

## THE GARDEN GAZETTE

The March Planning and Scheduling meeting will be **March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6:30 PM** at the **Torner Center in Deming Park**. Education time will be Dallas May of Swanee Orchard speaking about fruit trees and tree pruning.

### **PLANNING AND SCHEDULING SESSION MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 22, 2011.**

28 members present.

Vice President Marilyn Miller introduced our speaker of the evening, Robyn Morton, Assistant Director of the White Violet Center, Eco Justice Ministry. She is also President of Terre Foods. She spoke about local food issues, the Community Support Agriculture program at the White violet Center and Terre Foods. **1 hour Education time can be claimed by all attending.**

Meeting called to order by President Larry Agee at 7:30pm.

A motion was made to approve the minutes from last month's meeting (January) as published in the Gazette. Motion carried.

**Vice President :** Marilyn stated that our speaker for March would be Dallas May of Swanee Orchard.

**Recording Secretary:** Bob passed around a draft copy of the new membership list and asked everyone to check their name and address for correctness.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Anyone wishing to submit an article to be included in the Gazette send to Verna by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

**Treasurer:** John had a power point presentation of the completed financial statement for 2010. A copy of the report filed with the recording secretary. A motion was made to accept the report as presented. Motion carried. John presented a power point for February's financial statement. A motion was made and carried to accept the report as presented. A copy was filed with the recording secretary.

**Service Coordinator:** No report given.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Search For Excellence Award:** Cyd was absent but Jim stated that all applications had been forwarded for consideration.

**Giving Garden:** Phil Small - stated the garden committee will have a general meeting Monday, February 28, 4:30 PM at Ivy Tech Workforce Development building.

**Earth Day:** Debi Gansz and Sharon Polge led general discussion and requested approval of \$200 budget for the table space fee and purchase of tomato plants for resale. Motion made and budget approved. 8 flats of vegetables and herbs have been planted. Committee meeting Tuesday, March 1, 2:00 PM at J. Gumbo's at 4<sup>th</sup> and Wabash.

**Herb Fair:** John Hilderbrand presented a power point budget proposal for the Herb Fair. Motion made to accept the proposed budget. Motion carried.

**Garden Tour:** Bill Hiatt: No action taken to date. Larry stated that the board had discussed the possibility of using the garden tour as a fund raiser as many organizations due.

**Beds:** Roger: Nothing new at this time. Larry and John will start trimming the rose bushes at the Labyrinth on Monday, February 28 at 8:30 am.

**Fair:** Bill Hiatt: Had a sample of the flyer that will be available as handout. Fair runs July 10 thru July 17. Little Sprouts will be on Tuesday. Make and takes will be painting rocks, make a terrarium, flower arranging and making stepping stones. Only one evening seminar and that is Diagnostic session with a trip to the Giving Garden on Thursday evening. No straw maze or little tractors. **NEED: at least 150 two liter clear bottles with caps, rinsed and if possible all labels removed. 100 vases, small and medium, for flower arranging. Aquarium rocks (clean), marbles, broken tile, old jewelry and broken cups, saucers and plates for use in stepping stones. These items may be brought to our meetings for pick-up.**

**Spring Seminar:** John Hilderbrand: John had a power point presentation for a budget proposal for the Spring seminar. It showed various statistics for cost and possible revenue based on 100, 200, and 300 participants. John, Sister Teri Boland, and Paula Wilson led a general discussion about the seminar and described the meals. A motion was made and carried to approve a general budget for the seminar. A copy of the power point was filed with the recording secretary. \$300 revenue to be set aside for the Wedding Garden. Seminar is Saturday, March 12, 2011.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Audit Committee:** Audit committee members - Bill Hiatt, Pat Secrest, Sam Ligget, presented the 2010 Audit report. The committee stated the financial position of the organization ending December 31, 2010 and for the period referenced are sufficiently complete and auditable. Motion to accept the audit report. Motion carried. A copy of the report filed with the secretary.

**Liability Insurance:** A motion was made to purchase liability insurance again this year from State Farm Insurance, Mike Maher Agency. Motion carried.

Merom Chautauqua: No action.

Committee sign-up sheet sent around for the third time.

**Ways and Means:** At the monthly board meeting there had been a general discussion about grant writing. General discussion at the planning meeting about there needed to be designated projects generated for grant writing and at least a six month lead time for grant funding. Pat Secrest volunteered to be on the committee.

**Honorary Members:** Voted to make Bob Rosch, Margaret Hoggatt and Jerry Lankford Honorary Members of the association. Motion carried.

**Union Hospital Earth Day:** Sharon Polge. Will be held on Good Friday, April 22 from 10:00 to 6:00. No set up charge. 10:00am to 6:00pm.

Anyone wishing to volunteer contact Sharon Polge. She is planning to use hand outs about the WVMGA.

