



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. It's editor is Vince Staffileno who may be reached at vrs1023@gmail.com or 440-479-7897. Visit our web site at <http://www.gardenersofgreatercleveland.org>.

January 8th Meeting



Our January speaker is Judy MacKeigan; her topic is "To Conserve and Preserve. Cleveland Metroparks History 101". The emphasis is on design, purpose and creation of the Metroparks.

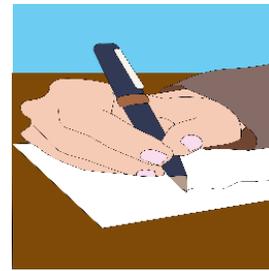
Judy MacKeigan is currently serving as the historian/archivist for Cleveland Metroparks. She joined the park system in 2010 as a seasonal employee while completing her MA in History from Cleveland State University. Judy has the joy and privilege of researching, compiling and sharing the history of Cleveland Metroparks and also the local history of the communities in the Metroparks district. She was lead author and chief editor of the book *The 100 Year Trail: A Centennial Celebration of Cleveland Metroparks* and she serves on the Centennial Celebration steering committee.

Kathy Kosiorek

Please call your team captain with your "Dinner Reservation" by Thursday January 4th.

There will be a Board Meeting starting at 5:00 PM on 1/08/2018 in the Penthouse. PLEASE BE PROMPT.

Presidents Letter



This is my first letter to the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland. All of us thank Bob Pindell for his leadership over the last two years, and the Board looks forward to his assistance as Immediate Past President and chair of the Nominating Committee. The Board thanks you for the trust you have shown in electing our officers and Board members to govern the club. I look forward to working with Julie Henry as 1st Vice-President and the other officers and Board members. We currently have a vacancy for the 2nd Vice-President and one Board member. Until we nominate and elect someone for the V.P. position, I will appoint Larry Kell as 2nd Vice-President pro tempore.

This is an extraordinary garden club and it is truly an honor to be its President. We have many long-time members with vast knowledge of horticulture: master gardeners and those who have spent their life-work in the field (no pun intended). Much of this experience and knowledge we see at work on the club's many projects. Some of us on the Board are relatively new and value the guidance of those of you who have been here and led the club for many years. We also have new members who join the club for many reasons, but certainly one is the reputation we have earned from the expertise and

projects of our members. My hope is that this club will continue to blend the expertise of longstanding members with the enthusiasm and energy of new members. All are vital to our organization.

If you missed the Annual Meeting, you missed a great one. Despite a forecast of snow, 53 people attended, many more than the average turnout. The hors d'oeuvre table groaned with the many delicious treats, Gino's crew provided a wonderful dinner and Julie Giroux Segelin created the festive winter centerpieces, perfect for a snowy evening. Hats off to the awards committee headed by Fred Robinson and, of course, to those recognized with Bronze Medals: Deborah Kramarz and Joyce Nesbit and Certificates of Appreciation: Phyllis Donnelly-Ingold, Jeff Havel, Julie Henry, Larry Kell, Mark Occhionero and Jonny Prell. The Potter Bowl was awarded to yours truly.

On behalf of the Board we wish all of you safe, peaceful and happy holidays and look forward to being with you at our meeting on Monday, January 8, 2018. And remember, the days are getting longer.

Dave Dawson

Committee Chairs



We are very fortunate to have all but two of our various committees with a chair person. You will note the two which we have open are that of Historian and Fundraising.

John Latham was our last historian and did a marvelous job but it has been open since and there is no permanent record of our past and the records that John had. A big loss! We do need to fill this position and maintain for our future membership a history both pictorially and written of our club. Please consider filling this position.

Our Fund Raising chair is also open. While we have currently three fundraiser, May Plant Sale, Bulb Sale and Dinner Raffles there is room for more to aid in our scholarship and community projects. Again please consider leading this very important program. If either of these interest you please contact our President Dave Dawson.

