

Owen County Garden Club Spring 2015 Newsletter



A Note from Julie . . .

Our butterfly presentation by Sandy Belth in March has made me think about pollinators in general. The showy butterflies are fun and special, but the list of pollinators goes on and on. Every little flying and creepy-crawly thing that moves pollen from one plant to another counts as a pollinator. (Not to mention birds, bats, and the occasional passing raccoon!) And each one is gadding about, doing its job. Taken singly, each contribution is *almost* negligible. But taken collectively, well, we can't live without them.

Pollinators pollinate more than 180,000 different plant species and more than 1200 crops. According to Pollinator Partnership [www.pollinator.org], that means that a third of the food we eat exists because pollinators have done their jobs for us.

Just like the collective efforts of pollinators, our collective efforts can make a difference. We can plant flowering things. Better yet, we can plant *native* flowering things. We can eliminate or reduce our use of chemicals in gardens and lawns.

Take pride and pleasure in the knowledge that an abundance of flying and creepy-crawly things means that you have a healthy yard and that you are doing your part for the pollinators.

Happy 2015 Gardening!

Be sure to welcome, introduce yourself to, and get acquainted with our newest members:

Robyn Brown
Leslie Nieves

Casey Shively
Linda Whicker

Owen County Garden Club Officers for 2015–2016:

Julie Coffin, President
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julie_coffin@att.net

Angie Fender, Vice-President
812-829-2679
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Karen Crosby, Secretary
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Nan Girk, Treasurer
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Potting 101: Everything You Need to Know about the Pot, the Soil, the Plants—Sunday, April 19

3:00 P.M., Harriman Farms and Greenhouse
1961 State Hwy. 67

Our presenter, Shelley Harriman, has such plans for us! First comes her presentation. She'll answer all those questions that you ask yourself when you're plunking those annuals into your porch pots. You know: *How many of you fit in here? Do you think last year's dirt is worn out? Should I add something? Do I need to put stones in the bottom of the pot to help with*

drainage? Or is that an old wives' tale? In the course of her presentation, she will share some of her own pots and hanging baskets with us—you know, the ones you admire when you go to Harriman's Greenhouse.

And then comes the extra fun part. Shelley will test us to see if we've learned our lessons. She will assign groups and

organize a hands-on potting exercise. For example, one group's assignment might be, "This pot will be in a shady spot. Go to the greenhouse and find a pleasing combination of flowers that will thrive in the shade and pot them up." And then, after we evaluate each group's efforts, something *else* really fun will happen with the finished pots. Come and see!

Planning to attend? Dress for the weather (we'll be in an unheated building). We'll be standing during the presentation; if that is worrisome for you, please feel free to bring a chair. Light refreshments will be available.

Plant Sale—Saturday, May 2

Owen County Farmers' Market
8:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M. (note new hours for 2015)



Saturdays May - October
8:30 am to 12:30 pm

www.owencountyfarmersmarket.com

At last year's plant sale, we took in just shy of \$1000. That was *twice* our usual intake! Our booth looked great. Our plants were well

potted and well labeled. We can put forth the same effort this year and do just as well. We will, once again, promote our Indiana natives by separating them from the essential and lovely, but non-native, standards that we all have and love.

So, bring those columbine and goldenrod and purple coneflowers. And bring those iris and day lilies and hosta, too. Pot them up (the sooner the better). Label them, please.

- plant name
- light requirements (sun / shade)
- color
- height
- anything else important or noteworthy

If you need pots, let me know. *Someone* in the club will have some spares.

Can't get your plants dug? Or, maybe you have a neighbor who has a bunch of . . . *something* spreading all over her garden and you just *know* she would love to support the Garden Club. Let me know. We can find helpers to dig stuff up.

On the day of the sale, bring your plants at 7:30 A.M., or as early as possible, to the market site next to Babbs. If possible, plan to stay and help price them. And it's always fun to stay and be a "clerk" at the booth, too. All volunteers welcome—feel free to come and go throughout the morning. If you can't deliver your plants that morning, you can drop them at Julie's house during the week before the sale.

For questions about the plant sale, contact our coordinator Jo Ann Ligon, at 812-343-4956.

