



# The Spade



The Newsletter of the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland

April 2020

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

Vol.88 No. 4

## President's Letter

Dear Members,

This is a difficult letter to write.

The COVID-19 is taking a toll on our health, family, friends, neighbors and life in general. It has impacted our lifestyle to a degree where our social life, and physical interaction with others have been curtailed. The current order from our Governor is #stayathome. Daily social distancing, hand sanitizers, and disinfectant spray have become a new normal way of life.

Because of restrictions our Club meetings, events and projects have been put on hold. I was hoping for an April 6th or mid April end of the quarantine. It has now been pushed to April 30th. The United States is now the epicenter of COVID-19 Cuyahoga County's cases are increasing daily along with deaths associated with COVID-19. As long the virus continues to spread, quarantine orders will be in effect.

If we are not able to have a plant sale because of the quarantine in effect and timing is unsure, we may still be able to give out at least one scholarship, depending on what funds we have available and the Board decision.

On a positive note, let's talk about our September Horticulture Show! Information regarding instructions and schedule is included in this issue of The Spade.

The National organization Officers and Board are planning a convention near the end of summer/beginning of fall. And the ballot for the officers and approval of the restated and amended Bylaws was emailed to all paid members.

Stay safe, healthy and please follow the guidelines issued by our Governor.

Jonny Prell





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## Welcome a New Member

Paul Bilyk, owner of the Lakewood Garden Center, who was our speaker in March has joined our Club. Welcome Paul!

## The Lowdown on Lakewood Garden Center, by Carol Poh

At our March 9 meeting, Paul Bilyk presented an engaging program on the Lakewood Garden Center, which he describes on his website as “the first and only locally owned family operated garden center in the lovely community of Lakewood, Ohio.” Bilyk started the Lakewood Garden Center “from scratch” in May 2010 after acquiring experience in the nursery trade. His Detroit Avenue store occupies a former gas station. It is small—just 12,000 square feet—and he does not have a greenhouse. But Bilyk prides himself on carrying an array of products from Ohio growers (“Perry, Madison, Hunting Valley—that’s about as far as we go”) and tailors his stock to the local market. Geraniums and Boston ferns, he said, are hugely popular in Lakewood “because they can take the wind.”

Bilyk laced his talk with wry commentary. “If you’re not killing stuff, you’re probably not a gardener,” he said. He takes a dim view of growers who bend the rules. He has visited greenhouses claiming to offer “organically grown tomato plants”; meanwhile, Bilyk said, “I could see Miracle-Gro everywhere.” He created a buzz on the subject of tomatoes—which he called a “tropical vine”—with this claim: “A tomato planted on July 4 will outperform a tomato planted on Memorial Day.” Come again? That’s because the soil must first reach around 60 degrees to spur growth. What is the best weed killer? “Your hands and your back,” he deadpanned. He does not sell Roundup. Instead, he recommended using a draw hoe or a hoop hoe, dropping the name A. M. Leonard, the old-line horticultural tool and supply firm (amleo.com) as a source. Bilyk closed the program by offering his audience a choice of organic herbs from Mulberry Creek Herb Farm in Huron, O., one of his suppliers.

Lakewood Garden Center is located at 13230 Detroit Ave., Lakewood, OH; Phone: 216-221-0200; www.lakewoodgardencenter.net.

## Crocus by Other Names, by Jim Chatfield for Buckeye Yard & Garden Online, OSU.EDU

For the complete online article, please click on the link below:

[Crocus by Other Names](#)



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## ANNUAL HORTICULTURE SHOW Announcement & Schedule September 14, 2020

You can contact Tom Davis or Julie Henry with any questions or comments. They will try to answer all of them ahead of time. Links to their emails is at the end of this information.

Here are a couple of important notes:

1. Please read all the instructions. We will help you with your entry between 5 and 6 PM on September 14, BUT the more people who come prepared, the easier our job will be. That will give us more time to help first time exhibitors.
2. Please have your entry properly identified. Most plants have three names; the Latin name, the common name and the variety. For example, a garden rose may be from the genus Rosa, common name Hybrid Tea Rose and variety "Peace." Your entry card would read "Hybrid Tea Rose; variety Peace." Spend a little time finding out just what variety you plan to enter. It's educational.
3. Please be fair to the other people entering. "Fair" means that it is your plant and you've owned it and cared for it for a minimum of two months.
4. Please consider helping set up the show. We will be missing Mark Occhionero this year. He's been a workhorse in past years for the setup period. If you can help between 5 and 6 PM, we'd really appreciate a few more hands.

**Please read the information below! Every year someone is disappointed because they don't follow directions and don't win a ribbon.**

In 2012 we started having a small horticultural show for our September meeting. The first year we had only a few entries, but every year since then the show has grown in size and quality. This year we hope that even more members and guests will enter plants, fruits and vegetables. We have added some sections to allow for a larger variety of entries. We will also continue a "Novice" category for people who have not entered before. This announcement is early to let you start planning your entries.

