

The Akron Garden Club  
A One-Year History, July 2017-June 2018

A year following Pam McMillen's assuming leadership as club president of The Akron Garden Club, July 2017 through June 2018, the club has remained active and engaged. Read about this past year's accomplishments.

Dedee O'Neil, as second vice president, has mentored her third class of provisional members. Seven ladies will become active members in 2018: Karen Chadwick, Laurie Fenton, Nancy Koly, Fern MacMillan, Elizabeth Parker, Wendy Sloan, and Tracy Wiesner. All have interests in floral design, conservation, and horticulture and are already exhibiting their talents for leadership within the club.

Leading the Long-Range Planning Committee, Beth Brumbaugh presented a new long-range plan in June 2018. Judy Nicely, Jan Parry, Pam McMillen, Teresa Good, Elaine Fiocca, and Kathy Keller served the committee by developing questions for the January in-home meetings and compiling the results in February. The feedback from the survey results was considered and used to update the long-range plan.

Ginger Hayne and Kathy Reed organized terrific educational programs during the year, beginning with *The History of Central Park* presented by Sarah Cedar Miller. During August, the club tried its first pop-up garden tour hosted by Beth Brumbaugh, Kay McIntyre, and Kathy Keller. Members enjoyed this casual approach and some brought guests to tour the gardens. Monthly program topics included stormwater management, a panel discussion about Akron's Green transformation, Bruno Duarte's floral designs, holiday tablescape, and attracting birds to our gardens, as well as numerous presentations to help members prepare for the June flower show.

Jane Rogers and Sue Klein continued to inspire and invite club members to embrace photography by taking more photos and sharing them during AGC general membership meetings using their creatively themed topics, such as *Bouquet: Still Life*. A pop-up photography workshop was held to instruct members on photographing a still-life arrangement. AGC members are able to view other members' photos during these mini photography shows and read Jane and Sue's photo judging comments.

Because a 2016 fire destroyed Shady Hollow Lodge, the Summit Metro Parks shelter and site of AGC board meetings, the board met at Mingo Pavilion this past year while a new shelter was built.

The club voted to support the following community projects: \$5,000.00 to be paid over a two-year period to support the Summit Metro Parks *Rebuilding Shady Hollow Lodge* capital campaign, \$500.00 to the Summit Metro Parks Foundation to refresh and refurbish the Daffodil

Trail in Furnace Run Metro Park, \$3,000.00 to replace eighteen arborvitae and two boxwood plants located against the far north wall of the English Garden at Stan Hywet, and \$2,500.00 to complete the final phase of the Goldsmith Garden Restoration Project at Hale Farm & Village, which will include the renovation of pathways, making them more accessible to the garden by wheelchairs and strollers.

The Conservation Committee, led by Katie Wiggam and Barb Earnhardt, encouraged us to recycle and increased awareness about recycling and water usage. The committee also hit the road to tour Old Trail School gardens and living machine and take a trolley tour of the *Akron Waterways Renewed!* project, including Rosie, the tunnel boring machine, and the Ohio Canal Interceptor Tunnel, as well as water storage basin sites.

Patti Sinar and Elise Bennett chaired the Horticulture Committee and provided several presentations to help members prepare for the flower show. A terrarium workshop by Cindy Garner of Garden Club of Dayton was held in February at Suncrest Gardens. Caroline Parry and Teresa Good attended the 2017 Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference in Omaha, Nebraska. A pop-up meeting was held at Stan Hywet's Carriage House to give instruction on how to prepare horticulture specimens for flower shows by Kathy Keller.

Pam McMillen hosted a dinner in her home for AGC members to meet with Hilary Salatich to discuss the GCA's Second Century Campaign.

The year culminated with *Art Blooms 2018: Akron*, a successful GCA flower show held June 14-17 at Akron Art Museum. Candy Grisi, Jennifer Moore, and Colleen Wernig co-chaired the exuberant flower show, where the exhibition displayed 265 entries and attracted 716 visitors to the museum. Elaine Fiocca and Colleen Wernig received the Edna R. Sewell Bowl for Best in Show in floral design, as well as the Akron Art Museum Director's Award for floral design. Donna Bender was awarded the GCA's Dorothy Vietor Munger Award, and Robin Hardman won the AGC's True Colors Award for most captivating use of color. The GCA Harriet DeWaele Puckett Creativity Award went to Marguerite Tremelin, and the GCA Sandra Baylor Novice Floral Design Award went to Fern MacMillan. In horticulture, Dedee O'Neil received the Edna R. Sewell Bowl for Best in Show, the Clarissa Willemsen Horticulture Propagation Award, the Catherine Beattie Medal, and Akron's Horticulture Sweepstakes Award. The GCA Novice Award in Horticulture was awarded to Patti Sinar for an outstanding succulent entry in a propagation class. Tracy Wiesner won the GCA's Rosie Jones Horticulture Award for her terrarium entry. The Akron Art Museum Director's Award for horticulture was given to a terrarium created by Beth Brumbaugh. A member of the Indianapolis Garden Club, Pam Mahoney, won the Photography Division GCA Best in Show Award, and Elaine Fiocca won the GCA Novice Award in Photography for an image in the still-life class. Debby Bauman won the GCA Botanical Arts Creativity Award for an art deco necklace. Also in botanical arts, Kathy Reed received the GCA Novice Award, and Pam Wharton received AGC's Neophyte Award for the most distinctive entry by a first-time botanical arts exhibitor. The GCA's Marion Thompson Fuller Brown Conservation Award, recognizing an exhibit of "exceptional educational and visual

merit that increases knowledge and awareness of the environment,” was presented to AGC for its display about *Akron Waterways Renewed!*, the city’s billion-dollar water-quality improvement project. Melanie Andrew, Barb Earnhardt, and Katie Wiggam created the exhibit.