
GARDEN SCOOP

Volume 1, Issue 5

WESTLAKE GARDEN CLUB

June 2012

A Garden of Earthly Delights

By Carolyn Steigman

It may be called Gardenview Horticultural Park, but I like to think of it as a little piece of the Garden of Eden. While it seems to be the best kept local secret, Gardenview has been featured on cable TV garden programs, in countless magazine and newspaper articles, and has attracted visitors from around the world. In 1949, Henry Ross purchased 16 acres of blue clay soil overgrown with brambles. Working ceaselessly, he has turned it into a beautiful horticultural park that features trails showcasing the gardens, including a 10-acre arboretum of more than 2,000 flowering trees. A visit to the garden may find Ross, now in his 80's, hard at work outdoors and he is often willing to talk about his labor of love. The mission of this private, nonprofit horticultural park is to exhibit choice and unusual plants that are seldom seen in this country and to provide visitors with enjoyment and inspiration to take home to their own gardens. Gardenview receives no public funds and is supported by donations, memberships and admission fees. What will happen when Ross is no longer able to care for Gardenview is uncertain, but he is trying to grow an endowment fund sufficient for its continued care so that mankind does not lose the Garden of Eden again. Gardenview, located at 16711 Pearl Road in Strongsville, is open to the public from noon to 6 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays between April 1 and October 15. Parking is free but there is an admission fee and yearly memberships are available.

President's Message

By Regina McCarthy

Our May 16 tour of Lakewood High School's new outside gardens, the horticulture classroom and the greenhouse facility with Mark Rathge was very illuminating, as was the overview of the ProStart Culinary Arts program with Chef Rob McGorray. We also enjoyed lunch in the Ranger Café and a tour of the kitchen facilities used by the students. Our thanks to Bill Hock for putting together this interesting program.

I attended the May 17 City Council meeting and, on behalf of our Club, accepted a Proclamation from Mayor Clough designating the week of June 3, 2012 as *National Garden Week in the City of Westlake*. That Proclamation will be exhibited at Porter Library. Saturday, May 19, was planting day for the Club's Hilliard Road flower box. Marge Emblom, Planter-in-Chief, was assisted by her daughter Vickie, Don Bowman, Kathie Carnall and me. On Memorial Day, our donated wreath and bouquet, beautifully designed with fresh flowers and plants by Tara Prior and her staff from the Silver Fox Florist, were an important part of the ceremony held at Clague Park. Despite the heat, a nice crowd attended, which included Don Bowman, Alberta Ricciardi and me.

Recall our fundraiser luncheon geranium centerpieces were created by Debbie Dean-Espie and her staff. We can expect more of the same creativity at our June 20 program at Dean's Greenhouse. Please advise Nancy Chopp if you plan on attending.

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Westlake Garden Club wreath at Memorial Day Ceremony at Clague Park.

Getting to Know You...

By Margaret Schulz

Alberta Ricciardi



Those of you who know Alberta, know that she has always been a very busy, involved lady. After graduating from St. Procop High School, she landed a job with NASA, where she met her husband, Sam. Sam served in the Army, worked

at NASA, and served in the Navy in Guam. As a young married couple, they lived in Sam's mother's apartment until moving to Westlake in 1956. The family grew as their children were born; three boys and three girls. Many of you know Joanie, the youngest. Alberta and Sam were involved on the Social Committee at NASA, planning events for executive visitors, while on the side, Alberta served as president of the NASA Ladies Golf Association and Hilliard Lake Women's Golf. Alberta still plays golf today and enjoys playing in Florida during January, February and March. She also still enjoys gardening and has gotten some help this year with putting in stepping stones and a rock garden. Alberta is a long-time member of the Westlake Garden Club and has worked tirelessly in many areas, including taking photos at meetings and events and maintaining the club albums. In appreciation of her many efforts, Alberta was presented with the Westlake Garden Club Outstanding Achievement Award for 2011. Congratulations – it was well-deserved. When I asked Alberta how she thinks the garden club has changed over the years, she replied, “nothing stays the same.” She went on to suggest that members should support their club, be involved and consider it a means of forming friendships. Alberta added that each new president brings new ideas, and that all in all, the club has changed for the best. Ralph Edwards would ask, “How do you best describe Alberta?” I would say, Alberta is surely well-liked and a very good person.

