

Emerald Necklace Garden Club

March 2026
Newsletter

2026 General Meeting Schedule*

March 12
April 9
May 14
June 11
September 10
October 8
November 12
December 10

2026 ENGC Board Meetings**

March 9	September 8 (Tuesday)
April 6	October 5
May 11	November 9
June 8	December 7

* 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 at 10AM, same location, unless noted.

Save the Dates:

April - Meeting held at Parma Powers Branch of Cuyahoga Library
May - Field Trip to Crown Point Ecology Center
May 8 - Plant Sale Set Up 1-5PM
May 9 - Plant Sale 8Am-4PM, doors open at 9AM
June - Field Trip to Cleveland Garden Center

President's Message - Nathalie Petri

Greetings Members! March another month closer to Spring! This cold winter has really got me anxious for Spring this year. To help get through the remaining winter I've planted a few seeds inside. A new one for me is geranium. For some strange reason I never thought this plant could be grown from seed by a home gardener. I planted 10 seeds (that's all that came in the package) and 2 days later 3 of them have sprouted! Now up to 9! I'm happy 😊.

A few reminders and info: March is the last month we will be collecting for Seeds of Friendship. This year is cash only. I will have a bag labeled for your donation. Marlene & Paul are working hard at organizing for our Plant Sale in May. Please step up and volunteer your time for one of the positions. The rain garden team has worked hard to put together a grant application to the Plant a Future for \$5000. Hopefully we will hear from them in May. Pauline submitted a grant to Plant America for our Memorial garden & has been approved for \$154.00! Our plan is to put a red, white and blue container planter together using an AquaPot insert to help reduce watering needs.

Sad news is Anne Morrison is resigning her responsibility of the newsletter and the club. Her family needs have become more demanding recently and had to make a tough decision. Thank you Anne for your service to the club and please attend when you can. We will miss you! I hope to see the rest of you on March 12th. There will be an interesting program on Roses plus I'm sure you want to hear how my geraniums are doing!

Nathalie

Did You Know ...

Skunk Cabbage is Amazing!

Its unpleasant scent makes it unappealing to grazing mammals but appetizing to insects who transport its pollen.

The meaty coloring attracts flies and beetles, its main pollinators.

Skunk cabbages make a great spot for tree frogs to use as a hunting blind for insects. They often sit inside waiting for lunch,

If conditions are stable a single plant can live for over 200 years.

Skunk cabbages metabolically produce their own heat up to 70 degrees; a process called thermogenesis.

Programs - 1st Vice Presidents - Fran McIntyre and Lisa Schieman

The March speaker will be Stuart Kline, Trustee with Cleveland Rose Society. He will share his experience and expertise with regard to growing and caring for roses.

The Cleveland Rose Society was founded in 1932, the first organized group to meet at Cleveland Botanical Garden (then the Cleveland Garden Center). Early rose shows at a downtown department store took up a whole floor. Shows are now held at Holden Forest & Gardens twice a year.

Sunshine News - Shirley Grispino

If you are aware of any sunshine news throughout the year, please contact our 2026 Corresponding Secretary, Shirley Grispino.

Send your get well wishes to Jane Petrie.

She found out she has lung cancer.

Praying for you.

Congratulations to Renee's granddaughter, Skye for earning the Jimmy Stewart Medal.

Shirley G.

Sustainable is Attainable!

**Bring your own coffee cup to
ENG C meetings!**

Horticulture - Pat Cotsman

With the longer hours of daylight it is now time to start fertilizing your house plants. They should be coming out of a winter dormant period unless you use grow lights. Now is the time to repot if needed and divide ones that are overcrowded.

Outside, March is a good time to fertilize fruit trees, young trees, shrubs and perennials. Most healthy large specimens don't need additional fertilizer. There are specific fertilizers for different types of trees. For my trees I use spikes pounded into the area of the dripline. I have some targeted for fruit trees and some for evergreens. I don't fertilize large shade trees if they seem healthy.

If you grow Hydrangea Macrophylla (mopheads) you can influence the color of the flowers. My clay soil turns them pink so if I want the lovely blue color I have to apply aluminum sulphate or fertilizer for blue hydrangeas. Fertilizer applied as buds are breaking and again as flower buds are forming really helps your shrubs to put on a nice floral display. You can't influence bloom color in other types of hydrangeas such as Annabel, Oakleaf, Peegee, Tardiva or climbing.

