



THE GARDENERS GAZETTE

The Official Newsletter of The Gardeners of America

November-December 2023 | www.gardenersofamerica.club



President's Letter

As 2023 comes to a close, it is time to reflect on some of the highlights of the year's activities. Although the COVID19 did a number on many organizations, including TGOA, our membership is growing. At this writing TGOA has 618 members in 16 clubs. The Rome New York club disbanded as their members were no longer active. They transferred the balance of their funds to TGOA.

We have improved communications between the clubs by highlighting in the newsletter individual club activities. Scholarships were awarded to two students, and there were two Gardening from the Heart grants, and one Youth Gardening.

The convention in Dayton, Ohio was a success. The members who attended were pleased with the speakers and programs. The 2024 convention will again be on the OSU campus in Wooster. This location is convenient to the majority of active members, and it is a location where we can provide an outstanding program for a very reasonable convention fee. Save the dates of September 12-14, 2024.

You can help TGOA move forward by being active in one or more of the TGOA committees and by volunteering to assist in various activities. One need is for a member to become the TGOA Secretary working with the president to update the website information and other printed materials.

As we move into 2024, I am confident that TGOA will have a successful year within budget, and by continuing to provide our members with informative and interesting information in The Gardeners Gazette.

We wish you a healthy and happy New Year!!

Larry Kell

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- The Native Plant Revolution, by Eddie Lagucki, M.S., Member Gardeners of Greater Cleveland





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OUR MISSION

The mission of The Gardeners of America ("TGOA") shall be to promote gardening education and related environmental issues to its membership and the gardening public through charitable, educational, and scientific means.

Contact Information:

Website: www.gardenersofamerica.club

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2023/2024 National Officers

President

Lawrence A. Kell
216.856.0469
larrykell01@gmail.com

Treasurer

Robert McMahon
216.870.0991
mcmahon.2@osu.edu

Vice President *

Heidi Nations
601-919-7036
heidilogan43@yahoo.com

Secretary, Vacant

Past President

May Ann Ferguson-Rich
330.630.9625
mafr43@hotmail.com

2nd Vice President **

Carl Christensen
920.606.8807
cchristensen14@new.rr.com

* Heidi Nations resigned at the December 2023 Board Meeting.

** Carl Christensen advised the Board that he does not think he will be able to serve as 2nd Vice President.

Reminder to file your 990N e-postcard with the IRS to maintain your active status. Click [here](#) for details.

**Our newsletter needs input from our clubs!
Communicating what you club is doing or plans
would be great information to share with all of the
Clubs! Please email Larry Kell or [Jonny Prell](#)!**

*If there is a member who has passed away, please email
Larry Kell. Information will be added to the newsletter.*



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2024 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Executive Committee

	Title	Phone #	Email Address
• Lawrence A. Kell	President, Cleveland	216-856-0469	larrykell01@gmail.com
• Hiedi Nations	1st Vice President, Square County, MS	601-919-7036	heidilogan43@yahoo.com
• Carl Christensen	2nd Vice President	920-606-8807	cchristensen14@new.rr.com
• Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich	Past President, Akron	330-715-8866	MAFR43@hotmail.com
• Robert W. McMahon	Treasurer, Cleveland	216-870-0991	mcmahon.2@osu.edu
• Vacant	Secretary		
• Thomas S. Davis	E & I Committee, Cleveland	440-567-1892	tsdavis62@gmail.com

Awards Committee

• John Schinker	Chairman, Youngstown	330-518-4384	johnschinker@gmail.com
• Heidi Nations	Member, Square County, MS	601-919-7036	heidilogan43@yahoo.com
• David Rich	Member, Akron	330-630-9625	birdman035@hotmail.com

Club Expansion Committee

• Heidi Nations	Member, Square County, MS	601-919-7036	heidilogan43@yahoo.com
• Thomas S. Davis	Member, Cleveland	440-567-1892	tsdavis62@gmail.com

