

# GARDEN SCOOP

## WGC Meetings

### Friday, August 23

The WGC August meeting is a tour of **American Greetings** at Crocker Park. Mark your calendars as it is an unusual meeting day for us. Plan to arrive at **9:30 a.m.** with **photo i.d. required** for entry. Tour starts promptly at 10 a.m. See article on this page for **RSVP information**.

### Wednesday, Sept. 4 7 p.m. at Porter

Please note that this evening meeting is the **1st Wed.** of September instead of our usual 3rd Wed. See **article, p.2**.

## Other Events

### Tuesday, Sept.10 GCO Fall Meeting

Garden Club of Ohio  
9:30 a.m. registration. See flyer, p. 4. Carpooling to be arranged.

## Friday, August 23

### Tour of American Greetings



Our **Friday, August 23** meeting is at **American Greetings** from **10:00-11:00**. This is a different day and time for us. We will have a tour of the upper floors. I have made [lunch reservations at Rosewood Grill \(2033 Crocker road\)](#) at **11:30**. There will be carpooling available from American Greetings if interested. Please arrive at American Greetings at **9:30 a.m.**

The first floor gallery of American Greetings, called Gallery W after the Weiss family, rotates exhibits by local artists and is always open to the public. Our tour will begin on the second floor. There are elevators for those who choose not to climb the stairs. A **reservation and a photo i.d. are required**. This is a perfect opportunity to invite a guest. **Please email me by August 19**. You may do as much of the tour as you choose. If your schedule permits only the tour or only lunch, please let me know. **For reservations, email Shirley**. Kathy (440-385-7566) and Claire (440-835-2663) will handle the phone reservations. Directions to AG on p.4. *Please, everyone, respond if you are available or not!*

**Shirley Lutts**

### July 17th's midsummer potluck

was a great success! Thanks to Jackie for hosting us. Following a brief business meeting, 31 members and guests shared a wonderful assortment of foods—pastas, salads, desserts—amazing how potlucks just seem to work out! It was a great chance to sit and visit. The pool looked especially inviting on such a warm evening. Glad it wasn't the Garden Tour! *Deb Dougherty*



## September 4 Meeting:

### WGC & Porter Library present a speaker from the Western Reserve Conservancy

**Jim Rokakis**, vice-president of the Western Reserve Conservancy and Director of Thriving Communities will be our speaker on **September 4 at 7 p.m. at Porter Public Library**. The Conservancy is a nonprofit organization that works to conserve natural areas, preserve farmland and revitalize urban centers. Jim Rokakis has a long history of service to Cleveland and to Cuyahoga County as councilman, treasurer and major player in the creation of the County Land Bank. He has been recognized both locally and nationally for his efforts to strengthen neighborhoods and communities.

This is a different date from our usual meeting. It was the only date that could coordinate room and speaker availability.

**Westlake in Bloom** is a friendly competition and city tradition showcasing the lovely gardens and horticultural expertise of our neighbors who care for these green spots. The event concludes with an awards ceremony in August which is open to all.



As in past years, the club was asked by the city to help with the ceremony by arranging 30 floral centerpieces, one for each table, and a larger arrangement for the main lobby table. The city supplied hundreds of dollars worth of flowers and vases and the club provided the labor with stunningly beautiful results.

Members who participated in this year's event included (from the left) Jackie Crosier, Alberta Ricciardi, Rebecca Castelli. Carolyn Steigman (not shown) was the co-ordinator and lead florist. With

everyone pitching in, the ladies produced all the beautiful arrangements in about an hour and also had a good time together.



### *In memoriam*

A fond "Adieu" to Lucy Kalbers, who was a resident of Independence Village in Avon Lake at the time of her passing this summer. Lucy was a longtime member of the Westlake Garden Club. She served as president in 1989-90 and continued to come to meetings until just a few years ago when she gave up driving.

**Volunteers are needed** to work on the revision of bylaws and nominations for next year's officers. Perhaps they could meet on that 3rd Wednesday of the month which is usually set aside for WGC or set their own time. Contact Kathy B. Thank you!

## The Dirt on Orchids



**The above orchid is one of Carolyn's that was a "rescue orchid". She cared for it for 3 years without knowing what it looked like and this year, Voilà —it came back to life and flowered beautifully.**

Are you guilty of having killed an innocent moth orchid? If you are, don't feel bad. You were probably set up to fail before you even got the little, green guy home.

Most baby orchids start out being planted in sphagnum moss, which is fine. However, once they are established the growers should remove the moss and repot it properly, but they don't. It takes too much time. Instead, they wind all the roots around the base, along with the old moss, and shove it into a pot and then shove in orchid bark around it. Guess what happens? The plant gets root rot and dies.

