

THE COMPOST

WINTER 2013

Dear Ladies of the Club,

When I was a little girl I loved to study the snowflakes as they landed on my mittens and the sleeves of my winter coat – each one so beautiful, so perfectly symmetrical and so unique. It is a love of nature that brings us together, and I hope you are all enjoying the winter wherever you are!

It is so exciting to think that our flower show *Fields, Forests, Rocks and Streams: Conserving Our Heritage* is just around the corner! Brooke Garratt, Margaret Wilson and the entire flower show committee have been working so hard to make this a fabulous show. It is going to be a wonderful and welcome sight to see all that green and beautiful color. Please don't be shy about bringing your houseplants to join the Hort division – we need and depend on the participation of our wonderful membership. We are grateful to the Western Reserve Land Conservancy for allowing us to hold our show at the gorgeous new headquarters on River Road, and what a perfect spot it is for the conservation themed show we have planned. I hope that by now you have received your lovely invitation to the flower show Preview Party on Thursday evening, February 21st. Come for cocktails, delicious nibbles, lots of fun and a chance to see all the beautiful arrangements, horticulture specimens and photos that your fellow members have entered!

We are off to a strong start in the new year. In January we had a great turnout at The Shaker Lakes Nature Center with a wonderful photography program presented by Jeff Biggar (husband of our member Margie Biggar). His images were absolutely stunning, and he spoke so passionately about his life-long interest in capturing nature at its best from behind his lens. Jeff stressed the benefits of always carrying your camera with you, the quality of light in early morning and late afternoon, and that you do not need to be a technology whiz to have great photographs. I think we were all inspired to become better and more purposeful photographers!

It seems like a long way off, but since it will be here before we know it, I want to urge you all to attend our April meeting. The April meeting will be a joint meeting with Shaker Lakes Garden Club and the Akron Garden Club. This will be a wonderful opportunity to gather with the members of our local sister GCA clubs, and we are so lucky to be bringing in a fabulous speaker from California through our joint efforts and interests. Rosalind Creasy is a renowned garden and food writer, photographer, and landscape designer who is the authority on edible landscaping. She wowed the attendees of the GCA Shirley Meneice Conference last year and I know that you will not want to miss this special opportunity. The meeting will be held at the Hudson Country Club and I hope to see you all there.

Many many thanks again to all of our December hostesses who made our holiday events so special. The Provisionals hosted a fabulous Greens Workshop -- it was a lovely day and expertly organized event! Each year I am inspired and amazed by the creations from this Workshop. The Christmas Tea at the home of Siri Benjamin was just beautiful, and such a welcome gathering among friends.

I look forward to seeing you at our February Flower Show – we have much to share and much to learn!
Fondly, Lynn

HORTICULTURE CLIPPINGS...

Here is a reminder of a few important activities to look forward to as we meander from Winter to Spring:
First and foremost....*The Show!*

Fields, Forests, Rocks and Streams: Conserving our Heritage is right around the corner, and we are readying ourselves for a wonderful show at the new Western Reserve Conservancy building this February. Forced bulbs will soon be coming out of the cold, preparing to bloom. Sprouts and cuttings will be fluffed for their coming out party, and 'pots' will be looking for suitable 'fleurs' to take to the party!

Be sure to take a moment and look at houseplants, orchids, and succulents to determine those which may be good possibilities for the horticulture classes.

Visit:http://www.gcamerica.org/images/FCKUploads/file/Flower_Show/Flower%20show%20Schedules/Fields,%20Forests,%20Rocks%20and%20StreamsFinal%202013.pdf to see the flower show schedule which includes everything you need to know! Additionally, on Page 3 of this *Compost* you will find *Tips for Floral Design Exhibitors* and *Horticulture Tips for Exhibitors*.

Second....We are already thinking ahead to September's Zone X Meeting and Plant Exchange. At least 6-10 GCC members are needed to propagate a minimum of 4 native plants which will travel to the Plant Exchange from our Garden Club of Cleveland. The theme is Native Plants: Perennials, Shrubs or Trees Native to the U.S.

Our GCC Hort group is planning a workshop this Spring to start soft wood cuttings and/or seeds.

Some of you may have something appropriate from the propagation classes in our February Show... If so, continue to nurture them for the Plant Exchange!

Please drop me a note at fitzcom5@gmail.com if you have an interest, or if you have a plant you are willing to share. Look for an email and more information to come in your next Compost!

See you at the Show!

