

# Emerald Necklace Garden Club May, 2026 Newsletter

## Dates to Remember

**May 8**

**Plant Sale/Garden Faire Set-Up**

1:00 - 5:00 PM

Methodist Church

**May 9**

**Plant Sale & Garden Faire**

8:00 - 4:00

Methodist Church

**May 9 - 8:45 AM**

**ENG C Group Photo**

**Wear Your Purple Logo Shirt**

**May 11**

**ENG C Board Meeting**

10:00 AM

Christ Redeemer Lutheran Church

**May 12**

**GCO District Meeting**

10:30 AM

Michael's Woodside Event Ctr.

**May 14**

**ENG C Field Trip - Crown Point**

9:15 at Church to Car Pool

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Nathalie Petri

As the weather warms, our club activities have picked up. Digging up plants for the plant sale, potting-up day, the day before the sale, sale day, Arbor Day planting, our Rain Garden and Memorial garden maintenance, garden club field trip, Hershey Children's Garden pot and district meeting. Whew! Thank you for participating in what you can. Your interest and dedication to ENG C is what makes this a great club!

*Nathalie*



### SUNSHINE

Shirley Grispino

Shirley visited Cheryl Schmidt who is wearing a boot for a month while recuperating from surgery to repair a fractured ankle; she delivered flowers from ENG C.

Pauline Dey has been transferred for physical therapy to Regina Health Center, Room 290, 5232 Broadview Rd., Richfield 44286. She enjoys reading her cards and welcomes afternoon visitors. Mornings are for PT. Her husband, Ralph, is back home and is doing well.



## PLANT SALE & GARDEN FAIRE

Marlene Helm

### PLANT SALE SUMMARY

- Plant Sale Set-Up Friday, May 8 from 1-5 at Brecksville United Methodist Church, 65 Public Sq., Brecksville. (Northwest corner of Rt 82 and Rt 21). Go to back of church where you see all the cars.
- We need everyone PLEASE as this is All-Hands-On-Deck time!
- PLEASE unload your car near the door, then move your car to the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> row to allow everyone to unload by the door. There will be someone to help you
- Bring all plants marked with a tag that includes price, plant name, height, color, sun or shade, bloom time (if perennial). Please use black, fine Sharpie for tags.
- Pricing, \$4 for 3" pots, \$6 for 4"-5" pots, \$8 for 6"-8" pots, \$10 for gallon pots or baskets.
- Bring any plants you picked up from members. Plants should be in pots at least one week prior to sale.
- Remember to bring boxes if you have room. If not, bring them Saturday.
- Garden Décor needs to be clean, tagged with price and be something you would buy in the store today. Remember, you will take it home if it doesn't sell. This goes for Vintage Holiday Décor items as well.

### PLANT SALE DAY

- Saturday, MAY 9 from 8-4 for members; 9-3 for customers (or until sold out).
- We will take an ENGC group picture around 8:30-8:45 May 9. Please be present for the photo op if possible.
- Everyone is expected to help in one way or another. EVERYONE working appreciates your help. Wear your Club Shirt if you have one. We will have aprons.
- If you have a question, please ask. If you need help, ask, If someone else needs help, please help them.

### ASSIGNMENTS

ENGc members signed up to work these areas during the plant sale. If you don't see your name, please call Marlene Helm to volunteer.

**Plants** – Nathalie Petri, Denise Bowler, Pat Cotsman, Mary Ellen Isaac, Judy Fox, Sheila Humphrey, Laurie Siebert, Mary Drumm, Maureen Michal, Marlene Helm, Paul Helm

**Garden Décor** – Debbie Apple, Shirley Grispino, Barb Harvaite, Donna Hessel, Diana Kulwicki, Joan Castelucci

**Pay Station** – Rosanne Radziewicz, Jane Petrie, Marlene Winter, Irene Ochrin, Cheryl Schmidt, April Roth (write up purchases)

**General Maintenance** – Cheryl Schmidt, Maureen Michal, Fran Mcintyre

**Table Set-Up/Maintenance** – Gail Berzins, Fran Mcintyre, Joy Grad, Lisa Schieman

**Transport** – Renee Buszta, Skye and Troop Members

**REFRESHMENTS** - Break room 2<sup>nd</sup> floor #201

Any problem, call Marlene 216-214-4444

**Thank you ENGC members. With your help, our sale should be a huge success.**

I don't know who  
needs to hear this, but  
it is perfectly  
acceptable to spend  
your tax return on  
plants and call it  
"investing in your  
home."

