

**EMERALD NECKLACE  
GARDEN CLUB**

*Year in Review*

**2025**



## *January*

### *“2024 Year In Review”*



Donna Hessel, ENGCH Historian, presented a power point highlighting club activities and events throughout 2024.

February 13

*Foster Brown, Naturalist, Brecksville Metropark*

Foster Brown shared the fascinating history of coffee and chocolate



Coffee beans were discovered in 800 AD by a shepherd whose sheep were energized by consuming coffee beans. In 2024, 2.25 billion cups of coffee were consumed daily in the world. \$75.2 billion was spent on coffee. Cocoa originated in 1400 BC in Honduras. In the 1800s, the British made it into bars, but only the rich could afford them. Milton Hershey, in PA, wanted the product to be for everyone. His bars and other forms are now the most sold chocolate in the world.



*March 13*

*Renee Boronka, Director of Conservation Education & Outreach,  
Western Reserve Land Conservancy*



Western Reserve Land Conservancy's work is regarded as **transformative**. The organization protects beautiful natural landscapes that make Ohio special for now and for future generations. On family farms that stretch back generations, they supplement and sustain fertile soils now and for the future. In communities plagued by blight and decay, they partner with neighbors to connect and improve.

Western Reserve Land Conservancy's sophisticated and creative staff works alongside passionate and visionary partners to tackle the most pressing conservation priorities of our region.

*April 10*

*Bill Hendricks, , Past President of Klyn Farm and  
Current Advisor to Petitti Family Farms*



## **“Succulents in Our Gardens”**

Bill Hendricks was president of Klyn Farms in Perry, Ohio from 1987 to 2010 where he grew 1,850 species of plants sold to wholesalers, distributors and retailers. Bill shared tips on how to include succulents in our gardens.

Some tips he shared:

- Grow succulents in a well-drained mix
- Do not overwater
- Fertilize at half rate April to September
- Succulents like sun or bright light
- Indoor temperatures are fine

*May  
Plant Sale & Garden Faire  
Potting Up Day, April 28th*



Members gathered at Pat Cotsman's garden to pot up perennials for the plant sale on May 10<sup>th</sup>.



*May 9  
Plant Sale & Garden Faire  
Set-up Day*

All members participated in setting up the plant sale at the United Methodist Church in Brecksville.



*May 10  
Plant Sale & Garden Faire  
Sale Day*



*June 1-7*  
*ENGC Celebrated National Garden Week*

A display of ENGC activities and Bryan Stowe, Brecksville Horticulturist's presentation "Native Plants for Your Garden" highlighted the week. Members helped South Suburban Montessori School students plant marigolds and learn how seeds grow.



*June 8th*  
*ENG C Sponsored a Garden Craft*  
*at St Basil the Great Family Picnic*

Children planted a marigold in a paper cup and played the seed identifying game. It was a very rainy day but 50 marigolds were planted.



## Broadview Hts. Rain Garden Renovation



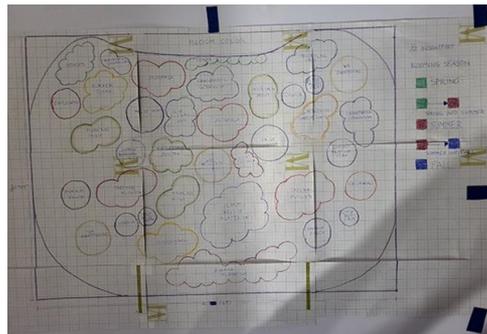
Rain Garden "before"  
Discovered in October, 2024



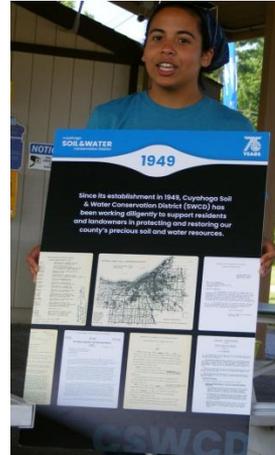
June 6<sup>th</sup> – ENGC won \$250 Espoma grant! Picking up materials from Bath Petitti's with rep



March 10<sup>th</sup> – Presentation of renovation plant plan to Service Dept. and site review



