
GARDEN SCOOP

Volume 1, Issue 1

WESTLAKE GARDEN CLUB

January/February 2012

A Message from the President

Regina McCarthy

Happy New Year! We begin 2012 with a few changes. After serving as our *Garden Scoop* Editor for many years, Mary Ann Brock has decided it's time to take life a little easier. I am sure you will join me in thanking Mary Ann for her great work in publishing our newsletter. Succeeding her as Editor is Jean Smith. Necessarily, Jean will be relinquishing her responsibilities as Membership Chair – and we need a volunteer to step up for that position. If interested and you have a computer, please contact Jean for further information.

Another change is the scheduling of informal “meetings” in January and February, details of which are within this inaugural winter issue. And there will be no April general meeting due to our April 26 *Fête des Fleurs* fundraiser luncheon.

Increased recognition of our Club in the Westlake community is one of my goals. Residents should want to be a part of our Club because they know who we are and what we do. The Board is investigating the possibility of a Club website; in today's world, one good way to get our message out . . . and new members in. Stay tuned.

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Welcome New 2012 Board

President, **Regina McCarthy**

1st Vice President – **Nancy Chopp and Bill Hock**

2nd Vice President – **Jean Smith**

Treasurer – **Marie McCarthy**

Recording Secretary – **Sally Knurek**

Corresponding Secretary – **Ruth Bertrand and
Claire Evangelista**

Westlake Garden Club Decorates Tree at Cleveland Botanical Garden



Affiliate clubs of the CBG decorated holiday trees in the theme of a children's book chosen from a list provided. Our book was *Shingebis*, the story of a Merganser duck who fished in the river until the old north wind froze the river solid. We had fun making decorations of ducks, fish, wolves and snowflakes, and old north wind as the tree topper. Dream catchers, owls and lights were added. Trees were decorated on November 21 and taken down on January 2. Regina McCarthy, Jean Smith and Ruth Bertrand, pictured, Sally Knurek, Gail Morse, Margaret Schulz and Alberta Ricciardi attended the reception for participating clubs. These members and Richard Janssen decorated the tree.

Outstanding Achievement Award for 2011 goes to Alberta Ricciardi

Jean Smith

Congratulations to Alberta Ricciardi who was presented with the Outstanding Achievement Award at the December 2011 luncheon. This award was established in 2010 as a means of recognizing members who have given extraordinary service to the club. The first recipient of this award was Jackie Crosier in 2010. Jackie nominated Alberta for the 2011 award. Alberta has given tirelessly of her time, experience and resources. She has graciously conducted the installation ceremony for new members to the Board since 2008. We like to say that Alberta's camera is permanently attached to her hand. She takes photos at all meetings and events and maintains the club photo albums – no small task. When planning the annual fundraiser luncheon, Alberta's experience and insight is a tremendous help in making decisions about menus, programs, etc. When volunteers are needed and no other hands are raised, we know we can count on Alberta to step up to the plate. So, thank you Alberta, for all that you have done and will do in the future for the Westlake Garden Club.



Pictured are Alberta Ricciardi and Sally Knurek

Garden Scoop

Published 11 times per year

Editor : Jean Smith

Contributing Writers:

Regina McCarthy

Photography:

Jean Smith

Alberta Ricciardi

Deadline: Last Wednesday of the month for the following month's issue.

Happy Birthday!

January

1/2 Marge Domitz

1/31 Cathi Peter

February

2/24 Judy Hullinger

2/24 Marge Paull

2/28 Richard Janssen



Have questions about houseplants?

Bring your questions and knowledge, your plants or cuttings to this informal get-together where Club members and their guests will help each other to grow better houseplants.