Deb Fitzgerald and Susan Bercheck, Chairs, Horticulture Committee

GCA JUDGING NEWS

Congratulations to Lynn Shiverick and Margaret Wilson!

Lynn Shiverick was advanced to a GCA Approved Photography Judge and Margaret Wilson was invited by the GCA as a Judge Candidate in Floral Design.



Margaret Wilson and Claudia Fulton at the December Greens Workshop. More photos from the Workshop on page six.

TIPS FOR FLORAL DESIGN EXHIBITORS

1. Look up botanical names of your plant material before you arrive at the flower show. List all plant materials on your Entry Card with botanical name first followed by common name. Print neatly or type.
2. Plant material conditioning:
 - Plan on conditioning your plant material at least 24 hours in advance of the flower show.
 - Plant material placed in a dark location will absorb more water.
 - Remove all foliage below the water line.
 - Scrape bark off the bottom 1" of woody stems with a knife or potato peeler. Then slit the stems.
 - To revive wilted material, cut stems on an angle and soak in warm water.
3. Check list for your entry before being passed:
 - Are the mechanics hidden unless they are an integral part of the design? Check to make sure that no oasis is showing and that your container is not shiny.
 - Is the arrangement balanced – side to side, front to back, and top to bottom?
 - Are the proportions correct – plant material to the container, any accessories to the arrangement and to the staging?
 - Are the components in scale with each other?
 - Is there dominance without being out of proportion?
 - Is there contrast? Look for unfinished spaces Is the back finished enough to create depth

HORTICULTURE TIPS FOR EXHIBITORS

1. Please carefully read the General Rules, the Horticulture Rules and the entire Schedule.
2. Fill out entry cards with the correct botanical and common names of each plant. Type or print the entry card legibly in waterproof black ink. Note pertinent information on propagation, dates and length of ownership. Have this information prepared with you when you arrive at the show.
3. Water entries before arrival.
4. Container size is determined by measuring the longest inside measurement at the rim, circular containers are measured on the interior diameter; square or rectangular containers are measured on the interior diagonal.
5. Staking should be done as unobtrusively as possible.
6. Grooming: Plants must be free of insects and disease
 - Containers should be as clean as possible.
 - Foliage and fruit must be clean; no dirt or spray residue. Use of a leaf polishing agent is prohibited.
 - Dead and blemished material should be removed.
 - Damaged foliage may be trimmed but it should look natural.
 - Flowering plants should not be misted.
 - Soil surfaces should be clean. You may top dress the soil but use material that does not float. Keep the level below the top of the container.

FLOWER ARRANGING WORKSHOP

with Lorna Mierke

Wednesday, April 10
1 PM
(no classes in March or May)

at Lorna's home
1940 Denton Drive
Cleveland Heights 44106

The cost per class is \$35 for supplies.

Please call Lorna (216-421-6295 - no emails) to register by the Monday before the class. Mail your check directly to Lorna.

Learn more about the skill and art of flower arranging and take home a beautiful arrangement.

Questions, please contact:

Gail Resch, Workshop Liason, ggresch929@roadrunner.com
440-423-0550

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

It is time to request grant requests for our 2013 Charitable Fund. We will continue to support our Cleveland institutions but as always, we would like to consider new organizations. Please send me (brookegarratt@gmail.com or 440-543-2626) the name of any noteworthy groups that you have recently discovered.

Many thanks!

Brooke Garratt, Vice President

MEMBERSHIP STATUS UPDATES

Any member who wishes to make a change in her membership status needs to send such notification to the committee by May 1, 2013. A request to go to non-resident, to resign, or to go from active to affiliate must be made in writing by this date. To become an affiliate member, one must have been an active member for ten years. An affiliate can still be a member of the GCC Board, but not an officer of the club. It is important to note that after the May 1st date, one is obligated for the 2013-2014 dues appropriate to the status that one now enjoys. Please mail your requests to the committee in care of Fran Porter, 33970 Meadow Lane, Chagrin Falls, OH 44022, or email your request to Fran at franporter1@gmail.com. You may call her with any questions at 440-247-8291.

Fran Porter, Membership Committee Chair

2013 FOUNDERS FUND CELEBRATION EVERYONE IS INVITED!

Are you wondering why you have not received information on the 2013 Founders Fund (FF) proposals? It is because the total amount of the 2013 award will go to The Garden Club of America FF 2013 Centennial Award for the restoration of the East 69th Street Central Park entrance. All 18,000 members of The Garden Club of America are invited to the FF Dedication Celebration Dinner on June 2, 2013 at The Colony Club in New York City. But don't delay - there is a limit of 500 guests. The FF 2013 Centennial Dedication, open to all, will take place on Monday, June 3, 2013 at 1:30 PM at the site. For more information check your *Bulletin* or visit the GCA website.

