

Mississippi Valley Garden Club

April 2018

www.mvgclub.weebly.com

Save these dates:

April 14, Saturday

Spring bus trip
Illinois nurseries
Departure from Godfrey
Walmart
bus arrival 7:30 am
departure 8:00 am

April 19, Thursday 7 pm

Plant exchange
Bethalto Senior Center

April 28, Saturday 9 am

Dig day at Carol Baker's
(rain date - Sunday, April 29)

April 30, Monday, 6:30 pm

board meeting
at Dottie Roger's home

May 10, Thursday, 4pm

Pricing at Jan Maxeiner's
(rain date, Friday, May 11,
4pm)

May 12, Saturday, 8-12 pm

Plant sale
Sportsmen's Club

May 17, Thursday, 6:30 pm

Home garden visit
Susan Ruckman's garden

Spring bus trip: Our annual bus trip is fast approaching. Saturday, April 14, we will be heading to four Illinois nurseries. The bus will be picking us up at the Godfrey Walmart, the north side of the parking lot, by Airport Rd. The bus will depart at 8:00 am, so don't be late. Be sure to bring a container to hold your purchases in, may want to put your name on it. Suggested containers: boxes, laundry baskets, rubber maid container, etc. The containers will be placed in the storage compartment of the bus. To start the day we will be heading to a favorite, Creekside nursery. <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=creekside%20nursery>. From Creekside we will go to Sandy's Back Porch, in Belleville. <http://sandysbackporch.com/>. It will be their spring open house so maybe there will be some good deals. Next we will head to Eckert's Country Store and Farms, <https://www.eckerts.com/>. Probably most of us are familiar with Eckert's, for fruit picking. They have a country store with a bakery, nursery and restaurant. We will be having lunch at the restaurant. From Eckert's we will be going to Terry's Home and Garden, in Centreville, <http://terryshomeandgarden.com/> this will be the last stop of the day. The club hasn't been to Terry's before. It is owned by, Mike and Le Ann Terry, they have been in business for 20 years. We still have some seats available on the bus, give me a call to get signed up, 466-5892. Members are \$10 and guests are \$18. Please bring correct change day of trip.
Susan

April meeting: This month is our annual plant exchange. This is a time to share some of our *favorite* or *unusual* plants. You can bring up to 3 plants/gardening items. Due to crazy weather some plants may not be accessible yet. If you have a nice gently used gardening item or store purchased plant, these will also be acceptable. Please have the plant potted or bagged. For bulbs please use paper bags. Also, place the pots in a grocery sack, we would like to decrease the mess of leaking water and dirt. Please label the plants or bag. If you would include the location and sun requirements, that would be helpful. We will be using the attendance prize ticket. This year we will mark the back of the tickets with the number of plants you bring. We hope this will expedite the drawing process by knowing when the ticket is no longer in use.

Dig day at Carole Baker's: Volunteers will be needed for the dig day at Carole Baker's. Carole's gardens are a great source of plants. The more help we have the more plants we can obtain. Please bring a shovel, gloves, and any tools you may need. If you are able, bring a wheelbarrow. Pots and flats are needed. Don't forget to bring buckets or containers to get compost for your plants. Rain date will be Sunday, April 29. Carol's address is 8000 Whistling Windows Ln, Brighton. Call 466-7718 if you need directions. We will start at 9:00 am.

Plant Sale: The sale is quickly approaching. Saturday, May 12, 8 am—12 pm. It will be held at the Alton-Wood River Sportsmen's Club on Godfrey Road. Set up begins at 5:00 am. Please start thinking about the plants that you can divide and share. Please dig and pot the plants about 2 weeks prior to the sale, this gives the plants time to recuperate. Compost will be available at Carole Baker's and Jan Maxeiner's. Carole's address is 8000 Whistling Winds Ln, Brighton, Jan's address is 714 Ramona Place, Godfrey. Please use the alley behind Jan's house, it is located off Taylor Ave, 1st left by the small white house. Bring a shovel.

Pots/flats: If you have extra pots and flats please bring them to the April club meeting or dig day at Carole's. Recommended sizes are: approximately 8' tall and 5" wide, or 10" wide and 5" tall. Flats with fairly solid bottoms work well for groundcovers.

Advertising/flyers: Flyers can be posted after April 19. Please remove them when the sale is over.

Contact banks/businesses to display the plant sale on their marquee.

Cardboard boxes: flats and small boxes will be needed the day of the sale, for customers purchases.

Pictures: if you have pictures of your plants, especially bloomers, have them available. This helps the customer see what they are getting. Put them on a stake in the plant. Tally staff will pull the pictures for future use.

Pricing day: will be at Jan Maxeiner's. Plants may be dropped off on Wednesday, please deliver by Thursday, 4 pm. Please have them in pots and labeled. Please label plants with name, light requirements, color of bloom and mature size. Rain date will be Friday, 4 pm.

Community Hope Center: Work has been started at the center. Leaves and debris have been cleaned up. Weeds have been pulled. Jerry had been out the prior day and got a big start on the clean up. Susan Hiller went back another day and spread the Weed preventer. It was a nice spring day to be out working. Thanks, Jerry, Carole and John Baker, Susan and Bill Hiller, and Susan Ruckman.

March meeting: We had an excellent presentation by Anne Kirkpatrick. Anne is a St. Louis Master Gardener. Anne shared a lot of information about hydrangeas with us. She covered the different types, including: smooth, mophead, oakleaf, panicle and climbing. She covered planting, fertilizing, drainage, diseases and pests. Anne talked about adding aluminum sulfate to increase blue pigmentation. It was suggested to mulch in the spent flowerheads. She gave us ideas for cutting fresh flowerheads and also drying them. It was an enjoyable evening, with much to remember.



Things to do: Saturday, April 14, 12-6 pm, Riverbend Earth Day Festival, Piasa Harbor, thenatureinstitute.org/events/7th-annual-riverbend-earth-day-festival/

Friday, April 27, Arbor Day Celebration, Robert Glazebrook Community Park, 4-8pm. This includes the memorial tree celebration. www.advantagenews.com/events/annual-arbor-day-celebration/

Hospitality: Thank you to the members who brought food and drinks for the March meeting. As always, everything was delicious. Thank to everyone that helps set up and clean up, your help is appreciated. The following members have volunteered to bring food and drinks for the April meeting. Remember, please feel free to bring a dish of your choice.

Food items: Edith Reed, Bill Hiller, Susan Ruckman, Jan Pfeiffer, Karen Cairns and Dottie Rogers

One large bag of ice: John Baker

(1) 2 liter regular cola: Carol Morris

(1) 2 liter white soda: Earlene Harrison

(1) 2 liter diet soda: Ann Osburn

One gallon unsweetened tea: Susan Ruckman

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
Jerry Linker — photos & historian
Edith Reed — plant sale
Debbie Winship — hospitality