

November 2022

# Garden Beet

MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY



## Message from Your Co-Presidents

Jim and Mickey

The month of November is traditionally a time to think back over the past year to be thankful for all the successes and problems avoided or minimized.

The MGATC faced many new situations and challenges, but we are coming out of it better, stronger, and, with the help of the strategic planning team, more focused. We began the year with a big transition as the extension office moved to their new location. Our main garden area - Do we still call it the extension gardens? - remained in place. In addition to the new mailing address, we had to negotiate a lease with the County Commissioners. Fortunately, they appreciate all we do for the community and agreed to let us use the land and a portion of the parking lot for \$2 a year. You can't get more generous than that!

We lost the convenience the building afforded us as we had to establish new relationships with our vendors. We lost access to the dumpster and became responsible for mowing on our leased property. The water bill, the irrigation, and port-a-potty all became our responsibility. The tractor shed moved to a new location. Now we will have to maintain our section of the parking lot.

We are thankful for all the members who helped with all the transition details, but also to those who kept other MGATC projects going while this was happening.

We are also thankful to be able to begin having in-person meetings once again as COVID hesitancy ebbs. The

Hoe Down last month was a great success: good attendance, interesting presentations, a variety of good food, and friendly conversation before and after the meeting. Everyone faithfully using SignUpGenius helped immensely with the smooth setup of this meeting as well as many other activities over the summer.

And let's not forget the record breaking Expo in April! It was the first in a couple of years, and it came off as smoothly as ever. We did well, and the vendors were very happy.

Finally, we welcome the class of 2022, filled with eager master gardener interns already boasting that they are the best class ever as our ANR Extension Educator, Dr. Pat Williams, fans their enthusiasm.

That's a quick look back - lots of successes despite changes and challenges. Much to be thankful for.

Jim and Mickey

## Treasurer's Report

### October 2022 Board Meeting Treasurer's Report

The only income for the month of September was Checking Account Interest, \$.26. Total Income Year-to-date 2022 is \$14,934.25

In September, for the unrestricted budget, we spent a total of \$143.88. The expenditures were: \$62.94 Children's Gardens, \$19.98 Display/Idea Beds, and \$60.96 General Admin Expense. In the Restricted Funds, we spent \$125.96 of the Garden Improve-

ment Fund for Lawn & Shrub to repair the irrigation leak and for diesel for the tractor and hardware for the shed. Total Expense for the year is \$6,671.84. Remaining budget is \$4,355.16. We collected \$89 for 2023 Dues which are held in the Restricted Funds until January 2023.

The Restricted Fund Balance at the end of September was \$9,790.58. The total of Unrestricted Funds available at the end of the month was \$21,246.22.

Deb Rimer, Treasurer

## Programs

November 1 • 6:30 p.m. • TCEO  
Native Bees  
Andy Hughes

### December 6

No information was available at the time of publication.

For more information on upcoming events, contact Amanda Burge at [amanda\\_personett@yahoo.com](mailto:amanda_personett@yahoo.com).

Please submit items for the *Garden Beet* to [MGATCGardenBeet@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:deedee1mg@gmail.com).

<http://www.tippecanomastgardener.org>

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



# MGATC Minutes: October 4, 2022, 6:30 p.m., TCEO

At 6:30 p.m. on October 4th the monthly MGATC meeting was held, both virtually and in person. This was our annual Hoe Down meeting, so a great potluck meal was had by those in attendance before the meeting was started.

This meeting was the first to have the format of the business portion of the meeting first, then the speakers, as decided by the board. Jim Jeray explained the change. After that the minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Jim reminded everyone that the minutes can be found in the *Garden Beet* newsletter.

Deb Rimer gave the Treasurer Report.

The Class of 2022 were in attendance and asked to stand up. Jim reminded everyone to wear their name tags.

Pat Miller gave a reminder that it was time to pay the yearly dues. She will be accepting payments through the end of the year. A copy of the Green Book is included in the dues.

