

GARDEN SCOOP

WGC Events

**June Meeting in person!
Wed., June 16, 10:45 a.m.**

This is our usual 3rd Wednesday of the month meeting time.

Tour of the new Westlake
Community Service Center →



WGC June Meeting

Westlake

Community Services Center

Please join us, your fellow gardeners, as we tour the new Community Services Center. Director, Lydia Gadd, will be our host. We will meet in one of the large rooms and divide into smaller groups if there are more than 20 attendees. The tour will last about one hour. Plan to arrive about 10:45 a.m. so that the tour can start promptly at **11 a.m., Wednesday, June 16.**

Reservations are encouraged but not necessary. To reserve, you may call Deb at 440-506-0237 or e-mail [<deb@dougherty2771@yahoo.com>](mailto:deb@dougherty2771@yahoo.com). A short business meeting will follow the tour. The new center is located at 28975 Center Ridge Rd. on the campus of the Westlake Recreation Center.

Westlake Garden Club

Pollinator Garden

Many thanks to Susan Baker and Deb Dougherty for all their work in planning and bringing to fruition a model pollinator garden for the city of Westlake. The Westlake Garden Club is pleased to be able to participate in the planting and care of the garden. Cahoon Nursery delivered the plants Friday evening, June 4. A special note of thanks to Matt Misencik on the Cahoon team for his advice and service.

Kevin Dougherty was a great help in digging the deep holes for the larger plants. Three garden club members, Sally Knurek, Lavinia Cozmin and Kathy Bruening, joined Susan and Deb as they arranged and planted the basic plants that will be the beginning of the two garden plots. The plots are located at either end of the parking lot adjacent to the tennis courts in Clague Park. Westlake has been most supportive of the pollinator project: city workers prepared the beds and will provide the mulch and watering. Many thanks to Chris Stuhm, Deputy Director of City Services, and Mayor Clough for facilitating this. The gardens are intended to inspire others to choose native plants and plants that are pollinator-friendly. Jean Smith, our co-president, commented that it will be satisfying to watch the garden grow and hopefully attract many pollinators. *Anyone is welcome to help with the weeding and dead-heading.*



WGC May Meeting

Creative Container Gardening



The May meeting presentation provided lots of help and inspiration for our porch, patio pots and baskets. **Susan Hildebrand of the Cuyahoga County Master Gardeners** gave us a thorough, informative and visually pleasing presentation on the basics of container gardening. She also included many tips for more experienced gardeners.

Susan explained everything from container and plant selection to the planting process and design concepts—all with beautiful photos to illustrate each idea. She talked about watering (*yes, probably everyday in containers*) and soil (*a soilless potting medium is best and she even gave a recipe*). Design elements like color, texture, repetition and focal point were discussed and illustrated. This presentation really made you want to buy more plants and try some new and different combinations.

See page 4 for some plant suggestions from Susan.

Kathy Bruening

Plants that thrive in low light

All plants, except perhaps mold and fungus, need some light to live. However, many houses or apartments don't have an abundance of windows and even if one did, the Cleveland area is notorious for its dreary, light-starved winter days that seem to last forever.

But when the cold weather descends upon us there is something very soothing about coming inside and seeing green, blooming and happy plants. It's alike an affirmation that life goes on regardless of whether the weather is too hot or too cold. Plus, houseplants clean the indoor air and some claim they boost their mood too.

One can supplement dim natural light with artificial grow lights but there are also plants that need comparatively low light so one isn't consigned to raising a mushroom fairy garden.

Here are **15 plants** that thrive even in low light: **bromeliad, Chinese evergreen, cast iron plant** (very difficult to kill this plant), **dracaena, dumb cane, English ivy, maidenhair fern, parlor palm, peace lily, peacock plant, peperomia, pothos, philodendron, prayer plant** (the leaves close up at night like praying hands) and the **snake plant** that can even take a degree of neglect.

