

Owen County Garden Club Spring 2013 Newsletter



A Note from Julie . . .

Oh, the possibilities! That's what spring is all about, right? Never mind what happened last year, or what the weather was like, or how much of your to-do list you accomplished. *This* year lies ahead in all of its glorious potential. The seed catalogs are nearby—or maybe your seeds are already started. Or at least the order form is filled out. That ever-tempting greenhouse is going up in Walmart's parking lot; *green* things will soon arrive! I can already see my perennials in bloom, can't you? Because even if I don't get those weeds under control like I'd *like* to, those plants will do what they're made to do. Given half a chance, things *will* grow.

I feel the same way about the Garden Club. The possibilities are endless, right? We, as a group, could learn so many things this year. Or, maybe each of us will learn just one, different, thing. And that's okay, too. And the things we could *do*. Some are predictable; we're already committed to them. Other things are in the planning stages. And others are not even spoken ideas yet, perhaps. But, given a chance, they'll grow. Feel free to bring them to light when we're together. We, as a group, can do so many things, whether within our group or in our larger community.

This newsletter is full of possibilities, too. Read about plans for May. For June. For July. Read about a proposed group trip. Find out what community organization has asked for our help. Just keep reading, showing up at meetings, and imagining, and we'll see what possibilities develop....

Your 2013–2014 Owen County Garden Club Officers:

President: Julie Coffin,
829-2493, julie_coffin@att.net

Secretary: Karen Crosby,
829-5681, karen.crosby@hylant.com

Vice-President: Angie Fender,
829-2679, afender@dulingins.com

Treasurer: Nancy Knapp,
829-2128, nnnknapp@aol.com

Phone Buddies!

Thank you to the members who volunteered to be Phone Buddies, which means that they will be responsible for keeping those members who do not have e-mail in the loop and up to date on club activities that get communicated electronically. Members who are on the *receiving* end of these calls: You can always call an officer, of course, but in addition, consider your Phone Buddy as a primary point of contact.

These Phone Buddies...	...Will Call These Members
Angie Fender	Dora Adkin
Amy Anderson	May Anderson
Shirley Deem	Jean Bruce <i>and</i> Carolyn Dant
Cathy Chamberlin	Teresa Campbell
Barb Brinson	Linda Hancock
Julie Coffin	Martha Kaehr
Faye Ure	Connie McCain <i>and</i> Lois Ohler
Barb Winders	Millie Ranard

Plant Sale—Saturday, May 4

The Owen County Farmers' Market season opens on this day, and once again, we will have two booth spaces (paperwork sent in; not yet confirmed). Like last year, the Market will be in the open lot next to Babbs SuperValu.

This is our only real fundraiser, and though we have money in the bank, this sale keeps us healthy. Think about what you have in your garden that needs thinning or divided or just plain removed. Dig it. Pot it. LABEL IT. Deliver it to the booth prior to 7:30 a.m. (or *as early as possible*) on Saturday, May 4. If you can't deliver on that Saturday morning, drop them off at my house the week prior to the sale. Also, if you have plants but can't do the digging, contact Jo Ann Ligon or me! We'll get someone there to dig.

Our goal is to provide healthy, good-looking perennials (well, and houseplants or whatever) at a reasonable price. Generally, we've kept prices *very* reasonable, asking only \$5 for a very good-sized daylily or hosta or fern in a one-gallon pot, for example. If you're hesitant

about pricing your own plants, we can all advise and collaborate during set-up.

Last year, we had a lot of competition from other vendors who were also selling nice-looking plants. We netted just over \$450, as opposed to the \$500+ that we had earned for several years running. So, we need to make sure we're "competitive" this year. Our "leftovers" are always the little things. So, if you have little things, maybe it'd be a good idea to put several together in one pot. That gives us a medium-sized thing to sell for maybe \$2 instead of a tiny thing for 75 cents. And it gives our customers the feeling that they have bought something substantial that will take off and fill out pretty quickly. If you have unusual varieties or heirloom plants, play them up and make a great label, and price them accordingly! Let's let people know that *our* plants are special because *we* grew them and cared for them and are sharing them.

