

September 2020

Garden Beet

MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY



The Latest Spin from D&J

Dee Dee and Jan

Greetings to all of our Master Gardener friends.

If it were a normal year, we would be thanking all of you for helping with the Open House, but unfortunately and sadly we were not able to have it this year.

We hope that you were able to attend our virtual Master Gardener meeting on August 4, 2020. Dr. Michael Saunders talked about Fire Ecology of the Eastern Forest. It was really interesting and enjoyable. This was our second virtual meeting and it

worked really well. Hope you enjoyed it and will continue to participate in future meetings.

Also, it was really great to see many of your faces on Zoom since we could not meet in person.

Don't forget our October 6th meeting at 6:30 p.m. is the Hoedown. Last year we tried something new, having an open mic night where our own Master Gardeners were the speakers and it was received well. Unfortunately we cannot have the carry-in dinner but still want to have the Master Garden-

ers be our speakers. We hope you have been thinking about ideas, taking pictures of your gardens, maybe you are growing something you haven't grown before, planted a new flower bed, have a garden project you are proud of, successes or failures to talk about - just anything you would like to share with the rest of us would be awesome. If you are interested in speaking, please contact Maralee Hayworth and she will give you more details and put you on the agenda.

*Happy Gardening,
Dee Dee and Jan*

Great Gadgets and Tools

By Kathryn Reeves and Mike Hathaway

This month, garden tasks are harvesting, fall planting, tidying up, and lawn maintenance.

Planting fall flowers is a pleasure at this time of year. We cut rusty old tomato cages apart to make supports for both newly planted and established tall flowers. Use a bolt cutter to snip the vertical rods just above the bottom hoop and you'll get two supports - one small and one medium. These keep goldenrod, aster, and tall late blooming mums like 'Sheffield Pink' at their best.

September days are still warm, but the nights are getting cooler and it's time to plan ahead for frost. Although we hope that won't happen until October, it's better to be prepared. Plant pro-

tection bags (aka frost protection bags) and floating row covers (aka frost blankets) are great for extending the growing season. We use a large plant protector bag over a 'Space-master' cucumber in a large pot with a tomato cage when the night temperatures begin to fall below 50 degrees. An example of the set-up with a polypropylene cloth bag is shown below.



This bag is 45" high x 40" wide (doubled) with cords and toggles on the bottom for a tight fit. It fit perfectly over our 24" diameter pot. It's

Programs

September 1 • 6:30 p.m. • Zoom
Feeding the Community:
Presented by Growing Places Indy
Victoria Beaty

Victoria is the Executive Director of Growing Places Indy.

October 6 • 6:30 p.m. • Zoom
Annual Hoe Down

See the callout for details.

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

easy to open in the morning to allow air to circulate and prevent overheating on a sunny fall day.



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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.tippecanoemastergardener.org>

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



MGATC Meeting: August 4, 2020, 6:30 p.m., Virtual

At 6:32 p.m. Karen introduced Dr. Michael Saunders, Associate Professor of Ecology and Natural Resources at Purdue University.

About 43 master gardeners enjoyed the presentation of "Fire Ecology of the Eastern Forest" about the benefit and operation of prescribed fires. Fires in the eastern forests differ from those out west in that they tend to be sur-

face fires. Karen recorded and will post this interesting presentation for those who missed the meeting.

There was no business meeting.

The meeting ended at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jim Jeray, Recording Secretary

MGATC Board: August 13, 2020, 4:00 p.m., Virtual

Dee Dee Long called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. In attendance were Cheryl McCool, Jim Jeray, Pat Miller, Dee Dee Long, Jolaine Roberts, Jan Sadler, Mickey Penrod, Maralee Hayworth, Nancy Cope, Kathie Cox, and Karen Mitchell.

The July board meeting minutes were approved as posted in the July *Garden Beet*.

Pat Miller delivered the treasurer's report. Since the beginning of the month, we received \$24.96 from the Amazon Smile program. That is the only change to the monthly treasurer's report that appears in this month's *Garden Beet*.

Pat also asked for guidance from the board on two checks that had not been cashed, assumed lost. She will reissue one and wait on the other.

