



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I think December is the most beautiful time of year in Hudson. During most of the year I drive the side streets throughout our community; however, in December I make sure to travel through downtown Hudson every chance I can. I always marvel at the beauty of the Green with the lights on all the trees. Just another reminder of how lucky we are to make Hudson our home.

For the second year, the community will be able to enjoy the Christkindlmarkt on the Green with the Hudson Garden Club again a part of this European tradition. We will give back to the Hudson community as we create live swags at our December meeting on the 12th. Last year we enthusiastically followed the lead of Barb Earnhardt and created a swag for every exhibitor at the Markt. I was amazed at how different they each looked and yet all were equally beautiful. I was never able to find mine but loved trying to while admiring all of them. It was great fun creating the swags last year so don't miss our December meeting.

Remember to plan your visit to the Cleveland Botanical Garden and the Glow exhibition of trees, gingerbread houses and more. Be sure to look for our Hudson Garden Club tree. It will be the prettiest one!!

I hope you enjoy the upcoming holiday season and that you look forward to our many HGC activities as we welcome 2020.

Fondly,

Jan

WELCOMING DONATIONS FOR THE TOUR GARDEN SHOP

This is a perfect time to decide what to pack away and what to donate to our Tour Garden Shop - especially the very popular garden art and supply items and Fall decorative items. Donors can always bring items to the Garden Club meetings. Other options include dropping items off at Judy Mikita's house (you can drop them off on Judy's porch) at 2297 Middleton Road. Look for the bright blue mail box. Or you can arrange a pick-up with Susan McCutcheon (susan.mccutcheon@va.gov) or text (330) 807-4020 or contact Judy Mikita at (juggles1@gmail.com) or text (330) 701-1364.

THE GLOW GIRLS HAVE DONE IT AGAIN



THE GLOW GIRLS

The 2019 CBG GLOW theme is "Tiny Treasurers" and our HGC design is "Diminutive Delights." Once the CBG adds the tree skirt river of live flowering plants along with the gingerbread house display the finished look is very attractive.

The GLOW display is open to the public through December to 1/4/2020. For more information on GLOW contact cbgarden.org.

THE STORY OF THE WREATH STAMP PICTURED ON PAGE ONE

"Wreaths deliver the message that the homeowner shares your same warm feelings toward the holiday season," says Postmaster General Megan Brennan. "That's the message millions of people will convey to friends and loved ones when they use the wreath stamps." For former White House chief floral designer Laura Dowling, a wreath now symbolizes the opportunity of a lifetime. Laura was invited to design the set of four wreaths postage stamps for the USPS. She shares with us the story of how her wreaths became stamps.

While working long hours at the White House, Laura didn't have much time for decorating at home, but she always placed a wreath on her door. A few years ago a U.S. Post Office art director walked past Laura's house. Her holiday wreath -- a natural design of apples and berries, caught his eye. "He called me up to inquire about my interest in creating a wreath stamp," says Laura. Restrictions regarding activity outside the White House required that she forego the opportunity.

"Much to my surprise, the opportunity arose again once I left the White House," says Laura. She started creating top secret versions of wreaths under wraps. "The project was secret and under wraps for so many years that at certain points I almost wondered if it was a dream," confides Laura Dowling. Her designs were inspired by the holiday and decorating traditions of Early America using natural materials including fruit, flowers and greenery. "I wanted to use materials that are easily accessible," she explains. Laura created relatively simple wreaths. One or two-ingredient designs, with a few added embellishments, that people can re-create at home. By focusing on natural materials, traditional colors and seasonality, Laura could create wreaths that celebrate the Christmas holiday and evoke the winter season. The wreaths were created over several seasons and photographed on different backgrounds including doors in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia and at River Farm, George Washington's farm and headquarters of the American Horticultural Society. A process was going on simultaneously with many art directors at USPS to get the final approval. Four wreaths of similar color themes and backdrops were selected. "I used a few of my favorite wreath-making techniques: wiring (pinecones and ivy), bundling (hydrangea) and leaf-folding (aspidistra leaves) to create the designs," Laura explained. Grapevine and straw wreath forms were used. Floral foam wreath shapes can also be used as a water-source to create long-lasting wreaths. "It's perhaps no accident that the final collection of wreaths is "mail carrier friendly," explains Laura. She often used her own door to experiment with different options. Many of her early designs featured fruit (e.g., apples, oranges, lemons, limes, etc.) in the Colonial Williamsburg tradition. "People noticed the wreaths, including our mail carrier, who of course saw the wreaths every day." The mail carrier told Laura when she liked the design. When the designs did not meet with her approval she said so in no uncertain terms. Usually her disapproval involved fruits that were overly ripe or oversized wreaths that blocked the mail slot. "Occasionally, she let us know she would be holding our mail until the offending wreath was removed," confides Laura. She realized it was important to create long-lasting designs that will not interfere with U.S. Postal Service delivery!