**“Matter In Motion”:** Sharon Polge. Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at Ivy Tech, from 10:00 to 2:00, outside rain or shine. Will be making pine cone birdfeeders. Need lots of **pine cones** for the project. (we will need lots of pinecones and help on that day). If anyone has any you can bring them to the next planning session or notify Sharon at farfarpolg@aol.com If you can help notify Sharon also. Sharon requested a budget of \$50 for supplies. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The board discussed advertising for the WVMGA. November is the earliest we can sign up for the Tribune Valley Viewer (free) for 2012. Terre Haute Living magazine has a fee of \$275 for 1/6<sup>th</sup> page published bi-monthly.

Discussed colored brochure of our projects for handout to public.

Discussion on the original plans for the gardens at Deming Park. Blue prints were not found but did find a CD of the gardens with a power point presentation on it of 26 sample drawings of gardens.

Discussed Purdue Master Gardener State Conference to be held this year at Fort Wayne on June 9-11<sup>th</sup>. We send 3 delegates.

Marilyn Miller will be speaking at ISU March 26<sup>th</sup> at the Osher Life Long Learning Institute.

Next Board of Directors meeting is March 10, 2011, 6:30 PM at Pie Co.

No other business.

Motion to adjourn at 8:30pm. **Those present can claim 1 hour volunteer time.**

**Giving Garden Committee meeting by Jane Morse:** The Giving Garden committee meet Monday, February 28 at Ivy Tech at 4:30pm, to discuss plans for the coming season. Last year’s garden was more successful than we had

any right to expect but it also had its problems. One of our biggest problems revolved around layout. This year we are looking for a more structured and realistic plan for our garden. We now have a better idea of what the soup kitchens want from us and what we can best provide. We also have a more disciplined organizational structure. We were able to donate over 5,000 pounds of produce last year. This coming season, our goal is an ambitious one - 10,000 pounds! Pat Secrest presented a garden layout that was structured and yet allowed for some flexibility. We will have a watering system this year so it is necessary to plan carefully. The fairgrounds now has a used tractor that we will be allowed to use; the ground is too wet at this time but we will work the soil as soon as possible. A portion of our garden will be intentionally a demonstration garden for Purdue Extension Services. The idea is to demonstrate best garden practices, grow unusual crops, experiment with new techniques, etc. , all for the benefit of the home gardener. Jim Luzar will use his current Master Gardener interns to plan the garden as a part of their class experience. Jim is also hoping to get us a much-needed shed for storage of our tools and supplies. The planting of cool weather crops began on March 14<sup>th</sup> at the Ivy Tech Greenhouse. There is a lot of work ahead of us, but it sure feels good to see spring coming! 1 hour volunteer time for those at the meeting.

**Fair Committee meeting:** Committee met Tuesday, March 1, 11:00am at the Floriculture Building along with Debbie Lazzell who is chairperson of the beds at the Fairgrounds. It was decided at this time to renovate the flower beds around the Floriculture Building such as removing all the Rose of Sharon bushes, relocate the peonies to a new bed along the back of the building and enlarge the herb bed into sections for culinary herbs, tea herbs, medicinal herbs, etc. Also extend the hosta beds all along the front of the building. It was decided to hold a work evening to start the renovation. 2 hours volunteer time for meeting.

A work evening was held March 8 at 5:00pm. All the Rose of Sharon bushes were removed and peonies were relocated to new beds. Thanks to all the Master Gardeners who came out and helped dig. You can claim 2 hours of volunteer time for your work.

Fair Committee also met Thursday, March 10, 5:00pm at the Pie Co. before the Board meeting. Prices are being obtained for the renovation. Will ask membership for budget to work with. Obtaining more herbs was discussed and what kind. Arbor by flag pole to be moved to back of Floriculture

Building and climbing vines planted at base such as yellow canary creeper. Arbor needs to be painted and stabilized. Discussed what annual flowers will be needed. 1 hour volunteer time for those at the meeting.

**Earth Day Committee:** Committee met Tuesday, March 1 at 2:00pm at J. Gumbo's. General discussion of what needed to be done. Check has been sent in for booth rental. 8 flats of vegetables have been planted in the Ivy Tech Greenhouse to sell at Earth Day, along with Tomato plants. Talked about handouts. Next meeting will be Monday, April 4 at 11:00am at the Grand Traverse Pie Co. 1.5 hours volunteer time for meeting.

**Board of Directors meeting:** The Board met March 10 at 6:00pm at the Grand Traverse Pie Co. Members present: Larry Agee, Bob Archer, Verna Gaskin, John Hilderbrand, Carl Trent, Cyd Hunter, Debbie Lazzell, Bill Hiatt and association member Debi Gansz.

Meeting called to order at 6:05pm by President Larry Agee.

Board minutes were approved as published in the February Gazette

Treasurer - John: Booth space for Earth Day and Herb Fair sent in.

Insurance has been paid. Several deposits from Spring Seminar.

Scholarship Committee: Cyd - no report.

Service Coordinator - Cyd: A total of 42 members have now turned in 3087 volunteer hours and 800 educational hours. Badges have been ordered for people moving up.

