



WGC JULY GARDEN WALK

Wednesday, June 17, 5:00 p.m.

Our annual garden walk will be followed by a reception at the home of Cathy Garlitz. Please join us to enjoy and be inspired. See the article to the right and watch your email for final details.

WESTLAKE IN BLOOM JUDGING

July 8 through 12; Thank you to those who signed up to judge.

WGC WEEDING WEDNESDAYS

July 17 and July 24, normally the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 9 a.m. but we are adding the 3rd Wednesday this month because of poor weather on the 10th. **We will start at the Community Center Garden on July 17.** July 24 to be determined.

THANKS to all who purchased plants at Dean's during our fundraiser time from the 1st of May to June 15. We will let you know how we did when the check arrives.

AUGUST

Time to relax, stay cool and enjoy your own gardens. No board meeting or general meeting planned for this month. We would appreciate any photos you have of your own plants or garden beds. E-mail them to <kcbruen@att.net>.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, Sept. 4, 10:30 a.m., in the Dover Room at the Porter Public Library. All are welcome.

Garden Walk

5:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 17th

July 17th will be our annual Garden Walk. This year we will start a bit earlier so as to leave more time for socialization at Cathy Garlitz's home afterwards. We plan to visit three yards and will be meeting at the first house at 5:00 p.m. Please note that this is an outdoor-event, and no rain-date has been scheduled.

Please contact Deb Dougherty

(deb dougherty2771@yahoo.com, mobile 440-506-0237) no later than Friday, July 12th. Deb will provide details and addresses to those members that register. Please advise if you plan to bring a guest. "Finger Food" will be provided at Cathy's. Carpooling is strongly encouraged.

FREE
10 am - 5 pm

Sat. & Sun, July 13 & 14

GardenWalk Cleveland
Buds, Blooms, and Bees

For maps and more information visit gardenwalkcleveland.org

Sat Jul 13, 2024 | Fairfax, Glenville, Ohio City, Old Brooklyn, Tremont, West Park

Sun Jul 14, 2024 | Broadway Slavic Village, Clifton-Baltic, Collinwood, Detroit Shoreway, Little Italy

Your Garden Will Make a Difference

MY MORNING WITH 'NATURE IN MY BACKYARD'

by Kathleen Maciuszko

On Sunday June 23 three volunteers from the NATURE IN MY BACKYARD project paid a visit to evaluate my backyard. It is a grassroots approach to conservation by getting the word out yard by yard. The program is sponsored by Shaker Garden Club and the Audubon Society. Harvey Webster, our speaker at the May meeting, entitled his talk "Habitat is Hope: Your Garden Will Make a Difference." I learned about NATURE IN MY BACKYARD from him.

The very knowledgeable visitors made suggestions on how to be in better harmony with nature. The focus was on non-native and often harmful/invasive plants. I learned that a relatively small proportion of non-native plants can make a habitat unsustainable. "There is a three-way interaction between plants, arthropods that eat those plants and insectivorous birds that rely on caterpillars, spiders and other arthropods as food during the breeding season." The recommendation is 70% native plant biomass (includes shrubs, trees and flowers). I came away with a dizzying number of recommendations plus a plethora of new knowledge.

Start small but get started. Maybe one project a year. Even subtle changes count.

When considering plants be sure to know the Latin name to avoid invasive plants.

Avoid cultivars as they are bred for traits like color, abundant bloom etc.; plant naturally occurring varieties.

Trees: oak, willow, pine, cherry, and poplars are best; oaks support 534 species.

The main message: Wildlife are in decline because the native plants they depend on are disappearing. Help preserve wildlife and our planet for future generations by planting natives.

The following book was highly recommended: Nature's Best Hope by Douglas W. Tallamy (2020)

Before the group left it gave me a list of non-native invasives, indicating those in my yard. I also received a list of Ohio native plant nurseries. The visit is free. Well-worth your time.

<https://clevelandaudubon.org/nature-in-my-yard>



Privet is in my yard. It can outcompete and displace natives.

