

September 2016

# Garden Beet

MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY



## From Two Js

What a summer we've had as Tippecanoe Master Gardeners! All reports of our hosting the State Purdue Master Gardener Conference have been positive. We had great leadership from John Orick and our own Elizabeth and Jolaine. One hundred of our members also took active part! Don't forget to turn those volunteer hours in to Carl Stafford. On the heels of that we had our annual Garden Open House led by Jan and Dee Dee. The gardens have been beautiful this summer and show lots of attention and care. I never go there without seeing some of our members (often Don and Norma) weeding, harvesting, mulching, or tidying up.

Our 2015 Master Gardener class was a good one and many of those interns have been active members. We are certainly pleased to have them. Soon Karen Mitchell will be assembling a

new class. Reports are that it will be a large one. We encourage a lot of our current master gardeners to participate in our trellis and vine program. We credit it with getting so many of last year's class members involved in the association's projects. You and the new class will hear more about this as the sessions begin. Remember that "Helping others grow" is our primary reason for being Purdue Master Gardeners.

As autumn begins to creep upon us we continue to enjoy the fresh vegetables and fall flowers. We look with satisfaction to canned, dried, and frozen produce we've put away for the winter. Soon we'll be sipping hot cocoa and planning the next cycle. A cycle six thousand years old will be continued. I came across this garden plan in an old Swedish cook book and I'll pass it on here. Plant some Peas (presence,

preparedness, perseverance, and promptness). Next some squash (squash gossip, squash criticism, and squash indifference). Now some lettuce (let us be faithful, let us obey rules and regulations, and let us love each other). Finally some turnips (turn up on time for meetings, turn up with a smile, turn up with new ideas, and turn up with determination to make everything count for something good and worthwhile). Author unknown. I can't believe the Swedes didn't include rutabagas.

One last note: don't forget the "Hoedown" on September 6. We think of it as our thanksgiving social as the gardening year comes to a close.

*Jerry and John*

## The Latest Dirt

by Flora N. Fauna

From the September 2013 *Friends of Old Bulbs Gazette* of Old House Gardens: "If you planted gladiolus cormlets this year - the tiny bulbs clustered around the base of mature corms - expert Cliff Hartline has a couple of tips for you this fall. In *Glad World*, he writes that one year he started harvesting his plants grown from cormlets on September 20, but 'after pulling a few out of the ground, I saw that the corms were only the size of a quarter or smaller. I decided to foliar feed them [instead], and I applied fungicide at

the same time. We had a frost October 15 so I dug them immediately after that. [By then] many of the corms were jumbos, most were large, and very few were smaller. I would encourage people to wait until frost to dig cormlet stock, and foliar feed late in the year .... The September feeding seemed to rejuvenate the growth and the fungicide kept the foliage healthy.' To learn more about growing glads from cormlets, see 'Glads for Free' in our Newsletter Archives at <https://www.oldhousegardens.com/>."

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## Programs

**September 6 • 6 p.m. • TCEO**

5:30 p.m. Social Time

6 p.m. Hoedown (carry-in)

*The Ash Tree Meltdown  
and Other Calamities*

Cliff Sadof

Purdue Professor of Entomology

Note: this is the Hoedown, so remember to bring a covered dish.

**October 4 • 7 p.m. • TCEO**

6:30 p.m. Social Time

Brian Pijanowski

Purdue Professor of Forestry  
and Natural Resources

For more information on upcoming events, contact Cheryl McCool at

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 Donna Cumberland at [donna.d.cumberland@gmail.com](mailto:donna.d.cumberland@gmail.com).

<http://www.tippecanoemastergardener.org>

<http://www.hort.purdue.edu/mg/index.html>

# MGATC Minutes: August 2, 2016, 7 p.m., TCEO

Cheryl McCool introduced the guest speaker, Susan Ulrich, who works with INPAWS, NICHES, and the Audubon Society. She gave an interesting slide presentation on native plants.

Jerry Millard then called the meeting to order at 7:52 p.m. and thanked John Pickett for his help over the last couple of months.

The minutes of the July meeting were approved as posted in the August issue of the *Garden Beet*.

Pat Miller gave the Treasurer's report noting that the end of July balance is \$20,710. She also noted that the fiscal year ends on August 31 and asked everyone to get any receipts turned in to her by August 20 so that she can get 2016 closed out.

Jerry Millard introduced Laurie Madlung who has taken over as Chair of the Finance Committee and is also the Grant Coordinator.

Billie Seaton, Chair of Membership, had membership forms available for everyone to complete as dues are due on September 1.

