

September 2021

Garden Beet

MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY



The Latest Spin from D&J

Dee Dee and Jan

Summer is in our rearview mirror and autumn is sneaking up on us quickly. We hope you had a bountiful harvest this year and are busy canning, freezing, and drying produce from your garden.

Don't forget our election of officers is coming up in December. We hope you have thought about running for a Master Gardener office. We currently need someone to run with Mickey Penrod for Co-President, two Co-Vice Presidents, Recording Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary. We have really

enjoyed being on the board the last few years and know how important it is to have active board members.

There will be a business meeting following our speaker on September 7. A copy of the current bylaws, as well as a listing of the proposed changes, was attached to the August 2021 *Garden Beet*. Please review these documents prior to the meeting as the vote for the amendments will be held at the September 7 Zoom monthly meeting. Please plan to attend this meeting and cast your vote.

The annual Hoedown, where our own Master Gardeners will be our speakers, is scheduled for October 5 at 6:30 p.m. We know it's not the same as in person but it is nice to see everyone on Zoom. We hope you will all plan to join us.

Let's stay healthy and safe so we can begin meeting in person soon.

Jan and Dee Dee

Great Gadgets and Tools

By Kathryn Reeves and Mike Hathaway

September days are still warm, but nights are getting cooler and it's time to plan ahead for next year. This month, garden tasks are fall planting, tidying up, lawn fertilizing, and harvesting, including gathering flower and vegetable seeds.



You may have noticed in 2020 it was difficult to get some vegetable seeds for your garden. This was due to a number of factors related to the pandemic including large numbers of new gardeners, reduced inventories at suppliers, and a shortage of labor. Regardless of the cause, the end result was that we had to make compromises in the crops we planted.

Seed supplies were more abundant this year and we hope that will continue, but who knows? Fortunately, there's another solution - seed saving! With a little planning this fall, there are many plant varieties that will grow from seed you collect from your own garden.

Before starting, there are a few things to consider. Are the plants heirloom varieties or hybrids? Are they annuals, biennials, or perennials? Are they best propagated by seeds or by making divisions next spring or taking cuttings now to grow indoors over winter? Are the seeds fully mature and dry on the plant?

(continued on page 4)

September is dressing herself in showy dahlias and splendid marigolds and starry zinnias.

~ Oliver Wendell Holmes

Programs

September 7 • 6:30 p.m. • Zoom
Spiders of Indiana: Incredibly Important Members of Healthy Functioning Ecosystems!

Dr. Marc Milne

Dr. Milne is Associate Professor of Biology at the University of Indianapolis.

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

If you are interested in giving a short presentation, please contact Maralee.

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

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.tippecanomastgardener.org>

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

MGATC Meeting: Aug 3, 2021, 6:30 p.m., Virtual

At 6:30 p.m. Mickey Penrod began the meeting by asking the co-presidents for comments.

Dee Dee Long reminded everyone of the importance of attending the next monthly meeting on September 7. We will be voting to approve the changes to the bylaws that were sent out and also posted on the website.

Jan Sadler announced that we still need two volunteers to work at the Indiana State Fair on August 13 from 4-6 p.m.

Treasurer's Report

Income for the month of July was from dues and interest for a total of \$25. The expenses for the month are for the Display & Idea and Demo gardens, insurance, and irrigation for a total of \$2,486. There was an irrigation charge which changed the restricted funds giving a balance of \$19,641. The total of unrestricted funds available is \$15,628 as of July 31.

For reimbursement you can mail your requests to my home address which is: 3801 South River Road in West Lafayette, Indiana 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

Thank You!

I would like to send a huge THANK YOU to Mary Ann Talavage for sending all the wonderful quotes and recipes for the *Garden Beet* for many years. Mary Ann is leaving us to become a full time resident of Arizona. She will be greatly missed. We wish her well for the future.

Mickey then introduced the meeting speaker, Kathryn Reeves, a MGATC Master Gardener. Her topic was "Dirty Words: A guide to potting mix for a sustainable future."

Dirt is something that we clean up. Soil is for planting. Potting mix is for growing in containers. Kathryn went on to explain how important it is to use potting mix, especially the right potting mix, for potted plants.

The presentation was so comprehensive and informative that there were few questions.

Mickey and Maralee Hayworth are working on presentations for meetings for the rest of the year.

