

# Emerald Necklace Garden Club

April, 2026

Newsletter

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER



### APRIL 5

Deadline to RSVP for CBG  
Affiliate Meeting on April 16

### APRIL 6

ENG C Board Meeting  
10:00 AM

### APRIL 9

ENG C General Meeting  
9:30 AM

Powers Library, Parma

**BRING YOUR OWN COFFEE**



### APRIL 24

Arbor Day Tree Planting  
at Rain Garden  
12 Noon

### APRIL 24

Deadline to return RSVP  
for GCO District Meeting  
on May 12

## ALL HANDS ON DECK!

### MAY 8

Plant Sale Set-Up Day  
1 - 5 PM

### MAY 9

ENG C Plant Sale  
8 AM - 4 PM

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Nathalie Petri

Happy Spring! Just saying that puts a smile on my face -- hopefully yours too! April brings lots of extracurricular gardening club activities. First the Cleveland Botanical Garden Spring Affiliate Day, Thursday April 16, 9:30 - 12. Breakfast, speaker, walk the grounds and complimentary parking for \$22.

Next, Friday, April 24 is Arbor Day and we will be helping the Broadview Hts. Service Department plant trees (two red buds and an American crabapple) at Noon at our Rain Garden on

Community Center grounds. For our plant sale, we will have a potting up day at Pat Cotsman's house sometime at the end of the month, weather depending. By our April meeting, we should have the day confirmed.

So, please keep your schedule open to participate in these activities — even if it's just showing up for the photo opportunity!

*Nathalie*

## Plant Sale & Garden Faire

Our club's most important event will soon be here. The May the sale: Plants, Garden Décor, 9 Plant Sale and Garden Faire at Maintenance, Pay/Logistics and the Brecksville Methodist Church Transport. If you haven't signed lets us fund scholarships and up, please call Marlene Helm contribute to conservation (216-214-4444), and she will put projects. We can only be you in touch with the leads for successful with the participation each of these areas. Also be of all of our members. Attached surveying your gardens to see to the newsletter are important what plants you might dig up/pot details about the sale on May 9, up and contribute to the sale the set-up on May 8 and what you (details in the attachments). With can do now to help us get ready. your help, our sale will be a Please take time to read these tremendous success!

*Marlene Helm*

## HORTICULTURE

Pat Cotsman

If you haven't already done so, you might want to label your ephemerals. These are Spring bloomers that go dormant (no leaves) in the summer. Things like daffodils and alliums. You don't want to try to plant something in an empty spot and dig in and discover you've chopped up bulbs.

When it is too wet to do any digging in the garden, it is a good time to pull weeds from your beds. Grass and tap-rooted things like dandelions are easy to remove. Getting rid of them before they make seeds will make your life much easier.

There is an organic product, corn gluten, that you can sprinkle on beds to prevent seeds from germinating for a period of time. You will not be able to sow seeds of flowers in the bed but you can plant potted plants.

Now you can scatter seeds of certain annuals. Sweet peas, calendula, cleome, alyssum, poppies, bachelor buttons, larkspur and cosmos are some examples. With prices of everything rising, seeding your own plants is a way to save money. Many of these will self-seed for next year.

In the vegetable garden, peas, lettuce, spinach, carrots, beets, onions and dill can be sowed. Things like peas, lettuce and spinach need cool temps and don't do well planted too late. Cabbage, kale, broccoli, cauliflower and Brussels sprouts can be planted mid-month as they are frost tolerant.

If you had iris borers in the past, spray the new leaves twice at a ten-day interval with an insecticide. This will hopefully kill the larvae that hatched from eggs laid in the Fall.

Any pruning of oak trees needs to be done before they leaf out to prevent oak wilt disease. This is transmitted by sap-sucking beetles and will kill a tree quickly.

