
GARDEN SCOOP

Volume 4, Issue 3

WESTLAKE GARDEN CLUB

April 2015

Rain and Garden Show

On a cold Saturday, March 28, the garden club joined other organizations and vendors from Westlake with a table at the Rain and Garden Show, sponsored by the City of Westlake Engineering Department. There was a steady stream of visitors, most of whom were looking for anything to remind them that spring will eventually be here. The garden club again had the lovely photos of past Westlake in Bloom winners as a backdrop for our table. Marge Embloom brought flowers and many books and magazines on gardening. Also at our table were Regina McCarthy, Margaret Schulz and Jean Smith. We had membership brochures/applications available and talked to a lot of people about what our club does. We have gotten new members from this event in the past.



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President's Message

By Regina McCarthy

The loss of our longtime member, Marge Paull, Carol Bonyko's husband, and the illness of others, has touched us all. Brian Thompson's poignant lunch invocation given at our March meeting is repeated below.

"Our Father in heaven, God of all comfort, our hearts are saddened as we come together in prayer today, mourning the loss of our dear friend and member, Marge Paull, and the loss of Carol Bonyko's husband, Elmer. Strengthen and encourage those of us who remain as family and friends, and may our lives reflect Your love and be a blessing to all we come in contact with. As the spring flowers burst forth in beautiful array, displaying newness of life, may our hearts be filled with hope while we live our lives with eternal values in mind. And Father, we ask for a healing touch for those of our members, their families and friends, who are going through difficult times right now, including MaryAnn Brock, Pat and Bob Dailey, Don Lewellen and [my] oldest son, Michael Thompson, who suffered a stroke and [is] in intensive care. Now bless our time of fellowship . . . In Jesus' name I pray. Amen."

Sunshine Update

Kathy Molner continues to recuperate from pneumonia and remains in Lakewood Hospital.

Lillian Bialosky, who attended our March meeting, was briefly under nursing care and is currently undergoing physical therapy for her legs.

We wish both members, and others about whom you have been previously advised, a speedy recovery. Prayers and get-well cards are always appreciated.

Save the date, and tell a friend. The date of the Fête des Fleurs Fundraiser Luncheon is Wednesday, September 23, 2015 at Westwood Country Club. The speaker will be Joe Crea, Restaurant and Dining editor of the Plain Dealer. Let's make this our best attended luncheon ever! Flyers will be available soon.

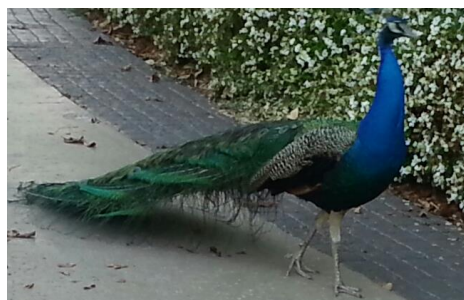
My Moment with Nature

By Jackie Crosier

This month's Moments were totally fun surprises! Elmer and I attended a talk on butterfly gardens at Riverland Nursery given by "Donna" who had previously worked at Butterfly Estates in Ft Myers.



As she was ending, their resident rooster joined us by peeking thru the glass door while cock-a-doodling at us! If you have a "host" plant for butterflies to lay their eggs on it does not mean their hatchlings will eat your other plants too, just the host. We went on a delightful Naples Bay catamaran trip with our boat club. Afterwards we took our usual drive down billionaire row, aka, Gordon Drive on the Gulf of Mexico, to view the beautiful homes and gardens. You've heard of various city photos of interesting "Doors?" I decided to take pics of elegant gates. As we stopped at a spectacular red oriental gate, much to our surprise their resident peacock had slipped thru the gate and was feeding close to the street doing his eerie calling! What wonderful moments!



National Gardening Association

National Gardening Association has a wonderful website at: www.Garden.org. You can register to receive an online newsletter monthly. This month they have a great article (too long to reprint here) on pruning with wonderful tips on how-to and when-to, plus a wealth of good information for the avid gardener. Check it out.

Garden Scoop, Published 11 times per year

Editor: Jean Smith

Contributing Writers: Kathy Bruening, Jackie Crosier, Regina McCarthy, Carolyn Steigman

Photographs: Jackie Crosier, Regina McCarthy, Jean Smith

Deadline: last Wednesday of the month for next month's issue

Happy Birthday

April

2nd Shirley Lutts

16th Agnes Tark



Membership News

By Kathy Bruening

Our club of 40 members has done an outstanding job of providing interesting programs and events during the past year. As you know, we have more to come and I do hope that some of you will take the time to invite any friends who have an interest in nature and gardening. We would welcome any newcomers. Monarch butterflies are on the agenda for April at the library. The May meeting on fairy gardens is an outing to Don Mould's in North Ridgeville---don't forget to bring a sack lunch.

