



Chippewa Garden Club Newsletter

Glimmer and Shimmer Celebrating Our 75th Year



Member of Garden Club of Ohio, Inc.,
Central Atlantic Region of State Garden
Clubs and National Garden Clubs, Inc.

March/April 2024

President's Message



National Garden Clubs, Inc.

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This April 2024 brings those of us living in Cleveland, Ohio two interesting events: a total solar eclipse on April 8th and the GCO's 96th annual Convention on April 16th through the 18th. Our area is in the path of totality for sky-gazers to experience this unusual event. As the moon passes between Earth and the sun, the sky will slowly turn from daylight to dusk and then to dark causing animals to become quiet. Some say it's eerie. If you plan to watch the event, NASA recommends NASA approved ISO CE certified glasses to prevent retinal damage.

Ten days after the eclipse, the GCO Annual Convention *We R Cleveland* begins. Many of our members are volunteering to help make this event memorable. The event will be held at the Holiday Inn on Rockside in Independence.

Rumor has it that our club will receive awards at the Awards Luncheon, which will be followed by an NGC Standard Flower Show. There will be workshops on April 17th. (Refer to your Spring 2024 *Garden Greetings* for details.) Registration ends on March 24.

I encourage all of you to participate in these events. As the earth warms this spring, get out and get your hands dirty.

Warm regards, Lynne Evans



Chippewa Garden Club Members
February 27, 2024

Photo by Noreen Butano and Debbie Schuckert

<http://chippewagardenclub.com/>

Dates To Remember

March

Saturday, March 9—Flower Show committee meeting at 10 a.m. Meeting will be held at our Broadview Heights Club Room.

Tuesday, March 12—Board Meeting 6:30 p.m. Meeting will be held at our Broadview Heights Club Room.

Tuesday, March 26—Membership Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Brecksville Human Services, Activity Room A. The Human Services Building is in the rear of the Brecksville Community Center.

Former CGC member Jeff Ardo will discuss ways to protect our trees, shrubs and other landscape plantings from deer damage. Jeff and his family own En Garde Deer Defense.

April

Ohio Native Plant Month

April 6-7—Midwest Cactus and Succulent Society succulent sale at the Cleveland Botanical Garden.

Tuesday, April 9—Board Meeting 6:30 p.m. Meeting will be held at our Broadview Heights Club Room.

April 16-18—Garden Club of Ohio's 96th Annual Convention at the Independence Convention Center in Independence, Ohio *We R Cleveland*

Friday, April 19—Senior Enrichment Through Nature Program *Tussie Mussies To Celebrate the Farewell to Winter.* Demo on the history of and how to construct a Victorian-era bouquet. Supplies provided.

Tuesday, April 23—Membership Meeting 6:30 p.m. Brecksville Human Services, Activity Room A. The Human Services Building is in the rear of the Brecksville Community Center. Members will demonstrate some of the designs in our Flower Show Schedule.

Penny Pines News

Our Penny Pines jar had \$146.00 after our January pass around, That made it possible to purchase two sets of trees at \$68.00 per set. **Ramute Mills**

April 23 Meeting cont.

Glimmer and Shimmer in the Garden

Kelly Manocchio, Margaret DeWolf, Aggie Goss, Lenore Siegman and Debbie Schuckert will each create a design and give you some tips on creating your 1st place design.

If you have any questions in regards to the schedule, please refer to the National Garden Club website, www.gardenclub.org Once on the website, go to Flower Show School and under resources you can find the *NGC Handbook for Flower Show* which can be downloaded with the latest revisions. You can also reach out to Margaret DeWolf who is the Design Consultant or Debbie or Kelly if you need assistance.

To help you with your designs here are some definitions for designs in our flower show.

Petite Design- A design ranging from 3" to 12" Schedule determines the height, width and depth as well as additional staging provided. Additional staging provided by exhibitor is considered as part of the height requirements.

Creative mass design- A creative design emphasizing a greater proportion of plant material and components other than space.

Underwater design - A creative design having some or all plant material and other optional components submerged in water. Plant material and other components under water must contribute to the overall design and are selected for their lasting quality.

Illuminary design- A creative design incorporating lights for special effect and as an integral part of the design.

Monochromatic design- A creative design using one color. Monochromatic color schemes are derived from a single base hue, and extended into either lighter or darker shades and tones of the hue.

**Debbie Schuckert and Kelly Manocchio,
Flower Show Chairmen**

Why Should I Attend a Garden Club of Ohio Convention?

