

Mississippi Valley Garden Club

March 2018

www.mvgclub.weebly.com

Save these dates:

March 15, Thursday, 7pm
"Hydrangeas"
Anne Kirkpatrick
St. Louis Master Gardener
Sign up for Spring bus trip
\$10 for members
\$18 for guests

Thursday, March 22, 9 am
Hope Community Center
Leaves clean up day

March 26, Monday, 6:30 pm
Board meeting
Dottie Rogers house

April 14, Saturday
Spring bus trip
Illinois nurseries
Departure from
Godfrey Walmart, **8 am**

April 19, Thursday
Plant Exchange
Bethalto Senior Center

April 28, Saturday
Dig day at Carol Baker's

April 30, Monday, 6:30 pm
Board meeting

May 12, Saturday, 8-12pm
Plant sale

New member: Welcome to Jan Pfeiffer our newest member. Jan is a friend of Linda Ahrling. Long drive from Carlinville, but glad you are able to join us. Hope to see you often.

March presentation- The March presentation will be about hydrangeas. Anne will be cover the 5 species of hydrangeas that are commonly grown in the St. Louis area, and that includes Bethalto. Anne will cover the selection, care, special requirements and strong points of each species, along with a look at some of the newer cultivars which can be found in local nurseries. Anne Kirkpatrick will be our speaker. Anne has been a volunteer with Missouri Botanical Garden and St. Louis Master Gardeners since retiring from a 30 year career as a Parkway School District librarian—media specialist in 1999. Researching various aspects of plants and gardening are of special interest to her. As a Master Gardener volunteer at the Kemper Center and a member of the Plant Information Service Committee, she continues her learning process and enjoys sharing information with other gardening enthusiasts. She is also an avid birder.

Community Hope Center- Time to get the Hope Center spruced up. Leaves and winter debris needs to be cleaned up. Will get an idea of what needs to be done later. Bring your rake and gloves.

Board meeting— The March board meeting will be at Dottie Rogers home. Dottie lives at 6515 Deer Run Trail, Godfrey. New start time will be **6:30 pm**.

At the February board meeting we had a guest, Jane Ahasay, from the Bethalto Spirit, Beautification Committee. Jane was sharing some information regarding a project at the Bethalto Arboretum. They will be updating and re planting the beds at the arboretum. The walking paths and lighting have already been done. There will be different levels of participation for the project. Presently, it was agreed by the board to be a resource for a grant that they are applying for. They have also asked for members who would like to participate in the planning of the beds and recommending plants. Final phase would be the actual planting if anyone is interested. There will be other groups involved in the process. Linda Votaw, club member is also on the committee.

Sharlotte and Fred Bryant also attended the board meeting. They had some suggestions for the hospitality at the monthly meetings. It was discussed adding some variety to the food provided at the monthly meetings, this was agreed with. Also, thank you to Sharlotte for volunteering to help Debbie with hospitality.

Spring bus trip- There is still time to get signed up for our spring bus trip. The bus trip is Saturday, April 14. We will be visiting Illinois nurseries. To start off the day we will be going to Creekside Nursery, then on to Sandy's Back Porch. We will be visiting and having lunch at Eckert's Country Store and Farms. Last of the visits will be Terry's Home and Garden. This will be a new one for us to visit. We will have a new pick up and drop off spot. We will be leaving from the Godfrey Walmart. The bus will be parked toward the north side of the parking lot, towards Pierce Lane. Departure time will be 8 am. The cost will be \$10 for members and \$18 for guests. Be sure to get signed up at the March meeting

Presentation changes: Some concerns had been voiced regarding the use of microphone at the presentation. Speakers lowering the microphone and members not being able to hear. Carole and John did some research. They talked with staff at Halpin's. We will be evaluating different amplifiers, to try to improve the situation. Please let us know how it is working, if the audio has improved.

April plant exchange: The plant exchange is fast approaching. This is a time to share a favorite or unusual plant with a fellow member. Every member can bring up to 3 plants. Please have them potted or in some kind of container. Please save any extra plants for the sale.

Plant sale: Time to start getting ready for the plant sale. Edith Reed, will be our plant sale chairperson. Sportsmen's Club has been reserved for the sale. Please go through your plastic pots. We will be needing pots for dig days. Recommended sizes are: approximately 8" tall and 5" wide or 5" tall and 10" wide. Flats with fairly solid bottoms work well with groundcovers. If you have extra pots, please bring them to the March and April meetings. Find pictures of your plants, to help describe the plants. Start saving small boxes or open flats for the customers to use.

February presentation: Our speaker for the presentation was, Ron Scheller. Ron owns a nuisance wild life control company. Ron shared with us some of his experiences with removing wildlife from home, churches and other buildings. He also shared some trapping secrets. Ron uses his knowledge of the animals habits to trap them. He covered: flying squirrels, gray squirrels, raccoons, groundhogs, chipmunks, opossums, skunks, pigeons, starlings, rats, mice, shrews, voles, moles, snakes, beavers, mink, and weasels. Moles seem to be the most common critter gardeners deal with. 85% of what they eat is earth worms and beetles, in addition to grubs. He suggested evaluating their tunnels, which ones are the main ones and which are just feeder. You want to work with the main tunnels when trying to eliminate the moles. Wear gloves, to keep your scent off the traps, he uses traps with longer spikes, use the sod you cut out to cover the hole— to keep out the light. Ron also uses peat to fill in the hole around the trap, its lighter than soil so it doesn't block the spikes. If you have questions for Ron, I have some of his cards with his email address.



Hospitality: Thank you to the members who brought food and drinks for the February meeting. Everything was delicious. The following members have volunteered to bring food and drinks for the March meeting. As per the recent board meeting please feel free to bring a dish of your choice.

Food items: Edith Reed, Linda Ahrling, Kay Hancock, Susan Hiller, Mary Bernt and Nancy Shipman

One large bag of ice: Susan Ruckman
(1) 2 liter regular cola: Debby Linker, root beer
(1) 2 liter white soda: Gloria Gowin
(1) 2 liter diet soda: Don Scott
One gallon unsweetened tea: Charlotte Bryant

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