

## www.mvgclub.weebly.com

## Save these dates:

January 17, Thursday
7 pm
Betty Struckhoff
St. Louis Master Gardener
"Bringing Natives Home"
Bethalto Senior Center
100 E Central St
Bethalto, II 62010
Dues for 2019

6:30pm
Board meeting at
Dottie Rogers home
6515 Deer Run,
Alton, 62002

7 pm
Bethalto Senior Center
Betsy Alexander, St. Louis
Master Gardener
"Winter Damage"
Dues for 2019

**2018/2019:** It is time to say good-bye to the old year. We have had changes in our garden. We have seen changes in some of our members: Frank Graser and Delmar Dooley have had to move into nursing facilities, Paul James has passed away, members have lost spouses and several have had health issues. Please keep all of them in your thoughts and prayers.

The club has had instances to celebrate. Jan Pfeiffer, Dori Hoth, Matt Fay and Alicia Davis have joined our group. We had another successful plant sale, a great bus trip and the final result to a special project—the sale of the hosta from the dividing and transplanting.

January will be the start of a new year. Hopefully one of sunshine and good times.

**Dues for 2019:** Gloria Gowin will be collecting dues for 2019, at the January and February meetings. Dues for returning members is \$10, new members is \$17, this will include their name pin. If you are going to be out of town, Jan and Feb, please mail your dues to: Gloria Gowin, 242 S. 9th St, Wood River, IL 62095. Dues will be \$15 after Thursday, Feb 21.

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 a phone call. If any concerns the day of the meeting contact George Kahl or Susan Ruckman.

**January meeting:** The program gives ideas for incorporating native plants into the home garden with suggestions for shade, sun and boggy areas. It covers the various habitats for wildflower and features photos of plants growing in the wild.

It will guide you to plant selections to make your landscape part of a natural world.

Betty Struckhoff will be our speaker. Betty has helped create native landscapes in local parks, other public spaces and private gardens. A Master Gardener since 1999, she is a winner of the St. Louis Post Dispatch" Best Native Garden "contest. Betty volunteers with the Master Gardeners Speakers' Bureau, the Museum of Transportation and the Bring Conservation Home program. Her home landscape is certified "Platinum" in the BCH program.

( Front banner is picture from the Garden Glow at the Missouri Botanical Garden)

**Favorite pictures 2019:** 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.

**Gardening quote:** This quote is shared by club member, Julia Pernicka.

"Gardening is one of the rewards of middle age, when one is ready for an impersonal passion, a passion that demands patience, acute awareness of a world outside oneself, and the power to keep on growing through all the times of drought, through the cold snows, toward those moments of pure joy when all failures are forgotten and the plum tree flowers.

**Christmas banquet:** The club's Christmas dinner and gift exchange took place at Castelli's restaurant. Our numbers were down for attendance, only 46 members and 1 guest were able to come. A good time was had by all. The food was good and plentiful. We had the surprise of cheesecake for dessert. Vernice made the arrangements for Castelli's and the dessert. Thank you Vernice.

Carole Baker presented George Kahl with the president's gavel for the presidency for the next 2 years. Dottie Rogers will be vice president, Susan Ruckman will be Secretary and Gloria Gowin will remain as treasurer.













Hospitality — The following members have volunteered to bring desserts and drinks for the January meeting. Thank you in advance. Desserts— Susan Hiller, Edith Reed, Karen Cairns, Gloria Gowin, Mary Bernt and Susan Ruckman

1 large bag of ice —Susan Ruckman

- (1) 2 liter regular cola Debbie Winship
- (1) 2 liter white soda Anne Carrera
- (1) 2 liter diet soda— Jaci Sweetman
- 1 gal unsweetened tea—Paula Zugmaier

President: George Kahl, 498-5789

Vice President: Dottie Rogers, 917-4730

Secretary: Susan Ruckman, 917-5853 or

gardenfriends@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Gloria Gowin, 550-9923

## **Board members**

Vernice Allen Carole Baker Christy Butler Gail Clarkson Jerry Linker

## **Committee chairs**

Christy Butler—trips
Susan Hiller—community projects
Jerry Linker—photos & historian
Edith Reed - pant sale
Debbie Winship - hospitality