

President's Message

I have to admit that I feel a twinge...ok, maybe more than a twinge...of jealousy when I think of Garden Club members who are spending their winter months in warmer, greener locations across the country. Since I am stuck inside the house, I am spending more and more time on the computer.

For anybody not familiar with the *Pinterest* photo sharing website, there are countless gardening ideas and pictures...and I now have enough grand improvement plans for my yard to last several years. Although I am usually all talk and no action, most of these ideas will not leave the idea board that I have "pinned" them to and ever come to fruition but it is a fun way to get through these cold days.

Through *Pinterest*, I have learned how to use empty milk cartons to fill up space in large planters, that old light fixtures can be hung in the garden and turned into incredible hanging planters and the links to several recipes consisting of everyday household items that can be used as an alternative to Roundup. I have no idea if any of these things will actually work, but I can't wait to try them out this spring.

For anyone feeling the gardening doldrums, I recommend checking out *Pinterest*. Your spouse might groan with the "honey do" list it creates, but it sure gets the imagination going.

Bronwyn Pierson



Crumpets and Tea, Please Wednesday February 26, 2014

With the popularity of the PBS series, "Downtown Abbey," there is a resurgence of interest in Tea Time, and our Herb Group is joining in! We will learn about various Tea Times, Tea Etiquette, How to Brew Tea and also answer the age-old question....Crumpets or Scones?

We will be brewing some herbal and more traditional tea and baking and serving crumpets and scones.

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, February 26. We will meet at the Hudson Library in the North Meeting Room at 9:00am.

Reservations are required prior to February 21 and there will be a small fee. Please RSVP to sherrybeam@hotmail.com or (330) 342-0969.



Home & Garden Tour Tea Room Managers Needed

A special highlight of the Home & Garden Tour for visitors is the opportunity to rest their feet and visit with a friend while enjoying the amenities of the Tour Tea Room located in the Middle School. For the past two years the Tea Room has been well managed by Gayle Kadlec and Katy Doran. They will be stepping down after the 2014 Home & Garden Tour.

The Tour Committee is looking for two people who would be willing to take on this responsibility. We would like the new managers to "shadow" the running of the 2014 Tea Room so they will be up and ready to take on the job beginning with the 2015 Home & Garden Tour.

Is this something that would interest you? Do you have a buddy who would be willing to come along with you so we can keep the Tea Room a staple of the Tour?

For more information, please contact Lois James at (330) 650-4209 or email her at jameslois19@gmail.com.

Books Purchased in 2013 for the Children's Department of the Hudson Library & Historical Society

The following titles were purchased in 2013 for the Hudson Library & Historical Society's Children's Department with a \$100 donation from the Hudson Garden Club. We are helping to foster an interest in gardening early on.

<i>Don't Say a Word, Mama/No Digas Nada, Mama</i>	Joe Hayes
<i>Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table</i>	Jacqueline Briggs Martin
<i>Gardening Lab for Kids: 52 Fun Experiments to Learn, Grow Harvest, Make, Plan and Enjoy Your Garden</i>	Renata Fossen Brown
<i>Growing Suspicion: A Rebecca Mystery</i>	Jacqueline Dembar Greene
<i>Kids' Outdoor Adventure Book: 448 Great Things to Do</i>	Stacy Tornio and Ken Keffer
<i>In Nature Before You Grow Up</i>	Stacy Tornio
<i>Project Garden: A Month-by-Month Guide to Planting, Growing and Enjoying All Your Backyard Has to Offer</i>	Peter Reynolds
<i>Rose's Garden</i>	
<i>Tree Lady: The True Story of How One Tree-Loving Woman Changed a City Forever</i>	Joseph H. Hopkins



Fertilizer in a Flash

A summer lightning storm not only waters the garden but fertilizes it, too.

Every year, the bright flicker of lightening in the night followed by the echo of thunder rolling through the sky heralds the return of spring. Though thunderstorms are identified with myriad things, from thunder and hail to lightening and torrential rain, most people wouldn't add fertilizer to this list. But, in fact, every bolt of lightning naturally produces nitrogen fertilizer that helps forest and field stay green.



In 1827, Baron Justus von Leibig, a German chemist, discovered elevated levels of NO_3 , a nitrogen compound used as a plant fertilizer, in rainwater collected during thunderstorms. It took about 150 years, but scientists finally discovered how thunderstorms create the nitrates von Leibig had observed.

The atmosphere around Earth is more than 70 percent nitrogen. As it floats around the planet, atmospheric nitrogen takes the form of a molecule made of two nitrogen atoms bound very tightly together (N_2). Atmospheric nitrogen is chemically unavailable to plants, so before it can be used, the nitrogen must be converted to an available form (NO_3) through a process known as "fixing" In one of science's wonderful contradictions, to "fix" nitrogen means that the nitrogen molecule must first be broken apart. Here's how it happens.

In nature, nitrogen can be fixed in two ways, by bacteria that live symbiotically with leguminous plants like peas and beans, and by bolts of lightning. Lightning is an amazing phenomenon. A single discharge can contain tens of thousands of volts, and heat the air within the lightning channel to over 30,000°F in a fraction of a second. The intense heat breaks the bonds that hold the nitrogen (N_2) molecule together, releasing individual atoms called free nitrogen. As the superheated air begins to cool, the free nitrogen combines with free oxygen to form nitric oxide (NO). Further cooling allows the nitric oxide to combine with additional oxygen to form nitrogen dioxide (NO_2). The nitrogen dioxide, which is soluble in water, quickly dissolves in raindrops and forms nitric acid (HNO_3). Through further reaction, the nitric acid loses its hydrogen component and becomes the nitrate ion (NO_3) that plants can use as a nutrient.