Most perennials like to have fertilizer available when they break dormancy. I like to scatter fertilizer in March before a predicted rainy day. If you grow native cultivars, they don't require fertilizer and applying a high nitrogen fertilizer will make them grow lushly and flop over.

Certain flower seeds can be sown in late March. Things like poppies, larkspur, calendula, alyssum, and cleome need a bit of chilling to germinate well. In the vegetable garden you can plant onion sets, spinach, lettuce, and peas. Peas need good drainage and need to be planted early as they don't do well in warm temps. Spinach starts to bloom in temps. in the high 70's and above. This is called bolting and once it happens the plants want to make seeds not the leaves we grow them for. Both peas and spinach like sweeter soil so a bit of lime or wood ashes makes them grow better.

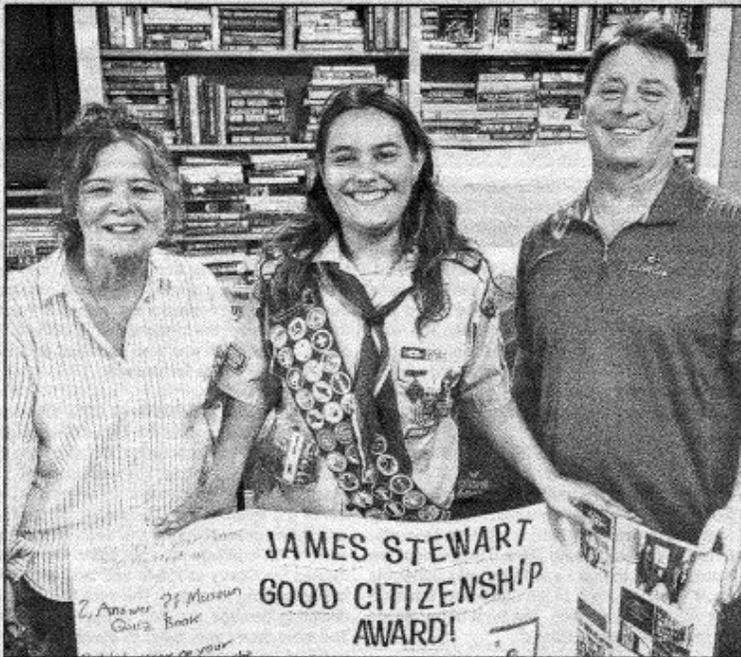
Remember if your soil is waterlogged you should not cultivate it. Pick up a handful and squeeze it. If it falls apart when you open your hand, it is fine to work. If it stays in a firm ball, wait for it to dry out. Our clay soil can be a pain in a rainy spring. Raised beds and lots of organic material like compost, manure and leaf humus really improve it.

Pat

Happy Birthday!

David Kazik
Barb Harvatt
Gail Berzins
Marlene Winter
Renee Buszta

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Broadview Hts. Human Services Director Kathy Rush-Parsson and Broadview Hts. Mayor Sam Alai were proud to congratulate Eagle Scout Skye Raftery on winning the James Stewart Good Citizenship Award.

BBH Junior earns Jimmy Stewart Medal

Skye Raftery, 16, a junior at Brecksville-Broadview Hts. High School, earned her Eagle Scout Award two years ago. However, she continues to be active in Troops 652G of St. Basils and 811 of St. Joseph Byzantine.

Skye educated her community about Jimmy Stewart, who was a "community man". She put up a tent display and posters throughout her development of Hunters Trail and Fox Hollow in Broadview Heights. Her neighbors generously donated food for the city of Broadview Hts. The food was distributed through the Human Service Department's Yuletide Hunger Day in December.

Skye's goals are to finish her Outdoor Medal, Catholic Medal and the rare Conservation Medal. She has worked with the Emerald Necklace Garden Club to plant native plants at the Broadview Heights Rain Garden, which is where Skye and Troop 652G erected a bee condo so that pollination

could occur the next year. She educated the community on the importance of bees and how global warming is killing them due to the heat of the earth. Skye says that without bees to pollinate our living plants, we will go without many fruits, vegetables, trees and even humans. Skye also erected bat houses to help the environment as part of her Eagle project.

