

District V

Pam Baker, GCI District Director

Collinsville Garden Club

Collinsville Garden Club started the year out with the installation of officers. We had a very successful spring plant sale. We hosted the district's spring meeting and also added two new members! Our club members continue to plant, cultivate and harvest the gardens at the historical DD Collins House where vegetables were donated to the local food pantry. We created and contributed a nine foot awesome scarecrow for the Halloween display at the DD Collins Home.

Edwardsville Garden Club

On September 14, thanks to mother nature's cooperation, our members' contributions and hard work, our fall plant sale was a success. Pam Baker coordinated a trip, September 21, to Belleville to see the Survival Memorial Tree, along Belleville's 9/11 Memorial Walkway of Southern Illinois. This tree was planted from a seedling of the original 9/11 Survivor Tree (found in the debris of the World Trade Center, rescued, nurtured back to health, and replanted in New York City at the 9/11 memorial site). Seedlings have been distributed since then throughout the United States. Afterwards, they toured the family owned Waterfall Glen Soap Company, (vegan soap) and had lunch at Eckert's Farm. It was an enlightening trip.

On October 5, Emily Connors, Education director for the Audubon Center at Riverland, West Alton, shared challenges for migratory birds in our changing climate emphasizing specific native plants to assure birds survival. On October 19, Lori Klenke led members to the Ellis Island Trail to view migratory birds along the Mississippi. The trail is a 2.7-mile path on a peninsula between the Mississippi River and the backwater of Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary. Afterwards they visited the Riverlands Center, shopped at Mississippi Mud Pottery and had lunch at Brown Bag Bistro. It was a refreshing trip.

Upcoming: November, an update on house plants; December collecting for Glen-Ed Food Pantry; January advice on bugs and touring Evergreen Plant Company in Greenville; February welcome new board and visit to Sophia Sachs Butterfly House; and March helping Monarchs.

Lakeview Acres Garden Club

All of us in the Lakeview Acres Garden Club worked so well together including two members who carefully tended and potted the succulent centerpieces for our hosting of the district's President Council meeting. We did take time to have a very successful plant sale, tour both a unique garden in our area and a garlic farm. We painted and hid

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rocks in Drost Park for kids to find and made sure the nursing home near us had treats for Halloween.

O'Fallon Garden Club

The O'Fallon Garden Club truly enjoyed hosting the Central Region Garden Clubs and the President of the National Garden Club for a tour of the O'Fallon Community Garden during the recent Central Region Convention. Our members planted grass seed around new sidewalks, decorated with fall plants, pumpkins, and cornstalks, mulched and watered for a month in preparation. When frost threatened, they were ready with tarps to protect new plantings. Hot apple cider and doughnuts were served in our new gazebo, and a new serviceberry tree was dedicated. Over 4,000 lbs of produce has been donated to the food pantry, so far, and NPR toured our garden last month to report on winning the National Garden Club Award for donating 5,300 lbs to the food pantry the previous year.

Silver Creek Garden Club

Silver Creek Garden Club enjoyed great tours and meetings. In September, we saw a lot of fall interests at the Missouri Botanical Gardens with Stephanie Sigala as our guide. In October, we visited the Engelmann Farm, a project of Heartland Conservancy. We toured the grounds including the cemetery, and saw many trees identified by Jack Aydt. We saw the Osage orange tree which is the second oldest tree of its species in IL. Our upcoming events include a tour of Heimos Greenhouse to see the poinsettias. Our Christmas gathering will include large donations to the local food pantries we donate to monthly. We are looking forward to a potluck lunch meeting with silent auction in January. In remembrance of days gone by, our club will have a formal tea and meeting in February. Our March meeting will include a program on plant propagation. A nice number of our club enjoyed the district meeting, at which one of our members was memorialized.

St. Clair Garden Club

St. Clair has been busy this fall. Everyone has been working to get their gardens ready for the winter season. In October, we had a speaker that taught us all about pumpkins and all the different varieties. In November, our program will be all about recycling and is it still worth the trouble. Every December our members decorate small trees or brooms that will be distributed to residents of the nursing homes. This is always a fun project. The unusually warm fall has kept our gardens growing. One member even had a lilac blooming! Our study this year has been trees. Each month a report is given about a different tree. We are always looking for new members.

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Trenton Tumbleweeds

The Trenton Tumbleweeds is a small but mighty garden club. We have been quite busy this fall. We started off the new season with our yearly salad supper at one of the members' homes. Next we participated in the community festival by manning the dessert booth and this year we were able to decorate a float to ride on in the fall parade. This was great fun. We handed out candy for the kiddos and flyers inviting people to our upcoming programs and to join our club.

In September, we had a speaker on the Community Garden effort in Nicaragua. For more info please go to TheEducationGarden.org. We also had another well attended dedication ceremony for the installation of memorial pavers in our flower memorial garden at the city park. In October, we worked with the high school horticulture classes to divide/pot ferns and Christmas cactus. We also joined in the business trunk or treat for Halloween.

With winter coming around so quickly we will put our garden to bed and install Christmas lights. We also will be decorating wreaths that we place at several places throughout the community. In the new year, we will begin with a program on pollinator habitats in January, and a program on chocolate in your garden for February.