



# The Spade



The Newsletter of the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland

March 2024

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

Vol. 93 No. 3



Monday, March 11th, Dinner Menu:

Dinner served buffet style includes: Penne pasta & meatballs in red sauce, Parmesan cheese garlic bread, and zucchini & onions. Coffee and cookies will be served in the Penthouse afterwards.

## What's inside:

- February Program Summary, by Carol Poh
- Club News, Updates & Reminders
- Updated Team Captains List (Rev 03/2/2024)



While I am not sure what the long-term weather forecast for Northeast Ohio is as we get closer to the start of spring, I hope you all were able to enjoy at least a little bit of the warm weather we experienced toward the end of February. Before you know it, members of Gardeners of Greater Cleveland will have their hands back in the soil working at Willot Iris Garden, the VA Hospital, Lantern Court Estate, and more! I hope all members who are able, to consider donating their knowledge, time, and sweat to one of our many projects across the area. I also want to encourage all of you to send me photos of your garden or any garden related projects you might be working on this spring season so that I can share them on our Instagram (@GardenersOfGreaterCLE).

We as a club are very fortunate to have some incredibly knowledgeable and passionate gardeners in our mix. At our October meeting, we will be hearing from a number of them in the form of short, 5-7 minute presentations with a brief Q&A to follow. This was something that many people said they were interested in after completing our club survey last year. If anyone is interested in being a presenter, please click the link to sign up. [GoGC October 2024 Presentation Sign-Up.](#)

Please remember that our April meeting will be pushed back a week due to the eclipse and its corresponding events. The April meeting will be held on April 15th, NOT April 8th. I look forward to seeing all of you soon!

Best Regards,

*Steve McIntosh*



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## A Passion for (Tropical) Begonias by Carol Poh

As I watched Darren Palmer, our February speaker, carry in a boxful of specimens from his car, I knew we were in for an eye-opening talk. His subject was Begonias, but none of the plants he brought bore any resemblance to the begonias I knew. Indeed, the title of his opening slide, “Hi, My Name Is Begonia,” slyly hinted at a vast plant family found across the globe.

The genus name Begonia (*Begoniaceae*) was coined by Charles Plumier, a French patron of botany, and adopted by the Swedish biologist Carl Linnaeus in 1753 to honor Michel Bégon, a former governor of the French colony of Saint-Domingue (now Haiti). It consists of some 2,040 species found in the subtropics and tropics ranging from Central and South America to sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia.

Darren, a Cleveland software engineer who is also president of the Central Ohio Begonia Society, reeled off the many types of begonias. They can be cane-like, such as *B. maculata*, native to Brazil; trailing-scandent; rhizomatous, native to Oaxaca (Mexico), as well as to China and India; the showy *B. rex*, found in Bhutan and Myanmar; shrub-like, such as *B. foliosa*, found in Venezuela, Columbia, and Peru; thick-stemmed, found in southern Mexico and Honduras; and tuberous, native to tropical South America and sub-Saharan Africa. Then there is the hybrid *Begonia Semperflorens*, our familiar garden annuals.

Darren nurtures the many specimens he has collected in his basement, a space that he has adapted to provide the light, warmth, and humidity these tropical plants require. He favors plastic pots to conserve moisture and uses a variety of soil amendments, including vermiculite, perlite, earthworm castings, charcoal, and (for Asian species) limestone.

This writer was burning to know what led our speaker to his unusual passion. It began, he said, with an interest in carnivorous plants (owing to his aversion to swatting flies). He acquired a Venus flytrap (*Dionaea muscipula*). Then, one day he spotted a *B. maculata* (the “polka dot” begonia native to southeast Brazil) at Gales Garden Center in Westlake. “From there,” he confessed, “it spiraled out of control.”

More information about begonias can be found on the website of the American Begonia Society (established in 1932). Darren recommends *Begonias: Cultivation, Identification, and Natural History* (2005) by Mark C. Tebbitt as the “bible” on this diverse plant family.

A video of Darren’s talk to the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland can be seen on [youtube.com/@theplantingbooth](https://www.youtube.com/@theplantingbooth) and anyone with an interest in begonias is invited to contact him on Facebook or Instagram at [theplantingbooth.com](https://theplantingbooth.com).

Darren Palmer describes a begonia specimen from his collection.



Although *B. hirtella* is native to South America, it has been introduced elsewhere in the world, including Florida and India.



Melissa Supler  
photos.



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## GoGC Club News, Updates and Reminders

- **At the March meeting, Eddie Lagucki will be giving a presentation on “Native Plants in a Changing Climate and Landscape”.**
- **The April Club Meeting will be rescheduled to Monday, April 15th because of the eclipse and surrounding events in the area.**
- **PLANT SALE NEWS!** Debbie Daniels will conduct a crafting session before each meeting (4:30 PM) to create items to be sold at our plant sale. Hiedi Winston hosted a crafting day at her home on February 25th. All items created will be sold at our May plant sale (May 16th - May 18th).
- April 25th is Affiliate Club Day at Holden Forest and Garden. Deb Kramarz has registered the GoGC to construct and display a wreath once again at the 2024 Frost Exhibit at the Botanical Gardens.
- Deb Kramarz has sent out scholarship information to various high schools, which will give students 2 1/2 months to apply with the deadline being the first week of April.
- Our National convention will be held in Wooster, Ohio on September 12th, 13th and 14th. Details will be forthcoming.
- It's not too early to think about volunteering.... at the Willott Iris Garden, Lantern Court and VA Sprinal Chord Unit raised garden beds! Spring will be here soon and there is always help needed.





