

Mississippi Valley Garden Club



August 2018

Save these dates:

Aug 16, Thursday

6:30 pm

Karen Cairns garden visit

107 Essex

Jerseyville, 62052

Sept 20, Thursday

6:30 pm

Amy Alfeld garden visit

732 Ramona Place

Godfrey, 62035

Sept 24, Monday

6:30 pm

Board meeting

Dottie Roger's home

6515 Deer Run

Alton, 62002

Oct 18, Thursday

7:00 pm

Bethalto Senior Center

Secrets to Growing Roses

John Lewis,

St Louis master Gardener

Dec 6, Thursday

Christmas Banquet

Hope everyone is having a good summer. Many have been traveling. The weather has been very hot, hope your gardens are surviving. I'm sure everyone is staying busy watering and weeding. Some members have had some health issues, you are in our thoughts and prayers.

August garden visit: The club has been invited to Karen Cairns garden. Karen lives in Jerseyville. Here is a message from Karen: Being on a very traveled street I always admired the curb appeal of the house. When I was in the market for a house in 1995, this one had a for sale sign in the yard. Before I moved in the previous owners took all of the landscaping with them, so I was on a mission to get the curb appeal back.

It has been a slow process with different projects that have caused me to start over several times, but will get there someday. Being anything but a master gardener has made it a challenge, besides water and rodent issues. What I have my best luck with is roses. I am starting a collection of daylilies.

There is plenty of parking across the street at Sinclair Food store.

Looking forward to seeing everybody soon and come hungry!

June Garden visit: Although George has had the garden club to his home in the past, this was my first visit there. I opted for the morning rotation, last Thursday before it got too hot. (Which ended up being an excellent choice due to the rainstorm that swept through later that evening!) It was a beautiful drive through the rural landscape to his home.

George has quite an impressive collection of some very fine daylilies. He also has a large bed of them that he grew from seed—something I've never tried before. His phlox were in full bloom and smelled so sweet. Behind his house, he has put in a lovely memorial garden in honor of his wife and son. Although there were too many to count. I'm attaching three photos I took daylilies that really caught my eye. "Purple Painting" (looks like my "Plinko" on steroids!). Jim's Sweetheart Kay" (in his memorial garden—I loved the yellow ruffled edging & peach color of this beauty, and lastly, my eye was caught by "Flying Dragon" this one just jumped out at me—loved its size and vibrant color! He also has a beautiful specimen of a Bonfire Patio Peach Tree in he memorial garden and his Mimosa tree was a gorgeous, full bloom when I was there!. I ended my visit with several other members on George's front porch (always my favorite place any where I go!). Where we were treated to several delicious desserts that Gail Clarkson was kind enough to bake.

Thanks, George for having us over! Paula Zugmaier

Another member shared their visit to George's: Our June meeting was to be held on Thursday, the 20th, but due to a death in the family the meeting was postponed to the following Thursday, the 28th.

Despite the heat, and a storm, 20 gardeners came to view George Kahl's yard and garden. Some of the guests were from the Jerseyville Garden Club.

George opened his yard and garden again to the Club for those who could not make the June dates, and welcomed the Jerseyville garden club as well. On July 5th at either 9:30 (about 15 folks) or 6:00 (about 20 folks).

The day lilies were still at their peak. Phlox and other flowering plants were blooming. Containers with annuals and veggies were placed along the front porch. There were several Mimosa trees in full bloom.

George also has a memorial garden, for his wife Mary, who passed away several years ago. *Jerry Linker*

July garden visit: In July, the club was invited to Carmen and Bob Vercoglio, garden in Palmyra.

26 members and 2 guests visited the yard and garden of Bob and Carmen Vercoglio on a warm evening, but cooler than the past couple of weeks. A nice breeze kept us comfortable on the large back yard patio surrounded by plants.

The home is on 80 acres, a 100 year old home that has been redone with additions. There is a pond stocked with bluegill, bass and catfish. There is also a koi pond, orchards and a swimming pool.

The Vercoglio's have many perennials that include peonies, iris, day lilies, tree peonies, hydrangeas and mums to name a few. Potted hibiscus in bloom sat by the back door and Mandeville's were potted and sitting in the pool area. *Jerry Linker*

Minutes of the July meeting: There were 26 members plus 2 guests who visited the gardens of Bob and Carmen Vercoglio in Palmyra, Ill. Attendees began arriving at 6:30 pm and immediately began walking through the grounds. There were plants of every description and many bushes and trees including a large orchard. In addition to a swimming pool, they have a koi fish pond. It was a fairly warm evening with the temperature in the 80's. A front of dark clouds could be seen coming in from the west but the rain held off until dark.

There was a short meeting at 7 pm on their lovely paver patio. Officers and chairmen for the next year were announced. After much encouragement, George Kahl has agreed to serve as president. Dottie Rogers will be vice president, Gloria Gowin will continue as treasurer and Susan Ruckman will remain as secretary. Edith Reed will head the plant sale and Susan Hiller will continue with Community Projects. Christy Butler will chair the bus trip, Jerry Linker will continue as historian and Debbie Winship will continue with hospitality. The club will be in good hands with the volunteers that have stepped up to oversee the activities.

It was announced that there will be no board meeting until September. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm and everyone visited until it began to get dark. *Carole Baker*



Board Members

President: Carole Baker, 466-7718

VP/ Secretary: Susan Ruckman,
917-5853

Treasurer: Gloria Gowin, 550-9923

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

Committee Chairs

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