



The Spade



The Newsletter of the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland

February 2023

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

Vol. 91 No.2

Monday, February 13th Menu:
Orange sesame chicken, Asian vegetables, fried rice, egg roll. Coffee, tea and cookies will be served in the Penthouse after dinner.

What's inside:

- **New Member Spotlight** - Eddie Lagucki, by Julie Shaw
- **Upcoming Dates to Remember**
- **Income Projects Update**
- **January Program Summary**, by Carol Poh
- **February Program: Bob McMahon, Green Circle Growers Visit, and Steve McIntosh, Youth Gardening**
- **Crab Cakes Recipe**, Bob McMahon

If you would like to share a favorite recipe with the members, please do so!

Also any gardening tip would be great.

Send to [Jonny Prell](mailto:Jonny.Prell).

Hello February! We will be half way through astronomical winter on Friday, February 3rd and with lengthening days and slowly moderating temperatures, signs of Spring will start appearing by month's end! Some Witch Hazel cultivars will bloom later this month, snow crocus and snow drops also can come into bloom and tree buds start to swell, if weather permits under the lengthening sunlit hours! Male cardinals start singing around Valentine's Day, migratory robins and red-wing blackbirds start to arrive at the end of the month.

Gardeners continue to plan this coming season's gardens, looking through gardening catalogs and websites for plant/seed sources and new ideas. So, even though we are in the depth of winter, gardening season is not that far away!

The January meeting was a lot of fun with good food, fellowship, new members and an excellent presentation by Eddie Lagucki and David Baxter about Lantern Court Estate's gardens, located at Red Oak Camp in Kirtland. Please read the article by Carol Poh in this newsletter that summarizes the presentation. I will coordinate with Eddie a club "field trip" to tour the gardens at Lantern Court Estate sometime in July. I will keep you updated on plans.

Planning will start soon to hold a joint event between our club and the Akron and Youngstown clubs in 2024. The Board will be discussing options and sharing them at the regional meeting in April.

A friendly reminder: please RSVP for the monthly meetings by Thursday afternoon of the week before the meetings by calling/emailing your team captain and indicating if you have any dietary restrictions or if you are vegetarian or vegan. Team Captains, please call in your RSVPs to Hiedi Winston by Thursday evening so that she can then let Tom Segelin know a preliminary count by Friday morning that he passes on to Gino, who buys the food for the dinner on Friday. This makes the process so much easier and more efficient for everyone. Thank you!

Enjoy the lengthening days and I look forward to seeing you at the February 13th meeting.

Bob McMahon





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New Member Spotlight - Eddie Lagucki

Name: **Eddie Lagucki**

Joined: January 8, 2023

Education:

- Undergraduate: Bowling Green State University, Biology
- Graduate: Colorado State University MS in Conservation Leadership
- Thesis: Did a case study of an eco-tourism enterprise in Rwanda



Eddie's interest in horticulture evolved as a result of his education, and work experiences. These wide-ranging experiences included a position as an educational environmentalist, a job with Davey Tree, and managing a garden center. Posting items of horticultural interest on social media put him in touch again with a fellow high school student, Dave Baxter, who became Eddie's introduction to Red Oak Camp and Lantern Court. Today, Eddie is the Lead Horticulturist at Lantern Court.

Eddie envisions growing Lantern Court's presence as a gardening and nature hub, a space for environmentalists and educators, through outreach and educational programs. The biggest challenge today is attracting volunteers to help with the management of plant life on the property. The very happy perennials on this property are engaged in "sleep-creep-leap", which Eddie views as both good and bad. Ultimately, Eddie hopes to replace aging and/or dying plants with native plants.

Eddie's favorite tree? The black maple, a sub-species of the sugar maple. He has fond childhood memories of this tree in his yard in Willoughby. Ask him precisely how much he likes this tree! Maybe he'll show you.

Eddie's favorite flower: Verbena, a major attractor for pollinators.

A favorite hiking spot: the Beaver Marsh in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Formerly a chemical waste dump, it is now a thriving wetland, inhabited by beaver, otters, and wood ducks, among others. Ask Eddie about "rucking", and his favorite trips in the wild

Welcome, Eddie, to the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland!

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- The Gardeners of Greater Akron's **February 20th** meeting starts with dinner at 6:30 and cost is \$15. The program will be "The Captivating Allure of Indoor Plants" presented by our own Bob McMahon.
- The Gardeners of Greater Youngstown will hold a Winter Seminar at Davis Center at Mill Creek Park in Youngstown on **March 11th** and Bob McMahon will be one of the speakers.
- The Central Great Lakes Gardeners will be holding its regional meeting at the Kingwood Center in Mansfield on **Saturday, April 22nd**.
- The tentative date for The Gardeners of America's national convention is **July 20th - July 23rd** in Grand Rapids, Michigan. I encourage you to please start planning to attend the regional and national events to learn new gardening concepts/methods, to meet new fellow gardeners and to reconnect with gardeners you already know and to showcase our club! Let's make a good showing at these two events! Details regarding both events will be forthcoming.