Now is the time to fertilize roses and clematis. They like a fertilizer lower in Nitrogen and higher in Phosphorus. These are the first (N) and second (P) numbers in fertilizer ratios. You can just buy rose food and use it on both. Fertilize every month until August (4 times). Peonies can be fertilized with bonemeal now. Use one cup around the outer edge of large clumps and skip watering. Remember natives don't need extra fertilizer and will grow lushly and flop over if given fertilizer.

## PROGRAMS

Fran McIntyre & Lisa Schieman

### Find Out About What Food Strong is Doing in Our Communities at the April 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting

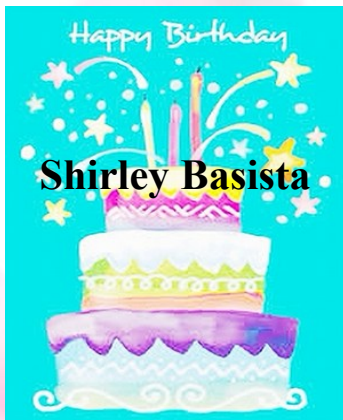
Sara Continenza, the founder of Food Strong in 2018, will be our speaker. Her presentation will introduce the work the organization does to engage communities in creating self-sustaining food systems "from the ground up." According to their mission, Food Strong is dedicated to using fresh foods as a tool to educate, empower and cultivate health throughout Northeast Ohio. Sara will present information on the many projects launched with these subdivisions.



**PLEASE NOTE:** This meeting will take place at Powers Cuyahoga County Library branch, 6996 Powers Blvd, Parma 44129. Guests are always welcome. The business meeting starts at 9:30. **BRING YOUR OWN COFFEE.**



Have a Happy Spring.



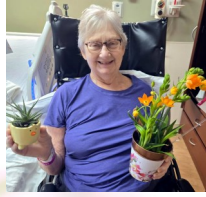
### April Hostesses

Marlene & Paul Helm  
Sheila Humphrey

If you haven't received your 2026 Yearbook, please contact Maureen Michal to arrange a pick-up.

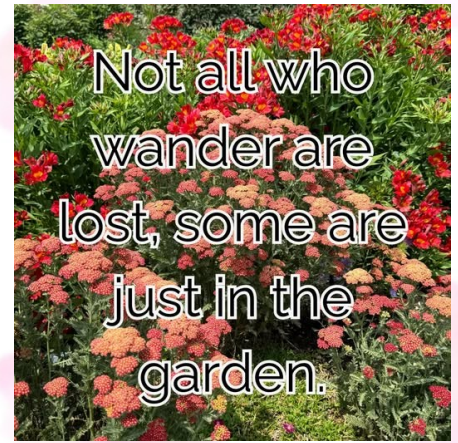
Our deepest sympathy on the passing of Ginny Little, a long-time member. A card from the club was mailed.

I visited with Pauline and brought a flower from the club; also made chocolate chip cookies. Pauline is doing well in rehab—practicing walking and getting in and out of a car. Plans are for her to go home on April 1. She says hello to everyone.



Paul Helm is in University Hospital, Parma, with congestive heart failure. Thanks from Marlene for offers of help and good wishes.

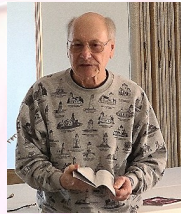
Cheryl Schmidt undergoes surgery April 3 for a hairline leg fracture and will be in a boot for six weeks. Cards to both welcomed.



Virginia Boninsegna Little, 87, of Broadview Heights, Ohio, passed away peacefully on February 23, 2026. She

was born on June 15, 1938, in Wyco, West Virginia. She received a Bachelor of Education from Concord University and earned her Master's Degree in Counseling from John Carroll University. Virginia dedicated 30 years of her career in education, primarily serving as a guidance counselor at Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School. Known lovingly by many as "Gaga" and "Ginny," she created a home filled with warmth, tradition, and togetherness. She loved cooking and baking for family and friends.

