

May 2022

Garden Beet

MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY



Message from Your Co-Presidents Jim and Mickey

In the Merry Merry Month of May

In Steven Foster's song lyrics, he conveyed a time of the year of light heartedness. *The skies were bright, our hearts were light in the merry, merry month of May.* He also wrote that *we chased the bees and plucked the flowers* indicating a season of youthfulness, as well. Spring is a time of youth and light heartedness. Gardeners (of all ages) during this time of year are preparing for the introduction of new plants into their landscapes. Soil preparation, hardening off those tender seedlings, and forays to garden stores are taking place, too. It is a time of celebration.

Brought to America by our European ancestors was a Mayday celebration which might have included the gathering of wildflowers and green branches, weaving of floral garlands, selecting and decorating a maypole (tree), and then grabbing a ribbon to dance around it. The May Basket was a treat created for a neighbor, friend, or relative - full of flowers, candies, and small treats - and then hung on the door at

night. Most of these celebrations though have been lost or forgotten. But of course this month starting with, day one, marks the cross quarter-day that falls half way between the vernal equinox and summer solstice. The Sun and its position to the Earth has a great impact on our gardening. It is a time of celebration.

There are many celebrations in May; too many to mention. Practiced in 50 countries is one of the most important celebrations, Mother's Day. Most of us have gardening memories with our mothers. Flowers are often given on this day as a tribute of love to our mothers, wives, and daughters. Mickey's mom always wanted two big planters of red geraniums to sit on either side of her patio door. Mickey always looked forward to Mother's Day because it was often spent in the garden planting tender plants. You needed to wait until then to prevent death by frost.

Falling on the last Monday of the month is a celebration where we pay

tribute to those who have died serving our country in the U.S. armed forces, Memorial Day (once called Decoration Day). Flowers were amassed at the gravesites. Memories for Mickey would include gathering masses of peonies and placing them in floral urns to be delivered to the cemeteries. It was a day of remembrance to celebrate their service.

Mayday! Mayday! Mayday! This word created in the 1920s was used to indicate distress, an emergency, for pilots and ground staff to react. For Mickey's mom she was probably calling out May Day in 1953 when Mickey was born. In the extension gardens it is a call of distress that the weeds are taking over. Please grab your trowel, hoe, weed eater, kneeler, and knife and give us a helping hand. May Day! May Day! May Day! Master Gardener's emergency call! Come and celebrate the month with us.



Co-presidents Jim Jeray
and Mickey Penrod

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

Programs

May 3 • 6:30 p.m. • TCEO
6 p.m. Social Time

June 7 • 6:30 p.m. • TCEO
6 p.m. Social Time

For more information on upcoming events, contact Amanda Burge at amanda_personett@yahoo.com.

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 Minutes: April 5, 2022, 6:30 p.m., TCEO

At 6:30 p.m. on April 5th, the monthly MGATC meeting was held both virtually and in person, as was voted on by the members previously. There were roughly 16 people in attendance virtually and around 50 who were there in person. The speaker was Scott Namestnik, who is a botanist for the Indiana Natural Heritage Data Center, a Division of Nature Preserves. His speech was "Flora of Indiana," and he discussed in depth the twelve different national sections within Indiana and their flora diversity.

After Scott spoke, the business portion of the meeting was held. Jim Jeray announced that the MGATC had received donations from Home Depot and Von Tobels for some raised beds in the gardens. He said that if people want to ask local businesses for donations to please talk to the board first so that they are aware of what's being asked for in the group's name.

Jim also said that there have been a lot of changes this year with the sale of the old extension building. There may need to be more volunteers to help with mowing the lawn and other tasks that used to be done by the extension employees. Some of these things are still up in the air.

Andy Hughes gave an update on the compost system at the gardens. He said that the group has bought a trailer for hauling compost around the gardens and a shredder for breaking down larger items for the compost pile.

