



## SEPTEMBER 2016

Our next meeting is September 20 and is our seed and plant exchange and carry-in. Those with last name starting with A thru L please bring a vegetable or salad and those with last name starting with M thru Z please bring a fruit or dessert.

## GARDEN GAZETTE

We will be voting at our October planning and scheduling meeting. The following is the slate of nominees:

President – Greg Fields

Vice President – Charlene McKean

Recording Secretary – Carole Dreher

Corresponding Secretary – Verna Gaskin

Treasurer – Mary Beth Prickel

Service Coordinator – Jessica Fields

Board of Directors: Two past officers – Larry Agee, Sam Ligget

At-large member – Phil Small

Any member unable to attend the October meeting may request an absentee ballot from the Recording Secretary. The absentee ballot must be returned and received by the Secretary for certification no later than seven (7) days prior to the October 18 meeting. In order to vote, any person, upon meeting the membership requirements per Article III of the By-Laws and upon payment of any required assessments as provided in the By-Laws will be entitled to vote at any business meeting.

## MINUTES OF AUGUST 16, 2016 PLANNING AND SCHEDULING MEETING, 4H BUILDING, WABASH VALLEY FAIRGROUNDS, 6:30pm

Educational time: 1 hour - Greg Fields introduced our speaker Peter Coppinger, a professor at Rose-Hulman. His field is Agrobacterium (mediated genetic engineering). He covered several topics: GMOs (genetically modified organisms). Genome editing (a new tool that allows specific changes to existing genes), Transgenetic Technology (moving DNA through different kingdoms). He listed how these new technologies can be regulated: by the USDA through field testing permits, notification and determination of non-regulated states; by the FDA determining food safety and feed safety; and by the

EPA consideration of pesticidal plants, tolerance exemption, registrations and herbicides. Farmer oriented GMO concerns are insect resistance, herbicide tolerance (especially for cotton, soybeans and Canola) and any effects on non-target insects. Consumer oriented concerns are fears about food safety, broad geological impacts, and super weeds that have become resistant to herbicides through overuse.

Meeting was called to order by President Bob Archer at 7:30pm. Bob announced that long time member Peggy Harlan is moving to Indianapolis to be close to her daughter and that members had brought snacks to share in Peggy's honor. He invited all those present to enjoy the snacks at this time.

MINUTES: Recording Secretary Carole Dreher said that minutes from the June P&S meeting and August Board of Director's meeting had been published in the August Gazette. Bob called for additions or corrections. Larry Agee noted one correction for P&S minutes. In the section describing the gardens visited during the June Garden tour, garden number 3 was listed as belonging to Betty Butler, but the correct name should have been Betty Butwin. Carole noted that she has passed around an attendance sheet.

Vice President: Greg Fields had nothing to report.

Corresponding Secretary: Verna asked if everyone has been receiving emails and The Gazette.

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

Service Coordinator: Jessica Fields reported that Connie Cooper had earned a bronze badge.

COMMITTEES:

Giving Garden: Greg reported that the recent sweet corn harvest which was shared among IVY Tech, Catholic Charities and Master Gardeners netted 168,000 ears of corn. The Giving Garden has now harvested and donated 95,837 pounds of produce (including 9,000 ears of corn).

Website: Sam Ligget – nothing to report.

Spring seminar 2017 – Jessica fields nothing to report.

Fair Committee: July 10-16 Final report: This report was published in the gazette. Verna noted that one of our members, Ruth Johnson, had entered 44 projects in the fair and received ribbons for each. She said another member had won a money prize in the King Arthur Flour baking contest with her zucchini bread. Ruth Johnson said several people said they appreciated Master Gardeners sponsoring these projects. Bob said that Dana had told Purdue people about the fair projects.

OLD BUSINESS:

Flower Beds: Bill Hiatt Head Bedkeeper

Butterfly and Patriotic Gardens – Carol Swearingen said that volunteers are needed to Keep these beds watered.

Memorial Garden: Bob was pleased to report that he and Larry Agee have completed this project. A dedication of the memorial is planned for September 1, 2016 at 6:00pm. One person asked what the dates on the plaques signified. Bob replied that the first date indicted the year that the honored person went through the intern class and the second date is the year that the person died.

2017 Election Committee – Peggy Harlan reported that her committee has found candidates for all offices except that of Recording Secretary.

September Seed and plant Exchange and Carry-in will take place at 6:00pm preceding the Planning and scheduling meeting on September 20, 2016. There will be no education speaker. Peggy Harlan said she thought September was rather late in the year for a seed and plant exchange.

Vigo County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Field Days will take place on September 13, 14 and 15 from 9:00am – 2:00pm at the Fairgrounds. Our topics will be Pollination and Vegetable ID. Volunteers will be needed.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Bob noted that Clay County would be hosting Nature Day on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am – 1:00pm. 2017 Calendar of P&S and Board meeting dates have been set.

State Fair MG Booth, Friday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am – 2pm, need 3-4 volunteers. Pat Youman, Beth Keyes, Peggy Harlan and Pam Thompson have volunteered for this project. Bob Archer said that he and Susan Polifroni had volunteered for this duty on August 10<sup>th</sup>. They had 75 – 100 persons who stopped by the booth and were able to search garden topics on-line.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Fall Intern Class meets on Tuesdays from 9am – 12noon starting September 6, 2016. So far only 4 people have signed up for the class and we really need to have a larger enrollment to conduct the classes.

