

Mississippi Valley Garden Club

March 2020

www.mvgclub.weebly.com

Save these dates:

March 19, Thursday, 7pm
Eric Herter

“Ask the Landscaper”

Sign up for Spring bus trip
\$10 for members
\$17 for guests

Thursday, March 26, 9 am
Hope Community Center
Clean up day

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

April 16, Thursday
Plant Exchange
Bethalto Senior Center

April 27, Monday, 6:30 pm
Board meeting

**May 1 & May 2,
Friday & Saturday**
Dig days at Carol

May 9, Saturday, 8-12pm
**Alton Wood River Sportsmen's
Club**

Plant sale

May 16, Saturday
Bus trip

March presentation- Our presenter will be Eric Herter, owner of Herter Landscaping in Maryland Heights, MO. He also happens to be Dottie's son. Eric grew up with landscaping, everyone in the family was expected to help. Probably one of his first projects was designing, one college summer, a garden around a new glider swing mom had just acquired. He graduated from TCU with a degree in finance. He soon discovered that working behind a desk was not for him. Eric did some major landscaping at his first house and found that he enjoyed it. Then neighbors started asking him to do projects and he got a few customers. He did a big patio project for mom's friend. He was learning as he went along. A professional was doing a project a few doors away. He went over to ask some advice and ended up working for them. He learned much of what he knows from working with Basile Landscaping. First he did installing then sales. Now he has his own company. Eric especially enjoys hardscaping like patios and retaining walls. During the winter he enjoys doing remodeling projects. He is married to Casey and has three daughter. They live in Maryland Heights, MO.

Eric will have a few topics to share but this is your chance to ask landscaping and gardening questions. Bring your questions or a picture of your problem area.

Community Hope Center- Thurs, March 26, 9 am. 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.

Spring bus trip- The bus trip is being planned. We will be headed to Springfield, IL. The cost for members will be \$10 and guest will be \$17. Susan Hiller will be collecting the money at the next meeting.

We will be departing from the Godfrey Walmart at 8 am, don't be late. Be sure to bring a rubbermaid container or box to put your purchases in. We will be returning to Godfrey, around 4:30 pm.

First we will be headed for Hilltop Nursery and Garden in Sherman, IL. Will there for about 45 mins. Then on to Greenview Garden Center, in Springfield. From there it will be lunch on your own, several places to choose from. After lunch we will head to Pleasant Nursery Inc, Buckley's Prairie Landscaping. Last will be Kahl's Greenhouse and Landscaping, one of our favorites. Sounds like many good chances to shop.

Be sure and get signed up for the trip, friends are welcomed.

Thank you Christy and your helpers for setting this up.

*** Please keep Lee and Don in your thoughts and prayers. Both have been dealing health issues. ***

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. Please put the pots in plastic bags, this will help keep the mess under control.

Plant sale: Time to start getting ready for the plant sale. Edith Reed, is our plant sale chairperson. Sportsmen's Club has been reserved for the sale. Please go thru your flats. Flats with fairly solid bottoms work well with groundcovers. If you have extra flats, 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. Start looking at your plants. If you have some to divide do about 2 weeks prior to the sale. Compost will be available at designated locations.

Project Chairperson: We are still in need of a coordinator for projects. Main project will be the landscaping at the Community Hope Center in Cottage Hills. It would be contacting the Hope Center as needed. Scheduling work days. It is usually only a couple of days a season. Please, talk to George if interested or questions.

February presentation: Betsy Alexander came for a visit again. Betsy shared with us where chocolate comes from. From the beginning of its history to the present. It all starts with a small tree, the Theobroma cacao. Cacao is native to Central and South America. It is grown commercially throughout the tropics. About 70% of the world's cacao is grown in Africa.

The pods actually grow on the trunk of the tree. The pods contain a white sticky pulp and the seeds. The pulps and seeds are placed in earthen vessels and covered with banana leaves to ferment. Then the seeds are allowed to dry. Once the beans are dried they are shipped to the factories. From there they are made into the chocolate as we know it.



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.

Food items: Jan , Eunice , Debbie , Helen Fulks, Barbara and Sharlotte

President: George , (618) 741-0394

Vice President: Dottie , 917- 4730

Secretary: Susan , (618)917-5853 or gar-denfriends@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Susan , 466-4942

One large bag of ice: Christy
(1) 2 liter regular cola: Eunice
(1) 2 liter white soda: Linda
(1) 2 liter diet soda: Vernice
One gallon unsweetened tea: Edith

Board members

Vernice
Christy
Jerry
Eunice
Carole

Committee chairs

Christy —
trips
???? — community projects
Jerry — photos & historian
Edith — plant sale
Debbie — hospitality