Jim talked about the 5-year plan for the group. The main object of the plan is to establish the direction of the MGATC and how to apply resources for that. The other object is to decide what the purpose of the group is. How do we get the word out to the public about us? He said he needs another two-three people for the 5-year plan committee. If you are interested, please contact him.

It was noted that the survey email sent out about the format of the Christmas meeting shows that appetizers and finger foods are the most popular idea.

Mickey Penrod reminded everyone in attendance to put their name on the meeting signup sheet.

It was noted that Victoria Willis, a former member in the Class of 2001, passed away. A moment of silence was held in her honor.

New member Alison Roth is asking for help in cleaning up the vineyard at the gardens on Sunday, October 16th. Hopefully the vineyard will eventually

be revamped and possibly new grapes will be planted.

It was noted that Carol Byers is in Creasy Springs Rehab, because she fell, if anyone would like to visit her.

Thanks was given to Ed Knoth for working since July on the children's shed and several other wooden objects around the garden. He put a lot of hours in to make the gardens look so much better. Photos were shown of all his work.

Next were four speakers who gave ten minute speeches on various topics. They were:

Andy Hughes - Composting  
John Picket - Toxic Plants for Cats and Dogs  
Cindy McDonald - Hydroponics and the Scientific Method  
Mickey Penrod - AAS (All American Selections)

With that, the meeting was adjourned.

- Nancy Cope, Recording Secretary



In November, the smell of food is different. It is an orange smell. A squash and pumpkin smell. It tastes like cinnamon and can fill up a house in the morning, can pull everyone from bed in a fog. Food is better in November than any other time of the year.

# MGATC Board: October 13, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on October 13, 2022. Present were Pat Williams, Andy Hughes, Deb Rimer, Dee Dee Long, Jan Sadler, Jim Jeray, Jolaine Roberts, Mickey Penrod, and Nancy Cope.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Deb Rimer gave the Treasurer Report.

Andy Hughes talked about the composting project and the need to chop the materials into smaller pieces so that they compost faster. The group has a wood chipper for branches and larger wood items. Since the composting system was started, they have used a standard lawn mower to chop up items like weeds, tomato plants, and other green items before putting them in the compost bins. But they were afraid they were overworking the mower, plus it threw debris into the air, which could be dangerous. So Andy did some research and thought that a flailing mower would work better. Instead of having blades that spin in a circle, a flailing mower almost works like a rototiller, with blades that spin around a bar. It also doesn't throw debris into the air. It was suggested that a flailing mower would also be good for mowing the prairie by the gardens. It was decided for Andy to do some more research on it and recommend the brand and size of flailing mower that would work for our needs.

A new member of MGATC (Alison Roth) is interested in taking over the vineyard and revamping it. The objective is to clean up the area, see how many of the original vines will need to be removed, and how many can be saved. The fence and posts might need to be repaired or replaced as well. It was noted that a budget will need to be established for 2023.

Jim Jeray mentioned that a virtual statewide Master Gardener roundtable will be held on Zoom on November 2nd. He felt it would be worthwhile to have some of the board members attend. Jim and Mickey Penrod said they would attend.

Mickey said that she had applied for an SIA Grant asking for mowers, tillers, trimmers, and a bagging kit. They were all the Eagle Power brand. The grant will be given out in December.

Mickey also talked about the community gardens. A letter was sent to the gardeners reminding them of fall clean-up of their plots. They evicted nine gardeners for lack of use of their plots. She noted that several gardeners have done nice jobs cleaning up. They are still looking for a chairperson for the community gardens.

Dee Dee gave a report on the Trunk or Treat event. It will be October 26th from 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m. The drive through will be in the western pavilion of the county fairgrounds. She needs help folding flyers, putting candy in bags, and also handing out bags to people in their cars. It would be great to wear a costume while handing out candy. Especially a garden themed costume! She will send out a SignUpGenius email for volunteers to sign up.