## HORTICULTURE

Pat Cotsman

This is the time of year we gardeners love. We are tempted by all the beautiful plants for sale. Be mindful of the weather. Just because tropicals are for sale doesn't mean they will survive if temperatures suddenly plummet. These sensitive plants need night temps above 50 degrees and are even happier if they stay above 60 degrees. These plants include caladiums, coleus, tuberous begonias and impatiens. If you bought something that was housed in a greenhouse as opposed to being on a rack outside the nursery, baby it a bit until weather is more settled. Be prepared to bring it inside if temps get chilly.

Some veggies also need warmer temps. Eggplants, peppers, tomatoes, beans, corn and cucurbits (cukes, squash and melons) need warm soil temps to germinate or grow well. If you want to plant early, protect these with hot caps or cut the bottom from a plastic jug and place the top (remove cap) over the plant. It acts like a mini greenhouse. I use these over cucumber and squash seeds as they germinate quicker in warm soil, and birds and rodents can't eat the seeds.

When you plant your containers use a pelleted time-release fertilizer to provide continuous food for the plants. A common recipe for containers is a spiller (hangs over pot), a thriller (tall attention-getter) and filler (fills in between the others). Use plants that like similar conditions in your container. For instance, plant sun-lovers with other sun-lovers; plant things that like lots of water with the same types. Don't mix sunny, dry lovers with shade and moisture-loving plants.

If you want to attract butterflies, be sure to plant host plants for the caterpillars to feed on. Don't use insecticides. Monarchs need milkweed cultivars. Swallowtails need plants like parsley, dill, fennel or carrot family (Dara or Queen Anne's Lace). Checkered Skippers like hollyhocks.

Boxwood cupping (curling of new leaves) is caused by boxwood psyllid, a small sap-sucking insect that feeds on new growth. The damage is aesthetic and doesn't injure plants. When new growth appears, spray with insecticidal soap, neem or horticultural oil to kill the nymphs.

If you see a small black beetle with white dots that is similar in size to a ladybug, kill it. It is the nymph of the Asian Lanternfly.

When working in the garden, you may want to use a tick repellent. The three common ticks in our area are Brown Dog, Lone Star and Deer tick. They can transmit disease through their bite. Remove them carefully with tweezers or commercial tick removers. If symptoms appear, see your doctor as antibiotics may be needed. I have found ticks walking on me and have had two latch on at my hairline at the back of my neck and above my ear. I now use Zivo tick repellent as I hate things that suck my blood!

Have a safe and fun May!

*Pat*

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### MEET APRIL ROTH — OUR NEWEST MEMBER



We are pleased to welcome April Roth as a new member of our garden club.

April is retired after being a nurse (working primarily in ER) for 44 years. She is married with two grown children, a son and daughter, and lives in Broadview Heights. Her gardening interests lean to flowers and landscape design while her husband takes care of the “veggie gardening.”

Much of her new-found spare time is devoted to her horticulture interests. She volunteers for “Bighearted Blooms,” a group that puts together (or receives) flower arrangements to give to those who could use a bright pick-up (shut-ins, hospitals, etc.). She is also taking classes through the florist Pawlaks to advance her flower arranging skills. April learned about ENG C through our website! Please enjoy getting to know April during our many activities.

## PROGRAMS

Fran McIntyre and Lisa Schieman

On May 14, ENGC will take a field trip to Crown Point Ecology Center in Bath. Members can meet at Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church parking lot to carpool to the site at 9:15 AM, or meet at the site, 3220 Ira Rd., Akron 44333, at 10:00 AM.

When we arrive at Crown Point there will be signs directing us to park in the lower lot. Ian, Executive Director, promises to give us an overall view of the founding and mission of Crown Point. There are several gardens, farm animals to visit, the Labyrinth area and working farmers who could share some information and experiences. A small assortment of homemade jams, jellies and eggs are available for purchase.

Plan on one hour to 1 ¼ hours for the visit, weather-permitting. There are sheltered areas. A group lunch following the presentation at one of the local restaurants is optional.



## AROUND TOWN

**Gardeners of Greater Cleveland Plant Sale**, May 15-17th, 10-4, Rockefeller Greenhouse, 750 E. 88th St.

**Stan Hywet Gardens Plant Sale**, May 16th, 10-6, No admission ticket is required.

**Meet Me in the Garden** program on Spotted Lanternfly, May 27th, 7 pm, F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm, 1828 Smith Rd., Akron.

**Cuyahoga County Master Gardeners' Plants in the Park plant sale**, May 30th, 8:30 - 1:00, Independence, Kiwanis Pavilion, 6363 Selig Dr., Independence.

