



GARDEN SCOOP

Looking Back on 2021

A very sincere **thank you** to our 2021 officers: **Jean Smith and Cathy Garlitz**, co-presidents, **Deb Dougherty**, program chair, **Marie McCarthy**, treasurer, **Marsha McEntee and Anne Engel**, recording secretaries for board and general meetings and **Lavinia Cozmin**, membership chair. The club members appreciate your dedication during this difficult pandemic year.

Two meetings in April and May were by Zoom: one by the Horticultural Manager of the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo and the other on Container Gardening by a master gardener. After that we did outdoor activities: a plant exchange, a garden walk/reception plus a road trip to Schoepfle Gardens. As the pandemic started to wane, we had a tour of the new Community Services Center and came together for a luncheon in August, for Halloween crafting in October, and finally for a meeting at the library in November. The year turned out to be fairly active. Many thanks to our officers for guiding us through a difficult time. Special congratulations on the start of a new pollinator garden at Clague Park thanks to Deb Dougherty and Susan Baker. We maintained our Hilliard Rd flower box, provided a wreath for the city's Memorial Day celebration, and decorated trees at the Porter Library and the Cleveland Botanical Garden. **Thanks to all who contributed to these activities. Our members are the best!**

Looking Forward to 2022



Congratulations to our new officers for 2022: **Carolyn Steigman**, president, **Deb Dougherty**, treasurer, **Anne Engel**, recording secretary and membership chair **Lavinia Cozmin**. **Thanks to all** for your willingness to serve. Below is a letter from our new president:

The Westlake Garden Club was established in 1963. So very much has changed in our world since that time and the club will be making some exciting changes this coming year to stay relevant and better reflect our lives, our mission and our community.

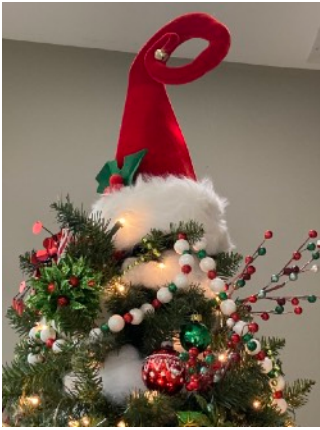
Always welcoming to all flower and garden enthusiasts, the club wants to be even more accessible. As a result the meeting time will be moved from a weekday morning to a Saturday morning time to accommodate the schedule of those who work. This will start in March.

Instead of having a vice-president who sets up the programs, the club will have a program committee, headed by Deb Dougherty, who will take on that mission. We also want to capitalize on the expertise of our members so if you have a flower or gardening talent you are willing to share, don't keep it a secret, please contact Deb. The schedule of programs and activities is now being planned and scheduled.

Historically meetings began with a discussion of the club's business. Now meetings will start with the presentation in order to be respectful of the speaker's time. This will then be followed by a shorter and more efficient discussion of the club's business agenda. At the conclusion there will be plenty of time to relax and socialize over refreshments of bakery and coffee rather than the full luncheon that was proving a difficulty for some members to host. Providing food will, of course, depend on the restrictions of our meeting place that may be in place at the time due to Covid transmission.

The club will recess as usual for Jan. and Feb. In March we will start another year of gardening fun, activities projects and programs. I hope the new year will be healthier for our country and the world. As the new club president I'm also eagerly anticipating the new changes and new challenges. Looking forward to seeing you all again. Stay safe and stay healthy.

Carolyn Steigman

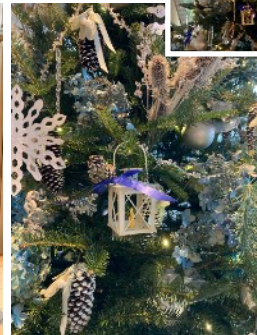


WGC Trees: Christmas 2021

Christmas has come and gone for another year but we would like to thank all who helped with the two trees that our club decorates.

Hats off to Robert Pearl and his helpers for another very fun tree in the lobby of **Porter Library**. Robert provides all of the materials and the expertise at decorating with a little help from a few of us: **Carol Lewellyn, Kathy Bruening, and Margaret Schulz**. His partner **Jeff** did the take-down with him this year and we thank him for helping in this endeavor. Robert purposely leaves the tree up past January 7 which is the Orthodox Christmas. Thanks for thinking of this, Robert.

The tree at the **Cleveland Botanical Garden** was called “**A Glistening Winter Welcome**” and stood in the foyer of the Botanical Garden where all could appreciate it as they waited in line to get their tickets. We had many helpers whether in collecting botanicals to use as ornaments, making & painting the decorations, or lending their own treasures. Our thanks to all: **Jean Smith, Carolyn Steigman, Chris Borzak, Marsha McEntee, Cathy Garlitz, Cathie Karls, Jacque Crosier, Liliana Bruckner, Lavinia Cozmin, Shirley Lutts, Bill Hock, Deb Dougherty and Kathy Bruening**. We also had help in decorating the tree from **Kathy’s sister, Peg**, and in dismantling it from **Deb’s husband, Kevin**. It takes a village . . .



Last Meeting of 2021

In November, our speaker, **Karen Lakus**, a naturalist and volunteer co-ordinator at the **Rocky River Nature Center**, spoke to us about how to make our backyards wildlife friendly. She had lots of suggestions for helping to maintain natural habitat for our fellow creatures. The four aspects of good habitat that we can help with are food, water, shelter and space. Her talk included many very practical suggestions. A few highlights are:

- Black oil sunflower seeds provide one of the best food for native birds, niger thistle for the goldfinches and suet, especially good when the birds can't find insects in the cold months.
- The spice bush is good for pollinators and the deer don't like it. Cedar Wax Wings love the native serviceberry tree. Fuzzy plants provide habitat material for birds and insects.
- Position a water source near the food source.
- A short no-dig fence around a planting area may actually deter deer if the space within is small or narrow. They are not likely to want to jump into it. She showed an example from Lowe's.
- New England Aster, Joe Pye Weed and Goldenrod together make a good wild patch that will feed many beneficial insects.