Dee Dee asked if it was worthwhile to continue recording the monthly meetings. There have been a number of issues while attempting to record the meetings on Zoom. It was originally started because of the Covid pandemic. The motion was passed to cancel the recording of the meetings. Andy Hughes suggested putting a notice in the email announcement for the next monthly meeting.

The *Garden Beet* publication was discussed. Chris Ramsey is retiring that position at the end of the year. A new Master Gardener has shown interest in taking over the position. Mickey will give the new Master Gardener's contact information to Chris so that they can coordinate training and the handover.

Dee Dee has been the group Historian for several years. She has a large collection of paper items going back for a long period. However, since items like the *Garden Beet*, flyers, and other communications have gone digital, she hasn't

received anything. She wondered if the group still needed to have a Historian. Nancy Cope noted that Andy has begun to archive content on the website. Also, digital photos and publicity archives are being stored on the group's Google drive. She suggested that the Webmaster also be the Historian. She asked Andy if the website is backed up. Andy wasn't sure, and said he would check. There also have been issues with multiple people accessing the group Google drive and Gmail. Mickey Penrod said that Tree Lafayette has a Google account and has several people access it, so she will talk to them about how theirs is set up.

Dee Dee Long and Pat Miller would like to increase the scholarships for Purdue and Ivy Tech students back to the levels they were before Covid. They had been lowered because the group's largest fundraiser, the Expo, had been canceled during the pandemic. But since we are able to have the Expo again, it would be good to have the scholarships at their original amount. The motion was passed, and the two scholarships will be \$1,000 each.

It was noted that the yearly dues can be paid online on the group website.

Pat Williams noted that the deadline for entering your hours for 2022 is 12/31/22. If you haven't entered the minimum required hours by then, you'll lose your Master Gardener membership.

Jim Jeray brought up the Member-at-Large, which is a board member who members of MGATC can send concerns or suggestions to for the board to consider. However the current Member-at-Large hasn't reported anything. Nancy Cope, who was the previous Member-at-Large, said that she never received any communications either. So the board was curious if group members knew of the Member-at-Large and their role. The topic was tabled until next month.

With that, the meeting was adjourned.

- Nancy Cope, Recording Secretary

# What's Happening

## RIP Squad

The RIP Squad - Remove[s] Invasive Plants to help protect native plants. November volunteer workdays are Tuesday, November 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 at 3-5 p.m. at Prophet's Rock Woods and Thursday, November 3, 10, and 17 and December 1 at 3-5 p.m. at Ross Hills Park.

This project is Co-sponsored by the West Central Chapter of the Indiana Native Plant Society and the Sycamore Audubon Society, in cooperation with the Tippecanoe County Parks & Recreation Department and TICT (Tippecanoe Invasive Cooperative Task Force).

For more information, contact Patty Jones at her landline/voicemail 765-463-3050 or email [removeinvasiveplants.wcincps@gmail.com](mailto:removeinvasiveplants.wcincps@gmail.com).

## Wednesdays in the Wild

There are no WITW programs scheduled for November, December, or January. More information will be available about the resumption of the programs after the 2023 planning committee meets in November.

Welcome sweet  
November,  
the season  
of senses and  
my favorite  
month of all.

~Gregory F. Lenz

## Brown Butter Apple Blondies with Cinnamon Maple Glaze

### Ingredients:

1 1/2 sticks (3/4 cup) salted butter  
1/2 cup apple butter  
1 1/2 cups light brown sugar  
2 large eggs  
1 tablespoon vanilla extract  
2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
2 teaspoons cinnamon  
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg  
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt  
2 Honeycrisp apples, peeled (if desired), and chopped (about 2 cups chopped apples)



### *Cinnamon Maple Glaze:*

3 tablespoons salted butter  
3 tablespoons maple syrup  
1/2 - 3/4 cup powdered sugar  
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon  
1 pinch flaky sea salt

