



www.mvgclub.weebly.com

Save these dates:

Thursday, April 18 —7 pm
Bethalto Senior Center
Plant Exchange
[Sign up for bus trip \\$10](#)
[New price for guest \\$12](#)

Monday, April 24 —6:30pm
Board meeting
Dottie Rogers' home

Saturday, April 27 — 1:30 pm
Memorial tree celebration
Paul James
Glazebrook Park, Godfrey

Friday, April 26—9 am
Dig day at Carole Baker's
8000 Whistling Wind Lane, Brighton

Thursday, May 9, 4 pm
Pricing day
Jan Maxeiner's yard
714 Ramona Place, Godfrey

Saturday, May 11
8 am— noon
Plant Sale
Alton-Wood River Sportsmen's Club
3109 Godfrey Rd, Godfrey

Saturday, May 18-7:30 am
Bus trip
Meet at Godfrey Walmart

New date

Thursday, May 23— 6:30
Home garden visit
Gloria Gowin

April meeting—Plant Exchange: This is the monthly meeting that most members look forward too. It is a chance to share some of your favorite plants with each other. We use the attendance tickets to randomly draw the order of the plant drawing. You can bring up to 3 plants. If you have extra plants, save them for the sale. Divide your plant and pot it. Set the pot in a plastic bag, this will make clean up easier. If you are sharing bulbs, please use a paper bag to store them in. Everyone should take home the same number of plants that you bring. Be sure and label your plant. Any info that you can provide. Shade or sun, drought tolerant, maximum size, etc. You may want to bring a box or bags for you plants, it can get messy.

Memorial tree celebration: The dedication for the memorial trees is part of the Arbor Day celebration at Glazebrook Park in Godfrey. There will be a tree dedicated for Paul James, he passed away in June 2018. The dedication is part of the all day events they have scheduled for Arbor Day. When I receive more details I will share them with you.

Dig day at Carole Baker's: Help will be needed for digging at Carole's. We get a couple of hundred of plants in a couple of hours. Usually start around 9am and finish around noon. If you can only do an hour or two that will help. We need diggers but also potters. All the plants are divided and potted the same time. Please bring some tools and gloves. If you can transport a wheelbarrow that is helpful. Pots and flats will be needed. Don't forget a bucket or container to get some compost for your own plants. If needed, we can dig again Saturday after the Memorial Tree Celebration.

Directions to Carole's: Go North on Humbert Rd in Alton, towards Brighton. Turn right on Straube Lane— Straube Lane is just past Tremont Dr. Go 1.6 miles, turn left onto Whistling Winds Lane, 0.2 miles past Cope Ln. If you reach Straube Ridge Rd you've gone too far. The road into Carole's is gravel, there are some very steep hills. Please be careful of cars coming towards you.

Spring bus trip: Saturday, May 18 will be our spring bus trip. It was discussed at the board meeting to lower the price for guests, new price for guests will be \$12. We encourage all members to participate, it is a fun day and educational. You not only get advice from the staff working at the nurseries but also advice from fellow members who have had first hand experience growing particular plants. We will meet at the Godfrey Walmart, side towards Airport Rd. The bus will start loading at 7:30, and depart at 8:00. Be sure and be on time, the bus will leave without you. You may want to bring a box, rubbermaid container or laundry basket to put you plants in. We will be visiting nurseries in Missouri: Hartke Nursery: www.plantnurseryst.louis.com, Garden Heights Nursery: www.gardenheights.com, Sugar Creek Gardens: sugarcreekgardens.com, Greenscapes Garden: www.greenscapedgardens.com and Sherwood Forest Nursery: sherwoods-forest.com.

Lunch will be on our own, after Sugar Creek Gardens. There will be a strip mall with several different eateries. We should be back in Godfrey around 5:30.

Compost: Compost is now available at Jan Maxeiner's and Carole Baker's. Compost at Jan's is located at the back of the yard, by the alley. If you turn down Taylor Ave, off Godfrey Rd, the lighted intersection where Little Caesar's Pizza is located. Go down Taylor Ave, about a block. There is a small white one-story house on the left, sets back on the property a bit. Turn left down the alley. Go around the corner, its about the 6th house on the right. There will be a tall green chain link fence then a brown wooden fence. You'll see a cottage shed. The compost is in the wooden bin, sets back a bit in the yard. Take a bucket/container and a shovel. Directions to Carole's is under the dig day section.

