



# “Let’s Talk Dirt”

## Newsletter of the Silvis Garden Club

“Fellowship and Education Through Gardening”  
Established 2001



[silvisgardenclub.org](http://silvisgardenclub.org)

## June 2008

---

### President’s Corner ...

**Zinnias** – Thanks to the folks who are packaging Zinnia seeds. I have more envelopes, so if you still have some seeds, just put them in a container and I’ll package them. Seed packages are now available at the Library, City Hall and Black Hawk Bank. Be sure to keep some for yourself and enter the contest. Prizes are \$100, \$50 and \$25.

**Rain Garden** – We received some native plants for the rain garden. Dan, Phyllis, Kathy, Gena, Lisa, and Mike Johnson planted them on Sunday afternoon. Sue and Tom helped water the plants in the rain garden and gourd tunnel. We also picked up some trash around the park. Thanks go to Matt Carter and Walt for tilling the area. It looks pretty good for a start.

**Birdies for Charity** – We still are gathering pledges. If you have any, please bring them to the meeting or drop them off at my house. Our goal is to get 100 penny pledges by 20 June. However, pledges can be made anytime before the tournament in July.

**Daylilies** – Barb Papenhausen from the Cedar Valley Iris and Day Lily Society dropped off a lot of bare root daylilies left over from their sale. They had pictures and tags already attached. Thanks to Jo, Margaret, Tom & Betty, Frank and Lisa for answering my cry for help to pot them. We now have some beautiful plants for our Garden Walk Plant Sale. Speaking of the Plant Sale, be sure to pot your divisions now so they will be ready for the June 28<sup>th</sup> Garden Walk.

**Hanging Baskets** – Dan, Phyllis and Kathy Johnson potted seven hanging planters for the gazebo at Railway Park. Charles kept them in his greenhouse until they were established. We used some of the money we received from the Centennial Committee to purchase the plants.

**Phipps Prairie Park Dedication** – Silvis Playground & Recreation is hosting the dedication of Phipps Prairie Park on Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 pm at the park. Senator Mike Jacobs will be guest speaker. Silvis Garden Club members are invited to attend, along with other individuals and businesses that helped develop the park. We will receive a certificate acknowledging our support efforts. Refreshments will be served after the brief ceremony. Public is invited. Please try to attend.

**Garden Walk** – Helen, Dale, Jackie, Lisa, Gena & Katherine are working on getting ready for the June 28<sup>th</sup> Garden Walk. Helen and Dale visited the homes and said they look great. Dale is making up the brochure, Jackie is getting raffle items, Gena, Lisa and Katherine are working on the signs to be set out. Things are looking good. When everyone helps we do great things!

**Bird Houses** – Bird Houses are ready to be put up at PPP. Park Dept employees installed the poles. Thanks to all who worked on them. This meets one of our objectives for 2008.

**Lighthouse Planters** – Dean and Dan, Sue and Tom along with Tara (activities director) built two elevated planters for the residents of the Lighthouse in Silvis. We also hauled the dirt to fill them. It only took a little over two hours to do and the residents are thrilled. They already have tomatoes, peppers, and chives planted. Tara would like to thank the Club for doing this.

Kathy (792-0800)

**Next Meeting: Thursday, June 12th, at 6:30 p.m.**

Our June Garden Club meeting is at the home of Kathy and Mike Johnson, 610 - 8th Avenue, Silvis.  
Hope to see you there!

**June Refreshments:** Don Ague



## The Great Sunflower Project—you can help save our bees

Bees are pretty important insects. Did you know that one-third of our food comes from a plant pollinated by wild pollinators, such as bees?

If bees got paid, people would owe them about \$15 billion a year for their services, according to the US Department of Agriculture.

And as the headlines and television news for the last year have reported, bees are under threat. Beginning in October 2006, some beekeepers began reporting losses of 30 to 90 percent of their hives, the USDA's Agricultural Research Service reports. While hive losses in cold weather are normal, losses as big as the ones beekeepers reported were not. Scientists have not found the cause of Colony Collapse Disorder, as it is called, but are studying three possibilities: pesticides; a new parasite or pathogen; and a combination of existing stresses, such as immune-system problems that degrade bees' social structure, according to the USDA.

This is where **The Great Sunflower Project** comes in.

