



Emerald Necklace Garden Club Newsletter ~ February, 2019



*On the wind in February
Snowflakes float still,
Half inclined to turn to rain,
Nipping, dripping, chill.*

~Christina Georgina Rossetti, "A Year's Windfalls." 1866

Board Meeting:

The next Board Meeting is at **10:00am** on **Monday, February 11th** at Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church, 9201 Brecksville Road, Brecksville.

If you are unable to attend please call Donna Hessel (440) 526-6295.

Meetings ~ Pauline Dey/Carol Rosin

General Meeting: Our next general meeting will be at **9:15am** on **Thursday, February 14th** at Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church, 9201 Brecksville Road, Brecksville.

At our February meeting we will Explore Art, Design & Color with **Barbara Richardson** -- **Designer/Artist/Owner of Emerald & Violet Studio** [9722 Columbia Olmsted Falls, Ohio 44138 barbara@EmeraldAndVioletStudio.com - (216) 310.0080].

Join us and be inspired by all the color options available to you for your Home. Imagine how Art & Color could change your Interior spaces. Use color to create schemes for a beautiful and visually stunning appearance. Color is magical... learn how to blend and use this tool to enhance your home.

Among the many exciting programs planned for the remainder of 2019 are:

March: our own *Pat Cotsman "Waking Up Your Garden"*. Also *Noon Sharpening* will visit.

April: *Jody Ondrus "Blossoms. Bows and More"* Make and take Shadow box wreath,

May: Field Trip to *Dayton Nursery Norton Ohio*

June: *Tea with Eleanor Roosevelt*

July/August: No meetings

September: **Potluck** in the **Metroparks**, no speaker

October: **Field trip**, horticulture tour of **Cleveland Metroparks Zoo.**

November: Holiday make and take,

December: Holiday Luncheon & Installation of 2020 officers.

As you can see we have a busy and varied year planned. Hope to see you all at our meetings.

Pauline Dey and Carol Rosin

Message from the President ~ Donna Hessel

Hopefully Old Man Winter has had his fling and the weather will be temperate on February 14!

Our speaker, Barbara Richardson, is the dynamic and creative owner of Emerald and Violet, an innovative design studio and creative workshop in Olmsted Falls. Barbara's goal is to teach people how to live a more thoughtful, artful and colorful life. While her presentation for us, titled "Art, Design and Color," may seem kind of ho-hum, I can assure you as someone who has heard her speak before that you will leave the meeting inspired and motivated!

We will also have a power point review of our projects and activities in 2018. This would be a good meeting to invite potential new members to since they would be able to get a good idea of what our club is all about viewing last year's history. Know of any new retirees who are interested in gardening? New neighbors on your street? A personal invitation is meaningful.

The herb of the year is anise hyssop *Agastache ssp.* This low-growing bush smells like Fr. Tarragon, but sweeter with a hint of Basil. Purple flower stalks flower in July and pollinators love them. Seeds should be available for early sowing so we can offer small plants at Planterie in May.

The annual of the year is *Lemon Coral Sedum*. This sedum grows three to 10 inches tall and spreads slowly so it is great as a ground cover or in

containers. The chartreuse hue really makes the color of surrounding plants pop. It grows in full or part sun. Even though classified as an annual, mine has come through two winters so far. There should be plenty of plants at the garden centers this spring since it has been named the annual of the year. If you have it as a ground cover in your yard, plan to pot some up for Planterie.

The perennial of the year is *Stachys 'Hummelo.'* A low-growing variety with bright green foliage and magenta flower spikes that pollinators love. Colorful, compact and trouble free; deer resistant; grows in full sun or part shade and spreads slowly. Looks like *Lambs' Ears* but with green leaves and more compact flower heads.