Dee Dee Long and Cheryl McCool gave an update on the Expo. There are a lot of green bandanas missing. If you were a volunteer in the past and have one of them, please bring it back for the current volunteers to use. The Expo is going to be in the Swine Barn, which is the same building it has been in the past. There are 30 vendors signed up for the event. There will also be a silent auction, which will have several paintings by Jim Jeray's wife (photos

are on the MGATC website) and a brand new commercial popcorn machine. There will also be the Garden Shed, so go through your garage or shed for any used tools, pots, and such that can be sold. There are still a few volunteer spots open for the Expo. The EMT food truck will also be on site again.

Jeri Bosworth talked about the Just Desserts bake sale at the Expo. She said that if you are going to bake something for sale, make sure that it doesn't need refrigeration. Desserts are great, as are snack mixes. She asks that you bag up your dessert in portions to sell for \$1. On the label, note any allergens, whether the item is sugar free, gluten free, etc. There will also be hot chocolate, tea, coffee, and water. She also has several recipes if anyone is interested in making them.

Monique Fontaine talked about the Expo plant sale. She has plant tags that people can use to label their plants. Please do not bring invasives. The list of invasives is on the website. Native plants sell well, as do perennials. Vegetables, annuals, llama poo, and bulbs will also be for sale and are popular. If you have boxes, please bring them for people to haul their purchases around. You can bring your items on Friday 10:30 a.m.-12, 3 p.m.-6 p.m., and Saturday 7:30 a.m.-8:15 a.m.

Dee Dee Long and Jan Sadler announced that the GAAP (Great Annual Annual Planting) is coming up. They are looking for volunteers. There are several locations where they will be planting annuals. If you are interested, see Dee Dee or Jan.

Jan also announced that Purdue's SpringFest is April 9th. She still needs two volunteers for the MGATC booth. If you are interested, see Jan.

Dee Dee also noted that in the office move, the group lost a lot of storage space. There were a number of items at the back of the room for anyone to

take, to please help themselves. She also said that the printed Green Books are available if you ordered one. The new badges are also available to pick up for those who have advanced in their master gardener levels.

With that the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Cope, Recording Secretary

Treasurer's Report

April 2022 Board Meeting Treasurer's Report

Income for the month of March 2022 was \$380 from 2022 Garden Expo Vendors, \$16.97 from Donations, and (\$27) Refund of 2022 Dues, and \$.27 from Bank Interest. Total Income for March was \$370.24 and a sum of \$4,731.22 for Year-to-date 2022.

In March, we paid \$90 for Native Bees Project and \$750 for a Purdue Horticulture Scholarship. For the Compost Project, we spent \$4,366.11. The expenditures included a compost trailer, a shredder, and miscellaneous tools. The balance of the Compost Fund is \$3,610.61. We also spent \$433.75 for the Community Gardens: blue shed keys, a deposit to turn the water on, and parking lot signs/posts. The balance of the Community Gardens fund is \$1,435.98. The Restricted Fund Balance is \$11,629.82. A total of unrestricted funds available is \$15,902.16.



Deb Rimer, Treasurer

MGATC Board: April 14, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

Mickey Penrod called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on April 14, 2022. Present were Pat Williams, Andy Hughes, Cheryl McCool, Deb Rimer, Jan Sadler, Jim Jeray, Amanda Burge, Kathie Cox, Nancy Cope, and Jolaine Roberts.

Deb Rimer read the Treasurer Report.

Jim Jeray had a walkthrough of the gardens with the group's insurance agent to see if there was anything that might be a liability. The agent thought that everything looked good. All previous tripping hazards, holes, etc had been dealt with.

Cheryl McCool gave an update on the Expo. They now have 32 vendors, and had to turn a couple away. The yard signs are ready to put out on the various intersections throughout greater Lafayette. Pat Williams said that 10 signs had already been picked up to put out. Cheryl still wants to dig up some plants from the rain garden to sell at the Expo. Mickey Penrod stated that the plants aren't very green yet, and many have a big root system so they will be tough to dig up. Cheryl also said it was ok for people to bring plants in the a.m. on Friday so we have plants to show for the videotaping of the Star City Broadcasting feature.

