



The Spade



The Newsletter of the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland

March 2020

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

Vol.88 No. 3

There will be a Board Meeting promptly starting at 5:00 PM in the Penthouse.
Please be prompt!

MARCH 9TH MEETING:

Pork Schnitzel, braised cabbages with buttered egg noodles.

Vegetarian Dinner: Chef's Choice
Cookies & Coffee served in the Penthouse before the meeting.
Please make sure to pay for your dinner. Thank you!

Please call your Team Captain with your dinner reservation no later than **Friday, February 7th**. Lou Pelton is responsible for giving The Bistro at Bratenahl our reservations.

Team Captains:

Team 1 **Lou Pelton** /
loupelton305@gmail.com

Team 2 **Lou Drasler**
louis.drasler@gmail.com

Team 3 **Harold Davis**
216-283-7111

Team 4 **Fred Burkhalter**
440-526-2888

Team 5 **Keith Biehl**
440-237-5824

Team 6 **Ron Hartmiller**
r_hartmiller@yahoo.com

Team 7 **Lou Pelton**
loupelton305@gmail.com

Team 8 **Cathy Ross**
estrogen05@yahoo.com

Team 9 **Deb Kramarz**
deborahkramarz@aol.com

President's Letter

Dear Members,
Spring is almost upon us!

With that thought in mind, we need to look to our upcoming events and projects that will need volunteers. Even though it is still cold outside, this is a good time to start thinking of plants that you can prepare for the May plant sale. Member donated plants are a large portion of the profit from the sale.

The Plant Sale is Thursday, Friday and Saturday after Mother's Day (May 10th). Dave Dawson and Chuck Palsa have been working diligently on the preparation for the event. The Plant Sale will need volunteers to help with the set-up, sale, and clean-up. It will bring money to our Scholarship Fund and hopefully bring in new members. Please contact Dave or Chuck to help! Also, at this time, Sandra & Bob Pindell will need help with the upkeep of the Willott Iris Garden at the Rockefeller Greenhouse.

We have several outstanding community projects that we continue to work on and have provided much enjoyment and support to veterans and residents.

- The VA Spinal Cord Unit provides high quality, state of the art health care services to veterans. Our Club created raised garden beds for the veterans to help in their recuperation. Our Club received the Gardening from the Heart Award from our national organization for this community project, and each year the Euclid Veterans Association donates \$500.00 to assist us in replanting the beds and adjacent areas. Please contact Sandra or Bob Pindell to help with this worthwhile project.
- Malachi House provides care to persons who are terminally ill. Bob Rensel is heading the landscape enhancements project at Malachi House this year. Please contact Bob to help with this project.

We are still in need of a secretary for the Club. Jodith Janes has been gracious to stay on until we can replace her. We are also looking for a member to replace Julie Henry on the Board. Please contact me if you are interested.

I look forward to seeing as many members as possible at the March meeting! Dave and Diane Circle will be our greeters.

Thank you all for your support and think Spring!
Jonny Prell





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Welcoming Back A Former Member

Kelly Adkins has rejoined the Club after a 15 year hiatus! Welcome Kelly!

Auction of Items from Chuck Evans' Estate

In addition to our 50/50 raffle at our meeting, we will be auctioning tools donated to the Club by Margaret Evans from Chuck Evans estate.





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Houseplants 101, by Carol Poh

On February 10, GOGC member Robert “Bob” McMahon graciously stepped in to present a program on houseplant care when the scheduled speaker canceled due to illness. For twenty-nine years, Bob was the coordinator of the Greenhouse Production and Management Program at the Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute in Wooster, preparing students for greenhouse and floriculture work. He retired in 2015.

Easing a Peace lily (*Spathiphyllum*) out of its pot, Bob proclaimed that “healthy roots equal a healthy plant” and dared the audience to name the No. 1 killer of houseplants. Almost everyone chimed in with the correct answer: “Overwatering!” He discussed the merits and demerits of clay pots versus plastic pots. He is partial to plastic, noting that plants in clay pots require more frequent watering. He offered the best method to accurately determine whether a plant needs water: stick your finger into the pot. If the soil feels dry, water thoroughly—until it comes out at the bottom of the pot—and be sure to water evenly across the surface of the soil. For large plants, a soil probe can be helpful to determine when to water.

Bob advised using a soilless planting mix that is light and friable—never garden soil, “which will turn into a brick.” He recommended water-soluble fertilizer, either organic or inorganic, mentioning such brands as Miracle Grow and Happy Frog. If you notice that the leaves of a plant are yellowing, it likely indicates a lack of fertilizer. He cautioned against fertilizing between October and March 1, when light levels are low.