If you are willing to invest in a table-top grow light you can grow even more plants in dark corners. I successfully grow mini African violets and orchids under lights. Add an auto timer in case you forget to turn the light on and your green thumb is almost guaranteed

Carolyn Steigman

Memorial Day in Westlake, OH

Every year, the Garden Club provides a wreath for the City of Westlake Memorial Day Ceremony which takes place in Clague Park. The wreath was designed and constructed by Carolyn Steigman. Jean Smith delivered it in time for the ceremony and Lavinia Cozmin picked it up and transported it to be used for a few days on the Veteran's Memorial at a nearby cemetery. Lavinia has offered to store the grapevine wreath and stand so that we can reuse them. Thank you, ladies, for contributing to the honor and memory of our veterans in Westlake.



Sad News



This has been a difficult time for all but particularly for two of our members who lost their husbands recently. Cathie Karls' husband passed away in May of this year and her good friend, Jackie Crosier lost her husband, Elmer, in June. May they rest in peace. We extend our condolences and deep sympathy to both women as they grieve and adjust to their loss.

WGC Looking ahead to July . . .

We continue to look for activities that permit us to slowly get back to our normal routine. One of our favorite summer events is a garden tour. We are tentatively planning a reduced garden walk (perhaps 3 residential gardens) for the evening of July 14 or 21. We are firming up plans at this time. **Stay tuned!**

Plant Talk

The May WGC Perennial & Houseplant Exchange

Thank you to Carolyn Steigman for arranging the venue for the May 22 plant exchange. Carolyn's back yard patio was filled with our offerings. We enjoyed refreshments in the sunroom. It did not matter if you brought plants or not. There were plenty of leftovers to take home and many people were quite pleased with their finds. If you missed it this year, mark your calendar for sometime in May next year. Perennials are most easily dug out when they are small in late April or early May. And you might want to think about dividing or passing some of your houseplants on to a new home.

Sally's Garden

Sally Knurek has a wonderful shade garden with great variety of different plants. It is especially beautiful in the spring when shade-loving plants tend to bloom. She also has one sunny patch where she has started her own pollinator garden. It is an inspiration as we pursue our garden club goal of bringing back the pollinating insects to our area.



The Huckster's Red penstemon on the right has been thriving in my yard for several years—a transplant from Bill Hock's garden from a previous plant exchange.



Below is a giant Sansevieria, otherwise known as Snake Plant or Mother-in-law's Tongue. Who but Sally would have such a big one to give away at the plant exchange!



Kathleen Maciuszko found a Golden Tiara Hosta and a Japanese painted fern for her new yard at the plant exchange.



Sally Knurek's personal pollinator garden. This small patch is along the sidewalk at the end of the driveway where there is a good amount of sun for the pink & blue salvia, alyssum, golden oregano, butterfly bush, petunia and foxglove.



The 'Jack Frost' Brunnera above and the variegated Hosta and spotted Pulmonaria below are all in Sally's shade garden.



What is a Conservation Easement?

It is a voluntary legal agreement that permanently limits uses of land in order to protect its conservation value. The agreement is between the owner and a private organization or public agency that agrees to enforce the protection of the conserved area. It can lower taxes. It can also limit what buyers can do with their land. Owners can be paid for their easement. No conservation easement can be terminated. To set up a CE, contact land trusts and government agencies that work with landowners in your community. For more information contact THE WATERSHED NETWORK at ohiowatersheds.osu.edu. They have a good website explaining the process.

Sally Knurek

Creative Container, from page 2.

Here are 2 more good lists to add to your collection. Our May speaker from the Cuyahoga County Master Gardeners, Susan Hildebrand, left us with some very good hand-outs.

