



The Spade



The Newsletter of the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland

May 2023

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

Vol. 91 No. 5

Monday, May 8th Menu:
Meatloaf and brown gravy,
Parmesan mashed potatoes,
buttered corn. Coffee, tea
and cookies will be served in
the Penthouse after dinner.

What's inside:

- **April Programs Summary, by Carol Poh**
- **May Program:**
Bob & Sandra Pindell will share a presentation on the Willott Iris Garden
- **Member Spotlight: Lisa Skufca, Julie Shaw**
- Member Reminders
- **HF&G Affiliate Day and Central Great Lakes Gardeners Regional Meeting, Bob McMahon**
- **Updated Team Captains List (Rev 5-23)**
- **August Horticulture Show, Tom Davis**

If you would like to share a favorite recipe with the members, please do so!

Also any gardening tip would be great.

Send to Jonny Prell.

May! The saying goes "April showers (although we did see some "white stuff" occasionally!) brings May flowers" and that certainly was the case again this year. We enjoyed magnificent displays of flowering star and pink saucer magnolias, cherry and weeping cherry trees, forsythia, early azaleas and spring bulbs last month. Redbuds and dogwoods are flowering now, and we can look forward to more azaleas and early rhododendrons flowering later this month.

Gardening season will kick into high gear as we plant perennials, woody species and annuals. I know a lot of gardeners who planted cool season crops in April: lettuce, onion sets, radishes, spinach and Swiss chard to name a few. Planting of cool season crops can be continued into May, of course, but not much later as hot weather results in bitter tasting cool season produce. When mulching, don't mulch deeper than 3 inches to provide adequate drainage and soil aeration. Remember to adequately space your plants apart according to the label to allow them to grow to mature size without crowding, a common mistake that gardeners make. This applies to all garden plants: annuals, perennials and woody species.

Please remember to plant tender annuals after May 15 when the threat of frost/freezes diminishes. If you must purchase tender annuals before May 15, keep them in their grower containers so you can easily move them indoors or into your garage if frost/freezing temperatures occur. You can always cover the plants in your gardens with cloth/sheets, but they may not provide enough protection should a hard freeze occur, which has happened all too frequently in May. Please incorporate native plants into your gardens to promote pollinators and biodiversity!

Larry Kell and I met with personnel at the VA Hospital Spinal Cord Unit on April 20 to plan for this year's container gardens. Last year's gardens overall were a big success, and we were given a list prepared by the veterans of vegetables, herbs and flowers to grow this year. Weather permitting, we are looking at either May 22, 23, or 24 to plant with the assistance of VA staff and veterans like last year. Plants again will be purchased from Lakewood Garden Center.

Tom Davis has generously offered to donate plants from his property to plant in our club's "adopt-a-bed" at Lantern Court Estate. A date has yet to be set for this "digging event", but will be in the near future. A sign-up sheet will be prepared for volunteers to participate. Also, irises are blooming at the Willott Iris Garden, so be sure to stop by to enjoy the views. Bob, Sandra and Ron will appreciate any assistance you can give for the upkeep of this lovely garden.

Enjoy the continued advance of Spring and happy gardening!

Bob McMahon





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Putting Your Ward to Work

By Carol Poh

Have you ever thought about installing a rain barrel or—more ambitiously—a rain garden but didn't know where to begin? The answer is one click (or phone call) away: the Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District. At the April 10 meeting, Jared Bartley, deputy director of watersheds education, presented a concise introduction.

The conservation district was born out of the Dust Bowl of the 1930s for the purpose of implementing programs and practices that protect and restore healthy soil and water resources. While the Clean Water Act of 1972 established a permit system for regulating point sources of pollution (industrial discharges, e.g.), the Cuyahoga SWCD oversees non-point sources of pollution. These include fertilizer and pesticides, road salt, litter, pet waste, and motor oil from paved roads and parking lots. According to the Cuyahoga SWCD, a startling 70 percent of the pollution in our streams, rivers, and lakes is carried there by storm water runoff from our own yards! Bartley urged home gardeners to “put your yard to work” by installing a rain barrel or rain garden—or both—to collect, store, and reuse rain water as a way to mitigate water pollution.

