

Mississippi Valley Garden Club

July 2017

Save these dates!!

Thursday, July 13, 6:30 pm

Susan & Bill garden
6511 Alpha Dr, Alton

No July board meeting

Thursday, Aug. 17, 6:30 pm

Debbie's garden
East Alton

Thursday, Sept 21, 6:30 pm

Carolyn & Paul's garden
Godfrey

Thursday, Oct 19, 7 pm

TBA
Bethalto Senior Center

No meeting in November

Thursday, December 7

Christmas Banquet
Castelli's Restaurant

July garden visit: Our June garden visit had many established gardens. Our July garden will also have established gardens, but as we know they are always a work in progress. Here is a few words from Susan about her gardens.

We've been in our home since 1967. My first garden was a free garden. Whatever other gardeners shared: irises, ivy, and ajuga. There were peonies from the farm where my father grew up. Since I love woodland wild flowers, these were moved to the shady areas.

In 1998 I discovered Mississippi Valley Garden Club and was introduced to new plants. I haven't stopped adding plants since. Some of my favorites are: hellebores, lady slip-pers and paw paw trees.

A glass of wine shared with my garden fairy is a perfect ending to my day. Susan H.

Directions: North on Humbert Rd. Turn right onto Seiler Rd/ County Hwy 52. Turn right onto Wenzel Rd. Take 1 st left onto Alpha Dr. House in on the left.

Hayner Public Library: We have been invited, via website, to a presentation at Hayner Public Library, at Alton Square Mall. *New American Gardening: Urban Rain Gardens.* Christopher Carl, Artist and Landscape Designer, a graduate from University of Illinois, will present a program on designing rain gardens. He will show a way to develop creative spaces to revitalize distressed city blocks through art and ecology. Come learn of the benefits and beauty rain gardens bring to the landscape. Wednesday, July 12 at 6:30 pm in the Multipurpose Room, at Alton Square Library. Please call for reservations at 800-613-3163.

June Activities

Alton Farmers Market: Carole, Christy, George, Susan and Bill, Jerry and Susan manned the booth at the farmer's market on June 3. Jerry provided canopy, table and signs. He also had sweet potatoes sprouting for demonstration and later sold. Christy had painted some golf ball ladybugs and bumble bee plant decorations. The kids enjoyed them. Brochures were given out and some plants were sold. We made about \$52, it covered the cost of the booth, with a little extra. Several people recognized the club from the plant sale, so that was kind of nice. Course, we had some time to do some shopping, too.

Hope Center updates: The gardens were weeded, mulched and a couple of vinca and lantanas were planted. The grassy weeds did work their way back through the mulch. Jerry has been back to spray. When he followed up, he found moles had been working. First time I remember of their being moles, rather strange since the area is surrounded by the building and asphalt parking lot.

Pictures, pictures and more pictures: Please take pictures of your plants when they are at their finest and blooming. It was discussed at the board meeting that the plants with pictures seem to sell the quickest.. Customers like to see them and what color the blooms are. Another thing that was found to be helpful, is having the color listed on the markers. If you need help with the pictures, please ask someone for help, it really does make a difference. Also, just a reminder if you have a favorite picture please give to Jerry for the 2017 album.

June garden visit: We spent the evening at Debra's garden. It was easy to wander around, follow paths and find surprises at the end. You got to see a variety of plants. There were friends gathering and visiting on the shaded patio. There were shady and sunny areas. Swings and claw foot bathtubs. Debra has a green house where she starts some plants, mostly alyssum. Debra had her son's wedding in the shade in May, accommodating a large tent. A lot of hard work and love goes into taking care of this many gardens. And a lot of mulch, 5 dump trucks and at least 2 pick up truck full. Thank you for sharing with us, Debra.



Trimpe Middle School: We received a thank you note from the science teacher at Trimpe Middle School, they were the 1st donation that we had made to a school.

Dear Vernice & Garden Club, Thank you very much for your generous donation to my 1st hour class plant unit. We used the money to purchase bulbs, seeds, plant supplies and plants. Students learned about pollination, germination, photosynthesis, respiration, soil conditions and the economic importance of plants. We studied plant traits, both favorable and unfavorable. Thanks again, we appreciated being thought of.

Lori science teacher, Trimpe Middle School, Bethalto

Odds and ends:

Pots: Carolyn had been to Hindleys Nursery. She shared that they have a beautiful selection of pots, that can stay outside. See attachment.

Basil: Anyone looking for basil, Godfrey Greenery on West Delmar, has a sign posted at the entrance.

August newsletter: The August newsletter will be August and September combined due to being on vacation the end of August. If you will have anything for the September newsletter please let me know. *Susan*

Activities in July:

May 13—Aug 13, Missouri Botanical Garden — Garden of Glass, the art of Craig Mitchell Smith. Garden's Climatron Conservatory lights up larger - than - life fused glass work.

June 24 - July 23, Missouri Botanical Garden — Desert Exhibit, rare look at the garden's expansive cacti and succulent collection.

July 12, Wednesday, 6:30 pm— *New American Gardening: Urban Rain Gardens.* Christopher Carl, artist and landscape designer, a graduate from University of Illinois, will present a program on designing rain gardens. Hayner Public Library, Alton Square Mall. Please call for reservations, 800-613-3163.

July 22, Saturday, 11 am -12 pm,- *Sample the Flavors: Heirloom Tomatoes and More.* Join the Sierra Club and Grassroots Grocery in sampling organic heirloom tomatoes along with other interesting vegetables. Produce and dips will be provided. Hayner Public Library, Multipurpose Room, Alton Square Mall.

July 22, Saturday, 9 am - noon, Hummingbird Festival and Banding. Lewis & Clark Historic Site, Hartford, ILL

Board members

President: Carole Baker, 466-7718

VP/ Secretary: Susan Ruckman
466-5892

Treasurer: Gloria

Vernice
Christy
Gail
George
Jerry
Dottie

Committee chairs

Christy — Trips
Susan — Community projects
Joanne — Hospitality
Debbie — Hospitality
Edith — Plant sale
Jerry— Historian and photos