
GARDEN SCOOP

Volume 2, Issue 6

WESTLAKE GARDEN CLUB

July 2013

President's Message

By Regina McCarthy

I was pleased to see the turnout for our June meeting at the Strongsville Library, followed by a tour of Gardenview Horticultural Park. People can get accustomed to touring manicured gardens and Gardenview certainly provided a different perspective. One cannot help but admire the dedication of one 86 years young Henry Ross getting up at 6 a.m. daily to tend to his property, with very little money, never giving up even when politicians wanted to bulldoze the place.

It is not too soon to start thinking about who will be the Club's officers for 2014 and beyond. Our Constitution's Article IV, Section 5, states the Nominating Committee is to be formed no later than our September meeting (our fundraiser luncheon is in lieu of that meeting). This Committee shall consist of five members and one alternate, two of which are current Board members. At our July meeting at the Miller Nature Preserve, I will ask for four volunteers from the general membership. If no volunteers, I will appoint members prior to our next "home base" meeting at Porter Library in August.

Our September fundraiser luncheon is fast approaching and we should be busy soliciting donations, preparing baskets, distributing flyers and getting as many to attend as possible. Be sure to invite your male friends and relatives too. The men I invited last year didn't know what to expect and were pleasantly surprised at how much they enjoyed themselves. Jean Smith has extra flyers and also merchant donation letters. Please contact her as necessary. Thank you.

Near right: A peaceful stone garden and steps.

Far right: Henry Ross with garden club members.

(See page 4 for more photos)



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July Meeting

By Bill Hock

Wednesday, July 17th - Tour of the Miller Nature Preserve at 2739 Center Rd/Rt. 83, Avon, Ohio. Meeting at 11:00 am and lunch at noon in the Orchid Cafe. Cost of lunch would be a flat \$12.00. This includes your choice of a sandwich, salad, or wrap. Fruit and fresh cut potato chips are also included, as well as a beverage, gratuity and tax. Afterwards we can tour the exterior gardens, butterfly house, and the inside conservatory. The cost of the inside garden tour is \$2.00, which will be picked up by the club. They have asked that we provide a head count, so please call Rosemarie Evans at 216-759-0097 by Sunday, July 14th, so we can add your name to the list.

Getting to Know You...

By Margaret Schulz

Gail Morse



Gail Morse has resided in Westlake over twenty years and joined the Westlake Garden Club in 2006, serving as President in 2008-2009. Gail's willpower and discipline came early in life when, at the age of five, she had neurosurgery. It was uncertain if she would regain the ability to talk and walk. Months later, she surprised everyone when the word "remember" came out of her mouth. When left alone in the den while other family members were in the living room, Gail was determined to join them, and grabbing onto handles and leaning against the wall, she slowly made her way into the entrance hall. What a thrill when she made her first wobbly steps towards her parents. Gail spent the next seven years with physical and occupational therapy. Gail graduated from Brecksville High School and attended Hiram College, spending her junior year in Vienna, Austria studying art history and music. Last year she joined 23 classmates for a 40-year reunion in Vienna. After graduation from Hiram, Gail began working for the Cleveland Public Library and went on to receive a Masters of Science in Library Science from CWRU. She worked for the library until her retirement in 2004. Gail and her husband Steve have two cats, Katy and Schotzi. Gail's hobbies are reading, hiking, gardening, and traveling. Since joining the Westlake Garden Club, Gail has seen the club evolve and enter the twenty-first century. The early members were amazing women who not only tended their own gardens, but did much to beautify Westlake's public parks and spaces. Today, some of the focus of the club has changed, shifting to important matters of ecology, sustainability and stewardship – all very important words to gardeners in today's world. Gail had an early introduction to gardening when her father gave she and her sister each a small section of the yard to tend and cultivate. This responsibility instilled in both Gail and her sister a love of nature and a sense of stewardship. When asked what is her favorite flower, Gail responded the iris because of its fragrance. But this (favorite) often changes. Oh yes, and if she does not have enough on her plate, she is also President of the Herb Guild. Gail is an exceptional lady!

