

Fairy Gardening Brings Magic to Geauga Parks

By Danielle Young

Some might say magic was in the air Saturday evening at The West Woods Nature Center in Russell Township.

This was due to the Fairy Gardening workshop put on by The Geauga Park District to kick-off the summer series “Nights Out in the Parks.”

Fairy specialist Karin Stubler led the workshop, which had 20 participants.

Stubler has been doing fairy gardens for about seven years. She said that fairy gardening is “nothing new,” but interest of fairy gardening has grown a lot more in the past years, both locally and around the world.

“The neat thing about fairy gardens is that it appeals to all generations,” she said.

Stubler said she loves seeing the creativity people come up with, and that they can do it individually or together.

“I always like... anything that encourages kids to get away from the TV and computer and back outside, back to nature,” she said.

Stubler opened the Maple Ridge Fairy Garden Store in Concord

Nights Out in the Parks

May 30: Chardon Polka Band in Concert
June 27: Hot Djang in Concert
July 11: Jewelry, Wine & Friends
(Registration, fee required)
July 25: JiMiller Band Under the Stars
Aug. 8: Movie Night
Aug. 22: The Craic Brothers

Township in August 2013 — she hopes to make it the largest supplier of fairy gardening in Northeast Ohio.

The store, open from mid April to mid-December has many fairy gardening classes and materials. International Fairy Day is June 24 and Stubler will be celebrating it at her store on June 27.

At Saturday’s program, Stubler spoke about fairy lore before the participants started.

Fairy lore has been around a long time, she explained.

There are a lot of unknowns and debates about specifics, such as wings, size, life span, etc., she said, adding fairies are often confused with angels, but their wings are notably different.

Fairies are said to be able to predict



DANIELLE YOUNG/KMG

Lorna Picoult, left, 12, and twin sisters Alex and Meg, 10, have done fairy gardening before and find it “awesome and addicting.”

the future, and are generally kind and mischievous. They may be the reason that small items seemingly disappear in your house, Stubler said.

Fairies are also believed to bring good luck and fairy gardens will flourish because of this, she added, emphasizing this is just what is believed about fairies.

“We don’t know from sure, we’ve never interviewed a fairy,” Stubler said.

Fairy gardening has no rules, which can be stressful, she said, adding you don’t have to spend any money and can reuse items.

Participants were provided with two plants, a fairy, chair, fence, wash tub and turtle figurine, and once finished, got a sprinkling of fairy dust from Stubler.

“Everyone starts out with the same basic ingredients, but everybody’s project will look very different from each other,” Stubler said beforehand. “The kids are usually the most creative.”

Lorna Picoult, 12, and twin sisters Alex and Meg, 10, of Summit County, all agreed that fairy gardening was “awesome and addicting,” having done it before.

Lorna and Meg both said that the best part of fairy gardening was the possibility of seeing fairies.

Alex said the best part was being

able to spend more time with nature and thinking about things most people don’t think about.

The Picoult sisters came with grandparents Jeffery and Barbara Cook, of Garrettsville. They knew about the event after seeing a brochure.

Afterwards, Stubler said she thought it went well and everyone seemed to have a good time. She hopes the event inspired people to enjoy gardening and being outside.

Teresa Runion, the special events coordinator for the park district, was thrilled with the numbers for the first summer program, which required a fee and registration, and had a waitlist.

“We’ve never done anything like this before and with the rise in popularity for fairy gardens, we thought it would work,” Runion said. “We’re definitely having her back.”

“Night Out in the Parks” will consist of programs every other week at various park locations, including four shows, one other art workshop and a movie night.

“The goal is to get people out to the parks and connect with the natural world,” Runion said, adding there is a strong connection between art and nature.

For more information on programming, visit www.geaugaparkdistrict.org.



DANIELLE YOUNG/KMG

Participants of all ages made fairy gardens at a workshop by the Geauga Park District May 16.

Agenda

Listed are public meetings and executive sessions in the county for the coming week, unless otherwise noted. To have a public meeting included in this section, fax information to 440-285-2015 or email editor@geaugamapleleaf.com no later than Monday noon. These meeting notices are NOT legal notices.

Geauga County: May 28, 6:30 p.m., Board of County Commissioners. All county commissioners meetings are held at 470 Center St., Bldg. 4, Chardon, unless otherwise noted.

Auburn Township: May 28, 7:30 p.m., Zoning Commission. All meetings are held at the Administration Building, 11010 Washington St., unless otherwise indicated.

Bainbridge Township: May 21, 7 p.m., Board of Zoning Appeals. All meetings are held at Town Hall, 17826 Chillicothe Road, unless otherwise noted.

Burton Village: May 26, 7 p.m., Village Council. All meetings are held in the village office, 14588 W. Main St., 2nd Floor, unless otherwise noted.

Chester Township: May 28, 7 p.m., Board of Trustees. All meetings are held at the Township Hall, 12701 Chillicothe Road, unless otherwise noted.

Claridon Township: May 27, 7 p.m., Zoning Commission. All trustees meetings are held at Administrative Building, 13932 Mayfield Road, unless otherwise noted. All Zoning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals

meetings are held at Town Hall, 13930 Mayfield Road.

Middlefield Village: May 21, 8 p.m., Parks & Recreation; May 28, 6 p.m. - Economic Development, 7 p.m. - Planning & Zoning. All meetings are held at the Municipal Center, 14860 N. State Ave. All meetings are held at the Municipal Center, 14860 N. State Ave.

Montville Township: May 21, 7:30 p.m., Zoning Commission. All meetings are held at the Montville Community Center, 9755 Madison Road.

Munson Township: May 21, 6:30 p.m., Board of Zoning Appeals; May 26, 6:30 p.m., Board of Trustees. All meetings are held at Township Hall, 12210 Auburn Road, unless otherwise noted.

Parkman Township: May 26, 7 p.m., Zoning Commission. All meetings are held at the Community House, 16295 Main Market Road, unless otherwise noted.

Russell Township: May 27, 7:30 p.m., Zoning Commission. All meetings are held at the Fire-Rescue Station, 14810 Chillicothe Road, unless otherwise noted.

South Russell Village: May 26, 7:30 p.m., Village Council, special meeting; May 28, 7:30 p.m., Board of Zoning Appeals. All meetings are held at Village Hall, 5205 Chillicothe Road, unless otherwise noted.

West Geauga BOE: May 26, 7:30 p.m., regular meeting, Middle School Community Room, 8611 Cedar Road, Chester.

Geauga County

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