



Emerald Necklace Garden Club

December 2024 Newsletter

2024 General Meeting Schedule *

December 12 (Holiday Pot Luck/
Installation of 2025 Officers)

2025 General Meeting Schedule

January 9
February 13
March 13

2024 ENGC Board Meetings**

December 9

2025 ENGC Board Meetings

January 6
February 10
March 10

* General Meetings begin 9:15AM at Christ
the Redeemer Lutheran Church, 9201

Brecksville Rd., Brecksville, unless noted.

**Board Meetings are the Monday before
the 2nd Thursday of the month. Meetings
start at 10AM, same location, unless noted.

Save the Dates:

December 6 - Chippewa Place Tea and
Tree Decorating (10:30AM)

December 9 - ENGC Board Meeting

December 10 - Owl Craft and Story Time
(4:15-5PM)

December 12 - ENGC General Meeting
Holiday Pot Luck/Installation of
2025 Officers

January 6, 2025- Board Meeting

January 9, 2025- ENGC General Meeting

President's Message - Nathalie Petri

Well, it took a while coming but the colder days are upon us. The gardening season has come to an end. Or maybe I should say rest at least physically! I can't believe it's the end of the year. We've had interesting activities this year from Foster Brown, a naturalist from Cleveland Metroparks, talking about the "Worth of Weeds". I now can answer the trivia question of how Velcro was discovered! A field trip to a Hosta Secret Garden in Chagrin Falls, wow!

Providing an educational show and tell for Stepping Stones School on butterflies. Numerous library youth craft events. One heck of a plant and garden faire sale. Can't wait to learn and grow with all of you next year!

Wishing you all a Happy Holiday Season!

Nathalie

Yearbook - Donna Hessel

2025 YEARBOOK UPDATE

If you have not checked your contact information in the current member listing, please do so at the December luncheon. If you are not planning on attending the luncheon, please email any changes to your contact information to hessel0722@gmail.com before December 30. Unless you have noted your information is correct or have supplied updates, your info will run as shown in 2024.

I would like to add some member testimonials to our membership brochure and website for 2025. If you would like to provide one, (regarding your experience as a club member), please let me know. Thank you.

Donna Hessel

Membership - Maureen Michal

2025 Dues are Due! A membership fee of \$30 can be submitted through cash or check in November or December.

1st Vice Presidents - Jane Petrie and Marlene Winter - December Program

Holiday Potluck and 2025 Officer Installation

In the coming weeks we will be looking forward to the final days of the year and celebrating the full year of activity and fellowship with old and new friendships. We will be installing our board members for more adventures into the unknown, even if you thought you know it all. And, if that isn't enough, we will look into our past many years to hear about the WHO, WHAT, and WHY of it all, for 60 past years! Our own Gail Berzin will tell us a bit of our history over the years, the roads taken by a few and many by chance, by plan. Not to be missed!

This event is Thursday, December 12th in our usual meeting place, Christ the Redeemer Church. Doors open at 11:30AM. Lunch will begin at noon.

This is a big change, as we are our own chefs and bakers as we bring our favorites. Please bring enough to serve at least 8 along with any serving pieces for your dish. All other utensils will be provided for the event.

Is this not a day to share with a friend? We think so! Even more than one! Please make sure to let Marlene or I know of any additional guests.

Look forward to seeing you and yours,
Jane and Marlene W.

Cleveland Botanical Garden/Holden Forests and Gardens - Jane Petrie

If you have reserved a ticket for CBG Frost and plans have changed and you are not able to use it please let me know. Someone on the back up list can use it.

Thank you,
Jane Petrie

Youth Committee - Sheila Humphrey

Mark your Calendars - Volunteers Needed!

Tuesday, December 10th, 4:15-5:00PM
Owl Craft and Story Time
Cuyahoga Library - Brecksville Branch

Horticulture - Pat Cotsman

If you treat icy sidewalks, calcium chloride is less harmful to plants than sodium chloride (salt). Both are harmful to certain evergreens. Don't use clay cat litter as when wet it is slippery. Merry Christmas.

Pat

Sunshine News - Laurie Siebert

If you are aware of any sunshine news throughout the year, please contact our 2024 Corresponding Secretary, Laurie Siebert.

Kathy Brusk passed away on October 31st. The funeral was November 26th at Christ the Redeemer. Thank you to the ladies who made the flower arrangements for the funeral luncheon for Kathie Brusk. They were beautiful.

Marge Turk, Denise Bowler's mother, passed away at the age of 99 years old. Marge was a charter member of ENGC.

Sheila Humphrey's mother died on October 31st in Pennsylvania. She was 91 years old.

Cards from ENGC were sent to the families.

