



May 2017

The Garden Gazette

The May planning and scheduling meeting, May 16, at **6:00pm** will be held at the Ute Shelter in Deming Park. The Ute Shelter is next to the Patriotic and Butterfly Garden and also the Herb Garden.

This will be a carry in with the new Intern Class being our guests. Those with last name beginning with A thru L please bring a vegetable or salad. Those with last name beginning with M thru Z please bring a fruit or dessert. Meat and drinks will be furnished by the association.

Era Nichols would like to thank all the volunteers who were able to help children plant a container on Wednesday, May 10, at Rural King. Era said the children had a blast.

Planning and scheduling meeting minutes of April 18, 2017 held at Dobbs Park Indian Museum. Educational time – 1 hour. Vice President Charlene introduced our speaker, Jason Cote, whose topic was “How Gardening Plugs into Farming”. Mr. Cote is from Clay County where he lives on a 200 acre dairy farm. He said that ecology can be defined as how organisms relate to their environment. He proceeded to introduce us to some new terminology related to ecology. Permaculture – This is a gardening/lifestyle that flows with the river instead of damming it up. Some permaculture plants include black currants, quince (similar to pears), Hazelnuts, elderberry, teaberry (provides Omega 3, 6, 9 and also 7), Asian pear, or Autumn Olive. Perennial Polyculture – He noted that annualized gardening is more difficult on the land and people. Instead of pasture, plant berries, nut and/or fruit trees or bushes and grasses. Restoration Agriculture – one method is called STUN (Sheer Total Utter Neglect). This occurs when you plant and leave alone. Keep the plants that do well and remove those that do not. Genetics generally operates under the law of 10, which means that one must generally plant 10 seeds/seedlings to get 1 good plant. Another way is to welcome animals such as Buffalo, Wildebeasts, Reindeer or Cows. They are grazers and stompers—always moving and laying down fertilizers (urine and manure). Chickens serve as a clean-up crew, the original sod-busters. They clean up and sanitize and provide protein for cheap.

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

Minutes: Greg noted that the minutes had been published in the Gazette which is late this month.

Recording Secretary Carole passed around an attendance sheet.

Vice President: Charlene McKean – May meeting will take place in the Ute Shelter in Deming Park and will feature a carry-in meal prior to the meeting where Interns who have completed the Spring Intern classes will be honored.

Corresponding Secretary: Verna checked to see if everyone was receiving e-mails and The Gazette.

Treasurer: Mary Beth Prickel reported on expenses and income and listed the balance in our account.

Service Coordinator: Jessica Fields – the next badge order will be placed on June 3rd. She has been trying to get a meeting with Dana Gadeken and John Orick to talk about the new on-line site.

COMMITTEES:

Giving Garden: Greg reported that one of his IVY Tech students has plowed the garden today (4-18-17). Potatoes have been planted. In about 10 days he hoped to plant cabbage and broccoli. Verna will send out an email listing the date and asking for volunteers. The greenhouse is full.

Flower beds: Larry Agee Head Bedkeeper said that the Parks board may approve our budget at their 2:30pm meeting tomorrow (4-19-17).

Website: Sam Ligget said that he had listed gatherings in Hendrix County, Putnam County and “April in Paris” on the website.

Fair Committee: Bill Hiatt said he planned to schedule a meeting of this committee soon. Verna will issue an email.

OLD BUSINESS:

Matter in Motion: Sharon Polge said that everything went well at this event and thanked members and her committee who helped 200 children make pinecone bird feeders.

Earth Day at SMWC: Verna said she was planning to pick up plants for this event on Friday, April 22nd.

J&J Nursery Giveaway: Jessica Fields noted that this event will take place on Saturday, April 29th. Even though this is not a Master Gardener event, members can get volunteer hours by

working on it. She plans to set up on Friday and will let some area 7 people come in on Friday because they have transportation on that day. She said that she has 8,000 – 10,000 plants available.

Rose-Hulman Wellness Event: Virginia Laycock represented Master Gardeners at this event and reported that it went well.

NEW BUSINESS:

Phil Small and Bob Archer have been working on landscaping at the Fairgrounds and said that they need \$200 to replace some rotted timbers. A motion was made to allocate this money. The motion was seconded and passed by a voice vote.

Garden Tour in June: Bill Hiatt said that no action has yet been taken on this matter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Master Gardeners will again participate in the sweet corn project at Westminster this year.
- The Hendrix County Garden Show will take place on April 22nd.
- The Putnam county Plant Auction will take place on May 13th.
- Era Nichols said that Rural King is planning an event to let children prepare a plant for themselves or their mothers on May 10th. She would be grateful for volunteer help.

NEXT MEETINGS:

- Board meeting May 4, 2017, Vigo Co. Library, 6:00pm.
- Planning and scheduling meeting, May 16, 2017, Ute Shelter at Deming Park, 6:00pm
Intern Graduation.

The meeting was adjourned with .5 hours of volunteer time for the 39 members in attendance.

Respectfully submitted by Carole Dreher, Recording Secretary

Board of Directors meeting
May 4, 2017
Vigo Co. Library, 6:00pm, Room 6

President Greg called the meeting to order at 5:54pm.

Members in attendance were Greg Fields, Carlene McKean, Carole Dreher, Verna Gaskin, Sam Ligget, Jessica Fields, Carl Trent.

