

# GARDEN SCOOP

## Letter from the Presidents

### November and December Schedule Changes

We regret to announce that the December Holiday Luncheon and Installation of Officers has been canceled this year. A majority of the Board members voted in favor of this at the November Board meeting.

It has been a difficult time for our Club since the pandemic hit with 2020 being a year of not meeting and staying at home. This year has been a little better and the vaccine has been a lifesaver. We had Zoom meetings for the first several months of this year then started meeting in person, but life has not completely returned to normal. Some of our members with health issues are not comfortable meeting in person or having lunch and are still very concerned about spread of the virus. The Slate of Officers for 2022 will be voted on at the November 16, 2021 meeting and new officers will be installed following the program. There will not be a December general meeting. We trust you all understand the consideration that went into this decision and hope that next year will be more normal and we can resume our regular routine. Thank you.

*Jean Smith and Cathy Garlitz, Co-Presidents*

## WGC Events

**November 16 Meeting: Tuesday the 16th at Porter Library, 10:30 a.m.**

**Creating a Backyard Wildlife Habitat Please mark your calendar for the 3rd Tuesday instead of Wednesday in November because of room availability.**

The **installation of next year’s officers** will take place immediately following the speaker. See the letter from the presidents.

## Slate of Officers for 2022

The Nominating Committee has finalized a slate of officers for 2022, as follows:

<b>President</b>	<b>Carolyn Steigman</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Deb Dougherty</b>
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	<b>Anne Engel/ Marsha McEntee</b>

We will welcome any nominations from the floor at the November 16, 2021 meeting and vote for next year’s officers. **Your vote is important. Please make an effort to attend the November meeting. Thank you.**

Nominating Committee: Alberta Ricciardi, Bill Hock, Jackie Crosier, Marie McCarthy, Jean Smith



## November Meeting: Backyard Wildlife Habitat



Interested in attracting birds, beneficial insects and other wildlife to your backyard? Join **Naturalist Karen Lakus** from the **Cleveland Metroparks Rocky River Nature Center** to **learn about the elements of habitat and some ways you can provide them in any size space.** This meeting will be at the Porter Library in the Porter Room. Please feel free to invite a friend.

**November 16th is a Tuesday**, changed from our usual 3rd Wednesday due to room availability. We will meet at **10:30 a.m.** for a very short business meeting, followed by our speaker from the Metroparks.

The installation of next year’s officers will take place immediately following the November program.



*The library asks that everyone wear a mask. We are allowed to offer coffee but no food so a quick lift of the mask as you drink will be fine. Thanks for understanding and agreeing to help keep others safe.*



## Membership Renewal

Hello garden lovers:

As the year winds down, we look back at several events we were still able to enjoy in spite of the pandemic: planting in Clague Park, visit at Schoepfle Gardens, plant exchange, garden walk...nice memories! Fortunately our membership has remained stable and we look forward to a less restricted year, allowing the club to further develop. At this time of the year we do hope you will renew your membership (the rate has stayed the same at **\$25/person and \$35/couple**). Please send your check to Lavinia Cozmin, 1493 Dover Center Road, Westlake, OH, 44145. Thank you for continuing to be a part of the Westlake Garden Club and hope to see you, or to talk to you soon!

*Lavinia Cozmin,*  
Membership Chair

## Nixing the Gnats by Carolyn Steigman

Maybe you noticed them shortly after bringing your plants in from the patio or sunroom at the end of summer. Or maybe it was after you re-potted a plant or brought in a new plants from the store. In any case, if you have houseplants sooner or later you will probably confront fungus gnats.

These little insects don't sting, bite or transmit diseases to people. They eat the fungus in the soil. They are smaller than a mosquito and look sort of like fruit flies but they can cause damage because the larvae eat the roots of plants, especially seedlings. African violets are particularly susceptible. The gnats like the carbon dioxide people exhale so they are an annoyance as they buzz around your face. In addition, they breed like crazy. One female can lay up to 300 eggs in the soil that will soon hatch.

I noticed them soon after I bought in all of my plants that had spent the summer in the sunroom. In the past I cured a minor infestation by placing my carnivorous sundew next to a quarantined plant. This time, in spite of the valiant efforts by my carnivorous pitcher plant, the infestation was overwhelming and the gnats were spreading to other plants and all around the house. This gave me an opportunity to try out some of the various treatments found on the Internet. Some did nothing but below are the ones that helped.

First I tried sticky yellow paper traps. In this way I discovered that almost all the plant had some gnats by now but the spider plants were loaded with gnats and were the source. One was so badly infested that it was removed and destroyed. The other was quarantined. The yellow paper is attractive to gnats and the traps are inexpensive. I changed the traps as they became full of gnats but that alone wasn't enough. I saw gnats happily crawling around in the soil. They apparently didn't get the memo that this yellow paper was irresistible.

