

Our Garden Paths

African Violet Expert Lori Helfner Speaks at Twinsburg Garden Club, March 13

Lori Helfner, who has over 200 varieties of African violets, will talk about "Growing African Violets" at the Twinsburg Garden Club's meeting in the Craft Room at the Twinsburg Senior Center on Thursday, March 13. In addition to Garden Club members, Helfner's presentation is free and open to residents in Twinsburg and the neighboring communities. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.; Helfner's presentation begins at 7 p.m.



Helfner will cover African Violet Care 101, which includes plant requirements and watering techniques. She will also demonstrate how to repot an African violet that has long-necked leaves. "This occurs when a plant is left in its original pot too long," explained Helfner. She added, "Garden Club members may

bring in one African violet to repot if it's long necked." Helfner will also bring large photographs of African violets that are special and unusual.

Helfner is vice president of the Ohio State African Violet Society and vice president of Parmatown African Violet Club, which will have a show and sale of African violets on Friday and Saturday before Mother's Day at Parmatown Mall. She also is a judge at African violet shows. Helfner said there are 15,714 registered African violet varieties. She especially likes the Rhapsodie series and Optimara series. The first has 119 varieties — all with women's names. Her collection includes Rhapsodie Cora, single and semi-double white frilled blooms with dark purple patches, and Rhapsodie Susi, which has single white and reddish purple ruffled blooms.

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Akron District Spring Meeting in Cuyahoga Falls, April 7

The first Akron District Spring Meeting since 2000 will be held at the Sheraton Suites — Akron in Cuyahoga Falls on Monday, April 7. Jean Lucas, TGC co-president and Akron district director, is coordinating the event, which includes a wonderful luncheon.

Carmie DeVito will present "Nature Comes Calling" design program and Deborah Davis will present "Container Gardens."

Carmie, a former Canton district director and GCO president, is a Master NGC

Flower Show judge, Master Landscape Design consultant, member of Ohio Judges Council and member of Avant Garde Arrangers Guild.

Deborah currently works for Eagle Growers where she combines her love for art and gardening. She also has an impressive five years of experience as the head horticulturist for the Columbus Zoological Gardens and 19 years as the horticulturist for the former Sea World of Ohio.

The cost of this exciting event is \$19. If you are planning to attend, please bring a check, made payable to TGC, to the March meeting or mail a check to Sally Schaeffer by Friday, March 21.

Collecting Seeds of Friendship at March Meeting

This year, the Twinsburg Garden Club will again participate in GCO's Seeds of Friendship. The program, designed by Partners in Conservation (PIC) at the Columbus Zoo, is a way to assist the courage people of Rwanda. They lost more than 100,000 men, women and children during the genocide in 1994.

The survivors are still in need of quality vegetable seeds: Green Cabbage, Tomatoes, Carrots, Bush Green Beans, Green Peppers and Onions. The women also like to plant Cosmo and Zinnias around their gardens.

The woman can also use money to purchase new garden hoes. The hoes cost \$5 each and are available at local village markets.

Please bring only the seeds listed above and make sure the seeds were packed for 2008. Make checks payable to Garden Club of Ohio.

All the seed and monetary donations will be given to PIC's Dr. Charlene Jendry who will distribute them in June to the Rwandan families who live in villages near gorilla habitats and to the Imbabazi Orphanage, which takes care of more than 100 children.



Have a Great
St. Patrick's Day!



Happy
Birthday!

Sandy Hansen
March 5

Gail Takacs, Editor
330-425-4544

Preservation Begins on a Local Level

Preserving our environment and natural resources is a global concern. But



how can we help as individuals on a local level. This is a question we have asked ourselves and many of us are trying to conserve energy, recycle, and so on.

Our February 14 guest speaker Mike McNut, coordinator of the Tinkers Creek Watershed Partners, provided suggestions on how we can improve the water quality in Tinkers Creek.

HIS SUGGESTIONS INCLUDE

Litter. The most visible form of pollution is litter. This debris is not only unsightly but can also clog storm water systems. Proper disposal of trash is the most preventable way to eliminate litter pollution.

Pet Care. When walking your pet pick up and properly dispose of your animal's waste. Leaving your pet's waste on the ground increases public health risks by

allowing harmful bacteria to wash into the storm water system.

Soaps & Detergents. Washing your vehicle in grassy areas or taking it to a commercial wash location will help remove detergent loads entering the storm water system.

Oil. Maintain regular tune-ups to ensure optimum engine performance. This helps reduce leaky valves and gaskets. Also, never pour oils into the storm drain.

Fertilizer. Never apply fertilizer before a large rain event. Some fertilizer may run off the lawn into storm water system. Follow the directions and only apply what is needed.

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS

Use recycling services in the community. Further support the recycling effort by purchasing recycled products.

Use fewer bags when shopping. Ask the clerk to fill up the bags and not double them, except when necessary. Save and return plastic grocery bags to the recycle bin at the grocer.

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She also has a couple varieties from the Optimara series, better known as EverFloris – Space Violets. She said, "The Optimara Space violet program sent over 25,000 seeds into orbit for nearly six years." The results are bigger and easier to grow African violets, with larger, fuller blooms that flower non-stop. The plant names range from EverGlory, EverGrace and EverLove, to Ever-

Precious and EverPeace. Helfner said her EverGrace violet has bluish-white blooms with frilled greenish edges.

Another of Helfner's favorites is the Yukako. This "hot" Chimera (miniature) from Japan is sought after because of its unusual green and blue pinwheel flowers. She finds good prices for her violet purchases, but not long ago a Yukako sold on eBay for more than \$300.

Annual Plant and Bake Sale set for May 17

The weather may be cold and snowy, but it's not too soon to start thinking about what plants you have in your garden that can be divided and potted for the Garden Club's annual Plant and Bake Sale on Saturday, May 17, 9 a.m. to noon. This is first of our two major fund raisers, and we all have to participate to make it a success. The proceeds go toward a \$500 scholarship to be awarded to a Chamberlain High School

senior, who will be attending college to study horticulture or a natural science.

TGC Joins Garden Forum

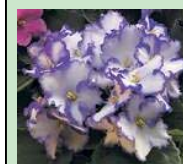
Twinsburg Garden Club members voted to join the Garden Forum of Greater Akron. Their newsletter should be in the mail soon. Garden Club Co-president Jean Lucas is the Forum's first vice president/ newsletter editor.

The Miracle

All through the winter, beneath forgettable white, these tiny entities remain asleep, recharging their energy until the first thaw of spring. Then, as if touched by magic, within days the mountainsides bloom patchworks of color. The miracle of nature once more unfolds.



*Princess Grace of Monaco
(1929-1982)*



Welcome to Our New Club Member

Naomi Stutzman

She is a long-time friend of Ada Pollock. If you know of any friend, relative or neighbor interested in gardening, bring them to our exciting March meeting. As guests, they may find our Club interesting and join!

Well Wishes

Sally Schaeffer came down with pneumonia in late February, but she is doing fine now.

Jan Rolko had a hip replacement and she is at home recovering from the surgery.

Marge Roberts' husband, Jim, has been ill and in the hospital with heart problems. He is home recuperating.

The Club wishes everyone a speedy recovery.