The goal of The Great Sunflower Project—a nationwide citizen-science effort in which local gardeners are encouraged to take part—is to study bees in home and community gardens and their surrounding environments. The Great Sunflower Project wants you to plant a sunflower. Then they want you to watch your plant on certain days this summer and let them know how long it takes for five bees to land there.

Bees are "a crucial link in the survival of native habitats and local produce, not to mention our beautiful urban gardens," according to [www.greatsunflower.org](http://www.greatsunflower.org), the project's web site. "Our local pollinator populations require our understanding and protection, and to answer that call, we need to determine where and when they are at work."

To take part in the project, go to their website [www.greatsunflower.org](http://www.greatsunflower.org) to sign up and find out more about the project. It's easy to help count the bees that visit your sunflowers (4 steps). And it's free!

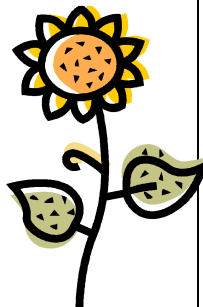
1. Sign up, get a free packet of wild sunflower seeds by mail, and plant your sunflower seeds
2. Describe your garden
3. Time how long it takes for 5 bees to visit
4. Enter your data online or send in your form

Why sunflowers? Bees in general love sunflowers, they are native to North America, and they are easy and fun to grow. Kids love to grow them, and the seeds are big.

Planting them couldn't be easier. You don't need a field or a big garden plot. You can even plant these in containers—they only grow to 3 feet tall. Just prepare your soil, plant the seeds, water, and wait!

For more information about The Great Sunflower Project, including photos that will help you identify particular pollinators, visit [www.greatsunflower.org](http://www.greatsunflower.org).

To learn about Colony Collapse Disorder, visit the U.S. Department of Agriculture website, [www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=15572](http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=15572).



## The June Garden ...

- ❖ June is Perennial Gardening Month and a great time to plant perennials!
- ❖ Finish planting the vegetable garden. Different patches of cucumber, squash, beans and corn can be planted every 2 weeks up until July 4th to ensure a steady supply through fall when the first planted veggies and vines die off.
- ❖ Enjoy walking your yard & continue regular inspections of lawn & gardens for insect & disease control.
- ❖ Water lawn & plantings as needed. Better to deep water on a less frequent schedule (every 10-14 days) than constant light waterings...especially where fungus or disease has been a problem.
- ❖ Dead-head annuals & perennials regularly to encourage more blooms & improve plant vigor. Fertilize containers weekly.
- ❖ Remember to pull or spot spray weeds as they first appear in beds & borders...small weeds are easier to control.
- ❖ Continue planting your favorite plants as it usually only takes 3-4 weeks to get them to root in and established in your landscape.
- ❖ Start increasing the mowing height of your lawn mower to 2.5 to 3 inches to avoid summer stress that will invite insects and diseases to move in.
- ❖ Apply a slow release fertilizer to maintain your lawn's fertility in summer and stave off insect and disease problems.
- ❖ Trim all spring flowering plants as they finish up blooming which in most cases is late May or early June. Later trimming will cut off flower buds for the next spring that form in summer.



### **The Garden of Daily Living** (From the [moytura.com](http://moytura.com) website)

#### **FOR THE GARDEN OF YOUR DAILY LIVING PLANT THREE ROWS OF PEAS:**

1. Peace of mind
2. Peace of heart
3. Peace of soul

#### **PLANT FOUR ROWS OF SQUASH:**

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness

#### **PLANT FOUR ROWS OF LETTUCE:**

1. Lettuce be faithful
2. Lettuce be kind
3. Lettuce be patient
4. Lettuce really love one another

#### **NO GARDEN IS WITHOUT TURNIPS:**

1. Turnip for meetings
2. Turnip for service
3. Turnip to help one another

#### **TO CONCLUDE OUR GARDEN WE MUST HAVE THYME:**

1. Thyme for each other
2. Thyme for family
3. Thyme for friends

**WATER FREELY WITH PATIENCE AND CULTIVATE WITH LOVE. THERE IS MUCH FRUIT IN YOUR GARDEN BECAUSE YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW.**



