
GARDEN SCOOP

Volume 3, Issue 6

WESTLAKE GARDEN CLUB

July 2014

President's Message

By Regina McCarthy

Having just recently returned from our bus trip to Schedel Gardens, I still marvel at Ruth Bertrand's organizational abilities. Leaving on time, stopping at McDonald's for coffee, viewing the Gardens with Schedel's volunteer Master Gardener, touring the Manor, enjoying lunch and a history of the Gardens, stopping at Packer Creek Pottery, where Ruth had arranged a demonstration of how their pottery is made (who knew so much was involved!), and stopping at Bench's Greenhouse & Nursery, where many of us purchased plants and fresh veggies and yummy strawberries, we still arrived back early at 4 p. Amazing! Even the weather cooperated. In my opinion, no one does it better than Ruth, including her historical knowledge and a wonderful sense of humor. And we will remember Shirley Lutts lugging water bottles up and down the bus aisle and serving-up a wide variety of munchies, also accomplished with humor. Most of the attendees – and the WGC thanks all of you for joining us, you were a great group – had never been to Schedel before, including me. What beautiful Gardens and unique plants and trees! I could not stop taking pictures. Everywhere one turned, more beauty. Spending the day communing with nature and artistry was inspirational and lifted my spirits. Thank you, Ruth and Shirley, for a truly delightful day.

(See page 4 for photos of Schedel Gardens)

Dwarf Varieties and Miniature Conifers

By Sally Knurek

Since many of us have smaller yards, condos, patios, fairy gardens or decks, our July meeting should be of great interest. Mark Hoover, a grounds manager at Cleveland Botanical Gardens, will present information on dwarf varieties and miniature conifers. There is a fascinating variety of these plants. I am currently enjoying a My Monet Wiegelia in my back yard and several dwarf astilbe. They fit beautifully into small spaces. Oh yes and my collection of miniature Hostas is growing. Come to the July meeting and see what plants might work in your spaces.

“Shock Therapy” Designing with Bold Annuals

Julia Shutt presented an educational and enlightening program on using bold annuals in the garden at the June meeting. Julia and husband, Byron, own Maple Leaf Landscaping and Design and their own garden is a work of art. Julia is a woman of many talents including painting, pottery, bee keeping, public speaking, gardening and landscape design. She has a wonderful sense of color, evident in her garden designs and her paintings. She achieves her colorful creations by use of contrast: textures, colors and shapes. She advocates using the color wheel when planning a garden – opposite colors complement. Julia urges gardeners to experiment and not be afraid to let go of last year's designs and colors. Gardens should stimulate and inspire, create shock therapy that results in visitors gasping and going weak in the knees!



Pictured left: Julia Shutt, and right, Julia and Byron's house on Lake Road in Bay Village.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 *Getting to Know You.....*
- 2 *Happy Birthday; Membership News*
- 3 *The Dangerous Garden*
- 3 *Upcoming Programs and Events*
- 4 *Photos of Schedel Gardens; Flower Arranging*
- 4 *Grand Opening of Westlake Community Garden*

Getting to Know You...

By Pat Dailey



Kathy Shimko

Kathy Shimko considers herself a displaced East Sider from Cleveland Heights, where she grew up. She fell in love with a West Sider, Steve Shimko, whom she met while working on her Quantity Foods class at Stouffer's Shaker Square (which is now a Walgreens). Kathy graduated from Notre Dame College with a major in Home Economics Education and taught in the Cleveland School system. In 1965 Kathy and Steve married and set up house in her old neighborhood. Kathy retired from teaching to start a family in 1969 and later worked on earning a Master of Education degree so that she could be a reading specialist. In 1976 Kathy and Steve moved to Rocky River to be nearer Steve's mother. Kathy taught Adult Education at several locations on the West side, until they had a special addition to the family in 1983. In 1987 she returned to teaching full time at Wilbur Wright Junior High, as a reading teacher. Several years later Home Economics was needed so she moved to Thomas Jefferson and taught cooking and sewing. Over the years cooking and sewing were phased out and money management was phased in so that was what she taught. The family moved to Westlake on November 11, 1989. Kathy retired from Cleveland Municipal Schools in June of 2013 and joined the garden club in March at the Rain & Garden Show. Kathy loves gardening and says, "my heart beats faster when I'm in a beautiful space with colorful flowers, shrubs and trees." Deer have been the bane of her once extensive hosta garden. Now she gardens on her back deck in planters, which include many tiny leaved thyme plants and a few miniature hosta plants and a few herbs. She was thinking Fairy Garden, but will work on that with her granddaughter. Kathy is expanding her container gardens, and next year hopes to have more miniature hosta plants. Hopefully she can get some tips at the July meeting.

