

May 2019

Garden Beet

MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY



A Word from Our Co-Presidents, Jolaine & Cheryl

By the time this article appears in the Garden Beet, another Garden Expo will be in the books. I remember when Jeff Phillips, our then Master Gardener Coordinator, kept proposing to the membership and the Executive Board, that our group should put on a garden show similar to the one in Lebanon. At the time, I thought it seemed like an overwhelming idea. However, with much planning and great execution, it came to pass. I am certain that the attendees at the Expo can't imagine all

the work that goes into this event; starting with growing plants for the sale, scrounging for garden goodies for the garden shed booth, baking for the café, finding vendors and speakers, set up and tear down.... WHEW! and I say, well done. I look forward to hearing all the details about another successful show.

It seems like I am always saying thank you for all your efforts, and Cheryl and I certainly recognize that our organi-

zation would not be successful without our most precious commodity, you! Perhaps you can give yourselves a little reward and consider taking the Master Gardener bus trip planned for July. We took a bus trip to the Botanical Gardens and the nursery a few years ago, and I can assure you it was a fun trip. Besides, what gardener doesn't love to stop and buy plants?

See you at the May meeting,
Jolaine



Garden Gadgets and Tools

By Kathryn Reeves and Mike Hathaway

Did you buy a lot of wonderful plants at Garden Expo last month? Maybe you started some perennials from seed or already have a lot of mature perennials. An old gardening adage says: the first year they sleep, the second year they creep, and the third year they leap. Before your perennials start to leap this month, it's a good idea to get **plant supports** in early. Doing this now is especially important if you also have ephemeral native spring wildflowers and spring bulbs in your garden beds - next month it may be harder to tell where these guys are.

Visit any garden center and you'll see a huge variety of cages and towers for supporting plants. Joe Lamp'l of "Growing a Greener World" on public television makes tall square tomato cages cut from livestock fence panels. We use traditional round tomato cag-

es reinforced with two or three 6 ft. tall bamboo poles, placed inside the top hoop and poked deep into the ground.

You can find special hoops for peonies, delphiniums and other floppy plants. Grids, cages, circles, straight, and curved linking pieces. We found some gridded circles on 14" legs that allow multi-stem perennials like salvia to grow up through them. Put supports in early - later you risk a lot of damage to the plants.

We have a very tall grass that flops over in mid summer. We love the lushness of this big beautiful guy, but he does flop onto other plants. Very tall, very strong plant supports cost a pretty penny and often come in colors that are too obtrusive.

(continued on page 3)

Programs

May 7 • 6:30 p.m. • TCEO

6 p.m. Social Time

Gardening Tools for People with Disabilities or Those Who are Getting Older
Stephen Swain

Stephen J. Swain, ATP (Assistive Technology Professional) is a Rural Rehabilitation Specialist and Assistive Technology Specialist for the Indiana AgrAbility Project/National AgrAbility Project.

June 4 • 6:30 p.m. • TCEO

6 p.m. Social Time

Using Prairie Plants in Your Own Backyard
Jenna Parks

Jenna is an Interpretive Naturalist at Prophetstown State Park.

For more information on upcoming events, contact Dee Dee Long at dlong70@ivytech.edu or Jan Sadler at grammajanx8@comcast.net.

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.tippecanomastergardener.org>

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



MGATC Minutes: April 2, 2019, 6:30 p.m., TCEO

At 6:30 p.m., Jan Sadler introduced Christie Shee, Ph.D. student in the Purdue Department of Entomology. Her presentation, "If They Smell It, They Will Come," detailed the results of her striped cucumber beetle study in the extension gardens and two other small commercial farms during the summer of 2018. Her research found that a variety of factors including visual cues and concentration of cucurbits influence the concentration of beetles and their reproductive behavior in growing areas.

Cheryl McCool called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m.

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

Jim Jeray delivered the treasurer's report for March. The month's starting balance was \$38,983; the month's income of \$227 included Garden Expo vendor fees and Master Gardener dues. Expenses of \$377 included the March Awards Banquet decorations, Garden Expo ads, and the *Garden Beet* mailing. The end balance was \$38,834, including \$16,408 in unrestricted funds and \$10,537 in savings.

