



The SPADE



The "SPADE" is the newsletter of the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland founded on January 1, 1932 as the Men's Garden Club of Cleveland. Its editor is Vince Staffileno who may be reached at vrs1023@gmail.com or 440-479-7897. Visit our web site at <http://www.gardenersofgreatercleveland.org>.

March 12th Meeting



Our March speaker is Dr. Robert McMahon. His topic is Balcony Container Gardening. From 1987 to 2015 he served as the Greenhouse Production and Management Technology Coordinator within the Division of Horticulture Technologies at the Ohio State University's Agricultural Technical Institute. Bob has taught courses in greenhouse management there. Bob currently lives in the Winton Place, a high-rise condominium building in Lakewood. His move to Winton Place prompted a new area of interest, container gardening which he will be sharing with us in his presentation *Balcony Container Gardening*.

Presidents Letter

Dave and Ginnie Dawson are on vacation this month, and Dave asked me to be his substitute writing the President's Column. He suggested that I fill the club in on our membership in the National Organization. This task will be easier since so many of our club members were involved with the National Convention held in Cleveland last year.

When I first joined the club, I didn't even know that there was a National Organization. I expect that the same goes for many of our members. So, what you'll find below is an introduction to The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America.

The roots of Men's Garden Clubs of America stretch back to 1932 in Chicago. Cleveland's club was formed in 1932, affiliated with the National Group in 1934 and the 1936 convention was held in Cleveland. The next convention in our town had to wait 81 years until the 2017 convention. Just a word here about why a "Men's" Garden Club. In the 1920's and 30's there were hundreds of "Women's" Garden Clubs, but no clubs that had men as members so, the gentlemen started their own clubs. By 1992 the presence of women in many of the clubs prompted the name change to "The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America." Most to the time we just use **TGOA/MGCA**.

Currently TGOA/MGCA has 2800 members that are in 31 affiliated clubs in 14 states, or are "Members at Large." The clubs are further grouped into Regions. Our club is in the "Central Great Lakes Gardeners" Region (**CGLG**) along with other Ohio clubs and one from Ft. Wayne, IN. Our region has the largest membership and several of the most active clubs in the National. Our region also boasts five past National Presidents, the current National President and the current National 3rd V.P. Our own Larry Kell is the President of the CGLG this year. So, our club is part of the CGLG Region that is part of TGOA/MGCA National Organization. Part of our annual dues goes to support the National and the Region.

The question everyone asks is, "What do the National and Regional do for the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland?" I asked Vince Staffileno that question a dozen years ago, and his answer was "We benefit from being part of an organization that is larger than just our local group. It gives us connections to gardeners around the country and their good ideas." That is still a great reason for our membership. We also benefit from the Horticulture Judges, "Gardening from the Heart" grants to three of our projects, the Photography Contest and the

Annual Calendar made from the winners, the Newsletter, and general club support. Some clubs nationally have their 501(C)3 tax exempt status through National..

The best benefit is meeting all the great gardeners from around the country. All our members who participated in the National Convention last year now understand that. Closer to home, the CGLG Regional meetings are always a great time to meet outstanding gardeners and club leaders. Here are the upcoming opportunities to be involved with the National and the Regional organizations:

The Gardeners of America/Men’s Garden Clubs of America (TGOA/MGCA)

National convention June 27 – 29 in Ft. Wayne IN.
Registration forms are at the end of The Spade, and on the National, Regional and our club’s websites
National Website: www.tgoa-mgca.org

Central Great Lakes Gardeners (CGLG)

Next meeting is April 21 at Kingwood Center in Mansfield OH.
The Region’s website is www.cgllr.org

And please check out all the improvements Jonny Prell has made to our Club’s website!

www.gardenersofgreatercleveland.org

One last thing; every club elects a National Director to represent the National at club meetings and the club at National meetings. I’m our club’s National Director and would be delighted to answer your questions or discuss anything about the National or Region.

Good gardening to you all!

Tom Davis

*Dinner
Meeting*

*6:45 PM
7:45 PM*

Please call your team captain with your “Dinner Reservation” by Thursday March 8th.