Karen Mitchell also noted everyone needs to complete a Volunteer Form and turn it in to her. A copy of your driver's license does not need to be included if it has been submitted previously.

Dee Dee Long and Jan Sadler thanked everyone, who participated, for their help with this year's Open House. It was a great success. Any suggestions or comments for future Open House events can be directed to either Dee Dee Long or Jan Sadler.

Carl Stafford again encouraged everyone to turn in their hours to him. Volunteer hours can be earned for all of the Master Gardener programs listed in the green book; if there is any question about whether something is allowed, members can check with either

Karen Mitchell or Jerry Millard. It was noted that any guided tours in the county, state, country, or other countries receive education hours but you need to indicate "guided tour" when completing your hours report.

Mickey Penrod thanked everyone for their help in the gardens to prepare for the State Conference. A note from Jolaine Roberts thanking everyone for help at the State Conference was placed at the back of the room for everyone to read. A special thanks was directed to Ed Knoth and Candace Larson for painting signs for the gardens. Mickey Penrod also thanked the Dillings and Staffords for their help with the AAS Gardens.

Mickey Penrod noted that the Display and Idea Gardens can always use help. There will be a meeting in the Display Garden at 6 p.m. on August 8.

Dee Dilling thanked everyone who helped at the county fair. She will send questionnaires to those who helped to help determine if anything needs to be changed in the future.

Joanne Liphard noted that the September 6 meeting will be the annual Master Gardener Hoedown which is a carry-in dinner. She asked for volunteers to help setup at 4 p.m. There will be hot dogs. Social time will begin at 5:30 p.m. and dinner will begin at 6 p.m.

There were no other reports.

Membership updates of email addresses, home addresses, and phone numbers should be directed to Billie Seaton.

JoAn Messing announced that Louise Jewell, one of our Master Gardeners, was selected to be the Torchbearer for Warren County for the State Bicentennial Relay.

Elizabeth Hartley noted that the State Conference will now be held every other year and the next one will be

June 7-9 in Hendricks County in 2018. In 2017, Indianapolis will host the American Hosta Society Conference from June 7-11.

Karen Mitchell thanked everyone for responding to the survey she sent out and reminded everyone of the neighborhood Pot Luck Social which will be held on August 18 on North 10<sup>th</sup> Street.

There were some free seeds from Walmart and free day lilies available.

Jerry Millard reminded everyone of the new Rookie of the Year Award. The first award covers from class in September 2015 through December 2016 and will be presented at the March 2017 awards banquet which will be held in the Home Economics Building at the Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds.

Bruce Bresnahan won the door prize.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Sadler  
Recording Secretary*

## Grilled Fontina and Blackberry Basil Smash Sandwiches

1 loaf of multigrain bread, cut into 8 thick slices  
12 oz. fresh blackberries  
12-15 fresh basil leaves, chopped  
6-8 oz. fontina cheese, sliced  
2 T. olive oil

In a large bowl, carefully mash blackberries with a fork and stir in chopped basil. Heat an electric griddle or large skillet over medium-low heat. Brush olive oil on one side of 4 slices of bread. Lay a piece of cheese on the un-oiled side of each slice of bread, then top with a few spoonfuls of smashed blackberries. Place the topped bread slices on the griddle or skillet, oiled side down. Place the remaining slices on top, and then brush each with olive oil. Lower the heat just a little and cook slowly so the bread gets perfectly golden and the cheese melts. Flip over and toast the other side—total of 4-5 minutes. Makes 4 sandwiches.

# MGATC Board: August 11, 2016, 6 p.m., TCEO

Present for the meeting were John Pickett, Jerry Millard, Jan Sadler, Pat Miller, Dee Dilling, Cheryl McCool, Debbie Ladd, Carol Byers, Elizabeth Hartley, and Karen Mitchell.

Also in attendance were: Julieann Davis, Konie Hughes, Andy Hughes, Dona Brown, Jim Smith, Jim Mailloux, Jim Jeray, Sue Swick, Mickey Penrod, Viola Jones, and Laurie Madlung.

The meeting was called to order by Jerry Millard at 6 p.m.

As several members other than Board members were present, Jerry Millard welcomed everyone and asked them to introduce themselves.

The Minutes of the July Board meeting posted in the August *Garden Beet* were approved with no changes.

There were several concerns brought to the attention of the Board from the Master Gardeners who attended the meeting.