Give some thought now to creating a raffle basket for the Luncheon raffle. Keep in mind the age of our attendees and the fact that they love gardening, but most are not active gardeners. Baskets with a garden theme or plant included and maybe a garden book are popular. They also love to be pampered, so think spa-related products. They feed the birds – think birdseed, birdhouse, suet, bird related books, etc. They have pets so dog or cat care items in a basket would be of interest. Food themed baskets are also good: Italian, French, Mexican; coffee break or tea-time theme; wine, etc. Grandchildren rule! Why not provide kid-size garden tools, gloves and seeds to inspire a life-long love of gardening? Partner with another club member on a basket, create one yourself, and/or contribute individual items such as bottles of wine, wine glasses, gardening books, and candles that are used as fillers in the baskets. Baskets have a value of \$75-\$100, but you don't need to spend that to create an imaginative basket! Watch for sales now, and shop for like-new items at thrift stores. Have fun creating a unique basket!

Please remember to review our ByLaws and Standing Rules and mail or email your recommended updates to Lisa Payne in February. I hope to see you at the meeting.

Donna

GCO FEED OHIO

Think warm, cozy thoughts for this cold month and bring needed hot meals for February's collection. Canned stews, soups, sloppy joes, spaghetti, chili, etc. As always, any donation is appreciated and the collection is voluntary.

Donna

SEEDS OF FRIENDSHIP

We will be collecting seed packs for Seeds of Friendship in February and March. Bring your seed packs and, if you so desire, sturdy garden gloves to the meetings. There will be a basket on the front table for them. We will deliver them to GCO at the district meeting on April 9. Only these kinds of seeds are needed: *Bush Green Beans, Green Cabbage, Onions, Green Peppers, Tomatoes, Cosmos* (all colors and sizes), and *Zinnias* (all colors and sizes). Pick up a reminder, shopping list to keep in your wallet.

2019 ENGC OFFICERS

- President: *Donna Hessel*
- 1st VPs: *Pauline Dey, Carol Rosin*
- 2nd VPs: *Kathie Brusk, Barbara Harviatt*
- Treasurer: *Laurie Siebert*
- Recording Secretary: *Sue Mack*
- Corresponding Secretary: *Mary Drumm*

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE COMMITTEE CHAIRS FOR 2019

Awards	Mary Ellen Isaac & Maureen Michal
Botanical Garden Liaison	Jane Petrie
By-Laws	Lisa Payne
Civic/Conservation	Jane Petrie & Lisa Payne
Flower Show 2020	TBD
Green Thumb/Youth	Susan Ditzig & Colleen Taylor
Historian	Nathalie Petri
Horticulture	Pat Cotsman & Nathalie Petri
Hostesses	Susan Ditzig
Membership	Denise Bowler
Newsletter	Charlene Schuh
Programs	Pauline Dey & Carol Rosin
Publicity/Website	Donna Hessel
Scholarship Liaison	Gail Berzins
Ways and Means (May Luncheon)	Kathie Brusk & Barbara Harviatt

2019 ENGC HOSTESSES

- February 14:** Dianna Kulwicki, Joan Castelucci, Donna Hessel, Shirley Grispino
- March 14:** Connie Anselmo, Marlyn Cerino, Alice Sheeler, Rosemarie Pitts

April 11: Kathy Smith, Sherry Klodnick, Elaine Geringer, Cheryl Spieth

May 9: *FIELD TRIP – no hostesses*

June 13: *Tea with Eleanor Roosevelt:* Colleen Taylor, Carol Rosin, Maureen Michal, Kathie Brusk, Sue Ditzig, Laurie Siebert

July/August: *No hostesses/no meetings*

September 12: *Potluck-Metropark*
Barbara Harviatt, Marlene Winter

October 10: *FIELD TRIP – no hostesses*

November 14: Mary Drumm, Judy Paffilas,
Pat Cotsman, Lisa Payne

December 12: *Holiday Luncheon – NO Hostesses*

Sunshine Report ~ Mary Drumm

Our sincere condolences are extended to members *Donna Hessel* and *Pat Keltner-Owen*. Donna's partner, Bob, suddenly passed away over the holidays. Pat's 96 year old step-mother passed away in early January.