The purpose of this article is to convince you that attending the upcoming Garden Club of Ohio (GCO) convention, right here in Cleveland, ought to be already on your calendar (April 16-18). Think of GCO as our parent organization – without the state organization to bolster us, we might find it difficult to do all the community projects we pride ourselves on. For example, GCO provides our 501(c)(3) status so we can function as a non-profit.

GCO has a convention, a gathering of like-minded gardeners and floral designers, once a year, usually in the Spring, on a rotational basis within Ohio. This year, the convention is at the Holiday Inn in Independence and is being hosted by the Cleveland District Garden Clubs. Chippewa is providing a lot of help in making the convention a success!

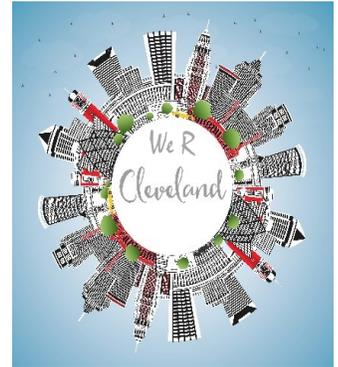
So, why should you attend? Here's several reasons that come to mind:

Fellowship and networking. All of us at convention are like-minded gardeners, horticulturists, floral designers. Who knows who you might sit at a table with and share experiences, tricks or tips. Friendships begun at a convention table can develop into enduring relationships!

It's a time to observe and carefully note what other garden clubs are doing. Are they more (or less) successful at it than we are? How are they handling those problem issues like getting new members and getting members to participate in their projects? And where are the ideas for new projects coming from? Is some club having success doing something we've never tried?

It's a time for learning. There are always presentations – some old topics with a new twist, sometimes entirely new topics that we've never thought about. Seminar or workshop speakers can inspire us to try something new. And you might even get a chance to meet one personally! There are some gardeners who do have a fan base. (Ask our President how she feels about P. Allen Smith.)

If you've never been to a state convention, this year is a good time to test the waters. You can register for just the Awards luncheon on Wednesday, visit the Flower Show and drop in on some of the presentations. Chippewa will be getting some award(s) so the luncheon will be a happy event. Check out all the convention information in the copy of *Garden Greetings* that landed in your snail mail box last week. See you there!



Jo Ann Bartsch

Arbor Day

This year Chippewa Garden Club volunteers will visit the Brecksville-Broadview Hts. Elementary School during recess for the school's Earth Week event. We will speak to the children in rotating groups every 20 minutes, briefly discussing the history of Arbor Day and having lively discussions about the importance of trees in our environment. We will also distribute white pine seedlings to the 3rd graders in their homerooms. Additionally, we will visit Assumption Academy 3rd graders for the same Arbor Day presentation.

New this year, we will participate in the city of Brecksville's Earth Day event on Sunday, April 21st, where we will distribute red maple tree seedlings to attending residents. CGC volunteers will be available to answer questions and help educate those attending the event.

Arbor Day was officially proclaimed in 1874 by Nebraska's Governor, Robert W. Furnas. In 1885, Arbor Day became a state holiday in Nebraska to be celebrated on April 22. It is estimated that more than a million trees were planted on that first day in Nebraska. Nationally, many schools adopted the tree planting tradition by 1882. Children learned about the importance of trees and received a tree to plant on their own property. By 1920, more than 45 states and territories were celebrating Arbor Day. Today all 50 states celebrate Arbor Day, and the planting tree tradition continues today in the Brecksville-Broadview Hts school system. We now celebrate Arbor Day the last Friday in April, which is April 26 this year.

Lenore Siegman

Mantises

There are about 2300 species of mantises that are distributed worldwide in both tropical and temperate zones. Most are found in the tropics with only 20 species appearing in the United States. They normally live less than one year in cold climates. In the fall, the adults mate, the female sometimes eating the male, then laying her eggs, which are protected in a frothy case that is attached to a plant, and then dies. The eggs hatch in spring.

Mantises have triangular heads with bulging eyes to locate prey and enlarged spiked legs for grasping the prey. They can fly short distances.

Mantises are ambush predators, mostly eating other arthropods like insects and spiders. They eat pests but also eat beneficial insects. Larger tropical mantises may eat small vertebrates like frogs or small birds. They are protected by camouflage but are preyed upon by frogs, lizards, birds and spiders. Tropical flower mantises mimic flowers to attract prey that come to collect the pollen. Native Americans believed that mantises are a sign of good luck.

