



Southeastern U.S. Ohara Chapter

Newsletter Spring 2018

Dear Fellow SEO Members,

Spring has finally sprung and aren't we happy! 2018 has been quite the winter. Even here in St. Petersburg we have been cold.

The revised Constitution and Bylaws were sent in March. Please send your vote to me by June 1, 2018. No response will be recorded as an affirmative vote. If you did not receive the document, let me know.

Judy Melton has stepped down as our Chapter Advisor. This board position will not be replaced as it is no longer required by Headquarters. We certainly appreciate having had Judy as our advisor but know she will continue as a knowledgeable resource when asked.

Our summer seminar will be here before we know it. Julia VanHuss and Marcia Wright will co-chair this event. Mr. Nishi's travel plans have been confirmed. We will be sharing his air fare with two other Chapters.

Since Julia and Marcia have decided to chair the summer seminar, we are in need of an autumn seminar chair. You need good organizational skills and computer skills. Members and attendees are your resource for help before, during and after. You can form

sub-committees but the Chair has the ultimate responsibility. Sibbie Wilson wrote a Seminar Guidebook which was used last year. It takes you from beginning to end. This Guidebook is meant to be used and updated so it is always useful and current. Past and present chairs are of course experienced resources also. Please let me know if you are interested in chairing this committee. **We need you.**

As of this writing, we have two new members. Christina Dunn is from Henrico, Virginia and Clark Ward lives in Cincinnati, Ohio. Welcome to both of you. Sadly, Toshi Hall has returned to Japan but plans to return to the States in the future. She told me that Highlands is “a nice place” and she wants to come back.

My term as President of this Chapter ends in July. I have enjoyed the past four years and have learned so much about so many things. I am indebted to Sibbie Wilson and Cynthia Carson for being my “Guidebooks.” It has been a wonderful experience and I thank you for your support.

Sincerely yours,

Susan

Susan H. Thorpe, President

Members in the News



Susan Thorpe & Toshi Hall, St. Petersburg II Chapter 65, March Exhibition



Karen LaFleur-Stewart, Asheville II Chapter 74, February Demonstration



Life in Bloom

Sibbie Wilson

The Paths of My Life

I grew up in the Appalachian Mountains of North Carolina on my Grandmamaw and Papaw's farm, miles outside of Asheville. When my daily chores were done, I had the freedom to roam the mountains. I love these mountains and have many fond memories of this time in my life. My Grandmamaw raised and harvested our food and sold the excess at the local market. My chores were to help her, weeding, till and do all things necessary, including the canning during the summer and autumn. While I saw this as chores growing up, I now appreciate all the knowledge of plants and living things she taught me. I could pull a weed and not the growing seeds by myself by the time I was five. The chickens did a good job of keeping the bugs off the plants and vegetables. She grew a few flowers as well. Her favorites were Hollyhock and Papaw's were Sunflowers. I still grow them in my gardens today.

When I was a teenager, Grandmamaw's illness moved us to the big city of Charlotte for the medical care she needed. It took me a year to adjust to city life. The salvation during this time was I could ride a Charlotte City Bus anywhere I wanted to go for ten cents a day. My love of reading usually took me to one of the libraries each Saturday.

A career path took me to Florida and I have to tell you this mountain gal was way out of her element. I had to learn how to talk "like normal people," losing my country mountain accent and ways.

The first thing I learned to do in Florida was surfboarding and later sailing. And I missed my mountains most every day.

The best thing that happened to me in Florida was I met the love of my life, Bob, and we married.

Bob and I started a company "Ocean Underwriters" as we both loved sailing. This company insured sailing yachts all over the country and the Caribbean and included an association for sailors. We also published an offshore sailing rag, "Bow Watch." We made many trips to



London, England to secure our re-insurance. When we sold the company, I retired as Chief Financial Officer and Vice President of this midsize company. We had grown to handling over 8,000 yachts and had twenty-two employees we were responsible for.