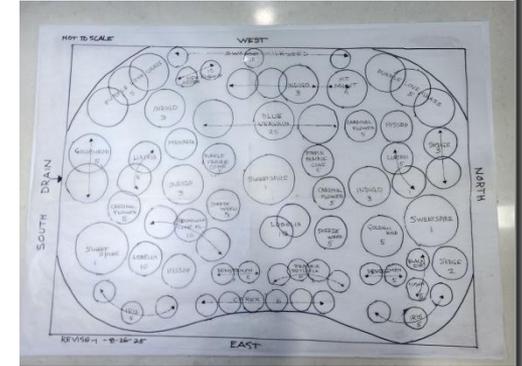
*Broadview Hts. Rain Garden Renovation  
July 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting at Rain Garden with Nicole Lopez from CSWCD Presenting*



*Broadview Hts. Rain Garden Renovation  
August 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting to Revise Planting Plan*



The garden planting layout was revised to accommodate the plant plugs being shipped from CSWCD and those that were grown by members. The plan will provide a guide for a planting day in September.



*September 18<sup>th</sup> – Planting Day and a new sign for the garden*



*June 12th*  
*Field Trip to Mulberry Creek Farm in Huron, OH*

Members shopped for herbs and plants for their gardens. Karen Langan, owner, shared information on cosmetic and culinary herb preparations. Next generation owner Ben Langan promoted the new winery and tasting opportunities at Mulberry. A delicious lunch catered by Jane Petrie and Marlene Winter was enjoyed on the winery patio.



*June 18th*  
*Garden Club of Ohio Awards Luncheon*

Debbie Apple, Nathalie Petri, Maureen Michal and Rosanne Radziewicz represented. ENGC. The club received eleven awards from Garden Club of Ohio and a Certificate of Commendation from National Garden Clubs.



Award	Project	Submitted by
<b>National Garden Club Certificate of Commendation</b>	<b>ENGCC Website</b>	<b>Donna Hessel</b>
	<b>Garden Club of Ohio Awards</b>	
First Place-Publications	Website	Donna Hessel
First Place-Garden Club Youth	Fall Fest	Maureen Michal
Second Place-Wildlife Survival	St. Basil - Owls	Sheila Humphrey
Second Place-Small Holiday Project	Cleveland Botanical Garden Holiday Tree	Jane Petrie
Second Place-Horticultural, Environmental & Conservation	Stepping Stones Preschool Butterfly Project	Pauline Dey
Second Place-Publications	Newsletter	Anne Morrison
Second Place-Publications	Card -Bookmarks	Donna Hessel
Third Place-Publications	Facebook Page	Donna Hessel
Third Place-Holiday Project	Chippewa Place Tea & Tree	Jane Petrie
Third Place	Publicity Press Book	Donna Hessel
Honorable Mention	Yearbook	Donna Hessel

In an email to club members following the luncheon, Nathalie thanked the dedicated members who chaired the various projects and everyone for their energy, enthusiasm and hard work in making ENGC a club with purpose.

*ENGC's Cleveland Botanical Garden Holiday Tree ~ 'A Rose is a Rose is a Rose'  
July 11<sup>th</sup> Planning Meeting and Rose Making Demo*



August 11

*Brecksville Library ~ Pressed Flower Workshop*

Sheila Humphrey conducted a pressed flower workshop for adults on August 11th, with assistance from members Nathalie Petri, Maureen Michal and Denise Bowler and Debbie Apple. Participants selected flowers from a wide assortment to make cards and bookmarks.



*ENG C's Cleveland Botanical Garden Holiday Tree ~ 'A Rose is a Rose is a Rose'*  
*August 27<sup>th</sup> Ornament Making Workshop*

ENG C members met on August 27<sup>th</sup> to make paper roses and leaf garlands for the tree decorations



Leaf garland sample



Some finished roses

*September 11*  
*Rachel Carson and "Silent Spring"*

An actor from Women in History portrayed Rachel Carson, born in 1907. She presented an entrancing story of her life that led to the writing of "*Silent Spring*." While many of us had read the book, we did not know anything of the rest of her life. So it was interesting to learn about her loving nature walks with her mother growing up, her creative writing while in school and why she switched from a writing major to a biology major as a college junior. She was particularly fascinated by life under the sea and wrote books and articles on that subject.

When the deadly effects of DDT and radiation became apparent, she began writing articles that were published in the *New Yorker* magazine, preceding the publishing of the book in 1962.



She raised her departed sister's son while writing the book and battling cancer. Thanks to her perseverance and testimony, the EPA was ultimately formed and DDT was banned from use. She died at 52 in 1964.

