



# Owen County Garden Club

## Summer Newsletter 2011

Editor: Annie Bright, [brightside66@gmail.com](mailto:brightside66@gmail.com)

### A Stroll on Summer Solstice

Today is one of those perfect summer days, not too hot, not too humid, a fitting day for the summer solstice. The sun will begin to move south, or at least that is the way it appears to us. In reality it is the planet Earth that is tilting as the days get shorter. This is a good day for working in the garden. A stroll around the yard seemed in order before I started work. I wanted to see how many day lilies were in bloom and if the hostas were showing any sign of blooming. I was surprised to see some lilies in bloom. I guess the deer didn't eat them all. And behold, the hostas, even without leaves, had stalks with the promise of blooms waving above the chewed-off stems. Having a garden devoid of blooms is really rather depressing so these were pleasant discoveries.

Something else I discovered was the need to divide some of the perennials. A garden can only be left to its own devices so long. Some perennials will stop producing blooms, some will even die, if they aren't divided occasionally. Irises are especially vulnerable when over crowded. Most perennials should be divided every three to five years. Some of mine have been undisturbed for 10 or 11 years. Time to get that job on the to-do list.

Most of you already know that when and how to divide depends on the plant. Some plants, like peonies and bleeding heart really don't need to be divided. Spring or fall is the best time to divide most plants. I've missed the Spring deadline. My mother always started that chore in mid August. It is recommended to divide day lilies every 4-6 years, right after they bloom. That would be a good idea for me; maybe I could remember which ones were which varieties. Where I am going to put the extras is a big question.

I have a plan to move the hostas back behind my meditation garden to make a border in front of an old log. They really need to be divided. They have grown over the path in many places. A couple of years ago I dug up a shovel full for my brother and had to use an axe to cut the root clump into pieces. If you can't bust up the root clump with your hands, try a spade or an axe or even a saw. You might damage some roots, but most of the plants will survive. If dividing perennials is on your to do list, just remember to water well after re-planting. Sharing with other gardeners is always fun, maybe we should think about a Club trading day in the early fall.

Have a great summer,  
Annie

# Bits and Pieces

## Time to Pay Dues

If you haven't paid your \$5 dues for the year, please send them to Nancy Knapp, 2741 Pottersville Road, Spencer, IN 47460.

As of June 21, the following people are on record as having paid their 2011 dues. If your name isn't on this list...well, you know what to do.

Mary Ackerman, May Anderson, Jonathon and Jacob Balash, Annie Bright, Cathy Chamberlin, Ellen Cramer, Karen Crosby, Carolyn Dant, Shirley Deem, Lu Farley, Angie Fender, John and Nancy Fuhs, Linda Hancock, Barb Heck, Anne and Dave Henk, Martha Kaehr, Nancy Knapp, Jenny Madden, Connie McCain, Berta Medicus-Moore, Anton Neff, Pat Newforth, Emily Redenbarger, Carol Reynolds, Floyd Richards, Johanna and Nancy Sparks, Faye and Ken Ure, Barb Winders

## October Meeting

The autumn meeting which has always been held on the first Wednesday of October will be a different day this year, not on October 5 as stated in the January minutes. The date is being changed to accommodate some members who have a conflict. Connie is working on securing the building for a different date. Check the website in September for the correct date & time.

## Conservation Class at the Library

The group meets on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Every month Gwen Dieter or a speaker presents a topic of interest related to growing things or nature. July--Plant Invaders, Sue Crafton, Aug.--Nature Writers, Annie Bright, Sept.--Artifacts Roadshow, Oct.--Nature's Craft Closet, Julie James

## *Dancing With Herons*

If you are looking for a good book to read, I recommend ***Dancing With Herons*** by Martinsville naturalist, Joni James. Her latest book is a collection of experiences and adventures as she explores the old fish hatcheries near Martinsville. Her respect of the natural world is evident in every page as she takes us along on her daily jaunts to visit the herons and other animals that inhabit the area. Copies are available by contacting [jonijame@scican.net](mailto:jonijame@scican.net). [An excerpt and order form can be found at: <http://jonijamesphotography.com/>]

## Thanks to the Fender Family

Angie and Louis Fender hosted the Club's summer meeting on June 13. The Club enjoyed a pleasant evening in the beautiful shelter house built by the Fender family. Minutes of the meeting are included in this newsletter.

