



The Spade



The Newsletter of the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland

March 2021

Visit us on the web at www.gardenersofgreatercleveland.org.

Vol.89 No. 3

President's Letter

Dear Members,

Hello everyone! It's great to see the warm weather with a peak of spring. I have tulips, crocuses, and daffodils coming up! Sun has been wonderful to see, along with the ever-popular deer and skunks.

We are planning on a Club plant sale. The Board will be meeting to discuss what arrangements will be decided on as far as how we will be able to accommodate sales and locations.

We have two honorary Club members, Terry Lanker from OSU's ATI, and Joshua Stephens, Ph. D. Terry Lanker was our December speaker who had a great streaming video on creating holiday decorations. Last month's presentation, Dr. Stephens talked about his Urban Renaissance Farms in Euclid, and his Urban Agricultural Program in the Euclid School System.

A reminder that the Orchids Forever show at the CBG starts February 13th. Click [here](#) for more information.

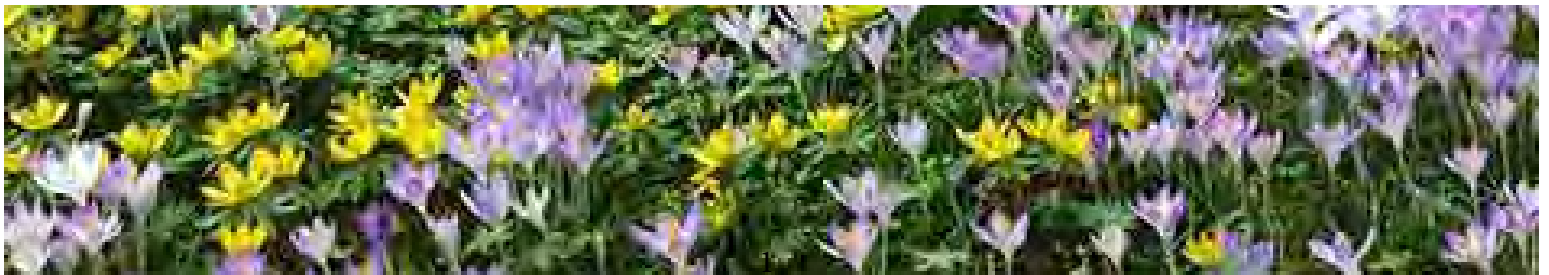
We have not seen or heard from most members because of the pandemic. The club has Team Captains and it would be beneficial if they could reach out to their group to just "check up on them".

Member updates:

- Jodith Janes is still in Bar Harbor recovering from a fall. Her wrists and ankle were affected. She is getting rehab. Hopefully, soon she will be back to her healthy self.
- Dave and Fran Rittenhouse are doing much better.
- We also hope that Lou Pelton has gotten past the worst part of COVID 19.
- Chuck Palsa is also recovering from his shoulder surgery.

We are looking for another Board member, and a new Secretary to replace Jodith Janes. If you are interested, please contact Dave Dawson or me.

Gonny Prell





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March 8th Speaker and Program

Our March speaker is Mr. Marcel Boonekamp, Director of Growing at [Green Circle Growers](#). Growing up around his parents' greenhouse in The Netherlands, Mr. Boonekamp decided to join the family business and grew tomatoes and cutting roses. His family invested in a high level of technology and automation to grow the highest quality crops possible. In 2015, Mr. Boonekamp, his wife and 3 kids decided to move to Ohio and work with Green Circle Growers.

During the video presentation, Mr. Boonekamp will describe the orchid production greenhouse ranges and discuss the different automated processes involved in producing Phalaenopsis Orchids on a commercial level. These processes involve receiving plantlets followed by vegetative growth, flower induction, grading and shipping.





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How to Care for Cold-Damaged Forsythia, by Nan Schiller for Gardener's Path

Forsythia is one of the earliest spring-blooming shrubs in USDA Hardiness Zones 5 to 8. It's a tough bush that usually sails through winter unscathed. However, sometimes a year comes along with record-setting chills and frequent snow and ice storms, often surprising us with a last blast in early spring, when the buds are awakening.

These freak weather flares can cause damage to plant tissue, undermining its ability to take up nutrients, and in severe cases, causing the tips of stems to die, and buds and flowers to freeze and wilt.

BUT FORSYTHIA IS HARDY, RIGHT?

A plant's hardiness is defined by the zones in which it can be cultivated. Forsythia is cold hardy to Zone 5, where winter temps can dip to -10 to -20 °F. How can forsythia suffer cold damage if it's grown in an appropriate zone? Great question!

Growing zone parameters are determined by taking mathematical averages of past weather data. However, as we remember from middle school math, there are both higher and lower numbers factored in to calculate these averages. All of this means sometimes the temperature in a particular zone plummets below the average and exposes plants to chills beyond typical expectations.

Damaging cold snaps don't just happen in wintertime. They can also surprise us in spring and fall. The amount of harm they cause depends primarily upon three factors: timing, precipitation and wind.