There are three species of mantises in Ohio: *Mantis religiosa* (European mantis), *Tenodera sinensis* (Chinese mantis) and the *Stagmomantis Carolina* (Carolina mantis).

The European mantis is typically green and about 4" long. It was introduced into the United States as a pest control for the gypsy moth.

The Chinese mantis is the largest species in North America (about 5") and is usually brown with a line of green along the wings. It was accidentally released by a plant nursery in Pennsylvania in 1896. Both European and Chinese mantis egg cases are sold to place in gardens.

The native Carolina mantis is slender and smooth and only about 2.4" long.



Tenodera sinensis
(Chinese mantis)

Photo by Kathy Habib

It is the smallest native mantis, is the state insect of South Carolina and is especially abundant from New Jersey to Florida and south to Brazil.

Kathy Habib

Preserving Plant Material

As part of helping our members prepare their entries for our *Glimmer and Shimmer* flower show this year, Kathy Habib discussed ways of preserving plant material to incorporate in our floral designs at our February 27, membership meeting

Pick plant material in the morning. It should be dry and free dew, insect and disease damage. Strip leaves from the stems.

Glycerin method: For foliage, place stems in a mix of 2 parts water to 1 part glycerin or submerge completely in 1 part water to 1 part glycerin. Stems should be no longer than 18-24 inches. Glycerin replaces water. Submerge smaller stems.

Pressing: Pressing flowers was popular in Victorian times. Kathy suggested pressing pansies, cosmos, autumn ferns, hydrangea florets, miniature roses and lavender.

Cornmeal/Borax: Using an uncovered container, place flowers face down in a mixture of 1 part borax, 2 parts white cornmeal and 3 tablespoons of non-iodized salt. Use a small paintbrush. Suggested plants were daisies, roses and zinnias.

Desiccants such as silica gel are expensive but dry faster than cornmeal/borax. Use an airtight container and place flowers face down.

Air (hang) Drying: Tie stems upside down with rubber bands. Place in a dark, dry well-ventilated area and spray with unscented hair spray. Suggested plants include celosia, strawflower, baby's breath, lavender, hydrangea, statice, roses, goldenrod, seed pods and grasses.

Preserved flowers can be used in numerous crafts: jewelry, cards, bookmarks, mod podge pressed plants, designs and Oshibana.

Pat Gabriel and Kathy Habib

Chippewa Garden Club Shares Early Spring Blooms with Broadview Heights Seniors

An easy way of having beautiful spring blooms pop up indoors as we wait for the days of winter to end is a process called "forcing spring bulbs". On March 9, 2024, Chippewa Garden Club volunteers took daffodil bulbs (*Narcissus spp.*) and supplies to the senior citizens of Broadview Heights to demonstrate how easy it is to force a daffodil bulb to bloom.

The participants were given daffodil bulbs, pebbles and small glass containers along with supplies to accessorize and compliment the floweret. To prepare the bulbs for planting, garden club volunteers had placed the bulbs in a paper bag and chilled them in a refrigerator for 8 weeks after which the bulbs were ready to be placed in a container with pebbles. The seniors put their bulbs tips up with the lower quarter of the bulb nestled in the pebbles.

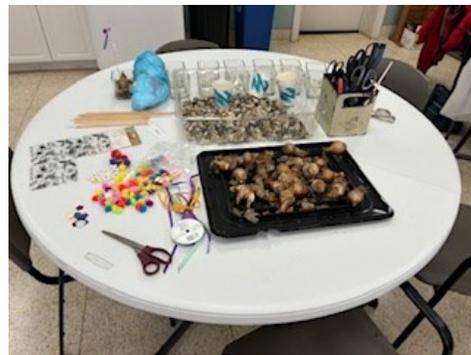
We then instructed the group to add water at home, just up to the lower quarter of the bulb and to place the container in a warm and light-filled area. The final step was simply to wait patiently for the botanical magic to occur. The bulb will blossom in 3 to 4 weeks depending on the amount of warmth and light it receives. The bloom will have the trumpet-like shape that all bulbs in the amaryllis family produce.

To top off the floweret, a decorated plant stake with a flag stating "Bloom!" made by the participants was added to the container. The group discussed the specific soil, planting and lighting needs of this perennial bulb after the blossom is spent. Most of the seniors plan on adding their bulb to a soil filled planter or garden to enjoy next spring.

