

Owen County Garden Club Spring 2016 Newsletter



A Note from Julie . . .

I keep a list of “Firsts” each spring. I have been doing so since 2009. Typical entries include “1st blooming daffs,” “1st iris,” “1st hummingbird,” “1st flowering almond blossoms,” and so on. I usually include some notes on what kind of winter it has been, as well. It’s interesting to note the different dates when those daffs appear, or whether that first peony is open by Mother’s Day or not. But then, somewhere in May, the list peters out. There’s just too much going on. And, sadly, I suppose I appreciate each new blooming thing a little less because there are other blooming things competing for my attention.

2016 is stacking up to be quite a year. There are *so many* things going on in Owen County. The downtown is changing, thanks to Spencer Main Street. The riverfront is changing, thanks to the MyPath Trail System. And to top off our usual county events—the Owen County Fair and the Apple Butter Festival—are events related to the Sweet Owen County Bicentennial Celebration.

And in the midst of it all, the Owen County Garden Club will make sure that the Triangle and the pots in town look great. We’ll add some zest to the Open Class Building during the Fair. And we’ll delight children and adults alike with our craft-y offering at Christmas at the Square. *But wait! There’s more!* Roadside clean-up in April . . . Organic orcharding . . . A garden tour . . . People will be talking about *our* contributions to the county. And isn’t it just grand to be a part of it all.

See what’s coming up and let’s all jump in and help it happen.

Happy 2016 Gardening!

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

Gloria Hoppe

Patsy Bryant

Owen County Garden Club Officers for 2015–2016:

Julie Coffin, President

812-829-2493

julie_coffin@att.net

Angie Fender, Vice-President

812-829-2679

afender@dulingins.com

Karen Crosby, Secretary

812-829-5681

karen.crosby@hylant.com

Nan Girk, Treasurer

317-403-0088

negranner@mac.com



FIG. 4. FLOWERING BRANCH OF PÆONIA MOUTAN.

Healthful Harvest: An Organic Approach to Home Orcharding Sunday, April 3

2:30 social / 3:00 presentation
Cornerstone Hall, at rear of Spencer Presbyterian Church
154 N. Main Street



Many of us have fruit trees. Others of us have always been meaning to get a couple started. And still others just wish someone would share his or her windfalls. (I'm in both categories 2 and 3; how about you?) Whatever category you are in, you'll benefit from this presentation.

Our guest speaker, H. Michael Simmons, PhD, comes with such a list of credentials! He teaches a variety of classes in organic horticulture and is lead instructor and co-founder of the Grow Organic Educator Series in Bloomington. He also serves as advisor to the Bloomington Organic Gardening Association. He is the founder and lead instructor of the Certificate in the Management of Orchards class and the Master Composter series. He co-founded the Bloomington Community Orchard, and currently serves as Education Co-chair. An instructor for the

Habitat Stewards Program, he consults regularly on wildlife habitat restoration and organic orchard management practices.

Mr. Simmons will address everything from establishing young trees to caring for the ones that were in your yard when you moved in years ago. He'll also cover year-round organic methods for preventing pests and disease as well as addressing pests and disease if they do occur.

As always, this event is free and open to the public. Invite your friends and neighbors.

Sweet Owen Community Clean-Up April (yes, the whole month!)

What's better than supporting a community roadside clean-up? I'll tell you: Teaming up with other organizations to support (and carry out!) a community roadside clean-up. We've been talking about this since last fall, and now the time is here.

As event coordinators, Spencer Pride and the Garden Club are inviting (dare I say "challenging"?) individuals, businesses, civic groups, non-profits—well, anyone and everyone—to pitch in and clean up a section of county road. A Facebook page is up and running on which people can ask questions, get involved, and, most importantly, post pictures of their clean-up efforts. And then other people will see pictures of their friends and neighbors pitching in, and they'll want to pitch in, too. See how that works? We'll be getting some terrific promotion and support from the *Spencer Evening World*, as well, to keep the issue in front of everyone all month long.

