eight spirals going around in one direction and 13 in the other (both Fibonacci numbers). Check this out the next time you pick up a pine cone.

My point is, as Master Gardeners we can always be learning something new about nature and gardening. We have many opportunities within our own

organization. Here are a few that come to mind:

- ◆ Learn from speakers at our monthly meetings
- ◆ Attend a Saturday workshop put on by Master Gardeners
- ◆ Go to the next state conference in June in Hendricks County
- ◆ Wednesdays in the Wild programs
- ◆ Our own Garden Expo or garden shows put on by Master Gardeners in nearby counties
- ◆ Articles in the *Garden Beet* and other garden magazines
- ◆ Ride along on the Master Gardener “educational” bus trips
- ◆ Take advantage of nearby programs that Karen Mitchell posts in her Coordinator Correspondence email updates
- ◆ And once you have gained this new knowledge, be willing to share it with other gardeners, because after all that is our goal “to help others grow.”

Can you see the Fibonacci Spiral in this cone flower?



Happy Gardening from Jolaine and Cheryl
Co-Presidents

MG Badges

If you leveled up this year and haven't picked up your new badge, they are at the front desk of the Extension Office. You can pick them up Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. or Karen Mitchell will have them out at the monthly meetings.

If you want a new badge (but didn't level up), it can be ordered \$10. However, there is a flat shipping fee of \$5. Karen is willing to pay the shipping cost if she has a minimum of five badges on the order. She already has one MG that would like a replacement, so if any of you need a new badge, please let her know.

Programs

May 1 • 6:30 p.m. • TCEO
6 p.m. Social Time
Aeroponic Tower Farming
Austin Kasso & Dino Viitale

June 5 • 6:30 p.m. • TCEO
6 p.m. Social Time
Get Social in the Garden - Garden Tour
All American Selections Design
Mickey Penrod

For more information on upcoming events, contact Dee Dee Long at dlong70@ivytech.edu or Jan Sadler at grammajax8@comcast.net.

Now every field is clothed with grass, and every tree with leaves; now the woods put forth their blossoms, and the year assumes its gay attire

Virgil

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 dlong70@ivytech.edu.

<http://www.tippecanomainstergardener.org>

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

MGATC Minutes: April 3, 2018, 6:30 p.m., TCEO

Jan Sadler introduced the evening's speaker, MGATC member Jim Mailloux. Due to a tornado warning, those in attendance then sheltered in place at the Extension Office. After the threat of a tornado passed, the evening's presentation resumed at 7:15 p.m. Jim Mailloux presented "Growing Dahlias," which provided information related to ideal growing conditions, maintenance, and pruning, as well as tips for showing and presentation of dahlias. He and Jim Smith also sold dahlia tubers at the meeting.

Jolaine Roberts called the meeting to order at 7:46 p.m.

The minutes of the March monthly meeting were approved as posted in the April issue of the *Garden Beet*.

Jim Jeray gave the Treasurer's Report through March 2018. After adding the income and deducting expenses, the checking account balance at the end of the month was \$26,781. After deducting the restricted funds, the available checking account balance was \$18,281. The savings account balance was \$10,533.

Sue Hiser described the 2018 Great Annual Annual Planting (GAAP) and requested for volunteers, who could sign up at the meeting or can contact her. She also noted that Mayor Tony Roswarski will give a donation to the MGATC.

Cheryl McCool provided an update on the Garden Expo. Donations of plants, desserts, and garden shed items would be greatly appreciated. Donated plants should have relevant information included on a tag. She also announced that the Indiana State Nursery has donated 300 pine, river birch, and red oak trees, which will be given to the first attendees at no cost. Mickey Penrod also noted that donations of invasive plant species are not welcome; further information regarding those species is available online. Jeri Bosworth Parker added that desserts

should be individually bagged and labelled with allergen information. There should be 2-3 cookies per bag.

