



The Spade



The Newsletter of the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland

January 2021

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

Vol.89 No. 1



Happy New Year!

President's Letter

Dear Members,

Happy New Year! I know that we are all staying safe and healthy. I am hoping that 2021 brings an end to the pandemic and restrictions so that we can resume our normal meetings at least by Spring.

We are planning on giving away scholarships this year. And we have had interest already!

We would like to start preparing for a plant sale, however, that may take some reconfiguring if the Rockefeller Garden and Greenhouse does not open by then.

We have new Board Members and a new Officer.

The Gardeners of America is selling the annual calendars for \$5.00 which includes the cost of mailing. Click [here](#) for more information.

You should all be receiving an email shortly regarding the survey for the 2021 National Convention. This is being handled by the President of the Fort Wayne Club.

Our Treasurer will be emailing all the members with the membership dues form. The Board approved the dues for 2021. The dues will be \$10.00. Central Great Lakes Regional Club will not be charging any dues. National will only be charging \$1.00.

We are planning a virtual (web) meeting for January 11th at 7:30 PM. I will let you know who will be speaking in January, and a link will be provided.

We are still looking for a few spots to fill in the Board. If you are interested. Please let me know.

Jonny Prell



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CARING FOR POINSETTIAS, By Andrea Ray Chandler

Your pretty Poinsettia plant will be around for months afterwards, provided you keep it in a place with bright light and no cold drafts (don't set it next to the front door).

These plants are actually Mexican shrubs. In the spring, the bracts (colorful leaves people frequently mistake for flowers), will begin to fade. That will be the time to prune your little shrub back where the branches join each other, leaving an 8 inch-high specimen. Be sure to leave three or four green leaves on each remaining shoot.

Keep them in a sunny location that's protected from frost until mid-May, when it's warm enough to take them outside. Surrounded by summer's warmth and light, it will grow new leaves. In the early summer, transplant your poinsettia into a larger pot, two inches greater in diameter. Be sure the potting mix is rich in organic material, such as peat, and water thoroughly.

When it gets cool again in mid-September, bring the poinsettia back inside. Find a spot with six hours of bright sunlight and 70-degree temperatures.

To bring back the colorful bracts, you need to fool your poinsettia with specific lengths of darkness every day. It will need 14 hours of continuous darkness every night to color up. You can do this by moving it into a dark room, or simply setting a large box atop your potted plant. After 8-10 weeks of this, your poinsettia will be ready for the holidays.

Andrea Ray Chandler is a lifetime member of TGOA/MGCA and former editor of the Olathe GOA's "Horticultural Highlights". Chandler received the national Golden Quill Award in 1999 for her writing ability; her publications appear in numerous national magazines. In addition to being a mom, volunteer and lecturer, Chandler is a full-time student working on a degree in Horticultural Science.





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AUDUBON GUIDE TO WINTER BIRD-FEEDING

More than a hundred bird species supplement their natural diets with foods offered at feeders. They often rely most heavily on feeders in winter, when food is scarce. Additionally, some species will take advantage of backyard refueling stations during spring and fall migrations; others will stop by while nesting during the summer. Selecting a specific feeder design and a variety of foods can set the table for a greater diversity of birds. Choosing more than one will prevent crowding at your backyard buffet. Keep birds coming back with three essential ingredients: the right mix of quality seed and other foods, a source of fresh water for drinking and bathing, and ample cover from native plants. Follow this guide and watch the birds flock to your feeders.

1. Tube feeder

If you hang just one feeder, this should be it. Choose a model with metal ports around the seed dispensers to deter squirrels. Hang it at least 5 feet off the ground, and 3 feet (or 30-plus feet) from a window to avoid bird collisions.

Seed types: black oil sunflower, mixed seed, safflower, peanuts

Birds: Chickadees, titmice, nuthatches, goldfinches, siskins, purple and house finches

2. Hopper feeder

With these feeders you can keep an abundant supply of seed dry and ready for visiting birds. The weight of the arriving birds triggers the release of seeds. Position this feeder on a pole about 5 feet off the ground, or hang it from a tree branch.

Seed types: safflower, sunflower, cracked corn

Birds: attracts all the species that visit tube feeders, plus larger birds like cardinals, jays, grackles, red-winged blackbirds

3. Suet feeder

Hang suet in mesh onion bags or purchase a cage feeder. You can make your own suet “pudding” by grinding suet and adding seeds. Create homemade suet feeders by packing the mixture into the crevices of large pine cones.

Seed types: suet and bird puddings

Birds: woodpeckers, titmice, nuthatches, chickadees; occasionally wrens, creepers, warblers

4. Thistle feeder

These feeders make seed available only to small-beaked finches. Hang them from a tree or place on a 5-foot pole near other feeders. Seed types: nyjer (a.k.a. thistle) seed Birds: goldfinches, redpolls, pine siskins

5. Ground feeder

A simple screen-bottomed tray that typically sits several inches off the ground or on a deck. Some have covers to keep out snow; others may have wire mesh to keep out squirrels and large birds like crows. Place at least 10 feet from trees or shrubs to give birds a chance to escape predators.

