



# The SPADE



The "SPADE" is the newsletter of the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland founded on January 1, 1932 as the Men's Garden Club of Cleveland. Its editor is Vince Staffileno who may be reached at [vrs1023@gmail.com](mailto:vrs1023@gmail.com) or 440-479-7897. Visit our web site at <http://www.gardenersofgreatercleveland.org>.

## February 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting



**O**ur February speaker is Mary Ann Thesing. Her topic is The Japanese Maple Garden - A four season dream where the focus is on form, color and texture. She states that "The choices we make can change the way we experience our gardens in the future. Think dwarf!"

John and MaryAnn Thesing have an extensive collection of Japanese Maples, Dwarf Conifers and rarely seen Dwarf Perennials, all of which have been combined to transport garden visitors to a tranquil place.

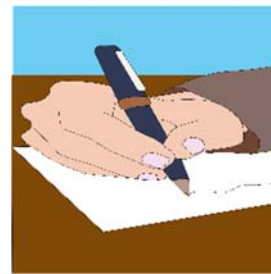
MaryAnn's presentation will show how low maintenance, easy care gardening is within reach in our, otherwise, busy lives. She will address Form, Color and Texture in The Japanese Maple Garden to help inspire four-season interest.

MaryAnn is a self-taught garden designer. She grew up in the Bahamas where her mother instilled a love of gardening. As a flight attendant for 14 years, MaryAnn found gardening to be her favorite pastime on her days off.

**Please call your team captain with your "Dinner Reservation" by Thursday February 8<sup>th</sup>.**

**There will be a Board Meeting starting at 5:00 PM on 2/12/2018 in the Penthouse. PLEASE BE PROMPT.**

## Presidents Letter



**A** burst of green thanks to the annual January thaw and then gone again with another coating of white. But, what a wonderful feeling of anticipation to see the hardy *Carex* ice dance living up to its name and the autumn fern to match. I could almost imagine bulbs springing forth. Ah, well, they will come in time.

Despite the weather, there is some gardening activity going on at John's greenhouse in Bratenahl. The Plant Sale team, mostly John, has done a vigorous cleanup and fresh water and vinegar wash-down. Under the guidance of Deah and Vince we are selecting pepper, tomato and assorted flower seeds to germinate. Deah and Vince will get them started in late February with transplanting and moving to the greenhouse sometime in early April. They will join the wintering-over hibiscus and assorted other plants. If you would like to join the "grow your own" crowd, contact Julie at [julanderso@yahoo.com](mailto:julanderso@yahoo.com) or John at [budnikj@gmail.com](mailto:budnikj@gmail.com).

For those of you who joined us for January's meeting and the yet to be completed and entertaining history of Cleveland Metroparks by Judy MacKeigan, you may have noticed a new way of starting the evening. We have borrowed this idea of having "greeters" in the lounge from our friends in Akron. We will have two members there to greet you, give you your badge, check you in and collect your dinner and raffle and/or auction money. This will allow new members and old members to get to know each

other a little better and reduce the interruptions during dinner. The feedback from January from Tom and Larry was favorable.

I would like to introduce you to three new members of the club: John Williams lives in Lakewood, and he recruited Jeff Clark, also from Lakewood, whose interests are vegetables and landscaping. Chuck Palsa lives in Painesville and his interest is also in vegetables. In addition, your Board has granted lifetime memberships to Mike Busta and Art Steinmetz, both long-time members and generous supporters of the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland.

At February's meeting you will be treated to a talk by club member Maryann Thesing on the Japanese Maple Garden and dine on Gino's oven-roasted salmon, squash & onion and yellow rice. As always, you may request a vegetarian dinner at Chef's choice.

Stay warm, stay safe and happy Valentine's Day!

Dave

## 2018 National Convention

**M**any thanks to John Kessen and the Fort Wayne, Indiana club for sponsoring the National Convention this year. All the convention information is now on our website:

- Welcome information
- Convention Registration Form
- Hotel Reservations with location directions
- Airport Information
- Convention Schedule
- Horticulture Show (second year at our Conventions)
- Seminar Descriptions

Register early for the low price.

A shortcut to the 2018 Convention page:

<http://tgoa-mgca.org/Convention2018.htm>

Happy Convention.

Frank Mitch  
2018 President

## January Board Meeting



**T**he following are the minutes of the January Board Meeting:

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – J. Budnik presented the proposed 2018 budget. Discussion and approval was tabled until the February meeting to allow for clarification of some items.