All of the members are concerned about the water system in the gardens at the Extension Office: Display and Idea Gardens, Demonstration Gardens, Community Gardens, and Children's Garden. The water system is in dire need of replacement.

In addition, the pergola in the Display and Idea Garden is not safe and needs to be replaced. If it is replaced, we could possibly use the top of it to build a shade area for the Community Gardens. It is felt that maintenance and repair items need to be handled and paid for by the Master Gardener Association and these items (such as hoses, shovels, etc.) should not have to come out of the individual garden budgets. Another huge concern is not being able to get enough volunteers for our current projects. Only a few people cannot be expected to handle all of the work at the Extension Office gardens. It is too much and help is needed. Master Gardeners are also spending a lot of

their own money in these gardens and that issue needs to be addressed.

Pat Miller noted that Laurie Madlung is now Chair of the Finance Committee and part of her function is to help write and submit grant requests. We can work with Laurie to determine what kind of grants are available for a new water system at the gardens. Karen Mitchell also received information on a grant writing workshop and will pass it along to the group.

In the past, the property behind the Community Gardens was rented out to farmers and the rent money was used to help with Master Gardener expenses but this land was not farmed this year and it has become an eyesore and there are mosquito problems. Karen Mitchell does not know why this piece of property was not farmed this year but is looking into it for next year. If it is not rented to a farmer, it could possibly be divided into sections to be rented out to individuals who would like to sell produce at the farmers' markets. Before a grant request is written, a determination needs to be made in regard to this property as its water needs could also be included in the grant request.

Jim Mailloux also noted a concern that the Master Gardeners are taking on more projects. When adding new projects, it takes volunteers away from the current projects and we are not getting enough volunteers. The Board needs to consider getting input from the entire association when adding new projects and making decisions which affect the entire group. The Master Gardeners need to use our volunteers on projects that are in our county and on our list of approved projects. Security of the gardens and composting issues also need to be addressed.

Everyone feels that we need to look at the direction and vision of the Master Gardeners and determine how to proceed. The Board needs to look at the big picture and determine if we should

cut back on some of the projects if we cannot get enough volunteers to help.

Karen Mitchell noted that John Orick brought up having a "Growing Your Goals" workshop for the Board to re-assess goals of the Master Gardeners. This workshop would include all Board members plus the Chairs of all projects and would be to re-assess and re-evaluate all of the Master Gardener projects and determine the mission and vision for the future of the program. Karen Mitchell is working with John Orick to get this workshop scheduled soon. The members at the meeting were very receptive and would like to be included to discuss their vision and offer their own views and ideas.

When developed, the Community Gardens had the support of the Master Gardeners. It started with 50 plots and has now grown to 150 plots. The Demonstration Gardens were originally designed to show different ways to grow produce, contributions to the food pantries were just an added benefit. The Demonstration Gardens have gotten away from that idea. These topics should be reviewed in the goal setting meeting.

It was suggested that the Master Gardeners do not have enough social time and they should bring back the annual trip. A survey should be prepared to determine interest in such an event.

The Board also needs to evaluate why members are not renewing their memberships, and why we are having trouble getting volunteers. Some members are putting in numerous hours and are getting overwhelmed. They feel they need to cut back but we need others to step up to take over.

Mickey Penrod and Sue Swick informed the Board that they will continue to work in the Display and Idea Gardens next year but will not be

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# MGATC ROOTS

Taken from the October 1993

*Garden Beet:*

## A Master Gardener 1993 Summer Project

Master Gardeners should be eager to add to the beauty spots around the community, right? Right! So, Master Gardeners of Tippecanoe County this past summer accepted the Adopt-A-Spot location at Lindberg Road and Northwestern Avenue in West Lafayette. A few plants, including three Blue Rug Junipers were already in the spot, but it came alive with color with the addition of annuals and perennials left over from the club project of planting the Purdue Hort Gardens last spring. Included were Salvia, Coreopsis, Ageratum, Zinnia, Linearis, Lemon Gum Marigold, and others.

Thanks, to Cynthia Scruggs, Fran Thompson, Natalia Milner, and Kaye Bass for planting and caring for "our Adopt-A-Spot" in 1993.

*Dec Dee Long*

## Latest Dirt

(continued from page 1)

Another tip from the *Friends of Old Bulbs Gazette* of Old House Gardens about earwigs: "You may shudder when you spot an earwig in the garden, but they have their good side, too. They feed on aphids, mites, and insect larvae; they provide food for birds, toads, and other creatures; and - believe it or not - they care for their eggs and young. After mating in the fall, the male and female earwig spend the winter together in a shallow burrow in debris or soil. In early spring the female lays her eggs and then tends them for a week or so until they hatch, continuously cleaning them to prevent the growth of fungi and protecting them from predators. When they hatch, the nymphs cluster under their mother like baby chicks and she feeds them by regurgitating, just like birds do.

