

January 2026



# THE SPADE

The Newsletter of The Gardeners of Greater Cleveland

[www.gardenersofgreatercleveland.org](http://www.gardenersofgreatercleveland.org)

Follow us on Instagram: @gardenersofgreatercle

## JANUARY 12TH MEETING INFORMATION

### Menu

- Menu is TBD.
- Members will be notified ASAP
- Please RSVP to your Team Captains by **January 3rd**.

### Program

- The Power of Beneficial Microbes

### Schedule

5:30-Social in Penthouse (may purchase drinks from bar or BYOB)

6:15-Dinner

7:00-General Meeting

7:15-Program

## President's Letter

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season with family, friends and loved ones! I look forward to my new position as the second woman club president, and I want to assure you that I am here to make the club the best it can be with the help of all of you! It is not just a club for officers and board members - it's a club for all MEMBERS. I would love that all members new and old would help us make this the best year ever.

I want to thank everyone that helped make our Christmas Plant Sale a big success; Jim and Audrey Kasper, Diane Circle, Kelly Rodriguez, Ed Tuhela, Sherry Doughten, Deb Kramarz and of course Bob McMahon. Without all of the help, this would not have been a huge success. The total income earned was \$1,103.60.

Many thanks to Tom Segelin for being the liaison between the club and Bratenahl Place as well as Julie Giroux, for her holiday party table arrangements. The last few months have been a real challenge, but we have been able to get through it.

In any organization, communication is important. I want to hear from you. Please tell me if I have missed something or how I could make the club better. I would love to plan a field trip this year, maybe even 2.

We are still looking for a treasurer, open position. Thank you Hiedi for all your years of service.

Finally I want to thank Steve for all his help and input, hopefully I will be able to do a great job as he did.

Sincerely,  
Debbie Daniels

Happy  
New Year

# Scholarship Recipient Update

Gardeners of Greater Cleveland is incredibly proud of the scholarships they are able to provide to area students. Below is a recent update we received from Hadley Kutsko who received a scholarship from us this past June.

I wanted to email you and update you as well as the rest of the GoGC on how my first term of college has gone. I am absolutely loving the University of Oregon and just Oregon in general. While I know I have only been at school for a short period of time, I have already made some amazing friends I know will last a lifetime.

My favorite class this term was my Food and the Garden class where I spent time tending to my school's Urban Farm and learning about the best ways to garden. We spent a lot of time picking produce like pumpkins and cider apples which all was then donated to the University of Oregon's basic needs pantry. This pantry provides students with access to free fresh produce. Along with picking produce we also planted cover crops and learned about how to best protect soil during the winter months. In this class I also got to make my own apple cider from the apples picked off the tree and make wreaths with leftover crops so as to eliminate waste.

When I'm not studying or going to class I like to spend my time outside enjoying and exploring Oregon's nature. The University of Oregon has a program called the Outdoor Program where students can lead trips and rent outdoor gear at cheap prices. Thanks to this program I am now a trip advisor meaning I am certified to drive a twelve passenger van and lead hiking and camping trips. So far I have led a hiking trip to Diamond Creek Falls which was a huge success and I am so excited to lead skiing trips this winter.

Thanks to the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland I have been able to experience all Oregon has to offer and I could not be more grateful. I have attached some pictures of my garden class and my hikes below. Please let me know if you have any questions about my time at the University or Oregon in general.

Thanks again,  
Hadley Kutsko



# Gardeners of America National Convention Info

-Bob McMahon

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE! The Gardeners of America's national convention will be held July 23-25, 2026, at the Ohio State Wooster Agricultural Technical Institute's campus in Wooster, Ohio. Hotel accommodations will be provided by the Wooster Comfort Suites located conveniently within a two-minute drive from campus. A block of rooms that includes a hot breakfast has been reserved at a group rate of approximately \$160 per night (including taxes and fees) for the evenings of July 22-25, allowing for attendees to arrive the evening before the convention starts and to leave the morning after the convention ends, since the banquet on July 25 won't conclude until approximately 8 PM. The number to call for reservations is (330)-439-0190 and the group number is ZH50K5; tell the staff member that you are booking your room for the 2026 TGOA convention. Your 2026 TGOA Convention co-Chairs are working on a slate of speakers, a field trip, horticulture show, photo contest, and other fun and educational activities to make this an outstanding enjoyable and educational event! Further details will be forthcoming soon!

## The Power of Beneficial Microbes

For January's meeting, we will be learning about the power of beneficial microbes. Mope Oluwadare is a microbiologist and founder of The Mikrolab in Stow, Ohio. She focuses on transforming local food and plant waste into microbe-rich compost that restores soil life and helps gardeners grow naturally resilient plants. Through her work, she brings together science and sustainability to make composting and soil care simple and rewarding for everyone.



