
GARDEN SCOOP

Volume 1, Issue 2

WESTLAKE GARDEN CLUB

March 2012

Houseplant Knowhow

By Don Bowman

The two informal meetings of the garden club helped me learn and understand more about indoor gardening. The January meeting helped me understand the need for proper watering and soil mixture, and that I am not the only person with limited knowledge of various needs of indoor plants. Many other members have similar challenges with indoor plants due to lighting, humidity and soil. The February meeting was so informative about the needs of orchids and African violets. Again, lighting and watering is the key. The biggest surprise was that orchids are an “air” plant and if transplanting, you should use bark, not soil. Orchids like a tight packed mixture in the pot. My neighbor learned she needed to transplant her plant into a pot with better drainage. I learned so much in these two informal meetings that now I can be a better gardener. Following the February meeting, we went to the Vivarium at Lee Burneson School so see results of my efforts over the past two years of watering the plants. The Principal and science teacher took the

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President's Message

By Regina McCarthy

We've been busy. Members removed the decorations from the Club's holiday tree at the Botanical Garden on January 2, our first informal get together on non-flowering indoor plants was held on January 18, with the second on flowering indoor plants held on February 16. The Treasurer chaired the Budget & Finance Committee to review last year's results and to prepare this year's budget, with our Auditors thereafter reviewing the financial records to ensure accuracy. The First Vice Presidents have put together interesting Programs for the year, with the Social Chair appointing host/hostesses where necessary. The Second Vice President has sent notices and collected the annual dues, compiled an updated membership roster, put together our Year Book for distribution at the March 21 meeting and, as Editor, has now published and distributed two issues of the *Garden Scoop*. The Board has given its approval to proceed with the building of a Westlake Garden Club website, which is in process and will be ready to roll out this Summer – more on that at a later date. The April 26 Fundraiser Luncheon Committee will soon hold its third meeting. And the Arbor Day Committee is proceeding with its plans for April 27.

As your President, I have met with, written to and/or telephoned most of you, not only to review various committee responsibilities, but also to gain a keener appreciation of the Club and its history. You are an interesting and dedicated group of individuals.

Now I appeal to those members not currently holding a position. Your help is needed in filling three openings: Membership Chair, Parliamentarian and assistance with the Memorial Day wreath. Building our membership is an obvious priority and the Club requires a member with computer skills to coordinate those efforts, and give our Second V.P. much needed relief. If you are willing to fill any of these open positions, kindly promptly contact me or any Board member. Thank you all.

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Getting to Know You.....

By Pat Dailey

Ruth Bertrand



Ruth is a vital member of the garden club and works tirelessly on any project the club takes on.

Ruth graduated from John Marshall High School and has been busy doing her class reunions every five years since the 25th. You might say, "Ruth enjoys being busy." After graduating from Lutheran Hospital School of Nursing, she was head nurse at the hospital for 25 years. Ruth also has a degree in Health Care Administration from St. Joseph's College in Portland, ME. She officially retired in 1998. However, liking to keep busy, Ruth joined and served on the boards of many organizations. Some of the organizations that Ruth is, or has been, involved with are: Beck Center for the Arts; Westlake/Westshore Arts Council in which she is a past President; Westlake Garden Club for 10 years; The Gallery Group where she did Art Talks for 40 years; and Rocky River Coterie where she was an officer.

Ruth has been a widow for 16 years and has three children; Joe, John, and Meg, and her 11 grandchildren are the love of her life.

Shortly after writing this article, we heard that Ruth was off to Florida to spend time with her buddy, Alberta Ricciardi, then off to meet up with her four sisters. We hope Ruth has a wonderful time in Florida; she truly deserves it.

Garden Scoop

Published 11 times per year

Editor: Jean Smith

Contributing Writers: Don Bowman, Kathie Carnall, Pat Dailey, Carol Lewellen, Regina McCarthy

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

Happy Birthday!

