



The Spade



The Newsletter of the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland

January 2024

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

Vol. 93 No. 1



Monday, January 8th, Dinner Menu:

Dinner served buffet style includes: roasted pork tenderloin medallions with honey mustard cream sauce, sweet mashed potatoes and brussel sprouts. Coffee and cookies will be served in the Penthouse afterwards.

What's inside:

- **A few photos from our December Holiday Party**
- **2023 Awards and Photos**
- **January Program: Gardening for the Birds, John Barber**
- **Club Updates & Reminders**
- **The Native Plant Revolution, by Eddie Lagucki**
- **Results of 2023 Club Survey**
- **2024-2025 Officers & Board Members**
- **Updated Team Captains List (Rev 01-01-2023)**



Happy New Year, fellow gardeners!

It is somewhat hard to believe we are already beginning the year 2024. Time sure does fly when you're having fun. Speaking of fun, a great time was had by all during this past holiday party. I would like to give a huge thanks to all that helped make it possible; especially Larry Kell, Jonny Prell, and Tom Segelin. By taking on the responsibility of the Awards Committee, the three of them made sure that we continue to recognize the work our members do to make Gardeners of Greater Cleveland a fantastic organization to be a part of.

As I am writing my first letter as President of The Gardeners of Greater Cleveland, I would be remiss to not thank our newest past President, Bob McMahon. Bob's guidance, wisdom, organization, and positive demeanor moved our club forward over the past two years. He has helped me become a better teacher, person, and GoGC member. I realize I have big shoes to fill and I would like to thank all of you in advance for your support. I look forward to doing what I can to keep our club on an upward trajectory and I can't wait to see you all soon.

With the beginning of each new year, there is a fresh energy in the air. The Gardeners of Greater Cleveland has a great deal to be excited about. We continue to increase our membership, new revenue streams are being developed, and various community service projects are in the works to get us back to doing what we do best, GARDENING! Although the January snow may be covering your remaining kale plants or collapsing your row covers, Spring will be here before we know it. Enjoy perusing through your favorite seed catalogs, mapping out your crop rotations, and reflecting on what went well and what didn't in your garden this past year. We will be breaking out the seed starting trays in no time at all.

Best Regards,

Steve McIntosh





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A Few Holiday Party Photos





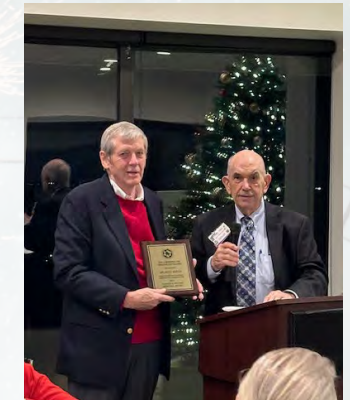
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2023 Gardeners of Greater Cleveland Awards

- Robert McMahon, Potter Bowl Award
- Ron Hartmiller, Potter Bowl Plaque
- Tom Seglin, Potter Bowl Plaque
- Milan Busta, Potter Bowl Plaque
Michael Busta, his son, accepted the award
- Debbie Daniels, Bronze Medal
- Hiedi Winston, Bronze Medal
- Steve McIntosh, Certificate of Appreciation
- Tom Segelin, Certificate of Appreciation
- Julie Giroux, Certificate of Appreciation
- Bob & Sandra Pindell, Certificate of Appreciation
- Ron Hartmiller, Certificate of Appreciation





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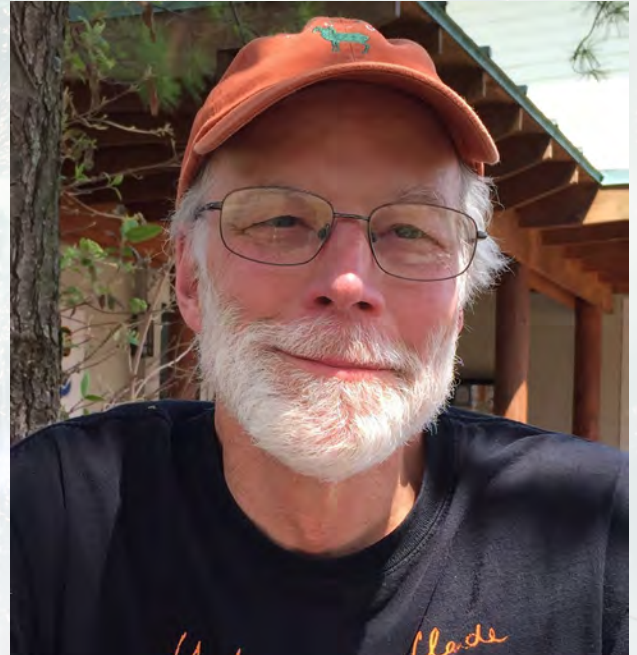


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January Program: Gardening for the Birds, John Barber

John will be giving a presentation on how to plant your home landscapes with native plant species to provide food and shelter to the birds on a year round basis. He gave this talk at the Cleveland Botanical Garden's Fall Forum this year.

