

## March Wind

March wind is a jolly fellow;  
He likes to joke and play.  
He turns umbrellas inside out  
And blows men's hats away.

He calls the pussy willows  
And whispers in each ear,  
"Wake up you lazy little seeds;  
Don't you know that spring is here?"



THE GARDEN GAZETTE

MARCH 2020

Next Planning and scheduling meeting is Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 6:30pm at the Banquet Center at the Fairgrounds. Speaker for the Education time is John Rosene. Topic is on soil.

WABASH VALLEY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION  
PLANNING AND SCHEDULING MEETING  
February 18, 2020, 6:30pm, Banquet Center, Vigo co. fairgrounds

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm by Ruth Bohner. She noted that copies of a Member Skills and Interests Survey had been distributed asking members to identify their skills and interests. She asked that members fill them out and turn them in.

Educational time: Vice-President Stan Stevenson introduced our speaker, Scott Monroe, who presented information on "food safety from a home gardener's perspective". He said that the CDC estimates that 48 million Americans get sick from food borne illnesses each year. There are 128,000 hospitalizations and 3,000 deaths. To be counted one must go to a doctor. Some reasons for the increased number of illnesses reported are that Americans are buying more produce and we have better detections and reporting systems. Some microbial causes of these illnesses are: Bacteria, parasites, viruses, salmonella, e-coli and listeria. Some of the most common sources are: water, wildlife, and waste. Surface water is a high risk. Collected rainwater should only be used for ornamental. Well water is a moderate risk and municipal water is the least risk. Safe Produce Indiana ([www.SafeProduceIN.com](http://www.SafeProduceIN.com)) serves fruit and vegetable growers and consumers in the state by educating them about the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Food Safety Modernization.

**Recording Secretary:** Carole Dreher said that the January minutes had been published in the February 2020 Gazette. She also passed around an attendance sheet.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Verna Gaskin checked to see if everyone was receiving e-mails and The Gazette. She said that she had a recent message from Ruth Johnson. Her recovery from knee surgery is not going as well as planned and she will probably have to have a third surgery. She sent her thanks to everyone for their cards and prayers.

**Treasurer:** Susie Thompson was not present but she sent a report listing the balance in our accounts.

**Service Coordinator:** Brenda Christianson reminded members that 2020 dues are due and 2019 hours should be reported.

#### COMMITTEES

**Giving Garden:** Phil Small said that this committee is waiting for a meeting with a representative from IVY Tech about using their greenhouse.

**Website:** Sam Ligget reported that the Audit committee has approved our accounts and did not find any discrepancies.

**Spring Seminar 2020:** Shannon Giles passed around some sign-up sheets for volunteers for this event which will take place on Saturday, March 28, 2020. She talked about several items. We will have three speakers. Members are encouraged to bring breakfast food items for attendees. She passed out some signs for members to put up in the community to let the public know about the event. She also asked that members think about people/organizations who might like to place an ad in the booklet that we offer to attendees.

**Fair Committee 2020:** Verna Gaskin reported that set up for the Fair will take place on July 6. Volunteers will be needed on July 14, 15, 16, and 17. She said we will have 2 new “make and take” projects. One project will require at least 200 salt dough ornaments for participants to paint. She called for volunteers to make these ornaments. She said that recipes and supplies would be furnished.

**Purdue Extension Educator:** Dana Gadeken said that the Spring 2020 Intern Class has been cancelled because we did not get enough applicants.

#### OLD BUSINESS

**Vigo County Public Library Groundskeeper:** Susie Thompson and Bob Archer met with Drew, the VCPL groundskeeper, to discuss his needs. His previous experience was with a golf course in Florida. The Library mainly has grass and erosion problems, and pedestrians through the property. They have people, they just need some help for the education part. Bob and Susie made a few recommendations.

**Fairgrounds Community Building Renovation:** There was no news on this project.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Earth Day and Herb Fair:** Debi Gansz said that a meeting for the Earth Day committee was planned for February 25 at 11:00am. Nothing to report on Herb Fair.

**Terre Town Elementary School Garden:** Ruth said this project mainly involves the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students. Basically they would like to plant some plants around the school in containers (last year the containers had fake flowers). They would like to have some volunteers to help the students with this task.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Homebuilders Association 2020 Home & Outdoor Living Expo – Sat. and Sun. February 22 & 23. Phil Small called for volunteers. He said we already have some, but will need more. Volunteers will have seeds and brochures to hand out.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

2020 Purdue Master Gardener State Tour. Information about the tour is available on the Master Gardener website.

Valley Viewer Cover Page is reserved for May 17, 2020. We will focus on education and community activities. Photographs of our projects and/or activities will be welcome to use for this.