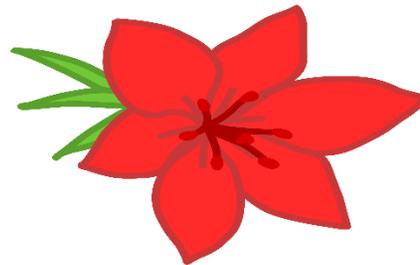
December Board Meeting



The following are the minutes of the October Board Meeting:

ELECTION OF OFFICERS – The board met briefly to elect a new slate of officers. Dave Dawson was elected President, Julie Henry, 1st Vice President, Jodith Janes, Secretary and John Budnik, Treasurer. The position of 2nd Vice President was not filled.

Poinsettia Care



The poinsettia's flowers are the brightly colored buds in the plants middle. So it's leaves, or bracts. That give the plant its color. In nature, Poinsettias are perennials that grow to ten feet tall.

Poinsettia are not poisonous, that is a myth. However people sensitive to latex, the milky fluid found in cut poinsettias may experience irritation in the form of a rash if they come in contact with the sap.

The best plants are those with firm stems and no signs of wilting or drooping. Poinsettias need space to flourish, so be careful picking plants from a store where they are crowded in a display. Avoid waterlogged soil, especially if the plant is wilted. That could indicate irreversible root rot. Keep the plant protect from winds and temperatures below 50 degrees F. The plant should be 2.5 times taller than the diameter of its container.

Place your poinsettia where it will receive sunlight. Temperatures of 60 – 70 degrees F are ideal. Water when the soil is dry to the touch. Do not fertilize while the plant is blooming.

You can save your poinsettia for re-blooming. In late March or early April cut the plant back to about 8 inches in height. Water regularly and fertilize with a good all-purpose fertilizer. Place your plant outdoors in the spring after the average overnight temperature is at least 55 degrees. In late June for early July prune your plant to keep it bushy and compact. In early June you may transplant it into a larger pot. A soil mix with a good amount of peat moss or other organic matter is recommended.

The poinsettia requires long dark autumn nights in order to bloom. Starting in October the plant requires complete darkness during the night. Light such as street lights can delay or entirely halt the reflowering process. If necessary cover your plant with a box or light proof bag from 5pm to 8am. Continue regular watering's and fertilize every 2-3 weeks. You should see colorful blooms for Christmas.

Tip of the Hat



- To Deb Kramarz and her helpers who decorated our tree at the CBG Glow Project. Beautiful!

- To Julie Giroux for the preparation of our great Holiday Party.
- To Joyce Nesbit and all her helpers for putting together the outstanding 85th Anniversary Gala.
- For all those who brought and presented the 2017 National Convention to Cleveland and made it a huge success.
- To Julie Henry and Dave Dawson and helpers who took over the May Plant Sale at the last minute and brought home a winner.
- To Pat Boggins for resurrecting the Bulb Sale and making a profit.
- To Bob and Sandy Pindell and Ron Hartmiller for their continued efforts to make the Willott Iris Garden a showpiece for our area.
- To Mark Occhionero and Julie Henry for the much appreciated September Plant Show.
- To John Budnik for taking on the Treasurer's position and continuing the fine work of Andy Kosiorek.
- To Kathy Kosiorek for all the interesting monthly programs she brings to each of our meetings.
- To Lou Pelton for his ongoing efforts to present the history of our club through photos and bringing nametags to our monthly meetings.
- To Bob Rensel for his outstanding efforts on putting together the projects, their design, materials and labor for our community service program.
- To Larry Kell on his election to President of the Great Lakes Region.

To Members: I am sure there are more projects and individuals that deserve a "Tip of the Hat", so please let me know who should be noted for inclusion next month. Vince

Seed Swap



My name is Katie, and I am part of the [Cleveland Seed Bank](#). We are hosting our **Annual Winter Seed Swap on Saturday, January 27th from 2-4PM** in Ohio City, at St. John's located at 2600 Church Ave. It's our 4th year hosting this event, and hundreds come out to swap heirloom seeds and network with other like-minded gardeners across the region. It's free and no seeds are required to join.

