



Next planning and scheduling session is March 21, 2017 at 6:30 pm at the 4-H Building at the Fairgrounds.

Educational time: .75 hours. Robyn Morton of the White Violet Center was introduced as our speaker. She said that she does a lot of jobs at the Center which is a ministry of the Sisters of Providence. They are carrying on the legacy of their founder, Saint Mother Theodore, caring for the forest and girls. They try to leave the soil better at the end of the season than it was at the beginning. They are certified organic with 5 acres of farm grounds and 2 acres of orchard. They have 43 alpacas, 3 of whom are babies. They have a flock of 40 chickens. They have 300 acres of forest and plan to hire a professional forester. They have 300 acres of organic row crops. They are changing some of their fields to a pollinator habitat. She said that the FSA has grants that are available to get wildflowers to plant which are good for bees and butterflies. They try to use natural mulches, some of which are green mulches such as rye, barley and hairy vetch and take some of their land out of rotation periodically. She noted that growing orchards is punishingly hard and that growing berries is easier. They are working on permaculture to simulate growing things without humans. They have CSA program, take things to the Terre Haute Farmers Market and donate to Charity. They are planning to start a farm store next to the White Violet Center. They cannot find organic chicken feed that they can afford so their eggs are not considered organic.

Meeting called to order by President Greg Fields at 7:15pm.

MINUTES: were published in the Gazette. Greg called for additions or corrections. There were none. A motion was made to accept the minutes as written. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Recording Secretary Carole Dreher noted that she had passed around an attendance sheet.

VICE PRESIDENT: Charlene said that she is working on getting a speaker for the March meeting.

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

TREASURER: Mary Beth reported on income and expenses and stated the balance in our account.

SERVICE COORDINATOR: Jessica said that Judy Phillips and Flo Evinger are due to receive badges. The next badge order is due for March 3rd. She is working to move to the new on-line system.

COMMITTEES:

Giving Garden: Greg said that this committee had met and he had presented a plan for this year's garden.

Website: Sam Ligget said that the Gazette is available on the site and that he is working on the calendar.

Spring Seminar 2017: Jessica reported that the Seminar will be held at the Vigo County Fairgrounds on March 18, 2017 from 9 – 4 (gates open at 5:30am). It is open to the public and admission will be \$1.00 (or canned goods to be donated to soup kitchens). Children under 12 will be admitted free. We have five speakers. We have 25 vendors committed – most have garden related wares or services. She asked that members bring old magazines and/or catalogs. Some of the educational topics will be Garden Decorating, Aquaponics, Pocket Pollinators, Dried Flower arranging and information on Beekeeping. We will set up on Friday, March 17 from 9:00 to 12:00noon. Volunteers can earn both volunteer and educational hours. There will be a meeting on February 28th (time to be decided later) in the Horticulture Building to put bags together.

Flower Beds: Bill Hiatt Head Bedkeeper – no report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Matter in Motion: Sharon Polge said that this event will take place at Ivy Tech on April 8, 2017 from 9am – 2pm. Volunteers will be making peanut butter pinecone birdfeeders.

Valley Viewer: The Terre Haute Tribune Star has reserved a page in the Valley Viewer section of their Sunday, June 11th edition, for our organization. Phil Small will submit information for the page.

NEW BUSINESS:

Flower and Patio show (Master Gardener Booth): will be held on Monday, March 13 from 10am to 2:30pm. Greg said that we need some volunteers to work the Purdue Master Gardener Booth on that day.

Audit Committee Report: Sam Liggett reported that a committee consisting of him, Mary Beth Prickel, Carl Trent, Phil Small and Pat Youman met to examine the books for the year of 2016. They found no inaccuracies. He passed around a written report which states the beginning and balances, receipts and expenditures as well as the number (54) of deposits and (54) distributions. They recommended that the report be approved. A motion was made and seconded to accept the report which passed by a voice vote.

Volunteer T-Shirts: Mary Beth said that the Spring Seminar Committee had recommended that volunteers order shirts with the word “VOLUNTEER” written across the back so that persons in attendance could identify people who could help with questions or directions. She noted that the shirts could also be worn at other events. She said that the shirts will cost \$11.00 and presented a color chart with 4 different colors highlighted and asked members to choose one of those colors. A green shirt was chosen by a show of hands. She said that shirts must be worn by volunteers at the seminar. She said that, if people wanted to order a second shirt in a different color without the word volunteer on the back, they could do so. She said the orders at this time, but people could send her a check for their order to her address.

Introduction of 2017 Spring Intern Class: Dana Gadenken introduced several members of this class who had been invited to attend and get an idea about some of the things we work on.

J & J Nursery Plant Giveaway: Jessica asked members to save some boxes for this event which will take place on April 29th at the Fairgrounds.

Tablescapes: Carole Dreher reported that this committee had met and was working on a design featuring the Giving Garden. This event takes place at the Indiana Theatre in downtown Terre Haute from March 2nd through 4th. People who wish to check out the tables may do so from 10am to 4pm for a \$5.00 entry fee which allows them to vote on their favorite table.

Christmas in the Park: Greg said that Charlene McKean is stepping down as chairman of this committee so we are looking to see if someone else will be willing to volunteer for this position.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Hamilton County Master Gardener Association will hold their annual plant sale on May 20th.

Verna Gaskin said that an Earth Day Celebration will take place at St. Mary of the Woods on April 22nd. We will have tomatoes, herbs and sunflowers. The Earth Day Committee will meet at Fazoli's on March 1st at 5:30pm.

