

---

---

# GARDEN SCOOP

---

Volume 3, Issue 2

WESTLAKE GARDEN CLUB

March 2014

---

## President's Message

By Regina McCarthy

It wasn't that long ago that I wrote to the then publisher of *The Plain Dealer* taking him to task for categorizing gardening as an "outdoor activity," like hiking or fishing, rather than the art and science it is. Fast forward to the present time and most publications contain articles on gardening and "going green" – even *The Plain Dealer*, whose new publisher is thankfully more enlightened than his predecessor. Indeed, a recent Sunday issue contained articles on local food, healthy bread, keeping rainwater and untreated sewage from going into Lake Erie and a lengthy editorial entitled "A Fresh Approach . . . Farm-to-table movement is growing on city dwellers." I've started watching the new four-part comedy series on Hulu (free), *Farmed and Dangerous*, which lampoons industrial agriculture with dialog like: "These hippies [the sustainability crowd] want you to believe that real food is better than processed food." The times are changing, my fellow hippies. And that's a very good thing.

*Save the date, and tell a friend. The date of the Fête des Fleurs Fundraiser Luncheon is **Wednesday, September 24, 2014**. Let's make this our best attended luncheon ever!*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2     *Getting to Know You.....*
- 2     *Happy Birthday and Membership News*
- 2     *Fête des Fleurs Luncheon*
- 3     *Information/Resources on Nature Journaling*
- 3     *My Moment with Nature*
- 4     *Orchid Mania, and Membership Trends*

## Nature Journaling

Our first meeting of 2014 on February 19 was all about Nature Journaling. Members Sally Knurek, Shirley Lutts and Jean Smith presented the program. Journaling is an excellent way to archive your memories and is a creative way to express day to day thoughts, feelings, inspirations and aspirations, or just the things that make you, you. It could be a travel journal, flower or plant journal, animal or bird journal, a poetry journal to save your daily thoughts or muses, or a nature journal created while observing the great outdoors. A nature journal is a place to grow your thoughts, feelings, ideas, activities, observations, and relationship with the natural world. We can learn a lot by keeping a nature journal, about the way the natural world interacts and is engaged in daily activity. Consider how you are part of that ecosystem and that diversity. Look at nature as if through a lens; study sounds, movements, atmosphere. Begin writing and write often. Do not be too critical or edit your writing – let your writing flow. You may also want to draw pictures of what you see, or use rubber stamps to illustrate an observation. Again, do not be critical of your work. Or, you may choose to take photographs and insert into your journal. You can cut pictures from magazines or newspapers to add. You may even pick up a leaf, twig, feather or flower and press it into your journal. You can purchase any size of books to use as journals, at any price. The craft stores have small, bound books to use for writing or drawing, or watercolor that are fairly inexpensive. Or, you can make your own journal. The small journals distributed at the meeting were made by Jean Smith. A template found on the internet provided the cover and one sheet of copy paper cut in half and folded was the inside. Two holes punched and tied with a ribbon made a very usable journal. Any type of pens or pencils can be used. If you make drawings, they can be filled in with colored pencils, markers or paint. You can start your nature journal by sitting at the window with your journal and pens/pencils, and just observe and listen. What do you see or hear? How do you feel about what you see or hear? Then start writing. As the weather gets warmer, venture outside to the deck/patio/ balcony/backyard. Again, sit for a while and just observe and listen. Spring is a good time to experience the rebirth of plants, trees and flowers. Also, the birds start showing up in great numbers and are very vocal and active. This is a wonderful way to relax and put things into perspective. And later, you will thoroughly enjoy going back through your journal and reading what you wrote and how you felt about your observations of nature. Enjoy!

(Some information in this article was taken from the Sierra Club website and Cheap Joe's The Sketchbook website)

