

# Mississippi Valley Garden Club



October 2022

[www.mvgclub.weebly.com](http://www.mvgclub.weebly.com)

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## **Save these dates:**

**Friday, October 14**

Eckerts, Grafton, IL  
The Loading Dock, Grafton  
Meet at 11:00 at Eckert's

**Thursday October 20,  
7:00 pm**

Bethalto Senior Citizen  
Center  
100 E. Central St.  
Bethalto, IL 62010  
Speaker: Betsy Alexander,  
St. Louis Master Gardener  
A Dark Side to Your Garden

**Canned goods**

**White elephant drawing  
Sign up for Christmas  
dinner**

**Monday, October 24, 6:30**

Board meeting  
At Dottie's home  
(different day due to  
Halloween)

**No meeting in November**

**Thursday, December 8,  
Christmas Celebration at  
Castelli's. Arrive 5:30 pm,  
dinner served 6:00 pm.**

**Out and About:** There will be a fun event on Friday, Oct 14. We will meet at Eckert's in Grafton, **20995 Eckert Orchard Rd.** We will meet at 11:00. at Eckert's. Suggest you car pool, will need to make your own transportation arrangements. A copy of the member roster will be included with the newsletter. You will be able to see who lives in your area.

After visiting Eckert's, the plan is to go to the Loading Dock in Grafton. **401 Front St. Grafton, 62037.** for lunch.

Hope several of you can make it. Members from the Facebook page are welcome to meet up with us.

**October meeting:** We will be back at the Bethalto Senior Citizen Center. Meeting starts at 7:00 pm. Our speaker will be Betsy Alexander. She is a Master Gardener from the St Louis program. Betsy has presented for us several times. Betsy was a public health professional for 29 yrs. in clinical services and health education. She has been a Master Gardener since 2005. She is very active with the St. Louis program. Volunteers with the Missouri Botanical Garden: Kemper Center Front Desk, the annual display team and the Speaker's Bureau.

Betsy's topic will be "A Dark Side to Your Garden" . Over millions of years, plants have developed adaptive means to protect themselves. We will learn about these defensive methods and some of the plants now growing in your garden that need to be labeled with a danger symbol.

Guests are welcome!

**Community Hope Center:** We would like to collect canned goods and nonperishable foods for the Hope Center. They requested doing it early, to have items to distribute for the holidays. They are closed for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

**White elephant drawing:** Members can bring gently used gardening items, such as: pots, gardening books, garden club apparel, tools, gloves, etc. There will be a check for \$25. It will be a random drawing using the attendance tickets. Guests may participate, except for the check.

**Christmas Celebration:** We will be having dinner at Castelli's Restaurant, Thursday, Dec 8. Gather at 5:30, dinner will be served at 6:00. Member's dinner will be free. Guests are welcomed but the cost of their dinner will be \$24.00. Make arrangements with Susan Hiller for payment of guests. We will start signing up at the October meeting, please check your schedule. We are charged for the count we turn in. If you find you can't make it let us know, just not showing up hurts us.

With the consensus of the board ,we will not add to the count after **Monday, Dec 5.** We will put you on a waiting list in case we get a cancellation. The board is discussing activities for the celebration, if you have a suggestion let a board member know.

**Hospitality:** Thank you to everyone that signed to bring refreshments. We do need a volunteer to bring a large bag of ice for the October meeting. If you are able to bring a bag of ice, please let me know. List on last page.

**Belated welcome to new member Tammy .** We got to know Tammy when she would accompany her husband, Bob. She is now hooked on gardening and plants. She like's all plants and will find it a home. She isn't planning on becoming a Master Gardener, she'll leave that to Bob.

They have 2 children, a son, Matthew, he has 2 children and Molly, who still lives at home.

Tammy worked in a medical office, doing everything from medical records to billing and coding. She did get laid off when Illinois was going thru all the malpractice issues. It did have a silver lining, she got to spend quality time caring for her father who was ill, until he passed. She did go back to work but has since retired.

Her other hobbies include quilting, sewing, babysitting and volunteering at Wesley House. Wesley House assists other missions with funding and needed items. It is part of the Main Street United Methodist Church, who determines which mission needs the assistance. They have a resale shop once a month. Please give Tammy a warm welcome.



**Welcome back to Char .** Char is a country girl at heart. Farming and gardening is a family tradition. She grew up on a hog and grain farm. They were avid vegetable and flower growers. Char started doing lawn care, as a job when she was 12 and continued up into her college years. Her brother, his kids and grandkids still have a lawn care business.

Char was an active member of the MVGC prior to 2014. She decided to move to Florida. She was a member of a garden club while in Florida, that was very active. She only stayed for few years, she missed the seasons. They moved back to the Midwest in 2018.

Char presently lives in Glen Carbon, which has a large yard. She was excited when they were nominated to receive the GLEN award ( gardening, landscaping enhancing nature). Char was recently asked to be on the Landscaping committee for Glen Carbon.



Her favorite property was the house/gardens that is now the Treehouse Wildlife Center in Dow. Char retired from a 26 year career with the Girl Scouts. She is also now a member of the Daylily Club. In her spare time she enjoys reading and listening to music.