Jolaine Roberts explained the role of Corresponding Secretary Jeri Bosworth Parker and asked members to give any updates for get well, sympathy, or congratulations cards to her. Jolaine Roberts then requested any reports from committee chairpersons. Mickey Penrod explained that interested volunteers for the extension gardens orchard have not yet met due to weather and conflicts; any additional interested volunteers should contact her for further information. Andy Hughes informed members that seven bee huts are being installed in the extension gardens as part of the native bee program.

Tonia Kasica, outgoing chairperson of the Public Education Workshops, noted that she will provide a report to the board going back to 2012 that includes data regarding speakers, attendance, and popular topics. She also noted that she enjoyed serving as chairperson and wished luck to the next person in that role.

Karen Mitchell announced that she has accepted the role of Purdue Tippecanoe County Extension Director in addition to her current role.

Pat Pool asked about the status of the Cumberland Community Gardens in relation to the proposed aquatic center. Karen Mitchell responded that the City of West Lafayette has assured that the 2018 growing season will be uninterrupted. In 2019, the location of the gardens could be moved to the area around the West Lafayette recreational fields. Chi-hua Huang then provided a brief summary of his attendance at the last city meeting in regard to the Cumberland Community Gardens.

Bill Dilling announced that he had pots in his truck that could be used for Garden Expo plant donations.

With no further business, Jolaine Roberts adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kristen Noel, Recording Secretary

Treasurer's Report

As I write this in the middle of April, activity in the club treasury is still slow. We brought in another \$100 from the Expo vendors and paid out almost exactly the same amount for the native bee huts. The sign advertising the Expo in front of the Extension Office was \$125.

I expect things to pick up considerably before the May meeting with a busy Garden Expo and the gardens starting up. I'll have a full report then.

Jim Jeray, Treasurer

If you
have a
garden and
a library,
you have
everything
you need

Cicero

MGATC Board: April 12, 2018, 6 p.m., TCEO

Jolaine Roberts called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Present for the meeting were Jolaine Roberts, Jan Sadler, Pat Miller, John Pickett, Jerry Millard, Jim Jeray, Kristen Noel, Cheryl McCool, Dee Dee Long, Jeri Bosworth Parker, and Doris Wallmann.

The March board meeting minutes were approved as posted in the April issue of the *Garden Beet*.

Jim Jeray delivered the financial report. Income for early April was comprised of \$55 submitted for Master Gardener dues and \$95 in Garden Expo vendor fees. Expenses included \$99 for the native bee hut project and \$30 for a vendor refund. The resulting balance was \$26,802 and \$10,533 in savings.

Cheryl McCool provided a Garden Expo update. She noted that she was in the process of confirming a couple of vendors' attendance. The preferred location of the hypertufa workshop will be outdoors (weather pending); a volunteer will need to collect the entrance fee for the workshop. Cheryl McCool then announced that the fairgrounds will be unable to provide tables and chairs for future Garden Expos. Board members then discussed options for chair and table rental as well as concerns about the planned construction and the future layout of the fairgrounds.

In relation to the Garden Expo, Dee Dee Long noted that there were multiple volunteers who have not submitted their annual dues. The board agreed that due to liability and insurance issues, all Master Gardener volunteers

must be current members. Jan Sadler then suggested potentially adding radio station announcements or having radio stations present for future Garden Expos. Jeri Bosworth Parker announced that she received the Master Gardener aprons for the Expo café. Since these custom aprons are available for purchase at \$23/apron, Cheryl McCool and Jolaine Roberts suggested potentially purchasing them for future events.

Jim Jeray then announced that as of May 15, 2018, the Extension Office can no longer store checks for the MGATC. Since mail currently comes to the Extension Office, the board will need to come up with a solution for receiving mail. Jim Jeray agreed to get a quote on the price of a P.O. box.

Jolaine Roberts inquired about the Garden Expo email master list previously discussed at the March board meeting. Dee Dee Long reported that compiling a master list should be relatively easy and can be sent from the MGATC email address. She agreed to check with Andy Hughes on the logistics of setting up this list. The board agreed to revisit this topic at the May Board meeting.