**PRESIDENTS REMARKS** – We need to spend time on succession planning for both board members and officers. Membership recruitment and retention are essential for the health of our club. We will start to have members serve as greeters and to collect money for dinner and the raffle.

**MEMBERSHIP** – Lou Pelton presented two new members. Their applications were approved. Larry Kell presented a new membership packet to aid new members understand the background of our club and its activities.

**FUND RAISING** – Work on the May Plant Sale continues. The chair for this vital committee remains open.

**SERVICE PROJECT** – Bob Pindell reported that the remaining money from the VA project was spent on bird seed and feeders. The local VFW will be approached for funding for future VA projects by Bob Pindell.

**WILLOTT IRIS GARDEN** – Bob Pindell presented copies of the ROOT which is the magazine *Journal of the Historic Iris Preservation Society*. It contained an article about the Willott garden and how it came about.

**WELLNESS AND MEMORIALS** – Vince reported that Art Steinmetz is in a rehabilitation facility and is not expected to return home. A motion was made and passed that both Milan Busta and Art Steinmetz be mad life members of our club.

**NOMINATIONS** – A search is under way for someone to fill the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and for someone to fill the director's position vacated by Julie Henry.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Lou Pelton and Thom Segelin are investigating improvements in our sound system.

**OFFICERS** – Larry Kell was elected to the position of 2nd Vice President Pro Tempore until a permanent replacement is found.

**MEMBERSHIP FEES** – The following changes to membership fees was made: Family memberships will be \$60.00 per year and for a half year they will be \$36.00.

## Upcoming Events



**SECRET GARDENS: YOUR WINDOW INTO HIDDEN BEAUTY**

**January 27 - March 11, 2018**

Tuesdays, Thursdays,  
Fridays & Saturdays: 10am - 5pm  
Wednesdays: 10am - 9pm  
Sundays: Noon - 5pm  
Mondays: Closed

## Dinner Menu



***The Dinner Menu:***

***House Garden Salad,  
Oven Roasted Salmon, Squash and Onion-Yellow Rice***

***Vegetarian Option***

***This is the Chef's Choice at dinner time. There is no advance menu.***

***If you wish a Vegetarian dinner, please advise your team captain to order it.***

***Coffee and Cookies will be served in the Penthouse***

## Dinner Responsibilities

**L**ou Pelton is responsible for giving Bratenahl 1 our reservations for dinner. This he does by Saturday morning to give their **Chef** adequate time to order food. Please call your team captain and let him know if you are coming to dinner by the Thursday prior to the meeting.

Below is the list of Team Captains and their phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

### **TEAM CAPTAINS - TELEPHONE & E-MAIL**

TEAM 1 LOU PELTON  
440-666-6695

[LOUPELTON305@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LOUPELTON305@GMAIL.COM)

TEAM 2 LOU DRASLER  
216-481-6854

[LOUIS.DRASLER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LOUIS.DRASLER@GMAIL.COM)

TEAM 3 Z. HAROLD DAVIS JR.  
216-283-7111

TEAM 4 FRED BURKHALTER  
440-526-2888

[K1200RSL@AOL.COM](mailto:K1200RSL@AOL.COM)

TEAM 5 KEITH BEIHL  
440-237-5824

TEAM 6 RON HARTMILLER  
216-671-1408

[R\\_HARTMILLER@YAHOO.COM](mailto:R_HARTMILLER@YAHOO.COM)

TEAM 7 JANE DAVIS  
440-498-0472

[TSD123@ROADRUNNER.COM](mailto:TSD123@ROADRUNNER.COM)

TEAM 8 CATHERINE ROSS  
216-970-2854

[ESTROGEN05@YAHOO.COM](mailto:ESTROGEN05@YAHOO.COM)

TEAM 9 DEBORAH KRAMARZ  
216-731-6324

[DEBORAHKRAMARZ@AOL.COM](mailto:DEBORAHKRAMARZ@AOL.COM)

## Tip of the Hat



- To Larry Kell for the preparation of a booklet to be given to new members. It gives them background information about our club.

# Seed Starting

**S**eeds are easy to start indoors. Many vegetable, herb and flower varieties have unique requirements so the key to success is to do a little research on your seeds before you start.

