



# Emerald Necklace Garden Club Newsletter ~ December, 2018



"May you have the gladness of Christmas  
which is hope;  
The spirit of Christmas which is peace;  
The heart of Christmas which is love."

~ Ada V. Hendricks

## Meetings ~ Marlene Ziss Winter/Kathie Brusk

### Board Meeting:

The next Board Meeting is at **10:00am** on **Monday, December 10th** at Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church, 9201 Brecksville Road, Brecksville.

If you are unable to attend please call Maureen Michal at (440) 526-2975.

**General Meeting:** The **December 13<sup>th</sup>** Holiday Luncheon & 2019 Officer Installation will be at Creekside Restaurant starting at **11:30am**. Luncheon options and cost of lunch will be given out along with sign up sheet in November. If you need any additional information, contact *Kathie Brusk* or *Marlene Ziss*.

### ENG C CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON~

#### CREEKSIDE RESTAURANT -

8803 Brecksville Road, Brecksville, OHIO 44141

440-546-0555

Thursday, December 13, 2018 at 11:30am

The **Price is \$23.00**

### **Choice of meals are:**

(Please ask if you need a Gluten Free Meal.)

1. Pasta Primavera - vegetarian
2. Honey Pecan Chicken with redskin mashed potatoes
3. Lemon white fish (cod) with orzo Rice Pilaf

There is the trip to *Phipps Conservatory* on **December 5, 2018**. The price is **\$144**. Anyone interested should call *Great Day Tours*, and advise them that you are with ENG C. Payment should be made directly to *Great Day Tours*. The tour is open to our members and outsiders.

### Message from the President ~ Maureen Michal

#### **President's Message**

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president these past two years. This club is very special because of the wonderful people that make up our membership. Although we have a common passion of gardening, what I notice most in all of our meetings are the friendships, support and genuine caring that all of our members have for each other. When you add that friendship to our various

gardening centered activities you have an unbeatable combination that makes ENG C so much fun to be a part of.

At our installation at the Christmas luncheon I will be passing the baton (or more correctly "the gavel") over to Donna Hessel. I am sure she will be an excellent president! In the time she has been a member she has increased our membership due to our publicity that she oversees, she has implemented and monitors our website, she co-chaired a flower show and she has been an active participant in almost all of the activities our club does. Please give her your support and enthusiastic help as she guides our club over the next two years.

Have a blessed Christmas and wonderful holiday season.

With many thanks,

Maureen

### FEED OHIO

Even though we have no formal meeting in the month of December we will continue to collect for the GCO Feed Ohio program. This month we are suggesting juices (apple, cranberry, tomato, V8 etc. - - all non-refrigerated) and/or a grocery gift card. Last month we collected 72 pounds, a lot of which was "Thanksgiving Themed" and was used to prepare "Thanksgiving boxes" for needy families. Your support is very much appreciated by the Lend-a-Hand program. Please remember all donations are voluntary.

Many Thanks, Maureen

### GLOW: Jane Petrie

Our **GLOW Tree** at the *Botanical Garden* was decorated on **Monday, November 19<sup>th</sup>**.

A *free open house* to visit the Garden and the GLOW Tree Festival for Affiliate Garden Club members (and one guest each) is **December 4** from **1:00pm--6:00pm**. Cookies and punch will be served.

### **REGISTER ONLINE ONLY AS FOLLOWS:**

- Go to CBG website: [CBGarden.org](http://CBGarden.org)
- At the top right tabs find "Membership" and click on that tab
- On left column scroll down to "Affiliate Garden Clubs"

- Click on "Affiliate Bulletin Board" where you will find the notice for open house
- Click on the "register now" line to provide your name (and one guest if applicable)

**Note that your guest's charge is \$8.00.**

The theme for GLOW 2019 trees will be selected on November 19th after this year's trees are decorated.

*Thanks! Enjoy the season.*

For additional information, contact *Jane Petrie*  
(440) 526-4213

**Chippewa Place: Jane Petrie**

A delightful and fulfilling afternoon was spent with the appreciative residents at Chippewa Place Wednesday, November 28th, as we decorated the Christmas tree in their main entrance; and hosted a real *Tea Party*, complete with tea sandwiches, fresh fruit and a lovely assortment of holiday cookies and candies!!

A special *Thank You* to Pauline Dey, Donna Hessel, Mary Ellen Isaac, Pat Keltner-Owen and Nathalie Petri, all of whom helped make this a very special start of the Holiday Season for all!

Jane Petrie

**Sunshine Report ~ Mary Drumm**

If you are aware of any sunshine news, please contact our **Corresponding Secretary, Mary Drumm**, [(440) 546-0776; [Keemm@roadrunner.com](mailto:Keemm@roadrunner.com)].

*Marlene Ziss Winter was recently married in New England.* She and her husband will make Broadview Heights their home. *Best wishes to the bride and groom.*

Our thoughts and prayers are with *Gretchen Green* as she progresses at a rehab facility.

Charlene Schuh recently saw *Dassie Matsouka* and her daughter in Independence. Dassie looks great and really misses everyone at ENGC. Her email is finally back up & running [[dassiemats@gmail.com](mailto:dassiemats@gmail.com)].

If you have any contact information changes, the following members need to know ASAP: Maureen Michal, Lisa\_Payne, Donna Hessel, Marlene Ziss Winter, Kathie Brusk & Charlene Schuh.

**YEARBOOK ~ Donna Hessel**

*New Member:* **Joan Castelucci**  
Joined January, 2019

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If you have changes to your listing in the Member Directory and have not noted them on the pages that were circulated at the meetings, please email them to me, [hessel0722@gmail.com](mailto:hessel0722@gmail.com), by December 15. If you would like a new photo with your listing, it can be taken at the December luncheon. Thank you!