NEXT MEETINGS:

- Board Meeting March 2, 2017, Vigo County Public Library, 6:00pm.
- Planning and Scheduling session, March 21, 2017, 4H meeting room, VigoCounty Fairgrounds, 6:30pm.

The meeting was adjourned with .75 hours of volunteer time for the 43 members in attendance.

Respectfully submitted by Carole Dreher, Recording Secretary

**WABASH VALLEY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MARCH 2, 2017
VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY, ROOM 6**

President: Greg called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Members in attendance: Greg Fields, Charlene McKean, Carole Dreher, Verna Gaskin, Mary Beth Prickel, Jessica Fields, Larry Agee, Sam Ligget, Phil Small and Carl Trent.

Non Board Members in attendance: Bob Archer, Dana Gaden (Purdue Extension Educator)

Minutes of last Board Meeting: Carol stated minutes were published in February Gazette. Greg called for corrections or additions. None were offered. Minutes were approved as written.

Vice President: Charlene said that she is still searching for a speaker for March. A few suggestions were offered. Larry Agee spoke of a project in some schools where kids put untouched food like apples or bananas on a table where it can be donated to a food bank. He said that Allison from the Extension office has information about it.

Corresponding Secretary: Verna said that she had nothing to report.

Treasurer: Mary Beth passed out a written report to members. She listed expenses and income and reported the current balance in our account. She said that whenever she went over the membership list she observed that ten members who were active last year have not paid their dues this year.

Service Coordinator: Jessica said that 2 persons are due to receive badges. At this point there was discussion of the new on-line site for entry of hours and some difficulties with using the site. There was some discussion about persons who want to remain members, but feel unable to volunteer. It was noted that they might be able to obtain their educational hours by watching some of the Webinars on the Purdue website and perhaps we can identify some less strenuous activities that can count for volunteer hours.

COMMITTEES:

Giving Garden: Greg announced that there will be a planting day at Ivy Tech at 10:00am on Thursday, March 23. He said that he found a person who may be able to till the Giving Garden for us. He is a veteran that Greg knows through his classes at Ivy Tech.

Flowerbeds: Greg announced that Bill Hiatt wishes to resign the position of Head Bedkeeper, but Larry Agee has volunteered to serve in this position. Larry reported that he has met with the Park Department and there is no money for an increase in our budget. We discussed the possibility of planting some seeds to grow our own annuals to plant in some of the flower beds.

Website: Sam said that added committee information to the site, a photo of our Tablescape entry and information about our upcoming Spring Seminar 2017.

OLD BUSINESS:

Spring Seminar 2017: Jessica reported that we have 29 vendors and 21 sponsors, although we still have to collect money from some of them. Ivy Tech has agreed to print books for \$300. At this point was some discussion about insurance and liability. Jessica said that March 10 has already been set for the 2018 Spring Seminar. Mary Beth reported that volunteer t-shirts will be available early next week. Discussion took place about hours for set up. Jessica said 9:30am to 3:00pm on Friday the 17th. We need to have some volunteers available for the Master Gardener booth.

Tablescapes: Carole reported that our tablescapes has been set up and that our theme this year is based on the Giving Garden.

Matter in Motion: This event will take place on April 8 at Ivy Tech. Sharon Polge will be heading it up and has reported that she needs pinecones for the pinecone/peanut butter birdfeeders.

Earth Day at SMWC: Verna said that we have 288 sunflowers planted for this event to give away.

Rose-Hulman Wellness Clinic: Greg said that he has asked Virginia Laycock to represent us.

Tribune-Star Valley Viewer: Master Gardeners are to have a page in the Sunday, June 11th edition. Jessica said that she has passed on some information to Phil Small who will provide information to the paper for the page.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bedkeeper: Larry said that he would check with Park Board about flowers for the flower beds.

Flower and Patio Show: this event will take place on Monday, March 13th beginning at 10:00am. Greg said that he has tickets for the show to give to persons who have volunteered to help with the Master Gardener booth.

J & J NURSERY PLANT GIVEAWAY: (Jessica's event) Planting for this event is scheduled for March 9th at 10:00am. The Giveaway will take place on April 29. Jessica would appreciate it if people would save and donate boxes to be used at the Giveaway.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Hamilton County Master Gardeners are having plant sale on May 20, 2017.

We need to find a different place to meet in April due to another event scheduled for the 4-H Building.

Check wvmga.org website for additional announcements

Next Board of Directors meeting will be at the Vigo County Public Library on 4-2-17 at 6:00pm, in room 6.

Next Planning and Scheduling meeting will be at the Fairgrounds on March 21 in the 4-H meeting room at 6:30pm.

Meeting adjourned after 1 hour volunteer time.

Submitted by Carole Dreher, Recording Secretary

Mother Nature has certainly put us through our paces! As we all know the Gardeners Gathering is coming up soon. I am sure everything will go smoothly and the Wabash Valley Master Gardeners will hear nothing but praise for an impressive event. I am quite excited to hear what the speakers have to share and maybe grab a nick nack or two. Our Master Gardener Interns are also rapidly approaching the ½ way point for their course. Please keep them in mind and think of great ways they can get their intern hours accomplished. As per usual, the Wabash Valley Master Gardeners are doing great things!

-Dana Gadeken, ANR Educator, Master Gardener Coordinator