

# Mississippi Valley Garden Club

June 2021

[www.mvgclub.weebly.com](http://www.mvgclub.weebly.com)

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**Save these dates:**

**Thursday, June 17, 6:30 pm**

**Home garden visit**

Linda Ahrling

9810 Pleasant Grove Rd,  
Plainview, IL 62685

drinks and light snacks  
provided

(217) 556-1206

**Thursday, July 15, 6:30 pm**

**Home garden visit**

Rose Schollmeyer

3707 Coronado, Alton

drinks and light snack  
provided, chairs available

**Monday, July 26, 6:30 pm**

**Board Meeting**

At Dottie Rogers home

All board member please try  
to attend.

Discussion of club affairs,  
officers, Hope Center,  
pot luck

**August**

**To be determined**

May was a very busy month. From digging for plants, the plant sale, the nursery tour and the garden visit, etc. Just would like to say thank you to everyone that gave of their time and energy. Thank you to the ones that brought food and snacks for the in house meetings. Also, thank you to Dottie Rogers and Jerry Linker for covering when some of us were dealing with health issues.

**August garden visit:** We are in need of a garden or activity for August. If you are willing to volunteer or have a suggestion please contact Dottie Rogers.

**June garden visit:** First we had a small city garden. Next we are headed for the country. The club has been invited to Linda Ahrling, garden in Plainview. Linda has been a garden member for several years. She has been gardening for most of her life, helping her mom when she was young. Linda was 1 of 9 kids in the family. They grew flowers and vegetables. The vegetables were canned for later use. Her and her husband ,Henry and 2 children (Jim and Julie) had been farming for the majority of their life. In 2014 their son, Jim retired from his job to take over farming full time. Linda has a variety of plants. So come check out her garden/yard. It is a longer drive, you may want to car pool. Linda will provide light snack and drinks. Please bring a chair. If the ground is wet please park cars on the gravel. Hope to see many of you there. Please make sure you have Linda's phone number when you travel, in case you get lost.

**Garden Tours: Madison County Garden Tour:** June 11, 4-9pm, June 12, 9-2 pm. Various gardens in Edwardsville and Glen Carbon, 618-344-4230.

<https://illinoisouth.org/Events/Madison-County-Garden-Tour-2021>

**Alton/Godfrey Garden Tour:** June 27, 12 –5 pm. [https://www.facebook.com/prideincorporated1/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/prideincorporated1/?ref=page_internal). Not much information available.

**April Activities: Dig Day:** April 17, as the plant sale nears, a dig was held at Sue and Bill Hiller's yard and garden with 5 members helping out. A slight drizzle greeted us at 9:00, but didn't dampen our efforts to dig and pot up 75 plants with 52 being one variety of variegated hosta. Those that lent a hand along side the Hillers: Cristy Butler, Adriana Marcuzzi, Edith Reed, Jerry Linker and Paula Zugmaier. Another dig day for the Hillers was scheduled for the following Thursday, but eventually had to be cancelled. *Jerry Linker*

**Plant Exchange:** Snow, freezing rain and rain did not deter 18 members from our annual April plant exchange. The weather did improve later in the day with no slick spots and the sun making an appearance. Dottie Rogers filled in for George Kahl, who had been ill. The business portion of the meeting concerned upcoming events that included: the Hope Center, Carole Baker dig day moved to Tuesday, the 27th. May 1st tree dedication for; Jan Maxeiner, Ron Bottens and Carolyn James and the May plant sale. After refreshments, our plant exchange began with those who brought 2 plants, got 2 chances for their picks on the table. The check was also, on the table. Many members remained for awhile after the meeting to visit with fellow gardeners.

*Jerry Linker*

**Dig day at Carole Baker's;** Carole offered to let us come out and dig plants for the sale. Debbie Winship, Christy Butler, Susan and Bill Hiller, and Jerry Linker worked for the morning digging plants. There were butterfly bushes, variegated yucca, shrubs, and ground covers. Carole was also helping with the potting. Thank you for giving your time.

### **May Activities**

**Memorial Tree Ceremony:** Glazebrook Park. Lovely spring day, mid to upper 70's. Windy with SSW winds at 15 mph. We were gathered to dedicate memorial trees in honor of 3 of deceased members: Jan Maxeiner, Ron Bottens and Carolyn James. 7 members represented the club in attending the ceremony: George Kahl, Christy Butler, Sue and Bill Hiller, Helen Fulks, Barbara Reiske and Jerry Linker. 62 names were recited and a bell rang once for each name. In all, 52 trees, 9 benches and 1 paver were dedicated. After the ceremony, we visited the 3 trees planted in our deceased members honor. Red Bud tree saplings were given to all who attended that wanted one or more.