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## MEETING INFORMATION:

- WHEN:** 2nd Monday of each month, September through June
- WHERE:** 1 Bratenahl Place  
Bratenahl, Ohio
- SCHEDULE:** 5:30 PM - Social  
6:15 PM - Dinner  
7:15 PM - General Meeting  
7:30 PM - Program



## OFFICERS:

- PRESIDENT:** STEVE MCINTOSH
- 1ST VICE PRESIDENT:** DEBBIE DANIELS
- SECRETARY:** MELISSA SUPLER
- TREASURER:** HIEDI WINSTON
- ASST TREASURER:** LARRY KELL
- PAST PRESIDENT:** ROBERT MCMAHON

## Current DIRECTORS:

- ROBERT MCMAHON  
ED TUHELA  
FRED ROBINSON  
GARRET ORMISTON  
LARRY KELL  
JONNY PRELL

## CURRENT STANDING COMMITTEES

- *Awards:* Jonny Prell, Larry Kell, Tom Segelin
- *Communication:* Jonny Prell, Chair; Steve McIntosh (The Spade Newsletter, Website / Social Media);
- *Finance:* Larry Kell Chair; Hiedi Winston
- *Income Projects:* Debbie Daniels, Chair; Bob McMahon, Melissa Supler
- *Membership:* Jonny Prell, Larry Kell, Co-Chairs; Julie Shaw
- *Programs:* Robert McMahon, Chair
- *Scholarship:* Ed Tuhela, Chair; Fred Robinson, Deb Kramarz,
- *Service Projects:* Garrett Ormiston, Chair; Bob Rensel, Steve McIntosh

## CURRENT SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- Cleveland Botanical Garden/Holden Arboretum: Deb Kramarz
- National Organization: Larry Kell, President; Tom Davis, National Director;
- Youth Gardening: Steve McIntosh, Chair; Larry Kell
- 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: Open
- Nominating: Bob McMahon, Chair; Debbie Daniels, Melissa Supler
- Wellness/Memorials: Debbie Daniels
- Archive Committee: Steve McIntosh



# The Spade



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## Team 1

**Team Captain: Harold Davis, Jr. ,**  
216-283-7111 (NO EMAIL)

- Dave & Virginia Dawson (216.374.8916 Cell)
- Joyce Nesbit (216.469.4892 Cell)
- Carol Poh (216.804.7656)
- MaryAnn Thesing (440.667.7764)
- Rachel Laughlin (407-808-2248)
- John Barber (216.233.2271)

## Team 2

**Team Captain: Ron Hartmiller,**  
r\_hartmiller@yahoo.com / 216.671.1408

- Garrett Ormiston
- Hank Doll
- Lou Drasler
- Herb Klein
- Bob Rensel
- Eddie Lagucki
- Deborah Dockery

## Team 3

**Team Captain: Andy Kosiorek,**  
kosiorek@cox.net / 216.226.4503

- Kathy Kosiorek
- Jodith Janes
- Larry Kell
- Hiedi Winston
- Bob McMahon & George Roscoe
- Paul Bilyk
- Darren Palmer

## Team 4

**Team Captain: Deb Kramarz,**  
deborahkramarz@aol.com / 216.731.6324

- Fred Robinson
- Steve McIntosh
- Bob & Sandra Pindell
- Tom Segelin & Julie Giroux
- Kevin Borowiak
- Kathy Talty
- Sharon Yarnell

## Team 5

**Team Captain: Cathy Ross,**  
estrogen05@yahoo.com / 216.970.2854

- Patrick Boggins
- Jonny Prell
- Kelly Adkins
- Debbie Daniels
- Melissa Supler
- Ed Tuhela
- Lisa Skufca

## Team 6

**Team Captain: Keith Biehl, 440-237-5824 (NO EMAIL)**

- Davd & Diane Circle (440.628.8063 Home)
- Paula & Ron Koenig (440.212.5700)
- Deva Simon (440.915.0161)
- Scott Blanchard (330.322.8111)
- Timothy Homan (216.2190.0746)
- John Tilsky (440.256.1414)
- Kelley Adkins (216-952-4685)

## Team 7

**Team Captain: Julie Shaw,**  
julieoshaw@gmail.com / 914.525.3834

- Fred Burkhalter
- Tom Davis
- John Schinker
- Deah Stark
- Dave Tomashefski
- Susan Brownstein
- Cyndi Konopka

**Team Captains, please call in your  
RSVP number directly to Hiedi Winston.  
(440.752.2617 or email at [hwinston@naipvc.com](mailto:hwinston@naipvc.com)) by Thursday evening.**