



# **Mississippi Valley Garden Club**

**February 2016**

**Save these dates:**

**Thursday, February 18, 7pm**

**Dues 2016**

**Vegetable 101**

**Erica Siddle**

**Illinois Master Gardener**

**Bethalto Senior Citizen  
Center**

**Monday, February 29, 7 pm**

**Board meeting  
Frank's Restaurant**

**Thursday, March 17, 7pm**

**Open House**

**Designing a Perennial Garden**

**Monday, March 28, 7pm**

**Board meeting**

**Thursday, April 21, 7pm**

**Plant exchange**

**Saturday, April 23**

**Dig day at Carole Baker's**

**Monday, April 25, 7pm**

**Board meeting**

**Saturday, May 7**

**Plant Sale**

**Saturday, May 21**

**Bus trip**

**New Members:** Welcome back to Jo Ann Bishop. Its always good to have former members come back to the club. Also welcome to Sue and Jay Reed who joined the club. It's a great beginning to the new year.

**Dues 2016:** Dues for 2016 will be collected at the meeting. \$10 for the year, due by February 18. After the 18th the dues will be \$15. If you can't make the meeting please mail the dues to: Judy Dare, 108 Cedar Ln, East Alton, IL 62024.

**February meeting:** Vegetable Gardening 101, we will discuss a broad range of topics to set you and your garden up for success in 2016! Topics will include : a brief discussion on site location and prep, planning your garden, top vegetables for our area, common maintenance and pest management techniques. The goal of this class is to give you an encompassing look at vegetable gardening and empower you to have your most successful year in the garden yet.

Erica Siddle is a Content Manager for local digital advertising agency, Hughes Leahy Karlovic. In her current role, she represents a broad range of agriculture facing companies including: Tractor Supply Company and several Monsanto seed portfolios. Her passion for things that grow has been cultivated through out her lifetime. Upon graduating from Greenville College, in December 2013, she enrolled in the University of Illinois Extension Master Gardner program. Since earning her Master Gardner certification in 2015, Erica has participated in a variety of events hosted through the Extension Office, in addition to volunteering at Willoughby Farms in Collinsville, IL on a weekly basis. Her passions include: garden planning, vegetable gardening and any other activity that allows her to be outside.

**March Open House:** Plans are in the process for the March meeting, as part of our 20th anniversary celebration. It will be an open house , the community will be invited. Encourage friends and neighbors , that have an interest in gardening to come visit us. Hopefully, some former members will also come for a visit.

**Keeping Up:** Lee Bernt was hospitalized for a couple of days at Barnes Hospital. He is now on the road to recovery and doing fine! His doctor has instructed him not to drive for six months. Consequently, Mary has a new role as Lee's chauffeur. They are planning to attend the February meeting.

George Kahl has expressed his appreciation for the many members who came to the visitation for Mary. The numerous sympathy cards and notes he received were very comforting.

Condolences to John and Gloria Gowin in the loss of John's brother, James. Please keep this family in your thoughts and prayers.

Several of our members are trying to recover from colds and other winter illnesses. Let's hope they are all better by our February meeting.

Please let me know if you have any news that can be shared. Vernice, 259-6726

**Plant sale:** Phil Embree, is stepping down from chairman of the plant sale. Phil has done the plant sale for 3 years, 2013-2015. He was a fairly new member when he took on the challenge. It is a large project with many behind the scene details. Be sure and thank Phil for his efforts.

**Memorial Tree:** A memorial tree has been purchased for Joyce Buzzanga, through Godfrey Park and Recreation. We requested it to be planted in the area of Herb's. Memorial for Mary Kahl is pending. George is checking into some options. Celebration ceremony for the memorials will be part of Godfrey Park's, Arbor Day celebration in April. Will let you know arrangements when information is available.

**January meeting:** Betsy Alexander, St Louis Master Gardener, gave us a presentation on Winter Damage. Betsy covered several different conditions. Frost crack, a previous wound on the bark. There is daytime warm up with sudden temperature drop at night, sometimes you can hear what sounds like a rifle shot. Bark splitting, caused by using Round Up around the base of the tree. Sun scald, exposure to sun, warmer than rest of tree. A temperature drop at night causing cracking and peeling of bark, allowing bugs to get in. Desiccation or winter burn. Sometimes you can see snow line evidence or de-icer related damage. Frost injury, the plant/tree breaks dormancy, temperature drops causes damage to buds. Helps to avoid late fall fertilization. Probably the worst is winter storm damage, usually an ice storm. The shrub/tree may not be salvageable. It helps to have plenty of fall moisture to prevent these different types of damage, so we should see little damage. It was an interesting presentation, lots of information. It was good to see everyone back. We had 3 new members. We are off to a good start for our 20th anniversary year.

**Things to do:** Some activities to check out.

Feb 6– Mar 27- Annual Orchid Show, Missouri Botanical Garden. Their Spring –Summer schedule is also available. [www.missouribotanicalgarden.com](http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.com)

Mar 5- Weekend Gardener, at Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows, [web.extension.illinois.edu/mms](http://web.extension.illinois.edu/mms)

Also check out Gateway Gardener, [www.gatewaygardener.com](http://www.gatewaygardener.com)

**Hospitality:** Thank you to the members that brought food for the January meeting. Delicious as always. The following members volunteered to bring goodies for the February meeting:

**Desserts:** Debbie Winship, Gloria Gowin, Karen Cairns, Sharon Knepper, Edith Reed, Carol Morris

**2 bags of ice:** Bill Hiller

**2 liters regular cola:** Don Scott

**2 liters white soda:** George Kahl

**2 liters diet soda:** Frank Graser

**2 gallons tea:** Carole Baker

**President:** Susan Hiller 466-4942

**VP/ Secretary :** Susan Ruckman  
466-5892

**Treasurer :** Judy Dare 979-0237

#### Board Members

Vernice Allen

Carole Baker

George Kahl

Jerry Linker

Dottie Rogers

Paula Zugmaier

#### Committee Chairs

Carolyn James — Trips

Earlene Harrison — Community Projects

Joanne Bottens — Hospitality

Debbie Winship — Hospitality

Jerry Linker — Historian & Photos

?????? — Plant Sale

As you take pictures of your garden.  
Pick your favorites and give to Jerry  
Linker for the 2016 album.