Cheryl McCool provided a Garden Expo update. She asked for donated items for the Garden Shed sale. Monique Fontaine announced changes to the April plant party and provided instructions for the plant sale. Jeri Bosworth Parker requested donations of desserts for the Café. Kathryn Reeves announced a make-and-take workshop for succulents. Pat Miller reminded members that they can participate in the raffle and sold tickets at the meeting.

Cheryl McCool reported on the available volunteer position for the Cumberland Adopt-a-Spot. Dee Dee Long and Jan Sadler volunteered to serve as GAAP co-coordinators.

Cheryl McCool announced that sign-up sheets for Purdue's Spring Fest and GAAP were in the back of the room. Sue Hiser provided an overview of GAAP and announced the volunteer dates for the week of May 7th. Dee Dee Long reported that a few sign-up spots for the Garden Expo still remained.

Pat Miller announced tentative plans for the 2019 bus trip. This year's bus trip will take place on Friday, July 19th to visit the Chicago Botanic Gardens. The cost of approximately \$45 (depending on lunch) will include a grand tram tour around the 300+ acres of property and include a stop to visit a nursery and dinner. Fifty slots are available on the bus; if interested, cash or check will be collected beginning in May or June. Education hours will be earned while at the Botanic Gardens.

Cheryl provided a compost area update on behalf of Karen Mitchell. Work will begin on the gravel pad within the first two weeks of April and the compost piles will be located on the side of the gravel pad. The honeysuckle will be pulled and a large area of land will be planted with wildflowers and pollinator plants. Approximately \$24,000 of grant money was received for this project.

Cheryl McCool reported that she spoke with Duke Energy regarding electrical installation for the security system in the extension gardens. The gardens will require single phase electrical. Cheryl will continue working with Duke to get a quote.

Chi-Hua Huang provided an update on the Cumberland Park community gardens. The City of West Lafayette will build gardens in a new location approximately 1/4 mile from the current plots. Available plots are \$30 to rent. Greg Dean added that a group has already been clearing out the area for the 2019 season.

Mickey Penrod introduced herself as the All-America Selections chair and asked anyone interested in volunteering to contact her.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen Noel, Recording Secretary

Treasurer's Report

When the club changed to a calendar year (January to December) from a September to August reporting period, a few glitches occurred. Previously we began collecting dues in August or earlier. By January, most had paid. With that four- or five-month head start, it was easy to get the membership book assembled and distributed well before the growing season. Also the preferences on the lower half of the form were in the hands of the garden coordinators well ahead.

Although the new timing makes sense for a number of other reasons, it put those activities under a lot of time pressure - in essence we lost 4 months - and the books are late. The Board is working hard to correct this and will have procedures in place so it doesn't happen again next year.

In April so far we collected \$179 in dues and have had \$421 in expenses, mostly related to Expo preparation. I hope to have a full report on the Expo results for the May monthly meeting. Then it will be time to start spending on all our various gardens and projects.

Jim Jeray, Treasurer

Hello May
Please be perfect
weheartit.com

MGATC Board: April 11, 2019, 6 p.m., TCEO

Cheryl McCool called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. In attendance were Jan Sadler, Dee Dee Long, Pat Miller, Jim Jeray, Cheryl McCool, Jeri Bosworth Parker, Karen Mitchell, and Kristen Noel.

The Board reviewed a draft of the 2019 *Green Book* and made updates regarding committee chairpersons and future dates prior to printing. The Board also discussed how to streamline the distribution of the *Green Book* and membership lists.

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

Jim Jeray provided the treasurer's report. At the April monthly meeting, he received \$179 in membership dues. Expenses of \$421 included the native bees project chaired by Andy Hughes and Garden Expo-related costs. The April 11th ending balance was \$38,592, including restricted funds of \$22,225 and savings of \$10,538.

Karen Mitchell reported that reimbursement information was submitted to The Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette for the Community Garden pavilion costs. The Board then discussed options for a gazebo replacement for the Demonstration Gardens. The Board concluded that a pergola would be the best option and will coordinate with Mary Quinn for purchase and installation.

Cheryl McCool reported that no one has volunteered to chair the Cumberland Adopt-a-Spot. The Board discussed potentially discontinuing the site due to a decrease in available volunteers. Karen Mitchell will ask the Cumberland Park community garden managers if they would like to take over this spot since the garden plots will be moved near the adopt-a-spot.

