



# "Let's Talk Dirt"



**Newsletter of the Silvis Garden Club**  
*"Fellowship and Education Through Gardening"*

**May 2017**

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

Established 2001

**President's Corner** – Yea, its not raining!! I was beginning to think spring was passing us by. Have you noticed the lilacs and bridal wreath are already in bloom? If you haven't been to the greenhouse, I suggest you stop in soon. Have you noticed some of the downtown planters, if not all, have been planted? To all of the women reading this, Happy Mothers Day.

**May Meeting** – Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Our speaker will be Barb Pappenhausen of East Moline. Barb is an avid daylily gardener, with an extensive collection of daylilies. Her knowledge and expertise is exceptional and she will also share her experience of working with the propagation of daylilies through pollination. One of the most popular perennials is the daylily. It is something you should consider planting this fall for next summer's colorful and fragrant blooms. Our treat hostess' are Lisa Lee and Belinda Rusch.

**Birdies for Charity** – John Deere Classic will be here before we know it. Birdies for Charity is in full swing. Proceeds we receive each year are used to pay for our insurance premium. Pick up entry forms at our May meeting. Grand prize is a free 2 year lease of a Lexus car, plus, there are also many other prizes. Please consider filling out 1 form or more and give forms to relatives, friends and neighbors. Will you be driving or getting to ride in a new Lexus? **All pledge donations are tax deductible! Deadline is end of the month!**



**Plant Sale** – Our Spring plant sale is Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from **9 am to 2 pm** at the Greenhouse. Hope you have dug those plants and given them time to acclimate and look healthy. wimpy or dying plants don't sell. **Bring your plants to the greenhouse on Friday or Saturday, between 4 pm and 6 pm. Please label what they are and if they are sun or shade plants so it's easier for folks who are pricing.**

**Garden Walk**—Have you sold or shared your tickets yet? How about keeping your eyes open and being aware of someone you know who is willing and anxious to share their hard work and artistry of their gardens. Their willingness is needed. People using those tickets will want something to see, appreciate, and getting excited about for their own yards and landscapes. Sue Knapp is anxious to get her participants for the Garden Walk booked. Sue is sporting a cast, healing a fractured ankle and is thankful for any help you can give. Give her a call, regarding either the perspective gardeners or with plants for or during the sale.

**Raffle Baskets**—Items are being accepted, bring something to the meeting. The basket theme this year is fewer but more exciting baskets. Keep your eyes open as you are and about in the garden areas of shopping trips and pick up some items to donate.

**City of Silvis**—Mayor Matt Carter attended the board meeting. He is anxious to increase communication and interaction with the service organizations of Silvis. Including flyers with the water bill mailings is his first suggestion. Tomato plants and other plants from the greenhouse will now be available for sale at Anchor Lumber. Mayor Carter is hoping to educate the city about the clubs and what they have to offer to help make Silvis more exciting.

**Look for the 8 planters lining the city streets. Thank you to Kathy Hall for her talent in planting them and “Springing” up the City of Silvis.**

**Adopt A Spots**—Check the list at the meeting. There may be one orphan spot left. Get out your calendars, check to see when you might be able to lend a watering hand. The usual team of volunteers that keep those spots looking healthy with water are not available this year. Let them know when you could be available to transport water or drive a truck to pump water in the coming months.

**Greenhouse**-- Remains open 9, six days a week, and they still have plants available. The plants are growing from all the warmth and the inability of being planted with all the rain. Stop by to see the final offerings.

## **Do April Showers bring May Flowers?**

Wet couple of weeks we have be having.

Think of them as a drizzle sandwich: Your morning and evening commutes could get sprinkled, but in between it will be mostly cloudy.

As we struggled through several days of hair-gone-wrong and umbrellas turned inside out, we wondered whether there was any truth to that old saying, “April showers bring May flowers.”

So we asked one expert on weather, and another on flowers. Here’s what we learned: The rainiest time of year in late March through May, according to the US Climate data for our area. Precipitation is heavier in April, but there are more rainy days, on average, in May.

This time of year, we’re shifting from a drier, colder air mass in the winter to a warmer, more humid air mass in the summer “When you go through a transition, you have to go through a rough patch” According to J Horneck meteorologist in New York.

April showers are certainly good for flowers, but the aphorism leaves out two major factors that contribute to their blooming: temperatures and sun.

“The days with the rain and the gray will feed the plants and get them ready to go,” said [Kristin Schleiter](#), associate vice president for outdoor gardens at the [New York Botanical Garden](#). “And then the sun will push them into extra growth and help the flowers open.”

And too many showers aren't good, either.

“If it rains for a very long time, days in a row, the water sitting on top of the flowers can sometimes damage them,” Ms. Schleiter said, “so a little bit of sun and a little bit of breeze will help dry them out and bring them back to perfection.”

According to the US Climate data we can at least leave behind lows of 39 and highs of 60, for lows of 52 and highs of 70. The length of the day in Davenport varies significantly over the course of the year. In 2017, the shortest day is *December 21*, with *9 hours, 10 minutes* of daylight; the longest day is *June 21*, with *15 hours, 11 minutes* of daylight. The *earliest sunrise* is at *5:27 AM* on *June 14*, and the *latest sunrise* is *2 hours, 10 minutes* later at *7:38 AM* on *November 4*. The *earliest sunset* is at *4:32 PM* on *December 8*, and the *latest sunset* is *4 hours, 8 minutes* later at *8:40 PM* on *June 27*.

Daylight saving time (DST) is observed in Davenport during 2017, starting in the spring on *March 12*, lasting *7.8 months*, and ending in the fall on *November 5*.

Watch those flowers bloom and grow!!!!

If you are seeking creative ideas, go out walking.  
Angels whisper to a man when he goes for a walk.  
~Raymond Inmon

A garden to walk in and immensity to dream in--what more could he ask?  
A few flowers at his feet and above him the stars.”  
— Victor Hugo, *Les Misérables*

## SILVIS GARDEN CLUB

PO BOX 71

SILVIS, IL



### **Chicken Salad**

*from Thelma Louise*

2 large chicken breast, cooked and shredded  
3 C el dente Penne Pasta/ drained  
2 C halved grapes  
1 C chopped celery  
½ C slivered almonds  
1 can pineapple, well drained (save juice).

### **Dressing**

Combine:

1 Tbl apple cider vinegar  
1 Tbl Sugar  
1 ½ C Miracle Whip

Pour over all the salad ingredients and toss.  
Let set a couple of hours to mix flavors.

Stir in pineapple juice if too dry, just before serving.

### **Silvis Garden Club**

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P.O. Box 71  
Silvis, Illinois 61282  
[www.silvisgardenclub.org](http://www.silvisgardenclub.org)

President: Wanda Adams  
Vice President: Linda Soderholm  
Treasurer: Bonnie Bull  
Secretary: Eileen Benhart  
Member-at-Large: Bonnie Ague

Meetings; 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month, 6:30pm @ McGehee Center, Schadt Park, 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. and 12<sup>th</sup> St. Silvis, Illinois.

Board Meeting held every 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of month, 5:30pm @ the Silvis Library

Annual membership dues: Individual-\$7, Couple - \$11