

Emerald Necklace Garden Club

September 2026

Newsletter

DATES TO REMEMBER

**ENGCC Board Meeting -
(Tuesday) Sept. 8 - 10 AM**

**ENGCC September Meeting
September 10 - 9:15 AM
CBG Holiday Tree
Workshop After Meeting**

**Fall Fest - September 27
11 AM - 4 PM**

**GCO Fall District Meeting
September 29 - 10:30 AM
RSVP by September 8
(See attached flier)**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Nathalie Petri

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer! I'm looking forward to getting back together for our September meeting to learn about all your adventures. If you haven't stopped by our rain garden, I suggest you do! I was amazed at how big and full so many of the plants became in just one season.

Additionally, thank you to everyone who volunteered to weed for several hours over the summer. The 3 or 4 times I stopped out to see how the plants were doing it always looked nice. Plus, I'm seeing pollinators visiting the plants and people sitting on the benches. We will discuss our next steps in meeting our goals with the rain garden at the meeting.

Our September meeting is very important for members to attend as this is when we vote on the new board for the next two years. Special thanks to Fran for helping me call all of you to twist your arms. I'm not going to tell you here who accepted the positions of President, 2nd Vice Presidents and the Recording Secretary, but they will do a fine job! Thank you for stepping up!

Have an enjoyable Labor Day and see you September 10!

PROGRAMS

Fran McIntyre and Lisa Schieman

The September 10th Emerald Necklace Garden Club meeting will welcome Foster Brown, Naturalist with the Cleveland Metroparks. Foster has been with Cleveland Metroparks since 1996 and is a familiar face to visitors at the Brecksville Nature Center.

Foster will present his ever popular talk, "The Worth of Weeds," and in presenting will answer some of these long pondered questions: What are weeds? Where did they come from? Do they have worth?

His style combines the arts with interpretation in presenting awarding winning music, storytelling and characterizations to folks of northeast Ohio.



HOSTESSES

Barbara Harviatt

Just a reminder:
No hostesses needed for our
October field trip. Hostesses
for November meeting:

Mary Ellen Isaac
Pat Cotsman
Denise Bowler

THE LIST OF PLANTS I STILL WANT TO BUY.



SUNSHINE

Shirley Grispino

Welcome back Garden Friends!
I hope your gardens were plentiful. Mine was; Pat Cotsman's tomatoes were fantastic.

Very Good News!!! Pauline Dey is home. She is in a wheelchair and also using a walker. She is having physical therapy. She is very thankful for the garden club members.



In 2025, nearly 600 children completed "posies in pots" flower arrangements

"Treasures from Down Under: From Rainforest to Reef"

Rosanne Radziewicz

We have had a few planning meetings at Jane Petrie's home for our holiday tree for the Cleveland Botanical Garden. Our tree theme is the rainforest and Great Barrier Reef near Queensland, Australia.

Things are coming together, but we could use your help in making some of the decorations! There will be a crafting opportunity after the speaker leaves at the general meeting on Thursday, September 10th. Crafts will include making paper fish, adding tentacles to a few jellyfish, folding paper palm leaves, and more. We will have on display some of our ideas so far. The crafts are simple and should take around an hour or two. Please plan to bring something for lunch and enjoy crafting together.

Let me know if you can help! rosanne.radziewicz@sbcglobal.net.

FALLFEST

Maureen Michal

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, Sept. 27 and keep open for FallFest. This is an event with the Brecksville Metroparks that we have been participating in for many years! It is very popular with the children and their parents. Typically we help 400-500 children make beautiful little flower arrangements. In the past (and hopefully this year) Kennicott Brothers (formerly Nordlie's) donated a lot of their "leftover" flowers. I also have connections with two flower gardens we are allowed to pick from.

In addition I need our members to look over their own gardens and if they have any usable flowers and greenery (especially pachysandra and boxwood) to bring them to the FallFest or drop off at my house on either Friday the 25th or Saturday the 26th. I will have buckets with water at the top of my driveway for plant material drop off.

I will have a sign-up sheet at our Sept. meeting. There are three overlapping shifts: set-up, 9:30-11:30AM, shift 1; 11AM-2PM, shift 2; and 1PM-4PM. I especially need help with the two shifts helping the children. Please feel free to sign up for as much as you can do – some of our members help out the entire day, which I really appreciate! There is a free lunch provided by Metroparks for our volunteers.



HORTICULTURE

Pat Cotsman

Fall is the time to divide or plant peonies. Be careful and don't plant too deeply as they won't bloom. The eyes or growing points on the roots need to face upward. Mulch when first planted and remove mulch in early Spring. Deer leave these plants alone and they are long lived. If you have these plants, fertilize with a high phosphorus fertilizer in the Fall.

Something like a bulb fertilizer or bone meal is good. These plants grow roots in Fall and leaves and flowers in the Spring. Phosphorus encourages root growth. Don't fertilize roses, shrubs or trees now as new growth won't be hardy. If you buy items on sale in pots, put rock phosphorus in the planting hole and mix with soil. Make sure to water when dry.