After receiving feedback about the proposed engraved stone in memory of Dona Brown, the Board discussed potentially replacing the stone with a bench for the Extension Gardens. Suggestions for personalized benches included the plastic upcycling program in southern Indiana, the vendor that makes the benches for the Veteran's Home, and local woodworkers. Pricing

details on these options will be discussed at the May board meeting.

Jolaine Roberts then provided an update on the open Public Education Workshops chairperson position. Linda Gudeman has volunteered to serve as a chair.

Dee Dee Long and Jan Sadler provided an update on future bus trips. After researching trip options and soliciting feedback, they proposed moving the bus trip to be held every other year. There will be no 2018 bus trip.

Jolaine Roberts then asked if there was any other business. She reported that Joan Sozen's husband, Mete, passed away. Jerry Millard added that Kay Falley is currently in hospice care.

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen Noel, Recording Secretary



I say, if your knees aren't green by the end of the day, you ought to seriously re-examine your life.

~Bill Watterson, *Calvin & Hobbes*

What's Happening

GAAP

It's time to sign up for GAAP (Great Annual Annual Planting) 2018. Spring will soon be in the air and Master Gardeners love to plant. GAAP is the time we serve our community and make it more beautiful by planting annual, and some perennial, flowers in public locations around town.

Plan to sign up for GAAP at the May MGATC meeting or email me with when and where you want to plant.

GAAP planting days for this year will be May 8, 9, 10, and 11.

- **Tuesday, May 8, 9:30 a.m.**
Columbian Park and Zoo
Meet at the triangle
- **Wednesday, May 9, 9:30 a.m.**
Indiana Veteran's Home
Meet at the shelter
- **Thursday, May 10, 9:30 a.m.**
Lafayette Art Museum
Meet at the parking lot off 10th Street
- **Friday, May 11, 9:30 a.m.**
Court House
Meet at corner of Columbia and 4th Streets
Pedestrian Bridge
Meet at the east end of the bridge

The rain date will be Friday, May 11 at 1 p.m.

We hope it will be sunny and warm, but we will still plant in a light rain. Please bring your gloves and trowel.

There are lots of plants to put in the ground and we need many hands. If something happens and you are unable to come on the date you signed up for, please call or email Sue to let her know.

Questions, please call 583-2624 or email at landshiser@gmail.com.

Sue Hiser

Art in Bloom

This year marks the tenth annual Art in Bloom garden tour in West Lafayette on June 23rd. Master Gardeners sponsor this event by staffing the gardens on the tour date, welcoming visitors, and answering questions about plants and landscaping. There will be five-seven homes on this year's tour, primarily in Hills and Dales. The tour goes from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with the morning volunteers working from 9:30 a.m. to noon and the afternoon volunteers from noon to 2 p.m. Each garden will have one-two artists demonstrating their art as well as selling. This event is free and open to the public - we see between 300-500 visitors each year. Lynn Layden will have sign up sheets at the May MGATC meeting. If you want to sign up but cannot attend the meeting, please email Lynn at layden.lm@frontier.com or call at 463-2242.

West Lafayette is celebrating the tenth anniversary of our America in Bloom win by designating Hot Pink as the city planting color for 2018. This color of annual plantings, in beds and containers, was very popular in 2008 when the judges visited and made the city plantings as well as the neighborhoods pop with brightly colored florals. To make the planting of bright pink flowers easier, we offer flats of pink annuals suitable for sun and shade, at bargain prices from Galema's Greenhouse. Plants must be ordered and paid for by check on or before May 3rd and delivery will be Saturday, May 12th at the West Lafayette Farmers' Market at 9 a.m. The order blank is available on the West Lafayette website: westlafayette.in.gov. In the search box, type 2018 Art in Bloom Flower Order Form and it should pop up for easy printing.

Lynn Laden



R.I.P.

