

## HISTORICAL TIMELINE OF THE GARDENERS OF GREATER CLEVELAND

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- 1932 November 2 – Four men with an intense interest in horticulture—Earl Newton, George Buehler, R. D. Clark, and Warren Strong—organize the Business Men’s Garden Club (BMGC) of Cleveland.
- 1932 November 16 – The *Plain Dealer* reports that the BMGC will meet in rooms of the Cleveland Advertising Club, Hotel Statler, at noon. J. J. Grullemans of Wayside Gardens (then located in Mentor) will talk on “Bulbs.” The officers are Earl V. Newton, president; R. deBlois “Duby” Clark, vice president; and George F. Buehler, secretary and treasurer.
- 1933 As its first project, the club encourages property owners on Euclid Avenue between 22nd and 40th Streets to plant trees between the curb and the sidewalk. The club affiliates with the national Men’s Garden Club of America, organized on September 26, 1932.
- 1933 August 19 – The BMGC hosts the Steel City Garden Club of Youngstown at a joint meeting at Snow Lake, a private hunting and fishing lodge in Geauga County. Edmund Secrest, state forester, talks about evergreens.
- 1934 January 5 – R. D. Clark is elected president. The club now has 60 members.
- 1934 May 26 – *Spade*, the *Plain Dealer* reports, is the name of the club’s monthly bulletin. It is edited by Frederick E. Gymer, who mixes humor into a section titled “Helpful Hints,” such as this advice on eliminating wild morning glory vines: “Move to the next street.”
- 1934 September 21 – Members and friends enjoy colored slides of the horticultural exhibit at Chicago’s Century of Progress Exposition in the Garden Center, where the BMGC is conducting its first exhibit. Among the flowers shown is a seedling dahlia reared by E. V. Newton, Cleveland Trust Co. officer, which he has named “Shirley Temple.”
- 1935 June 9 – The *Plain Dealer* reports that the BMGC will meet Wednesday at four o’clock at Young’s Orchid Nursery on SOM Center Road. After seeing how orchids are grown, members will have dinner at Acacia Country Club followed by an illustrated lecture by Dr. N. C. Yarian of Bay Village. This is the third year for this club, which started with four members and now has 88. Officers are George Buehler, president; Warren Strong, vice president; and James. L. Wood, secretary and treasurer.
- 1935 September – During this month the Garden Center stages four successive flower shows, the first of which is put on by the BMGC. The club now numbers “about a hundred.” The committee in charge includes James L. Wood, Joseph F. Sindelar, and Frank J. Wiesenberger.
- 1936 July 12 – Originality is the theme of the flower show staged by the BMGC on the top floor of the Horticultural Building at the Great Lakes Exposition. J. Horace McFarland of Harrisburg, Pa., a rose authority, attends to observe a flower-arranging contest.
- 1936 July 19 – The BMGC hosts the annual convention of the Men’s Garden Clubs of America, held at Hotel Statler. E. V. Newton, assistant treasurer and a founder and first president of the Cleveland club, is elected president of the national organization.
- 1937 May 9 – The *Plain Dealer* reports, “The Men’s Garden Club of Cleveland has reached its quota of 100 and the membership list is closed.”
- 1937 December 16 – F. F. Rockwell, garden editor of the *New York Times*, addresses the BMGC at a dinner meeting held at the Cleveland Society of Artists, 2022 East 88th Street.
- 1938 September 14-16 – The BMGC conducts a vegetable booth as part of a three-day “county fair” at the landmark Dunham Tavern, erected in 1842, to celebrate its preservation thanks to a committee of prominent Clevelanders.

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- 1939 February 20 – The BMGC hosts an Amaryllis Show at the Garden Center this week. The 250 bulbs, potted in early December, reflect an “awakened interest” in growing amaryllis, according to Helen Grant Wilson, *Plain Dealer* garden editor.
- 1939 August 11 – George F. Buehler, president of the BMGC, is the principal speaker at ceremonies marking the dedication of the city’s newly completed greenhouse at Gordon Park.
- 1941 December – The BMGC holds its annual Christmas party at Hotel Alcazar. The program includes a talk on “Landscaping the Metropolitan Parks” by Arthur L. Munson.
- 1947 At the Christmas party, Louis Mellen of Potter & Mellen, jeweler to the carriage trade, presents the club with a silver Revere bowl in tribute to the memory of his close friend and business associate, Horace E. Potter. Engraved with the figure of “a genuine dirt gardener” (which Potter, a renowned goldsmith and active member of the garden club, designed years earlier as the club’s logo), the bowl is to be awarded annually to a member (or members) in recognition of outstanding service.
- 1948 At the Christmas party, the BMGC presents the first Horace E. Potter Memorial Award to Harold Busch, Evan J. Evans, Harold R. Laing, and Walter Harbarth. Their names are engraved on the bowl, and they take turns enjoying the bowl in their homes before returning it to the club prior to the next year’s presentation.
- 1949 December 18 – The *Plain Dealer* reports the election of Henry M. Mayer as president of the BMGC, describing the club as a “thriving organization of 175 businessmen who make a hobby of gardening.” The rotating Horace E. Potter Award is presented to Robert P. Brydon, George Buehler, and Dr. Harry Paryzek.
- 1951 The national organization is incorporated, leading the Cleveland club to do the same. It also changes its name, to the Men’s Garden Club (MGC) of Cleveland. At the Christmas party, Frank R. Dill, one of 17 charter members still living, presents a brief history of the club with biographical profiles of prominent members.
- 1955 February 6 – The theme of this year’s Greater Cleveland Home and Flower Show is “Beautiful Ohio.” Again this year, writes Besse Howells, garden editor of the *Plain Dealer*, “the gardener will delight in the Green Thumb Court” featuring educational exhibits presented by, among others, the Men’s Garden Club of Cleveland.
- 1957 November 5 – The MGC of Cleveland celebrates its Silver Anniversary at Clark’s Hanna Restaurant, Euclid Avenue at East 14th Street. The guest speaker is Henry Ross of Grandview Nursery, Strongsville, O., speaking on “Aristocrats of the Garden.” The club’s most recent project, according to the *Plain Dealer*, is the landscaping labor and shrubbery at the new bird house of the Cleveland Zoo. Current officers are: Clarence D. Evans, president; Barnett Buck Segelin, first vice president; Robert F. Wysochi, second vice president; A. K. Murway, treasurer; Veryl E. Rose, secretary; and Allen Youngquist, assistant secretary.
- 1958 October 15 – MGC member Ashley C. Norcross is named director of the Garden Center of Greater Cleveland.
- 1962 March 6 – Having procured a charter by the State of Ohio as a nonprofit corporation, the Men’s Garden Club of Greater Cleveland adopts an amended constitution and by-laws.
- 1965-1970 – Surviving issues of *The Spade* from this period show that the MGC then met monthly for dinner and a program on Tuesday evenings at the Engineering and Scientific Center, 3100 Chester Avenue.
- 1968 This year’s roster shows 92 members.