# Getting to Know You...

By Pat Dailey



*Ann Van Dyke*

Ann was born and raised in Cleveland, the seventh of nine girls and two boys, and just celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on September 2, 2013. After graduating from John Hay High School, Ann held secretarial positions until she met and married Roger Van Dyke in 1955, when she became a full time homemaker. They spent 11 years in Parma, then moved to Westlake in 1966. Roger passed away in December 2011, after 56 years of marriage. Ann has two sons, Duane and Bruce, and three teenaged grandchildren. On Memorial Day in 1968, Ann met Shirley Balogas, President of the Westlake Garden Club, while taking pictures of the wreath that Shirley had made for the memorial stones at Clague Park. After talking to Shirley a little more about the Garden Club, Ann joined in September 1968 and has remained a member ever since. Little did Ann know that someday she would be the one making the wreath, and continue to do so for the next 25 years or so. In 1980 when both sons were in college, Ann went to work at National City Bank downtown as a clerk typist. Eight years later, she retired as an Executive Secretary and PNC is still paying her a small pension! For many years, Ann enjoyed sewing and many needlecrafts, but when arthritis in her hands made these hobbies impossible, Ann took watercolor classes at the senior centers in Westlake, Rocky River and Bay Village. She has both her needlework and watercolors hanging in her home. Over the years with the Garden Club, Ann was involved with Ways & Means programs and the annual plant sales and has served as Treasurer, 2<sup>nd</sup> V.P., 1<sup>st</sup> V.P. and President. Through Garden Club workshops, Ann learned to press flowers and make pressed flower pictures and note cards, and years later, Ann became the one conducting workshops on the subject. Ann has enjoyed the many friendships she has made, and is still making, through the Garden Club. After years of planting lots of flowers around her yard, Ann's gardening has come down to one large pot of geraniums, two bicycle baskets of annuals for her front railing, and a large bowl of annuals on her picnic table.

**Garden Scoop**, Published 11 times per year

**Editor:** Jean Smith

**Contributing Writers:** Jackie Crosier, Pat Dailey, Sally Knurek

**Photographs:** Jean Smith

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

# Happy Birthday

March

3<sup>rd</sup> Sally Knurek  
17<sup>th</sup> Lillian Bialosky  
18<sup>th</sup> Nancy Chopp



## Membership News

By Carolyn Steigman

Now that the dust has cleared I'm pleased to report that we have 36 members. Our newest member is Svetlana Mihajloska from Parma. Her information made it into the yearbook membership roster. Be sure to welcome her when you see her at a meeting. This year, I did not send out statements for membership renewals. Members were asked to take responsibility for sending in their renewal. This seemed to work well, with only a few phone calls required. We saved postage, paper and time. Now that we've been through it once, maybe next time will be even smoother. I am looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

## *Fête des Fleurs* Luncheon

By Jean Smith

We asked at both the February Board meeting and general meeting, but no one raised their hand to volunteer to chair the luncheon committee this year. Since no one came forward to take on the responsibility, Robert Pearl and I have agreed to chair the luncheon again this year. We will be asking many of you to help in various areas as the planning progresses. Meanwhile, if you have an interest in helping with any phase of the luncheon, please let me or Robert know – and we thank you in advance. We visited three venues this year and got quotes from each one. It was an eye-opener, since all three prices were higher than we expected and all quotes were very close. With that in mind, we suggested raising the ticket price to \$35 at the general meeting in February. By a show of hands, it was almost unanimously agreed that we should increase the ticket price. Therefore, Robert and I are very pleased to announce that the fundraiser luncheon will be on **Wednesday, September 24, 2014** at the newly constructed **Lakewood Country Club** and tickets will be **\$35**. We will now start working on getting a dynamic speaker for the program. Sally Knurek has agreed to chair the basket committee again, while working with a helper who can take over next year. Jackie Crosier has also agreed to chair the bakery sale committee again and wow us with her table setup. But, we will also need your help to ensure that this year's luncheon is a great success.

More details will be forthcoming.

## 2014 PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

### WGC PROGRAMS

#### **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2014 – GENERAL MEETING**

**PLACE:** WESTLAKE PORTER LIBRARY, 27333 CENTER RIDGE ROAD

**TIME:** 11:30 A.M. MEETING , LUNCH AT NOON

**PROGRAM:** 1 P.M. *"HOW TO STAY YOUNG THE FIRST 100 YEARS"*

PRESENTED BY DR. TOM STEIGERWALT OF STAGS FAMILY WELLNESS CENTER IN AVON

**HOSTESSES:** RUTH BERTRAND, AGNES TARK, JUDY HULLINGER, KATHY MOLNER

#### **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2014 – A KITCHEN GARDEN;**

##### **GARDENING TEN FEET UP**

**PLACE:** WESTLAKE PORTER LIBRARY, 27333 CENTER RIDGE ROAD

**TIME:** 11:30 A.M. MEETING , LUNCH AT NOON

**PROGRAM:** 1 P.M. *"GARDENING TEN FEET UP"* PRESENTED BY SANDRA WHITE, CUYAHOGA COUNTY MASTER GARDENER

**HOSTESSES:** MARYANN BROCK, CAROL LEWELLEN, MARGE PAULL, ANN VAN DYKE

#### **FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2014 – ARBOR DAY**

**PLACE:** CLAGUE PARK

**TIME:** 11 A.M.

WGC WILL PLANT A TREE TO CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY

### OTHER EVENTS

#### **SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2014 – RAIN & GARDEN SHOW**

**PLACE:** WESTLAKE RECREATION CENTER, 28955 HILLIARD BLVD.

**TIME:** 10 A.M.-2 P.M.

WGC WILL HAVE A TABLE WITH INFORMATION ON GARDENING AND SUSTAINABILITY

#### **MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2014 - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2014 –**