The May 2018 volunteer afternoons to pull garlic mustard and small invasive honeysuckles with the R.I.P. (Remove Invasive Plants) Squad, which helps to protect our native plants, are listed below. Sponsored by the West Central Chapter of Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society (INPAWS) and Sycamore Audubon Society (SAS) in cooperation with the West Lafayette Parks & Recreation, the Tippecanoe County Parks & Recreation, and the NICHES Land Trust.

Weeding bags will be provided, but bring your own gardening gloves and dress for poison ivy. Please call Patty Jones at 765-463-3050 or email her at RemoveInvasivePlants.WCINPAWS@gmail.com to check on "iffy" weather, or to verify directions to the weeding area.

Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 3-5 p.m.:

- May 1 - Happy Hollow Park
- May 3 - Prophet's Rock Woods
- May 8 - Celery Bog Nature Area
- May 10 - Ross Hills Park
- May 15 - Michaud-Sinninger Nature Area
- May 17 - Prophet's Rock Woods
- May 22 - Happy Hollow Park
- May 24 - Ross Hills Park
- May 29 - Celery Bog Nature Area
- May 31 - Prophet's Rock Woods

Wednesday afternoons following Wednesdays in the Wild at approximately 3-5 p.m.:

- May 2 - NICHES Moyer Gould property near Delphi
- May 9 - Celery Bog Nature Area
- May 16 - NICHES Crow's Grove property near Williamsport
- May 23 - NICHES Moyer Gould property near Delphi
- May 30 - Celery Bog Nature Area

Patty Jones

(continued on page 5)

Happening

(continued from page 4)

Wednesdays in the Wild

April 25 • 1-3 p.m. • MARTELL
The Role of Research in Understanding Forest Secrets
Brian Beheler

Brian Beheler (Martell Forest Property Manager) will host this fascinating tour of research sites in a local forest. Purdue researchers will describe projects on American Chestnut breeding, saw-whet owl banding, conversion of forest stands from pine to hardwood species, and white oak regeneration successes. A people mover will drive us to the sites; some easy hiking will take place during the program.

May 2 • 1-3 p.m. • DPL
Hunting Woolly Mammoths: The Role of the Atlatl
Anita & Franks Lukes

The atlatl and the spear it propelled was a bridge between throwing a spear by hand and the bow and arrow. Anita and Frank Lukes (World Atlatl Association members) will share the ancient and modern use of the atlatl in the U.S. and around the world. Weather permitting, you'll see the atlatl used and can try it yourself. Carpool from WNC at 12:30p.m.

May 9 • 1-3 p.m. • LNC
Planting for Pollinators & Photography
Dan Shepardson

Dr. Dan Shepardson (Purdue Departments of Earth, Atmospheric & Planetary Sciences and Curriculum & Instruction) will discuss planting native and other non-invasive species to support pollinators, providing a natural backyard habitat to photograph nature. Photographic techniques will be shared; bring a camera to practice around the nature center.

May 16 • 1-3 p.m. • NICHES/CG
Exploration of Crow's Grove
Gus Nybert

Gus Nyberg (NICHES Executive Director) will lead this hike through a restoration of oak and pine woods at this Warren County NICHES preserve and explore the cool of the sandstone canyon along a tributary of the Big Pine Creek Valley. Carpool from LNC at noon.

May 23 • 1-3 p.m. • NICHES/MGW
Wild Edibles at Moyer Gould Woods
Gus Nyberg

Walk the trails at this Carroll County NICHES preserve with Gus Nyberg (NICHES Executive Director) and bring your taste buds as we explore the wild edibles of our local woods. Carpool from WNC at 12:30 p.m.

May 30 • 1-3 p.m. • LNC
Spiders Within the Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment (HEE)
Marc Milne

Dr. Marc Milne (Assistant Professor of Biology, University of Indianapolis) and his undergraduate students will share their research methods and findings after three years studying spiders as part of the HEE Project (a 100 year study of Indiana's forests through time). New spiders discovered in Indiana will be highlighted and time will be spent at the end of the program searching for local spiders.