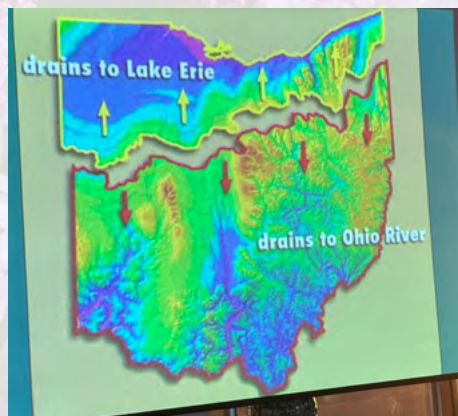
Up to 60 percent of municipal water use in summer is for irrigation. A rain barrel connected (by means of a simple diverter) to a downspout can collect water that would otherwise be lost to runoff, ending up in a storm or sanitary sewer. The water collected in a rain barrel instead can be used to water your garden during hot or dry spells. Rain water is naturally soft and free of the chemicals, including chlorine and fluoride, found in tap water.

A rain garden captures and filters the runoff from rooftops before it enters local waterways. Bartley outlined the basic steps, which involve removing the sod and digging a 4- to 6-inch-deep saucer-shaped basin, amending the soil, building a low berm on the down slope, and installing plants that don't mind “wet feet.” Native plants, with their deep roots, are recommended: they are easy to maintain, encourage filtration, and attract birds, butterflies, and other pollinators.

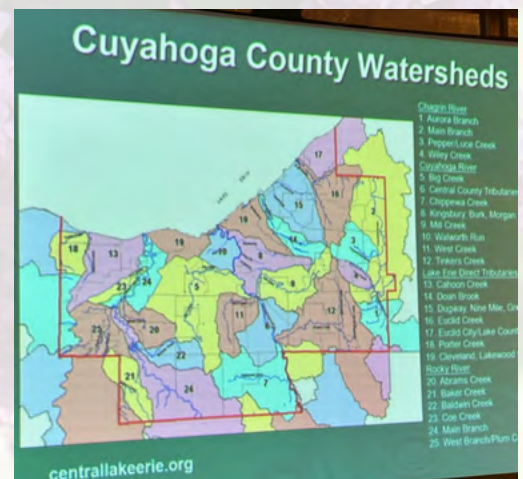
The Cuyahoga SWCD is ready to help. The district sells rain barrels at workshops it conducts across the county. It has also published a Rain Garden Manual for Homeowners that discusses the placement and sizing of a rain garden; its building, planting, and maintenance; and includes a suggested plant list. Call or visit www.cuyahogaswcd.org or call 216-524-6580 for more information.

Eddie Legucki of Red Oak Camp (our January speaker on the subject of the Lantern Court Estate in Lake County), brought the meeting to a close, briefly describing a 300-sq.-ft. parcel on the former estate, maintenance of which the non-profit hopes to recruit garden club volunteers.

Jared Bartley of the Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District urged home gardeners to consider a rain barrel and/or rain garden to mitigate water pollution. Jonny Prell photos.



Watersheds in Northern Ohio Drain to Lake Erie



Map of Cuyahoga County watersheds



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May Program

Bob and Sandra Pindell, Ron Hartmiller will be giving a presentation about the [Willott Iris Garden](#) at the Rockefeller Greenhouse Gardens.



New Member Profile, Julie K. Shaw

LISA SKUFCA

Lisa, who recently joined our club on 4/10/23, has been teaching in the Cleveland school system for the past 18 years, where she met Deb Kramarz, a fellow teacher. Her last 3 years have been at Stonebrook Montessori, which merged with the Cleveland metro school system in 2020.

Lisa comes to gardening with many familiar, and unfamiliar, influences. Her grandfather, from eastern Europe, grew grapevines along railroad tracks near their home, and raised chickens. Her father, later in life, pursued vegetable gardening, and supplied the entire family. Prior to her teaching career in Cleveland, Lisa studied still life painting in Boston, both traditional and impressionist styles. (Recently she had a painting accepted into the 13th May Show at Lakeland Community College, to be held May 18 through July 14.) Still life painting of fruits, vegetables, and flowers, led to . . . gardening! Today, Lisa is developing her own garden with deer-resistant perennials, with the goal of having something flowering all year long.



Back to Stonebrook Montessori – Lisa proposed a gardening program to the school 2 years ago. Lisa describes the surrounding area as a “food desert”. Currently, there are 10 beds, each 3’ x 5’. Approximately 100 students in 7 classes learn through observation, studying videos, and implementing what they learn. They’ve collected seeds, planted seeds in pots, studied mulch, among many other activities. Lisa has introduced the kids to all manner of vegetables. I was amazed to learn that from the garlic they planted, and subsequently tasted in a variety of forms, the kids preferred the raw garlic over roasted! The kids also learn problem solving. A recurrent squirrel problem led them to learn how to build a hoop house. One of the next goals is to install rain barrels. Much remains to be developed in the remaining beds which await soil, and more hoop houses. The school has limited available funding for this program, so Lisa also endeavors to solicit donations and contributions. The school is located near the Italian Cultural Garden at 1000 E. 92nd St.

