

Owen County Garden Club Newsletter Spring 2011

Annie Bright, editor 986-3335

brightside66@gmail.com

Purdue Extension Service
90 S. Washington Street
Spencer, IN, 47460

Spring!



This was taken last year, but seeing it reminds me that Spring is just around the corner! When the snow melted at the end of February, I discovered many of the spring flowers were already poking their noses out of the leaf litter. What a joy when my son discovered the snow drops were blooming. I was surprised, because only two days earlier that slope was covered with several inches of snow.

Native plants can co-exist with well chosen exotics, such as daffodils. Thinking of those happy yellow blooms as exotics seems so odd. I love daffodils. It would not be spring with out their cheerful presence. I think they make a nice companion for the Dutchmen's breeches. Once these ephemerals die back, the Virginia creeper and astilbees join the bleeding heart to put on a show. Then the pale lavender blooms of native bergamot will wave in the dappled shade of the big pines. A few others, like lily of the valley and ferns share the space in what I call my meditation garden. Sitting on the old park bench, surrounded by the wonders of nature brings me peace. Everyone should be blessed with a meditation garden. 'til next time, Annie

**Owen County Garden Club
Minutes: February 21, 2011**

Approximately 30 members gathered at the Lions' Lester F. Litten Building for the much-postponed "January" planning meeting.

Julie Coffin read the secretary's report from the October 6, 2010, meeting. There were no changes or additions to the report.

Nancy Knapp, treasurer, caught us up with bank account activity, and reported that the club's account balance is \$1,657.37. She also indicated that she was collecting \$5 annual dues from members.

Agenda items were as follows:

Triangle Report: Julie Coffin will hold a meeting at her house on Monday, April 25, at 6:30 p.m. *All* club members are welcome to attend and help make decisions about this year's plantings and routine maintenance of the Triangle.

Spring Educational Meeting—Arranging Flowers: Nancy Knapp has arranged for a speaker for our spring educational meeting—on Saturday, March 12, at 1 p.m. at the Purdue Extension Office, 180 S. Washington Street, Spencer. Linda Blocher will tell and show us how to arrange flowers and will, perhaps, shed light on the difference between a bouquet and an arrangement. General discussion about whether or not this should be a hands-on activity for attendees was inconclusive. Nancy Knapp will make accommodations prior to the event for those attendees who do wish to have a hands-on experience.

Urns: Faye Ure noted that several people have indicated they no longer want to care for their urns in town. Some alternate urn-tenders volunteered. The club has the usual watering concerns related to the time-consuming nature of the task. Faye is going to speak to some of the businesses near the urns to recruit help.

John Fuhs will remove the greens some time between mid-March and mid-April. Fresh dirt was put in last fall, so the pots will be ready for planting once the greens are out. Our goal is for members to have their pots planted by Mother's Day, May 8. Members should acquire their own plants and may submit receipts to the Treasurer for reimbursement, if they wish.

Educational Trips: With the cancellation of the Cincinnati Flower Show, the club is looking for new ideas for an educational trip. Angie Fender suggested destinations such as Chicago, St. Louis, and Shipshewanna, and these were discussed.

Carol Reynolds noted that the Bloomington-based Southern Indiana Daylily, Hosta, Daffodil, and Iris Society (SIDHDIS) has a trip planned to Kentucky on April 30. Interested members could seek more information from <http://sidhdis.org>.

Angie also mentioned the possibility of an outing to Hilltop Orchids, just north of Cloverdale. There is an August Open House that we could attend. More information to come as the club learns of more opportunities.

Plant Sale: The Farmer's Market opens on Saturday, May 7, 2011, 8:30–12:30. We will hold our annual plant sale there--for the fourth year in a row. Jo Ann Ligon will be in charge of the sale. As usual, all members are encouraged and welcome to participate by digging and potting plants, labeling them with name and sun requirements, and taking them to the Market early on that Saturday morning.

June Meeting: Angie Fender offered her home as one destination for the annual Progressive Dinner. The Brinsons, though absent, were mentioned as a possible second destination. Faye will check into that. No date was set.

Owen County Fair: The 2011 Fair is July 17–24. We do not yet know the theme for the Open Class building; Linda Hancock hopes to be able to share that with us at the March 12 meeting.

The club will once again be responsible for checking in Open Class flowers on Saturday, July 16, helping with the judging (that same day), and then checking out flowers on Sunday the 24th.

October meeting: October 3rd, 2011, has been tentatively set as the date, pending confirmation from Connie McCain. We will meet, as always, at McCormick's Creek State Park at 6 p.m.

2012 Garden Walk: Faye announced that the club would like to host another Garden Walk in 2012. She noted that the event held in 2005 was a well-received and successful event. She told members to begin thinking about whether they would be willing to host one of the Garden Walk destinations. Planning will need to begin early to make our 2012 Walk another success.