About 34 master gardeners signed on to attend the Zoom meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7: 24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jim Jeray, Recording Secretary

Crispy Apple and Kohlrabi Salad*

- 2 small kohlrabi (about 1 pound, I used the green variety but purple would be prettier), cut into matchsticks about 1/4" wide
- 1 large Honeycrisp apple (about 1/2 pound), cored and cut into matchsticks about 1/4" wide
- 1/3 cup grated gouda cheese (optional, not shown)
- 1/4 cup fresh tarragon leaves
- 3 tablespoons toasted sunflower seeds*
- Lemon zest, to taste
- 1 to 2 tablespoons olive oil, to taste
- 1 to 2 tablespoons lemon juice, to taste
- Flaky sea salt (like Maldon) and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

In a large serving bowl, combine the kohlrabi and apple matchsticks. Add the cheese, if using, and the tarragon leaves, and sunflower seeds. Shave lemon zest liberally over the bowl (I probably used about half of a small lemon's worth or more). Drizzle in 1 tablespoon olive oil and 1 tablespoon lemon juice, then sprinkle lightly with salt and black pepper. Use your hands to gently toss the salad, then add another drizzle of olive oil and lemon juice if the salad seems dry. Finish with another light sprinkle of salt and pepper and serve immediately. Serves 4.
~ 139 cal. per serving.

~ cookieandkate.com

Heirloom Tomato and Eggplant Gratin

- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 1/2 pounds tomatoes, sliced 1/2 inch thick
- 1 pound baby Italian eggplants, peeled and sliced into rounds 1/4 to 1/3 inch thick
- 4 thyme sprigs
- Sea salt and freshly ground pepper
- 1/4 pound goat cheese, coarsely crumbled (1 cup)

Preheat the oven to 425°. Brush a large oval baking dish with 1 tablespoon of olive oil. Arrange the tomato and eggplant slices in a single layer of overlapping concentric circles. Scatter the thyme sprigs on top and season with salt and pepper. Drizzle the remaining 3 tablespoons of olive oil over the top. Cover with foil and bake for about 30 minutes, or until the eggplant is barely tender and the tomatoes have exuded their juices.

Uncover the gratin and bake for about 25 minutes longer, or until the juices have evaporated and the vegetables are very tender. Sprinkle the goat cheese on top and bake for about 10 minutes, or until lightly browned. Serve warm or at room temperature. Serves 6-8.

~ foodandwine.com

*See page 5 for notes for this recipe.

MGATC Board: Aug 12, 2021, 4 p.m., Virtual

Jan Sadler called the meeting to order at 4:14 p.m. Attending were Pat Miller, Dee Dee Long, Jan Sadler, Mickey Penrod, Maralee Hayworth, Jim Jeray, Jolaine Roberts, Kathy Cox, Nancy Cope, and Katje Armentrout.

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

Pat Miller delivered the treasurer's report. There were no changes to income from the end-of-month report. On the expense side, one additional check was cashed so far this month for \$69.90 for Demo garden expenses. There were no changes to restricted funds since the end of the month. The garden improvement fund is almost depleted.

County Commissioner Meeting: On August 3 a sub-group of the MGATC board met with the Tippecanoe County Commissioners. Jim Jeray presented an outline of our work, specifying the value we add to the county. By the time we were ready to move to our questions and concerns the commissioners were anticipating many of our needs, such as access to the gardens, parking and moving the sheds away from the building to a suitable location. We discussed the portable toilet, dumpster placement, and alarm system. They seemed favorable to a long-term lease for the land. Mickey led a tour at the end of which they shared some very positive comments and said they would get back to us in approximately two weeks. Although nothing was finalized, the meeting was very encouraging, especially since all three commissioners took the time to meet with us. We expect to have more conversations about easement issues and other needs. Overall it was a very positive outcome.

Sheds: Two sheds will need to be moved away from the building to the grassy area closer to the gardens. We need to do some research about how to do this. Dee Dee will call on some

members who might have knowledge about this kind of activity.

Compost Project: The gate in front of the compost area has been installed and a fence will be added soon. To prepare the ground for the fence, someone needs to mow the area with a more powerful mower than the ones we have. Dee Dee will look into whether our tractor can do it and if not, what alternatives we might have.

Mickey has been looking for ways to educate people on the benefits of composting and the proper way to do it. A tri-fold brochure might be a good, inexpensive solution. This should include information on what should and should not be composted.

The trailer to be used as a satellite compost container was never purchased. The price will be about \$1,085 including shipping. Jim Jeray has the information and will purchase it.

In addition to the brochure, signs need to be added. Mickey will call the compost committee together to decide on this need along with other questions.