Nancy Cope gave an update on the publicity for the Expo. She has "boosted" (meaning paid money) a couple posts on Facebook to get local coverage and feedback has been encouraging. She has organized Star City Broadcasting to interview Pat Williams and videotape the setup on Friday morning in order to be shown on the Friday evening news. She is still trying to contact someone at WLF1 to do the same thing. She is also trying to work with the advertising entity at the Journal and Courier to do an online ad.

Pat Williams said that the chairperson position for the community gardens is still open if anyone is interested. He

also noted that we will not be holding spring master gardener classes. There weren't enough people interested to make it worthwhile. So we will try again for fall classes.

Pat also brought up an idea he had to engage the people who are renting plots in the community gardens. Since we have their email addresses, he thought of doing a weekly email where master gardeners would answer any questions they have. This could bring interest as the seasons progress and similar questions might be asked, such as dealing with certain pests, weeds, etc. Nancy Cope suggested these would also make good posts on Facebook to engage those viewers. On a similar note, Pat also said that there are still about 20 plots available in the community gardens.

Andy Hughes gave an update on the compost project. He said they received all the tools and safety equipment that they purchased. They started using the shredder to get the feel of it. There still needs to be a water line put in by the compost area. He suggested that master gardeners could do it much cheaper than having it professionally done. He said the easiest was just to bury the water line inside a PVC pipe in the ground.

It was noted that in July and September the monthly meetings are conflicting with national holidays. It was decided for the September meeting to have it the day after Labor Day. The July meeting has yet to be decided.

On the subject of local business contributions to the group, if a master gardener is interested in approaching a local business to get free materials or services, please let the board know before going to them in order to keep the board in the loop.

Mickey Penrod noted that the Pollinator Garden sign has turned black with exposure to the sun and elements. She contacted the original printer to get a new sign made. Hopefully they will still have the graphic file. She will get a quote from them and bring it back to the board for approval.

The topic of the Education Center at the extension office was brought up. Right now there is nothing happening because we don't have anyone managing it. And it may not reopen if we can't find volunteers. Pat Williams had an idea to hold educational meetings at the Lafayette library. There was some discussion as to what email address is used for the Education Center, and no one seemed certain which one it was. So Pat said he would try to find out.

Jim Jeray said that he picked up the parking signs from Pat Miller, so they just need to be put up in the parking lot to mark the spots that are being leased by the group. He also noted that the portable toilet will be showing up on the 15th so people working in the gardens will now have a bathroom to use.

The tax exemption on Amazon was brought up. Jim Jeray said that he is working on this. Right now the group Amazon account pays taxes. He said that in order to be tax exempt, Amazon requires that a credit card in the group's name be used. But previously the board noted not to have a group credit card. So for now, if people purchase items on Amazon through the group account, the group will pay the taxes.

On a similar note, it was brought up that Menards has a barcode to use for tax exempt purchases. If someone wants to buy something at Menards for the group, they need to have this barcode to scan at the time of purchase in order to avoid paying taxes. Andy

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Volunteer Ops

GAAP

The Great Annual Annual Planting (GAAP) will be planting soon. If you haven't already volunteered, please do so by going to SignUpGenius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4CAEA62CA4F8CF8-gaap>. Don't forget to bring your gloves, trowels, and knee pads - bring the tools that you are comfortable using.

We hope it will be sunny and warm, but we will still plant in light rain. For questions, please email Dee Dee Long at deedeelmg@mail.com or Jan Sadler at jansadler23@comcast.net.

Display/Idea Gardens

We are starting a new gardening season in the Display/Idea Gardens and we have beds that need your creativity, passion, and support for the season. We have several larger and smaller beds so whatever size you are interested in, I can help you find one just right for you. If you are interested in finding your perfect spot in the Display/Idea Gardens, please contact Pat Miller at (765) 714-5463 by phone or text or you may email me at pmillerathome@comcast.net.

Native Plant Sale

Volunteers are needed May 9-May14 for the Soil and Water Conservation District's native plant sale and Native Plant Fest at Ross Camp. Preparations begin Monday, May 9 and continue through the event on Saturday, May 14. Volunteers will receive a discount on plant purchases. Contact Angie Miller, 765-474-9992, ext. 4006 or Angela.Garcia-Miller@in.nacdnet.net.

