



“Open the gate,
step into the Garden”

May/June 2010

Upcoming Events

MAY

- Saturday, May 1, 10:00 a.m. to noon. Gardening Fun For Kids at the Brecksville Library. Carol Burns will direct this CGC event.
- Tuesday, May 11, at 7:00 p.m. Board meeting in the Club Room.
- May 14-16 NGC Convention in Atlanta, Georgia.
- Sunday, May 16, from noon-5:00 p.m. Third Annual Brecksville Open Garden Day. Check the [Brecksville City website](#) for more information.
- Saturday, May 22, at 11:00 a.m.
- Chippewa Annual Plant Exchange at the Meadows Picnic grounds in the Brecksville Metroparks. Take your extra plants plus a side dish or dessert.
- Monday, May 31, Memorial Day parade in Brecksville at 9:00 a.m. and in Broadview Heights at 11:00 a.m. To pass out candy at either parade, call Kathy Ziemba.

President Kathy Ziemba's Message

Dear Chippewa Garden Club Member and Friend,

What an exciting time we had at the Garden Club of Ohio Convention in April. We came away with many awards. There was also a wonderful flower show, and I must say we have very many talented ladies here in Ohio.

I want to thank Sandy Spann, Jo Ann Bartsch, Debbie Schuckert, and Kathy Habib for coming to the “Clean UP the Club Room” day. They all worked very hard and sometimes on their hands and knees, washing windows and re-organizing all flower show items. We all needed a nap after that.

Please check your Yearbook for upcoming events and meetings.

- Gardening Fun for Kids-May 1st,
- Plant Exchange/Picnic May 22nd
- Memorial Day Parade May 31st
- Road Trip to Schedel Arboretum & Gardens June 12th
- Garden Therapy “Summer Social” June 19th
- Home Days, June 25,26, 27.

See you all at the meeting and until then....

Keep on digging,
Kathy Ziemba



Upcoming Events JUNE

- June 6-12 National Garden Week
- Tuesday, June 8, at 7:00 p.m. Board Meeting in the Club Room
- Saturday, June 12, at 8:30 a.m. Field trip to Schedel Arboretum and Gardens in Elmore, Ohio. Meet us in the parking lot behind Broadview Hts. City Hall (east side) (Broadview and Oakes Roads) where we will arrange car pools.
- Saturday, June 19, at 10:00 a.m. Garden therapy at Pleasantview Care Center
- Tuesday, June 22, at 7:00 p.m. Program: Jeff Grieff from Lowe's Greenhouse in Chagrin Falls will share Ten Great Plant Stories. Program and business meeting held in the Brecksville City Hall Community Room.
- June 25, 26, and 27 Brecksville Home Days

MARCH MEETING PROGRAM PRUNE ALONG WITH BOB

At our March 23rd meeting, Bob Witsaman from the Royal Victorian Gardens discussed how to prune ornamental trees and shrubs. He began his presentation with a description of his grandparents' farm on Brecksville Road across the street from the present City Hall. His lecture was based on an extremely useful handout from the Purdue University Extension Service, number HO-4-W, which you can find on the World-Wide-Web at <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/HO-4.pdf>

Reasons to prune include: maintain or reduce plant size, remove undesirable growth, remove dead, diseased, or broken branches, stimulate flowering and fruiting, rejuvenate old plants, prevent damage, and shape plants in an artificial form.

Pruning myths, such as killing a plant by pruning it at the wrong time of the year, were dismissed. The handout includes excellent tables listing pruning times for common spring-flowering trees and shrubs, summer flowering trees and shrubs, and shrubs which can be pruned both before and after bloom.

Tools for pruning include hand shears for branches up to 1/4 inch in diameter, lopping shears for branches up to 1/2 inch in diameter, pruning saws for branches over 1 inch in diameter, pole pruners for high branches, and hedge shears for clipping formal shapes.

Basic pruning techniques include pinching by hand, thinning to remove a branch to a main branch, and heading to shorten branches back to a good bud or lateral branch.

After Bob reviewed seven general pruning procedures, he answered question from garden club members and guests.

1. Begin pruning while plants are young.
2. Know why you're pruning and what your final goal is.
3. Time your pruning according to aesthetic and functional reasons.
4. Remove dead, broken, injured, diseased, and insect infected branches. Clean your tools after cutting diseased wood.
5. Prune crossovers, suckers, sprouts, or branches which impede movement.
6. Don't leave stubs or cut into the collar of the branch.
7. Clean and oil tools.



Bob Witsaman

Arbor Day News

Many volunteers made it possible to distribute white pine seedlings to the third graders of the Brecksville Broadview Heights school district. From April 22nd through April 27th we visited Hilton, Assumption Academy, Chippewa and Highland Drive schools. The children are always so excited and enthusiastic, and each one lights up when receiving their tree seedling and says "Thank you."

Thank you to all of the volunteers who shared their time and talents to serve in this community service project!
Lenore Siegman, Chair



GCO GOES GREEN 82nd Annual Convention Garden Club of Ohio, Inc.