Convention Committee

• John Kessen	Chairman, Fort Wayne	260-710-7244	lakelover60@yahoo.com
• Lawrence A. Kell	Member, Cleveland	216-856-0469	arrykell01@gmail.com

E & I Committee

• Thomas Davis	Chairman, Cleveland	440-567-1892	tsdavis62@gmail.com
• Lawrence A. Kell	Treasurer, Cleveland	216-856-0469	larrykell01@gmail.com
• Heidi Nations	Member, Square County, MS	601-919-7036	heidilogan43@yahoo.com
• William Lanning	Member, Akron	419-423-1010	bilan2@roadrunner.com
• Robert Bell	Member, Akron	330-673-3553	mrrnbell@hotmail.com

Gardening from the Heart

• Robert W. McMahon	Chair, Cleveland	216-870-0991	mcmahon.2@osu.edu
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Newsletter Committee

• Jonny Prell	Chair, Cleveland	216-904-3087	jonnyprell@gmail.com
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Photography Committee

• Jill Leisgang	Member, Green Bay	920-883-9432	jmleisgang@gmail.com
• Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich	Member, Akron	330-715-8866	MAFR43@hotmail.com

Scholarship Committee

• Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich	Member, Akron	330-715-8866	MAFR43@hotmail.com
• Heidi Nations	Member, Square County, MS	601-919-7036	heidilogan43@yahoo.com
• Nick Calabro	Member, Akron	330-325-0579	nckcalabro@yahoo.com
• Robert W. McMahon	Member, Cleveland	216-870-0991	mcmahon.2@osu.edu

Website

• Jonny Prell	Host, Cleveland	216-904-3087	jonnyprell@gmail.com
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Youth Gardening

• John Schinker	Member, Youngstown	330-518-4384	johnschinker@gmail.com
• Steve McIntosh	Member, Cleveland	216-392-1222	steven.a.mcintosh1@gmail.com
• Ritalyn Arps	Member, Green Bay	920-621-5184	rarps1@icloud.com
• Cheri Kessen	Member, Fort Wayne	260-854-2988	ckessen2001@yahoo.com



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THE GARDENERS OF AMERICA UPDATES

The Board of The Gardeners of America met in a zoom meeting on Saturday, December 2, 2023.

Just prior to the meeting Heidi Logan/Nations announced that she desired to step away from her position of 1st Vice President.

Her father, R. Daniel Logan as a past president participated in the zoom meeting. He stated to the Board that he would be willing to fill the vice president's role. The Board welcomed this announcement and took the matter under advisement to study how this proposed substitution should be managed.

Carl Christensen has indicated that he would like to step aside as the second vice president. This will create a second vacancy in the leadership positions. Following the meeting, the nominating committee was informed of these changes, and they were asked to select a slate of officers to be elected at the fall 2024 meeting.

Other matters included approval of the 2024 budget, and approval of a modification to the manner in which scholarships are to be awarded beginning immediately.

The proposed change is a plan to match scholarships awarded by a local club up to a maximum of \$1,000 each. The review procedure by the Scholarship Committee would remain the same as it is now. How will this work?

A local club determines that they will award a scholarship to a qualified applicant. The local club would then apply to TGOA for a matching award up to the maximum of \$1,000 for each qualified applicant. The scholarship committee could agree to award, or decline, if that was their decision. The budget for 2024 includes \$4,000 for scholarships and \$1,000 each for Gardening from the Heart and Youth Gardening.

There will be a zoom meeting of the Board on January 20, 2024, at 10:00 AM eastern time to discuss the three officer vacancies and other matters that may be appropriate. For this meeting we need a quorum of 12 board members. Past presidents are welcome & invited.

Anyone interested in being considered for the open positions of first vice president, second vice president, or secretary should contact Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich and inform her and the nominating committee of your interest in a leadership position.