RIP Squad

The RIP (Remove Invasive Plants) Squad will continue spring season walks on Tuesdays in West Lafayette Parks, May 3 - June 7 from 3-5 p.m. and Thursdays in Tippecanoe County

Parks, May 10 - June 9 from 3-5 p.m. Learn about native plants, see the spring wildflowers, and remove invasive garlic mustard and small bush honeysuckle shrubs. Get the full schedule with locations from Patty Jones at 765-463-3050 or removeinvasiveplants.wcinps@gmail.com.

Canal Park

Canal Park Historic Gardens is a great place to get your MG volunteers hours. Nearly ten years ago (2013), I established a master gardener community project where we can earn volunteer hours. Over a dozen historic gardens throughout Canal Park, a Butterfly Garden (certified Monarch way-station), Kitchen Garden, Medicinal Plants Garden, Bicentennial Garden, Coneflower and Black-Eyed Susan Gardens, and more, just a short drive in Delphi. Picnic in the shelter, trails to hike, a canal museum, maybe even ride on a canal boat. Join other master gardeners; very flexible volunteer hours.

A Tippecanoe County Master Gardener (class of 2005) with over 5,500 hours, I am very excited about our upcoming season. For details and info, contact: Linda Cooper Gold+ Master Gardener at lcooper@outlook.com or 765 237-8717.

Happening

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May 11 • 10-11 a.m.

Beneficial Insects in the Garden

Dr. Cliff Sadof

Professor and Ornamental
Pest Extension Specialist
Department of Entomology
Purdue University

Register for this session at: https://purdue.ca.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4Ix48Ubeh3W8fA.

Board

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has a scan of the barcode on the website that people can download and print out before they make their purchase(s).

Jolaine Roberts said she has been working on putting a seed bank in the idea gardens. This would be similar to the little library boxes that can be found around neighborhoods. Seed packets would be put in this weatherproof box for people to take whenever they want. She has built the box. It just needs sealing and then installation.

And with that, the meeting was adjourned.

Nancy Cope, MGATC Recording Secretary

Baked Eggs with Spinach and Tomatoes

Ingredients:

Vegetable cooking spray
6 tablespoons low-fat garlic-and-herb spreadable cheese (such as Rondelé)
48 fresh spinach leaves, torn
6 large eggs
12 tablespoons jarred pasta sauce
6 tablespoons half-and-half
3/4 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
Toast

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350°. Coat 6 (6- to 8-oz.) ramekins with vegetable cooking spray. Layer 1 Tbsp. spreadable cheese, 8 torn spinach leaves, 1 egg, 2 Tbsp. pasta sauce, 1 Tbsp. half-and-half, and 1/8 tsp. pepper in each ramekin. Place on a baking sheet. Bake 20 to 25 minutes or until cooked to desired firmness. Let stand 5 minutes. Serve with toast. Makes 6 servings.

~ Carolyn O'Neil

Nutrition Facts Per Serving: 352 calories; fat 11.8g; protein 18.8g; carbohydrates 43.8g; fiber 4.2g.

What's Happening

Wednesdays in the Wild

Registration is required by noon on the Monday prior to these programs to mcutler@tippecanoe.in.gov or 765-567-2993. Facial coverings and/or physical distancing are highly recommended. Like them on Facebook at "Wednesdays in the Wild."

April 27 • 1-3 p.m. • NICHES SB Shawnee Bottoms Spring Wildflower Hike Bob Easter

Bob Easter (NICHES Stewardship Director) will lead this first in a series of hikes at Shawnee Bottoms to highlight the seasonal changes in the oak woodlands of this special property in Fountain County. Wear sturdy hiking shoes; easy to moderate terrain. There will be a noon caravan from LNC. Limited to 12 people.

May 4 • 9-11 a.m. • CBNA Birding at Celery Bog Nature Area Susan Ulrich

Susan Ulrich (Sycamore Audubon Society) will lead this hike on the Celery Bog trails in search of permanent bird residents and spring migrants, both on land and in the water. Bring binoculars (or borrow a pair for use on the hike). Limited to 15 participants.