### Instructions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Line a 9x13 inch baking dish with parchment paper.
2. Add the butter to a medium pot set over medium heat. Allow the butter to brown, until it smells toasted, about 2-3 minutes. Stir often. Remove from the heat and stir in the apple butter and 1 cup brown sugar. Let cool 5 minutes. Whisk in the eggs and vanilla. Add the flour, baking powder, 1 teaspoon of the cinnamon, nutmeg, and salt, mixing until just combined. Spread the dough out into the prepared dish.
3. In a bowl, toss the apples with 1/2 cup brown sugar and 1 teaspoon cinnamon. Evenly sprinkle the apples over the dough. Transfer to the oven and bake for 25-30 minutes, just until set in the center. If there is liquid in the center, swirl it around the pan, then bake another 5 minutes. Let cool.
4. Meanwhile, make the glaze. Add the butter to a small pot set over medium heat. Allow the butter to brown lightly until it smells toasted, about 2-3 minutes. Remove from the heat and whisk in the maple syrup, powdered sugar, cinnamon, and a pinch of salt. Drizzle the glaze over the bars. Let set for 5 minutes. Cut into bars...snack and enjoy! Makes 24 bars.

~Tieghan Gerard

**Master Gardener Association of Tippecanoe County  
2023 Membership Application & Annual Dues**

The Master Gardener Association of Tippecanoe County dues are \$25 per year for an individual or \$40 per year for a couple at the same address. Annual dues include one copy of the Green Membership Book, access to the Garden Beet by email, access to the 'Members Only' area on the website, monthly educational seminars and voting rights during the annual election.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Year Graduated: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the membership option(s) you would like below:

- |                          |  |                  |
|--------------------------|--|------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Individual Annual Dues (includes 1 Green Book)   | \$25             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Couple Annual Dues (please include both names above)   | \$40             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Garden Beet (if you wish to receive monthly printed copies)  | \$12             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Green Membership Book (additional copy)  | \$2              |
|                          |  | TOTAL = \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Paid Online: <a href="https://master-gardener-association-of-tippecanoe-county.square.site">https://master-gardener-association-of-tippecanoe-county.square.site</a> |                  |

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Areas where I can be an effective Master Gardener:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Speaking                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Staffing info booths                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great Annual Annual Planting     | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning workshops                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serving as an officer            | <input type="checkbox"/> Presenting workshops                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serving as committee chairperson | <input type="checkbox"/> Event Planning                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publishing the Garden Beet       | <input type="checkbox"/> Nature center docent                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Writing for the Garden Beet      | <input type="checkbox"/> Helping with annual Garden Expo       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preparing publicity              | <input type="checkbox"/> Working in Demonstration Gardens      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helping with youth programs      | <input type="checkbox"/> Working in the Display & Idea Gardens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helping with plant sales         | <input type="checkbox"/> Working at the Children's Garden      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran's Home gardens           | <input type="checkbox"/> Ext Office Community Garden           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MG Educational Center            | <input type="checkbox"/> Chatham Sq Community Garden           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hosting Garden Tours             | <input type="checkbox"/> Cumberland Community Garden           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____    |  |

Please return this completed form and a check for the amount of your dues payable to **Master Gardener Association of Tippecanoe County (MGATC)** by the December 2022 monthly meeting:

**Attn: Membership**  
**MGATC**  
**PO Box 6135**  
**Lafayette, IN 47903**



# Great Gadgets and Tools

By Kathryn Reeves and Mike Hathaway

If we're lucky there will be some sunny November days for final garden clean up. Except for leafy crops like lettuce, spinach, kale, and chard tucked under floating row cover and plastic sheeting, all our other crops are "safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin."

Collecting seeds of ornamentals, both native and non-native, is part of our autumn harvest. We enjoy seeing intricate designs of different seeds. A regular magnifying glass or a pocket folding magnifier that gardeners use for identifying insects and plant diseases is also a great tool for sorting through seeds.



photo: © 2022 Kathryn Reeves

This fall, we were delighted that our Clematis 'Rooguchi' (aka: 'Roguchi') produced mature seeds (shown in the photo above). Most years, the seed heads are all fluff and no ripe seeds. Viable seed should be full, firm, and brown; any that are lighter in color probably will be duds.

