

GARDEN SCOOP



WGC Events

JULY MEETING

Wednesday July 19, 6:00 p.m.

Not exactly a meeting but a lovely way to learn about and enjoy plants: OUR ANNUAL GARDEN WALK. Reservations required.

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

Thursday, Aug. 3, 10:30 a.m., at

Porter Library. Please note the change from our usual day on your calendar.

Happy Anniversary WGC!



*Our Garden Club was founded **60 years ago!***

It is quite an accomplishment to still be standing in an era

where garden clubs are no longer available in each community. Please share your ideas as to how we can mark this very special year.

Evening Garden Walk July 19, 2023

Our Summer Garden Walk will begin at **6 p.m. Wednesday, July 19.** Our visits will last approximately one half-hour and begin in Bay Village. We then move south into Westlake and end our evening with light refreshments (think dessert) at the home of member Cathy Garlitz.

We appreciate being able to visit and learn as we stroll through these neighboring gardens. We thank all who have agreed to share their private garden space. The garden walk is an outdoor event and will be canceled in the event of inclement weather. (Light rain will not deter us. We are gardeners!) Carpooling is encouraged.

Please contact Deb Dougherty (deb dougherty2771@yahoo.com or 440-506-0237) **no later than Friday, July 14th**, to advise if you plan to attend the tour and/or gathering at Cathy's.

This is a MEMBERS' ONLY event but you may include one guest to be noted in your response to Deb. Email, text and phone call responses are all acceptable ways of reserving. **Only those responding will receive the addresses and schedule for the tour.**

Native Plants--a few reminders

A plant is considered native if it occurs naturally in a particular region without human intervention. Natives evolved with the other plants, soil, insects and wildlife in a particular habitat. Exotic plants that evolved in other parts of the world or were cultivated by humans into forms that don't exist in nature do not support wildlife as well as native plants. This is particularly important when it comes to pollination as our food crops depend on the pollinating insects.

As you stroll through your own yard or go for a walk, you will probably notice that many of our favorite landscaping plants are non-native. For example, hostas, hybrid tea roses, most garden hydrangeas, boxwoods, tulips, daffodils, garden salvias, dwarf shrub juniper and peonies are all non-native introductions but are not known to be invasive. We certainly do not need to eliminate all of our favorite imports but we can be aware that there are native alternatives that we may gradually include to diversify our gardening and to support pollinators.

Help Wanted: Deb Dougherty needs your help. She has been filling the shoes of Programs Coordinator, Co-President, and Secretary. Our calls for a volunteer to fill the Secretary position in last month's newsletter and our general meeting have gone unanswered. Please, please consider volunteering. No experience necessary.

It is expected that all members volunteer in some way to make our club activities a success and to contribute to our community. This may be your chance to do your part. As a plus, the board is a fun group. You will love it!

Herb Planters for Seniors at the Westlake Community Center Westlake Garden Club in collaboration with Dean's Garden Center

Our club kicked off the first day of summer (July 21) with a community outreach program for seniors at the Westlake Community Services Center. This was a 2-part day for our members. Volunteer Garden Club members assisted seniors in creating herb pots to take home. This project was created by the Garden Club in response to the request of the Community Center that we offer a gardening program. The Garden Club worked with Dean's Nursery to develop a brief seminar on herbs with a hands-on opportunity for each senior to create their own herb pot. This event was held at 2:15 p.m.

In support of the afternoon "pot experience", our members participated in a fun craft directed by Jean Smith. Jean led us all in creating tags for the herb containers. The donated tags and the herb containers were proudly taken home by all participants. While this effort supported 20 seniors, there was a waiting list of an additional 22 seniors! We have already been requested to support a similar effort next year. Think big! A very special thank you to Jean Smith for organizing the craft project. Thanks to Cheryl Dever, Carol Jasin, Kathleen Maciuszko, Patti Frank, Kathy Bruening and Deb Dougherty for returning later in the day to support the planting project.