Shirley Basista's son fractured his cervical vertebrae in a lawn mower accident. Shirley has been driving him to physical therapy.

Stay well everyone and enjoy the holidays!

Garden Stories

The program earlier in the year was so popular; let's continue sharing our garden stories!

Feel free to include pictures of your garden, a favorite plant, and/or lists of favorite gardening books and share why you started gardening, what it means to you, special garden memories, and/or your future goals for gardening.

Starting in 2025 I'd like to include your stories in the newsletter!

Please email your story and a picture of your garden or plants, if available, to Anne Morrison at amorison05@icloud.com.

Youth Event - Fun with Succulents!

On November 11th, ENGC hosted a workshop at the Brecksville library for children and their parents to learn about succulents and plant a small succulent to take home.



Did You Know ...

You can gauge humidity by looking at a pine cone. Pine cones exist to keep the seed dry and protected. When the weather is drier the pine cone will open up for the seeds to disperse. When there is high humidity the cones close to keep out moisture.

The Coulter pine cone is the heaviest in the world. They can weigh up to 10 pounds or more.

Chippewa Place Tea and Tree Decorating

Mark your calendar for December 6th, 10:30AM to decorate the lovely tree at Chippewa Place on Stadium Drive, near Brecksville Methodist Church, followed by a well received Tea Party with the residents. We have been doing this annual event for almost 10 years. Many residents are in need of extra physical assistance because of age or help, and oh so pleased with all our homemade treats that several of you are bringing. We could use a few more hands to help decorate the pre-lit tree.

Look forward to seeing you. Contact Jane Petrie with questions.

PS Treats will be rearranged on serving trays.

Happy Birthday!

Pauline Dey

Fare-Thee-Well Wishes for Charlene Schuh

A delicious, homemade cake surprised Charlene at the November 14th meeting. It was a sweet send-off for her upcoming California/Thailand move. Charlene has been an ENGC member since 2010. She is a past president, has made significant contributions to several flower shows and has been editor of the club newsletter for many years. She says she is packing all her craft and painting supplies and that her Thai daughter-in-law has planned many ways for her to use them as a volunteer in her new home. Her email remains the same and we will definitely look forward to staying in touch and hearing about her new adventures.



Sustainable is Attainable!

**Bring your own coffee cup to
ENGC meetings!**

Holiday Plants and Pet Safety

Holidays mean holiday decorations for most. Keep your furry companions safe this season by placing potentially harmful plants out of their reach. Below are a few popular choices that need special consideration.

Lilies are highly toxic for cats, all parts including pollen and water dish. If ingested they can cause life threatening kidney damage.

Amaryllis is toxic to both cats and dogs. In dogs eating the actually bulb can cause intestinal obstruction as well.

Yew is highly toxic to both cat and dogs.

Holly and Mistletoe are poisonous to cats and dogs.

Christmas tree water can contain bacteria, pesticides and mold.

Poinsettia has gotten a bad reputation but is only mildly toxic, potentially causing some stomach or skin irritation. It is still best kept out of reach.

There are many others so it's always best to check. A good source is the ASPCA's Poisonous Plant List on their website.

Around Town

Fun classes, workshops and good deals offered around town. Find one? Send it in!

Holiday Wreath Making Crown Point Ecology, Dec. 6th, pre-registration required
www.crownpointecology.org/calendar/wreath-making

CSA 2025 Crown Point Ecology being offered soon.
<https://www.crownpointecology.org/csa-program>

CSA Grace Bros. offered summer and winter.
<https://www.shopgracebros.com/community-supported-agriculture>

Winter Tree ID, Cleveland Metroparks, Rocky River, Dec. 8th. Registration required
<https://www.clevelandmetroparks.com/parks/calendar/2024/rrnc/december/coffee-and-stroll-bark-branches-and-buds-%E2%80%93-winter->

Hand Feed a Chickadee, Cleveland Metroparks, Brecksville Nature Center. Dec. 21st- Dec. 31st. Check website for exact dates.
<https://www.clevelandmetroparks.com/parks/calendar/2024/bnc/brecksville/december/hand-feed-a-chickadee>

