

GARDEN SCOOP

WGC Events

Election of 2021 Officers

Our proposed slate of officers:
Jean Smith and Cathy Garlitz,
 co-presidents

Deb Dougherty, program chair

Marie McCarthy, treasure

Marsha McEntee and Anne Engel, recording secretaries for board and general meetings (*job sharing to accommodate travel and work*)

Please let us know if you are also interested in running for any of these elected offices.

Thank you to our **nominating committee**: Chris Borzak, Cathy Garlitz, Marsha McEntee, Alberta Ricciardi and Margaret Schulz. We hope that we will be meeting again in person in 2021.

Glow Christmas Tree at the Botanical Garden



*A Penchant for
 Poinsettias
 WGC*

Information, page 3.

Think Like a Bee



October/November

Zoom Meeting Report

Elizabeth Hiser, Watershed Program Manager of the Cuyahoga County Soil and Water District, spoke to the garden club about pollinator-friendly plants, trees and shrubs. In order to help pollinators flourish, Ms. Hiser suggested that we “think like a bee” as we plan our gardens. Pollinators need food, water and travel corridors.

Here are some highlights of her suggestions on how to provide the right conditions and care for our trees:

- Include flowers with color, aroma and diversity of shapes.
- Provide season-long sources of pollen and nectar.
- Plant straight species rather than hybrids.
- Observe what plants the bees like in your yard and in garden centers as you decide what to purchase.
- Limit pesticides.
- Plant trees that are hosts to pollinators; an Oak is one of the best but there are many others.
- Trees need to be planted at grade level or just above with the root flare visible - no thick layer of mulch up against the trunk.
- Plant trees in the fall, not later than October or in spring no later than April or May.

Ms. Hiser gave many examples of plants, trees and shrubs that attract and benefit pollinators as well as some very helpful information on the care of trees. She is happy to answer any questions and also suggested some online resources: xerces.org, u.osu.edu/beelab, cuyahogawcd.edu

Westlake Garden Club Membership News

Hello, fellow gardeners!

I hope you've been enjoying the change of seasons and its beauty. Even in these challenging times, the Garden Club has not only maintained its membership, we also added a few new members! Welcome to **Eileen Cernea, Carmen Popa & Dan Morris**.

With this in mind, we thank those of you who have renewed your membership by mailing in your dues. We remind those who have not done so yet to send in your dues for 2021.

Thank you in advance for supporting the Garden Club. Looking forward to a better year ahead.

With warm regards,

Lavinia Cozmin, membership chair

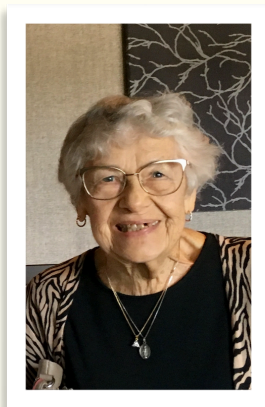
A note to the garden club from Alberta Ricciardi
on the occasion of her 95th Birthday

Thank you for all of the cards and best wishes for a very special 95th birthday. The family decided to play it safe because of the virus & to have the party in the garage at 2 p.m. We all sat apart, wearing masks and winter coats and blankets to keep us warm. Daughter Anne made a huge pot of chicken soup; Mary and husband Carl made the cupcakes. Robert and wife, Audrey, brought a space heater for "Mom" to keep me warm. At 2:30 p.m., son Jim and wife Marsha arrived from South Carolina. What a surprise! So happy to see them. Gifts of orchids and potted roses and a \$100 gift certificate to shop at Kohl's internet.

After the party, I drove to Joan's group home in Bay Village with cupcakes for all to celebrate and have them all sing 'Happy Birthday' to me.

Thank you, Lord, for a wonderful 95th birthday! Sunday, October 18.

*Love you all,
Alberta*



News from the Holden Forest and Garden Affiliate Group

Our representative to the Affiliate group, Regina McCarthy, and our co-president, Shirley Lutts, attended the Zoom Fall Forum for affiliate garden clubs in October. The Vail Medal was awarded to the Western Reserve Herb Garden in recognition of their continued upkeep of the herb garden at the CBG. It contains both culinary herbs and historical roses and has been in existence for 51 years. Holden Forest and Gardens new vice-president, Caroline Tait, treated club representatives to a photographic tour of some outstanding English and American gardens. There was also a detailed explanation of changes for the Glow Christmas celebration (see page 3).



A Christmas Delight

by Carolyn Steigman

Any day now stores will soon start to fill their isles with blooming Christmas cactus. The bright flowers of red, pink, yellow, orange, white or purple are enough to make the average plant-lover want to grab one or more of these exotic beauties and head for the cash register.

To be sure, the Christmas cactus (*Schlumbergera*) is one of the most popular plants of the holiday season. It's related to the Thanksgiving cactus that also shows up in stores at this time. The way to tell them apart is that the Thanksgiving cactus has toothed leaf segments while the edges of the Christmas cactus are smooth, and as the name suggests, they bloom at slightly different times but the care is the same. There is also an Easter cactus that blooms in spring.

Although the name says "cactus" this is not a desert plant at all, but rather a jungle plant from the humid forests of southeastern Brazil near the Atlantic Ocean and needs regular watering.

Your plant can thrive for many years with a little care. After your plant has flowered, cut each branch back a few segments to maintain a nice shape. Keep it well watered and place it a window with bright, indirect light. It likes to be slightly pot bound. Full sun will burn the leaves so provide some shade if the window gets the afternoon sun.

In October keep it in a place that is 60-65 degrees and reduce watering so that you water it only when the plant feels dry and water only to a depth of about an inch. After about 6 weeks you will see tiny white buds starting to form at the tips of the branches. Now you can return the cactus to its regular spot, enjoy the flowers and congratulate yourself on a job well done.



WGC at the Cleveland Botanical Garden

Many thanks to all who worked on and/or contributed time and materials to our Westlake Garden Club tree: Deb Dougherty, Cathy Garlitz, Marsha McEntee, Alberta Ricciardi, Jean Smith, Carolyn Steigman and Kathy Bruening. We hope that our club members will get a chance to enjoy the whole botanical garden display as well as our own tree located in Eppig Hall near the entrance to the cafeteria.

Below is a description from the CBG website <cbgarden.org> . Visit the site for details on time and pre-registration:

"This year, the botanical garden is embracing the outdoor beauty of the winter holidays...twinkle lights in snow-covered trees and other outdoor elements expanding on traditional favorites of Glow," said Jill Koski, president and CEO. **"We are delighted to provide a celebration that will capture the benefits of getting outside in a safe, yet magical way."**

Glow will feature plants that we use to celebrate the holiday season – whether conifer trees, **poinsettias** and holly, the herbs we use in cooking, the fruits and vegetables we feast on. Our holiday traditions are filled with plants and trees and this year they will take center stage throughout the botanical garden's holiday season.

Glow is a **socially-distanced, one-way guided path through indoor and outdoor visual experiences** with plenty of photo opportunities and self-guided engagement for all ages. Visitors will be inspired by botanical holiday décor on front doors, in table settings as well as on trees and wreaths decorated by members of more than 30 affiliate garden clubs. Stroll through the Glasshouse to spot the holiday gnome homes – how many can you find? Clark Hall features a beautifully decorated 16-foot tall live white fir (*Abies concolor*) and community decorated gingerbread houses – vote for your favorites!

