



# The Spade



The Newsletter of the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland

November 2020

Visit us on the web at [www.gardenersofgreatercleveland.org](http://www.gardenersofgreatercleveland.org).

Vol.88 No. 11

## President's Letter

Dear Members,

Hello! I hope everyone can join our virtual Club meeting on November 9th. Steve McIntosh sent out an invitation to the ZOOM Meeting. Our guest speaker will be Cynthia Druckenbrod.

CBG's GLOW is still going forward and our Club's liason, Deb Kramarz, has done a great job in getting volunteers to help put our Club's wreath together. Thanks to Deb, Mary Ann Theising, Joyce Nesbit, Kathy Kosiorek, Julie Giroux and Sandra Pindell for all your contributions! Our wreath for GLOW is the image below.

We are planning on a December virtual meeting with another speaker. We will also be announcing new Board members and officers. The Club will be donating \$100 each to Friends of the Rockefeller Greenhouse and The Bistro to help with ongoing expenses.

With the restrictions still in place, and COVID patient numbers rising, we don't have any idea about when we will be able to meet physically. However there will be an Affiliate day at CBG where we at least will be able to enjoy the 2020 GLOW - home for the holidays theme.

Continue to Stay safe and healthy, and have wonderful Thanksgiving!

Jonny Prell



Cleveland Botanical Garden's GLOW will showcase plants we use to celebrate the season.

Click [HERE](#) for Information.



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## Welcome Jeff Partridge - New Member

Jeff Partridge reached out to us via our website! Jeff spoke to Lou Pelton and is now a formal member. Jeff resides in Rocky River and is interested in landscaping and gardening. Other interests include family, grandchildren, boating, golf and biking!

### **FEED THE BIRDS,** *from Member Tom Davis*

It's not just a song from "My Fair Lady!" This is the time of the year to think about inviting our fine feathered friends to our yards for something for them to eat. I'll make some suggestions about what you might want to do for them this winter.

1. **FEEDERS** – Birds don't need a fancy feeder; just one that works for them. Try to get one that excludes squirrels. You can also mount a squirrel baffle to keep them out. Watching the squirrels try to defeat your defenses is a lot of fun. Keep your feeders clean and the food dry.
2. **WHAT TO FEED** – Different birds need different kinds of food. For goldfinches and other small birds look for Thistle/Niger Seed. For Chickadees, Cardinals and Nuthatches provide sunflower seed (black oil sunflower is best). Lots of birds like a "Woodpecker Mix" of tree nuts and peanuts. For woodpeckers and blue jays provide suet or my mix (see below). Each type of food has its own type of feeder. You'll also find that birds like chickadees like all four types of food.
3. Grocery store seed mixtures attracts sparrows, starlings and mice. Don't buy cheap food.
4. **WATER** – Provide clean water for birds to drink and bathe. There are birdbath water heaters, but I don't have any experience with them.
5. **COVER** – Many birds like to have some cover like a thicket of dense bush nearby. You can also put out your old Christmas tree.
6. **MY MIX** – I learned about this mix from Gale DeWind in Texas years ago. Birds MUCH prefer it to commercial suet blocks or suet from the grocery store. Melt and mix equal amounts of lard (or Crisco) and chunky peanut butter. Then stir in yellow cornmeal to make a thick batter. One pound each of lard and peanut butter will use 2 to 2 1/2 pounds of cornmeal. Let it cool in cottage cheese cartons or the lard cartons. You can use it in a suet feeder or in a wooden holder with 1 1/4 inch holes drilled in it. You can use a log or a piece of 2X4. Here's a picture of a perfect suet holder made by Patrick Boggins. Note the staple so you can hang it up out of the reach of squirrels.
7. Get a bird book and enjoy watching your guests feast!
8. If you have sunflowers, cone flowers or other native plants leave the seed heads for the birds to enjoy.

They will also consume any berries left on trees and some will eat crabapple fruits.

Let me know if you have questions. Email is best: [tsd123@roadrunner.com](mailto:tsd123@roadrunner.com)

Have fun, Tom Davis

P.S. Bluebirds love My Mix and will spend the winter with you.





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## Follow This Fall Garden Checklist to Get Your Yard Ready for Winter

**Protect young trees with guards:** Put plastic or wire mesh (hardware cloth) tree guards around the slender trunks of any new trees and shrubs to protect them from gnawers such as rabbits and mice, and make sure the tree guards go high enough, over the snow line.

**Continue to water trees, especially evergreens, until the ground freezes.** Evergreens need a good store of moisture going into winter because they don't lose their leaves, which means they continue to transpire (give off water vapor) through the cold months. More information on winter care for your trees and shrubs.

**Use your yard's leaves:** Consider shredding fall leaves and using them as winter mulch on flower beds. You can also add shredded leaves to the compost pile. In a season or so, they'll make the best treat your garden soil can have. You can use a chipper shredder, if you have one, or just run your lawn mower over the leaves. Read more about easier ways to clean up fall leaves.

