



**Wabash Valley Master Gardeners Gazette  
February 2026**

**IMPORTANT!!!**

**NEXT MEETING FEBRUARY 17, 2026, 6:30 P.M.**

**ZOOM Meeting Only**

**Education:** Geoff Schortgen from Purdue Extension: Weed ID  
and Control of Invasive Species

To Join Zoom Meeting

<https://purdue-edu.zoom.us/j/91498123210>

Meeting ID: 914 9812 3210

**Beginning March 17, our meetings will begin at 6 p.m.**

**Dues Reminder:** The assessment for 2026 is now due. Because our February meeting is by Zoom, the deadline for dues increasing from \$20 to \$25 for late payment is extended to our March 17 meeting. If mailing your dues, please send to WVMGA, P.O. Box 11532, Terre Haute IN 47802.

**Spring Seminar:** Tentative date remains June 27. Contact Lynda Miller if you would like to be notified of the next committee meeting.

**Events:** The Putnam County master gardeners' garden fair is March 21.

The Sisters of Providence Earth Day celebration is April 18.

The Herb Faire is May 9, with setup May 8. Please contribute garden/yard sale items for the sale.

The intern picnic is set for May 19 at Deming Park. More details later.

The Vigo County Fair Make and Takes are July 9-12. As always, trinkets for the steppingstones project are needed.

*Please send Barbara Brugnaux at [bbrugnaux@gmail.com](mailto:bbrugnaux@gmail.com) alerts about other events as you find out about them so that they can be posted.*

The February Board minutes will be included in the March gazette to allow the Board to review and approve before publishing.

### **WVMGA Planning and Scheduling Meeting Minutes January 20, 2026**

**Education:** Tabby F. presented Youth Protection Training for Purdue Extension Volunteers. This is mandatory training. Those not in attendance at this meeting will receive notification to complete the training. Training must be completed before volunteering any hours involving children.

**0.5 hours** education recorded.

#### **Business Meeting:**

**Call to Order:** Angie D. opened the meeting having three new interns from the January class introduce themselves.

Susie T. reported that the fidelity bond was cancelled because the association is covered under other business policies.

Susie reported on the status of two CDs. She presented the summary of fundraising activities for 2025. The 2026 project budget previously approved by the board was presented to the membership. Barbara B motioned to approve the 2026 budget and Beth L. seconded. The membership voted to approve the 2026 budget. There were no dissents.

Angie D. presented the proposed business meeting months and start time. Lo S. made motion to move meetings to 6:00 pm. Lynda M seconded. The membership vote carried to move the start time for business meetings to 6:00 pm. Lynda M. motioned to keep meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month. Vicki C. seconded. The vote from membership was carried to use the months of January, February, March, April, May, August, September October and November for business meetings.

Angie D reported that Mindy L volunteered for the open board vacancy. Since there had been a vacancy for some time, Barbara B. motioned that we suspend the by-law for Article IX, Section VII and conduct the vote at this meeting in lieu of waiting until the February meeting. B. Lutz seconded. A vote of the membership passed the motion. Barbara B motioned that the nomination of Mindy L for at-large board vacancy be moved to vote. The motion was seconded and the vote was approved by membership.

Angie D discussed the status of the committees. Several committees do not have volunteers or chairs listed. There are currently 20 committees. If you cannot come to the business meetings and you would like to volunteer for a committee, contact Angie.

Treasurer Susie T. requested that association members who are authorized signatories for WVMGA business for the coming year (i.e. CDs, checks) are mentioned by name and title in November meeting minutes.

**Volunteer time: 1.0 hour**

**Eighteen in attendance: 16 members, 1 Purdue extension, 1 spouse**

Respectfully submitted, Beth Lutz

## ***Giving Garden Corner*** **A monthly update**

The Master Gardeners' Giving Garden was recently highlighted in the Wabash Valley Community Foundation 2025 Annual Report (*see last page of Gazette for the story*) our food and educational support for the community. We certainly appreciate and thank the WVCF for their amazing support of our Giving Garden through their very generous grant for our new tractor last year. We also thank First Financial for another generous trust distribution recently from the Benson, Bauer, Young Trust Fund in support of the Giving Garden. But most importantly, we thank you as members of the WVMGA for your continued support of the garden as we begin our 17th growing season. As with ALL of our very important programs and projects, we can't do it without your faithful volunteer efforts.

Thank you!  
Phil and Angie

### **NEXT MEETINGS:**

Board – March 5, 2026, 6 p.m.  
S&P – February 17, 2026  
March 17, 2026, 6 p.m.

*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, Mindy Leo, members at large; Patti Weaver, service coordinator.*

# Cultivating Community

## *A New Tractor for the Giving Garden*

The Wabash Valley Master Gardeners Association is moving forward in its mission to grow fresh food for the community. With a \$17,640 grant from the Community Foundation, the Association purchased a new tractor and attachments for the Giving Garden, making it easier for volunteers to maintain the nearly one-acre production and demonstration garden.

Established in 2010 on land generously provided by the Wabash Valley Fair Association, the Giving Garden produces approximately 10,000 pounds of fresh produce each year, which is then donated to local soup kitchens, food pantries and educational programs. The new tractor, received at a discount through a local retailer, reduces the physical demands on volunteers while strengthening the sustainability of the garden for years to come.

This new equipment allows Association members to continue walking the road of service to the community with greater efficiency and care. Through the Community Foundation's support, the Giving Garden can keep nourishing neighbors, fostering growth and creating new pathways for volunteerism and community impact.