Raffle Baskets

I just went to a house sale and picked up enough goodies for two baskets for a small price. So far we have 20 baskets pledged from 20 people. We need more so be thinking and shopping, and let me know the theme of your basket. Sally

Happy Birthday

July

15th Mary Rose Hovan



Annual - Coleous (Solenostemon scutellaroides)

PLANTS OF THE WEEK

[June 27, 2013](#)

These versatile foliage plants come in many colors, sizes, shapes, and can grow in the sun or shade, making them fairly easy to grow them in the garden. Plant sizes and shapes vary depending on the cultivar as does the shape and color of the leaves. The majority of the varieties grow around 1 - 3' tall and as wide. There are also those that cascade or hang down over a container or basket. In the full sun, the foliage tends to be a bit smaller and fades somewhat compared to the same plant growing in the shade.

Coleus can be planted in sun or shade, in the garden or in a container. If you use coleus in a container, make sure you know how big it gets. Some varieties grow up to 4' tall and as wide and can take over a smaller container. The age-old question for coleus is, "should they be deadheaded?" The answer to that is, "it depends." Do you like the flowers or not? Many varieties tend to get a little straggly in appearance when they bloom. If you don't like this appearance, deadhead the flowers. The Coleus has very few pest problems.

For More Information:

[Clemson Cooperative Extension information on Coleus](#)

[University of Illinois Extension information on Coleus](#)



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Deadline: last Wednesday of the month for next month's issue

2013 PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

WGC PROGRAMS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2013 – MEETING AND TOUR OUTSIDE GARDENS, BUTTERFLY HOUSE AND CONSERVATORY

PLACE: MILLER NATURE PRESERVE, 2739 CENTER ROAD (RT. 83), AVON

TIME: 11 A.M. MEETING WITH LUNCH IN THE ORCHID CAFÉ
(INDIVIDUAL CHECKS)

RESERVATIONS: ROSEMARIE EVANS, 216-759-0097

FOR THOSE WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF MILLER NATURE PRESERVE,
THERE IS A \$2 ADMISSION FEE, WHICH WILL BE PAID BY THE CLUB.

SATURDAY, JULY 20, 2013 – MAKE FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CLAGUE HOUSE MUSEUM

PLACE: CLAGUE HOUSE MUSEUM (YARD), 1371 CLAGUE ROAD

TIME: 1 P.M.

BRING VASES AND FLOWERS AND GREENERY FROM YOUR YARD.

CONTACT SALLY KNUREK, 440-331-8722

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2013 – MAKE FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS FOR WESTLAKE IN BLOOM CEREMONY

PLACE: LACENTRE, 25777 DETROIT ROAD, WESTLAKE

TIME: 1 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2013 – MEETING, “ALL ABOUT SOIL: THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE DIRTY” – A HANDS-ON

LOOK AND PRESENTATION ABOUT WHICH TODAY, TO HIS DISAPPOINTMENT, IS IN THE MIDDLE OF THRIVING AND GROWING STRONGSVILLE! OUT WHY OUR LOCAL SOILS ARE WHAT THEY ARE, AS WELL AS THE WORLD’S SOILS. PRESENTED BY MEMBER, BILL HOCK.

PLACE: WESTLAKE PORTER PUBLIC LIBRARY, 27333 CENTER RIDGE RD.

TIME: 11 A.M. MEETING, LUNCH AT NOON, PROGRAM AT 1 P.M.

HOSTESSES: JEAN SMITH, JACKIE CROSIER, MARIE MCCARTHY, LUCY KALBERS, MARGE DOMITZ

OTHER EVENTS

SUNDAY, JULY 21, 2013 - WESTLAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANTIQUE VINTAGE CRAFT SHOW

PLACE: CLAGUE HOUSE MUSEUM, 1371 CLAGUE ROAD

TIME: 10 A.M.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2013 – WESTLAKE IN BLOOM AWARDS CEREMONY