C. 'Rooguchi' is a hybrid of *C. integrifolia* (a shrubby clematis) and *C. x durandii* (a vining clematis). It gets a lot taller than its *C. integrifolia* parent, but has the deep intense blue flowers of both parents. We won't know what the offspring will look like since the seed is from a hybrid, but it will be fun to grow this. While not native, these and other large flowering clematis species are considered non-invasive, unlike the horribly invasive Sweet Au-

tumn Clematis, *C. terniflora*. Virgin's Bower, *C. virginiana*, is a similar looking white flowered native. To identify the difference, see <https://indiananativeplants.org/2013/native-or-invasive-clematis-check-the-leaves/>.

We'll store harvested seeds in cool dry conditions until it is time to sow them. There's some conflicting advice on whether cold stratification is required for this particular clematis seed. So we'll sow one batch in warm conditions and stratify another batch. After germination, it will take about 3 years until the plants get to flowering size.

In our June 2022 column, we recommended modifying Monty Don's formula for peat-free potting mix (3 parts coir, 1 part sieved garden compost, 1 part sieved loam or topsoil, 1 part sharp sand, perlite, or horticultural grit) by adding a scant 1/4 cup of gypsum per 1 cubic foot of coir. We can report great success this year growing vegetables and ornamentals in containers with that modified mix. And we will likely use it for winter seed sowing outdoors, especially for native wildflowers like Blue False Indigo, *Baptisia australis*.



photo: © 2022 Kathryn Reeves

November is too early to start winter-sowing seeds, but not too early to gather gallon jugs for that purpose.

We think this is a great excuse to buy more apple cider.

## NOVEMBER TO-DO LIST

- Make sure houseplants have adequate light and humidity.
- Plant spring bulbs when soil temperature is 55° or less.
- Apply animal repellent over spring bulbs such as tulips and crocus, and on trees, shrubs, and evergreens. Animals usually won't bother daffodils or alliums.
- Start bulbs for forcing. Keep tender bulbs like paperwhites in warm or slightly cool indoor temperatures.
- Harvest late season leafy greens and Brussels sprouts. Carrots can stay in the ground a while longer if thick mulch is applied to keep the ground from freezing.
- Wait to mulch tender plants and roses until ground is frozen (usually in late November or early December).
- November is still a good time to plant trees and shrubs.
- Deeply water trees and shrubs, especially new ones, before the ground freezes if rainfall has been light.
- Keep mulch away from base of trees and shrubs to discourage bark-chewing voles.
- Cut lawn grass if needed at usual height. Tall grass can be prone to snow mold.
- Do final garden cleanup. Compost leaves and debris.
- Turn the compost pile.
- Clean up all dropped fruit below fruit trees.

For more tips see:

<https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/yardandgarden/november-yard-garden-calendar/>

Stay warm and healthy while you garden indoors and outdoors this month. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

## Left over Turkey? Turkey Stuffed Eggplant

2 medium eggplant	1/4 cup dry white wine
6 T butter	Salt, pepper to taste
1 pound mushrooms, diced	1/4 cup grated cheese of choice
2 onion diced	Chopped parsley
2 cups diced cooked turkey	

Preheat oven 400 degrees. Line cookie sheet with parchment paper. Cut eggplants in half length wise. Carefully scoop out pulp. Dice pulp and set aside. In a skillet over medium heat melt butter. Add eggplant pulp, mushrooms and onions and sauté for 15 minutes or until vegetables are soft. Add turkey and stir to blend. Add wine and salt and pepper. Spoon mixture into the eggplant shells, mounding it above the rims. Place shells on cookie sheet. Sprinkle with cheese and bake 15 minutes. Garnish with parsley. *~Indiana Gardening*

### YOUR MGATC OFFICERS:

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Some of the days in November carry the whole memory  
of summer as a fire opal carries the color of moonrise.

~Gladys Taber

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