Garden Scoop, Published 11 times per year

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

Happy Birthday

June

13th Marlene Parker
14th Ruth Bertrand
19th Carol Lewellen
24th Claire Evangelista



Membership News

By Carolyn Steigman

Please join me in welcoming new member:

Carol Bonyko
5 Whitaker Cove
Avon Lake, OH 44012-2349
Telephone: 440-930-5941
Birthday: 5/25

Pleased enter Carol's information in the membership roster in your yearbook.

We are happy to have a new member and look forward to Carol's input. Before joining the club, Carol was a guest at one of our meetings. Guests are always welcome at regular meetings, so remember to invite your friends. As of now, we have 37 members. If you have membership questions, call me at 440-892-3940.

Communing With Nature

By Jean Smith

My husband, Roger, and I recently watched the movie, *A Big Year*, about the birders whose quest is to see how many different birds they can sight in a year. The next day, we rode our bikes on the Inland Trail from Elyria to Kipton, through the town of Oberlin. Our ears were attuned to the many sounds of different birds that morning, even though we cannot identify a single bird by its call. We were, however, able to identify several by sight, including Cardinals, Blue Jays, Robins, a Scarlet Tanager, Sparrows, Gold Finches, Red Winged Blackbirds, Geese, and three Hawks that were doing a ballet overhead.

Upon entering the bike path, we noticed how green everything seemed. Both sides of the trail were awash with magenta, pink and white phlox, with a scattering of a yellow daisy-like flower just starting to bloom. There were also low clumps of a pink balloon-like flower, and other low-growing yellow flowers. (I really should learn the names of these wildflowers!) Where there are flowers, there are butterflies, and we spotted Monarchs, some black with white spots, and those small yellow ones. And, one dragonfly was leading the way for awhile – what a thrill. It was a great day biking and communing with nature.

2012 PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

WGC PROGRAMS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 2012 – WGC GENERAL MEETING AND CONTAINER GARDENING PROGRAM

PLACE: DEAN'S GREENHOUSE, 3984 PORTER ROAD

TIME: 11 A.M. MEETING, LUNCH AT NOON, PROGRAM AT 1 P.M.

BRING A BAG LUNCH - COFFEE AND DESSERTS PROVIDED

SATURDAY, JULY 14, 2012 – WGC MAKE FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS FOR WESTLAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANTIQUE VINTAGE AND CRAFT SHOW

PLACE: CLAGUE HOUSE AND MUSEUM, 1371 CLAGUE ROAD

TIME: TBA

COORDINATOR: SALLY KNUREK

BRING FLOWERS AND GREENERY FROM YOU GARDENS, VASES, OTHER CONTAINERS. MAKE SURE YOUR NAME IS ON VASES AND CONTAINERS.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 2012 – WGC GENERAL MEETING A CHANGE IN THE WAY WE DO BUSINESS, INTRODUCTION OF THE WGC NEW WEBSITE

PLACE: WESTLAKE PORTER LIBRARY, 27333 CENTER RIDGE ROAD

TIME: 11 A.M. MEETING, LUNCH AT NOON, PROGRAM AT 1 P.M.

HOSTESSES: PAT DAILEY, MARGE EMBLOM, CATHI PETER, JACKIE CROSIER

OTHER EVENTS

THURSDAY, JUNE 7 – HERB GUILD SPRING BUS TRIP

CONTACT ELSE ROLLAND FOR DETAILS, 440-937-4240.

