



GARDEN

GAZETTE APRIL 2015

NEXT MEETING: April 21, 2015, 6:30pm, 4-H Meeting Room at the Fairgrounds.
Speaker is Robyn Morton.

Planning and scheduling session of March 17, 2015, 6:30pm, 4H Meeting Room, Fairgrounds.

Educational time earned was .75 hours. Greg Fields introduced our speaker, Candace Minister, whose topic was vermiculture. She said that this method of composting is good for small spaces and is a good education project.

President Bob Archer called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

MINUTES: published in the Gazette. Bob asked for additions or corrections. There were none. Minutes were approved as written by a voice vote.

Recording Secretary Carole Dreher passed around an attendance sheet.

VICE PRESIDENT: Greg Fields said that he is still looking for an April speaker.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Verna checked to see if everyone was receiving emails and the Gazette.

TREASURER: Pat Youman reported the balances in our account.

SERVICE COORDINATOR: Pat Woods said that 2 people are due badges. It was emphasized that members should use the volunteer sheet available on the Master Gardener website to report their volunteer and educational hours.

COMMITTEES:

Giving Garden: Greg announced that we would have a planting day at the IVY Tech greenhouse on March 27th beginning at 9:00am to plant seeds for the Giving Garden. He also asked members of the Giving Garden Committee to stay after this meeting for a short committee meeting.

Flower Beds: Bill Hiatt – Head Bedkeeper – said that he hopes to check plants at the various gardens that we maintain for winter damage.

Spring Seminar: Larry Agee said that we had just under 100 attendees. He said that he was pleased with the work of his committee members. We sold tulips at the Seminar. He still has 18 pots left out of the 50 that we started with and members are welcome to purchase them. Pat Youman reported what we took in and what our profit was.

OLD BUSINESS:

Matter in Motion: Sharon Polge said that this event would take place on March 21st. She and other volunteers will be making Peanut Butter Pine Cone birdfeeders. She has purchased 5 additional aprons and would like to be reimbursed. A motion was made and seconded that she be reimbursed. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Earth Day at the Woods: Verna reported that everything is up and growing. Sharon Polge volunteered to help with a children's project, possibly a demo of repotting sunflowers and requested that persons willing to help to call her.

Chances and Services for Child & Adult Care: In response to a request from these groups for Master Gardeners to help out, Phil Small and Bob Archer have volunteered to do a demonstration of potato planting at Hye Center.

Website: (www.wvmga.org) Sam reported that he has updated the content on the site.

First Friday: Master Gardeners have been asked to have one or more volunteers to represent our organization at this event on April 3rd from 5:00 to 7:00pm. Bob asked if anyone were willing to do this. Era Nichols volunteered.

Rose-Hulman: Debi Gansz and Virginia Laycock have volunteered to represent Master Gardeners at an event on the campus.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jim Luzar introduced Abby Sweet, a new member of the staff at the Extension Office. She will be doing horticultural outreach and teaching at IVY Tech.

He said that we may go to Ditzler Orchard for future pruning demonstrations since we have pretty much trimmed all the trees at SMWC that need trimming.

Jim also reminded members that they need to complete and turn in a Volunteer Agreement.

Sam Liggitt moved that we donate \$300 to IVY Tech, but no action was taken at this time and it was decided that the matter could be taken up at the Board of Directors meeting.

Announcements:

- Abby Sweet said she had heard from 2 organizations who have projects they would like to have help with and asked anyone who might be willing to help to call her at the Extension Office.
- Jessica Fields is planning a plant giveaway on April 25th and would appreciate help on that date. She is planning to repot several plants on March 28th and could use help on that day also.

Next Meetings:

- Board meeting April 2, 2015, Vigo County Public Library, 6:00pm, room 6.
- Planning and Scheduling meeting Tuesday April 21, 2015, 6:30pm, 4H meeting room at the Wabash Valley Fairgrounds.

Extension Office Update

Spring has sprung and the busy gardening season is upon us. Abby Sweet is serving as the agriculture educator for Vigo County and will be assisting Wabash Valley Master Gardeners with questions and contacts. I am still serving as county Extension director for Vigo County and will be supporting Abby and membership. This is a new configuration for the staff and we appreciate your support and patience!

The next Purdue Master Gardener intern program will begin September 2, 2015. Program fee is \$85 per person and we are looking for good contacts to populate the class. Thanks for your assistance in recruiting!