Cleaning "Green" for Less

By Jean Smith

Member, Sally Knurek, presented the March program on *Keeping your Home Clean and Green for Less*. The idea is to use items that most of us have in our pantries instead of chemical cleaners. If you usually buy Windex or some other blue window cleaner, try this recipe: 6T ammonia, 1 ½ C water, 2 T white vinegar and 4 drops blue food coloring. It was also suggested that to keep drains clear, use ½ C baking soda and 1 C white vinegar. To remove those stubborn stains from coffee/tea mugs, use a little vinegar and baking soda and hot water. If you are noticing a pattern, you are correct. White vinegar has a multitude of household uses. *The Naturally Clean Home* by Karyn Siegel-Maier is a book that Sally refers to repeatedly for household cleaning projects and the ideal items from the pantry to use. She also uses microfiber cloths for cleaning. Used damp, they pick up and hold dust and lint. Just toss in washer when dirty. They are available online and at many stores, including the library gift shop

Thea Steinmetz shared a tick deterrent for outdoors. Put one part tea tree oil to two parts water in a spray bottle and spray on shoes, socks and pant cuffs when working outside. Marge Emblom suggests 1 C ammonia, ½ C white vinegar, ¼ C baking soda in hot water to clean floors and walls. But, never mix ammonia and bleach – a deadly gas forms.



2015 PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

WGC PROGRAMS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2015 – GENERAL MEETING

PLACE: WESTLAKE PORTER LIBRARY, 27333 CENTER RIDGE ROAD

TIME: 11:00 A.M. MEETING , LUNCH AT NOON

PROGRAM: 1 P.M. "MONARCH BUTTERFLIES" PRESENTED BY JOYCE ROTH, RETIRED TEACHER AND LONG-TIME ACTIVE MEMBER OF GCO.

HOSTESSES: RUTH BERTRAND, PAT DAILEY, JUDY HULLINGER, MARSHA MCENTEE, LILLIAN BIALOSKY

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2015 – ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

PLACE: WESTLAKE RECREATION CENTER

TIME AND OTHER DETAILS TO FOLLOW

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2015 – GENERAL MEETING

PLACE: DON MOULD'S PLANTATION, 34837 LORAIN ROAD, NORTH RIDGEVILLE

TIME: 11:00 A.M. MEETING , LUNCH AT NOON

PROGRAM: FAIRY GARDENS

BRING A BROWN-BAG LUNCH

OTHER EVENTS

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2015 – GCO SPRING DISTRICT MEETING AND LUNCHEON

PLACE: ST. MICHAEL'S WOODSIDE, 5025 MILL RD, BROADVIEW HTS., OH

TIME: 10 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.

GIVE YOUR CHECK FOR \$22 TO REGINA MCCARTHY

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2015 – FAIRVIEW PARK GC ANNUAL FUNDRAISER LUNCHEON

PLACE: GEMINI RECREATION CENTER, 21225 LORAIN RD, FAIRVIEW PARK, OH

PROGRAM: STYLE SHOW BY DRESS BARN

TIME: DOORS OPEN 11 A.M.

TICKETS: \$30 CALL JOYCE McANDREWS 440-734-1717; JEAN SNOOK 440-331-1460; BARB MORAN 440-333-5588; CONNIE KYTILER 440-734-4267

Here is What's Happening in the Neighborhood

Miller Nature Preserve

Fairy Gardens and Mini-Landscapes

April 22 – August 2 - Enjoy this unique exhibit and get inspired to create your own mini-landscape from a variety of themes. Enjoy featured displays from Mulberry Creek Herb Farm, Debbie's Mystical Gardens, Don Jacobsen, Garden Gals, Hawks Greenhouse, Maple Ridge Garden Center, Petittis, Pinehaven Garden Center and more.

Orchid Café Sunday Brunch

Sundays, April 5 (Easter) and 19

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. – two seatings - \$24 per person

Reservations required 440-937-4545

Landmark Lawn & Garden Supply

April 11 at 10 a.m. – Sustainable Design with Byron and Julia Shutt of Maple Leaf Landscaping

April 18 at 10 a.m. – Organics 101 with Eric Hessler of Best Environmental Technologies

RSVP 440-871-1500

Dean's Greenhouse

Veggie Herb Weekend! Come out and enjoy fun activities April 24-26!