You can use just about any **CONTAINER** to start seeds as long as it is at least 3" deep to allow for roots to grow. Yogurt cups, plastic take-out containers and margarine tubs are great choices. As well, save any cell packs and trays you get from the nursery. All containers should have holes in the bottom for drainage. Plant containers for seedlings need to be very clean to avoid disease and it is wise to disinfect all containers with a mild bleach solution. For simplicity, you can use peat pellets, which are a growing container and planting medium in one (Jiffy Peat Pellets). When soaked in water, the pellets grow to seven times their size. These pellets can be planted directly in the garden when the seedlings are ready.

It is best not to use the **SOIL** from your garden. Not only is it too heavy and provides poor drainage, you run the risk of bringing in weeds and garden soil will host some disease organisms detrimental to your seedlings. There was a time when gardeners sterilized their garden soil in the oven to use for their seeding, but that is a very tedious and smelly chore. It is best to use a commercially prepared 'soil-less mix', which can be found at garden centers, home improvement stores or on-line. These mixes usually contain peat moss (which is naturally sterile), vermiculite and perlite. All three of these mix components are light in texture and retain large quantities of moisture while still being well drained. Most importantly 'soil-less mix' is a clean and sterile environment that will help keep your small seedlings healthy.

The general rule for seed starting is start seeds warm but grow seedlings cool. Don't try to germinate your seeds on the windowsill. The outdoor **TEMPERATURES** will make this area too cool. Most seeds are genetically programmed to germinate only in warm soil. Check the seed package for the optimum soil temperature. You can keep the seed trays consistently warm by placing them on top of a water heater or refrigerator. Fluorescent lighting or heat lamps also can keep the soil warm. If your area is quite cool, a seedling heat mat may be your best option. Commercial greenhouses use both lights and hot water heating systems to keep seed trays warm.

Seeds need constant **MOISTURE** in order to germinate. Do not let the growing mixture dry out or equally as

important get too wet. Moisten the growing mix thoroughly before sowing. Stir the mixture with your hands to distribute the moisture. After the seeds are sown, place a humidity dome or plastic wrap over your container to slow evaporation. Check every day for signs of germination and remove the cover as soon as you see a sprout so that the air can circulate around the emerging seedlings. Water with a fine spray of warm water or from the bottom. Avoid watering with icy cold water.

Lack of **LIGHT** is probably the number one reason people get discouraged as seedlings grown in weak light will stretch, will have weak stems and often a pale color. Seedlings need 14 - 16 hours of light from the moment they germinate. They also need at least 8 hours of darkness to process their food and grow. Growing seedlings on a windowsill is not recommended, as they will stretch toward the light and most windowsills have low levels of light. If the windowsill is your only option, turn the containers daily so they don't have to stretch and reach for the light. You will know if your seedlings need more light if they are pale and weak. Fluorescent lighting or grow lights are your best option. Even if you don't have a store-bought stand, one can be made with a cast-off fixture, some cedar or treated lumber, screws, nails and cords. The best growth will occur under the maximum light you can provide. Mix the types of bulbs used since the cool white provides light in the blue/green range and encourages leaf growth, while a grow light or warm light provides light in the red range, which encourages flowering. This way you have a full spectrum of light. Replace the bulbs yearly, as the light intensity decreases significantly even in the first few months of use. Keeping bulbs longer doesn't save money compared to the poorer growth of the plants. Get your plants as close to the light as possible by putting the lights on adjustable chains keeping them 2 - 4 inches above the tops of seedlings. Move the light fixtures up as the seedlings grow. Incandescent or LED grow lights also work well but can be more expensive overall than fluorescent. Adding artificial light can also help keep seedlings warm.

The new seedlings need proper **SPACING** to grow as soon as their first "true" leaves appear. It may seem heartless, but the weakest and spindliest seedlings need to be cut off at soil level so that the strongest ones can get stronger. If your seeding is rather dense, do not pull out unwanted seedlings as their roots may be tangled up and damage the root of the seedling remaining. At this point it is a good idea to place a fan on your plants. This will make their stems sturdier and get them ready for outdoors. As well, good air circulation will keep molds and mildews at bay.

## Auction Items

If you did your planting in individual containers, **TRANSPLANTING** is not necessary before you set them outside. Seedlings in seed flats need to be transplanted into 4" containers by the time you have 4 true leaves. This will give your seedlings more room to grow, stimulate the feeder roots and improve ventilation. To transplant, hold the seedling by its leaves, not the delicate stem. With a butter knife, spoon or fork, gently cut around the seedling root and lift up. Place into a pre-moistened container, slightly deeper than they were in their flats. Firm soil around the seedlings, water immediately.