If you are a Facebook user, be sure to visit and Like this page:
www.facebook.com/SweetOwenCleanup/



Sweet Owen Community Clean-Up, *continued*

So, you're asking: What is the Garden Club going to do? I didn't see the sense of setting a date and having a whole-group thing. That defeats the whole purpose of this *month-long* promotion. Do it on your own schedule. Do it once, twice, three times during the month. Just, as they say, do it. Here is what I suggest:

- Buddy up with . . . someone.
- Contact me, or interact with the Facebook page, to let organizers know you are participating. *This is important because we need to have your name on a list so you can dispose of your roadside trash for free at the Owen County Recycle Center.*
- Get big, sturdy trash bags from me. This is optional, but it saves you the expense. The OC Recycle Center provided them for us. [No, you cannot get them from the Recycle Center; get them from me.]
- Choose a chunk of road and pick up. It'd be wonderful if you can separate recyclables--glass, aluminum, tin/steel, plastic (with caps removed). But of course, sometimes it's just too trashy to handle. Use your own judgment and your own conscience.
- Take a picture of yourselves! Or, if you're really shy, take a picture of your stack of trash. Post the picture on the Facebook page, or get the picture to me one way or another and I'll post it.
- Dispose of your roadside trash for free at the Owen County Recycle Center. But again, I need to know this ahead of time so that your name is on a list.
- Challenge (oh, excuse me—*invite*) friends, other organizations you participate in, co-workers and colleagues, *and* your in-laws to participate.

I think it would be neat if more Garden Club members participated during the month than members from any other organization in the county. So, I guess that's my challenge to you!

And finally, at the end of the month, Pride and the Garden Club are hosting a celebratory pitch-in lunch. Pride members, Garden Club members, and anyone who participated in our community clean-up is invited. This occurs on the same day as the Arbor Day events at Cooper Commons.

Sweet Owen Community Clean-Up Celebration—Pitch-in Lunch

Saturday, April 30, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Owen County Art Guild

Plant Sale—Saturday, May 7

Owen County Farmers' Market

8:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.



During discussion at the January meeting, it was agreed that in addition to our usual stunning array of plants, we will also offer other gardening items. I'm

sure we all have them—a gardening tool that isn't quite right for your hand, a gardening book that you've memorized, a garden ornament that doesn't fit with the 14 you already have. So, bring them along and we'll vary our offerings this year.

Here's my annual speech. Pot up those plants. Label them.

- plant name

- sun? / shade?
- color
- height
- anything else important or noteworthy

On the day of the sale, deliver your plants at 7:30 A.M., or as early as possible, to the market. Stay and help if you can. It's always a fun morning. Drop and run if you must. Or, drop plants/items at Julie's house during the week before the sale.

If you need help digging and potting, send up a flare; we can help.

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

Special Request: Native Plants for McCormick's Creek Elementary Butterfly Garden

Some teachers at McCormick's Creek Elementary have worked hard for about the last five years to establish a wonderful butterfly garden. They sought grants like crazy, and they got it tilled, planted, and mulched. They even got funding to install a water pipe out by the garden so that they didn't have to tote water out from the school in milk jugs(!). The garden is established now, and some things have thrived and . . . some haven't. The teachers have reached out to the Garden Club to help them fill out the garden with hardy perennials. I indicated that we might just have a spare or two!

So, while you're thinning and separating this spring. Or while you're digging up plants for our sale on May 7th, how about potting up an extra native perennial and designating it for MCES? I'll plan on making the delivery some time during the week of May 9th.



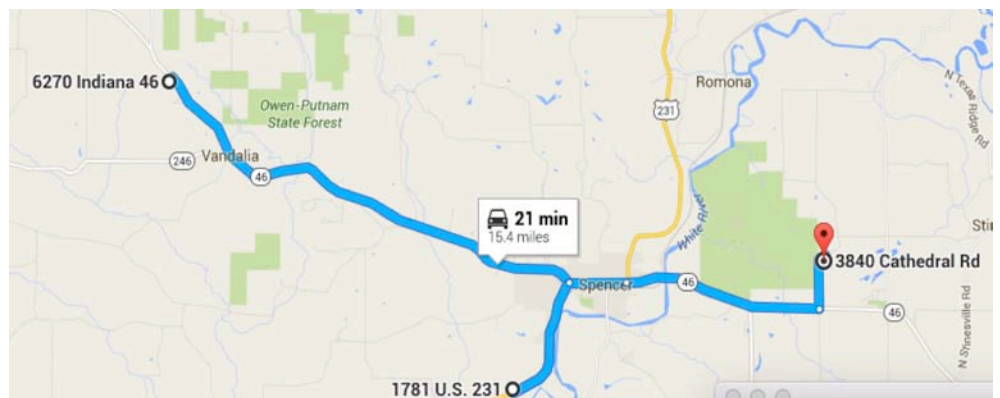
General Meeting—Monday, May 9 6:00 P.M., Location: Home of Karen and Chad Crosby 962 Clark Road

