

# ENGC Newsletter

## April, 2020



**"Forsythia is pure joy. There is not an ounce, not a glimmer of sadness or even knowledge in forsythia. Pure, undiluted, untouched joy."**  
- Anne Morrow Lindbergh



### **BOARD MEETING:**

The April Board Meeting is **CANCELLED** for safety reasons because of the Coronavirus emergency..

### **General Meeting-Mary Drumm/Maureen Michal**

Our April 9<sup>th</sup> General Meeting is **CANCELLED** for safety reasons because of the Coronavirus emergency.

April is designated as Ohio Native Plant Month. Our April speaker was to have been JoAnn Bartsch who is currently on the GCO Board and very knowledgeable on the subject of native plants. JoAnn wrote a great article in the spring publication of GCO's Garden Greetings that we all should have received. We invite you to read the article and get inspired. Listed in the article are some resources that might help you in choosing native plants. It's planning time now and soon it will be planting time. Until then, stay well.

### **Food Cans for FallFest**

My supply of cat food cans is diminishing this year. If you have a cat or know someone who 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 hope you are complying with the governor's order to shelter-in-place unless it is absolutely necessary to venture out for necessities for survival. Look upon these restrictions as an opportunity to appreciate a slower pace. Get outside and welcome the early signs of Spring – the lilacs budded, the daffodils nodding in the breeze, tiny leaves appearing on shrubs and trees, mounds of green pushing through the brown debris of winter mulch. Listen to the birds declaring their territorial rights.

When you take a break from tidying up your own garden, move a comfortable chair to your computer or tablet and watch one of these videos. Each one is about an hour long and takes you on tours of gardens throughout the U.S. and the world. If a click on the link in this newsletter doesn't take you to the video, you can highlight the link, copy and paste it into your browser. You will have to scroll down on a couple past the ad to get to the actual video (it has the arrow to click on). At the bottom right of the frame, you can click on the outlined square to make the picture full screen.

The garden tours include Monticello and gardens of other well-known individuals, including Chiluly's garden of glass sculpture interspersed with plants and flowers. Beautiful! There are two videos of Japanese gardens that are peaceful and exquisite and may inspire you to create a similar area in your space. The tour guide is informative and easy to listen to. So enjoy at your leisure.

<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x7qd6nx>

<https://hdclump.com/monty-dons-american-gardens-episode-2/>

<https://hdclump.com/monty-dons-american-gardens-episode-3/>

<https://hdclump.com/monty-dons-japanese-gardens/>  
<https://hdclump.com/monty-dons-japanese-gardens-episode-2/>

**[Presidents Message, continued]**

April is Native Plant Month in Ohio. We already have some of these plants and trees in our gardens. Learn about new ones to add that will provide new color and interest from JoAnn Bartsch's article in *Garden Greetings* and Nathalie's experience she is sharing with us.

If there is news you would like included in the next newsletter, please forward it to the appropriate committee chair or to Charlene. We will keep you informed as to meetings in May as the virus situation evolves. In the meantime, stay home and stay well.

*Donna*

**Seeds of Friendship**

Since there is no April meeting, we won't have that opportunity to collect more seed packs for **Seeds of Friendship**. If you have purchased seeds or gloves for this project or wish to contribute, you can deliver them to my house (Donna Hessel) in Brecksville by **April 10th (Friday)**. Just leave a bag on the front porch bench, or by the garage door. I will mail our contribution to the Seeds of Friendship GCO chair person so it can be included with their shipment to Rwanda.

**SUNSHINE NEWS ~ Shirley Grispino**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

Marlyn Cerino has a new great grandson, Elliot Ethan, born February 22 at 9 lbs, 1 oz.

Maureen Michael has a new grandson, (Gary Lucas, born March 1, 7 lbs, 2oz, 19-3/4 inches)

Shirley Grispino's son took 6th place in the state track competition.

