



THE GARDEN GAZETTE

JANUARY 2016

Next Planning and scheduling meeting is January 19, 2016 at 6:30pm in the 4-H Meeting Room at the Fairgrounds. Assessment of \$15 is due at this time along with volunteer hours. Assessment may be sent to Pat Youman, 2356 E. Glenview Dr., Terre Haute, IN 47802. After Jan. 30 the dues goes to \$20. Hours may be sent to Jessica Fields, 6598 McDaniel Rd., Terre Haute, IN 47802 or email to [wabashvalleymastergardeners@yahoo.com](mailto:wabashvalleymastergardeners@yahoo.com)

NOTE: The Spring Seminar Committee is collecting garden related magazines, books, catalogs, etc. to be given away free to those attending the seminar. They may be brought to our meetings in January and February or contact Jessica Fields.

WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT – BOB ARCHER:

It is the start of a new year, and the Wabash Valley Master Gardener Association must send its total volunteer and education hours from 2015 to Purdue University by January 25<sup>th</sup>.

We have not received hours yet from many gardeners. Jessica Fields (new service coordinator) has prepared a service hour sheet for each member. Jessica has passed out the hour sheets to members who have been attending the planning and scheduling meetings. If you have not turned in your hours for 2015 or verified your hours sheet, please contact Jessica ASAP or at our next P & S meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup>. Jessica can be contacted at [jessica.fields@indstate.edu](mailto:jessica.fields@indstate.edu) Her mailing address is 6598 McDaniel Rd., Terre Haute, IN 47802. Who is a Master Gardener? To be called a Purdue Master Gardener, you must be certified each and every year. This means an individual must volunteer a minimum of 12 hours and acquire 6 education hours each year. If an individual does not meet these minimum requirements for a year they are no longer a certified Purdue Master Gardener. Interns have two years to complete 36 volunteer hours before they can be called a “certified” master gardener. Purdue is working on having each master gardener record their hours online this year. When implemented, this will take the responsibility of tracking hours out of our hands and place more responsibility on each individual gardener. We have individuals who pay their membership dues to the association but do not turn in any hours. We do appreciate the donation, but this alone does not make you a Purdue Master Gardener.

Beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>, individual gardeners who have not met the minimum volunteer and education hours for 2015, and not paid their association due of \$15 for 2016, will be dropped from our email and mailing lists.

We appreciate the efforts of all gardeners, and remember the job is not done until the paperwork is done.....

We and you do a lot for the betterment of the Wabash Valley.

Thanks, Bob Archer – President

Wabash Valley Master Gardener Association Planning and Scheduling Meeting, December 15, 2015, 6:00pm,  
4-H Meeting Room on the Wabash Valley Fairgrounds

No educational time was earned. The meeting was preceded by a carry-in of snacks.

Meeting called to order by President Bob Archer at 6:50pm.

Bob asked Jim Luzar to introduce the Fall 2015 Interns. Jim introduced the group and asked each of them to say something about themselves as a means of introduction. Jim said members of the group are now finished with their classes and are ready to work on their 35 volunteer hours. At this time some photos were taken of the new interns.

Jim also offered some words of farewell since he will now be working full time in Parke County. Bob presented him with a going away card and a present from members of the organization and members gave him a standing ovation in appreciation of his years of work in Vigo County.

**Minutes:** published in the Gazette. No corrections or additions were offered.

Recording Secretary Carole Dreher passed around an attendance sheet.

Verna Gaskin and Debbie Lazzell conducted 2 seasonal games and awarded prizes of the centerpieces poinsettias based on the attendance list.

**Vice President** Greg Fields announced that there would be a Giving Garden committee meeting at 10:00am on January 22, 2016 in the Floriculture Building at the Fairgrounds.

**Corresponding Secretary** Verna Gaskin checked to see if any of the interns would need to receive a hard copy of the Gazette or membership list. At this point President Archer informed the interns and reminded members that the membership list is intended as contact information for the conduct of the business of the organization and is not to be used to promote personal business or issues to members and should not be shared with persons outside of the organization for such purposes.

#### **COMMITTEES:**

**Spring Seminar:** Jessica Fields said that her committee would like to offer old garden magazines to be shared at the seminar on March 13, 2016, and asked members to start bringing them to meetings. Bob encouraged members to start inviting people to attend the seminar.

**Christmas in the Park:** Bob offered thanks to Beth and Steve Keyes for their work on this project. He also reminded members that volunteers would be needed to help tear down the display at the park on 12/30/15.

#### **Next Meetings:**

- Board meeting Jan. 7, 2016, Vigo Co. Library, 6:00pm, RM. 6
- Planning and scheduling meeting, Tuesday, January 19, 2016, 6:30pm, 4H Bldg.

The meeting was adjourned with no hours of volunteer time for the members in attendance.

Respectfully submitted by Carole Dreher, Recording Secretary

WABASH VALLEY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
January 7, 2016, 6:00pm  
Vigo County Public Library, RM. 6

**President Bob Archer** called the meeting to order at 6:02pm

**Members in attendance:** Bob Archer, Greg Fields, Carole Dreher, Verna Gaskin, Pat Youman, Larry Agee, Sam Liggit, Phil Small, Jessica Fields, Carl Trent.

**Non Board Members in attendance:** Peggy Harlan and Beth Keyes were present at the beginning of the meeting. They were there to say that they felt that they could no longer head up the Christmas in the Park projects which they have handled so successfully over the past few years. They said they will be willing to help guide any volunteer(s) who want to take on the project in the future. There was some discussion about who might want to do this and even whether we still want to continue doing it. The matter will be revisited in the future.