There will be a Board Meeting starting at 5:00 PM on 3/12/2018 in the Penthouse. PLEASE BE PROMPT.

February Board Meeting

The following are the minutes of the February Board Meeting:

TREASURER’S REPORT – All IRS and State documents have been submitted. Also dues were sent to National at the end of January. Treasurer’s report for January was resented and accepted. The 2018 budget was presented and accepted as a guide for the 2018 fiscal year.

PRESIDENTS REMARKS – Plant sale planning is moving forward. Seeds will be started and moved to John Budnik’s greenhouse of maturing.

MEMBERSHIP – Members that have not renewed are being contacted. So far two members have been added.

PROGRAMS – The April program will have Garrett Ormiston speak about invasive species in the home garden. In May Judi Strauss will speak about the planning and care of our gardens and landscape.

FUND RAISING – Our silent auctions and raffle will continue.

SCHOARSHIPS – Applications forms have been mailed to schools. The submission date for applications has been moved up.

SERVICE PROJECT – Bob Pindell will submit a grant request to the Euclid VA group for a \$500 grant for the VA garden project.

WILLOTT IRIS GARDEN – Mapping of the garden is complete. A roster has been generated. New plant varieties and financial support are needed for the garden.

COMMUNICATIONS AND WEBSITE – Web site now includes information on speakers and National Convention information. Phone numbers for officers has been removed. Work progresses on the “Members Only” page

Gardeners of Greater Cleveland



The Gardeners of Greater Cleveland (GOGC) is an organization of men and women who have joined together to learn about gardening as well as to share their experiences and enjoyment of gardening with others and with their community. Meeting schedule:

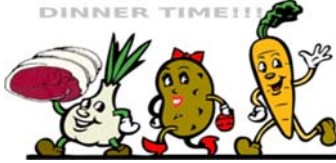
WHEN -- *Second Monday of each month
September through June*

WHERE – *1 Bratenahl Place, Bratenahl, OH*
TIMES - *Social Hour 6:00 PM*

CBG AFFILIATE – The Jill Koski gave a presentation on the current status of Holden to members. Theme for the coming years Glow is “Days of Yor” memories.

NEW BUSINESS – Low Drasler presented a request that a meeting be reserved for a discussion by members of their gardens.

Dinner Menu



The Dinner Menu:

*House Garden Salad,
Penna Pasta with Parmesan Cheese and Meatballs in
Red Sauce, Crostini on the side.*

Vegetarian Option

*This is the Chef's Choice at dinner time. There is no
advance menu.*

*If you wish a Vegetarian dinner please advise your
team captain to order it.*

Coffee and Cookies will be served in the Penthouse

Dinner Responsibilities

Lou Pelton is responsible for giving Bratenahl 1 our reservations for dinner. This he does by Saturday morning to give their **Chef** adequate time to order food. Please call your team captain and let him know if you are coming to dinner by the Thursday prior to the meeting.

Below is the list of Team Captains and their phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

TEAM CAPTAINS - TELEPHONE & E-MAIL

TEAM 1 LOU PELTON
440-666-6695

LOUPELTON305@GMAIL.COM

TEAM 2 LOU DRASLER
216-481-6854

LOUIS.DRASLER@GMAIL.COM

TEAM 3 Z. HAROLD DAVIS JR.
216-283-7111

TEAM 4 FRED BURKHALTER
440-526-2888

K1200RSL@AOL.COM

TEAM 5 KEITH BEIHL
440-237-5824

TEAM 6 RON HARTMILLER
216-671-1408

R_HARTMILLER@YAHOO.COM

TEAM 7 JANE DAVIS
440-498-0472

TSD123@ROADRUNNER.COM8

TEAM 8 CATHERINE ROSS
216-970-2854

ESTROGEN05@YAHOO.COM

TEAM 9 DEBORAH KRAMARZ
216-731-6324

DEBORAHKRAMARZ@AOL.COM

Member Gardening

At the February Board Meeting Lou Drasler made an appeal to the Board for the return of an evening in which members discussed their gardening efforts, both as to success and as to failure.