Pat will send refunds to the five Garden Expo vendors who did not explicitly choose to donate their fees to the MGATC.

Collection of membership dues for 2021 will begin in October. The form is already posted on line. They should be mailed to the extension office or dropped in the black box outside the doorway. There was some discussion about the inability of members to pay

this year by credit card due to mail-in only applications. Karen promised to look into possible solutions and additional fees associated with them.

Although Zoom attendance at the monthly meetings has been good, comparable to summer meetings during normal times, the board is concerned that membership numbers may fall off due to poor/no internet connections and less opportunity to interact with others. Karen will put something in the *Garden Beet* to address the internet issue for the next meeting.

Speakers at meetings for the remainder of the year are set with the exception of the Hoedown in October when we would like to have a program of short presentations from individual members as we did last year. Maralee will coordinate with Karen to notify members by email of plans and to solicit volunteer presenters.

Karen followed up on the question of honorary or inactive members by collecting information about the experiences in other counties. She sent a portion of one set of by-laws about one county's lifetime members to the board by email for comments and ideas about eligibility and dues requirements. The subject was tabled pending that feedback.

Fried Green Tomatoes

(Serves 4)

2-3 large green tomatoes
1 1/2 cups corn meal
1 cup corn starch
1 tbsp chili powder
1 egg
1 cup milk or milk substitute
1/2 cup - 1 cup veg oil for frying

Slice tomatoes into about 1/4 inch thick slices.

Heat oil in a large skillet over medium - medium high heat.

You will need 3 bowls. Bowl 1: Whisk together egg and milk. Bowl 2: Place corn starch and salt & pepper if desired. Bowl 3: Place corn meal and chili powder. Stir together.

Take each tomato slice and coat with cornstarch. Then dip into egg wash. Then into the corn meal mix.

Place in hot oil and fry on each side 2-3 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from oil and place on a paper towel lined plate or a baking rack to drain the excess oil.

Repeat the process with each slice of tomato. Serve.

~Amanda@AFewShortCuts.com

As you know the Garden Expo is the number one fundraising activity for the MGATC. With no Expo this year and some doubts about progress on the Fairgrounds for next year, the board discussed ideas for getting additional donations. One idea is a "donate now" button on the website. Another was to piggyback on Purdue's fundraising efforts. Maralee and Nancy volunteered to work together on this as a project for next year.

With no further business, Dee Dee Long adjourned the meeting at 5:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Jeray, Recording Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Income for the month of July was from interest and Amazon Smile donations for a total of \$25. Expenses included insurance and irrigation repair for \$1,339. Restricted funds expenses for the month totaled \$185 for the irrigation repair leaving a balance in the fund of \$18,559. The total of unrestricted funds available is \$20,341 as of July 31. For those of you who have named MGATC for your Amazon Smile donations, thanks for your support. If you have not signed up yet, please do so today.

The tax exempt certificate for 2020 and the form for reimbursement are available on the Master Gardener website. For reimbursement you can mail your requests to my home address which is 3801 South River Road in West Lafayette, IN 47906 or you can drop them in the black mail box outside the extension office outer door. If you have any changes to your membership details please send them to me at pmillerathome@comcast.net.

Pat Miller, Treasurer

Gadgets

(continued from page 1)

We used the same plant protector bags in spring to protect and provide warmth for young tomato plants. They worked so well we harvested 'Super Sweet 100' cherry tomatoes on June 30.

Floating row covers that protect larger areas and bigger containers are great for a few extra degrees of warmth on frosty nights. Polyester or polypropylene spunbond floating cover is very lightweight, can be placed directly over plants with no harm and is reusable. Polypropylene is more UV resistant than polyester. Use a few boards, bricks, or rocks to pin down the edges to hold in heat and prevent the floating cover from blowing away.

This kind of cover can be used in spring or fall. Eliot Coleman, the pioneer of winter cropping in cold climates, uses floating row covers inside a hoop house which effectively moves everything three zones south and allows him to grow leafy greens in Maine all winter.

