



OCTOBER 2015

GARDEN GAZETTE

PLANNING AND SCHEDULING MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2015, 4-H MEETING ROOM,  
WABASH VALLEY COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS – MINUTES

No Educational time was earned. Meeting was preceded by a carry-in meal and a seed and plant exchange.

President Bob Archer called the meeting to order at 6:45pm and thanked Peggy Harlan and Pat Youman for helping put the meal together.

Minutes were published in the Gazette. Bob asked if there were any additions or corrections. There were none and the minutes were approved as written.

Recording Secretary Carole Dreher passed around an attendance sheet.

Vice President Greg Fields said he was working on two possibilities for speakers but had no confirmations yet.

Corresponding Secretary Verna Gaskin checked to see if everyone was receiving emails and The Gazette. She said she had sent 2 fliers and other items via email.

Treasurer Pat Youman listed income and expenses and reported the balance in our account.

#### COMMITTEES:

Service Coordinator: Bob announced that Pat Woods had resigned her position as Service Coordinator effective on Sunday, 9/13/2015. He said that he would like to nominate Jessica Fields to serve out the remainder of Pat's term through December 2015 and asked for a show

of hands to approve. There were no opposing votes. Persons wishing to submit volunteer hours should email them to Jessica at [wvmga@yahoo.com](mailto:wvmga@yahoo.com) Hours reported previously are being checked to see if they are up to date.

Giving Garden: Greg Fields thanked volunteers and reported that 25,709 pounds of produce have been harvested and donated so far this year. We are still harvesting sweet potatoes, turnips and zucchini. They will be picking on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8:00am. Greg said that he would also like to thank persons who provided boxes in which to place the produce.

Flower Beds: Bill Hiatt, Head Bedkeeper, said that he was grateful for the recent rain.

Patriotic Garden – Bill said he had sprayed mulch paths to keep down weeds. He also did some pruning of the roses and bushes. Bill talked about the possibility of replacing roses with burning bushes. Some members expressed concern that burning bushes might be considered as invasive plants. Someone suggested red twig dogwood which is native to Indiana.

Hawthorne Park – The Park Department plans to plant a wildflower garden to replace the dead roses.

Third and Maple – Beth Keyes said there were some suckers in the bed from the crabapple trees.

Fairgrounds – volunteers are working to clean and spruce up these beds prior to a multi-county leadership conference on September 24<sup>th</sup>.

ISU Community Gardens raised bed is overgrown. Will be pulling annuals soon.

Christmas in the Park: We will decorate for this event on November 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Some volunteers will need to meet at the trailer at 9:00am to pick up decorations and more volunteers are asked to meet at the park at 10:00am to help decorate. Lights will be turned on the first of December. Judging will take place on December 7<sup>th</sup>. Decorations will be taken down after Christmas.

Spring Seminar: Jessica Fields reported that her committee is working on speakers. They have confirmed Dr. Coppinger from Rose-Hulman whose topic will be GMO's. They will also have a person from a Winery Vineyard.

Fall Intern Class: This class is underway having begun on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. It meets on Wednesday evenings from 6 to 9pm at the Fairgrounds. It will continue through November 18<sup>th</sup>. Carol Swearingen needs help due to illness in families.

## OLD BUSINESS

Volunteers helped in the Extension Booth at the State Fair on August 12<sup>th</sup>. Mary Howard-Hamilton said they talked to approximately 120 people. Various other persons who had volunteered commented on their experience.

Vigo County Learning Days will take place for 9am – 12noon on September 26<sup>th</sup>. Sharon Polge will be leading volunteers at the Vigo County Public Library for this event.

Clay County Nature Day – Carol Swearingen and Mary Ellen Hlatko had the wheel from the Extension Office. They talked to children and handed out coloring materials to them.

Attendance was down but overall it was a good day.

Board members are scheduled to attend an Area Leadership Day at the Vigo County Fairgrounds on September 24<sup>th</sup> from 6pm to 8pm.

The topic for the Vigo County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) was Bees and Butterflies. Ruth Johnson, Bob Archer and Phil Small volunteered for this event.

Peggy Harlan reported for the nominating committee that the candidates are as follows: President – Bob Archer, Vice President – Greg Fields, Recording Secretary – Carole Dreher, Corresponding Secretary – Verna Gaskin, Treasurer – Pat Youman, Service Coordinator – Jessica Fields & Patti Weaver. Board of Directors – Larry Agee, Sam Ligget and Phil Small.

#### NEW BUSINESS

The proposed memorial garden/bench at the Fairgrounds is on hold.

We have promised Jennifer Book of the Fair Board that we will take care of several issues that they have with our organization by September 24<sup>th</sup>. These items include: completion of the greenhouse and high tunnel, elimination of a debris pile and cleaning up the beds in front of the 4-H Building and around the Floriculture Building. There was some discussion about why it is our responsibility to take on these tasks. The answer is apparently because we have always done it. Greg Fields knows someone with railroad ties who may be able to let us have some to use around these beds. Patti Weaver said we might be able to get some ISU students to help. Greg said that he needs some volunteers (especially men) to help install panels on the greenhouse.

Bob noted that the Board had approved a scholarship of \$42.50 for intern, Rose Newton, in the Fall Intern Class.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The 2016 State Master Gardener Conference is scheduled to take place June 16-18 at West Lafayette.

Please check [wvmga.org](http://wvmga.org) (our website) for additional announcements.

#### NEXT MEETINGS

- Board meeting Oct. 1, 2015, Vigo Co. Library, 6pm.
- Planning and Scheduling meeting, Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2015, 6:30pm, 4H Building.