**Minutes of last board meeting** were published in the December Gazette. Bob asked for any additions or corrections. There were none so the minutes were approved as published.

**Vice President Greg Fields** said that Jay Christiansen from the Extension Office will be the speaker at the January Planning and scheduling meeting.

**Corresponding Secretary Verna Gaskin** said that she has been working on our Master Gardener scrapbook.

**Treasurer Pat Youman** reported the beginning balance, expenses, income and the ending balance. She passed around the latest bank statement for perusal by the members. She said that it was time for dues to be paid. Some discussion followed about payment of dues, reporting of volunteer and education hours, what members need to do to maintain their status as a Master Gardener and when they would need to recertify.

**Service Coordinator Jessica Fields** said that 6 people will be getting badges in March. She said that hours have been slow in coming in. Sam Liggit reported that he has updated the form on the website so it can be directed to Jessica. She has been checking records against reports to try to make sure they are up to date.

**COMMITTEES:**

**Giving Garden – Greg Fields** said that the total harvest for 2015 is 27,785 pounds. Verna has placed a seed order. Some volunteers have planted tomatoes and sunflowers for Earth Day. A Giving Garden committee meeting is scheduled for 10:00am on January 22, 2016 in the Floriculture Building.

**Website – Sam Liggit** reported that the time reporting sheet on the website had been updated. There was discussion about how people could copy the form if they do not have access to Microsoft Word. (NOTE: If anyone cannot print out the forms please notify Verna at [vernajean1962@gmail.com](mailto:vernajean1962@gmail.com) and she will mail hard copies of the form to you)

**Spring Seminar 2016 – Jessica Fields** reported that her committee planned to meet on Jan. 8, 2016 at 10:00am. A question had been raised about whether someone went to the seminar for the sole purpose of volunteering but did not attend any of the sessions or eat a meal were they obligated to pay the \$35.00 entry fee? It was agreed that they did not have to pay the fee, but they could not claim any educational hours but only the volunteer time that they worked and if they decided they wished to eat they should pay for their meal.

**Christmas in the Park – Pat Youman** reported the final expenses compared to the \$500.00 we received for participating.

**Arts Illiana Tablescapes – Carole Dreher** said that she has submitted an application to participate in this event. There is no cost to the organization for this event. Carole and her committee donate time and items to use. This activity helps inform the community about activities of our organization and how they benefit the community. This year our theme will feature Master Gardener activities at the Vigo County Fair. The event will take place February 25-27, 2016, at the Indiana Theater at 7<sup>th</sup> and Ohio in downtown Terre Haute.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Bed keeper reports:**

**1<sup>st</sup> and Oak Memorial Garden** – This bed sustained some recent damage when a vehicle ran up into the bed. The retaining wall and some of the plants were damaged. Bob said that he has done work on the damage but more work is needed. There was some discussion about who we could get to erect the fence for the memorial and what sort of material we can use for the memorial plaques.

**First Financial Welcome to Terre Haute plot:** Maintenance of this plot will be taken for by First Financial.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Purdue Master Gardener Impact Survey:** This is a report that has been prepared by Jim Luzar in the past. Since he is now working full time in Parke County, Bob is working on the report that contains various statistics about volunteer hours, educational activities, contact with the public and various other items. The report is due by January 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Memorial Condolences:** Verna has sent these to the family of deceased member John Hilderbrand, to Peggy Harlan on the death of her father and Rondel Love family.

**Audit Committee:** Bob will be appointing an Audit Committee to conduct an audit in February.

Members are scheduled to make an annual **renewal of their Purdue Master Gardener Volunteer Agreement.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Seed swap, ISU Community Garden – Jan. 16, 12-2, Rose Newton
- Bi-State Gardening Conference, Jan. 28, Beef House, Covington, IN
- “A Winter Day in the Garden”, Jan.30, Robinson, IL
- 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Tonic, Mar. 5, 8:00am-3pm, Paoli, IN
- Indiana Garden and Flower Show, Mar. 12-20, Indianapolis
- Bird Fest, May 21, 8-12, Hawthorn Park – volunteers needed-see Amber S.
- Purdue State M.G. Conference, June 16-18, West Lafayette, IN

**Check [wvmga.org](http://wvmga.org) website for additional information**

Next Board of Directors meeting on 2-4-16, 6:00pm, Public Library, Rm.6.

Meeting adjourned after 1.5 hours of volunteer time.

Planning and scheduling meeting will be at Fairgrounds 4-H Meeting Room 1-19-16 at 6:30pm.

### Old Master Gardener Advisor Update

Thank you everyone for your kind words and thoughts at the December WVMG Association meeting! When Bob Archer presented the sack with something “green” inside, I assumed there were gardening packets or something. I was shocked when I got home that night and looked inside. I have treated my wife to several different meals over the past weeks...what a surprise and treat from all of you.

I wish all of you the best in 2016. Purdue Extension is working on hiring a new educator to fill my Vigo position. Keep the office posted of what you need in the meantime. Kathy, Wendy, and Abby Thomas will help you with your requests from the office. Kristi Whitacre is Vigo CED and is very supportive. Keep in touch!

Sincerely,

*Jim*

Jim Luzar

Extension Educator-Ag/NR

County Extension Director – Parke County