The design process was about five years in the making. It started with wreath sketches, proceeded to creating prototypes and then photographing different options on various doors. There were many considerations beyond the actual design of the wreaths: how they would look in reduced size, how the colors would appear in stamp form, how they would work as a collection, etc. Antonio Alcala, the USPS Art Director, helped navigate the artistic review, selection process, final layout, legal review and scheduling for release. Kevin Allen, the photographer, is a long-time collaborator who did outstanding work on this project. "All in all, it was a fascinating process that taught me a lot about how to create a mass-produced product from start to finish," shares Laura. This past summer she finally heard the wreath stamps would be released. The **"first day of issue"** dedication ceremony took place on October 25, 2019 at the L. L. Bean Flagship store in Freeport, Maine. "I especially enjoyed meeting Postmaster General Megan Brennan, the first woman to hold the position in the history of the U.S. Postal Service," says Laura.

According to Ms. Brennan, the very first holiday postage stamp featured a wreath. Nine different holiday wreath stamps have been issued in the past 57 years. She estimates the postal service will deliver more than 13 billion cards and letters and 800 million packages this year. *"So, put a holiday wreath on the door and better yet put the wreath stamp on your cards and letters this holiday season," Ms. Brennan suggests. "We hope that you use them to share the holiday spirit with family and friends."* Ms. Brennan began her career as a letter carrier. When you are a letter carrier, you notice how people decorate their houses. Especially their doors." "I happen to be a big fan of wreaths," she explains. "I always have a wreath on my door celebrating the season."

Treasurer's Report

Account Balances as of October 31, 2019

PNC Savings	\$ 32,059.91
Scholarship Fund (Restricted)	\$ 10,005.77
Unrestricted Cash (Checking)	\$ 24,570.37

Investment Accounts

Field of Interest Fund	\$ 68,042.56
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Total Bank Accounts \$ 134,678.61

Julie Kodatsky, Treasurer

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES November 21, 2019

On November 21 twenty-three HGC members and guests attended our general meeting at the Barlow Community Center.

Second VP, Carla Maurer, opened the meeting and welcomed several newer members who have joined us. She announced that at the December 12 meeting we will make live swags to be donated to the upcoming Christkindlmarkt in Hudson, scheduled for the weekend of December 13-15. Christmas cookies will be offered, compliments of HGC, no need to bring a plate of your own cookies to share. Congratulations to Barb Earnhardt and her floral design team who came home with "Best of Show" from Stan Hywet's "Inspiration in Bloom" in October.

Attendees then began planting their amaryllis bulbs under the direction of Barb Earnhardt. An additional amaryllis was planted and later delivered to HGC member Mim Cady at Laurel Lake.

Submitted by Carla Maurer

HGC IN THE NEWS



Did you see the latest issue of Hudson Life? The November 2019 issue celebrated our Best in Show display in the "Talk of the Town" article by Diane Demuyck (pages 20-21).

Based on an interview, Diane wrote: *The Hudson Garden Club won "Best in Show" at Inspiration in Bloom 2019 for its floral design in the dining room at Stan Hywet Hall. The club's 10-foot long arrangement was the collaboration of Barb Earnhardt, Jane Harrison and Nancy Forhan. The ladies spent about 75 hours meeting, picking flowers and designing. Many of the flowers were selected from fellow garden club members and other donations. This is the sixth time the Hudson Garden Club has been invited to join the event. The venue picks the theme and this year's inspiration was to interpret Mrs. Gertrude Seiberling's arrangements. "We had fun and love doing it," Barb said. "It was a thrill to win and work with the others who have a passion for floral art."*

AMARYLLIS CARE



At our November meeting, we had fun potting our bulbs and learning about how easy they are to grow. While we wait the 6-10 weeks to enjoy their bloom, we should be aware of their pre-bloom care AND their post-bloom care.

