



# The Spade



The Newsletter of the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland

November 2023

Visit us on the web at [www.gardenersofgreatercleveland.org](http://www.gardenersofgreatercleveland.org).

Vol. 92 No. 10

## Monday, November 13th Menu:

**Herb Roasted Turkey Breast, Green Beans, Brown Gravy, Vegetable Stuffing. Coffee, and cookies will be served in the Penthouse after dinner.**

## What's inside:

- **October Program Summary, Carol Poh**
- **November Program: Scott Blanchard, Urban Farm Volunteer Group**
- **GoGC Member Survey, Steve McIntosh**
- **Club Reminders & Updates**
- **Report on Holden Forests and Gardens Affiliate Council Fall Forum, Bob McMahon**
- **Revised Slate of Nominees - Board & Officers**
- **Team Captains List (Rev 8-23)**
- **Holiday Party Invitation**



**Hello November!** Our gardens now are being prepped for winter, such as cutting back perennials, finishing up planting spring-flowering bulbs/corms, pruning dormant rose bushes, trees and shrubs as needed and thinking about ordering those seed catalogs to start planning for next year's gardens!

On October 4, I met Larry Kell at the Lakewood Garden Center to purchase potted mums, pansies and ornamental kale to plant at the VA Hospital's Spinal Cord Unit courtyard gardens. Larry transported the plants in his van and helped unload them. Debbie Kramarz helped with the planting along with Tom Cantania, who is a physical therapist and works with the veterans. Todd, one of the veterans who is actively involved with maintaining the gardens, arrived when we were nearly finished planting and was thrilled to see the new colorful Fall plantings. Eggplants, tomatoes and peppers were still bearing fruit that day and the remaining flowering annuals and herbs looked great for this time of the year. Tom will be surveying the veterans over the winter to see what crops they would like to see next year and share them with Larry and me in the Spring. Everyone there says the gardens again were a big success overall. I thank everyone who was involved in this noteworthy project and I am looking forward to continued participation in 2024! I want to thank our member, Paul Bilyk, for giving us a generous discount on not only these purchases but also the garden plants we purchased for these gardens in May. The club greatly appreciates your generosity, Paul!

On October 7, I was an apprentice judge at the 2023 Ohio Gourd Show at the Delaware County Fairgrounds. It was an amazing experience for me. The vast variety of gourd cultivars and the beautiful gourd artwork was awesome! I was assigned to a team of three judges and a clerk, including Phil Moorhead, an American Gourd Society Certified Judge and Treasurer of the AGS. He is a wealth of information and our team learned a lot from him as he explained how to judge the various gourd categories to which we were assigned. John and Karen Martin organized this event and did a fine job. Judges and clerks met with Karen and John for ~30 minutes before judging started, giving instructions and answering questions. The teams of judges then judged their assigned categories, and I totally enjoyed the experience, and I am looking forward to returning next year when I am a certified Horticulture Judge.

I look forward to seeing you at our November 13th meeting!

*Bob McMahon*





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## The Buzz about Honey Bees by Carol Poh



“The benefits of beekeeping are endless,” Cyndi Konopka writes on her blog. “. . . from the honey we can collect to the surrounding crops that get pollinated, to the lifestyle that you adopt and the relationship you build with your colonies—it all changes your life in the best ways.”

As a child, Konopka longed to become a beekeeper. After decades working as an artist and professional photographer, she was able to realize her dream in 2011. Today she keeps five hives on her Chardon, Ohio, property. Konopka was the featured speaker at the club’s October 9 meeting.

According to the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation (*100 Plants to Feed the Bees*), bees are believed to have coevolved with flowering plants 100 million years ago. The western honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) was domesticated for honey production and crop pollination. It was introduced to North America by European colonists in the 18th century.

Pollen is essential for the reproduction of both bees and flowers. Over millennia, bees evolved behavioral and physiological adaptations to gather and transport pollen more efficiently, including, in the case of honey bees, pollen-collecting hairs and a “pollen basket” that allows her (foraging honey bees are always female) to carry pollen back to the colony.

Bees, Konopka said, are “essential to our survival.” One-third of U.S. crops depend on bees for pollination, while 75 percent of plant species depend on animals to move pollen from plant to plant.

