

Owen County Garden Club Minutes

March 30, 2009 Meeting

Thirty-six people attended the March meeting at the 4-H Extension office.

Following are some very brief notes from Greg Davies' informative presentation on bees and bee keeping:

The best time to establish a hive is in April or May. Materials needed include box, cover, inner cover, and 10 frames. The cost for these items would be approximately \$140. In addition, the going rate for bees is approximately \$50 for 2 pounds of bees (c. 7000 bees). Note: At the peak of a season, a hive will have 50,000 to 60,000 bees. A beekeeper must have two hives. Honey is harvested once a year, though some beekeepers do it more frequently.

A hive should have a southern exposure. Ideally, it would get sun in the morning and shade later in the day. It should be sheltered from the north wind.

Hives vary in "personality"; some are gentle, some more aggressive. A hive should be checked between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., but not on windy or rainy days.

Agenda items were as follows:

Tree in memory of Bill Ligon: Nancy Knapp has arranged for the club to get a red maple from Bill Glass. He will plant the tree on the northeast corner of the Courthouse Square on Saturday, May 2nd—the opening day of the Farmer's Market. Club members made a motion and seconded it to accept this plan and to incur the cost of \$250.

Urns: John Fuhs volunteered to take the greens out of the urns. Members should plant their urns by May 10th.

Triangle Meeting: Julie Coffin scheduled a meeting for Monday April 27th, at 6 p.m., at her house. The purpose will be to set up the planting plan and schedule for this season's Triangle maintenance.

Plant Sale: Annie reconfirmed that the plant sale will occur on May 2nd, the opening day of the Farmer's Market. Members should dig, pot up, and

label plants in preparation for that day. We will begin to assemble at 7 a.m. Jo Ann Ligon and Jean Bruce are in charge.

Cooper Park: Dave Brinson indicated that he would like to meet at the park during the week of April 4th to talk about what this garden needs this year. Karen Fulk, Pat Newforth, and Nancy Knapp asked to be added to the Cooper Park helper list.

Summer meeting: We will once again hold a progressive meeting during June; date to be determined. Ann Henk and Sue Ciresi graciously volunteered to host.

Owen County Fair, July 5–11: Members discussed the theme for this year's flower contest (on Tuesday of Fair week). In keeping with the Christmas theme of the Open Class building, members adopted the contest theme "A Gift from the Garden." The club will award prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place: \$25, \$15, and \$10.

The club will have its usual 10' x 10' display space in the Open Class building. As was decided at the January meeting, we will put up a vegetable gardening display this year. Floyd Richards, Dave Brinson, and Tony Neff are in charge.

Other Community Topics: Grass Roots Owen (GRO) has begun to open discussions about a community garden space. New club member Jeannie McElwain is a member of GRO. Nancy Knapp, Floyd Richards, Tony Neff, and Terry Clark all indicated that they are interested in being a part of GRO, or at least in being informed about what's happening. Club members also discussed the possibility of getting involved in a children's garden project at the Owen County YMCA.

Treasurer's Report: Nancy Knapp reported that the club has \$2,420.89 in the checking account.

Submitted by Julie Coffin, 5/25/09