Ginny loved gardening. She joined the Emerald Necklace Garden Club in Brecksville in 1994 and was president in 2000-02 and 2010-12. She is a Life Member of GCO. She proudly served 25 years on the Broadview Heights City Tree Commission, becoming its longest-standing volunteer. She was an avid Cleveland sports fan, she attended Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School football games for 53 years. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered. (Full obit at Fortuna Funeral Home Obits or search Virginia Little Obit.)



### March Program, Review

In March, Stuart Kline, long-time member, past president, trustee and currently a consulting rosarian with the Cleveland Rose Society, presented an overview of roses. The Cleveland Rose Society rosarians judge roses and rate them annually. They have two shows a year. How to select and grow roses, care for them and the varieties available were included in Stuart's talk. (Major requirement: 5 hours of sun per day minimum.) Roses fall into two main categories: Species (old garden, hardy, repeat blooming) and Shrub (such as hybrids, Grandiflora, Florabush, Mini, Miniflora, Modern English). A rose is named by the person who registers it, usually the hybridizer. Many are named after family members or celebrities (e.g. the recently advertised "Martha Stewart" rose!). Roses can be purchased "budded," or "own-root." Spring or fall are the best times to plant.

If you are interested in growing roses, everything you need to know is on The Rose Society's two websites and a Facebook page. In addition, Stuart recommended another website, "Healthy Vines," for lists of roses, information and photos. A book by Peter Schneider titled "Right Rose Right Place" has specific recommendations for planting roses in OH. Freedom Gardens in Ravenna, OH grows 1300 varieties of roses. They will be open to the public in June for public visits and sales on Sundays from 10a to 5p. Check their Facebook page for rose lists and lots of additional information.

## 2026 ENGC Plant Sale Saturday May 9

Our plant sale will be held at Brecksville Methodist Church 65 Public Square. Set-up day is Friday, May 8 from 1 to 5 PM and we need members to help on both Friday and Saturday. On Saturday, club members will work between 8 AM to 4PM (including clean-up). Sale hours for the public are 9 AM - 2 PM.

### Here's what we all need to start doing:

**Pots** - I hope you saved all your plant pots from last year from 3" to gallon size pots along with plant trays. Please clean all pots and be ready for a shout-out if pots are called for.

**Plant tags.** You will label any plants you are donating to the sale. Plant tags should include plant name, height, light condition (sun/shade), bloom time, color. **Price should go at the top of the tag. Prices are based on pot diameter size as follows: \$4 for 3" pots, \$6 for 4.5" – 5" pots, \$8 for 6"– 8" pots, \$10 for gallon pots or baskets.** Plant tags will be provided at our April meeting. If you need plant tags or pots outside the meeting, contact Nathalie (440-915-0772). Use a black Sharpie to mark tags.

**Plants from your garden and house.** Primarily, we have tried to keep garden plants in the deer-resistant category. A list of ideal plants is attached but you are not limited to just these plants. Please dig your plants up a week to two weeks prior to the plant sale so they may acclimate and grow in their pots. Your plants will need to be properly planted and labeled. If you need pots, let us know. **Please bring plants to the Methodist church on Friday, May 8 (set-up day). Do NOT bring them the day of the sale.** Members who require help digging plants should let Denise Bowler or Nathalie Petri know.

**Garden Décor.** If you have garden décor items to donate, be sure they are CLEAN and in good condition. Examples: statuary, wind chimes, birdhouses and feeders, flags, decorative signs, etc. Price items and write your initials on the tag. You will need to take it home if it doesn't sell. **Please bring garden décor items to the Methodist church on Friday, May 8 (set-up day.)**

### Start thinking about:

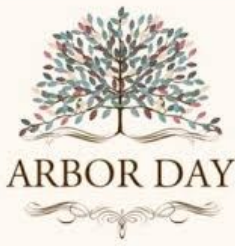
Perennials - that need dividing or you wish to share! Also, native plants are the trend, so please identify if it is a native or a good pollinator plant. Also, list if deer-resistant.