After transplanting, **FERTILIZE** once a week with transplant fertilizer or a half-strength well balanced fertilizer. After about 3 weeks you can start fertilizing at full strength. Over-fertilization can result in leggy seedlings. If your seedlings are starting to look leggy, pinch back the growing tips to promote more branching. This can be repeated every week or so to promote compact, bushy plants.

**HARDENING OFF** is basically getting your small plants ready to face the great outdoors. There are many different ways this can be accomplished. At least a week before you plan to set the plants into the ground they need to gradually get used to the sun, wind and various outdoor temperatures. A cold frame, which is a sheltered unheated box with a translucent cover is the best means for this transitional period. The lid can be gradually raised to expose the plants to more sunlight. If you don't have a cold frame, you can also use row covers (Stokes carries various sizes, which will help protect the plants). You can also place your plants in a shaded, sheltered part of your garden for a few hours each day, gradually moving them into more sun. These unprotected plants will have to be brought back indoors each night unless you know it is going to stay above 50°F/10°C all night long.

If you have followed the directions above, your seed starting should be relatively trouble free. There are however, a couple of **PROBLEMS** that may creep up on you. **INSECTS**: spray insecticidal soap on spider mites, aphids or whiteflies as soon as they appear. **DISEASE**: Using clean containers and soil-less mixtures should keep diseases at bay. A common disease is Damping off, which is a fungus that attacks the plant at the soil line. One minute your seedlings look healthy, and then suddenly they topple over. Making sure the seedlings have good air circulation (a fan will help) as well as making sure you don't over-water, will also help prevent this.

FROM: STOKES SEEDS WEB SITE

**T**here will be two of hand blown glass items that can either be bird feeders or you can put a plant in them. The other is an indoor garden with lights. There is the possibility of more items so be prepared for some excellent items and some vigorous bidding.



**Indoor Garden**



**Hand blown glass**



**Hand blown glass**

## New Member



**W**elcome the following new member to our club:

- **Chuck Palsa** from Painesville. His gardening interest is veggies.

## Garden Planning

**I**n a recent issue of “The American Gardener” magazine the following plants are ‘New and Promising Plants and suitable for our hardiness zone:

### PERENNIALS AND GRASSES

- *Achillea millefolium* ‘Apricot Delight
- *Baptista* ‘Solar Flare’
- *Clematis* ‘Center Star’
- *Huechera* – Coral Bell ‘Crystal Spires’
- *Huechera* – Coral Bell ‘Rosada’
- *Salvia* ‘Ultra Violet’
- *Veronica* ‘Total Eclipse’
- *Veronica* Prostrata ‘Goldwell’
- *Panicum virgatum* ‘Ruby ribbons’-Grass w/blue green foliage that develops a deep red by midsummer. (does not note if it is perennial)
- *Ligularia dentate* ‘Midnight lady’ Ideal for partial shade, w/ moist soil
- *Begonia* ‘Metallic Mist’ Hardy with Silver leaves and dark green veins. Noted as good in partial shade in well-drained soil.

### SHRUBS AND ROSES

- *Cotinus coggugria* ‘Kolcot’ a dwarf smoke bush with seashell pink flowers
- *Hydrangea paniculata* ‘DVPD Pinky-Winky
- *Rosa* OsaEasy ‘Peachy Cream’

## Garden Tips

**F**or those of you who enjoy raising heirloom vegetable plants, that is plants that are over 100 years old, here are some recommendations for tomatoes for our area:

- Northeast US – From Tim Stark who grows about 100 varieties his top five are: Brandywine, Cherokee Purple, Eva Purple, Green Giant and Pineapple.
- Midwest US – From Glenn Downs who has 10 acres in seed production his favorites are: Kellogg’s Breakfast, Martino’s Roma, Tiffen Mennonite and Ukrainian Heart.

Seed sources include: Tomato Growers Supply 888-478-7333, [www.tomatogrowers.com](http://www.tomatogrowers.com); Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds 866-653-7333, [www.rareseeds.com](http://www.rareseeds.com); and Marianna’s Heirloom Seeds 615-446-9191, [www.mariseeds.com](http://www.mariseeds.com)

## Gardeners of Greater Cleveland



The Gardeners of Greater Cleveland (GOGC) is an organization of men and women who have joined together to learn about gardening as well as to share their experiences and enjoyment of gardening with others and with their community. Their meetings are:

<b>WHEN --</b>	<i>Second Monday of each month September through June</i>
<b>WHERE –</b>	<i>1 Bratenahl Place, Bratenahl, OH</i>
<b>TIMES -</b>	<i>Social Hour                      6:00 PM Dinner                                6:45 PM Meeting                                7:45 PM</i>

