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# GARDEN SCOOP

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Volume 4, Issue 4

WESTLAKE GARDEN CLUB

May 2015

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## President's Message

By Regina McCarthy

With the passing of MaryAnn Brock, we sadly lost a member and friend whose contributions to so many organizations were mentioned at her funeral. What a wonderful legacy she left. As hard working as she was, I can't help but wonder what she's up to in Heaven.

In MaryAnn's and Marge Paul's memory, and the other Club members who preceded them, our Remembrance Garden takes on a special meaning for us this year. On Saturday, May 30, at 9:00 a.m., we will gather at this Garden, located behind the Westlake Community Center, to perform our annual spring clean-up. Bring your tools and any plants you want to add in their memory that are deer resistant. We are in the process of attempting to line-up student volunteers to help lay mulch. Come and help when you can; we will be there for a few hours. Rain date: Sunday, May 31.

See our web site for article and photos on Arbor Day.



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## Arbor Day Tree Planting

By Regina McCarthy

Friday morning, April 24, our Club planted its 52<sup>nd</sup> consecutive Arbor Day tree, this year at the Westlake Recreation Center's children's playground. We especially wish to thank Brian Corrigan and Cahoon Nursery for donating our beautiful 'Valley Forge' Elm (*Ulmus americana*), a new disease tolerant cultivar which, once established, can grow up to 3 ft./yr. to a height and crown spread of 30 ft. or more, with leaves turning golden yellow in autumn. As he has done throughout his tenure, Mayor Dennis M. Clough presented us with an Arbor Day Proclamation and spoke to the importance of our Club to the community. Also attending: Paul J. Quinn III, Dir. of Public Service, Bob DeMinico, Recreation Center Dir. and Stan Barnard, Urban Forestry Mgr.; and our members Ruth Bertrand, Kathy and Rich Bruening, Marge Emblom, Carol and Don Lewellen, Shirley Lutts, Regina McCarthy and friend Carol Krieger, Marsha McEntee, Thea Steinmetz and friend, and Brian Thompson, who spoke to Arbor Day history and how we are blessed to be in a community that recognizes the importance of trees. See the Photo Galleries on our web site for more pictures

## Hilliard Boulevard Flower Box

Planting day for the Hilliard Boulevard flower boxes is Saturday, May 16, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Marge Emblom plans to be there right around 9 a.m. and asks that anyone who wants to help should come at the same time. It generally takes one to two hours to do the planting. Extra hands are always welcome.

**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! Talk to family and friends and try to fill a table of eight. Flyers will be available soon.**

# My Moment with Nature

By Jackie Crosier

WGC has supported the Nature Conservancy of Ohio for years. However I cannot remember any "up close involvement." Our Boat Club went on our monthly cruise this time on the Gordon River in Naples by way of little electric boats at the Nature Conservancy of Southwest Florida.

They also have a large animal rehab center on their grounds for birds and other injured or abandoned animals one can view. My Royal Palm Garden Club had an interesting program on growing herbs in Florida. Our climate being so hot and humid means herbs are grown as annuals since they do not "summer" over very well. The community we live in is directly across the divided boulevard from a large area known as Lee Memorial Health Park with the main hospital and a retirement community on campus. We are building a \$4 million new children's hospital by the lake of the park like grounds. One area is devoted to a memorial garden with benches and walls with names of the children who attended the hospital and who have unfortunately passed away. Seven of my garden club members live in my community so we take planters over for the day to enhance the area for their annual ceremony. We, our 2 cats, and 40 some plants will be returning to Ohio so am looking forward to seeing you all in May!

## Prescription Pill Drop Box

A prescription (and over the counter drug) pill drop box has been mounted to the concrete near the main Westlake Police Department entrance. It is available year-round for people to discard their expired or unwanted pills (no liquids or needles).



Member Thea Steinmetz teaching a group at Dean's Greenhouse on herbs and putting together an herb container.

# Happy Birthday

May

25<sup>th</sup> Carol Bonyko

25<sup>th</sup> Jackie Crosier



## Raffle Baskets

By Sally Knurek

Now is the time to think about baskets for our fundraiser in September. Watch for sales to pick up less expensive items. Some popular baskets feature wine, food, chocolate, theater tickets etc. If you need help contact Sally Knurek.