Although there is one native American earwig, most of them in the US today are the European *Forficula auricularia* which arrived in 1907 and has since spread across the country. Despite their good points, if earwigs are chewing up your prized dahlias and other flowers, you'll probably want to control them. Earwigs feed at night and hide in cool, moist places during the day. Since mulch and garden debris are favorite hiding places, you can limit their damage by keeping the area at the base of favorite plants clear of both. If that's not enough, you may want to try home-made earwig traps. You can stuff a cardboard paper towel tube with straw or weeds, for example, and lay it on the ground near vulnerable plants. A rolled, moistened newspaper or a short length of an old hose will also work. In the morning, shake the earwigs out into a bucket of soapy water or simply stomp on them. Another trap can be made by filling an empty tuna fish can with a half-inch of vegetable oil. Empty and refill as needed. And good luck!"

Tips from Colorblends wholesale flower bulbs: "When crickets cease to chirp and dogs lie in the sun, plant tulips. Good things still come to those who wait. This is especially true of those who love tulips, daffodils, and other spring-flowering bulbs. To bloom in spring, bulbs must be planted in fall when cool soil temperatures offer the right rooting conditions. The beginning of planting season ranges from late September in cooler climates, to late December in warmer areas. So how does a gardener know when it's time to plant? 'The simple answer is that bulb planting season starts once your soil temperature reaches about 55 degrees Fahrenheit,' says GWA allied member Tim Schipper of Colorblends, a Connecticut-based flower bulb wholesaler that sells direct to land care professionals and home gardeners across the country. 'The problem is who knows what their soil temperature is?' he adds. Schipper knows that nature provides other indicators that

tell us when conditions are just right for bulb planting. To him, the easiest is: fall planting season begins when fall nighttime temperatures average between 40°F and 50°F. He thought it might be fun - and useful to other gardeners - to ask his customers, many of whom are land care professionals, to share the 'natural indicators' they use when gearing up to plant. He posed the question at [www.colorblends.com](http://www.colorblends.com) (click on correct fall planting time) and set up a dedicated email for responses." Here are two responses: "when the air has that organic, decaying leaf smell; when the dog moves from a cool to a sunny spot in the yard."

Check out <http://www.amerinarsery.com/pest-management/humane-critter-control-guide/> for tips and guidance on humane critter control of rabbit, squirrel, vole, and how to tell which one is causing trouble in your yard and garden.

According to *Farmers' Almanac 2016*, the best days to can fruits and vegetables: 16, 23, 24; the best days to dry fruits and vegetables: 17, 18; to make jams and jellies: 19, 20; to kill plant pests: 1, 7-9, 12, 13, 17, 18, 21, 22, 25-29; to harvest: 25-29; to pick apples and pears: 17, 18, 25, 26; to prune trees: no good days.

Autumn is  
the mellower  
season, and  
what we lose in  
flowers we  
more than gain  
in fruits.

~ Samuel Butler

# What's Happening

## Wednesdays in the Wild

**September 7 • 1-3 p.m. • STPK**  
*Wings & Wildflowers*  
*At Prophetstown*  
Rebekah Thomas

Seasonal Interpreter Rebekah Thomas leads this walk to visit a fen and prairie at their peak. Butterflies, birds, and blooming plants put on quite an end-of-summer display! Ask the gate attendant for the meeting place. There will be a \$2/person program fee, but the gate fee is waived. Bring bug spray and binoculars.

**September 14 • 7-9 p.m. • LNC**  
*Insect Songsters*  
Tom Turpin

Tom Turpin (Purdue Entomologist) will talk about the why and how of insect songs and the species that fill the summer and night air with their clicks, scrapes and hums. Join us and stridulate along if you like.

**September 21 • 1-3 p.m. • FORT**  
*Wabash River Fishes and*  
*Research Collection Methods*  
Jay Beugly

The Wabash River is home to a diverse assemblage of fishes. Recently captured fish will be on display and Jay Beugly (Aquatics Ecology Specialist in the Purdue Forestry & Natural Resources Department) will lead a discussion about their unique characteristics that allow them to inhabit the Wabash River. A boat electrofisher will be demonstrated and some of the ways in which researchers collect fish that may be inaccessible using traditional fishing methods will be covered.