PLACE: LACENTRE, 25777 DETROIT ROAD, WESTLAKE

TIME: 6:45 P.M. REFRESHMENTS, 7 P.M. AWARDS CEREMONY

My Shade Garden-An Oasis of Serenity

By Sally Knurek

Just when I am dying for any signs of life in the bleakness of winter, snow drops begin to show their dainty little blossoms. They ring the circumference of my Linden tree in the front yard. A little later, the Hellebores display their varied colors and shapes. A great number of hybrids are now available with colors ranging from white to deep maroon - both single and double blooms. At about \$14 per plant, they are a bit pricey but certainly worthwhile. It takes several years for them to mature and bloom hence the high cost. Next are the spring ephemerals (that bloom and disappear for the remainder of the season). My front yard is home to spring beauties, erythronium (adder's tongue), mini daffodils, grape hyacinths, salmon seal, dutchman's breeches and others. My back yard is host to the deliciously pale blue-purple hepatica, blood root, white trillium, cut leaf dentaria, regular and false Solomon's seal and rue anemone. When the early spring flowers begin to fade, the better known cultivated plants are starting to bloom. The lamium, pulmonaria, burnnera, tiarella, variegated Solomon's seal, adjuva, coral bells, columbine and azaleas will bloom and remain with their colorful foliage all summer providing interest and texture. Hostas and ferns, especially the Japanese painted variety, anchor the collection until fall. Tricyrtis actually blooms in the fall as does my plumbago because it is planted in the shade. I know that there are many other plants that will do well in the shade. This tree and shade garden are an oasis of cool, pleasant surroundings all summer. Average temperature when the leaves are out is 15 degrees cooler than the sunny spots. The only care I provide other than water is organic fertilizer once per year and mulch. I often hear people say that they can't grow any plants in the shade, but I often find that I don't have enough shade to try all the plants that I want to grow.

Fundraiser Luncheon Update

By Jean Smith

Many of us have been quite busy contacting area businesses to request donations of gift cards, products or services for our luncheon in September. The items donated will be used in raffle baskets and for door prizes, so they are important to the success of the luncheon. If you frequent a restaurant, hair salon, dry cleaner, boutique, or other establishment, give them a letter and flyer and ask if they will help by donating a gift card or product. Tell them how the money we raise is used – see page 12 of your 2013 year book for a list of donations made in 2012. If you get a donation, please let me know so I can enter it into a spreadsheet. This record is used to send thank you letters to those businesses who supported our luncheon. Also, please call or email me if you need letters or flyers. Thanks to everyone for your help and involvement.

Gardenview – a Lifetime Labor of Love

By Rosemarie Evans

The visit on Wednesday June 19th to Gardenview Horticultural Park in Strongsville was an experience of seeing the fruition of a life's work by Henry A. Ross, who is the Founder and Director of the Park.

Mr. Ross, who took us on the tour of the grounds, had a vision as a young man to create an "oasis of beauty". In 1949, when Mr. Ross was in his early 20's he purchased the 16 acre parcel of land which he figured was always going to be in the country, but which today, to his disappointment, is in the middle of thriving and growing Strongsville. Since he purchased the land in the winter when it was covered with snow he did not realize until spring came that what he actually purchased was acres of swampy blue and yellow clay, overgrown with blackberry brambles and weeds. The transformation of the land from then till now has taken a lifetime of hard work, dedication and determination to fulfill the dream of providing enjoyment to visitors, to demonstrate the art of English Cottage Gardening, of traditional perennial borders, and to give an opportunity to those wishing to do so, to adapt these ideas and planting combinations to their own gardens.

Mr. Ross developed and maintained the gardens by himself from the beginning to 1994. He brought in hundreds and hundreds of truckloads of soil to cover the grounds with a four feet deep level of good dirt to create the base in which to grow the plants. Now, at 86 years old, he still works the gardens everyday with the assistance of his only helper, Mark, a volunteer. Gardenview is the only facility of its kind in this country.

Gardenview has all kinds of extremely choice, rare and uncommon plants from all over the world that Mr. Ross has obtained throughout the years. There are various gardens of different shapes and sizes fitting together like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle into one large picture 6 acres in size. There are many unusual trees including hundreds of varieties of flowering crab-apples. The water lilies were in full bloom in magnificent colors, with a few yellow ones popping their heads.

Gardenview is not tax supported in any way so any donations that are made are used for the ongoing maintenance of the gardens of which much is needed. These gardens have truly been a labor of love, the commitment of one man who has spent his lifetime to fulfill his dream of creating a place of beauty and enjoyment for others.

Near right: pond with water lilies.

Far right: Henry Ross with Regina McCarthy.

Below: Henry Ross with garden club members on tour.

Below right: Entrance to gardens.

