


THE GREEN LEAF

Volume 17 Issue 1

March 2004



Name for Facility Chosen

We are pleased to announce that after careful consideration and some debate, the board of trustees has agreed upon a name for our facility. At the November 17th, 2003 BGA board of trustees meeting, the name ***Beech Creek Botanical Garden & Nature Preserve*** was formally adopted.

Many local people who are involved with the project agreed that this is an appropriate name. Beech Creek is one of the main features of the land and evokes thoughts of natural tranquility. Most of the property will be kept in its natural wooded state, while another portion of the land will be dedicated to gardens; we felt the name needed to reflect this two-fold mission. Thus the Botanical Garden & Nature Preserve name.

There was some concern that the name does not convey any specific location or associate it with a particular city, such as the Cleveland Botanical Garden. To assist us with this possible problem, we will place "Stark County, Ohio" in visible areas on all of our brochures.

Speaking of brochures, we have a new one! This brochure explain the project goals and much more. They will enable you to know more specific information about this project and hopefully inspire you to share the information with others.

You are Invited . . .

to the Botanical Garden Association's quarterly meeting

Wednesday March 24 6:30PM

at Rice's Nursery
1651 55th St. NE
Canton, Ohio

Relax,
Learn & Enjoy

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Where Plants & People Grow
The Botanical Garden Association

The purpose of the BGA's quarterly meetings are to . . .

- * Update members on the BG & NP project
- * Offer an educational presentation related to horticulture or the environment
- * Have an opportunity to meet other members
- * Relax, Learn & Enjoy

Bring a friend, all are welcome !

2004 Calendar of Events

March 24 - Quarterly Association meeting	6:30pm at Rice's Nursery (1651 55th St. NE, Canton, OH)
	Topic: Getting ready for Spring: New varieties & old favorites
June 12 - Quarterly Association meeting	12:00-4:00pm at Property site (11931 Beech St. Alliance, OH)
	Property site clean-up & cook out
June 19 - Plant Sale	9:00am-3:00pm on Cleveland Ave. N. Canton, OH
	BGA fundraiser ~ great plants at discount prices!
September - Quarterly Association meeting	Exact date & time TBA
	A Fall walk on the property with a Botanist as our guide
December 8 - Quarterly Association meeting	6:30pm at Rice's Nursery
	A holiday theme, with an optional holiday craft project