Other Meetings, Events in the Area:

Monroe County Master Gardeners—Garden Fair, April 23, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Indiana National Guard Armory, 3380 South Hwy. 37, Bloomington

Admission: \$2. (vendors, educational seminars, door prizes, etc.)

<http://www.mcmga.net>

Putnam County Master Gardeners—meeting on February 26.

Indianapolis Flower & Patio Show—March 12-20

Arbor Day—April 29. Parks & Recreation will sponsor activities at Cooper Park on Saturday, April 30.

Worthington Plant Auction—April 30, starting at 10 a.m.

Kiwanis Plant Sale—potted plants at \$4 each or 10 for \$35. Contact member Carol Reynolds.

submitted by Julie Coffin, 3/3/11

Garden Club Urns Bring Beauty to Spencer

Thanks to Faye Ure for organizing this project. Thanks to the following people who plant the urns and to John Fuhs for getting the urns ready for planting.

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| 1. | Owen Community Bank | Angie Fender |
| 2. | Peoples' Bank | Emily Redenbarger |
| 3. | McKay's Pharmacy | Anton Neff |
| 4. | Heinmiller residence | Jo Ann Ligon |
| 5. | Dr. Dotterer | Karen Fulk |
| 6. | video store | Brinsons |
| 7. | Pete's Mufflers | Joe O'Connor |
| 8. | Languell Abstract. | Linda Hancock |
| 9. | former Flea Market | Sue Ciresi |
| 10. | Hickam law office | Karen Crosby |
| 11. | FedEx Box | Jill Bush |
| 12. | Raventos law office | Nancy Knapp |
| 13. | former Chambers | Mary Ann Dunfee |
| 14. | Water Company | Faye Ure |
| 15. | OC Heritage & Culture Center | Tony Neff |
| 16. | old fire station/Norman law office | Tony Neff |
| 17. | Extension Office | Jonathan & Jacob Balash |
| 18./19. | Post Office (2 small) | Faye Ure |
| 20. | <i>Evening World</i> office | Jenny Madden |
| 21. | Moose Lodge | John Fuhs |
| 22. | VFW | Lois Ohler |
| 23./24. | Northeast Court House Square | Jo Ann Ligon |
| 5./26. | Veteran's Memorial (2 small) | Julie Coffin |



Landscaping With Native Plants

As you plan additions to your landscape this year, consider including plants native to this area. They grow well here, require little care and add charm to the landscape. Native shrubs provide shelter and

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
Newsletter- Annie Bright-986-3335

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

food for wildlife and attract birds and butterflies.

Create a Living Easter Basket

At the February meeting of the Conservation Class at the Library,, participants learned to create a living basket. Barbara Nelson and Sue Carpeter shared their knowledge on making this adorable gift of greenery . All that is needed is a basket or other container, some potting soil, grass seed and a flowering plant.

Directions are simple. Select your basket, insert a liner or plastic bag in the basket, fill it with potting soil. Generously sprinkle rye grass seed on the soil, and water. Put your creation in a sunny window. In 5 or 6 days the grass will sprout. For the first week water the grass lightly, twice. After that, once a week is enough. It takes about 2 or 3 weeks for the grass to get just right for decorating. Plant a flower, like a pansy, tulip, primrose, or daffodil in the basket. Decorate your basket with small figurines, plastic eggs, etc. You can also add candy or ribbons before you give it away, bringing a smile to someone's face.

Gwen Deiter and Cyndy Concurrie have teamed up to offer the Conservation Class again this year. The class meets on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm . On March 17, Mark Evans will present a program with his photographs about Owen County wild flowers. Call the Library, 829-3392 for information.

Bits and Pieces

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For Sale

Complete Pond Kit

Two pools-both "kidney" shaped
35 gallon and 120 gallon capacity
Can be installed in countless configurations
to fit your landscape.

POOLS, PUMP, TUBING, and
INSTRUCTIONS

NEW IN THE BOX

Originally paid \$100, asking \$75

Call Julie Coffin at 829-2493

Place your garden related
classified ad here.

Send Annie your ad for the
summer newsletter.

Annual Plant Sale

May 7th 8:30-12:30

Tell your friends! Visit us
at the Farmers' Market
on northside of the
Courthouse in Spencer.
Locally grown plants &
garden related items.

Members: Please attach note with
name and growing requirements to
plants you bring to the sale. Call
JoAnn Ligon for more information.

Wildflower Weekend

April 16 & 17

McCormick's Creek State Park
Crafts, hikes, native plant sale,
and much more

Enjoy the beauty of spring
right here at home.

Orchids, Orchids, Orchids

Orchids have always seemed exotic and beyond my expertise. I know nothing about the different species, not even their names. Last week I met a lady that has been growing them for decades. Information about the delicate plants rolls off her tongue. She is willing to speak to our Club. Is anyone interested? Maybe we could have her visit before we go to Hilltop? Let me know if you are interested-- brightside66@gmail.com or 986-3335.