May 11 • 6-8 p.m. • KS-UJ A Diverse Prairie Restoration in Spring at Kankakee Sands Stephanie Frischie

Join Stephanie Frischie (Botanist with Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation) on this hike at Unit J at Kankakee Sands in Newton County. This property has so much diversity of many plant species not common in prairie restorations, especially in the spring. Spring beauty, wood betony, wild hyacinth, golden alexanders, and many sedge species will be in bloom. Join the carpool at 4:45 p.m. at LNC. NOTE: Evening program from 6-8 p.m. EDT (5-7 p.m. CDT). Limited to 20 participants.

May 18 • 1-3 p.m. • WS FWA Exploring Willow Slough Fish & Wildlife Area Gus Nyberg

Join Gus Nyberg (formerly w/NICHES Land Trust, now a staff member at Willow Slough FWA) on a two-mile level hike through oak savanna in Area 14 of this Newton County property. Gus will discuss the diversity of the property and the challenges of managing 9,000 acres of habitat. Carpool from LNC at 11:45 a.m. Limited to 30 participants.

May 25 • 1-3 p.m. • NICHES/BRB Black Rock Barrens & Black Rock Walk Scott Namestnik

Scott Namestnik (Botanist, Indiana Natural Heritage Data Center, Division of Nature Preserves, Indiana DNR) leads us through a number of natural communities on this two-site Warren County hike. We'll begin at Black Rock Barrens Nature Preserve, where surprisingly steep ravines through an oak-dominated dry upland forest provide a display of wildflowers growing in the harsh conditions provided by dry, shallow soils. Following this hike, we'll drive down the road to Black Rock Nature Preserve, where we will see sandstone outcrops atop sandstone cliffs high above the Wabash River. Here we'll explore some of the unique ferns and wildflowers that find habitat in some of what seems to be the most inhospitable of places on vertical rock cliffs. Scott's new book *Wildflowers of the Indiana Dunes National Park* may be available for purchase. Join the carpool from LNC at noon. Limited to 20 participants.

Upcoming programs:

June 1, 1-3 p.m., *The Key to Tree ID*

June 8, 1-3 p.m., *A Bird in the Hand: Using Mist Nets to Capture Birds*

June 15, 1-3 p.m. *Parks & Pollinators: The Stewardship ABCs of a Public Pollinator Habitat*

June 22, 1-3pm, *Tour of Ouatennon Preserve National Historic Landmark: A Roy Whistler Foundation Project*
June 29, 10 a.m.-noon, *Landscaping for Birds & Butterflies*

LOCATIONS:

CBNA (Celery Bog Nature Area): Meet at 9 a.m. at the Celery Bog Outdoor Amphitheater (1620 Lindberg Road, between Northwestern Avenue and McCormick Road.

KS-UJ (Kankakee Sands Unit J): From US 41 in Morocco turn west onto CR 400 N, then turn south onto CR 400 W. Meet at 6 p.m. and park along the west side of CR 400 W at 41.047903, -87.468589 or join the carpool from LNC.

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.

NICHES/SB (Shawnee Bottoms): Meet at 1 p.m. in the property parking lot (directions at www.nicheslandtrust.org) or join the carpool.

NICHES/BRB (Black Rock Barrens): Meet at 1 p.m. in the Weiler-Leopold property parking lot (directions at www.nicheslandtrust.org) or join the noon carpool from LNC.

WS FWA (Willow Slough Fish & Wildlife Area): Meet at 1 p.m. at the parking area on the west side of N 600 W, between W 100 N & W 300 N in Morocco or join the 11:45 a.m. carpool.

EAB University Webinars

May 5 • 11 a.m.
Forest Pest Damage from the Carbon Sequestration Perspective
Leigh Greenwood
Forest Health Program Director
North America Region
The Nature Conservancy

May 26 • 11 a.m.
Breeding for EAB-Resistance: What Does the Future Look like for Ash?
Jennifer Koch,
Research Biologist
US Forest Service

All webinars are free and many can be used towards continuing education programs. Contact Elizabeth Barnes at barnel75@purdue.edu for details. All webinars are recorded and posted afterward. To register go to: www.emeraldshborer.info/eabu.php.