Botanical Garden
Association
Board of Trustees
~~~~~

Paul Carmichael  
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Schwartz  
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Pat Olsen

Frederica Scott



## President's Message

Is it spring yet? Every morning as I bundle up in three layers of clothes, scarf, mittens and boots, and walk trepidaciously across the icy parking lot and into my school, I ask myself that

question. I am hearing cardinals chirping as I leave the house and that is a very good sign :)

We gardeners are all about hope, and so is the BGA. The organization is built on the dream of Paul Carmichael to build a botanical garden. And steadily, with hope and hard work, we progress toward that goal. But the Board of Trustees needs help on the journey. We need more active members to come forward and volunteer. Our Board is divided into the following areas of emphasis:

- Grants
- Education
- Public Relations
- Site and Design
- Ways and Means

If you have an interest in assisting with any of these areas, contact Paul Carmichael, 330.862.3920 or info@bcbgarden.org. And take it from me, you will be glad you did! Along this same line, I want to welcome our two new Board members - Ross Clem and Rich Dinko! And on behalf of the Board, our deepest thanks and appreciation to Penny Marshall who "retired" from our Board of Trustees. Penny had been a Board member since the BGA was founded, and we all thank her for her tireless service to the BGA.

Speaking of volunteering, I want to thank the Symposium committee for all of their hard work and effort spent in putting together our fourth annual Symposium - "All Gardens Great and Small". A round of applause to Melinda and Paul Carmichael, Pat Olsen, Freddy Scott, Marlene Beggs and Rebecca Morris.

Finally, congratulations to our Grants committee ! They submitted an application to the Flowers Foundation, and we recently received a grant for \$2,000.00!! A lot of time and effort went into multiple revisions of this grant. It will help us toward achieving our Phase I development goals. Please read more about this exciting news in Paul Carmichael's column later in the newsletter.

Until I see you at our March Association meeting, have a good time dreaming over the spring garden catalogs!

Mary Anne Schwartz  
President, BGA



## A Power Point Presentation

is now available.

This is an excellent tool to inform and to raise community awareness about our organization's mission and project.

Call to schedule a presentation for your group.

Melinda Carmichael  
330.862.3920

Freddy Scott  
330.627.1068

By partnering with the SCESC on this program, we will be able to realize immediate benefits from our property while we are planning the other phases, and working toward making other aspects of the facility operational.

It has been determined that the items needed to facilitate the GLOBE program on site would also be useful to accommodate the general public. Improvements include: parking area, a pavilion, temporary restroom facilities, trail improvement, a foot bridge, and signage.

We are in the process of putting together a grant request which outlines these Phase 1 needs. Copies will be submitted to area foundations and businesses, as we hope to attract various donors for the specific areas of need. As well as cash donations, we could also use donations of labor, construction materials, and the use of construction equipment.

If you are able to contribute any of your time or resources for this particular project or know of someone else who may, please contact me at 330.862.3920.



Beech Creek

If all goes well, we hope to have the improvements finished by the end of this summer. This will enable us to begin using the property for the GLOBE program by this fall. Now that's an exciting thought!

Paul Carmichael  
Executive Director, BGA

## Grants Update

The grants committee has compiled several documents requesting funds from various foundations. A grant proposal requesting funding for the master plan was submitted to the Stark Community Foundation and the William Bingham Foundation. A letter of inquiry pertaining to this same topic was sent out to sixteen other foundations. A grant was also submitted to the Stark-Wayne-Tusc Solid Waste District for the purchase of recycled plastic picnic tables, benches, waste receptacles, signage and parking stops.

## Opening the property

As we move towards our goal of creating a premier public garden in Stark County, there are many tasks at hand and a myriad of things to ponder. Our 164 acre natural area is just waiting to be made available to the public, but this cannot happen overnight. As easy as it would seem to carve out a parking area and some trails, there are many other considerations and details that must be worked out before we can begin making this site accessible.

We have always known that it would be necessary to open the property and build the facility in phases, but for each phase, we were not sure exactly what would be required. We now have some guidelines and objectives for the "phase 1" plan.

After several conversations with Rich Dinko from the Stark County Educational Service Center (SCESC), we have determined that the best and earliest way to start utilizing the property for public use and begin pursuing more of the BGA's educational goals, would be to allow students and teachers to use portions of the site for plant and earth science. Students can begin collecting and studying data from the site through the Global Learning & Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) program.

The GLOBE program is a cooperative effort of schools, led in the United States by a Federal interagency program supported by NASA, NSF, EPA and the US State Department, in partnership with colleges and universities, state and local school systems and non-government organizations. Internationally, GLOBE is a partnership between the United States and over 100 other countries.

GLOBE students:

- ◆ Take environmental measurements,
- ◆ Report their data to the GLOBE data archive via the internet,
- ◆ Create maps and graphs to analyze GLOBE data sets, and
- ◆ Collaborate with scientists and other GLOBE students around the world.

The goals of the GLOBE program are to:

- ◆ Increase scientific understanding of the earth,
- ◆ Improve student achievement in science and mathematics, and
- ◆ Enhance the environmental awareness of individuals worldwide.

## Looking Towards the New Year: Upcoming Association Meetings

It is an exciting time for the Botanical Garden Association. The dream of owning the property has become a reality with a name that seems to fit the dream, *Beech Creek Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve*.

