

Emerald Necklace Garden Club

June 2025
Newsletter

2025 General Meeting Schedule

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|--------------|-------------|
| June 12 | November 13 |
| September 11 | December 11 |
| October 9 | |

2025 ENGC Board Meetings**

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|-------------|-------------|
| June 9 | November 10 |
| September 8 | December 8 |
| October 6 | |

* 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:

June 5 - NGW Program, Brecksville Library, 11AM
June 6 - NGW Marigold Planting at Montessori School, 9AM-12PM
June 8 - Booth at St. Basil's, 12PM
June 12 - Field Trip (Mulberry Herb Farm)
June 17-19 - GCO Convention, Canton
August 11 - Pressed Flowers Craft Brecksville Library, 7PM
September 28 - Fall Fest
November 17 - Youth Story Time and Craft, Brecksville Library, 4PM

President's Message - Nathalie Petri

Wow, I can't believe it's June! I guess the saying is true, time flies when you're having fun. We've had 3 interesting speakers this first half of the year. A well executed successful 2025 plant sale. Thank you to everyone! Plus gained 6 new members! Please make them feel welcome, introduce yourself and help them get comfortable with our procedures.

June kicks off with National Garden Week June 1-7. It is about bringing more awareness to the importance of gardening and preserving gardening traditions and practices by passing on knowledge to new gardeners. Our first event is at the Brecksville library on Thursday, June 5 at 11:15 with a garden presentation by Bryan Stowe. Be sure to come and support the club and welcome the public. On Friday at 9AM we will be planting marigolds and talking about pollinators with kids at South Suburban Montessori School in Brecksville. Please come and help answer their questions.

Our first youth project is Sunday, June 8 at St. Basil the Great picnic at noon. We will repeat the marigold theme. Followed by our field trip to Mulberry Creek nursery on June 12. The fun continues and time flies by!

Nathalie

Horticulture - Pat Cotsman

To keep your hanging baskets and containers looking good all summer, you need to feed them regularly. I prefer a liquid fertilizer every 2 weeks. Use a bloom builder formula (more phosphate) for flowering things. For plants grown for foliage use a formula with more nitrogen (the first # of the 3 listed on your product) Certain plants prefer an acid fertilizer. These include tuberous begonias and ferns. You might need to prune back aggressive growers so they don't overwhelm others in your pots. If things are getting leggy in late July you can cut them back before fertilizing. They will send out new growth that is bushy in about a week.

Since we have had a cold wet May things should be getting warmer in June. It is time to plant Zinnias, cukes, squash, pole beans, bush beans and corn. These may rot or not thrive in cold wet soil. Pay attention when you buy plants. If they came out of a warm greenhouse and you put them out in a cold windy rainy garden things may go downhill fast. Protect them in a sheltered spot and put them into the garage if night temps are chilly. In a few days they will acclimate themselves to the new conditions. This process is known as "hardening off" and basically plants put more sugar into their sap to be able to ward off cold.

Where we live the soil is generally clay. It is a fertile soil that holds moisture but will compact and not drain well. Natives are generally fine with this. To make your garden more friable add compost or humus. Adding sand is a recipe for cement! Top dressing with shredded leaves in the Fall will do wonderful things for your beds. It feeds soil organisms and provides shelter for beneficial insects or their eggs. It intermixes with the clay molecules and creates better drainage and lets roots penetrate easily.

A couple of natives for clay soil are Amelanchier. It is a large bush or small tree with white flowers in Spring. This is followed by blue berries that birds love in Summer. Another bush is American Beautyberry. Deer don't eat it and it has lovely shiny magenta berries in Fall. Birds love these. The leaves turn yellow in Fall. There is a cultivar that has pale pink berries (Welch's pink). Baptisia does fine in clay soil and there are lots of colors on the market to choose from, white, yellow, pink, mixtures of these and the standard purple. It is a long lived perennial and isn't bothered by insects.

Have a good Summer,
Pat

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

Looking forward to our June 12th Field Trip! We will meet at church parking lot 9:15AM and leave at 9:30AM. Maps will be provided to Mulberry Herb Farm in Huron. Once there, we will hear a brief talk about the wonderful world of herbs, followed by looking and shopping! Our prepared box lunches can be eaten in the sitting area in their new wine bistro .

Marlene or I can still take reservations and lunch (\$18) orders up to June 10th.

This is a delightful nursery to visit and share with friends. Do join us if you haven't made a decision yet.

We will be car pooling!!!!

This is our last meeting until we have a program in September.

Jane and Marlene W.

Youth Committee - Sheila Humphrey

Please start pressing flowers and leaves for use at our Pressed Flowers craft at the library in August. Thank you!

Sunshine News - Shirley Grispingo

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

Congratulations to everyone who helped out with the Plant Sale. We really showed off our talents.

Get well to *Pat Cotsman*. She had an injury to her left hand.

Happy Birthday



Kathy Pierce
Shirley Grispingo
Mary Drumm
Cheryl Schmidt
Ginny Little
Christine Glick
Laurie Siebert

National Garden Week

ENGCC will celebrate National Garden Week, June 1-7, with several events. The week is about enjoying gardening, increasing awareness of its role in beautifying our yards and neighborhoods, of preserving gardening tradition, introducing sustainable practices and encouraging new gardeners to “dig in.”



Plan to join ENGCC members and community residents on Thursday, June 5th at 11:15 at the Brecksville library to hear Bryan Stowe’s presentation on “Native Plants for Your Garden.” Bryan will make recommendations for ground covers to small trees that will improve your garden and the environment. He is Brecksville’s horticulturist and has worked in the green industry for nearly 20 years. He has a degree in conservation from Kent State, graduated from the Davey Tree Management Program and is an ISA Certified Arborist. **Please register** for the presentation on the library website or at 440-526-1102. Bring your ENGCC business cards – it’s an excellent opportunity to meet people with an interest in gardening and maybe in joining our garden club. There will also be a display in the library featuring ENGCC activities and membership information. The Mayor has issued a very complimentary Proclamation, which will be on display in the library.

