

May 2021

Garden Beet

MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY



The Latest Spin from D&J

Dee Dee and Jan

April Showers bring May flowers and hopefully lots of bright sunny days as we begin planting in the gardens.

It has been great seeing Master Gardeners working in the gardens at the extension office and we know many of the other sites have been having work days and starting to prepare their gardens. There is still time to get involved.

Some of you have asked about having in-person meetings. Due to Purdue and COVID-19 guidelines, we will

be continuing to have zoom meetings and will let you all know as soon as things change.

We hope everyone enjoyed Margot Schuerman's presentation in April on tulips and pollarding in the Netherlands. It was really nice seeing Margot and learning about the Netherlands. She hopes to be back with us by the end of the year.

Mark your calendar to attend the May 4 zoom meeting. Dr. Diane Scott, Na-

tional Soil Health Specialist, will be speaking on "Soil Health" which is very important to all of us.

Thank you to everyone for all of your help and support. All of us together make a great team!

Happy Gardening,
Jan and Dee Dee



Great Gadgets and Tools

Kathryn Reeves and Mike Hathaway

This month is called May because it may rain, it may not, it may be warm, it may be cold...it may be perfect all month for gardening. Flowers are blooming, birds are singing, and tree-frogs are calling.



Shown is a tiny treefrog perched on a leaf in our garden. Last year, it seemed like we were surprised by a frog every time we turned around.

The Eastern Gray Treefrog *Hyla versicolor* is native to northern Indiana.

Cope's Gray Treefrog *H. chrysocelis* tends to be in the southern half of the state. Both are 1 1/4- 2" in size. Their color varies from green, brown, gray to almost black. In the field, the two species can be distinguished only by their calls.

You can listen to a recording from the Indiana DNR of the mating call of the Eastern Gray Treefrog: <https://www.facebook.com/INfishandwildlife/videos/gray-treefrog-calling/2186571764988736/>.

(continued on page 5)

Programs

May 4 • 6:30 p.m. • Zoom

What's the Big Deal

About Soil Health

Dr. Diane Stott

Dr. Stott is Professor Emerita of Soil Science at Purdue University.

June 1 • 6:30 p.m. • Zoom

Food Waste and Composting

Amy Krzton-Presson

Amy is the Recycling Educator, Tippecanoe Recycling and Solid Waste District and Resource specialist for Wash River Enhancement Corporation.

For more information on upcoming events, contact Maralee Hayworth at mhaywort@purdue.edu.

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.

<http://www.tippecanoeastergardener.org>

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



MGATC Meeting: April 6, 2021, 6:30 p.m., Virtual

At 6:30 p.m. Karen Mitchell began the meeting by reminding everyone to check inboxes for the GAAP email. Dates are posted and volunteers are needed.

Dee Dee Long announced that the walk scheduled for Friday was cancelled. The caravan trip on April 20 will leave from the West Lafayette Meijer parking lot. Follow the signs to

the meeting place. If you are planning to go, let Jan Sadler or Dee Dee know as per the email sent today.

Karen then asked Mickey Penrod to introduce the speaker, Margot Schuerman, Master Gardener, Class of 2015. Margot gave the presentation: "Gardening in the Netherlands: from Tulips to Pollard Willows." We

learned a lot about the country as well as the chosen topics.

About 55 master gardeners signed on to the Zoom meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jim Jeray, Recording Secretary

MGATC Board: April 8, 2021, 4 p.m., Virtual

Jan Sadler called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Attending were Pat Miller, Dee Dee Long, Jan Sadler, Mickey Penrod, Maralee Hayworth, Jim Jeray, Kathie Cox, Nancy Cope, and Karen Mitchell.

The March board meeting was cancelled, so the minutes from the February board meeting were approved as published in the *Garden Beet*.

Pat Miller delivered the treasurer's report. There were no changes from the end-of-month totals as they appear in this month's *Garden Beet*. One item of note is that the garden improvement fund is decreasing; how to rebuild it should be a topic for a future meeting. Also, the bank informed us that at least one transaction every six months is needed to keep the savings account active. Transferring one dollar from checking to savings is sufficient to meet their requirement.

Compost Project: For several reasons, this project has been stalled for quite some time. The first step will be to clear the bark mulch out of the bins where someone dumped it. Karen contacted a contractor to build a gate and install signs by early May to protect this area from future such problems. Extension will pay him and bill the MGATC for the work. Additionally,

signs are being designed to instruct master gardeners and community gardeners of the compost rules and procedures. This is important, because we clearly have some issues with people dumping the wrong material or dumping the right stuff in the wrong places.