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- 1970 An article in the May issue of *The Spade* warns of global warming: “[Scientists] know that that changes in weather are occurring and much of it is man’s own doing . . . Carbon dioxide pollution acts like the glass roof of a greenhouse in that it traps the solar heat which passes through the atmosphere and heats up the earth’s surface, but prevents its re-radiation out into space.”
- 1977 This year’s roster shows 54 members.
- 1988 The Men’s Garden Club of Greater Cleveland institutes three \$1,000 scholarships for students intending to study horticulture in college. This year’s roster shows 36 members.
- 1988 November 5 – Fred Robinson, MGC president, tells the *Plain Dealer* that as of July 3 the national Men’s Garden Clubs of America is open to women. The decision was the result of a threatened court action by women in Green Bay, Wis.; each local club will now have the option to do what it wants. With about 40 active members, the Cleveland club meets monthly (except July and August) for cocktails, dinner, and a program at the Garden Center of Greater Cleveland.
- 1990 This year’s roster shows 67 members.
- 1992 To reflect the growing diversity of its member clubs, the Men’s Garden Clubs of America becomes The Gardeners of America/Men’s Garden Clubs of America. “TGOA/MGCA welcomes and urges both men and women—everyone who loves gardening—to join.”
- 1999 Members of the Men’s Garden Club of Greater Cleveland create a heritage herb garden at the Lorenzo Carter cabin in the Flats to enhance interpretation of the life of Cleveland’s first permanent settler. A feature article in the *Plain Dealer* (June 5) reports, “Membership is 88, including two women.”
- 2000 November 13 – At its regular meeting, club trustees discuss one longtime member’s concern that “ladies” were regularly attending meetings. “After much discussion,” note the minutes, “it was determined that the only logical path we could follow is to do nothing.” The complainant subsequently resigns from the club, the only member to do so.
- 2001 February 12 – On this date, owing to construction of the new Cleveland Botanical Garden, the Men’s Garden Club of Cleveland has a new meeting place: Judson Park Manor, 1899 East 107th Street.
- 2005 This year’s roster shows 64 members; three are women.
- 2007 June 21 – In an article on horticultural therapy, the *Plain Dealer* reports that the Men’s Garden Club of Greater Cleveland has created a therapeutic garden at Transitional Housing Inc., a facility for temporarily homeless women on West 25th Street. In December, members vote to change the club’s name to the Gardeners of America of Greater Cleveland. (Long and cumbersome, this name will be short-lived.)
- 2008 August 19 – The garden club marks its 75th anniversary with drinks, hors d’oeuvres, and tours at the Cleveland Botanical Garden. Guests receive a copy of the history of the club, which now counts 77 members.
- 2010 June – Members vote to change the club name to Gardeners of Greater Cleveland (GOGC).
- 2011 May – Together with several other plant societies, the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland hosts a plant sale at the Rockefeller Park Greenhouse. Proceeds support horticultural scholarships and the club’s community outreach activities.

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- 2012 Beginning in September, the GOGC moves its meetings to One Bratenahl Place. These begin with a social hour and dinner at the Bratenahl Place Bistro, followed by cookies, coffee, and a program in the Penthouse.
- 2017 July 19-21 – The GOGC, together with its Akron and Youngstown affiliates, hosts the national convention of The Gardeners of America/Men’s Garden Clubs of America at the Cleveland Airport Marriot Hotel.
- 2017 August 21 – The Gardeners of Greater Cleveland celebrates its 85th anniversary with drinks and dinner at the Dunham Tavern Museum. The event includes tours of the tavern and grounds, and a program featuring Cathi Lehn, Sustainable Cleveland coordinator with the City of Cleveland. The GOGC has 85 members.

**Compiled by Carol Poh from GOGC files and the digital edition of  
the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*.**