Flyers for the Fête des Fleurs fundraiser luncheon on September 24, 2014 at Lakewood Country Club will be available at the July meeting. Please try to fill a table of 8 with your friends and family.

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Contributing Writers: Pat Dailey, Marge Emblom, Sally Knurek, Regina McCarthy

Photographs: Regina McCarthy

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

Happy Birthday

July

14th

Lynda Mears

24th

Svetlana Mihajloska



Membership News

By Jean Smith

Due to family commitments and responsibilities, Carolyn Steigman has resigned as membership chairman. In the interim, Regina McCarthy and I will handle membership and follow up. We want to thank Carolyn for her past dedication and hard work as membership chairman.

I am delighted to welcome new members, Georgene Goddard and Jean Livingston. Georgene is a friend of Sally Knurek and Jean is a friend of Alberta Ricciardi. Both attended our June meeting and the bus trip to Schedel Gardens. Thanks to Alberta and Sally for introducing your friends to the Westlake Garden Club. Please add their information to your membership roster.

Goddard, Georgene
19743 N. Sagamore Road
Fairview Park, OH 44126
Telephone: 216-548-1066
Email: georgenegoddard@gmail.com
Birthday: August 30

Jean Livingston
2050 Salem Parkway
Westlake, OH 44145-3349
Telephone: 440-871-6559
Cell Phone: 440-453-2873
Birthday: March 6

Members on the move – please change addresses in your membership roster for the following members:

Robert Pearl
3307 Sandy Lane
Avon, OH 44011
Telephone: 440-695-1251

Jean Smith
700 Brick Mill Run, #209
Westlake, OH 44145

2014 PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

WGC PROGRAMS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2014 – GENERAL MEETING

PLACE: WESTLAKE PORTER LIBRARY, 27333 CENTER RIDGE ROAD

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

PROGRAM: “DWARF VARIETIES AND MINIATURE CONIFERS” PRESENTED BY MARK HOOVER, GROUNDS MANAGER AT CLEVELAND BOTANICAL GARDENS

HOSTESSES: KATHY BRUENING, LUCY KALBERS, ALBERTA RICCIARD, GEORGENE GODDARD, JEAN LIVINGSTON

SATURDAY, JULY 19, 2014 – MAKE FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CLAGUE HOUSE MUSEUM (RAIN DATE, SATURDAY, JULY 26, 2014)

PLACE: CLAGUE HOUSE MUSEUM (YARD), 1371 CLAGUE ROAD

TIME: 1 P.M.

BRING VASES AND FLOWERS AND GREENERY FROM YOUR YARD.

CONTACT SALLY KNUREK, 440-331-8722

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2014 – MAKE FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS FOR WESTLAKE IN BLOOM

PLACE: LACENTRE, 25277 DETROIT ROAD, WESTLAKE

TIME: 1 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2014 – GENERAL MEETING

PLACE: WESTLAKE PORTER LIBRARY, 27333 CENTER RIDGE ROAD

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

PROGRAM: “FALL PLANTING FOR SPRING HARVEST” PRESENTED BY MASTER GARDENER, CHRISTINE HARRIS.

HOSTESSES: JACKIE CROSIER, ROSEMARIE EVANS, BILL HOCK, JEAN SMITH

OTHER EVENTS

SUNDAY, JULY 20, 2014 – WESTLAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANTIQUE VINTAGE AND CRAFT SHOW (RAIN DATE, SUNDAY, JULY 27, 2014)

PLACE: CLAGUE HOUSE MUSEUM, 1371 CLAGUE ROAD

TIME: 10 A.M.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2014 – WESTLAKE IN BLOOM AWARDS CEREMONY

PLACE: LACENTRE, 25277 DETROIT ROAD, WESTLAKE

TIME: 6:30 P.M.

EVERYONE INVITED

The Dangerous Garden

By Marge Emblom

The gardens that are so beautiful in spring and summer are full of danger for kids. Children love to pick flowers in Grandma’s garden, and almost everyone knows that kids should not pick daffodils or foxglove except under supervision. They learn that they should wash their hands thoroughly after they have done so to remove whatever sap has been left on their hands.