**September 28 • 1-3 p.m. • GSB**  
*Literature & Nature Hike*  
Brooke Criswell

Brooke Criswell (NICHS Education & Outreach Coordinator) will guide you on a hike featuring the writings of noteworthy writers, and pose thought provoking question while walking through a beautiful native sand barren and woodland habitat. Bring a water bottle and wear comfortable shoes for walking.

**October 5 • 1-3 p.m. • LNC**  
*Birds on the Wing (Migration)*  
Susan Ulrich

Susan Ulrich (avid birder and naturalist) gives an indoor presentation followed by an outdoor hunt to see what bird species are moving through as well as what residents we can find. Bring binoculars!

### LOCATIONS:

**FORT (Fort Ouiatenon Boat Ramp):** In West Lafayette just south of the Fort at 3129 South River.

**GSB/NICHES (Granville Sand Barrens):** Meet at 1 p.m. in the property parking lot (directions can be found at [www.nicheslandtrust.org](http://www.nicheslandtrust.org)) or join the 12:30 p.m. 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.

**STPK (Prophetstown State Park):** Enter the park via Swisher Road (off North Ninth Street, just south of Battle Ground).

## Sycamore Audubon Society

**September 8 • 7 p.m.**  
**Lilly Nature Center**  
*Bring Your Own Program*

The Sycamore Audubon Society is hosting the program at the Lilly Nature Center in the Celery Bog Park in West Lafayette. Members and non-members are invited to bring a 5 -10 minute digital presentation, short video, or slide show to share. It can be vacation shots, birds, plants, animals, etc. There will be a carry-in at 6 p.m. before the meeting.

## INPAWS

**September 26 • 7 p.m.**  
**Lilly Nature Center**  
*Providing More Than Aesthetics:*  
*How to Design for Pollinators*  
Melinda Appold

Mindy Appold and her landscape architecture class designed the new Purdue Bee Farm. Come and learn what was involved, why they planted, what they did, etc. You may get some great ideas for ways you can help pollinators in your area.

Local INPAWS programs are the fourth Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Lilly Nature Center. Everyone is also invited to join them for dinner (which usually includes the speaker) at 6 p.m. at the MCL Cafeteria in West Lafayette.

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A tree is  
known by its  
fruit; a man  
by his deeds.  
A good deed  
is never lost;  
he who sows  
courtesy reaps  
friendship,  
and he  
who plants  
kindness  
gathers love.

~ St. Basil



# Garden Gossip

## Summer Update on the Indiana Veteran's Home

What a busy summer it's been for our Master Gardener volunteers at the Indiana Veterans' Home! The very warm weather has resulted in excellent growth for the many flower beds and planters, and a very busy watering schedule. Our Master Gardeners are tending 10 different flower beds and about 20 planters this year. And we are the grateful recipients of our very own gardening shed, which is actually an old, repurposed guard house from the IVH property. It is a great place to store our gardening tools and supplies.

The success we are having with our gardening efforts at IVH would not be possible without the tremendous amount of help from our dedicated crew of volunteers. Connie Brown has been a long-time volunteer, and has taken on the responsibility for the Mitchell Hall and Bus Station planting areas, and they are looking fantastic! In addition, she keeps the hummingbird feeders filled so that the residents can enjoy watching the fascinating creatures. Melinda Patton is in her second year with us, and has the MacArthur Hall entrance area looking beautiful - a very important area because most visitors enter at this location, and the veterans love to sit out and enjoy the fresh air at this spot. She often has quite an audience while she works! Julieann Davis carefully tends the Pyle Hall patio flower beds and a couple of adjacent planting areas, and they are looking lush and colorful as the season progresses. June Johnson has been a dedicated volunteer again this year, and her expertise and work ethic has been invaluable as she helps out wherever needed, even taking a nasty wasp sting in stride. Pat Engler has been concentrating on the Chapel area flower beds, and has the roses, vinca and other flowers there looking great. Two other volunteers, Anne Brickler and Joyce Pearson, have been able to come and help at critical times, especially with watering. And lastly, we

(Bill Hayes and Jan Hiple), take care of the remaining flower beds. Bill tends the large Flag Pole bed - a colorful array of red, white, and blue annuals - and the dahlia bed, and helps with the Chapel beds and other areas as needed. He also does the fertilizing of all of the beds and planters. The front entrance and fountain beds are Jan's primary responsibility, along with some plantings around the gazebo and bell tower. We are indeed very blessed to have a hard-working crew that pitches in and helps out wherever needed!