In the vegetable garden you can plant lettuce, kale, spinach, radishes, and turnips. These can fit in where other crops have been harvested. If you have dill seed, you can sow that also. These crops like the cooler Fall temps; also bugs that attack them in Spring are scarcer. Later in October is the time to plant garlic.

It is now time to save seeds of annuals. Pick them when the weather is dry and store them in paper envelopes. Avoid plastic as remaining moisture can foster mold. Store in a cool dry place over the winter. Hybrids will not come true from seed. Only 50 percent will be like the parent plant. Bees may also cause cross pollination so expect a few surprises. Some seeds can be sown now for spring. Things like poppies, cleome, and larkspur need the cold of winter to break dormancy.

If you grow natives, be aware they are prolific seeders. You may want to remove seed heads after bloom to avoid having them spread all over.

Now is the time to take cuttings of non-hardy plants you want to overwinter. Coleus and impatiens will root in water. Geraniums and most others need to be treated with rooting powder and potted in seed starting medium. I use a prop mat which is a plant heating pad that heats to 80 degrees. Bottom heat increases rooting. I also cover loosely with a plastic bag that is not sealed tightly (vented). If they wilt, mist and keep the growing medium moist but not wet. Usually in a week or 10 days they will root. Tug gently and, if you feel resistance, roots are forming. You can open the plastic more to accustom them to drier air. If they wilt, close the plastic a little more.

Some cuttings will survive in a sunny window but mine are kept in the basement under LED grow lights. Have lights on for 15 hours a day and use liquid fertilizer to keep them growing well. In Spring you can make more cuttings to increase your stock. Plant prices like seed prices have really increased. Doing this can save you money that you can spend on the new "have to have" plants in the Spring.

If you have some bare spots in your garden where nothing is blooming, you might want to fill in with some mums. Remember to remove spent flowers (called dead-heading) and apply a liquid bloom builder fertilizer every two weeks to keep them going strong for a few months. Mums need sunny spots and don't like wet soil. Most are treated as annuals, but sited well with nice Fall weather, they may return in the Spring.

Enjoy the rest of your summer.

Pat

Kat Griffin's Garden

Hi! I'm new to ENGCG and thought I'd share some pictures. I mostly do cut flowers and containers while I try to perfect the cottage garden look (by which I mean... the weeds are winning this year; alas). I'm kind of collecting coleus, all blue flowers, and trying to resist the call for dahlias. (I failed at that, too, and this year am growing 60 or so.)



Eat a salad they said,
it's healthy.
You know what never
gets recalled?

Pie.

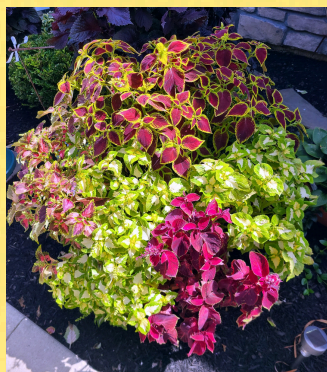


It Was a Good Year for Coleus!

These containers are from Joan Castelucci's garden.



The container below is from Donna Hessel's garden. Just six small plants to start are now three feet tall and overflowing their container.



2026 CAR-SGC Annual Conference

The 2026 CAR-SGC Annual Conference -- "Ohio-The Heart of it All" -- is October 18-20 at the Holiday Inn Cleveland South, 6001 Rockside Road, Independence. The convention is hosted by Garden Club of Ohio, Inc.

Garden clubs in the Central Atlantic Region-State Garden Clubs (CAR-SGC) make donations to fund speakers, events and other items. It's an opportunity to promote our club both in the 2026 Conference Program Booklet and on the CARSGC.org website.

At the ENGC September meeting, there will be a discussion regarding possible donations to the conference from ENGC. Suggestions (from GCO) are speakers (eight at \$200 each), flower centerpieces (there will be 75), or used for wherever it is needed for the conference.

Industrial Cleveland Viewed from the Cuyahoga River Donna Hessel



If you grew up in Cleveland in the 40s and 50s as I did, you were familiar with driving to Cleveland downtown through the flats (no freeways then), over or under multiple bridges (sometimes waiting for a freighter to pass when a bridge was up), past the booming steel mills belching out smoke and later (cleaned up) steam, and up a hill past a historical fire station into town. The view of industry you saw was only what was visible from those roads and later from the freeways.

Jane Petrie, Nathalie Petri and I took a 2-hour, narrated, Cuyahoga River boat trip in mid-August, sponsored by the Metroparks, on the eLCee2 – a mid-size pontoon boat that holds 17 passengers, the captain and the narrator. In our favor, it was a beautiful, sunny summer day. The trip was a real eye-opener for me, providing an entirely new perspective of industrial Cleveland from the "inside." The boat dock is adjacent to the Merwin's Wharf restaurant – a scenic location for a before-or-after tour meal, from which guests can view the construction in progress across the river from the restaurant of the new Irish Bend park.