## GOGC Executive Board

### CLUB OFFICERS

<i>PRESIDENT</i>	<i>DAVE DAWSON</i>
<i>1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT</i>	<i>JULIE HENRY</i>
<i>2ND VICE PRESIDENT</i>	<i>OPEN</i>
<i>SECRETARY</i>	<i>JODITH JANES</i>
<i>TREASURER</i>	<i>JOHN BUDNIK</i>
<i>ASS'T TREASURER</i>	<i>ANDY KOSIOREK</i>

### DIRECTORS

<i>JANE DAVIS (18)</i>	<i>JOYCE NESBIT (18)</i>
<i>RON HARTMILLER (18)</i>	<i>JONNY PRELL (19)</i>
<i>OPEN (19)</i>	<i>VINCE STAFFILENO (19)</i>
<i>KATHY KOSIOREK (20)</i>	<i>PAT BOGGINS (20)</i>
<i>HANK DOLL (20)</i>	

## GOGC Committees & Chairs

### STANDING COMMITTEES (PER BY-LAWS)

<i>FUND RAISING</i>	<i>OPEN</i>
<i>FINANCE</i>	<i>ROBERT PINDELL</i>
<i>MEMBERSHIP</i>	<i>LOU PELTON</i>
<i>PROGRAM</i>	<i>KATHY KOSIOREK</i>
<i>PUBLICITY</i>	<i>CATHY ROSS</i>

### OTHER COMMITTEES

<i>AWARDS</i>	<i>FRED ROBINSON</i>
<i>CLEVELAND BOTANICAL</i>	<i>JANE DAVIS</i>
<i>HISTORIAN</i>	<i>OPEN</i>
<i>GARDEN SHOWS</i>	<i>BOB PINDELL</i>
<i>NEWSLETTER –</i>	<i>VINCE STAFFILENO</i>
<i>PLANT SALES</i>	
<i>MAY -</i>	<i>D. DAWSON, J. HENRY</i>
<i>BULBS – SEPTEMBER</i>	<i>PAT BOGGINS</i>
<i>SCHOLARSHIP</i>	<i>FRED ROBINSON</i>
<i>TELEPHONE</i>	<i>LOU PELTON</i>
<i>WEBSITE &amp; SOCIAL MEDIA</i>	<i>JONNY PRELL</i>

## Musings



### Winter Garden

"In winter's cold and sparkling snow,  
The garden in my mind does grow.  
I look outside to blinding white,  
And see my tulips blooming bright.  
And over there a sweet carnation,  
Softly scents my imagination.

On this cold and freezing day,  
The Russian sage does gently sway,  
And miniature roses perfume the air,  
I can see them blooming there.  
Though days are short, my vision's clear.  
And through the snow, the buds appear.

In my mind, clematis climbs,  
And morning glories do entwine.  
Woodland phlox and scarlet pinks,  
Replace the frost, if I just blink.  
My inner eye sees past the snow.  
And in my mind, my garden grows."  
Cheryl Magic-Lady,

### He Knows No Winter

"He knows no winter, he who loves the soil,  
For, stormy days, when he is free from toil,  
He plans his summer crops, selects his seeds  
From bright-paged catalogues for garden needs.  
When looking out upon frost-silvered fields,  
He visualizes autumn's golden yields;  
He sees in snow and sleet and icy rain  
Precious moisture for his early grain;  
He hears spring-heralds in the storm's ' turmoil  
He knows no winter, he who loves the soil."

Sudie Stuart Hager,

**It is not t**

**Leadership is the ability to hide your panic from others.**

**Anonymous**

**Without government a nation would instantly collapse.  
With too much government it takes considerably longer.**

**Cullen Hightower**

**Admiration: Our polite recognition of another's  
resemblance to ourselves.**

**Ambrose Bierce**

**No one can shed light on vices he does not have or  
afflictions he has never experienced.**

**Antonio Machado**

**To fear love is to fear life, and those who fear life are  
already half dead,**

**Bertrand Russell**

**To love deeply in one direction makes us more loving in all  
others.**

**Anne Swetchine**

## **FIRST CLASS MAIL**

### ***“THE SPADE”***

**GARDENERS OF GREATER CLEVELAND**

**VINCE STAFFILENO - EDITOR**

**9960 ROSEWOOD DR.**

**CHARDON, OH 44024**