



The Spade

The Newsletter of the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland



April 2019

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

Vol.87 No. 4

APRIL 8TH MEETING:
Buffet Dining Menu:
Carribbean Jerk Chicken
Quarters (not spicy),
Rice, Sweet Plantains
Vegetarian Menu:
Chef's Choice

Cookies & Coffee served in the
Penthouse before the meeting.

Please call your Team Captain
with your Dinner reservation by
Friday, April 5th. Lou Pelton is
responsible for giving The Bistro
at Bratenahl our reservations.

Team Captains:

Team 1 **Lou Pelton /**
loupelton305@gmail.com

Team 2 **Lou Drasler**
louis.drasler@gmail.com

Team 3 **Harold Davis**
216-283-7111

Team 4 **Fred Burkhalter**
440-526-2888

Team 5 **Keith Biehl**
440-237-5824

Team 6 **Ron Hartmiller**
r_hartmiller@yahoo.com

Team 7 **Jane Davis**
tsd123@roadrunner.com

Team 8 **Cathy Ross**
estrogen05@yahoo.com

Team 9 **Deb Kramarz**
deborahkramarz@aol.com

There will be a Board Meeting
promptly starting at 5:00 PM in
the Penthouse.

PLEASE BE PROMPT.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

The annual Plant Sale for student scholarships is May 16-18 at the Rockefeller Greenhouse. That is less than two months away. This is unquestionably the biggest event on the club's calendar and one that all club members should be involved in. There are many ways to help: digging or growing plants to donate for the sale, setting up the tent and tables, publicizing the sale and, most importantly, helping customers make their selections. If you attended the March meeting you had a chance to volunteer and hopefully you did. If you couldn't make it, you can contact Julie Henry at julanderso@yahoo.com to volunteer.

The next meeting of the club on April 8 will be devoted to the report of the Membership Committee. This group headed by Lou Pelton and Dave Rittenhouse and including Larry Kell, Jonny Prell and Chuck Palsa has been hard at work since the beginning of the year to develop plans for recruiting and retaining our members. They will share the results of their survey and discuss their plans. I hope you will be there.

A sure sign that spring is on the way is the arrival of a lone ladybug in our house. Get ready!

Dave Dawson

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Official General Election Ballots were mailed from National for the 2020 Election of Officers. Ballots were mailed to all members. Please return the ballot to the address that is shown in National's March-April 2019 Newsletter. **Ballots need to be postmarked no later than June 1.**

APRIL NEW MEMBERS

- **Cynthia (Cindy) Andersen**, (Referred by Kathy Koisioerek)
- **Jim Funai** (February Speaker)
Tri-C Horticulture Professor, Plant Science & Landscaping Technology
- **Lori Zatroch** (February Speaker)
Tri-C Educator, Plant Science & Landscaping Technology



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APRIL 8TH MEMBERSHIP PRESENTATION

Lou Pelton, Dave Writtenhouse, Chuck Palsa, Larry Kell & Jonny Prell

The Membership Team has been working on (1) how do we get new members, and (2) how to retain current members.

The Team created a survey for members to fill out. Membership response was 40%. The presentation on April 8th will be a summary of responses. The website will have the survey and responses in detail.

We have created a New Member Booklet that includes history of the Club, and information about the National and Regional Clubs. Included will be a printout of the Officers page from our website with the password for Member access. There will also be a current Member roster and current Spade Newsletter. The Spade will now have a section with new member information.

We will be formally introducing our new members at the general meeting and giving them a personalized member booklet and GoGC mug as a welcome gift.

If you have an idea for a program for one of the meetings, please contact Kathy Kosiorek!

MARCH 11TH PROGRAM RECAP

Industry Standards for Pruning, Updates & Information for Tree Huggers

By Carol Poh & Joyce Nesbit

At the GoGC March meeting, Chad Clink, arborist representative with Bartlett Tree Experts, delivered an illustrated talk on tree planting best practices. He discussed basic steps before choosing a tree, including performing a soil test, taking care to choose a tree appropriate for the site, and developing a relationship with a reputable nursery where you will purchase the tree.

Chad explained caliper and girth, and recommended that gardeners, faced with a choice of buying a one-inch-caliper tree versus a two-inch or larger tree opt for the smaller tree, whose smaller root ball is more likely to withstand the shock of transplanting.

Chad reviewed the basics of planting. Dig the hole only deep enough to position the root collar (the point where the uppermost roots emerge from the trunk) even with the landscape soil surface, while loosening soil in an area three times the width of the root ball. A newly planted tree should also be staked and, if subject to damage from wild critters, protected with tree wrap. It must be watered at a rate of one inch per week during the first year.

Chad recommended the Urban Tree Foundation (urbantree.org) as a good resource for information on selecting and planting trees. During the Q & A, Chad was asked about the difficulty of raising fruit trees. He suggested planting hazelnut, persimmon, and pawpaw trees, which do well in our region.