Next we will need satellite compost bins. These bins will be periodically transported to the compost main area and emptied. Karen is expecting a donation of satellite bins from Bio Town. She will follow up with them. If they are unresponsive, we need alternatives. There was an enthusiastic discussion of possible alternative solutions. Karen will help us experiment with some possible solutions.

Finally, Jodi from Soil Makers is willing to advise us on how to convert the compost into a usable product.

Garden Expo: There has not yet been an announcement concerning the cancellation of this year's Expo. Karen had been waiting to negotiate prices for use of the Fair Grounds with the County Commissioners to get more clarity on the 2022 Expo. Since this has been delayed, the board decided to publish the cancellation notice with news of a bigger and better Expo in 2022 without mentioning the venue.

Bylaws: Some members of the committee have a preference for an in-person meeting, so it has yet to take place. Jan will forward suggestions she received as a first draft to Lynn Layden and the other members once they set a date for a review and update. The primary change to the MGATC bylaws is the establishment of an alumni membership category for those no longer able to fully participate but still interested in belonging to the club.

But there are other issues to consider. It was suggested that a two-year term of office is too long of a commitment, especially where a Vice President becomes President and then Past President, still a member of the board. This comes to six years. The board recognizes the conflict between asking for a long commitment vs. the need for continuity and tabled this discussion to the May meeting.

Other business: Karen mentioned that the prairie area behind the gardens is looking good. We hope the wildflowers or pollinators will thrive in this first year.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jim Jeray, Recording Secretary

Gardening is the art that uses flowers and plants
as paint, and the soil and sky as canvas

Treasurer's Report

Income for the month of March was from dues and interest for a total of \$64. The expenses for the month irrigation startup from the restricted fund, administration expenses for mailings and office supplies, and a transfer to the savings account to keep the account in active status for a total of \$369. The change in the restricted funds was \$300 for the irrigation startup giving a balance in the fund of \$20,176. The total of unrestricted funds available is \$20,008 as of March 31.

For reimbursement you can mail your requests to my home address which is 3801 South River Road in West Lafayette, IN 47906 or you can drop them in the black mail box outside the extension office outer door. If you have any changes to your membership details, please send them to me at pmillerathome@comcast.net. The Tax Exempt form for 2021 is located on the MGATC website.

Pat Miller, Treasurer

Miscellaneous Volunteer Op

Tomato Donations

Several people have mentioned their intention to donate tomato plants to the Demo Garden. We would love to have them. Please contact me at jerayjm@sbcglobal.net with numbers and varieties. I will find room for them. Also please label them. I will coordinate individually to set up a time to drop them off so that we are not overwhelmed or that plants don't sit a long time without attention. We are looking forward to growing many different kinds of tomatoes this year.

Thank you, Jim Jeray

Returning Members

We would like to welcome the following returning and new Master Gardener - Teri Cook. For full demographic information, please see the membership listing on the MGATC website.

Green Book Correction

There is a Green Book correction of the address for Georgia Brist. Georgia's new address is: 4277 Tripoli Drive, Lafayette, IN 47909.

Crunchy Lemon-Pesto Garden Salad

(Serves 6)

5 tablespoons prepared pesto
1 tablespoon lemon juice
2 teaspoons grated lemon zest
1-1/2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
1/4 teaspoon garlic salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper
2-1/2 cups thinly sliced yellow summer squash
1-3/4 cups thinly sliced mini cucumbers
3/4 cup fresh peas
1/2 cup shredded Parmesan cheese
1/4 cup thinly sliced green onions
5 thick-sliced bacon strips, cooked and crumbled

In a bowl, whisk together the first 6 ingredients until blended. In another bowl, combine squash, cucumbers, peas, Parmesan and green onions. Pour dressing over salad; toss to coat. Top with bacon to serve. ~3/4 cup = 159 calories.

Note: If you pick the squash and cucumbers early in the season, their skin is so tender that there is no need to remove them.

~ tasteofhome.com

Dressing Lettuce Leaves with Warm Bacon

(Serves 2-4)

4-5 slices of bacon, fried
Remove the bacon from the pan, but save 2 tbsp of the bacon grease.
In the pan you fried the bacon, add the bacon grease back in;
To that add;
1/4 cup white vinegar
1/4 cup sugar
1/4 cup water
Bring that to a simmer, stirring so the sugar dissolves
Lettuce, torn in pieces (for as many servings desired)
2 -3 green onions, sliced
In a big bowl, mix torn lettuce pieces, a couple of sliced green onions, and crumbled bacon.
Pour the warm dressing over the salad.
Toss to mix.