This doesn't have to happen. When you get the plant home, hold the orchid upside down above a trash can and gently remove from pot. Pick away all the moss and bark from the roots and then hold the roots under a faucet and gently wash the rest away so you have a clear view of the bare roots. Now cleanly clip away any black or mushy roots as they are dead. Set the plant aside.

Use fresh sphagnum moss and thoroughly wet it. Then squeeze out all the excess water and fluff it out. Toss the moss in a bowl with equal parts of orchid bark, mixing completely. Now here's the really critical part. Do NOT use a regular flower pot. Put the clean orchid roots in a special orchid pot and gently layer the moss and bark mix around the roots. Water and let the water drain out of the pot. That's it. You have successfully contributed to the long life of your orchid.

One key part of success is using an orchid pot. This is a plastic pot that looks like a container that came from the deli but has many long, narrow slits running down the sides of the pot and holes on the bottom. This allows for proper drainage and air circulation. The orchid should be repotted every year because as the bark breaks down it becomes compacted and could cause root rot, the leading cause of orchid death. The orchid pots are very inexpensive, come in 3 sizes, and can be bought online at [repotme.com](http://repotme.com). They also sell a good orchid fertilizer that is also good for all indoor houseplants.

*Carolyn Steigman*

### **Westlake Library: 19th Annual Community of Fine Arts Show July 29 - August 31, 2019**

There is still time to view this exhibit at the library. You will notice that we have many talented people in our club. Robert Pearl co-chaired and sponsored the event which is put on by the Westlake-Westshore Arts Council. We had 3 members who exhibited in the Oil/Acrylic Category. Bill Hock with "Double Bay, Sydney, Australia", Robert Pearl with "Copper Pot" and Jean Smith with "A Country Lane". Be sure to stop by to see their work.

## Garden Club of Ohio: Cleveland District Fall Meeting

Westlake Garden Club is usually represented at this event. The topics are especially intriguing this year: Horticulture at the Cleveland Metro Parks Zoo and Decorating for the Home and Garden. \$25 includes both talks and a lunch. Carpooling will be arranged. Send your reservation and check made out to Cleveland District GCO to Sally Knurek by August 30. See flyer below.

**Garden Club of Ohio, Inc.**  
**Cleveland District Fall Meeting**  
**September 10, 2019**

**Location:** St. Michael's Event Center  
 5025 East Mill Road  
 Broadview Heights 44147

**Time:** 9:30am Registration,  
 Presidents' Meeting - 10:00am,  
 Full Meeting - 10:30am

**Morning:** "Lions and Tigers and Bearberries, Oh My!"  
 by Leah Ann Lomax, lead horticulturist, Cleveland MetroParks Zoo

**Afternoon:** Seasonal Decorating for the Home and Garden,  
 Mary Slingsluff, Owner Avalon Gardens, Inn & Nursery

**Cost:** \$25, due by September 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Checks to:** Cleveland District GCO, mail to District Co-Director,  
 Barbara Schuh  
 570 Battles Road  
 Gates Mills, OH 44040-9767

**Menu:**  
 Woodside Signature Salad  
 Apricot Glazed Chicken Breast  
 Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetable  
 Chocolate Éclair  
 Or  
 Vegetarian Entrée Available  
 Please indicate choice

Cleveland District Meeting September 10, 2019

Please list all members/guests attending and their meal choice. For multiple entries, continue on the back of this form.

Garden Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Regular  Vegetarian

Total Enclosed: # of attendees \_\_\_\_ @ \$25.00/person = \_\_\_\_\_

*Many thanks to Jackie Crosier, our hostess, Marsha McEntee, Chris Borzak, Lynn Motsch & Deb Dougherty for helping with the potluck. And thank you to all who brought such delicious food.*



**August Lunch :**  
**Friday, August 23** *There is an optional lunch at Rosewood Restaurant after the tour of American Greetings with each member paying for his/her own lunch.*

**September Refreshment Committee:**

**Sept. 4** \*Judy Hullinger, Nancy Whelan, Agnes Tark, Marge Domitz.

### Directions to American Greetings

Suggested arrival time: **9:30** a.m.

From Crocker Road, turn west onto Studio Way at the traffic light across from Devon Oaks. There is parking in the garage (straight ahead) and the surface lot to the south (left as you enter) of Studio Way. The surface lot is the best option. Walk across Studio Way to the entrance.

Remember that AG requires a reservation (made through Shirley) and a photo i.d.