

Mississippi Valley Garden Club

October 2017



www.mvgclub.weebly.com

Save these dates:

Thursday, Oct 19, 7 pm

Bats– Endangered, Pollinator
and Insect Eater

Ron Scheller

Nuisance Wildlife Control

Service, Mt. Olive, IL

Will meet at:

Bethalto Senior Center

100 E Central St

Bethalto, 62010

**Bring canned goods for the
Hope Center**

**Sign up for Christmas Dinner
and gift exchange**

No November meetings

Thursday, Dec 7

arrival 5:30, dinner 6:00

Christmas dinner and gift
exchange

Castelli's Restaurant @ 255

3400 Fosterburg Rd

Alton, 62002

Deadline for reservations:

Monday, November 27

New member: Welcome to Michael , a new club member. Hope to see you often.

White elephant drawing: If while your cleaning up your gardening items, you find something that you no longer need or want, bring it to the meeting for the white elephant drawing. Gently used tools, decorations, and club apparel are welcomed.

October meeting: *Please bring some canned goods. We will deliver them to the Community Hope Center in October. This gives them time to share them with their clients for the holidays. We will also be presenting them with a check.*

The week of Oct 24– 31 is National Bat week, I felt it would be appropriate to learn a little more about this beneficial animal. Many plants from the desert to the rainforest are pollinated by bats. Bats are the second largest group of mammals in the world. The largest is rodents. There are 12 species of bats in Illinois, all are protected by law. Bats use echolocation to find flying insects at night much like sonar helps ships locate objects under water. Bats also have good night vision. They are not blind, as myth would have it. Some bats can eat their weight in insects, including some of the most damaging agricultural pests. It is unlawful to harm or kill a bat.

Our speaker, Ron Scheller is owner of Nuisance Wildlife Control Service, along with his wife, Judy. They have been providing services since 1990. They are located in Mt. Olive, IL. They are a state licensed organization. Ron's interest in animals started when his dad would "drag" him along on his winter trap lines when he was very young. He was shown the skills and methods to catch area furbearers, and started doing some winter fur trapping on his own when he was back in grade school.

His wife, Judy, became licensed in 1997 to help with the demand of their services. They deal with a variety of animals: raccoons, squirrels, bats, opossums, beavers, pigeons, skunks, moles, etc. Their specialty is bat exclusions and bat proofing.

Please limit questions to bats only, at this time. For more information about bats or Ron's company check out these websites: www.batcon.org and www.thebatguy.com.

Christmas dinner: Its that time of year to get signed up for the Christmas dinner. It will be at Castelli's Restaurant on Fosterburg Road. Dinner will be served around 6 pm, once everyone is seated. We will obtain a cake from Duke's Bakery. We will have a gift exchange, it is optional. Suggested price is \$15. Please keep gifts related to gardening. If it is a gender specify item, please mark it as such. Make sure you get a ticket for the exchange drawing.

For the dinner, members are free, guest are \$20. Deadline for reservations is November 27. Payment for guest will be due at this date. No payments will be accepted at the restaurant.

We do pay for the number of dinners we turn in to the restaurant. If your plans change please let us know. Last year we payed for 4 people that were not able to make it to the dinner. For reservations please call Susan Ruckman, 466-5892. For payment of guests, please mail or drop off to : Susan Ruckman, 2716 Ridgedale Dr, Godfrey, IL 62035.

Community Hope Center: We had a work day at the Hope Center, Thursday, Sept 7. The weeds were trying to take over. Jerry had been spraying them and dealing with moles. He got rid of the moles but losing the battle with the weeds. We went out to weed and clean up the beds. The annuals: lantana, vinca and ornamental peppers were holding their own. We watered while we were there, that had been a problem during the summer. Debbie trimmed the bushes. There was enough help and such a beautiful day that some of the other beds were also cleaned out. Thank you to: Debbie, Dottie, Susan, Jerry, Carole, George, Phil, Vernice and Susan. It made the work lighter and more fun to have good company.

Hosta dig day: On Saturday, Sept 9, the club had a new activity. We had a dig day at former member, Shirley Emmons. Shirley is changing her landscape for easier maintenance, she offered the club her hosta for next year's plant sale. We got lucky again, it was another beautiful weather day and there was plenty of help. 18 members and family came to help us dig, divide and pot. Approximately 260 pots of hosta were obtained and delivered to their winter homes. We were able to identify about 12 different varieties. Thanks to Jerry Linker for getting the compost. Thanks to Lee, Bill and Carole for the use of their trucks to haul the plants. Big thank you to: Ron, Joanne, Mary, Lee, Phil, Jan, Edith, Debbie W., Carol, Gloria, Susan H., Bill, George, Don (brother Rick), Dottie, Jerry and Susan R. for all the digging, dividing and potting. We were done in about 3 hours. If I missed someone, I apologize, please let me know.

September garden visit: Our last garden visit for the season was at Carolyn James' garden. Carolyn has a challenging yard. Lots of deep shade and a big hill. Over the past 15 years Carolyn has conquered the challenge. She has several hosta and hydrangeas. There is a little patch of sunshine in the front yard that is known as the sun garden. One of Carolyn's favorite flowers is the Oriental lily. She has 50-75 lilies in her gardens. Carolyn treated us to a campfire and potluck. It has been awhile since having a hotdog cooked over a campfire. Food was great as always, quite a variety. Thank you, Carolyn.



Wreath making: If anyone is interested in making a natural wreath for the holidays there are 2 options I am looking at.

The Nature Institute- Nov 27 or 28, 6 pm– the cost is \$40/ person, decorations provided.

Tangled Tree Christmas Tree Farm— variety of dates to pick from - Nov1– Dec 23, cost \$27/ person. Minimum of 6 people. All supplies provided.

If you are interested please let me know, 466-5892 or gardenfriends@hotmail.com

Hospitality: The following members have signed up to bring desserts and drinks for the October meeting. Thank you in advance.

Desserts: George Kahl, Mary Bernt, Debbie Linker, Edith Reed, Carmen Vercoglio and Debbie Winship.

One large bag of ice — Phil Embree

(1) 2 liter regular cola — Jan Maxeiner

(1) 2 liter white soda — Carol Morris

(1) 2 liter diet soda — Sharlotte Bryant

1 gallon unsweetened tea — Earlene Harrison

President: Carole Baker, 466-7718

**VP/Secretary: Susan Ruckman,
466-5892 or**

gardenfriends@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Gloria Gowin, 550-9923

Board members

Vernice Allen
Christy Butler
Gail Clarkson
George Kahl
Jerry Linker
Dottie Rogers

Committee chairs

Christy Butler — Trips
Susan Hiller — Community Projects
Joanne Bottens— Hospitality
Debbie Winship— Hospitality
Edith Reed — Plant Sale
Jerry Linker — Historian & Photos

Our sympathy to Joyce and her family. Joyce's husband, Ron passed away, Thursday, Oct 5. He had been in and out of the hospital frequently this summer.