



Emerald Necklace Garden Club Newsletter ~ February, 2020



*"Away in a meadow all covered with snow
The little old groundhog looks for his shadow
The clouds in the sky determine our fate
If winter will leave us all early or late."*

- Don Hallev

BOARD MEETING:

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

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

General Meeting-Mary Drumm/Maureen Michal

Our next general meeting will be on **Thursday, February 13th** at Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church, 9201 Brecksville Road, Brecksville.

Our speaker will be Angela Bucciare, the wellness consultant at Heinen's. She will be talking about aroma therapy and essential oils; what they are, how to use them and their benefits in our lifestyle. Please join us for what I am sure will be an informative and interesting presentation. Due to time constraints we were unable to have the historian's report from Nathalie at our last meeting so we will include that in this February meeting.

Thanks,
Maureen

Spring Luncheon Raffle Chair: Pauline Dey

Luncheon Raffle Baskets. If anyone has large baskets to use for the raffle, please bring to the February meeting. Smaller ones go to Patio shop. I will also have sheets ready to sign up for putting a basket together. One or two of you can get together and plan your basket. Anything gardening goes well also Lottery tickets wine and restaurant gift cards. See you in February.

Thanks *Pauline*

PATIO: Maureen Michal/Mary Drumm

We are collecting baskets, pots and planters that can be used in the Patio at the luncheon. Please

bring them to the meetings or contact Maureen or Mary for a home pick-up.

Cat Food Cans for Fall Fest

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

It's that time of year when you look at fall's browned dregs in the garden and think they are never going to recover and become the green, growing, beautiful plants you admired last summer! But don't despair. Spring will come, sooner or later. Brighten up your outlook by coming to the February 23 education program, "***Waking Up the Garden***" at the **Brecksville Library, 2-4 pm**. This is not a "scheduled" ENG C meeting and we hope to primarily attract non-members who are interested in gardening. But ENG C members are definitely welcome. Just be sure to call Jane Petrie and let her know you will be there.

Have you filled out the ticket form for our spring luncheon? Judy and/or Kathie will be happy to collect your ticket orders at the February meeting. Start thinking about contributions for the raffle – a list of titles to jumpstart your collecting will be passed at the February meeting. But think beyond baskets, too. What other garden-related items would attract raffle ticket holders? Beautiful, coffee-table garden books? Birdhouses? Potted plants? Garden art and/or décor? Our guests may travel or they may love to spend a quiet evening at

home with a good movie and popcorn; they may have grandchildren; they may have pets; they may be sports fans; they probably feed the birds. All are possibilities for basket contents. Keep in mind the average age of our attendees and the fact that they may live in a condo or apartment with little space to garden. But they love "gardening" or they wouldn't be at our luncheon.

You've probably burned incense, scented candles or wax beads at some time in your life (hello, '60s?). It will be interesting to hear how aromatic oils can enhance our lives in the 21st century at our February meeting. I hope to see you there.

Donna Hessel

GCO FEED OHIO

Think warm and cozy! Soups, stews, pasta combos, etc. Bring your donations to the February meeting. Your participation in this program is voluntary. South Hills Lend a Hand is grateful for our contributions, which amounted to more than 1,000 pounds in 2019.

Donna

Education Series

We have a wonderful Education Series coming **Sunday February 23rd 2-4 pm** at **Brecksville Library**. "*Waking up the garden*" will have 2 of our own members and a guest from the Western Reserve Herb Society sharing their knowledge in 20 minute periods followed by time for Questions & Answers. Many fine resources for take home will be available as well. This is open to the public upon registration with me. [This includes all club members] No fee. This is also an opportunity for members to share another side of our club with others.

Questions.....Jane Petrie or Mary Ellen Isaac

Cleveland Botanical Garden

In case you did not hear, "GLOW" was a huge hit this year and our tree was outstanding!! Thank you to all who made that possible, whether raising the funds, making/buying the materials, putting it all together, or putting it to bed. It worked and it was beautiful.....Thank you to all.

Chippewa Place

They hated to see the tree come down again this year. And they are still talking about the lovely Tea Party that has become part of the decorating. Ellen sent a lovely thank you note to the club in January.

I so missed not being part of this event.
Thank you!
Jane Petrie

Affiliate Day at the CBG

Affiliate Day at the CBG will have news shortly regarding the complete program.