WGC Pollinator Garden Maintenance



June 17, Community Center

Members Bill Hock, Mike Goldbach, Patti Frank, Kathy Bruening, and Deb Dougherty spent a couple of hours working on our existing pollinator gardens Saturday morning, June 17. The newest installation, our Garden Club Remembrance Garden at the Community Services Center, was not only weeded but also received several new native plantings to maximize pollinator success. Many thanks to member **Eileen Cernea** for stopping by to encourage us and be our photographer. Now, if we could just do something about that bold, adorable bunny that definitely wanted to taste the new garden offerings while we were still planting. Very bold indeed! The tennis court pollinator gardens are truly established. We discovered that the common milkweed had become somewhat of a garden bully. It's a plant (while beneficial) that is definitely encroaching on the other pollinator plants' spaces. A good thinning out was attempted, but we will need to watch those seed pods this fall.

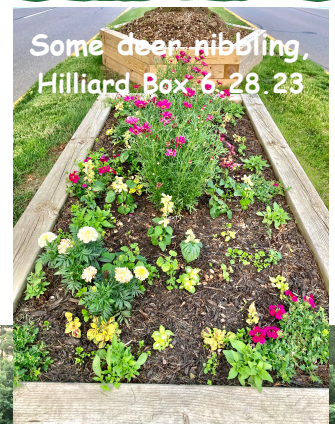
We hope to make these maintenance sessions a more frequent occurrence. Please consider joining us next time. It is a great way to get involved. In fact, it would be a good idea to form two small groups to do a weekly or every other week check on the gardens for deadheading, light weeding and taking note of any problems. One group could keep watch on the Community Center and the Hilliard Rd Box and the second could check out the two beds at Clague Park near the tennis court. At least 3 people working together would make it a fairly easy task. Those involved may set their own schedule and perhaps go for coffee afterwards. Kathy Bruening will coordinate the volunteers. Please contact Kathy if this seems to be a good way for you to serve the club. (E-mail kcbruen@att.net and Kathy will get back to you or call 440-385-7566.)



More to plant 6.17.23



Clague Park 6.28.23



Some deer nibbling, Hilliard Box 6.28.23



Tackling the aggressive but healthy Milkweed Clague Park north bed, 6.17.23



Clague Park, south bed 6.28.23



Ann Cicarella's Garden and Native Plant Sale

Teri Lyons, Patti Frank, Carol Jasin and Deb Dougherty took advantage of pollinator enthusiast Ann Cicarella's garden and annual plant sale in June. Ann's gardens are amazing and inspiring. We all purchased some cool additions for our own gardens and were able to see a front yard garden full of mature native plants. Our newsletter will continue to emphasize their importance. If you have some natives that are working well for you, please send in a few photos to share. It is always easier to try a new plant when you see how it works in someone else's space.

"My extravagance is my garden—it's the first thing I look at every morning when I wake up. It gives me so much pleasure." Ina Garten

A Native Plant to Consider: Goldenrod

Goldenrod is a wonderful addition to meadow and prairie gardens or wildflower areas. It is sometimes confused with ragweed whose pollen causes allergies. This is not true of goldenrod. Both plants are late bloomers that grow along the roadside but ragweed's yellow flowers are not nearly as showy and bright as goldenrod.

There are many different species of goldenrod, almost all are native to North America and are frequently planted by farmers because they attract pollinators. The goldenrod pollen is heavy and sticky and well-adapted to insect pollinators. Ragweed pollen is light and wind-blown and can travel for miles. Ragweed, not goldenrod, is the one that those who suffer from hay fever must avoid.

Goldenrod is deer-resistant and sun-loving. It tolerates sandy, rocky and clay soils—sounds like it might be happy in our area! Some goldenrod cultivars do spread aggressively so read the tag carefully when you are purchasing this plant. It is usually quite tall so you may want to position it at the back of your flower bed. Goldenrods also make a lovely addition to late summer and fall flower arrangements. For a complete description of how to grow and care for this native plant, go to thespruce.com.

Note the difference in the two plants. Ragweed flowers are somewhat nondescript whereas goldenrod is a bright yellow. Goldenrod has a single stem with some branches at the top and ragweed has several branches toward the bottom of the stem. See <https://www.sprigsandtwigs.net> for a full comparison.



Ragweed



Goldenrod