



GARDEN GAZETTE MAY 2015

May Planning and scheduling meeting is May 19, at **6:00pm** at the Ute Shelter in Deming Park next to the Patriotic Garden, Butterfly Garden and the Herb Garden. This will be a carry-in with the meat and drinks being furnished by the Association. Those with last name beginning with A thru L bring vegetable or salad; those with last name beginning M through Z bring fruit or dessert.

Planning and scheduling meeting April 21, 2015, 6:30pm, 4H Building, Wabash Valley Fairgrounds. Educational time earned was 1 hour. Our speaker was Robyn Morton, Associate

Director of the White Violet Center and Alpaca Ministry of the Sisters of Providence. She said that the main purpose of the center is to serve as an educational ministry. The center was founded in 1996. They have 7 acres of organic gardens, a 40 alpaca herd, beehives, a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) and a bluebird trail. The Sisters of Providence attempt to practice Permaculture. Under this premise the Sisters believe that God created Nature and they are trying to set up systems that emulate as much as possible the way of Nature. They use the "chop and drop" method of farming. The Alpacas provide both fertilizer and fiber. They are planning to set up a self-guided tour. They have also recently been granted an Organic certification.

Meeting was called to order by President Bob Archer.

MINUTES: Bob noted that minutes had been published in the Gazette and called for 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 noted there will be no speaker at the May meeting which will be a carry-in dinner at the Ute Shelter in Deming Park. The program for June will be a garden tour.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Verna Gaskin checked to see if everyone was receiving emails and The Gazette. She also noted that she had a few corrections to be made to the mailing list and said that Pat Woods is getting a new email address.

TREASURER: Pat Youman reported the balance in our account.

SERVICE COORDINATOR: Pat Woods was not present at the meeting.

COMMITTEES:

GIVING GARDEN: Greg Fields said that volunteers planted over 100 flats on March 27th. He said he will ask for volunteers to plant potatoes in early May. He also said some panels which had been donated to the Garden were stolen.

FLOWER BEDS: Bill Hiatt, Head Bedkeeper, reported that several thousand dollars worth of tools had been stolen from the Park Board. Most of them had been stored at the Dobbs Park and Fairground facilities. Our budget has been approved with a \$200 reduction.

Butterfly Garden: Bill said that we need a chairperson for this garden. A workday is planned for Monday, April 29 from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Volunteers are asked to bring rakes and trimmers. Verna will send out an email requesting help. The Park asked if we could get it cleaned up before the following weekend as a wedding is planned for that location.

OLD BUSINESS:

A raised garden is planned for the Community Gardens at ISU. Wood is needed. We also need approval to allocate \$75 for expenses to support the creation of the raised garden at the ISU gardens.

EARTH DAY AT SMWC: Verna said that Debi Gansz said they had one of their best days. It was a beautiful day and plenty of volunteers were on hand.

HERB FAIR: Larry Agee reported that this will be held on May 9th at the Wabash Valley Fairgrounds.

C.H.A.N.C.E.S.: Bob Archer and Phil Small will do a potato planting demonstration.

The First Friday event scheduled for April 3rd was rained out.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Abby Sweet said that her office phone number is 812-462-3371 and her cell phone number is 812-798-5614 and her email is asweet@purdue.edu. She also said that some volunteer help is needed at Lost Creek elementary school to help with a garden and deer fencing.
- There was discussion about making an additional donation to IVTC because of their help to us for the Spring Seminar and the use of their greenhouse. Sam Ligget moved that we donate \$500 to Ivy Tech's FFA. Patti Weaver seconded the motion which passed by a voice vote.
- Bob announced that he had appointed a standing Publicity Committee with Greg Pies, Jessica Fields and Jane Santucci as members.
- Our meeting in June will take place at Bill Hiatt's place after our annual garden tour which is scheduled for June 13th. Currently we have one volunteer garden but like to have 4 – 5. Persons who are willing to volunteer their garden for a tour should volunteer either to Bill Hiatt or Verna Gaskin.
- The Extension has a Master Gardener brochure which we hope to have available at meet and greet activities.
- The Wabash Valley Fair will take place on July 12th through the 18th. On Tuesday we will have our Little Sprouts activity and make and take "paint a rock", Wednesday will feature paint a banner, Thursday's activity will be flower arranging and Friday's feature will be our popular stepping stone creations. Ruth Johnson said that she has several flags cut out and has distributed them to several volunteers to be sewn up. Verna said that volunteers will meet at Bill Hiatt's house on June 15 at 10:00am to make hypertufa rocks.
- Bob asked if the group wanted to continue participating in the Altrusa Chili Cook-Off. A show of hands revealed 4 persons in favor of continued participation and more were opposed.
- The May meeting will take place at the Ute Shelter in Deming Park and will be preceded by a carry-in dinner. Verna will send out an email with details and assignments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- J & J Nursery (Jessica Fields) is planning a plant giveaway of plants to low-income people on Saturday, April 25th at the Fairgrounds. Any help from Master Gardeners to help with giving out the plants would be helpful, especially in explaining how to plant and care for them. The event will take place from 9:00am to 12:00noon.
- Bob announced that Jessica Fields has agreed to serve as chair for the 2016 Spring Seminar.
- Larry Agee said that the Herb Society is sponsoring a tour south of Columbus, IN on June 6.