~mypipeliners.blogspot.com

What's Happening

Wednesdays in the Wild

May 5 • 1-3 p.m. • ROSS BR
Ephemeral Spring Wildflowers at Ross Biological Reserve
Dr. Kerry Rabenold

Mature forests in Indiana harbor a great variety of understory plants that flower briefly in the spring and then shrink back to their long-living root systems. On this hike, Dr. Rabenold (Professor Emeritus of Biological Sciences, Purdue University) will discuss these plants' relationships with pollinators, seed dispersal strategies, and sensitivity to soil types and disturbance. Moderately rugged hike. Trekking poles may be helpful. [Participant limit: 20]

May 12 • 1-3 p.m. • CB/AMPH
Birding with Apps
Chuck Tuttle

Discover birding with technology with Chuck Tuttle and other members of the Sycamore Audubon Society. An introductory session will provide an overview of the most popular and useful birding apps, followed by a hike on Celery Bog trails to test the use of these tools. Bring binoculars and cell phones. [Participant limit: 25]

May 19 • 1-3 p.m. • MSW
Woodland Wildflower Hike
Dan Childs

Join Dan Childs (wildflower enthusiast and author) on a hike through Michaud-Sinninger Woods. We'll identify spring wildflowers and also learn tips on controlling invasive plants. Enjoy some exercise on a beautiful spring day and increase your knowledge. Dan's wildflower guides will be available for \$10 cash or check. [Participant limit: 25]

May 26 • 1-3 p.m. • NICHES/WHW
Restoration Revealed: A NICHES Property Case Study
Bob Easter

NICHES Stewardship Director Bob Easter will lead this Fountain County hike focusing on the ongoing transformation of Whistler Hare Woods,

involving six adjacent landowners. Moderate hiking, with opportunity to explore more rugged terrain afterwards. There will be a caravan from LNC at noon. [Participant limit: 12]

June 2 • 1-3 p.m. • TIPP AMPH
Bikes, Boots & Brushes: Exploring a Multi-Purpose Trail System
Mary Cutler

The 166-acre home of the Tippecanoe County Amphitheater offers multi-purpose trails throughout the woodlands adjacent to Burnett's Creek and the Wabash River. Hike with Naturalist Mary Cutler (Tippecanoe County Parks Department) to explore the human and natural history of this property, learn how citizens can use these trails, and see Rena Brouwer and other local artists demonstrate artistic inspiration from the property. [Participant limit: 25]

LOCATIONS:

CB/AMPH (Celery Bog Amphitheater): 1620 Lindberg Road, between Northwestern Avenue and McCormick Road in West Lafayette, 47906.

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.

MSW (Michaud-Sinninger Woods): Meet at 1 p.m. at the trailhead in Cumberland Park at 3101 North Salisbury Street, West Lafayette, 47906.

NICHES/WHW (Whistler Hare Woods): Meet at 1 p.m. in the Whistler Hare Woods parking area; take the gravel road for ~0.4 miles across from mailbox #164 on West Covered Bridge Road, Attica, IN 47918 (see directions at www.niches.landtrust.org) or join the noon caravan from LNC.

ROSS BR (Ross Biological Reserve): Meet at 1 p.m. at the Biological Reserve, 451 S 875 W, West Lafayette, 47906.

TIPP AMPH (Tippecanoe County Amphitheater): Meet at 1 p.m. in the Tippecanoe County Amphitheater parking lot at 4449 State Road 43 N, West Lafayette, 47906.

Native Plant Fest

May 8 • 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Ross Camp
9225 W 75 S
West Lafayette, IN 47906

All are welcome to attend this free event celebrating our Indiana wild plants. The Native Plant Fest will include the SWCD Native Plant Sale, invasive species removals, a Garlic Mustard Pesto demonstration, nature hikes, educational presentations, and more. Visit www.tippecanoe-county-swcd.org or call Angie at 765-474-9992, ext. 4006 for more information.

