



OWEN COUNTY GARDEN CLUB

NEWSLETTER

May 2010

Editor: Annie Bright
E-MAIL: brightside66@gmail.com

RECENT CLUB ACTIVITIES

Officers:

Annie Bright,
President- 986-3335
Faye Ure,
Vice Pres.- 828-0565
Nancy Knapp,
Treasurer- 829-2128
Julie Coffin,
Secretary- 829-2493

Club members have been very busy this spring. In addition to the usual Club activities of planting the urns, creating a beautiful garden in the triangle and maintaining gardens at Cooper Park, we have planted native shrubs and flowers around the Courthouse and helped begin restoration of the Nature Trail at Patrickburg Elementary School. In between all those volunteer hours most of us have tried to squeeze in a few hours in our own gardens between the rains.

Many thanks to Nancy Knapp and Nancy Sparks for coordinating the work at the Courthouse. Several members spent two afternoons in April planting shrubs and flowers in the newly cleared beds around the Courthouse before the re-dedication ceremony on May 1st. Thanks to everyone who showed up with plants and tools to get the job done.

We had an impromptu club meeting one afternoon to discuss the Fair display. Several people volunteered to start container gardens that will be on display during the Fair.

Details of the progressive meeting scheduled on June 13 were also finalized. We will begin at 4 p.m. at Berta Medicus-Moore's home and then travel to Jo Ann Ligon's home. Mark your calendar and join us. Both homes have spectacular gardens.

Dave Brinson and his committee are spending several hours this spring rejuvenating the gardens at Cooper Park. This area will receive some of the petunias the Club is buying from the Cloverdale High School Ag. Dept.

If you have driven past the triangle you have seen the results of the hard work of Julie Coffin and her crew. The triangle looks better each year.

I spent a Saturday morning at Patrickburg helping 4-H kids and some adults try to restore order to the Nature Trail. Removing the honeysuckle that is choking everything may require some spray.

Now if it will stop raining, I can get MY garden planted.

Annie

Maintaining the Urns

If you are unable to water the urns the week you are scheduled, please call and trade with some one. We have 24 urns around town. Some of them are watered by the person who plants them or by John Fuhs.

RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANTING

- #1 Extension office- Linda Hancock * waters own
- #2 & #4 Heritage Center & Richard Norman's-Tony Neff**
- #3 & 5 BBP Water Company & Post Office (2)- Faye Ure**
- #6 Courthouse picnic table area (2)-JoAnn Ligon**
- #7 Evening World-Annie Bright**
- #8 Moose- John Fuhs *waters own
- #9 VFW- Lois Ohler * John waters
- #10 NE corner Franklin/Main- Sue Ciresi * John waters
- #11 Lanquell's- Linda Hancock * waters own
- #12 Hickam's- Pat Newforth * waters own
- #13 Biomedic-Jill Brush * waters own
- #14 SW corner Main /Market- Nancy Knapp**
- #15 SE corner Main/Market- Mary Ann Dunfee *waters own
- #16 Pete's Muffler- Joe O'Conner**
- #17 Video store- Barb Brinson * waters own
- #18 Valley Optical- Karen Fulk * waters own
- #19 NE corner Main/Morgan- JoAnn Ligon**
- #20 OC Bank-Angie Fender**
- #21 McKay's- Anton Neff * waters own
- #22 People's Bank- Emily Redenbarger**

There are two new urns by the Veterans' Memorial Wall on Main St. We have agreed to water these urns.

Urns in bold need to be watered.