NEXT MEETINGS:

- Board meeting May 7, 2015, Vigo Co. Library, 6:00pm.
- Planning and scheduling meeting Tuesday, May 19, 6:00pm, Ute Shelter in Deming Park.

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 OF MAY 7, 2015, 6:00pm

President Bob Archer called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

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

Non Board members: none

Minutes of last Board meeting: Carole Dreher – published in the April Gazette. There were no additions or corrections.

Vice President: Greg did not have anything to report.

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

Treasurer: Pat reported the balance of our funds. She presented a current bank statement for Board members to examine. She also noted that necessary tax forms have been filed.

Service Coordinator: Pat was not present.

COMMITTEES:

Giving Garden: Greg said that 150 pounds of potatoes have been planted. If it is not raining on Monday (May 11th), volunteers will be doing some planting beginning at 8:00am. He said that he is getting a price on polycarbonate panels to replace the missing ones. Money to pay for them will come out of the Giving Garden budget. Some sweet corn seed has been donated to Abby Sweet. John Rosene will arrange to have it planted on some property that belongs to Westminster Village. In return for use of the land, Westminster would like to have donated for their use.

OLD BUSINESS:

Gardens: Butterfly: Sue Polifroni and her husband will get some annuals to plant in this garden. The garden looks pretty good after some clean-up work. We will however need to get some more mulch. When asked if he had found a chair for this garden, Bill said that Cindy Little is a kind of chair.

Patriotic: Bill and Carol have got this garden into shape.

Hawthorne: Bob said that some of the roses that appeared to be dead are trying to come up from their roots. They will need to be fertilized. He talked to park chairman about the garden. We may want to add something here to fill gaps. Some plants like daylilies might help fill in the gaps.

Raised Garden at ISU: Annette Benefil helped work on this. It is 3 blocks high and about 3 feet wide. ISU will fill it in with dirt. Bob showed member a photo of the bed. Annette will buy plants and tend to them during the summer months. Plans are to have herbs that people can pinch off to use in their food preparation

First and Oak: The City would like to have this bed cleaned out by the time of the Wabash Valley Festival. Verna said that they had planned to use zinnias in this bed again this year but had been unable to find any plants to purchase. Some other suggestions were offered.

Website: Sam reported that though Greg Pies had volunteered to help, so far they have been unable to get him logged on to the site as a user who can make changes.

Fairgrounds beds: We need a workday to help get these beds cleaned up and ready for the fair.

Herb Fair: We need to locate a key for the storage trailer at the fairgrounds to get our table out to use at this event.

Extra IVTech Gift: John Rosene will email the name of a contact person to Bob Archer.

NEW BUSINESS:

Master Gardener Brochure: We want to have some of the printed and paste labels on them with the name of the contact person, Abby Sweet, along with her contact information printed on them.

Announcements:

- Fall Intern Class: We would like to have mentors available to work with students. The class will begin in September so we will need to conduct mentor classes during the summer. Carol Swearingen will continue to get volunteers to serve as facilitators and some other person would take care of scheduling mentoring.

- Greg Fields passed on a thank you from Jessica Fields to all of the volunteers who helped with the plant give away at her J & J Nursery on April 25th.
- The May planning and scheduling meeting will take place in the Ute Shelter in Deming Park. Since there will be a carry-in prior to the meeting, activities will begin at **6:00pm**. Carol Swearingen is planning to purchase meat for the meal. Persons whose last name begins with A – L will be asked to bring a vegetable or a salad. Persons whose last name begins with M – Z will be asked to bring a fruit dish or dessert.

Next planning and scheduling meeting – Deming Park Ute Shelter May 19 at 6:00pm with a carry-in meal preceding the meeting.

Next Board meeting will be at the Vigo County Public Library, Meeting Room 6, June 4 at 6:00pm.

Meeting adjourned after 1 hour volunteer time.

Respectfully submitted by Carole E. Dreher, Recording Secretary

Dear Wabash Valley Master Gardeners:

The weather has not been the greatest so far with respect to getting plants growing. Here is to some warmer, dry weather to get summer rolling!

Kudos! WVMGA for plant sale at the Herb Faire last Saturday! Moving to the Wabash Valley Fairgrounds was a huge success and it looks like the event will return to the fairgrounds in 2016.

The Purdue Extension-Vigo County Office has several projects underway and Camp RAVE is another garden site this year. We would love to have a volunteer or two help with the garden on Monday afternoons. Contact Abby Sweet at the Vigo office if you would be able to help and thanks in advance. She can be reached Monday - Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. at 812-462-3371.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to great things from the Giving Garden and other WVMGA projects.

Jim

Jim Luzar
 Extension Educator/Ag Natural Resources
 County Extension Director Parke & Vigo Counties
 Purdue University
 Partnership Coordinator
 IVY Tech College

Abby

Abby Sweet
 Extension Development Educator

**Watch for Pond Management Program information at a later date!!!

