

# GARDEN SCOOP

Gardening  
has not been  
cancelled.



## WGC Events

**All events On Hold** until further notice. Porter Library is closed until April 30 at this writing.

## Dates to Remember

**Ohio Native Plant Month**, the first ever Native Plant Month in Ohio. **April 2020.**

**Arbor Day, Friday, April 24.** The city of Westlake celebration of this event is on hold for now and may take place in the fall.

**Plant Sales sponsored by Olmsted Falls and North Olmsted Garden Clubs**  
See page 2.

**Chatauqua House/Garden Walk**  
**July 16.**

See page 3.. We may all be ready for a major outing by then.

**Westlake in Bloom Flower Arranging, August 13, 1:30 p.m. at La Centre.** Contact Carolyn Steigman. No experience necessary.

## A Message to all of our members

We are thinking of you, Westlake Garden Club members, and sending warm wishes during this challenging time.

We hope that you are all staying safe and healthy in your homes. Our April meeting is cancelled. We are a very social group but many of our members are in the most-at-risk demographics. Porter Library will be closed until April 30. We will stay in touch as the situation evolves. Since we are not meeting, please reach out to one another and check if anyone needs anything. Social distancing does not mean social isolation.

While we miss our meetings, we hope everyone is fitting in some extra walks, reading, and starting spring cleanup. It is important to start slowly so that we do not expose our plants to some early spring cold spells and disrupt the beneficial insects that overwinter in the leaf debris. In addition to spring cleanup, we are enjoying the spring catalogs that seem to come daily.

We hope that everyone enjoyed receiving their beautiful membership booklet for 2020. Thanks Jean. Our board decided to personally deliver them to our members. Good job, board members!

*Shirley Lutts, co-president*

## Programs for 2020

Hello Fellow Members!

I am so disappointed that our programs have been delayed. At least there is no room for complaints so far! Didn't Jean and those who delivered or mailed do a great job getting the annual booklet out? The cover made me feel like summer had arrived and gives us the latest information on keeping in touch with each other. Remember, this is physical distancing only—we need each other's friendship more than ever.

As we get a better feel for when we will be cut loose from our homes, I will start reaching out to our speakers. I think we will have a great year! Looking forward to seeing all your smiling faces soon.

Be well and be safe.

*Deb Dougherty, Programs*

## The Waiting Game *by Jean Smith*

The Coronavirus has interrupted our lives in so many ways that were not imaginable just a month ago. Our doctors, nurses and other healthcare givers are working so many hours to treat and save the ever-growing number of positive cases. For the rest of us, we are living in fear and waiting – waiting to get the virus, waiting to know we are safe. So what are you doing to pass the time during this waiting period? Roger and I are trying to keep a normal routine with household chores, reading and hiking. He has also started doing jigsaw puzzles and I have been painting rocks. I joined an online group called Northeast Ohio Rocks whose members paint rocks, hide them in parks and neighborhoods, someone finds them, posts a photo on Facebook, and re-hides the rock for someone else to find. I collected rocks at Huntington Beach, washed them, sealed, painted and finished with a gloss coat. Some of mine are quite detailed and some are more basic. I have given five beautiful rocks to neighbors with an uplifting note and have hidden a few at a park. I have one that I will keep for myself and will hide the rest. So, it has been fun but I am getting a little bored with painting rocks and would like to get back to painting on canvas. I am also going through clothing to pull out things I do not wear. I am spending more time disinfecting countertops and doorknobs, not a bad idea to do during even normal times. With Spring arriving, we have started spotting birds on our hikes and will soon see the wildflowers appear. This life-interruption may last longer than we anticipated so we may have to become creative in finding things to keep us busy. We are all in this together and will get through it. I miss seeing my garden club friends and have been reaching out by phone to talk to friends and family members. I hope you all are well and stay well – and stay occupied in whatever you choose to do.



This month, April of 2020, is the first ever Ohio Native Plant month. The UN General Assembly proclaimed 2020 as the International Year of Plant Health. We in Ohio are celebrating this as well as the 50th anniversary of Earth Day with a native plant month in April. Take a walk in the woods to enjoy our native wildflowers and participate in the 2020 Tree Challenge. The goal is to plant 100,000 native trees in Ohio this year. You can see wonderful photos of our wildflowers and a full explanation of the tree challenge as well as a list of Ohio native plants on the website: [www.ohionativeplantmonth.org](http://www.ohionativeplantmonth.org)

Ohio Native Plant Month is a non-profit organization which facilitated the government declaration of April as Ohio Native Plant Month.