For questions about the plant sale, contact coordinator Jo Ann Ligon at 829-4300.

Progressive Garden Pitch-In—Sunday, June 9

Nancy Knapp and Karen Crosby will host our June event. We'll see lovely and interesting gardens (I'm certain!), share a meal, and have a business meeting. Here's what you need to know:

- 4 P.M.: Assemble for hors d'oeuvres at the home of Nancy Knapp, 2741 Pottersville Road. (Main Street south out of Spencer; continue on Pottersville Road when it bears right on the other side of the river. Nancy's house is almost 3 miles out. Garden Club signs will guide you.) Call 829-2128 with day-of-event questions.
 - A while later, when the moment feels right: Reconvene at the home of Karen Crosby, 962 Clark Road. (North on Rocky Hill Road *about* 5 miles. Turn left on Clark Road. Continue another scant mile to Karen's house. Again, Garden Club signs....) Call 829-5681 on that day.
 - The officers will take care of all hors d'oeuvres needed at Nancy's house. Bring your pitch-in items for the main meal at Karen's house. The Club will provide table service.
 - If you have easily portable chairs, please toss them in, just in case.
 - This will be our main opportunity to plan our Fair display project (see next item). Bring your creative ideas.
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Fair Display—July 7–14

“It’s a Jungle Out There”

In recent years, we’ve tackled the Wild West, a sports theme, and “Back Home Again in Indiana.” This year, it’s the jungle. Oh, boy! In what direction will this take us and our display? Do we go tropical? Or do we create an “Indiana jungle”? Do we focus on backyard bugs (maybe from a bug’s point of view) or on the “critters” we all have in our yards (squirrels, raccoons, deer)? Do we address invasive species? (If so, I have some to donate!) Talk about *possibilities*! Bring your ideas to the June meeting! Plan to help.

Details:

- Our space is about 10 x 10 feet.
- I’ll try to get a set-up date close to the start of the Fair (as opposed to having to do it earlier in the week, like we used to).
- Who will lead this committee this year? You’ll have the full support of the club, of course, but we need a leader for this specific project.

In other Fair-related business, please review these tidbits from the Minutes of the January meeting to see if you volunteered (or were volunteered) for monitoring the Open Class Building on Friday, July 12, or for taking in or checking out Floriculture exhibits. We have a couple of slots yet to fill. Please contact me to volunteer.

Floriculture Check in Saturday 7-6-13: Faye/Jo Ann/Anton

Floriculture Check out Sunday 7-14-13: Jo Ann/Nancy K.

Open class building patrol, Friday 7-12-13, 2:00–10:00 P.M. [The Homemakers ask that we have two people on duty throughout our eight-hour shift.]

2:00 – 4:00 Linda Hancock, _____

5:00 – 6:00 Chad and Karen Crosby

6:00 – 7:00 Dave and Ann Henk

7:00 – 8:00 Amy Anderson, _____

8:00 – 10:00 Shannon Neff, _____

Additional volunteers: Angie Fender and Emily Redenbarger, open for one hour; May Anderson

A Request from the 4-H Fishing Team—August 8–12

The ever-active 4-H Fishing Team has reached out to the Garden Club with a request. The Fishing Team is sponsoring a display of “The Moving Wall” at the Fairgrounds in Spencer. The Moving Wall is a half-size replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. It has been touring the country since 1984. To learn all about it, visit this site: www.themovingwall.org.

Briefly put, the request is this: Can or will the Garden Club help in any way with the “decoration” or landscaping of the wall during its week of display in August? That’s a wide-open question and there are many ways to answer it. At the website, I see that some places simply set the wall up on a plain grassy spot. Period. Other places have elaborate set-ups with mulch and potted plants all along the 300-foot length of the wall. [Yes, 300 feet.] And many set-ups are in the middle of those two extremes.