It really does "take a village" to keep the flowers looking good for our veterans to enjoy, but it is a task that has boundless rewards. Our work truly is a gift to those who have served our country, and it is our pleasure to make their days a little more enjoyable.

Jan Hiple & Bill Hayes

## Volunteering

The extension community gardens need help getting straw bales on October 31st. We need people who have trucks to move them from exploration acres (approximately 4-5 miles) to the extension community gardens. Trucks with trailers would be a bonus.

Please email or call Julieann Davis at [juliann-229@hotmail.com](mailto:juliann-229@hotmail.com) or 765-543-5110.

## Happening

(continued from page 5)

**October 15 • 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.**  
**Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds & Conference Center**  
1900 East Main Street  
Danville, Indiana

***Adventures in Gardening 2016:***  
***Natural Attraction***

Join the Hendricks County Master Gardeners to learn how to attract bees, birds, and beneficial insects to your garden. Benjamin Vogt of Monarch Gardens, Lincoln and Omaha, Nebraska, will present two sessions:

## DUES ARE DUE

### Poppy Seed Coleslaw with Cranberries and Toasted Almonds

olive oil cooking spray  
1/2 c. slivered almonds  
5 c. shredded cabbage  
1 1/2 c. dried cranberries  
1/2 c. finely diced green bell pepper  
1/2 c. finely diced celery  
2 T. minced chives  
1 c. mayonnaise  
3 T. honey-Dijon mustard  
2 T. honey  
1 T. poppy seeds  
salt and ground black pepper to taste

Spray a small skillet lightly with olive oil cooking spray and place over medium-low heat. Cook and stir almonds in the skillet until lightly golden brown and fragrant, 2 to 3 minutes. Remove from heat and transfer to a bowl to cool. Stir cabbage, cranberries, green bell pepper, celery, and chives in a salad bowl. Toss in toasted almonds. Whisk mayonnaise, honey-Dijon mustard, honey, and poppy seeds together in a small bowl. Stir dressing into slaw until coated. Season with salt and black pepper.

*21st Century Garden Ethics and Designing for Winter Wildlife and Beauty.* Other sessions will include *Botanical Workhorses: Heavy-Hitter Native Plants* by Jim McCormac, *The Amazing Honey Bee* by Terry Plank, and *101 Landscaping Ideas: Adding Style & Fun to Your Outdoor Space* by Colletta Kosiba.

Registration is \$45 which includes a continental breakfast starting at 8 a.m. and lunch. There will be discounted gardening books and auction items. Register online at [hendricksgardeners.com/AIG](http://hendricksgardeners.com/AIG). For additional questions, call 317-745-9260.

# Board Minutes

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chairing the project. Jim Mailloux and Jim Smith want to continue working with the dahlias and the kitchen garden if there is funding for the projects. In addition, Don Pickle is not planning to grow the tomatoes in the Demonstration Garden next year.

Pat Miller reviewed the proposed 2016-17 budget line by line with capital expenditures noted at the bottom of the page. As the budget has not yet been approved and the Demonstration, Display, and Idea Gardens have asked for more funding, Jerry Millard recommended that the Finance Committee meet to review the issues and determine how to adjust the budget to meet the needs of the Master Gardeners. The Board approved Jerry Millard's recommendation to have the Finance Committee set up a meeting as soon as possible and to also invite Mickey Penrod, Sue Swick, and Konie Hughes to the meeting.

Karen Mitchell said that she will do what she can from the Extension Office to help with maintenance and repairs. She added cover crops in the gardens this year as an education expense. She has increased the class tuition again this year and she expects a full class. The Extension Office is being as supportive as they can be; they are working to get people interested in gardening in hopes of getting new Master Gardeners. She reminded everyone that the first pot luck community event is scheduled for August 18.

Some suggestions for other ways to make money for the program were: raising the rent for the plots in the Community Gardens, possibly charging for tilling the plots in the Community Gardens, and obtaining corporate sponsors.

It was also suggested to review the Bylaws and reconsider changing to a calendar year as it would be much

easier to budget for a calendar year. The Board will look into this again.

The Board approved paying invoices to Jim Mailloux and Mickey Penrod for Display and Idea Garden expenses.

There is \$10,000 in the Master Gardener account which is being held back to cover paying back the water system loan. This amount needs to remain in the account as the loan will need to be repaid in full if the Community Gardens at the TCEO fail. Laurie Madlung and the Finance Committee will look into this to determine whether or not the amount still needs to be retained.

