

**October 2014**

# **Mississippi Valley Garden Club**

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

**SAVE THESE DATES**

**OCTOBER 16, 2014, THURSDAY  
CLUB MEETING  
7 PM  
Bethalto Senior Citizen  
Potluck, white elephant ex-  
change, trivia game**

**OCTOBER 27, MONDAY  
Board Meeting  
TBA**

**NOVEMBER  
NO MEETING**

**DECEMBER 4, THURSDAY  
CHRISTMAS BANQUET  
JULIA'S  
GIFT EXCHANGE  
CANNED GOODS FOR HOPE  
CENTER**

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:** We would like to welcome: Karen, Sheila and Paula, to the garden club. Hope you can join us for many of the activities.

**OCTOBER MEETING:** It's the time of year for us to move back inside. Fall is here, its getting dark earlier. We had the chance to visit some awesome gardens. Thank you to all that welcomed us to their gardens.

The October meeting will be back at the Senior Citizen's Center in Bethalto. This will be a chance to relax and reconnect with friends. There will be a potluck. Meat and drinks will be provided. We ask that you bring a side dish: vegetable, salad or dessert. Would like a variety but whatever you would like to share.

There will be a trivia game. It's a chance to use our brains and maybe learn a little about gardening. We will mix up the members, to get reacquainted with other members.

There will also be a white elephant exchange. Bring gently used garden items: decorations, designated garden club apparel, books, etc. They will be raffled by a drawing.

**SIGN UP FOR CHRISTMAS BANQUET:** The Christmas banquet will be at Julia's Banquet Center in East Alton. Guests are welcomed ( \$18.00). Members are free. Julia's is festively decorated. The food is good. The company is great. There will be a gift exchange, \$10-15 limit, need to keep it garden related. We ask for a donation of canned goods for the Hope Center. We will also make a cash donation dependent on the budget. If you need to cancel , please let us know so that we an give an accurate count.

**WEBSITE:** If you get the chance to check out our website, pictures have been added to the monthly pages. Pictures that Jerry or I took, have been added. You will be able to see the monthly meetings, home garden visits, plant sale and trips. Feel free to browse. [www: mvgclub.weebly.com](http://www.mvgclub.weebly.com)

**BIRDBATH:** Thank you to Debbie (Lucky) . Debbie volunteered her time to share how to make the birdbath using an elephant ear as a mold. Debbie had 2 sessions at her home.

**BUS TRIP:** Our fall bus trip started out with a taste of fall with the temperature being 45 degrees, most wore a light jacket. The sun was out and shining brightly, but stayed on the cooler side most of the day. It turned out to be very comfortable for walking around the shops, historic homes, gardens and finding an eatery of choice.

Upon arrival at the welcome center, Bonnie , boarded our bus and acted as tour guide. Bonnie showed us the historic buildings and residences in this French colonial town.

All the homes presented were beautifully restored, but the highlight of the tour is when we stopped at the home of John Karel's 1829 vertical log constructed home. He invited all 34 of us to come into his home (wow), to see the interior that he had beautifully restored including using the original horse hair/ clay mortar between the logs.

Upon returning to town, we were on our own to eat, shop and wonder around town. Some of us ate at the Fire Station, while others went to other places for lunch.

At the appropriate time ( almost, but that is another story) we departed for our last stop which was the Chaumette Vineyard and Winery. Some of us took advantage of the wine tasting, and selected some fine wine to take home. There was also cheese tasting, which some took advantage of.

We arrived back in Alton a little later than planned, but no one seemed upset and applauded Carolyn James and her helpers: Sue Hiller and Jan Maxeiner for arranging another great bus trip. **Jerry**



**President—Debbie Fleetwood 531-9655**

**Vice Presidents— Gloria Gowin 550-9923**

**John Gowin 304-3437**

**Secretary/ Treasurer— Susan Ruckman 466-5892**

**Board**

**Committee Chairs**

**Shirley Means**

**Carolyn James— Trips**

**Anna Potter**

**Earlene Harrison, Community  
Projects**

**Richard Hancock**

**Karen Fitzgerald, Hospitality**

**George Kahl**

**Mary Scates, Hospitality**

**Jerry Linker**

**Jerry Linker, Historian &**

**Linda Votaw**

**Photos**

**Phil Embree, Plant Sale**