

What's Going on in the Garden?

Featuring the Latest "Dirt" from the O'Fallon Garden Club

May 17, 2018



Spring has arrived! Rental garden beds grow a variety of well-tended plants at the Community Garden

May Meeting at the Garden – perfect weather, delicious food, and lots of enjoyable conversations made for a delightful evening at the Community Garden on May 1st. While it was our designated monthly membership meeting there was no business conducted; however, there was a great deal of talking on a variety of subjects, some of them even gardening related. Maybe we should schedule a few more meetings like this?

Many thanks to Kim and Mark Atkins for proposing and organizing this relaxing meeting. Mark also manned the grill to serve up some tasty burgers and hotdogs, while members brought a large variety of delicious dishes to share. Many thanks to Joyce Hillebrand and Carol Schmidt who arranged an inviting setting of benches and tables in the garden. We also had several folks stop by who expressed interest in joining our Club and several new members joined as well.



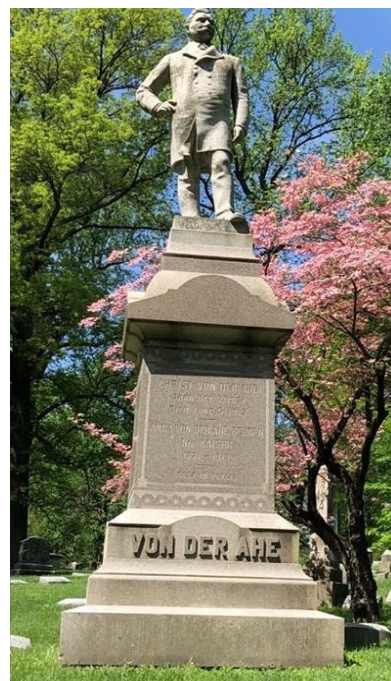
While sitting in the garden it was a powerful reminder of what our Club has accomplished on this plot of land over the last eight years. Let's keep up the good work!

Tuesday Night Trowelers Return – and are back in action to continue our gardening efforts during the evening hours. So far they've tilled part of the veggie garden, erected a wire arbor, weeded, and planted seeds. Even more fun and gardening adventures await them. If you've got a yearning to get into the garden but can't make our morning work sessions, consider joining us on Tuesday evening starting at 6:00pm. All

you need is a pair of gloves, a bottle of water and willingness to work and learn. Hat and sunscreen are also recommended.

Tour of Bellefontaine Cemetery – Eleven members of the Club (plus two spouses) enjoyed a walking tour of Bellefontaine Cemetery on May 7th. It was a pleasant spring day for a leisurely two-hour walk through part of this historic and well-maintained cemetery. We were accompanied by two docents – one gave us information about some of the famous residents interred there while the other docent provided info about the many trees and plants within the grounds. Besides being a cemetery since 1849, Bellefontaine is a Level II arboretum with over 5,000 trees and shrubs located on the grounds. If you enjoy history and/or plants consider taking a tour of this site.

Spring Plant Sale Results – our May 5th sale was held at First United Methodist Church this year. While we had fewer perennials for sale this year – due to a very wet & cold April – we still offered over 300 plants supplemented with a variety of annuals purchased through a local greenhouse. Our gross total was \$1,908.50 with expenses totaling \$323.92 (for greenhouse annuals plus plants for potted arrangements). Our **net revenue was \$1,584.58** which is only \$55 less than we made at last year's sale. Woohoo! Many thanks to all who helped make this annual sale another success. A big shout out to Rob Fowler who adeptly served as my co-chair for this event. Huge thanks to Scott Cummings and Charlie Pitts for serving as cashiers plus Joyce Hillebrand and Carol Schmidt for organizing and set-up of the sale site. Many thanks to all who brought plants or came to shop the sale. And to the great team who priced all the plants, worked the sale and/or helped with clean-up: Kim Atkins, Mark Atkins, Daine Brundage, John Brundage, Sierra Fowler, Sterling Garnto, Scott Gordon, Jan Myron, Karen Rees, Donna Short, Carolyn Sitzes, Peg Stimson, Bob Winkler, and Meredith Winkler – thank you all for a great job!



Garden Work Days and Time – a reminder from Bob that Monday, May 28 is the Memorial Day holiday and it will not be a garden workday, work day is moved to Tuesday, May 29. Also please note that as of **Monday, June 4 morning work times in the garden will be 8:00 – 11:00am** due to the warmer weather.

Maintenance of the Garden – we have a large number of members, but few volunteers to help maintain the Community Garden. We could use some help! Last year we initiated a program where people or small groups could adopt one or more of the beds to maintain as their schedules permit. We've emailed a document explaining maintenance requirements for the garden beds to all members to give you the opportunity to adopt-a-garden bed. Any assistance needed to maintain the beds that you adopt will be provided at your request. If you would like to adopt a bed or have questions about it, please contact Bob Winkler at bobwink@charter.net or 618-581-0242.

May 1 Meeting

See the lead story of the newsletter; no business was discussed or reports/updates given.

New Members: we've had a number of folks join our Club since our April meeting. Please welcome the following: Marvin Brinkley, Claudia Brinkley, Shelia Dickey, Margarette Gibbs, Shelia Haar, and Jean Hannes. Welcome all and we're glad you've joined our Club!

Upcoming Meetings/Events

- Next Board Meeting – Wednesday, May 30 at 4:00pm at Katy Cavins Community Center.
- Next Membership Meeting – Tuesday, June 5 at 6:00pm at Rock Springs Rotary Park. Guest speaker will be Carol Schlitt. Carol is a Consumer Science professional with more than 30 years of experience in Southern Illinois. She is the owner Safe & Savory Solutions, Inc. where she specializes in providing food demonstrations, food safety education and food preservation workshops on a custom basis. Carol is well known for her lively and entertaining presentations. Hope you'll join us.
- Gardens in Bloom Tour, June 2 from 9:00am to 3:00pm in Belleville – tour eight gardens in the "The Orchards" sub-division. Tickets \$10 in advance, \$12 day of tour. Tour benefits the University of Illinois Extension programs. Purchase tickets in O'Fallon at Creative Landscapes Garden Center or Ace Hardware.
- Other Gardens in Bloom Tours – Columbia: June 9 from 9:00am to 2:00pm. Edwardsville: June 15 from 4:30 to 8:30pm and June 16 from 9:00am to 1:00pm. These tours also benefit the University of Illinois Extension programs. For more info on both tours or to purchase tickets contact University of Illinois Extension offices in Collinsville, phone 618-344-4230 or Waterloo, phone 618-939-3434.

Club updates and activities are posted on our Facebook page (O'Fallon IL Garden Club) and at our website: www.ofallongardenclub.com

Horticulturally yours,
Annie Skaggs
Secretary

