



Owen County Garden Club Newsletter

Summer 2012

Editor, Annie Bright, brightside66@gmail.com

"I perhaps owe having become a painter to flowers." - Claude Monet

From the Editor

Seems like a long time since I put together a Garden Club newsletter. Life takes odd turns sometimes and priorities change. My 3-year-old grandson has been spending a lot of time with me. Being around a small child helps us to see the world from a different perspective, if we allow it. Everything is new and marvelous. Everything has to be explored and investigated. That is especially true of the natural world. Watching him walk through the woods, inspecting every detail of bark on the different trees makes me appreciate the differences all the more. One of his pastimes is smashing the fuzzy seed heads of dandelions and watching the seeds blow away in the wind.

He is fascinated by birds. His big eyes follow them as they soar in the sky. The different songs catch his attention. When he hears the rapping of a big pileated woodpecker he perks up and tries to discover just where that sound is coming from and who is making all that racket.

Rocks really capture his attention. He turns them this way and that, investigating every side. He doesn't throw them, like most boys. He carries them around, stacks them up, or puts them in his little bucket. Sometimes he tastes one, but he hasn't eaten one yet.

I am looking forward to teaching him about plants and gardening. I can teach him to help me weed--now that is a pleasant thought.

Annie

Garden Walk, June 10, 1-5 PM (rain or shine)

Gardens on the tour are as follows:

- the Stantz Garden in town in Spencer
- the Hawkins Garden, just off Rocky Hill Road
- the Henk Garden, near Jordan Village
- the Angie and Lewis Fender Garden, up Rocky Hill Road, plus Allen Banner's Hugel culture garden
- the Janice and Steve Fender Garden, also up Rocky Hill Road

Club members are encouraged to spread the word about this event. There will be radio

spots on WCLS, and there will be articles in the *SEW*. But talk it up among your friends, family members, and co-workers!

Ticket Sales

Tickets are \$5 each; children 12 and under are free. The "ticket" consists of a brochure with a map, allowing people to navigate the self-guided tour. There are four ways to get a ticket.

Before the event:

- at Duling Insurance, 430 N. Fletcher Avenue
- from a club member.

Yes, that's right. If you want to purchase tickets or if people want to buy tickets from you (and it's not convenient to send them to Duling), contact Julie Coffin (829-2493 or julie_coffin@att.net). She'll arrange to get you the tickets you need.

On the day of the event:

- at the Courthouse Square from 12:30-4:30
- at each host site

There will be a short business meeting at Angie and Lewis Fender's following the Garden Walk. Main item on the meeting agenda is the Fair exhibit. Perhaps more importantly: Bring a covered dish. Members will relax and enjoy a pitch-in.

Garden Walk Volunteers

Following are the volunteers committed to working on June 10. To fill one of the empty spots, please contact Faye Ure and/or Julie Coffin by phone or e-mail.

- Faye: 828-0565; fayeken@comcast.net
- Julie: 829-2493; julie_coffin@att.net

Cookies (for refreshment area at Angie & Lewis Fender site)

- Babbs donation--4-5 dozen
- John Fuhs--2 dozen
- Nancy Knapp--2 dozen
- Shirley Deem--2 dozen
- Faye Ure--2 dozen
- Pat Newforth--2 dozen
- _____--2 dozen
- _____--2 dozen

Ticket Sales on June 10 at Courthouse Square (12:30-4:30 p.m.)

- Faye Ure
- Julie Coffin

Garden Site Co-hosts (to check and/or sell tickets; direct people; direct traffic; answer questions; etc.)

	1–3 p.m.	3–5 p.m.
Stantz Garden	1. Jo Ann Ligon 2. _____	1. Jo Ann Ligon 2. Floyd Richards
Hawkins Garden	1. Jill Brush 2. Nancy Fuhs	1. Sue Ciresi 2. Nancy Knapp
Angie & Lewis Fender Garden [Emily Redenbarger and Linda Hancock will “man” the refreshment area throughout the afternoon.]	1. Shirley Deem 2. Bill Deem 3. _____ Compost Station Karen Crosby	1. Shirley Deem 2. Bill Deem 3. _____ Compost Station Karen Crosby
Janice & Steve Fender Garden	1. Dora Adkins 2. _____	1. Dora Adkins 2. _____
Henk Garden	1. Annie Bright 2. Jenny Madden	1. Annie Bright 2. Jenny Madden

The Triangle Welcomes Motorists To Spencer

Triangle Maintenance Schedule

June 16, 7 a.m.: General maintenance

July 28, 7 a.m.: General maintenance

August 25, 7 a.m.: General maintenance

September 22, 7:30 a.m.: General maintenance

October 20, 8 a.m.: General maintenance

November 17, 8 a.m.: Winter clean-up

Thanks to Julie Coffin and her crew of volunteers for keeping the triangle so beautiful.

What Is That Sticky Stuff?

Jenna Smith, Owen Co. Extension Service ANR sheds some light on the sticky situation many of us are dealing with. Many tulip trees in Indiana are being impacted by a substance that appears to be leaking from them. That substance is “honeydew.”