So I added Mosquito Bits to my assault. This product is dissolved in water for 30 minutes and is then used to water all the plants. This eventually kills the larvae in the soil but has to be done once a week for 3 weeks to get all the gnats. Mosquito Bits are harmless to plants and safe around pets and fish. So I was getting rid of the gnats in the air and the larvae in the soil but some tough gnats still persisted on the actual plants.

### Garden Club of Ohio "Lug-a-Mug"

The present GCO board is encouraging all of our Ohio garden clubs to join in an effort to reduce plastic waste. One of their suggestions (see p. 20 of your *Garden Greetings* magazine) is called "Lug-a-Mug". We are inviting you to join in this effort to reduce waste by bringing your own cup for coffee or tea to our meetings.

## Member News

### Welcome to Our Members Who Joined in 2021

**Carmen Popa** has joined the garden club with enthusiasm, after attending just one event as a guest--the garden walk of 2019. Although extremely busy at work, she finds time to care for numerous (some quite old) house plants, and for hydrangea and rose bushes in her garden in Lakewood. She is also growing lovage, a plant less known in the US but very appreciated in European cuisine (please check it out!). Carmen is a good cook. She enjoys traveling, rock concerts, and has many-many friends.

**Dan Morris** (husband of Lavinia) has also recently joined the garden club. He is a devoted Grandpa and spends all Wednesdays with his three grandchildren in Willowick. Dan is a musician (steel guitar, can be occasionally seen with the bands in local bars, parks). He also enjoys reading. Upon retiring a few years ago, he put a lot of effort in starting to grow tomatoes in wood boxes but got discouraged. He helps Lavinia with planting outdoors and provides encouragement as needed. He does like walking and contemplating nature in the local parks.

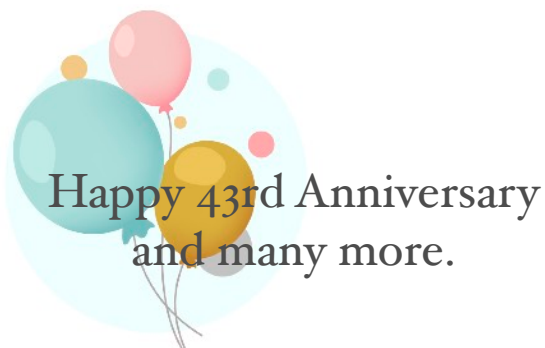
**Mihaela (Lilly) Popescu** is passionate about her indoor plants and they seem to love her as well. Her family room is halfway full with plants of all sizes, most are several years old. Her balcony is oriented to the south so the plant growth is almost tropical. Mihaela likes traveling, shopping, socializing, and is very attached to her church where she is the first soprano in the choir.

**Liliana Bruckner** also loves flowers, likes decorating and keeping everything well organized in her surroundings. She also likes shopping, fashion, and socializing. She is active in many church activities and loves spending time with, and helping, senior members. She has already spent time helping to spray paint ornaments for our Glow Christmas tree at the Botanical Garden. .

**Kathleen Maciuszko** has retired after a 43-year career as a librarian, working in public and private libraries. Despite a busy life as a wife, mother, and librarian, she always found time for her flower garden. She believes that you can never have too many flowers. Kathleen recently moved to a home in Westlake after 11 years in an apartment. She is delighted to have a flower garden again. There was no garden when she moved in so she has enjoyed starting over. She just completed her 18th year as a librarian at the Polish American Cultural Center in Slavic Village. Her other loves are French and traveling.

### Congratulations to Margaret and Chuck

Congratulations to Margaret and Chuck Schulz who will be celebrating their 43rd wedding anniversary on November 22. Margaret has been our faithful receptionist and attendance taker for many years. She and Chuck were married in Margaret's family home in Rocky River and have fond memories of their honeymoon as well as a very special 25th wedding anniversary at White Oaks where they enjoyed the wonderful view of the ravine with the snow glistening on the trees





### October Meeting: Pumpkin Painting at the new Community Services Center



## Community News

Did you know that the Cleveland Metroparks has won the **2021 National Gold Medal “Best in Nation” Award for Excellence** in Parks and Recreation Management? The award, which was announced at the 2021 National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, is the highest national honor in the parks and recreation field.

The “Glow” Christmas celebration at the **Cleveland Botanical Garden** (<[cbgarden.org](http://cbgarden.org)>) has a new name: **A Garden Holiday Show**. Displays will feature trees, doors, mantels, table settings and of course, the gingerbread houses. The show opens December 20. Our club will be decorating a tree in the lobby so please look for it when you visit. Many thanks to all who worked on or contributed to the planning and making of our decorations.