Late flowering annuals and perennials also benefit from some cover when freezing temperatures arrive. If you don't have floating row cover, blankets and sheets are a good substitute, but are heavier and may need some support to avoid damaging soft or brittle growth. We use extra tomato cages (cut down short) to prop up blankets over plants in pots and row crops in raised beds. Oddly, plastic sheeting alone does not offer frost protection if it's in contact with leaves.

Floating row covers also protect veg, especially leaf crops and brassicas, from little munching insect pests that are still at it this month. Beneficial pollinators and predator insects are still at work too. How well do you know your garden bugs? Can you tell which ones are pests and which ones are helpful? Test your knowledge with a fun quiz from the UCCE Master Gardeners of Sacramento County. "Good Bug - Bad Bug Quiz!" online at <https://steinmantis.com/test.html>.

Enjoy an apple on September 26, Johnny Appleseed Day. Bring on the chrysanthemums and asters!

September TO-DO List:

- * Refresh porch and patio containers with fall flowers.
- * Harvest and preserve herbs by drying or freezing.
- * Start spinach and kale under row covers or in a cold frame for tasty winter salads.
- * Early this month, take cuttings of favorite garden plants to root and overwinter indoors. Bring tender plants in containers inside before the first frost.

- * Dig up dahlias, cannas, caladium, and gladiolus before frost hits in September or October; store tubers and bulbs in a cool, dry spot.
- * Plant trees, shrubs and perennials so their roots will establish before winter. Replace under-performing plants with something you love!
- * Sow seed of next year's biennial flowers, such as forget-me-nots (*Myosotis sylvatica*), Sweet William (*Dianthus barbatus*), and foxglove (*Digitalis*).
- * Divide and transplant early spring and summer flowering perennials. Plant perennial ornamental grasses. Wait to divide most grasses until spring.
- * Deadhead and cut back spent perennials as needed.
- * Order spring bulbs for fall planting. If there's a break in the heat, pre-dig areas or holes for bulbs and refill with loosened soil.
- * Continue mulching and weeding. Prevent weed seed formation to make next year's maintenance easier.
- * September lawn care: Re-seed bare spots or over-seed your lawn with high quality grass seed. Lightly water newly seeded lawns 2-4 times daily depending on weather. When seedlings are 2" high, reduce frequency and water more deeply.
- * Fertilize lawn with high nitrogen, very low phosphorus, low to moderate potassium. See details, application rate, and schedule in free Purdue publication AY-13-W and AY-22-W on Lawn Maintenance and Fertilizing at: https://mdc.itap.purdue.edu/item.asp?Item_Number=AY-13-W, https://mdc.itap.purdue.edu/item.asp?item_number=AY-22-W.
- * Check rakes and leaf blowers - autumn leaves will be falling soon.
- * See more tips from Rosie Lerner's Purdue Extension Autumn Garden Calendar: <https://www.purdue.edu/ha/sites/yardandgarden/september-yard-garden-calendar/>.

Enjoy the last days of summer and the cooler weather.

What's Happening

Wednesdays in the Wild

There are limited spaces available so registration is required by noon on Monday prior to the program at mcutler@tippecanoe.in.gov or 765-567-2993. Facial coverings and/or physical distancing are highly recommended.

Sept 2 • 1-3 p.m. • NICHES/GSB *Experience the Granville Sand Barrens* Bob Easter

Enjoy a hike at Indiana's highest quality remnant sand barrens ecosystem, while viewing the state endangered golden aster and other rare plants. Bob Easter (NICHES Land Trust Stewardship Director) will also showcase the work being done by NICHES to conserve this unique site.

Sept 9 • 1-3 p.m. • BRYAN *Bryan Woods Nature Preserve - A Sobering Survivor of a Lost World* Tom Swinford

Join Tom Swinford (Assistant Division Director, IDNR Division of Nature Preserves) on a walk through these woods which give us a tantalizing hint of what things were like in central Indiana long ago! This preserve is a small example of a central tillplain flat woods. It is 29 acres in size and protects some surviving old, large trees (oaks - more than four feet in diameter and more than 250 years old - were dropping leaves and acorns when Native Americans were the only people in what is now Clinton County)

and some typical understory plants. Note: there is limited parking and will likely have mosquitos present. A caravan will leave Battle Ground at 12:15 p.m. See "Locations" for details.