*October 9*  
*Kim Hawkins, Cuyahoga Master Gardener*



Kim Hawkins told members about the many activities in which the Cuyahoga County MGs are involved, including Hotline Callback Service and Hotline on the Road, which answers gardeners' questions. MGs' main mission is to provide members of the community with research-based information on a wide range of horticultural and gardening topics. Its members volunteer to make library presentations and assist in community gardens such as those at Ben Franklin school. They also provide garden therapy at Judson Manor and Cleveland Clinic. Kim also provided details on how to become a Master Gardener.

*November 10*  
*ENG C Members Created Porch Pots*



Members brought evergreen branches, berry branches, dried hydrangeas and other florals, ribbon and seasonal decorations to share for the creation of seasonal porch pots. Two pots were also created for the entrance of the Lutheran church where ENG C holds its meetings.



Pots created for the church have new ribbons for December.

*November 11*  
*Brecksville Library Children's Workshop -- Making Pumpkins*

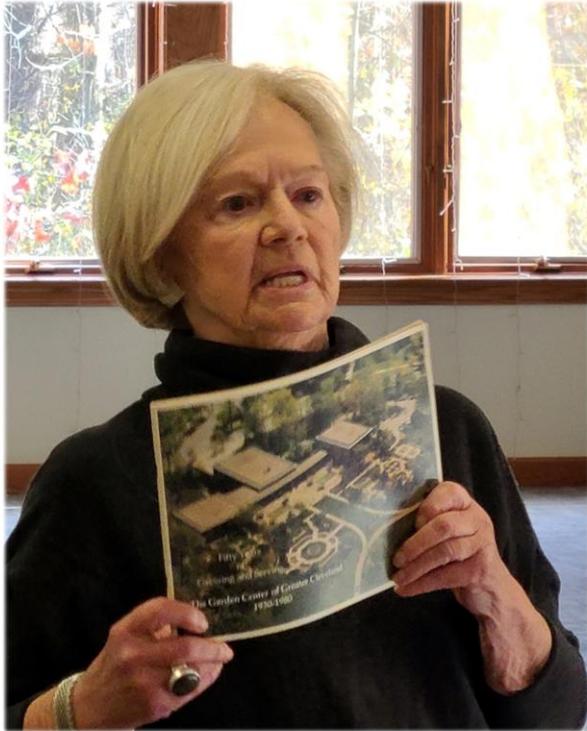


On November 18<sup>th</sup>, Sheila Humphrey and some ENGC members helped children make 3D pumpkins to celebrate the fall season. The workshop took place at the Brecksville Library.



*November 13*

*Jane Petrie, ENGC Program Co-Chair, Presented Two Favorite Books*



Jane reviewed a publication by the Botanical Garden that details its history some members recalled began with a library in a boathouse in 1930 and evolved over the years into the museum we know today. *“Earth On Her Hands”* tells the story of multiple female senior gardeners’ gardens and how their gardens began and grew. Both books are fascinating and are recommended reading!

*November 16*  
*ENG's Tree for the "Frost" Holiday Celebration Installed*



The birdcage topper was the first to go up on the 10-foot tree, followed by the paper and crocheted roses. Babysbreath filled in all the gaps and ribbons with the tree's theme written on them were the final touch.



*December 4*  
*Chippewa Place Sr. Living "Tree and Tea"*



ENGCC members hosted a tea party and tree decorating event for residents at Chippewa Place – an eagerly anticipated annual event that Jane Petrie initiated in 2017.

Homemade cookies and tea sandwiches contributed by ENGCC members, seasonal candy and fruit were enjoyed by residents, who supervised the tree decorating.



*December 11*  
*ENGC Holiday Celebration*



Ryan York from Tri-C was a special guest. He described how ENGC's donation to Tri-C's Plant Science and Landscape Tech program benefited students who went to the competition. Members contributed books that will be donated to The Book Barn.

Pauline Dey installed ENGC 2026 officers. Each officer received a flower representative of the responsibilities of their office. The bouquet held by Pauline was for Nathalie Petri, president, who was unable to attend the luncheon. The installation followed a delicious potluck luncheon at Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church.





*It was a very busy and beneficial 2025.  
2026 holds the promise of opportunities  
for both personal and ENGC growth with  
many events and activities already on the calendar.*

*You are invited to be an active participant!*