March

3/3 Sally Knurek
3/17 Lillian Bialosky
3/18 Nancy Chopp
3/24 Gail Morse
3/28 Holly Harvey
3/31 Patt Long



Membership News

By Jean Smith

Please welcome the following new members, 1st qtr. 2012:

- ❖ Jodi Bell (re-instated)
- ❖ Patt Long
- ❖ Robert Pearl
- ❖ Carol Steigman
- ❖ Agnes Tark

In the September 2011 issue of Garden Scoop, I challenged members to see who could bring in the most new members by the end of the year. We added two new members, but only one was brought in by a current member. I am happy to report that Ruth Bertrand won the challenge by bringing in Judy Hullinger. Congratulations Ruth. You will receive your award at the March meeting.

***Have you ordered your tickets yet for the *Fête des Fleurs* luncheon on April 26? ***

Why not invite some friends and fill a table? Help support your garden club and enjoy a wonderful lunch and an exciting program presented by Mark Johnson, Channel 5 Chief Meteorologist. And don't forget about the Chinese raffle, silent auction, bakery table and boutique table. Mail or give your reservation form and check to Nancy Chopp. Let's make this luncheon a bigger success than last year by every member attending - and bring a guest.

Houseplant Knowhow, cont'd.

time to talk to us about the plants and the future of the school. Thanks to all who participated in these meetings.

Carol Lewellen added that both meetings were very informative and thanked Don for providing refreshments and the beautiful party room at The Crossings for the February meeting. Job well done, Don.

2012 PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2012

PLACE: WESTLAKE PORTER LIBRARY

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

HOSTESSES: RUTH BERTRAND,

PROGRAM: STACEY ALLEN, MANAGER OF CANALWAY VISITORS 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.

SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2012 – RAIN & GARDEN SHOW

PLACE: WESTLAKE RECREATION CENTER

TIME: 10 AM – 2 PM

PROGRAM: FOCUSED ON THE OUTDOORS, LEARN WONDERFUL WAYS TO BEAUTIFY YOUR YARDS BY USING ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY PRACTICES.

NOTE: THERE IS NO GENERAL MEETING IN APRIL.

THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2012 – GCO CONVENTION

PLACE: EMBASSY SUITES, INDEPENDENCE, OH

TIME: REGISTRATION AT 7:30 A.M.; SEMINARS AT 10:00 A.M.

THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2012, FÊTE DES FLEURS

PLACE: WAGNER'S COUNTRY INN, 30855 CENTER RIDGE ROAD

TIME: DOORS OPEN 11 AM, LUNCH AT NOON, PROGRAM 1PM
\$30 Donation

FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2012, ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

PLACE AND TIME: TBA

SEE THE PROGRAM SECTION OF YOUR 2012 MEMBERSHIP BOOK FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF PROGRAMS AND EVENTS FOR THE YEAR.

The Book Corner

By Kathie Carnall

If you agree with me that Spring, Summer and Fall are devoted to working in and enjoying gardens, but that Winter is the time for sitting back and reading about them, I have a book to recommend:

One Writer's Garden; Eudora Welty's Home Place, by Susan Halton

Ms. Welty lived all of her life in the family home in Jackson, Mississippi. The garden her mother designed and planted became her garden and its flowers and landscapes were woven into all of her short stories and novels. Favorite flowers were roses and camellias. At its peak, more than 100 camellia bushes added their color and beauty to a garden full of flowers, shrubs and flowering trees, all lovingly tended over the years by Eudora and her mother.

Neglect set in when Mrs. Welty fell ill late in life and Eudora Welty devoted her time to nursing. It doesn't take long for a well-tended garden to turn to wilderness. It wasn't till 1994 that Susan Halton offered her services to clear and restore that overgrown garden. She was aided in that herculean task by The Garden Conservancy, a national organization whose stated mission it is to restore historical gardens to their original splendor using, as much as possible, the plants and design of the creator. In the case of Eudora Welty's garden, many of the old camellia and rose bushes had survived and returned to their original glory.

The book is beautifully illustrated with Eudora Welty's historical photographs and lush color photographs by Susan Halton. Both garden and home are now open to the public.

