

Mississippi Valley Garden Club



February, 2021

www.mvqclub.weebly.com

Save these dates:

Tentative February meeting

Tuesday, February 23

6:30 pm

Christway Church
1200 Airport Rd
Godfrey, Ill 62035

Bring your mask

Date and location change

Dues 2021,

\$10

No late fee

Mail to : Susan Hiller

6511 Alpha Dr

Alton, IL 62002

Deadline March 31

Looking back at 2020 there were many changes. We lost several active members: Don , Jan , Carolyn , Earlene , Sharon and Lee . A couple of former members, that had been active in the club, have also passed: Ron , Delmar and Frank . Our condolences to Adrianna and family, for the passing of her husband, Kenneth. Condolences to anyone who has lost a family member.

The pandemic has added to the craziness of the past year. With shutting down businesses and churches. Social distancing. Hopefully 2021 will be looking up.

Memorials: We have lost 3 long time gardeners, since the last newsletter. Carolyn , Frank and Delmar . The board has decided on memorials for each one.

Carolyn will have a memorial tree planted at Glazebrook Park, in Godfrey. We have requested that it be planted close to her husband's tree if possible.

A \$100 donation to 5 A's Humane Society in honor of Frank .

A \$100 donation to the Alzheimer's Association in honor of Delmar .

Dues for 2021: The board came to the consensus to collect dues for 2021. We have \$2877 in our checking account. We still have expenses, such as the memorials. We hope to have some meetings/ garden visits as permitted. The board is not sure if we will be able to have a plant sale, this year. No late fees. Please mail to Susan Hiller by March 31, so we can update our roster.

February meeting: We will be having our February meeting at Christway Church in Godfrey. This is Susan and Bill Hiller's church. They are gracious enough to let us use the conference room. There is plenty of room to spread out. We will have to use precautions. We will have to clean up the tables when we are done.

Eunice Weber will be speaking about daylilies. She has had much experience with them.

Inclement weather: With the chance of inclement weather the next couple of months, if you normally receive your newsletter by email, you will be notified by email if there is a cancellation. Please check your email. Otherwise you will receive a phone call. If any concerns the day of the meeting contact George Kahl or Dottie Rogers.

New Facebook page: Christy Butler has volunteered to develop and maintain a Facebook page for the club. This is just another way to get the club name out in the public. Go to Facebook, search, type in Mississippi Valley Garden Club. It is meant to be interactive. Please share ideas, educate, pictures, etc. Just remember it is open to the public. Limit name, no addresses or phone numbers. Thank you Christy. I noticed there is info about winter sowing posted.

Belated welcome to new members: Jennifer , joined in 2020, rejoined 2021. “ I love plants in general and most years I have a vegetable garden, but I love my landscaping too. I love a combo of blooming perennials and annuls, but do not know a lot about them. So here I am, educate me!

I am married, have 2 daughters, 2 grandchildren, and 3 cats.

PS. I have 5 family members that belong to the club as well.”



Welcome also to **Gail** , joined in 2020, rejoined 2021. Gail is a retired iron worker. Her present career is Reflexology, which she has been doing for 44yrs. She is active in her community: teaches art (drawing and painting), does work at her church, flower arrangements, works at the Bethalto arboretum, active with the Bethalto Spirit organization. As far as gardening, she has a lot of irises, enjoys vintage plants, has a old fashioned daffodil. She like medicinal herbs. She grew up with gardening. Just any plants that strike her fancy. Gail, has 3 children, 12 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. Likes animals but allergic to cats. Gail joined the club to learn more about plants and caring for them. Please share you knowledge with her.

Favorite pictures 2021: For several years Jerry Linker has been keeping an album of member’s favorite gardening pictures. It may include insects, bird or grandchild as long as it is flower or garden related. If you want to share the picture with the members please forward to Jerry Linker, by mail, email or in person.

Christmas banquet: The club’s Christmas dinner took place at Castelli’s restaurant. The were 20+ members/ guests attend. Castelli’s allowed plenty of room to spread out. The food was good as usual.



February meeting: Paula shared with members her tour of several gardens in/around Philadelphia. Paula traveled with Kay , a former garden member. They took their trip in June 2019.