All *letters of intent* for the 2014 FF Award must be received at GCA Headquarters by June 1, 2013. Proposal Portfolios are due at GCA Headquarters by October 1, 2013. If you have a proposal, please contact me.

Sabrina Inkley, Founders Fund Chair

2013 HIKES

Where has this New Year gone? January has flown past, but I would like to suggest we reserve some dates for hiking together.

Our first hike, Friday, February 8, was a return visit to North Chagrin Reservation. It has been more than a year since we hiked the north end of North Chagrin reservation. We will save the remainder of the "unexplored" Cleveland MetroParks until we have a better chance of good weather (for driving & hiking), as these parks are much further afield.

I hope that it will help you to have the rest of our winter/spring GCC hiking dates, now:

Thursday, March 14

Monday, April 1

Wednesday, May 8

Our hiking dates are fewer, as I look forward to welcoming both a new daughter-in-law and a new granddaughter in the late-spring/early-summer!

I do hope to see you in February, March, April and May or as often as it works into your schedule!

Paula Coleman, Assistant Program Chair

Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve-CLNP

Things are moving ahead at the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve. The Preserve will be temporarily closed for a few weeks in February as the Port will be trucking in clean fill to cover the last 5 acres that need remediation. At that time, some of the fill will be taken to "the beak" where our platform overlook will be built. We are working with the Port to find someone to construct the platform and Brinsley Tryrell has drawn a beautiful railing that tells the story of the Preserve from dredge to nature! It is hoped construction will begin in late spring contingent on a contractor selection.

The Preserve attracted more than 16,000 visitors in 2012 from 41 states and 15 countries! Jim McCarty continues to recognize the importance of the Preserve for avid birders. In his Dec. 27, 2012 article he said, "New birding hot spots included the debut of the Nature Preserve". Many species were spotted there in 2012.

The Environmental Education Collaborative was dissolved in September. It was felt that it had met its goal of opening the Preserve on a full time basis. The EEC hopes the Port will form an advisory group to keep the educational component of the Preserve alive.

I encourage you to go to the Port of Cleveland website to see the link for the Preserve. The Garden Club of Cleveland is listed as one of the organizations that brought the Preserve to reality! We should feel proud of our contribution!

Anyone interested in walking the Preserve, call me- would love to head out there anytime!

Claudia Fulton, CLNP Chair

Don't forget: membership in The Cleveland Botanical Garden and The Holden Arboretum is a requirement of our Club membership – please remember to update your memberships each year. Visit cbgarden.org and holdenarb.org for current details about exhibits, lectures and programs. Enjoy and support these fabulous and unique resources!!



Mark Your Calendars

Upcoming GCC Events:

Fields, Forests, Rocks and Streams: Conserving Our Heritage
A GCA Flower Show presented by The Garden Club of Cleveland
Preview Party for GCC Members and Guests

February 21, 6p.m. - 8 p.m.

Western Reserve Land Conservancy, 3850 Chagrin River Road, Moreland Hills, OH 44022

Fields, Forests, Rocks and Streams: Conserving Our Heritage
A GCA Flower Show presented by The Garden Club of Cleveland
Open to GCC Members and the Public

February 22, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Western Reserve Land Conservancy, 3850 Chagrin River Road, Moreland Hills, OH 44022

No March Meeting

Joint Meeting with Shaker Lakes Garden Club and Akron Garden Club

April 22nd

11:15 am promptly Short Business Meeting to present 2013 candidates for GCC membership vote --
 please plan to attend!

Joint Meeting with Shaker Lakes Garden Club and Akron Garden Club

11:30 am Coffee and Social

12:00 pm Luncheon

1:00 pm Speaker: Rosalind Creasy – Celebrated California Garden and Food Writer, Photographer
 and Landscape Designer

Location: The Country Club of Hudson
 2155 Middleton Rd, Hudson, OH 44236

Valet parking available

Other Upcoming Events:

February 5 – March 10

Orchid Mania

The Cleveland Botanical Garden

March 16 and March 17, 9am – 1 pm

Annual Pancake Breakfast

The Holden Arboretum

April 26, article submission deadline for Summer Compost