John Barber is a resident of Cleveland Heights, brings home his experience of the importance of bird habitat to all forms of life on earth. For example, as co-chair of Friends of Lower Lake park he has worked with volunteers weekly on Sunday mornings since 2018 to remove invasive species and replace them with native ones. A licensed bird bander, he has had the excitement of banding 60 bird species in his own bio-diverse back yard.



John has been a citizen scientist for over fifty years, active in green space preservation; the recovery of Peregrine Falcon populations; the continuing recovery of Eastern Bluebirds; and monitoring wildlife populations in suburban parklands. Now retired after 35 years in the business world, he is passionately engaged in restoring and maintaining biodiversity.



Club Updates & Reminders

- Fred Robinson appreciated Steve McIntosh setting up the Zoom connection so he could join the Holiday Party. Bob McMahon visited Fred last week and great news, Fred was in a wheelchair and in excellent spirits. Fred would love to have visitors or even phone calls. He is in room 310 of Legacy Willoughby at 37603 Euclid Ave., Willoughby, and his cell is 440-358-1464.
- Debbie Daniels is accepting donations for the plant sale this year. Please bring any items to our meetings before the sale.
Debbie found a wicker picnic basket at a thrift store.
Bob McMahon is donating a manual vegetable cutter.





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The Native Plant Revolution, by Eddie Lagucki

Watching ash trees die all around me, beech leaves wither away, and buckthorn choke out the woods I grew up playing in, I became obsessed with saving my local ecosystem. Because of this, after college I pursued the green industry and have since worked in many sectors throughout my budding career. Running landscaping crews, managing a garden center, publishing insect research (my degree is in biology), and running invasive-species eradication projects, I've seen the good, the bad, and the ugly.

In America, Big Horticulture is working contrary to the goals of environmental conservation and ecological preservation. Walk into most any garden center today and you will see a wonderful display of annuals, perennials, trees, and shrubs. But the vast majority of what is on the sales floor is non-native or even invasive. Drive by a housing development and try to count the number of native species. You will likely find zero (unless you count the name of the development memorializing the nature it replaced).

Sadly, the horticulture industry has been built on a false foundation: the notion that humans are separate from nature. Since the dawn of commercial agriculture, humans have been conditioned to think that unless a plant is a cash crop or offers visual appeal, it is a weed or nuisance plant. Shopping habits reflect this assumption. Consumers buy plants because they are “pretty,” “pest-free,” and/or “easy-to-grow” instead of those that support the local ecology.

A case in point: Many home gardeners adore the [Butterfly Bush](#) (*Buddleja davidii*). While it is pretty, this perennial plant native to China offers nectar to only a few species of adult butterflies and moths. Its leaves support no larval species that provide the nutrition our native insects feed on. **Why feed the adults but not the kids?**

There is a major nutrition gap in our landscapes affecting the native species critical to the future of the planet. Most native species support tens of larval species, if not hundreds. The goldenrod genus, *Solidago*, supports over 100 native insect species! Meanwhile, most “native” plants for sale at garden centers are cultivars of native species—hybridized plants that may exhibit flower colors and shapes attractive to you but far less attractive to pollinators, which prefer the native plants with which they have evolved.



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The Native Plant Revolution (Continued)

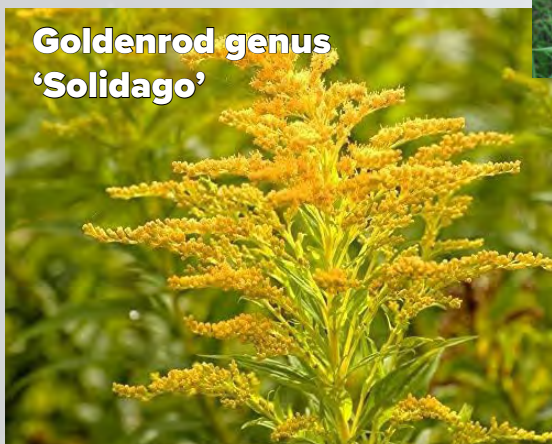
The invasive plants we fight to control today were invariably imported from overseas and marketed by garden centers, nurseries, and big-box stores. These exotics have proliferated across America, wreaking havoc on our ecosystems. In many cases, landowners are left to deal with issues caused by invasive plants. The [Callery Pear](#) (*Pyrus calleryana*) quickly out-competed native species, making national headlines when its sale was outlawed by most states, but the irreparable damage was already done.

