

Emerald Necklace Garden Club

March 2025
Newsletter

2025 General Meeting Schedule *

March 13
April 10
May 9 (Friday)
June 12
September 11
October 9
November 13
December 11

2025 ENGC Board Meetings**

March 10	September 8
April 7	October 6
May 5	November 10
June 9	December 8

* 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:

May 9 - Plant Sale set up
May 10 - Plant Sale
June 12 - Field Trip

President's Message - Nathalie Petri

Thank you to the members who helped winter sow seeds for our rain garden project after February's meeting. This will help reduce the number of plants that will need to be purchased. With a plot 30' x 40' that will be a lot of plants! Also, Debbie & Donna worked on submitting 2 more applications for grants.

Seeds of Friendship - March will be the last meeting to bring your seeds for donation. I recently learned I will have to mail our donation to the GCO contact before April 1st. Bush green beans, green cabbage, onions, green peppers, tomatoes, cosmos and zinnias are the only accepted seeds.

I recently read the book, *Bicycling with Butterflies: My 10,201 Mile Journey Following the Monarch Migration* by Sara Dykman. This is a true story of her bike journey from Mexico where the monarchs hibernate in the winter up to Canada and back again! It's a fun and interesting read. It further enforces my passion for why to plant more native plants, reduce lawns and pesticide usage. Not only for the monarchs but all the insects, bees, butterflies and birds.

“Together, many miles create an adventure. Together, many gardens produce solutions. Our collective voices add up to change.” (Quote from the book.)

Nathalie

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

For our March 13th program we are fortunate to host Renee Boronka, the Director of conservation, education AND outreach of the Western Reserve Land Conservancy.

You say, "What the Devil is That?" That is what will be revealed by Renee during our program in an understandable dialog, beginning before 11am.

Wonderful opportunity to know about the valuable land which surrounds us and the WRLC that protects it for us.

Doors are open to guests, as always.

Jane and Marlene W.

Cleveland Botanical Garden/Holden Forests and Gardens - Jane Petrie

CBG AFFILIATE DAY is Thursday, APRIL 17
9:30AM-12:00PM

Guest Speaker: Scott Beuerlein, Head Horticulturist at the Cincinnati Zoo
Topic: Favorite Plants from Famous Gardens.

Registration until April 8th; Fee \$15

The Orchid Show runs until March 30th

Looking for something for young people this summer? Check out Day Camp program!!!

Questions? Contact Jane.

Jane Petrie

Plant History

Cardinal flower was introduced to Europe in the mid 1620s. It earned its common name from the similarity to the bright red vestments of the Roman Catholic Cardinals.

Native Americans used it primarily for medicinal purposes. Some tribes incorporated them into ceremonial use or love charms.

They are great attractors for hummingbirds, which are their primary pollinators.

2nd Vice Presidents - Marlene Helm, Paul Helm and Sung Gullifer

2025 Annual Plant Sale - Planning Meeting on March 13, 2025

As most of you are aware, the plant sale is only a little over two months away. We would like to hold a planning meeting to discuss and decide on the activities and the actions to be carried out on the day of the sale to have a successful plant sale. The meeting is scheduled on March 13th right after the general meeting.

Section

Lead(s)

Plants

Nathalie Petri and Denise Bowler

Garden Decor

Shirley Grispino

Setting up tables/Overall Layouts

Gail Berzins and Sung Gullifer

Maintenance

Cheryl Schmidt

Signage/Advertising

Donna Hessel

Pay Station Logistics

Jane Petrie

All section leads, please plan on attending the meeting and any members who is interested in the planning of the plant sale are also welcome.

* We also ask that all members collect various sizes of cartons from the warehouse or grocery stores and bring them the day of the sale for the customers to use.

Thank you,
Marlene, Paul and Sung



Horticulture - Pat Cotsman

When the snow and cold weather go away (can't be soon enough for me) check your perennials for frost heaving. This happens when the soil is wet and day temps are above freezing but night temps below 32 degrees. Ice crystals form in the top layer of soil and your plants can be pushed or heaved out of the soil. Fall planted ones are susceptible as they may not have put down anchoring roots. It also happens to shallow rooted specimens. I've noticed it happens to my Heucheras. If you see this has happened, try to gently push the plant back into your soil or cover its roots with more soil so the roots don't dry out and die.

You can cut branches of Spring flowering shrubs and trees now and bring them inside to force the bloom. Pussy Willows and Forsythia work well for this. Others to try are Flowering Crabs, Quince, Magnolia, Redbud and fruit trees. You can use branches you would prune off anyway such as crossing branches and ones too crowded. Cut them when the temp is above 32, recut the stem inside at a steep angle and put in warm water. They don't need sunlight, just a warm spot. When the buds start to open, arrange in a vase and enjoy a bit of Spring.

If you didn't clean up your perennial beds in the Fall, now is the time to do it. If you have ornamental grasses, it's best to remove the dead leaves before new ones start growing. You can scatter compost or fertilizer on your perennial beds now. Just remember natives and some cultivars do best in lean soil. They overgrow with too much Nitrogen and sprawl all over. Take note of any plants that need dividing or have self seeded. You can donate these to friends or our plant sale.

Think Spring!
Pat

Happy Birthday!

Barbara Harvatt

Gail Berzins

Marleen Winter

Charlene Schuh

Sunshine News - Shirley Grispino

If you are aware of any sunshine news throughout the year, please contact our 2025 Corresponding Secretary, Shirley Grispino.

Marlyn Cerino, a former member, passed away on February 15th. She joined ENGC in 2011.

Joy Grad went to Michigan for vacation.