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

New Member Profile: Joan Castelucci



Welcome to new member *Joan Castelucci*. Joan joined ENGC after retiring from a long career as a nurse – most recently at Brecksville-Broadview Heights Middle School. She was encouraged to join by friends, who are also ENGC members.

Joan enjoys dabbling in art. While serving as the nurse at Central School, she would often volunteer her time to paint the school's windows to help decorate for holidays and special events. Joan enjoys doing stained glass, cross-stitch and tole painting. She also likes flower arranging and herb gardening, and she is eager to expand her gardening knowledge through ENGC. Joan is looking forward to the birth of her first grandchild later this spring.

YEAR BOOK CHANGES:

If you have any changes, the following members need to know ASAP: Lisa Payne, Donna Hessel, Kathie Brusk.

February Birthdays	
Carol Rosin	February 4
Pat Keltner-Owen	February 5
Lisa Payne	February 28



Save the Dates:

February 11th (Monday) 10am ~ ENGC Board Meeting

February 14th (Thursday) 9:15am ~ ENGC General Meeting

March 11th (Monday) 10am ~ ENGC Board Meeting

March 14th (Thursday) 9:15am ~ ENGC General Meeting

April 8th (Monday) 10am ~ ENGC Board Meeting

April 9th (Tuesday) ~ GCO Spring District meeting – St. Michael's Woodside

April 11th (Thursday) 9:15am ~ ENGC General Meeting

April 11th (Thursday) Cleveland Botanical Garden Affiliate Day

April 30th (Tuesday) ~ Spring Luncheon set up

May 1st (Wednesday) ~ ENGC Spring Luncheon – St. Michael Woodside

May 6th (Monday) 10am ~ ENGC Board Meeting

May 9th (Thursday) 9:15am ~ ENGC General Meeting

June 5-6 (Wednesday/Thursday) ~ GCO 2019 Convention – Canton, Ohio

September 9th (Monday) 10am ~ ENGC Board Meeting

September 10th (Tuesday) ~ GCO Fall District Meeting –

September 12th (Thursday) ~ ENGC Potluck/Metropark

September 29th (Sunday) – Fall Fest in the Brecksville Metropark

February Garden Tips

<https://www.gardening-advice.net/february-gardening-tips.html>

Your February Gardening Tips are here! Here is what to do in the garden in late winter!

It is finally February and we slowly start seeing a bit of new growth in the garden here! We are probably more advanced here because of our climate in SW Ireland which is generally mild with little frost. The first daffodils are out with flowers and the hydrangeas are sprouting the first tiny leaves.

Also in our tunnels, we can see the first signs that the days are getting longer. Yay! Overwintering plants like perpetual spinach, kale and sprouting broccoli are showing tender young shoots and leaves!

We are harvesting the tender salad leaves from a sowing made last September. We grow Mizuna, Mibuna, Ethiopian Kale, Mustard Leaves and Arugula over the winter in our tunnels. The growth nearly stops during December and January but with the day length slowly increasing we see some nice growth coming on!

February Gardening Tips

TIP 1: START SEEDS DOORS

We will soon start off the first seeds in the tunnels. I am still holding off for a little while having learned my lesson! Our tunnels are not heated and depend on solar heat entirely. Sowing the seeds too early means slow and uneven germination. Often big seeds like e.g. spinach or peas are getting eaten by mice before they germinate. So I will wait until the end of the month for sowing in the tunnels but we will start some seeds indoors,

The first ones to be sown now will be tomatoes. They just need a long growing season and if they are not started off early there won't be a ripe tomato until September!

Of course, you can use window sills, conservatories or a porch for starting some early seeds indoors.

TIP 2: PRUNING AND TRIMMING

A lot of plants can be pruned now. This includes climbers like

Wisteria and summer-flowering Clematis. Siberian Dogwood benefits from having the shoots cut back

hard. You will have nicer colored shoots for the next winter season.

Grasses should be cut back before they start growing again. Cut them off just above soil level.

Fruit trees like apple or pear should be pruned before they start rising their sap.