Ivy Tech Scholarship Dinner: Each year Ivy Tech has a dinner for the scholarship recipients along with sponsor organizations. This year it is at Barnes Agricultural Center at 5 on September 16. Dinner begins at 6. They have taken several precautions related to COVID19. Pat will find out about free tickets and the deadline for reservations. Tentative attendees are Dee Dee, Jan, and Mickey.

Bylaws: Membership will vote on by-law changes at the September meeting. Everyone has been notified of the changes. After the speaker has finished, the recording secretary will read the proposed changes. Katje will brief Brooke on how to tally the votes so that they will be anonymous. Two-thirds of those present must approve each change.

Hoedown: So far the co-vice presidents have secured three member-presenters for the virtual hoedown in October. It is so difficult to get the kind of interaction we were used to during the in-person hoedowns of the past. The board tossed around some ideas about how to make this meeting a more satisfying experience.

Nominating Committee: Since there was no response (zip, zero, nada - crickets!) to the *Garden Beet* article soliciting volunteers to serve on the board, Jolaine accepted a few more suggestions from other board members and will follow up. Don't be intimidated! It involves one meeting a month and a little follow-up work.

Other business:

Katje reminded board members of a 10 a.m. meeting on the 19th to discuss MGATC storage after the extension center move.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Jeray, Recording Secretary

**But now in September
the garden has
cooled, and with it
my possessiveness.
The sun warms my back
instead of beating on
my head ... The harvest
has dwindled, and I
have grown apart from
the intense midsummer
relationship that
brought it on.**

~ Robert Finch

Gadgets

(continued from page 1)



The seed head on Brazilian Bachelor's Button has been pollinated but the seeds are not ready and wouldn't be viable. The same goes for the Black-eyed Susan seed head. It's best to wait until the stem and foliage are brown and dry to be sure the seeds are mature.

Hybrid plants are likely to produce seeds that are not true to the parent plant. Some hybrids are sterile (no viable seed). While hybrids are often crossbred for desirable traits such as disease resistance, high yields, or more and larger flowers, seeds saved from hybrids may not have those same qualities.

Heirloom plants, on the other hand, are genetically stable and will reproduce true through seeds, assuming their flowers were not pollinated by a neighboring variety. Self-pollinating plants, such as tomatoes, lettuce, peppers, beans, and peas are excellent candidates for seed saving. 'Tolli's Sweet Italian' pepper is a reliable heirloom for seed saving. Cucumbers, zucchini, pumpkins, and squash will often cross-pollinate and the plants resulting from those seeds will be hit-or-miss.

Biennial vegetables, like kale, beets, parsley, leeks, need to over-winter before they produce seeds. Carrots tend to easily cross-pollinate with wild carrot family members like Queen Anne's lace, so don't expect great results from seed collected from carrots.



Tools and materials for seed collecting and saving are simple: scissors or pruners, paper bags, markers, coffee filters or paper plates, and envelopes. You'll also need

a glass jar for tomato seeds - they have to be squeezed out into a jar of water to ferment for a few days so the seeds can be separated from the germination inhibiting gel that encloses them, then rinsed and dried.

Sometimes it helps to place a paper bag over seed heads to prevent the ripe seeds from falling to the ground. Label everything to avoid ending up with unidentifiable "mystery" seeds. After collecting, seeds should be thoroughly dried on a coffee filter or paper plate or in a paper bag. Paper envelopes are good for storage. You can either write on the envelope or cut out and attach the plant description and photo from your favorite seed catalog. Fold and seal envelopes, use tape if necessary to keep seeds inside. Store seeds in a cool, dry, dark location. If placed in airtight glass jars, plastic bags or containers, think about throwing in one of those silica gel packets you might have from a shoebox. This will help keep the seeds dry and mold free.

Some vegetables, flowers, and especially native wildflowers are also great for winter seed sowing, which means you don't have to worry about long term storage. Cool season veg like broccoli, cabbage, lettuce, spinach, kale, and kohlrabi especially respond well to winter seed sowing.

Enjoy an apple on September 26, Johnny Appleseed Day, and reflect on the generations of seed savers before us.