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MEMBER CLUB UPDATES

- Steve Fabian, a long time Member of the Gardeners of Greater Youngstown (formerly known as Men's Garden Club of Youngstown) passed away on November 6th, 2023.
- Gardeners of Lima held their annual fall fund raiser selling poinsettias on November 20th, 2023.
- Gardeners of Greater Youngstown held their annual Christmas Tree decorating of their holiday tree at Fellows Riverside Gardens on November 29th, 2023.
- Gardeners of Greater Cleveland held the club's first Holiday Plant Sale and raffle in conjunction with Friends of Greenhouse at the Rockefeller Park City Greenhouse on December 1st & 2nd. Debbie Daniels, Chair of the Income Projects Committee, provided outstanding leadership in the planning and implementation of the sale which included holiday cacti, Norfolk Island pines, flowering 5" orchids, live wreaths and door swags, water-inflatable flower vases and gardening gloves.
- Men's Garden Club of Albany will hold their annual Holiday Dinner on December 7th, 2023 at Belltone Living Center.
- Gardeners of Central Lake County, IL will hold their annual Holiday Dinner on December 10th, 2023 at the American Legion Hall, Post 329.
- Gardeners of Greater Cleveland will hold their annual Awards Dinner/Holiday Party on Monday December 11th, 2023 at One Bratenahl Place.
- Gardeners of Lima will hold their Christmas banquet on December 12th, 2023 at Faurot Park Clubhouse.
- Gardeners of Youngstown will hold their President's Reception Dinner/Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 13th, 2023, A La Carte Catering, Canfield.
- Gardeners of Greater Akron will hold their Holiday Dinner with entertainment by Brenda Justice & Friends on December 18th, 2023 at St. Georges Antiochian Church, Fairlawn.

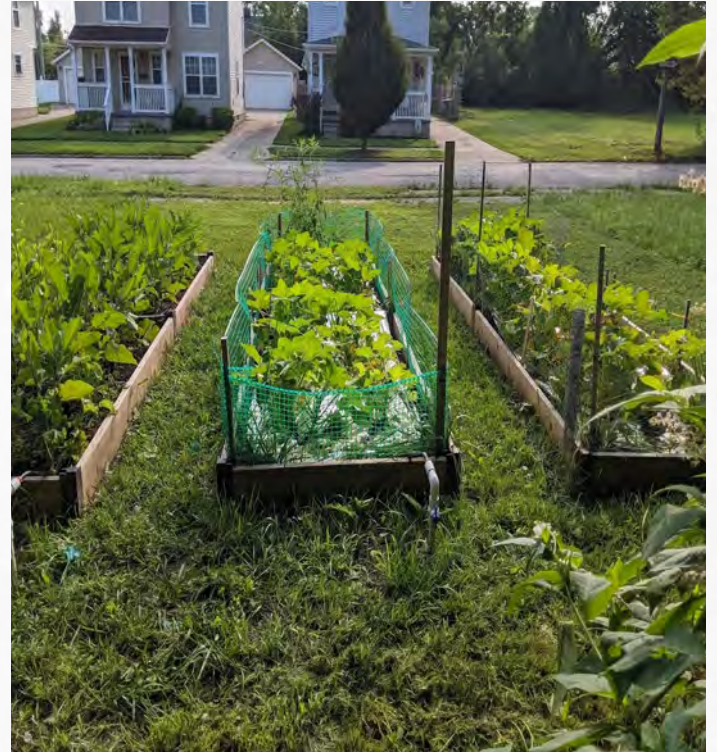


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A FEW GARDENING FROM THE HEART GRANTS

Trinity Cathedral Urban Farm Volunteer Group, Cleveland, OH: The Gardeners of America awarded a grant of \$250 to fund the extension of a water line equipped with a faucet to enable irrigation of six new raised garden beds. The work was accomplished on May 6, when volunteers used a rented trencher to dig the line and laid 145 feet of PVC pipe. The extension allowed the new garden beds to produce 44 pounds of eggplant and yellow squash during the 2023 season. All of the farm's produce is delivered to the food pantry of the Friendly Inn Settlement located at 2386 Unwin Road.