Pre-bloom: Water moderately once when first planted, then wait while the roots absorb and as buds and leaves appear, gradually water again, and keep the soil slightly moist (but not soggy). Check your plant a couple of times a week and water when potting soil is dry (deeper than the top layer). *Avoid overwatering.* Most bulbs will have two bloom stems, most with 3-4 flowers apiece!

Post-bloom: When their fantastic big flowers are done, remove the flower stem, keep plant in good light and treat like a houseplant, watering when dry about once a week, monthly with water-soluble fertilizer. The floppy leaves are not very pretty, but need to be left on the bulb and in the light to store food in the bulb for the next year's bloom (just like daffodils). After the danger of frost has passed, move your Amaryllis outdoors to a semi-shaded area. Harden or acclimate the plant to the outdoors, gradually expose it to more sun, then plant in the garden either in a pot or in the ground. Continue to water and fertilize throughout the Summer and early Fall. Then discontinue fertilizing, reduce watering. Before the first hard frost, dig it up, cut off the foliage, let it dry, induce dormancy. Dormancy (a rest period) of 8-10 weeks, in a cool, dark place (garage or basement) is required for reblooming! After the rest period, repot the bulb and move it into a warm, well-lit area, and start the process described above all over again!!

GLOW UPDATE

Many of you saw the unique dioramas filled with seasonal scenes in miniature at our October meeting. But seeing them as tree decorations is another thing! And we hope you have a chance to get to the CBG to see our tree and all the others at GLOW.

Our tree features red-and-gold colors to coordinate with the boxes used for the dioramas. Months of planning and work have culminated in another beautiful Christmas tree - our Club's gift to the community! Thank you to Glow Girls Faye Duber, Barb Earnhardt, Lois James, Betty Kalish, Ginny Kelleher, Nancy Kolodgy, June Marcontonio, Nancy Renner, Chris Rigby, Tina Schmutz, and Jane Thornton. **GLOW will be open to the public Saturday, November 23 through Saturday, January 4, 2020 during regular CBG visiting hours.** For details and regular admission pricing, visit cbgarden.org. (See pictures on Pages 1 and 5)

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

What's Coming Up

Saturday, 11/23 /19 - Saturday 1/4/20
GLOW @ Cleveland Botanical Garden

Open to the Public
See page 3 for details

Thursday, December 12 , 2019
HGC December General Meeting
Topic: "Wreaths for Christkindlmarkt"

Social Time: 6:45pm
Program: 7:00pm
Location: **BARLOW COMMUNITY CENTER**
See this page for details

Friday, 12/13/19 - Sunday 12/15/19
Christkindlmarkt in Hudson
On the Hudson Green



IN CASE OF BAD WEATHER

Hudson Garden Club follows the severe weather policy of the Hudson City schools. If school is canceled due to bad weather our meeting/event will also be canceled.

Call (330 653-1300), visit www.hudson.edu or watch HCTV or other television stations to learn of the closing.

Newsletter Committee

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THERE IS A PAGE 5 TO THIS NEWSLETTER

Hudson Garden Club December General Meeting

"Greens for Christkindlmarkt"

Thursday, December 12, 2019

Social Time: 6:45pm

Program: 7:00pm

Location: BARLOW COMMUNITY CENTER



We will be celebrating the holidays at our December 12 meeting in the Assembly Room at **Barlow Community Center**. Bring your shears and join in the creation of live Christmas swags for the vendor's tents of Hudson's second Christkindlmarkt. The outdoor German Christmas market will be held on the Hudson Green with the festivities beginning on Friday December 13 and continuing through Sunday, December 15.

Started last year in Hudson, this German Christmas Market, sponsored by the Hudson Landsberg Sister City organization, brought thousands of guests to downtown Hudson for shopping, food, drink and musical entertainment. The club is thrilled to add to the success of this event.

We are not asking members to bring cookies to this meeting since the club will be providing the cookies. Hope you are able to attend and join in the fun.

HUDSON GARDEN CLUB'S 2019 GLOW TREE



Merry Christmas



Happy Holidays



Peace on Earth



Joy to the World

