

GARDEN SCOOP

WGC Events

****March Meeting: Saturday the 19th, 10:30 a.m. at Porter Public Library *Getting your Moth Orchid off to a good start. Please note our new meeting day and time.***

April Board Meeting

1st Wednesday of the month
April 6, Porter Library, 10:30 a.m.

April Meeting: Saturday, April 23, 10:30 a.m. Porter Library

May Meeting: Saturday the 21st
Plant Exchange including perennials, houseplants and decorative pots.

*****The new meeting time of Saturday mornings at 10:30 a.m. is an effort to make our club accessible to those who work and to accommodate those who prefer a daytime meeting. Program schedules & member roster will be given at the March meeting.***

Garden Club of Ohio “Lug-a-Mug”

The GCO board is encouraging all of us to join in an effort to reduce plastic waste. One of their suggestions is called “**Lug-a-Mug**”. We invite you to join in this effort to reduce waste **by bringing your own cup for coffee or tea to our meetings.**



Orchids and their Care

Orchids are one of the longest lasting flowers that you can buy and bring in to your home. If you have enjoyed one and then ended up disposing of it, our March meeting is for you. We will learn how to keep a Moth Orchid healthy and thriving for many years to come. Carolyn Steigman will be demonstrating how to get your orchid off to a good start. A mini-phalaenopsis orchid will be given away as a door prize at the end of the meeting.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome back!

Our club's year is about to start and I'm so excited and happy.

I'm excited because a great year is planned for the club and I can't wait to see those plans become reality. The agenda is full of presentations, tours and fun activities that will allow members to learn and grow plus opportunities to actively participate in the club.

I'm also happy because after a couple of very difficult years, the pandemic seems to be weakening. The transmission rates are trending down in Cuyahoga county. We must still be careful, but there are positive signs that normal may soon return.

But mostly I'm happy because we can finally gather together. We can again enjoy seeing each other in person. The pandemic crimped our style but it didn't break us and we are now back together even stronger than before.

It's almost spring and our journey is about to begin in March. Can't wait to see everyone. Come join in the fun.

Carolyn Steigman

VOLUNTEER: to present oneself · step forward ·
come forward · make oneself available.

It's time to re-charge! After 2 years of our Club working almost largely in a remote setting, it's time to re-engage with each other and get to know our new members. As a volunteer organization, we rely on our members' participation to make us as vibrant as we can be. And, yes, we have something for everyone! If you like to get down and dirty, we have planting opportunities with the annual Hilliard Box and the installation and maintenance of our Pollinator Gardens. Your body doesn't forgive you for such endeavors? How about volunteering to set up refreshments at our monthly meetings? Write an article or submit pictures for our monthly newsletter? Publicity: get the word out on what's going on. Our March meeting will include an opportunity for you to select one or more ways to make this a meaningful year. Every member is expected to sign up for one activity---it's time to step forward, come forward, and make yourself available!



2022 HOUSEPLANT OF THE YEAR

- Diverse selection of varieties, shapes and sizes to choose from
- Super easy to grow
- Don't need bright light
- Great choice for small spaces

www.ngb.org



from the National Garden Bureau

Peperomia: Houseplant of the Year

Each year the National Garden Bureau designates a certain plant in various categories as the plant of the year. 2022 is the first year in which they have decided to include house plants. Their choice for this first year is **Peperomia**.

The many varieties of Peperomia range from bushy to trailing, upright or cascading. Because its natural habitat is the understory in the tropics, it does not need bright light and therefore makes a very good houseplant. Most of the peperomia varieties are fairly small and come in a variety of colors and textures. They do not like to be overwatered, Keep them in a snug pot in a fast-draining planting medium (adding perlite or orchid bark will help). They will be happy as will you.

Last year WGC included house plants as a category in the plant exchange. It proved to be quite popular as many of our members no longer have large gardens and those who do also love their houseplants.

2022 Programs Overview

Have we got a gardening year for you!

We have obtained some wonderful speakers to educate us on Orchids, Feeding the Birds, Garden Design to give us Color thru the Seasons, Keeping Unwanted Critters out of our gardens and Bonsai. The speakers include our President, Carolyn Steigman---she knows how to keep orchids going, Cuyahoga Master Gardeners, and other local experts. Additionally, we plan to have our Annual Garden Walk in July to see some beautiful Westlake residential gardens and a “field trip” to the Schoepfle Gardens to catch their Rhododendron in bloom. We look forward to finishing the year with our much-loved (and missed) Holiday Luncheon in December. We look forward to seeing you there!

City of Westlake

Rain & Garden Show

Westlake Community Services Center
28975 Hilliard Blvd.

Saturday, April 9, 2022

10:00am - 2:00pm



SAVE THE DATE!



Westlake Garden Club will be at the Rain n' Garden Show. Come support your club and visit the many other interesting vendors.

Maria Bowe, also known as Westlake’s Butterfly Lady, plans to join us at our table. She is into pollinator plants and protecting our Monarchs. Come out to meet her and, if you have wings, be sure to wear them.





Orchids grown by Sally Knurek. She has had the one to the left for years. The one on the right is from last year's WGC plant exchange, a *Miltonia, Aztec*.



GCO Project: Seeds of Friendship

Seeds of Friendship is a project started by the Columbus Zoo & Aquarium to help the people of Rwanda by providing seeds to grow food crops. The **Garden Club of Ohio (GCO)** has partnered with them since 2007 in this effort to help Rwandans rely on their own farming. The additional benefit is to discourage poaching and the taking of natural resources from the rainforest. The zoo is especially interested in saving the endangered animals who inhabit that forest, such as the mountain gorilla.

In the Fall 2021 "Garden Greetings" (p.10), there was an extensive report on the benefits of this project and the many improvements that have been made: reforestation, vocational training in beekeeping methods, education on the gorillas and their habitat, etc. The seeds provided by our Ohio garden clubs have allowed the people to feed their families and sell excess in the local markets.

If you choose to send seeds (there is a specific list on p.18 of the spring 2022 Garden Greetings) or money, please let them know that you are a member of our club. Karen Hovey, the GCO Chairman in charge of this project, requests that donations of seeds, garden gloves or money be mailed to her by April 1. Sending a check would be most appreciated since buying seeds in bulk is a more efficient way of operating. Karen's contact info is on p. 33 of the Spring 2022 issue of the Garden Greetings. If you wish to make a monetary donation, I will have a jar for donations available at the March meeting and will send in whatever we get from our club. Many thanks in advance to those of you who contribute.

Kathy Bruening



Sunday, March 13 is the last chance to experience Orchids Forever: Synergy and Survival at the Cleveland Botanical Garden.