SAT. & SUN., JUNE 9 & 10, 2012 – CROCKER PARK 7TH ANNUAL FINE ART FAIR

PLACE: CROCKER PARK

TIME: SAT. 10-8, SUN. 11-6

SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 2012 – BAYARTS ART & MUSIC FESTIVAL

PLACE: 28795 LAKE ROAD, BAY VILLAGE

TIME: 10-4

SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2012 – LATVIAN GARDENS TOUR

PLACE: ROCKY RIVER, WESTLAKE, FAIRVIEW PARK, COLUMBIA STATION

CONTACT VALDA OTANKIS 440-937-8494 FOR TICKETS - \$10

TIME: 12-5

SUNDAY, JULY 15, 2012 – WESTLAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANTIQUE VINTAGE AND CRAFT SHOW

PLACE: CLAGUE HOUSE AND MUSEUM, 1371 CLAGUE ROAD

TIME: 10 A.M.

The Book Corner

By Kathie Carnall

Kathie has been busy working in her garden (and the WGC Hilliard flower box). The Book Corner will return in July.



Kathie Carnall, Don Bowman and Marge Emblom planting the Hilliard Road Flower Box

I recently purchased some annuals from Dean's Greenhouse for planting in containers. Imagine my surprise when I took a plant from its pot and out jumped a toad – a perfect little toad. It seemed stunned for a few minutes, then hopped over and climbed into a flat of begonias. I hope it eventually finds the other toads in my garden and joins their family. I emailed Debbie Dean-Espie to thank her for this surprise and she said they have noticed an abundance of toads this year. Maybe you will get a surprise too. *Jean Smith*

Something New at the Garden Center

By Maryann Brock

In late April, Dean's Greenhouse had our former member, Thea Steinmetz there to answer questions about herbs. I saw an item in the Herb section, Iboza Vine, that had nice foliage with round, scalloped leaves. It said "fast growing" on the tag, great for patio and ground cover. It did not say if it was annual or perennial. Thea had no experience with it. At home, I consulted my herb book and found it listed as: *Plectranthus coleoides*, related to "Swedish Ivy", also called "Candle Plant." Most of the plants have variegated leaves with white edges. I will continue to search for information on this plant that I now have growing on my deck with other plants. Not sure if it is edible, but I am not taking any chances that it is – just enjoying the pretty foliage.



Garden Club members and guests in the greenhouse at Lakewood High School



Garden Club members and guests in the greenhouse at Lakewood High School



Garden Club members and guests at lunch in the Ranger Café at Lakewood High School

Our thanks to Bill Hock for arranging the meeting at Lakewood High School with a tour of the Horticulture classroom, greenhouse, outdoor gardens, and lunch in the Ranger Café.

Westlake Garden Club General Meeting

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Meeting called to order at 12:50. Minutes of 3/21/12 approved. 1st Margaret Schulz, 2nd Nancy Chopp.

President; 500 letterhead stationary was purchased. Our convention table was a success. We made \$25 and did a lot of networking. Jean Smith received an honorable mention for the yearbook. Next spring we will have a meeting about participating in submitting our projects for awards.

Program: Our next meeting will be at Dean's Greenhouse. Bring a sandwich. Dessert and beverages will be provided.

2nd Vice President: The yearbooks are out. Next year we will try for awards for our press book and newsletter. Also try to take pictures of gardens for awards. Let's try for more awards. The rules are in the new issue of Garden Greetings.

Correspondence: We received a thank you from the Metro Parks for our donation.

Membership: We have two new members: Ann Demanelis and Carol Bonyko. We are averaging about two per month.

Civic Projects: Since Marge Emblom suffered a fall, Regina and others will do the planting of Hilliard Road flower box. Don reports that the thistles in the Memorial Garden are out of control, but the poison ivy is gone. Regina McCarthy is working with the Silver Fox florist to construct a wreath and hand held bouquet for the Memorial Day ceremony at Clague Park.

Newsletter: Jean is asking for input.

Ways and Means: Regina McCarthy thanks everyone for their hard work and donations to the luncheon. It was a big success.

National Garden Week: June 3-9. Sally will man table on Sat from 10-2.

Motion to adjourn: 1st Margaret Schulz 2nd Gail Morse