



MAY 2018

GARDEN GAZETTE

**WABASH VALLEY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION
PLANNING AND SCHEDULING MEETING
April 17, 2018, 4-H meeting room
Wabash Valley Fairgrounds**

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm by President Phil Small.

Educational time: .75 hours. Ruth Bohner introduced our speaker, Peter Coppinger. She said that he is a Plant Professor at Rose Hulman University. His topic was “Native Orchids of Indiana”. He showed slides of some of the native orchids along with maps of where one might find them. Whenever he has a new class, he gives them a list of plants to find. There are around 25-40 orchids in Indiana – even more than Hawaii. Orchids have more species than any other plant.

MINUTES: Recording Secretary Carole Dreher noted that the minutes for March 2018 meeting had been published in the April 2018 Gazette. Phil called for additions or corrections to the minutes. There were none. Minutes were approved by a voice vote. Carole said that he had passed around an attendance sheet.

VICE PRESIDENT: Ruth Bohner said there would be no speaker for May as that would be the Intern graduation picnic. Previously it was noted that attendance for our fair projects has decreased in relation to previous years and the reason appears to be a decline in 4-H participation. Ruth wondered if there was anything we could do to help. She noted that a lot of work on 4-H is done independently, but members could sometimes use direction and suggested that a workshop might be helpful. Phil and Bob Archer said that they were planning one for 3rd and 4th graders.

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

TREASURER: Brenda Christiansen reported the balance in our account. She said that we had made about the same or less than last year.

SERVICE COORDINATOR: This office is vacant.

COMMITTEES:

GIVING GARDEN: Bob Archer reported that modifications have been made to 3 sides of the fence to help keep critters out of the garden. He said that the garden has been tilled and 3 hydrants installed. There is one in the greenhouse and 2 in the garden. A workday is scheduled for April 19 at 9:00am. They intend to plant potatoes.

FLOWER BEDS: Larry Agee, Head bed keeper.

- Patriotic Garden – There will be a workday on 4/18 at Ivy Tech greenhouse. We will be planting our own plants.
- Butterfly Garden – There will be a workday on 4/18 at 5:00 in this garden.
- First and Oak – Bob Archer said that he has been working on this bed.

EARTH DAY AT SMWC: Debi Gansz said we will have \$3 herbs and \$5 tomatoes. This event will take place on 4/28 from 10:00am to 3:00pm. She passed around a sign up sheet for persons willing to work on this project.

HERB FAIRE, May 12 at the Wabash Valley Fairgrounds: Verna said she plans to go to Rockville on 4/25 to get hanging baskets to sell at this event.

WEBSITE: Sam Ligget said he had nothing to report.

PURDUE EXTENSION: Dana Gadeken, Purdue Educator, said that she has reserved some computer time at the Vigo County Public Library on May 5 from 2:00 to 3:00pm and invited persons who are interested to come learn more about how to use the Purdue Master Gardeners website.

She also said that the Interns will be undertaking a project on 5/11 from 9:00am to 1:00pm at the Terre Haute Housing Authority. It would be helpful if some Master Gardeners would provide them some assistance. Sharon Polge volunteered to help them. Dana asked if our organization could help monetarily with the project and estimated that they might need up to \$100. It was moved and seconded that she be allotted up to \$100 to help. Some

discussion followed. The motion passed by a voice vote. She said the Interns would be going to Fowler Park on 4/25 from 6:00 to 7:00pm to study pond water (aquatic education).

OLD BUSINESS:

GARDEN TOUR: Phil said that the Board of Directors had determined that we would only have a garden tour every other year and this year will not be one of those years. We will instead have a regular meeting in June. Phil will see about finding a place to meet.

2018 Master Gardener State Conference, June 7-9, Danville, IN: 2 people have signed up for this.

Terre Haute Tribune Star Valley Viewer, May 6: This is the day our organization will be featured. Shannon Giles is working on the display.

NEW BUSINESS:

SERVICE COORDINATOR: Phil announced that Susie Thompson has agreed to complete the current term of this office. A motion was made that she be assigned to complete the term. The motion was seconded and passed by a voice vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Virginia Laycock represented WVMGA at the Rose Hulman Community Wellness project. Ruth Bohner announced that Rural King would be hosting an event for children to select and plant a plant.

NEXT MEETINGS:

- Board meeting May 3, 2018, Vigo Co. Library, 6:00pm, room 6.
- Planning and scheduling meeting May 15, 2018, Deming Park Ute Shelter (close to the Patriotic Garden). A carry-in meal will precede the meeting to celebrate the Intern graduation.

The meeting was adjourned with 1 hour of volunteer time for the 29 members in attendance.

