

# What's Going on in the Garden?

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

**July 17, 2018**



Sunflower hosting a bee visitor in one of the raised beds at the Community Garden photo by K. Atkins

**Summer's Heat and Humidity** – have made it less than pleasant to be working in the garden, but with the “pain” also comes the “gain” from the abundant produce we have been harvesting for the Community Food Pantry. The flower beds are looking healthy and lush with local pollinators of bees, butterflies and other insects enjoying the pollen from our plants. We've had many human visitors to the garden as well, they too have found a place to explore, relax and enjoy. If you haven't visited the garden lately consider taking a walk through and let its simple beauty refresh your spirits.

**Why the Garden Looks Good** – earlier this spring there was a bit of panic in how we would care for the garden during Bob & Meredith's extended absence. Joyce Hillebrand took on the task to oversee the vegetable garden and several other members stepped up to help Sterling Garnto care for various flower beds throughout the garden. Additional members adopted a specific bed to keep it watered and weeded. We've had help from non-members too: Michael, our summer intern from Parks & Rec, works non-stop during his two days per week in the garden, while Michelle and Liz, both from Australia, help with harvesting and maintaining the veggie garden. Bob and Meredith are back and happy with the overall condition of the garden – we're happy about that too! Thank you so very much to all of the “gardening angels” who have helped keep the garden looking so lovely and a big thank you to Joyce for her dedication to sustaining the garden. We couldn't have done it without all of your help.

**Volunteers Needed for O'Fallon City Fest** – will be held on August 17-18 at the Community Park. This event is sponsored by the City (Mayor and City Council), a committee of volunteers and funded from donations by O'Fallon businesses. It will be a family and kid-centered event with games, rides and food. Many civic/community organizations will be participating in the Fest. Our Club will help support the ticket sales

during the event as almost all transactions during City Fest will be through purchased tickets. Charlie Pitts is looking for 6-8 members for both shifts on Friday, August 17 from 4:00-7:00pm and Saturday, August 18 from 5:00-8:00pm. If you can help or need more information about what we'll be doing contact Charlie at [naturalistoncall@gmail.com](mailto:naturalistoncall@gmail.com) or 618-910-0911.



**Fall Plant & Flea Market Sale** – is scheduled for Saturday, September 29 at the intersection of Hwy 50 and Lincoln Avenue. Peg Stimson will manage this year's sale; she needs members to help, especially at the end of the sale when we need help to tidy up the sales area. For this year's sale we'll purchase an assortment of fall blooming plants plus sell pumpkins and gourds from our Taylor Road garden. The craft ladies will hold a flea market of leftover craft items and materials (as we're going out of "business"). Members are welcome to donate used garden tools (still usable) or garden related décor. Peg will have a sign-up sheet for workers at the August membership meeting. If you can help at the sale contact Peg at [pegstimson65@gmail.com](mailto:pegstimson65@gmail.com) or 618-407-2471. If you have items to donate for the Flea Market, contact Annie at [64gardengal@gmail.com](mailto:64gardengal@gmail.com) or 618-363-7514.

**Garden Beds Still Available for Adoption** – while some of our flower beds have been adopted there are several still looking for someone to care for them during the remainder of the year. Adoption duties include watering the bed 2 times a week (or more if we have no rain) and to weed and deadhead as needed. If you're willing to help a bed look its best please contact Joyce at 618-570-8934 or [rjhilleb@yahoo.com](mailto:rjhilleb@yahoo.com)

**Awards Chair** – the Club is looking for an Awards chairperson, this position researches state or national Garden Club awards that our Club is eligible for and writes the submission requests. This is a busier year for the Club than previous years; we're growing in members, doing more activities and eligible for more awards. Our club does a lot and so the Board would like our Club to submit and receive more awards. Contact Kim Atkins for more information at 757-751-5965 or [firefighter106ofd@yahoo.com](mailto:firefighter106ofd@yahoo.com)