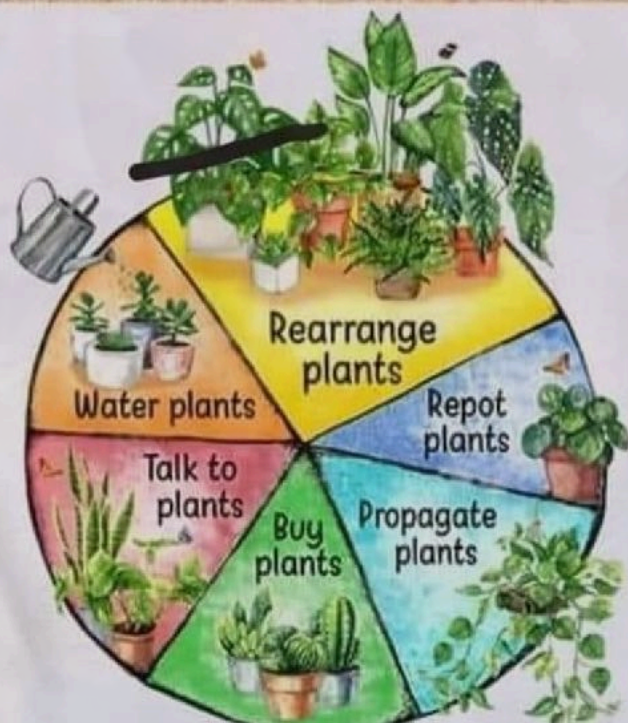
The Science of Evergreens, Cleveland Metroparks, Brecksville Reservation Dec 21st
<https://www.clevelandmetroparks.com/parks/calendar/2024/bnc/brecksville/december/the-science-of-evergreens>

Plant History

The poinsettia flower is native to southern Mexico. The plants were used by the ancient Aztecs to make a purple dye for clothing and cosmetics. The milky sap wax was used as a medicinal component to treat fevers.

Poinsettias get their American name from Joel Roberts Pointsett, the first U.S. ambassador to Mexico, who brought them to the states in the early 1800s. They did not become a staple in holiday decor until nearly a century later when promoted by the entrepreneurial Ecke family.

THINGS I DO IN MY SPARE TIME



“ARE YOU MY MOTHER?”

Visitors to the Cleveland Botanical Garden “Frost” holiday festival will find the answer in Emerald Necklace Garden Club’s 2024 tree. On November 17th, the decorating group lined up the characters in the story that baby bird questions as it makes its way up the tree to the nest it fell out of — to find its mother waiting for it complete with a worm for dinner. A ribbon with bird tracks winds around the tree leading to each character baby bird questions. “Are you my mother?” and other quotes from the book are framed in red. Dried hydrangeas, painted alliums, dried sedum blossoms, ornaments with queen Anne’s lace “snowflakes,” and mushrooms made from acorn caps provided filler. The



decorators are (l-r) Donna Hessel, Nathalie Petri, Debbie Apple, Lisa Schieman, Fran McIntyre, Rosanne Radziewicz, Marlene Helm, Jane Petrie, Paul Helm and Paulene Dey. Sue Mack and several additional club members contributed filler materials for the tree.

Planning for this year’s tree began in March.



This year’s affiliate club tree theme is storybooks — not necessarily Christmas stories. Planning meetings were hosted by Jane at her home. Then came the challenge of accumulating the story’s characters, many of which were sourced by Jane. The tracking ribbon was hand-printed by Fran; Rosanne created the framed text disks that lead baby bird (and viewers) to follow it up the tree to the nest with mother bird. Thanks to everyone involved in this project, this tree is one of the best we have created and will surely be a favorite of visitors to the Garden in 2024!



PORCH POTS CREATED BY MEMBERS AT NOVEMBER 14th MEETING

From a mélange of contributed greens, dried florals, seed pods and accessories, members created beautiful winter porch pot arrangements that will last the whole season, providing cheerful accents to their porches and entrances.



2024 Hostesses

December 12 (Holiday Potluck Luncheon)
Marlene Helm
Paul Helm
Dianna Kulwicki
Cheryl Schmidt

When you go to the store for
things that aren't plants but
you see plants over there



2025 Hostesses

January 9 Gail Berzins
Mary Drumm
Maureen Michal

February 13 Dianna Kulwicki
Fran McIntyre
Joan Castelucci

March 13 Marlene Winter
Shirley Grispino
Lisa Schieman

April 10 Marlene Helm
Paul Helm
Pauline Dey

June 12 Laurie Siebert
Rosanne Radziewicz
Sung Gullifer

September 11 Pat Cotsman
Mary Ellen Isaac
Debbie Apple

November 13 Donna Hessel
Denise Bowler
Nathalie Petri

December 11 Cheryl Schmidt
Anne Morrison
Sheila Humphrey

The Newsletter deadline is always the 25th of the month.

Please email articles to amorrison05@icloud.com or mail them to Anne Morrison. (See Yearbook for address).
Gardening tips, websites to browse, and recipes always welcome.



Emerald Necklace Garden Club is a member of
Garden Club of Ohio, Inc., (Cleveland District) affiliated with National Garden Clubs, Inc.
www.gardenclubofohio.org



www.gardenclub.org