##### **GCO 86<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION**

**PLACE:** HOLIDAY INN & SUITES, 116 PARK AVE. WEST, MANSFIELD, OH  
(SEE SPRING 2014 *GARDEN GREETINGS* FOR DETAILS AND COSTS)

#### **FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2014 – GCO DISTRICT MEETING AND LUNCHEON**

**PLACE:** ST. MICHAEL'S WOODSIDE, 5025 MILL ROAD, BROADVIEW HTS., OH

**TIME:** 10 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.

GIVE YOUR CHECK FOR \$22 TO REGINA MCCARTHY

## Information/Resources on Nature Journaling

To follow up on our nature journaling workshop, I have some recommendations for additional reading. Some journals to enjoy: "The Diary of an Edwardian Lady" by Edith Holden and "View from a Sketchbook" nature through the eyes of Marjolein Bastin with Tovah Martin, also the art of Beatrice Potter. Two books in the how to category are "Keeping a Nature Journal" by Clare Walker Leslie and Charles E. Roth and less complicated "The Nature Connection" by Clare Walker Leslie. "Illustrating Nature" by Irene Brady is a wonderful book on how to sketch nature subjects. There are many nature writers, but my favorites are: "Gardening in Eden" by Arthur T. Vanderbilt II, "The Pond" by Robert Murphy, "Watchers at the Pond" by Franklin Russel and anything by Loren Eiseley.

Sally Knurek

## My Moment with Nature

By Jackie Crosier

I still like to read the newspaper while watching "Sunday Morning" on TV. My favorite part is the last 2 minutes which features great glimpses of nature somewhere in our USA portraying beautiful scenes of animals, flowers, and views of various places. Having thought about this for some time I wanted to share my own treasures and knew "mental telepathy" was working when I saw last month's WGC program on Nature Journaling in our newsletter. In mid-December there was a huge meteor shower predicted to peak after midnight. Being in Florida I went out front to check it out. Very hard to see it with a full moon to left and a bright street light to right. I decided to try the lanai view in back. I sat in a chair tipping my head back as it was directly overhead till 2:30 am watching a "firefly" flitting around with smaller bursts of "fireworks." It was worth the stiff neck!

**2014 Year Books** will be distributed at the March 19 meeting. The Year Books include Officers and Committees, Civic Projects for 2014, Donations made in 2013, Programs and Events for 2014, Membership Roster, and updated Constitution and By Laws. Please insert the new material into your binder.

Something caught my eye as I walked past the window – the brilliant red of a male cardinal at the bird feeder. What a wonderful contrast to the stark white landscape in the garden.

Excerpt from Jean Smith's Nature Journal

# Orchid Mania at Cleveland Botanical Garden

On a cold, snowy Wednesday morning, several members of the garden club met at 10 a.m. and carpoled to the Cleveland Botanical Garden to see Orchid Mania – and it was well worth the trip! They did something different this year by displaying the orchids in vignettes, or rooms decorated with furniture, paintings, rugs, other decorative items, and of course the orchids. It was lovely to see how the graceful flowers and array of colors enhanced the settings. We ventured into the Cloud Forest where there were many more orchids on display, especially a lot of the “Ladies Slipper” orchids. It was also a real treat to be in a warm area with butterflies and small birds flitting around. For a couple of hours, we felt like spring had arrived. After a very pleasant lunch and stop at the gift shop, we headed home feeling much more uplifted than when we started. If you have not visited Orchid Mania yet, try to do so. It is on display through Sunday, March 10, 2014 at the Cleveland Botanical Garden. Below are some photos and you can see color photos on our website.



## Membership Trends

When I started working on this issue of *Garden Scoop*, I looked back at the March 2013 issue. In Membership News, Carolyn had written that at the end of 2012, we had 40 members and in March 2013, we had 36 members. Ironically, at the end of 2013 we had 41 members, and today, we have 38 members. Realizing that we will always lose a member here and there, every member needs to be a bit more proactive about membership and talk to everyone you know and meet about the Westlake Garden Club. Also, when new members join, please go out of your way to make them feel welcome at meetings. We have a really good, financially strong organization with good leadership, and are not plagued with the internal challenges some clubs are facing today. We are tuned in to the environmental issues and concerns about the source of our food. We are very fortunate to have a President who gets involved with and supports efforts to educate our community on “green issues” and the farm-to-table concept. I think that today, we are much closer to fulfilling our club purpose, especially in “*promoting horticulture education and to encourage civic beauty and community conservation.*” Let’s all work to get our membership back up to 40+ - and work to keep it there.

Jean Smith, Editor