Lisa will be volunteering at our May plant sale. Welcome to the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland, Lisa!



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Member Reminders

- **May Plant Sale at the Rockefeller Greenhouse. Contact Debbie Daniels to volunteer. Please bring any donations for the basket raffles to the May meeting.**
- **Members Only Plant Sale - forms were emailed to everyone.**
- **The Gardeners of America's national convention dates have been finalized - July 26 - 28 at the Springhill Suites. Room rate of \$99/night.**
- **Bob & Sandra Pindell and Ron Hartmiller are asking for volunteers at the Willott Iris Garden. Hours are 10AM to 2PM, Tuesday - Saturday.**
- **Team Captains, please call in your RSVPs by Thursday, May 4th to Hiedi Winston.**

HF&G Affiliate Day and CGLG Regional Meeting, Bob McMahon

I attended Holden Forest & Gardens' Affiliate Day on April 20th. After opening remarks by Shirley Swindell, Affiliate Council President, updates were given by Sommer Tolan, Horticultural Designer, regarding the Hershey Children's Garden Planter Program, and GoGC member Kevin Borowiak updated us about this year's GLOW Christmas show, with the theme Welcome to the Frost Forest. The day for affiliate clubs to decorate for the show is November 5th. The featured speaker, Marshall Dirks, VP of Marketing at Proven Winners, gave a lively slide show presentation how the company markets its line of ornamental garden plants and how plants are selected to be PW plants. Breeders develop new cultivars which are then trialed and evaluated for release. PW has "plant hunters" that search for new plants growing in the wild all over the world, selecting those that show promise to bring back for trialing. PW's plants are propagated asexually by cuttings and tissue culture, so plant traits are passed on unchanged; i.e., plants are clones of their parents. It takes anywhere from 4 to 15 years for new cultivars to be introduced after breeding and trialing. PW is now using 100% compostable PW-labeled grower containers for all plants sold, made entirely from plant material.

The Central Great Lakes Gardeners' regional meeting was held at Kingwood Center in Mansfield on April 22nd. Members from Cleveland, Akron, Youngstown, Lima and Ft. Wayne, IN were present. After a potluck lunch, a meeting was convened by President Tom Arens. Members were updated about the TGoA national convention in Dayton, OH July 26-28. The convention will be held at the Springhill Suites with a room rate of \$99/night. I updated the members regarding the speakers, having booked six out of eight speakers so far, including me and Tom Davis. Registration packets will be forthcoming. The rest of the meeting concerned the possible merger of the CGLG club with the national club. A lot of good discussion resulted with an ad hoc committee formed to further explore the pros and cons of this potential merger. The speaker was Ms. Cari McCarthy, Head Gardner of Kingwood Center. Cari gave an informative slide show presentation, Gardening for Pollinators. She summarized the types of pollinators, including bees, wasps, beetles, and hummingbirds. Bees pollinate 1/3 of the world's food supply, and pollinators in general play a key role in the production of many foods, beverages, fibers, spices and medicines. Pollinator populations have been declining for some time, so it's important that gardeners plant native species to attract pollinators. Cari recommended a number of native species, including bee balm, swampy milkweed and coneflower.



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Annual Plant Sale

Rockefeller City Greenhouse

**** 750 E. 88th St. Cleveland Ohio****

**May 18th - 20th
10AM TO 4PM**

Rain or shine

Featuring

Native plants

Annuals

Perennials

Vegetables

Herbs

Houseplants

Hanging Baskets

Upcycled arts

www.rockefellerparkgreenhouse.org

*Please bring your donations,
including cash, to the May
meeting!*



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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
TOM DAVIS

CURRENT STANDING COMMITTEES

- *Awards:* Tom Davis, Chair
- *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: Tom Davis, Chair
- Nominating: Deb Kramarz, Chair
- Wellness/Memorials: Team Captains
- Archive Committee: Steve McIntosh, Chair



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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

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

Team 4

Team Captain: Deb Kramarz,
deborahkramarz@aol.com / 216.731.6324

- Fred Robinson
- Phyllis Donnelly-Ingold
- Steve McIntosh
- Bob & Sandra Pindell
- Tom Segelin & Julie Giroux
- Kevin Borowiak
- Kathy Talty

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

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



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2023 Horticulture Show Announcement - August 14th

In 2012 we started having a small horticultural show for our September meeting. The first year we had only a few entries, but every year since then the show has grown in size and quality.

This year we hope that even more members and guests will enter plants, flowers, fruits, and vegetables. We have moved the show from September to August to match the time of peak garden growth. We have added some sections to allow for a larger variety of entries. This early announcement is to let you start planning your entries.