As those of us who have been in the club for several years recall there was a night devoted to this in the past but it was discontinued. During the meeting members would, as Lou suggested, discuss their gardening efforts good and bad. There are other member who would like to see this return. Would you? If so take the time to speak with Lou, or a board member or send me a note via vrs1023@gmail.com and I will see that the comment is presented to the board.

An example of this is the presentation Mary Ann Thesing did in her February discussion on Japanese Maples. Our member discussion would of course be limited to 5 minutes to give everyone an opportunity but sufficient to explain a members gardening effort.

What do you think?

Vince

Upcoming Events

Regional CGLC Meeting – April 21 at Kingwood Center, Mansfield. See Larry Kell for Details.

Auction Items

For our meeting auctions Julie Andersen has been finding and supplying the items that have been presented so far. However, she has run out of items. She would like your help to find and or to donate items for the auctions. If you have an item or items please bring them to the next meeting or whenever you have the opportunity. Julie would be most appreciative of the help.

Japanese Maples by Mary Ann Thesing

Presented at our February Meeting

Following our February meeting I ask Mary Ann if she would be kind enough to write-up the highlights of her presentation so we may each have them for our files. They are attached below:

The Japanese Maple Garden is set on a small 40' x 134' lot in Euclid. After purchasing our home, John & I set out to add curb appeal to an otherwise boring scene. The first year was spent cleaning up existing garden beds, replacing plants and adding annuals for color.

What we discovered through the process, was that we loved gardening! So much so that we spent nearly every weekend, for years, in our garden - adding, relocating, and (in some cases) giving away plants when they no longer fit our design aesthetic.

Once we had planted over thirty varieties of Japanese Maples and Dwarf Conifers, we decided to name our garden *The Japanese Maple Garden*. We are considered plant collectors and are on the hunt every year! Although, that has slowed in recent years since space is at a premium. I often joke that we're glorified plant hoarders!

Having collections of plants (including Bonsai) has forced us to be creative with our design. Our garden has a natural feel, with Dwarf Perennials filling almost every inch of the understory. Our focus has been on Form, Color & Texture, creating a four-season garden which offers visual interest throughout the year.

Personally, I prefer the summer months when I get the feeling of lush tranquility and peace. For John, its spring

and watching the rebirth of each plant. He loves documenting the unfurling leaves and the fresh vibrant colors. The energy he feels brings a feeling of hope for the new growing season.

In creating The Japanese Maple Garden there were, of course, lessons learned along the way. For example, the need to build up beds above the clay is essential for the survival of both Japanese Maples and Dwarf Conifers. Unfortunately, we learned this after losing a few plants.

The clay in our area acts like a bowl, holding water. It is rare now to plant more than 6 inches into the clay (unless we use large plants), instead, digging just a few inches down then building the beds up around plants as necessary. We found that adding a planting mix of shredded pine bark, composted Michigan Peat and Garden Magic Topsoil allows good drainage & airflow, with the added benefit of slowly feeding plants.

Our garden is open to visitors throughout the growing season. We are always happy to answer any questions during tours and/or via email. If you are interested in seeing our unusual compact garden please contact me:
MaryAnn Thesing Ph. - 440-667-7764
Email: gardenphd.2015@gmail.com

Garden Planning

Spring doesn't arrive all at once; instead it creeps into winter's territory a little at a time, unfolding in a sequence that remains consistent from year to year.

Take the red-winged blackbirds. This territorial songbird begins to set up mating territories in late winter; the call of the male is a distinctive trill that I usually begin to hear sometime in late February or early March. Once I hear the call, I know it's time to be on the lookout for skunk cabbage flowers.

A swamp loving member of the arum family, skunk cabbage produces a mottled purple hood-like structure called spathe, which surrounds an upright flower cluster, the spadix. The spathe is open on one side allowing insects to enter, lured by the flowers rotting flesh scent. (for those who have happened upon skunk cabbage while walking in or near a wet area the smell is distinctive to say the least and worth trying - at least once). The flower offers a bit of shelter to the insects - temperature inside the speckled hood can be about 35 degrees warmer than

air temperature, thanks to heat produced at the flower breathes. Skunk cabbage is among the first native plants to bloom often melting surrounding snow and ice as the flower pushes above ground.