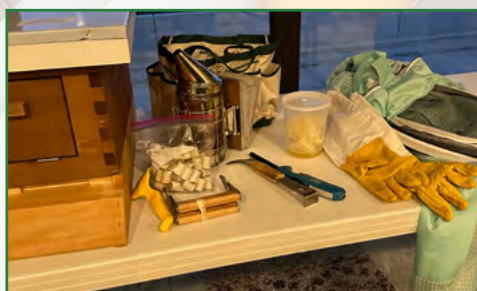
But honey bees are in trouble. Insecticides used to control garden pests can be toxic to pollinators and pests alike. Plants purchased from some nurseries or home-improvement stores may have been treated with neonicotinoid insecticides during production that, even in small doses, can be harmful to pollinators. (Ask before you buy, she advised.) And the invasive Varroa mite can cause colony collapse disorder.

Konopka offered advice on ways to help the bees. (1) Plant native flowers and trees; avoid hybrids. (2) Provide a water source. (3) Don’t use weed-killers.

So what’s in a hive? A single fertile female, or “queen”; many foraging, non-reproductive female “workers”; and a smaller proportion of fertile males, or “drones,” whose job is to mate with the queen. A foraging honey bee can visit from 150 to 1500 flowers a day. She carries nectar back to the hive, where worker bees digest and transform it into honey, cap it with wax and store it.

In addition to honey, products from the hive include wax, lip balm, comb honey, burn treatments, salves, and soaps. Konopka urged her audience to buy raw local honey from a beekeeper, never from a store. Store-bought honey, she warned, can be full of unwanted additives.

The artist/beekeeper wove some fun facts into her talk. The wild lupine changes color after it has been visited by a bee. A queen can lay up to 2,000 fertile eggs a day. And honey is the only food we eat that is produced by insects.



Ms. Konopka brought a hive and a selection of beekeeping equipment for examination following her talk.

*Jonny Prell Photos*



- The honey bees you see on flowers are always girls
- 1/3 of crops in the U.S. depend on bees for pollination
- Honey does not spoil & has antibacterial qualities
- Honey bees are not native to the U.S.
- A Honey bee can fly up to 5 miles to forage for pollen and nectar
- Each full frame of honey in a beehive weighs approximately 7 lbs.
- 75% of all plant species depend on animals to move pollen plant to plant
- 2.5 Million hives are rented annually for the pollination of crops

A Slide from the Presentation





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## November Program Speaker: Scott Blanchard

Scott is a long-standing head of the Trinity Cathedral Urban Farm Volunteer Group. He will talk about the results of the Gardening from the Heart Grant from the Gardeners of America arranged through our club. The grant was used for a new irrigation system at the Farm.

Trinity's Urban Farm is an innovative urban garden dedicated to sustainable practices, local art, and faithful stewardship. Currently, the harvest goes directly to The Friendly Inn Settlement's free food pantry program in our neighborhood, making this a true farm-to-table initiative.

For more information about the Urban Farm: <https://www.trinitycleveland.org/urban-farm/>

## Gardeners of Greater Cleveland Member Survey

In an effort to learn more about what members want out of our club, a survey was developed to help guide future decisions, programs, volunteer opportunities, etc. Please consider completing the survey sometime throughout the month of November. The more detail one provides to the responses, the better. Thanks in advance for your participation.

Click for Member Survey: <https://forms.gle/U3wumXCK1YSz1Amg9>

## Club Updates & Reminders

- Elections of officers and Board members occur at this month's meeting. An updated slate is included in this issue of *The Spade*.
- Please renew your membership if you've not done so already so all members are paid up by December 31st, per our Bylaws.
- **The deadline for your paid reservation to our Holiday Party on Monday, December 11th is Sunday, December 3rd.**
- Bob and Sandra Pindell, and Ron Hartmiller thank the volunteers who helped maintain the Willott Iris Garden this year. The garden now is almost ready for winter, and that task will be completed within a week or so, depending on the weather. Volunteers again will be needed in the Spring.
- If any of you have any perennials that you would like to plant in our club's "Adopt-A-Bed" garden at **Lantern Court Estate** this month, contact Eddie Lagucki to work out a time. Please contact Eddie in advance of your visit. As of this writing, Eddie already has planted a significant number of the 2,000 spring bulbs that recently arrived due to the fact that they already had sprouted.