# Committees, Officers, & Directors

## Current Standing Committees

- Awards: Bob McMahon, Tom Segelin, Co-Chairs
- Communication: Steve McIntosh (The Spade Newsletter, Website/Social Media);
- Finance: OPEN
- Income Projects: Debbie Daniels, Chair; Bob McMahon
- Membership: OPEN
- Programs: Deb Kramarz, Chair
- Scholarship: Ed Tuhela, Fred Robinson, Co-chairs; Deb Kramarz,
- Service Projects: Garrett Ormiston, Chair; Bob Rensel, Steve McIntosh

## Special Committees

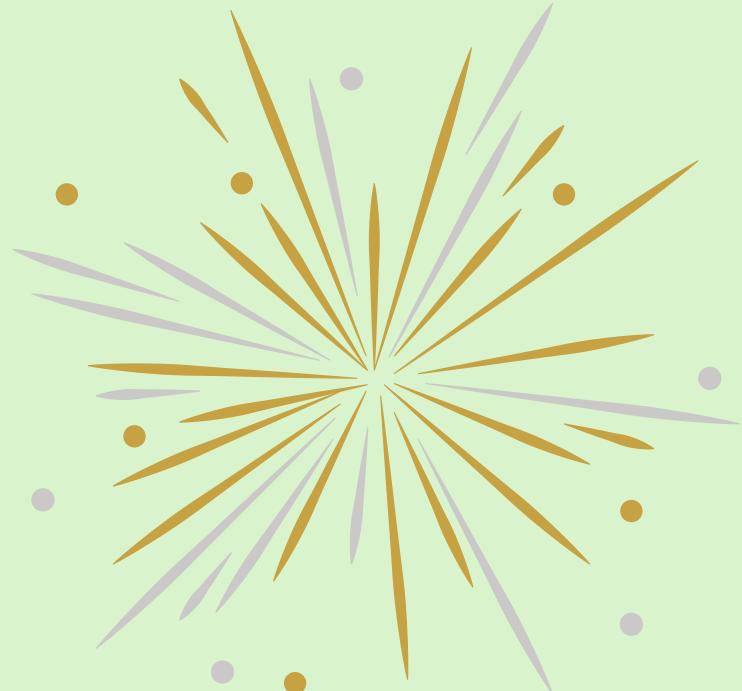
- Cleveland Holden Forest & Garden Council: Deb Kramarz & Joyce Nesbit
- National Organization: Larry Kell, Past President; Bob McMahon, National Director;
- Youth Gardening: Steve McIntosh, Chair
- Willott Iris Garden: Sandra and Robert Pindell, Ron Hartmiller
- Friends of the Greenhouse: Joyce Nesbit
- 1 Bratenahl Place: Tom Segelin
- Horticultural Show: Vacant
- Nominating: Bob McMahon, Debbie Daniels
- Wellness/Memorials: Team Captains
- Archive Committee: Steve McIntosh, Chair

## Officers

- President: Debbie Daniels
- 1st Vice President: Kathi Talty
- Secretary: Kelly Rodriguez
- Treasurer: **OPEN**
- Past President: Steve McIntosh

## Directors

- Robert McMahon
- Debbie Daniels
- Ed Tuhela
- Fred Robinson
- Garret Ormiston



# Team Captains

(Please Remember To RSVP To Your Team Captain By January 3rd)

## Team 1

Team Captain: Ginnie Dawson

ginniedawson@gmail.com / 216.849.2781

- Dave Dawson
- Joyce Nesbit
- Carol Poh
- MaryAnn Thesing
- Harold Davis

## 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: Steve McIntosh,

steven.a.mcintosh1@gmail.com/216.392.1222

- Kathy Kosiorek
- Judith Janes
- Larry Kell
- Bob McMahon & George Roscoe
- Amy Gatautis
- Jan Kious
- James & Audrey Kasper
- River Raptor & Riley Aspen
- Bill Haag
- Joanne Duchon
- Jay Ketchaver

## Team 4

Team Captain: Deb Kramarz,

deborahkramarz@aol.com / 216.731.6324

- Fred Robinson
- Bob & Sandra Pindell
- Tom Segelin & Julie Giroux
- Kathy Talty

## Team 5

Cathy Ross: estrogen05@yahoo.com

216.970.2854

- Patrick Boggins
- Jonny Prell
- Kelley Adkins
- Debbie Daniels
- Ed Tuhela
- Lisa Skufca
- Kelly Rodriguez

## Team 6

Keith Biehl: 440.539.2019 (NO EMAIL)

- Davd & Diane Circle (440.628.8063 Home)
- Paula & Ron Koenig (440.212.5700)
- Deva Simon (440.915.0161)

## Team 7

Team Captain: Hiedi Winston,

hwinston@naipvc.com / 440.752.2617

- Julie Shaw & Tom Davis
- Deah Stark
- Sherry Doughten
- Dave Tomashefski
- Laurie Burke
- Bob DiLiberto & Jan Horvath



## Important Dates or Events

(Email Steve @ steven.a.mcintosh1@gmail.com if you would like something included in the next issue of The SPADE)

- **January GOGC Meeting**-1/12/26
- **February GOGC Meeting**-2/9/26