It is time to revolutionize our relationship with horticulture and understand the fact that humans are a part of nature, not separate from it. The native plant revolution has germinated and is rapidly growing. While Big Horticulture sits on its hands and vendors continue to sell exotic and invasive plants ad nauseam, native plant nurseries (like [Meadow City](#) in Cleveland) are popping up across the nation to fill the void and progressive educators are preaching the importance of locally sourced native plants. As younger generations witness the damaging effects of Big Horticulture on our ecosystems, they are increasingly inspired to join the revolution—to be part of the change that will save and restore our natural heritage.

Eddie Lagucki is a member of the GoGC. A version of this article appeared in the Nov-Dec 2023 issue of The Gardeners Gazette, the newsletter of the Gardeners of America.



Butterfly Weed



**Goldenrod genus
'Solidago'**



Common milkweed



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2023 Club Survey Results Summary

In November's issue of The Spade, a link to a survey was included as a way to get feedback from membership about what they want out of the club. Below is a brief summary of the survey that includes some ideas from membership for various topics. If anyone has any specific questions, please let Steve McIntosh know. Thank you to everyone who took time to complete the survey.

- 18 members responded
- Almost 83% of responders have been members for 5 years or more.
- Most responders feel they are at least moderately involved in the club.
- 70% live within 11-20 miles of One Bratenahl Place

Volunteering/Service Projects

- Almost all responders have participated in some volunteer or service project for the club.
- Most responders enjoy the gardening aspect of these projects and being with their fellow members.
- Reasons why members do not participate include lack of time and energy, and not being given enough notice when volunteer opportunities are available.
- Suggestions for service projects include working more with the VA, creating gardens to service people with disabilities, Cultural Gardens, and Summer Sprouts projects.

Fundraising

- The vast majority of respondents have a favorable view of our fundraising projects and are supportive of them continuing. More promotion of these projects is always welcomed.
- One member disagrees with raising money to fund scholarships for people going into commercial landscaping that doesn't place an emphasis on climate action.

Monthly Meetings

- Most responders are pleased with the structure and location of our monthly meetings.
- A suggestion to have more 6-8 person tables during dinner may help bring more club members together and keep the pre-dinner energy up.

Guest Speakers

- The vast majority of members are pleased with the guest speakers at our monthly meetings.
- Over 60% of those who responded are interested in a program where different members of GoGC present briefly on a topic they are knowledgeable about.
- Almost 40% surveyed said they "would be" or "maybe would be" interested in being one of the presenters.
- Future topic ideas include soil, no-mow lawns, and experts in various fields such as nursery management.

Horticulture Shows

- Almost 2/3 of those surveyed participated in a horticulture show within the past 5 years.
- 1/3 of respondents do not plan to participate in future horticulture shows.
- On a 1-5 scale with 5 indicating total satisfaction with the shows, almost 65% of respondents rated their satisfaction as a 3.
- The group was split 50/50 on whether they would or wouldn't be interested in participating in a member-judged, less formal horticulture show.
- Paraphrased thoughts about the horticulture shows include:
 - Not continuing the shows due to lack of interest, judges, quality of submissions
 - Good communication of guidelines and expectations
 - Not high on the priority list, would prefer more speakers
 - The plant swap was an enjoyable event as opposed to the horticulture show.

Thoughts and Ideas

- More service projects that are easy for members to participate in
- More field trips
- Requiring new members to serve on a committee as a way to get them more involved
- Promote through different types of social media to try and encourage younger members to join



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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



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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)
- Geoffrey Kibler (502.715.3510)
- Alan Bodner (216.524.2443)
- Rachel Laughlin (407-808-2248)

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
- Al Hopf
- Rachel Laughlin

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
- Timothy Homan (New Member)

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)
- Ed Nangle (614.208.2298)
- Mark Yoders (330.264.4944)
- Chancy Jackson (216.322.8343)
- Scott Blanchard (330.322.8111)

Team 7

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

- Fred Burkhalter
- Tom Davis
- Emily Dennis
- John Schinker
- Deah Stark
- John Tilisky
- 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) by Thursday evening.**