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Income Projects Update

Planning has started by the Income Projects Committee, Chaired by Debbie Daniels, for the May plant sale at Rockefeller City Greenhouse and a “Members Only Plant Sale” the week before. Details will be forthcoming in future newsletters.

Kirtland’s Lantern Court Finds New Purpose, Needs Volunteers

By Carol Poh

The club’s first meeting of 2023, on Jan. 9, featured an illustrated presentation by Eddie Lagucki, the director of horticulture at Lantern Court in Kirtland. He was tapped to fill the new position last May in anticipation of Holden Arboretum’s transfer of the property (deemed tangential to its mission) to Red Oak Camp in July. The youthful and engaging Lagucki described himself as “a Cleveland native, ISA Certified Arborist, avid wildlife photographer, and major outdoor enthusiast.” His passion for gardening shone through as he described the Lantern Court volunteer program.

The history of Lantern Court, located on the south side of Kirtland-Chardon Road opposite the arboretum, and the adjacent Red Oak Camp are closely intertwined. The camp was begun 1947 by boys attending Hawken School. In 1952, it came under the patronage of its neighbor, the financier and philanthropist Warren H. Corning II, who acquired 87 acres to support the venture. In 1957 Corning’s daughter, Alison, established Chincapin, a camp for girls. The Cornings resided nearby on their 25-acre Lantern Court estate, where in 1931 they had built a large Georgian-style house (designed by Edward Maier). The house and its outbuildings were surrounded by formal and naturalistic gardens built to the design of the noted Cleveland landscape architect A. Donald Gray (1891–1939). Gray designed many private gardens and estates in Cleveland and its suburbs, as well as Forest Hill Park on the former site of John D. Rockefeller’s summer home.

For three decades, until his death in 1975, Warren Corning was a driving force behind Holden Arboretum, acquiring hundreds of acres for its use and serving as its executive head in the 1940s and 50s and, later, as chair of its executive committee. In 1966 the Cornings leased their Lantern Court estate to the arboretum for \$1 a year, allowing it to expand its educational and cultural programs. (The family had downsized to a remodeled farmhouse nearby.)

Today the elegant Lantern Court estate remains remarkably intact—down to the original furnishings inside the house—and the hand of Donald Gray is still to be seen in the gardens. But the estate’s addition to Red Oak Camp’s holdings presents new challenges. Following a visual tour of the property’s landscape features, Lagucki described diverse volunteer opportunities. These include perennial garden maintenance, an adopt-a-garden program, propagation and transplanting activities, education (garden tours), and trail maintenance. He urged anyone interested to visit redoakcamp.org/volunteer.



Eddie Lagucki, the new director of horticulture at Lantern Court.



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February Program

The February program will feature two speakers: Bob McMahon and Steve McIntosh. Bob will be showing movies from the amazing orchid production range at Green Circle Growers (<https://www.greencirclegrowers.com/>) to hopefully spark interest in participating in another field trip to tour the huge bedding plant production range most likely in April. Steve will summarize the youth gardening project and tentative plans for 2023.

Crab Cake Recipe, Bob McMahon

Ingredients:

- 1 pound of lump crab meat
- 3 Tablespoons of flour
- 4 shakes of Worcestershire Sauce
- 1 egg
- 1 Tablespoon chopped parsley (or dried)
- 1 Tablespoon of Dijon mustard
- 2 generous Tablespoons of mayonnaise
- 1 Tablespoon of Old Bay Seasoning
- Olive/vegetable oil to cover skillet



Place crab meat in a bowl and sort through for any extraneous shells and avoid breaking up the lumps of crab meat.

In another bowl, mix the remaining ingredients, except the oil, and whisk together until blended and smooth. Carefully fold in the crab meat into the wet mixture, being careful again not to break up the lumps of crab meat.

Gently shape 5 to 6 cakes from the mixture, placing the crab cakes on a piece of waxed paper. Chill at last for an hour; several hours is better for the cakes to firm up somewhat.

Heat the oil in a skillet over medium-high heat. When a droplet of water spatters upon contact with the hot oil (important that the oil be very hot), the crab cakes can be carefully placed in the skillet using a spatula. Sauté a skillet full of crab cakes until golden brown on one side. Carefully turn over the crab cakes and sauté on the other side until golden brown and cooked all the way through. Remove and drain on paper towels, if need be, and enjoy!



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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:** ROBERT MCMAHON
- 1ST VICE PRESIDENT:** STEVE MCINTOSH
- SECRETARY:** JONNY PRELL
- TREASURER:** HIEDI WINSTON
- ASST TREASURER:** LARRY KELL

Current DIRECTORS:

- DEBORAH KRAMARZ / 2021-2024
- ROBERT MCMAHON
- DEBBIE DANIELS
- ED TUHELA
- FRED ROBINSON
- GARRET ORMISTON
- LARRY KELL
- TOM DAVIS

CURRENT STANDING COMMITTEES

- *Awards:* Tom Davis, Chair
- *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, Fred Robinson, Co-chairs; 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: Tom Davis
- Nominating: Deb Kramarz, Chair
- Wellness/Memorials: Team Captains
- Archive Committee: Steve McIntosh, Chair