**Going Green for Your Home & Garden—Do It Yourself**  
(It's Cheaper, Safer & Environmentally Sound!)

Natural cleaners and household products don't pollute streams and rivers and don't poison our earth—or you. In our kitchen cupboards are a surprising number of natural, non-chemical alternatives to many commercial household products. Here are some helpful hints:

- Water Softener** – ¼ cup vinegar in final rinse
- Oil Stains** – White chalk rubbed in before wash
- Glass Cleaner** – White vinegar & water or rubbing alcohol & water
- Copper Cleaner** – Paste of lemon juice, salt & flour, or rub vinegar & salt into copper
- Household Cleaner** – 3 T. baking soda mixed into 1 qt warm water
- Drain Cleaner** – ½ cup baking soda, then ½ cup vinegar
- Stainless Steel Polish** – Baking soda or mineral oil for shining, vinegar removes spots
- Mothballs** – Cedar chips or dried lavender sachets
- Mildew Remover** – Lemon juice & salt or white vinegar & salt
- Drain Opener** – Prevent clogging by flushing drain weekly with boiling water. If clogged, pour ½ cup baking soda, then ½ cup vinegar down the drain
- Air Freshener** – Leave open a box of baking soda in room. Or, add cloves and cinnamon to boiling water and simmer.
- Chemical Fertilizer** – Compost
- Furniture Polish** – Mix 3 parts olive oil and 1 part vinegar and use a soft cloth; or mix 1 part lemon juice with 2 parts olive oil and use a soft cloth
- Headlight, Mirror, Windshield Cleaner** – Wipe with a damp cloth or sponge sprinkled with dry baking soda. Rinse with water and dry with a soft towel.

**Homemade Garden Repellants**



- Slug Spray** – 1½ C ammonia, 1 T. Murphy's Oil Soap, 1½ C water. Mix ingredients in a mist sprayer bottle and overspray areas where slugs are active.
- Squirrel Repellent** – 2 T. cayenne pepper, 2 T. Tabasco sauce, 2 T. chili powder, 1 T. Murphy's Oil Soap, 1 qt. warm water. Mix all ingredients and put in handheld sprayer. Liberally spray on all of your plants that those pesky squirrels like to chew on.
- Spider Mite Mix** – 4 C wheat flour, ½ C buttermilk, 5 gal. water. Mix all ingredients and apply to plants with a handheld mist sprayer to the point of runoff.
- Aphid Chaser** – 1 small onion (finely chopped), 2 cloves garlic (finely chopped) 1 T. liquid dish soap, 2 C water. Put all ingredients in a blender and process on high, then strain out the pulp. Pour liquid into a handheld mist sprayer and apply liberally to your flowers.
- Slug Brew** – 1 can beer, 1 T. sugar, 1 tsp baker's yeast. Mix all ingredients in a large bowl and let it sit uncovered for a few days. Then pour mixture in shallow, disposable aluminum pie pans. Set pans below ground level in various areas of your lawn and garden. Slugs will drink themselves to death!
- Ant Control** – 1 C sugar, 1 T. boric acid powder, 3 C water. Add the sugar to 3 cups of water and bring to a boil. Then add boric acid. Place mix in small jar lids and set lids in the middle of ant trails or near ant hills. Keep out of reach of children and pets.

**Greetings My Fellow Gardeners!**

I would like to start by saying thank you for giving me the opportunity to apply for, and selecting me to attend the Master Gardener Classes. I am at 30 + volunteer hours at this time. A big hug to all of you that have helped by giving me projects to complete towards these hours, it has been a whirlwind. Helen has put me to the task of getting raffle prizes for our next Plant Sale and Garden Walk, (Jackie Phipps is helping me with getting the raffle items, too). To all of you that have been thinking of this and have already donated, way to go! I will be making some more of the "Tin Men" garden art for the sale or raffle as well (they did sell at the last Plant Sale we had). Believe that!!!!

I am soooo excited about getting a Green House/Educational Center in Silvis. If allowed, I know where I will be spending most of my time! I have started so many avocado seeds, and someday (hopefully) I will be able to see one mature in a controlled environment or some other kind of tree started from seed.

The Power of Thinking—I was out mowing the grass the other day and I started to think of who I could get to get on my garage and house roof to clean out the gutters. Realizing that I had no prospects to consider, two boys walking by asked if they could finish the mowing for \$5.00 for BOTH of them. I had other plans!!! They did both the house and the garage gutters for \$6.00 (that was all I had on hand) and a cold Pepsi, AND they left their phone number if I needed them again for anything because they want to make some money. The mind is a powerful thing! I have rattled on enough for now so until next time, Happy Planting!