Important meeting! We'll nail down all details for the June Garden Tour. And our Fair display. Plus . . . Karen and Chad's lovely yard and gardens. Their front porch never fails to please.

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

2016 Owen County Garden Tour—Sunday, June 26 1:00–5:00 P.M., rain or shine

Here are our 2016 host sites so far, going from west to east:
—**Mark and Nancy Snapp**, west Hwy. 46, just past Vandalia
—**Jim and Ginny Coppedge**, about 2 miles south down 231
—**Terry and Jill Brush**, east of Spencer, just off of Concord Road



2016 Owen County Garden Tour, *continued*

I am working to set up/confirm a fourth site (or possibly two very close to each other) in town, to add to the circuit.

Think about how you will want to help. Here are the categories of volunteers we will need both before and during the event:

- Manual labor at each site (maybe a crew of at least 3) the week before the event to help hosts with those final tasks
- Site coordinator for each site to make sure that the host site has everything it needs on that day (table/chair/tickets/change for ticket sales, a parking plan, Garden Club signs posted, etc.)
- Site co-hosts to help coordinator, sell tickets, direct people, direct traffic, answer questions (these seem to work best in two-hour shifts; there should be two co-hosts on duty at each site throughout the tour)
- Refreshment servers (at the refreshment site)
- Bakers of goodies to be served at refreshment site
- Mixer-uppers of beverages to be served at refreshment site

And of course, plan to finish the day off with a celebratory pitch-in (what, another one?). Details to come on location and time.

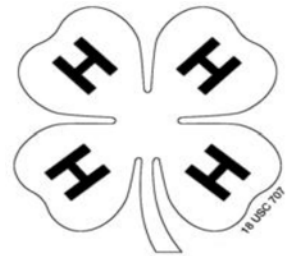
Come to the May 9th meeting and help finish figuring everything out. Also at that meeting, sign up for just the volunteer spot you want.

Owen County Fair—July 10–16, 2016

Theme: Indiana Bicentennial: Then & Now

We'll brainstorm ideas and build a committee at the May 9th 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 10)
- Open Class flower-checker-inners (2 shifts of 2 to cover the morning seems to work), Saturday, July 9.
- Judge helpers (2) to move flowers around, fill out paperwork, etc., as judge judges starting at 1 p.m. on July 9.
- Flower-checker-outers (2 to cover the several hours) to help people reclaim their Open Class flower containers and their ribbons and premium money, Sunday, July 17.



And also: We need ideas, sooner than later, for the Specialty Flower Contest that the club always sponsors. What shall we do?

Ongoing Club Details and Business

—T-shirts—

Many members have acquired T-shirts, which have a nice embroidered design on them. It's nice to wear them at our "public" events 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**—————

Once again, John and Nancy Fuhs, have cleaned out the winter stuff for us. Thank you!

At the January meeting, we agreed that we'd like the pots to have a common color scheme this year, for the sake of continuity. In heated voting, "**purple and yellow**" came out on top. So, those should be the *dominant* colors in your pots. The exact combination is up to you.

If you wish, submit your receipts to Nan Girk, the treasurer, and be reimbursed for plant expenses. As in the past, Pot Masters will be responsible for watering their assigned pots. Let's try to have them planted by May 8.

The club has potting soil. If your pot needs some, contact Faye the Pot Queen, 812-828-0565.

—————**Triangle**—————

Spring clean-up at the Triangle on Saturday, April 23, at 7:30 A.M.

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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829-5020

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<http://birdsbybent.com/gardenclub>
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