Respectfully submitted by Carole Dreher, Recording Secretary

**WABASH VALLEY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
May 3, 2018, 6:00pm
Vigo County Public Library, room 6**

PRESIDENT: Phil Small called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Phil Small, Ruth Bohner, Carole Dreher, Verna Gaskin, Larry Agee, Sam Ligget, Susie Thompson and Bob Archer.

NON BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: none.

MINUTES OF LAST BOARD MEETING: Carole Dreher said they had been published in the April Gazette.

VICE PRESIDENT: Ruth Bohner said that she doesn't have a speaker for the June meeting yet. A discussion took place at this time about building up the soil in the Giving Garden and perhaps getting a speaker to discuss how to go about this.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Verna said she will put out an email about the June meeting.

TREASURER: Brenda was absent but Sam Ligget reported for her. He presented a written report that she had prepared. There was discussion about a few items.

SERVICE COORDINATOR: Susie Thompson was introduced to the group as the person who will be completing the 2018 term for this office. She said she has been working with Dana on the Purdue Master Gardener website. There was discussion about badges. It was noted that they would be ordered on a quarterly basis to save on postage.

COMMITTEES:

GIVING GARDEN: Bob Archer and Phil Small – Bob announced that the garden is in good shape and about 70% of it has been planted. Phil said that the United Way of the Wabash Valley are planning a project on July 2 and would like to have a volunteer to help build hoop houses.

WEBSITE: Sam Ligget said that he had put up some photos of the Giving Garden. He also noted that he has added a link to the Purdue Master Gardener website.

HERB FAIRE is coming up on May 12. Verna says she has hanging baskets, annuals and perennials. She said we will plan to set up at 1:00pm on Friday, May 11 and will need help transporting plants from the IVY Tech Greenhouse to the Fairgrounds. Larry Agee said he

may have a connection to get some blackberry and/or raspberry plants and will need help to put them into plastic bags to sell them.

EARTH DAY AT SMWC: We took in \$426 at this event. Our booth was outside and the weather was cold, wet and windy!

FAIR COMMITTEE: This committee met on May 2 to finalize plans for activities at the Vigo County Fair. Someone needs to check the trailer to see if we have any paint, paintbrushes or pans for stepping stones. We need to determine how much concrete we need and where to get it. Verna said she would do some research for Bill.

OLD BUSINESS:

Phil said that four interns from last year have completed their volunteer hours and are due for the rebates that were agreed on last year.

FLOWERBEDS: Larry Agee said that we have plants that are ready to be planted.

- Patriotic – Carole Swearingen has been working on this bed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Graduation Picnic, May 15 at the Ute Shelter in Deming Park (near Patriotic Garden) – Carole Dreher discussed this activity earlier in the meeting. She noted how many people had signed the attendance sheets in the past three years: 38 in 2015, 25 in 2016 (no intern class and bad weather) and 39 in 2017. It was decided we should probably plan for 40-45. Bob Archer agreed to check our tote and see what kind of table stuff we have and what items we might need to purchase. Verna will issue an email to let members know what kind of item to bring to the carry-in dinner which will precede the meeting.

4-H SCHOLARSHIPS – Phil and Bob reported that they had offered a workshop for 3rd and 4th graders, but had only two students sign-up. After recent discussions it was determined that an increase in 4-H participation might improve attendance at our project offerings. Phil and Bob have been working with Tabby from the Extension how our group might best help. They said they found out that families are asked to pay \$15 for each child participating, up to \$45 for each family. Tabby felt that scholarships to help with the cost might be one of the best ways to help. It was determined that it is too late to do this for this year's fair, but maybe we could provide \$200 - \$300 to help out.

Ruth Bohner has been helping with a gardening project at Meadows Elementary School and asked for the donation of a flat of flowers to help out.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Check out wvmga.org for additional announcements.

Next Planning and scheduling 5/15/18, 6:00pm at Ute Shelter in Deming Park. This is a carry-in. Last name beginning A thru L bring vegetable or salad. M thru Z bring fruit or dessert.

Next Board meeting at the Vigo Co. Public Library on 6/7/18 at 6:00pm, room 6.

Meeting adjourned after 1 hour and 20 minutes (1.35) of volunteer time.

Submitted by Carole Dreher, Recording Secretary

We are off to a fabulous start to our 2018 season! Now the weather is warming up, we can all come out of hibernation and begin to tinker in the garden. Get involved mentoring a new gardener, pitching in at the giving garden and patriotic garden, or helping with prep for the Make and Takes at the fair. Speaking of fair, Open Class is ALWAYS taking participants at the Vigo County Fair. We even have a training on everything you need to know to come back with that blue ribbon, June 9th in the floriculture building at the fairgrounds 9am-10am. Everything is happening so fast! But don't forget to smell the roses (or water the prize winning tomatoes as the case may be).

Dana Gadeken

Master Gardener Coordinator, Purdue Extension, Vigo County