Do we want to get involved? We could make a donation. If so, *how much*? We could offer mulch. Or potted plants or small evergreen shrubs. Or mulch *and* potted plants. Could we get donations from the

local flower and tree nurseries? Do we want to provide labor (probably several days prior to the August 8 opening of the display) to go along with (or *instead of*) these other donations? Are there other ways to help that I haven't mentioned here? If so, what are they?

The Fishing Team needs a commitment [or not] from the Garden Club by mid-April. Let me know how you feel. Here are some sample responses (from one extreme to the other):

—Yes, I definitely think the Garden Club should help the Fishing Team; let's dive in and do whatever it takes to help them make a great display.

—Mmm, I guess it'd be okay if we got involved. [Please add some descriptive language about *how* you think the club should get involved.]

—No, I don't think we should get involved.

What do you want to do? Call me. Drop me an e-mail. Communicate with me by April 10.

Club Tidbits

Dues: Have you paid your 2012 dues? Still just \$5 per year—such a bargain. You may pay your dues at any meeting. Or, get it over with and mail to Treasurer Nancy Knapp at 2741 Pottersville Road, Spencer, IN 47460.

Pots/Urns: John and Nancy Fuhs have cleaned the greens out of the pots in town. *Thank you!* Please plan to have your pot planted by Mother's Day, May 12. For a sense of continuity among the pots, include one red thing in your plantings,

please. Beyond that, it's up to you. [And if you need inspiration, wait and see what Linda Hancock does—hers is always *so* nice! (insert smiley-face here)]

Pot Needs Adoption!

The pot at the corner of Main and Morgan Streets by Valley Optical needs someone to plant it and water it. Who will adopt this pot???

Cooper Commons

and the Triangle: Dave Brinson will continue to lead the team that takes care of

the garden at the corner of the park. *Thank you!* We'll have a two-for-one deal on spring clean-up this year. Please mark Saturday, April 20, 8:00 a.m., on your calendar. We'll clear away the winter mess at both the Triangle and Cooper Commons, and *then* convene to a breakfast meeting at Julie's house to talk about what to plant, summer maintenance schedule, etc. My staff will have the pancake griddle hot and ready to go when we arrive.

A Proposed Garden Club Trip—June 22–23

If places with the words *botanical*, *conservatory*, and *herb* in their names interest you, read on to see the proposed trip that the travel committee has put together. Give your thanks to Faye Ure, Angie Fender, and Linda Hancock for two extra meetings, lots of research, and this *proposed* itinerary.

Saturday, June 22: Depart Spencer 6:30 A.M.

Destination 1: Christy Woods, Ball State University campus, Muncie, IN [For information: <http://cms.bsui.edu>]

Christy Woods is a 17-acre woods on the Ball State campus, but was once part of the original land gift to the State of Indiana from the Ball brothers (of Ball canning jar fame). After years of

abuse by wandering hogs and timber harvesters, O.B. Christy, then head of the science department, began revitalizing the area by having his biology students transplant wildflowers from all around Indiana. Trails criss-cross the property, dominated by mature deciduous forest, but also home to a tallgrass prairie and bog, sedge, and meadow areas that hark back to pre-settlement Indiana. The list of native wildflower species is long; surely some might still be blooming in late June (yes?).

Destination 2: Carolee's Herb Farm, Hartford City, IN [www.caroleesherbfarm.com]

Carolee Snyder started out in Owen County in the 1960s. About 10 years ago, she relocated to Hartford City by digging up and transplanting 80,000 plants. Labeled as “one of the largest herb farms in the Midwest,” the list just goes on and on. She claims 2,000 varieties of herbs and perennials in 20 display gardens. One highlight (among many) is a lavender garden with 47 varieties. Visitors may stroll at their leisure through all the gardens. In addition, two gift shops carry teas, lotions, soaps, and all sorts of herb-y things, some of which are made by Carolee. Oh, and there is “fairy furniture” available, too. Go figure. The garden list is *too long* to include here: cook's garden, shade garden, sage & sun-lover's garden, dye plants...something for everyone. Plan on spending the entire afternoon here.