Judges Open House

On December 2nd the GoGC hosted the first ever Open House for the Region's Horticulture Judges. Mark Occhionero opened his shop "Top Garden Products" to the judges and their guests. He had lots of "show and tell" items and special pricing in place for the judges. From there the group went to "Mama Roberto's" on Mentor Ave. for a real feast. Not many of them needed dinner that night! After lunch most of them drove a few blocks east to Havel's Flowers and Greenhouses where GoGC

member Jeff Havel offered some choice succulents for sale.

Everyone had a great time and thanked the GoGC organizers: Tom Davis, Julie Henry and Mark Occhionero. There were 18 judges, judges in training, Regional Officers and guests present from the Akron, Cleveland and Youngstown clubs. This was a great opportunity for socializing and for finding ways for three of the very best clubs in the nation to exchange good ideas. [See photo]



Terri and Mark Occhionero at lunch at Mama Roberto's after the Horticulture Judge's Open House at Top Garden Products.

Marriott Appreciation

Last summer the GoGC hosted the National Convention of the Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America at the Cleveland Airport Marriott Hotel. This was a great place to hold the event and the Marriott contributed to the overall success of the convention. The Marriott was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of those contributions. The Marriott representatives really appreciated the gesture and invited us to come back anytime. [See photo]



Certificate of Appreciation given to the Cleveland Airport Marriott, host of the 2017 National Convention. L to R: Stephanie Garua, Manager of Event Planning and Operations, Stephanie Skacan, Event Manager, Tom Davis, GoGC National Director, Executive Chef Joseph Dubbs, and Augie Mennen, Director of Guest Experience.

CBG Glow

The GoGC Tree at the CBG's "GLOW" holiday show looked great this year. The decorations made by Deb Kramarz and her team utilized natural materials better than most other clubs did. Our club had 14 members registered as guests – a record number for us. Jane Davis hosted the check-in for much of the afternoon and greeted many of them in person. **Congratulations Deb and team!**

Tom Davis

Lakeview Appreciation

Bob Pindell presenting an appreciation award to Marilyn Brandt and Robin Cannon of Lakewood Cemetery for hosting a tour of the cemetery grounds during the 2017 National Convention.

The picture was taken on the grounds of the Lakeview Cemetery.



Rockefeller Appreciation

Bob Pindell presenting an appreciation award to Perrin Verzi, Director of the Rockefeller Park Greenhouse, for hosting a luncheon and tour of the Greenhouse and grounds during the 2017 National Convention.

The picture was taken in the tropical room of the Greenhouse



Malachi House



The completed garden at Malachi House.

The following is a follow-up article on the community service project that Bob Rensel organized and installed with the help of several of our members at Malachi House in 2017. The article below, written by Bob, along with the photos presents the story.

Quality Time in the Garden

They say life is short so live each day to the fullest. This philosophy was evident in Tim Stacho. He entered Malachi House with a terminal ALS diagnosis in August. Tim admired the front garden and would spend much of his day on the porch that overlooked it. As a sculptor and painter, Tim would contemplate ways to enhance the garden. Perhaps he could chisel one of the boulders or carve a stump into a piece of garden art. But his disease had progressed to the point where his hands lacked the strength and dexterity for this. Instead, he worked with a volunteer to create garden mosaics with river rock. Tim's creativity guided the process and two beautiful mosaics were installed under his direction.

Tim passed away November 17th at the age of 57. The Malachi House garden is better off because of Tim, and Tim was better off because of the garden. We don't just co-exist with nature. Connecting with nature is much more. Gardens lower stress levels and pain levels and increase our sense of well-being.

Bob Rensel

When given a choice for dinner between a hamburger and a pork chop, Tim would frequently and famously respond, "I'll have cake with white frosting." He lived each day to the fullest and left a legacy that will inspire others to do the same.



PHOTO.1 – Bob is doing the stone laying here and Tim is watching and directing what he wants done. Note his hands and how thin they are.



PHOTO.2 – Bob laying the stone as directed by Tim.



PHOTO 3 – The completed stone mosaic.



PHOTO 4 – A second mosaic in front of the bench Bob obtained for house members to sit and enjoy the garden.