WATERING SCHEDULE

May 16-22	Annie Bright	986-3335
May 23-29	Sue Ciresi	829-2731
May 30-June 5	Julie Coffin	829-2493
June 6-12	Angie Fender	829-2679
June 13-19	Nancy Knapp	829-2128
June 20-26	JoAnn Ligon	829-4300
June 27-July 3	Berta Medicus	876-1100
July 4-10	Tony Neff	
July 11- 17	Joe O'Conner	876-3045
July 18-24	Emily Redenbarger	829-4786
July 25-31	Floyd Richards	876-8731
Aug 1-7	Nancy Sparks	829-1549
Aug 8-14	Faye Ure	828-0565
Aug 15-21	Barbara Winders	829-6282
Aug 22-28	Sue Ciresi	829-2731
Aug 29-Sept 4	Julie Coffin	829-2493
Sept 5-11	Angie Fender	829-2679
Sept 12-18	Nancy Knapp	829-2128
Sept 19-25	JoAnn Ligon	829-4300
Sept 26-Oct 2	Faye Ure	828-0565
Oct.3-9	Nancy Sparks	829-1549

Follow the Yellow Brick Road to the Fair Grounds

This year the theme for the County Fair is Follow the Yellow Brick Road. The Garden Club's annual specialty contest at the Fair will follow that theme. Arrangements of yellow flowers can be entered on Tuesday morning to compete for prizes. Arrangements with the greatest variety of yellow flowers will compete for three cash prizes. There is only one category this year.

First place- \$25, second place- \$15, third place- \$10.

In keeping with the theme, the display in the Open Class Building will be Follow the Yellow Brick Road to Container Gardening. The exhibit will include container gardens of herbs, shade plants, vegetables, and annuals. Information will be provided for visitors to the Fair with instructions on successful container gardening. Julie Coffin is in charge of the display.

Other Fair Items:

Berta Medicus-Moore and Annie Bright will check in Horticulture on Saturday, July 17 and assist the judge in the afternoon.

Volunteers are needed to help police the Open Class Building one night during the Fair. Call Annie to volunteer.

A volunteer is needed to be there on Sunday, July 25, to assist with pick-up?

Note: The County Fair is later in the month this year. It begins on July 18 and ends on July 25. Horticulture and many other entries are checked in on Saturday morning before the Fair begins.

Owen County Farmers' Market

Saturday mornings, 8 am- 12:30 pm on the north side of the Courthouse,
Rain or Shine

Booths offer homegrown produce, eggs and plants. Local artists and crafts people display their creations. Have a cup of coffee or a muffin as you chat with friends. Listen to local entertainers. Buy or trade a book. The Market is a happening place--check it out this week.

Container Gardening

By Annie Bright

For years I chuckled every time I drove past a pair of old cowboy boots hanging on a pole in front of a house on Morgan Street. The boots were planted full of what my Mom called 'chicken and hens'. That is a sedum plant that grows just about anywhere. Those small green plants were a great choice for the boots. Those people were ahead of the craze that has been sweeping the nation recently- container gardening. Everyone from Martha Stewart to the local Wal-mart is encouraging people to try growing things in containers. Entire books have been written with detailed instructions and sample plantings. The racks at the grocery are filled with magazines with articles giving advice on the subject. Container gardening is 'in' this year.

There is no mystery to container gardening. Anyone who has ever had a philodendron sitting on their windowsill has experience with container gardening. Container gardening is simply putting plants in something other than the ground. Containers can range from an old boot to a plain clay pot to what ever your imagination can conceive. Creative people find ways to recycle unusual things like old bicycles or even tires. Years ago my dad cut old tires into diamond shapes and made big pots for Mom to grow things in. I still have two of them. One of them is home to my oregano; the other one usually holds annuals. One of the most unusual planters I've seen is an old wringer washing machine, painted yellow and chocked full of orange nasturtiums tumbling over the sides, like psychedelic suds gone wild.

There are many advantages to container gardening and there are a few rules. I will discuss those later. The list of advantages is long. The plants can be moved around, from step, to patio, to spots in the yard that need a spark of color. People in apartments can grow plants on their patios and brighten small balconies with hanging baskets. People with very small yards can grow plants without digging up the lawn. Because they can be set on things to raise them up off the ground, containers make it easier for the elderly or person with a disability to enjoy gardening. There is very little weeding required. If the soil in your yard is poor quality, containers offer a realistic option. One of the best things about container gardening is the fun you can have being creative with your container garden. Recycling or reusing or that new term, repurposing, is encouraged.