ENGCC members will assist first through third graders at South Suburban Montessori School on Friday, June 6th, 9 to 12 AM, to plant a marigold to add to a home garden. Students will also hear a story about how seeds grow and take home a coloring page with information about the benefits of marigolds. If you signed up to help with this project, please arrive at the school before 9 AM. Each group will meet for half an hour. Thanks to Pauline and Sheila for coordinating this event! The marigold planting activity will be repeated on Sunday, June 8th from Noon to 2 PM at St. Basil’s family picnic.

Research has shown that gardening reduces stress and promotes longevity. Please plan to join in the celebration of National Garden Week this year.

Rain Garden

We are excited to share we have been selected for a 2025 Epsoma Organic Plant America Grant for up to \$250 of Epsoma Organics products for our project. The original submission with follow up photos and details will then be used to determine their “Best of the Best” category with the winner awarded up to \$500 cash prize at the 2025 National Convention.

Below is the information on our meeting about the rain garden. Please note our short walk will be through grass. A sign up sheet will be passed at the June field trip. Hope to see you there!

COMMUNITY CENTER RAIN GARDEN RENOVATION PRESENTATION JULY 10th ~ 9:30 AM at the SPLASH PAD PAVILION



Emerald Necklace Garden Club (ENGCC), in collaboration with Broadview Heights (BH) Service Department and Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD), will renovate the rain garden located near the playground on the BH Community Center acreage.

Nichole Lopez from the CSWCD will share information on the purpose of rain gardens, their conservation benefits, plans for the BH renovation and the plants that will be included in the garden.

Attendees can view the renovation in progress with a short walk to the garden area.

Blue Star Memorial Garden

Help is still needed to keep the Memorial Garden looking nice, especially for the months of September and October. A sign up sheet will be available at the June field trip. The maintenance expectation is general weeding (thistles seem to like this area). Please bring weeding tools and gloves. A watering can full of water would also be helpful if possible. If not, no problem.

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!

Bath Tour of Distinctive Homes; June 1-12; Virtual, Bath Volunteers for Service

Annual Plant Sale, ongoing to mid June (until sold out) Sundays-Fridays 10AM-6PM; Wadsworth; County Line Family Farm

Sow and Grow Farm Festival and Plant Sale; June 7-8, 10AM-4PM; Bath; Hale Farm & Village

Hudson Home and Garden Tour; June 13, 10AM-7PM & June 14, 10AM-4PM; Hudson; Hudson Garden Club

Native Plant Sales: Saturdays - June 14, 21, 28 10AM-4PM, Sundays- June 15, 22, 29 1-4PM; Oenslager Nature Center; Friends of Medina County Parks

Prairie Exploration: Bees, Beetles, and Butterflies; June 20, 1-2:30PM; Brecksville Reservation; Cleveland Metroparks

Summit County Master Gardeners 2025 Tour of Gardens; June 21, 9AM-4PM; Summit County; Jones Group Interiors, Inc and Summit County Master Gardener Volunteers

Meadow City Nursery Pop Up & Native Home Garden; June 21, 10AM-2PM; 18820 Shelburne Rd, Shaker Heights; host Ann Cicarella

Lookin' for Lichens; June 21, 10AM-12PM; Brecksville Reservation; Cleveland Metroparks

EverGreen EverBlue 2025; June 27, 6-11PM; private home on Lake Erie; Western Reserve Land Conservancy

Our Northern Shrubs; June 28, 10-11:30AM; Brecksville Nature Center; Cleveland Metroparks

The older I get the more I understand why roosters just scream to start their day.



Missing your table cloths from the Plant Sale?

Nathalie will bring them to the June field trip. Or feel free to contact her!



Eat Your Weeds!

Garlic Mustard is highly invasive. It spreads by seed which can remain viable in the soil for several years. They are a biennial which look rounder and more rosette in form the first year and produce a stalk with flowers the second year.

Pull the entire plant, bag it and put in the garbage. Make sure it doesn't go into compost. Don't get discouraged if it comes up again. It can take up to 5 years to eradicate in an area.

It's long work but worth it to improve the health of our eco system.

It is often thought of as an "eat it to beat it" weed as its leaves are edible and many people make the young, more tender leaves into a pesto. Make sure any plants intended for eating are identified correctly, and cleaned thoroughly.

Find more information through The Nature Conservancy, at www.nature.org.



2025 Hostesses

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|--------------|--|
| 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 |

Lemon Balm Lemonade

Many probably know, lemon balm is part of the mint family and loves to take over. Keep it in check and make something delicious!

- Filtered water
- 1 cup fresh lemon balm leaves
- 1 3/4 cups local honey (less if you prefer less sweet)
- 2 cups lemon juice
- 2 cups (or more) ice cubes

Bring to cups filtered water to a boil. Turn off the heat and add lemon balm. Cover with a lid and allow to steep for 15-20 minutes. Strain into a pitcher and allow to cool a few minutes before adding honey. Mix until completely dissolved. Add 2 cups ice, lemon juice and 2-4 cups of cool water (depending on desired strength) and stir..

More ideas for lemon balm:

- Pesto
- Tea (dry leaves for future use)
- Infused simple syrup
- Candied lemon balm leaves
- Cakes and cookies
- Ice cream, sorbet, and granitas
- So many more!

There are so many interesting ways to use lemon balm. It's a good thing there's usually enough to try them all!



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

Please email articles to amorrison05@icloud.com.

Gardening tips, websites to browse, and recipes 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

