

October 2021

# Garden Beet

MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY



## The Latest Spin from D&J

Dee Dee and Jan

Fall is officially here. Many of you may be planting your fall crops, while others are cleaning up the gardens for a winter break.

Our mission is "Helping Others Grow" and volunteering is a large part of our Master Gardener program. Since we are unable to have a Master Gardener class this year, we will not be gaining new members from a class. Therefore, we ask everyone to do a little extra volunteering in order to keep our organization strong and thriving.

The extension office has been busy packing in preparation for their move to the old YMCA building later this year. We have gone through the Master Gardener files and materials and boxed them up and labeled them and they are ready to be moved and stored at the new building. If all goes well with the move and COVID, our monthly meetings could begin being held in person between February and April 2022.

Also, anticipating the sale of the current building, we are getting quotes to

move the tractor shed closer to the Demonstration Garden.

Please plan to attend the September 7 Zoom meeting and cast your vote for the bylaw changes which were attached to the August 2021 *Garden Beet*.

Our next Zoom meeting is scheduled for October 5 at 6:30 p.m. Hope you plan to attend the Hoedown.

Have an enjoyable fall.

Jan and Dee Dee

## Great Gadgets and Tools

Kathryn Reeves and Mike Hathaway

This month if we're lucky temperatures are moderate early in the month and the air is clear. Autumn's colors provide a warm glow as the weather



starts to cool down. Gardeners are busy harvesting fall crops.

With summer heat behind us, garden cleanup is pleasant.

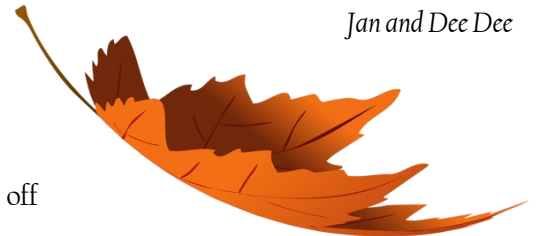
We're emptying our container garden pots this month. We try to scrub and rinse plastic six packs for seedlings, as well as terracotta and plastic pots throughout the spring and early summer as we empty them, but inevitably

the extreme heat of summer puts us off that task. So we have stacks of unwashed pots to clean now and store for use next year. We use large utility tubs (made for mixing concrete) for the scrubbing marathon - one tub for soapy water, another for rinse water.

After the wet pots have dried in the sun, we store stacks of pots in a large garbage bin with a locking lid - keeps them clean and organized.

Our tip for stacking empty pots: put newspapers or recycled plastic bags between the containers to keep them from sticking together. You'll be glad you did.

(continued on page 5)



## Programs

**October 5 • 6:30 p.m. • Zoom Hoedown**

Jolaine Roberts - The differences in Gardening in Indiana vs. Florida  
Sandra Kelly - The differences in Gardening in Indiana vs. California  
Debra Rimer - The differences in gardening in Indiana vs. Alaska

**November 2 • 6:30 p.m. • Zoom Butterflies in Tippecanoe County**  
Jonathan Neal

Jonathan is a retired Professor of Entomology.

For more information on upcoming events, contact Maralee Hayworth at [mhaywort@purdue.edu](mailto:mhaywort@purdue.edu).

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.tippecanoeastergardener.org>

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



# MGATC Meeting: Sept 7, 2021, 6:30 p.m., Virtual

At 6:32 p.m. Mickey Penrod called the meeting to order and introduced the speaker, Dr. Marc Milne, Associate Professor of Biology at the University of Indianapolis. His subject was "Spiders of Indiana: Incredibly Important Members of Healthy Functioning Ecosystems!"

Spiders are not insects. Dr. Milne explained the difference and gave many interesting facts about spiders, emphasizing how useful they are in pest control. There are 49,600 species of spiders; nearly 600 are native to Indiana. Spiders rarely bite and don't pass diseases to humans.

About 37 master gardeners signed on to attend the Zoom meeting.

Jim Jeray then introduced the procedure for voting on changes to the

bylaws by explaining: "These are really updates to the bylaws. The changes are mainly in two categories but are spread over seven locations in the document. We will vote on each individual change."

The changes have to do with: 1) Virtual meetings: Something we have been doing out of necessity for over a year, but we want to make it official in the bylaws; and 2) Alumni Membership: We are establishing the category in the bylaws, but we will wait for Purdue to publish statewide criteria before accepting applications.

Brooke Stafford explained how to vote on Zoom and sent a secret ballot to each participant. She tallied the votes and shared the results with everyone. Thirty-three members voted, which was a quorum. A 2/3 vote was required

for passage, and each change received more than 90% yes votes.