My first attempt at container gardening was when I lived in the inner city with a tiny yard that was mostly cinders and glass. I was a fish out of water for a while and had to satisfy my need to dig in the dirt with big old metal pots and a couple of 5 gallon buckets that I dug out of a restaurant's trash. (I was ahead of the times, back in the 60s.) I did manage to grow tomatoes and a few green onions that summer in soil I borrowed from my parents' farm. Those were the best tasting tomatoes ever.

Two important things about containers: they have to have good drainage and the size of the container should match the size of the plant. Most planters need a layer of drainage material in the bottom. Small rocks, broken pots or gravel can be used. Pieces of styrofoam or even smaller pots can be placed in the bottom of larger containers as filler. There has to be a drainage hole. Containers, especially porous ones dry out quickly and require frequent watering. Plants sharing a container should be compatible. Don't put shade lovers like impatiences with marigolds that want to spend the day sunbathing.

For a pleasing to the eye arrangement of flowers, use a taller flower, surrounded by bushy ones and a few that will droop over the edge. That is not a hard and fast rule. A pot full of one variety can be gorgeous too. Use a good quality soil or soil-less mix in your container. Feeding a container garden is necessary if you want results, especially if there is a lot of peat in the soil mix you choose.

Herbs are a natural for container gardening. A big clay pot of fragrant herbs on the kitchen step is almost a cliché. Most herbs are easily grown from seeds, germinate quickly and are attractive. Best of all, they make cooking fun. Try a filling a pot with lemon thyme and rosemary with some globe basil. Because of the popularity of container gardening, many new plant varieties are on the market just for that purpose. Look for tomato varieties called, Patio, Tiny Tim or Toy Boy. Any plant that has bush or dwarf in the name should do well in a container. I've grown habanero peppers, leaf lettuce and broccoli in containers. I'd like to try growing strawberries. I even have a big terra cotta strawberry jar with special openings on

the side. I just didn't get around to it this spring. Maybe I will plant some thyme in it for this summer.

I invite you to join in this latest fad. Look around for some odd things to use as a container. Yard sales are good place to pick up old baskets or pots. All the big box stores have garden departments, but personally I think it is more fun to re use something. Decide if you want to grow vegetables or flowers or, if you are like me, both. You can mix the two. A cherry tomato plant is happy to share a pot with a couple of marigolds. Let your imagination run wild as you create your own versions of container gardening.

Come to Summer Meeting on Sunday, June 13

The summer meeting will be a traveling one. Berta Medicus-Moore and Jo Ann Ligon have graciously invited the Garden Club to spend the late afternoon enjoying their gardens. Our traveling show will begin at 4 o'clock at Berta's with a tour of her beautiful gardens and a pitch-in dinner. We will proceed to Jo Ann's for dessert and a relaxing evening surrounded by the beauty of her gardens.

Bring your favorite dish for the dinner at Berta's or let your baking skills shine and bring dessert to Jo Ann's (or both). The Club will provide drinks and tableware. Bring a chair if you can.

Directions to Berta's: South on Highway 43 to Sherfield Rd. It is about 6 miles. Turn right, go down the hill. Turn right in to her driveway at the bottom of the hill. Her address is 1331 Sherfield Rd.; phone # is 876-1100,

Directions to Jo Ann's: Take Texas Pike out of town. Her house is on the left, 3 ½ miles north. Her address is 2919 Texas Pike. Phone # is 829-4300. Watch for Garden Club signs at both homes. Please try to carpool.

Owen County Garden Club Newsletter

*Editor: Annie Bright
PHONE: 812-986-3335
E-MAIL: brightside66@gmail.com*

We're on the Web!
See us at:
[http://birdsbybent.com/
gardenclub](http://birdsbybent.com/gardenclub)