
GARDEN SCOOP

Volume 4, Issue 1

WESTLAKE GARDEN CLUB

January-February 2015

Officers for 2015

The elected officers for 2015 were installed at the December Holiday luncheon held at Houlihan's Restaurant.

President:	Regina McCarthy
1 st Vice President:	Jean Smith
2 nd Vice President:	Sally Knurek
Treasurer:	Marie McCarthy
Recording Secretary:	Kathy Shimko and Brian Thompson
Corresponding Secretary:	Kathy Shimko

Once again, Alberta Ricciardi conducted the installation ceremony, and we thank her for the many years of installing new officers. It was decided not to have a program at the December luncheon/meeting so that more time could be spent on the installation ceremony and on visiting with fellow members.



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President's Message

By Regina McCarthy

The start of a new year brings into sharp focus the business side of our Club. Member information and dues are collected, speakers and programs finalized, host/hostess assignments made, a working budget is drafted and open positions must be filled. Once all this is completed, our Year Book is updated and printed in time for distribution to the membership at the March meeting. Additionally, this month the 2014 finances will be audited, and publicity and minute taking begins. Please join me in thanking our Board members for all the time and hard work they devote to keeping our Club dynamic.

Deadlines. I must submit to the Garden Club of Ohio a listing of our current members and attendant dues at \$5.00/member, which amount must be provided for in our 2015 budget. This updated listing, among other things, determines our club size category for GCO award purposes. A member listing and our Affiliate dues must also be submitted to the Cleveland Botanical Garden. Thus, if you have not paid your \$25.00 Club dues for 2015, or advised of changes to your contact information, please do so now.

Position Openings. Volunteers are needed for the following: (A) *Parliamentarian* – Board position. Requires working knowledge of Robert's Rules of Order and good attendance at general meetings; Board meetings are optional. (B) *Sunshine Chair* – Board position. Send card(s) and, if applicable, a floral arrangement or planter on behalf of the Club. (C) *Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee* – one or more openings. Only meets [one time] as revisions are needed; follow-up work is done by email. *Note:* I do have changes I would like to have addressed this year. (D) *Community Representative* (backup to President). If the President is unavailable, one member to represent our Club at a Community Representatives meeting(s) held at Porter Public Library, attended by leaders of most local organizations. These meetings are informative and provide a great networking opportunity.

I look forward to hearing from you to tell me you are volunteering to fill a position(s). Call or email me promptly please, so you can be listed in the Year Book. Otherwise, I must appoint members to these positions, which I would prefer not do. Many, many thanks.

The Perfect Winter Garden

By Carolyn Steigman

Winter may have halted any outdoor gardening, at least for the next few months, but that doesn't mean you can't enjoy a beautiful garden indoors. I recently became aware of some great, hard-to-kill plants that make fantastic dish gardens and can also be grown in dry, hanging glass globes or even just clipped to the bottom of a window valance.

The official name of the plant is Tillandsia, pronounced till-and-see-a, but the common name is air plant because they don't need any soil. They are native to the southern United States, and Central and South America. Because the plants don't need wet soil, they lend themselves to garden designs that could be destroyed by water. They are also very slow growing so they can stay in the dish garden almost indefinitely

To make my dish garden I used dry gravel to hold them upright and added semi-precious stones and dry sheet moss. To care for the plants simply remove them from the arrangement once a week and submerge them in a bowl of water for anywhere from 2 hours to overnight- which ever works for you. They are silver-green when dry and bright green when hydrated. Remove them from the water, shake them dry and replace in the arrangement, Keep them in bright, indirect light. They also do well under artificial grow lights.



Orchid Mania

By Sally Knurek



Come one, come all for a fun time on Thursday, February 19th. We will be car-pooling over to the Cleveland Botanical Gardens to view the Orchid Show and have lunch in their cafeteria. Don't miss this opportunity to escape the winter blahs! We will be leaving at 9:30 a.m. and returning after lunch. To make a reservation call Sally at 440-331-8722 and leave a message. Let me know if you are willing to drive.