**44th Annual Spring Plant Sale**, June 6th, 10 am, Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, 2600 South Park Blvd., Cleveland.

## SARA CONTINENZA, FOOD STRONG FOUNDER, PRESENTED THE WORK THE ORGANIZATION IS DOING AT THE APRIL 9TH MEETING

“Kids need to know where our food comes from” declared Sara Continenza. That’s why she initiated Food Strong’s School Garden initiative and Care-a-Van community wellness program she personally launched in 2017. Food Strong started in 2 inner-city schools, guiding students through designing, building, planting, maintaining, and harvesting their own onsite food and native flower gardens, plus learning how to cook what they grew and analyze nutrition labels. Since then, Food Strong has grown to serve 14 schools and more than 400 students. The organization’s

work is now carried out by volunteers. It is remarkable that Sara worked primarily by herself until the school program had expanded to eight schools!

In 2020, the Learning Garden, an urban farm located at East Cleveland's historic Coit Road Farmers Market was constructed. This space is used to host field trips and learning experiences and use the food grown in the culinary education program to sell in the communities served.

In 2022, the Vacant Lot Restoration Initiative was added through support



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from Cuyahoga County. In 2023, a Mobile Farm Stand was launched, from which fresh produce from the Learning Garden and other healthy, local products, can be supplied in communities with low access to fresh food retail options.

In 2024, 3-acre farm on Superior Ave in downtown was acquired as a donation and is being renovated and transformed into Food Strong headquarters, an education hub and community gathering space/farm. ENGC contributed \$500 to Food Strong in 2026.

### FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

*"Food sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems. It puts the aspirations and needs of those who produce, distribute and consume food at the heart of food systems and policies rather than the demands of markets and corporations."* -The Declaration of Nyéléni, Mali, West Africa (2007)



## ARBOR DAY TREE PLANTING AT ENGC RAIN GARDEN

ENGC members and Broadview Heights Service Department staff met at the rain garden to plant three trees to celebrate Arbor Day. Top left - is a crabapple, Malus Starlite. Top Right is a Cercis Canadensis - a redbud. Bottom - a Magnolia x Sunsation. The magnolia, which has yellow flowers, was planted in honor of Ginny Little who served 26 years on the Broadview Heights Tree Commission. It was her favorite tree. A Proclamation by Mayor Alai was read during the dedication and a plaque will memorialize the tree. Ginny was a long-time, active member of ENGC and was also involved in many civic activities throughout her life.



Hard to see, but many of the plants have already sprouted and there are few weeds. The garden is looking good!



## “NOT UNDER THE WEATHER, BUT UNDER THE SEA”

Our club is planning to decorate another 10-foot tree at the Cleveland Botanical Garden’s Holiday Show later this year. The CBG themes in the past (FROST and GLOW) are out, and “Holiday Show” is currently being considered. The overall theme for all the trees is Tropical Christmas. Our tree must include botanicals (not only shells and marine animals such as fish, coral and sponges).

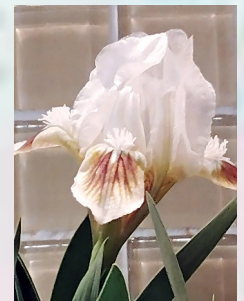
The tree has to tell a story and be educational, and it should focus on somewhere tropical (between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn). The title of this article has been accepted as a theme for our tree.

Our challenge is to meet all the criteria, and we have great crafters and creative minds in our club. Would you like to join us in designing and crafting our amazing tree? We will plan to meet at Jane Petrie’s home sometime after the Plant Sale. We need you. Please let Rosanne Radziewicz know if you would like to join us.



## NAME THIS IRIS WIN A \$25 GIFT CERTIFICATE

**This is a new promotion at the 2026 Plant Sale & Garden Faire.** Fred Pedersen, a local iris grower, and a hybridizer, Lou DiSanto, have collaborated with us for this promo. Lou DiSanto has a new hybrid iris cultivar that will be marketable in a year or so that has not been named. He is giving our plant sale customers the opportunity to name the iris. He will select the winning name from those suggested. The hybrid is a Miniature Dwarf Bearded Iris that will grow 4” to 8” high. Its domed standards are white. It has white beards with stripes of green, hazel and ginger. So sweet!



ENGCC is providing the winning entry a \$25 gift certificate to Suncrest Gardens and a free, one-year honorary ENGCC membership. The competition is open to ENGCC members also (not the free membership) so remember to fill out an entry form at the sale. The promotion will allow us to collect names of customers for an email list for future plant sale promotion.

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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