The first garden they visited was **Ladew Topiary Gardens**. Harvey Ladew, wealthy and privileged, did all the planning and landscaping himself, without formal training. It was designed as 15 garden rooms. He had some help turning a rustic farmhouse into a country home. He had interests in antiques, fox hunting, entertaining, and horses. He transported an old ticket booth from London, reassembled it in the garden where is still stands.

Next they visited , **Meadowbrook Farm**. This was 7 acres , including a private house, display gardens and a garden center that J. Lidden Pennock developed. He was an horticulturalist, florist and part president of the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society. The garden center sold a multitude of all kinds of plants and nature. The property had a pool. There was also a heated pool that looked like a wading pool. The backyard had lots of small garden rooms, but each area looked out onto another area, beautiful views no matter where you were looking.

Next on the agenda was the **Morris Arboretum**. The property was described as a romantic Victorian landscape garden. It belonged to a wealthy family. Brother and sister, John and Lydia Morris, developed the gardens. The University of Pennsylvania acquired the property, it became the Morris arboretum and is the official arboretum of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The 92 acres of gardens , pathways and streams, including many of Philadelphia's 's oldest, rarest and largest tress. They had a “tree house platform” that you climb up and walk out on and see the garden from the trees. There was a sunken flower garden, a miniature train track, a beautiful specimen of a Tabletop Scotch Elm tree. They also had a large art installation, called the “Loop de Loop”. It was made with hundreds of willow branches woven into several huge, winding, twisting rooms that you could walk through. It had been commissioned by Patrick Dougherty.

Moving onto the next property was the **Mt. Cuba House and Gardens**, in Hokessin, Delaware. It was once the estate of Mr. and Mrs. Lammont du Pont Copeland. The formal gardens and terraces surrounding the stately manor house were designed by noted Philadelphia landscape architect, Thomas W. Sears. Following the owner's death, the property transitioned from private to public botanic garden. Consisting of the house, and display gardens covering more than 50 acres bordered by natural lands and woods of more than 500 acres. They had a display gardens with all sorts of varieties of hydrangeas that were gorgeous.

Next garden was the **Bartram's House and Garden**. It is the oldest botanic garden in North America, inhabited by Native Americans as early as 3,000 BCE. It became an outpost of the New Sweden Colony. John Bartram, and his family, were plant collectors and naturalists. Bartram is considered to be the founder of American botany and the first North American experimenter to hybridize flowering plants. The property is home to the country's oldest ginkgo tree and the delicate Franklinia alatamaha tree. Two of the Bartram's' most famous discoveries, and saved them from extinction.

Next it was on to **Longwood Gardens**. It was established as a working farm and as a arboretum. It contained one of the finest collection of trees in the nation. In 1906 when trees on the land were to be sold for timber. Pierre Samuel du Pont, Chairman of the Dupont Company and General Motors Corporation purchased the property. He continued to purchase gardens around the property, increasing the acreage to 1050 acres. He maintained a summer retreat on the property. Longwood is a combination of exotic gardens, elaborate fountains, 4.5 acres indoor conservation and several water gardens.

Last garden was the **Barnes Arboretum** at St. Joseph's University. The campus features the former home of Dr. Albert and Mrs Laura Barnes, surround by a 12 acre arboretum. The previous owner spent 40 years planting specimen trees. Today it contains more than 3000 species of rare and unusual plants, including 31 state champion trees, along with collections of hardy ferns, hosta, peonies, roses and medicinal plants. They have a well, that the owners saw in Italy. Bought it and had shipped back to the garden.

It was a trip of gorgeous gardens and a lot of history. Thank you to Paula for sharing the information and pictures. The above information was taken from Paula notes.



President: George Kahl, 498-5789

**Vice President: Dottie Rogers,
917-4730**

**Secretary: Susan Ruckman, 917-5853
or gardenfriends@hotmail.com**

Treasurer: Susan Hiller, 466-4942

Board members

Vernice Allen
Carole Baker
Christy Butler
Jerry Linker
Eunice Weber

Committee chairs

Christy Butler - trips
Jerry Linker - photos & historian
Edith Reed - plant sale
Debbie Winship - hospitality
??? Community project