As impressive as lightning is, it accounts for only about 2 percent of the naturally fixed nitrogen produced each year. That still comes out to an estimated 3 million tons. The majority of NO_3 — about 75 percent — falls in the tropics. So when a summer thunderstorm chases you indoors, take solace in knowing that the storm is not only watering the garden but fertilizing it, too.

Article by Charles W. G. Smith

Author and Consulting Horticulturist in Southfield, Massachusetts

Treasurer's Report

Account Balances as of December 31, 2013

Unrestricted Cash (Checking)	\$ 1,758.77
Restricted Cash (Scholarship Fund)	\$ 18,471.03
PNC Savings Account	\$ 63,744.91
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 83,974.71

Daniela Baloi, Treasurer

Minutes of the HGC General Meeting January 16, 2014

President Bronwyn Pierson called the meeting to order at 7pm and welcomed 46 members and guests. Bronwyn introduced the current board members. She asked if anyone is willing to be a greeter at the next meeting.

Bronwyn went on to ask if anyone would like to have their name put forward to become an Affiliate to Cleveland Botanical Gardens. Names must be submitted by February 1, 2014.

If there is anyone who would like to volunteer to undertake an internal audit for the Garden Club, please let Bronwyn know.

Barb Earnhardt reminded those present of an upcoming trip on January 22 to Seiberling Naturealm Visitors Center for a program called, "Waking the Garden in Spring."

Barb noted that there is an Anderson coach tour to the Philadelphia Flower Show in March.

Pat Peterson will be the recipient of tonight's flower arrangement.

Sharon Papes, Program Chairperson, introduced Tom Dayton, owner of Dayton Nurseries in Norton and host of the radio show "Ready-Set-Grow." Tom presented a wonderfully informative slide show giving attendees a sneak peek at the newest flower, tree and shrub introductions. www.daytonnursery.com

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Lawrence
Recording Secretary

**You cannot live a perfect day without
doing something for someone who will
never be able to repay you.
— John Wooden**

Young Tree Training Class Barlow Community Center Friday, March 14, 2014

A young tree training class will be held at the Barlow Community Center on Friday, March 14, 2014 from 8:30am to 3:00pm.

The morning session will be in the classroom and the afternoon session will be a practical pruning session held outdoors. Pruning for structural and architectural shaping will be demonstrated for long-term best possible results. The class is free and is limited to Hudson residents and members of the Hudson Garden Club.

As the second portion of the class will be conducted outdoors, come dressed for the weather and bring your pruning shears and folding pruning saw.

If interested, register by email to Tom Munn, Hudson Public Works Superintendent—Services tmunn@hudson.oh.us or (330) 342.1750 by March 7.

February Field Trip Orchid Mania Cleveland Botanical Garden Thursday, February 6, 2014

Another breath of spring will be enjoyed at our annual visit to the Cleveland Botanical Garden to see **Orchid Mania**. We always enjoy the sights and smells of the glasshouse at this time of year. Come and see the large variety of colors, shapes, sizes and scents of orchid flowers—many more than are typically seen anywhere potted orchids are sold! Taking wonderful photos is easy because you can get so close to the flowers. **New this year**, the CBG has teamed up with nearly a dozen local interior designers to create "dazzling room designs made even more amazing with the careful placement of orchids, orchids and more orchids."



Afterwards, we'll walk over to the nearby Cleveland Art Museum to have lunch and a short time of exploration. The Cleveland Museum of Art's eight-year building project is finally completed and the new building is worth seeing.

This field trip is planned for **Thursday, February 6, 2014**. Admission to the CBG is \$12 (\$9.50 if our group is 15 or more people) and free for members. Admission to the Art Museum is free.

We will meet in the Acme parking lot near the Otani Restaurant and leave from Hudson at 9:30am. Drivers needed for carpools. **Please RSVP to Barb Earnhardt at barb.earnhardt@yahoo.com or (330) 653-3831 no later than Monday, February 3, 2014.**

**Hudson Garden Club
P.O. Box 651, Hudson, OH
44236**

What's Coming Up

Thursday, February 6, 2014

Orchid Mania

Cleveland Botanical Garden

RSVS by Monday, February 3, 2014

See page 3 for details

Thursday, February 20, 2014

HGC General Meeting

What Local Food Is

Social Time: 6:45pm

Program: 7:00pm

See this page for details

Wednesday, February 26, 2014

Crumpets and Tea, Please—Herb Group

Hudson Library—North Meeting Room

RSVP by Friday, February 21, 2014

See page 1 for details

“Christmas in June”

Don't forget to gather your unwanted Christmas decorations for “Christmas in June” in the Gift Shop of the Home & Garden Tour.

Judy Mikita (330) 656-1849 is the “go-to” person who is storing all these treasures until Tour time.



Newsletter Committee

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Hudson Garden Club February General Meeting

“What Local Food Is”

With Rick Carson & Brian Teggart

Thursday, February 20, 2014

Social Time: 6:45pm

Program: 7:00pm

Laurel Lake Community Room



Rick Carson and Brian Teggart from Nosh Eatery and Creative Catering located at 5929 Darrow Road in Hudson will present a program on “What Local Food Is.” Their topic will cover some history, the dynamics of purchasing locally and choosing all-natural and organic products. They will touch base on how farm-to-table is important to them and their guests and how they do farm production and why they have chosen the methods they use.

Rick and Brian have their roots in culinary arts. Rick was born in the Philippines and moved to Ohio 1984 while Brian is a native of Stow, Ohio. They both had their start in Vocational Culinary Programs while in high school followed by degrees from the Pennsylvania Culinary Institute. Their years of experience have taken them on different paths but their long-time friendship finds them as partners working their organic farm “Urb Agro” located on Norton Road in Hudson.

We invite you to join us for an entertaining and informative evening.