- The Horticulture Show is an educational opportunity for our members. The national judging manual stresses that all club members are expected to enter the show if they are able.
- There will be a Zoom session in August to help you prepare for the show.
- You can make up to five (5) entries per person.
- Clerks will be present from 5:00 to 6:00 PM to receive entries and help you with the entry card and staging the entry. We have paper plates and other supplies.
- Bring two return address labels per entry. That will make filling out the entry cards much faster and easier.
- Entries like cut flowers should be in a clear glass container with no labels.
- Ribbons will be awarded. There will be "Best in Show" and "Peoples' Choice" (popular vote by all present) awards made again this year. Only members of the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland will be eligible for the two top awards.
- Prize winning or unusual entries will be discussed by the entrant and/or the judges to carry out the theme of Gardening Education.
- Certified judges will come from the Central Great Lakes Gardeners Region.
- The show committee reserves the right to modify this schedule at a later date.

Please read the information below! Every year someone is disappointed because they don't follow directions and don't win a ribbon.

2023 GOGC HORTICULTURE SHOW SCHEDULE

1. Cut Annual Flowers in a Container -Three specimens of the same variety of small flowers OR one for larger blooms.
2. Cut Dahlia flowers in a container - Include 1 or 2 leaves on a shoot. Three specimens of the same variety of small flowers OR one of larger blooms.
3. Cut Perennial Flowers in a Container -Three specimens of the same variety of small flowers or one of larger flowers.
4. Small Vegetables – Enter three specimens of smaller items (tomatoes, peppers, onions, and other smaller vegetables). All vegetables should include a stem. Stems may be trimmed but should be at least ½ inch. Cherry tomatoes must be displayed by the cluster.
5. Larger Vegetables – Enter one specimen of larger vegetables such as eggplant. All vegetables should include a stem. Stems may be trimmed but should be at least ½ inch.
6. Small potted plants (up to a 6-inch pot). It may hold a single plant or several plants of the same species and variety. The plant can be of any type except succulents.
7. Small potted succulents - (up to a 6-inch pot). It may hold a single plant or several plants of the same species and variety. The plant can be of any type of succulent including cacti.
8. Larger potted plants (6 to 12 inch pots). It may hold a single plant, two plants of the same type or up to three different plants. The plant(s) can be of any type except succulents.



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9. Larger potted succulents (6 to 12 inch pots). It may hold a single plant, several plants of the same type or up to three different plants. The plant(s) can be of any type of succulent including cacti.
10. A branch (12 to 30 inches in length) in a container. A) Foliage Only. B) Foliage and Flowers. C) Foliage and Fruit.
11. A single leaf (like a Hosta Leaf) in a container.
12. A Native Plant Specimen in any category.
13. Fruits - One specimen of larger fruits such as apples, peaches, etc.
14. Fruits - six specimens of smaller fruits such as berries.
15. Herbs - One stem of herbs such as rosemary, mint, borage, etc.
16. Potted herb plants (see 6 and 8 above).
17. Largest Hosta Leaf. It won't be judged on condition; it can be imperfect.

Judging Requirements: (Please read carefully!!)

1. The specimen must be properly identified with the plant name and the variety. Example: "hybrid tea rose, Peace." We will supply entry forms and help you fill them out. Bring two return address labels per entry to paste on the entry forms.
2. The specimen must be your property. You can submit a purchased plant if you have owned and taken care of it for at least two months. (Must be purchased before June 14, 2023.)
3. All submissions must be disease and insect free.
4. The specimen should be as perfect a sample as you can find. For example, a Hosta leaf should not be damaged and should be typical for the variety.
5. Individual leaves and stems should be supported so just the bottom of the leaf – or no leaf on a stemmed plant – is in the water. They should be upright. You can use plastic wrap or aluminum foil to support the leaf or stem in the container. Just wrap it around the stem at the bottle neck. Use a plain container like a pop or beer bottle without a label.
6. Fruits and vegetables should be on a plain, white paper plate.
7. Potted plants should be "groomed" with all dead leaves and spent flowers removed. The pot must be clean. Fancy pots don't win; good plants in clean pots do.
8. Orchid leaves are not judged, just the flower.

Bring your entries to the Penthouse of 1 Bratenahl Place between 5:00 and 6:00 PM on August 14. Any entry after 6:00 will be disqualified. Use the elevators at either end of the corridor on the ground floor. The Penthouse is on the top floor. Please contact Tom Davis at tsdavis62@gmail.com with any questions.

Good luck!

Tom Davis tsdavis62@gmail.com