A member asked the definition of Alumni Member. Since Purdue hasn't published criteria, this is hard to answer in detail, but a good analogy would be that an alumni member is similar to a retiree in the business sense.

Next month's meeting will be the annual Hoedown. Three speakers will talk about differences in gardening in three different U.S. locations outside of Indiana.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jim Jeray, Recording Secretary

## Treasurer's Report

Income for the month of July was from dues and interest for a total of \$23. Expenses for the month were for the demo garden, Ivy Tech Scholarship, and the Compost Project for a total of \$4,229. There were charges to the Compost Project which changed the restricted funds giving a balance of \$16,233. The total of unrestricted funds available is \$14,831 as of August 31.

**DUES:** It is now time to renew your membership in the MGATC for 2022. The dues remain the same as 2021 with single membership at \$25, couples' membership at \$40, the Green Book is \$2, and the *Garden Beet* by U.S. mail is

\$12. You can renew online. Use the Square link that will be forwarded to you and send your membership renewal form by mail to the address below. Or, you can send your membership renewal form and check to the following address:

Pat Miller, MGATC  
3801 South River Road  
West Lafayette, IN 47906

If you have any changes to your membership details please send them to me at [pmillerathome@comcast.net](mailto:pmillerathome@comcast.net).

Pat Miller, Treasurer

I wish that every day  
was Saturday and every  
month was October

- Charmaine J. Ford

### Butternut Squash Soup II

Prep: 25 mins; Cook: 45 mins; Total: 70 mins

#### Ingredients:

2 tablespoons butter  
1 small onion, chopped  
1 stalk celery, chopped  
1 medium carrot, chopped  
2 medium potatoes, cubed  
1 medium butternut squash - peeled, seeded, and cubed  
1 (32 fluid ounce) container chicken stock  
salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

#### Directions:

**Step 1** - Melt the butter in a large pot, and cook the onion, celery, carrot, potatoes, and squash 5 minutes, or until lightly browned. Pour in enough of the chicken stock to cover vegetables. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low, cover pot, and simmer 40 minutes, or until all vegetables are tender.

**Step 2** - Transfer the soup to a blender, and blend until smooth. Return to pot, and mix in any remaining stock to attain desired consistency. Season with salt and pepper. Serves 4.

**Nutrition Facts, Per Serving:** 305 calories; protein 6.9g; carbohydrates 59.7g; fat 6.8g; cholesterol 20.9mg; sodium 1151.4mg.

~ Maplebird

# MGATC Board: Sept 9, 2021, 4 p.m., Virtual

Dee Dee Long called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. Attending were Pat Miller, Dee Dee Long, Mickey Penrod, Maralee Hayworth, Jim Jeray, Kathy Cox, and Brooke Stafford.

Minutes from the August meeting were approved as published in the *Garden Beet*.

Pat Miller delivered the treasurer's report. There were no changes to income or expenses from the end-of-month report. She reviewed the restricted funds. The Garden Improvement fund will be depleted when Lawn and Shrub cashes their latest check. Community Garden funds will be adjusted at the end of the year after the collections for the year are reconciled with the water bills and the balance transferred to our accounts. The Compost Project fund will be approximately \$8,200 after the current invoices are paid.

**Membership:** Members can begin paying dues for 2022 in October. Because of the move, dues will be sent to Pat Miller's home address rather than to the extension office. Pat and Brooke are working on the form for 2022 and the process for using Square for credit card payments. Dee Dee will send periodic mass email reminders.

**Sheds:** Two sheds will need to be moved away from the building to the grassy area closer to the gardens. Yoder's will move only the tractor shed to a level site for a charge of \$300 plus \$100 per hour. They will level but not anchor the shed at the new location. The decision for the new location is pending. Demo garden volunteers will clean out the other one. Due to its condition that shed will likely be torn down at some point in the near future.

**Compost Project:** The committee met and developed a plan. The bins are numbered and the compost trailer is in place. The next big effort will be educating gardeners about the new proce-

dures through signs and personal contact. Dee Dee will make temporary signs. Pat will provide fence posts to block off the area where compost is no longer to be dumped. The committee is exchanging ideas about the wording of an educational sign.

**Irrigation, Security, and Trash Disposal:** Two of these issues result from the move and the resulting loss of support from the extension office. Jim has done some research and shared information with the board for their consideration, so they can make some decisions at next month's meeting.

Irrigation repairs have become very costly. Jim and Andy Hughes have worked out a way to bypass the L&S system in lieu of paying for more repairs. The change at each location would cost less than \$50 and can be done as needed. The total for the demo garden would be less than the latest L&S bill. The only drawback would be the need to reattach to the system for annual draining in the fall.