## July 10 Meeting

**July Speaker:** Chef Josh Charles, Executive Chef at Winslow Home restaurant gave a demonstration of how to make gazpacho, a cold soup made from tomatoes, cucumbers, bell pepper, onion, garlic, stale bread, olive oil, sherry vinegar, fresh parsley and basil, and salt. While Chef Josh prepared the dish (chopping vegetables, bread and herbs to place into a blender) he discussed his interest and involvement in the farm-to-table cooking movement which emphasizes a direct relationship between a local food producer and a restaurant. Rather than buying through a distributor or a food service, some restaurants establish relationships with farms and local markets to buy directly from them. Josh commented that farm-to-table food is fresh and flavorful and casual (in terms of preparation) but very technique driven. He also answered numerous questions from the audience about how he got started in the food industry, chefs who have influenced his cooking, favorite local places to eat, etc. While he was answering questions a presentation of various food dishes with his comments about the ingredients played on a screen. Josh served the gazpacho to all in attendance with help from Harriet Baker, Mark Atkins and Stephen Grider. It was very tasty. Josh concluded his presentation by saying to search social media for Chef Josh Charles on information about his business. If members would like Josh's recipe for gazpacho, email Mark at [ofd107@yahoo.com](mailto:ofd107@yahoo.com)

**Attendance:** we had 35 members in attendance plus ten guests.

**New Members:** we have 3 new members, actually they're previous members who rejoined. Please welcome back Elaine Doias, John Vlahek, and Suzanne Rupright. We now have 105 members in our Club!

**Money:** Current financial summary for the period from May 29 through June 25, 2018: cash on hand as of May 29 was \$46,118; we have set aside \$35,000 for future projects (pavilion). We had \$2,977 in income and \$3,218 in expenses so spendable cash as of June 25 is \$10,878. Our remaining budgeted expenses through fiscal year end (2/28/19) is \$20,296. If we have no additional revenue we would spend \$9,419 more than we

have. We need to raise at least that amount in our two remaining fund raisers (Fall Plant Sale and Glo Bingo). Charlie stated that the Club received a \$100 donation for the apiary from a local gym that encourages healthy eating. Charlie has revised the format for the monthly financial report by reorganizing the report to include data from all of our various accounts. Without all the accounts included he had underreported revenue and expenses, but has now incorporated all of the Club's accounts into the spreadsheet.

**Community Garden:** Bob Winkler thanked all the volunteers for their help with the garden. He is not sure that we will be able to harvest corn for the Taylor Road Garden; some ears are already on the ground and there are lots of weevils in the corn. Bob also said that we will start watering the pumpkin patch at Taylor Road in order to encourage pumpkin production. Carolyn Sitzes also commented that all is well with the landscape beds at the Community Garden.

**Historian:** Carol Schmidt had no report but asked members to talk with her if they knew of an O'Fallon garden that might be included in the 2019 Gardens in Bloom tour. Carol is working with several Master Gardeners through the University of IL Extension Service in selecting gardens for the tour.

**Apiary:** Jim Harper reports that the beekeepers will extract honey for the spring honey harvest on Thursday, July 18 at the outdoor kitchen (close to Katy Cavins) in the Community Park. He is asking for at least 3 volunteers to help with bottling the honey. Jim says the extracting process will likely exceed 80 pounds for this harvest! Congratulations to Jim Harper and Dave Paeth who were recently featured in an article about the Club's beekeeping efforts in the *Belleville News Democrat*.



**Food:** Many thanks to Joyce Hillebrand, Diane Peach, Karen Rees and Bob West for providing tonight's delicious refreshments. Thank you all, everything was delicious! Joyce brought cut flowers from the garden to place on many of the tables.

### Upcoming Meetings/Events

- Next Board Meeting – Tuesday, July 31 at 4:00pm at Katy Cavins Community Center.
- Next Membership Meeting – Tuesday, August 7 at 6:30 pm at Rock Springs Rotary Park Cabin. Guest speaker is Master Gardener Arla Chevess who will present "Herbs & Ways of Cooking Those Vegetables that Tend to Overflow our Gardens."
- Tuesday Evening Work Nights – July 17, 24 and 31 at either Community Garden or Taylor Road. Check with Mark Atkins at [ofd107@yahoo.com](mailto:ofd107@yahoo.com) for work session's location.
- GCI District V Summer Workshop – July 25 at Caseyville Township Building (Upper Level) at 10001 Bunkum Rd in Fairview Heights, hosted by Fairview Heights Garden Club. Theme is "Christmas in July." Attendees can make one to four Christmas ornaments. Lunch is pot luck with host providing entrée and drinks. Cost is \$10.00 per person, including lunch and all materials. To make reservations contact Diane Peach at 618-632-7392.

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

Horticulturally yours,  
*Annie Skaggs*, Secretary

