



## Emerald Necklace Garden Club Newsletter ~ January, 2020



*"The birds are gone, The ground is white,  
The winds are wild, They chill and bite;  
The ground is thick with slush and sleet,  
And I barely feel my feet."*

*unknown*

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### **BOARD MEETING:**

The next Board Meeting is at **10:00am** on **Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>** at Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church, 9201 Brecksville Road, Brecksville.

### **Annual Budget Meeting:**

The annual budget meeting will be held following the board meeting January 6<sup>th</sup>. If you are a committee chair and have not emailed Donna your proposed budget requirements for 2020, do it now! If we have not heard from you, your budget will remain the same as 2019. The 2020 budget will be reviewed and approved at the January general meeting.

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

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Our next general meeting will be on **Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup>** at Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church, 9201 Brecksville Road, Brecksville. We will start our new year with a look back at the past year. Nathalie Petri will present the highlights of our 2019 meetings and events. Gail Berzins will present a blast from the past from our archives.

At our Holiday luncheon in December, the following 2020 Officers were installed by Pauline Dey:

**President:** *Donna Hessel*  
**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Presidents:** *Maureen Michal and Mary Drumm*  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Presidents/(Ways & Means):**  
*Kathie Brusk and Susan Ditzig*  
**Corresponding Secretary:** *Shirley Grispino*  
**Recording Secretary:** *Charlene Schuh*  
**Treasurer:** *Laurie Siebert*

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### **Committee Chairs for 2020 will be:**

**Awards – Mary Ellen Isaac and Denise Bowler**

**By-laws – Judy Paffilas**

**Communications – Donna Hessel**

**Education – Jane Petrie**

**Historian – Gail Berzins**

**Holden Forest & Gardens Liaison – Jane Petrie**

**Horticulture – Pat Cotsman and Nathalie Petri**

**Hostesses – Susan Ditzig**

**Membership – Denise Bowler**

**Newsletter – Charlene Schuh**

**Programs – Maureen Michal and Mary Drumm**

**Scholarship Liaison – Nathalie Petri**

**Ways & Means – Kathie Brusk and Susan Ditzig**

**Youth – Susan Ditzig and Colleen Taylor**

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### **Spring Luncheon Raffle Chair: Pauline Dey**

Remember to save any baskets you might receive with Christmas gift baskets, also any fillers that might be in them - any wine, candles, lotions sets, Christmas gifts you don't want - hang onto as extras for our baskets.

Thanks *Pauline*

### **Cat Food Cans for FallFest**

My supply of cat food cans is diminishing this year. If you have a cat or know someone that does please save the cat food cans. The small cans are preferable (like Fancy Feast) and please clean and remove labels. These cans are used for the children's flower arrangements at FallFest. Typically we use 400-500 cans.

Thank you,  
*Maureen*

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: Donna Hessel**

I feel like Janus – the 2-headed mythical god of beginnings and endings, changes and transitions, who could look back at the past and ahead to the future. Last month I cited some of the good things we, as a club, accomplished in 2019. Looking to the future, here are some initial thoughts as to things we can do to keep our club interesting for members and a significant community organization.

As you can see from the list of 2020 committee chairs, many names appear on more than one committee. One of our most urgent needs is to attract new members to our club -- enthusiastic gardeners, recent retirees who are looking for new activities, joiners and doers who want to be involved in and contribute to our committees, programs and events. We will reach a new audience with our blog in the Northeast Ohio Boomer website and perhaps increase awareness of and interest in our club. This is the age group we need to target for new members who will advance the club's objectives and keep it vital. Word of mouth is still the best PR however, so if you have friends, neighbors, relatives who are interested in gardening, be sure to invite them to a meeting.

ENG C was invited to create an education display for the GCO Convention April 15 and 16. The subject is "Emerald Necklace" (Metroparks). The Board voted to accept the invitation, so we are starting to plan our exhibit. If you would like to help with this project, please let me know. Chippewa Garden Club did an education exhibit on this subject at their flower show in 2019 and we may be able recycle some of their materials. Initially the plan is to use the Metroparks' map of locations as the background and highlight features or activities at various locations with photos; plus provide handouts of its history and stats.