Many thanks to Chippewa Garden Club volunteers-- Bobbi Anderson, Noreen Butano, Lynne Evans, Judy LaBuda and Sandy Ladebue for their help in making this program a success.

Broadview Heights seniors can call the Broadview Heights Human Services Department to RSVP for the next Senior Enrichment Through Nature Program on April 19, 2024.

Lynne Evans



Top right—Table with daffodil bulbs and adornments

Bottom Left and Right—Forced Daffodil Progression Middle Bottom—Participants choosing their bulbs and adornments

Photos by Noreen Butano and Lynne Evans

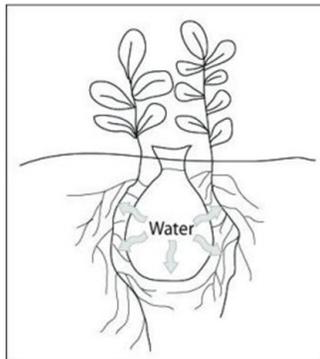
OooLaLa!!

Using an Olla to Water your Plants...

As a very novice gardener, I have had my nose stuffed in all sorts of books, websites and “You Tubes” to increase my nano-particle knowledge base. Last year I was looking for ways to keep my vegetable container garden watered while out of town. Barring friends and neighbors being asked to take care of my “veggie-babies”, I researched a variety of self-watering techniques outside of having a water-tape irrigation system installed. One of the methods I tried was using an olla.

An olla is an unglazed clay pot used to provide deep watering to your plants and surrounding soil. It was developed in the ancient times in China and Africa. Archeological evidence of its use in old Greece, southwest United States and Mexico have also been found.

So how does it work? When an unglazed terra cotta pot is used, the water from the pot diffuses through the pot to the plant and soil nearby. Plants can sense the water nearby and route their roots to the pot for their refreshment. The diffusion will not occur if the pot is glazed or painted.



Courtesy of
nativeseedsearch.com

Olla irrigation can be inexpensive and simple to implement. While there are plenty of websites where olla pots may be found, I followed the DIY directions from YouTube: “How to make DIY ollas: self-watering systems for plants by *Lovely Greens* (2017/2021). In these instructions an unglazed terra cotta pot was used with its saucer acting as a top. Though the online gardener used modelling putty then cement, I had success using duct tape inside and outside over the drainage hole. I only tried this method in one container (butternut squash) as I was dubious about its

touted success. Outcome: butternut squash grew beautifully with four produced squash. The plant required a fill up every week (I used a 6-inch pot) and twice a week when there were over 90 degree heat days. The container’s size was 5 gallons, Normal watering for my containers was every other day.

Thoughts:

Since last summer I have learned more information on olla irrigation.

- Keep the pot full as a dry pot will suck moisture from the soil.
- Until the plant is established, you will need to water overhead by the roots in addition to the olla.
- Can use plastic plant saucers over the pot to prevent evaporation from the terra cotta.

This year I will place an olla in my 16-inch wire flower basket with coca coir liner to learn if the olla works in this setting with Supertunias. Will let you know!

Mary Jane Maloney

New Member

Meet our new member, Rose Ann Paradise. Rose Ann was born and raised in Cleveland and went to St. Peter’s parochial school. She now has two children, five grandchildren, and one great grandbaby.

Rose Ann worked as a hairdresser and was head cook at Hathaway Brown for 30 years. She enjoys gardening in containers now.

Aggie Goss



Rose Ann Paradise

Photo by Margaret DeWolf

**Chippewa Garden Club is proud to announce
a special fundraiser in celebration of our 75th year!**

A special *Garden Club* plaque has been added as a fundraiser in celebration of our 75th anniversary!

We will be offering thoughtful and whimsical stone sculptures from Carruth Studios. The sculptures are handmade by skilled artisans in Waterville, Ohio. They can be used inside or outside and last for generations. If you missed picking up the Carruth Fundraiser Catalog at the February membership meeting, there will be one for you at the March meeting.

We keep 35% of the total sales. Payments are made to Chippewa Garden Club **NOT** to Carruth Studios. Sandy Spann will collect the checks and cash for this event.

This fundraiser will wrap up on the April 23rd membership meeting. Delivery should start the beginning of May. If you have any questions or would like to receive a PDF version of the Fundraiser Catalog, contact Sandy Spann.

Sandy Spann