Membership Renewal

Membership renewal is underway. We want to have it completed by the December 31st. If you haven't already done this please, please do so as soon as possible. If you have questions please call me at 440-479-7897. Vince

New Members



Welcome the following new members to our club:

- **Jeffrey B. Clark** from Lakewood. His interests are gardening, cooking, fermenting, travel, veggies and landscaping.
- John Williams from Cleveland whose interests are hiking, biking boating and dogs.

Organic Foods

Some of the reasons for consuming organic foods are:

- Organic food contains fewer harmful hormones and pesticides than conventional food.
- Organic production helps conserve and protect water.
- Organic agriculture reduces carbon dioxide and helps slow climate change.
- Organic farming helps combat serious soil problems, such as erosion. Erosion doesn't sound like a consumer issue, but it truly affects the planet, causing problems for the land, food supply, and humans.

The above said, many companies use the term organic incorrectly in order to bulk up prices. If you want to buy real organics while avoiding fake organics, see the tips below.

In the most basic of consumer definitions, organic means crops that are grown with fewer pesticides and harmful fertilizers, or livestock (meat or poultry) raised without the use of drugs, hormones, or synthetic chemicals.

Organic rules and practices are also applied to processed products, such as jam made from organic berries or organic baby food made with carrots and grains. For example, if a jam is labeled as organic there are many

chemicals and additives that are not allowed in the finished product.

Sadly, the term organic is only strictly regulated when a product is agricultural for example, organic spinach is highly regulated by the National Organic Program (NOP) but NOP has fewer regulations in place for organic soap that contains some non-agricultural ingredients.

In the United States, a product is considered legally organic when the product:

- Bears the USDA Organic Seal
- Has been certified organic, and
- Contains 95% or more organic ingredients.

The exception to the above three rules: It's expensive to obtain organic certification and so there are some farmers who are not certified, even though they do grow completely organic crops.

However, the term organic is often used incorrectly by companies trying to sell products as "organic" when the product is not truly organic. Before paying money for organics, it's useful to research more about what organic really means.

Read Your Labels

David McNew/Staff/Getty Images

In the United States, real certified organic products are certified by a certifying agent and are allowed to wear the USDA Organic Seal. While the seal is often printed in green, it may be black as well. The color doesn't matter — black or green, it's still certified organic.

While not all organic companies or growers choose to place the organic seal on their products, most do. Therefore, looking for the organic label is one of the best ways to make sure you're buying true organic products.

If a product has the organic seal on it, this means that the product is made with 95% to 100% organic ingredients. If a product contains less than 95% organic ingredients, NOP policy doesn't allow that product to wear the seal.

Beyond the organic seal, you may also see organic wording on a product. For example, a 100% certified organic product may have "100% Organic" written on the packaging. A product that contains just 95% organic ingredients can say "Organic" on the packaging.

If you see a product with packaging wording that states, "Made with Organic Ingredients," then the product contains at least 70% organic ingredients.

Be aware that many companies will try to trick consumers by placing look-alike labels and on the packaging or tricky wording, so don't get fooled. Look for the organic seal when shopping and check out the links below to learn even more about real vs. tricky, fake labels.

Check the PLU Code

Justin Sullivan / Staff/Getty Images

When shopping for fresh organic produce, you may not be able to find the organic seal at all times. A second option is to look at the PLU codes (numbers) on produce stickers.

PLU codes are the little numbers on stickers that are entered when you buy your groceries. These PLU codes are identification numbers for produce, and organic PLU codes are different than conventional codes.

If a product is organic, the code will start with the number **9** and is followed by four more numbers. If the product is not organic, its PLU code will be a 4 digit number that starts with the number **4**.

Support Local Organics

David Malan/Photographer's Choice/Getty Images

Buying local organic food and other products is a good practice that has many benefits for both people and the planet.

You can buy organic food locally, but as I noted above in the label section, not all organic growers label their products as organic.