On April 13, 2010, three members of the Chippewa Garden Club attended the Awards Luncheon at the GCO Convention held in Cincinnati, Ohio. (Two other Chippewa Members (Aggie Goss and Marian Dougherty) were present as GCO officers/ chairpersons.)



Aggie Goss

GCO Goes Green was the theme for this 82nd annual convention. Everything from the handouts, to the program topics, to the title of the Standard Flower Show ("It's not Easy Being Green...or is it??") was devoted to the theme of keeping our Earth green.



Marian Dougherty

We all attended the program given by Vici Tepe on "The Principles of Organic Gardening." Vici began working for Gardens Alive in 1991 in the insect lab and eventually began running the research gardens in 1999. Currently, she is the company's Product Specialist. And does she know her products! For any of you not familiar with Gardens Alive, they specialize in a natural, primarily organic approach to gardening, including not only the best nutrition for your plants, but the control of those pesky critters. The audience bombarded her with questions on how to deal with a variety of garden problems, and she was quick to provide a solution. We all empathized with her when she related several of her garden disasters!

The luncheon was a fabulous salad full of greens (imagine that!) as well as a myriad of other vegetables, fruit (avocado), and chicken. Dessert was a divine chocolate creation. The presentation of awards immediately followed the luncheon and as expected, Chippewa Garden Club President, Kathy Ziembra, took multiple walks up to the podium to collect our awards. (For a complete listing, see the other article in this newsletter). Although we didn't win Garden Club of the Year, we of course thought we deserved it! The highlight of the presentation was a visit from Woodsy the Owl and Smokey the Bear, right from the Wayne National Forest. (There are photos documenting this encounter, but fortunately they can't be put in this newsletter!)



After the award presentation, we leisurely toured the Standard Flower Show, looking for new staging and design ideas, and, of course, constantly comparing it to what our Flower Shows look like.

One design section title was Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

Look what those designers did for those classes!



It was a wonderful day, a day spent thinking about not only beautiful things but trashy things, too!
Thank you Chippewa Garden Club for the opportunity to represent you!

Jo Ann Bartsch, Lynne Evans, Kathy Ziembra

APRIL MEETING
CACTI AND SUCCULENTS

CGC member and Master Gardener Kathy Habib presented a Power Point program on cacti and succulents at our April meeting. How do the two differ? There are over 10,000 species of succulents. Cacti, of which there are over 2000 species, are one of the largest families of succulents.

Cacti range from the Arctic Circle to the mountains of Chile, although most originate from the Southwestern United States and Mexico. Cacti have now become naturalized throughout the world. Cacti are distinguished by a structure called an areole which is a specialized type of bud or growing point from which spines or bristles emerge.

Succulents provide a variety of products including food, beverages, cosmetics, and medicine. They're used to make wines, jellies, skin ointments, tools such as fishhooks, and even tequila. Ole!

Kathy uses commercial potting mix for succulents other than cacti, and for cacti, she adds additional coarse builder's sand, perlite or chicken grit.

Watering Succulents:

All pots need a drainage hole. Desert cacti prefer clay pots. Watering will depend on the time of the year, the sizes of both the plant and the pot, and the type of succulent. The most common cause of loss of any plant is overwatering.

Succulents have low nutrient requirements. Fertilize once or twice a year in the late spring or summer when the plant is actively growing.

Methods of propagating cacti and succulents include seed, root division, stem cutting, and leaf cutting. Divide roots of clumping succulents such as the sansevierias. Leaf Cuttings are commonly done on crassulas, such as jade and echeverias, and on Holiday cacti such as the schlumbergeras. Simply remove the leaves from the stem and allow the leaves to form a callous. Apply a rooting hormone, and plant the leaves in a shallow tray until new plants form.

The following succulents are winter hardy in northern Ohio. Full sun and well-drained soil are needed. While many hardy succulents will withstand the cold temperatures of northern Ohio winters, many will not tolerate the wet conditions of our winters.

- Prickly pear cactus
- Hen and chicks
- Donkey tail spurge
- Worm stonecrop. Sedum sp.
- Variegated stonecrop. Sedum sp
- Live-forever. Sedum spectabile. Blooms late summer into fall.
- Mohogany plant. Sedum telephium 'Sunset'

GCO AWARDS
FIRST PLACE

- GardenTherapy
- Tree Award
- Beautification of a Public Building
- Best Standard Flower Show in a Public Building
- Best Schedule, Standard Flower Show

SECOND PLACE

- Club Newsletter
- Best Educational Exhibit, Standard Flower Show

THIRD PLACE

- Publicity Pressbook



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Kathy Ziembra

Pansy Planting in Brecksville
April 15, 2010

Beauty and Fun!
CGC members helping are Jo Ann Bartsch, Noreen Butano, and Debbie Schuckert. The other two ladies are Donna Shirer and Pam Schaffer. Another helper not pictured is Debbie's granddaughter, Maddie.