From what I hear, give the lady a combine to drive and she is happy. Welcome back Char.

**Welcome back to Carole and John .** Carole had been a long time member of the club. John joined in 2017. They took time off due to the pandemic. But they are back and we a glad to have them. Carole has held several positions, including plant sale for several years. John is always around to lend a hand.

Carole grew up with gardening. Both her mother and grandmother enjoyed flower gardens. John will occasionally do a cucumber patch. Otherwise it is the flower gardens that Carole enjoys. She has many varieties of plants but her favorite is the Asiatic lilies. They multiple so she can divide them an spread them around. She has other lilies but they don't multiple as quickly. The club has been to their gardens several times, not just for club meetings but also for dig days. Carole is always willing to share her plants with friends but also for the plants sale.

They own over 100 acres but the majority is rented out. They do have a large area for the flower gardens.

They have 3 children between them, 7 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. They enjoy spending time with them. Carole is retired nurse, working mostly with homecare and hospice. John worked construction and auto repair. Their home is unique, it is a primitive house. Carole and John have done a lot of the work themselves.

Carole introduced Black Jack, a horse to the family. They have had him for about 3 years, he is 13 years old. They don't ride him, he gets to enjoy retirement. There is also 1 dog and 2 cats that have found a home at the Baker's. Welcome back Carole and John.



**September garden visit:** The club was invited to Edith and Pat garden and lake. We had 23 members and 6 guests. The weather was enjoyable, temperatures dropping down. Most members added a light jacket. Edith garden is full of flowers, shrubs and trees. Walking around the house gives you a chance to see all the plants, yard décor, bird feeders and window baskets. Every window had a basket with pink petunias. There was a fairy garden tucked under trees. All variety of plants, black eyed Susan, huge begonia in front yard. There was a ginkgo tree, evergreens, magnolia. Hosta, cockscomb, butterfly bushes. There were tomatoes growing in the garden. Russian sage.

Edith and Pat treated us to a meal of hot dogs and brauts. Thank you to the club members who brought snacks and dips. Thank you to Don who did a lot of the cooking. I've decided gardeners are all good cooks.

We had a short business meeting. Sign up for refreshments for October was passed around. Paula gave a mini presentation on a Flapjack Kalanchoe. Paula also talked about having some fun activities. The first activity will be flower pounding. It is scheduled for Monday, Sept 19. It will be the trial to see how it goes.

Thank you to Linda who brought some cucumbers, peppers and apples to share. Linda also requested a dig day at her garden, she has several hosta that need to be divided. The work day is scheduled for Sept 27, Tuesday., at 10:00. Linda will keep the potted hosta over the winter.

After we checked out the yard, had our meeting and our appetites satisfied, we went to Lake Lela to gather around the lake. Some members rode the trailer with the bales of hay. Members were also able to drive vehicles to the lake. Several members had smores' or just roasted marshmallow. Lake Lela was developed in honor of Pat's mother, Lela. The lake is about 2 1/2 acres. Sophie, Edith and Pat's granddaughter (8 yrs old) wrote a letter explaining why the lake was built and how loved Lela was.



**Out and About**, a trial fun activity was held at Paula home. The activity was flower pounding. Using flowers that were brought by members. The flowers were arranged on watercolor paper. Using hammers and a lot of tapping. Some flowers worked better than others. It seemed the more moisture the flowers had the better it worked. There was a lot of discussions and comparing of flowers and colors. It was found to be more artistic when details were added using crayons. Thanks Brooke for the suggestion. Thank you Paula for letting us use your home for the activity. Will need to schedule another session.



**Dig day at Linda** : From what I heard it sounds like it was a good day at Linda's. Weather was good, and lots of help. It was a very productive day. Thank you to : Adriana, Dottie, Eunice , Char, Paula, Christy, Jerry, Bob, Linda and Linda's husband Henry for all their hard work. They potted between 100-200 plants. Linda fed the workers a nice lunch of Italian beef, homemade pickles, fresh tomatoes, slaw and apple cake. They also had some time to check out Linda's plants.



**Hospitality:** The following members have volunteered to bring refreshments for the October meeting. Thank you in advance.

**Dessert/appetizer:** George , Eunice , Brenda , and Susan

**One large bag of ice:** ?????? Volunteer needed

**2 liter cola:** Susan

**2 liter white soda:** Andriana

**2 liter diet soda:** Helen

**One gallon unsweetened tea:** Char

**President:** Dottie Rogers, 917-4730

**Vice President:** Paula Zugmaier,  
567-1703

**Secretary:** Susan Ruckman  
(618) 917-5853 or  
[gardenfriends@hotmail.com](mailto:gardenfriends@hotmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Susan Hiller, 466-4942

**Board members**

Vernice  
Rosemary  
George (past president)  
Eunice

**Committee chairs**

Christy — trips, Facebook  
Jerry — photos, historian,  
community projects  
Adriana — plant sale  
Debbie — hospitality  
Edith — hospitality