Wednesday, January 18 (non-flowering plants)
10:30 a.m. Porter Room, Porter Library

Wednesday, February 15 (flowering plants)
10:30 a.m. Party Room, The Crossings*

Everyone welcome to these educational and enlightening get-togethers – bring a friend

{* 1630 Crossings Parkway – between McDonalds and Ohio Savings on Detroit - with special thanks to Don Bowman for getting the room}

Basket Raffle and Bake Sale

Members should be collecting items to fill baskets for the raffle at the fundraiser luncheon in April. You can do a basket on your own, or partner with another member. Theme baskets are a very good idea, and using a theme makes it easier to determine what items to put into the basket. Please prepare a list of the items in your basket and include a total value of basket. Sally Knurek is in charge of raffle baskets and will schedule a date in April for a workshop to assemble baskets.

There will be a bakery table again this year and every member is asked to contribute baked goods for the table. All items should be wrapped in clear plastic or plastic containers and include a price.

Toys for Tots

On a Tuesday morning in December 2011, Regina McCarthy and Jean Smith joined Don Bowman at a warehouse off Brookpark Road to sort Toys for Tots. We might consider this worthwhile cause as a club volunteer project this year. It would require one day, several hours, sometime before Christmas. Please think about it and look for more information in November's Garden Scoop.

2012 PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

This year, Nancy Chopp and Bill Hock are sharing the office of 1st Vice President. As such, they have been hard at work planning programs and events for 2012. Here are the March and April programs.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2012

PLACE: WESTLAKE PORTER LIBRARY

TIME: 11 AM MEETING, 12 PM LUNCH, 1 PM PROGRAM

HOSTESSES: RUTH BERTRAND, MARLENE PARKER, JUDY HOLLINGER, AGNES TARK

PROGRAM: STACEY ALLEN, MANAGER OF CANALWAY VISITOR CENTER OF THE CLEVELAND METROPARKS, WILL TALK ABOUT **DEER RESISTANT GARDENING**. LEARN ABOUT PLANTS THAT MAKE YOUR GARDEN LESS ATTRACTIVE TO THE EVER-INCREASING DEER POPULATION, AS WELL AS OTHER GARDEN PESTS.

There is no general meeting in April.

THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2012 – GCO CONVENTION

EMBASSY SUITES, INDEPENDENCE, OH

THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2012, FÊTE DES FLEURS (SEE DETAILS BELOW)

A complete listing of programs and events for 2012 will be in the 2012 membership books, which will be distributed at the March 2012 meeting.

Lee Burneson Vivarium gets Decked Out for the Seasons

Jean Smith



I met Don Bowman at the vivarium in Lee Burneson Middle School in December 2011 to interview him for an article that appeared in the December 13, 2011 issue of the Westlake/Bay Village Observer. Here are some highlights from that article.

Don started planting flowers around the three trees in front of the Red Brick School in 2010. He asked if he could get water from Lee Burneson Middle School in exchange for watering the plants in their vivarium and of course they said yes. In the fall of 2011, Don decorated the vivarium for fall with scarecrows, pumpkins, etc. When I heard he was decorating for the winter holidays, I thought it was a good story. When I arrived at the vivarium, Don had started hanging snowflakes and, surprisingly, they did not look out of place in this warm, humid glass enclosed room. The vivarium includes a wonderful variety of plants including ferns, ivy, peace lilies, snake plants, bromeliads, schefflera, spider plants, and a surprising number of orchids. Don lives in an apartment and does not have space for a garden, so once a week the vivarium becomes his garden sanctuary. He loves plants and caring for living things. Don believes that seniors have so much to offer and wishes more seniors would get involved in doing things that contribute to the community. For a couple of months before Christmas, Don was at a warehouse every day helping with the Toys for Tots program. Don has travelled extensively to remote locations, including the Arctic Circle, Siberia and Alaska, and, the Antarctica is on his bucket list. Coming to the vivarium once a week, especially in winter, is like a mini vacation for Don, where he can get lost doing what he enjoys most.

Thanks Don, and keep up the good work.

Westlake Garden Club's Annual *Fête des Fleurs*

Thursday, April 26, 2012
Wagner's Country Inn
30855 Center Ridge Road
Westlake, OH 44145

Doors open at 11 a.m., lunch at noon, program at 1 p.m.