September TO-DO List

- ☼ Refresh porch and patio containers with a spectacular fall display of asters, chrysanthemums and ornamental cabbage.
- ☼ 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> and <https://mdc.itap.purdue.edu/item.asp?item number=AY-22-W>.
- ☼ 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.
- ☼ Plant trees, shrubs, and perennials so their roots will establish before winter. Replace under-performing plants with something better.
- ☼ Sow seed of next year's biennial flowers.
- ☼ 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.
- ☼ Continue mulching and weeding. Prevent weed seed formation to make next year's maintenance easier.
- ☼ Order spring bulbs for fall planting. Pre-dig areas or holes for bulbs and refill with loosened soil.
- ☼ Check rakes and leaf blowers - autumn leaves will be falling soon.
- ☼ See more tips from Purdue Extension Autumn Garden Calendar: <https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/yardandgarden/september-garden-calendar/>.
- ☼ Enjoy the last days of summer and the cooler weather.



What's Happening

Wednesdays in the Wild

Registration is required by noon on the Monday prior to the program at 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 1 • 7-9 p.m. • CBNA *Insect Songsters* Tom Turpin

In late summer and early fall, insects fill the nighttime hours with a variety of unique songs. They don't just sing for fun, they do it for a reason. Professor Emeritus Tom Turpin will shed some light on this yearly phenomenon. Dr. Turpin taught Entomology for 45 years at Purdue University, is an author, and also was instrumental in the formation of the annual Bug Bowl at Purdue's Spring Fest. Maximum of 30 participants.

Sept 8 • 6-8 p.m. • KS-UJ *Exploring and Enjoying Unit J at Kankakee Sands* Stephanie Frischie

Stephanie Frischie (Botanist with the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation) will lead a hike at this Newton County Nature Conservancy property to learn about the restoration of one of the most diverse units of the property. We'll walk and talk about what has grown from the seeds that were sown, and how the site was prepared and has been managed. This Unit is a delight to visit, as it features many plant species not usually found in prairie restorations! Maximum of 20 participants.

Sept 15 • 1-3 p.m. • PBNP *Fall Composites and Cranes at Prairie Border Nature Preserve* Stuart Orr

Join Fire Manager Stuart Orr (Nature Conservancy Indiana) on a tour of this Jasper County Nature Conservancy property highlighting the yellows, purples, and blues of the fall composites, along with the beginning of bird

migration. Sandhill cranes begin to stage in the area in early fall and many other species pass through this large and diverse habitat. Bring binoculars. Maximum participants TBD (between 10 and 20).

Sept 22 • 1-3 p.m. • MARTELL *I Spy: How to See the Unseen Wildlife on Your Property* Jarred Brooke

We often see or hear many wildlife species as we walk through local prairies or woods. But beyond these obvious diurnal species, what about the host of wildlife species that are active at night or spend most of their life hidden? Jarred Brooke (Purdue University Extension Wildlife Specialist) will showcase a variety of easy techniques that wildlife researchers use to see unseen wildlife.

Maximum of 30 participants.

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 your binoculars.

Maximum of 30 participants.

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

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

LOCATIONS:

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

KS-UJ (Kankakee Sands Unit J): From US 41 in Morocco turn west onto CR 400 N, then turn south onto CR 400 W; meet and park along the west side of CR 400 W at 41.047903-87.468589 or join the 4:45 p.m. carpool from the Lilly Nature Center parking lot at 1620 Lindberg Road, West Lafayette.

MARTELL (Martell Forest): Meet at 1 p.m. in the parking lot of the Wright Forestry Center at 1007 N 725 W, West Lafayette.

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

PBNP (Prairie Border Nature Preserve): Meet at 1 p.m. at this property in Jasper County (9001-9613 300 East, Wheatfield, IN 46392) or join the 11:45 a.m. carpool from the Tippecanoe Battlefield parking lot off North 9th Street in Battle Ground.

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.



Crispy Apple and Kohlrabi Salad

NOTES:

Recipe adapted from [Cooking with Seeds](#) by Charlyne Mattox, with permission.

HOW TO TOAST YOUR OWN SUNFLOWER SEEDS:

If you only have raw, unsalted sunflower seeds at home (like me), toast them in a small skillet over medium heat with a pinch of salt. Cook, stirring frequently, until they're turning lightly golden on the edges, about 5 minutes.

STORAGE SUGGESTIONS: This salad keeps well for a day or two, provided that you use enough lemon juice to prevent oxidation (I used closer to 2 tablespoons and day-old leftovers were still great).

MAKE IT DAIRY FREE/VEGAN: Skip the optional cheese.

It's the first day of autumn!
A time of hot
chocolatey mornings,
and toasty
marshmallow evenings,
and, best of all,
leaping into leaves!

~ Winnie the Pooh, Pooh's Grand Adventure

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