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STANDING COMMITTEES

- *Awards:* Bob Pindell, Chair; Hank Doll; Tom Davis
- *Communication:* Jonny Prell, Chair (The Spade Newsletter, Website / Social Media); Phyllis Donnelly-Ingold, (Publicity)
- *Finance:* Jonny Prell (Chair); John Budnik; Andy Kosiorek
- *Income Projects:* Dave Dawson, Julie Henry (Plant Sale); Pat Boggins (Bulb Sale); John Budnik, Ron Hartmiller, Julie Henry (Auction / Raffle)
- *Membership:* Dave Rittenhouse, Co-Chair; Lou Pelton, Co-Chair; Larry Kell, Chuck Palsa, Jonny Prell
- *Programs:* Kathy Kosiorek, Chair; Robert McMahon
- *Scholarship:* Fred Robinson, Co-Chair; Harold Davis, Co-Chair
- *Service Projects:* Garrett Ormiston, Chair; Bob Rensel, Steve McIntosh

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- Cleveland Botanical Garden/Holden Arboretum: Deb Kramarz
- National Organization: Tom Davis, Larry Kell
Central Great Lakes Region: Larry Kell, Past President
- Willott Iris Garden: Sandra and Robert Pindell, Ron Hartmiller
- Friends of the Greenhouse: Joyce Nesbit
- I Bratenahl Place & Bratenahl Place Bistro: Tom Segelin
- Horticultural Shows: Mark Occhionero, Julie Henry, Tom Davis
- Nominating: Bob Pindell, Chair; Andy Kosiorek, Dave Dawson
- Wellness/Memorials: Harold Davis, Team Captains
Members, please remember to notify Harold Davis or your Team Captain with any information you may have regarding wellness of any member or yourself.

MEETING INFORMATION:

- WHEN:** 2nd Monday of each month, September through June
- WHERE:** 1 Bratenahl Place
Bratenahl, Ohio
- SCHEDULE:** 6PM - Social
6:40 - Dinner
7:30 - General Meeting
8 to 9PM - Program



OFFICERS:

- PRESIDENT:** DAVE DAWSON
- 1ST VICE PRESIDENT:** JONNY PRELL
- 2ND VICE PRESIDENT:** OPEN
- SECRETARY:** JODITH JANES
- TREASURER:** JOHN BUDNIK
- ASST TREASURER:** ANDY KOSIOREK

DIRECTORS:

- HANK DOLL DAVE RITTENHOUSE
- PAT BOGGINS JULIE HENRY
- KATHRYN KOSIOREK Z. HAROLD DAVIS
- PHYLLIS DONNELLY-INGOLD GARRETT ORMISTON



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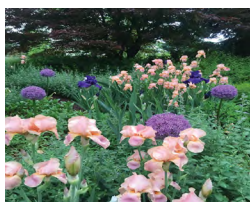
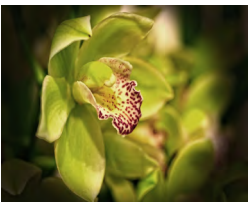
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Who Can I Ask?

The following is a list of members who have volunteered to help all members with questions about plants, trees, garden set-up or any problems that a member may have relating to gardening.

- Keith Biehl: Gardener by profession
- Pat Boggins: Log planters
- John Budnik: Herbs and flowering bulbs
- Diane Circle: Hostas
- Jane Davis: Flower arranging
- Tom Davis: Native plants
- Hank Doll: Dahlia growing
- Phyllis Donnelly-Ingold: Orchids
- Ron Hartmiller: Weeds
- Herb Klein: Unusual plants and perennials
- Deb Kramarz: Tree canopy, pond and garden plants
- Andy Kosiorek: Above-ground sprinkler systems
- Kathy Kosiorek: Veggies and container gardening
- Lou Drasler: Cannas and environmental issues
- 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
- Tom Sheehan: General landscape design, water gardening and tropical plants
- Bill Stark: Begonias
- Deah Stark: Perennials



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 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 Lorain counties.

To join, please contact **Lou Pelton**, our Membership Co-Chairman at loupelton305@gmail.com.



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A gardener, asked for the secret of his success, replied "Trowel and error."

...Anonymous

UPCOMING EVENTS

Master Gardener Volunteers of Lake County Meet Us in the Peace Garden

Monthly Gardening Programs: March thru November, 2019.

CBG Affiliate Day is April 11th.

Native Gardens, a comedy, will be at the Cleveland Playhouse, April 27th through May 16th. Native Gardens is a comedy about good fences making good neighbors and their gardens. For more information click on Cleveland Playhouse.

Central Great Lakes Regional Meeting

April 27th - Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio

Club Special Outing Saturday June 1st (Rain Date June 8th)

Brown's Lake Bog Preserve, Shreve, Ohio

Depart Cleveland Area 10AM, Return Around 3:30PM

Tour is limited to 15 Adults. Lunch will be at the Pine Tree Barn's Granary Restaurant before the tour.