Cheryl McCool announced that Dee Dee Long and Jan Sadler will take over the GAAP coordinator position from Sue Hiser.

Dee Dee Long reported that she received a thank you card from Calista Overman, a MGATC scholarship recipient. Calista thanked the MGATC for helping her with tuition and pursuing her dreams. Dee Dee also noted that the MGATC will have a reserved table at the 2019 Ivy Tech Evening on the Farm event.

Pat Miller reported on details for the July 19th bus trip. The trip will include a stop at Sunrise Greenhouse nursery as well as a dinner stop at an exit with several food options. Pat, Dee Dee Long, Jan Sadler, and Cheryl McCool will do a practice trip in May to work out trip logistics. After discussing lunch options, the Board agreed that it would give attendees more flexibility if they buy their own lunch. As a result, the trip will be approximately \$41 for members.

With no further business, Cheryl McCool adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen Noel, Recording Secretary

Gadgets

(continued from page 1)

Here's our inexpensive DIY tall plant support made from 1/4" diameter 10 ft. threaded rod found in the electrical supply area of big box stores. If you have superhuman strength you might be able to bend 3/8" rebar, but we found the 1/4" threaded rod very easy to bend into the desired shape. We wanted a plant support with 4 ft. tall legs and approximately 2 ft. arc. (4 + 4 + 2 = 10 ft.) We used an 18" flowerpot to get that size arc. In addition to the 10 ft. rod, you'll need safety glasses/eye protection, work gloves, two 2x8 boards, hammer, and nails. It's helpful to have two people to do this project, especially for the first step. You can allow the metal to rust naturally or spray paint with rust color metal primer or neutral color (see the back page for photos).

May TO-DO List:

- Deadhead daffodils, tulips, and other spring bulbs to prevent seed formation and allow bulbs to regain their flowering strength for next spring.
- Place plant supports this month around perennial plants after spring bulbs are finished blooming but before you remove the foliage to avoid spearing bulbs.
- Sharpen mower blades. Set the mower high.
- Prune early spring-flowering shrubs and trees after they bloom.
- 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/gardening-calendar-may/>.
- While you're digging and planting, pause to enjoy sunlight and warm breezes.

Garlic Parmesan Roasted Carrots

2 pounds (1kg) carrots, washed and halved
1/4 cup olive oil
4 large cloves garlic, minced (1 tablespoon minced garlic)
1/4 cup grated parmesan cheese
2 tablespoons Panko bread crumbs (or normal breadcrumbs)
Salt and pepper, to taste
Fresh chopped parsley, optional

Preheat oven to 200°C/400°F and spray a baking sheet with cooking oil spray. Arrange carrots on sheet. Pour over the olive oil, then add the garlic, parmesan, bread crumbs, salt, and pepper. Toss all ingredients together to completely coat the carrots. Spread out and bake for 20-25 minutes, or until tender. Toss with a spatula half way through. Remove from oven and serve immediately. Top with fresh parsley if desired.

~ cafedelites.com

Volunteer Ops

MG Education Center

The Master Gardener Education Center and Horticulture Hotline (HortLine) is officially open!

Master Gardeners can volunteer to answer questions pertaining to the appropriate selection of vegetables, ornamental plants, soil testing, plant identification, pruning, compost, mulch, insect control, plant diseases, and more. The Education Center has many resources to assist volunteers in answering homeowner questions; and, this is a free service for residents of Tippecanoe County.

This is great volunteer opportunity where you can learn while helping others grow. There are time slots for two primary (or lead) volunteers and one secondary. If you are interested in learning more about how the Education Center works or if you can't commit to the full three hours, sign up for a secondary slot.

This will be open on Mondays from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1-4 p.m. and again on Thursdays from 1-4 p.m. You can sign up on the calendar on the Purdue Master Gardener Online Manager (<https://www.purdue.edu/mg-volunteer>). This is the same website where you enter your volunteer hours. If you have questions, please let me know. I appreciate all of you for your support!