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

**2020 Calendar of Events**

**April 9:** *"Native Plants" - Jo Ann Bartsch, Master Gardener, Chippewa Garden Club—*  
**CANCELLED**

**May 14:** *Field Trip - ATI/Secrest Arboretum, Wooster*

**June 11** *"Cuyahoga Valley National Park"*  
*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 A M,*  
*Creekside Restaurant, Brecksville*

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

**Sherry Klodnick**  
**Shirley Basista**

**YEARBOOK CHANGES:**

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

I went on the website below to look at the cherry trees in Washington D.C.. You can watch a good video, and with this link you can see a live cam [nationalcherryblossomfestivallive.org](http://nationalcherryblossomfestivallive.org).

Members might like watching it to remember that Spring will come.

Also, this would be a great time for our members to send emails or notes to some of our friends of the garden club. This must be a very trying time for them.

*Thanks*  
*Pauline*

## HORTICULTURE: Pat Cotsman

For gardeners, this is a busy and fun time. We are seeing things coming up and starting to bloom. If you have Hellebores, they are in bloom or bud. If you don't have these, you should. I have a clump that I've had for 50 years. They are poisonous and deer and pests leave them alone. Newer varieties have larger, multi-petaled flowers and upward facing blooms instead of nodding down. They like semi-shade, slightly sweet soil (limey) and soil that is not wet.

At this time, you can scatter seeds of certain annuals listed as half-hardy. Things like Cleome, Larkspur, Marigold, Alyssum, Poppies, Bachelor Buttons, and Calendula can be planted now. These can take chilly temps. These can take chilly temps. I see Larkspur coming up now from seeds that fell last year.

Veggies such as lettuce, spinach, peas and onions can be planted. Onion sets should be put out in April as they bulb when days get long. The more top-growth, or leaves they have the bigger the bulbs. If you plant in mid-May, they will bulb in late June, have fewer leaves and thereby smaller bulbs. Deer leave onions, leeks and shallots alone. They don't eat garlic, but it should have been planted in Fall.

Now is the time to clean your birdhouses and rehang them if you brought them in for winter. I see birds nesting in some of mine.

We had a mild winter, so should have really nice floral display from trees and shrubs. I noticed a couple of Snapdragon plants I didn't remove last fall are sending out leaves. I also noticed verbena bonairiensis sending out leaves at the base. These are both perennials in zone 7 and warmer.

If you are doing any pruning on Oak trees, do it before they leaf out to avoid Oak wilt disease.

## [HORTICULTURE: Pat Cotsman, continued]

If you have perennials that bloom at end of summer or fall, now is the time to divide them if they need it. If you have weeds that are blooming such as bittercress and chickweed. Pull them before they set seeds. Since we can't go anywhere, I guess our gardens will be weed free.

If you stored dahlias, cannas, begonias or elephant ear tubers, you should check on them as I have sprouts on cannas and begonias,

If you have had Iris borers, remove leaves that overwintered and spray new leaves in mid-April and again a week later with insecticide. Some eggs may be on soil and will hatch and tunnel through leaves to rhizome starting at that time.

Wishing good health to all,

*Pat Cotsman*

Just a reminder that there are many museums with virtual tours online. Check them out. And I agree with Pauline—sending a card to our friend members could mean a lot to them right now. Write them a note and include a memory or story of something you shared with them. They will enjoy it and read it over and over. Their days are long, and if they live in a Facility, they are being isolated like we are. (But we have Netflix and treadmills and can go outside in our yards) Take care everybody.

*Laurie*

The Newsletter **deadline** is always **the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month.**

Please email articles to, or mail them to, Charlene Schuh,.

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

After the March meeting, Carol Rosin was asked for the recipe she used for the Lemon Crumb Muffins.....so here it is:

### LEMON CRUMB MUFFINS

2 c. Butter (melted)	4 c. Sugar
2 c. Sour Cream	6 c. Flour (we use Softex Pastry Flour)
8 eggs	2 T. Lemon Juice
3/4 t. Baking Soda	3/4 t. Salt
5 Fresh Lemons	

Sift all dry ingredients together. Grate the rind of 5 lemons. Set the lemons aside. Whisk eggs & add sour cream, butter, lemon juice; whisk until smooth. Fold in lemon rind. Fold all dry ingredients into the egg mixture. Blend well.