Seed types: mix of cracked corn, milo, millet; also sunflower seed, mixed seed, wheat, oat

Birds: doves, juncos, sparrows, towhees, goldfinches

By Steve Kress, A world-renowned ornithologist shows how, with the right combination of feeder and food, your backyard can be a refuge for birds and a stage for watching their colorful antics, for Audubon Magazine Issue November-December 2010

Sample bird feeders:





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STANDING COMMITTEES

- *Awards:* Hank Doll, Chair; Tom Davis
- *Communication:* Jonny Prell, Chair (The Spade Newsletter, Website / Social Media); Phyllis Donnelly-Ingold, (Publicity)
- *Finance:* Chuck Palsa, Chair; Hiedi Winston, Andy Kosiorek
- *Income Projects:* Dave Dawson, Julie Henry (Plant Sale); Pat Boggins (Bulb Sale); Dave Dawson, Julie Henry (Auction / Raffle)
- *Membership:* Lou Pelton, Co-Chair; Dave Rittenhouse, Co-Chair; Larry Kell, Chuck Palsa,
- *Programs:* Kathy Kosiorek, Chair; Robert McMahon
Any program suggestions? Contact Kathy!
- *Scholarship:* Hank Doll, Chair; Deb Kramarz, Dave Dawson
- *Service Projects:* Garrett Ormiston, Chair; Bob Rensel, Steve McIntosh

MEETING INFORMATION:

WHEN: 2nd Monday of each month,
September through June
Suspended

WHERE: 1 Bratenahl Place
Bratenahl, Ohio

SCHEDULE: 6PM - Social
6:40 - Dinner
7:30 - General Meeting
8 to 9PM - Program



SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- Cleveland Botanical Garden/Holden Arboretum: Deb Kramarz
- National & Regional Organizations: Larry Kell, First Vice President; Tom Davis, National Director
- Central Great Lakes Gardeners: Larry Kell, President
- 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, Julie Henry
- Nominating: Dave Dawson, Chair; Deb Kramarz
- Wellness/Memorials: Team Captains

OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT:	JONNY PRELL
1ST VICE PRESIDENT:	CHUCK PALSA
2ND VICE PRESIDENT:	ROBERT MCMAHON
SECRETARY:	JODITH JANES (TEMP)
TREASURER:	HIEDI WINSTON
ASST TREASURER:	ANDY KOSIOREK

DIRECTORS:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| • JOYCE NESBIT 2021-2023 | • DAVE RITTENHOUSE 2020-2022 |
| • CYNTHIA ANDERSEN 2021-2023 | • JULIE HENRY 2019-2021 |
| • STEVE MCINTOSH 2021-2023 | • LAWRENCE KELL 2020- 2021 |
| • PHYLLIS DONNELLY-INGOLD 2020-2022 | • GARRETT ORMISTON 2019-2021 |
| | • OPEN |



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If you have questions or problems with your garden, plants in your garden and need advice, our Club has many members who have the background and knowledge to help you.

- Keith Biehl: Gardener by profession
- Pat Boggins: Log planters, wooden bird feeders
- Diane Circle: Hostas
- Tom Davis: Native plants
- Hank Doll: Dahlia growing
- Phyllis Donnelly-Ingold: Orchids
- Lou Drasler: Cannas and environmental issues
- Ron Hartmiller: Weeds
- Herb Klein: Unusual plants and perennials
- Deb Kramarz: Master Rain Gardener
- Andy Kosiorek: Above-ground sprinkler systems
- Kathy Kosiorek: Veggies and container gardening
- Robert McMahon: Insectivorous plant culture and balcony/patio container gardening
- Garret Ormiston: Native plants, azaleas and roses
- Chuck Palsa: “knows a little about everything”
- Lou Pelton: Vines and clematis
- Bob Pindell: Iris propagation
- Sandra Pindell: Iris care
- Fred Robinson: Care and knowledge of trees
- Deva Simon: Perennials
- Bill Stark: Begonias
- Deah Stark: Perennials
- Hiedi Winston: Vegetable gardening

The purpose of the **Gardeners of Greater Cleveland** is to educate and provide members with all types of information related to gardening - whether their own personal gardens or community projects through our monthly meetings, Club activities or our newsletter **The Spade** and our website, www.gardenersofgreatercleveland.org.

We promote horticulture in our community by installing and caring for gardens at various community service facilities such as the VA Hospital, Joseph’s Home for Disadvantaged Men, and Malachi House among others.

We hold two sales per year at Rockefeller Greenhouse. In May, we have the plant sale. This is a major source of funds for our scholarship program. It is also a great time to meet gardeners, answer questions and recruit new members. In the fall, we also have a bulb sale.

Membership is open to residents of the Greater Cleveland Area including Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake and Mahoning counties.

To join, please contact **Dave Rittenhouse** our Membership Co-Chairman at dwrittenhouse@sbcglobal.net.