TIMING

During the winter, forsythia is dormant. On its hard, woody stems there are visible flower buds. Inside them is moisture-containing tissue. A brief cold snap is unlikely to do harm, but a prolonged one can cause the moisture inside plant tissue to freeze, rupturing and destroying it.

The most vulnerable parts are the flower buds and stem tips, and only the arrival of spring will reveal the extent of the damage.

In the spring, the first warm days signal the end of dormancy, bursting buds, and a flush of foliage.

A dip in the mercury at this time can cause buds and freshly opened blooms to drop off. It can also shock fresh tip growth, causing it to wilt or die.

If a cold blast arrives prematurely in the fall, before the stems have hardened off for the winter, tender tissue – including next year's buds – may be adversely affected. Unfortunately, the full scope of the harm won't be evident until next spring.

PRECIPITATION

As for precipitation, we have both ice and snow to consider.

A coating of ice puts stems at risk of snapping, especially when it's windy.

Snow, however, can be advantageous when it falls during dormancy.

It acts like mulch, insulating roots, minimizing ground temperature fluctuations, and aiding in moisture retention.

And when it melts, it adds moisture to the soil, facilitating water and nutrient uptake.

Snow also offers root protection during a phenomenon called "heaving," in which a shrub rises out of the ground during repeated episodes of freezing and thawing.

Often, when spring comes, you can tell just how deep the snow was during the winter by the condition of your shrubs.

Where branches were covered by lovely insulating white, they bloom better than those that remained fully exposed.

As good as it can be, there are times when snow is a problem, and this has to do with wind.

WIND

When bushes are repeatedly buffeted by cold wind gusts, stems begin to dry out. This drying of plant tissue is called "desiccation."

In this state, a heavy accumulation of snow can cause breakage. This is especially true of thin, twiggy top growth, the kind you can avoid with a good pruning regimen.

In the spring, stems affected by chilling winds may exhibit "bud kill," or dead buds. They may also appear stunted and/or have dead tips. And in cases where roots are exposed from heaving, wind exacerbates the problem by drying out these tender food and water transmitters, potentially killing the shrub.

For the complete article, [click here.](#)



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Forsythia in Winter



Forsythia in early spring with blooms covered with snow



Forsythia covered with ice





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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, First 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: Team Captains

OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT:	JONNY PRELL
1ST VICE PRESIDENT:	CHUCK PALSA
2ND VICE PRESIDENT:	ROBERT MCMAHON
SECRETARY:	JODITH JANES (TEMP)
TREASURER:	HIEDI WINSTON
ASST TREASURER:	ANDY KOSIOREK

DIRECTORS:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| • JOYCE NESBIT 2021-2023 | • DAVE RITTENHOUSE 2020-2022 |
| • CYNTHIA ANDERSEN 2021-2023 | • JULIE HENRY 2019-2021 |
| • STEVE MCINTOSH 2021-2023 | • LAWRENCE KELL 2020- 2021 |
| • PHYLLIS DONNELLY-INGOLD 2020-2022 | • GARRETT ORMISTON 2019-2021 |
| | • OPEN |



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If you have questions or problems with your garden, plants in your garden and need advice, our Club has many members who have the background and knowledge to help you.

- Keith Biehl: Gardener by profession
- Pat Boggins: Log planters, wooden bird feeders
- Diane Circle: Hostas
- Tom Davis: Native plants
- Hank Doll: Dahlia growing
- Phyllis Donnelly-Ingold: Orchids
- Lou Drasler: Cannas and environmental issues
- Ron Hartmiller: Weeds
- Herb Klein: Unusual plants and perennials
- Deb Kramarz: Master Rain Gardener
- Andy Kosiorek: Above-ground sprinkler systems
- Kathy Kosiorek: Veggies and container gardening
- Robert McMahon: Insectivorous plant culture and balcony/patio container gardening
- Garret Ormiston: Native plants, azaleas and roses
- Chuck Palsa: “knows a little about everything”
- Lou Pelton: Vines and clematis
- Bob Pindell: Iris propagation
- Sandra Pindell: Iris care
- Fred Robinson: Care and knowledge of trees
- Deva Simon: Perennials
- Bill Stark: Begonias
- Deah Stark: Perennials
- Hiedi Winston: Vegetable gardening

The purpose of the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland is to educate and provide members with information related to all types of gardening - whether their own personal gardens or community projects - through our monthly meetings, Club activities, or our newsletter *The Spade* and our website, www.gardenersofgreatercleveland.org.

We promote horticulture in our community by installing and caring for gardens at various community services facilities such as the VA Hospital, Joseph's Home for Disadvantaged Men, and Malachi House among others.

We hold two sales per year at Rockefeller Greenhouse. In May, we have the plant sale. This is a major source of funds for our scholarship program. It is also a great time to meet gardeners, answer questions and recruit new members. In the fall, we also have a bulb sale.

Membership is open to residents of the Greater Cleveland Area including Lorain, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, and Mahoning counties.

To join, please contact **Dave Rittenhouse** our Membership Co-Chairman at dwrittenhouse@sbcglobal.net.



Malachi House Community Streetscape