Skye hopes to be one of 18 scouts nationally to receive the highest conservation award, the Distinguished Conservation Service Award each year. This makes it one of the rarest awards.

Skye feels that scouts have taught her so many useful tools for adulthood. She has learned metalworking, electricity, public speaking, citizenship, first aid and 70 other merit badges. When Skye graduates, she hopes to attend Kent State University to study Criminal Law, in the field of youth protection on the internet.

Help Prevent the Spread of Invasive Species

With invasive species being the cause behind 42% of native species becoming threatened or endangered, managing these species is a huge part of gardening for wildlife. Check out the tips below to manage invasive species this season:

- Clean your boots. Many invasive plants have seeds or even tubers that can hitch a ride in the cracks of our hiking and gardening shoes.
- Remove invasive plants (before they go to seed). Get those garden gloves on and remove invasive plants before they can spread further.
- Plant native species in open spots. There's nothing more inviting to invasive plants than bare soil. Plant native species to crowd out the invasives and to give wildlife a boost!

Tips courtesy of The National Wildlife Federation.

Seed Library Locations

Native Seeds are still available at our Native Seed Library locations across the region. Available while supplies last, limit of 3 packets per person. Stop by the following Native Seed Library locations:

- Watershed Stewardship Center
- Lake Farmpark
- Penitentiary Glen
- Parma Hts Library
- Parma Powers Library
- Parma Snow Library
- Holden Arboretum
- Cleveland Botanical Garden
- The Book Nook at the West Side Market (Cleveland Public Library)

These locally sourced seeds are well-suited for winter sowing and designed to support pollinators, birds, and healthy habitats across Northeast Ohio. Each packet planted helps strengthen biodiversity right where you live.

Seed library initiative is in partnership with The Holden Arboretum, The Ohio EPA, and Cox Charities Northeast Region

Certify Your Yard as a Wildlife Haven!

Want to help wildlife but not sure where to start or what might be feasible in your space? Check out these programs! They give guidelines on how to easily create habitat for wildlife in your own yard. Even small changes make a big difference if we all work together. In many cases, you can even get beautiful signage to let your neighborhood know your commitment to better the environment. Hopefully it will inspire them to get involved, too! Here are just a few:

- The National Wildlife Federation
- Firefly Conservation and Research
- NE Ohio Native Habitat Corridor (via Wild Ones Greater Cleveland)
- Nature In My Backyard
- Stark Parks Certified Backyard Habitat Program

2026 Hostesses

March

Judy Fox
Maureen Michal
Nathalie Petri

April

Sheila Humphrey
Joy Grad
Gail Berzins

September

Rosanne
Radziewicz
Donna Hessel
Nathalie Petri

November

Mary Ellen Isaac
Pat Cotsman
Denise Bowler

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!

Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District Plant Sale; now through March 30th; online ordering; Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District

Guided Nature Hike: Winter Tree Identification; March 1, 2-3:30PM; Mentor March; Cleveland Museum of Natural History

Helleborus and Houseplant Extravaganza; March 7-8; North Royalton; Maria Gardens

Maple Sugar Festival and Pancake Breakfast; beginning March 7, 10AM; Hale Farm and Village; Western Reserve Historical Society

Master Rain Gardener Spring 2026; start date March 10; 5:30-7PM; Richmond Heights Community Center; Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District

Brown Bagging it in My Backyard: Using Native Plants on Our Home Grounds; March 11, 12PM; virtual; Cleveland Audubon

Rethinking Horticulture with Real Ecology; March 18, 7PM; virtual, Wild Ones

Spring Has Sprung Hike; March 21, 9:30-11AM; Brecksville Nature Center; Cleveland Metroparks

A Garden Party for Butterflies; March 26, 6-7PM; Nature Center at Shaker Lakes; Meadow City Nursery

Waterfowl at Grand Valley Ranch; March 27, 9-11AM; Orwell; Western Reserve Land Conservancy

Finding Flowers; March 29, 10AM; location with registration; Cuyahoga Valley National Park

The Newsletter deadline is always the 25th of the month. Articles, gardening tips, websites to browse, and recipes always welcome. This will be my last newsletter so please stay tuned for who will be taking over. Thanks! Anne Morrison

Emerald Necklace Garden Club is a member of Garden Club of Ohio, Inc., (Cleveland District) affiliated with Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs and National Garden Clubs, Inc.



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