Our Blue Star Marker is in storage in Broadview Hts. awaiting reinstallation in a new, prominent location near the Broadview Heights City Hall this spring. We will work with a Chippewa Garden Club member on this project and perhaps add landscaping to complement the placement of the marker. Is this the time to consider adding a Gold Star Marker in the same or a different location?

Our 2020 program chairs have developed a variety of programs that truly offer "something for everyone!" In January Nathalie reviews our 2019 history -- meetings and events. Gail will share with

us a "Blast from the Past" – some very significant projects ENG C initiated in past years that many of us are not aware of. We discovered these when we were collating our archives. I hope you will plan to join us.

*Donna Hessel*

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**GCO FEED OHIO**

*There will not be a collection in January.* We will participate in this program sponsored by GCO again in 2020 beginning in **February**. Think "comfort food" – warm soups, stews, hot cereals, etc. -- for these cold winter months for our February collection. Maureen has graciously agreed to transport our donations for pick-up to the food bank again this year. Contributions are voluntary, as always.

*Donna*

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**"Gardening Sweet Spots" Blog Is Published**

ENG C is being promoted in a monthly blog titled "Gardening Sweet Spots". You can find a new subject the beginning of each month in 2020 at [NortheastOhioBoomer.com](http://NortheastOhioBoomer.com). The website complements the monthly print publication *Northeast Ohio Boomer and Beyond*, available free at libraries, Marc's lobby and other local shops.

The blog is being written under the auspices of ENG C and our club will be promoted each month. Hopefully the articles will inspire recently retired boomers to find out more about ENG C and come to a meeting. At the very least, it will increase awareness of ENG C and promote interest in various aspects of gardening. Nathalie wrote about "winter sowing" and her bottle greenhouse seed-starting technique for January. I would love to have other ENG C members contribute articles for coming months, so if you've got a favorite gardening subject you'd like to share, please let me know.

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**2020 ENG C HOSTESSES**

A sign-up sheet for 2020 hostesses was circulated at the Holiday Luncheon. If you're not certain what you've signed up for, please check below:

**January:** *Judy Paffilas; Mary Drumm; Laurie Siebert; Nathalie Petri*

**February:** *Maureen Michal; Dianna Kulwicki; Marlene Winter; Kathie Brusk*

**March:** *Barbarta Harvatt; Gail Berzins; Charlene Schuh; Carol Rosin*

**April:** *Colleen Taylor; Dianna Kulwicki; Mary Ellen Isaac; Pauline Dey*

2020 Hostesses continued

**May:** FIELD TRIP ~ NO HOSTESSES

**June:** *Sherry Klodnick; Cheryl Spieth  
Kathy Smith; Elaine Geringer*

**July/August** ~NO MEETINGS/NO HOSTESSES

**September:** *Donna Hessel; Sue Mack;  
Shirley Grispingo; Sue Ditzig*

**October:** AFTERNOON FIELD TRIP ~  
NO HOSTESSES

**November:** *Christine Glick; Connie Anselmo;  
Pat Owens; Jane Petrie*

**December:** HOLIDAY LUNCHEON ~  
NO HOSTESSES

2020 Calendar of Events

January 9 Annual Meeting; “Year in Review,”  
Blast from the Past

February 13 “Aromatherapy Oils” - Angela  
Bucciare, Wellness Consultant, Heinen’s

March 12 “Pollinators” - Denise Ellsworth,  
Program Director Pollinator Education, OSU  
Extension

April 9 “Native Plants” - Jo Ann Bartsch,  
Master Gardener, Chippewa Garden Club