Contact Kathy Kosiorek beginning May 1st if you are interested. Member Robert McMahon will guide members on a hike along the Bog trails. Hiking gear and boots, and insect repellent are recommended.

Members,

We are always looking for volunteers at the Williot Iris Garden at the Rockefeller Greenhouse, and other community projects that we get involved in. The Williot Iris Garden is always in need of help in the upkeep and maintenance. Contact Bob Pindell for days and time!

If you are interested in volunteering and do not know who to ask, just ask Dave Dawson, Bob Pindell or Larry Kell and they will point you in the right direction.

2019 NATIONAL CONVENTION



TGOA/MGCA in 2019

We Dig It!

July 15-16-17

The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America celebrates 87 years as a national organization and the headquarters celebrates its Golden Anniversary, and 50 years at 5560 Merle Hay Road in Johnston, Iowa. It is also Johnston's 50th Anniversary of Incorporation.

The Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, 4800 Merle Hay Road, Des Moines is ready with renovated rooms and refreshed spaces. The confirmed room rate is \$99/night and is available for three (3) days before and after the convention. The hotel is less than one mile from National's headquarters.

National's headquarters will be used for several of the convention's events.

- **July 15:** Registration, Meetings, Workshops and Seminars
- **July 16:** Tours
- **July 17:** Business Meetings, Workshops and Seminars

This is a special time for the Club as our own Larry Kell is an officer in the National Organization as a Vice President.

Additional information and registration forms can be found on our website Gardeners of Greater Cleveland, and on the National's website **Gardeners of America.**



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PLANT SELECTION KEY TO REDUCING ALLERGIES (Condensed Article)

by Diana M. Rankin, Master Gardener

Do you or does someone you know suffer from seasonal allergies, hay fever or asthma triggered by pollen? Are you tired of watery itchy eyes, a scratchy throat, a runny nose, sneezing and a stuffy head whenever you venture into your backyard? No, this isn't a commercial for the newest antihistamine or decongestant miracle drug. Instead, it's about how to have a garden that is virtually allergy-free.

Prevalence of Pollen-Related Allergies

In 2013, the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology estimated 16.9 million adults and 6.7 million children were diagnosed with allergic rhinitis, commonly known as hay fever. Seasonal allergic rhinitis is usually caused by sensitivity to tree, grass, weed or other plant pollens.

Common ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*) alone affects an estimated 26 percent of all Americans. A single ragweed plant can produce up to 1 billion pollen grains in a season and these are carried long distances by the wind. The ragweed season is getting longer in many parts of the country. "Warmer temperatures and later fall frosts allow ragweed plants to produce pollen later into the year, potentially prolonging the allergy season for millions of people," said a 2014 Environmental Protection Agency report. Furthermore, higher levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere stimulate plant growth, leading to more overall pollen production. We can look forward to longer, possibly more severe, hay fever seasons triggered by all kinds of wind-borne pollen.

Plants for a (Nearly) Allergy-Free Garden

Allergy-Free Gardening is one of the best resources for finding which plants have the greatest allergy potential. Each plant is rated on the Ogren Plant-Allergy Scale, trademarked as OPALS. This scale of 1 to 10 is based on Ogren's groundbreaking research on the allergy-potential of hundreds of plants, including cultivars of the most allergenic landscape plants. In addition to pollen, the scale considers the potential for contact dermatitis, odor allergy and whether or not a plant is poisonous. A rating of 1 indicates the most allergy-free and 10 the least allergy-free.

There are also some general rules, which Ogren discusses in his book.

- Avoid plants that are pollinated by the wind, rather than insects. Wind-pollinated plants have small, inconspicuous green or brown flowers in dense clusters, and the pollen grains are small, light and dry, so that they can be carried easily by the wind. These include *Artemisia* species, such as tarragon and wormwood; conifers; spring-blooming deciduous trees; and grasses, especially un-mowed Kentucky bluegrass, zoysia grass, junegrass, timothy and orchard grass.
- Select bright, highly colored, lightly scented flowering plants. These have heavy, sticky pollen that bees and other insects move from flower to flower in the pollination process. Examples are: crab apples (*Malus domestica*), Petunia, roses (*Rosa*), Dianthus, daylilies (*Hemerocallis* hybrids) and Zinnia.

Conclusion

Although it can be challenging to plant a nearly allergy-free garden and landscape, it is definitely possible. You may not be able to plant some of the things you would like to have, but there are many, many others that are good substitutes. As Ogren's book emphasizes, anyone can have a garden that is very nearly allergy-free through avoidance and careful selection.

Diana M. Rankin is a master gardener, a professional writer and a member of Grants Professional Association. A version of this article appeared in a January/February 2015 print edition of State-by-State Gardening.