June 6 • 1-3 p.m. • DPL
Prairie Wildflowers Virtual Hike
Angie Manuel

Angie Manuel (IDNR Chief of Interpretation) will showcase the beauty of prairie wildflowers and also share their uses for medicine, utility, dyes, and more. A great way to learn about local flowering plants before heading out for summer hiking. Carpool from LNC at 12:30 p.m.

WITW LOCATIONS:

DPL (Delphi Public Library): Meet at 1 p.m. at the library at 222 East Main Street, Delphi, IN 46923 or join the 12:30 p.m. carpool from WNC.

LNC (Lilly Nature Center/Celery Bog Nature Area): In West Lafayette at 1620 Lindberg Road, on the north side between Northwestern Avenue and McCormick Road.

MARTELL (Purdue FNR's Martell Forest): Meet at 1 p.m. in the parking lot of the Wright Forestry Center at 1007 CR 725 W in West Lafayette.

NICHES/CG (Crow's Grove): Meet at 1 p.m. in the property parking lot (directions are at www.nicheslandtrust.org) or join the noon carpool from LNC.

NICHES/MGW (Moyer-Gould Woods): Meet at 1 p.m. in the property parking lot (directions are at www.nicheslandtrust.org) or join the 12:30 p.m. carpool from WNC.

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

2018 State Conference

The 2018 Purdue Master Gardener State Conference hosted by the Hendricks County Master Gardeners, Purdue Extension, Hendricks County, and the Purdue Master Gardener State Office is fast approaching. For more information visit: www.purdue mgconference.com. Registration closes June 1!

4th Annual Plant Auction

May 5 • 9:15.m. Preview
Harris Hall
Putnam County Fairgrounds

The plant auction starts at 10 a.m. Items to be auctioned are: annuals, perennials, herbs, houseplants, shrubs, and more. The money raised will help fund scholarships. For more information call 765-653-8411 or visit the Facebook page at fb.me/PutnamCountyMasterGardeners.



The world's favorite season is the spring.
All things seem possible in May.

Edwin Way Teale

Miscellaneous

Green Book Change

Jesica Hollinger's email should be changed to jesicaehollinger@gmail.com.

Help Needed

I'm looking for some help finishing my garden project. I'm creating some raised beds and need help with physical labor: shoveling dirt, running a rototiller, etc. I'm estimating it will probably take a couple afternoons. I'm willing to pay a decent wage, which is certainly negotiable. I would like to get this done in the next week or two. If it works out well I may have more outdoor jobs in the summer. Call or text me at 765-491-8957.

Thanks, Nancy Cope

From the Native Bee Network News

"The Master Gardener Association of Tippecanoe County (MGATC) installed seven NBN huts at its Extension Gardens of Lafayette, IN. The group's Pathways for Pollinators program began in 2016 to educate visitors about native and annual plants important to pollinator health. By joining the NBN, Master Gardeners Andy Hughes and Mickey Penrod hope to establish a baseline of the native bees in the gardens so they can evaluate the impact of the program in the coming years. Hughes has created custom signs to explain the purpose of the huts in the garden."



Expo Exchange

Truck Needed

Terri Cook usually hauls in llama poo for the Garden Expo, but she does not have a truck to do so this year.

If you have a truck and are available to pick up from Terri's house and deliver to the fairgrounds on Friday, April 27th, please call Terri at 765-714-5870.