However, there are lots of other plants that have parts that are equally—or even more—dangerous to kids or even pets. For example, who would think that the beautiful and innocent looking Lily of the Valley that smells so wonderful, is so deadly, not only to humans, but to dogs and cats as well? Even the water from a vase of flowers can cause death. Iris, Hyacinth, Monkshood, Bleeding Heart, Sweet Pea, the old favorite larkspur are all poisonous. The entire plant of Buttercup—especially the juices—are a favorite wildflower that kids love to pick, but those same juices can get on their fingers causing tissue to blister, and if ingested, causing diarrhea and convulsions! Poison Hemlock—which was used by the early Greeks to put the philosopher Socrates to death—is not readily distinguishable from Wild Carrot. (I was horrified to find Hemlock in my own flower garden last year, and rooted it out, only to find twice as much back this year. Snow on the Mountain in full bloom right now is another plant to be avoided as is Star of Bethlehem which contains the heart stimulant digitalis as does foxglove.

As beautiful as are the leaves of Caladium, Castor Bean, or Elephant’s Ear, I don’t think I would even have them in a garden where children were playing! Azalea, Rhododendron, Yew, and Box are all toxic. And if kids go camping and have outdoor fires, the safest twigs for toasting their hot dogs or marshmallows are the maple and apple twigs. Horse chestnut, Black Locust (in bloom now) and cherry—either wild or cultivated are all poisonous. In fact, a bit of twig from either wild or cultivated cherry munched with the marshmallow can cause a very sick kid. Since there is cyanide in the wood, even death can follow if enough wood were chewed.

Gardens are wonderful places for children, but even Eden had its downside.

Kudos to Margaret Schulz

Member Margaret Schulz has been very active in collecting soup labels and box tops for education, which she gives to Dover School for their fundraisers. She recently received a glowing note of appreciation from the Dover School PTA. The following is an excerpt from that note. “Through these programs, we are able to raise funds for supplies, school assemblies, Field Day, Fun Fair and much more. Thank you again and please keep collecting!” Please see Margaret if you want to know how to contribute to box tops for education. Keep up the good work Margaret!

Schedel Gardens



Flower Arranging at Clague House Museum

By Sally Knurek

Look around your garden. We will need flowers and filler for the flower arranging at Clague House at 10:00, Saturday, July 19th. These arrangements will decorate the Clague House for the Westlake Historical Society's antique show. You are welcome whether you signed up or not. No experience is necessary and a good time is had by all. Please bring scissors or garden clippers. If you bring a container be sure to have your name on it and plan to pick it up on Sunday after the show. I will supply the oasis. I sent around a list at the last meeting to sign up for this activity, but it wasn't returned to me. So look among your notes and let me know if you found it. Men are welcome as there will be heavier tasks for them to do. We get a lot of recognition for this activity so come help the garden club accomplish our task. It is a nice way to spend a couple of hours with fellow gardeners doing what we enjoy. We work on tables set up under the trees so it is very pleasant and shaded. If you do not have a garden, you can find wonderful Queen Anne's Lace growing in fields by parking lots. Some things considered weeds make very nice filler material, as do Hostas leaves.

Kaye and Chris Tilton are the new owners of Lu and Dave Walters' house on Allen Drive. Shirley Latts, Regina McCarthy and Jean Smith visited with them in June to help identify some plants in the gardens. In return, Kaye and Chris donated some ferns from Lu's garden to the garden club. The ferns have been planted, appropriately, in our Remembrance Garden. Kaye attended the June meeting and we are hoping she will decide to become a member. Isn't life interesting?

Grand Opening of New Community Garden

By Regina McCarthy

The St. John Medical Center and The City of Westlake's new Community Garden had its Grand Opening on Wednesday evening, July 2, 2014, with a ribbon cutting by Mayor Dennis M. Clough, William A. Young Jr., President & CEO of SJMC and Committee members. The many attendees sang *The Canticle of the Sun* and recited the *Prayer of the Gardener*, followed by the blessing of the Garden by Rev. William Smith. It was a first-class ceremony, with SJMC providing iced tea and crudites. As a founding Committee member, I am extremely proud to be part of, and launching our Club into, this organic vegetable gardening community project.



Top L: Mayor Clough and Dennis Young.
R: Kathy Bruening and Don Bowman



Bottom L: Flowers and box provided by garden club. R: Sign recognizing donors to garden.