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Miscellaneous

Well Water Study

We were contacted by Purdue University to help find well owners who would like to be part of a free well water sampling study. We are sending this note to our volunteer organizations in hopes that some of you are using well water and would like to participate. If you don't have a well, but know of others who do, please feel free to pass on the information.

Below is the note from Dr. Lee:

Purdue researchers are seeking volunteers with rural wells to participate in an EPA-funded National Priority Project led by Dr. Linda S. Lee focused on investigating per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in agricultural operations and rural communities. Currently the state is doing a 3-year investigation on if and where PFAS may have gotten into municipal water sources and distribution. Purdue's project is focused on PFAS in rural well water. Right now Dr. Lee's group

is focused on well water in Tippecanoe County.

If you agree to participate, sampling kits with sampling guidance and pre-paid labels will be shipped to you so you can collect samples and ship them back to us at Purdue. Alternatively, we can arrange with participants a time for Purdue researchers to collect samples.

We will also want to collect some general information on water use at your home/farm. As a participant, you may choose to have data be made available to you at no cost.

All participants will remain anonymous regarding reporting.

If you are interested, please email Dr. Lee (mywater@purdue.edu) or call 765 494-4773.

Thank you for considering this opportunity.

Pat Williams

Master Gardener Esther Chosnek sent us this picture from Florida. It's "Spring in North Florida."



GOLDEN COUSCOUS WITH VEG & CHICKPEAS

Couscous Ingredients:

- 100 g / 3.5 oz giant couscous
 - 1 vegetable stock cube
 - 1 tbsp mild olive oil
 - 1 red onion, diced
 - 1 tsp brown sugar (or coconut sugar)
 - 2 tsp balsamic vinegar
 - 3 garlic cloves, minced
 - 1 medium red bell pepper, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
 - 1/2 medium courgette (zucchini) cut into 1/2-inch pieces
 - 1 tsp turmeric powder
 - Salt and pepper, to taste
 - 1 x 400 g / 14 oz tin chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- To Serve:
- 1 tbsp garlic-infused olive oil (or plain olive oil)
 - A few coriander (cilantro) leaves, roughly chopped

Instructions:

- Bring a pan of water to the boil, add the stock cube and couscous and cook until al dente, for 10-12 minutes. Drain and rinse with cold water then set aside.
- In a large frying pan, heat the olive oil on a low-medium heat and sauté the onion for 2 minutes until softened. Add the sugar and balsamic vinegar. Cook for a further 3 minutes
- Add in the garlic, red pepper, and courgette. Fry for 10 minutes on a medium heat, until the vegetables are cooked. Add a little more olive oil or a splash of water if the pan gets dry.
- In a large bowl, add the cooked couscous, the turmeric, chickpeas and stir in the fried vegetables. Mix well and season with salt and pepper.
- To serve, drizzle with some extra olive oil (garlic-infused preferably!) and some fresh coriander.
- Serves 4-6.

~ Aimee Ryan

Gadgets

(continued from back)

early, very fast producer and cold tolerant in both spring and fall. In France, glacier is pronounced gla'syé. Americans pronounce it glay'shr and Brits say glay'see'uh. Glacier, a French language word that we borrow, was based on the Latin word for ice: *glacies* (Latin pronunciation gla-ki-es).

Does Latin pronunciation matter to gardeners? Heck yes, since botanical names are based in Latin. Additionally the name of a botanist may be included in the botanical name. The genus *Forsythia* was named in honor of Scottish botanist William Forsyth. *Forsythia x intermedia* and *Forsythia suspensa* are the species commonly grown for ornamental use. Sometimes the botanical name is also the common name as in *Forsythia*. But common names can be misleading since different genus plants may be called by the same common name. Both *Tagetes* and *Calendula* are commonly called Marigold.