The narrator shared lots of facts and figures and provided complementary photos on tablets as he talked about what we were seeing; plus a follow-up email with additional references to explore. Only one steel mill is still in operation. The majority of industry is now concrete factories surrounded by huge hills of the various elements that combine to make concrete; and steel or chemical processing plants. Warehouses along the west shore have been converted into lofts and apartments. Multiple bridges of several designs are operational and fascinating to see.

The tours run through October and cost \$21 per person. Highly recommended and well worth it! For reservations, tickets and more information, go to:
<https://www.canalwaypartners.com/events/2025/06/24/cuyahoga-river-by-boat>



SWISS CHARD GORGONZOLA SAVORIES

Preheat oven to 350 degrees

INGREDIENTS

2 cups swiss chard, greens only (kale or spinach will work) stripped, wilted, and drained
3/4 cup gorgonzola (or feta)

MIX TOGETHER :

1-1/2 cup almond flour **THIS IS GLUTEN FREE, YOU CAN USE WHEAT FLOUR IF YOU DON'T CARE!**
1 tsp baking powder
1 tsp dried oregano (or any herb)
1/2 tsp onion powder
1 tsp granulated garlic
1/4 tsp black pepper
1/4 tsp salt

BLEND TOGETHER:

2 eggs
1/4 cup olive oil
2 tbs plain greek yogurt
MIX WET INTO DRY AND FOLD IN CHARD & CHEESE.

THE BATTER WILL BE STICKY; ADD A TOUCH OF WHATEVER FLOUR YOU CHOOSE IF TOO RUNNY.

FOR COOKIE SHAPE: DIP A TABLESPOON IN WATER AND SCOOP ONTO A PARCHMENT LINED BAKING SHEET AN INCH APART LIGHTLY PRESS DOWN.

FOR SQUARES: SPREAD THE MIXTURE IN A 9 X 9 BAKING DISH

BAKE FOR 15-18 MINUTES UNTIL GOLDEN BROWN ON BOTTOM AND COOKED THRU

(Recipe courtesy of Susan Walters—Kathy Pierce's caterer)
swchacha8@gmail.com

AROUND TOWN

Come for the Books, Stay for the Blooms:

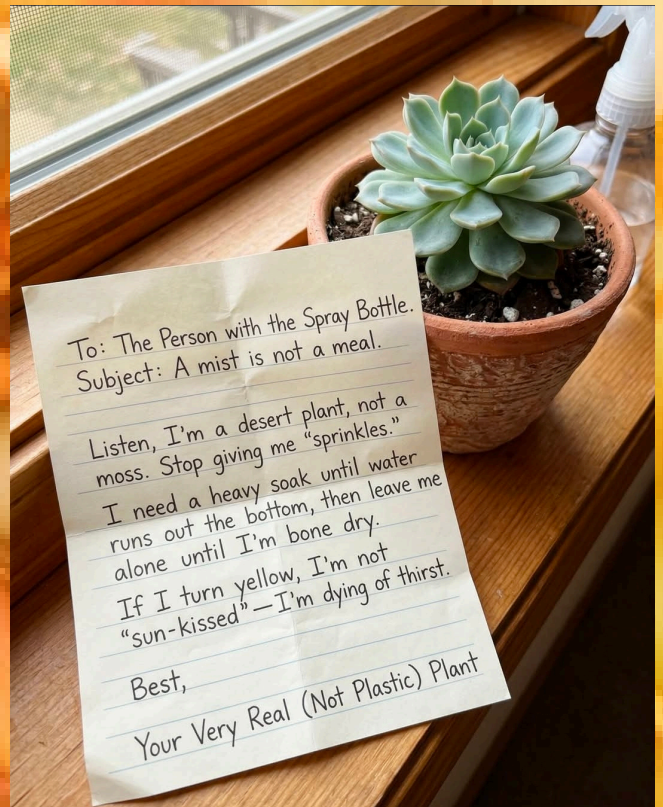
Community Book Exchange, Romance Author Talk, Live Music, Sept. 4, 5:30 to 9:30 PM, Cleveland Botanical Garden, \$15 members, \$25 non-members.

Starting a Vegetable Garden: Sept. 8 at 7 PM, Ben Franklin School and Gardens, 1905 Spring Road, Cleveland.

Fall Seminar by Cuyahoga County Master

Gardener Volunteers: Sept. 26, 8:15 AM to 3:30 PM, 6393 Oak Tree Blvd., Independence; \$65.

Register Online at cuyahogamg.org



Newsletter deadline is 25th of the month. Send articles to bowlerd@roadrunner.com;
images to hessel0722@gmail.com

Emerald Necklace Garden Club is a Member of



Garden Club of Ohio, Inc.

www.Gardenclubofohio.org



Central Atlantic Region of
State Garden Clubs Inc.

<https://www.CAR-SCG.org>



National Garden Clubs

www.gardenclub.org



Holden Gardens & Forests
(Cleveland Botanical Garden)

www.hfg.org