



# Mississippi Valley Garden Club

November/December 2019

## Save these dates:

**November, no meetings**

**Christmas dinner and gift  
exchange**

Thursday, December 5, 2019  
5:30 arrival, 6:00 dinner

Castelli's Restaurant at 255  
3400 Fosterburg Rd, Alton

Gift exchange, optional

**R.S.V.P.** by Saturday,  
November 30

**January meeting**

Thursday

January 16, 2019, 7 pm

TBA

**Dues for 2020**

**January board meeting**

Monday, January 27, 7 pm

TBA

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

*Susan*

**Christmas banquet:** We will be celebrating the end of another gardening season at Castelli's restaurant, on Dec 5. There are many things to celebrate at this time of year. Arrival time will be 5:30, dinner will be served at 6:00. 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 Saturday, November 30. Please contact Susan Ruckman, email

[gardenfriends@hotmail.com](mailto:gardenfriends@hotmail.com) or call (618)917-5853. 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 Saturday, November 30. Payment can be mailed or dropped off to Gloria Gowin, 242 S. 9th St, Wood River, 62095

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 ticket for the drawing for the gift that you bring.

**Volunteers needed:** The club is in need of a couple of volunteers to fill some positions. We need a **project chairperson**, whose main responsibility is coordinating work at The Community Hope Center. Occasionally there are other projects. We also need a **new board member**. As a board member you communicate between members and the board. You would bring ideas, suggestions and concerns to the board.

**New Treasurer:** Susan Hiller has accepted the position of Treasurer, beginning January 1, 2020. Susan will be collecting dues in January. To contact Susan: 6511 Alpha Dr, Alton or call 466-4942. Thank you for taking on the position.

**Dues for 2020:** It will soon be that time of year, again. Dues for 2020 will need to be paid by Thursday, February 20, to avoid late fee. Dues are \$10 for renewing members. \$17 for new members. Susan Hiller will start collecting dues at the January meeting. If you are going to miss the January and February meetings please mail your dues to : Susan Hiller, 6511 Alpha Dr, Alton, IL 62002. Dues after February 20 will be \$15.

**End of Year Donations:** After reviewing the budget the board voted on a couple of end of year donations. \$150 will be donated to The Community Hope Center, since it remains our ongoing project. It was also voted to donate \$150 to the Bethalto Senior Citizens, since they continue to not charge us for using the meeting space.

**Bethalto Arboretum:** We had a couple of guests, Jane Ahasay and Sandra Balster from the arboretum They gave us an update regarding their project. Asphalt paths are completed. Lighting has been placed. Beds are being made and planted by different groups or individuals. They offered a bed or two to the club. They are working on a level 1 certification as an arboretum. This means they have 25 different trees identified. They actually have more identified, but not enough for the next level. We were invited to a work day Nov 2. They would like to have participation by the club or as individuals.

**October meeting:** Carol Gravens, once again came to share her knowledge and beautiful pictures. Carol reviewed the science behind the leaves changing color in the fall. The loss of chlorophyll (the green coloring). This let the carotenoids ( orange and yellow) and anthocyanins ( red and purple) show through. She covered these changes in trees, shrubs, vines, flowers, fruits and seeds.



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

**Refreshments:** Dottie Rogers, JoAnn Bishop, Jaci Sweetman, Sharon Knepper, Carolyn James and Susan Hiller

**1 large bag of ice:** Adriana Marcuzzi

**(1)2 liter white soda:** Don Scott

**1 gallon unsweetened tea:** Karen Smith

**(1) 2 liter regular cola:** Don Scott

**(1) 2 liter diet soda:** Helen Fulks

**President: George Kahl, 498-5789**

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

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

**Treasurer— Gloria Gowin, 550-9923**

**Board members**

Vernice Allen

Carole Baker

Christy Butler

Jerry linker

Dottie Rogers

**Committee chairs**

Christy Butler, Trips

????? — Community Projects

Debbie Winship — Hospitality

Edith Reed — Plant sale

Jerry Linker — Historian & photos