Cannas, Elephant Ears, Dahlias - if you've got extras, plant them up mid-March. They need to have a warm room until they break dormancy - about 3 weeks. Then, a sunny window inside. Once temps reach 50+ degrees place outside in the daytime and bring in for the evening.

Herbs, Veggies, Annuals – All herbs and veggies (except Tomatoes) - if you grow 'em, donate extras. Annuals - if you started any from seed and have an exceptional germination, please donate!

Houseplants - Got any you're tired of or just don't have room for? Pot them up in an appropriate size container and label them properly with name, height, light conditions.

**Potting Up Day!** This is a fun afternoon at Pat Cotsman's house. We usually gather at 1 PM at her house to dig up and pot up plants from her beautiful, huge garden. Refreshments will be served around 2 PM. A volunteer sign-up sheet will be circulated. Date TBD. We are considering last week of April or the first week of May. Volunteers dig up plants or sit at a table and pot up and label plants. Plenty of time to socialize! You will be required to take several plant trays home to babysit them and bring to sale.



Join ENGC members on April 24 at 12 Noon at our rain garden on the grounds of Broadview Hts. Community Center to assist in the planting of three trees near the garden. The two red bud and one American crabapple trees are being donated by the Broadview Heights Service Center.

Sign up at the April meeting. We need your name so we can contact you in the event the planting is postponed due to inclement weather.

## Around Town

*Butterfly Release*, Starting April 1<sup>st</sup>  
Cleveland Botanical Garden

*How to Multiply and Divide Perennials to Gain Free Plants by Master Gardeners of Cuyahoga County* - Note: Registration usually required. Check CCPL website.

April 8th 7 pm; N. Royalton Branch Library  
April 20<sup>th</sup> 7pm; Strongsville Branch Library  
April 29<sup>th</sup> 7 pm; North Olmsted Branch Library

*Midwest Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale*, April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>; Cleveland Botanical Garden

*Summer Birds of Northeast Ohio*, April 15<sup>th</sup> 7pm; North Royalton Branch Library

*Heirlooms and the History of Plants*, April 20<sup>th</sup> 12 pm; Parma-Snow Branch Library

*Hydrangeas for Every Garden*, April 28th 7pm; Brooklyn Branch Library

*Wreath Making*, April 28<sup>th</sup> 6 pm;  
Brecksville Human Services

*Crash course in Starting a Garden Fast*, May 7th 6:30 pm; OSU Extension office, 4046 Medina Rd, Medina; \$10/person; 330-725-4911 or [medina.osu.edu/events](http://medina.osu.edu/events) to register. Deadline May 4.



## Holden Forest and Gardens Spring Affiliate Day April 16 at Cleveland Botanical Garden

- 9:30a – 12:00p. Doors open at 8:30a
- \$22 includes light breakfast, complimentary parking and speaker
- Speaker is Roy Larick – Tomorrow’s Moses: Cleveland Trees – How to continue designating heritage trees across Cuyahoga County
- **Sign up now** at [hfandgaffiliatecouncil.org](http://hfandgaffiliatecouncil.org)
- On tabs, click on “Events-Affiliate Day”
- **Register with credit card by April 5** (No discount for CBA members)
- Carpooling possible from church  
Speaker Highlight  
Roy Larick, PhD, Archaeologist, Consultant, Author  
Dr. Larick brings archaeological perspectives to urban environmental issues. Dr. Larick investigates the weave of natural and human forces in building urban landscapes. He works with varied partners to recover buried, natural features and/or regenerate local ecological functions.

Newsletter deadline is 25th of the month. Send articles to [bowlerd@roadrunner.com](mailto:bowlerd@roadrunner.com); images to [hessel0722@gmail.com](mailto:hessel0722@gmail.com)

Emerald Necklace Garden Club is a Member of



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Holden Gardens & Forests (Cleveland Botanical Garden)

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