Sept 16 • 1-3 p.m. • CBNA *Human Nature: A Look at Management Decisions Related to Natural Resources*

Lenny Farlee and Mary Cutler Join Lenny Farlee (Extension Forester, Hardwood Tree Improvement & Regeneration) and Mary Cutler (Naturalist, Tippecanoe County Parks & Recreation Department) as they explore the role that humans have played in natural resource systems over time. Using the Celery Bog woodlands and wetlands as examples, they'll delve into the past and present impacts of natural area relationships to the people who live near these resources, and discuss how we can strive to manage areas to provide long-term benefits for society and the environment.

Sept 23 • 1-3 p.m. • RHP *From Cows to Now: Hiking in the Footsteps of David Ross* Mary Cutler

Mary Cutler (Naturalist, Tippecanoe County Parks & Recreation Department) will lead a hike through the hills and hollows of Ross Hills Park, the former summer home of David Ross, Purdue benefactor, inventor, and gentleman farmer. We'll tour "the house that David built" and then discover the special features of the oak woodlands and Wabash River bottomlands of this

unique property. Moderate hiking; wear sturdy shoes and bring trekking poles, if you have them.

Sept 30 • 1-3 p.m. • ROSS BR *Ross Biological Reserve: A Gem of Natural Heritage & Laboratory for Ecological Study for Over 70 Years* Dr. Kerry Rabenold

Established by Dr. Alton Lindsey and colleagues in 1948, the Ross Reserve is one of the best understood forests in the midwest. Dr. Kerry Rabenold (Professor Emeritus of Biological Sciences) will lead this stroll down toward the Wabash, revealing a surprising diversity of habitats. The changes that have occurred there over several time scales illustrates both the resilience and the vulnerability of forest ecosystems. Moderate hiking; wear sturdy shoes and bring trekking poles, if you have them.

LOCATIONS:

BRYAN (Bryan Woods Nature Preserve): Meet at 1 p.m. at the preserve (4751 N County Road 450 W, Frankfort, IN 46041) or join the 12:15 p.m. caravan from the Tippecanoe Battlefield parking lot off North 9th Street in Battle Ground.

CBNA (Celery Bog Nature Area): Meet at 1 p.m. at the Celery Bog Amphitheater (1620 Lindberg Road, between Northwestern Avenue and McCormick Road in West Lafayette.).

NICHES/GSB (Granville Sand Barrens): Meet at 1 p.m. in the property parking lot (find directions at www.nicheslandtrust.org) in Tippecanoe County.

RHP (ROSS HILLS PARK): Take South River Road/Division Road past Ft. Ouiatenon and past the Granville Bridge; turn left on 875 W (at the Ravines Golf Course). Follow the signs for the entrance to Ross Hills Park. Meet at 1 p.m. at the Ross House (use the first parking area on the left after entering park).

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

Autumn seemed to arrive suddenly that year. The morning of the first September was crisp and golden as an apple

~ JK Rowling / *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*



Remember When ...

Garden Vegetable Sauté

(Serves 4)

- 1 tablespoon olive oil or vegetable oil
- 1 large green pepper or red bell pepper, diced (about 1 1/3 cups)
- 1 large onion, diced (about 1 cup)
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder or 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 cup V8® 100% Vegetable Juice or hot & spicy
- 2 medium zucchini or yellow squash, cubed (about 3 cups)
- 1/2 teaspoon dried basil leaves, crushed
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper

Heat the oil in a 10-inch skillet over medium heat. Add the green pepper, onion and garlic powder and cook until the vegetables are tender-crisp.

Stir the vegetable juice, zucchini, basil, and black pepper in the skillet and heat to a boil. Reduce the heat to low and cook for 10 minutes or until the vegetables are tender, stirring often. ~83 calories per serving.

~ campbells.com



All at once, summer collapsed into fall

And then the sun
took a step back,
the leaves lulled
themselves to sleep
and Autumn
was awaked

~ Raquel Franco

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Garden Beet

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