



The Spade



The Newsletter of the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland

March 2023

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

Vol. 91 No.3

Monday, March 13th Menu:
Cavatelli & meatballs in red sauce, garlic cheese bread, zucchini & onions. Coffee, tea and cookies will be served in the Penthouse after dinner.

What's inside:

- **New Member Profile:** Susan Brownstein, by Julie Shaw
- **February Program Summary,** by Carol Poh
- **March Program: Native Plants for Your Garden,** Dave Tomashefski, Meadow City Native Plant Nursery
- **Member Reminders**
- **Red Cabbage Recipe,** Bob McMahon
- **Updated Team Captains List**

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.



Happy SPRING, everyone! Meteorological Spring started March 1st while astronomical Spring will start at 5:24 PM on March 20th as the sun passes the celestial equator as it moves from south to north. Daylength exceeds 12 hours in length and life springs forth at a greater pace as the air warms. I have noticed the following early plants in flower during recent walks: snowdrops, snow crocus, Lenten rose, winter aconite and miniature daffodils. I also have seen hyacinths and daffodils with buds next to homes/buildings on south- and west-facing exposures.

It looks like the field trip to observe the bedding plant production range at Green Circle Growers will be sometime in May. I will keep you posted on details as I receive them from GCG staff members.

As gardeners, tasks this month include removing thatch from your yards to make way for new growth, removing mulch over early spring bulbs and perennials, if not removed already, cutting back ornamental grasses and perennials to within a few inches of the soil surface, and finish pruning bushes and trees before new growth starts. However, do not prune early-flowering woody species as they bloom on "old wood" formed last year; prune just after flowering instead. Species include crabapples, forsythia, lilacs, magnolias, redbud, azaleas and rhododendrons. Later flowering species may be pruned now before new growth starts since they flower on "new wood". Species include hydrangea, spirea and wisteria. You may also start seed indoors of cold season species to set out later this month or early next month (depending on weather), such as lettuce and spinach. Happy early Spring gardening!

Bob McMahon



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Gardeners of Greater Cleveland: NEW MEMBER PROFILE

Susan Brownstein moved to the east side of Cleveland from the LA area 5 years ago with her husband and 2 sons, after a nationwide search for the best place to raise a family. You may be familiar with Susan's name from her regular gardening column in the Plain Dealer (<https://www.cleveland.com/staff/sbrownstein/posts.html>). For a fascinating story, ask Susan about how she was asked to write this column! While Susan has lived in many places around the country, she first developed her love of plant material from her grandmother in Cincinnati who taught her the names of trees and flowers. Her parents' vegetable gardening also contributed to her expanding interest. Describing to me how she had to prepare the ground to plant materials in California, she taught me a new-found appreciation for our clay soil.

In addition to the Plain Dealer garden column, and managing her own vegetable and herb garden at home, Susan has a consulting practice focusing on water issues – she has a Master's degree in civil and environmental engineering, with a specialty in tap water.

If you are attending the March 11 Lake County Master Gardeners' Workshop, Susan will be conducting a workshop on "Gardening with Kids in the era of Covid".

Susan wishes to thank Deb Kramarz for reaching out to her, and inviting her to the January meeting.

Welcome, Susan, to the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland!





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Club's February Program Highlights Orchid Production and Learning Gardens By Carol Poh

On Monday, February 13, about 30 garden club members were treated to two interesting talks: Gardeners of Greater Cleveland President Bob McMahon described the club's visit last year to Green Circle Growers in Oberlin, Ohio, following which Steve McIntosh, an educator and club vice president, discussed his efforts to foster and increase gardening among young people.

With over 150 acres of indoor growing space, Green Circle Growers is one of the largest greenhouse businesses in North America. The family-owned company primarily serves national retailers seeking to increase their floral sales. Green Circle brands include Just Add Ice® (orchids, anthuriums, and other plants that are simple to care for using Green Circle's ice-cube watering method); and foliage plants sold under the Wild Interiors label.