To end in an upbeat fashion, an extract from Eudora Welty's homage to William Blake:

“Squirrel, squirrel burning bright,
Do not eat my bulbs tonight!
I think it bad and quite insidious
That you should eat my blue tigridias.
Squirrel, *Sciurus vulgaris*,
Leave to me my small *muscaris*...”

Orchid Mania: This Side of Paradise

Learn more about the beautiful and seductive orchid and how it relates to the roaring 1920s when the Cleveland Botanical Garden celebrates The Jazz Age during Orchid Mania: This Side of Paradise. February 11 – March 25. Tuesdays-Saturdays: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sundays: Noon – 5 p.m.; Closed Mondays. Free with Garden admission. Orchid Mania Photography and Tripod access – March 11: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Fête des Fleurs Luncheon Update

Chinese Raffle Baskets

At our March meeting, I will demonstrate how to put together a basket to raffle off at our Spring Luncheon, starting with how to buy items and ending with putting everything together. On Thursday, April 13th we will put baskets together at my home for anyone who isn't able to assemble one. Bring items, a list of contents and a basket from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. My address is: 19270 S. Sagamore, Fairview Park. A good source of baskets is the Good Will store on Lorain Ave.

Some great basket ideas from past raffles are: Chocolate Lovers, Night at the Theater, Teatime, Ice Cream Social, Wine and Pasta Dinner, Nationality or Regional Basket, Coffee Theme, Color Theme Basket, Garden Adventures, Artist Supplies, History Buff, Children's Basket, Nature, Eat Out, Scrapbooking, Bath and Body, Salon or Spa, Little Girl's or Boy's gardening, Nautical, Mary Englebright or Martha Stewart, Lavender, Vanilla, Vegetables, Herbs and Spices, OSU Basket, Yard Accents, Birding. Value of baskets should range from \$45 to \$75 retail. Two people can go together. Please put a list of contents and value of basket with contents on the outside of your basket so that we can prepare a list for the raffle table. Any Questions call 440-331-8722.

Sally Knurek

Bakery and Boutique Tables

Bakery: We hope to get some yummy things from you this year for the bakery table. Items that sold best last year were: breads, small cookies, scones, gingerbread, and assorted pastries. Large cookies and cupcakes were not popular items. Please, wrap your bakery items individually and price them before bringing to the bakery table. Brownies or lemon squares are easy items to make. Please bring your bakery items to Wagner's on Wednesday, April 25 during setup, or by 11 a.m. on Thursday, April 26.

Boutique: We are trying a boutique table this year. Please consider donating any of the following items: new or gently used gardening books, any type of craft items (do not have to be garden related), healthy live plants or seedlings, dry herbal mixtures (preferably home-made), herb oils or vinegars, garden gloves or tools. Several people are making note cards for sale. If you have a special talent, please consider donating something you have made, written, or painted. Please give your items to someone on the luncheon committee, or bring to Wagner's on Wednesday, April 25 during setup, or bring items on Thursday, April 26 by 11 a.m. Questions or assistance, call 440-665-5463.

Jean Smith

Zone 5 or Zone 6?

By Jean Smith

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently released its Plant Hardiness Zone Map that shifts most of Ohio from Zone 5 to Zone 6. The new designation does not mean that you should go out and purchase plants, shrubs and trees designated for Zone 6. Zone designations represent the average lowest temperature at a given location over a specified time. They do not reflect the coldest it has ever been at that location. The new map does reflect a sustained warming in Ohio, which could result in a higher yield of vegetables and longer display of flowers in your garden. Gardeners should consider the moisture, soil, wind, sun and other conditions in their own yard. This does not mean that you should not experiment with plantings that were previously on the border of Zones 5 and 6. You would be advised to do some research and use caution when deciding on new Zone 6 designated plantings. Talk to your favorite garden center about new plants before you purchase. Take a chance, try something new, and enjoy it. That's what gardening is all about.

(Information from Roxanne Washington's article on Thursday, February 16 in the Inside & Out section of the Plain Dealer was used for this article.)