**Clean up fallen leaves from your lawn each week instead of leaving the job until all the leaves have fallen.** In fall, lawn grass still needs sunlight as it is creating sugars to store in its root system for good growth next spring. Leaving the leaves on top of the lawn can smother the grass and weaken it. However, there is an easier way than raking to deal with leaves on your lawn: just chop them up with your mower, and leave them on the grass to break down. You will probably have to run over them a couple of times. Research at Michigan State University has found that turf grass benefits from chopped up leaves left on the lawn instead of being raked off.

**Control lawn weeds:** If you spray your lawn to control broadleaf weeds, the month of October is the most effective time for this job.

**Apply lawn fertilizer.** A lawn fertilizer application made in the late fall encourages winter hardiness and promotes quick greening in spring. For more information on this, see low maintenance lawn care.

**Cut the lawn one final time:** After you are finished, why not get your mower serviced and its blade sharpened now so it will be ready for spring?

**Weeding:** Do one last weeding and discard any weeds that have seeds on them in the garbage instead of the compost. You don't want those pesky seeds sprouting in your garden later.

**Perennial garden cleanup:** Whether you cut down dying perennial foliage when you're getting the garden ready for winter is up to you. Some gardeners like to leave seed heads and dried foliage for winter interest and to feed birds. Others prefer to leave neat beds ready for a show of spring-flowering bulbs. But whatever you cut down now, you don't have to clean up in the spring.

A good compromise when getting your garden ready for winter is to remove leaves and stalks that frost turns to mush and any that are diseased, but keep some ornamental grasses and the perennials with seed heads that provide winter food to birds. When cutting plants down, prune perennials to 4 to 5 inches of the ground.

**Annuals:** Pull out any last frosted annuals and add spent plant material to your compost.

**Weeding and edging:** Do a final weeding and edging of flower beds.

**Spring bulbs:** This is still a good time to plant spring-flowering bulbs before the ground freezes hard.

**Rose care:** Don't cut roses back now – do it early spring. Hill up hybrid tea roses with soil for winter protection if necessary. More tips on protecting roses over the winter.

**Winter mulch:** Once the ground freezes, apply a layer of winter mulch to perennial beds – don't do this too early or you'll provide winter shelter for rodents.

Click [here](#) for the complete on line version.





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## STANDING COMMITTEES

- *Awards:* Hank Doll, Chair; Tom Davis
- *Communication:* Jonny Prell, Chair (The Spade Newsletter, Website / Social Media); Phyllis Donnelly-Ingold, (Publicity)
- *Finance:* Chuck Palsa, Chair; Hiedi Winston, Andy Kosiorek
- *Income Projects:* Dave Dawson, Julie Henry (Plant Sale); Pat Boggins (Bulb Sale); Dave Dawson, Julie Henry (Auction / Raffle)
- *Membership:* Lou Pelton, Co-Chair; Dave Rittenhouse, Co-Chair; Larry Kell, Chuck Palsa,
- *Programs:* Kathy Kosiorek, Chair; Robert McMahon **Any program suggestions? Contact Kathy!**
- *Scholarship:* Hank Doll, Chair; Deb Kramarz, Dave Dawson
- *Service Projects:* Garrett Ormiston, Chair; Bob Rensel, Steve McIntosh

## MEETING INFORMATION:

**WHEN:** 2nd Monday of each month, September through June  
**Suspended**

**WHERE:** 1 Bratenahl Place  
Bratenahl, Ohio

**SCHEDULE:** 6PM - Social  
6:40 - Dinner  
7:30 - General Meeting  
8 to 9PM - Program



## SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- Cleveland Botanical Garden/Holden Arboretum: Deb Kramarz
- National & Regional Organizations: Larry Kell, Second Vice President; Tom Davis, National Director;
- Central Great Lakes Gardeners: Larry Kell, President
- Willott Iris Garden: Sandra and Robert Pindell, Ron Hartmiller
- Friends of the Greenhouse: Joyce Nesbit
- 1 Bratenahl Place & Bratenahl Place Bistro: Tom Segelin
- Horticultural Show: Tom Davis, Julie Henry
- Nominating: Dave Dawson, Chair; Deb Kramarz
- Wellness/Memorials: Kathy Kosiorek, Team Captains

## OFFICERS:

<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	JONNY PRELL
<b>1ST VICE PRESIDENT:</b>	CHUCK PALSA
<b>2ND VICE PRESIDENT:</b>	OPEN
<b>SECRETARY:</b>	JODITH JANES (TEMP)
<b>TREASURER:</b>	HIEDI WINSTON
<b>ASST TREASURER:</b>	ANDY KOSIOREK

## DIRECTORS:

• HANK DOLL 2018-2020	• JULIE HENRY 2019-2021
• PAT BOGGINS 2018-2020	• LAWRENCE KELL 2020-2021
• KATHY KOSIOREK 2018-2020	• GARRETT ORMISTON 2019-2021
• PHYLLIS DONNELLY-INGOLD 2020-2022	• BOB McMAHON 2020-2022
• DAVE RITTENHOUSE 2020-2022	