For those who prefer, this could be the end of the trip; it's about 3.5 hours back to Spencer. OR, book a room in Fort Wayne with the group and continue to a second day.

Sunday, June 23: Free morning in Fort Wayne

Destination 3: Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, Fort Wayne, IN

Admission: \$5 per adult [www.botanicalconservatory.org]

At noon, this downtown conservatory opens for visitors. This indoor facility (think *huge* greenhouse) has several areas. The display in the Showcase Garden in June will be “Butterflies with an African Beat.” In addition, tour several other indoor garden spaces, one of which has 72 different types of cacti. And then outdoors—four gardens showcase ornamental grasses, rhododendrons, trees, shrubs, and perennials. There is also a gift shop and a retail garden shop. After approximately 1.5 hours, depart for next destination....

Destination 4: Minnetrista, Muncie, IN [www.minnetrista.net]

Minnetrista Center—Heritage Collection: museum devoted to the preservation of the history of East Central Indiana; Admission: \$5

Minnetrista Gardens: No admission fee to gardens

Around the Minnetrista Center and several nearby homes that once belonged to the Ball family (again of canning jar fame) are 40 acres of gardens ranging from a natural area (pond and prairie) to a formal garden, a colonnade garden, a culinary herb garden, and a *green roof*, too. Some of the plants and landscaping around the historic homes has survived for a century and reflects decisions that the Balls made a hundred years ago.

The museum closes at 5:30; it's not clear whether the gardens close then or whether there is unlimited access to the outdoor areas.

Are you interested? If so, let Julie know by April 20th. If there are just a few, it's likely we'd travel in a couple of minivans and chip in for gas, as was done for last year's trip. If there were *real* interest in this trip and the numbers got up to, say, 24–29 people, we could consider a Turner 29-capacity bus. Split 29 ways, the bus expense would be *roughly* \$55 per person. Note that this would eliminate the one-day option, however. Once we gauge the interest level (by April 24th), we'll develop a more detailed itinerary and work on hotel arrangements, and so on.

Dates and Events Around and About

April 6: Garden Fair 2013, 9–4 P.M., Monroe Co. Master Gardeners, IN National Guard Armory, Bloomington

April 7: OCGC Pruning demo (3 P.M.) and tool sharpening (2:30–4) at Cooper Commons

April 10: Deadline for expressing your opinion about the Fishing Team project

April 20: OCGC Triangle/Cooper Commons clean-up, 8 A.M.; adjourn to breakfast

April 20: Deadline for expressing interest in trip to Muncie/Fort Wayne

April 20: Hendricks Co. Gardening for All Ages, 9–4 P.M., Hendricks Co. Fairgrounds, Danville, IN

April 27: Garden Expo 2013, Tippecanoe Co. Fairgrounds, Lafayette, IN

April 28: Gardenanza 2013, 11–4 P.M., Louisville Nature Center, Louisville, KY

May 4: OCGC Plant Sale at Owen County Farmers' Market, 8–noon

June 9: OCGC Progressive Garden Pitch-in, 4 p.m., Knapp and Crosby

June 22–23: OCGC Proposed trip to Muncie/Fort Wayne

July 7–14: Owen County Fair

Sept. 5–7: Purdue Master Gardener State Conference, Bristol, IN

Oct. 7: OCGC October Pitch-In, CCC Rec Building, McCormick's Creek State Park, 6 P.M

To learn more about NON-OCGC events, do a Google search or contact the Extension Office at 829-5020.

Owen County Garden Club

c/o Purdue University Extension Office

180 S. Washington St.

Spencer, IN 47460

Find us on the Web!

<http://birdsbybent.com/gardenclub>