Not long after skunk cabbage flowers fade the first blooms of the silver maple tree open, followed by the first bloom of red maple, then cornelian cherry dogwood. (If you are an observer of these events in the natural world you are a phenologist). Phenology is the study of natural events, such as bloom time, insect emergence or bird migration and their relationship to weather. While the timing may differ from year to year – think of the effects of a cold spring or an especially warm March – the sequence of these events remains constant.

Dan Herms, an entomology professor at Ohio State University has developed an extensive biological calendar resulting from data he has collected in Wooster's Secrest Arboretum. For seven years, Dr. Herms tracked flowering events and insect activity by walking through the arboretum several times a week. The resulting calendar begins with the first bloom of silver maple in early spring, then follows the sequence of bloom for star magnolia, service berry, crab apple and dozens of other trees and shrubs from spring through late summer.

To access Dr. Herms phenological calendar, visit <http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/gdd/>. Enter your zip code and the site will calculate where you are in terms of the season's phenological sequence. The site uses data for weather stations to calculate phenological conditions across Ohio.

This phenological progression from south to north is a phenomenon called the phenological wave, especially helpful in our area as pest problems begin to emerge in spring. When European pine sawfly eggs are hatching in Southern Ohio we have a week or two (depending on daytime temperatures) before the same phenomenon occurs in Summit County. This "heads-up" gives us time to scout for pests and prepare management strategies, if any are necessary.

By checking the phenological calendar again later in spring we learn that redbud trees begin to bloom around the time gypsy moth eggs hatch, a coincidence that provides a visual clue to remind us to scout for caterpillars.

Because these events coincide no matter the weather, the biological calendar is more useful for pest management than our 12 month calendar. As Ohioans we know that the weather is guaranteed to change from one April to the next. Phenology teaches us that the natural sequence of events remains constant. Phenology teaches the once casual observer to take note of plant events, link them to

insect activity and gain a greater understanding of the natural relationships around us.

Article from the Akron Beacon Journal by Denise Ellsworth who is a horticultural educator with Ohio State University Extension.

Garden Tips

PRUNING CONIFERS

There's a conifer for almost any landscaping situation. They can be mixed into perennial gardens or foundation plantings. Some make wonderful hedges, shrub borders and even specimen plants. But sometimes you need to prune conifers to keep them looking their best and in scale with their surroundings.



Timing is important when pruning conifers. Spring is a good time to prune many of them. But within that, some recover best if you prune before new growth starts, and others do best if you prune just as the new growth is starting: **With many junipers, false cypresses, yews and hemlocks, prune in early spring, before new growth stretches.** That way the new foliage will cover up where you've cut so you're not left all season with a plant that looks as if it just had a haircut. **Pine, spruce and fir are best pruned just as new tips, the candles, begin to stretch in spring.** All you need to do is nip back the shoots before the new needles form.

The 'Prostrata' spruce (*Picea pungens*) in the top photo is beginning to get too large for its place in the garden. Rather than remove it, prune it. The first step is to cut back the branches that are forming leaders. Next, shorten the longest side branches. Never cut the stem back to a point where there's no foliage left. If you do, some, such as yew and hemlock, will leaf out again. But most won't, and you'll be left with lots of bare stubs. The spruce in the second photo still has a natural-looking form, but now it fits better in its surroundings and new growth will quickly cover the cuts.

CONTAINER GARDENING

When choosing plants for container gardens, keep in mind the scale of the container and how aggressively the plant grows. While you want your container garden to look full, fast growers will quickly outgrow their pots.

The following choices should get you thinking about a spring container garden:

- Spring Bloomers: Primrose, Fritillaries, Ferns, Kalanchoe, Pansies
- Cool Season Vegetables: Lettuce and Greens

And these for your summer containers:

- Annuals: Abutilon, Bacopa, Callibrachoa-Million Bells, Coleus, Convolvulus, Dahlia, Fuchsia, Geranium, Herbs, Impatiens, Larkspur, Lobelia, Marigolds, Nasturtiums, Oxalis, Petunias, Scabiosa, Wave Petunias
- Ornamental grasses, Herbs, Miniature Roses
- Warm Season Vegetables: Tomatoes, Squash, Edible Flowers

SHRUB and TREES

In most areas it is still possible to do dormant spraying of fruit trees until the 15th, after that date dilute the spray by 1/2. Spraying should be done on a still day with the temperature above 40 degrees F.