Some organic growers don't label their products because they're not officially certified. Often this is because they grow a small amount of crops annually, so it's not worth the cost to get certified. This doesn't mean the products aren't organic, though. When you buy locally, ask the grower about their practices. See how they manage pests (with chemicals or not) and ask if they use safe fertilizers. For more help buying local organics, see the resources below:

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:

WHEN -- *Second Monday of each month
September through June*

WHERE – *1 Bratenahl Place, Bratenahl, OH*

TIMES - *Social Hour 6:00 PM
Dinner 6:45 PM
Meeting 7:45 PM*

GOGC Executive Board

CLUB OFFICERS

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

DIRECTORS

JANE DAVIS (18)	JOYCE NESBIT (18)
RON HARTMILLER (18)	JONNY PRELL (19)
JULIE HENRY (19)	VINCE STAFFILENO (19)
KATHY KOSIOREK (20)	PAT BOGGINS (20)
HANK DOLL (20)	

GOGC Committees & Chairs

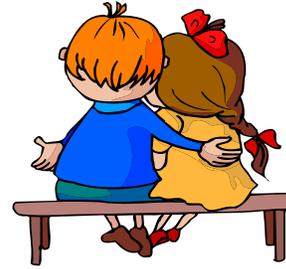
STANDING COMMITTEES (PER BY-LAWS)

FUND RAISING	OPEN
FINANCE	ROBERT PINDELL
MEMBERSHIP	LOU PELTON
PROGRAM	KATHY KOSIOREK
PUBLICITY	CATHY ROSS

OTHER COMMITTEES

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

Musings



Happy New Year

“What can be said in New Year rhymes,
That’s not been said a thousand times?
The new years come, the old years go,
We know we dream, we dream we know.
We rise up laughing with the light,
We lie down weeping with the night.
We hug the world until it stings,
We curse it then and sigh for wings.
We live, we love, we woo, we wed,
We wreath our prides, we sheet our dead.
We laugh, we weep, we hope, we fear,
And that’s the burden of a year.”

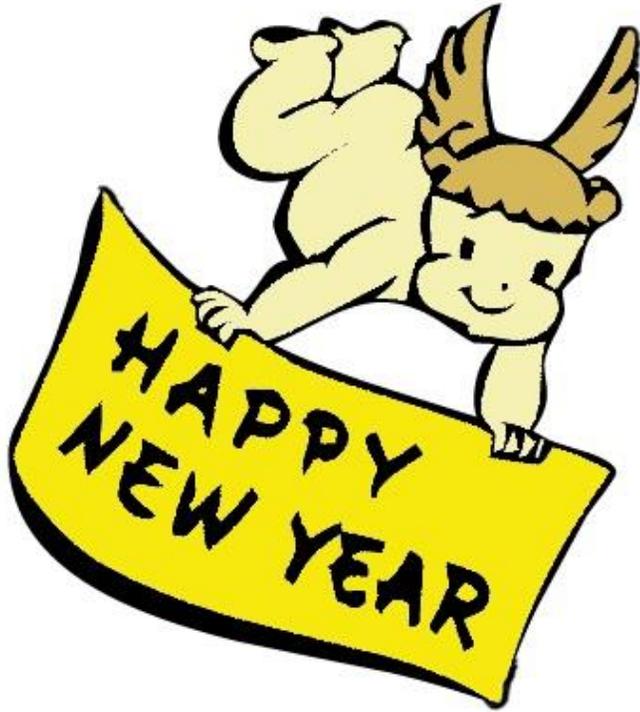
Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Ring Out, Wild Bells

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light;
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die. Ring out the old,
ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.
Ring out the grief that saps the mind, For those that here
we see no more,
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in navyress to all mankind.
Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Lord Tennyson

It is not t



It is not true that life is one damn thing after another; it is one damn thing over and over.

Edna St. Vincent Millay

They always say time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself.

Andy Warhol

Total absence of humor renders life impossible.

Colette

I base my fashion taste on what doesn't itch.

Gilda Radner

You can only perceive real beauty in a person as they grow older.

Anouk Aimee

I have never known any trouble that an hour's reading didn't assuage.

Charles De Seondat

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GARDENERS OF GREATER CLEVELAND

VINCE STAFFILENO - EDITOR

9960 ROSEWOOD DR.

CHARDON, OH 44024

FIRST CLASS MAIL