Happy Birthday

January

2nd Marge Domitz
7th Kevin Brandstetter
30th Marsha McEntee
31st Cathrin Peter

February

24th Judy Hullinger
24th Marge Paull
24th Carolyn Steigman



Membership News

By Kathy Bruening

Thank you to all of the members who have sent in their dues for 2015. We are delighted to have all of you back in what I think is an outstanding garden club. The programs are interesting; the food is always good; we learn a lot and meet some really interesting people. Please extend an invitation to join to any friends or acquaintances who have an interest in gardening or learning to garden.

Sunshine Update

Mary Ann Brock had 2 strokes on each side of her body New Years Eve. She was life-flighted to Cleveland Clinic's main campus. She just recently was brought back to her daughter Debbie's home where she will be cared for by nurses. All progress she had made has been wiped out. She cannot communicate. No calls or visits, just cards & prayers please. Updates will be sent as available.

Her address: Mary Ann Brock. C/O Debbie Incorvia.
30953 Old Shore Dr. North Olmsted, OH 44070.
(Information provided by Jackie Crosier)

Marge Paull was in assisted living for a period of time but now is home. She is being looked after round-the-clock by hospice caregivers and her husband. She is aware that she is in her own home. She is unable to speak; whether her speech will return is unknown. Your prayers, especially, and cards will be appreciated.

25846 Yeoman Drive, Westlake, OH 44145-4746

2015 PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

WGC PROGRAMS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2015 – FIELD TRIP TO THE CLEVELAND BOTANICAL GARDEN FOR ORCHID MANIA

PLACE: CLEVELAND BOTANICAL GARDEN, 11030 EAST BLVD.

TIME: MEET AT 9:30 A.M. TO CAR POOL

RESERVATIONS: CALL SALLY KNUREK, 440-331-8722

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2015 – GENERAL MEETING

PLACE: WESTLAKE PORTER LIBRARY, 27333 CENTER RIDGE ROAD

TIME: 11:30 A.M. MEETING, LUNCH AT NOON

PROGRAM: 1 P.M. *"KEEP YOUR HOME CLEAN AND GREEN FOR LESS"*

PRESENTED BY SALLY KNUREK, WGC MEMBER

HOSTESSES: TO BE ANNOUNCED

OTHER EVENTS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2015 – SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2015 ORCHID MANIA

PLACE: CLEVELAND BOTANICAL GARDEN, 11030 EAST BLVD.

TIME: 10 A.M.-5 P.M. TUES.-SAT., NOON-5 P.M. SUNDAY

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2015 – RAIN & GARDEN SHOW

PLACE: WESTLAKE RECREATION CENTER, 28955 HILLIARD BLVD.

TIME: 10 A.M.-2 P.M.

WGC WILL HAVE A TABLE WITH INFORMATION ON GARDENING AND SUSTAINABILITY

MONDAY, MARCH 30-WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2015 – GARDEN CLUB OF OHIO CONVENTION

PLACE: DEER CREEK PARK, 22300 STATE PARK RD, MT. STERLING, OH

GO TO THE GCO WEBSITE OR SEE REGINA MCCARTHY FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Garden Scoop, Published 11 times per year