Make an herb pot with Thea Steinmetz, herbal expert, 10 a.m. Registration required. \$25

Register in person or call 440-871-2050

Keeping Strawberries Fresh Longer

By Carolyn Steigman

The California strawberry harvest started to arrive in Ohio last month and soon grocery stores will be offering buy one and get one free deals. It's a delicious bargain and good for you too. The yummy fruit is high in Folate, Potassium, fiber, Vitamin C, Omega 3 and Manganese. It's also low in fat, calories and cholesterol. What's not to love? But I often found that the berries went mushy after just a few days. Fortunately, I also learned of an easy way to keep them fresh for up to a week or even longer. I can personally vouch that it does indeed work. Here's how. When you get the strawberries home, dump them in a bowl along with 3 cups of cool water and 1 cup of white vinegar. The reason to do this is that the vinegar kills the microscopic fungus that makes the berries go soft. While the berries are soaking, wash, rinse and dry the plastic container they came in to remove any fungus on it and then line it with a paper towel. Drain the berries, rinse them well to remove any vinegar and pat each one dry with a paper towel before returning it to the container and putting them in the refrigerator. That's all there is to it.

Planning for summer . . .

By Kathy Bruening

It may still be too cold to actually do any planting but browsing through catalogs and dreaming of next summer's garden is half the fun. Here is a suggestion gleaned from an article in the Wall Street Journal last August. Just thinking about these bright yellow and orange flowers will bring thoughts of warm summer sun —very therapeutic even before you do any planting.

The article by Cynthia Kling is all about the virtues of planting marigolds. She is quick to point out that they are often rejected by those who design gardens because of their tendency to look fake and smell bad. (They are often planted next to veggies to ward off unwanted insects.)

So, we are not exactly talking about a sophisticated or exotic flower but the photo accompanying the article is absolutely stunning. It features beds of marigolds in the Untermyer Gardens Conservatory in Yonkers, N.Y. The landscape architects, Timothy Tilgman and Marco Polo Stufano, who did the planning used masses of 13 different marigold varieties in shades of yellow, gold, red and orange as well as one white variety. The photo shows these bright masses of color situated along a canal and interspersed with Japanese holly and low-growing plants in both green and grey-green tones. A small gazebo and more green trees form the background.

It seems that the latest trend in gardening is to feature plants that have been around a very long time. They are hardy, long-lasting and don't need much in the way of chemicals. So think back to what is best for the environment.

Here is a link to the original article which lists a few more reliable "oldies but goodies" that you might want to think about planting this year: <http://www.wsj.com/articles/in-praise-of-the-mundane-marigold-1407510600>



2015 Year of . . .



The National Garden Bureau has designated the Gaillardia as **Perennial for 2015**. There are about 23 species of gaillardia scattered across the Americas. Most are perennials native to North America, with the heaviest concentration in the southwestern United States. Most gaillardias with ray flowers have a colorful banded look. Sometimes the rays' three-toothed tips are some shade of yellow, while the rest of each ray is red, orange, or maroon. In other varieties, the yellow might go nearly to the ray's base. And in still other varieties, the whole flower head can be yellow, orange, or red, with no banding. The ray's base and the outer edge of the disc are usually the same color, though the center of the disc is much lighter—even green or yellow—when the flower first opens. Because each flower head grows on its own stem and lasts long, all gaillardia make great cut flowers. Gaillardia leaves contain organic compounds called lactones that can cause contact dermatitis. If you're susceptible, you'll develop a rash after handling the leaves; if you're concerned about that possibility, wear gloves when you handle the plants. On the other side of the coin, *Gaillardia pulchella* contains gaillardin, which has caught the attention of cancer researchers for its tumor-fighting qualities; and the root of *Gaillardia aristata* contains an anesthetic used to fight toothache.

The Garden of Marvels

Author Ruth Kassinger

By Jean Smith

With chapters titled, Cocktail Anyone?, Restless Roots, Sex in the Garden, and Trouble in Paradise, I was intrigued. I won't say it is a text book that reads like a novel, but it certainly is an entertaining and easy to read reference book. "Kassinger retraces the progress of the first botanists – including a melancholy Italian anatomist, a renegade French surgeon, a stuttering English minister, an obsessive German schoolteacher, and Charles Darwin – who banished myths and misunderstandings and discovered that flowers have sex, leaves eat air, roots choose their food, and hormones make morning glories climb fence posts. She goes out into the world as well, visiting modern gardens, farms and labs to discover the science behind extraordinary plants like one-ton pumpkins, truly black petunias, ferns that eat the arsenic in contaminated soil, biofuel grass that grows 12 feet tall, and the world's only photosynthesizing animal." If you are interested in plant physiology – and how and why they work the way they do – then you should check out this book. At 344 pages, it is not too daunting to start reading. I found myself skimming over some very technical stuff and concentrated on reading the easy-to-understand text. This is a book you could keep on your nightstand and read a few pages here and there, in between that more interesting and fast-paced novel.