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#### Streusel

1 1/4 c. Sugar  
1 1/4 c. Flour  
1/3 c. Softened Butter

Sift sugar & flour together. Add softened butter, work into dry ingredients until smooth.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Lemon Glaze

1/2 c. Sugar                      1/3 c. Lemon Juice

Stir together until all of the sugar is dissolved.

Spray muffin tins & fill with Lemon Muffin batter. Top with Streusel. Bake at 350 for 18 to 20 minutes (325 for convection oven) Poke muffins with a toothpick, drizzle top with lemon glaze. Remove from muffin tin, and store in airtight container.

**YIELD:** 24 - 30 muffins

**NOTE:** Batter can be kept up to 1 week in refrigerator.

*Pine Tree Barn and Farms, Inc.  
4374 Shreve Rd. \* Wooster, OH 44691  
330-264-1014  
4 mi South of Wooster off Rt 3 on Rt 226*



**BEE REMOVAL; HONEY;  
POLLINATION; BEES FOR SALE;  
BEE PRODUCTS; CLASSES**

**The EPA classifies imidacloprid as highly toxic to bees!**

[Watch this Video!](#)

\*Given all of this information, many *American farmers aren't willing to take any chances* and are forsaking all products containing imidacloprid, which puts them in step with European farmers and with the common sense based Precautionary Principle.

"Pollination is so important to us, we agreed not to use these new materials," said Darren Hammond, farm manager for Jasper Wyman & Sons of Maine, the nation's largest producer of wild blueberries. "Our primary competitor and all of our outside growers have also agreed not to use these products. We're not saying there's definitely a link between bees and **imidacloprid**; that's for the researchers to decide. We're just not willing to take the risk."

[Entire Story Here](#)

**Below is a summary of the chemical and brand names of the commonly used neonicotinoids. These are toxic to our honey bees. We are asking growers who are using these materials and who are dependent on honey bees for pollination, not to use these products currently until more research is done .**

*Actara, Platinum, Helix, Cruiser, Adage, Meridian, Centric, Flagship, Poncho, Titan, Clutch, Belay, Arena, Confidor, Merit, Admire, Legend, Pravado, Encore, Goucho, Premise, Assail, Intruder, Adjust and Calypso (This list was generated by The Senior Extension Associate at Penn State)*

**Never** use a neonicotinoid **pesticide** on a blooming crop or on blooming weeds if **honey** bees are present.

- The use of a neonicotinoid **pesticide** pre-bloom, just before bees are brought onto a crop is **not recommended**. If one of these materials **MUST** be used pre-bloom (for example at pink in apples), select a material that has a lower toxicity to bees (acetamiprid or thiacloprid) and apply only when bees are not foraging, preferably late evening.

- Do not apply these materials post bloom (example petal fall) until after the bees have been removed from the crop. [For the full report clicke here.](#)

In the United States, a group of beekeepers from North Dakota is taking Bayer to court after **losing thousands of honeybee colonies** in 1995, during a period when oilseed rape in the area was treated with imidacloprid. A third of honeybees were killed by what has since been dubbed colony collapse disorder.

\*The Dutch government has banned Imidacloprid completely in open-air situations. The product evidently also leaves a residue in the soil that completely **destroys the Earthworm population** that is so important to soil conservation. It also gets into weeds and other crops grown in the same ground. French beekeepers maintain they have lost thousands of colonies to this pesticide and a sister organophosphate called Fipronil produced by Aventis and are calling on the French government to remove both products from the market.

*\*PARIS - "Gaucho", a broad-spectrum insecticide made by the Germany-based chemical giant Bayer, was banned in France in 1999 due to its toxicity to bees and other forms of life -- **including humans** -- but its replacement, "Regent", from another German giant, BASF, is just as dangerous say beekeepers and biologists.*

\*Lawmakers in France and several other European countries have long restricted certain applications of imidacloprid based on evidence that the product harms bees.

\*Maurice Mary, spokesman of the French beekeepers union Union National d'Apiculteurs (UNAF): "**Since the first application of GAUCHO we have had great losses** in the harvest of sunflower honey. Since the agent is staying in the soil up to three years, even untreated plants can contain a concentration which is lethal for bees." The UNAF representing about 50.000 beekeepers is calling for a total ban of GAUCHO, following the presentation of the CST report.