The orchid family embraces nearly 30,000 species on six continents and has surpassed the poinsettia to become the world's most cultivated horticultural crop, according to a recent feature article in *The New York Times*. The large-scale production of *Phalaenopsis*—the “grocery store orchid”—is Green Circle's stock-in-trade. The company employs state-of-the-art technology to optimize growing conditions, eliminate repetitive tasks, and measure orchid quality. Bob showed a fascinating slide show and video of the production process. While a few tasks require the sensitive touch of human hands, much of the repetitive work is accomplished by computer-operated machinery and robots.

From the mass production of orchids, our attention shifted to Steve McIntosh's efforts to promote “learning gardens” as an extension of the classroom. A teacher of urban agriculture and special education at Cuyahoga Falls High School, Steve in 2020 obtained a grant from the GAR Foundation to create learning gardens at eight of the nine schools in his district. Science, math, social studies, and even language arts standards, he explained, can be met through learning garden activities. For example, Steve had science students conduct pH and nutrient testing of their school vegetable garden; they then employed their language arts skills to research solutions to problems highlighted by the tests and write a detailed report sharing their findings.

In spring 2022, Steve saw his work bear fruit when The Gardeners of America provided \$200 to underwrite the purchase of gardening supplies for Cleveland's Marion Selzer Elementary School. This year, the youth gardening program plans to fund a hydroponics program at Olmsted Falls High School. From these modest efforts, Steve hopes to establish and promote an ongoing youth gardening program under the sponsorship of the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland. He would very much welcome assistance and/or input from club members who share his interest.



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A cavernous greenhouse at Green Circle Growers in Oberlin.



Phalaenopsis—
the “grocery
store orchid”—
ready for
shipping to
retailers.



Myann Nipper, a Cuyahoga Falls High School student, proudly shows off a zucchini she grew in the school’s learning garden.



Cuyahoga Falls High School students plant sweet potato slips.



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March Program: Native Plants for Your Garden, Dave Tomaszefski

Dave Tomaszefski grew up birdwatching in Lakewood. His gift is finding the perfect plant for everyone! Dave currently works at the Soil, Water and Environmental Lab at Ohio State, where he also earned his master's degree. He is responsible for Meadow City Nursery, in North Collinwood, educational programs and materials.



Reminders

- Central Great Lakes Gardeners' regional meeting is April 22nd at Kingwood Center in Mansfield.
- The Gardeners of America's national convention will be held July 20-23rd. Details will be forthcoming.
- May Plant Sale at the Rockefeller Greenhouse. Contact Debbie Daniels to volunteer. See page 4.
- Orchid Mania is going on at the CBG until Sunday March 12th.
- Please plan on volunteering this year at the Iris Willot Garden.
- Remember to adjust your clocks and watches ahead by 1 hour Saturday night, March 11th as daylight savings time begins at 2 AM Sunday morning!
- Call in your RSVPs by Thursday, March 9th and Team Captains please call in your RSVPs by Thursday evening.

Red Cabbage Recipe, Bob McMahon

Ingredients:

- 1 head of red cabbage (~3 lbs) finely cut up (leave out the thick veins)
- 1 cup of water
- ½ to 1 cup vinegar (white distilled or apple cider)
- ¾ cup brown sugar
- ¼ tsp ground cloves
- 1 TBSP bacon fat
- 1 Granny Smith apple, peeled and finely diced
- 1 tsp salt



Combine all the ingredients and cook until cabbage is tender, about 1 hour, stirring occasionally. Serve with a slotted spoon as there will be a lot of liquid. ENJOY!



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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



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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
- 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)
- Susan Brownstein (310.709.9060)

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

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)

Team 7

Team Captain: Julie Shaw,
julieoshaw@gmail.com / 914.525.3834

- Fred Burkhalter
- Tom Davis
- Emily Dennis
- John Schinker
- Deah Stark
- John Tilisky

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