## Grow Beautiful African Violets

By Carolyn Steigman

Now is the time to get your African violets ready for another year. African violets are the most popular houseplant sold... and most commonly killed. Their care is simple. Give the plant bright, indirect light. Direct sun will burn the leaves and low light will result in no flowers. They also do well under grow lights. Never water from the top. Put water, mixed with liquid plant food, in the saucer once or twice a week and wait a few hours until the soil is saturated and then dump out any water left in the saucer. Watering from the top can rot the crown. Clip off spent flowers. Don't keep the plant in too large a pot. Being a little pot bound encourages flowering. Some of the problems frequently encountered include too many leaves growing on only one side, a "gooseneck" of a long, bare bottom stem, and crowns of new plants popping up and crowding the original plant. The solution is the same for all of these problems. African violets need to be re-started, sometimes every year. Un-pot the plant and cut the roots off, leaving about 1 to 1.5 inches of stem. It does not matter if any roots remain on the stem. If the leaves are unbalanced, clip off the overgrowth of leaves to balance the plant and gently pull away any new crowns. Crowns might be able to be rooted separately. Place the stem or crown over a small container like an empty pill vial or shot glass. Keep the water level to just below the leaves but don't get the crown wet. Check the water level daily. In several weeks the plant will have grown a good set of new roots and is ready for repotted in soil. This can only be done from March to around August. The plants won't develop new roots in fall or winter. I have African violets that are decades old and have been re-started many times and they are still healthy and blooming.

**Garden Scoop**, Published 11 times per year

**Editor:** Jean Smith

**Contributing Writers:** Jackie Crosier, Regina McCarthy, Carolyn Steigman

**Photographs:** Regina McCarthy

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

## 2015 PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

### WGC PROGRAMS

#### **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

#### **TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2015 – BUS TRIP TO HOLDEN ARBORETUM**

BUS DEPARTS WEST BAY PLAZA AT 8:45 A.M. ARRIVING AT HOLDEN ARBORETUM AT 10 A.M. LUNCH AT NOON AT GAMEKEEPER'S TAVERN IN CHAGRIN FALLS. BUS DEPARTS CHAGRIN FALLS AT 2:15 P.M. WITH A STOP AT LOWE'S GREENHOUSE, ARRIVING BACK AT WEST BAY PLAZA AT APPROXIMATELY 4:15 P.M.

**COST:** \$47 WESTLAKE GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS; \$57 NON-MEMBERS  
SEND RESERVATIONS AND CHECKS TO SALLY KNUREK, 19270 SOUTH SAGAMORE, FAIRVIEW PARK, OH 44126 BY JUNE 1. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO WESTLAKE GARDEN CLUB  
DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS JUNE 1

#### **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2015 – GENERAL MEETING – EVENING PICNIC AND PLANT EXCHANGE (REPLACES POT LUCK DINNER IN OCTOBER)**

**PLACE:** TO BE ANNOUNCED

**TIME:** 6:00 P.M. SOCIAL, DINNER AT 6:30 P.M. AND PLANT EXCHANGE AT 7:30 P.M.

**HOSTESSES:** CAROL BONYKO, SALLY KNUREK, ROBERT PEARL, AGNES TARK

### OTHER EVENTS

#### **MONDAY, MAY 25, 2015 – MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION AND PLACING OF WREATH**

**PLACE:** CLAGUE PARK

#### **THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2015 – HERB GUILD SPRING BUS TRIP TO SECREST ARBORETUM**

BUS LEAVES FROM GREAT NORTHERN MALL AT 8:15 A.M., LUNCH AT PINE TREE BARN WITH STOPS AT POSSUM RUN GREENHOUSE AND GIFTS, AND D AND D SMITH WINERY, RETURNING TO GREAT NORTHERN MALL AT APPROXIMATELY 7:30 P.M.

**COST:** \$58 HERB GUILD MEMBERS; \$68 NON MEMBERS  
CALL BARB 440-716-8478, OR ANITA AT 440-444-4861  
DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS MAY 1

## Here is What's Happening in the Neighborhood

### Olmsted Falls Garden Club

#### **Perennial Plant Sale**

Sunday, May 3, 2015, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Jenkins Community Center, 7239 Main Street, Olmsted Falls (1/4 mile north of Bagley and Columbia Road)  
Large selection of perennial flowers, hostas, grasses, ground covers, flowering shrubs, wildflowers.  
Proceeds benefit community service projects.