#### NEXT MEETINGS:

- **Board Meeting September 1, 2016, Vigo County Library, 6:00pm**
- **Planning and scheduling meeting September 20, 2016, Vigo Fairgrounds, 4H meeting building, preceded by seed and plant exchange and carry-in meal.**

The meeting was adjourned with 1 hour of volunteer time for the 42 members in attendance. Respectfully submitted by Carole Dreher, Recording Secretary

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

September 1, 2015

Fairbanks Park, 1<sup>st</sup> & Oak, 6:00pm

Prior to the meeting, a dedication of the memorial fence in the garden maintained at the corner of First and Oak Streets was held and attended by Board members and some family members and friends of the persons who are memorialized on plaques appended to the fence. President Bob Archer welcomed those present and gave the background for the creation of the memorial. Vice President Greg Fields offered a prayer of thanksgiving for the lives of the honored members and their families and asked that the memorial be kept safe from vandalism and unfortunate events. Bob thanked all the people present and Board members moved to a shelter in the park to hold their monthly meeting.

President, Bob Archer called the meeting to order at 6:20pm.

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

Non Board Member in attendance: Dana Gadeken – Purdue Educator.

Minutes of Last Board Meeting: Carole said that minutes from the August Board of Directors meeting had been published in the August Gazette along with minutes from the June Planning & Scheduling meeting which was held after our annual garden tour. One correction had been identified in the June P&S minutes. In the list of gardens toured, garden #3 identified as belonging to Betty Butler who should have been named as Betty Butwin.

Vice President: Greg said he has been looking for speakers. Pat Youman said that she can put him into contact with a DNR employee who would like to present our group with some cautionary information about ordering seeds by mail and the fact that some may be contaminated. He also would like to present information about the Asian Longhorn Beetle which has been found in some states and is a danger to several trees and plants.

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

Treasurer: Pat passed around a recent bank statement for perusal by members. She also reported on income and expenses and noted the current balance in our account.

Service Coordinator: Jessica was not present but Bob said that four people will be getting badges.

#### COMMITTEES:

Giving Garden: Greg reported that the garden is winding down. He said that our potatoes were unsuccessful and that the green beans were finished. More than 100,000 lbs. of produce has been harvested and donated. On September 7<sup>th</sup>, his Ag Structures Class from IVY Tech will build compost structures for the garden. He has trimmed around the garden in preparation for a tour during a September 9<sup>th</sup> Purdue Board Meeting.

Flowerbeds – Bob Archer said that he plans to send out an email to the volunteers in charge of the bed at 3<sup>rd</sup> & Maple to let them know that it needs attention. He said the beds in front of the 4H Meeting Building at the Fairgrounds need to be rebuilt. The lumber surrounding them is deteriorating. He said that Bill Hiatt has estimated that it would likely cost around \$200.00. He said that the Extension is willing to pay half of the expense up to \$100.00. He said we will plan on a workday for this project in mid-October or November.

Website: Sam said he was concerned about some Spam received into our email.

Publicity: no report.

Spring Seminar 2017 – Jessica was not present but Greg reported that this committee had met. They are looking for two main speakers and then plan some breakout sessions.

Christmas in the Park – Charlene McKean has indicated a willingness to take over this project which has been successful for us in the past under the leadership of Beth Keyes.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Bed keeper reports

- **Memorial Fence – Bob Archer and Larry Agee reported that this project is now completed with the installation and dedication of the memorial fence and plaques.**

Fall Intern Classes – Dana Gadeken reported that the classes have been cancelled due to having only 5 persons enrolled.

2017 Nominating committee reported the following slate of candidates to Bob:

President – Greg Fields

Vice-President – Charlene McKean

Recording Secretary – Carole Dreher

Corresponding Secretary – Verna Gaskin

Treasurer – Mary Beth Prickel

Service Coordinator – Jessica Fields

Past Officers – Sam Ligget, Larry Agee

Member-at-large – Phil Small

Fall Master Gardener roundtable – Board members are invited to this event to be held on 9/27 at Spencer, Owen County Fairgrounds. Carole Dreher, Bob Archer and Larry Agee volunteered to take desserts.

SWCD field days, September 13-15 – Bob Archer and Phil Small will lead this effort covering topics on Pollination and Vegetable ID.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Sept. P&S meeting – plant/seed exchange/carry-in. Connie Cooper will bring chicken and other members will be asked to bring other items. Verna will specify in an email.

VCPL Learning Days 9/26 – this event is usually headed up by Sharon Polge and Carol Swearingen.

Greg Fields said that he would like to explore the possibility of growing fruit trees at the fairgrounds where the compost pile used to be.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

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

Next Planning & scheduling meeting, 4H meeting building on Sept. 20, 2016 at 6:00pm (note earlier time) carry-in

Next Board of Directors meeting will be at the VCPL on 10-6-16 at 6:00pm.

Meeting adjourned after 1 hour volunteer time.

*August was the time that we bid a fond farewell to summer and begin to prepare for autumn. All those toiling in the giving garden are rapidly approaching the finish line where they can put down their spades and send that very last tomato to the food pantry. Master Gardeners were able to maintain the beds sprinkled throughout the community, provide produce to the needy, as well as erect a memorial fence in honor of forever gardeners at the Fairbanks garden bed. These are wonderful gestures and reinforce the unwavering presence of the Wabash Valley Master Gardeners in Terre Haute and surrounding areas. So thank you for sticking it out in the heat and chaos, all in order to simply do a little bit of good in the community.*

*-Dana Gadeken, Agricultural and Natural Resource Educator*