



The Spade



The Newsletter of the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland

February 2024

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

Vol. 93 No. 2



Monday, February 12th,
Dinner Menu:

Dinner served buffet style includes: General TSO's Chicken, Asian stir fried vegetables, fried rice, and spring roles. Coffee and cookies will be served in the Penthouse afterwards.

What's inside:

- January Program Summary, Ginnie Dawson
- February Program: Begoniaceae, Darren Palmer
- Club Updates & Reminders
- 2024-2025 Officers & Board Members
- Updated Team Captains List (Rev 01/28/2024)



Happy February Everyone!

While February is still the shortest month of the year, we will get to enjoy one extra day which will hopefully be spent planning for the upcoming spring season. After the inspiring talk from John Barber last month, I find myself eager to head to nurseries and garden centers specializing in native plants that we can add to our yard. We can in fact use natives for both their beauty AND for the support they provide to birds, insects, and other wildlife. I would like to extend thanks to Ginnie Dawson who stepped up to help Carol Poh by taking notes during John's presentation and including it in this month's issue of The Spade! As always, Bob McMahon has a great lineup of speakers for us including next month when new member, Darren Palmer will be sharing his passion for begonias with us.

Passion for gardening is what keeps us going season after season and it is what Gardeners of Greater Cleveland is all about. In an effort to share this with people in our region and beyond, we have created an Instagram account for our club. Not only will we be able to share photos, videos, and ideas with our larger gardener community, we will hopefully be able to attract new members as well. If you currently have an Instagram account, please follow us @GardenersofGreaterCLE. I would like to encourage all of you to send me photos of your garden activities throughout the year that we can then share on our page. Please send them to me via email; Steven.A.McIntosh1@gmail.com or via text; (216) 392-1222. Also, if you are a savvy Instagram user who would like to help us out with running the page, please let me know. Thank you in advance for your participation and for all you do to make our club the best it can be! Enjoy this issue of The Spade and remember that we are always looking for article submissions from our members.

Best Regards,

Steve McIntosh



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January Program Summary

by Ginnie Dawson

John Barber, citizen scientist, licensed bird-bander, and Cleveland Heights resident presented a lively talk to members of GOGC on Monday, January 8. His theme was how to change our gardening habits to help restore and maintain the world's declining numbers of bird species. Birds are in trouble, he said. Gardeners like us, are influencers. We can make a difference by changing our gardening habits to benefit, not harm, wildlife. By setting an example, hopefully other gardeners will join us in adopting more ecofriendly ways to maintain their yards.

His well-paced talk, illustrated with artful slides, John explained how Cleveland is on the international Mississippi flyway used by migrating warblers. This flyway stretches from the Arctic Ocean to Patagonia. After crossing the Great Lakes in the spring, they are starving. Many die because what they are looking for are not the seeds in our bird feeders, but BUGS. The yellow warbler needs a bird buffet of seeds, berries, and insects. Bird feeders are not necessarily bad. They give us pleasure, but they do not help solve the problem of declining species. Feeders concentrate birds unnaturally in one place. They are also often unhealthy for birds because people do not clean them or clean up under them. This helps predators, like feral cats, get through the winter so that they can kill birds in the summer. Not only does the bird seed sold commercially lack the nutrition that birds need, but also some bird seed is harmful because it is commercially treated with chemicals. For example, house finches, so common in bird feeders in winter, get a chronic condition called "weepy eye."

If we want to help migrating birds, transform your garden into 75 percent native plants. Start small, replacing one plant at a time. Create a four-season habitat. Rip out ground covers like English Ivy and Pachysandra and replace them with ginger, a more attractive native plant that spreads well and attracts insects which eat its leaves. Plant native perennials like golden rod, milkweed, and asters; shrubs like dogwood, viburnum, witch hazel, and slow growing oaks. A parting thought—no need to clean up all our leaves in the fall. A perfect lawn is not necessarily a good goal. Leave a few bare spots to make it easier for the birds to find bugs and worms. A slightly messy, organically inspired yard, is GOOD FOR THE BIRDS.





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February Program: A Huge Family of Plants - Begoniaceae

Darren Palmer is a first generation American (and cat dad), born in Washington, DC.

He earned a Bachelor of Science in video game development and is currently working as a Software Engineer in Downtown Cleveland.

He enjoys exploring a wide range of hobbies and interests from Bass to Psychology. Darren's love for the scientific world of plants started in 2020 and has continued to grow rapidly ever since.

In 2023 after being in Cleveland and finding love in a fellow lover of plants, Darren started his own plant blog via Facebook and Instagram.

The Planting Booth is dedicated to being a platform that encourages others to not only care but to develop bonds of understanding plants based on scientific knowledge and history.

In 2024, Darren became the President of the Central Ohio American Begonia Society, and hopes to spread his love of the huge and wild family of plants,





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GoGC Club News, Updates and Reminders

- Eddie Lagucki's article on the native plant revolution, and Susan Brownstein's horticulture article appeared in the January 21st (Sunday), Plain Dealer.
- PLANT SALE NEWS! Starting this month, Debbie Daniels will host a crafting session at 4PM in the Penthouse before our social hour, dinner and meeting. All Members are invited to participate! She will provide many of the supplies needed. Members can show up any time before dinner. Hiedi will be collecting dinner money. Any donations that members would like to contribute to the plant sale, can start bringing them this month to the meeting.
- Our National convention will be held in Wooster, Ohio on September 12th, 13th and 14th. Details will be forthcoming.
- It's not too early to think about volunteering.... at the Willott Iris Garden, Lantern Court and VA Spinal Chord Unit raised garden beds! Spring will be here soon and there is always help needed.





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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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The Newsletter of the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland

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)
- 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

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)
- Scott Blanchard (330.322.8111)
- Timothy Homan (216.2190.0746)
- John Tilsky (440.256.1414)

Team 7

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

- Fred Burkhalter
- Tom Davis
- John Schinker
- Deah Stark
- 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.**