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**Save these dates:**

**Thursday, April 20 —7 pm**  
Bethalto Senior Center  
Plant Exchange  
Sign up for bus trip \$10  
Bring extra pots

**Monday, April 24 —7 pm**  
Board Meeting  
Polly's Restaurant

**Friday, April 28 —6pm**  
Memorial tree celebration  
Diana Pruett  
Glazebrook Park, Godfrey

**Saturday, April 29**  
8 am– 12 pm  
Dig day at Carole's

**Thursday, May 11**  
Pricing day  
Jan's

**Saturday, May 13**  
8 am— noon  
Plant Sale  
Alton-Wood River Sportsmen's Club  
3109 Godfrey Rd, Godfrey

**Thursday, May 18-6:30 pm**  
Greenhouse at the Nature Institute  
Sign up for bus trip — \$10

**Saturday, May 20— 7:30 am**  
Bus trip  
Meet at Alton Square Mall

**New members:** Welcome to Bob R, glad you enjoyed the presentation and decided to join us. Hope to see you frequently.

**April meeting—Plant Exchange:** This is the monthly meeting that most members look forward to. It is a chance to share some of your favorite plants with each other. We use the attendance tickets to randomly draw the order of the plant drawing. We do limit it to 3 plants. If you have extra plants, save them for the sale. Divide your plant and pot it. If you are sharing bulbs, please use a paper bag to store them in. Everyone should take home the same number of plants that you bring.

Be sure and label your plant. Any info that you can provide. Shade or sun, drought tolerant, maximum size, etc. You may want to bring a box or bags for your plants, it can get messy.

**Memorial tree celebration:** The dedication for the memorial trees is part of the Arbor Day celebration at Glazebrook Park in Godfrey. The tree being dedicated is for Diana P. she passed away in April 2014. We originally donated for a tree at Bethalto Park. It was never planted because they were having trouble with their trees dying. The funds were returned so it was decided to donate to Godfrey Park, where we have had trees planted for other members. The dedication is part of the family events that they have planned for Arbor Day. When I receive more details I will share them with you.

**Dig day at Carole B's** Help will be needed for digging at Carole's. We get 300-400 plants in a couple of hours. Usually start around 8 am and finish around noon. If you can only do an hour or two that will help. We need diggers but also potters. All the plants are divided and potted the same time. Please bring some tools and gloves. If you can transport a wheelbarrow that is helpful. Pots and flats will be needed. Don't forget a bucket or container to get some compost for your plants.

**Directions to Carole's:** Go North on Humbert Rd in Alton, towards Brighton. Turn right on Straube Lane— Straube Lane is just past Tremont Dr. Go 1.6 miles, turn left onto Whistling Winds Lane, 0.2 miles past Cope Ln. If you reach Straube Ridge Rd you've gone too far. The road into Carole's is gravel, there are some very steep hills. Please be careful of cars coming towards you.

**Spring bus trip:** Saturday, May 20 will be our spring bus trip. The bus will be at Alton Square Mall, upper parking lot by Macy's, for loading at 7:30 am. The bus will leave at 8:00 am. You need to be on time, we will be leaving promptly at 8:00 am. 1st stop is Timber Wood Nursery (formerly Summer Winds). They are located in Ellisville, MO.

[www.summerwindsnursery.com](http://www.summerwindsnursery.com). I did not find an up to date website. From there we go to Papillion Perennials, in Wildwood. They are fairly new, opened in April 2016. The owner, Cathy, has 25 years experience growing perennials. She was the manager for the greenhouses at the Missouri Botanical garden for 13 years. They do have lists of the plants they carry/ can order on their website, if you are looking for something in particular. [www.papillonperennials.com](http://www.papillonperennials.com). Last we will visit Hillermann Nursery, in Washington, MO. They were established in 1951. They have nursery, greenhouse, garden center, flower shop and pot shop. They also do landscaping.

[www.hillermann.com](http://www.hillermann.com). Lunch will be at local fast food places. Members are \$10 and guests are \$18. Please pay prior to the day of the trip, there will be many opportunities. If for some reason it is the day of the trip, please have a check or correct change.

**Plant Sale:** Time to be getting ready for the plant sale. This is our fund raiser that pays for our activities: Hope Center, school donation, speakers, etc. We have a very good reputation for our sale. I have gotten calls and emails through our website, wanting to confirm the date and location of the sale. The sale is a lot of fun. It is more enjoyable when we have good weather, so everyone say a little pray for the weather. The sale is held at the Alton-Wood River Sportsmen's Club, on Godfrey Rd, in Godfrey. It will be at the back of the building under the pavilion. We usually start moving plants around 5 am.

