

Cedar Point Garden Tour

Martha Beverick, landscape supervisor at Cedar Point, treated Garden Club members to a tour of the Cedar Point gardens on September 10, 2015. Martha, who has been with Cedar Point for 22 years, is in charge of designing the beds and maintaining the property at the park, the hotels, and the cabin and campsites there. She explained that there are only 21 landscapers, including six full-time mowers, who maintain all the properties owned by Cedar Point. That number shrinks to 7 during the winter months.

The plants at Cedar Point are purchased from several nurseries in the area, including Miller Landscaping, Corso's, Barnes, Pinecrest, and Green Circle Growers. In addition to the innumerable perennial shrubs and flowers on the property, the park brings in 30,000 annuals in 4 inch pots each year, as well as 100 hanging baskets and 500 pots. The gardens were loaded with lantanas, coleus, petunias, geraniums, sweet potato vine, daylilies, sedum, grasses, elephant ears, bromeliads, canna lilies, anthurium, hosta, ferns, Hydrangeas, Spirea, and Arborvitae. Martha explained that the crew is constantly changing out plants, replanting, and repotting throughout the season when one bed or section dies. She said that she keeps people from damaging the more sensitive plants in the beds by bordering them with spider plants.

Ms. Beverick also discussed the care of the plants in the gardens. She explained that she uses herbicides, fungicides, and pesticides only as needed, and she fertilizes the plants with Osmocote three times a year. She said the soil is enhanced with pinefines and a product called Axis, available only to commercial growers, which helps to hold in the water. Irrigation systems were added to the beds only five years ago. Before that time, all watering was done by hand.

During our visit, the summer gardens were being replaced with fall gardens, and the addition of 50,000 pounds of pumpkins, hay bales, and corn stalks were being placed around the property. Martha referred to the "Hallow weekends" as their busiest weekends of the year. She said that once the season ends, her landscaping staff is reduced to seven for the winter. Pruning and planning become the major focus then.