<b>December Birthdays</b>	
<b>Sue Mack</b>	<b>December 13</b>
<b>Pauline Dey</b>	<b>December 16</b>

**Scholarship: Gail Berzins**

**Danien Herman** received one of our scholarships. He comes from Northwest Ohio and is the 4<sup>th</sup> of 6 children. Darien will graduate in May, 2019.

And we received a thank you note from **Sam Arearo**, another scholarship recipient.

**Save the Dates:**

**November 23, 2018 ~ Saturday, January 5, 2019:**  
GLOW at Cleveland Botanical Garden

**December 5<sup>th</sup> Phipps Conservatory trip**

**December 13<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) ~ ENGC Holiday Luncheon**  
at *Creekside* restaurant, Brecksville

**DATES TO REMEMBER FOR 2019**

**March 10<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS**

**April 1<sup>st</sup> (Monday) OJC Spring Meeting**

**April 9<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) ~ GCO Spring District Meeting**

**June 5-6 (Wednesday, Thursday) ~ GCO 2018 91<sup>st</sup> Convention (Canton)**

**DECEMBER GARDEN TIPS**

*Bhg.com*

**Holiday Trees**

Nothing enhances a festive mood like the scent of fresh evergreens. Follow these tips to make the most of your holiday greenery:

- Choose a [Christmas tree](#) that has firm needles that don't fall from branches when handling the tree. Individual needles should bend rather than snap if you pinch them between your fingers. Also, inspect the stump; the cut end of a fresher

tree will be moist and may have some sticky sap on it yet.

- When you get the tree home, cut 2 inches off the base of the trunk. Plunge the freshly cut stump into a bucket of water. Trees can absorb 1 gallon of water in the first 24 hours. Check the water level in your tree stand twice a day for the first week. Add water as needed. Each day, trees can drink roughly 1 quart of water for every inch of trunk diameter.
- If your tree dries out, the wound likely healed over and stopped absorbing water. Make a fresh cut on the stump and it can absorb water again.
- When decorating indoors, avoid placing fresh evergreens on wood surfaces. Sap from branches can damage the finish. Instead, place greenery on parchment, colorful felt, or fabric.
- When Christmas is over, recycle your tree yourself: Cut off branches, and use as insulation over perennials. In spring, chip or shred branches to create mulch. Cut the trunk for firewood. Season it this year to burn next winter.

### [Tips for the best Christmas tree ever.](#)

[Find the right type of tree for you.](#)

### **Grow Living Color Indoors**

Tuck amaryllis bulbs in pots for blooms in a few weeks. Leave the bulb shoulders protruding above soil; planting too deeply can rot the bulb. Water when soil is dry. Consider inserting a stake at planting time to support tall flower stems and flop-prone leaves.

Display poinsettias away from heat sources or cold drafts. Keep soil consistently moist, but not soggy. Poinsettias that dry out droop dramatically and drop their flowers.

Cyclamen thrive in cool temperatures (50-60 degrees F). Place them in a spot where temps tumble overnight. Display them in a warmer spot during daylight hours -- somewhere you can enjoy the pretty blooms. Keep soil consistently moist.

[More ideas for Christmas decorating with plants and flowers.](#)

### **Plant Shopping Tips**

When you purchase plants, request a plastic or paper sleeve or sack be placed around them for protection against cold temperatures (most houseplants are damaged by temperatures less than 50 degrees F). Don't allow live plants to sit in a cold car while you run holiday errands. Arrange your

shopping so that plants go straight home when temperatures are in the freezing range. When you get home, remove the colorful paper, plastic, or foil covers from pots to allow water to drain. Otherwise, holiday plants will likely experience some form of root rot.

### **Cold-Weather Know-How**

**Snow Tips:** If possible, shovel or blow snow evenly across planting beds and around foundation plantings. Avoid heaping roadside snow onto planting areas; it's most likely full of road salt. When snow accumulates on trees and shrubs, remove it with gentle upsweeping motions. Don't bang on branches; frozen branches are more likely to snap and break.

**Ice:** When ice forms on tree and shrub branches, don't try to break it off -- you'll risk breaking branches. It's best to let the ice melt naturally.

Purchase ice-melting products early in the season. Investigate what's available in your area. Many products contain chloride (salt). Sodium chloride- and calcium chloride-based products damage plants more than potassium-based choices. Pet-friendly ice melt won't harm plants.

Forget melting ice; focus on creating traction. Use wood ashes, sand, or non-clumping kitty litter. Take steps to ensure material won't be tracked into your home on shoes and paws. Sand can destroy wood floors, and ashes make a mighty mess.

Don't use fertilizer to melt ice. This creates nitrogen runoff issues that could damage local bodies of water.

**Test Garden Tip:** Avoid storing pesticides where they'll freeze, like in a garage or shed. Some materials cannot withstand cold temperatures and will become ineffective. If odor is an issue, store in tightly sealed containers.

### **December Landscaping Tips**

**Planting Beds:** Cover bare soil in vegetable and annual planting beds. Use straw, pine needles, chopped leaves, or some other organic material.

**Spring Bulbs:** Get any remaining bulbs into the ground as soon as possible (if soil isn't frozen).

**Winter Mulch:** Avoid heaping mulch deeper than 2-3 inches. Greater depths favor vole colonies.

**Vegetable Garden:** Continue to harvest Brussels sprouts. They'll typically keep even when buried in snow drifts.

**Fruit Trees:** Gather and dispose of any remaining fruits or nuts on trees or the ground beneath them. This reduces pests and diseases next year.

Please email articles to [ccschuh@gmail.com](mailto:ccschuh@gmail.com).

**Gardening tips, websites to browse, and recipes are always welcome.**