Thank you, Karen Mitchell

Lectures

- ◆ Theresa Thompson at 9:30 a.m. on a hypertufa demonstration and making a container
- ◆ Kathryn Reeves at 11 a.m. on Microgreens
- ◆ Rosie Lerner at 1 p.m. on tomatoes

Participating Vendors

- ◆ Altra Design 2000 Inc.
- ◆ Bees Gone Wild
- ◆ Bloomers Greenhouse
- ◆ Creekbank Gardens
- ◆ Happy CATs Farm
- ◆ Jenkins Country Gardens
- ◆ Lady Bug Acres (shopping bags)
- ◆ Longlois Artisans
- ◆ Jim's Dahlia's
- ◆ Nobody's Perfect (stained glass)
- ◆ Norman and Lynn Reed - hypertufa pots
- ◆ RDM Farms LLC
- ◆ The Weathered Plow
- ◆ The Wild Bird Shoppe
- ◆ Warm Glass Wonder

Participating Nonprofit Organizations

- ◆ Bonsai Club of Lafayette
- ◆ BSA Troop #73
- ◆ INPAWS
- ◆ NICHES Endow Foundation
- ◆ Prophetstown
- ◆ Sycamore Audubon Society
- ◆ Tippecanoe Extension Homemakers
- ◆ West Central Indiana Beekeepers

Roasted Butternut Squash with Smoked Paprika and Turmeric

Paleo, Vegan & Gluten Free
(Serves 6)

- 3 pounds butternut squash, peeled, seeded and cut into 1-inch cubes (8 cups)
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 teaspoons McCormick Smoked Paprika
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon McCormick Ground Turmeric
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Toss squash cubes with oil, paprika, salt, turmeric and garlic powder in a large bowl to coat. Spread out on a large rimmed baking sheet. Roast, stirring once or twice, until the squash is tender, and starting to brown in spots, 32 to 37 minutes.

- Katie Webster

Just Desserts Café

The Just Desserts Garden Café needs: fruit pies, brownies, cookies, fudge, snack mixes, and homemade candies. Please label what the item is and if it is sugar free, gluten free, low carb, etc. Bring a box of quart-sized, zip-lock bags or small plates.

Garden Expo Raffle

This year at the Garden Expo we will have a raffle of garden items to support the scholarships MGATC gives to Purdue and Ivy Tech students. We have two garden tubs to fill with new items such as pruners and other hand tools, pots, grow bags, garden books, and other gardening items. If you have any donations for the raffle please contact Pat Miller at 765-714-5463 or pmillerat.home@comcast.net.

The picture to the left was provided by Andy Hughes and is of one of the bee huts in the Extension Gardens.

Gadgets

(continued from back)

John Orick, Purdue Master Gardener State Coordinator, gave a great talk on lawn care at the Indianapolis Flower and Patio show in March. He said mowers should be set high and no more than 1/3 length of grass blades should be cut off at any one time. Cut off more and the grass is so shocked it will stop growing roots for several weeks. John showed an amazing photo diagram from stunted roots of short cut lawn to long healthy roots of longer grass. Also, longer grass is more resistant to drought.

Very short mown lawns help weeds grow. With or without bulbs, we mow high. Grass that's 3-4 inches tall out competes many weeds, but not violets. Kathryn loves deep blue violets, even though they spread rampantly in the lawn. Mike hates violets. Mike's point of view wins, because he is willing to dig them out. Violets as well as Creeping Charlie ground ivy can be eradicated with the broadleaf herbicide Tri-clopyr. John Orick says at least two applications of Triclopyr in mid to late autumn will be needed to do the job - so for now one of us will enjoy the violets.

If possible, we mow only when the grass is dry and allow clippings to remain on the lawn. Wet grass will clump up when mown and clippings probably should be bagged and composted. It's better to stay off wet lawns altogether to avoid soil compaction.

A clean pair of flower snips or small scissors are great for pinching seedlings to make more flowers and bushier plants. Disinfect tools with ordinary rubbing alcohol. Clean fingers work for pinching too. Pinch when seedlings have grown several sets of true leaves (above the first cotyledon seedling leaves). Snip off the top of a plant's stem a bit above a set of leaves - be sure not to damage nodes where new leaves and branches will grow out. Continue pinching new growth for a

couple of weeks until you have a full bushy plant and then allow plants to grow and produce flower buds. Peppers are bushier and more productive if pinched back this month. Foliage plants benefit from periodic pinching and cutting back throughout the growing season if they get too big. Some seedlings that pinching improves: ageratum, aster, basil, coleus, cosmos, dahlia, impatiens, lobelia, marigold, orange butterfly weed, petunia, plectranthus, snapdragon, sweet peas, and zinnia.

