



# MISSISSIPPI VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

April 2015

[www.mvgclub.weebly.com](http://www.mvgclub.weebly.com)

Save these dates:

**Thursday, April 16**  
7 pm

Bethalto Senior Center  
Winter sowing presented by  
club member, Christy / Plant  
exchange/ **Sign up bus trip**

**Saturday, April 25**

9 am

Dig day at Carole's

**Monday, April 27**

7pm

Board meeting

Dottie's home

**Thursday, May 7**

Pricing at Jan & Herb's

4 pm

**Saturday, May 9**

Plant sale  
8:00-12:00 pm

**Saturday, May 16**

Spring bus trip

**Depart** Alton Square Mall

8 am

**Thursday, May 21**

Home garden visit, TBA  
6:30 pm

**New member:** Welcome to Julia . Julia had come to our open house and decided to join us. Julia is from East Alton.

**Our sympathy** to the family and friends of Julia . Julia joined the club in 2010. She was a quiet person but willing to help. She will be missed.

**Plant Sale:** Its that time of year again. Time to get ready for the plant sale. The sale will be Saturday, May 9. It will be held at the Alton-Wood River Sportsmen's Club on Godfrey Road. Set up begins at 5:00 am. Sale is from 8:00-12:00pm. Be thinking of the plants that you will be able to share. Please dig and pot the plants about 2 weeks prior to the sale, to give the plants time to recuperate. Compost will be available at Carole Baker's and Jan and Herb Maxeiner's (alley behind the house).

**Need** donations of gently used gardening items: tools, nice pots, decorations, etc. We would also like a couple of nice gardening items for a raffle. If able to provide please contact Phil Embree.

**Pots:** If you have extra pots and flats please bring them to the April club meeting. Recommended sizes are: approximately 8" tall and 5" wide, or 10" wide and 5" tall for spreading plants. Flats with fairly solid bottoms work well for groundcovers.

**Advertising: Flyers** can be posted after April 19. Please remove them when the sale is over. **Contact local banks/business** to display the plant sale on their marquee

**Cardboard boxes,** open flats will be needed the day of the sale, for customers purchases.

**Pictures,** if you have pictures of your plants, especially bloomers, have them available. This helps the customers see what they are getting. Put them on a stake in the plant. Tally staff will pull the pictures for future use.

**Dig day:** Volunteers are needed for the dig day at Carole . Carole's gardens are a great source of plants. The more help we have the more we can accomplish. Please bring you own shovels and trowels. If you are able, bring a wheelbarrow. Pots and flats will be needed. Don't forget to bring buckets or containers to get compost for your plants.

**Spring bus trip:** This will be the last meeting prior to the Spring bus trip. Don't forget to get signed up. We will be headed to Lake St. Louis Garden Center, Daniel's Farm and Greenhouse, Tom Mansfield Nursery and Annie's Gardens and Gifts. Lunch will be at Ruby Tuesday's. There are other restaurants within walking distance. Members \$10 and guests \$18.

**Pricing day:** will be at Jan and Herb's home, Thursday, May 7 at 4 pm. Please deliver plants before 4 pm. Do not drop off plants prior to Thursday. Rain date will be Friday, May 8. Make sure your plants are labeled. Label sticks will be available at the club meeting. Include name of plant, sun or shade, description, or special requirements.

**April club meeting:** Christy, one of our newer members is going to share her experience with winter sowing. This is a method of starting seeds during the winter months in containers, such as milk jugs and soda bottles. We will also be having our annual plant exchange. Please bring 3 plants (correction from last month). If possible, label each plant with requirements.

**March meeting:** William Klopfenstein reviewed the components needed for a happy garden. You need to decide the type of garden, whether sun or shade. The soil should be examined for type: sandy, silt, clay or loam. It is recommended that you have the soil tested. The results will give you most importantly the pH. It helps to know the preferred pH of the plants you want to grow. The soil test will also give you: nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. With all this information you will be able to add the correct amendments. With a little water you will have a beautiful garden.



**Summer garden visits:** We need volunteers for home garden visits for August and September. You are not expected to provide food. We bring our own drinks. We usually start at 6:30 pm. You will receive \$50, for the visit. Please let me know if you are willing to share your garden and story.

*Susan*

**Summer job:** If you are interested in a part time job for the summer, Alton Park and Recreation are hiring. The main requirement is that you can tell the difference between a plant and a weed. Work 2-3 days per week, helping to take care of the flowers in the Alton parks. For more information contact: Joel Anderson 781-4663

**Note from hospitality:** The following members have volunteered to bring goodies for the April meeting. Thank you to the members who brought food and drinks for the March meeting.

**Desserts:** Sue, Gloria, Judy, Carol, Carolyn, Sharon

**2 bags of ice:** Mary

**2 liters regular cola:** Charlotte

**2 liters white soda:** Debbie

**2 liters diet soda:** Christy

**2 gallons tea:** Susan

**President** — Sue Hiller 466-4942

**Vice President** — Susan Ruckman 466-5892

**Secretary** — Susan Ruckman 466-5892

**Treasurer** — Judy Dare 258-7098

**Board members**

Vernice Allen

Carole Baker

George Kahl

Jerry Linker

Dottie Rogers

Paula Zugmaier

**Committee chairs**

Carolyn James, Trips

Karen Fitzgerald, Hospitality

Mary Scates, Hospitality

Phil Embree, Plant sale

Jerry Linker, Historian & photos

Earlene Harrison, Community Projects