2020 ENGC 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:

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

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

April: *Colleen Taylor; Denise Bowler; Mary Ellen Isaac; Pauline Dey*

May: **FIELD TRIP ~ NO HOSTESSES**

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

July/August ~NO MEETINGS/NO HOSTESSES

September: *Donna Hessel; Sue Mack; Shirley Grispino; 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

February 13: "*Aromatherapy Oils*" - *Angela Bucciere, 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 "*Cuyahoga Valley National Park*" and *potluck picnic*

July/August ~ NO MEETINGS

September 10 “*ENG C 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, Creekside Restaurant, Brecksville*

SUNSHINE NEWS ~ Shirley Grispino

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

YEAR BOOK CHANGES:

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

February Birthdays

Carol Rosin

Pat Owen-Keltner



Save the Dates:

January 28 to March 1 ~ Orchid Mania at Cleveland Botanical Garden (*Ask the Orchid Doctor – Saturdays from 2 – 3pm*)

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

April 15-16 ~ GCO 92nd 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 ENG C Officers:

President: *Donna Hessel*

1st Vice Presidents: *Maureen Michal and Mary Drumm*

2nd Vice Presidents/(Ways & Means):

Kathie Brusk and Susan Ditzig

Corresponding Secretary: *Shirley Grispino*

Recording Secretary: *Charlene Schuh*

Treasurer: *Laurie Siebert*

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*

2020-2021 NGC/CAR/GCO Officers

National Garden Clubs (NGC) President

Gay Austin

GayAustin@gmail.com

Central Atlantic Region (CAR) Director

Gale Corle

GCorle1214@gmail.com

CAR Alternate Director

Angie Raitano

Garden Club of Ohio (GCO) President

Mary Lou Smith

Mlsmith6@cinci.rr.com

GCO Executive Secretary

Marilee Zarbock

Mmz722@roadrunner.com

Cleveland District Director

Barbara Schuh

duffschuh@roadrunner.com

Cleveland Co-District Director

Kelly Siemborski

Kelly.Siemborski@gmail.com

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

Cranberry Squares Recipe

The recipe below was submitted by Mary Drumm. Many members asked for it after she made it for the January meeting. Thanks, Mary.

Dassie's Cranberry Squares (Dassie Matsuoka)

1 ½ sticks butter softened
1 ½ cups sugar
2 eggs
1 ½ cups flour
2 cups whole cranberries
1 cup chopped walnuts
Powdered sugar for topping

Beat butter and sugar. Add eggs one at a time. Add flour.

Fold in nuts first, then cranberries

Spoon into greased 9X13 pan. Bake at 350 for 30-35 minutes until golden brown.

After cool, dust with powdered sugar.

February Gardening Tips

<http://www.costafarms.com/plants/osteospermum>

1. Plant Cold-Hardy Annuals in February

In Florida and other frost-free regions, you can plant cold-hardy annuals outdoors. Choose species that can take a light frost such as pansy, dianthus, sweet alyssum, dusty miller, sweet pea, osteospermum, and calendula. If unseasonable cold weather threatens, cover your plants with a light sheet (don't use plastic, though) until the temperatures rebound. Make sure your cover is weighed down to keep it stable in windy conditions. And, use stakes to keep it from touching foliage. Move potted flowers into a protected location.

Tip: If cold weather threatens, water the soil around your plants thoroughly. Wet soil holds the heat better than dry soil and will help warm the air close to the soil surface.

2. Inspect Houseplants

Keep indoor plant pests, such as mealybug, scale, and spider mites at bay by giving your houseplants a physical exam every time you water. These creatures thrive in the dry winter atmosphere of your home and can disfigure your favorite plants. Control pests with an insecticidal soap or houseplant insecticide.

Tip: Give your plants a weekly spritz in the shower to help wash off invading insect pests and to increase the humidity around the plant. Most indoor plants are tropical in nature so the more humidity

you can provide, the happier your plant will be.

3. Plant a Terrarium

If it's too cold to garden outdoors in February, why not design a garden under glass? To create a miniature jungle, look for clear-glass containers that have a lid or stopper that will help maintain a humid atmosphere around your plants. For plants such as succulents that prefer a drier climate, select a large, open-mouthed container. Then, look for plants that remain compact. Good choices for a moist environment include:

- Pilea
- Pepperomia
- Ivy
- Artillery fern
- Button fern
- Baby tears
- Creeping fig

For an open container try:

- Cactus
- Succulents
- Hens-and-chicks
- Jade plant
- Hoya
- Bromeliad

Tip: Before you add soil, spread a layer of aquarium gravel over the bottom of your terrarium. This will facilitate drainage if you over water. Then, place a layer of window screen over the gravel to help prevent the soil from washing down.