- The Horticulture Show is an educational opportunity for our members. The national judging manual stresses that all club members are expected to enter the show if they are able. We have made several changes this year to help members enter the show and succeed.
- You can make up to five entries per person.
- Clerks will be present from 5:00 to 6:00 PM to receive entries and help you with the entry card and staging the entry. We have paper plates and other supplies.
- Bring two return address labels per entry. That will make filling out the entry cards much faster and easier.
- Entries like cut flowers should be in a clear glass container with no labels.
- Ribbons will be awarded. There will be "Best in Show" and "Peoples' Choice" (popular vote by all present) awards made again this year. Only members of the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland will be eligible for the two top awards.
- If you have not entered the show before, you will be judged as Novice. Just tell the clerks when you arrive that you are a first-time exhibitor. This will give new exhibitors a chance to hone their skills.
- Prize winning or unusual entries will be discussed by the entrant and/or the judges to carry out the theme of Gardening Education.
- Judges will come from the Central Great Lakes Gardeners Region.
- The show committee reserves the right to modify this schedule at a later date.



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## We have these sections for the show this year:

1. Cut Annual Flowers in a Container - Three specimens of the same variety of small flowers OR one for larger blooms.
2. Cut Dahlia flowers in a container - Include 1 or 2 leaves on a shoot. Three specimens of the same variety of small flowers OR one of larger blooms.
3. Cut Perennial Flowers in a Container - Three specimens of the same variety of small flowers or one of larger flowers.
4. Small Vegetables – Enter three specimens of smaller items (tomatoes, peppers, onions, and other smaller vegetables). All vegetables should include a stem. Stems may be trimmed but should be at least ½ inch. Cherry tomatoes must be displayed by the cluster.
5. Larger Vegetables – Enter one specimen of larger vegetables such as eggplant. All vegetables should include a stem. Stems may be trimmed but should be at least ½ inch.
6. Small potted plants (up to a 6-inch pot). It may hold a single plant or several plants of the same species and variety. The plant can be of any type except succulents.
7. Small potted succulents - (up to a 6-inch pot). It may hold a single plant or several plants of the same species and variety. The plant can be of any type of succulent including cacti.
8. Larger potted plants (6 to 12 inch pots). It may hold a single plant, several plants of the same type or up to three different plants. The plant(s) can be of any type except succulents.
9. Larger potted succulents (6 to 12 inch pots). It may hold a single plant, several plants of the same type or up to three different plants. The plant(s) can be of any type of succulent including cacti.
10. A branch (12 to 30 inches in length) in a container. A) Foliage Only. B) Foliage and Flowers. C) Foliage and Fruit.
11. A single leaf (like a Hosta Leaf) in a container.
12. Native Plant Specimen in any category.
13. Fruits - One specimen of larger fruits such as apples, peaches, etc.
14. Fruits - six specimens of smaller fruits such as berries.
15. Herbs - One stem of herbs such as rosemary, mint, borage, etc.
16. Potted herb plants (see 6 and 8 above).
17. Any of the above in an unusual or whimsical container.

## Judging Requirements: (please read carefully!!)

1. The specimen must be properly identified with the plant name and the variety. We will supply entry forms and give you help filling them out. Bring two return address labels per entry to paste on the entry forms.
2. **The specimen must be your property.** You can submit a purchased plant if you have owned and taken care of it for at least two months. (Must be purchased before July 14, 2020.)
3. **All submissions must be disease and insect free.**
4. The specimen should be as perfect a sample as you can find. For example, a Hosta leaf should not be damaged and should be typical for the variety.
5. Individual leaves and stems should be supported so just the bottom of the leaf – or no leaf on a stemmed plant – is in the water. They should be upright. You can use plastic wrap or aluminum foil to support the leaf or stem in the container. Just wrap it around the stem at the bottle neck. Use a plain container like a pop or beer bottle without a label.
6. Fruit and vegetables should be on a plain, white paper plate.
7. Potted plants should be “groomed” with all dead leaves and spent flowers removed. The pot must be clean. Fancy pots don’t win; good plants in clean pots do.
8. Orchid leaves are not judged, just the flower.

Bring your entries to the Penthouse of 1 Bratenahl Place between 5:00 and 6:00 PM on September 14. Any entry after 6:00 will be disqualified. Use the elevators at either end of the corridor on the ground floor. The Penthouse is on the top floor. Please contact [Tom Davis](#) or [Julie Henry](#) with any questions.

Good Luck! Tom and Julie



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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 & specialty planters
- 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 McMahan: 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
- Tom Sheehan: General landscape design, water gardening and tropical plants
- Bill Stark: Begonias
- Deah Stark: Perennials

The purpose of the **Gardeners of Greater Cleveland** is to educate and provide members with all types of information related to 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](http://www.gardenersofgreatercleveland.org).

We promote horticulture in our community by installing and caring for gardens at various community service 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 Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake and Mahoning counties.

To join, please contact **Lou Pelton**, our Membership Co-Chairman at [loupelton305@gmail.com](mailto:loupelton305@gmail.com).





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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
- *Service Projects:* Garrett Ormiston, Chair; Bob Rensel, Steve McIntosh

## MEETING INFORMATION:

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

**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 (TEMPORARY) |
| <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 2020-2023 | • BOB McMAHON 2020-2023      |
| • DAVE RITTENHOUSE 2020-2023        |                              |