May 14 Field Trip - ATI/Secrest Arboretum,  
Wooster

June 11 Presentation on Cuyahoga Valley  
National Park and Potluck Picnic

July/August ~ NO MEETINGS

September 10 “ENGC Funded BBHHS Class  
Projects” - Dan Reynolds

October 8 Field Trip - Mapleside Farms -  
1:00 PM - Fall Fun

November 12 “Creative Creations” - Sandy  
Apidone, Owner, Countryside Florist

December 10 Holiday Luncheon, 11:30 AM,  
Creeside Restaurant, Brecksville

SUNSHINE NEWS ~ Shirley Grispingo

Mary Drumm will continue to cover  
corresponding secretary responsibilities for Shirley  
Grispingo in January 2020. Shirley will assume her  
responsibilities in February 2020.

Charlene Schuh is currently on vacation in  
California and has requested that should anyone  
want to call her there please call on California time  
instead of Ohio time.

If you are aware of any sunshine news, please  
contact our **Corresponding Secretary**.

YEAR BOOK CHANGES:

If you have any changes, the following  
members need to know ASAP: *Denise Bowler,  
Donna Hessel*.

Save the Dates:

January 6, 2020 (Monday, 9:00 AM) ~ GLOW  
Tree Take-Down

February 23, 2020 (Sunday, 1:30-4:00 PM) ~  
“Waking Up the Garden” at Brecksville Library  
– ENGC Education Program

April 15-16 ~ GCO 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention,  
Cleveland

April 28 ~ GCO Spring District Meeting

May 3, 2020 (Sunday) ~ Olmstead Falls Plant  
Sale

August 25 ~ GCO Fall District Meeting

November 5 ~ GCO Holiday Program North

2020-2021 NGC/CAR/GCO Officers

National Garden Clubs (NGC) President

*Gay Austin*

[GayAustin@gmail.com](mailto:GayAustin@gmail.com)

Central Atlantic Region (CAR) Director

*Gale Corle*

[GCorle1214@gmail.com](mailto:GCorle1214@gmail.com)

CAR Alternate Director

*Angie Raitano*

Garden Club of Ohio (GCO) President

*Mary Lou Smith*

[Mlsmith6@cinci.rr.com](mailto:Mlsmith6@cinci.rr.com)

GCO Executive Secretary

*Marilee Zarbock*

[Mmz722@roadrunner.com](mailto:Mmz722@roadrunner.com)

Cleveland District Director

*Barbara Schuh*

[duffschuh@roadrunner.com](mailto:duffschuh@roadrunner.com)

Cleveland Co-District Director

*Kelly Siemborski*

[Kelly.Siemborski@gmail.com](mailto:Kelly.Siemborski@gmail.com)

Refer to “Save the Dates” above for upcoming  
2020 GCO events.

## **January Gardening Tips**

January is the beginning of the gardening year – a time for fresh starts, renewed energy, and grand plans for the twelve months ahead.

Jobs in the garden this month are mostly about keeping things trim and tidy, and getting ready for the year to come. If you're itching to get growing, there are a few things you can do besides the obvious planting bare root roses, chitting first early spuds and starting off your sweet peas. Check out what to sow and grow this month

### **Timely Tips**

It might be cold outside, but there are still plenty of jobs to do in the garden this month. Here are the main ones:

1. Put your new-year enthusiasm to good use by cleaning pots, tools, water butts and greenhouses in preparation for spring. It's not the most glamorous of tasks, but it will set you up for a great growing season.
2. Start planning what you want to do with your garden in the months to come. Now is the time to order seeds and plants from the comfort of your armchair (see below).
3. Check your winter protection is still working for you – survey any stakes, supports and ties that might have been damaged in bad weather.
4. Continue looking after wildlife – put out food for hungry birds and continue to leave some areas of your garden uncut for shelter until the spring.