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## Report on Holden Forests and Gardens Affiliate Council Fall Forum

On Thursday, October 19, I attended the Holden Forests and Gardens Affiliate Council Fall Forum at the Cleveland Botanical Garden. Fellow club members Deb Kramarz, Joyce Nesbit and Kevin Borowiak also attended along with an excellent turnout of representatives from other affiliate clubs. Highlights of the Forum included the introduction of HF&G new President & CEO, Ed Moydell, who then summarized his background and plans/goals for HF&G. Kevin updated the group on this year's Holiday Show, Frost Forest, thanking everyone involved and sharing that every affiliate club will receive 15 complimentary tickets to the show! Our club made a lovely wreath under the leadership of Deb Kramarz that will add beauty to the show. Kevin said that the show decorations will not only be inside the Cleveland Botanical Garden, but also outside in the gardens this year. This promises to be a beautiful show, so mark your calendars: the show will run from November 18 to December 31.

The main feature of the Forum was an excellent slide show presentation, Planting Native Plants for Birds, by John Barber, a resident of Cleveland Heights. He is retired and now is a "bird bander and citizen scientist" focusing on restoring/maintaining biodiversity. Bird populations have been declining due to the use of neonicotinoid insecticides, destruction of natural habitats, predation by cats, etc. John encourages everyone to turn their backyards into "mini Holdens" to compliment public parks. Bird feeders are for people, not birds! Ninety-five percent of nesting birds feed insects to their young. While bird feeders do benefit seed-eating bird species, it is important to provide high quality seed such as black sunflower and thistle seed. Even better, however, is to provide a year-round "bird buffet" by planting native species in your yards, since birds evolved with them. Accomplish this goal by: 1. Plant a wide variety of native trees, shrubs, grasses, sedges, ferns, and perennials; 2. Provide clean water year-round; 3. Never use insecticides and rodenticides; and 4. Never permits cats to roam outdoors. John truly is passionate about this topic and his presentation was excellent, packed full of information. I plan to contact John to see if he can give this presentation to our club. I know you will enjoy it and learn a lot on how to feed your birds in a more natural and safe way.

## GoGC Officer & Board Nominees

1. **Steve McIntosh, President**
2. **Debbie Daniels, Vice President**
3. **Melissa Supler, Secretary**
4. **Hiedi Winston, Treasurer**
5. **Assistant Treasurer, Larry Kell**
6. **Awards Chair, Open**
7. **Jonny Prell, Communication Chair (Newsletter, Website, Social Media)**
8. **Larry Kell, Finance Chair**
9. **Ed Tuhela, Scholarship Chair**
10. **Jonny Prell, Membership Co-Chair**
11. **Larry Kell, Membership Co-Chair**
12. **Bob McMahon, Programs Chair**
13. **Garrett Ormiston, Service Projects, Chair**

*FLOOR NOMINATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED DURING THE NOVEMBER MEETING'S ELECTION OF OFFICERS.*





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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
- PAST PRESIDENT:** JONNY PRELL

## Current DIRECTORS:

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

## CURRENT STANDING COMMITTEES

- *Awards:* Open
- *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: Open
- Nominating: Debbie Daniels, Melissa Supler
- Wellness/Memorials: Team Captains
- Archive Committee: Steve McIntosh, Chair





# The Spade



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## Team 1

Team Captain: Harold Davis, Jr.  
216-283-7111 (NO EMAIL)

- Dave & Virginia Dawson (216.751.2739 Home/216.374.8916 Cell)
- Joyce Nesbit (216.469.4892 Cell)
- Carol Poh (216.692.0747 Home)
- MaryAnn Thesing (440.667.7764)
- Geoffrey Kibler (502.715.3510)

## Team 2

Head 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

Cathy Ross: estrogen05@yahoo.com  
216.970.2854

- Patrick Boggins
- Jonny Prell
- Kelly Adkins
- Debbie Daniels
- Melissa Supler
- Ed Tuhela
- Lisa Skufca

## Team 6

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)

## 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 (New Member)

**Team Captains, please call in your  
RSVP number directly to Hiedi Winston.  
(440.752.2617 or email at [hwinston@naipvc.com](mailto:hwinston@naipvc.com)) by Thursday evening.**