Hedges should be trimmed before the birds start nesting.

Prune autumn fruiting raspberry canes now. This encourages the production of new canes for a good crop.

TIP 3: PUT MULCH AROUND SHRUBS AND TREES

Mulching helps to keep weeds down, increases soil fertility and helps to keep the soil moist. Remove weeds and grass before putting down any organic matter. If your soil is very weedy cover it with a layer of cardboard before putting on the mulch. This should kill most weeds before the cardboard is broken down.

What are good mulching materials? Basically any organic matter you can put your hands on! Make sure it doesn't contain weed or grass seed (Hay can be full of seed...learned the hard way!). You can use wood chips, bark mulch, straw, leaves, grass clippings,...

Tip 4: In The Veggie Garden - Prepare Your Beds

Beds can be prepared now to be ready for spring. Remove weeds and cover the beds with a couple of inches of compost and ideally a bit of mulch. **There is no need to dig.** Check out our [No-Dig page](#) and save yourself some hard work and backache!

Asparagus and artichokes respond well to compost and mulch around them. Fruit trees can also be mulched now.

TIP 5: PLANT ONIONS, SHALLOTS, AND GARLIC

You can still plant onions, garlic or shallots from sets if your ground isn't frozen. These vegetables are very tough and cold tolerant but a covering with garden fleece will still help them along.

February Gardening Tips For Indoor Plants

Houseplants will benefit from being potted in a larger container with fresh soil before the growing seasons starts. Check them for pest and diseases and remove dead leaves. You can slowly increase watering and feeding as growth picks up.

WHAT ELSE IS THERE TO DO IN THE GARDEN IN FEBRUARY?

- If you have **taken cuttings** earlier it is time to check them carefully for roots. If they have rooted you can transplant them now
- **chit seed potatoes**
- check plants overwintering in the glasshouse or conservatories for pests and diseases
- check fruit and vegetables in storage for rot and pests like mice
- keep feeding the birds
- **take cuttings** and divide perennials on frost free days
- **plant bare root trees**, fruit, roses and hedging
- transplant trees and shrubs
- divide and transplant perennials

HAVE YOU ORDERED YOUR SEEDS AND SEED POTATOES?

If you haven't ordered your seeds yet...it is time to get going! Check out **SeedsNow** for a great selection of herbs and veggie seeds.

Also consider ordering onion sets, **seed potatoes**, and asparagus crowns.

Greenside Up Garden & Gifts

<https://www.greensideupgifts.com/february-garden-tips-2/>

February Garden Tips

While winter is still lingering, there is still work to be done in the **garden**! Follow these **February garden tips** to be ahead of the curve when spring finally arrives:

Fertilize

While now is not the time to fertilize most plants that are still sleeping, or dormant, February is the time to fertilize all shade trees and any emerging spring flowers. By now you should begin to notice the small

blossoms on all shade trees. While they won't open for another month, they still need food!

Prune

Late winter is the time to prune all grapevines and ornamental grasses, such as liriope, mondo, and pampas grasses. When pruning these grasses, you can prune them back to the ground. Pruning will promote new growth and will remove all of the winter damage. If you happen to notice any branches on your shade trees that have died, prune these back, too! Pro tip: If you are unsure if the branch is alive, make a small scratch on the bark using your fingernail. If it is alive, it will be easy to scratch the bark off and you will also see green!

Spray the Following

February is the best time to win the battle against pest infestation on your fruit trees. For all fruit trees, spray with dormant insecticide oil to eliminate any insects. Some fruit trees, such as nectarines and peaches, will need to be sprayed with a fungicide spray. Do the legwork NOW and get ahead of the curve. You will be happy that you did.

Propagate

Propagation is always fun. There is something neat **about** taking a piece of one plant and creating another one! Now is the time to take hardwood cuttings from forsythia, hydrangeas, junipers, and crape myrtles. You can also split perennials, such as dillies, hostas, and grasses.

Please email articles to ccschuh@gmail.com. Deadline is 25th of the month for the following month's newsletter.

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