### **In the flower garden**

Here are your main tasks to do in the flower garden this month:

#### **Pruning and tidying**

- **Prune your wisteria** – cut back summer side shoots to 2 or 3 buds.
- **Prune rose bushes** – January is the perfect time to do this as roses are still dormant. Cut back to just above a bud and remove any crossing or dead branches.
- **Cut back ornamental grasses.** Clip the old foliage from ornamental grasses before new growth begins – cut back to within a few centimeters of the ground.

- **Tidy up perennials.** Cut down the old stems of perennial plants like sedum– be careful of any new growth.
- **Remove old hellebore leaves** – this will make new blooms more visible as they emerge this spring.
- **Cut back willows.** Trim the damaged, diseased and the oldest stems of brightly colored willows, and thin out overcrowded stems.
- **Deadhead winter pansies.** Remove any faded flowers from your winter pansies to stop them setting seed.

### **In the vegetable garden**

The vegetable garden might feel quiet in January, but there are still plenty of jobs to do this month. If you want an excuse to get outdoors on a fine, January day, here are some things to be getting on with:

- **Harvest parsnips and leeks** – now's the perfect time to do this.
- **Protect potato grow bags** with horticultural fleece on cold nights if your greenhouse is unheated.
- **Remove yellowing leaves from winter brassicas**– they're of no use to the plant and can harbor pests and diseases.
- **Prepare the ground for early peas.** Place a cloche over the soil this month, to help warm up the ground for a few weeks before sowing.

### **In the fruit garden**

#### **Pruning**

- **Begin pruning apple and pear trees** – if you haven't done so already; it's best done while the plants are still dormant.
- **Prune blackcurrants, gooseberries and redcurrants** to maintain a productive framework.
- **Leave plums, cherries and apricots alone** until the summer – pruning them now will only make them susceptible to silver-leaf infections.

#### **Other jobs**

- **Force rhubarb plants** by placing an upturned bucket or bin over the crown. The tender pink stems will be ready in about 8 weeks' time.



- **Order fruit bushes**, such as currants, now and plant in a well-prepared bed in a sheltered position; they will be a lot tastier than supermarket produce!

### Looking after your lawn

Avoid walking on your lawn whenever it is blanketed by heavy frost or snow, as this will damage the grass beneath.

### Other jobs around the garden

Here are some other jobs you can do around the garden this January:

- **Get a headstart on weeds.** Remove any lurking weeds – roots and all– from borders.
- **Remove heavy snow from greenhouses** and cold frames to prevent glass being damaged.
- **Brush heavy snow off hedges and conifers** to prevent the branches from snapping out under its weight.
- **Shred your Christmas tree** and add it to compost bins. Alternatively, the stripped down branches make great pea sticks.
- **Feed the birds**– Hang fat balls and keep bird feeders topped up to attract birds, which will in turn eat garden pests.
- **Remove slimy patches from patios and paving**– scrub with a broom or blast with a pressure washer.

- **Plant amaryllis bulbs in pots** now, for spectacular indoor flowers in early spring.
- **Move potato planters inside** as frosts will kill the foliage.
- **Inspect fruits and vegetables in storage** and remove any that are diseased.
- **Check Dahlia tubers in storage** and remove any that are showing signs of rotting.
- **Hydrate indoor plants.** Central heating can dry the air in your home and cause damage to indoor plants. Mist house plants regularly and stand them on a tray of pebbles filled with water to increase humidity.

### From your armchair

January is a great time to plan your garden for the year ahead. Make the most of this quieter time to do the following garden admin from the comfort of your armchair:

- **Plan your vegetable plot.** Consider good crop rotation to prevent pests and diseases building up in the soil.
- **Order seeds.** Draw up a garden plan to help decide the quantities of each seed you need.
- **Order spring-planting crowns and tubers.** Think about dedicating a bed to perennial vegetables such as asparagus, rhubarb and artichokes.
- **Order fruit trees** now for spring planting.
- **Order clematis.**
- **Order fuchsias, geraniums and lobelia,** in preparation for the busy spring period.

Please email articles to [ccschuh@gmail.com](mailto:ccschuh@gmail.com) by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month.

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