Pat Miller suggested raising the association's check signing limit. Currently a signer on the account can sign checks up to \$200 without requiring a second signature. A recommendation was made, seconded, and approved to raise the limit to \$500 before requiring a second signature.

Regarding a Jeff Phillips sign in the orchard area of the gardens, Karen Mitchell reported that a sign in the gardens, similar to other signs, would cost \$375. Jerry Millard recommended that this be presented to the entire Master Gardener group at the next meeting. Sue Swick suggested the possibility of having a sign but not have it tied to the orchard.

The next Master Gardener class starts on August 31 and 36 people are currently signed up for the class.

John Pickett believes that the Trellis and Vine program was very successful in the last class and would like to have it implemented early in the new class schedule. Karen Mitchell noted that she will be taking a survey of the new class to determine specific interests that they have. John Pickett wants to find people with the same interests to pair them up. Karen Mitchell has authorization to allow class members to volunteer before graduating as long as

they are working with a current Master Gardener. It was decided to try to implement the Trellis and Vine program the third week of the new class.

Jerry Millard then discussed the big question. Two things are needed for the Master Gardener program to succeed - dues paying members and volunteers. As noted above, the Master Gardeners need to revisit our mission and vision to help us determine how to solve our problems and will be scheduling a "Growing Your Goals" session in the near future. The association cannot take on any more obligations until we figure out how to meet the ones we have.

For the upcoming class, chairs of projects should be encouraged to attend the classes to share information about each project and what is needed. Goals need to be stressed in the orientation class and garden tours. The volunteer training program also needs to be stressed to class members. We need to stress that everyone volunteer when they can; it takes all of us to get everything done!

Master Gardener interns are required to volunteer 35 hours over the first two years. This is consistent statewide to be a Purdue Master Gardener. However, individual counties can set different standards for maintaining county membership. Our county should consider changing the number of required volunteer hours.

Cheryl McCool noted that she has been trying to get different speakers for the monthly meetings and asked everyone to feel free to give her ideas and topics for potential speakers. She will be happy to try to schedule them.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Sadler  
Recording Secretary*

# ET Cetera

## MGATC Hours

There still seems to be a misunderstanding about the time you get for attending a monthly MG meeting. Starting this year, John Orick told us that we could get one (1) hour of education for the monthly MG meeting.

We no longer get any volunteer time for a monthly meeting unless we do something for the meeting (e.g. help set-up and/or tear down the meeting space, prepare food for the meeting, do a presentation, help with a presentation, etc.). You only get travel time if you are doing volunteer work.

It would be very helpful if you would use a line for an educational activity and a separate line for any volunteer activity. If you have a question about how to log an activity, please contact me.

*Carl Stafford*

## 2016 MG Training Class

I'm excited to announce that my 2016 training class is now filled to capacity of 40 students! If you still know people that want to sign up, have them contact me or the office to be added to the waiting list. If any of the original 40 participants back out, I will contact those on the waiting list to give them an opportunity to fill in. I've heard it's not uncommon for 1 or 2 people to back out at the last minute, so I would like to have a few on the waiting list just in case this happens. Thank you for all your help recruiting! I've met a few of the students so far and they are very enthusiastic about the program. It will be a great class!

On a separate note, since the class is full, I would like to limit the number of Master Gardeners that sit-in. Not including the volunteers that help with the class (and I appreciate your support). I will allow six Master Gardeners to 'sit-in' for educational hours, with one exception. The Meig's Field

Trip can only hold a maximum of 50, so I will only have four extra spots available. The schedule is on page 9. If you would like to sit-in on a class, please let me know which ones so I can make sure to have space and materials for you. All volunteers, especially chairpersons, are invited and encouraged to attend the December 14<sup>th</sup> Graduation and Volunteer Fair. More information on this later but save-the-date. Thank you!

*Karen Mitchell*

## Herb Bed

(continued from back)

To humans, raw rowan berries are bitter-tasting. But despite this, they have a history of culinary use in European countries and recipes for jams and jellies have been passed down for generations. The key to these recipes is that they call for sugar, which can just about sweeten anything. The berries are used to flavor Schnapps and liqueurs and can be brewed into an herbal beer.

Rowan berries are rich in vitamin C and, medicinally, have been used in the treatment of scurvy, as a laxative, and have been used for sore throats, inflamed tonsils, and hoarseness. I did find a cautionary tip that warned against eating raw berries for they contain parasorbic acid, which causes indigestion and can lead to kidney damage. However, any heat treatment such as cooking is said to neutralize the acid by changing it to the benign sorbic acid. Since the berries are usually too astringent to be eaten raw, this problem, most often, takes care of itself.