4. Feed the Birds in February

By late winter many natural food sources for local birds will begin to thin out. It's important to keep your bird feeders fully stocked until spring. Offer a variety of foods to attract the widest selection of bird species. Black oil sunflowers, for example, draw cardinals, blue jays, juncos, and a host of other species. Beef suet is ideal for woodpeckers, mockingbirds, and nuthatches. And Nyjer seed is a finch favorite. Also, include a diverse selection of feeders such as tube, hopper, and platform to accommodate the feeding habits of different bird species.

Tip: During winter you can often attract more songbirds to fresh water than you can to food. Use a heater to keep the water in your birdbath from freezing and add fresh water every few days.

5. Start Seeds

Start flowers and vegetables that benefit from an early start indoors in February. Use grow lights to germinate begonia, geranium, coleus, eggplant, and

peppers. For best results, use a soilless seed-starting mix and hang grow lights just a few inches over the top of your plants. Use a timer to keep the grow lights on for 12 to 14 hours a day. Improve germination by using a heat mat underneath your plants to keep the soil warm. After your seedlings are up and growing, feed them with a diluted (at a quarter of the strength recommended on the packaging) solution of liquid fertilizer every time you water.

Tip: Try not to start your plants too early. Read the seed pack to find out how many weeks it will take for your plants to develop into the ideal size for the garden. Then, count backwards from your last expected frost date to get an accurate start date.

6. Plant Cool-Weather Crops

If you live in the South or Far West, you can plant cool weather vegetables such as spinach, peas, greens, onions, potatoes, lettuce, Swiss chard, beets, carrots, and radishes in your February garden. To be sure your soil is ready for planting, squeeze a handful and if it forms a tight, muddy ball hold off on planting. Ideally, when squeezed, your soil should gently flake away when rubbed between your fingers.

Tip: To increase harvests plant in wide rows instead of single file. Use your hoe to create a shallow 6 to 10 inch wide planting bed, toss in your seeds, and cover. It's easy and you'll get much more produce than you would lining up your vegetables like toy soldiers.

7. Prune Roses

Late winter, while the plants are still dormant, is the ideal time to prune roses. Remove dead branches and any bloom stalks left over from last year. A good rule of thumb is to prune roses, except climbers, back by about a third each year. This promotes compact growth and improves the overall form of the plant. Climbers can be left alone unless you want to trim stray branches.

Tip: Good air circulation is important to maintain rose health. If your roses are growing into each other, prune them so air can flow between the plants. This helps prevent common fungal problems such as black spot disease.

8. Add Color Indoors

Brighten the dark, dreary days of winter with blooming tropical plants such as orchids and bromeliads. These plants provide a welcome dose of color to every room in your home. With minimum attention, orchids and bromeliads stay in bloom for months.

Tip: For best effect, place three or more bromeliads or orchids together in an ornamental pot or urn. You'll get bigger color show and the plants will also be easier to take care of because they aren't scattered around your house. One watering will take care of all of them.

See some of the best flowering houseplants.

9. Plant Bulbs

In Florida and other frost-free regions, summer bulbs such as crinum, agapanthus, dahlia, gloriosa, gladiolus, and canna can be planted now. Site them where they will receive at least 6 to 8 hours of direct sunlight a day. Their only other requirement is well-drained soil that doesn't remain wet and soggy after heavy rains. Mulch the bulbs to protect them from an unexpected cold snap and to minimize weeds.

Tip: Enjoy bulb flowers weeks earlier by purchasing pre-sprouted plants at your local garden center. Bulbs are a snap to grow, but some take a while to break dormancy, so potted plants will jumpstart the color show.

10. Start a Journal

Maintaining a garden journal is one of the best ways of keeping tabs of how your garden performed each season. Take note of which vegetables tasted the best, what roses had the most fragrant blooms, the insect pests that gave you headaches, or container combinations that knocked your socks off. Write down everything you can think of, positive or negative, about your garden so you can refer to it as you prepare for another planting season. Also, make a point to take photographs of your garden every week so you can monitor its progress through the year.

Tip: Scan the plant tags and empty seed packets to make digital records of everything in your garden. This way you'll create a record of what's growing in your garden and you won't have to physically save a mixed pile of tags and packets.

Please email articles to ccschuh@gmail.com by the 25th of the month.

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