- Late March and early April is a good time to transplant shrubs and trees. As soon as the soil is workable, but before buds have swelled or broken open, you can move shrubs and trees.
- Fertilize shrubs and trees if this wasn't done in February. Use an acid type rhododendron fertilizer to feed evergreens, conifers, broad leaf evergreens, rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias. Use an all-purpose fertilizer to feed roses and other deciduous trees and shrubs. If you use granular type fertilizers, be sure to water it in thoroughly.
- Finish pruning fruit trees this month - before the buds swell.

Purpose of Gardeners of Greater Cleveland

The purpose of the **GARDENERS OF GREATER CLEVELAND** is to provide members with a better understanding of all varieties of gardening through our monthly meetings, our newsletter **THE SPADE** and our website, www.gardenersofgreatercleveland.org.

Also we promote horticulture in our community by installing and caring for gardens at various community service facilities such as the VA Hospital, Joseph Home, and Malachi House among others.

Meetings are held the second Monday of each month, September through June, at 6PM at 1 Bratenahl Place, Bratenahl, OH.

Membership is open to residents of the Greater Cleveland Area including Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, and Lorain counties. To join contact us via Lou Pelton, our Membership Chairman at loupelton305@gmail.com or write to him 305 Woodstock Rd., Eastlake, OH 44095

GOGC Executive Board

CLUB OFFICERS

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1ST VICE PRESIDENT
2ND VICE PRESIDENT
SECRETARY
TREASURER
ASS'T TREASURER

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JULIE HENRY
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JOHN BUDNIK
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VINCE STAFFILENO (19)
PAT BOGGINS (20)

STANDING COMMITTEES (PER BY-LAWS)

FUND RAISING
FINANCE
MEMBERSHIP
PROGRAM
PUBLICITY

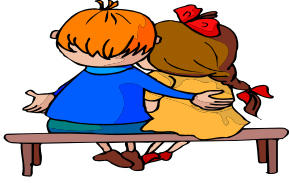
OPEN
ROBERT PINDELL
LOU PELTON
KATHY KOSIOREK
CATHY ROSS

OTHER COMMITTEES

AWARDS
CLEVELAND BOTANICAL
HISTORIAN
GARDEN SHOWS
NEWSLETTER -
PLANT SALES
MAY -
BULBS - SEPTEMBER
SCHOLARSHIP
TELEPHONE
WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

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BOB PINDELL
VINCE STAFFILENO
D. DAWSON, J. HENRY
PAT BOGGINS
FRED ROBINSON
LOU PELTON
JONNY PRELL

Musings



Will to Live

I think of all things that show a zest
For life, the dandelion beats the rest.
The little winged seeds from its white fluff ball
Settle and grow with no urging at all.
Settle in most unlikely places
And soon there's a crop of dandelion faces.

They are man's worst pest, but a child's playthings.
Sometimes I wish I had light down wings
Like a dandelion seed, and could settle at will
On a velvety lawn or a sun-spread hill,
And live with the eagerness and zest
Of the wanton little dandelion pest.

-Mary TRIPLETT

Springtime

Oh, spring came to my garden
And caught it unaware
Wearing just a few old leaves
And a dejected air.

But when spring left my garden,
Its work so deftly done,
Many, many Daffodils
Were dancing in the sun.

-Velma D. BATES.

There is nothing pleasanter than spading when the ground is soft and damp.

JOHN STEINBECK

What is there about gardening that works out something bad?

ANNE CHOTZINOFF GROSSMAN

The young man who has not wept is a savage, and the old man who will not laugh is a fool.

GEORGE SANTAYANA

A child should never have to wonder if his parents love him.

DAVE WIENBAUM

Gardening requires lots of water - most of it in the form of perspiration.

LOU ERICKSON

FIRST CLASS MAIL