## Garden Club Officers for 2011

President--Faye Ure, 828-0565    Vice President--Angie Fender, 829-2679  
Secretary--Julie Coffin, 829-2493    Treasurer--Nancy Knapp, 829-2128  
[Web Page--Pat Newforth, 829-4234    Newsletter--Annie Bright, 986-3335]

## The County Fair Is July 17-23

The theme for the Fair this year is "Sports Spectacular." At the June 13 meeting the Club discussed possible ideas for the display for the Open Class Building. A decision was made to create a display representing a contest between vegetables and flowers. Several people volunteered to work on a committee to design and implement the project.

Horticulture entries will be accepted at the Open Class Building between 8 am and noon on Saturday, July 16. Faye, JoAnn, Millie and Fonya volunteered to work that day. Please remember to put your name and phone number on the bottom of your container. Lets make this year's collection of entries really spectacular. Containers and ribbons must be picked up on Sunday, July 24.

Entries for the Club's specialty contest can be entered the morning of Tuesday, July 19. There are two categories for entries: Spring & Summer Sports and Fall & Winter Sports. There are no size requirements for entries. Three prizes in each category will be awarded using the criteria of most unique arrangement.

The Club was asked to provide volunteers to police the Open Class Building. Nancy Knapp, Millie Ranard, Carolyn Dant, volunteered for Sunday, July 17. Emily Redenbaugh, Angie Fender, Shannon Neff, and Fonya Hawkins volunteered for the job on Tuesday, July 19.

## Bringing Beauty to Spencer

The urns are looking really beautiful this year. Thanks to everyone who accepted the job of planting and watering. When your week for watering the urns is over, please remember to make the reminder phone call to the

next person. The list was in the last newsletter. The job is much easier this year as a volunteer is watering most of the urns during the week.

The garden in the Triangle continues to welcome people to town. This project garners a lot of compliments. Job well done, Julie and crew. Cooper Park is looking good too. Thanks to the Brinsons and their helpers. The plants at the Courthouse are doing well. Most of them seem to be thriving. Thanks to all the workers who devote time and energy to these projects that beautify our town.

## Minutes from June 13th Meeting

--Nancy Knapp, Treasurer, reported an approximate balance of \$1650 in the Garden Club account. That balance includes the \$546 total intake from the May 3rd plant sale.

--Julie Coffin asked that the Triangle work session be moved up a week, from June 25 to June 17 because the Triangle needed attention. Enough people said that they were willing, so the session was set for 7 a.m. on June 17.

--A Cooper Park clean-up and planting session was announced for Tuesday, June 14, at 6 p.m.

--The Owen County Fair's theme of "Sports Spectacular" was discussed at length. Ideas included: a "Tournament of Roses" display, possibly with a small float involved; a horse race theme, with "Run for the Roses" as the focal point; a basketball focus, with an old barn wall and a basketball hoop...surrounded by flowers; a "Tournament of Champions" or "Tournament of Gardens" theme, with two "teams" competing--perhaps flowers vs. veggies. The last-mentioned idea took hold. Committee members volunteered: Jo Ann Ligon, Anne Henk, Sue Ciresi, Nancy Knapp, Julie Coffin. Nancy Sparks volunteered to check on the cost of having a "scoreboard" made at Winner's Circle. Anne Henk then volunteered to paint the scoreboard. The display set-up will occur on Thursday, July 14. The committee members will meet and flesh out and finalize plans.

--The Fair's Open Class entry day is Saturday, July 16. Faye Ure, Jo Ann Ligon, and Fonya Hawkins will process entries and assist the judge.

--To meet the Fair Board's request that the club help police the Open Class Building, Millie Ranard, Carolyn Dant, and Nancy Knapp will split a shift on Sunday evening, July 17. On Tuesday, Emily Redenbaugh, Angie Fender, Shannon Neff, and Fonya Hawkins will share the four-hour shift.

--Linda Hancock's niece, Rhonda, made an announcement about a Greene County Garden Club event. On Thursday, June 30, at 6 p.m., there will be a Bingo game to raise money to allow the garden club to develop a new park in Worthington. Advance tickets are \$10. The event takes place at the Community

Center in Worthington. People who buy tickets ahead of time will be entered into a drawing for Longaberger pottery.

--The club's garden tour to the Quilt Gardens is Saturday and Sunday, August 13 and 14. Ten people indicated they were interested in attending. Both Angie Fender and Faye Ure volunteered to drive. Faye recommended a hotel in Elkhart. Interested members are to contact Faye for all further details and arrangements.

--Connie McCain has already reserved the McCormick's Creek State Park site for our October meeting. However, to avoid a conflict with another garden event, she will check to see if she can reserve the building for Monday, October 3.

Submitted by Julie Coffin