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

#### **NEXT MEETINGS**

- Board meeting March 5, 2020, Vigo Co. Library, 6:00pm.
- Planning and scheduling meeting, March 17, 2020, Banquet Center, Fairgrounds

The meeting was adjourned with 1 hour of education time and 1 hour volunteer time for the 30 members in attendance.

Respectfully submitted by Carole Dreher, Recording Secretary

WABASH VALLEY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, March 5, 2020  
Vigo County Public Library, room 6

**Call to order:** President Ruth Bohner called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

#### **OFFICER REPORTS**

**Recording Secretary:** Carole Dreher said the minutes had been published in the Garden Gazette.

**Vice President:** Stan Stevenson was not present. Ruth announced that John Rosene will be speaking on soil at the March meeting.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Verna Gaskin said she had nothing to report.

**Treasurer:** Susie Thompson presented a printed report. She said that Terre Haute Savings Bank has requested that authorized signatures and addresses be updated. We had used the Master Gardener PO Box address so Susie changed it to the Extension Office.

**Service Coordinator:** Brenda Christianson said we still have members who have not entered 2019 hours, entered an insufficient amount of hours or failed to pay their dues. After some discussion it was decided that we would prepare a letter to notify members who need to bring their status up to date. Since some people do not use a computer it was suggested that a copy of the printed form for recording hours accompany the letter for the recipient to record their hours and submit them to Dana Gadeken or Brenda Christianson so they can enter them into the Purdue Master Gardener.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Earth day:** Verna Gaskin, Bob Archer and Phil Small requested copies of Master Gardener publications to be handed out on Earth Day at St. Mary of the Woods and at the Herb Faire.

**Giving Garden:** Bob Archer said there would be a seed planting session next Tuesday, March 10 at 10:00am. Vicki Cochran provided seeds for the Herb Garden which they will be planting.

**Bed Keepers:** Ruth reported that Vicki had shared needs for the Patriotic Garden. Gary Ellis has planted seeds for the Herb Garden.

**Website:** Sam Ligget said that he had nothing to report.

**2020 Spring Seminar:** Phil and Ruth said that we have 3 speakers for this event. We still need to have brochures printed to be provided to participants. We need a few more vendors and it would be good to have some more sponsors. Ads are \$50 each.

**Purdue Extension:** Dana Gadeken said that she was considering offering a 4-H Spark Club to potential members. She was considering Good Friday or a different day during Spring Break. She asked if Master Gardeners might consider providing some money for this effort to be used for materials and supplies. She was reminded that we already have a line item in our budget to promote membership in 4-H and that some of it could be used for this activity.

#### OLD BUSINESS

**Audit Report/Bank CDs wrap-up:** Sam presented a printed report from the Audit Committee which stated that it was their opinion that the financial records of the Wabash Valley Master Gardeners, Inc., fairly represented the financial position of the organization for a period from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 and that they were sufficiently complete and auditable. The document was signed by all members of the Audit Committee and a copy was presented to the Recording Secretary.

**Valley Viewer Photo Ops in May 17, 2020 edition of the Terre Haute Tribune-Star:** Ruth asked that members provide photos that they might have of activities and/or events.

**Skills and Interest survey results:** Ruth said that she had loaded the results of the survey in to a computer spreadsheet. She said that the document might be something that Stan could use to identify topics of interest to the members as well as members that might be able to present an educational presentation.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Meadows Elementary School garden money request:** Mike McIntyre is the contact there. They hope to put plants into pots here.

**Terre Town Elementary School garden:** They hope to plant a garden here and would like help in determining what plants to plant and how to plant them.

**Making educational signs for our current gardens:** There was discussion here about how we might describe the plants in our gardens to share with the public, especially the Herb Garden. Some suggestions were a map listing the plants and showing their location in the beds and rocks or signs painted with names and information.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

#### **NEXT MEETINGS**

Planning and Scheduling meeting, Banquet Center, March 17, 6:30pm

Board of Directors meeting, Vigo Co. Public Library, room 6, April 2, 6pm

**Adjourn:** Ruth announced the adjournment of the meeting with 1.33 hours of volunteer time.

Respectfully submitted by Recording Secretary Carole Dreher