So Latin botanical names... Fortunately, the Purdue Extension Master Gardener Program has a link to a pronunciation guide found on: <https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/master-gardener/mglinks/pronunciation-guide-for-plants/>. A clickable link on the Purdue website leads to: Fine Gardening Magazine online - Guide to pronouncing botanical Latin: <https://www.finegardening.com/pronunciation-guide>. Neither Purdue nor we are commercially endorsing the magazine, but it really is the easiest comprehensive pronunciation guide available and a great tool for gardeners.

If you prefer a book, William Stearn's *Botanical Latin* (4th ed., David & Charles, 1992) is very good. We're not

renaming our column *Magna Gadgets et Instrumenta* although that does sound darned impressive.

Named cultivars and varieties don't have to follow any rules. Names are chosen based on marketing trends. Sometimes the original cultivar name given by the original grower is ditched in favor of a more popular or understandable name. For example, dark-leaved *Physocarpus* 'Diabolo' was renamed for the US market as 'Diablo' - a more familiar devilish name. A newer, very compact cultivar is *Physocarpus* 'Little Devil.'

Interestingly, some scientists, taxonomists, and botanists are Star Wars super fans, and so when they discover a new species or create a new hybrid they look to a galaxy far, far away for a new name like *Begonia darthvaderiana*. 'Darth Vader' begonia is just a small part of that universe.

A small sample of what's out there: *Magnolia* 'Star Wars'; *Cineraria* 'Star Wars'; *Primula auricula* 'Star Wars'; Louisiana iris 'Princess Leia'; *Dahlia* 'Star Wars' and 'Skywalker'; *Eucomis* 'Leia'; *Fuchsia* 'Star Wars'; African violets 'Star Wars' and 'Princess Leia'; Sweet Pea 'Skywalker'; *Veronica* 'Blue Skywalker'; *Calibrachoa* 'Skywalker'; *Iris* 'Skywalker', 'Millennium Falcon' and 'Dark Vader'; *Hemerocallis* daylily 'Skywalker', 'Han Solo', 'Chewbacca', 'Punch It Chewie', 'Wookie Goddess', 'Wild Wookie', 'Obi Wan Kenobi', and 'Lord Vader'.

May the 4th be with you.

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.
- Grow flowers to support pollinators and increase your harvest.
- Place plant supports this month around perennial plants after spring bulbs are finished blooming but before you remove the spring 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.
- Plant warm season flowers and vegetables when the soil warms up and all danger of frost is past.
- See more tips for indoor and outdoor gardening from at: <https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/yardandgarden/gardening-calendar-may/>.
- While you're digging and planting, pause to enjoy sunlight and warm breezes.



So ready, Time for cleaning out last season's leftovers and getting everything ready for a new season, renewed hope and grand dreams in the garden

Great Gadgets and Tools

Kathryn Reeves and Mike Hathaway

May is a busy month in the garden. Seeds to sow, seedlings to harden off before planting out. Do you think this month is called May because it may rain, may snow, may be warm, may be cold, may be 70 degrees or 28 degrees?



May 19 is World Plant a Vegetable Garden Day. Let's hope the weather is mild and warm sooner than that!



This spring we discovered lots of new plants to grow for the Master Gardener Plant Sale at the Garden Expo. Names of plant cultivars and varieties

YOUR MGATC OFFICERS:

Co-Presidents:

Jim Jeray, jerayjm@sbcglobal.net

Mickey Penrod, cmpenrod@frontiernet.net

Co-Vice Presidents:

Amanda Burge, amanda_personette@yahoo.com

Cheryl McCool, mikeandcherylmc@msn.com

Treasurer:

Debra Rimer, debrimer@yahoo.com

Recording Secretary:

Nancy Cope, nancyc1970@hotmail.com

Corresponding Secretary:

Jolaine Roberts, jolaineroberts@gmail.com

Member at Large:

Kathie Cox, kathiecox@gmail.com

Past Co-Presidents:

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are so creative, but sometimes throw a curveball. 'Glacier' tomato (a Swedish heirloom variety, but new to us) is not at all slow moving like a glacier; it's an

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