



**Wabash Valley Master Gardeners Gazette
April 2026**

Next meeting April 21, 6 P.M.

SPECIAL SITE: DOBBS PARK NATURE CENTER

Education: Carrissa Lovett, Dobbs Park Naturalist: Wildflowers

Dues Reminder: Because we have been meeting virtually, the deadline for dues has been extended to April 21. After that, the assessment for 2026 will be \$25.00. Please pay your dues treasurer Susie Thompson. If mailing your dues, please send to WVMGA, P.O. Box 11532, Terre Haute IN 47802.

Herb Faire: The committee asks that as you start your garden clean up, please collect gently used tools, pots, gloves, and garden decor to be part of the garden yard sale at the Herb Faire. Plants are also needed for the sale May 9 at the fairgrounds. Volunteers needed for set up and sale day. **Set up is Friday, May 8, starting at 1 p.m. Sale volunteers should be at the fairgrounds by 7:15 a.m. on May 9.** Drivers with pickup trucks needed to move plants from the Terre Haute South Vigo High School greenhouse Friday. Please contact Debbie Lazzell if you can help.

Website Updates: Angie met with Tabby and Erin on Tuesday at the Extension Office. They have invested several hours this week addressing our list of items that need updated on the website.

Members Corner is now password protected. The password is: WVMGAMembers26. Please keep this password secure.

The website has a fresh new look. Members will find accurate and up-to-date information. All our committee sign-up sheets have been scanned.

Previously, there were 77 links to past issues of the Gazette on our website that did not work. Erin has been working for the past several days to try to recover each of them. Many have been successfully recovered; others may not be able to be recovered.

We owe a big WVMG thank you to Tabby and Erin for their efforts, and Angie too for persevering.

Garden Seminars/Education Hour Opportunities/Fun Events:

April 18, Earth Day Celebration at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, 11 a.m. 3 p.m.

April 25, Hendricks County Master Gardeners, “Gardening for All Ages,” Danville IN, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Hendricks County Fairgrounds.

May 2, 12th Annual Putnam County Master Gardeners Plant Auction, Putnam County Fairgrounds, 9:15 a.m. preview, auction starts at 10 a.m.

May 19, Intern Picnic, Deming Park, details to come.

June 27, *Twilight in The Garden, In Celebration of National Pollinators Week,* 4–7 p.m. Free this year! Spread the word!

WVMGA BOARD MEETING MINUTES MARCH 5. 2026

Attendees: A. Decker, L. Miller, S. Thompson, B. Lutz, B. Brugnaux, V. Cochran, D. Lazzell, Mindy Leo, T. Flinn

February Board Meeting Minutes-Barbara motioned for approval. Motion seconded and approved pending one correction.

Susie T. reported on the organization's finances. The finance report was approved. Barbara indicated the annual audit of the organization's finances is complete. Found one non-returned check. Susie is following up with the bank.

Earth Day-Beth L announced acknowledgement of SMWC application. Vicki said she was having seed germination issues with the Teddy Bear sunflower seeds. Those seeds were from 2020. She said she purchased new and will replant. Vicki also described a practice used in previous years in which they used ice cream cones from Dairy Queen in place of seed pots for the planting that involves the children. She is going to visit Dairy Queen and ask if they would be willing to donate ice cream cones for this year's event.

Herb Faire-Debbie said she was waiting on Parks Department to repair the greenhouse at Dobbs Park so she could begin planting. Tabby has started some seeds, and they are being maintained at the Extension Office.

Angie announced she would be meeting with Tabby and Erin at the Extension Office to update the WVMGA website.

Angie announced that she and Phil would be completing the WVCF annual organizational health review process. This must be completed every year to maintain eligibility to apply for grant.

Angie requested the board consider a Strategic Planning meeting for the organization towards the end of the year.

Angie, Beth, and Barbara agreed to divide the bylaws into three sections for revision and have a draft copy available in August.

Meeting Adjourned - 1.5 hours volunteer time

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Lutz

**April 21 meeting at Dobbs Park Nature Center with
Naturalist Carissa Lovett speaking on wildflowers.**

WVMGA BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 17, 2026

The meeting was held virtually.

Education: Linda provided a video from the Purdue extension Hot Topics series titled “Backyard Gardening and Landscaping for Birds” presented by Jessica Outcalt. **1.0 hours** education recorded.

Business Meeting:

Call to Order: Angie D. opened the meeting. January and February business meeting minutes were motioned and seconded for approval. Voting was conducted by “Yes” response in the chat line. Both meeting minutes were approved by the membership.

Treasurer Report Susie T. reported on checking and CD balances. Due to the business meeting being held virtually, the March 1st deadline for dues is extended to the April 21 business meeting. Dues are \$20 until that date, afterwards dues increase to \$25 per member. Dues may also be mailed to the WVMGA postal office at PO Box 11532, Terre Haute, IN 47802.

Officers Report -Lynda M. reported the education for April will be provided by Carissa Lovett, from Dobbs Park,

New Business-

Susie announced the annual financial audit was completed. Awaiting signatures to finalize the report.

Beth Lutz announced receipt of the application submitted for the Earth Day event held at SMWC had been acknowledged. Vicki had some germination issues with the initial seed planting for sunflowers. She purchased new seeds and replanted the Teddy Bear sunflowers. Happily, they are growing. Vicki had also stated that for previous Earth Day events, the Master Gardeners have used ice cream cones for the children to plant their sunflowers. She is going to approach Dairy Queen to see if they would contribute to this year’s event.

Herb Faire-Debbie L reported that the greenhouse at TH South (Thanks to Jan Barbee) has been offered for use. Seed planting and up potting will begin soon.

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Giving Garden Corner **A monthly update**

The Giving Garden is off to a strong start. Having the tractor on-site has been a game changer. We are able to take advantage of nice days and till each section, as needed, before planting. Potatoes and onions have been planted.

Several soup kitchens have provided feedback that salads are highly enjoyed, but rarely served, because of a lack of availability. This was a catalyst to our experimenting with a low tunnel.

We have installed two, 6' x 20' low tunnels allowing us to start earlier and extend our growing season. Over 100 lettuce seedlings, along with 30 cabbage, broccoli, and basil are planted.

This year, we are participating in 4 separate seed trials. Data on germination, disease resistance, earliness, and appearance is being collected on 3 varieties of lettuce, basil, cabbage, and snapdragons. Seed companies use seed trial data to determine which varieties they will offer in catalogs.



Hoop
Tunnels
planted
and ready
to grow!



NEXT MEETINGS:

Board – May 7, 2026

S&P – April 21, 2026, AT DOBBS PARK NATURE CENTER, 6 p.m.

May 19, 2026, Deming Park

2026 Board Members: Angie Decker, president; Lynda Miller, vice president; Susie Thompson, treasurer; Beth Lutz, recording secretary; Barbara Brugnaux, corresponding secretary; Debbie Lazzell, Vicki Cochran, and Mindy Leo, members at large; Patti Weaver, service coordinator