

GCI Award Application Form 2021

Award #: 42

Award Name: Bird Protection

Award Submitted by: Marion Garden Club

Number of Members in Club: 44

Date: October 23, 2021

1. New project: yes Beginning Date: October 6, 2021 Completion date: October 6, 2021

2. Brief summary and objectives of project: On October 6, Marion Garden Club and Marion Carnegie Library provided a bird story hour for pre-school and home-schooled children attending the library's Children's Story Hour. Along with moving to three action songs, the library Coordinator of Children's Services and the garden club Youth Activities Chairman each read a book. They were Truck full of Ducks by Ross Burach and Little Home Bird by Jo Empson, respectively.

Then, the Youth Activities Chairman explained the craft project, which was to make a bird feeder that could be hung in a tree by using an orange half with the pulp scooped out, skewers, and twine. The children were given an orange peel half and 4 skewers that parents or caregivers helped them insert in opposite sides of the peel. Then, they tied pre-cut twine to the skewers and tied the four pieces of twine together at the top. Finally, they scooped homemade suet into the orange half and put the bird feeder into a bag to take home. The Youth Activities Chairman suggested they put the bird feeder into a refrigerator for awhile to cool the suet.

Objectives were to promote reading and exercise as well as to encourage gardening. The main objective was learning to care for birds in winter by making a bird feeder using an orange, skewers, twine, and suet.

3. Involvement of club members, other organizations, etc.: The library puts information about the story hours on their social media pages as well as provides a printed, monthly calendar that can be picked up at the library. (*The library notes in its advertisements that "all participants and parents understand and agree that photos taken at the event may be used in social medial postings and future promotions."*) Marion Garden Club also posts information on their website, and an announcement of the club's participation was included in a newspaper article. Twenty children, 9 adults and 2 librarians attended the Story Hour. Due to unforeseen circumstances only 2 club members were able to help with this event: six members normally participate.

The Club's Youth Activities Chairman headed up the program. She secured the materials needed for the project and participated as noted above. The other member took pictures during the project, submitted an article about the project to the local newspapers, and placed pictures on the club website. She also helped others clean up at the end of the program. The Librarians assisted with the video, dance, reading, and craft. The Coordinator of Library Services also took pictures and posted them on the library Facebook. Librarians made a display of age-appropriate books related to birds that could be checked out.

4. Project expenses and means of funding: The Library provided the space, videos, books, divided trays to hold the project materials, and paper bags. Total cost for the club was \$31.00 - oranges, \$7.30; twine, \$4.94; skewers, \$2.47; five-pound container of lard, \$8.12; and birdseed, \$8.17. The spoons were left over from previous projects. The Youth Activities Chairman also used left over oatmeal, cornmeal, raisons, sugar and flour from her pantry to make the suet.

5. Continuing involvement, follow-up, maintenance: Although this is a new project, the Marion Garden Club has been working with the library for many years to provide a spring and a fall youth project. Plans are to continue this partnership. As noted, a garden club member submitted an article about the project to two newspapers and placed pictures on the club's website. The member leading the program regularly volunteers at the library and helps with the Children's Story Hours. She will get feedback. The librarian that took pictures placed photos on the Library's Facebook page.

Story Hour – Birds! with the Marion Garden Club

October 6 @ 10:30 am



Join Miss Shelley and Miss Twila at this fun story hour, where we'll read about birds and dance with Marion Garden Club. Then take home a craft!

NOTICE: All participants and parents understand and agree that photos taken at the event may be used in social media postings and future promotions.



Top: Announcement of program from library website. Give attention to “Notice” at bottom about pictures. Printed copies were available at the library. The club had an announcement in a newspaper article and on their website.

Bottom L: Club Youth Activities Chairman, right, reads a book to the children while Library Coordinator of Children’s Services at left operates video of book pages.

Bottom R: Mother helps son tie twine to skewers inserted into peel of orange half.



THE MARION STAR — October 21-27, 2021

Children at library's story hour make bird feeders from oranges

The Marion Star

MARION — On Oct. 6, children at Marion Carnegie Library's story hour learned about birds and how to make a bird feeder using an orange. Marion Garden Club Youth Activities Chairman Twila Couey worked with Shelley Hudspath, the coordinator of children's services at the library, to plan the program.

The librarian placed age-appropriate books about birds on a table at the entrance to the room where the activity was held: the books were available to be checked out. A welcome to the story hour was

projected onto a screen.

During the program, Couey and Hudspath led the children in action songs including "Flutter Flutter Little Bat", "Five Little Monkeys", and "Milkshake". Hudspath read the book *Truck full of Ducks* by Ross Burach after the first song and Couey read *Little Home Bird* after the second.

Couey then explained the craft project so the children with help from parents or caregivers could help them make a bird feeder to hang in a tree. The children were given an orange half that had the pulp scooped out. They put

four skewers through opposite sides of the orange peel and tied a length of twine to each skewer.

The four twines were tied together at the top. Finally, they scooped suet in the orange half and put the feeder in a paper bag to take home.

Pictures of this project may be found on the Library Facebook page and the Marion Garden Club website at mariongardenclubofillinois.weebly.com. The Marion Garden Club is part of District VII, Garden Clubs of Illinois and Central Region, National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Top left: Home-schooled boy scooping suet into his orange birdfeeder.

Top right: Club member top right taking pictures during activity song. Photo from library Facebook page.

Bottom: Article published in local newspaper along with two photos.