



The “Show-Me” Gardener

Webster Groves Garden Club

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July Outing – Sunday, July 18, 2021

**Lunch: Big Sky Café, Webster Groves
Oakland House, Affton**



July Meeting

The July meeting will be a summer outing, a tour of the Oakland House in Affton, Missouri and preceding the tour we will have lunch at Big Sky Café in Webster Groves at 12:30 pm. Please read below for more info.

Date: Sunday, July 18, 2021 time 2-4 pm. Lunch at Big Sky Café Webster Groves at 12:30 pm. Please Google for directions. There is abundant parking at the Oakland house once you find it, so that is not a problem.

Our July 18, 2021 outing (instead of a meeting) will be an open house tour of the beautiful Oakland House in Affton Missouri. The Oakland House and herb garden was on the Historic Saint Louis tour in June of this year. The house is open from 2 pm to 4 pm and the cost is \$8.00 dollars per person. Before the open house we will have lunch at the Big Sky Café in Webster Groves at 12:30 pm. If you would like to attend either the open house or the lunch, or both, please contact Janet Noble at 314 307 8600 so your name is added to the attendance list. If you leave a voice mail, please leave the particulars in the message so there is no confusion about your attendance. Also leave a current number in case you need to be contacted. Both the lunch and open house fee are at your own expense but the fun and camaraderie will be supplied by the many members of the garden club who attend. So please come!

For our August meeting we plan to be back at the Webster Groves Recreational Complex! So glad to return! Speaker arrangements are in the planning stage so stay tuned!

History of the Oakland House

The Oakland House was built in the 1850's by banker, Louis A. Benoist. Mr. Benoist was born in St. Louis on July 12, 1803, the son of a French Canadian

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fur trader. He had a very interesting life, was married three times and had 18 children. During the course of his life, he purchased 476 acres of land between Gravois and Mackenzie road, making up most of what, is now Affton. Mr. Benoist decided to build Oakland house in what was then the rural countryside of St. Louis. He elected A. J. Downing's architecture design for the house. For those of you who know landscape history, Downing was the architect and landscaper who championed and planned a park in New York City, which we now know as Central Park. Downing also orchestrated the grounds of the White House and the Smithsonian Institute. But back to Mr. Benoist and the Oakland house. The house was built on the highest point of the estate and currently resides next to Lakewood Park Cemetery. The house was built from limestone quarried from the estate and has many decorative features of a mansion built at that time, including a drawing room, library, dining room, butler's pantry and kitchen. It also has a walnut staircase, 14-foot ceilings and windowed alcoves with Corinthian columns. French doors open onto a side patio where visitors dine during the present monthly luncheons. Currently the Oakland house offers many social events, such as the open house tours, monthly luncheons, club meetings, weddings, etc. Come see this lovely dwelling hiding in Affton.

Presidents Corner

I don't know about your garden, but the weeds in mine have grown exponentially with all the rain. Just when I think they are under control, they pop up again. Violets and creeping Charlie seem to be the worst offenders in my garden. On the positive side, the rain is resulting in a bumper crop of grape and cherry tomatoes this year.

Here are some tasks you should remember for the month of July. Deadheading annuals will keep them blooming longer. For those perennials that have finished blooming, deadheading will make them look much tidier. Once the rain stops (and it will!), you will need to water during the dry July weather especially if you have planted new shrubs or trees. And, don't forget to leave water for those thirsty birds.

Now is the time you may notice mildew and other problems and pests. If so, go to the Gardening by Month website at the **Missouri Botanical Gardens** <https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/gardens-gardening/your-garden/help-for-the-home-gardener/advice-tips-resources/gardening-by-month/july.aspx#3043>, and check the *Pests and Problems* section. For each of these pests and problems, there is an *Integrated Pest Management Strategy*. What is Integrated Pest Management (IPM)? According to the IPM Institute of North America, it is "a sustainable, science-based, decision-making process that combines biological, cultural, physical and chemical tools to identify, manage and reduce risk from pests and pest management tools and strategies in a way that minimizes overall economic, health and environmental risks." So, remedies start with the most effective, least risky method of addressing your gardening problems.

For help with pests and problems and other gardening questions, you also can check with the **University of Missouri Extension** in Kirkwood. As of July 6th, you can make an in person visit between 12 – 3 every day of the week except Saturday and Sunday. The address is: 132 East Monroe.

We often use home remedies to help our plants along. For those of you who do, here is a helpful article from the **University of Minnesota Extension** entitled **Myth or miracle: Coffee grounds, eggshells, and Epsom salts?**

You can find it at: <https://blog-yard-garden-news.extension.umn.edu/2019/05/myth-or-miracle-coffee-grounds.html>

There are several upcoming events that might be of interest to you. The **St. Louis County Library** has a couple programs in July and August. Space is limited for these virtual programs so you must register and will receive Zoom information via email. To register: go to www.slcl.org and click Events & Classes, Adult Programs, and search by title or date.

Wednesday, July 14, 2021: *Container Gardening with Herbs* – 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Thursday, July 22, 2021: *Maintaining Native Plant Gardens* - 7:00 p.m. to 8:00p.m.

Thursday, August 26, 2021: *Gardening for Butterflies* - 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Pennsylvania State University Extension has several Zoom programs that may be of interest, too. You will need to preregister for each of these at the sites listed with each program.

Wednesday, July 21, 2021: *Insect Pest Awareness for Home Gardeners.* Basics about insect pests for vegetable gardens – 6 pm. to 8:30 p.m., CDT <https://web.cvent.com/event/d8257367-038f-4635-839f-1cda9646ba48/summary>

Wednesday, August 18, 2021: *Community Forestry: Are Your Trees Storm Ready?* How to evaluate your trees and assess their potential for failure during a storm. 11 a.m. – 12 p.m., CDT <https://web.cvent.com/event/cf0d23f5-3a5d-4ba4-901a-b7bb983e9d1b/summary>

Metro Garden

Extra Plants Available

The WGGC maintains the Metro garden at the corner of Rock Hill Road and Lockwood Avenue. We sometimes have extra plants available to the membership. Currently we have extra Shasta Daisies, Amsonia, Nepeta, Russian Sage and Cup Plant seedlings. The Metro garden is generally sunny and well drained and these plants will do best in this type of garden.

Anyone who is interested in having some of these varieties or who would like to volunteer at the Metro garden is invited to contact Mike Tierney at michaeljtierney@sbcglobal.net.

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