



GARDEN SCOOP



WGC Events

OCTOBER PROGRAM IS CHANGED TO OCT. 25

SIMPLE CRAFTING to supply our vendor table at the GCO meeting.

Wednesday, October 25, 10:30 a.m.

Porter Library Craft Room

We need your help. Plan to attend

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

Wednesday, Nov. 1, 10:30 a.m.

Porter Library; board meetings are open to everyone. Your input is needed and appreciated.

POLLINATOR GARDEN CARE

3rd Wed. of the month, 9 a.m.

All are welcome to help trim, weed and check on our pollinator plants. This coming week we will meet at the Community Center. Contact Kathy B for information, kcbruen@att.net or 440-385-7566.

✓ **NOVEMBER ANNUAL MEETING**

Wednesday, November 15 ~ a must-attend meeting.

SAVE THE DATE: WGC Holiday Luncheon at Avon Oaks

Celebrating our **60th year.**

Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2023, see p.4

Garden Club of OH

HOLIDAY SHOW NORTH

Thursday, November 9, 10:30 a.m.

We plan to do a vendor table again this year. Flyer and registration form on page 4. The GCO registration deadline is Oct 26.

October Program

Wednesday, Oct. 25, 10:30 a.m.

Our October meeting has been changed from the 3rd to the 4th Wednesday of the month. We will meet at **10:30 a.m.** in the craft room at **Porter Library on the 4th Wednesday, Oct. 25.** There will be several easy crafts and a lot of direction. Your help will be much appreciated. Bring scissors, please. The holiday crafts will be sold at the GCO meeting Thursday November 9. This and the Dean's plant sale are our only fundraisers for the year. We hope to have a good number of our members help with the sale and enjoy the luncheon event. See page 4 for the GCO registration details.

September Meeting

Zoe Apisdorf of the Rust Belt Riders presented an engaging program on composting. The presentation included some background on this 2014



Food Scraps

Cleveland-born company. The company has grown from the 2 founding partners to 30 members in 2023. Rust Belt Riders is founded on the concept that food is to "Feed People, Not Landfills". 40% of all food is sent to landfills; only 6.3% is composted. The emissions resulting from food in these landfills is the world's third largest carbon generator---only behind the U.S. and China. Zoe addressed the environmental impact homeowners can make by **composting their food scraps**. She provided composting tips for those "do-it-yourselfers" and described their community drop-off operations and locations. Twenty-seven communities throughout Northeast Ohio are currently serviced by the Rust Belt Riders compost program. Bay Village and Rocky River are nearby participating neighborhoods. Rust Belt Riders is currently exploring a similar program within the City of Westlake.

Message from the Board

Can you believe that this Garden Club's 60th year is almost wrapping up? Any organization that survives for 60 years is darned special. Members were surveyed for suggestions at the end of last year and we took those suggestions to heart.

We worked extremely hard to present a good variety of projects and opportunities for our members:

Civic projects included our support of the annual Westlake Rain and Garden show, providing a patriotic bouquet for the City's Memorial Day celebration (thank you, Carolyn!), participatory planting of herb pots with our seniors at the Westlake Community Center, creating Big Hearted Bloom bouquets for patients in Cleveland's underserved nursing facilities, improving and maintaining our three pollinator Westlake gardens, and providing judges for the annual Westlake in Bloom competition. We had off-site programs such as the horticultural tour of the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, Willoway Nurseries tour of their trial gardens and process, and our annual garden walk. Our educational programs included lectures from Cuyahoga Master Gardeners and the composting genius of the Rust Belt Riders. We have creative members willing to lead us in our Holiday wreath for the Holden Forest and Gardens and fund-raising craft for the Holiday GCO event. This has all been accomplished with minimal fundraising activity and a core team of Garden Club members that help make all this happen.

Given all these activities, our membership turn-out has been dismal. Our membership roster has over forty individuals, but our event attendance average is only twelve. Even our most recent meeting, (held in the evening for those that cannot support weekday events) had a grand total of only eleven members and two guests. The speaker's fee was \$100. Disappointing and even a little embarrassing? While not every event will be as interesting to everyone, your support and attendance are expected.

We are delighted with our membership **numbers**, but we are an organization that needs **participants!** We challenge each of you to consider how you can be the type of member that ensures our Club's continued survival. Please start thinking now about how you can support our group in the coming year. All membership renewals will require you to state which committee and/or function you will support.

We have opportunities for all skills and personalities. Volunteer to fill our Board vacancies, help develop programs, coordinate civic opportunities, provide publicity, maintain our pollinator gardens, teach a class, share your creative side, and place yourself smack in the middle of things. Let us start the next 60 years with an active club!

Sad News

Marsha McEntee passed away peacefully during the night of Oct 12 due to injuries sustained in a car accident in August of 2022. Marsha was a passionate gardener and houseplant enthusiast. She loved Christmas. She was often in charge of our CBG tree and was always on hand to do the decorating. In 2016 she served with Shirley Lutts as co-chair of our fundraiser luncheon and as a president of the Club. Thanks for the memories, Marsha.



Letter from Co-President, Carolyn Steigman

Almost two years ago I agreed to be president of the WGC. I felt myself an unlikely candidate but there seemed to be nobody else who would accept the job. I had been a member of the club for 10 years and it was important to me so I figured it was my turn. We were coming off a year of a total and abrupt shut down due to the Covid pandemic and many felt the very existence of our club was in jeopardy.

The pandemic was a scary time for many, however, with the help of Deb, Kathy, Sally and you the members we were able to revive the club and it's now thriving and vibrant again. I'm glad to have been a part of that.

My term doesn't officially end until the end of the year but I have decided to step back a little early due to my husband's cancer diagnosis and other concerns. Last year Deb offered to step up and be co-president and I now leave the role of president in her able hands. Her boundless enthusiasm and energy have always been an asset to the club.

I will not be able to be at events or meetings for awhile, but I'm not leaving the club. When things eventually settle down in my life, I will return.

However, I did not want to disappear like a thief in the night without saying good-bye and thank you all for sharing this wonderful experience with me. I had the honor of making some friends, getting to know some of you better and I will treasure the memories we made together. It was fun.

*Until then -
Carolyn*



Frost is the forecast from the Cleveland Botanical Garden. It is not about the weather but about a new winter garden experience. This year's holiday show will be an immersive display of indoor and outdoor gardens, "a wonderland of twinkle lights, towering ice arches, a tunnel of flowers, and seasonal soundscapes". (Forests & Gardens magazine, Fall 2023)

The traditional gingerbread houses and Christmas trees will still be there. Our club has elected to do a sparkling front door wreath this year. Thank you to Cathy Garlitz for taking the lead on this project. Tickets and full schedule of Frost activities can be found at holdenfg.org.

Membership Chair Position

Thank you to **Carol Jasin** for offering to take on the Membership Chair for next year. Carol has quickly become an active member of our club and we are pleased to have her on the board. Again, many thanks to **Patti Frank** for doing such a great job for the past 2 years.

WGC Holiday Luncheon

Our annual holiday luncheon will be held at the **Avon Oaks Country Club** on **December 20th** (the 3rd Wednesday in December). This year, 2023, is our Club's 60th year! It would be terrific to get a large group photo at this event to commemorate this special occasion. Please plan on joining us---and yes, guests are welcome. More details to follow in the November Garden Scoop.



Did you know?

The Bumblebee Queen mates in the fall or late summer and overwinters underground. She searches for shelter and uses messy areas or old mouse nests for her winter home. This is the most vulnerable stage in the life of the bumblebee. The new colony depends on the Queen's survival. A few messy areas in your yard will help the bees.