May TO-DO List:

- Sharpen mower blades. Set mower high.
- Prune early spring-flowering shrubs and trees after they bloom.
- Deadhead daffodils and tulips to prevent seed formation and allow bulbs to regain their flowering strength for next spring.
- Start to harvest early leaf crops, radishes, and asparagus.
- Plant warm season flowers and vegetables when the soil warms up and all danger of frost is past.
- See tips for indoor and outdoor gardening from Rosie Lerner at: <https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/yardandgarden/may/MayGardenCalendar>
- While you're digging and planting, pause to enjoy sunlight and warm breezes.

Carrot and Ginger Soup

(Serves 4)

- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2 cups yellow onion, chopped
- 1/4 cup fresh ginger, finely chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 8 cups chicken or vegetable stock
- 1 cup dry white wine
- 1 1/2 pound carrots, peeled and cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- Fresh chives, chopped
- Parsley, for garnish

In a large stockpot over medium heat, melt the butter.

Saute the onion, ginger and garlic.

Add the chicken stock, wine and carrots and heat until boiling.

Reduce heat and simmer, uncovered, over medium heat until the carrots are very tender, about 45 minutes.

Cool slightly, then purée mixture in a blender or food processor with a steel blade.

Stir in the lemon juice.

Serve hot or cold and garnish with chives or parsley.

- Farm Flavor

Spring
2018
at
the
Extension
Gardens



Garden Gadgets and Tools

By Kathryn Reeves and Mike Hathaway

We're hoping for a month filled with sunshine, gradually warming temperatures, and flowers, flowers, flowers. The month of May can be tricky for color in the garden, late flowering spring bulbs will be done soon, and summer perennials haven't started their big show. Iris, columbine, peony, bleeding heart (*Dicentra spectabilis*), and blue false indigo (*Baptisia australis*) are great for this transitional time. See a list of perennials for spring interest for zone 5 gardens: <http://m.extension.illinois.edu/gardendesign/docs/SpringWishList.pdf>.

Most planting is done this month. Many perennials can still be lifted and divided this month. Some times a regular shovel or spade is too wide to dig in

tight flower borders. One of the most useful tools we've found is a long narrow **drain spade** (similar to a trenching shovel) with a rounded end. We rarely dig trenches, so we usually refer to it as our "perennial shovel."

Any shovel, spade, fork, trowel, or lawn mower works best when the blades are sharp and clean. A **mill bastard file** does a great job of sharpening with its many rows of fine diagonal teeth. History buffs and "Game of Throne" fans might be interested to know the name of this tool may possibly be traced back to the Middle Ages when a diagonal *barre sinister* was included on heraldic coats-of-arms to signify the illegitimate birth. Don't be shy about asking for one of these files

at the hardware store - just be prepared for terrible old jokes.

Small spring bulbs have naturalized in our lawn. Tiny blue and white *Pushkinia* and *Chionodoxa* bloom every spring. They will reseed and slowly increase in a well-behaved way if we hold off on mowing the area for a while. Squirrels, who never seem to like where we plant bulbs in flowerbeds, have planted crocus bulbs in the lawn. The short leaves of minor bulbs will easily ripen off in a lawn and disappear until next year. Siberian squill can be an invasive spreader, so we try to keep that in mixed shrub borders where it makes beautiful pools of intense blue color.

(continued on page 7)

Garden Beet

1712 Mason Dixon Drive South • West Lafayette IN 47906

Address changes:

Billie Seaton • 1712 Mason Dixon Drive South • West Lafayette IN 47906
(765) 463-5701 • seatonbl1@frontier.com

Editorial correspondence:

Chris Ramsey • 4801 North 600 East • Lafayette IN 47905-9764
(765) 589-8601 • MGATCGardenBeet@gmail.com