*Jerry Linker*

**Plant sale advertising:** Some of the behind the scene activities for the plant sale is the advertising. It is important and is accomplished in many way. Paid ads in the garage/yard sales section are placed in the Telegraph, Jerseyville and Bunker Hill papers. It is included in the community activities page. It is on our website, our Facebook page. Green fliers are posted in churches, restaurants, and members vehicles. It is posted on websites such as Riverbender.com. 150 emails are sent to former members and prior customers. "Word of mouth" is also important in getting the word out. Karen Wilson, State Farm Insurance Agency advertises our plant sale on their marquee on Tolle Lane.

A large banner is erected the Thursday morning before the sale and 4 signs are hung around the Sportsman's club patio. On sale day, 3 more "plant sale today" signs are placed at Hardie's, across from Lewis and Clark Community College at Tolle Lane and at Humbert and Tolle Lane. 4 other signs shaped like flowers are placed around and near the banner.

*Jerry Linker*

**Plant sale setup:** Plant sale pricing and staging was accomplished Friday afternoon at the Sportsman's Club at 4:00.

Trucks, trailers and plenty of help showed up with plants, tables and support for this part of the plant sale. Unloading, staging and pricing was accomplished in a short period of time for the Saturday morning event.

Earlier in the day, Bill Hiller came over with a blower to clean off the pavilion, as I arrived with my 1st of 3 loads (around 11:00am). It was a windy evening, some of the plants were left on the ground near their table to prevent any damage from being blown off the table. The "yellow caution" tape was wrapped around the entire pavilion as we finished up around 7ish. Some of us went into the Sportsman Club for a bite to eat before heading home.

*Jerry Linker*

**Plant sale:** The day of our plant sale has arrived and so did a stiff, cold NW wind at a steady 15-20 mph. A lot of help arrived at 6:30 am to finalize staging and pricing. Many members went back to their vehicles to add clothing or jackets. Even bath towels were used as shawls over the shoulder and neck. Hot coffee and donuts were received and appreciated. At 7:30, our customers began to arrive for the 8:00 opening. They didn't seem to pay much attention to the COLD wind. Their spirits undampened, they tore the tape to enter the pavilion at 8:00 and rushed to select plants. As usual, our best business was 8:00 to 10:00. A smaller flow of customers up until about 11:30. As usual, our best business was 8:00 to 10:00. A smaller flow of customers up until about 11:30. There was one truckload of plants left. The plants were donated to the Bethalto Arboretum for planting there. After close, we cleaned out the pavilion: cleaned up debris, boxes, plant trays. Collected our signage and departed for home. Later that day it was announced that we had made \$2770.00 not a record, but not too shabby either.

*Jerry Link-*

**Nursery tour:** Four members: Dottie, Christy, Carmen and Bob, traveled to the Defiance, MO area to visit a couple of nurseries. They went to Hartke Nursery, Chesterfield Valley Nursery and Frisella Nursery. They enjoyed the nurseries, found some interesting plants. They ate lunch at a bar and grill. Even though it was a small group, they enjoyed their day.

**May garden visit:** We were invited to Adrian Marcuzzi's yard and garden which was in full spring/early summer bloom, resulting in lots of colors. Her garden includes many varieties of plants including hosta, clematis, Japanese Maple, rhododendron, peonies, poppies and iris to name a few. Yard ornaments, container plantings and a very large rock garden in the front of the home also added to the features of this garden. 18 members and 1 guest enjoyed this yard and garden even though the day was warm, it was quite comfortable in the shade in the back yard.

Adriana has lived at this location for 9 years, and is her first owned home. She has lived in many places including New York and Los Angeles, always an apartment. Missouri Botanical gardens has been a major inspiration for her planting ideas. She continues to expand her plantings each year. "The grass will have to go if I run out of room for plants" Adriana says. This was the perfect time to see the iris in full bloom and to visit this garden. *Jerry Linker*

*P.S.* I heard from Susan Hiller and Christy Butler that Adriana had lupine that were beautiful, she started them from seed. She also has a fig tree that produces figs. It dies back every year.

**Community Hope Center:** A warm day greeted 5 members who assisted in our community project cleanup at the Community Hope Center, Rosewood Heights. Due to Covid 19 lockdown, our project had been neglected for over a year. The looks of the garden certainly bore that out. Jerry Linker had sprayed the weeds the week before which made the work a little easier, he also brought his tractor and trailer to haul debris away. He used his blade to clean the weeds out at the front entrance. Vernice Allen, Rosemary Bauer, Susan and Bill Hiller and Jerry Linker lent a hand to tackle a very difficult project. Only the front garden and the front ring were completed on this outing. This leaves the long back garden and the wishing well in back for a later date. Mulching will be discussed at a later date. *Jerry Linker*



**President:** George Kahl, (618) 741-0394

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

**Secretary:** Susan Ruckman, (618) 917-5853 or [gardenfriends@hotmail.com](mailto:gardenfriends@hotmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Susan Hiller, 466-4942

#### Board members

Vernice Allen  
Christy Butler  
Jerry Linker  
Eunice Weber

#### Committee chairs

Christy Butler,  
trips  
???? — community projects  
Jerry Linker — photos & historian  
Edith Reed — plant sale  
Debbie Winship — hospitality