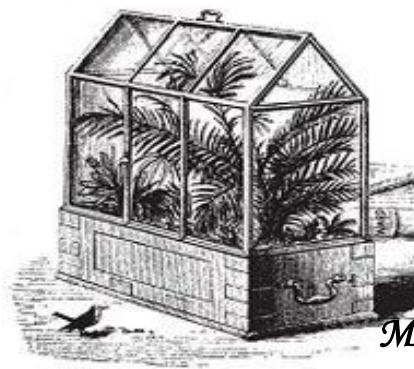




Mississippi Valley Garden Club



March 2019

www.mvqclub.weebly.com

Save these dates:

March 21, Thursday

7 pm

Bethalto Senior Center

Carol Gravens,

St. Louis Master Gardener

“Spring Wildflowers”

Sign up for bus trip.

March 25, Monday

Board meeting

Dottie Rogers home

6:30 pm

March 28, Thursday

Hope Center

clean up

(rain date April 5)

April 18, Thursday

Plant Exchange

April 27, Saturday

Memorial Tree Celebration

Paul James

April 29, Monday

Board Meeting

TBD

Plant Sale— May 11, Sat

Bus trip — May 18, Sat

March meeting: A hike thru Missouri countryside will dazzle you with a display of awesome wild flowers. We will venture out with Carol as our guide to encounter Missouri’s plenty, including interesting facts about the flowers that you find and tips of where the best places are to search for them.

Carol Gravens will be our speaker for the evening. Carol retired from a professional career as a microbiologist and is an Advanced Level St. Louis Master Gardener. She became a Master naturalist in 2007 and has an AAS in horticulture from STLCC Meramec.

Community Hope Center: Community Hope Center services individuals and families, experiencing hardships, whether long or short term. They help them by offering groceries, clothing, toiletries, household items, prepared meals, haircuts and other services free of charge.

The club has been volunteering care of the landscaping for 10+ years. They have been very appreciative of our assistance.

All members are asked to help out with the clean up and care that this project requires. We know that everyone can’t make it due to other obligations, but even an hour will help.

We will start at 9 am, or earlier for some early birds. Please bring rakes, brooms, trimmers, gloves, and drink. Whatever you might use in your own yard. It usually only takes about 2 hours, depending on how much help there is.

Hope Center is located off Culp Ln in Cottage Hills. 1201 Hope Center Lane. Take Hwy 140, to left on N. Stanly Rd, right onto Culp Ln. In less than a mile you will see the sign for the center on the right side of the road. The center is an old school that sits back down the hill. If you have time, sometimes we meet up for lunch afterwards. Thursday, April 5 will be the rain date. Hope to see you there.

Plant Exchange: The April meeting will be our annual plant exchange. This is an opportunity to share you favorite plants with you fellow garden members.

This is the time of year to look at your plants and see what needs dividing. You can start planning what to divide for the plant exchange and also the plant sale. Every member can bring up to 3 plants, for every plant you bring you take home a plant. Gardening items in good shape, pots, garden club apparel may also be used in place of a plant.

The plants should be potted, and placed in a plastic bag. Please don’t water prior to meeting. This makes clean up easier at the end of the exchange. Bulbs are best stored in a paper sack.

Hospitality March meeting: Debbie Winship won't be able to be at the March meeting. We will need some help with setting up the food and drinks. Thanks, in advance.

Plant sale: The Sportsman's Club has been rented. We have plenty of pots. Do save flats, especially with the solid bottoms, these work best for groundcovers. They will be needed for dig days especially. Also, please start saving nice size boxes for customers to use for carrying plants. If you have any gardening items/decorations such as: tools, pots, trellises, lawnmowers that you can donate for the sale, they are always appreciated. Also, any bulbs you are bringing, please store in paper bag and mark what they are.

Bus trip: Christy has been working on details for the bus trip. She has had a challenge this year because the bus company we normally used has gone out of business. Another bus service has been found. We will be visiting nurseries in Missouri this year: Hartke Nursery, Garden Heights Nursery, Sugar Creek Gardens, Greenscapes Garden and Sherwood's Forest Nursery. We will meet at the Godfrey Walmart parking lot, towards Airport Rd. Be sure and save the date, Saturday, May 18. Cost will be \$10 for members and \$18 for nonmembers. Sign up will start at the March meeting.

February meeting: Betsy Alexander, St Louis master gardener came back to visit. She presented a new topic, Victorian gardens. The Victorian period was 1837 to 1901, during the reign of Queen Victoria. There was much going on in that time period: telephone was invented, locomotives. The book Alice in Wonderland was written. The Kew Garden opened in 1840. The craze at the time was ferns and orchids. There were expeditions to find new varieties. The plants would die during transportation. The Wardian case was developed. They protected plants that were being shipped from salt spray and kept the moisture in the case. Some were very stylish and kept in the drawing room of the homes. (Picture on right of front banner.)

Key elements of the Victorian gardens. Lawns: extensive, many acres, and large open areas. Carpet bedding gardens: intricate, symmetry with the color combinations, groomed to precision. (Picture on left of the front banner.) Vines were used wherever there was vertical support, on houses, porches and trellises. Kitchen gardens were kept with fencing and a locked gate. Service area was kept close to the kitchen garden, this included compost pile, tool shed. They used cast iron fence and garden accessories. They liked urns for ferns, topiary, and benches. Shrubs were used as specimen plants, usually non flowering. When seeing pictures of their gardens, they were very detailed, symmetrical. Probably very high maintenance, but beautiful.



Hospitality — The following members have volunteered to bring desserts or drinks for the March meeting. Thank you in advance.

Desserts: Sharon Knepper, Karen Cairns, Dottie Rogers, Bill Hiller, Jaci Sweetman and Jody Hodapp

1 large bag of ice — Bill Hiller
(1) 2 liter regular cola — Ann Osburn
(1) 2 liter white soda — Ann Osburn
(1) 2 liter diet soda — Linda Votaw
1 gal unsweetened tea — Sharon Knepper

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

Board members

Vernice Allen
Carole Baker
Christy Butler
Gail Clarkson
Jerry Linker

Committee chairs

Christy Butler — trips
Susan Hiller — community projects
Jerry Linker — photos & historian
Edith Reed - plant sale
Debbie Winship - hospitality