Rowan has many common names, most of them applied to the European species. A few are mountain sumac, winetree, wild ash, quickbeam, witch tree, missey-moosey, and wayfarer's tree or traveler's tree because it supposedly prevents those on a journey from getting lost. Its wood is dense

and resilient and used for carving, turning, tool handles, and walking sticks, which, in the past, were used to protect the user from the spirits of the woods.

Rowan's mythic roots are deep. Greek mythology tells of Hebe, the goddess of youth, dispensing rejuvenating ambrosia to the gods from her magical chalice. When, through carelessness, she lost this cup to demons, the gods sent an eagle to recover the cup. The feathers and drops of blood which the eagle shed in the ensuing fight with the demons fell to earth, where each of them turned into a rowan tree. Hence the rowan derived the shape of its leaves from the eagle's feathers and the appearance of its berries from the droplets of blood.

In the British Isles, rowan has a long and still popular history in folklore as a tree which protects against witchcraft and enchantment. Rowan is one of the most sacred trees in Scottish folk tradition, which does not allow the use of the tree's timber, bark, leaves or flowers, or the cutting of these, except for sacred purposes under special conditions. Folkloric meanings of this tree are too numerous to recount here, but if this subject is of interest to you, it's worth the research. And you may find yourself falling in love.

**Compared to gardeners, I think it is generally agreed that others understand very little about anything of consequence.**

~ Henry Mitchell

## 2016 Tippecanoe County Master Gardener

## Training Class Schedule

Wednesdays, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

Tippecanoe County Extension Office

<b>Class</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
1	August 31	Orientation	Karen Mitchell
2	September 7	Field Trip to Purdue Hort. Farm	Jay Young
3	September 14	Plant Science	Rosie Lerner
4	September 21	Soil Science & Plant Nutrition	Sherry Fulk-Bringman
5	September 28	Vegetables	Karen Mitchell
6	October 5	Insect Pest Diagnosis & Control	Cliff Sadof
7	October 12	Plant Disease Diagnosis & Control	Gail Ruhl
8	October 19	Lawn Care	Glenn Hardebeck
9	October 26	Animal Pest Control	Courtney Steirwalt
10	November 2	Weed ID & Control	Karen Mitchell
11	November 9	Woody Ornamentals	Mike Dana
12	November 16	Pesticides & Pesticide Safety	Fred Whitford
---	November 23	----Thanksgiving Break----	
13	November 30	Herbaceous Ornamentals	Stacy Clupper
14	December 7	Final Exam	Karen Mitchell
15	December 14	Graduation Celebration & Volunteer Fair	Karen Mitchell

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# The Herb Bed

by Connie Kingman

I fell in love with the rowan tree - called mountain-ash in the states - as I traveled with my husband through Scotland some years ago. I remember stopping at a small gas station/grocery along a secluded stretch of rugged terrain. We purchased sandwich fixings and took them around back, where the proprietors had constructed a rustic table and benches from trees that I imagine had been harvested from the surrounding woods. There, overhanging our picnic area, the feathery branches of a small rowan tree, dangling with clusters of coral red berries, served as our canopy. That was all it took; I was smitten.

Upon returning home, I began the search for my own rowan. Those I saw

in Scotland were, most likely, *Sorbus aucuparia* or European Mountain-ash and not the American Mountain-ash (*Sorbus americana*). Both species demonstrate slight differences, but are of the same genus and members of the same family: *Rosaceae*, the family to which belong rose, apple, and hawthorn. The tree's shape and its pinnately compound leaves resemble those of ash (*Fraxinus species*); however, they are unrelated to the ash and not at risk from emerald ash borer.

I chose showy mountain-ash (*Sorbus decora*) for its habit of growing as a small tree. It represented the size of the trees that charmed me in Scotland. It is considered the hardiest of the species and can live up to two hundred years. So far, my rowan is living up to

its reputation by flourishing just outside my back arbor gate for the past 10 years.

In spring, it blooms in clusters of small creamy-white flowers that become bright red berries in autumn and later turn yellow-red. It is a stunning sight to view the berries against the tree's bright orange-red fall foliage. This tree is an important source of food for many small birds and wildlife, including catbirds, thrushes, waxwings, and butterflies and bees. The fruit persists through winter and has been known to intoxicate birds after it ferments in a few fall frosts. Last year I watched as a family of cedar waxwings stripped my tree of its berries.

(continued on page 8)

# Garden Beet

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