Plant Sale: Time to be getting ready for the plant sale. This is our fund raiser that pays for our activities: Hope Center, school donation, speakers, etc. We have a very good reputation for our sale. The sale is a lot of work, but also a lot of fun. It is more enjoyable when we have good weather, so everyone say a little pray for the weather. The sale is held at the Alton-Wood River Sportsmen's Club, on Godfrey Rd, in Godfrey. It will be at the back of the building under the pavilion. We usually start moving plants around 5 am.

Plants : Start dividing and potting the plants about 2 weeks prior to the sale. This gives the plants time to recuperate. Use the compost to pot them in. Compost is available at Jan's and Carole's.

Pictures: If you have pictures of your plants, especially in bloom, please attach to a stake to put in the plant grouping. The talliers will remove as they gothrough check out.

Need donation of gently used gardening items: tools, nice pots, gardening décor, working lawn mowers, etc.

Advertising: Flyers will be provided at the April meeting. You can start posting the flyers after the meeting. Please post at your churches, grocery stores, your vehicle window, etc. Please check back occasionally that the flyers are still posted, sometimes the stores clear the boards. Also, remove the flyers after the sale. If you know of banks and business with marquees please contact them, requesting they post the information.

Sign up sheets: Sign up sheets for different activities were at the March meeting and will be at the April meeting. Please sign up for something. Help will be needed with pricing, setting up, transporting plants, sales, tallying, clean up, tables, trucks, trailers, talking with customers, etc.

Pricing: will be at Jan Maxeiner's, Thursday, May 9, 4 pm. Please do not take plants to Jan's before Wednesday. Please make sure plants are labeled, should include: name, light requirements, color of blooms, and mature size. Friday, May 10 4 pm will be the rain date for pricing. Jan's is at 714 Ramona Place, Godfrey. Going north on Godfrey Rd/ IL 111, turn Left onto Ramona Pl. Jan's house is on the right.

Wagons/garden carts: If you have a child's wagon or small garden cart that you can bring the day of the sale, they are helpful. These are used to haul plants to the customers cars.

Cardboard boxes: small boxes will be needed the day of the sale, for customer's purchases.

Community Hope Center, Spring Cleanup: A threat of rain was present after lunch, but 6 members turned out to help with the spring clean up at the Hope Center. A peek or two of sunshine and very pleasant temperature made for a perfect clean up day. Most of the debris was leaver, primarily oak. Which were wet under the piles, and very little weeds. Most likely due to the Preen laid down last year.

We managed to get the long bed in the front and the round planter in the back cleaned up. There is a little more to do along the back wall of the center, mostly flower stalks.

Those who came out for our community service project were: Susan Hiller, Bill Hiller, Judy Hodapp, George Kahl, Jerry Linker and Edith Reed. The club thanks these members for their time and effort. *Jerry Linker, Historian*

March meeting: Master gardener, Carol Gravens took us on a trip through the trails to find the spring wildflowers. She is an active hiker. Carol reviewed some flower anatomy and the 4 glacier stages. She had pictures of all the plants that she talk about. These were pictures she took herself. She talked about witch hazel, bluebells, blood root (pictured on the front banner, dutchman breeches, may apple. There was bellwort, rose verbena, Indian paint brush, trillium, blue eyed Mary, wild ginger, rue anemone, Jack in the pulpit. shooting star, and the list goes on and on. Carol walked us thru several trails that she has hiked with friends. You missed some beautiful pictures.



Hospitality: The following members have signed up to bring food for the April meeting. Thank you in advance.

Dessert: Dori Hoth, Carol Morris, Carmen Vercolio, Christy Butler, and Susan Ruckman

1 large bag of ice — JoAnn Bishop
1 liter regular cola — Sharlotte Bryant
1 liter white soda — Barbara Reiske
1 liter diet soda — Helen Fulks
1 gallon unsweetened tea — Vernice Allen

Board Members

Vernice Allen

Carole Baker

Christy Butler

Gail Clarkson

Jerry Linker

Dottie Rogers

Committee Chairs

Christy Butler — Trips

Susan Hiller — Community Projects J

Debbie Winship — Hospitality

Edith Reed — Plant Sale

Jerry Linker — Historian & Photos

President— George Kahl, 498-5789

Vice President — Dottie Rogers, 917-4730

Secretary— Susan Ruckman, 917-5853 or
gardenfriends@hotmail.com

Treasurer— Gloria Gowin, 550-9923