The alarm system is tied to a control box located in the extension office. It requires an AC outlet, constant power, and would not do well outside of a climate-controlled location. We have neither in the gardens. The annual cost of support is about \$550, which seems high except for the contents of the tractor shed. The recommendation is to consider an alternate form of security.

The trash dumpster primarily supports the office, but is also used by gardeners. Pickups happen weekly at a monthly cost of \$76. Gardeners need access only about six months of the year and would rarely fill a dumpster on their own. Recommend adopting the National Park model: carry out what you carry in - with possibly a one time dumpster available for a week at the beginning and end of the season.

**Ivy Tech Scholarship Dinner:** This event has been postponed until the spring of 2022.

**Bylaws:** Membership passed the changes at the meeting with an affirmative vote of over 90% on each.

**Hoedown:** All speakers have been confirmed.

**Nominating Committee:** Jolaine Roberts was not available for the meeting, but sent a follow-up email saying that she had heard from a few people interested in serving on the board. We are still in need of candidates for recording secretary, corresponding secretary, copresident, or co-vice president.

**Monthly Meetings:** The meeting room is scheduled beginning in February 2022 for in-person monthly meetings. This is the earliest it will happen and depends on subsequent decisions regarding the COVID situation.

**Other Business:** Dee Dee notifies everyone by mass mailing of the Zoom link for each meeting. Do not use the link from earlier in the year. Every dues-paying member should be on that list to receive the emails.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Jeray, Recording Secretary

I'm so glad I  
live in a world  
where there  
are Octobers

L. M. Montgomery

# What's Happening

## Wednesdays in the Wild

Registration is required by noon on the Monday prior to the program at [mcutler@tippecanoe.in.gov](mailto:mcutler@tippecanoe.in.gov) or 765-567-2993. Facial coverings and/or social distancing are highly recommended. Please note the later start times for several of the programs.

### Sept 29 • 8-10 p.m.\* • TIPP AMPH *Fall Constellations* Wabash Valley Astronomical Society

Join members of the Wabash Valley Astronomical Society as they talk about fall constellations, including some Native American mythology. Following the talk, we'll do some naked-eye constellation-finding and view Jupiter, Saturn, star clusters, and the Andromeda galaxy core through WVAS members' telescopes. Bring binoculars. \*Note the time. Maximum of 30 participants.

### Oct 6 • 1-3 p.m. • WCO *Apples for the Tasting* Perry Kirkham

Perry Kirkham (Owner of Wea Creek Orchard in southern Tippecanoe County) will share how apple trees are managed from planting through harvesting, then follow this up with a dis-

cussion and a sampling of various apple varieties. Interested individuals may then take a wagon ride and learn about bees, additional crops on the site, and related topics. Maximum of 30 participants.

### Oct 13 • 10 a.m.-Noon\* • CBNA *Heading South: Migrants and their Motivations* Susan Ulrich

Susan Ulrich (Sycamore Audubon Society) will provide a short introduction to the seasonal strategy of migration and then we'll journey out on the Celery Bog trails in search of birds moving through or beginning to return here to spend the fall and winter.

\*Note the time.

Maximum of 20 participants.

### Oct 20 • 1-3 p.m. • CBNA *Forecasting the Forest: The Effects of Weather and Climate on Tree Ranges and Diversity* Chad Evans

Chad Evans (TV18 Chief Meteorologist) will couple his love of the natural world with his expertise as a meteorologist to explore the role that weather and climate play in shaping the occurrence and diversity of Indiana's forest ecosystems. On this hike along the Celery Bog trails, he'll identify the trees found there and share how the

occurrence of different tree species (and their health) is connected to not only soils, water, and nutrients, but climate and weather events, too. Maximum of 30 participants.

### Oct 27 • 1-3 p.m. • NICHES/WRC *Hiking Through Fall at Wright Rock Creek Nature Reserve* Bob Easter

Bob Easter (NICHES Land Trust Stewardship Director) will lead this hike at this Warren County property, where fall colors and late-blooming wildflowers are sure to be abundant! The geology and beauty of Rock Creek, with its sculpted sandstone cliffs, will be highlighted along with the history of stewardship of this property.

Maximum of 20 participants.

#### LOCATIONS:

**CBNA (Celery Bog Nature Area):** Meet at the Celery Bog Amphitheater (1620 Lindberg Road, between Northwestern Avenue and McCormick Road, West Lafayette).

**NICHES/WRC (Gladys & Al Wright Rock Creek N.R.):** Meet at 1 p.m. in the property parking lot at 2500 W 400 S, Williamsport 47993 in Warren County (see directions at [www.nicheslandtrust.org](http://www.nicheslandtrust.org)) or join the noon carpool from the Lilly Nature Center parking lot at 1620 Lindberg Road, West Lafayette.