Guest speaker is Channel 5 Chief Meteorologist,
Mark Johnson

Donation \$30

See Nancy Chopp, Ruth Bertrand or Jean Smith for order form

The Westlake Garden Club's 50 Year Anniversary is in 2013. We will be planning a celebration that will include a community event. If you have ideas for this celebration, or would like to work on the planning, please contact Regina McCarthy. We would like to do something first class, which will be memorable for the club and for the community.

WESTLAKE GARDEN CLUB GENERAL MEETING – Thursday, December 15, 2011

This brief general meeting was held prior to the Club's holiday luncheon at *Viva Fernando* restaurant, 24600 Detroit Road, Westlake. President Sally Knurek called the meeting to order at 11:50 a.m. Twenty-two members and guests were in attendance.

Carol Lewellen, Co-Correspondence Secretary, read aloud a "thank you" note received from Lakewood High School on behalf of the Club's \$500 donation to its Horticulture Program. Sally thanked all the members who participated in decorating the Club's holiday tree at the Cleveland Botanical Garden. Our tree was quite popular with other participants and visitors. Membership Chair, Jean Smith, introduced guests and new members.

New Business. Ruth Bertrand, incoming Social Chair, circulated a sign-up sheet for 2012 meeting lunches. Holly Harvey relayed the still-recovering Lucy Kalbers' "hello to everybody."

Regina McCarthy announced that Mark Johnson from Channel 5 television has confirmed that he will headline our April 2012 *Fête des Fleurs* fundraiser luncheon. Due to all the activities scheduled for April – Garden Club of Ohio annual convention (at which we will have a table), preparation for and participation in our luncheon, and Arbor Day – Regina advised there will be no general meeting in April. Instead, she asked that members concentrate their efforts on our fundraiser luncheon attendee ticket sales, baskets and silent auction items, and the bake sale. She circulated a sign-up sheet for members to volunteer in one or more categories. Jean provided luncheon flyers and merchant donation letters (dated January 2012). Additional copies can be obtained by contacting Jean.

Regina advised that Don Bowman has a suggestion, which he previously shared with the Board, deferring to Don for details. Don proposed holding informal meetings in January and February to discuss problems/successes with flowering and non-flowering houseplants, perhaps including exchanging cuttings. No Minutes would be taken, nor lunch provided. By a show of hands, many members were interested; thus, a flyer will be provided to members with details.

Gail Morse, Program Chair, spoke to today's luncheon and program.

This informal meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

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Alberta Riccardi presided over the installation of the Club's 2012-2013 Officers: President, Regina McCarthy; Co-First Vice President, Nancy Chopp and Bill Hock; Second Vice President, Jean Smith; Treasurer, Marie McCarthy; Co-Corresponding Secretary, Claire Evangelista and Ruth Bertrand; Recording Secretary, Sally Knurek. It was a beautiful and meaningful ceremony.

The outgoing Board members were recognized for their outstanding work in making our Club a success. Sally was given a commemorative gift in appreciation of her leadership, for increasing new members and for broadening the outreach of our Club as its 2010-2011 President.

Sally presented Alberta with the *Outstanding Achievement Award* in appreciation of her many years of working with the Club, particularly on our Scrapbook. Alberta was truly surprised.

The members next enjoyed lunch and a performance by *Stepping Out*, a group that both sang and danced. Their performance was a great addition to the holiday program. Holly, calling upon her acting abilities, portrayed a story of a woman who had imbibed in a little too much Christmas cheer. Very humorous and well done. Some members exchanged "white elephant" gifts.

A good time was had by all!

Respectfully submitted by Regina McCarthy

Membership Corner

An organization is only as strong as its members. We are always ready to welcome new members into our Club, and the best way to get new members is by referral. If you know someone who is interested in gardening, decorating or getting involved in community activities, give them a membership brochure and application. Or perhaps you know someone who would just like to get out of the house once a month to enjoy a delicious lunch and entertaining program, and meet some very nice people. Give them a brochure and membership application and tell them about the exciting and educational programs we offer every month. New members mean new ideas, new energy. Let's all try to think of one person we could sponsor as a new member in 2012. See Jean Smith if you need a supply of membership brochures and applications. Thank you.

