

Mississippi Valley Garden Club

November/December 2017



www.mvgclub.weebly.com

Save these date:

November, no meetings

**Christmas dinner and gift
exchange**

Thursday, December 7, 2017
5:30 arrival, 6:00 dinner

Castelli's Restaurant at 255
3400 Fosterburg Rd, Alton

Gift exchange

R.S.V.P. by November 27

January meeting

Thursday

January 18, 2018

TBA

Dues for 2018

January board meeting

Monday, January 29, 7 pm

TBA

New member: Welcome back to Barbara . Barbara was a former member and has decided to come back to the club. Welcome back, hope to see you often.

Thank you: Thank you to everyone that helped during the year. Whether it was providing food for the meetings, helping on dig days or any other activity. The club could not exist without its volunteers. Thank you, again and happy holidays. *Susan*

Christmas banquet: We will be celebrating the end of another gardening season at Castelli's restaurant. There are many things to celebrate at this time of year. Arrival time will be 5:30, dinner will be served at 6:00, once everyone is seated. Guests are invited, \$20 per guest. Members are free. Cake from Duke's Bakery will be provided by the club, for dessert. We ask that you rsvp by Monday, November 27. Please contact Susan Ruckman, email gardenfriends@hotmail.com or call 466-5892. We would like to have as accurate a count as possible. We do have to pay for the count that we turn in. If you have to cancel please call as soon as possible. Payment for guests need to be made prior to November 27. Payment can be mailed or dropped off to Susan Ruckman, 2716 Ridgedale Dr., Godfrey, IL 62035.

We will be having a gift exchange at the dinner, for anyone who would like to participate. The recommended price is \$15. Preferably a gardening item. If it is gender specific please mark it as such. Please make sure you get a drawing ticket for the gift that you bring.

Dues for 2018: It will soon be that time of year, again. Dues for 2018 will need to be paid by February 15, to avoid late fee. Dues are \$10 for renewing members. \$17 for new members, a name tag will be obtained. Gloria Gowin will start collecting dues at the January meeting. If you are going to miss the January and February meetings please mail your dues to Gloria Gowin: 242 S. 9th St, Wood River, IL , 62095.

Donations: The board members made some changes this year regarding end of year monetary donations. They took into consideration the time working on their landscaping, money spent for plants and mulch and canned goods collected that are donated to the Community Hope Center. There was discussion of other organizations in need of help. Many have been affected by budget cuts. The board decided on the following donations: \$50 - Community Hope Center, \$100- Senior Service Plus, to be designated for the Meals on Wheels program, \$100 - Bethalto Senior Service, to be designated to the drivers for medical appointments and transportation, and \$100- to Operation Blessing in Wood River. If you have an organization in mind, that you would like to be considered for a donation next year, please let Carole Baker or any of the board members know.

October meeting: The presentation was quite interesting and entertaining. Our speaker was Ron Scheller, owner of Nuisance Wildlife Control Service, in Mt. Olive, IL. Ron provided information regarding bats found in Illinois. There are 13 different species, all are protected only 1 is endangered. None of them are fruit eaters. They don't eat mosquitoes, they prefer moths and insects that are hazardous to other crops, such as the corn earworm. Most of the bats weigh less than an ounce. They can get through tiny openings in structures. They don't cause any damage, it is their guano and urine. They also attract "bat bugs" that can get into the living area of a house, they are sometimes mistaken for bed bugs. They can also be carriers of spores of histoplasmosis. Histoplasmosis is a fungal disease, that can infect humans, usually the immunosuppressed. When Ron handles the guano he is wearing a hazmat suit and respirator.

Bats can also be carriers of rabies. If for some reason you are bitten by a bat, usually while trying to catch or remove one from your home. Don't do it bare handed and don't release the bat. The bat would be tested for rabies and may prevent you from having to receive the rabies injections.

Bats are a special group of mammals. They avoid humans and are usually harmless. Handle them with caution. They are just trying to survive in this ever changing world.



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

Desserts: Karen Cairns, Sharon Knepper, Carolyn James. Helen Fulks, Charlotte Bryant, Christy Butler.

- 1 large bag of ice: Frank Graser
- (1) 2 liter regular cola: Edith Reed
- (1) 2 liter white soda: Carol Morris
- (1) 2 liter diet soda: Linda Votaw
- 1 gallon unsweetened tea: Susan Ruckman

Our condolences to Charlotte Bryant, Helen Fulks and Barbara Reiske for the loss of their sister, Shirley Dilbeck. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Wanted to share Joyce new contact information:
 Joyce
The Fountains
 1000 Airport Rd
 Godfrey, IL 62035
 (618) 806-6200

Give her a call or send her a card, let her know you are thinking about her.

President- Carole Baker, 466-7718
VP/Secretary— Susan Ruckman, 466-5892
 or gardenfriends@hotmail.com
Treasurer— Gloria Gowin, 550-9923

Board members

- Vernice
- Christy
- Gail
- George
- Jerry
- Dottie

Committee chairs

- Christy — Trips
- Susan — Community Projects
- Debbie — Hospitality
- Edith — Plant sale
- Jerry — Historian & photos