Bob McMahon is a proponent of integrated pest management (IPM), which he defines in his textbook *An Introduction to Greenhouse Production* (3rd ed.) as “a comprehensive, proactive insect pest control strategy that implements a combination of insect pest management methods, including physical, cultural, biological, and, as a last resort, chemical controls to maintain insect pest populations beneath economically damaging levels while minimizing the impact on the environment and maximizing economic effectiveness.” He supplied examples of IPM that every home gardener will find useful:

- A thorough spray with warm (130°) tap water will rid plants of white fly, spider mites, and aphids. Be sure to spray the undersides of leaves.
- Mealy bugs can be rubbed off using a Q-tip with alcohol.

Bob concluded his talk by giving away, to a lucky few, plastic baggies containing bare-root Cape sundews (*Drosera capensis*), an insect-eating plant from South Africa. (They are sold out at predatoryplants.com.)

March 9th Program

Paul Bilyk, owner of the Lakewood Garden Center will be speaking. He will be emphasizing selecting plants and growing thriving gardens in northeast Ohio.





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March Events

The Ohio State University - Lake County Master Gardener Volunteers **2020 Home Gardeners' Workshop**

Lakeland Community College / 7700 Clocktower Drive, Kirtland

[Click here for more information.](#)

Saturday, March 7th / 8:45 AM - 3:30 PM - Registration Fee of \$45 includes continental breakfast, lunch, snacks and a parting gift.

Come spend the day. Our speakers, include Bill Hendricks, Klyn Nurseries Inc.; Danae Wolfe, OSUE; **Garrett Ormiston** (our Member), Cleveland Museum of Natural History; John Barber, Citizen Scientist and Friends of Lower Lake; Laura Bonnell and Natalie Gertz-Young, Master Rain Gardeners; Laura Deeter, Ohio State ATI; Maggie Rivera, OSUE; and more! Twelve sessions are offered throughout the day; registrants choose four to attend. Our Vendors' Row will offer a variety of garden-related items for purchase.

The Native Plant Society of Northeastern Ohio

Native Trees for Residential Communities / Saturday March 7th / 1 - 2:30 PM

Cleveland Heights Community Center, Rooms 1A/1B

Gardening is for the Birds / Saturday, March 14th / 1 - 2:30 PM

University Heights Library, Room 1-2

Native Shrubs for Your Yard / Saturday, March 21st / 1 - 2:30PM

Shaker Heights Library

SustainEd, a Local Grassroots Organization

Reduce your Output, Increase your Impact

[Click Here for more information.](#)

Monday, March 9th / 4PM - 4:30 PM

Join SustainEd at the Medina County Home & Garden Show. The program will cover how to effectively reduce our waste output and tangible ways to increase our impact on the environment. We may often feel overwhelmed on how to advocate for our environment and do our part, this talk gives us tangible tools and inspires us to move forward as we build a lasting impact. Reducing our waste conserves space in our landfills and reduces the need to build more landfills. Landfills can take up valuable space and are a source of air and water pollution. When we feel our efforts are effective, we tend to increase them and inspire others to do the same.



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March Events

Nursery Growers of Lake County, Ohio

“Five National Woody Plant Collections - it helps to be mad.”

Presented by Chris Lane, Horticulturist: Kent, UK

Chris Lane holds the UK National Collections for both Hamamelis and Wisteria, has written books on both, and has an enormous collection of Flowering Cherries. He has spent roughly half his career in commercial nursery stock production and the other half as a Lecturer at Hadlow College in Kent, and was awarded the RGS' Veitch Memorial Medal for his contributions to horticulture.

Tuesday, March 17th at Holiday Inn Express, 181 Water Tower Drive, Madison, OH.

See last page for more information.

1:30 PM Witch Hazel Walking Tour at Brotzman's Nursery / 6899 Chapel Road,
Madison

5:00 PM Social Hour

6:00 PM Dinner

6:30 PM Program

Cleveland Metroparks

World Water Day Celebration

West Creek Reseravation / Watershed Stewardship Center

Saturday, March 21, 12Noon - 4PM / Free to all

Travel the blue planet in this annual family-friendly fest. Grab your passport and explore how clean water is impacted by climate change worldwide. Try traditional crafts, listen to folk music, and enjoy ethnic food tastings. Free wagon rides and parking shuttle provided. In partnership with Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District and West Creek Conservancy.



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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
- John Budnik: Herbs and flowering bulbs
- 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
- 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.

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.





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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); John Budnik, Ron Hartmiller, 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; Lou Pelton
- *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: Mark Occhionero, Julie Henry, Tom Davis
- Nominating: Dave Dawson, Chair; Deb Kramarz
- Wellness/Memorials: Kathy Kosiorek, Team Captains

OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT:	JONNY PRELL
1ST VICE PRESIDENT:	CHUCK PALSA
2ND VICE PRESIDENT:	OPEN
SECRETARY:	JODITH JANES (TEMPORARY)
TREASURER:	HIEDI WINSTON
ASST TREASURER:	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	