Thank you, Karen Mitchell

Container Garden Talk

A local low-income senior citizen community has requested a container garden how-to talk (Saturday, May 4 preferred if possible or on a Monday, Tuesday, or Friday). Karen Mitchell has approved this project for MG volunteer hours.

The seniors are mostly interested in growing vegetables and herbs - probably in five gallon buckets. There is no

long term commitment - just a one-hour talk/demo.

Please contact Kathryn Reeves at kathrynreeves@yahoo.com for details if you are interested in doing this.

RIP Squad

The RIP (Remove Invasive Species) Squad workdays for May to pull garlic mustard are:

West Lafayette Parks

Tuesdays, 3-5 p.m.:

- May 7 - Happy Hollow Park
- May 14 - Celery Bog Nature Area
- May 21 - Michaud-Sinninger Nature Area (Cumberland Woods)

May 28 - Happy Hollow Park

Tippecanoe County Parks

Thursdays, 3-5 p.m.:

- May 2 - Ross Hills Park
- May 9 - Prophet's Rock Woods
- May 16 - Ross Hills Park
- May 23 - Prophet's Rock Woods
- May 30 - Ross Hills Park

Weeding bags will be provided, but bring your own gardening gloves and dress for poison ivy. RIP is sponsored by the West Central Chapter of the Indiana Native Plant Society (INPS) and the Sycamore Audubon Society (SAS) in cooperation with the West Lafayette Parks & Recreation and the Tippecanoe County Parks & Recreation. For more information, contact Patty Jones, land line/voice-mail 765-463-3050 or email RemoveInvasivePlants.wcinpaws@gmail.com.

Art in Bloom Garden Walk

The 2019 Art in Bloom Garden Walk, sponsored by the MGATC is coming on Saturday, June 22nd from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be 5-6 gardens in shady New Chauncey to tour with over a dozen local artists featured. As a sponsor, our responsibility is to help the homeowners greet visitors and answer gardening questions. This year we anticipate a variety of landscapes

from the traditional shade gardens filled with hostas to small vegetable gardens, planted in shafts of sunlight. There will be some familiar faces among the artists as well as new ones. This event is free and open to the public. Master Gardeners who volunteer for a two-hour shift in a garden also have the opportunity to tour the gardens before or after your shift and earn education credits.

A sign-up sheet for volunteer shifts will be available at the May and June meetings. We should provide a minimum of two MG's per shift - the morning shift runs from 9:30 a.m. to noon, and the noon shift is from noon to 2 p.m. The tour is rain or shine, so gardeners should be prepared for any weather, but the shady gardens do make a warm June day seem more comfortable. Have questions? Want to sign up as a volunteer? Call Lynn Layden at 463-2242.

Art in Bloom Flower Order

Since 2008, the City of West Lafayette has designated a color for community plantings - parks, city gateways, subdivision entrances, and private gardens - to beautify and unify the city. This year the color is red, as in "Paint the Town Red." There will be a variety of red annual flowers offered for sale by pre-order. These flowers are sold by the flat, and are grown by Galemas, a local wholesale greenhouse. We will be taking orders, accompanied by a check, until May 10th and they will be delivered on Saturday, May 18th to the WL Farmers Market at 9 a.m. They must be picked up at that time.

The prices range from \$12 per 48-plant flat to \$27 per 10-pot flat (4.5 inch pots). You can view and print the order form at the website of the City of West Lafayette: www.westlafayette.gov and search for 2019 Art in Bloom flower order form. If you have questions, please contact Lynn Layden at 463-2242. If you can help with distribution on Saturday, May 18th, please contact Lynn.

What's Happening

Wednesdays in the Wild

May 1 • 1-3 p.m. • LNC
Celery Bog Birding Hike
Susan Ulrich

Susan (amateur naturalist) reviews warbler ID indoors, then leads a walk to see what birds are moving through our area and which ones are back to nest. The Celery Bog ranks as the 4th best birding spot in Indiana, according to the Indiana Audubon Society!

May 8 • 1-3 p.m. • NICHES/FRGL
Frogs' Glory Spring Wildflower Hike
Gus Nyberg

Gus (Executive Director, NICHES Land Trust) leads the hike on this NICHES property along the Tippecanoe River in Carroll County to see wildflowers, reforestation progression, and to learn about efforts to restore natural areas. The trails are level. A carpool will leave WNC at 12:15 p.m.