**Plants:** Start dividing and potting the plants about 2 weeks ahead of the sale. This gives the plants time to recuperate. Use the compost to pot them in. Compost is available at Jan's and Carole's. Need donation of gently used gardening items: tools, nice pots, gardening décor.

**Raffle:** Need a couple of items for a raffle. Give Edith a call, if you have something or a suggestion.

**Advertising:** Flyers will be provided at the April meeting. You can start posting the flyers after the meeting. Please post at your churches, grocery stores, your vehicle window, etc. Please check back occasionally that the flyers are still posted, sometimes the stores clear the boards. Also, remove the flyers after the sale. If you know of banks and business with marquees please contact them, requesting they post the information.

**Sign up sheets:** There will be sign up sheets for different activities at the April meeting. Please sign up for something. Help will be needed with pricing, setting up, transporting plants, sales, tallying, clean up, tables, trucks, trailers, etc.

**Pricing:** will be at Jan, Thursday, May 11, 4 pm. Please do not take plants to Jan's before Wednesday, Friday, May 12, 4 pm will be the rain date for pricing. Jan is at, Godfrey. Going north on Godfrey Rd/ IL 111, turn Left onto Ramona Pl. Jan's house is on the right.

**Wagons/garden carts:** If you have a child's wagon or small garden cart that you can bring the day of the sale, they are helpful. These are used to haul plants to the customers cars.

**Compost:** A big thank you to Juanita and Monte for delivering and unloading the compost at Jan and Carole's. It is a hard and dirty job, we appreciate your efforts. Compost is now available at Jan and Carole.

Compost at Jan's is located at the back of the yard, by the alley. If you turn down Taylor Ave, off Godfrey Rd. The lighted intersection where Little Caesar's Pizza is located. Go down Taylor Ave, about a block. There is a small white one-story house, sets back on the property a bit. Turn left down the alley. Go around the corner, its about the 6th house on the right. There will be a tall green chain link fence then a brown wooden fence. You'll see a cottage shed. The compost is in the bin, set back a bit in the yard. Take a bucket/container and a shovel. Directions to Carole's is under the Dig day section.

**Community Hope Center:** Thank you to the members that cleaned up at the Hope Center, in March. Christy, Sue and Bill, Jerry and Carole gave a couple of hours to get the place cleaned up. Thanks for giving your time.

**March meeting:** The March meeting broke the record for attendance. Over 50 people attended, including 5 guests and 1 new member. It was awesome to have so many attend. Ned Seigel did a great job on the presentation, it's always a pleasure to have him come for a visit. Ned shared with us the life cycle of the Monarch. The Monarch is our state insect. I didn't realize that they had such a short life cycle that it takes 4 cycles for the butterfly to return north. The butterfly that started back never makes it. The number of Monarchs has increased slightly, in spite of the decline of their habitat. The herbicides that hurt the milkweed, the highway mowing and spraying to get rid of the weeds. Ned spoke about the need to provide not only milkweed for the caterpillars of the Monarch but also fall nectar plants. The nectar plants are needed for the migration south. Some of the nectar plants suggested were: golden groundsel, blue wild indigo, foxglove beardtongue and bee balm. I will include scans of the brochures Ned brought with him. Members who get newsletters by snail mail let me know if you would like a copy.

**Hospitality:** Thank you to the members who brought in food for our March meeting, always delicious. Thanks you to the members that brought in food that weren't signed up, it was appreciated, especially with the large turn out. The following members have signed up to bring food for the April meeting.

**Dessert:** George, Minnie, Gail, Debra, Debby, Ann

1 large bag of ice — Earlene  
1 liter regular cola — Don  
1 liter white soda — Don  
1 liter diet soda — Paula  
1 gallon unsweetened tea — Debbie

**President**— Carole Baker, 466-7718

**VP/Secretary**— Susan Ruckman, 466-5892

**Treasurer** — Susan Ruckman, 466-5892

Consider hosting the club for a garden visit  
this summer. Give me a call or email,  
thanks Susan. 466-5892 or  
[gardenfriends@hotmail.com](mailto:gardenfriends@hotmail.com)

#### Board Members

Vernice Allen

Christy Butler

Gail Clarkson

George Kahl

Jerry Linker

Dottie Rogers

#### Committee Chairs

Christy Butler — Trips

Susan Hiller — Community Projects

Joanne Bottens — Hospitality

Debbie Winship — Hospitality

Edith Reed — Plant Sale