Potluck at the Cabin in Clague Park

Thank you, Mary Ann Coblentz, for organizing the June potluck. Most of us had never been to the Cabin. We enjoyed a good visit there with a discussion of our favorite garden tools and a few tips. Surprisingly, the auger was one of the most popular garden 'weapons'. It will apparently make easy work of digging holes for tulip bulbs and other plants. Terri Lyons showed us her hand edger that makes quick work of the garden edging drudgery. The conversation was good and the food that everyone brought was delicious. We managed to beat the heat with a few fans and even walked over to the pollinator garden patches to see how they are doing. The bees are loving our plants. Thanks to those who visited and to our members who maintain these gardens. Recipes are included for you to enjoy.



Cucumber Sandwiches

Ingredients

- 4 ounces of cream cheese at room temperature
- ¼ cup of mayonnaise
- 1 teaspoon of garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon of dried dill weed
- ½ teaspoon of ground black pepper
- A pinch of salt
- 10-12 slices of white bread
- 1 English cucumber about 36-54 slices, sliced

Instructions

- Stir the cream cheese in a medium bowl until smooth then add the mayo and stir again until smooth.
- Add the garlic powder, dill, pepper and salt and stir together then add more salt to taste if needed.
- Spread the cream cheese spread on two slices of bread then layer 6-9 slices of cucumber on the bottom half then top with the top slice of bread.
- Repeat the process with the remaining bread, cucumbers and cream cheese spread.
- Slice off the edges of the sandwiches then slice the sandwiches in half and serve.

Sesame Noodle Salad

Ingredients:

- 1 (16 oz) package of angel hair pasta
- 1/3 cup sesame oil
- ½ cup soy sauce
- ¼ cup balsamic vinegar
- 1 Tbsp hot chili oil
- ¼ cup white sugar,
- 1 tsp (or more) of sesame seeds
- 1 chopped green onion
- 1 red bell pepper diced

Cook pasta uncovered 4-5 minutes (cooked through, but still firm to the bite).

Whisk together the sesame oil, soy, vinegar, chili oil and sugar in a large bowl.

Toss the pasta in the dressing, then sprinkle with sesame seeds, onion, and bell pepper.

Serve warm or cover and refrigerate for a cold salad. You can also add diced chicken for a variation. Makes a great summer dinner.

Pollinator Presentation

Following on the heels of our Biodiversity presentation by Harvey Webster in May is a presentation on biodiversity with Ann Cicarella at the Independence Library on July 15h. Some of us have been fortunate enough to visit Ann's fabulous yard in Shaker Heights. Additionally, Meadow City Gardens will provide information regarding their new native plant nursery in Cleveland. Please note that there is a \$10 registration, and reservations are required. mgcc.event@mastergardenersofcuyahogacounty.ccsend.com Details below.

Learn about the Biodiversity in Your Own Backyard

We'll learn about the incredible diversity in your garden and inspire you to focus on biodiversity in your own yard.

Soft landings are diverse native plantings under keystone trees (or any other regionally appropriate native tree). These plantings provide critical shelter and habitat for one or more life cycle stages of moths, butterflies, and beneficial insects.

Cuyahoga County Library, Independence Branch
6361 Selig Drive, Independence, OH 44131

Renowned landscape designer Ann Cicarella will educate us on the amazing insect diversity in your garden. Ann has more than 30 years experience in garden design, and in addition. She received her Certificate in Landscape Horticulture from Cleveland State University. In 2015, Ann founded the Cleveland Pollinator and Native Plant Symposium to bring in national and regional speakers to educate and inspire homeowners to maintain biodiverse landscapes.

Dave Tomashefski is the education specialist at Meadow City Native Plant Nursery in Cleveland. He uses his background in ecology to help customers select the perfect plants for their projects. He has a master's degree in Environment and Natural Resources from The Ohio State University.

Meadow City Nursery is a native plant nursery in Cleveland's Collinwood neighborhood. The majority of plants are grown from seeds found in the Northeast Ohio wild!

WGC September Preview

After resting up in August, be ready to go for our September events. Our next Board meeting will be held on September 4th in the Dover Room at the Porter library. September 11th will be a craft workshop in support of our Cleveland Botanical holiday project. Cathy Garlitz will lend her creative genius to "water marbling" ornaments in support of our wreath. Not into crafting? The Garden Club of Ohio's Fall District Meeting is also scheduled for September 11th. Our program for September 18th will be a guided **(walking)** tour of Lakeview Cemetery. More details to follow in the next Garden Scoop.

Life begins the day you start a garden.