May 15 • 10 a.m.-noon • KS
Bison, Birds & Blooms on the Prairie
Alyssa Nyberg

Alyssa (Kankakee Sands Nursery Manager) will lead a carpool to special areas of Kankakee Sands to see the bison herd, blooming wildflowers, and summer birds at this Newton County property. Dress for walking on level trails in full sun. A carpool will leave LNC at 9 a.m. Note the morning start time.

May 22 • 4-6 p.m. • MARTELL
Restoring the American Chestnut: Fighting Blight on the Western Native Range
Jim McKenna

Jim (Operational Tree Breeder, USDA Forest Service) will share results of his

research working on breeding resistance and fighting chestnut blight. We'll visit test plots where grafted and seedling chestnut trees hold hope for the return of this keystone species to Indiana forests. Hiking 0.8 miles is involved; carpooling is allowed to the site, if needed. **Note the late afternoon start time. If it is raining, the program will move indoors.**

May 29 • 7-9 p.m. • LNC
Turtles of Indiana
Rod Williams

Rod (Purdue Herpetologist) presents the natural history of common Indiana turtle species. He co-authored the beautiful Purdue Extension booklet "Turtles of Indiana." Copies will be available for purchase for \$10 cash or check.

June 1 • 1-3 p.m. • WNC
A Bird in Hand: Mist-Netting
Dr. Mickey & Sally Weeks

Join Mickey and Sally (Purdue University, Retired) as they share the scientific practice of mist-netting: capturing and banding birds to study. Birds will be caught in nets at this program and participants will be allowed to ID and hold the birds, if desired.

LOCATIONS:
KS (Kankakee Sands Office): Meet at 10 a.m. EDT in the office parking lot (3294 N US 41, Morocco) or join the 9 a.m. carpool from LNC.
LNC (Lilly Nature Center/Celery Bog Nature Area): 1620 Lindberg Road, between Northwestern Avenue and McCormick Road in West Lafayette.
MARTELL (Martell Forest): Meet at 4 p.m. in the parking lot of Wright Forestry Center at 1007 CR 725W in West Lafayette.
NICHES/FRGL (Frogs' Glory-Carroll County): Meet at 1 p.m. at the property (directions: www.nicheslandtrust.org) or join the 12:15 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.

Miscellaneous

Pressure Canning

As we grow into the gardening season, remember that if you choose to preserve your harvest with a pressure canner, it is recommended to get your gauge tested for accuracy annually. You can bring your pressure canner gauge in to the extension office via appointment for testing (it's FREE!!). Call today at 765-474-0793.

Copies of "So Easy To Preserve" 6th Edition from the National Center for Home Food Preservation are available for \$20 at the extension office (cash or check only).

Amber Noll, MPH, MS
Extension Educator
Health and Human Sciences

Cottage Radish Salad

8 to 10 radishes, thinly sliced
1/2 cucumber, peeled, sliced in quarter slices
8 to 10 cherry tomatoes, halves
2 tablespoons green onion, diced
1/4 small onion, sliced thinly
1 tablespoon fresh parsley, chopped
1 tablespoon fresh basil, chopped
1/2 to 3/4 cup cottage cheese
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
2 tablespoons yogurt or sour cream
1/2 teaspoon sea salt, or to taste
1/8 teaspoon pepper, or to taste
1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
baby greens, or larger greens torn into bite-size pieces

Toss all but greens together in a mixing bowl. Taste and adjust seasonings. Arrange greens on the bottom of each salad bowl. Top with the vegetable cottage cheese mixture and serve.

- gnawglins.com

Don't knock the weather: nine-tenths of the people couldn't start a conversation if it didn't change once in a while



DIY plant support

See the "Garden Gadgets and Tools" article on page 1 for an explanation of these photos.



Bend rod around pot, tree trunk or wheel rim



Hammer nails into 2x8 board - one inside arc at top center and two at each side of arc. Leave 1/4" of nail sticking out.



Place another 2x8 board on top



With arc of rod sandwiched between boards, bend rod straight up



Bend both rods straight up to make "legs" of plant support

An optimist is the human personification of spring

Susan J. Bissonette

Garden Beet

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