Recommended Container Plants		<i>*Poisonous if eaten (kids and pets)</i>
Common name	Light	Latin name
Thrillers		
Canna Lily	☉	<i>Canna sp.</i>
Ti Plant, Giant Dracaena	☉☾	<i>Cordyline australis</i>
New Zealand Flax	☉☾	<i>Phormium tenax</i>
Fountain Grass	☉☾	<i>Pennisetum lopecuroides</i>
Angelonia	☉☾	<i>Angelonia angustifolia</i>
Elephant Ears *	☉☾	<i>Alocasia sp.</i>
Croton, Variegated	☉☾	<i>Codiaeum variegatum</i>
Caladium *	☉☾	<i>Caladium Bicolor</i>
Persian Shield	☾	<i>Strabilanthes dyeriana</i>
Upright fuchsia	☾	<i>Fuschia sp.</i>
Fillers		
<i>Brassica oleracea</i>		
Cabbage or Kale	☉☾	
Lantana *	☉☾	<i>Lantana camara</i>
Geranium	☉☾	<i>Pelargonium x hortorum</i>
Pansies	☉☾	<i>Viola x wittrockiana</i>
Coral Bells, Alumroot	☉☾	<i>Heuchera sp.</i>
New Guinea Impatiens	☉☾	<i>Impatiens hawkeri</i>
Wax Begonia	☉☾	<i>Begonia semperflorens</i>
Euphorbia 'Diamond Frost'	☉☾	<i>Euphorbia hypericifolia</i>
Dragon Wing Begonia	☉☾	<i>Begonia sp.</i>
Coleus	☉☾	<i>Solenostemon scutellarioides</i>
Spillers		
Petunias	☉☾	<i>Petunia sp.</i>
Creeping Jenny	☉☾	<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>
Sweet Potato Vine	☉☾	<i>Ipomoea batatas</i>
Bacopa	☉☾	<i>Sutera Cordata</i>
Million Bells	☉☾	<i>Calibrachoa sp.</i>
Scaevola, Fan Flower	☉☾	<i>Scaevola aemula</i>
Licorice Plant	☉☾	<i>Helichrysum petiolare</i>
Dichondra 'Silver Falls'	☉☾	<i>Dichondra argentea</i>
Wishbone Flower	☉☾	<i>Torenia Fournieri</i>
Ivy	☉☾☽	

Design Concepts

- Contrast** - Combine light and dark colors
- Focal point** - This is the first thing your eye is drawn to in the design
- Texture** - Contrast leaf size, shape, texture to provide interest
- Echoing** - Repeat colors to encourage movement of the eye
- Grouping/Height** - Use tall plants to add height, or group pots
- Background** - Coordinate container pots with landscape in color & design

Container Plant Basics Susan Hildebrand, Cuyahoga County Master Gardeners

What do Container Plants Need?

Drainage – At least one drainage hole in every pot
 Sterile Environment – Scrub and sanitize pots using 1:10 Clorox to water mixture
 Soilless Potting Mix – sterile, light in texture and weight, water-retentive

Recipe for 1/2 bushel basket (4 gallons) of potting media (Penn State University)
Two gallons peat moss, **Two gallons of either** perlite **OR** vermiculite, 4 Tablespoons ground limestone, slow release fertilizer (Osmocote)
 Mix thoroughly at rates recommended on fertilizer label. Moisten before using in pots.
 Fertilizer – Slow release at planting; supplement with liquid fertilizer, as needed
 Water – Frequent, deep watering!

Planting Process

- Cover drainage hole with mesh screen, coffee filter
- Use fill layer in large pots (inverted pot, soda bottles)
- Add soilless potting mix
- Incorporate slow-release fertilizer
- Untangle plant roots
- Place largest plant first
- Fill in soil to 1" of top of pot
- Water slowly and thoroughly

Vegetable Plant Combinations

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <u>Good companions</u> | <u>Bad Companions</u> |
| Beans, carrots, squash | Beans with onions and garlic |
| Eggplant, beans | Carrots with dill or fennel |
| Tomatoes, basil, onions | Tomatoes or squash with potatoes |
| Lettuce and herbs | Onions with beans and peas |
| Spinach, chard and onions | |