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### Beck Center Women's Board

#### *Victorian Tea Party*

Sunday, May 3, 2015, 12:30 – 3:30 p.m.  
Music and Dance Building  
Elegant lunch, silent auction and raffle  
Entertainment by Laura Loew of Lost in the Past "100 Years of Hats"  
Donation: \$25 Contact our member, Ruth Bertrand for tickets.

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### North Olmsted Garden Club

#### **Plant Sale**

Saturday, May 9, 2015, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
North Olmsted Cabin

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### Ridgewood Garden Club of Parma

#### **Plant Sale**

Saturday, May 30, 2015, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Held at Parma Family Collaborative Center (formerly known as Hanna Elementary School)  
11212 Snow Road, Parma  
Annuals, perennials, bulbs, tubers, cacti, succulents, indoor plants, vegetables, herbs, grannies garage sale

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### Gates Mills Garden Club

**Through the Garden Gate** – a self-guided tour of private gardens of Gates Mills

Friday, June 26, 2015, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Saturday, June 27, 2015, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Tickets: \$25 in advance; \$30 day of event  
Mail checks to: The Gates Mills Garden Club  
P.O. Box 216, Gates Mills OH 44040  
Call Nancy Hooker with questions at 440-423-0634

# The Life of Monarch Butterflies

By Sally Knurek

In our May program given by Joyce Roth, we learned fascinating facts about Monarch butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*). Did you know that one super generation flies all the way to Mexico from the North starting in late August. This journey takes several weeks to a month to arrive in Mexico and can total up to 3000 miles? This generation comes out of hibernation in Mexico in March, lays eggs and dies. When the eggs hatch in 12 days, the next generation begins as caterpillars, feeds, makes a cocoon, emerges as a butterfly and flies to Texas. There the cycle is repeated. The next generation arrives in Tennessee to repeat the cycle again. The third generation arrives in Ohio in July. There can even be a 4th generation to make the journey to Toronto. These amazing insects need food, cover, water and larval plants. Common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), swamp milkweed (*A. incarnata*), butterfly weed (*A. tuberosa*) and *Gomphocarpus physocarpus* are the plants needed by the caterpillars. The adults prefer butterfly bush, Joe Pye, liatris, anis hyssop, zinnias, purple cone flower, gaillardia, salvia and Mexican sunflower. A puddle for water can be made with a sponge and a plastic plate. Mix 4 cups of water to 1 cup of sugar and a pinch of salt. Soak the sponge in this mixture, then squeeze out and place on plate. Change weekly. Let's do our part in helping preserve one of nature's amazing creatures.



Left: Joyce Roth, member and past president of Ridgewood Garden Club Parma. Right: Her "assistant," Cindy Smith, President of the Chippewa G.C. and also a member of Ridgewood



Monarch Sitings, March 1 to June 20, 2014

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## CBG Affiliate Meeting

By Sally Knurek

Much excitement for this summer's project at CBG was in evidence. The architectural plans for 5 different tree houses were displayed for all to see. Both adults and children will be able to explore inside them and take part in activities planned at each site. Each house has a theme that is expressed in the structure. The Math house is constructed of geometric panels, some of which reflect the tree canopy down inside the house. Music is the theme of the Acoustic Canopy, built in a spiral 20 feet off the ground. Various instruments and sounds will be a feature there. The Seasons house has open space and a library inside with a tree trunk growing through the middle. CBG is requesting a donation of children's books (new or used) to fill the library. I will be passing out a list at the next meeting. Ligna Distorta, which means twisted tree is a game and play center. Tryphallum Gigantum are twin towers. When you climb into one you become the "Jack" as in Jack in the Pulpit. Art activities will be featured here. The kids and the 'kid in us' are going to be thrilled with these imaginative and interactive constructions. More from the Affiliate Meeting will appear next month.

More news from the Affiliate meeting - Julie Washington, our fund raiser luncheon speaker of a few years ago and Plain Dealer reporter, is doing an article on garden clubs this summer. Hopefully this will stimulate interest in garden clubs everywhere.