Web Page: Cyd - General discussion about hanging the main promotion page from the Spring Seminar to information about Earth Day, April 16<sup>th</sup>. She encouraged everyone to provide information to update pop ups.

Pictures of the Seminar will be posted on the website.

Spring Seminar: Committee meeting 10:00 Friday morning to assemble handouts. Additional help needed will be minimal since St. Mary's will do most of the set up. 140 pre-registered, 6 speakers in place with 22 vendors and lots of door prizes. A handout pamphlet featuring sponsors and vendors is completed.

Giving Garden: Bob said that he met with Aaron Wheaton today and discussed where to spread and push the animal waste mulch from the fair.

We will start planting seeds on Monday, March 14 at Ivy Tech Greenhouse.

Earth Day: Debi Gansz - Larry will be picking up the tomatoes. Debi will pick-up the vegetables at the greenhouse. 300 Teddy Bear sunflower seeds have been started to handout. May need some additional funds for this.

Herb Fair: John will co-chair with Debbie Lazzell. Saturday, May 7 at

Fairbanks Park. General discussion.

Garden Beds: Debbie Lazzell and Bill Hiatt reported that the fair Committee are going to be renovating the flower beds around the Floriculture Building at the fairgrounds. Bill Hiatt gave a price quote for renovations. There is already a budget approved for flowers. General discussion on how and where the money would be spent.

Old Business: Merom Chautauqua - tabled.

New membership list going out to Board members and Committee chairs.

Union Hospital Earth Day: April 22. No current info.

No other old business.

New Business: John Hilderbrand discussed that the state no longer issued final determination letters concerning validity registration of non-profit status.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm. Next Board meeting April 14, 6:00 PM at the Pie Co. **Those present can claim 1 hour volunteer time.**

**NOTE:** On March 14, seeds for the Giving Garden were planted at the Ivy Tech Greenhouse. Many thanks to those who turned out to help fill trays and plant seeds. A total of 49 trays of vegetables were planted. **Those who helped can claim 1 hour of volunteer time.**

**Service Coordinator's Desk:** Cyd reports the WVMG's were very busy in 2011. Current count for volunteer hours accumulated by 41 members is 3926 hours and 795 education hours. That is an average of over 100 hours per member. Great job master gardeners.

Congratulations to the following members that progressed to the next status. Aaron Wheaton and Tim Moore, Certified Master Gardeners; Ruth Johnson, Jane Morse and Charlene McKean, Advanced Master Gardeners; Phyllis DeBord, Judy Eckert, Bronze; Carol Swearingen, Silver; Bill Hiatt, Gold. Badges have been ordered and could arrive by the March meeting.

2011 Volunteer/Education hours sheets can be downloaded from WVMG website under the members corner in forms.

<http://wvmga.org/wp-content/uploads2010/11/timesheet2011forWVMG2.pdf>

As always hard copies of the form can be picked up at any monthly meeting or I can mail a copy to you.

Even though the deadline has technically past for 2010 hours, submissions are always accepted.

The following article was submitted by Certified Master Gardener Julie Baysinger.

### ALOE VERA

For thousands of years, people have turned to the cactus-like plant that has mysterious abilities to heal wounds. However, Aloe Vera is actually a member of the lily family. It has often been shunned by the scientific community because no one could explain how this native of northern Africa could work its miracles. Now, scientists are inching closer to understanding why the cooling liquid from the fat leaf of an aloe vera plant can make the hurt go away. It doesn't take a pharmaceutical company to make it work. The plant does it all by itself, which is why the ancient Egyptians turned to it more than 3,500 years ago. It is non-toxic with no known side effects. Aloe is made up of 95% water and requires little watering. It develops thick pointy leaves and some varieties have seasonal flower growth. Aloe is hardy in sunny outdoor gardens, but is often grown in our area as an indoor plant. It thrives best in loose sandy soil and pot with good drainage. It is an undemanding plant that is easy to grow and as a houseplant, it offers the added bonus of providing its healing gel year round. Since it is a succulent plant, it can tolerate neglect and spring back from setbacks that a less-hardy plant would not survive. You can propagate plants by dividing the root offshoots that form on the main root crown of the existing plant. Aloe vera is famous for its healing benefits and is commonly grown in kitchen gardens to help with minor burns. Aloe contains needed nutrients to promote cell regeneration and helps increase blood flow to the injured skin. The anti-inflammatory properties of Aloe gel also kills many types of bacteria associated with skin wounds. To use aloe, cut about one inch from the tip of a leaf. Peel off the spines and cut open to expose the center core or gel, which is the most potent part of the plant. Squeeze the gel directly onto the burn 1 to 2 times a day. Aloe can also be used to soothe insect bites. Use Aloe vera as a moisturizer. The leftover rind is great for composting.

That's all for this month. Spring finally arrives on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March, now if the weather would just cooperate. See you at the next planning session on March 22.