This year's association meetings will be a combination of presentations and programs for the home gardener and backyard botanist. We will have opportunities to spend time at our new "home" during the better weather months and time to gather relevant information for our own gardens while listening to presentations. Once again, Rice's Nursery has kindly opened their doors as a meeting place and offered their staff's expertise.

**Getting Ready for Spring: New Varieties and Old Favorites** will be the first quarter's association meeting presentation. Cindy Faller and Linda Werstler of Rice's Nursery will talk about some of the new varieties of both annuals and perennials available this year as well as some perennial favorites. The date will be **Wednesday, March 24** from 6:30-9 pm. There will also be an opportunity to shop.

The second quarter's association meeting will be held at our new property on Saturday, June 12 from 12-4pm. We should come dressed to work with trowel and loppers in hand. We are planning a cookout and then a general clean-up while getting further acquainted with our new homes wealth of plant life.

The third quarter's association meeting will also be at our new property in September. The date has not yet been chosen, but will probably be a Saturday or Sunday mid-day. This day we will walk the property with a botanist and see what the fall has to offer in terms of plants, trees, and color. It seems the more time we get to spend at Beech Creek, the more it will feel like home.

Finally, December's meeting will be back again at Rice's Nursery with an opportunity to put our hands to work and create something for our home and the holiday season. We will meet on Wednesday evening, December 8 from 6:30-9pm. Our tentative project is to create a Williamsburg fruit centerpiece. There is a limited amount of space available, so in the September newsletter, we will provide a registration form. It will be first come first serve. There will be a small fee involved to cover supplies, and registration will be limited to 20.

More information about each of the Association meetings will be available in the upcoming newsletters. Please send any questions or suggestions to Freddy Scott at [scottbaris@eohio.net](mailto:scottbaris@eohio.net).

All in all, it will be a year to grow into the next phase of the vision that is now becoming a reality. Spending time at our new home and getting to know its landscape will begin to make us all a part of this dream coming true.

Freddy Scott



## Welcome new members!

We hope that you will get to know us better, and we hope you will be able to attend our next quarterly association meeting.

Nancy Baker-Cazan  
Brenda Bresiger  
Rich Dinko  
Sandy Heitsman  
Patricia Holl  
Daryl Holt  
Amy Hosking

Judy Joyce  
Priscilla Keihl  
Kate McMahon  
Diane Pastori  
K. Pollard  
Sarah Roush  
Mark Warner



## Many Thanks

For all of our most recent Donations !



Computer, complete with a monitor & keyboard  
**Timken Company, via Ivan & Marlene Beggs**

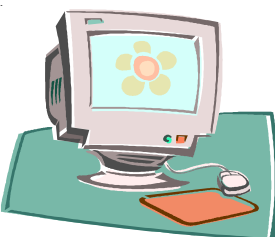
Books: Five different titles including two signed by the author  
**Emil & Mary Lou Mille**



\$50.00

**The North Canton Garden Club**

## New Web Site & E-Mail



We have recently been working with a web-site designer, and our website is now up and running. However, it is not finished yet; we are still editing and making improvements. If you have any suggestions, you may send them via our new e-mail address below.

[www.bcbgarden.org](http://www.bcbgarden.org)

E-Mail: [info@bcbgarden.org](mailto:info@bcbgarden.org)

## From the Membership Desk of Pat Olsen:

Coming soon to your mailbox.....the **new Botanical Garden Association brochure!** You will be receiving several copies of this new, full-colored brochure with the request to distribute them to your friends and family who may be interested in the association and the creation of The Beech Creek Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve.

We are hoping that our new brochure will be successful in recruiting new members and stimulating further support needed for this worthy project. Your assistance will increase awareness of our organization and provide the opportunity for more people to become involved in the planning of the garden.

It is rewarding to work on a project from its inception and to begin to see it take form. I am certain that the gardens will be something that we can all be proud of and will be an asset in many ways to Stark County. But, it is a very large task...one that requires a great deal of vision, support, and enthusiasm.

Your help in promoting interest and support in the BGA and the garden is much needed and greatly appreciated.

## The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual BGA Gardening Symposium "All Gardens Great & Small"

Although the weather outside was gloomy and gray, the mood inside at the BGA Symposium on February 21<sup>st</sup> was nothing less than sunny and bright. The 130 participants were eager to learn about new ideas for their gardens and



share their day with fellow gardening enthusiasts. The BGA premiered its new power point slide show featuring The Beech Creek Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, and vendors provided unique items for sale.

Our keynote speaker, Dr. Laura Deeter, asked us why we garden, we discovered through her expertise and humor, that it fulfills a fundamental need to nurture no matter how great or how small the garden. She also showed us how to create distinctive shade gardens.

Marvin Duren, of Marvin's Organic Gardens, advised us "not to treat our soil like dirt" if we want to be rewarded with beautiful landscape, and Beth Knorr, from the Crown Point Ecology Center, discussed organic vegetable gardening. Terry Duncan, National Wildlife Federation, offered ideas for creating a backyard habitat for wildlife, and for those of us who desire an English feel to our gardens, landscape designer Sabrena Schweyer offered a memorable slide show. Charles Applegate, senior gardener at Kingswood Center, shared his wisdom regarding gardens for all seasons, and Matt Workinger from Rohr Nursery demonstrated how to successfully create a garden water feature. If cooking interested the participants, they were able to enjoy the talents of author Judi Strauss as she demonstrated the

use of herbs. And if all of that still left the participants with questions, Phil Steiner from Mellinger's, was on hand to answer them.



Perhaps the day is best summed up in these comments by two of the gardeners who attended: "wonderful atmosphere, informative, fellowship, such fun!" and "What a wonderful way to spend a winter Saturday in February!". Another participant said that what she liked least about the symposium was that "it was too cold to work in the backyard when I got home". Hang on; spring will soon be arriving, and we can approach our gardens, great and small, armed with all of the great ideas we learned on this day.

Thanks to all those who attended, and especially to all of the volunteers who helped to make this event a success.

Pat Olsen