Non Board Members in attendance: Dana Gadeken, Purdue Educator.

Minutes of last Board meeting: Carole said they had been published in the April Garden Gazette and approved at the April 18, 2017 Planning and scheduling meeting.

Vice President Charlene stated no speaker at the May Meeting. It will be held at Deming Park and will celebrate the completion of the Spring 2017 Intern Class.

Corresponding Secretary Verna had nothing to report.

Treasurer: Mary Beth Prickel was absent but she sent a report. Assistant Treasurer, Carl Trent, commented on the report which had been made available to members in printed form. He noted income and expenses and the ending balance in our account.

Service Coordinator: Jessica still working on understanding the new on-line reporting system and how to use it. Dana hopes to have a session at the Library to help learn how to use it.

Jessica said that she would prefer not to have to transfer hours into the on-line system from hand printed/written forms submitted by members.

COMMITTEES:

Giving Garden: Greg reported that potatoes have been planted. With all of the recent rains, it will likely be mid-May before anything else can be planted. He hopes to have a planting day at the IVY Tech Greenhouse. The date is yet to be announced. He would like to add a raised bed for herbs. He is still working on getting materials to build a bed at the Happiness Bag facility.

Flower beds: Larry Agee was not present, but he sent a printed report to Greg who shared it with members of the board. Larry presented a budget to the Park Board which was approved by them.

Website: Sam Ligget.

Spring Seminar 2017/2018. Jessica said that she has spoken to a few potential vendors and one possible speaker. She has one person who will sharpen tools. She said that she had received a request for mileage from a speaker at the 2017 Gardeners Gathering. The request listed a 204 mile round trip at \$.535 per mile for a total of \$109.14. Discussion followed. Even though this had not been agreed on prior to the event, members agreed that it seemed reasonable. A motion was made, seconded and passed by a voice vote to pay her the requested amount.

OLD BUSINESS:

Earth Day wrap-up – Verna said that we sold out of tomatoes and most of the herbs.

Cobblestone Crossing had earlier asked for Master Gardeners to create some flower beds for them. After some discussion about their purpose and how the project would match our mission, it was decided that the request would be rejected.

Signature Inn (located by THN HS) had earlier requested the help of Master Gardeners in creating a vegetable garden for their Alzheimer Unit, a closed facility. They will care for them after they have been planted.

Edible Garden at TH South HS: Aaron Warner, a teacher at South, has requested volunteers to help care for a garden on the campus during the summer months while school is out. Sam Ligget will head up a project to do so.

Herb Faire: Verna said that she, Debbie Lazzell and Bob Archer had purchased plants for this event. Annuals will sell for \$4.00 and hanging baskets will go for \$15 each. Set up will take place on Friday, May 12 at 1:00pm. The Faire will take place on Saturday, May 12th at the Fairgrounds.

Garden Tour 2017: This will take place on June 24th. We are currently seeking gardens to tour. The June meeting will take place at Bill Hiatt's place which will be the final garden on the tour.

Intern Graduation Party: This will take place at the Ute Shelter in Deming Park. A brief meeting will take place following a carry-in meal. The organization will provide drinks and a main course. Members will be asked to provide other dishes. Verna will send out an email asking members whose last names begin with the letters A-L to bring vegetable dishes or salad and members whose last names begin with M-Z will be requested to bring fruit or other desserts.

NEW BUSINESS:

Farmers Market Information Booth: This will take place from 9:00am to 1:00pm on Saturday, the 6th. Sharon Polge will take care of this. She hopes to get 3 or 4 volunteers who will help children visiting the market make a peanut butter pine cone bird feeder.

Christmas in the Park: Greg said that we still haven't found anyone to volunteer to chair this event. Discussion followed. Some wondered if we should continue to participate. We were reminded that we are guaranteed a minimum amount of money to participate and that if we give up our place it would be difficult for us to get back in should we decide to participate in the future. Charlene who chaired the committee last year said that her husband would prefer that she not do so this year.

First Friday: Dana said that Master Gardeners have been asked to volunteer at a First Friday event on June 2nd at Barnes & Noble. We have been asked to furnish plants for children. The theme will be Sources of Food in Vigo County and how it can be made more accessible to the community. A core group coordinated by Jane Santucci includes Terre Foods. Purdue Master Gardeners are involved because of the Giving Garden.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Greg said that he received a thank you letter from IVY Tech for our donation of a \$500 scholarship to their IVY Tech Foundation. Some suggested that we might want to consider donating an additional \$500 scholarship.

Jessica Fields said that her J & J Nursery had given away 2500 plants to 200 people during her annual event to help low income people get started growing some of their own food.

Check wvmga.org website for additional announcements.

Next planning and scheduling meeting is at Deming Park Ute Shelter, May 16, 6:00pm. Carry-in meal will precede meeting and Intern Graduation.

Next Board of Directors meeting will be at the Vigo County Public Library on 6-1-17 at 6:00pm

Meeting adjourned after .75 hours of volunteer time.

Submitted by Carole Dreher, Recording Secretary

Well I think we can successfully check off April showers, bring on the May flowers! Hope to see you out and about in the community. Find an intern to work with, tidy up your garden, work on a community garden.

Dana Gadeken

Master Gardener Coordinator, ANR Educator