**Lisa Lee**

**Fresh Strawberry Pie**



- 1 c. sugar
- 3 tbsp. cornstarch
- 1 c. water
- 4 tbsp. strawberry gelatin
- 2 pts. fresh strawberries
- 1 (8 inch) baked pie crust (regular or graham cracker)

Mix sugar, cornstarch, and water in saucepan. Cook until thickened, stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Stir in gelatin. Cool. Stir in fresh strawberries. Pour into pie crust and chill for 2 1/2 to 3 hours. Serve as is or with whipped cream. Yummy!

**Club Calendar**

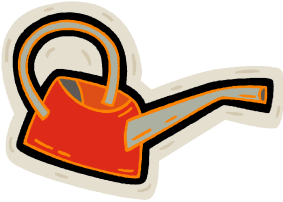
June 12	Regular Meeting, home of Kathy & Mike Johnson, 610 - 8 <sup>th</sup> Ave, Silvis
June 28	SGC Garden Walk & Plant Sale, Schadt Park
July 4	AMVETS 4 <sup>th</sup> of July Parade, East Moline
July 10	Regular Meeting, home of Sue Wonderlick
July 12	SGC Bus Trip, The Morton Arboretum & Planters Pallet (open to everyone)
July 26	Fundraiser – Pulled Meat and Corn Boil
August 14	Regular Meeting at The Lighthouse, Silvis
August 23	Silvis Moonlight Parade
September 11	Regular Meeting
October 9	Regular Meeting
October 18	Fundraiser – Taco Dinner & Bake Sale
November 13	Regular Meeting
December 11	Christmas Party Potluck

## News and Announcements

**Welcome New Members:** Dorothy Monahan, Moline, and Claudia Viermeisel, Silvis. We're happy to have you join us!

**July 12<sup>th</sup> SGC Bus Trip:** Our trip this year will take us to the Morton Arboretum (Lisle, IL) and Planters Pallet (Winfield, IL). Tickets are \$38 per person (a great deal), which includes deluxe motor coach transportation, admission to the Arboretum and narrated tour, stop at Planter's Pallet, refreshments aboard the bus, games and prizes! Lunch is on your own at the Arboretum. Bus leaves from Silvis Hy-Vee parking lot at 7:00 a.m. and returns at 5:00 p.m. to the Hy-Vee. Send payment of \$38 per person by check payable to "Silvis Garden Club" to Helen Carter, 656 – 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Silvis, IL 61282. A printable trip flyer also is posted on our website at [silvisgardenclub.org](http://silvisgardenclub.org). Bring your friends and family for a fun day!

**Silvis Garden Club  
Nancy Holling  
13 Woodcrest Drive  
Geneseo, IL 61254**



### Spinach and Strawberry Salad

12 oz. fresh spinach  
1/4 c. safflower oil  
1 to 2 tbsp. sugar  
Dash of pepper  
Dash of tabasco  
2 tbsp. sesame seeds  
2 tbsp. salad vinegar  
2 tbsp. minced green onion  
1 tsp. salt  
1 pt. sliced strawberries

Wash spinach, discard stems; dry and tear into bite size pieces. Wrap in toweling and refrigerate. Toast sesame seeds on pie pan, in 350 degree oven about 10 minutes until golden; cool. Combine oil, vinegar, sugar, onion, salt, pepper and tabasco in covered container until sugar dissolves; refrigerate. To serve: in salad bowl, toss dressing into spinach and sesame seeds. Gently toss in strawberries. Delicious and very attractive!

**Crabgrass can grow on bowling balls in airless rooms, and there is no known way to kill it that does not involve nuclear weapons.**

-- Dave Barry

**A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill -- except for learning how to grow in rows.**

-- Doug Larson

**There are two kinds of people, those who do the work and those who take the credit. Try to be in the first group; there is less competition there.**

-- Indira Gandhi

**The best way to garden is to put on a wide-brimmed straw hat and some old clothes. And with a hoe in one hand and a cold drink in the other, tell somebody else where to dig.**

-- Texas Bix Bender, *Don't Throw in the Trowel*