The meeting was adjourned with 1 hour of volunteer time for the 39 members in attendance.  
Respectfully submitted by Carole Dreher, Recording Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, OCTOBER 1, 2015, 6:00pm, Vigo Co. Public Library, Rm. 6

President Bob Archer called the meeting to order. He discussed some work items that are being worked on at the Fairgrounds. Some of the items included sprucing up the beds in front of the 4H Building and around the Floriculture building. Volunteers have been working on the greenhouse. Some people were also working on clearing out a debris pile, but their equipment broke down.

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

Non Board members in attendance: Abby Sweet attended as a representative from the Extension Office.

Minutes of the last Board meeting: Carole Dreher said that they had been published in the September Gazette. Bob asked if there were any additions or corrections. There were none so the minutes stand approved as written.

Vice President Greg Fields says he has a speaker from India as our speaker in October and a nutritionist in November.

Corresponding Secretary Verna Gaskin says he has a new email address. It is [vernaJean1962@gmail.com](mailto:vernaJean1962@gmail.com)

Treasurer Pat Youman reported that there has been only a small amount of activity with our accounts during the past month and noted the ending balance. She passed around the latest bank statement for perusal by members of the board. A printout of actual expenditures was provided and discussion ensued about how they compared to amounts budgeted for 2015.

## COMMITTEES

Service Coordinator Jessica Fields was not present but Bob said that she has physical files to compare to computer files. Jim Luzar sent an email stating that he has badges for two persons. Giving Garden – Greg said that we are still getting vegetables but are now only picking one day a week (Monday). He reported that we have harvested and donated 26,132 pounds to date.

Website – Sam said that Jessica Fields had been added to contact list and identified as the Service Coordinator. He also changed the contact name on the Volunteer Hours template.

Spring Seminar 2016 – Jessica Fields sent a written report on the work of this committee.

- They have agreed not to charge vendors for their first table. If they want/need additional tables, we will charge them \$15 per extra table. If a vendor wants a meal we will charge them an additional \$17.
- We will not serve breakfast, but will serve morning beverages.
- We have two confirmed speakers – Peter Coppinger of Rose Hulman (GMOs) and Justin McLain from Windy Ridge Winery. They are in contact with two other speakers.

- The lunch plan calls for a box lunch.
- There are three confirmed vendors and Vicki is looking for more.
- They are also working on finding sponsors.

Christmas in the Park – Pat Youman reported that this committee has a planned workday scheduled for Oct 2 at Beth Keyes house. They will be cutting and painting decorations.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Bed Keeper reports: 1<sup>st</sup> & Oak, Maple, First Financial, Butterfly, Patriotic, Hawthorne and Fairgrounds – various people reported that these all look good.

Raised Bed at ISU Community Gardens – It was proposed that we plant some extra herbs for this bed whenever we plant for Earth Day next year. There were reports about the celebration of Annette Benefiel's life which was held at the USU Community Gardens. Some Board members who attended the event spoke of it and some people noted that an excellent article has been published in the Tribune Star.

2016 Nominating Committee – the election will take place at the October meeting. Verna will publish the slate in an email.

Area Master Gardener Organization meeting wrap-up (9/24 at Fairgrounds) – there was discussion about this meeting and items discussed. Some attendees reported on how useful they felt the meeting was. Attendees from other counties were somewhat amazed by the number of men that we have who belong to and actively participate in the activities of our organization.

Susan Laitas memorial – we are still working on this and are waiting to hear from the park board about putting one there. The family would still like to have something that would help at 14<sup>th</sup> and Chestnut. Phil Small will contact them and see if there is something that can be done. It was noted that Susan had been a leader for Junior Master Gardeners.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Election – see committee report

Donuts for Fairgrounds, Hawthorne Park, TH City Parks and Extension Office People – Bob Archer and Sam Ligget will take care of this item and Larry Agee will advise them on what has been done in the past.

Budget for 2016 – Pat is going to do more work on actual figures versus those budgeted for 2015.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gibson County is having a seminar on 10/17/15. If we provide them information about our 2016 Spring Seminar they will help promote it for us.

Abby Sweet reported that there will be a program titled “Composting and/or Cover Crops” at the Community (Floriculture) Building on 10/19/15 from 6 – 7:30pm. It will count as education time. The extension office will also have a webinar about state funding for highways.

Bob Archer said that members could claim 2 hours of education time for attending the Leadership Conference.

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

Next Board of Directors meeting will be at the Vigo County Public Library on 11/05/15 at 6:00pm.

Meeting adjourned after 1.5 hours volunteer time.

Seasons: Three-month segments marked by obsessive thoughts and compulsive behaviors among all gardeners. More specifically:

- Spring: The season when gardeners rush the growing season by planting annuals when the temperature first hits 65 degrees, even though it’s four weeks before the last frost.
- Summer: The season when gardeners spend money on water, fertilizer, tomato cages, bamboo stakes, and topsoil: and time on weeding, spreading mulch, killing insects, chasing groundhogs, and harvesting enough vegetables to make one salad.
- Fall: The season when gardeners come back from vacation to discover that their garden has become a humiliating, irreparable mess.
- Winter: The season when gardener’s power bills reach astronomical levels because of the electric lights needed to keep indoor plants growing when they should be dormant.

That’s all for this month, see you at the planning and scheduling meeting on Oct. 20.

*Jim*

Jim Luzar

Extension Educator

County Director for Parke & Vigo Counties

Partnership Coordinator

IVY Tech College