Mary Drumm visited Florence and Peru.

Marlene Winter explored Italy and France.

Denise Bowler toured Italy, Croatia and Sicily.

Rosanne Radziewicz had fun in Florida and Walt Disney World.

Shirley Grispino went to North Carolina and South Carolina as well as Georgia.

Sustainable is Attainable!

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

Members Making Their Mark

Donna Hessel has been a contributing writer for *Thrive After 55* for the last three years. After submitting a gardening article, hoping for a ENGC mention, she was invited to write a monthly blog for their website.

Her blog, *Gardening Sweet Spots*, can be accessed through their website northeastohiothrive.com. Her articles are sometimes republished in *The Beat*, the email newsletter and their free magazine, which are distributed to over 700 outlets, including Marcs, Drug Mart, and Giant Eagle.

And of course, she made sure there's a mention of ENGC in every article.

Articles can also be accessed from the ENGC website on the contact page. Make sure to check it out!

LET'S INVITE OUR COMMUNITY TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK THIS YEAR

The National Garden Club, of which ENGC is a member, designates the first week of June every year as National Garden Week. It is a week to generate interest in gardening, garden clubs and pride in our community.

It's a perfect opportunity for our club to promote our programs, projects and membership. We have reserved a display area for June 1-7 at the Brecksville library where we will hang the NGC poster along with pictures of selected ENGC events. Our membership information will be included as well.

We are hoping to sponsor a children's gardening workshop and/or a special event for adults during that week. Additional publicity is planned for local publications.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! We need suggestions for workshops, groups we might work with, activities to involve the community, or other ways we can celebrate National Garden Week. We will be asking for volunteers at the March meeting to plan with us and help with whatever is ultimately planned for the week, plus installing and monitoring the library display.

A successful plant sale will be behind us, and the summer stretches ahead. Let's begin it with a bang and make it memorable!

Donna Hessel



Around Town

Fun classes, workshops and good deals offered around town. Please check in advance for any class pre-registration requirements. Find one? Send it in!

Native plant seed mixes available year round through Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District packaged by OPN Seed

BOGO 50% Off Indoor Plants, going on now, Petitti's Garden Center

Seed Library Location: Watershed Stewardship Center, Parma; while supplies last

Fragrance In the Garden! So Many Benefits!; Mar 1, 11AM; Gales Garden Centers Westlake Location

Winter Wildlife Wonders; Mar 2, 2PM; Mentor Marsh; Cleveland Museum of Natural History

Maple Sugaring; Mar 4, 5PM; Maple Grove Picnic Area, Cleveland Metroparks

A Garden Party for Butterflies: How to Be an Ideal Host; Mar 8th, 10AM Cleveland Heights; Friends of Heights Parks and the Cleveland Heights Parks & Recreation Department

The 10 Essentials of Vegetable Gardening!; Mar 8, 11AM; Gales Garden Centers Westlake Location

Master Rain Gardener Course: Late Winter In-Person; Mar 11th-Apr 1, 2PM; Highland Heights Community Center; NEO Master Rain Gardeners

Zoom into Nature: Preparing for Spring; Mar 11, 6:30PM; online; Western Reserve Land Conservancy

Planting for the Planet 101; Mar 12, 12PM; Online; Cleveland Audubon

Don't Be Left in the Dark On Houseplants!; Mar 15, 11AM; Gales Garden Centers Westlake Location

Wildlife Folklore Evenings; Mar 26, 7PM; Brecksville, Cleveland Metroparks

Rain Gardens; Mar 27, 6PM; Akron-Summit County Public Library, Richfield Branch; Richfield; Summit Soil and Water Conservation District

18th Ohio Botanical Symposium; Mar 28, 9AM; Columbus, OH; The Nature Conservancy, Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, The Ohio State University Herbarium and Western Reserve Land Conservancy *will be recorded and available to watch after event, no live stream

Seed Swap; Mar 29, 11:30AM; Bath; Crown Point Ecology Center

Looking for Lichen; Mar 29, 3PM; Strongsville Wildlife Area; Cleveland Metroparks

Pre-Order Plants now available through Prairie Moon Nursery

2025 CSA shares now available through Crown Point Ecology. USDA certified organic.

2025 Hostesses

March 13	Sheila Humphrey Shirley Grispino Lisa Schieman
April 10	Marlene Helm Paul Helm Pauline Dey
June 12	Laurie Siebert Rosanne Radziewicz
September 11	Pat Cotsman Mary Ellen Isaac Debbie Apple
November 13	Donna Hessel Denise Bowler Nathalie Petri
December 11	Cheryl Schmidt Anne Morrison Marlene Winter Sung Gullifer

Tell Your Friends and Neighbors!



While native plant gardens are gaining in popularity, our understanding about how important they truly are continues to grow. Here are a few programs that help spread the word within our communities.

The National Wildlife Fund has attractive signs to certify your garden as a place friendly to wildlife.

<https://www.nwf.org/Native-Plant-Habitats/Create-and-Certify>

Wild Ones Greater Cleveland has an interactive map of their Pollinator Corridor which really helps with visualizing the impact that native planting could have for pollinators.

<https://greatercleveland.wildones.org/northeast-ohio-native-habitat-corridor/>

Homegrown National Park has lots of resources including talks and articles by Doug Tallamy. They even offer preplanned native gardens.

<https://homegrownnationalpark.org/doug-tallamy/>

Don't forget to check for and remove those invasive species! They can outcompete emerging native plants in just a few years and are hard to get rid of once established.

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

Please email articles to amorrison05@icloud.com to Anne Morrison. 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