Lantern Court Estate Gardens, Cleveland, OH: Newly planted 2000 bulb daffodil display near the Lantern Court that was sponsored by the Garden From the Heart grant! Without the clubs help, this would likely not have been possible.





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THE NATIVE PLANT REVOLUTION, by Eddie Lagucki

Watching ash trees die all around me, beech leaves wither away, and buckthorn choke out the woods I grew up playing in, I became obsessed with saving my local ecosystem. After college, I pursued the green industry because of this and have worked in many sectors throughout my budding career. From running landscaping crews, managing a garden center, publishing insect research, and running invasive species eradication projects, I've seen the good and the bad. 'Big Horticulture' in America is working contrary to the goals of environmental conservation and ecological preservation. Walk into most garden centers nowadays and there is a wonderful display of annuals, perennials, trees, and shrubs, but a vast majority of what is on the sales floor is non-native or even an invasive species! Drive by a housing development and try to count the number of native species, you will likely count 0 if you don't count the name of the development memorializing the nature that it replaced.

The entire horticulture industry has grown along the false notion that humans are separate from nature. Since the dawn of commercial agriculture, humans have been conditioned to think that unless a plant is a cash crop or offers visual appeal, it is a weed or nuisance plant. Historic shopping habits have reflected this. Consumers buy plants that are 'pretty', 'pest free', and 'easy' as opposed to those that are ecologically important. A great example of a low ecological value plant that most home gardeners adore is the Butterfly Bush - *Buddleja davidii*. This perennial is native to central China, only offering a food source in the form of nectar to a few species of adult butterflies and moths. The leaves of the plant support 0 larval species because they do not provide the nutrients our local populations feed on. "Why feed the adults, but not the kids?"

There is a major nutrition gap for insects in our landscapes and therefore native species are so critical to the future of gardening. Most native species support tens of larval species, if not hundreds! The goldenrod genus, *Solidago*, supports over 100 native insect species! Although, most native plants that are for sale at garden centers are cultivars. Cultivars of native species have altered flower colors and shapes that may be more attractive to you but are far less attractive to pollinators. Pollinators desire wild-type native species because they are most familiar with the flower. Not only do we lack a supply of wild-type native species, vendors have been all in on cultivars and invasive species that have been marketed for decades as go-to landscaping plants.



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THE NATIVE PLANT REVOLUTION, Continued

Most invasive plant species we fight to control today were introduced by exotic plant sales and the shipping of exotic woody plant material from overseas. It is a pattern that has occurred for over and over in America, but little has been done to stop it. Vendors and global trade policy makers have not been held accountable. In many cases, landowners are left to deal with issues caused by invasive plants. The Callery Pear, *Pyrus calleryana*, is the most recent invasive plant to gain national headlines for being outlawed for sales in most states, but the irreparable damage has already been done. The species quickly outcompeted native species along wood lines across America. This recurring, reactive response to invasive plants is irresponsible and allows vendors and policymakers to wipe their hands of the issue while landowners suffer.

It is time to revolutionize our relationship with horticulture and understand the fact that humans are a part of nature, not separate from it. Humans' substantial negative impacts on the environment proves we are a part of nature. At times it can be very frustrating, but the native plant revolution has germinated and is rapidly growing. While the policy makers sit on their hands and vendors continue to sell invasive plants at nauseum, many small businesses are popping up across the nation to fill this void! From the sale of native seeds and plants, to emerging educators preaching the importance of locally sourced native plants, the future is bright. As younger generations continue seeing the suffering cast on our ecosystems by these issues, they are more inspired to be a part of the change to save our natural heritage! There are a growing number of resources for finding native plants that continue to accelerate our revolution to a happier, healthier plant community.

Eddie Laguck, M.S. is a member of the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland, and Director of Horticulture at Red Oak Camp & an ISA Certified Arborist

Common Yarrow



Goldenrod Genus, Solidago



Common Milkweed

