

Mississippi Valley Garden Club

February 2020

www.mvgclub.weebly.com

Save these dates:

February 20, Thursday
7pm

Bethalto Senior Center
Betsy Alexander
St. Louis Master Gardener
"Chocolate"
Dues 2020
deadline Feb 20

February 24, Monday
6:30pm

Board meeting
Dottie Roger's home

March 19, Thursday
Bethalto Senior Center
7pm
TBA

Welcome to: Rosemary and Eunice, both joined at the January meeting.

Rosemary recently retired from the Defense Contract Management Agency located at the Boeing Hazelwood, Mo facility. She enjoys biking, owning both a regular bike and an electric bike. She has been quilting for the last five years, she likes reading, word games and a crossword puzzles when she can't be outside. Of all the plants and shrubs in her yard her favorite is Spirea.



Eunice has been involved in gardening since she was a kid. She is a member of the daylily club. She recently moved 600 daylily bulbs. She does have other plants, including, aster, mums, irises and a variety of trees. She also enjoys: reading, sewing, embroidery. But mostly enjoys being outside.

Dues 2020: Susan Hiller, will be collecting the dues for 2020, at the February meeting. The dues are \$10 for renewal and \$17 for new members. The \$17, includes their name pin. If you are unable to attend the February meeting, please mail your dues to: Susan, Alton, IL 62002. After Feb 20, the late dues will be \$15.

February speaker: Betsy Alexander will be back to visit us. Betsy was a public health professional for 29 years in clinical services and health education. She has been a Master Gardener since 2000 and has served on the St. Louis Master Garden Advisory committee, including 2016 chair and the training coordinator team. She is currently on the education committee and is the Speaker's Bureau coordinator. Betsy also presented the topic "Winter Damage", for us in 2016.

Betsy topic this time will be "Chocolate". We will learn where this strange and wonderful fruit comes from. We will learn the earliest history of chocolate, learn how it is cultivated and processed and then consider ways to take your chocolate addiction into your garden with "chocolate plants".

January meeting: John Hensly presented us with a picture tour of three botanical gardens. The first tour was the garden in Anchorage, Alaska. It is 110 acres, most of it natural habitat. There were kitchen gardens that were needed for fresh fruits and vegetables. They had holehaufens, they were a German method of stacking and curing wood. The visitors of the garden would have to watch for bears.

Next, John shared pictures from his trip to Elche, Spain. There were many different varieties of palms. One palm of particular interest is the Imperial palm. It has 7 large branches, all growing upright. The branches are supported by metal bands to keep them from breaking. There were awesome succulents. There is a statue that has quite a history: La Dama de Elche.

The last garden is closer to home. It is the Powell Gardens in Kansas City, Missouri. It is 970 acres, home of 7 gardens. The property, at one time, had been a dairy farm, a boy scout camp and an agricultural and natural resource center.

John did a good job navigating us thru the three gardens. You almost felt like you were walking the paths yourself.



Things to do:

February 1– March 22, Orchid Show, Missouri Botanical Garden , www.missouribotanicalgarden.org

Weekend Gardener, Registration deadline, February 28. March 7, at Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows, sponsored by University of Illinois Extension.

<https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=17728>

March 6-8, Art in Bloom, St Louis Art Museum, <http://www.slam.org/artinbloom/>

Missouri Botanical Gardens: Spring/Summer class schedule available

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/learn-discover/adults/classes-tours-workshops.aspx>

Hospitality: The following members have volunteered to bring desserts and drinks for the February meeting. Thank you in advance.

Desserts: Debbie, Carmen , Karen , Susan , Edith and Linda

One **large** bag of ice — Edith Reed
 (1) 2 liter regular cola — Carole Baker
 (1) 2 liter white soda — John Baker
 (1) 2 liter diet soda — Carole Baker
 one gallon unsweetened tea -Vernice Allen

President: George , 741-0394

Vice President: Dottie , 917-4730

Secretary: Susan , 917-5853 or garden-friends@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Susan , 466-4942

Board members

Vernice
 Carole
 Christy
 Jerry

Committee chairs

Christy — trips
 ???- community projects
 Jerry — photos & historian
 Edith — plant sale
 Debbie — hospitality