Editor: Jean Smith

Contributing Writers: Kathy Bruening, Sally Knurek, Carolyn Steigman

Photographs: Alberta Ricciardi, Jean Smith

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

Save the Date for our 2015 *Fête des Fleurs* Fundraiser Luncheon

By Jean Smith

The date for our 2015 Fundraiser Luncheon is **Wednesday, September 23, 2015**. Location, speaker and other details will be forthcoming. The 2014 luncheon at Lakewood CC was a huge success with over 200 tickets sold. I think everyone was pleased with the facility, food and service at Lakewood CC, however, it was not ideal for the raffle baskets to be in the hallway and the bake shoppe to be in a separate room. We are hoping that someone will take an interest in chairing, or co-chairing the 2015 luncheon. This is our big fundraiser for the year and we need new ideas and perspectives for this event. Robert Pearl and I will be there to assist with details of planning. I have discussed the location with several members and all agree that we would like to go back to Westwood CC if possible. The facility is better suited for our luncheon and the food was good. So, please, if you have thought about volunteering to chair the luncheon committee but hesitated to speak up, do not be afraid. It is not that difficult and Robert and I will be there to help. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or want to know more about chairman responsibilities.

Birding

By Jean Smith

When we had James McCarty speak to the club last year about planting to attract birds, I asked if he takes people on birding hikes and he does. He said he would take anyone from our group who wanted to go for a nominal fee, maybe \$5 each. Please let me know if you are interested in doing this and I will coordinate with Jim. April or May will probably be a good time to go. There would be some walking involved and it would help if you have binoculars. Let me know if you are interested.

2015 Yearbooks

The 2015 Yearbooks will be distributed at the March general meeting. Included will be the monthly program information for 2015, an updated membership roster, and the amended constitution and bylaws. Please insert the new yearbook pages into your binder and keep handy so you can refer to the monthly calendar of events. You can also insert your monthly *Garden Scoop* into the back of the binder for easy reference.



Ruth Bertrand receiving the Outstanding Achievement Award for 2014



Kathy Bruening with wine bottle door prize made by Alberta Ricciardi

December Luncheon and Installation of Officers for 2015



Top right: Sally Knurek, Kathy Shimko, Claire Evangelista, Jean Smith



Bottom right: Margaret Schulz, Cathi Peter, Brian Thompson, Carol Lewellen, Bill Hock

Left to right: Jean Livingston, Marsha McEntee, Kathy Bruening and Regina McCarthy



Right: Kathy Molner also received an Outstanding Achievement Award for 2014. She did not attend the luncheon so Regina presented the plaque to Kathy at her home.



2015 is the Year of the Coleus

With the continued emphasis on foliage in our gardens, the wide and exciting range of coleus varieties available should nicely augment one's planting palette. Chosen as the annual for the National Garden Bureau's 2015 program, coleus is a durable plant with very significant gardening potential for almost all gardeners and their garden situations. The primary ornamental feature of coleus is the foliage which can be green, pink, yellow, orange, red, dark maroon (almost black), brown, cream and white. This plethora of colors and combinations lends itself to the other common names for coleus of painted nettle or flame nettle. While some gardeners will leave the small flowers, it's recommended that you pinch these back to a leaf node to encourage more energy into stem and foliage growth and not flowering. Coleus left to flower may lose vigor as the plant puts energy into seed production. The variability in patterns is truly amazing with solid colors, splashes, blotches, streaks, flecks, margins and veins. Color intensity may be affected by sunlight, heat sensitivity and other conditions. The term "sun coleus" refers to selections that tolerate more direct sunlight. Darker cultivars tend to tolerate more sun while lighter varieties benefit from some degree of shade to minimize leaf scorching. Morning sun and dappled afternoon shade tends to maintain consistent foliage coloration. Too little light will encourage a weak-stemmed, less vigorous plant without optimal coloration.

(Excerpt from emailed message from the National Garden Bureau)

Gale's Westlake Saturday Morning Free Seminars

February

- 7 – Urban Beekeeping
- 14 – Bird Feeding for Beginners
- 21 – Orchid Care
- 28 – Seed Starting

March

- 7 – Indoor Fairy Gardening
- 14 – Herb Gardens
- 21 – The New American Lawn
- 28 – Pruning Basics for Trees and Shrubs

April

- 11 – Protect your Plants

Most seminars start at 11 a.m. Call Gale's or check the website for exact times.

They generally distribute certificates for 10% off purchases for that day only.