



The Spade



The Newsletter of the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland

November 2021

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

Vol.89 No. 11

What's inside:

- **Upcoming November 8th Meeting Information**
- **There will be heavy appetizer buffet with water and coffee available. There is a \$20 charge per member.**
- **New Board member nominations and election**
- **Garden tip from Member, Bob McMahon**
- **Great Family Recipes from Bob McMahon**
- **Gardening knowledge from Members**



Dear Members,

Monday, November 8th, is our annual meeting to nominate and vote on new Board members. Of our current Board, Joyce Nesbit and Steve McIntosh's term goes to 2023. Phyllis Donnelly- Ingold's term goes to 2022. Garrett Ormiston and Larry Kell's term ends December 2021.

After contacting many, our nominations are as follows:

Tom Davis
Tom Segelin
Fred Robinson
Deborah Kramarz

I hope that we get nominations from the floor on Monday night. I will provide written ballots for voting.

We will have a Zoom call set up for members who cannot join us. Steve McIntosh will send out the Zoom invitation in the next few days.

The idea of the Club's restructure is relevant and needed because of declining membership. Our current Bylaws were based on 84 members, so getting 9 Board members was an easy task. It is clearly not the case now.

We want our Club to succeed, grow and continue to support community projects, award scholarships and offer educational programs to our members.

Our Club has a long history of service and accomplishments. We all can work together to help our Club succeed and grow.

Jonny Prell, Past President
Nominating Committee, Chair



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Monday, November 8th, In-Person Meeting in the Penthouse

There will be heavy appetizers, coffee and water served in the Penthouse. You can bring a drink up from the bar, if you desire. The social hour will start at 5:30 PM. At 6:30, we will start the Club meeting.

The meeting will be available streaming on Zoom for those unable to attend. You will receive email instructions from Steve McIntosh for the Zoom presentation if you do not attend.

Our agenda is short:

- 1) Social hour (5:30 - 6:30)**
- 2) Nomination and voting of new Board Members**
- 3) Questions - Membership**

Board Nominations:

1. Tom Davis
2. Tom Segelin
3. Fred Robinson
4. Deb Kramarz

We will also accept nominations from the floor.



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HOLIDAY CACTI FLOWER INDUCTION REQUIREMENTS, Bob McMahon

The two common holiday cacti species enjoyed by homeowners are the Thanksgiving Cactus (*Schlumbergera truncata*) and the Christmas Cactus (*Schlumbergera x buckleyi*). These two species are native to the mountains of Brazil, with the Thanksgiving cactus growing at lower elevations than the Christmas cactus, and therefore naturally flower earlier—around Thanksgiving—than the Christmas cactus that flowers about a month later—around Christmas.

How do you tell the two species apart? The plants are comprised of stem segments or phylloclades. The phylloclade margins/edges of the Thanksgiving cactus taper to several pointed “teeth” while the margins of the Christmas cactus are rounded. The growth habit of the Thanksgiving Cactus is upright while the growth habit of the Christmas cactus is of a vining or trailing nature (see photos).

So, how do you induce your holiday cacti to flower? Fortunately, both species of holiday cacti are induced to flower by long nights and/or cool nights. You need to implement either or both environmental parameters about six weeks before you want your holiday cactus to come into flower.

If you are inducing your holiday cactus to flower by long nights, you need to be sure that the night length is at least 12 hours. Accomplish this by placing your holiday cactus in a room not illuminated at night starting mid-to-late September for Thanksgiving cacti and by October 15th for Christmas cacti, such as a guest bedroom, for example, and be sure the plant receives bright indirect light during the day. Nights are naturally longer than 12 hours by then and the cacti therefore will be induced to flower. Do not expose the plant to any extraneous light at night during this induction period and only bring your holiday cactus out to enjoy once the plant is showing bud color.

If you are inducing your holiday cactus to flower by temperature, place in a cool setting such that the night temperature falls to or just below 60°F, again about six weeks before you want you plant to start flowering. Night temperatures of 55 to 60°F will induce flowering regardless of night length, so extraneous light at night won't interfere with flower bud formation. Placing in a spare bedroom that is kept cool will work just fine.

To produce an abundance of flower buds at the ends of the phylloclades, provide both long nights and night temperatures in the 50's to 60°F. Accomplish this by placing in a room kept cool and dark during the night or place your holiday cactus in a protected outdoor space with indirect light starting in mid-to-late September for Thanksgiving Cacti and mid-October for Christmas cactus. The naturally long and cool nights will work together to produce significantly more flower buds than either treatment alone. That being said, do bring in your holiday cactus during nights that dip into the 40's as this could result in chilling injury to the plant and result in flower bud drop. Enjoy your flowering holiday cacti!

**Lavender
Thanksgiving
Cactus in Bloom**



**Christmas Cactus
in Bloom**





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Bob McMahon's Family Recipe

MARTHA MCMAHON'S SCHAUM TORTE

6 egg whites (3/4 cup) at room temperature

2 cups white granulated sugar

1 Tablespoon white/clear vinegar

1 Tablespoon vanilla

In an electric mixer, beat the 6 egg whites until frothy, then very gradually add the sugar followed by the vinegar and vanilla. Continue to beat on high speed, scraping the bowl occasionally, until the mixture is quite stiff (forms peaks when the beaters are lifted out). Pour the mixture into an ungreased 9"X9" baking pan and bake at 275 degrees for an hour. The mixture will puff up and form a hard crust. Let the torte cool and then breakup the crust as necessary so it rests on the main part of the torte.

When completely cool, whip up 2 cups of heavy whipping cream (I add 1 teaspoon of vanilla and 1 teaspoon of sugar) and spread over the top of the torte. Refrigerate the torte for at least 8 hours or overnight. Serve the torte with cut-up strawberries, sliced peaches or raspberries. ENJOY!





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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
- Diane Circle: Hostas
- Tom Davis: Native plants
- Hank Doll: Dahlia growing
- Phyllis Donnelly-Ingold: Orchids
- Lou Drasler: Cannas and environmental issues
- Ron Hartmiller: Weeds and grasses
- Herb Klein: Unusual plants and perennials
- Deb Kramarz: Master Rain Gardener
- Andy Kosiorek: Above-ground sprinkler systems
- Kathy Kosiorek: Veggies and container gardening
- Bob McMahon: Insectivorous plant culture, balcony/patio container gardening, and houseplant care
- Garret Ormiston: Native plants, azaleas and roses
- Lou Pelton: Vines and clematis
- Bob Pindell: Iris propagation
- Sandra Pindell: Iris care
- Fred Robinson: Care and knowledge of trees
- Deva Simon: Perennials
- Deah Stark: Perennials
- Hiedi Winston: Vegetable gardening, container gardening, and perennials

Our Mission:

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

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 one to two plant sales per year, one is in May. 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.

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