Honeydew is excreted by scale insects that are often located on the limbs of the tree. It is a nuisance and can cause a threat to the plant health because it can become a food for sooty mold. To better understand the situation your tulip tree is most likely dealing with and to understand how to control the situation, view Purdue Extension publication titled, “Scale Insects on Shade Trees and Shrubs.” You can view it at:

<http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/publications/E-29.pdf>

Host An Exchange Student

This is your chance to learn about the culture of another country. Students bring their own spending money and health insurance. Students also bring their love, sense of humor, new perspectives on culture, and deeper insights into people and places. Share your passions about life, your community, and American culture with a high school exchange student. CIEE USA High School students stay with their host families for either 1 or 2 semesters while attending a US high school. Host families with or without children, and empty nesters can all host. Host families can take a tax deduction for hosting. Here is a sample of some students coming this year, but many more are available:

- Anna is a 17-year-old girl from Finland, program length 5 months
- Jenny is from Germany, program length 10 months
- Agrima is from Australia. She is fluent in Nepalese. Program Length: 5 months
- Jakub is from Czech Republic, program length 10 months

Do your part to influence how the world sees our great country. Join America's most effective form of citizen diplomacy by hosting a CIEE high school exchange student. To participate in this rewarding intercultural experience call Cathy Chamberlin (*she's a Garden Club member!!*) at 812.679.6477, or email bloomingtonciee@gmail.com.

Annual Plant Sale

Our total sales were \$460.75 less \$30 for the space. Sales were down from last year, but there was lots of competition. Leftover plants will be offered for sale at Fender's during the Garden Walk. A special Thank You to Jo Ann Ligon for organizing the sale again. Thanks to all the members who donated plants and worked the plant sale.

Unique Event In The Sky

You may want to mark your calendars for this "event" on June 5. Venus will pass in front of the sun (an event called a transit). It begins around 6:10 P.M. EDT and will continue past sunset.

The best way to view it is to use a Mylar solar filter. They are not very expensive and can fit over a spotting scope. If you have solar eclipse view glasses, Venus will look like a large round sunspot. If you have a regular telescope, cover the finder scope so no one looks through it or burns their eyes. This is an event anyone can watch safely if they have the proper equipment. If you have a great place on your property to watch a sunset, it can be an opportunity to 'Watch the Sunset of a Lifetime!'

The almost full moon will rise shortly after the sun sets, so folks can turn their telescopes in the opposite direction. It will give a great opportunity to discuss how the full moon looks so big next to the horizon, but smaller when it is higher in the sky. No one alive today to witness this event will be around to see the next Venus transit in 2117.

Freshen the Air Naturally

Clay pots are porous and can be filled with essential oils and herbs, then placed in a sunny place where the heat will cause the oils to evaporate slowly during the day. Try dabbing your favorite essential oil on a light bulb. Make your own air freshener spray to avoid the chemicals present in most commercial sprays. You need a few simple ingredients, and making it is easy. Most pharmacies carry small bottles of essential oils.

8 drops of essential clove oil	6 ounces of distilled water
5 drops of essential lemon oil	¼ teaspoon essential bergamot oil
1.5 ounces of vodka or rubbing alcohol	

Combine the above ingredients in a spray bottle and shake well. Then add the distilled water and shake again to thoroughly mix. After a few days, lightly use this spray around your home. Not only does it smell delicious, but it is safe for your pets and children too. Americans spend more than \$1.7 billion on fresh smelling air. I say we keep some of that money in our pockets; by going “green” it will help us and our environment in the long run.

Summer Pruning Tips

Prune back your rose bushes after the first bloom. You can either deadhead the spent blooms or do a major cutting back to keep them tame and under control. I tend to do the latter. Cut back all weak and dead wood as well. Lastly, clean up all spent leaves—especially if they suffered from black spot. Plus, if black spot is a problem, use this homemade formula: Mix one tablespoon of baking soda and 1/4 teaspoon of dishwashing detergent in one gallon of water.

Finish pruning all spring blooming bushes such as azaleas, rhododendrons, lilacs by mid-summer so that they can begin their new growth for next spring. Read more at www.ivillage.com/5-essential-summer-garden-tips

"Back Home Again In Indiana" Is This Year's Fair Theme

Owen County Fair runs July 15-22: Horticulture entries can be checked in on Saturday July 14 from 8 am until 1 p.m.

Three volunteers are needed to work on the morning of the July 14. At least two of the volunteers will need to stay with the judge until around 4 p.m. Volunteers are needed on Sunday, July 22, as exhibitors pick up their ribbons, etc.

The Garden Club has the responsibility to work in the Open Class Building on Monday July 16 and Tuesday July 17, from 6 p.m.-10 p.m. The following people have volunteered to work: Monday, JoAnn Ligon, Annie Bright, Angie Fender and Emily Redenbaugh on Tuesday, Sue Ciresi, Fonya Hawkins, and Faye Ure. Another volunteer is needed to work a 2-hour shift from 8-10 p.m. on Tuesday. Call Faye if you are willing to work.

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**Owen County Garden Club
is part of
Purdue Extension Service**

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Visit us on the Web at
<http://birdsbybent.com/gardenclub>