**President’s Corner – May 2022**

First, I want to extend a big thanks to all the volunteers, plant donors and garden enthusiasts who attended our Spring 2022 Plant Sale. After a 2-year hiatus, we were able to have a very successful sale at the Webster Groves Recreation Center this past week. We appreciate your support!

May is finally here and we can begin gardening in earnest. Some helpful tips from the **Missouri Botanical Garden** for the month of May: remember to pinch the blossoms from your azaleas and rhododendron after flowers fade and prune them, if needed, after they bloom. Also pinch your chrysanthemum plants back to promote growth and now is the time to plant gladiolas, caladiums, dahlias, cannas, and elephant ears. (Some information about planting and growing these summer bulbs can be found here: https://www.flowerbulbs.com/2917/your-own-cutting-garden). You will want to check your evergreens and conifers for bagworms (some Integrated Pest Management strategies here: https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/gardens-gardening/your-garden/help-for-the-home-gardener/advice-tips-resources/pests-and-problems/insects/caterpillars/bagworms.aspx. Finally, remember that the foliage on your spring bulbs helps to feed the bulb for next season, so don’t remove it too soon.

With not much sun and limited space in the garden, I grow several vegetables in pots and other containers. If you are in a similar situation, this site from **GardenDesign** has some good tips for growing vegetables: https://www.gardendesign.com/vegetables/container-growing.html?utm\_source=article-newsletter&utm\_medium=email&utm\_campaign=Container-Veg-Garden-4-28-22

Have you had your soil tested? If not, this is a good time to consider doing so. Here are some easy steps from the **University of Missouri Extension**. Collect samples by: (1) making one cut into ground as deep as your shovel will go; (2) making another cut 1 inch behind the first; (3) tilting the shovel back to lift out the soil slice; (4) keeping the middle of the slice and cutting any grass or other plant material off the top; and (5) repeating 8 to 10 times in the area. Then, mix the samples together; air-dry and place about 1 pint of soil into a plastic bag. You can take the sample to the **St. Louis County Extension Office** at 132 S. Monroe in Kirkwood. The results are usually back with 10 to 14 days unless they are busy, and the cost for analysis is $25. You can find more information at: https://extension.missouri.edu/programs/soil-and-plant-testing-laboratory/spl-soil-analysis/spl-garden-landscape-lawn-soil-test

Finally, for those of you who use gardening as a form of exercise (don’t we all?!), you may be interested in a **PBS** program called **GardenFit**. You can find more information at: https://www.pbs.org/show/gardenfit/?utm\_source=gd-

Some virtual programs at the **St. Louis County Library** that may be of interest to you are:

**May 5 – 2 p.m. - 3 p.m**. **Gardening for Butterflies**. Presented by **Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House**

How you can build a successful butterfly garden. Register at: https://slcl.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=296587

**May 12 - 11 a.m.- noon. Top 10 Sensory Plants** presented by the **Missouri Botanical Garden** Therapeutic Horticulture Program. Learn about different uses and growing conditions of popular plants that provide a sensory experience, like enticing scents or smooth textures. Register at: https://slcl.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=295298