



Minutes (sort of) and Information from January 16, 2017, Meeting

- ◆ **Thursday, February 16—Coffee & Catalogs—AND a Wintersowing Demonstration, 9:00 A.M.**
NOTE: Change of venue! The Carnegie's furnace has gone out, and the Coffee Shoppe is closed for the foreseeable future. Stay tuned (email, website, Facebook page) for Plan B!
- ◆ **Sunday, March 19—Educational Speakers—2:30 social, presentations at 3:00 and 4:15**
Creating Wildlife Habitat: Joni James, Master Naturalist, Environmental Educator, Nature Photographer
Designing a Garden, Pat Sollars, Master Gardener, Educational Speaker, Vermillion Co., IL
Spencer Presbyterian Church, 154 N. Main Street (we'll be in Cornerstone Hall—at the rear of the church; enter from Washington Street).
Angie Fender volunteered to *manage* refreshments for this event. She'll need helpers . . .
- ◆ **Monday, April 17—General Meeting; 6:00 social, 6:30 pitch-in, meeting following**
Hosted by Karen and Chad Crosby, 962 Clark Road
- ◆ **April—Sweet Owen Clean-Up**
Club members agreed that this (promoting roadside trash pick-up) is a good thing to do. We will continue in some form or other. Julie will check with Spencer Pride to see if they want to co-sponsor again this year. Julie will also check with the Recycling Center personnel to see what kind of cooperation we can gain there.
- ◆ **Tree planting at MyPath Trailhead (March? April?)**
Construction at the Trailhead is proceeding, and the MyPath coordinator will be in touch when the time is right. [Just to re-cap: We have been saying that to note and celebrate the club's 20th anniversary (yes, this conversation started way back in fall 2015), we will donate 6 trees. The number 6 was chosen because we have 6 still-active charter members. There will be an opportunity, on a dedicatory and/or educational plaque of some sort, to credit the Garden Club, the occasion of its 20th anniversary, and to credit the club's founder, Kathleen Maupin.]
- ◆ **Saturday, May 6—Plant Sale, Opening Day of Owen County Farmers' Market**
We will set up shop in two booth spaces, as usual. And also as usual: Please start thinking and digging and potting up early. Get them settled in their pots. LABEL them. ☺ If you need help digging something, raise a hand; we'll gather some help. If *everyone* brings *a few* plants, we'll have such a great array for our customers. Always a fun day.
- ◆ **Milkweed**
Club members agreed to undertake the purchase and re-sale of milkweed plugs, much like we did in 2015. Nan Girk and Karen Fender agreed to make some inquiries from possible sources and get prices. To enhance the effort to provide habitat for monarchs, members agreed to add New England asters to the project. Asters bloom later in the season, so they provide nectar for monarchs (and others) when much of the rest of the garden is no longer blooming.
Because of the habits of native milkweed, we will acquire the plugs at the end of April or first week of May. With a collection of 4" pots donated by Vickie Whicker and other club members, we will transplant the milkweed and asters and raise them until mid-June, when we will once again rent a booth at the Farmers' Market and sell. In 2015, our prices were \$4 each or 3 for \$10. That still seems to be a reasonable price set-up. All of these steps will need helping hands.

◆ **July 9–15—Owen County Fair**

Note the dates. We'll need a set of volunteers for Saturday, July 8, and then Sunday, July 16. The Fair theme is not yet available (around which to plan our display for the Open Class building).

◆ **Informal Garden Visits?**

Julie raised the idea of arranging informal garden visits at some point during the summer. The idea stems from the notion that we all love to see other people's gardens, no matter whether they are "perfect" or weed-free or impeccably groomed. There need not be a meeting or a meal involved; just casual visiting at a designated site or two. Discussion was inconclusive.

◆ **Day Trip**

Jill McKay, who coordinates Jill's Fun and Stress-Free Trips, was invited to suggest some possible garden-oriented destinations as possible one-day bus trips for club members and guests. She tossed out several ideas, and the membership agreed that Louisville sounded like the most interesting destination. The dates of June 2, 3, 9, and 10 came up as possible trip dates. Jill agreed to flesh out some details about the day and provide them so that Julie can broadcast to the club and gauge interest.

—Since then, plans have developed. Approximately 18 people have expressed interested in going. Based on the preferences that people expressed on the proposed dates, we have settled on **SATURDAY, JUNE 3**. The two destinations are Locust Grove (historic home and grounds) and Yew Dell Botanical Gardens (display gardens galore). The fee will include entry to both sites and a box lunch. Jill's cost estimates are as follows: If we fill a 40-person bus: \$83. If we fill a 56-person bus: \$73. Contact Julie, if you haven't already, if you are interested.

◆ **Monday, October 2...to be confirmed**—Annual Weenie Roast and Pitch-In, McCormick's Creek State Park

◆ **Saturday, Dec. 2, Christmas at the Square**

Angie already has an idea for this year's craft for the children, which involves small "play clay" medallions with tiny little dried flower "arrangements" glued to them.

◆ **The Triangle - - - and Cooper Commons**

With the beginning of construction on Morgan Street anticipated this year, we think we will begin a two-year hiatus at the Triangle. Julie has put out feelers to INDOT and to a Town Councilman who will be aware of INDOT's schedule, so that we are sure to know what is happening and when.

Club members agreed that the Triangle Crew would lend its energies to the garden at Cooper Commons for the duration. Angie feels that some modifications are due in that garden this year.

◆ **The Town Pots**

Because of the construction on Morgan Street, we will be removing the 5 remaining pots on Morgan Street. Two of the pots are slated to replace the little pots at the Post Office. The other three pots have no homes at this point. Julie will store in her barn.

A question was raised about different pots/larger pots, especially in light of the changes that are occurring on Morgan Street and around the Square. Julie indicated that the Spencer Main Street organization is certainly interested in having planters in the new streetscape being planned for around the courthouse. Interest was expressed in the Club giving up the smaller pots in favor of tending larger pots or planters that may be part of Main Street's plans for downtown. Julie is on one of the Main Street committees and will be sure to speak up for the Garden Club when appropriate.

◆ **The Courthouse Native Perennial Collection**

Nancy Knapp volunteered to lead ongoing efforts to maintain the plantings around the Courthouse. She will coordinate with county maintenance supervisor, Rick Shunk, and convey to the club what needs to be done and when.

◆ **Club Roster**

Julie will update and print a club roster and distribute both hard copy and electronic copies to all members, as appropriate. She will have these available at the April 17th meeting.

◆ **Garden Tour 2018**

Julie noted that 2018 will be time for our every-other-year garden tour and that it's not too soon to be thinking about our sites. She encouraged members to consider whether their own gardens might be ready, or whether they have friends or neighbors whose gardens would be good host sites. We should have sites identified by autumn 2017 for 2018's tour.

◆ **Master Gardener Class**

Our Purdue Extension Educator, Bob Bruner, is trying to gauge and drum up interest for a local Master Gardener class session. If you are even remotely interested in attending, contact him at 829-5020. Also, spread the word to gardener friends and neighbors.