## Spring Plant Sales

May and June are the months for great plant sales from our neighboring clubs.

The **Olmsted Falls Garden Club** traditionally sells a wide variety of plants on the 1st Sunday in May. The sale has been postponed but may take place in June. Check the website: [olmstedfallsgardenclub.com](http://olmstedfallsgardenclub.com).

The **North Olmsted Garden Club** plant sale is slated for May 9 but is subject to change. They will post updates to Facebook or you may email [mulligancj@gmail.com](mailto:mulligancj@gmail.com) for the latest info.

The **Master Gardeners of Cuyahoga County** have a fabulous plant sale planned for June 6 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Independence, OH. Check [cuyahogamg.org](http://cuyahogamg.org) for updates.

**Most of our local garden centers are offering online and phone ordering with curbside pick-up.**

## Be Weed Free and Bee Friendly by Carolyn Steigman

You want to be eco-friendly and kind to pollinators, but do you have to sacrifice a beautiful weed-free lawn? Experts say the answer is no. With a few precautions you can have both.

Bees don't eat grass, but they do consume nectar from flowering weeds so prevent them from ingesting harmful chemicals by using a pre-emergent weed killer applied before weeds bloom. There are also a few safety precautions you should follow. Apply weed and feed when the wind isn't blowing to prevent it from going where you don't want, don't leave any on the driveway or sidewalk (sweep it into the lawn), don't exceed the established application rate and avoid using near any waterways or street sewers.

But what about treating lawns with actively growing weeds? First, mow the lawn to remove as many flowers from the weeds as possible. Treat weeds when bees aren't active. They are less active nearer dusk. Also try to plan to have rain or water the lawn yourself within 24 hours of an application. Some products can be watered within an hour and that would be even better. Use a weed killer in a sprayer to directly target each weed rather than broadcast spray an entire yard if possible and avoid products that contain 2,4D like Round Up weed killer.

If you have grub damage to your lawn apply a bee friendly product like Acelepryn or Grub Ex according to the University of Michigan.

Choose products that are phosphorus-free and keep your lawn healthy by applying two pounds of insect-safe nitrogen for every 1,000 square feet of lawn. During droughts don't forget to water your lawn frequently to avoid chinch bugs or sod webworms. And leave your grass three inches tall to discourage weeds by shading them with the grass. If there aren't too many weeds you can even hand dig them out. It's an urban legend that you have to remove the entire root to prevent a weed from regrowing. Since you are removing a food source, add some desirable flowers to your garden that will add beauty and food for pollinators.. That's a win-win for everyone.

Conversations will not be cancelled.

Relationships will not be cancelled.

Love will not be cancelled

Songs will not be cancelled.

Reading will not be cancelled.

Self-care will not be cancelled.

Hope will not be cancelled.

May we lean into the good stuff that remains.

**A special thanks to Judy Hullinger** who has again agreed to take care of our Sunshine committee. She is the one who sends out our cards and keeps in touch when members are house-bound or ill. We do like to know how everyone is doing.



### Chautauqua Bird Tree and Garden Club: 2020 House and Garden Walk

The 2020 Chautauqua BTG House and Garden Tour is **Thursday July 16th** during Week 3 of the 2020 Chautauqua Season. Tickets are now on sale on the Chautauqua BTG website.

You can also download and mail a [ticket order form](#).

The 2020 House and Garden Tour will combine Chautauqua history, homes of the Institution presidents and newly renovated designer showcase houses. Docent-led tours of two privately owned gardens and four Institution gardens will be featured on the tour in addition to the 15 HOUSES.

Plan to enjoy a day at Chautauqua viewing beautiful homes and wonderful gardens while taking in all Chautauqua Institution has to offer.

Mailing address: Chautauqua Bird Tree & Garden Club, PO Box 721, Chautauqua, NY 14722

[ChautauquaBTG@gmail.com](mailto:ChautauquaBTG@gmail.com)

Tickets are on sale now for \$45 plus an online processing fee of \$3.

Non-refundable, parking not included.





## Spring has not been Cancelled

Sally Knurek tells us that on sunny days her mason bee houses have been humming with activity. The spring blooming plants and wild flowers have been providing their food. Take a look at some of these photos from members' gardens to see how many you can identify.



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Answers in next month's Garden Scoop