A final note, the monthly business meetings are very important and help communicate organization plans and needs. When the gavel sounds at the upcoming meeting, please be respectful of the officers as they conduct business. Members are concerned there are too many side conversations, too much noise, and too much confusion. I have to admit I have been as guilty as anyone about meeting protocol! Let's tighten up the business meeting atmosphere and have a great April meeting!

Sincerely,

Jim

Jim Luzar
Vigo County Extension Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

April 2, 2015, 6:00pm, room 6

Vigo County Public Library

President, Bob Archer called the meeting to order at 6:00pm and introduced all those present and described their position on the board to Abby Sweet, a new employee of the Extension Office.

Members in attendance: Bob Archer, Greg Fields, Carole Dreher, Verna Gaskin, Pat Youman, Larry Agee, Sam Ligget, Phil Small, Pat Woods and Carl Trent.

Non board members in attendance: Abby Sweet.

Minutes of last board meeting: Carole Dreher said they were published in the March Gazette.

Vice President: Greg Fields said that Robyn Morton, Assistant Director of the White Violet Center will be our speaker in April. There will be no speaker at the May meeting due to the fact that it will be a carry-in at Deming Park nor will there be one at the June meeting because that will be our garden tour.

Corresponding Secretary: Verna said she had nothing to report.

Treasurer: Pat Youman reported our current balance and described her activities during the past month.

Service Coordinator: Pat Woods said that she plans to get a new email address and is shopping around for possibilities.

COMMITTEES:

Giving Garden: Greg reported that volunteers had planted 100 flats on Friday, March 27th. He has 150 pounds of seed potatoes to be planted whenever the weather is right. Cabbage will be planted in between the rows of potatoes.

Gardens: Bob said that he, Carol Swearingen and Carl Trent were planning to plant tulips at the Patriotic Garden. A question was raised about when a garden budget had been submitted to the Park Board. Bob said we need to check on this.

Pat Youman reported that there was damage to the obelisk structure in the Butterfly Garden and that several rocks located in the garden had been scattered around. She showed photos that she had taken with her ipad to demonstrate the damage.

Web Site: Sam says it is difficult to keep the site up to date. He said that Greg Pies and Jessica Fields said they would like to help with a publicity committee. It was pointed out that we have such a committee with Verna as the chairman and currently the only member and she said she would be happy to have them as members.

Fair Committee: Bob suggested that we might want to skip our July meeting due to our scheduled activities at the Vigo County Fair. Discussion followed. Pat Youman moved that we skip the July meeting. Greg Fields seconded the motion which passed by a voice vote.

Earth Day at SMWC 4/18: Verna asked Greg if she and Larry Agee would be allowed to pick things up from the IVY Tech greenhouse at 5:00pm on April 17th.

OLD BUSINESS:

Skills Survey: Phil Small reported that he had received 35 responses to this survey. He presented a report showing the results of the survey. It was suggested that Greg might want to consider the topics that members had indicated they were interested in learning more about as possibilities for speakers at our meetings.

Spring Seminar 2015: Larry Agee reported the net income from the seminar. He recommended that a chairman for the 2016 seminar be appointed soon. Larry said that he prefers not to do it again. There was discussion about the dates, attendance and what is the trend for other Master Gardening groups hosting seminars. Larry said it would be helpful to set a date early for the next seminar. It was agreed that we would like to keep it on the 2nd Saturday of March. Larry said that IVY Tech staff were very helpful.

Rose Hulman Benefit/Wellness Fair: Virginia Laycock helped at this event and said that they had a lot of traffic at their table.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was discussion about whether we should consider making an additional donation to IVY Tech and if we were to do so should we specify where we want it to go. Larry Agee moved that we recommend to the organization at the next Planning and Scheduling meeting that we donate an additional \$400.00 to their FFA group in appreciation for using IVY Tech facility for the Spring Seminar.

First Friday (April 3rd): Era Nichols and Peggy Harlan will volunteer at this event. They will be located at the Vigo County School Corporation Administration building at 7th and Wabash.

Chances and Services for Child and Adult Care food program (May 2): Bob Archer and Phil Small will do a demonstration of planting and growing your own potatoes at this event.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Greg Fields said that Jessica Fields is doing a plant give away to low-income persons on April 25th and she would be grateful for additional volunteer help.

Next Board of Directors meeting will be in meeting room 6 at the Vigo County Public Library on May 7, 2015 at 6:00pm.

Meeting adjourned after 1.5 hours of volunteer time.

Respectfully submitted by Carole Dreher, Recording Secretary

NOTE: Bill Hiatt has some Peony plants he would like to get rid of (Pink). If you are interested in them contact him at hiattw@yahoo.com