**TIPP AMPH (Tippecanoe County Amphitheater):** Meet at 8 p.m. in the Tippecanoe County Amphitheater parking lot at 4449 State Road 43 N, West Lafayette.

**WCO (Wea Creek Orchard):** Meet at 1 p.m. at the orchard at 5618 S 200 E, Lafayette, 47909.

## Pumpkin Bread

3 cups sugar	1 cup veggie oil	4 beaten eggs
1 can 16 oz. pumpkin, or cooked fresh pumpkin		3 1/2 cups flour
2 tsp. soda	1 tsp. baking powder	1 tsp. salt
3 tsp. pumpkin spice, or can make your own		

Cream sugar and oil. Add eggs and pumpkin. Sift together dry ingredients, mix in with wet. Pour into well greased loaf pans, makes 2. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour and 15 minutes. Depending on oven can take less or more time to bake. Check, when tooth pick inserted in center comes clean, done. Let sit 10-15 minutes and remove from pan.



Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.

Albert Camus

# Gadgets

(continued from page 1)

It's a good month to plant trees and shrubs before the ground freezes. You may want to consider using a **tree-watering bag** to provide slow drip irrigation for trees and shrubs. Treegator Slow Release Watering Bags, Treediapers, Bioplex Drip Irrigation Tree Ring, ArborRain Hydration System, and other brands are easy to use and labor saving. A. M. Leonard has a great selection ranging from 15 gallons to 30 gallons. Local big box stores may carry similar bags.



Drought conditions in summer and fall can put even well established deciduous trees and evergreens at risk during winter. Make sure all your trees and shrubs have adequate moisture,

and continue to water soil around them in fall until the ground freezes. Not sure how much water they need? See: "Drought? Don't Forget the Trees" Publication FNR483W (<https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/fnr/fnr-483-w.pdf>).

National Apple Day is October 21. Crisp apples for crisp weather sound good. Warm apple pie with cold ice cream sounds even better! Next year, we've got to find room for a dwarf apple tree.

## October TO-DO List

- \* Average first frost date is October 8-10 in Tippecanoe County, but could be as early as September 25 or as late as October 18.
- \* Empty and put away garden hoses before freezing temperatures.
- \* Dig up tender tubers and corms of caladiums, cannas, dahlias, and gladiolus.
- \* Bring in houseplants when evening temps begin to drop into the 50's if you want to "over-winter" them indoors. Hose them off with water and spray with insecticidal soap to prevent bringing in unwanted pests.
- \* Buy or order spring bulbs. Pre-dig areas for bulbs, refill with loosened soil or set soil aside until you're ready to plant. Add animal repellent granules to discourage bulb raiders.
- \* Plant trees, shrubs, and perennials so their roots can establish before winter.
- \* Oak wilt is most active from April to July, which is why you should never trim oak trees in the summer. To be safe, avoid pruning oaks between April 1 and October 1.
- \* Continue watering new and established garden plants and trees through fall.
- \* Deadhead and cut back spent perennials as needed. Leave plants with attractive seed heads, especially wildflowers, for winter interest and to feed birds.
- \* Keep raking autumn leaves so lawn grass is not smothered. Let leaves lie in borders and woody areas to help invertebrates. Compost leaves or keep them in bags as "browns" to mix with "greens" next year.
- \* Fertilize lawn and apply broadleaf herbicide. See <https://mdc.itap.purdue.edu> for details, application rate, and schedule in free Purdue publications: "Lawn Improvement Programs" AY-13-W, "Turfgrass Management: Fertilizing Established Cool-season Lawns" AY-22-W, and "Maintenance Calendar for Indiana Lawns" AY-27-W.
- \* Continue mulching and weeding. Prevent weed seed formation to make next year's maintenance easier.
- \* Harvest and preserve herbs by drying or freezing.
- \* Continue growing spinach, cabbage, lettuce, and kale under row covers or in a cold frame for tasty fall and winter salads.
- \* Clean up all fallen fruits to reduce disease and pest problems.
- \* For more tips, see Purdue Extension October Garden Calendar (<https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/yardandgarden/october-garden-calendar/>).
- \* Plant porch and patio containers with fall mums, asters, pumpkins and decorative gourds. Enjoy!

I can smell autumn dancing in the breeze. The sweet chill of pumpkin, and crisp sunburnt leaves.

- Ann Drake





The remaining MGATC meetings for 2021 are:

Oct 5, 2021

Nov 2, 2021

Dec 7, 2021

They are conducted on Zoom at 6:30 p.m.

**YOUR MGATC OFFICERS:**

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