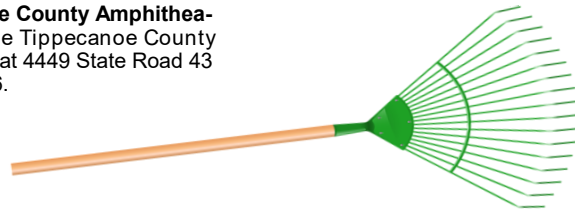
Prophetstown State Park Native Plant Sales

May 8 and 15 • 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

For more details go to their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/prophetstownsp/> or join their email list at https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/INDNR/subscriber/new?topic_id=INDNR_50. You can also contact the Interpretive Naturalist at 765-320-0503 or jparks@dnr.in.gov.

RIP Squad

Spring 2021 Remove Invasive Plants (RIP) Squad workdays begin in April for West Lafayette parks and Tippecanoe County parks. Tuesday and Thursday afternoons are planned.



The earth is waking at the voice of May,
The new grass brightens by the trodden way,
The woods wave welcome to the sweet
spring day,
And the sea is growing summer blue.

~ Elizabeth Ann Allen

Gadgets

(continued from page 1)

The frog call is a pleasant sound, especially when you know they eat lots of flying insects, insect larvae, spiders, ants, small insects. The presence of frogs indicates a healthy ecosystem.

Not so pleasant sounds of the season are power tools - lawn mowers, string trimmers, leaf blowers, and chain saws. Ear protection is highly recommended and should be included in your garden tool kit.



Noise reduction earmuffs like the pink ones manufactured by Stihl are great hearing protectors. Stihl also makes these in orange as well as camo. Check Husqvarna, DeWalt, and other manufacturers also. Ear buds alone don't block enough external sound and won't protect your hearing. Foam earplugs on a cord help those of us who tend to drop and lose stuff in the garden. Individual disposable foam earplugs can be purchased in bulk. You can combine earplugs with earmuffs for the highest noise reduction.

Ear protection may be especially important to you this year because very soon millions of screaming, red-eyed cicadas will suddenly emerge from the ground. This is the year of 17 yr. cicadas. They usually appear around the time irises bloom. Populations are called broods, and one of the largest - Brood X - is set to emerge in mid to late May this year. As many as 1.5 mil-

lion cicadas can appear in any given acre in ideal habitat.

Why are cicadas so loud? The extremely loud noises you hear are mating calls of male cicadas. The call can reach 80-100 decibels in volume - equal to the sound of a garbage disposal, lawn mower, or a jackhammer.

Other than the annoying sound, they are harmless to humans and pets. The real damage cicadas inflict is on trees, especially young trees only 3 or 4 years old. Once they leave the ground, the cicadas fly around and locate fresh hardwood trees and large shrubs. There, they will mate and the females drill holes into tree branches to lay eggs at the end of branches. When the eggs hatch, the babies chew through the branch tips, causing them to fall off, carrying the young insects back down to the soil where they will spend the next 17 years about two feet underground sucking on tree roots.

Advice from *Purdue University Landscape Report*: "Cicadas are not harmful to humans, provide a feast for wildlife, and mostly only cause cosmetic injury to trees. However, there are some trees that will need protection to survive. When possible, avoid planting new trees during the spring that cicadas will emerge. This could be especially helpful in fruit orchards or woody plant nurseries. If possible, you should delay pruning until the cicadas have disappeared. Injured branches can then be removed after cicadas have stopped flying. You can protect small ornamental trees and shrubs with no larger than 3/8" mesh screening or floating row cover while cicadas are present." See more info at: <https://www.purduelandscape.com/article/17-year-cicadas-are-coming-are-you-ready/> and <https://www.purduelandscape.com/resource/periodical-cicada-in-indiana/>.

We expect to be out in our garden yelling at each other "WHAT? I CAN'T HEAR YOU! WHAT???" until the cicadas are done. They'll only be around about six weeks, but it's going to be a loud month and a half. Yeah, we'll want ear protection.

May 19 is "World Plant a Vegetable Garden Day." You're ahead on this one if your veg garden is already planted - give yourself a pat on the back! We hope your plot also has flowers to support pollinators, increase your harvest, and give you joy.

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 mower high.
- ◇ Prune early spring-flowering shrubs and trees after they bloom.
- ◇ Start to harvest early leaf crops, radishes and asparagus.
- ◇ Harden off warm season flowers and vegetables that were started indoors.
- ◇ 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 at: <https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/yardandgarden/gardening-calendar-may/>.
- ◇ While you're digging and planting, pause to enjoy sunlight and warm breezes.

The word *May* is a perfumed word... It means youth, love, song; and all that is beautiful in life



YOUR MGATC OFFICERS:

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Photo from the MGATC photo gallery web page.

Garden Beet

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