General Meeting—Monday, May 4

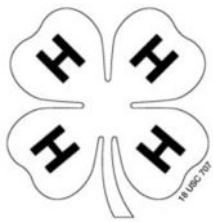
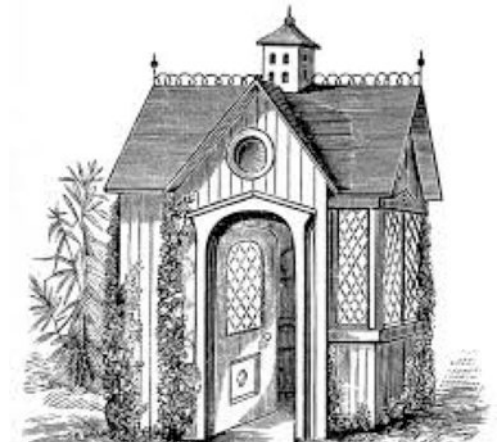
6:00 P.M., Location: _____?

It's time for a meeting! On the agenda will be plans for our Fair display (see below). And...what else do we want to think up to do this summer?

Please bring a dish to pass for a pitch-in meal. We'll eat, then have our meeting. The club will provide table service.

So, now we have a meeting date. Just one more thing:

Who is willing to host this meeting?



Owen County Fair—July 5–12, 2015

“Down on the Farm” is the theme this year. I think we can work with that!

We'll brainstorm ideas and build a committee at the May 4th meeting. Here are all the kinds of help we need before and during the Fair:

- Be on the display committee
- Even if not on committee, be alert and see if there are plants, props, whatever, that you can lend for whatever the display idea is
- Help put up the display (probably on the afternoon of Sunday, July 5th)
- Open Class flower-checker-inners (3–4 to cover the morning, but stay tuned on this. Normally, Open Class check-in is on Saturday, but Saturday is July 4th. I don't know yet how the Fair Board is going to deal with this.)
- Judge helpers (2) to move flowers around, fill out paperwork, etc., as judge judges from noon until around 2 p.m. (again, in theory, on July 4th??)
- Open Class building monitors (I'm sure we'll be asked to fill out a couple of shifts, as we have done in the past)

Milkweed Plants

The Owen County Garden Club is the proud foster parent of 160 common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) plugs. That's “baby milkweeds,” in common parlance. We will take possession of them in early May, last I heard. Then we will determine our exact plan of action.

In theory, we said we would transplant them into larger pots

and encourage them to grow for, perhaps, a month or so, and then sell them in June. Once we actually get them, we'll see what the pots and roots look like and determine whether we really do need to re-pot them all.

Stay tuned for further developments. A baby milkweed re-potting party could be in our very near future



Ongoing Club Details and Business

—T-shirts—

Many members have acquired T-shirts, which have a nice wheelbarrow and flower design and “Owen County Garden Club” embroidered on them. It’s nice to wear them at our “public”

events (such as the upcoming plant sale) and, generally, to spread awareness of our club. They cost \$16 or so. If interested, direct T-shirt questions to Sue Ciresi, 812-829-2731.

———Urns/Pots———

John and Nancy Fuhs, our Pot Prince and Princess, have cleaned out the winter stuff for us. Thank you!

At the January meeting, we agreed to “do the same thing” in our pots this year for the sake of continuity on Morgan Street and around the Courthouse. Therefore, Pot Queen Faye Ure and her committee will be consulting with Shelley Harriman, of Harriman Farms, on April 19th, after Shelley’s potting presentation. The committee

will come up with a planting plan, and the club will purchase the plants this year. Faye is going to engineer all of this in time for a May 2 planting date (after the plant sale at the Farmers’ Market). We still need individual Pot Masters to take charge of and to water their assigned pots. Watch for details on planting logistics for May 2.

Always direct pot questions to the Pot Queen, 812-828-0565.

———Triangle———

Well, there just aren’t enough weekends in the month! Let’s do a spring clean-up at the Triangle on Wednesday, April 22, at 7 P.M.

Get ready to don the orange vest!

Always direct Triangle questions to Julie Coffin, 812-829-2493.

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

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<http://birdsbybent.com/gardenclub>
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