During this time we owned and sold a number of sailing yachts of our own. My favorite vessel was the "Midnight Express." We liked foolish names for our sailing yachts such as "Rubber Ducky, Midnight Moose and Zonker." "Midnight Express" is a sleek Irwin 45' footer and she is a fast racing yacht. We raced her in numerous races, including three races to Bermuda. We won some trophies. Being aboard the "Midnight Express," heading to places as fast as we could under Spinnaker was a favored time. I learned how to pack a chute....rig her up, pull her out of the bag up the halyard for the down- wind run as we were rounding the mark. I was also the navigator on the races and our cruises and learned celestial and dead reckoning navigation. It was a wonderful time in my life.

Our son, Robert spent a good deal of time growing up on sailing yachts.

Now you have to wonder how all of this brought me to ikebana; a misplaced book in a library. I was in the library (in Florida) looking for information on a plant and the ikebana book had been misfiled in this section or maybe it was just meant to be. Anyway, I looked the book over, checked it out and read it cover to cover falling in love with the simplicity of the beautiful arrangements.

The second happening was taking some time from work in our mountain cabin in Franklin, North Carolina; I discovered the Stone Lantern in Highlands.

At the top of my list of things to do when I retired was to move back to my mountains and to learn ikebana. I had us packed and moved to Franklin, North Carolina within the first month of retirement. Fortunately Bob had grown to love the mountains as much as I do. After our move and not unpacked yet, I started taking lessons at the Stone Lantern once a month for a week every month. And this is where I met and started studying with one of the finest teachers in the United States, Mrs. Betty Fuller Taylor. I have studied Ohara School of Ikebana with Betty, "Teach," for twenty-five years. I remember she asked me after my first week of lessons what I thought. My reply, "I don't have a clue what I am doing. These arrangements looked so simple in a book but they are not and this is going to take some time to learn." And I am still learning.

I started teaching, demonstrating and exhibiting when I felt like I had the hang of it. I love teaching this beautiful art and enjoy sharing it with my students.

I joined the Southeastern U. S. Ohara Chapter during my ikebana studies and have served as Vice-President, President and Treasurer, having been on the board for over eighteen years. Most of you know me in my role as Seminar Chairperson for many years. I enjoy and love our Chapter and the many friends I have made and the wonderful memories. I can't wait to see everyone this July in Highlands. There is no better way to spend a day than arranging flowers with friends.

Sibbie

CHAPTER NEWS

Seminars for 2018

Summer Seminar

July 26, 27, 28, 2018

Akihiro Nishi

Associate Professor of the Council of Ohara
Professors

Autumn Seminar

September 27, 28, 29, 2018

Jose Salcedo

First Degree Master

Proposed Slate of Officers for Southeastern U. S. Ohara Chapter

Susan Flanagan is the Nominating Chair for the 2018 elections. Following is the the list of candidates:

President elect	Beth Bowers-Klaine
Vice-President elect	Jennie Johnson
Secretary elect	Susan Thomas
Treasurer elect	Susan Mitchell

Voting will take place at our annual business meeting Thursday, July 26, 2018

Upcoming Events & Programs

APRIL 2018

April 21-22, 2018
Art in Bloom
Greenville County Museum of Art
Greenville, SC
Ikebana Demonstration
www.gcma.org

MAY 2018

May 22, 2018
Demonstration by Diane Harker
Asheville Ikebana International Chapter
#74
Folk Art Center, Blue Ridge Parkway,
Asheville, NC

JULY 2018

July 26, 27, & 28, 2018
Southeastern U. S. Ohara Chapter
Summer Seminar
Highlands, NC
Instructor: Associate Professor Akihiro Nishi

SEPTEMBER 2018

September 27, 28 & 29, 2018
Southeastern U. S. Ohara Chapter
Autumn Seminar
Highlands, NC
Instructor: Jose Salcedo, First Degree
Master

Directory of Ohara Teachers in Our Area

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Teaching, Demonstrations and Seminars

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Ohara Reference Page

Corrections, Additions and Notifications of Events

Please submit to Elizabeth
Clark, Newsletter Chair

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